

COMMUNITY CONSERVED  
AREAS IN SOUTH ASIA

# Bangladesh

Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh

*Authors:*

Md. Anwarul Islam, Mamunul Hoque Khan,  
Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury, Suprio Chakma,  
Mayeen Uddin, Md. Abdul Aziz, Sayam U Chowdhury,  
Dibendu Chakma, Maung Hla Myant, Abdur Rashid,  
Israt Jahan, Rezvin Akter, Samiul Mohsanin,  
Samia Saif, Elizabeth Tennant

## ABSTRACT

The idea of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) is not well conceptualised in Bangladesh. However, many communities since long maintain some common resource pool in relation to their culture or religion in different parts of the country. Up until 1970, there was a patch of forest or wetlands in almost every village in the country. Considering the level of community engagement in conserving and utilising these areas, conceptually these could have been termed CCAs. These areas were located usually on khas (government-owned land, or other estates) lands. Consequently, because of faulty leasing policies and poor governance, many of such areas exist either in a very poor condition or have been lost. Those CCAs, which are still in existence and maintain a significant level of community ownership, are principally socio-cultural common resource bases containing biodiversity significance. Although some CCAs have been established and nurtured under natural resource management projects through government-community approach, most of them are yet to be accepted through legal or policy measures.

No comprehensive and systematic studies have been carried out to either document existing CCAs or to explore their overall status in Bangladesh. In general, secondary sources for relevant information are out of date and very limited information exists in terms nature and scale of CCAs in the country. Against this backdrop, this initial effort taken by the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh provides some basic information about CCAs in Bangladesh. It portrays the significance of CCAs and the necessity of enabling policies and programmatic actions. Further detailed studies on CCAs are also imperative. It is our sincere hope that this document will raise awareness about CCAs and generate intellectual and policy debates in support of the sustainability of CCAs in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Bangladesh, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Community, Conserve, Village Common Forests, bird, coast

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements .....	4
Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	5
Preface .....	6
<b>CHAPTER 1:</b> Background .....	7
<b>CHAPTER 2:</b> Nature and Extent of CCAs .....	11
<b>CHAPTER 3:</b> Case Studies .....	12
CCA 1: Pochamaria Village Bamboo Grove, Rajshahi .....	12
CCA 2: Shakhidar Para, Mahabatpur Village, Joypurhat .....	14
CCA 3: Baghchari (Danabindhu <i>Karbari</i> Para), Rangamati .....	14
CCA 4: Bayazid Bostami Shrine, Chittagong .....	17
CCA 5: Nabiganj and Kushiara, Bandar, Narayanganj .....	18
CCA 6: Baikka Beel, Hail <i>Haor</i> , Sreemangal, Maulvi Bazar .....	18
<b>CHAPTER 4:</b> Policy Premise and Governance .....	20
<b>CHAPTER 5:</b> Way Forward .....	25
<b>CHAPTER 6:</b> Chittagong Hill Tracts Survey .....	26
<b>CHAPTER 7:</b> National Workshop on Community Conserved Areas .....	27
References .....	29
Annex I: Survey Regarding National Legal and Policy Measures Related to CCA .....	30
Annex II: Survey Regarding Status of CCAs in Bangladesh and the Relevant Policy and Legal Framework .....	34
Annex III: Salient Features of Sample CCAs .....	39

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*The authors would like to thank a number of individuals and organisations for their valuable contributions to this document.*

*We express our utmost gratitude to Mr. Ashish Kothari, Ms. Seema Bhatt and Ms. Tasneem Balasinorwala of Kalpavriksh for their instrumental role including critical review and contribution in the preparation of this document. We are also grateful to Dr. Ram Sharma and Dr. Niaz Khan for their enthusiastic role in reviewing the synthesis of policy and legal surveys.*

*We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Enam Ul Haque, Dr. Sabir Bin Muzaffar and Dr. Anwara Begum Shelly for their valuable inputs in the process. Our appreciation also goes to the WTB, Taungya and CNRS crew, who gave their all out support during the field trips.*

*Our sincere gratitude also goes to Mr. Enamul Shahriar for the help in composing this document with high aesthetic quality. Mr. Amanullah Bin Mahmood deserves special appreciation for his cartographic contribution.*

*Md. Anwarul Islam, Mamunul Hoque Khan  
Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury, Suprio Chakma, Mayeen Uddin  
Md. Abdul Aziz, Sayam U Chowdhury, Dibendu Chakma  
Maung Hla Myant, Abdur Rashid, Israt Jahan, Rezvin Akter  
Samiul Mohsanin, Samia Saif, Elizabeth Tennant*

# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Community Conserved Area
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEESP	Commission on Environment, Economic and Social Policy
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CWBMP	Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project
ECA	Ecologically Critical Areas
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HYV	High Yield Variety
ICCA	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
Kalpavriksh	A group working on environment and social issues in India
MACH	Management of Aquatic Resources through Community Husbandry
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PA	Protected Area
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
RMO	Resource Management Organisation
SPARRSO	Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation
SwedBio	Swedish International Biodiversity Programme
TILCEPA	Theme on Indigenous and Local Equity and Protected Areas
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USF	Un-classed State Forest
VCF	Village Common Forest
VCG	Village Conservation Group
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WTB	Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh

## PREFACE

Conservation is still a relatively new concept in Bangladesh, and Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) are not well conceptualised in most parts of the country. Yet, in present day Bangladesh, CCAs have been an important part of the network of common pool resources. But both terrestrial and aquatic CCAs have been drastically reduced since the mid 70s. Those CCAs that are still in existence and maintain a significant level of community ownership are principally socio-cultural common resource bases, containing biodiversity significance. Some CCAs have been established and nurtured under natural resource management (NRM) projects.

Up until 1970, there was a patch of forest (locally known as *ara*, *jongol*, *bashjhar*, *kanda*, etc.) or wetlands (locally known as *beel*, *doho*, *kum*, *baor*, *gang*, *baid*, *dighi*, *chara*, etc.) in almost every village. Considering the level of community engagement in conserving and utilising these areas, conceptually these could have been termed CCAs. These were located on *khas* (government owned land, or other estates) lands. Presently, because of faulty leasing policy and poor governance, these areas are becoming rare.

This study reveals that no comprehensive and systematic studies have been carried out to either document existing CCAs or to explore their overall status. In general, secondary sources for relevant information are out of date and very limited information exists in terms of the specific numbers, nature or aerial extent of CCAs in the country. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to ascertain the spatial extent of CCAs with precision.

Against this backdrop, this chapter provides some basic information about CCAs in Bangladesh. It also portrays the significance of CCAs and the necessity of enabling policies and programming actions. We regard this endeavour as a preliminary effort to capture issues and challenges in relation to CCAs in Bangladesh and as the beginning of a journey to build a knowledge base from WTB's side. We would therefore welcome any critiques and contributions that would help us to achieve this objective. It is our sincere hope that this document will raise awareness about CCAs and generate intellectual and policy debates in support of the sustainability of CCAs in Bangladesh.

**Enayetullah Khan**

*Chairman*

Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh

## CHAPTER 1

## Background

Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries, with more than 150 million people living in an area of 147,570 sq km. The resulting scarcity of land has caused serious environmental degradation and deforestation; forest cover is less than 8 per cent, reduced from about 15 per cent a few decades ago. Bangladesh has 19 PAs including: 10 national parks, 8 wildlife sanctuaries and one game reserve. In addition, there are 5 eco-parks and a safari park under the jurisdiction of the Bangladesh Forest Department. There are 12 Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) within the purview of the Department of Environment, including St. Martin's Island, the Teknaf Peninsula in the far South East, and Hakaluki *Haor* in the North East. The Sundarbans, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is also a Ramsar Site<sup>1</sup>.

About 35 per cent of Bangladesh is inundated each year during the monsoon, and in cases of severe flooding more than 50 per cent of land is sometimes flooded. Per capita cultivable land is less than 20 decimals and per capita forest land is 0.022 hectare (ha), which is believed to be the lowest in the world. The annual deforestation rate in the 1990s was 3.3 per cent, compared to 0.6 per cent in South Asia<sup>2</sup>. The current PA network covers only 1.7 per cent of the country's surface area, which is 252,835 ha or 2528.35 sq km.<sup>3</sup>

The government aims to increase the PA system to 10 per cent. Meeting this targeted proportion of PAs is meaningless if they suffer from inadequate protection measures and are only protected on paper. One better option to meet this target in a meaningful way is through CCAs.

CCAs are generally regarded as natural or modified ecosystems characterised by significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values voluntarily conserved by indigenous and local communities. Yet more specific definitions and operational concepts of CCAs are evolving as they gain recognition with conservationists, who are urging for proper policy and legal support for CCAs. While this concept is new and lacks an adequate legal foundation in Bangladesh, the government in its amendment to the Wildlife Act (year?) enabled the creation of a "Community Conservation Area"<sup>4</sup>. As per the Act, such an area could be any private or community land declared as such for protecting fauna, flora and traditional or cultural conservation values and practices<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See Figure 1

<sup>2</sup> Gain, P. (ed.). 1998. Bangladesh: Land, Forest and Forest People. *Society of Environment and Human Development*, Dhaka. 187 pp.

<sup>3</sup> Khan, MMH. 2008. *Protected Areas of Bangladesh: A Guide to Wildlife*. Nishorgo Programme, Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Circle, Bangladesh Forest Department, Dhaka. 304 pp.

<sup>4</sup> Islam et al. 2009 *Community Conserved Areas in Bangladesh*. Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. 63 pp.

