

Nature's diversity unites Bangladesh

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To celebrate the International day of Biological Diversity, May 22, IUCN Bangladesh awarded the winners of the “Biodiversity in focus” environmental photography competition.

In partnership with the Government of Bangladesh and the Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Cluster at the United Nations Development Programme, the photography competition aimed to raise awareness about the significance of national biodiversity, to portray the richness of Bangladesh ecosystems and their degradation, and how humans interact with nature.

The United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives.

Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, Country Director of IUCN Bangladesh, said “Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on.

“It is crucial that we work to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in our country and around the world”.

Professional and amateur photographers used the relationships of biodiversity with human livelihoods, climate change, conservation and degradation to inspire their photos.

The seven winners were announced Friday evening at an awards ceremony on the eve of the International day of Biological Diversity hosted by, H.E. Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh. Dr.Mihir Kanti Mazumder, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests Secretary for Environment addressed the guests prior the presentation of awards. The competition judges also congratulated the winning photographers.

“We have had an excellent response to the photography competition. The images received represent all parts of Bangladesh and illustrate there is a heightened awareness about national biodiversity in the community” says Professor Khan.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, and people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. This is vital for current and future human well being. We need to do more. Now is the time to act.

Here is the IUCN Flickr account with the finalist images:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iucnweb/sets/72157624107264508/>