

Migratory Birds Saved In Hakaluki



Every year migratory birds travel from the colder areas of the world to Bangladesh for shelter, food and survival. It is crucial to their survival that Bangladesh provides a haven for these birds during this stage of their annual migration. Hakaluki Haor in Bangladesh is one of the most important place for migratory birds, because every year thousands of birds migrate to this Haor. Village Conservation Groups (VCG) in

collaboration with government's field administration and staff take the necessary activities to protect these migratory birds. Local field administration apprehend and prosecute illegal poachers through summery courts. Recently, the Noagaon Village Conservation Group of Kulaura, working in Tollar Beel Sanctuary of Hakaluki Haor and supported by USAID's CREL Project, requested the Upazila Nirbahi Officer

(UNO) of Kulaura to act against illegal poachers in Tollar Beel Sanctuary. The UNO conducted a summery court on February 17, 2018 and punished two bird poachers who captured birds using nets. One poacher received a punishment of 7 days in jail and the another was fined Taka. 1,000. The nets they used for trapping the birds were confiscated and destroyed. The action will deter other poachers.

Improving Forests with CREL Support

Assisted Natural Regeneration' is an effective way to let the forest regain its health through natural processes. USAID's CREL Project has been supporting community guards patrolling the forests with the aim to ensure no out-side interventions such as livestock grazing and fuel-wood collection hamper the growth of tree saplings. CREL also helps support community weeding of forest areas to promote tree growth. Since January this year, CREL has been supporting weeding activities in 80 hectors at Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary



and Baroiyadhala National Park, 25 hectares in Lawachara National Park, and 5 hectares in Satchari National Park. In composite, 110 hectares of critical forest area is under restoration and protection. In addition to forest ANR, the CREL Project has assisted the planting of mangroves in 23 hectares in Koyra region of Sundarbans. When fully grown, these mangroves will serve as a natural barrier against storms and soil erosion, and protect the livelihoods and safety of people residing in this area.



**WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY
3 MARCH**

‘World Wildlife Day 2018’ Observed

“Big cats: predators under threat” – this was the theme for World Wildlife Day 2018. USAID’s Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project collaborated with Bangladesh Forest Department to observe this day in festive manner. Rallies, discussions and competitions were arranged in all CREL working regions. School children, local elites, Forest Department officials and members of the CREL team participated in these events that generated enthusiasm and momentum for conservation.



Forest Fire Control Team in Action

Forest fire is common phenomenon in deciduous forests and sometimes in the semi-evergreen and evergreen forests. During the dry season, forest fires are common in Sal forests, hill forests and forests in northern part of the country. There are numerous causes for forest fires, but some result from human activities, which can be addressed and limited. But the result remains same – loss of undergrowth and natural regeneration, resulting in degradation of forest. USAID’s CREL project has been engaging local communities to work with the Forest Department to control and prevent forest fires in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary. CREL provided a hands-on training on Forest Fire Control to CMO members, youth club members and Forest Guards. CREL also provided safety materials for controlling forest fire to fire control team within CMOs. This fire control



team successfully suppressed a fire in the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary on February 20, 2018, using the fire control and safety materials, and prevented loss of habitat and biodiversity.

Conserving Biodiversity- A High Priority

USAID’s CREL Project has been a leader and catalyst in promoting the conservation of habitat and biodiversity in twenty three ‘Protected Areas’ of Bangladesh. Through support from CREL, community members living around protected areas have become the eyes and ear for the Bangladesh Forest Department. They share information of illegal activities related to poaching and tree-felling with Forest Department. Now, as part of their approach to co-management, the community members are actively monitoring and protecting forest habitat and biodiversity.

Recently on several occasions, Community Patrol Groups operating with the support of the Forest Department, have confiscated illegally trapped wildlife and felled trees. In

Munshiganj and Dacope-Koyra of Sundarbans, CMC members have confiscated 45 pieces goran, 1-piece Pashur, 2 pieces of Geoa and 300 pieces goran respectively. In another incident, a team of CPG from Chittagong region rescued three Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*). Forest Department lodged cases against the involved poachers and trappers with the court. While the number may seem small, they send a loud message to would-be illegal harvesters.



Department of
Environment