<sup>5</sup> Under Section 21 of the Act

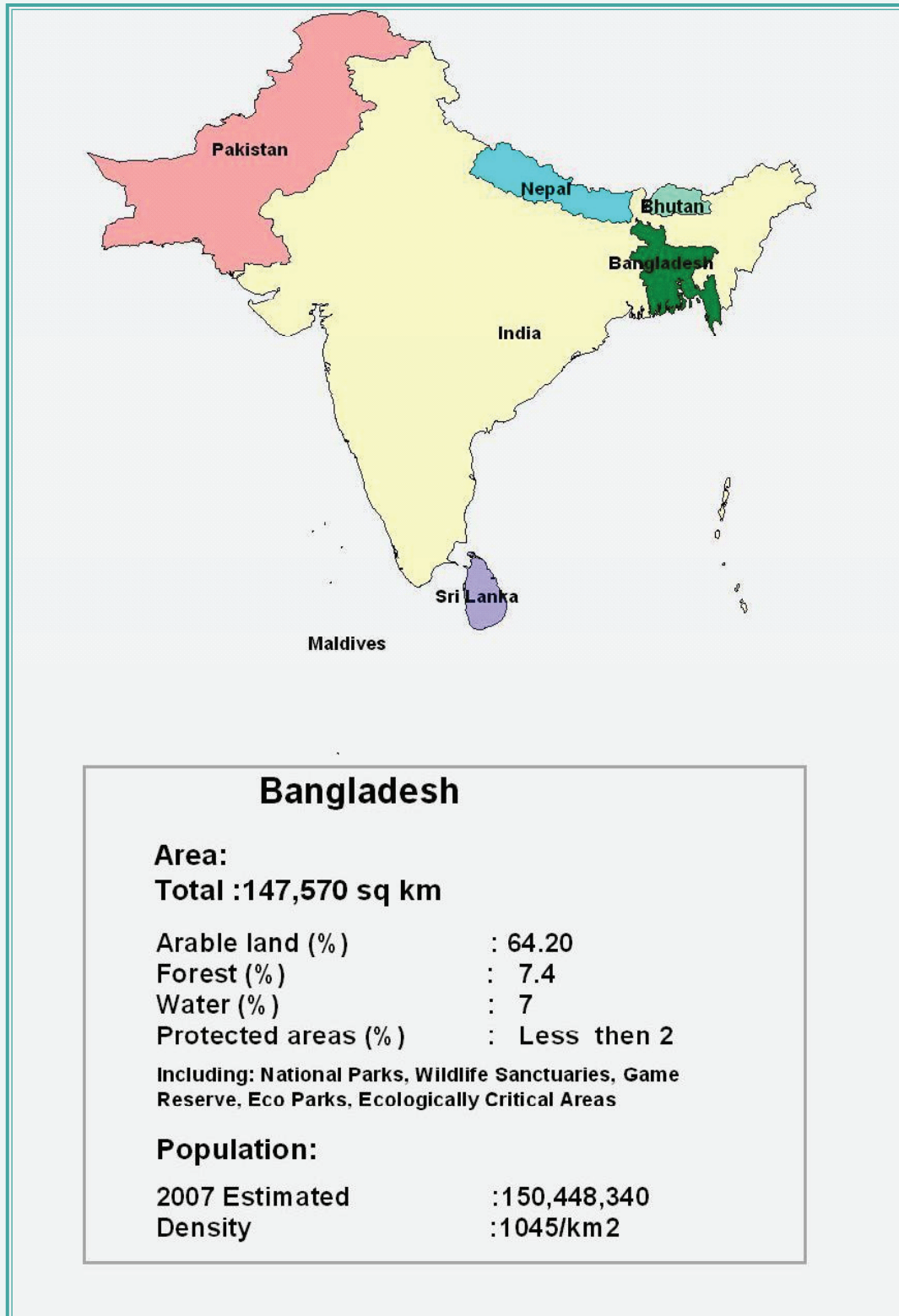


Figure 1: Major Notified and Proposed Protected Areas of Bangladesh





The idea of CCAs is not well conceptualised amongst local communities in most parts of present-day Bangladesh, as majority of the decisions on land and wetlands decisions are taken by a small group of wealthy landowners. Even the government owned lands and wetlands are customarily leased out to elite members of the community, while the poor are often landless and marginalised. By involving communities in land management, the returns to local people from these areas could be increased manifold.

## CHAPTER 2

Types and Nature of CCAs  
in Bangladesh

In present-day Bangladesh, CCAs have been an important part of the network of common pool resources, but both terrestrial and aquatic CCAs have been drastically reduced since the mid 70s. The CCAs that are still in existence and maintain a significant level of community ownership are principally socio-cultural common resource bases. They primarily take the form of Village Common Forests (VCFs) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and religious shrines, such as that of Bayazid Bostami (famous for Bostami Turtles) in Chittagong and of Khan Jahan Ali in Bagerhat in the South West (famed for crocodiles).

In Bangladesh, no comprehensive and systematic studies have been carried out to either create a register of existing CCAs or to explore their overall status. In general, secondary sources for relevant information are out of date and very limited in terms of specifying the number, nature and extent of CCAs in the country. Individual CCAs are not delineated by any particular institutional entity, and it is therefore extremely difficult to ascertain their spatial extent with precision.

Some CCAs have been established and nurtured under government-run natural resource management (NRM) projects in aquatic ecosystems such as: the Baikka Beel of Hail *Haor*, Sreemangal, and Maulvi Bazar<sup>6</sup>. In Bangladesh, many wetlands are typically leased out to influential locals who exploit fish and other aquatic resources. In an effort to address this, a number of NRM projects have attempted to give stewardship or ownership to local people, but with limited success. One of the major challenges that these projects face is the lack of relevant policies and legal protections favouring poor resource users.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the most prominent type of CCA can be classified as the VCF. Historically, these community managed/owned forest sites were known as *mouza* forests. They have been identified as VCFs more recently by a number of *Bangladeshi* authors and local communities. Over time many of these VCFs have been either grabbed or exploited by influential people through faulty leasing, or they have been destroyed by encroachments.

In addition, there are some other areas that are being managed by communities in the greater Mymensingh and Sylhet districts. Some of them are managed under *waqf* (religious endowment in Islam) arrangements.

Up until 1970, throughout the country there were patches of forests (locally known as *ara*, *jongol*, *bashjhar*, *kanda*, etc.) or wetlands (locally known as *beel*, *doho*, *kum*, *baor*, *gang*, *baid*, *dighi*, *chara*, etc.) in almost every village. Given the level of community engagement in conserving and utilising these areas, conceptually these could have been termed CCAs. These areas were located at the *khas* (government owned land or other estates) lands. Presently, because of defective leases, corruption and poor governance, the presence of such areas is very rare.

<sup>6</sup> Established with the help of the Management of Aquatic Resources through Community Husbandry (MACH) project.

## CHAPTER 3

## Sample Case Studies

**W**ildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB), in partnership with Kalpavriksh, India, has recently (2008) conducted field surveys to make a preliminary inventory of some of Bangladesh's CCAs. A few have been briefly described here. Though for a complete inventory of CCAs in Bangladesh, comprehensive and systematic surveys would be required, as secondary sources are unavailable.

### CCA I: Pochamaria Village Bamboo Grove, Rajshahi

Pochamaria Village Bamboo Grove is an example of a successful CCA. Several Hindu and Muslim families of the village own a grove and roosting trees which about 10 Darters (globally threatened), 200 Asian Openbills, and 50 Large Cormorants use as a roosting place in winter. About 50 Black-crowned Night Herons, 30 Little Egrets, 20 Little Cormorants and 15 Cattle Egrets use the spot as a breeding area. At the behest of the young Chairman of the Union Parishad, and Enam Ul Haque (founder, Bangladesh Bird Club and a trustee of the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh) the local people formed a bird conservation society nearly 10 years ago to save the grove and the trees.

Pochamaria has a population of 1600 inhabitants and lies about 270 km NW of Dhaka in the Shilmaria Union, under Puthia Upazila of Rajshahi. The local upazila chairman was recognised as a conservationist by the Bangladesh Bird Club at the Bird Fair organised jointly by the Department of Zoology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh Bird Club and the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh in 2006.

Bangladesh has some 650 species of birds nearly half of which are in some form migratory. These birds rarely form any large congregations, except those that visit our wetland *haors* and *beels*, our coastal areas, and Kaptai Lake during the winter months.

The sighting of a large colony of birds in the village of Pochamaria is a remarkable find.

Pochamaria was turned into a heronry about a decade ago when a small flock of cormorants started roosting at first and then started breeding in the area later on. It is possibly the largest one in the country outside of government managed reserved forests. The heronry is supported by a few bamboo clumps within the compound of



