



Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)

An Organization for Excellence in Nature

Building a Future in Which Humans Live in Harmony with Nature



Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)

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Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)

An Organization for Excellence in Nature

An Overview of BEDS

Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS) is a non-profit, non-political organization committed to sustainable socio-economic development, conservation of natural resources, use of clean energy and protection of the environment through research and implementation of specific activities.

A group of enlightened environmentalists, development workers and nature lovers came together with the idea of advocating to protect the ever-degrading coastal ecosystem of Bangladesh. As a result, BEDS was formed on July 26, 2010, to work with the grassroots-level community. The organization promotes the long-term co-existence of people and natural ecosystems on our planet, creating harmony among all living beings.

BEDS exists to address and solve integrated environmental and socio-economic problems. It has been working on: issues arising from global warming and sea level rise; preparedness to respond to natural hazards; mobilizing communities to eradicate unplanned and unsustainable over-harvesting and use of natural resources; bringing together different stakeholders to stop the extinction of rare species of flora and fauna; preserving Sundarbans biodiversity loss; minimizing the adverse impact on the eco-system due to accelerated human population growth; opposing human rights violations; and promoting gender equity. In addition, BEDS works to improve socio-economic conditions for the most vulnerable communities by focusing on food crises, farming, fisheries, education, health and nutrition and unemployment.

The organization's strategies focus on encouraging participation of local communities in important decision-making related to issues that bridge nature and society and aiding in the formation of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and related associations and sub-organizations. BEDS helps create and develop initiation strategies for such groups, as well as to expand and explore its own initiatives through similar national and international organizations, research institutes, think tanks, universities, etc.

The organization has been **registered under the Department of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh since 2011**, and also under the **NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh since 2013**.

BEDS has been partnering as an associate organization of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh to promote the proper implementation of government-led initiatives. It **received the Government Environmental Award 2015** from the Khulna Division in recognition for its excellent, pragmatic and innovative work. In 2015, **BEDS and the Centre for Integrated Studies on Sundarbans (CISS), Khulna University, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to work together on collaborative projects.

BEDS is committed to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 set by the United Nations, and Rupkalpa 2021 set by the Government of Bangladesh. It will continue partnering with national and international donor agencies to fulfill these commitments.



Vision:

To promote ecological balance and create harmony between humans and their environment.

Mission:

To build the capacity of the most vulnerable communities in the region to ensure sustainable use of natural resources, provide eco-friendly means of living, reduce the adverse effects of climate change and improve their socio-economic condition while maintaining the ecological balance.

Objectives:

1. Advocate to preserve existing natural treasures;
2. Conduct research to maintain the ecological balance;
3. Reduce the adversities arising from climate change;
4. Provide sources for clean energy;
5. Implement disaster risk-reduction strategies among the most vulnerable communities;
6. Establish human rights through good governance;
7. Create livelihoods opportunities for the most vulnerable populations;
8. Improve integrated water resource management and eco-habitat;
9. Ensure proper water, sanitation and hygiene within communities; and
10. Enhance women's empowerment by emphasizing equitable development.

