

Forest Restoration

In Bangladesh, extensive restoration activities have been carried out to revive degraded forest lands and enhance wildlife habitats and corridors. These efforts include the planting of indigenous and rare species in coastal, plain land Sal, and hill areas using various approaches. The restoration projects follow a collaborative forest management approach, involving multiple stakeholders. The aim is to restore the ecological balance and promote biodiversity conservation. These activities play a crucial role in improving the overall health of forests and their associated wildlife populations.

Plantation Types	RDPP Target	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Total
Hill Forests	42,115	480	10,454	10,109	10,686	-	31,729
Mangroves	33,375	150	4,460	7,540	7,925	9,050	29,125
Sal Forests	9,540	709	2,716	2,871	1,961	-	8,256
Golpata Plantations	1,680	100	520	650	60	300	1,630
Strip Plantations	3,951	175	1,321	895	1,069	-	3,460
Seedlings Distribution	64.30	3.73	48.69	2.10	1.49	-	56.00

Improving PA and Wildlife Management

In Bangladesh, there are 53 Protected Areas (PAs), and efforts are focused on strengthening the co-management of 20 of these PAs. This involves equipping the SKWC and WCCU forensic lab and providing training to 75 BFD personnel for SMART patrolling in 9 PAs. Progress has been made in improving habitats and creating PA corridors, with 3,580 hectares completed out of a total of 3,640 hectares. Additionally, a nursery is cultivating 60 hectares for future plantation. To ensure effective management, a proposal has been made to develop six Protected Areas Management Plans through the FAO assignment.

Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife conservation and collaborative management activities are being escalated in 32 protected areas. Besides, special afforestation activities are being implemented for the development of wildlife habitats and corridors. Moreover, some important steps have been taken to preserve the following 8 critical and endangered wildlife.

Elephant Conservation

72 Elephant Response Team (ERT) formed and provided them ERT logistics (handmake, searchlight, torch, vest, t-shirt, cap, trouser, whistle) at Chattogram, Cox's Bazar and Mymensingh. Also 6 awareness programs held at Chattogram, Cox's Bazar.

Shark and Ray Conservation

The project has conducted thorough surveys to conserve Shark and Ray species. Specialized training has been provided to 95 officials. The Ministry has approved NDFs for two SAARC and two Ray species, along with endorsing the SAARC and Ray Conservation Strategy and Plan of Action. Demonstrations and awareness programs have been conducted at six locations to raise awareness among coastal fisheries about the significance of conserving Shark and Ray. These efforts contribute to the conservation and education regarding these species.

Vulture Conservation

The survey of seven Vulture Conservation Teams (VCTs) revealed significant progress in vulture conservation. Discovered 38 nests and identified 193 resting and roosting trees nationwide. Provided 30 cows as food at Rema-Kalanga vulture feeding station. Sick vultures received care and were released, while three vultures were tagged with HG satellite trackers. Awareness was raised through a poster, video documentary, and observance of International Vulture Awareness Days. Collaboration with pharmaceutical companies promoted meloxicam use for vulture conservation.



Avifauna Conservation

Comprehensive bird surveys were conducted in 32 areas, and four ringing camps were completed. Bird-of-prey surveys led to the establishment of eight RTCs. A total of 266 swamp samples were collected. Six migratory bird freeway sites were surveyed, and six site management committees were formed. Additionally, 7 dubbing ducks were GPS tagged and 352 birds were ringed for monitoring. Strategic plans were developed for conserving birds of prey, migratory birds, and wetlands.



Community Finance

Community Development Fund (CDF)

The Community Development Fund (CDF) plays a vital role in achieving our project development goals for the extreme poor and economically disadvantaged forest-dependent individuals in the village. This fund is received from the Department of Forest Officer (DFO) and managed by the Finance & Accounts Committee (FAC). It serves as a crucial resource, empowering the community and supporting their overall development. US\$3.08 million disbursed to CDF (community development fund) as demanded by community from 615 villages around 299 Forest Beats including nineteen (20) selected Pas.