Visiting the CCA Site In Pochamaria, 2008, Photo credit: WTB

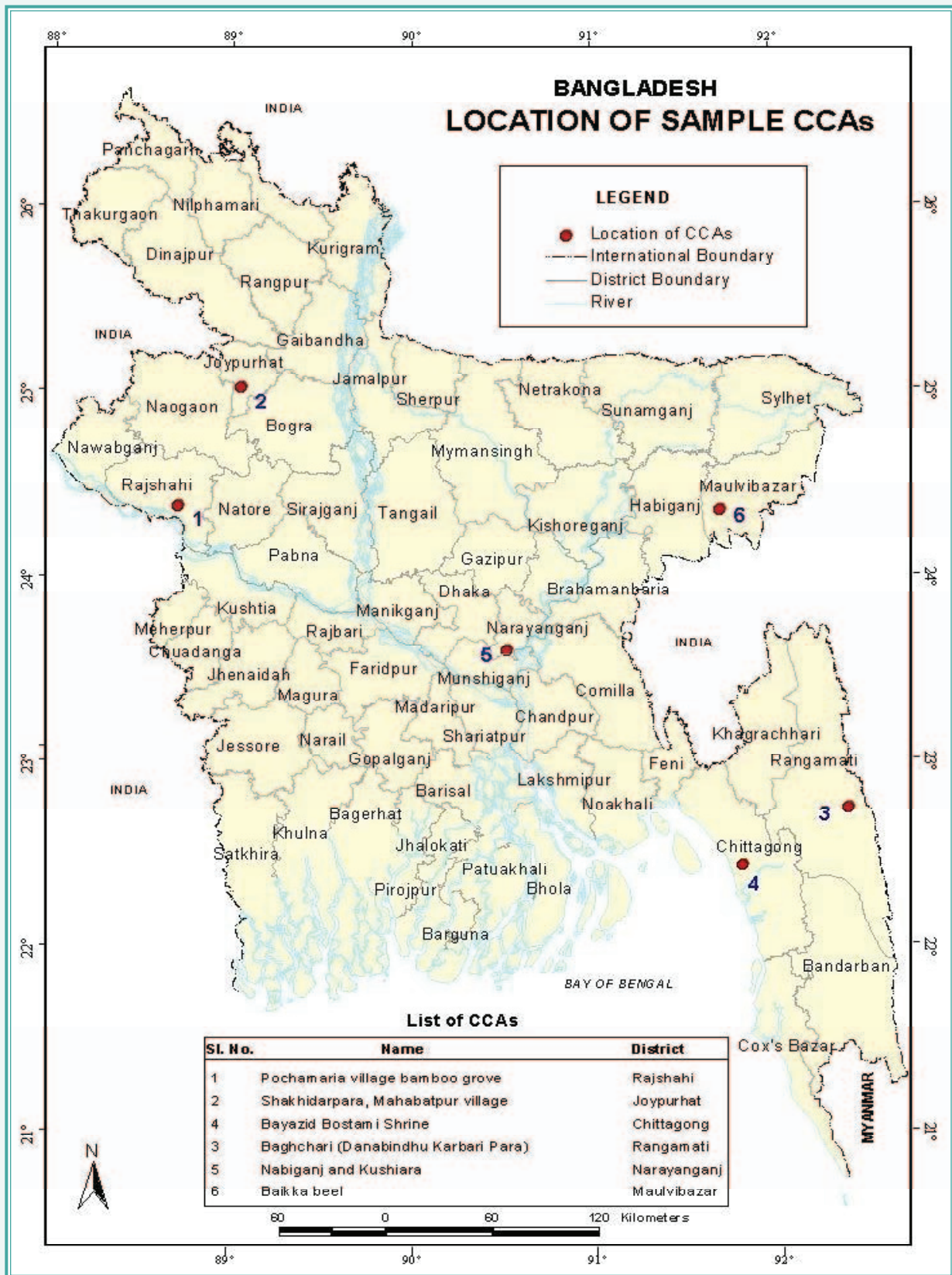


Figure 2: Location Map of Sample CCAs  
Source: Islam et al. (2009)

a few villagers by the side of the bazar and the local road that links Taherpur. Some birds, especially the Asian Openbill (Shamuk Bhanga), roost on Shimul trees (*Bombax ceiba*) within half a kilometre of the market.

The people of Pochamaria have somehow become tolerant of the resident cormorants, egrets and night herons. One of the negative impacts of the presence of the birds is their droppings that are damaging the local cash-crops, such as the bamboos and bombax trees. But the droppings also have a positive impact by producing natural manure for the fields and ponds where various crops and fish are cultivated.

In addition to birds over 1000 bats - Flying Fox or Large Fruit Bats (*Pteropus giganteus*), use the area for roosting. They use the same bamboos and bombax trees as a daytime roost, making a continuous din with their chattering and squeaking<sup>7</sup>.

### CCA II: Shakhidar Para Village, Joypurhat

About seven acres of wood at Shakhidar Para Village (25001'07 N and 89002'07E) can be termed a potential CCA. About 700 Asian Openbills nest in the wood. In addition to bird nesting, there is a bat



*Asian Openbill at Shakhidar Para of Joypurhat in 2008*

Photo credit: Md. Anwarul Islam / WTB

colony with about 1200 bats. Several Muslim villagers own the wood and may form a group to conserve it if the initiative is supported by a leader like the Chairman of the Pochamaria Union Parishad.

This may be possible as this rare breeding place of the Openbill in Bangladesh has been drawing increased attention from the media and curious visitors. Shakhidar Para village is in Khetlal police station of Joypurhat district, located about 250 km northwest of Dhaka and with a human population of about 4600.

### CCA III: Baghchari (Danabindhu Karbari Para), Rangamati

A survey was conducted in 2008 in the hill districts of Bandarban and Rangamati and a CCA was recorded in Rangamati. The area consists of about 200 acres (N 22°44.867 E 92°26.212) located about 15 km from Barkal Sadar and 3 km from the village Baghchari (Danabindhu *Karbari* Para), under Aimachara Union of Barkal Upazila in Rangamati district. From Rangamati district town the area can be reached by 3 hrs mechanised boat journey and then about one and a half hours walk on foot. No one knows exactly when this CCA/VCF was formed, but it is assumed that it has been maintained since the 1960s. This coincides with the displacement of the local indigenous people because of the construction of the dam for the Kaptai Hydroelectric Project. Historically, indigenous people practice *jhuming* (shifting cultivation) and traditionally keep a patch of forest adjacent to their village, known as

<sup>7</sup> Khan, MAR. August 18, 2006. *Holiday*, Dhaka, Bangladesh, has been used.

a VCF, which is never used for *jhuming*. The indigenous people who own and manage this forest are Chakma. They have their own language which is also called Chakma. Their forest is a mixed evergreen type dominated by bamboo groves. Some important wildlife species such as the Hornbill, Asiatic Black Bear and Leopard are also found there.

A management committee headed by a *karbari* (village head) manages the VCF. The committee is principally guided by customary rules of the village. Harvesting of forest products from the VCF is allowed for community use such as construction of schools, temples, etc. but not for commercial use. Firewood and non-wood products such as bamboo are allowed to be harvested to meet the basic needs of the community. Sometimes timber extraction is allowed for building or repairing the houses with the consent of other stakeholders and the *karbari*. Those communities which are not permanently settled tend to over-exploit the VCFs, making these community forests unsustainable. The permanent settlers need to keep a small patch of forest adjacent to their *jhum* to secure the source of water and access to livelihood resources.



*Harvesting bamboo at Baghchari of Rangamati district in 2008*  
**Photo credit:** Suprio Chakma / WTB

### Threats

At one time the area of the VCF was more than 300 acres, but it has now been reduced to 200 acres. The present population is about 400 in 42 families. A few years ago they sold all the large trees for Taka 95000 (\$ 1183). Later, due to conflict of interest 18 families claimed their due share and they were



*Kalpavriksh team and WTB arranged meeting with local people in Rajshahi, 2008*  
**Photo credit:** WTB

given their chunk of forest. Last year these 18 families burned their portion for *jhuming* and while preparing their land for *jhuming* part of the neighboring forests were also burnt. This year bamboos are blooming. It usually blooms after a 40-50 year interval when the parent bamboo will die and there will be regeneration from seedlings. Considering the threat, the owners sold the bamboo at Taka 70000 (\$ 872). Conservation awareness could perhaps help protect this patch of forest as an important CCA.



*WTB team with the local people of Barkal in 2008*  
Photo credit: WTB

*Small group meeting with local people (Kalpavriksh team visiting Baghchhari of Rangamati in Bangladesh), 2008*  
Photo credit: Md. Anwarul Islam / WTB



*Kalpavriksh team joins WTB team to visit Baghchhari of Rangamati, 2008*  
Photo credit: WTB



### Degrading Trend of Natural Forest

Mamunul Haque of UNDP Bangladesh observes that the overall trend of declining natural forest habitats in Bangladesh is severe and the pace of destruction has been accelerated constantly since the 1970s. Although in accordance with forest statistics, about 17 per cent of the country is identified as forest land. However, according to a recent study (SPARRSO 2007) at present about 7.3 per cent of the country is under forest tree cover, primarily mangrove vegetation covering about 4000 sq km. Remote sensing based change analysis reveals that natural forest cover has been reduced by more than 60 per cent since the 1970s. An estimation carried out in 1990 indicated that Bangladesh had less than 0.02 ha of forest land per person, the lowest forest to population ratio in the world.

A stock-taking of the biodiversity of this important CCA should immediately be done and a conservation education programme be organised to save this CCA. This is an important initiative by the local indigenous people as Bangladesh is losing its forest patches at alarming rates and much of the county's rich biodiversity is now under threat.

### CCA IV: Bayazid Bostami Shrine, Chittagong

The Bayazid Bostami Shrine has become a major place of pilgrimage for Muslims. The shrine is named after Bayazid Bostami, a famous saint of Iran, known as Sultan-ul-Arefin Hazrat Byazid Bistami. He was born in 777 C.E. at Bistam/Bostam in Iran and died in 874 C.E. His name is associated with a famous flourishing *dargah* (buildings have been erected upon the graves of *sufis* and dervishes) situated on top of a hillock at Nasirabad, Chittagong. The *dargah* complex consists of the tomb, an old mosque and a tank in front of the tomb. The tank is the abode of about 300 freshwater turtles locally known as *Bostami Kachim*, *Gazari-Madari* (Bostami Turtle/Black Softshell Turtle/Chittagong Mud Turtle, *Aspideretes nigricans*). Among the Muslims there exists a strong religious belief about these turtles for their attachment with the shrine of the saint.

The general belief is that the famous saint is lying buried in this shrine. Therefore, the whole area has been named after him and the road in front of it is called Bayazid Bostami Road. It is widely believed that these turtles were brought by the Saint. There is a strong belief that the turtles are descendants of the evil spirits whose ancestors having incurred the wrath of the great saint, were transformed into turtles. Later it was revealed that Sultan al-Arefin Byazid Bistami never visited and/or arrived in Chittagong. Historians say that it is an '*astana*' (sitting place) associated with the name of the great saint. In the 15th century there was a king in Bengal named Sultan Shihab al-Din Byazid Shah. Possibly it is his grave and his name might have been modified as Sultan Bayazid Bostami by some of his followers.



*Pilgrims trying to feed Bostami turtle at midnight, 2009*

Photo credit: Md. Anwarul Islam / WTb

Whatever the history, hundreds of pilgrims visit the area and feed and try to touch the turtles. This has become a unique example of traditional conservation practices, and the Chittagong Endowment Committee looks after the shrine. These turtles are not seen anywhere in Bangladesh, not even in the wild. These turtles were recorded as an endemic species in Bangladesh until 2002, but recent genetic evidence suggests that the species is not endemic to the Bostami pond<sup>8</sup>. The number of turtles living in the pond is significant, but the conditions in which they live are substandard and unclean. These conditions need improvement to ensure the health and well-being of the turtles.

