



Proceedings of Workshop on Institutionalization of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory: Step I



**Bangladesh Forest Department
27-29 November 2018**



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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Disclaimer

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.

Executive Summary

An training workshop for institutionalization of BFI involving the three Forest Management Plan Divisions was held during 27-29 November 2018. The firstday comprised a short inaugural session folowed by technical sessions for the rest of the day. In technical session presentation on different aspects of BFI leassons leart from the first cycle of the BFI both in the foeld and centarl lab were discussed. The participants took part in group discussions and identified the role of BFD and other agencies and institution for the sustainability of the BFI process.

Contents

Executive Summary	3
1. Introduction.....	5
2. Technical Session.....	7
3. Field programmes	7
4. Next steps.....	7
5. Annexure-II: Participants Details of the Workshop.....	10

1. Introduction

Inaugural Session:

Mr Mohammed Shafiul Alam Chowdhury, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh Forest Department was the Chief Guest of the Training Workshop inaugural session of the Workshop on Institutionalization of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory: Step I. The guests took seat at 10 am and the programme duly started through the welcome remarks by Mr Md. Zaheer Iqbal, Deputy Conservator of Forests, RIMS Unit, Forest Department, Dhaka, Bangladesh following the brief self-introduction of each participants. The inaugural session was facilitated by Ms Simunnahar Ritu, FAO Consultant.



Inaugural session





Briefing by Md. Zaheer Iqbal



Field demonstration

2. Technical Session

Following the registration the inaugural session of the workshop was started. With the consent of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mohammed Shafiul Alam Chowdhury, at the beginning Mr. Zaheer Iqbal DCF RIMS gave welcome remarks to the guests and participants (see Programme Schedule-Appendix I).

3. Field programmes

Two day long field programmes were arranged at a National Botanical Garden, Mirpur, Dhaka. The participants were grouped into five groups and coordinated by an expert leader from the recent field teams. The participants were introduced to modern inventory equipment & Open Foris. They exercised the use of inventory equipment under the guidance of experts. They were also trained how to measure a sample plot in the field using Open Foris and Paper Form.

4. Next steps

1. Organize a meeting involving senior forest officers to decide next steps of institutionalization of Bangladesh Forest Inventory
2. Strengthening of capacity building of the BFI Unit and Field crews
3. Continuous involvement of stakeholders in the BFI process

Appendix 1: Programme Schedule

Date	Topic	Speaker/facilitator
DAY 1	Rokton: Room # 206, Banbhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka	
9:00: 9:30 a.m.	Registration	Ms Farah Tasnim & Ms Asma Islam
09:30-09:35 hrs	Welcome remarks by DCF RIMS	Mr. Md. Zaheer Iqbal
09:35-09:45 hrs	The Bangladesh Forest Inventory Cycle II	Dr. Laskar Muqsudur Rahman
09:45-09:55 hrs	BFI Institutionalization Process in BFD	Mr. Md. Ariful Hoque Belal, ACCF, MPU
09:55-10:00 hrs	Perspective by USAID	Dr. Patrick Meyer, USAID
10:00-10:10 hrs	Remarks by FAO	Dr. Henry Matieu, FAO
10:10-10:25 hrs	BFI under SUFAL Remarks by DCCF Planning	Mr. Zahir Uddin Ahmed
10:25-10:35 hrs	Remarks by Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh	Mr. Mohammed Shafiul Alam Chowdhury
10:35–11:00 hrs	Tea	
11:00-11:10 hrs	BFI Cycle I. Overview	Mr. Md. Zaheer Iqbal, DCF RIMS
11:10-11:20 hrs	BFI Cycle I. Satellite land cover monitoring system	Mr. Rashed Jalal, FAO
11:20-11:30 hrs	BFI Cycle I. Biophysical Inventory	Mr. Rajib Mahamud, FAO
11:30-11:40 hrs	BFI Cycle I. Socioeconomic Survey	Mr. Aminul Islam, BFD/ Dr. Nikhil Chakma, FAO
11:40-12:50 hrs	BFI Cycle II. Group Discussion - Who will be responsible for what in BFD? - Which national entities to involve? - What are the challenges?	Dr. Mariam Akhter, BFD (facilitator)
12:50-13:00 hrs	Proposed Next Steps and Timeline -BFI Cycle II under SUFAL -BFI beyond SUFAL	Mr Zaheer Iqbal, BFD
13:00-14:00 hrs	Prayer & Lunch	
14:00-14:30 hrs	- Lessons learned – biophysical inventory - Discussion and feedback about biophysical inventory	Mr. Md.Touhidur Rahman, Forester, BFD
14:30-15:00 hrs	- Lessons learned – socioeconomic survey - Discussion and feedback about socioeconomic survey	Dr. Nikhil Chakma, FAO; Mr. Aminul Islam, BFD
15:00-15:30 hrs	- Lessons learned – central office - Discussion and feedback about central management	Mr. Falgoonee Kumar Mondal , FAO
15:30-16:00	- Discussion on DFOs' contributions - Instruction for 2 day training	Mr. Md. Zaheer Iqbal, DCF RIMS

16:00 hrs	Tea & closing	
DAY 2		
National Botanical garden, Mirpur		
09:00 – 17:00 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to inventory equipment & Open Foris - Practice of equipment - Sample plot measurement demonstration 	Mr. Md. Touhidur Rahman, Forester, BFD Mr. Md. Motlubur Rahman, ACF, BFD
DAY 3		
National Botanical garden, Mirpur		
09:00 – 17:00 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sample plot measurement by the trainee - Summary of Next Steps for BFI field work 	Mr. Md. Akhter Hossain, CU Mr. Md. Sajjaduzzaman, ACF, BFD Mr. Md. Zaheer Iqbal, BFD Dr. Mariam Akhter, BFD

5. Annexure-II: Participants Details of the Workshop

SL	Name	Gender	Designation & Organization	Mobile	E-mail
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