

COMMUNITY BASED MANAGEMENT OF THE SUNDARBANS



Annual Report-2011



Prepared by

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Community participation and apply of customary knowledge in sustainable management of the Sundarbans

Summary:

Community Based Management of Sundarbans (CBMS) is acknowledging 2011 as one of the successful years in terms of achieving its goals at research, activity and advocacy. The CBMS project is a component of larger Forest Peoples, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods project (FPBP) that aims to promote sustainable, community-based territorial management and self-determined development in the participating communities' areas. Since July 2007, SwedBio (since January 2011 SwedBio/SRC) has provided continued support to the project that the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) carries out in collaboration with indigenous and local community organizations and support organizations from different continents, where Unnayan Onneshan implements Bangladesh's part in the Sundarbans.

The year 2011 is earmarked for operationalization of the community cooperatives in permanent structure with government registration. Despite some challenges in management, the cooperatives have been able to develop a common understanding among the traditional resource users for collective management of the Sundarbans along with improving their livelihoods. The members of the cooperative started stocking capital through a monthly subscription fee having a long term goal of buying boat and net for every members. The year is also successful in international level, where Unnayan Onneshan along with other FPBP partners actively took part in new 10 (C) programme of work formulation process. Other than these milestone achievements, a handful of activities both at local and international level have contributed to the endeavour of figuring out the year 2011 distinctively. However, the success did not come as smoothly as it is expected. Obviously, major challenge has come from environment, where couple of high tides abandoned both settlements and motivation of the community who have been already struggling to recover from the Aila's impact.

Key activities at a glance:

Activity	Outcome
Community capacity building, collaboration and empowerment	
Establishment, registration and maintenance of a co-operative for each traditional resource user group	Three cooperative such as 4 No. Koyra Bonojibi Bohumukhi Samity, Horinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Samity, and Adivasi Munda Bonojibi Bohumukhi Samity started operating by the traditional resource users of Sundarbans with the aim of creating own capital for buying boats and other necessary equipments required to entre in the Sundarbans

Conduct regular group meetings to discuss communal natural resource management problems and devise collaborative actions and solutions through the cooperatives	Developed common understanding on managing the Sundarbans and fostered knowledge sharing
Provide co-operatives with computers to establish digital community library and keep cooperative records digitally (including training to use the computers for the cooperative members)	The cooperatives are managed smoothly and the community members' management capacity has improved
Community-based research, mapping, biodiversity surveying and monitoring	
Community training on vulnerability mapping capacity building on participatory research	The community are informed about causes of vulnerability and build capacity to take substantive actions to safeguard their livelihood
Community Based Biodiversity Monitoring	
Form groups comprising experienced traditional resource users (fishers, forest resource users) and develop local indicators for biodiversity monitoring	Local indicators has helped identifying biodiversity status and devise actions to conserve them
Continuous monitoring of biodiversity and keep records of the changes in the status of biodiversity digitally using computer technology	The community are informed about biodiversity status upon whom their livelihood depends and consequently take informed actions to conserve valuable biodiversity
Community-based research on communities' vulnerabilities to natural disasters and associated livelihood insecurity	
Documenting local best practices in climate change adaptation	Increased understanding on available options and practice of community based adaptation and indentifying the best alternatives
Research on scope of promotion of locally practiced agro-silvo-aquaculture model	Explored traditional knowledge based adaptation system along with their effectiveness through cost-benefit analysis, multi-faceted benefits and social and environmental effects and

	comparative discussion with those of Commercial Shrimp Culture (CS Culture)
Research on Economics of Sundarbans	Enhanced understanding on the contribution of Sundarbans in local livelihood provisions including local and national economy
Community-based management and conservation and sustainable livelihood activities	
Developing and up scaling of an agro-silvo-aquaculture model using mangrove species to supplement traditional resource users' income and reduce their dependence on the Sundarbans' resources	Many of the community members started practicing agro-silvo-aquaculture in their water-logged fellow land and increased their income
Promotion and transfer of traditional knowledge	
Community training on effective and efficient management of co-operatives	The community members themselves are managing the cooperatives without external guidance or interference
Formation and promotion of Indigenous cultural team	Awareness building activities carried out through folk songs, play and other cultural activities since most of the traditional cultural rooted in biodiversity and nature
Advocacy and lobby, informed participation, and influencing public awareness	
Dialogues between local government officials and traditional resource users	Community's capacity of negotiation regarding their rational demand has improved and the service providers are informed about community's problems
Celebration of World Environment Day and World Indigenous Day	Broader awareness on biodiversity, traditional knowledge, indigenous people's rights and Sundarbans
Media article on biodiversity, CSU and Sundarbans management	Mass awareness of biodiversity, CSU and Sundarbans
Documentary film on Sundarbans (Traditional	Capturing the learning of the intervention to motivate and