Working area: Throughout Bangladesh, with a priority focus on coastal regions

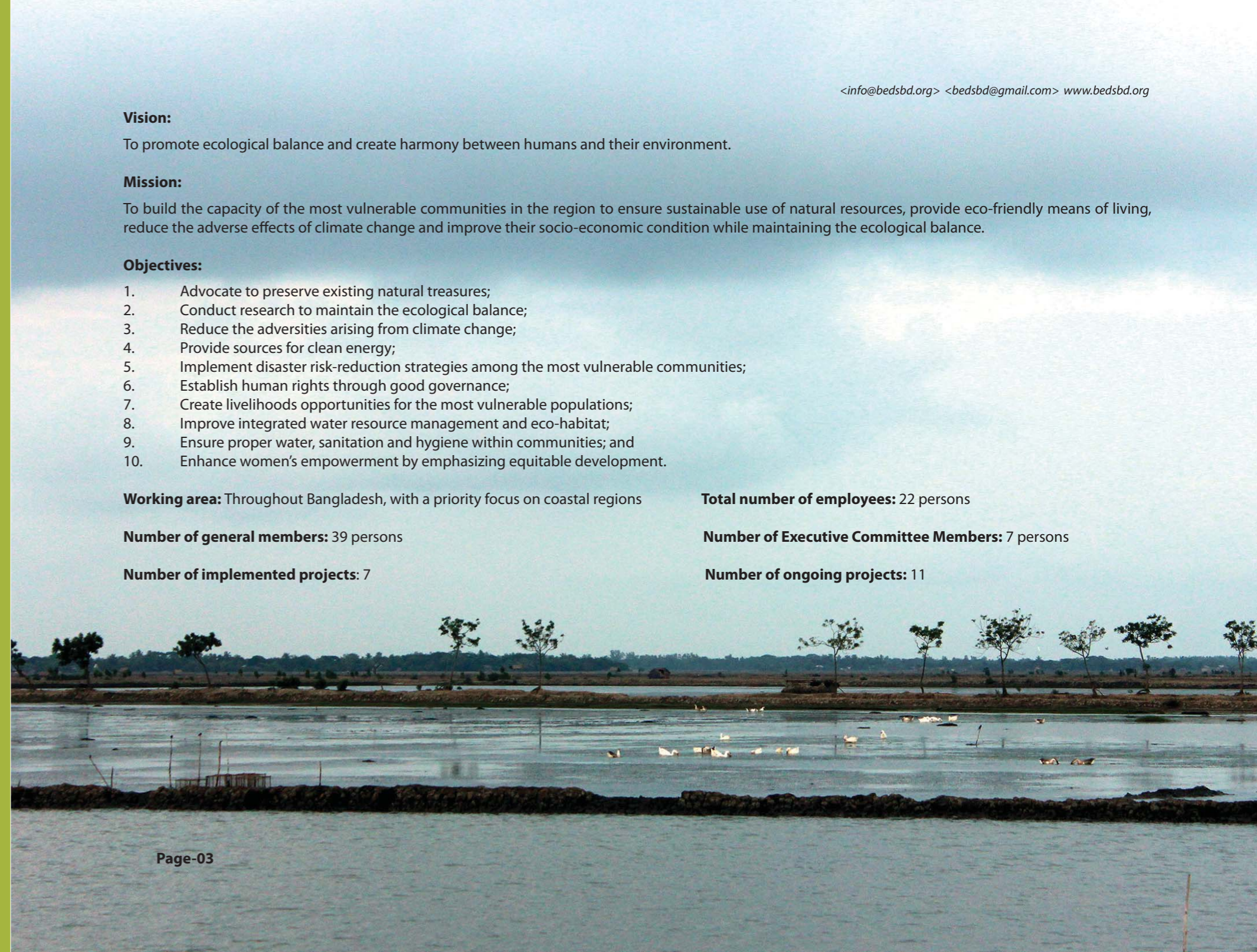
Number of general members: 39 persons

Number of implemented projects: 7

Total number of employees: 22 persons

Number of Executive Committee Members: 7 persons

Number of ongoing projects: 11



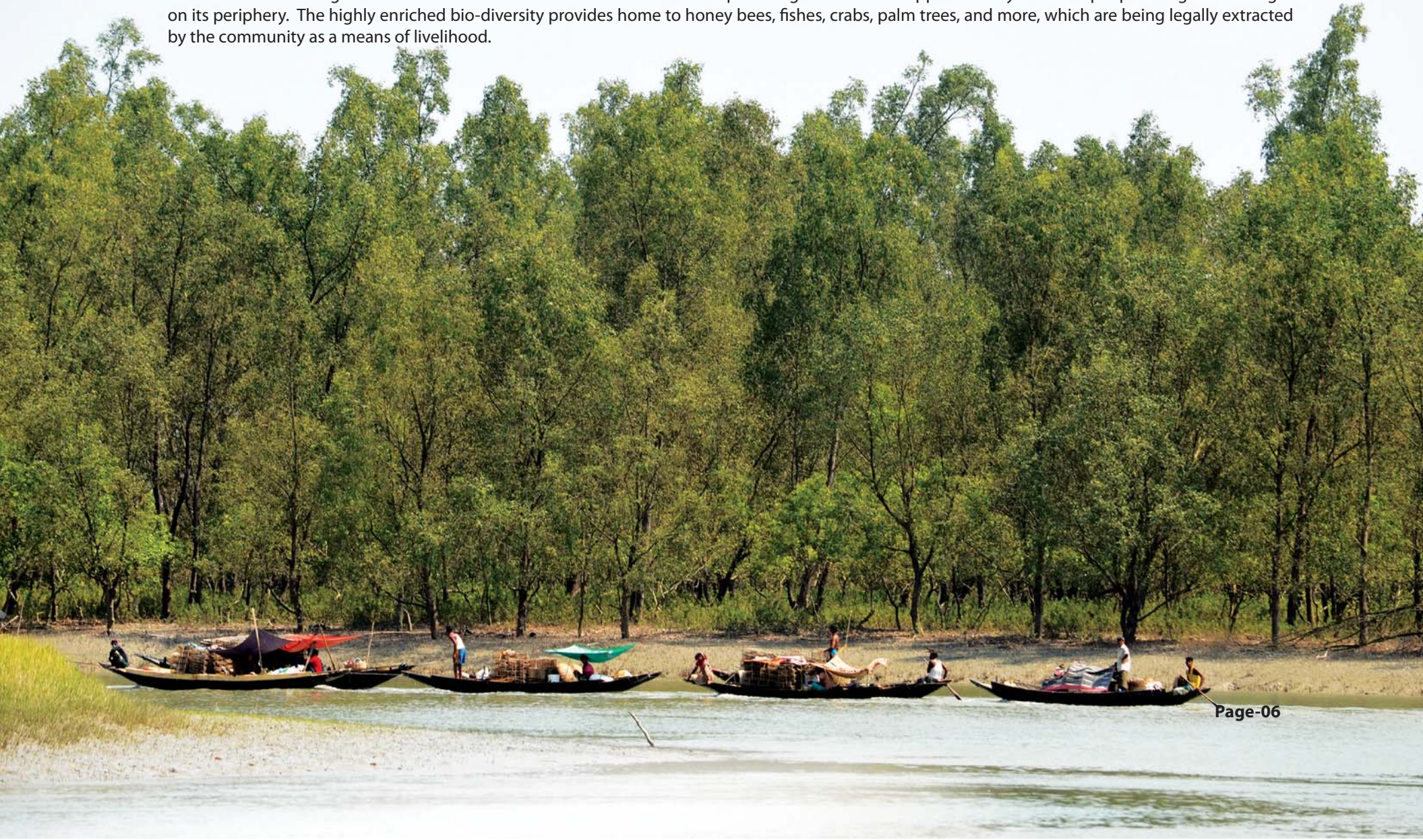
List of implemented and ongoing projects

SI. No	Name of the project	Donor/partner	Duration
01	Project on livelihood improvement for honey collectors through coast watershed conservation around the Sundarbans in Bangladesh	This project is supported by grant assistance for grassroots projects of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and partnership with Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF)	February 2016 to February 2017
02	Piloting the development of mangrove biodiversity education curriculum within the Sundarbans and outside of the Sundarbans region of Bangladesh	This project is supported by the Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program from Toyota Motor Corporation, and partnership with Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF)	January, 2015 to December 2016
03	Waste management improvement project in Khulna City, aimed at creating harmonious coexistence for waste pickers within society, and focused on disadvantaged members of society in South Asia	This project is supported by Mitsui & Co., Ltd. Environment Fund and partnership with Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF)	October 2015 to September 2018
04	Dolphin and Turtle Conservation Education among the Sundarbans fishermen of Bangladesh	This project is supported by the AEON Environmental Foundation, Japan, and partnership with Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF)	April 2015 to March 2016
05	Activity for conserving Sundarbans coastal region through sustainable use of natural resources by fishermen, and an eco-club of elementary and secondary schools	This project is supported by the AEON Environmental Foundation, Japan, and partnership with Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF)	April 2016 to March 2016
06	Sustainable Mangrove Biodiversity Conservation through livelihood improvement of Sundarbans fishermen	This project is supported by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)	April 2014 to March 2017
07	Eco-Village project in Bangladesh	Korea Green Foundation (KGF)	August 2015 to January 2017
08	Solar school project and Community Empowerment Project to bring Solar Energy to Bangladesh	Korea Green Foundation (KGF)	February 2013 to December 2016

