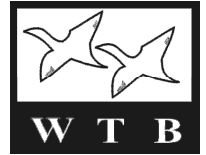


The Endangered Forests of Bangladesh:



WHY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IS NOT WORKING & REDD IN BANGLADESH

M. Anwarul Islam, Sabir Bin Muzaffar, Dihider Shahriar Kabir,
Mamunul Hoque Khan, Farid Uddin Ahmed, Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury,
Suprio Chakma and Israt Jahan

Wildlife Trust Bangladesh
Global Forest Coalition

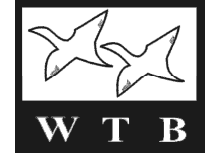




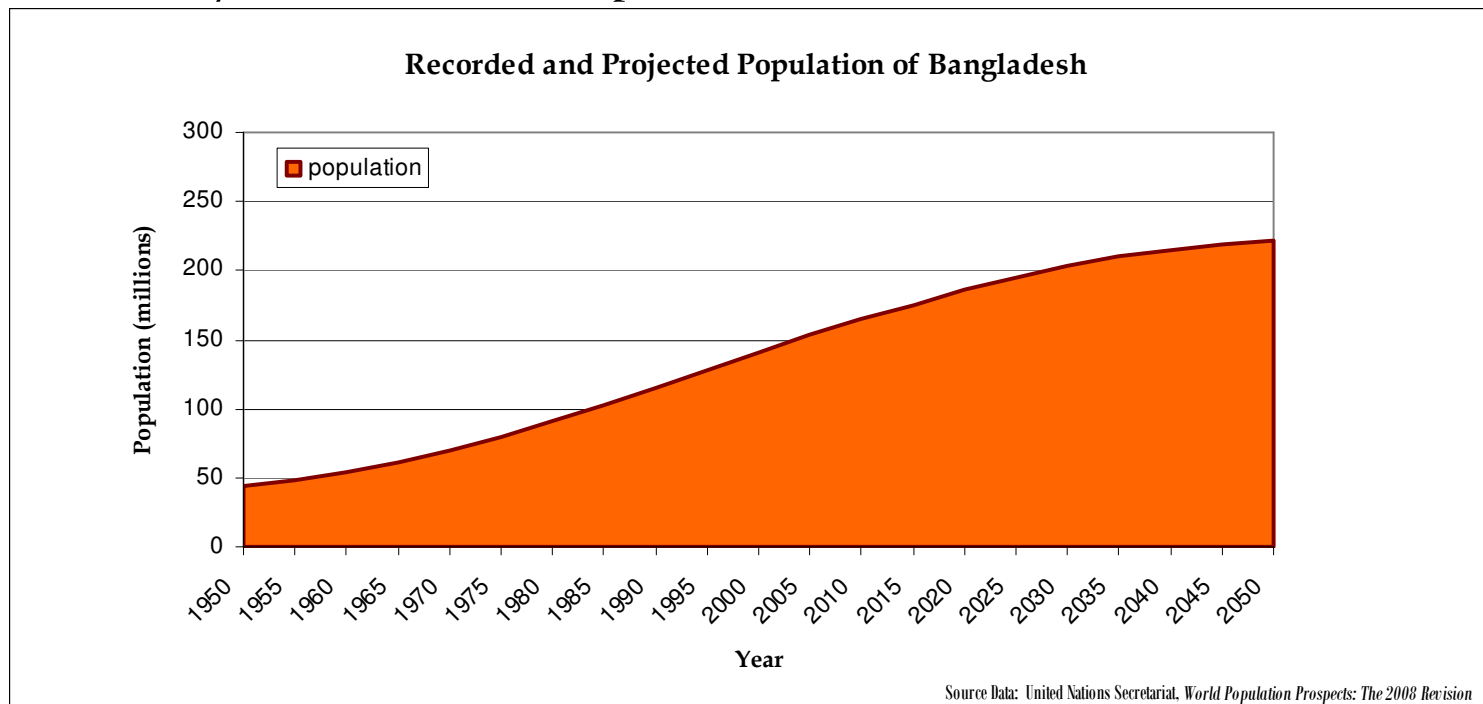
DISCUSSION FOCUS

- Analytics: Why CBD implementation is not working in general and with special reference to forest ecosystems
- Results of CBD/PoW assessment in Bangladesh done by WTB in collaboration with GFC
- REDD in Bangladesh