resource users and collective action on development in Sundarbans)	upscale
Participation at Strategy and Training Workshop on Human Rights, Gender and Biodiversity at Panama, 4-9 April	contributed to developing a submission paper on Article 8 (j) to CBD secretariat and acquired knowledge on interconnectivity of human rights, gender and biodiversity with example from different countries
Attended International Meeting on Article 10 with a focus on Article 10 (C)	Developed draft for new programme of work for Article 10 (C)
Seventh International Meeting of Working Group on CBD Article - 8 (j) and SBSTTA-15	New programme of work on Article 10 (C), plenary presentation on Ecosystem management, Ecosystem Services and protected areas

The project aims to provide the communities with the tools and means they need to achieve their goals which include activities such as cooperative, mapping, community-based monitoring and surveying of biodiversity, management planning, community-based adaptation to climate change, etc. These activities:

- ensuring rights through economic empowerment
- lay the basis for effective (future) community management and gather all needed data and information,
- demonstrate the value of community-based biodiversity research and management based on traditional knowledge
- can help to accelerate the process of legal recognition of land and resource rights.

At the same time, it helps the communities to deal with emerging livelihood challenges, such as addressing climate change impacts and investigating or creating sustainable economic livelihood activities. The project also actively incorporates educational (formal and informal) activities that serve to protect and promote the transfer of traditional language, knowledge and skills. These are indispensable to keep their customary management systems functioning. The project also combines a bridge between local and international level with a view to influence Multilateral environmental agreements such as CBD in a way which is supportive to the communities' initiatives at national and local levels.

CBMS in Action



Rationale

The project is to study the forest and forest people of the Sundarbans and to explore and learn how forest people can help ensure smoothly growth of the forest collecting resources for their livelihoods and how the forest can continue providing all types of ecosystem services uninterruptedly to the traditional forest users and other stakeholders as well. Thus, the continuing project intends to achieve community based sustainable management of the Sundarbans. The project is based on the opinion that forest and traditionally forest dependent people are complementary to each other. The forest dependent people, who possess 30-40 year experience of resources extraction, know better than any other man as to the real nature of the forest and how to treat with the forest for keeping it in good health and letting its uninterrupted growth. Again, they know how to collect resources from the forest that in no way tells upon the forest for its long-term sustainability. For these reasons, from the very beginning activity cycle is designed, planned and implemented through detailed consultation with the stakeholders. Particularly, the highest priority is paid to the forest dependents communities in project implementation. To accomplish the business, the project has already formed about three community associations of the forest people and established separate office for each of the community associations.

Project Area

In 2011 the project area mainly covered two upazilas of Khulna District, namely Koyra and Paikgacha. More specifically the project is being implemented in 3 unions of Koyra, namely North Bedkashi, South Bedkashi and Koyra Sadar and 2 unions of Paikgacha Sadar, Paikgacha, namely Chandkhali and Goroikhali. An estimated 73000 people of Sundarbans communities (directly dependent on Sundarbans' resources) live in these two upazilas where about 300 resource users are direct beneficiaries and more than 5000 resource users are indirect beneficiaries of the project.

Objectives:

- ❖ Mobilizing the forest dependent communities through building their capacity for achieving self-sufficiency and promoting efficiency for sustainable management of mangrove ecosystem based resources.
- ❖ Promoting ecosystem-based natural resources management
- ❖ Ensuring forest people's enhanced access to and involvement in natural resource management and for ensuring their other relevant interests.
- ❖ Building public awareness in (mangrove) natural resources management related issues and concerns
- ❖ Exploring and promoting mitigation and adaptation options to observed and predicted climate change impacts
- ❖ Undertaking joint international initiatives towards sustainable natural resources management

1. Community capacity building, collaboration and empowerment



1.1 Establishment, registration and maintenance of a co-operative for each traditional resource user group

Under this activity both infrastructure development and capacity building training workshop organised to

- Institute forest peoples' cooperatives
- Run and manage cooperatives to create own capital for self sufficiency
- Harvest maximum benefits from the cooperatives