### CCA V: Nabiganj and Kushiara, Bandar, Narayanganj

Nabiganj and Kushiara are two adjacent villages of Bandar Upazila of Narayanganj district, where about 40 monitor lizards (locally known as *Ramgadi*, *Varanus salvator*) still survive in unused tanks and ditches.

Once found all over the area, the lizards are now confined to a number of ditches, and the increasing habitat loss might bring these animals to the verge of local extinction. They have neither enough food nor a breeding place. The small number of young lizards shows that either the lizards are not reproducing or the young do not survive.

Local people seem to be neutral if not very hostile toward these animals. Although there is no community initiative to protect these animals, a good number of visitors frequent the area to see these gharial-sized (some are even bigger) lizards. This could be developed as a CCA if awareness could be raised among the local people. The villages are located about 30 km south of the capital city of Dhaka.

### CCA VI: Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Sreemangal, Maulvi Bazar

Bangladesh is a signatory to Ramsar Convention and hosts two Ramsar sites: the Sundarbans and Tanguar Haor. About 50 per cent of country's total area is covered by wetlands and its resources support millions of the poorest of the poor. Paul Thompson, in a study of Hail Haor, a large wetland in Maulvi Bazar district in the North East, records that in 2000 the value of goods and services the haor<sup>9</sup> averaged Taka 37,000 (about \$ 461) per ha or double the return from the alternative of a single crop of dry season (boro) paddy at that time<sup>10</sup>. He opines that even without any improvements in management, wetlands are very valuable for the fish, aquatic plants, crops, grazing opportunities, flood mitigation and recreation they provide.

In some areas people realise the importance of wetland resources. Baikka Beel within the greater Hail Haor (about 300 ha) in Sreemangal is such an example, where the local communities protect about 100 ha as permanent sanctuary. Local communities protect this sanctuary from others who are allowed to fish and collect aquatic plants in other parts of the 3,000 ha of dry season water bodies in the haor. Previously this water body was being leased out by the local government at an annual income of Tk 100,000 (about \$ 1245).

This sanctuary is now protected by the local community through the Baragangina Resource Management Organisation. They follow a management plan that was prepared in consultation with local people and approved by a committee comprising of local officials, union parishad chairmen, and leaders of community organisations.

<sup>8</sup> Praschag et al., 2007

<sup>9</sup> Saucer shaped perennial wetland ecosystem in the floodplains

<sup>10</sup> The Daily Star, Star Weekend Magazine, 6(4); February 2, 2007

MACH project (a Government of Bangladesh project supported by USAID) helped this community in various ways and has, through the resource management committees and the local government, excavated deeper spots in the sanctuary and planted native swamp forest trees to restore a greater diversity of habitats.

The community has banned fishing, hunting, and collection of aquatic resources in the sanctuary since 2004, which increased fish catches from the rest of the *haor* from 171 kg/ha before to 388 kg/ha, observes Paul Thompson. As there is no poaching and hunting has been banned, birdlife has increased dramatically. Of the 650 bird species that occur in Bangladesh, Enam Ul Haque and Paul Thompson recorded 103 species within the sanctuary. Their mid-January 2007 water bird census revealed 7,200 birds of 35 water bird species. Now in winter one may see large flocks of local migrants such as Fulvous and Lesser Whistling-Duck; long distance migratory ducks such as Northern Pintail and Common Teal, and residents such as Purple Swamphen. They also recorded some rare, globally threatened species such as Pallas's Fish Eagle and Greater Spotted Eagle. The sanctuary is also the home of a large number of Bangladesh's 251 freshwater fish species.

## CHAPTER 4

# CCA survey in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

A baseline survey was carried out in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) with intent to make an inventory of CCAs. The survey was conducted between 22 November 2009 and 26 January 2010. A total of 45 sites were visited during the survey and 43 CCAs were recorded in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban districts of the CHT of which 29 were in Rangamati, 12 in Bandarban and 2 in Khagrachhari district.

Of the 43 sites, 11 CCAs were recorded for the first time and the remaining were previously described by Taungya, a local NGO based in Rangamati, who works with local communities in the CCA areas of CHT. The recorded CCAs are the Wagga Community Reserve Forest, Rowangchhari Sadar Para, Tulachari Para, Kamolchari Headmanpara Marma Reserve Forest, Kamolchori Headmanpara Chakma Reserve Forest, Kurang Para, Kapru Para, Bolipara - 1, Bolipara - 2, Boli Para - 3 and Boli Para - 5. Among the newly documented sites, 5 are situated in Rangamati, 4 in Bandarban and 2 in Khagrachhari district.

WTB has conducted stocktaking of the CCAs in the CHT with the following objectives:

- ❖ To locate existing CCAs in CHT
- ❖ To find out the status of these CCAs - such as length, age, biodiversity, etc.
- ❖ To learn about the management practices
- ❖ To verify if these “Village Common Forests” actually fulfil CCA criteria.
- ❖ To produce an atlas of the CCAs in CHT
- ❖ To understand the reasons that motivate communities to start conservation initiatives
- ❖ To take notes of social and ecological processes that are involved in these initiatives
- ❖ To find out the challenges that these communities face and opportunities that are available to them
- ❖ To investigate the effective legal and policy changes needed to facilitate CCA initiatives
- ❖ To find out the reasons why CCA initiatives succeed or fail
- ❖ To understand the role of CCA initiatives in sustaining local livelihoods
- ❖ To investigate the role of CCA initiatives in achieving conservation of resources and protection of species

## Study area

The Chittagong Hill Tracts, the extensive hilly areas in Bangladesh, lies in southeastern part of the country (21°25'N - 23°45'N latitude and 91°54'E - 92°50'E longitude) bordering Myanmar on the southeast, the Indian state of Tripura on the north, Mizoram on the east and Chittagong district on the west. The area of the CHTs is about 13,184 sq km, which is approximately one-tenth of the total area of Bangladesh. The three hill districts of the CHTs – the Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban – are under the jurisdiction of the Chittagong division. All the 43 CCA sites are distributed within the 8 upazilas – Kharachhari Sadar (in Khagrachhari district), Belaichhari, Longadu, Rajasthali and Barkal (in Rangamati district), and Rowangchhari, and Bandarban Sadar (in Bandarban district). The habitats were mostly mixed forests with intense plantation of teak (*Tectona grandis*).

## Methodology

A total of 41 days were spent in the field during 22 November 2009 to 26 January 2010. A team of 2-5 people accompanied by local assistants visited the fields. Jeep and motorbike were used to reach the CCAs in remote areas of. Garmin-GPS 72 was used to record the coordinates, while camera equipments were used for taking photographs.

**Questionnaire survey:** We used the questionnaire developed by Kalpavriksh, India, aimed to provide baseline information on the community conserved areas.

## CCA Site Description

**Khagrachhari district:** Dighinala, Matiranga and Khagrachhari Sadar were visited during the survey, but only two CCAs were found in Marma Para and Chakma Para in Khagrachhari Sadar. Both the sites are located in Kamalchhari area.

**List of CCAs in Khagrachhari district**

Site Name	District	Year of conservation	Community	Access	Area (in acres)	Elevation (m)
Marma Para	Khagrachhari Sadar	1962	Marma	1 hr by scooter from Khagrachhari + 15 min hike	20	12
Chakma Para	Khagrachhari Sadar	1965	Chakma	1 hr by scooter from Khagrachhari + 2 hrs hike	100	15

**Rangamati district:** A total of 29 sites were surveyed in Rangamati Sadar, Barkal, Belaichhari, Longadu and Rajasthali upazilas of Rangamati district. Of these 3 were located in Belaichhari, 8 in Longadu, 1 in Rangamati Sadar, 6 in Barkal and 11 in Rajasthali upazila. They fulfil some of the criteria of CCA. Vegetation covers of the CCA sites of Rangamati district are mostly mixed evergreen forest type, surrounded by teak plantation.

Madya Karikata of Longadu upazila is the largest CCA documented in the CHT consisting of 650 acres of land. It is a mixed evergreen forest conserved by the Chakma community since 1976. The GPS location is N:22.86895 E:92.16198. The area provides home for 480 people of 73 families.

Another CCA/VCF of Rangamati district is Arachori Para situated in Rajasthali upazila. This is a 300 years old CCA/VCF. The total area of this VCF is 100 acres and the vegetation cover is mixed evergreen type. Inhabitants of the area are Khiyans.

**List of CCAs in Rangamati district**

Site	Upazila	Year when conservation started	Community	Access	Area (in acres)	Elevation (m)
1. Ajachara Bilaichari Moan	Belaichhari	1978	Chakma	Boat+ 4 hrs hike	300	450
2. Punkua Para	Belaichhari	2006	Pankua	Boat+ 20mins hike	40-50	
3. Sapchari	Belaichhari	1970	Chakma	Boat + 2.5hrs hike	360	
4. Bame Atarokchara	Longadu	1967	Chakma	Road + 1.5hr hike	500	
5. Maddochara	Longadu	1999	Chakma	Road + hike	500	
6. Badalchari Badichara	Longadu	1990	Chakma	Road + hike	500	
7. Ronjit Para	Longadu	1989	Chakma	Road + hike	300	
8. Duluchari	Longadu	2001	Chakma	Road + hike	100	
9. Rangi Para	Longadu	2007	Chakma	Road + hike	200	
10. Madya Karikata	Longadu	1976	Chakma	Road + hike	650	
11. Kalaboyna	Longadu	1967	Chakma	Road + hike	300	
12. Dhanuchari Para	Rajasthali	more than 100 years	Khiyan	Road + hike	100	
13. Arachori Para	Rajasthali	300 years ago	Khiyan	Road + hike	100	
14. Kukkye Chari	Rajasthali	more than 100 years	Khiyan	Road + hike	100	
15. Wagga Community Reserve Forest	Rangamati Sadar	2009	Tanchanga & Marma	Road + 2hrs hike	20	100
16. Garjantali	Barkal	1975	Chakma		300	
17. Dumoujjechara	Barkal	1998	Chakma		90	
18. Jakkobajei	Barkal	1995	Chakma		100	
19. Begenachari	Barkal	1960	Chakma		300	
20. Nah-Vanga	Barkal	1990	Chakma		200	

