



## Bangladesh



## Protected Forest Area (PFA) based International Day of Biological Diversity 2011 observation in Bangladesh

### Program layout

#### *Program Organizer*

The program was organized by Inani Protected Forest Area (PFA) Co-management Project, funded by Arannayk Foundation (Bangladesh Tropical Forest conservation Foundation), implementing by SHED in association with Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, Inani PFA Co-management Council and Committee.

#### *Program Palace*

The day observation was carried out in Inani Protected Forest Area (PFA) Co-management project site at Ukhiya Upazilla of Cox's Bazar district.

#### *Program objective*

To create awareness regarding importance of Forest Biodiversity among local policy makers (such as local elected bodies, village leaders, civil societies), Local Administration (such as Upazilla (subdistrict) Administrator, Government Service providing Upazilla level officers), forest dependant groups leaders and the next generation.

#### *Participants*

To fulfill the above stated objectives followings are the categories from which the program participants were selected:

*Inani PFA Council and Committee members, local elites, NGO representatives, Upazilla level govt. officials, Village level Forest Conservation Forum (VFCF) and Village level Forest Dependant Group (VFDG) representatives and adjacent school students.*

There were 169 participants of which 56 from Inani PFA Council and committee including UNO, Govt. officials, Civil society, Forest Department, Forest dependant community representatives; 61 from Inani PFA Peoples Forum, VFCF and VFDG representatives; 39 from local elected bodies, civil forums and NGOs and rest 50 were students of Adjacent Schools.

### **The program**

- Rally observed at 8.30 Am

The road map of rally was from Upazilla Sadar to Nearest Forest Village (Dochari) which was about 1 km away from starting point.

Road map adjacent peoples were enjoy the rally and tried to learn the about the event, the day, importance of the day by reading banner, festoons and also by sharing each others.

The photographs of rally attached herewith



Rally started from Upazilla Complex of Ukhiya



**Rally with messages for Forest Biodiversity conservation in Cap, banner and festoons**

- Discussion Session on Theme of day (Forest Biodiversity) at 9.30 am

To facilitate the active participation of program participants an introductory multimedia power point presentation focusing following point of discussion was conducted by program facilitator.

- What is Biodiversity?
- What's Forest Biodiversity?
- What is problem to Biodiversity globally and locally?
- Why does Biodiversity matter to us?
- What should we do?
- Biodiversity Situation of Bangladesh and Inani PFA

A corporate video show of Arannayk Foundation on Inani PFA entitled “Voice of Forest” was also shown to participants as catalyst of Discussion. A Participatory discussion session was conducted on “Forest Biodiversity”. Chairperson of Inani PFA Co-management Committee chair the program and Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Ukhiya attend the program as Chief guest. Fluent participation of the participants was create a good ground share different level observation, learning, experience and expertise on Forest Biodiversity.



Participants of Participatory discussion session on "Forest Biodiversity



Prize given to best Biodiversity friendly AIG entrepreneurs (female)



Prize given to 2<sup>nd</sup> best Biodiversity friendly entrepreneurs (male)



President and General Secretary best contributing VFDG in Biodiversity conservation



**Forest officials (Beat officer) sharing his experience in discussion session**

The major outputs and recommendation of the discussion session also enlisted below:

1. The participants concluded that the loss of Biodiversity rate in Inani PFA is much higher than any other Protected Area of Bangladesh due to complex multidimensional problem.. Once Biodiversity enriched Inani PFA about to be depleted. The urgent collaborative actions of all concerned stakeholders should be carried out to conserve floral and faunal Biodiversity of Inani PFA.
2. Peoples should make owner of natural Forest like Inani PFA. The ethnicity of local people should conserve as a cultural wealth of Inani PFA. The Custodian authority Forest Department should materialize local and ethnic peoples in conservation of Biodiversity in Inani PFA.
3. Local community involvement in Forest and Biodiversity conservation program conducted by SHED and Arannayk Foundation is a great way to empower local community. Around 13000 Household situated inside Inani PFA. The dependency for basic livelihood of forest dependant ultra poor should reduced more to conserve the Biodiversity resources especially enriched floral and faunal diversity of Inani PFA.
4. Forest and Biodiversity conservation is not only the responsibility of local people because if the forest is depleted, the livelihood support of ultra poor people withdrawn and there could

be socio-cultural-economical disaster to society. It is the responsibility all agencies of government to provide basic livelihood to forest dependant landless ultra poor people.

5. The participants also concluded that ecosystem restoration activities should be the major priority issues of Inani PFA Council and committee.
  - Yearly performance award giving ceremony at 11.00 pm to Best 3 VFDGs, Best 3 AIG entrepreneurs (Female), Best 3 AIG entrepreneurs (Male)

The forest dependant communities of Inani PFA are now in organizational as well as institutional form. These organizations are now contributing in Biodiversity conservation by creating alternative Income generation opportunities to forest dependent communities by providing interest free loan by facilitation of SHED and Arannayk Foundation.

On the basis of ten good attributes of a Community based organization the best three out of 18 VFDGs were awarded as Best contributing people's organization in Biodiversity conservation.

The best 6 Forest biodiversity friendly AIG entrepreneurs (female-3, male -3) were also awarded for their biodiversity conservation friendly entrepreneurships.

- Closing session at 11.30 pm
- Snacks at 11.50 pm