The traditional forest people of the project areas have faced a wide variety of problems from different aspects including forest department, boat owners and so forth over the time. In response to problems and deprivations to an accepted level, Unnayan Onneshan advocated them to establish cooperatives. Accordingly, three forest people cooperatives came into existence in three unions of Koyra Upazila namely Harinagar forest people cooperative; 4 No. Koyra Forest People Cooperative and Munda Indigenous Forest People Cooperative. Unnayan Onneshan provided all logistic and technical support to the cooperatives and conducted a series of community trainings to make the cooperatives run. The community trainings focused on different issues relevant to cooperatives operation and management. The cooperatives serve as a common ground for sharing information, experience and enhancing cooperation among the cooperative members. As a result, they will have opportunity to develop understanding of diverse occupants based on the mangrove resources. It will help develop a store-house of traditional knowledge which will emerge as a valuable document for sustainable management of the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest.

Output:

After successful completion of the trainings, the members of the cooperatives learned about—

- ❖ Cooperative organizational structure
- ❖ Cooperative code of conduct
- ❖ Fund raising and cost-effective investment of the fund
- ❖ Promoting and continuing intra-cooperative interactions
- ❖ Decision making systems
- ❖ Their rights and responsibilities to the mangrove resources use
- ❖ Information gathering, storing and sharing

Learning into Action (Outcome):

Community cooperatives and trainings help them learn about a well-functioning cooperative and the trained forest people translated learning into action.

- ✓ Three cooperatives came into existence---one at Amadi Union with 50 members named *Harinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity* ; one at 4 No. Koyra Union 60 members named *4 No. Koyra Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity* and rest one is exclusively by indigenous community at North Bedkashi Union with 70 members named *Munda Adivasi Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity*.
- ✓ Each member contributes a monthly membership subscription fee to their respective cooperative and thus each of the cooperative has raised a considerable fund over the year.
- ✓ There has developed a provision for the poor members to use the fund at low interest after having approved by the cooperative general meeting
- ✓ The cooperatives have schedule to their advantage to daily get together and thus to share information, ideas, experience, weal and woe among the respective cooperative members
- ✓ Daily getting together have facilitated to foster brotherhood and cooperation among the cooperative members

1.2 Digitalization of the Cooperatives' Information System

In June 2011, CBMS Project provided computer set (PC) and other necessary accessories to two cooperatives of its project area including *Harinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity* (Harinagar Forest Peoples' Cooperatives) and *Uttar Bedkashi Adibashi Munda Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity* (Indigenous Munda Community Development Cooperative at Uttar Bedkashi). The use of PC has facilitated access of the cooperatives to modern information technology. They store all of the cooperative legal and managerial documents in digital format. The technological support has provided them with a wonderful opportunity to obtain computer literacy through within co-operative cooperation. Cooperative members having good computer literacy can help others to be acquainted with computer applications. The next plan of the project is to provide the cooperatives with internet connection facility which will enable them to be connected with global information high way. Moreover, through computer technology traditional resource users will keep record of the biodiversity resources and track changes.

Outcome:

- ❖ Added a new dimension to the mobilization of the cooperatives
- ❖ Grown new enthusiasm among the cooperative members
- ❖ Provided an opportunity to the educated out of job to be acquainted with computer literacy
- ❖ Ease record keeping and management of the cooperatives
- ❖ Created new dimension in biodiversity monitoring
- ❖ Created a source of refreshment and entertainment for the cooperative members



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Lessons Learned

The recurrent natural and man-made hazards and disasters usually have led the coastal people to grow a mentality of depending on others, getting help from others. Moreover, faulty institutional arrangements aggravate the situation and make the poor people more dependent on powerful actors. They hardly think of being self-reliant. The establishment of cooperatives has helped the traditional forest peoples to walk to the avenue of self-sufficient. The unity, sense of cooperation and brotherhood that they have grown by this time have helped them to solve many of the problems including fund crisis, wrong resource collection practice and deprivation and ill-behavior from boat owners they faced off and on before they united under cooperative umbrella.

