



Site Status Report: Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary

Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary is unique in the sense that it has 7763 ha of open grassland and forests as a contrast to the existing small patches of forest land in other parts of the country. This is the most degraded site among the five NSP sites. This Sanctuary has serious ecological value, however, as it serves as the elephant corridor. It is also declared as MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) Site.

The strategy of NSP at this site focuses on one major threat area (removal of wood for fuel) and one major opportunity (the wild elephant population). The Project has already taken steps to introduce fuel wood alternatives and efficiency improvements, principally through two Energy Fairs on the east and west of the Sanctuary, which were followed up by intensive training and outreach. An "elephant corridor" has been identified as a focus for future activities within the larger Sanctuary.

Progress Since November 2005

- Range and Beat officers received Orientation training on Nishorgo program. The foresters drafted their own Code of Conducts.



Scouts Hike on Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary

- The 3rd Co-management Council meeting took place on November 2005. Copies of Constitution were distributed for discussion and vetting.
- Bonpuker Gorzan forest area formed 7 user groups for Community patrolling.
- Beneficiaries training on home gardening are continuing where more and more people are joining in each month.
- 8 people received Eco-tour guide & bird survey training.
- 26 User group and 4 Nishorgo club for the younger generation are formed, mobilized and linked with forest protection (1 Female NC)
- To promote alternative energy usage to reduce fuel wood collection, in collaboration with GTZ, Alternative Energy Fair was held which was inaugurated by Mr. Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, Hon'ble State Minister for Environment & Forests. More than 3,000 local people, mostly women, visited the fair.
- Improved oven training was held for 20 women member with support of GTZ, leading to installation of 160 improved stoves at houses in the Chunati side of the Sanctuary.

CHUNATI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY; At a Glance

- 🌿 **Forest Type:** Tropical Evergreen and Semi Evergreen
- 🌿 **Area:** Approximately 7,764 hectares
- 🌿 **Flora & Fauna:** It is important habitat for elephants. 19 types of mammals, 7 types of reptiles and 4 types of Amphibian are found here. Many Birds are seen here presently.
The hills were once covered by giant trees like Garjan and Chapalish but now the area is almost barren by illegal felling. Only in Banopukur area, a small patch of 'garjan' still stands. Now a number of species of dwarf bamboo, reeds, wild banana and many other dwarf and scrubby vegetation dominates.
- 🌿 **Flagship Species:** Asian Elephant
- 🌿 **Settlement:** 42 villages number of Surrounding area. The habitants are Bangali and the majority are Muslim, others are Hindu.
- 🌿 **Location & Accessibility:** Located about 70 Km south of Chittagong City on the west side of Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway in Chittagong Civil district Thana Lohagara and Banskhal.
- 🌿 **Visitor Infrastructure:** The Forest Department has guesthouse in Chunati range (2/4 room).

- 70 scouts from Chittagon Division and 20 local school children from the Nishorgo Club hiked and explored. After the hiking a press conference was held where journalists from local and national newspapers and news agency joined in.

Planned Activities

The major key activities for the next quarter will be:

- Co-management committees will be formed at the next council meeting.
- 100 set Improve oven production.
- AIGA demonstration for patrolling group.
- More AIGA activities
- School awareness program.
- Community patrolling at Bonpuker Garjan forest.

Impact from NSP's Intervention

Income Generation Activities in Locality:

Relevant IGA	Participants Trained / Oriented			Participants doing New IGA			NSP demonstration funds allocated			New Beneficiaries Targeted for the Coming Month		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Eco-Guiding	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Home Gardening /Vegetable Gardening	-	17	17	-	25	25	-	17,500	17,500	15	45	60
Total	8	17	25	-	25	25	-	17,500	17,500	15	45	60

Summary Status:

User groups Formed: 26

User group Member: 480 (Female: 116; Male: 364)



Improved Stove training

People Level Impact: Gita Das

One's own initiative is enough to change one's fortune. Gita Das is one such example. She is a 42 year old housewife; mother of 4 daughters and 2 sons. Her husband Jatindara Das is a fisherman. Gita Das is a member of Kashful Environment Conservation Group in Dhupi Para Village at Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary. In September 2005, Nishorgo Support Project held a training course on 'Homestead Vegetable Gardening'. Gita Das wanted very much to join this training course. But as her child was too young at time, she was unable to receive the training. This couldn't stop her from trying her luck. Gita Das's sister in law participated in this training course. With help from her, Gita Das contacted NSP office and also took suggestion from the Field Organizers. Seeing her enthusiasm, NSP provided Gita Das grants in form of seeds, organic fertilizers, etc. Initially, Gita Das only cultivated cabbage in 1 katha land. She sold more than 500 cabbage at Tk 10 to Tk 15 each. Her husband also helped her a lot. Gita Das said that "She wants NSP to arrange more training course on alternative income generation activities such as poultry, Cow Rearing, etc. By doing these Income generation activities, my family is more well off now and my husband and sons no more need to enter the forest for bamboo, and timber wood collection."



Gita Das

