

Expected Outcomes

- ◆ Regular dissemination of accurate and transparent data related to forests and forest dependent livelihoods.
- ◆ Support to international agreements, national forest policy and land management decisions.
- ◆ Strengthening technical capacities of the Forest Department and contributing technical agencies.
- ◆ Sustainability of the system through the establishment of an appropriate institutional framework among academic institutions, relevant government agencies and civil society.



Key National Partners

The following agencies will act as key coordinating partners with the Forest Department:

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Bangladesh National Herbarium, Bangladesh Climate Change Trust, Survey of Bangladesh, Directorate of Land Records and Survey, Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization, Soil Resource Development Institute, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, Bangladesh Society of Geoinformatics, NGOs and civil society organizations, National Universities, Local and international communities, Wood-based industries and various private sectors.

International Partners



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Bangladesh Forest Inventory



Assessing and Monitoring Forests in Bangladesh

As populations grow and communities expand, the pressure on natural resources increase. In parallel, the necessity for reliable information on forest resources and forest resource use becomes increasingly important. The Bangladesh Forest Department is addressing this through the development of a National Forest Inventory. The inventory will provide accurate and transparent estimates on forest resources and the factors that influence forest change.

The process is led by the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is supported by several projects and organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), SilvaCarbon and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This partnership brings together a vast technical experience that is encouraging new and innovative approaches to forest monitoring and research in forest biomass dynamics.





Programmatic Framework

Phase 1. Capacity Development and Preparation

Over forty organizations are targeted in capacity building activities. Such broad involvement will serve to strengthen institutional capacity of government ministries, departments and agencies as well as academic institutions, NGOs and civil society actors. The relationships developed through this process will assist in producing a robust institutional framework for project implementation.

Phase 2. Data collection through field survey

Associating biophysical data (related to tree characteristics) with results of the socio-economic survey (related to forest resource use) will allow practical interpretation of forest data in line with the actual needs of forest dependent communities.

Phase 3. Data processing and analysis

An information management system will be designed to process and store the vast amounts of data collected from the field. Open source software including QGIS, R and Open Foris will provide the primary analytical tools ensuring the methodology is both accessible and sustainable.

Phase 4. Dissemination, reporting and archiving

A web-based geo-portal for visualizing and disseminating information will assist in data analysis and automate international reporting processes. A robust archiving system will be developed in parallel to ensure the data, information and knowledge gained through the project remains accessible and available.

Key Principles

Institutionalizing Capacity

The involvement of multiple project partners in this highly collaborative, government led process will establish a comprehensive support system to last beyond short-term project funding cycles.

Multi-purpose Scope

Forest inventory is a multifunctional instrument; it guides social, economic and environmental policies, provides information on forest dynamics and biodiversity and supports initiatives related to agriculture, disaster risk reduction, nutrition and community health.

Innovation

Building on the local knowledge of the Forest Department, international experts in forest monitoring from FAO and SilvaCarbon (including U.S. Forest Service, NASA, and the University of Maryland) are collaborating to develop new and innovative approaches to forest monitoring.

Consistency, Comparability, Transparency, Accuracy

The national forest monitoring process is in line with the most recent IPCC Guidelines and reporting principles, namely: consistency, comparability, transparency and accuracy.

Fundamentals

Under the UNFCCC, **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) aims at providing compensations to countries undertaking greenhouse gas emission reductions in forestry.



A **national forest monitoring system** is a comprehensive process that includes the collection, analysis and dissemination of forest related data and the derivation of information and knowledge at regular intervals to allow the monitoring of changes over time.

The information derived through the monitoring system will assist in quantifying the value of **ecosystem goods and services**.



Satellite image interpretation for land cover and land use mapping



Using advanced image processing and analysis tools, the Forest Department will translate satellite images into functional maps to provide information on the country's land cover and land use types. This information will assist in determining the extent and rate of land cover change over time.

