



# Report on Launching of Bangladesh Forest Inventory

Harbaria Ecotourism Center, Sundarbans  
10 December 2016



The Forest Department of Bangladesh leads actions to improve forest management and conservation, adopting forward thinking, innovative approaches in its management of approximately 1.55 million hectares of land across the country.

In 2015, the Forest Department began a process to establish a National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System for improved forest and natural resource management. The process supports national objectives related to climate change mitigation and provides information in support of the UN-REDD programme aimed at Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The process also addresses domestic information needs and supports national policy processes related to forests and the multitude of interconnected human and environmental systems that forests support.

The activities implemented under the Bangladesh Forest Inventory process are collaboration between several national and international institutions and stakeholders. National partners from multiple government departments and agencies assist in providing a nationally coordinated approach to land management. International partners, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are supporting the development of technical and financial resources that will assist in institutionalizing the process.

The results will allow the Forest Department to provide regular, updated information about the status of trees and forests for a multitude of purposes including for assessment of role of trees for firewood, medicines, timber, and climate change mitigation.

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This report is designed to reflect the activities and progress related to the project GCP/GD/058/USAID “Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Satellite Forest Monitoring System in support of REDD+ in Bangladesh”. This report is not authoritative information sources – it does not reflect the official position of the supporting international agencies including USAID or FAO and should not be used for official purposes. Should readers find any errors in the document or would like to provide comments for improving its quality they are encouraged to contact one of above contacts.

**REPORT ON**  
**LAUNCHING OF BANGLADESH FOREST INVENTORY (BFI)**

Date: 10 December 2016

Venue: Harbaria Ecotourism Center, Sundarbans

First National Forest Inventory in the country was carried out during 2005-2007. Forest Department (FD) is implementing the second National Forest Inventory under the project “Strengthening National Forest Inventory (NFI) and Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) in Support of REDD+ in Bangladesh”. This project (2015-2018) aims at developing updated information on the forest and tree resources. Updated data and information of forest resources such as growing stock, tree cover, forest health, and environmental problems are important for developing forest management and policy development process. Total number of sampling plots to be inventoried in the second BFI is 1858 (Table 1).

**Table 1:** No. of Plots to be measured (on land) in Bangladesh

Zone	Number of plots		
	On land	On water	Total
Coastal	113	178	291
Hill	429	14	443
Sal	145	5	150
Sundarbans	173	105	278
Villages	998	85	1083
Total	1858	387	2245

After almost two years of preparation, the Bangladesh Forest Inventory was launched on Saturday, 10 December 2016 on board the M.V. Tangur Haor, at Harbaria Ecotourism Center in the Sundarbans. The agenda of the Launching Programme is shown in (Table 2).

In Bangladesh, Forests and trees are of vital importance. They provide a wide range of economic and social benefits and support livelihood of millions. Value generated from the processing of forest products promote local and international investments and support national economic growth. In determining their extent and quality, information on species diversity, quantity of wood and fuel wood, forest cover and other important information related to the country’s natural resources will be gained, contributing to the national objectives related to climate change, soil stabilization and fertility, catchment management, food security, medicinal plants and energy.

The data from BFI will ultimately guide actions to improve forests on government and private lands, monitor current and proposed tree plantation activities and assist in determining what measures need to be taken to address the impact of climate change. In total, almost 2000 field inventory plots will be measured around the country with the first complete round of data completed by April 2018.

Table 2: Agenda of BFI Launching

12:00 -12:30	Registration
12:30 -12:35	Recitation from Holy Quran
12:35 -12:40	Welcome Note: Conservator of Forests, Khulna
12:40 -12:50	Introduction to BFI and BFI Field Procedure – Mr. Zaheer Iqbal, DCF, RIMS
12:50 -13:00	Project Highlights: Matieu Henry, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO
13:00 -13:05	Remarks by : Mr. Mohammad Golam Mostafa, Member (Finance), Momgla Port Authority
13:05 -13:15	Special Guest : Mr. Mohannad Faruque Hossain, Additional Divisional Commissioner (General), Khulna
13:15 -13:25	Special Guest: Mr. Md. Ekramul Habib, Additional DIG of Police, Khulna Range
13:25 -13:35	Special Guest: Mr. Talukdar Abdul Khalek, MP, Bagerhat-3
13:35 -13:50	Address by the Chair: Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh Forest Department
13:50 -14:05	Chief Guest: Mr. Anwar Hossain Monju, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forest
14:05 -15:00	Lunch & Prayer Break
15:00 -16:30	Open Discussion
16:30	Closing

Mr. Anwar Hossain Monju, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forest was present in the Launching Ceremony as Chief Guest. Mr Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh Forest Department, Mr Talukder Abdul Khaleque, MP, Mr. Mohammad Faruque Hossain, Additional Divisional Commissioner, Mr Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Conservator of Forests, Mr Zaheer Iqbal, Deputy Conservator of Forests, and, Mr Matieu Henry, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO, along with other notable guests were also present at the event.

“The Bangladesh Forest Inventory will provide valuable estimates on the state of the nation’s tree and forests. While the data estimate can never be 100% accurate, it will provides us a picture of the status of our tree and forest resources that will strengthen their management” said Mr Anwar Hossain Manju, MP and Hon’ble Minister of Environment and Forests and Chief Guest at the inauguration.

The BFI is implemented by the Bangladesh Forest Department under Ministry of Environment and Forest, with the technical support of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and SilvaCarbon and financial assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Forest Department of Bangladesh leads actions to improve forest management and conservation, adopting forward thinking, innovative approaches in its management of approximately 1.6 million hectares of land across the country.

In 2015, the Forest Department began a process to establish a National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System for improved forest and natural resource management. The process supports national objectives related to climate change mitigation and provides information in support of the UN REDD programme aimed at Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The process also addresses domestic information needs and supports national policy processes related to forests and the multitude of interconnected human and environmental systems that forests support.

The activities implemented under the Bangladesh Forest Inventory process are collaboration between several national and international institutions and stakeholders. National partners from multiple government departments and agencies assist in providing a nationally coordinated approach to land management. International partners, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and SilvaCarbon are supporting the development of technical and financial resources that will assist in institutionalizing the process.

The results will allow the Forest Department to provide regular, updated information about the status of trees and forests for a multitude of purposes including for assessment of role of trees for firewood, medicines, timber, and climate change mitigation.

**BFI LAUNING PICTORIAL**



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