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1. Horinagar Forest people co-operative, 2. Training at 4.No Koyra community cooperative, 3. Members in front of 4.No Koyra community cooperative, 4 & 5. Munda community Cooperative and members

1.3 Community training on vulnerability mapping, capacity building and improved resource management practice

Objectives:

- ✓ Drawing out traditional knowledge to sustainably extract forest resources from the long experienced forest people
- ✓ Informing community regarding vulnerability and build capacity to safeguard livelihoods in a sustainable way
- ✓ Disseminating and sharing the knowledge with the new generation forest people in participatory approach

Conducting community training on vulnerability and improved resource management (extraction and taking care) practice has been a continuous process in the CBMS Project. The rationale for undertaking training initiatives is twofold that includes informing resource users regarding the factors of vulnerability and transferring traditional knowledge on forest resources collection that coincides with the sustainable use of the resources to the new generations forest resources users so that a sustainable management regime could be established. Periodically throughout the year, trainings were conducted in all the three forest community associations. Resource persons who were selected by the communities and from the communities using PRA and FGD including vulnerability mapping trained the local forest people particularly the new regeneration as to various collection methods of varied mangrove resources like honey, Goalpata, fish, crab, snails, oyster and wood collection. Moreover, the local elites helped them to be informed of the legal and institutional aspects of forest resources collection and management. Unnayan Onneshan merely facilitated the programmes.

Outcome

- ❖ Successfully knowledge transfer from age old experienced forest people to the new generation
- ❖ The new generation forest people could be informed of what were the faults with them in collecting resources from the forest
- ❖ The community is informed about factors of vulnerability and current state
- ❖ The young and non-traditional forest people could learn lessons to reshape their behavioral pattern and mindset towards the forest for improved natural resources management



Community training on vulnerability mapping and improved resource management



1.4 Promote indigenous cultural groups to protect and practice the traditional knowledge and cultures on the customary sustainable use of the mangrove resources system

Customary use and traditional cultural practices are very often compatible with conservation and sustainable use or management of natural resource systems. Valuable knowledge resource is often found to remain woven in different cultural traits like traditional songs, poems, folklore, dance, drama, folk-rhyme, ballad, lyric poetry and musical drama. The traditional cultural traits and practices of Munda community, only indigenous community living adjacent to the Sundarbans, have been found to be full of traditional knowledge on customary use of the mangrove resources which ultimately may be valuable resource for sustainable management of the Sundarbans ecosystem. But the invaluable cultural practices of the Munda Community are on the verge of gradual disappearance with the increasing aggression of western cultures by dint of modern technologies. CBMS project could realize the cultural erosion and hence facilitated forming a cultural group in the Munda Community. Not only that, the cultural groups are supported by providing relevant musical instrument and dresses and helping periodically organize cultural programs so that they can protect their cultural heritage/traditions and aware the forest people of customary use and traditional practices based knowledge which is of much more value for sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem resources.



Indigenous cultural team is performing on the occasion of International Indigenous Day

2. Research on Sundarbans



2.1 Economics of the Sundarbans

The Sundarbans, the largest single tract mangrove forest of the world, is traditionally evaluated by its scenic beauty and wide array of biological diversity and it is hardly thought of how much it contributes to the local livelihood provisions, local and even national economy. Scanty information and literature are available mostly in scattered condition on the economics of ecosystem whereas the issue has received much attention in recent years. To unearth the economics of worldly known ecosystems across the whole world, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has undertaken a project in 2007 entitled 'The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB). Inspired by TEEB, CBMS Project has started carrying a research on the economics of the Sundarbans. The study attempted to know Sundarbans contribution to local livelihood provisions, local and national economy and after all the total economic value. The monetary value will help rejuvenate our understanding of the mangrove ecosystem and ultimately figure out the importance of its conservation in real sense.

Key findings:

The research reveals that

- About 2.5 million people live in the villages surrounding the Sundarbans, while the number of people within 20 km of the forest boundary is 3.14 million
- About 10 livelihood groups have developed based on the mangrove resources
- The forest provides a livelihood for about 3.5 million people directly and 6 million people indirectly
- Everyday some 50,000 people from around the neighboring localities and districts enter into the forest for their livelihood
- The Sundarbans covers between 35% and 49% of total annual national forest revenues
- Average annual revenue over last 10 years (1999-2009) derived from the Sundarbans is about USD 2.132687 (million) whereas the normal management cost is about USD 0.692 (million)
- Most of the revenue is currently derived from fishery, aquatic resources, timber and non-timber products, and eco-tourism
- Yearly net income derived from the Sundarbans has gradually increased over the last 5 years
- The total projected monetary value of the Sundarbans Mangrove Ecosystem is about USD 9845.015 million



