

CENTRE FOR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



উপকূলীয় পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ কেন্দ্র

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Progress Brief

Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC) is a grassroots environ-cultural organization in Asia. Bangladesh Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem protection and sustainable environment management involving local communities are the main objectives of the organization. Since 1993 the CCEC is raising environmental awareness among the coastal communities through environmental education, environmental pollution, environmental law, eco-schools Bangladesh, biodiversity conservation, sustainable harvesting training and capacity building of the Sundarbans stakeholders (resource harvesters), mangrove regeneration & plantation, disaster risk reduction & recovery, climate change adaptation, research, cultural activities and poverty reduction strategies.

The organization has developed an Environmental Education (EE) package consists of teacher's *manual*, student's *booklet*, poster and Flip Chart and trained 800 primary school teachers of Sundarbans (UNESCO declared WH site and also in the final list of 7 New wonders) coastal region in cooperation with Directorate of Primary Education thus creating EE conscious citizen. A Sundarbans Stakeholder Cooperative Society is established by involving 150 stakeholders i.e. the *bouali* (wood & thatch cutter), *mouali* (honey extractor) and *jellay* (fish & crab harvester). Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) is initiated facilitating long term sustainability of livelihood security and reducing the risks associated with threats from natural disasters and climate change. Mangrove Protection Society (MPS) is formed who are active in mangrove regeneration/plantation by leasing 57 acres land stretches over 9.45 km. along the river bank for seven years from Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). Adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction, protecting polder embankment; food, meeting nutrition & fuel demands of the hard core poor by creating mangrove coastal belt against tidal surge / cyclone is a Community Based and Co-Management approach by involving and distributing profit benefits among BWDB (40%), NGO (10%), Local Government (5%) with major share (45%) to the MPS members. As the lead environmental NGO (Cell Member) of Department of Environment (DoE), Khulna Division, it has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a) Center on Integrated Studies of the Sundarbans (CISS), Khulna University, b) Soil Resources Institute (SRDI), Ministry of Agriculture, c) Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) for mangroves restoration, d) Bangladesh Environmental Lawyer's Association (BELA) for advocacy. With a view to generate income for the disadvantaged women, it has launched Sundarbans Handicraft (SME) involving indigenous *munda* and socially deprived *rishi* women communities thus initiated producing Sundarbans tourist's souvenir such as tea shirt, school bag, wall mat with wildlife (tiger, deer) logo. With funding from UNEP, the organization has represented "Regional Stakeholders Meeting cum Regional Coordination Meeting" under Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia (Bhutan and Maldives). Sustainable Environment Management Programme (UNDP/SEMP) funded project titled "Environmental pollution awareness among the industrial workers" was effective in cooperation with Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of Bangladesh. In recognition to community based success stories, CCEC receives international Whitely Award and become the member and partners of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Mangrove Action Project (MAP) and Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) facilitated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). It is affiliated with International Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and Development (ICCAD) for field demonstration on climate change adaptation examples. Recently "Sundarbans crab fattening in bamboo cages and mangrove restoration as an adaptation to climate change" project proposal has been awarded for the **UNEP-APFED Showcase project-2009**. The organization took a lead to observe WWF's **Earth Hour- 2010** on 27 March from Bangladesh with the participation of Khulna City Corporation. Currently it is implementing the project "Biodiversity Focusing Tiger Conservation.....Global Climate Change impacts" with financial support from Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE), Japan. Mangroves for the Future funded (IUCN-MFF) funded "Climate resilience palm tree plantation and fodder grass experiment in the Shyamnagar coastal belt" are an ongoing project jointly implemented with Khulna University. Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) funded ongoing project titled "Climate Adaptive Livelihood Security of Sundarbans Resource Dependent Community" is being implemented in two coastal districts of Bangladesh.