List of implemented and ongoing projects

SI. No	Name of the project	Donor/partner	Duration
09	Tree planting campaign on school grounds	FEE Japan and Global Forest Fund	April 2011 to March 2017
10	Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation through Eco-friendly women micro enterprise development	Green Asia Grant under Korea Green Foundation	August 2014 to January 2015
11	Construct Sustainable Livelihood Improvement Training Center (SLITC)	Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) subsidy of DAIWA HOUSE INDUSTRY CO.LTD.	December 2014 to June 2015
12	A study on calipee trade of Critically Endangered <i>Pelochelys cantorii</i> in Bangladesh	Chelonian Research Foundation (CRF), on behalf of the Turtle Conservation Fund ("TCF")	March 2014 to February 2015
13	Literacy and Business Education support for Dropout Sundarbans Fishermen's Children	Give2Asia	January 2014 to December 2016
14	Construct a Multiple Use Cyclone Shelter and Training Center for Sundarbans fishermen communities	Give2Asia	March 2016 to August 2017
15	Humanitarian Education Materials Support for ishermen's Children	Give2Asia	March 2015 to February 2016
16	Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative	IUCN, Bangladesh	March to June 2013
17	Sustaining Ethical Aquaculture Trade (SEAT) Project in Bangladesh	Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensing	November to December 2011
18	Improve Knowledge and Application of Home Gardening Techniques	Winrock International funded by USAID	February to March 2012
19	Celebrate Mangrove Action Day, Environment Day, etc	BEDS own fund, Networking organizations and collaborating agencies	Continuing

The Sundarbans-mangrove-dominated Ganges Delta is a complex ecosystem comprising one of the largest single tracts of mangrove forests in the world. Sundarbans mangrove is the heritage of Bangladesh and also a UNESCO declared World Heritage (WH) site. It is one of the most internationally significant RAMSAR wetland sites. There are many rare and endangered species of flora and fauna such as the iconic critically endangered Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) which straddles the border between India and Bangladesh, plus turtles, estuarine crocodiles, wild birds, etc. Retaining the health of the Sundarbans' ecosystem is of paramount importance for Bangladesh, as it is also a natural safeguard for climate-vulnerable coastal communities in the region. The natural resources of Sundarbans have been providing livelihoods to approximately .5 million people living in the villages on its periphery. The highly enriched bio-diversity provides home to honey bees, fishes, crabs, palm trees, and more, which are being legally extracted by the community as a means of livelihood.



Our Partners and Collaborators



BEDS has been implementing numerous projects addressing both the environment and development sectors in Bangladesh, with special focus on the climate-vulnerable Sundarbans coastal region. BEDS has enjoyed cooperation, partnership and financial assistance from many renowned organisations during this period. Some of the key partners include Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF); FEE (The Foundation for Environmental Education) Japan; Korea Green Foundation (KGF); Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF); Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF); IUCN, Bangladesh; Give2Asia; Sumar Lakhani Foundation (SLF); Winrock International; Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensing; and IDEAWILD.



Message from
Hideki SATO



I am very happy to work together with BEDS from January 2013, starting with the collaborative project on developing and disseminating the environmental educational materials of formal elementary schools focused on Sundarbans biodiversity conservation. Thanks to the energetic efforts by BEDS, we are conducting five joint projects such as the activities on supporting natural honey collection, on improving fishermen's livelihood, on ameliorating waste management issues targeted at waste pickers, etc. (as of 28 March 2016)

The environmental issues are related to the various "stakeholders" such as government organizations, companies, universities, schools, NGOs and citizen groups. BEDS respect to work together with them, aiming at balanced coexistence between environment and human beings. They also show respect for "regionality" such as any life style's characteristic and unique that each community has. Moreover, BEDS surely "catch the real needs" from the community people and is conducting activities for bring out their potential.

Drawing influence from BEDS's sincere efforts, I increase in my motivation and it result in greater job satisfaction. I would like to try my best to solve poverty and environment issues in Bangladesh together with BEDS to the future.

Best wishes

佐藤 秀樹

Hideki SATO
Expert on Environmental Education
Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF)
Japan



Message from
Choi, Yul



**KOREA
GREEN FOUNDATION**

I have been involved in the environmental movement for 40 years and visited many countries, but in March 2014, I visited Bangladesh for the first time. It was my first visit, but I was able to observe the Sundarbans, the most important conservation area in Bangladesh and meet the people because there was a positive invitation and cooperative project suggestion from partner organization BEDS.

Now climate change is recognized as a global problem. Sustainability is being presented as a philosophy of people and the operating principle of countries to seek and consider the capacity of Earth.

