

Concept Note

Title:

Strengthening Forest and Wildlife Protection and Conservation in Vulnerable Regions of Bangladesh

Organization:

Kachua Dalima Association (KDA)

Duration:

3 Years

Estimated Budget:

BDT 20,000,000

Target Areas:

Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sundarbans buffer zones, Bhola, Patuakhali, Cox's Bazar, and adjacent forest-dependent communities

Background and Rationale:

Bangladesh's forests and wildlife are under increasing threat from deforestation, habitat degradation, illegal poaching, climate change, and human encroachment. Forests like the Sundarbans and the hill forests of Chittagong and Sylhet are critical for biodiversity, climate resilience, and indigenous livelihoods. Wildlife species such as tigers, elephants, deer, birds, and reptiles are losing their habitats and facing extinction risks. Kachua Dalima Association (KDA), with its experience in grassroots environmental and humanitarian interventions, aims to address this crisis through an integrated and community-centered approach.

Objectives:

- Protect and restore forest ecosystems in target areas through participatory conservation models.
- Prevent wildlife trafficking and poaching by enhancing community monitoring and legal enforcement collaboration.
- Raise awareness and educate local populations on biodiversity, ecological balance, and climate resilience.
- Promote alternative livelihoods for forest-dependent communities to reduce pressure on natural resources.
- Support climate-smart afforestation and reforestation programs aligned with national and global biodiversity goals.

Key Activities:

- Conduct baseline assessments on biodiversity status and forest threats.
- Form and train Community Forest and Wildlife Watch Groups (CFWWG).
- Organize workshops and campaigns on forest laws, wildlife protection, and climate change.
- Collaborate with forest departments and law enforcement to report and reduce illegal logging and wildlife trafficking.
- Establish eco-friendly income-generating activities (e.g., eco-tourism, herbal farming, sustainable honey production).
- Support school-based and youth-led forest education programs.
- Implement reforestation drives with native species and community stewardship.
- Develop mobile and digital reporting tools for wildlife and forest monitoring.

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved protection of biodiversity-rich ecosystems.
- Reduced illegal deforestation and poaching incidents.
- Increased community engagement in sustainable natural resource management.
- Enhanced awareness and legal capacity at local levels.
- Diversified livelihoods contributing to conservation goals.

Target Beneficiaries:

- Forest-dependent households (especially women, indigenous, and youth groups)
- Local school children and educators
- Community-based organizations
- Local government and forest department personnel

Strategic Partners:

- Bangladesh Forest Department
- Department of Environment (DoE)
- Local governments and municipalities
- Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB)
- IUCN Bangladesh
- Donor agencies focusing on biodiversity and climate
- Educational institutions

Sustainability Strategy:

Capacity building of local institutions and volunteers for long-term conservation stewardship. Institutionalizing forest clubs in schools and local communities. Linking conservation with community development and eco-business models. Policy advocacy for local government engagement and budget allocation