GROWING POPULATION AND LAND-USE PRESSURE



- Densely populated country with high growth rate
- Scarcity of land has led to severe deforestation, environmental degradation, and shrinking CPR
- Wetlands and forests have been degraded and converted for farming, industry and urban development



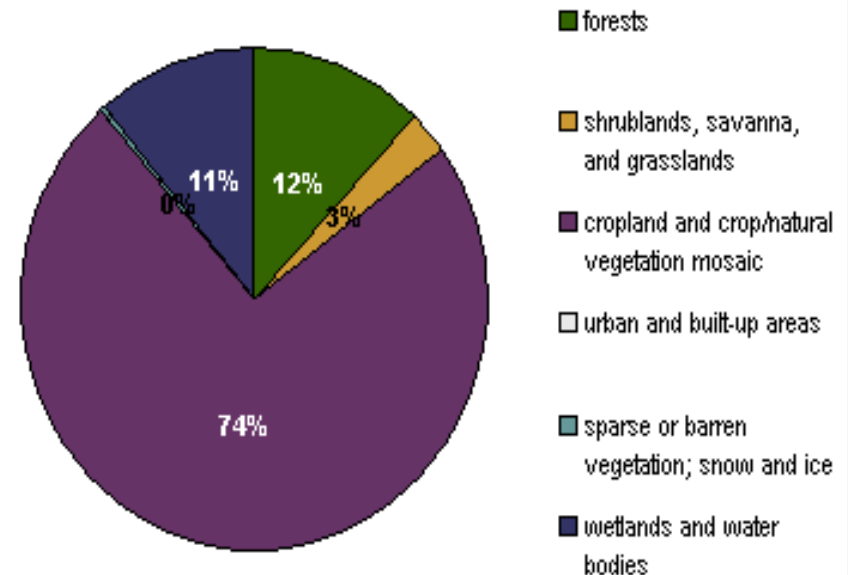
Forest cover of Bangladesh



4 broad forest types:

- Hill forests (tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen)
 - Sal forests (Moist deciduous)
 - Swamp forests (in freshwater wetlands)
 - Mangroves (Sundarbans and coastal zones)
- Total Forest Land 17%
 - Total forest cover is about 8 %
 - Extensive loss of forests over the last 4 decades