Site	Upazila	Year when conservation started	Community	Access	Area (in acres)	Elevation (m)
21. Bagchari	Barkal	1985	Chakma		200	
22. Rose Para	Rajasthali	1930	Khiyan		100	
23. Baro Para	Rajasthali	1950	Khiyan		100	
24. Krista Para	Rajasthali	1950	Tripura		50	
25. Bolipara – 1	Rajasthali	1975	Tripura		30	
26. Bolipara – 2	Rajasthali	1950	Tripura		50	
27. Bolipara – 3	Rajasthali	1985	Tripura		50	
28. Bolipara – 4	Rajasthali	1986	Tripura		100	
29. Bolipara – 5	Rajasthali	1980	Tripura		60	

During the survey period 27 species of birds and 9 species of mammals were recorded from Rangamati district. Of the 27 species of birds, 22 are resident and 5 (Common Kestrel, Barn Swallow, Dusky Warbler, Yellow Wagtail and Oriental Turtle Dove) are migratory. Out of 9 species of mammals 5 species are critically endangered (Barking Deer, Black Bear, Hoolock Gibbon, Sambar and Phayre’s Leaf Monkey), 1 endangered (Jungle Cat), 2 vulnerable (Wild Dog and Rhesus Macaque) and 1 is not threatened (Wild Boar).

**Bandarban:** A total of 12 sites have been surveyed in Rowangchhari and Bandaban Sadar upazilas in Bandarban district. Vegetation covers of these sites were mostly mixed evergreen forest dotted and surrounded with Teak plantation. Of these 12 sites 4 have been newly documented as VCFs. Of these 4 sites 2 are in Bandarban Sadar (Kurang Para and Kapru Para) and 2 in Rowangchhari (Rowangchhari Sadar Para and Tulachari Para).

#### List of CCAs in Bandarban district

Site	Upazila	Year when conservation started	Community	Access	Area (in acres)
1. Swanglu Para	Rowangchhari	1985	Bawm	Jeep and on foot	15
2. Bijoy Para	Rowangchhari	1905	Tanchanga	Jeep and on foot	175
3. Khamtang Para	Rowangchhari	1905	Khiyan	Jeep and on foot	200
4. Paglachara Para	B. Sadar	1962	Tanchanga	Jeep and on foot	100
5. Rinikhyang Bagan Para	B. Sadar	1993	Mro	Jeep and on foot	40
6. Ranglai Chairman Para	B. Sadar	1994	Mro	Jeep and on foot	25
7. Empu Para	B. Sadar	1908	Mro	Jeep and on foot	50
8. Chini Para	Rowangchhari	1998	Mro	Jeep and on foot	40

Site	Upazila	Year when conservation started	Community	Access	Area (in acres)
9. Rowangchari Sadar Para	Rowangchhari	2009	Marma	Jeep and on foot	200
10. Tulachari Para	Rowangchhari	2009	Marma	Jeep and on foot	20
11. Kurang Para	B. Sadar	1875	Mro		60
12. Kapru Para	B. Sadar	1800	Mro		50

In terms of CCA management, local communities manage and protect these CCAs by their customary rules. Usually, a formal group (7-21) of people takes decision in order to manage their community forests. It is known that local ethnic groups did conserve forest patches to meet the purpose of their livelihood, economic, cultural, ethical and sometimes religious relations since long. In most of the cases, the formal committee makes significant decisions regarding CCA management and now (2009) they have formulated specific guidelines to manage and use these CCAs with the help Taungya - a local NGO.



## CHAPTER 5

## Policy Premise and Governance

As a whole, *Bangladeshi* policies do not specifically recognise terrestrial, riparian or marine ACCAs. However, the category “Community Conservation Area” has been included in the recent amendment of the Wildlife Act. This aside, no specific policies or legal instruments have been enacted to recognise CCAs in Bangladesh as of date. The CHT Regulation of 1900 (by Rule 41a) acknowledges the traditional community managed *mouza* forests, but does not explicitly grant the community ownership or sufficiently protect the land from exploitation<sup>11</sup>. The existence of this regulation is therefore complementary to the goals of community forest conservation, but it does not provide a sufficient basis for the development of CCAs.

As previously mentioned, until 1970 almost every village in the country contained a village forest in the *khas*<sup>12</sup> land or in *waqf* estates. People had usufruct rights to the resources of these village forests. Communities managed these areas because for various reasons, including their (i) source of resources for community; (ii) socio-cultural significance; and (iii) spiritual/religious significance. Although at that time people may not have been conscious of the full significance of biodiversity, communities protected areas for their own reasons and, as a result, they also conserved local level habitats containing rich diversity of plants and animals.

A poorly conceptualised ‘Green Revolution’ that began in the late 70s also significantly deteriorated the situation by converting many wetland ecosystems into crop fields.

There are many areas in Bangladesh that can still be termed CCAs. However, no legal or policy instruments have been formed and officiated specifically in support of CCAs. It would be a significant step forward from the side of the government if they approve the proposed amendments to the Wildlife Act, which contains a number of clauses in relation to Community Conservation Areas. (Please see Annexe II and III for more details.)

<sup>11</sup> UNDP, “Bangladesh: The Interface of Customary and State Laws in the Chittagong Hill Tracts,” in *Bridging the Gap: Policies and Practices on Indigenous People’s Natural Resource Management in Asia*, 2007

<sup>12</sup> Government-owned land

CHAPTER 6

# Way forward

A thorough study is required to ascertain aerial extent, type, nature and status of existing CCAs. Awareness has to be raised amongst policy makers and the general population about the significance of CCAs.

CCAs should be a part of the PA network of Bangladesh and should be properly supported by appropriate policy and legal instruments. Climate change, biodiversity and land degradation should be well integrated into the strategic management and programme framework of CCAs. Forestry based CCAs can be instrumental in providing additional income to the community through carbon trading under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Coastal green belt CCAs can serve as key adaptation measures in reducing vulnerability of the coastal population.

CCA governance should be well linked and integrated with PA management systems. This will also serve as a strategy for territorial expansion of PAs. In addition to government systems, it is very important to establish and nurture non-government, academic and research institutions for proper and neutral monitoring and evaluation. They can also play a pivotal role in providing policy inputs for strengthening the overall governance of CCAs.

## CHAPTER 7

# National Workshop on Community Conserved Areas

A national workshop on the CCAs in Bangladesh was conducted during 24-25 February 2010 at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) Foundation. It was organised by the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh and Kalpavriksh, India with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Over 60 participants from different sectors of Bangladesh participated at the workshop including regional representatives from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan; community people from the CHTs and many more were present to make the workshop successful. The main objectives of the workshop were-

1. To discuss CCA status, trends, challenges and potentials
2. To identify ways and means for developing a sustainable CCA constituency in Bangladesh
3. To discuss strategic provisions and priority actions in support of CCA

From open discussion and presentations the following notable points came out.

### The challenges for CCAs

- Unclear legal status and tenure (e.g. *USFs in CHT*)
- Lack of social and legal recognition as CCAs (e.g. to *mouza* forests)
- Lack of information on ecological and social values
- Threats from inappropriate 'development' processes (mining, agricultural expansion, dams, etc.)
- Internal community inequalities, political vested interests
- Over-extraction, excessive hunting
- Inadequate livelihood options
- Lack of financial sustainability of initiative

### Needs for CCAs in Bangladesh

- Continuation of identification and documentation
- Mapping

- Study of ecological & socio-economic values
- Legal and policy measures for recognition (national and regional laws, e.g. CHT Regulation)
- Coordination between different departments
- Generating livelihoods
- Capacity building including the community's capacity to generate various financial and other resources required
- Recommendations for appropriate awards for good community conservation and governance practices
- Helping in formulation of various local, supra local support networks and network at the national level

### Adequate recognition of CCAs needed under Laws and Policies

- Wildlife Act (CCAs should not be restricted to private/community lands)
- Village Forest rules under Forest Act
- Marine Fisheries Ordinance (Marine Reserves)
- Territorial Water and Maritime Zones Act (Conservation Zones)
- Ecologically Critical Areas under the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 Fish Act (Fish Sanctuaries)
- Framing of appropriate rules within a timeframe and with the participation of the local communities; important that CCAs are provided control and allowed to manage with their own institutions

### Outcomes

At the end of the workshop the participants were able to know more about:

- CCAs in general
- Community based conservation programmes of different countries
- The values of CCAs and how to maintain them
- Challenges that CCAs face
- Policy initiatives by other countries
- The relevance of identification and documentation of CCAs
- Important international tools for CCAs
- Relevant needs specifically for Bangladesh CCAs
- Adequate recognition under laws and policies

The workshop came to an end by the concluding remarks of the special guest Mr. Jafar Siddique, National Project Director, CWBMP followed by the vote of thanks by Mr. Mamunul H Khan, UNDP.

## References

- Gain, P. (ed.) 1998 Bangladesh: Land, Forest and Forest People. *Society of Environment and Human Development*, Dhaka. 187 pp.
- Khan, MAR. August 18, 2006 *Holiday*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Khan, MMH. 2008 *Protected Areas of Bangladesh: A Guide to Wildlife*. Nishorgo Programme, Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Circle, Bangladesh Forest Department, Dhaka. 304 pp.
- Onneshan, Unnayan. Survey, 2007
- Praschag, P., Hundsdoerfer, A.K., Reza, A.H.M.A., and Fritz, U. Genetic evidence for wild-living *Aspideretes nigricans* and a molecular phylogeny of South Asian softshell turtles (Reptilia: Trionychidae: *Aspideretes*, *Nilssonina*). *Zoologica Scripta*, Volume 36 Issue 4, Pages 301 – 310, Apr 2007.
- Thompson, P. February 2, 2007 *The Daily Star*, Star Weekend Magazine. 6(4).
- UNDP. 2007 “Bangladesh: The Interface of Customary and State Laws in the Chittagong Hill Tracts,” in *Bridging the Gap: Policies and Practices on Indigenous People’s Natural Resource Management in Asia*.