Different resources collected from Sundarbans such as (clockwise) carbon sequestration, soil building, goalpata, pollination, wage labourer, tourism, mele, fish, honey and wood

2.2 Community Based Adaptations in the Sundarbans area: usage of traditional knowledge

Impact of climate change is unequivocally reality of the coastal areas of Bangladesh and more specifically the Sundarbans area. Anthropogenic climate change could substantially increase the frequency and intensity of existing climatic events (floods, cyclones etc). Current indications are that not only will floods and cyclones become more severe; they will also start to occur outside of their “established seasons” (National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-2015). The present study deals with the community based adaptations including enlisting the adaptation options with their basic features, limitations and opportunities. The aim of the study also include accomplishing an in-depth study of the two adaptive measures (Sun Flower and Crab Cultivation) spontaneously developed by the local traditional forest (dependent) people in the backdrop of gradually decrease of forest coverage and resources due to climate change and other anthropogenic interventions and increasing the number of forest dependent people with the passage of time.

Key Findings:

- ❑ The study has found and documented about 47 adaptation practices in the coastal Bangladesh
- ❑ The adaptation practices are of mainly three types including livelihood, structural and water scarcity.
- ❑ The adaptation practices have addressed resiliency to tropical cyclone, storm surge and salinity intrusion



Different types of adaptation practices in Sundarbans and around Sundarbans Impact Zone

2.3 Research on Community mangrove aqua-silvi-culture (CMAS Culture): Promoting as a community-based adaptation tool and an alternative to traditional shrimp cultivation

In coastal Bangladesh particularly in some parts of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts, disasters affected communities have been trying to cultivate mangrove species in brackish water swampy lands which is already affected by increased salinity and become unproductive for food crop. CBMS Project has carried out a research on this practice where fish is grown with mangrove species; therefore the practice has been termed as Community Mangrove Aqua Silviculture (CMAS). The research mainly centers on indigenous management system of the practice including cultivation method, cost-benefit analysis, multi-faceted benefits and social and environmental effects and comparative discussion with those of Commercial Shrimp Culture (CS Culture). The important fact is that this the first practice of its kind here in Bangladesh and CBMS Project first of all conducted an in-depth study on it.

Key Findings:

- In the Sundarbans area, CMAS Culture has manifestly covered only four unions including three (Maharajpur, Amadi and Maheshwaripur) from Koyra Upazila and one (Borodol) from Assasuni Upazila.
- Average farm size is about 18.81 decimals.
- About 95.56 percent of the farm-owners are marginal farmers having no education up to secondary school certificate (SSC).
- The research has developed a model of CMAS Culture practice where the farm consists of a plot of swampy land with 1-1.5 feet deep water bordered by dyke of 0.5-1.5 feet height from the water level.
- The mangroves including Goalpata, Keora and the like are planted on the platform. Besides, there is a canal of about 2-2.5 feet depth that runs along the farm dykes where fish, shrimp and crabs are cultured.
- In the nursery, over a period of 1-1.5 month, the seedlings experience a minimum height of 1.5-2 feet when they are planted at the central part of the farm
- Any investment with cost-benefit ratio (CBR) of 1: more than 1 is profitable and acceptable for further continuation where the CBR of the CMAS Culture as the study reveals is 1:13 meaning more profit fetching aquacultural practice in coastal Bangladesh.
- According to Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA), net benefit is about BDT 200950 per *bigha* (33 decimals) in CMAS Culture whereas BDT 168412.72 in CS Culture.
- The study found CMAS culture compatible and more cost-effective for both long term adaptation tool and alternative to CS Culture.



Community Mangrove Aqua Silviculture plot and different resource provision

3. Advocacy, Lobby and Participation



Participation

National Level

3.1.1 First Bangladesh Forestry Congress 2011

Mr. Muhammad Selim Hossain, research assistant of CBMS Project, participated in the First Forestry Congress 2011 which was organized by Bangladesh Forest Department in commemoration of International Year of Forest on substantial scale at national level on 19-21 April 2011 at Dhaka. Mr. Hossain shared and gathered knowledge and experience on collaborative management of forests particularly the Sundarbans. The Forestry Congress aimed at bringing together all stakeholders involved in collaborative forest management including community based conservation of forests in order to document the lessons learned, its strength and weakness and in developing effective mechanism for conservation of forests for biodiversity, water and environment. The participants from both national and international arenas stressed that in collaborative management of forests, involvement of the traditional forest users should get the highest priority and in this connection, the issue of giving them incentives for better forest and forest resources management could be seriously taken into account. The knowledge and experience gathered in the Forestry Congress was successfully disseminated among the CBMS cooperatives' members.