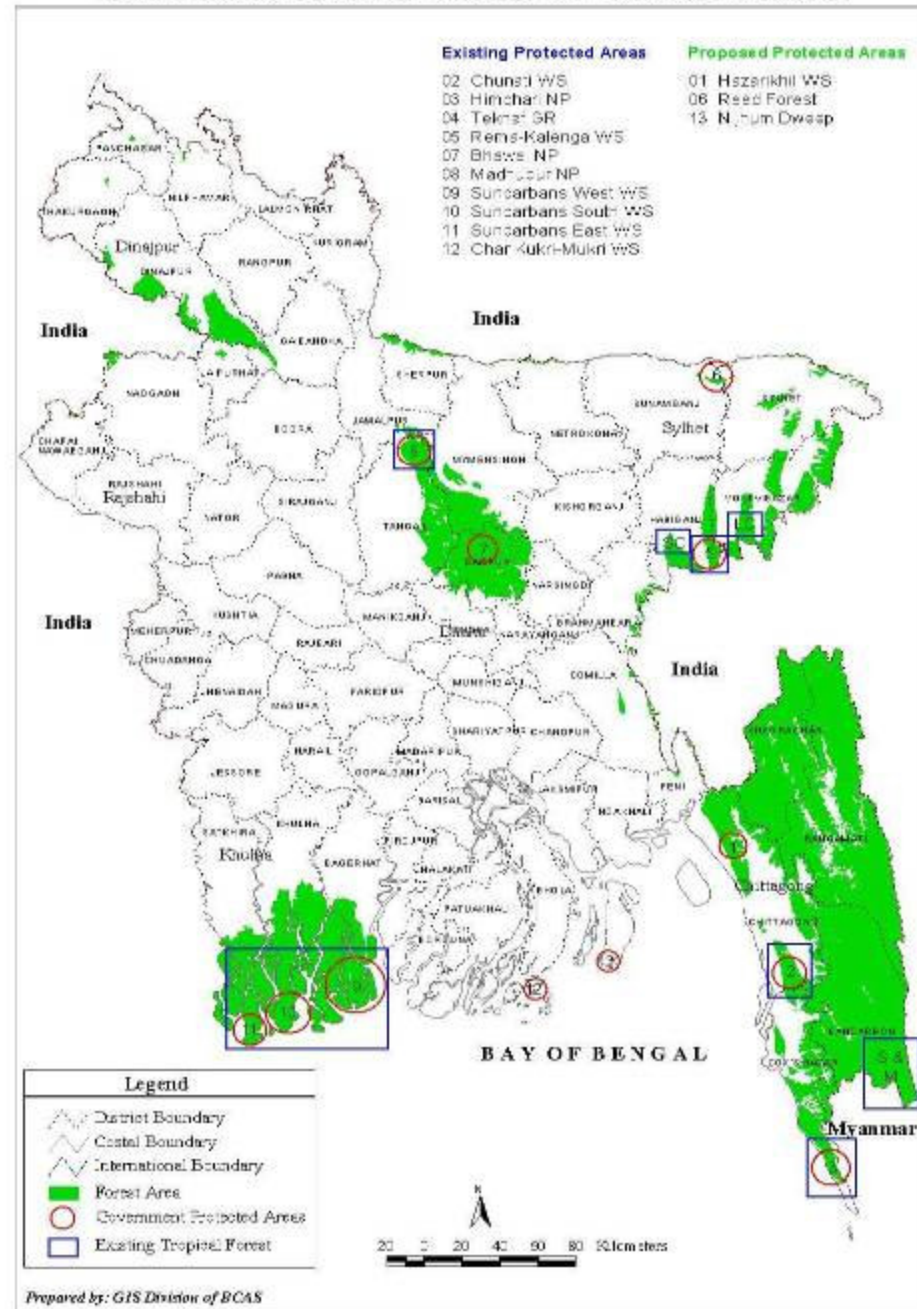
Ecosystem Areas by Type, Bangladesh, 1992-93