### Policy Documents

There are some generic and specific contents in favor of conservation of biodiversity, natural, cultural as well as archaeological heritage in the following policy and legal instruments. Some of the instruments also contain texts in line with community rights to resources. No clauses specifically in line with CCAs are included in any of these policy documents. However, the draft revised Wildlife Act of Bangladesh mentions CCA.

Environment Policy 1992

Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995

Environment Conservation Rules 1997

The Forest Act 1927

The Protection and Conservation of Fish Rules, 1985

Land Reforms Ordinance, 1984

Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) (Amendment) Act 1974

The Bengal Alluvion and Diluvion Act

Brick Burning (Control) Act 1989

National Forestry Policy 1994

National Land Use Policy 2002

National Livestock Policy

National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (FY 2009 – 11)

Agriculture Policy

ANNEXURE I

## Survey Regarding National Legal and Policy Measures Related to Community Conserved Areas<sup>13</sup>

### I. Does national or sub-national law or policy recognise terrestrial, riparian or marine Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)?

As a whole, *Bangladeshi* national policies do not specifically recognise terrestrial, riparian or marine CCAs. However, the term “Community Conservation Area” has been mentioned in the revision of the Wildlife Act, which is in the approval process.

In Bangladesh, there is no sub national policy, as the country does not contain any provincial or state systems. The whole country is governed by the national policies with the exception of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Region. For the CHT Region there are some specific administrative and legal instruments, but it is not considered a separate Province or State of the country<sup>14</sup>.

### II. Does the country recognise ICCAs as a part of the PA network system?

No. The relevant laws and policies do not recognise ICCAs as a part of the PA network system.

The Wildlife Preservation Act identifies protected areas under three designations: National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Game Reserve where any access of communities has been restricted. This Act is under revision and the revised version identifies some additional categories, such as: Eco Park, Safari Park, and Community Conservation Area. This revised version also contains some text in favor of limited community engagement in PA management. These would entail mechanisms such as the introduction of ecotourism with the engagement of the people who depend on the resources of the PAs for their livelihood needs. It also has a clause in favor of retention and utilisation of local funds to be generated from the gate money (entry fees). However, the draft may go through another round of revisions before its final approval.

### The Section 21 of the Revised (Proposed) Wildlife Act:

#### Declaration of Community Conservation Area

“(1) The Government may upon request of land owners, declare, by notification, any private or community land not comprised within the designated protected area consisting of landscape zone, as a community conservation area, where the community or an individual has volunteered any area, for the purpose of

<sup>13</sup> This survey was conducted to disseminate the ideas on CCAs in Bangladesh. General discussion among involved parties were generated regarding policy and legal provisions for CCAs within Bangladesh, and the implications of the existing legal framework on the ability of communities to maintain CCAs.

<sup>14</sup> UNDP, “Bangladesh: The Interface of Customary and State Laws in the Chittagong Hill Tracts,” in *Bridging the Gap: Policies and Practices on Indigenous People’s Natural Resource Management in Asia*, 2007

protecting fauna, flora and traditional or cultural conservation values and practices in the manner not derogatory to sustainable development.

(2) The provisions of Sections 17 and 18 shall, apply in relation to community conservation area as they apply to a sanctuary.

(3) After the issuance of notification under sub-section (1), no change in the land use pattern shall be made within the community conservation area, except in accordance with a resolution passed by the collaborative management committee/council of any community conservation area and approval of the same by the Board. Provided that, the Government may, by notification specifying the reasons thereof, relax all or any of the prohibition specified above, either for scientific purposes or for aesthetic enjoyment or betterment or improvement of the scenery or management of wildlife therein”.

### III. If ICCAs are not legally recognised, are there general policies/laws that recognise indigenous/community territories or rights to areas or natural resources, under which such communities can conserve their own sites?

In Bangladesh, under special administrative orders, there are instances where terrestrial or riparian systems have been leased out to communities for their community led/managed conservation. There is the recognition of the significance of conservation of biodiversity and archaeological sites in different policies, such as: Environment Policy 1992, Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Act 1995, Environmental Conservation Rules 1997, and National Land use Policy 2002. The recently concluded 2nd National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (FY 2009-11) recognised the significance of biodiversity resources and access of community to the common pool of resources.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Region, there were *Mouza* Forests (also known as Village Common Forests) within the Un-classed State Forest (USF) areas. Under local traditional systems, the community always conserved these forest areas. These areas have been seriously degraded and encroached upon by influential people. Indiscriminate leasing of forest lands by the administration and illegal land grabbing of lands seriously reduced forest coverage in the CHT.

Up until 1970, throughout the country there were patches of forests (locally known as *ara*, *jongol*, *bashjhar*, *kanda*, etc.) or wetlands (locally known as *beel*, *doho*, *kum*, *baor*, *gang*, *baid*, *dighi*, *chara*, etc.) in almost every village. Considering the level of community engagement in conserving and utilizing these areas, conceptually these could have been termed CCAs. These were located at the *khas* (government-owned land, or other estates) lands. Presently, because of faulty leasing policy, corruption, and poor governance, the presence of such areas is very rare.

The Bangladesh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity refers to several community-based wetland and fisheries conservation projects, where local institutions are established to allow local community in decision making, planning and sustainable management of these resources (<http://www.machban.org>). Using participatory mechanisms, some fish sanctuaries have been established, and traditional fishing management practices are being encouraged. Community driven projects also aim for poverty reduction through restoration of degraded ecosystems.

A *Biodiversity and Community Knowledge Protection Act* has been drafted to offer protection and support the rights, knowledge, innovations and practices of local and indigenous communities.

Nishorgo, a Forest Department PA management programme, initiated in Bangladesh in 2004, supported by USAID, represents a significant departure from the traditional top-down conservation policy. This program is implementing co-management in five PAs covering more than 22,000 ha of

core conservation area, in a surrounding landscape of more than 100 000 ha. This program promotes livelihood security and biodiversity protection, involving more than 2,50,000 low-income people living in areas near PAs. Co-management councils and executive committees, comprising local stakeholders, were recognised in 2006. While the Nishorgo program made significant strides in creating a sustainable co-management system, they also encountered several major challenges. There was limited policy and legal background for the project from the government, sustainability was difficult to achieve, and ensuring the benefit of local citizens proved complicated.

Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Act 1995 recognises another category of areas, which are known as Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA). However, because of the inadequacy in legal and biophysical characterization, ECA rules are under formulation, and contain certain text in favor of community engagement and rights in the management of biodiversity resources in the ECAs. This is going to be one of the principal legal instruments for the governance of the Ecologically Critical Areas of Bangladesh. While advocacy is going on for creating a comprehensive and harmonised PA classification system for the country, ECAs are yet to be a part of the revised version of the Wildlife Act. Also, Bangladesh PAs are not well represented in terms of diversity of ecosystems such as riverine and estuarine systems, and they are only represented by some temporal banning of fishing in particular areas. Marine systems are also seriously under represented. In terms of lacustrine and palustrine systems, some ECAs are there where under different projects some work approach will be found which is compatible with CCA principle. UNDP supported Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP) of Bangladesh Government can be cited as an example in this regard. At the moment, even if ECAs are considered as PA, the percentage area of the PA in Bangladesh would be less than 2 per cent.

The Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP) is being implemented to demonstrate viable management approaches for the ECAs of Bangladesh. The other major objective of this project is to enhance community and government capacity in the management of the ECAs. For systemic level, this project is assisting the government in developing the relevant policy and legal instruments. The central theme of this programmatic endeavor is to build on everything with the direct involvement of the community who depend on the resources in and around the ECAs. A National ECA Committee and the local and sub-National ECA Committees have been formulated through gazette notification. Collaborative management principle has been the central theme of the approach under which within the ECAs, several strict protection zones have been identified such as bird sanctuary, fish sanctuary, turtle reserve, and swamp forest area. Seventy-two Village Conservations Groups have also been formed who are at the forefront of conservation of the relevant ECAs. These Village Conservation Groups are under the process of becoming legal entity. About 30 VCGs have already been registered and the rest would be registered this year. However, because of the existing leasing principles, these efforts are generating only partial results.

Bangladesh has been criticised for the continuation of top-down and heavy-handed governance in some areas, such as the Sundarbans, where an NGO survey noted a lack of participatory decision-making and management<sup>15</sup>. While some legal instruments are being revised in favor of community participation and co-management, NGOs report there is still a long way to go before participatory and equitable PA management will be achieved.

---

<sup>15</sup> Unnayan Onneshan, 2007



#### IV. Overall Comments

To date, no specific policies or legal instruments have been enacted to recognise CCAs in Bangladesh. However, as mentioned before until 1970, traditionally almost every village of the country contained a village forest in the *khas* land or in *waqf* estates. People had usufruct rights to the resources of these village forests<sup>16</sup>. Communities used to manage these areas because of various reasons although at that time people may not have been conscious of the full significance of biodiversity, communities protected areas for their own reasons and, as a result, they also conserved local level habitats containing rich diversity of plants and animals.

Similarly, there was at least a beel ecosystem in almost each village in the flood plain areas as common pool community resources. As with forest ecosystems, these systems have also been encroached by the land grabbers. A poorly conceptualized green revolution also significantly deteriorated the situation through the conversion of these wetland systems to crop fields since late 70s.

There are still many areas in Bangladesh that can be termed as CCAs. However, any legal or policy instruments are yet to be formed and officiated specifically in support of CCAs. It would be a significant step from the government side, if they approve the amendments in the Wildlife Act which contains a number of clauses in relation to Community Conservation Areas.

---

<sup>16</sup> Usufruct rights denotes the ownership of relevant individuals or communities of property that is not fully under their possession. For example, communities may have access to forest resources and services without any legal ownership of the land or trees.