3.2 International Level

3.2.1 Strategy and Training Workshop on Human Rights, Gender and Biodiversity at Panama, 4-9 April

A 6-day long Strategy and Training Workshop on Human Rights, Gender and Biodiversity issues was held at Guna Yala, Panama during 4-9 April, 2011 under the auspices of Forest Peoples Programme and Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network. A Total of 30 participants from Asia, Europe, and America participated in the workshop and shared their views on local activities and its implications to global biodiversity conservation and human rights issues.

Mr. Mohammed Abdul Baten, coordinator of CBMS Project and Mr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Executive Director (ED) of Unnayan Onneshan attended the workshop and presented their activities in CBMS Project for the Sundarbans. Mr. Baten presented two research papers covering the issues of 10 (c) evolution at the Sundarbans and Climate change impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation practices at the Sundarbans surrounding area while Mr. Titumir contributed to developing a submission paper on Article 8 (j) to CBD secretariat. He opined that insecurity of property rights over lands and resources leads to overexploitation. He further suggested that indigenous and local communities should redefine their movement both nationally and internationally for resulting into securing their access and management rights on territories and resources.

panama

4 images, April 2011



Different sessions of the Guna Yala Meeting on Human Rights, Gender and Biodiversity

3.2.2. International Meeting on Article 10 with a focus on Article 10 (C) at Montreal, 31 May-3 June 2011

A meeting on Article 10 (sustainable use of biological diversity) with a focus on Article 10 (c) (customary use of biological diversity) as a major component of the programme of work on Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the CBD was held at Montreal, Canada, during 31 May - 3 June 2011 under the auspices of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The meeting was attended by participants of cross-sectional professions from both home and abroad to provide their valued insights on the content and implementation of the new major component of work for consideration at the seventh meeting of the working group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions. Mr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Executive Director of Unnayan Onneshan and Mr. Mohammed Abdul Baten, coordinator of CBMS Project attended the meeting and provided a fascinating insight into desirability of local management of the biological resources. Detailed suggestions were provided on various cultural, social and legal concepts of property rights with a focus on a set of entitlements (for use) rather than ownership.

3.2.3 Seventh International Meeting of Working Group on CBD Article - 8 (j) and SBSTTA-15

The Seventh Meeting of Ad-Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held at Montreal, Canada during 31 October - 4 November 2011. The 5 day-long UN meeting was attended by more than 500 participants from 90 countries including government delegates from 60 countries.

Mohammed Abdul Baten, Senior Research Associate at Unnayan Onneshan and coordinator of CBMS Project attended the programme as a member of 10 (c), a global research network on customary use of biodiversity and contributed as a panel member to in-depth dialogue on ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/6) which was held on 3 November. In the panel discussion Mr. Baten presented his research work on “Customary Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Scope of Ecosystem Management in the Sundarbans”. He reported on the protection, sustainable use and ecosystem services provided by the Sundarbans. He argued that it is pretty much important to identify the traditional forest resource users and issue permanent permit to them for their access in the Sundarbans so that they can practice customary sustainable use of biodiversity which could contribute to sustainability of the forest.



International 10 C meeting at Montreal, Canada



WG8J-7 and SBSTTA 15 of CBD at Montreal, Canada

3.3 Day Observance

Celebration of International Indigenous Day 2011

In observance of International Indigenous Day-2011, *Adibasi Munda Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity* (Indigenous Munda Multilateral Development Cooperative), one of the CBMS supported forest people cooperatives chalked out day-long programme that includes cultural ceremony, plantation campaign and a formal discussion session in the cooperative resource centre premises on 9 August 2011. Mr. Suhrab Ali Sana, Member of Parliament (MP), Khulna-6 was the chief guest in the tribal day ceremony while Mr. Sardar Nurul Islam, local elite, presided over the programme. The whole programme drew fanatical attention and received huge applaud recognition. The discussion mainly focused on the importance of Sundarbans conservation and plantation of mangrove tree species for maintaining coastal ecological balance, mitigation of climate change impact and their livelihood provisions. Both parties-- the speakers and the participants unanimously agree that they should preserve the indigenous cultural practices coinciding with the customary sustainable use of the mangrove resources for the sake of maintaining their cultural heritage and ensuring sustainability of the Sundarbans resources system.

