



The Bangladesh Forest Information System

A comprehensive national platform for forest management and conservation

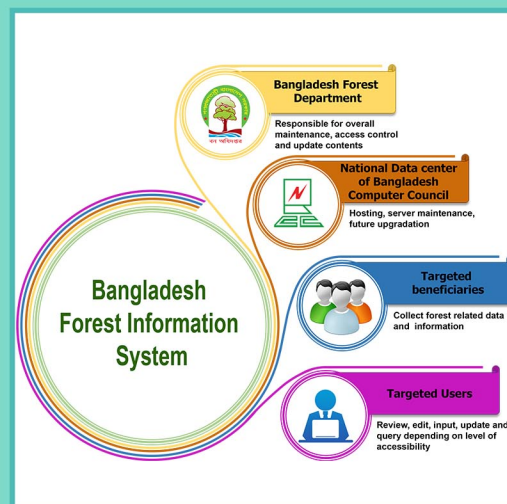
A dedicated information system infrastructure is required at national level to facilitate data access of forestry sectors at national and local levels. The Bangladesh Forest Information System (BFIS) is a content management system for data archiving, processing and sharing.

Context

Powerful information can be derived when data from different sources are intersected to reveal underlying relationships not visible on their own. However, complex data structure limits the scope of interoperability and analysis. The Bangladesh forest information system (BFIS) is an integrated system where all forest-related information organized category-wise to easy search and visualize of desired information.

The BFIS is the national information system administered by the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD), under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change (MoEFCC). This platform integrates databases, reports, documents, maps and latest updates of institutional activities. The BFIS includes different modules organized according to four categories (1) development activities, (2) management and conservation, (3) forest assessment, and (4) knowledge management.

The BFIS modules provide BFD personnel direct access to information to support planning, monitoring and reporting activities. The information technology framework of this platform allows to update module content and integrate new module as per requirement. The modules have been developed for proper management and archiving of data and documents to ensure uninterrupted access to forest data and information. Each module acts as a tool to extract forest-related information and analysis at the national level. BFIS also provides the consistency and eradicate duplication in reporting which ensure that information come from a verified central source. Administrative protocols will allow managers at BFD to publish and share data as appropriate.



The different actors involved in the Bangladesh Forest Information System (BFIS).

Objectives

- To support innovation in research, education and forestry.
- To provide ready access to the most current, consistent, documented and reliable information of forest resources through one web-based platform.
- To share, access and manage databases from a centralized and integrated web-based platform.

Process

- **Planning for system development process:** Requirements analysis to identify module functionalities for forest data management.
- **Data collection:** Collect and produce error-free datasets for the modules from different data sources and field activities.
- **System design:** Design and implementation of requirements for system development.
- **Integration and user feedback:** Feedback collected from academicians, sector specialists, forest department and end users and accommodated for improvement of the platform functionalities.
- **Operation and Maintenance:** user manual guide developed to train for the system operation and maintenance.

Results



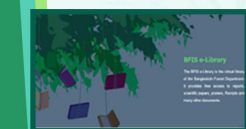
Bangladesh Forest Information System: The Bangladesh Forest Information System (BFIS) is a robust information management system which integrates all modules in a single platform.



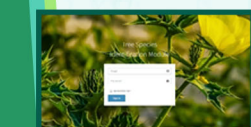
BFIS Geoportal: This is an interactive module of BFIS to support forest assessment, historical analysis of land cover, query land classes, create maps and share geospatial information in a web-based environment.



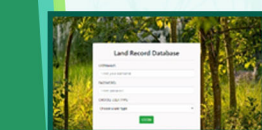
National Emission Factor Database: This module under forest assessment provides well-documented data on emission factors, allometric equations, wood density, tree species and raw data.



BFIS e-Library: The BFIS E-Library is the virtual library of the Bangladesh Forest Department where electronic documents have been properly archived and referenced.



Tree Species Identification: This helps identifying a tree appropriately by selecting characteristics from a rich database of tree species.



Land record: This module provides, store information about forest land and land tenure.



User manual: Three user manuals are available for the site maintenance and guide end users to understand the functionalities of BFIS modules.

Selected references

1. Sarker, N., Henry, M., 2017 Proceedings of training on the development of Bangladesh Forest Information System (BFIS), 06-09 June 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh Forest Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation.
2. Sarker, N., et al. (2018). User manual of BFIS Geoportal Tutorial. Dhaka, Bangladesh Forest Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

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