Livelihood Development Fund (LDF)

The project has allocated the Livelihood Development Fund (LDF) to the Village Credit and Savings Committee (VCSC) for implementing Alternative Income-Generating Activities (AIGAs) among selected community members. These individuals can access loans from the VCSC to start AIG activities and repay them according to guidelines. The project has disbursed US\$20.50 million to the LDF, benefiting around 41,000 forest and Protected Area (PA) dependent communities from 615 villages across 299 Forest Beats, including twenty selected PAs.

SUFAL Innovation Grant

The World Bank has approved the Innovation Grants Manual (IGM) for the project, and it was officially announced by ERD on August 25th, 2021. In the first round, a total of 10 research proposals were awarded, out of which 8 research projects are currently underway. Similarly, in the second round, 15 research proposals were awarded, and all 15 research projects are currently in progress. In the third round, 13 research proposals have been initially selected for further consideration.

Red listing of Plants

A total of 1,000 plant species on the red list and develop management plans for invasive alien species (IAS). IUCN Red list of Plant Status of 1000 Plant Species (2023)-

Plant Group	Red List Category								Total
	RE	EW	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC	DD	
Pteridophyte	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gymnosperm	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
Early Angiosperm	1	0	0	19	23	7	8	36	94
Monocot	0	1	3	10	22	3	20	13	72
Eudicot	6	0	1	95	215	59	243	209	828
Total	7	1	5	127	262	69	271	258	1000

Tree Outside Forest (ToF)

Efforts are being made under the extension services and trees outside forests to promote sustainable management and utilization. Activities include private sector engagement, establishing a timber market information system, and conducting training and technology transfer programs. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 3.35 million seedlings were distributed, with 2.42 million within project areas and 150,000 planned for FY2022-23. Additionally, 500,000 seedlings were planted as part of the Model Upazilas initiative, and 3,951 strip plantations were established under the SKM program.



Training and Capacity Building

The SUFAL project by the Forest Department recognizes the importance of training for organizational development. The project incorporates long, medium, and short training opportunities for forest department officials and staff to enhance the skills and knowledge, offering a wide range of courses on various subjects such as IBAS++-235, EGP-71, Accounts-14, Site Specific Planning-568, Procurement-104, Biodiversity Conservation-8, Wildlife Management-308, SMART Patrolling-100, Forest Restoration-205, Office management-70, Climate Change-9, Blue Economy-20, Information System-59, Environmental and Social Safeguards-20, Sustainable Development-20, etc.

Civil Works



On August 31, 2020, an MoU was signed with the Public Works Department. Currently, 61 procurement packages for various construction works are being completed. In the financial year 2020-2021, 10 tenders were called for, followed by 26 in 2021-2022 and 9 in 2022-2023. A total of 45 packages have been invited for tender, out of which 41 have been commissioned and 4 are currently being evaluated. The remaining 15 tenders are still in the evaluation process. A total of 94 new office and residential buildings, spanning 28,479.00 sqm, have been constructed, and the old BFD HQ building of 6,833.00 sqm has been renovated. Site-specific plans for each plantation site have been created and uploaded online for approval. Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) have been developed for each building to ensure environmental protection throughout the construction process.

Special Day Celebration



Throughout the country, a total of 12 special days were celebrated as part of the SUFAL Project. These included 15 seminars and 1 TV Talk show on International Freshwater Dolphin Day, 46 seminars on World Wildlife Day, 46 seminars on International Day of Forests, 5 seminars on Global Tiger Day, 16 seminars on World Elephant Day, 4 seminars on International Culture Awareness Day, 25 seminars on World Migratory Bird Day, 3 seminars on World Wetland Day, and 21 seminars on International Day for Biological Diversity. Each of these days was embellished with vibrant decorations to create an engaging ambience. Eye-catching IEC materials carrying intriguing messages were distributed, accompanied by public announcements and rolling out of colorful rally. The events gained significant media coverage, featuring TV scrolls and news reports in both local and national newspapers, both in print and electronic formats.

Communication & Outreach

Developed a communication strategy and produced various Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. Dedicated platforms like a project Website, Facebook account, YouTube channel have been created and a discussion program through TV on Tree Plantation Fortnight have been conducted. Besides, Journalist Training Workshop, 10 short Videos, 3 TVC and RDC Produced. A total of 26 Community Campaigns, 26 School Campaign and 52 Street Campaign have been organized in project areas, involving video documentaries, TV commercials, songs, art competitions, and prize-giving ceremonies.

For more information

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