

Project Update: December 2009

The season for collecting nipper from the deep forest of the Sundarbans has started but the nipper collectors of Nalian and Sutarkhali range of east and west Sundarbans did not collect the permission. The first deadline for collection of permits was 30 December 2009, but no nipper collector got permit from the forest officers. The forest department has extended the time for collecting permission, due to doubling the revenue and also for the crisis of the boat the nipper collector lost their interest of collecting nipper. The people of the southwest coastal region use the collected nipper from the Sundarbans as their house roof. Lot of nipper collector's livelihood depends on this tree.

For getting more revenue after the devastating cyclones Sidr and Aila, the government has again started giving the BLC to the nipper collectors. After the two devastating cyclones, the government stopped any kind of intervention in the Sundarbans for more than 2 years. The Sundarbans dependent communities fell victim to this. The nipper collectors became jobless. Now they have to buy the one mond nipper 933 instead of 400 tk. As a result they became frustrated. The government will lose a lot of revenue if the nipper collectors do not collect their permits.

The nipper collectors were badly affected by Sidr and Aila. They demanded that they can buy the nipper 400 tk per mond in place of 933 tk. As per the information from the forest Department, it has begun yet for giving BLC of the boats and permit from 1st December and 14th December 2009 but still now, from east and west of Sundarbans (Nalian and Sutarkhali range) no nipper collectors collect BLC of the boats.