Actual canopy coverage is about 8 %

Protected area coverage is about 1%

TROPICAL FOREST AREA OF BANGLADESH

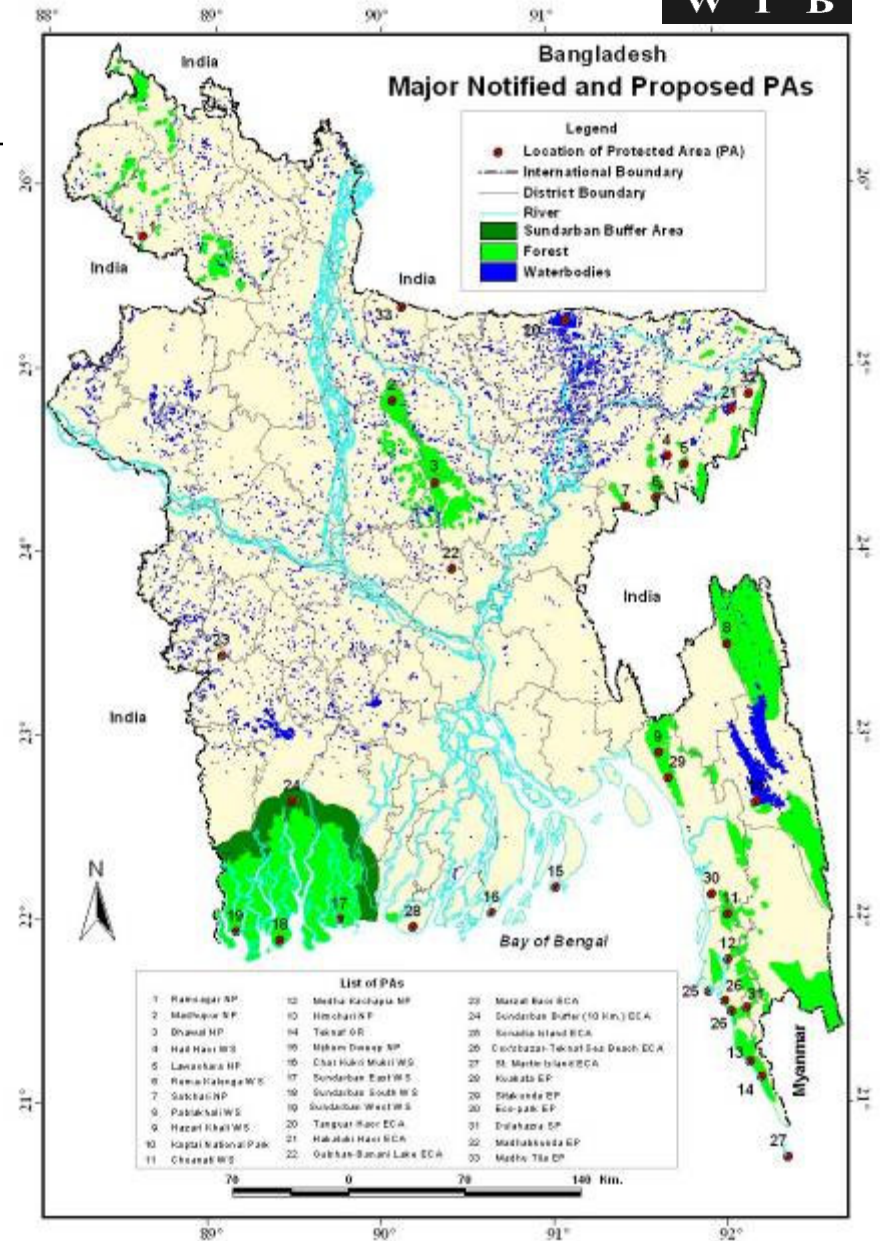
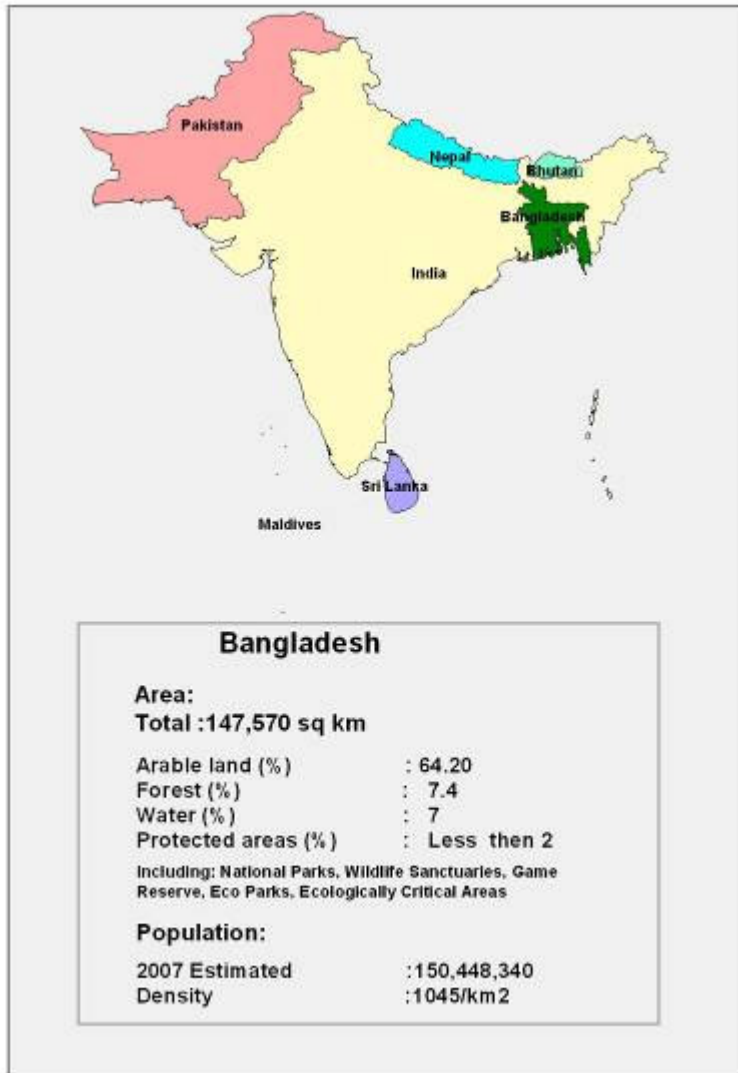