ANNEXURE II

## Survey Regarding Current Status of CCAs in Bangladesh and the Relevent Policy and Legal Framework<sup>17</sup>

### I. THE STATE OF CCAs IN BANGLADESH

#### 1. How extensive is the CCA phenomenon in the country?

In Bangladesh, to date no comprehensive and systematic studies have been carried to make a census of CCAs or to look into their overall status. In general, secondary sources for relevant information are very limited in terms of specifying the number, nature and aerial extent of CCAs in the country. Moreover, individual CCAs are not delineated by any particular institutional entity. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to ascertain spatial extent of CCAs with precision.

In the territory of present Bangladesh, CCAs serve as an important part of the network of common pool resources. Yet, both terrestrial and aquatic CCAs have been drastically reduced since mid 70s.

The main factors that can be attributed to this decrease in CCAs includes:

- a) Population growth and the associated pressure on natural resources.
- b) Lack of awareness and sustainable ecosystem management vision within the purview of different ministries such as the Ministry of Land, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.
- c) Poorly managed agricultural (in the larger sense of the term, including all sub-sectors and fisheries), specifically propagation of the High Yield Varieties.
- d) Weak governance leading to poor implementation of the relevant policies and legal instruments, including faulty leasing policies and corrupt practices that led to the grabbing of many of the CCAs by influential parties.

#### 2. What are the main types of CCAs that can be found? Please describe (ecosystem types, state initiated/community initiated, etc.).

The CCAs that are still in existence with a significant level of community ownership are principally socio-cultural common resource bases such as Village Common Forests (VCFs) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and religious shrines such as the Bayazid Bostami Shrine (famous for Bostami Turtle) in Chittagong in the SE, and the shrine of Khan Jahan Ali in Bagerhat in the SW (crocodile).

---

<sup>17</sup> Similar in nature to the survey presented in Annex I, this survey was conducted to disseminate the ideas on CCAs in Bangladesh. General discussion among involved parties were generated regarding the state of CCAs in Bangladesh, the policy and legal framework relevant to CCAs, analysis of the situation and recommendations for the future.

Some CCAs have been established and nurtured under natural resources management projects in aquatic ecosystems, such as: the Baikka Beel of Hail *Haor*, Sreemangal, and Maulvi Bazar

In the terrestrial system, as mentioned before, one prominent type of CCA can be identified as Village Common Forest (VCF) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Historically, these community managed/owned forests sites were known as *mouza* forests and they have lately termed as VCFs by a number of authors and local communities<sup>18</sup>. As time has passed, many of the VCFs have either been grabbed or exploited by influential people under faulty leasing and inappropriate governance approaches, or destroyed because of excessive pressure on resources and subsequent encroachment. These VCFs are mostly small, averaging 20 to 120 ha.s in size consisting of naturally grown or regenerated vegetation. The VCFs are managed, protected and utilized by indigenous village communities under the leadership of the *mouza* Headman and village *karbaries* (traditional village level leaders). The existence of these forests is acknowledged in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regulation of 1900 (at Rule 41a). This Regulation is the main legal instrument for the administration of the CHT. Along with this legal provision, other executive orders recognise the existence of VCFs. However, it does not recognise the full ownership rights of the community concerned or provide express safeguards against alienation and privatization. *Mouza* headmen are responsible for land, and without their advice land grants are not supposed to be made. However, there are instances where headmen were not consulted in leasing out those areas<sup>19</sup>.

In addition, there are some other areas that are being managed by communities in the greater Mymensingh and Sylhet districts. Some of them are managed under *waqf* arrangements.

### **3. Are there ancient types of CCAs? Are there very new ones? Please describe.**

Please refer to the response above. In general, CCAs are diminishing and with the present trends, only CCAs with religious and cultural significance may exist in the future. As discussed above, CCAs are also being established under different biodiversity conservation projects. The long term sustainability of these areas will depend on proper policy provisions and their enforcement.

### **4. For each type, please broadly describe the typical extension and biodiversity value. Please also describe (for each type) the typical governance settings, including a sense of the capacities, means and length of time the protection effort or practice has been sustained.**

In terms of biodiversity value, all the CCAs are significant. The religious shrines are being managed by dedicated committees. VCFs are managed and utilized by the community with the overall decision making authority of the concerned headmen. The CCAs established under different biodiversity conservation project initiatives are being managed by the community based resource management committees. For sustainability, relevant policy provisioning and its proper compliance would be a prerequisite. Capacity development of the management entities is another fundamental requirement to ensure proper management of the CCAs.

<sup>18</sup> *Mouza* is a local term that denotes demarcated zones of the country for the purpose of land administration and revenue management.

<sup>19</sup> UNDP, "Bangladesh: The Interface of Customary and State Laws in the Chittagong Hill Tracts," in Bridging the Gap: Policies and Practices on Indigenous People's Natural Resource Management in Asia, 2007

**5. Where and why those CCA types exist? What objectives do they fulfil for the concerned communities?**

As mentioned above, presently these CCAs are located different parts of the country including Chittagong Hill Tracts, Chittagong, Greater Sylhet and Mymensingh districts. However, a comprehensive census is needed inventorying the CCAs including its status and other relevant information such as type and nature of the CCAs, objectives and governance structures.

**6. In general, in what status are they found (e.g., barely surviving, under attack, thriving, likely to change but remain sustainable as CCAs in the long run...)?**

In general, the CCAs being supported by projects are well existing but its long term sustainability is not certain because of the lack of compatible policies and legal instruments. Religious shrines are existing well. Other CCAs are diminishing.

**7. Do they have “allies”? Do they receive some form of support from outside?**

It is impossible to answer this question accurately without field verification. On the basis of information at hand it can be generally concluded that there are no functional allies or networks present at the moment. The bilateral or multilateral organisations that are working to support biodiversity management projects are likely the only allies.

**8. Do they have “enemies”? Are they threatened by particular forms of change?**

The systemic aspects (such as policies) are the main challenge. As described above, faulty policies and poor governance are detrimental to establishing CCAs.

**9. What role (if any) specifically, do women play in the conservation of CCAs? What benefits or costs they have specifically for women?**

Women play an important role in conserving and utilising the CCAs. Often CCAs are source of energy (such as kitchen fuel) and water. Aquatic CCAs are a place for bathing, irrigation water, and aquatic resources such as fish and vegetables.

## II. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

**1. Overall, are the legal and policy framework for Protected Areas in the country adapted to the recognition and support of CCAs?**

Please refer to the survey regarding national legal and policy measures included in this report.

**2. Following the approval of the programme of work on protected areas of the CBD (Feb, 2004), have there been legal and policy developments related to CCAs in the country? If yes, what? If not, why not?**

The only notable accomplishment is the revision of the Wildlife Act wish is yet to be approved by the government.

**3. Do you have any example of recent “government recognition” of a CCA? If yes, how did it happen? What consequences did it have?**

Baikka beel may be considered in this regard.

### III. ANALYSIS

**1. What CCA types seem most effective for the conservation of biodiversity in your country? (Please offer some explanations and examples.)**

At present, not a single type of CCA management can really be termed truly effective. Apparently management with project support demonstrated some encouraging results. However, as mentioned before, without proper policy provisioning, sustainability of such CCAs will always remain uncertain.

**2. What CCA types seem most effective for the conservation of the cultural values associated with biodiversity? (Please offer some explanations and examples.)**

Religious shrines, such as Bayazid Bostami Shrine are famous for the conservation of Bostami Turtle. The shrine of Khan Jahan Ali in Bagerhat in SW Bangladesh is known for conserving fresh water crocodile.

**3. What CCA types seem most effective for the generation and equitable distribution of socio-economic benefits? (Please offer some explanations and examples.)**

VCFs of CHT are naturally grown or regenerated vegetation and can be considered in this regard. These are mostly small areas averaging 20 to 120 ha. With permission from the *mouza* headman, indigenous communities manage, protect and utilize the VCFs. Along with the Chittagong Hill Tracts regulation, the VCFs are recognised by some other executive orders along with the legal provision. However, it does not recognise the full ownership rights of the community concerned or provide express safeguards against alienation and privatization. Though *mouza* headmen are responsible for these lands, but there are reports that sometimes they have not been consulted in decisions with regards to the leasing out of those areas.

**4. What factors or conditions (E.G., tenure security, infrastructure support, community cohesion, quality of relationship with relevant state agencies) appear important in determining effectiveness and overall success for CCAs? Can you offer some specific examples?**

For ensuring effectiveness, it is very important to have an enabling policy and legal premise in support of community ownership, public-private-community partnership, and conflict resolution mechanism.

**5. Are there specific problems that seem to oppose local communities (sedentary and mobile) and indigenous peoples to other social actors (e.g. governmental agencies at various levels, private businesses) with respect to CCAs?**

The major limiting factors are: (i) jurisdictional overlap between the institutional (specifically government) mandates; (ii) outdated policies and poor implementation of the existing policies; (iii) inadequacy in capacity in terms of management, logistics, knowledge and empowerment.

## **6. What role can and do CCAs play in the country's climate change adaptation/mitigation strategies?**

Forestry based CCAs can be instrumental in terms of providing additional income to the community through carbon trading under CDM and REDD. Coastal green belt CCAs can be one of the key adaptation measures in reducing vulnerability of the coastal population.

## **IV. EVALUATION**

### **1. What main lessons have been learned in your country about CCAs?**

A thorough study is required to ascertain aerial extent, type, nature and status of the CCAs. Awareness has to be raised among the general people and the policy makers about the significance of CCAs.

### **2. On the basis of the above, what appear to be the key country needs for communities to safeguard their existing CCAs, enable and strengthen those currently in jeopardy and establish new ones, as appropriate?**

Please specify such needs as punctual recommendations [e.g. who should do what in terms of legal policy change, technical support (e.g. for mapping and inventory making), networking, financial support (for what exactly?), learning and documentation, etc.].