Observing International Cooperative Day

On the occasion of International Cooperative Day, 1st Saturday of July, *Horinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Samity* of CBMS project has organized discussion meeting and one day workshop of co-operative management. The members discussed about importance of cooperative and how to improve their solidarity using this platform. Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Koyra presided the meeting as Chief Guest and he affirmed that he is very open to help the forest people from government side and appreciates their cooperative action.



ঐতিহাসিক আদিবাসী দিবস-০৯ই আগস্ট ২০১১



Professionals
Civil Servants



হরিনগর বনজীবী বহুমুখী সমবায় কমিউনিটি রিসোর্চ সেন্টার
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3.4 Media outreach, publications etc.

3.4.1. Documentary film on Sundarbans (Traditional resource users and collective action on development in Sundarbans)

The documentary film on the Sundarbans and the people in the forest impact zone, who highly depend on the forest resources for their very daily sustenance, thus intricately inter woven in the forest resources management. The 40 minutes long documentary has undertaken all of the main stakeholders of the Sundarbans and depicts varied challenges and options relating to the forest management. The documentary describes the process of developing solidarity among traditional resource users in terms of establishing community cooperatives and collective decision making.

3.4.2. Instrumenting popular articles for raising public awareness and forming public opinion

CBMS adopted a wide variety of ways for boosting public awareness and forming public opinion in favor of sustainable management of the Sundarbans, the only mangrove ecosystem of Bangladesh. As media is said to be the fourth pillar of a state for its vital role played in raising awareness and forming opinion of the mass people on any national issue, the project has used both print and electronic forms of media as important public awareness raising instrument. In 2011, more than a dozen popular articles have been written on biological resources particularly of the Sundarbans. The articles were published in the leading English dailies of Bangladesh including The Daily Star, Daily Sun, and The New Age and received keen attention of people from all walks of society and professions encompassing conservationists, academicians, forest department high officials, nature researchers, civil society and the commons.

NO	TITLE OF THE ARTICLE	NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER	DATE & PLACE OF PUBLICATION	RELEVANT OCCASION	ONLINE
1	FOREST BIODIVERSITY: OUR COMMON FUTURE	NEW AGE	MONDAY, DHAKA 2 JANUARY, 2012	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY, 12 MAY 2011	http://newagebd.com/newspaper1/oped/20605.html
2	SAVE FOREST BIODIVERSITY, SAVE THE WORLD	DAILY SUN	MONDAY, DHAKA 23 MAY 2011	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY, 12 MAY 2011	http://www.daily-sun.com/?view=details&archie=yes&arch_date=23-05-2011&type=daily_sun_news&pub_no=224&cat_id=2&menu_id=17&news_type_id=1&index=1

3	EVALUATING SERVICES OF THE SUNDARBANS	THE DAILY STAR	SATURDAY, DHAKA JULY 2, 2011	ADDRESSING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 5 JUNE 2011	http://www.thedaily.com/newdesign/news-details.php?nid=192409
4	AILA IMPACT: PEOPLE SUFFERING ENDLESSLY (PART-I)	DAILY SUN	FRIDAY, DHAKA 22 JULY 2011	ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF TWO YEARS OF CYCLONE AILA ON FOREST PEOPLE	http://www.daily-sun.com/?view=details&type=daily_sun_news&pub_no=283&cat_id=3&menu_id=5&news_type_id=1&index=1&archive=yes&arch_date=22-07-2011
5	AILA IMPACT: PEOPLE SUFFERING ENDLESSLY (FINAL PART)	DAILY SUN	SATURDAY, DHAKA 23 JULY 2011	ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF TWO YEARS OF CYCLONE AILA ON FOREST PEOPLE	http://www.daily-sun.com/details_yes_23-07-2011_aila-impact:-people-suffering-endlessly-%28final-part%29_284_2_5_1_1.html
6	AILA IMPACT STILL LINGERS ON PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT	THE DAILY STAR	SATURDAY, DHAKA AUGUST 13, 2011	ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF TWO YEARS OF CYCLONE AILA ON FOREST PEOPLE	http://www.thedaily.com/newdesign/news-details.php?nid=198359



Major articles published in the most popular and accepted newspaper on the occasion of World Environment Day under CBMS project

area a number of initiatives to mitigate the suffering of the Aila hit people, but the initiatives couldn't improve the condition of the affected to a satisfactory level. For instance, the government initially declared to continue providing every household with 20 kg rice every month until agricultural

WAY FORWARD.....