PROTECTED AREAS IN BANGLADESH



- Bangladesh has 19 PAs (10 NP, 8 WS, and 1 GR)
- In addition, there are 5 Eco-Parks, a Safari Park, and 8 ECAs
- The current PA network covers only 1.7% of the country
- The government aims to increase PA coverage to 10%
- One way to increase PA coverage in a meaningful way is through CCAs

MAJOR NOTIFIED & PROPOSED PROTECTED AREAS





Results of CBD/PoW Assessments

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan identifies the following as major threats:

- deforestation for agricultural and settlement expansion,
- clear-felling for plantations,
- unregulated and unscientific logging practices,
- forest policies and laws that are inconsistent with conservation science,
- conflicting intra-governmental sectoral policies,
- revenue-driven forestry practices.

Results of CBD/PoW Assessments

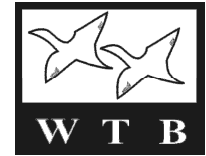


Contd.

Theme 1: Application of the Ecosystem approach

- limited work done in promoting an understanding of the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach
- Forest Department (FD) of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) is geared towards generating revenue through the production of timber
 - Limited knowledge on forest organisms as part of a functioning system
- Protected Areas designated in paper but not in practice
 - Recent initiative of Nishorgo project has had some successes in PA management using collaborative approaches
- Illegal exploitation of forest products continues

Results of CBD/PoW Assessments

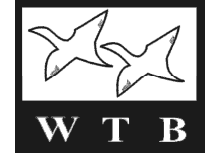


Contd.

Theme: Threat reduction and Mitigation

- Alien species of trees (e.g. *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*) identified as threats to forest conservation: there is a slow movement towards reducing these species in plantations by FD
- Very limited monitoring of pollutants and disturbance of forests: mostly driven by academic research
- Forest fragmentation is high: action to reduce or prevent fragmentation is limited
- Earlier policies (e.g. National Forestry Policy 1994) identify afforestation of denuded, degraded forest lands, but no real progress since forest area continues to decline
- Some attempts to protect forests using endangered species mostly driven by externally funded projects

Results of CBD/PoW Assessments



Contd.

Theme: Sustainable use and indigenous people

- Participatory approach to forest management is not truly practiced
- No policies to permit equitable sharing of forest earnings (e.g. through harvest of products or ecotourism) with indigenous people
 - One exception is the Nishorgo project, where some earnings and employment has benefited indigenous people: formalizing the process remains problematic
 - Rights of indigenous people remains limited

Results of CBD/PoW Assessments



Contd.

Theme: Institutional enabling environment

- Various entities involved in conservation
 - Forest Department, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Universities, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Home, Ministry of Law, Local Government, NGO's and Community-based Organizations (CBO)
 - Conflicts of interest and different ways of practicing conservation have resulted in duplication, or mutually exclusive action
 - Policies need to be re-evaluated to help unify the activities of different organizations involved in conservation

Results of CBD/PoW Assessments



Contd.

Theme: Knowledge Assessment

- Numerous academic researchers involved in evaluating population status of organisms
 - Published in journals, university newsletters or in conference proceedings: not utilized by responsible conservation agencies for necessary action
- Status of major animal fauna partly documented by IUCN's red list: many species remain Data Deficient
- Plant, invertebrate taxa remains largely unstudied: except those of economic importance
- NBSAP identifies these gaps long-term studies and monitoring of major groups is yet to begin

Conclusions of the assessment:



- Implementation of the Program of Work of the CBD has largely been unsuccessful
- Issues/underlying causes can be broadly categorized under:
 - Improper policies and legal instruments
 - Poor governance
 - Social, ecological, physico-chemical drivers
 - Trans-boundary externalities including disasters and climate change
- Tendency to generate income through 'projects' has hampered progress



REDD Status in Bangladesh

Policy level

- Active representation in the CoPs and AWG meetings
- BCCSAP
- Assessment of 2010/4NR
- SNC



REDD Status in Bangladesh

Program and Field level actions

- Sundarban assessment by USG
- CCSAP Sub-programme
- MDTF
- Government Trust Fund
- Capacity Development Action Plan (based on NCSA)



THANK YOU!