CCAs should be part of the PA network of the country and should be properly backed up by policy and legal instruments. Climate change, biodiversity and land degradation aspects should be well integrated into the CCA management strategic and programme framework. CCA governance should be well linked and integrated with the protected area management systems. This can also be identified as a strategy for territorial expansion of the protected areas. In addition to government systems, it is very important to establish and nourish non government, academic and research institutions for proper and neutral monitoring and evaluation. They can also play pivotal role in providing policy inputs for strengthening overall governance of the CCAs.

ANNEXURE III

## Salient Features of Sample CCAs

Preliminary database of Sample CCA sites in Bangladesh

Sample Case Study I: Pochamaria village bamboo grove, Rajshahi

### Basic data

Site Name (in local language and in English)	
Country (include State and Province)	Pochamaria Village: Pochamaria, Union: Shilmaria, Upazila: Puthia,
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	District: Rajshahi 3 ha
Center Point Coordinates	24 22' 33.34 N,
Main ecosystem type	88 42'46.02 E Homestead Forest; village bamboo grove dominates
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no), If Yes, what is the area Marine (Yes or No)	No Yes (a pond)
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	No Villagers; population:
Do the community consider themselves to be an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	1600 No
Does the community consider itself to be a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	Not really, though the Hindus are less in number
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	Same to national value
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognised?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	No
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	Not at the moment
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	To protect a heronry
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	Category IV

### Additional qualitative information

Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	Bamboo dominated homestead forest; a heronry; roosting and breeding place for a large number of egrets, cormorants, night herons, openbills and darters
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	N/A
Broad historical context of the CCA	–
Governance structure for the CCA (who makes management decisions, how?)	The UP Chairman established a Bird Protection Committee in 2006 with 101 members who take the decisions
Length of time the governance model has been in place	2 years
Land and resource ownership in the CCA Type of land use in the CCA	Local villagers Bamboo, timber and fruits
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	A few terms and conditions specified by the Bird Protection
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	Committee headed by the Upazila Chairman Not done
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	See report
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Lack of awareness and increasing demand for bamboo and timber
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	–
Gender aspect of the CCA (elaborate)	–
Climate change attributes(elaborate)	The site is in the northern Bangladesh, which is experiencing desertification.

Preliminary database of CCA sites in Bangladesh

#### Sample Case Study II: Shakhidar Para, Mahabatpur Village, Joypurhat

#### Basic data

Site Name (in local language and in English)	Village Shakhidar Para, Police Station: Khetlal, Upazila: Mohabatpur, District: Joypurhat
Country (include State and Province)	Bangladesh
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement)	About 2 ha
Center Point Coordinates	25001`07 N, 89002`07 E
Main ecosystem type	Homestead forest
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no), If Yes, what is the area	A few low lying areas which get inundated in the monsoons
Marine (Yes or No)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Local villagers; population: about 4600



Do the community consider themselves to be an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	No
Does the community consider itself to be a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	No
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	Same as the national value
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognised?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	No
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	No
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	Cultural: bird protection
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	Category IV

### Additional qualitative information

Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	About 700 Asian Openbill and other birds; and a colony of bats in an woodland
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	N/A
Broad historical context of the CCA	–
Governance structure for the CCA (who makes management decisions, how?)	Chairman (Upazila Parishad) of the area and the owners of the woodland
Length of time the governance model has been in place	–
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	Owned by the villagers
Type of land use in the CCA	Agricultural
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	No
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	–
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	See report
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Habitat loss; demand for fuel wood and timber; lack of awareness. People fear if declared as CCA this might be taken over by the government.
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	–
Gender aspect of the CCA (elaborate)	
Climate change attributes(elaborate)	

Preliminary database of CCA sites in Bangladesh

**Sample Case Study III: Baghchari (Danabindhu Karbari Para), Rangamati**

**Basic data**

Site Name (in local language and in English) -	Baghchari (Danabindhu Karbari Para)
Country (include State and Province)	Upazila Barkal; District Rangamati, Bangladesh
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	200 Acres
Center Point Coordinates	22°44.867 N, 092°26.212 E
Main ecosystem type	Hill forest
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no), If Yes, what is the area	No
Marine (Yes or No)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	400 persons
Do the community consider themselves to be an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	Yes, Chakma
Does the community consider itself to be a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	Yes, both of religion and as ethnic minority
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	Inferior; average annual income is about Tk 50000 (about \$ 622) per family, which is below national per capita income
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognised?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	No
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	Yes
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual)	Livelihood
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	VI

**Additional qualitative information**

Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	See the report
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	Chakma; Language also Chakma
Broad historical context of the CCA	
Governance structure for the CCA (who makes management decisions, how?)	See the report <i>Karbari</i> (village head) and the stakeholders (villagers)
Length of time the governance model has been in place	No such model exists

Land and resource ownership in the CCA Type of land use in the CCA	Local villagers Harvest bamboo, timber and fire wood for domestic use
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	Customary rules exist but not in written form
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	NA
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	Given in the report
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Poverty, overexploitation, and lack of awareness
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	See the report
Gender aspect of the CCA (elaborate)	A lady called Rina Chakma has been awarded Environment Day Prize 2008 for her contribution towards the protection of the CCA
Climate change attributes (elaborate)	The water body along with the CCA receives water from upstream i.e from Indian hills. Water volume might rise with the melting of the ice cap in the Himalayas. Climate change may affect the vegetation structure and thus other animal life forms

Preliminary database of CCA sites in Bangladesh

**Sample Case Study IV: Bayazid Bostami Shrine, Chittagong**

**Basic data**

Site Name (in local language and in English) -	Byazid Bostami Mazar (shrine), Chittagong
Country (include State and Province)	District-Chittagong, Bangladesh
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	1 ha
Centre Point Coordinates	N 220 23.289/ E 91048.762/
Main ecosystem type	Urban pond ecosystem
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no), If Yes, what is the area	Yes, pond
Marine (Yes or No)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Pilgrims, local people and visitors; every day several hundreds
Do the community consider themselves to be an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	No
Does the community consider itself to be a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	No
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	No; community has a religious belief

Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	Same as national level
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognised?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	No
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	No
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual)	Spiritual
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	Category IV

### Additional qualitative information

Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	It is a fish pond
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	N/A
Broad historical context of the CCA	See text
Governance structure for the CCA (who makes management decisions, how?)	Decisions are usually made by the custodians of the shrine. The Forest Department, being the custodian of the Wildlife Act takes some conservation initiatives
Length of time the governance model has been in place	No such model
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	Shrine authority
Type of land use in the CCA	Pilgrims visit the site and feed the turtles
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	Chittagong Endowment Committee looks after the mazar (Shrine) and decides the fate of the turtles, but there is no written document to this effect.
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	–
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	See report
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Pollution, loss of breeding sites, absence of natural food (depends entirely on visitors food), disease
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	See report
Gender aspect of the CCA (elaborate)	–
Climate change attributes (elaborate)	Situated at the sea port city, thus with the rise of sea water the pond may become inundated

Preliminary database of CCA sites in Bangladesh

**Sample Case Study V: Nabiganj and Kushiara, Bandar, Narayanganj**

**Basic data**

Site Name (in local language and in English) -	Nabiganj and Kushiara (two villages)
Country (include State and Province)	Upazila: Bandar, District: Narayanganj
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	2 km <sup>2</sup>
Center Point Coordinates	23°37.122 N 90°32.020 E
Main ecosystem type	Wetland/wasteland
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no), If Yes, what is the area	Yes, small isolated water bodies, total about 2 ha
Marine (Yes or No)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	30 households, 200
Do the community consider themselves to be an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	No
Does the community consider itself to be a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	No
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically   Same as the same as the the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	National value
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognised?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	No
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	No
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual)	Partly cultural; but the attitude is neutral
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	VI (unconfirmed)

**Additional qualitative information**

Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	Water Monitor/Ring Lizard ( <i>Varanus salvator</i> )
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	N/A
Broad historical context of the CCA	See report
Governance structure for the CCA (who makes management decisions, how?)	No organised governance or local structure. However, local people usually do not disturb the lizards

Length of time the governance model has been in place	None
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	Private
Type of land use in the CCA	Not currently in use, but may be utilized for housing in the future
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	No
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	NA
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	See report
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Habitat loss; some locals become hostile when their domestic fowls are preyed upon; lack of awareness
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	Not available
Gender aspect of the CCA (elaborate)	–
Climate change attributes(elaborate)	The area has lots of low lying areas which are flood land and it is on the bank of the river Sitalakya. Thus, with the rise of water level the area may become inundated

Preliminary database of CCA sites in Bangladesh

**Sample Case Study VI: Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Sreemangal, Maulvi Bazar**

**Basic data**

Site Name (in local language and in English)	Baikka Beel, Hail Haor,
Country (include State and Province)	Sreemangal, Maulvi Bazar
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	100 ha
Center Point Coordinates	N 24021.05/ E 91042.11/
Main ecosystem type	Wetland
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no), If Yes, what is the area	Yes
Marine (Y or N)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Primarily fishermen
Do the community consider themselves to be an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	No
Does the community consider itself to be a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	No
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	Inferior

Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognised?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	The local government recognises it as a sanctuary
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	Not really
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	Livelihood
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	VI

### Additional qualitative information

Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	103 species of birds, including the globally threatened Pallas's Fish Eagle and Greater Spotted Eagle. The sanctuary also receives thousands of Migratory birds, including the Northern Pintail and Common Teal. It is home to a large number of fish species
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	N/A
Broad historical context of the CCA	In 2004 this area was declared a sanctuary by the local community through the Barangina Resource Management organisation, promoted and supported by MACH project (a Government of Bangladesh project supported by USAID)
Governance structure for the CCA (who makes management decisions, how?)	Barangina Resource Management organisation in consultation with local people
Length of time the governance model has been in place	4 years
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	Land: government; resource: community
Type of land use in the CCA	Fishing and agriculture
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	Both written and oral
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant)	–
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	See report
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Long term management uncertainty
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	–
Gender aspect of the CCA (elaborate)	–
Climate change attributes (elaborate)	Shortage of rainfall may affect the water level thus the fish stock may decline, which would affect the livelihood. Also, the changed habitat may not attract winter birds.