2012



Forest Peoples, Biodiversity, Livelihood and Climate Change (FPBLC) project

Community Based Management of Sundarbans (CBMS), Bangladesh

Work Plan 2012

BANGLADESH

1. Local project staff

Project coordinator (0.5 FTE) (50 %)- (Based in Dhaka with frequent field visit)

Messenger and other support Staffs

2. Local office

Office (10% share cost of Head office) and community co-operatives

Communication

Materials / equipment

ACTIVITY (INCL. LOCAL AND NATIONAL TRANSPORT /TRAVEL)

3. Community capacity building, collaboration and empowerment (including capacity on FPIC, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and rights)

3.1 Community capacity-building: enhancing knowledge and skills (incl. FPIC).

Conduct capacity - building training workshops for traditional resource users on livelihoods diversification and climate change adaptation (promoting alternative livelihood such as bee wax based products, pickle from keora, orchid production)

Educating young and adult members of the traditional resource users (informal education at Community resource centre)

Community Coordinator Salary - (Based in field)

(formation and strengthening of groups / networks, regular meetings of institutions, councils, networks)

Conduct regular group meetings to discuss communal natural resource management problems and devise collaborative actions and solutions through the cooperatives

Equip community co-operatives with solar energy to facilitate sharing meeting at evening (most of the cooperative members are busy during day time with livelihood activities and only able to communicate with other members at evening)

Partnership with other relevant groups locally and nationally

4. Community-based research, mapping, biodiversity surveying and monitoring (including climate change impacts)

4.1 Community-based research & surveys

Research on communities' vulnerabilities to climate change and livelihood adaptation

Community researcher -(Based in field)

4.2 Participatory mapping / demarcation activities / Land cover mapping

Community training on preparing own resource management plan

4.3 Management planning

Training to the community people to build capacity to prepare their own resource management plan. (linked to 4.2)

4.4 Community-based monitoring of biodiversity management

Continuous monitoring of biodiversity and keep records of the changes in the status of biodiversity digitally using computer technology and prepare biodiversity location Map

4.6 Community conservation initiatives

Awarding and encouraging community initiatives on mangrove conservation

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5. Community-based management, conservation and sustainable livelihood activities (including territorial management plans and community adaptation to climate change)

Economic livelihood activities

Promoting locally available climate adaptive economic activities (for example Mangrove-aqua-silviculture) (Technical workshop of promoting Agro-silvo-aquaculture)

Community based biodiversity mapping (linked to 4.4)

Promoting CSU based livelihood (livelihood diversification) through community based co-operatives (Linked to 3.2)

Establish eco-product outlet (local and urban) to increase income of the traditional resources users

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6. Promotion and transfer of traditional knowledge

Training on computer literacy to protect and enhance Traditional Knowledge

Conduct regular group meetings, community gatherings to facilitate transmitting traditional knowledge (linked to 3.2)

Establishing TK bank (community resource centres) for the communities for promoting and intergenerational transmission of CSU (Documenting TK based practices and disseminated through printed, audio and visual format)

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7. Advocacy and lobby, informed participation, and influencing policy and public awareness (national and local levels)

7.1 National and local level dialogue, advocacy and negotiation

Forest people convention at Sundarbans area
National level seminar comprising policy makers, legislative bodies, and grass-root stakeholders where traditional resource users will present their concerns and demand towards pro-poor policy changes
Periodical dialogues between local government officials and traditional resource users to make the local government officials more aware about traditional resource users' problems so that they can take better actions
Writing lobby papers to the relevant ministries on traditional resource users' livelihoods and other issues
7.2 Media outreach, publications etc.
Establishment of digital resource centres on Sundarbans issues which is publicly accessible (Computer equipped with e-books, information on Sundarbans, Documentary films on customary sustainable use will be provided to each co-operative centre)
Celebration of Biodiversity and Environment related days to increase awareness among traditional resource users as well as mass people regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable Sundarbans management (International Biodiversity Day-22 May; World traditional resource users' livelihood problems and their traditional strategies to cope with the challenging situations. These media articles are intended to create wider awareness among the public in Bangladesh)
An annual report will be prepared based on all the activities year round and will be submitted to the donor agency and as well as uploaded in the organisation's website (A bi-product of project activities; budget embedded into all activities)

8. Other and emergency activities

8.1 Other activities including emergency support

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