

## **Project Update: July 2010**

**Coordination meeting with network members:** A coordination meeting was organised with the presence of network members and with other organisations from the project areas (Satkhira, Bagerhat and Khulna) on 13 April 2010 at IRV office. The meeting was chaired by Advocet Habibur Rahman, Executive Director of RUNNER. In the meeting, Kazi Zaved Khalid Pasha presented the past activities report and also shared information about the future plan. All the participants emphasised the observation of the World Environment Day (WED) 2010. Zaved also informed that a workshop would be organised on the eve of WED.

**Capacity Building of Forest People (Bawali):** A capacity building training session for the Bawali forest people was organised at the training room, Agroduct Club Foundation, Saronkhola, Bagerhat on 23 April 2010. The training was facilitated by Mahfuzur Rahaman Mukul, Divisional Coordinator, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), an expert in environmental law, and Kazi Zaved Khalid Pasha, team leader of the project. Based on the tool kit they provided the training. Through the project the capacity of the forest depended communities will be increased and their involvement in the forest conservation will be enhanced.

**Union Level Awareness Creating Meeting:** An awareness creation meeting was organised at Harinagor Bazar, Shyamnagor, and Satkhira on 30 April, 2010. The meeting was chaired by Principle Ashek E Alahee. Community people of different professions, including women, participated in the meeting.

**Workshop on the eve of World Environment Day (Khulna):** With the support of Rufford Small Grant, Citizens March for Conservation of Coastal Environment (CMCCE) organised a workshop at 11.30 of June 6, 2010 in the public hall, Khulna. The title of the workshop was *Conservation and Management of the Sundarbans and the Right of the Forest People; Problem and Rights*. Mr. Akbar Hossain, Conservator of Forest, Khulna Region, Khulna was present as chief guest. As special guests Professor Majbha Kama, Dhaka University, Professor Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta, Environment Science Discipline, Khulna, University, and Pavel Partho, environment researcher, BARCIK, Dhaka were present. The workshop was chaired by Ad. Abdullaha Hossain Batchchu, Chairman, Initiative for Right View (IRV).

**Cultural Programme:** Two cultural programmes were organised in Satkhira and Bagerhat. One was organized at Nishan Baria Union Parishad Complex, Morelgonj, and Bagerhat on 8 June, 2010 and other was organised at Munsigonj Bazar, Shyamnagor, and Satkhira on 9 June, 2010.

**Database of Sundarban Dependent Community:** Activity for developing the database of the professional group is ongoing. Database in Maralganj Uppazilla (Jeudhara union), Nisan Baria Unino, in SaranKhola Upazilla (Dhansagar union) and in Mongla Upazill (Sundarban union) has been completed.

**Media Campaign:** As a part of media campaign several articles were published in national and local daily newspapers. Field level information was provided to the journalist and

regular interaction with them was organised and they also participating different meeting and presentation paper in the workshop.



Left: Coordination meeting with network members. Right: Capacity Building of Forest People (Bawali).



Left: Capacity Building of Forest People (Bawali). Right: Union Level Awareness Crating Meeting.



Left: Union Level Awareness Crating Meeting. Right: Workshop on the eve of world environment day (Khulna).



Workshop on the eve of world environment day (Khulna)



Cultural program.

## World Tiger Day observance



Bangladesh, along with other countries in the world, is commemorating the 'World Tiger Day' with the slogan "Save endangered tigers, save the Sundarbans". Tigers are the national animal of the country and are taken as a symbol of valour. They play a key role in maintaining the bio-diversity, food chain and ecology of the forests. When once tigers dominated the forest - they now can only be found in small numbers and even these are being eradicated at a fast pace.

Recent statistics show the speed of their impending extinction with only 3,200 tigers in the world at present compared to the 1, 00,000 tigers that walked the planet a hundred years ago. Currently, India boasts having the largest number of tigers with 1, 500 of the large cats surviving at 56 different places in the country.

However, Bangladesh boasts the highest number of the cats in one forest with 450 tigers living in the Sundarbans. The forest official continued to say that the 6017 square kilometre Sundarbans has the highest tiger density in the world. The forest's bio diversity and food chain has been well-maintained due to the tigers.

In Khulna with the support of Initiative for Right View (IRV) Citizens Manch for Conservation of Coastal Environment (CMCCE) organized a Discussion Meeting at 4.00 pm on 29 July, 2010. The meeting was chaired by Advocate Firoz Ahmed, Convener, CMCCE. Principle Majharun Hannan was present as the chief guest. Representatives from organizations working for the conservation of Sundarbans present in the meeting.