I am confident that the Sundarbans ECO-VILLAGE Project, promoted by BEDS and Korea Green Foundation, could become a significant model.

The Solar Lamp Project has been extended to support the families in poverty stricken regions without an electricity infrastructure. Now it has led to the residential improvement in the environment as well as extended businesses and education to the residents. Through these projects, Korea Green Foundation staff is gaining valuable experience of getting to know the wisdom and culture of the people in Bangladesh.

I wish for the growth of BEDS with the Sundarbans people, who are living among and working to conserve surrounding nature.

Choi, Yul
President
Korea Green Foundation (KGF)
Korea



Message from
Birger Stamperdahl



Give2Asia is pleased to partner with BEDS to provide educational services to rural communities in the Sundarbans region of Bangladesh. Give2Asia believes that local knowledge counts and supports local organizations throughout Asia addressing critical issues such as healthcare, education, livelihood, and the environment.

Since 2015, BEDS has implemented several Give2Asia-funded projects including education programs for approximately 50 children from fishing villages, who have previously dropped out of school in the Satkhira district of Bangladesh. The education programs aim to educate the fishermen's children, in order to reduce the poverty levels, conserve the Sundarban ecosystems, and create harmony between humans and nature.

BEDS has also constructed a multi-purpose community center in the Mathurapur fishing village with funds from Give2Asia. The Center will provide opportunities for over 300 people from the community to conduct activities for livelihood improvement, disaster preparedness, adult literacy and children's education, and natural resources management. The center is also used as a shelter during disasters and as a venue for community activities such as training, workshops and other events.

BEDS has proved to be an effective and inspiring partner and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with them as they work to save the endangered coastal region and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants.

Best wishes

Birger Stamperdahl
President and CEO
Give2Asia
USA



Message from
Dr. Dilshad Sumar



Over the last couple of years it has been a pleasure for the Sumar Lakhani Foundation (SLF) to support and collaborate with BEDS. The driving force of our foundation is to identify well-established and innovative organizations that are tackling complex and challenging social and environmental problems. BEDS use of a broad-based holistic approach to social development while demonstrating exemplary stewardship of the local ecology met our criteria. Our Foundation has collaborated in the area of preserving the environment by providing solar lamps for the students to study after sunset. BEDS has implemented the project whereby the recipients actually purchase the subsidized solar lamps just from the savings in the cost of fuel. The second project with BEDS has been the launch of women's empowerment by training the women in sewing and production of marketable products. The team at BEDS has implemented this project with efficiency and speed. Our Foundation is pleased to see the development of these projects by BEDS in a professional and cost effective manner. It has been a privilege to support the mission of BEDS and our Foundation appreciates the regular reporting and transparency with which BEDS implements each project. We look forward to working with BEDS in other social development efforts in Bangladesh.

Dr. Dilshad Sumar,
President,
Sumar Lakhani Foundation (SLF)
USA



Received Environmental Award-2015 from Department of Environment (DoE), Government of Bangladesh, Khulna Division, Khulna



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Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CISS, Khulna University, Khulna for working together



Let's play a game to learn about the Sundarbans



Sundarbans Mangrove Biodiversity Education Program

The Sundarbans is the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world, at the confluence of the mighty Ganges, Padma, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers. The forests together with the Sundarbans mangroves are important habitat for the endangered tiger and many other animal species. Next to the Sundarbans there are millions of people in the Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts of the region. The mangrove has been serving as a wall to protect the vulnerable population from the severe cyclonic storms and tsunamis through the ages. During the recent SIDR and AILA cyclones, casualties were comparatively low in Sundarbans coastal areas because of the Sundarbans mangroves. Sundarbans is not only a forest but also a culture and source of life. Considering the importance of mangrove ecosystem sustainability in the delta region, the Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) and BEDS are now implementing the Sundarbans Mangrove Biodiversity Education Program. The initiative will categorically build capacity among teachers, students, and communities throughout Bangladesh to develop conservation awareness and promote the concept of sustainability to positively impact the Sundarbans Mangrove Biodiversity. Some of the tools and resource materials used during the campaign include student booklets, education games, video documentary, etc. The educational materials are now being piloted across 82 primary schools throughout Bangladesh and the national government is considering acknowledging these as supplementary text books in schools.



"It is very essential that the students should try to understand the culture associated with Sundarbans and the importance of saving the mangroves. Children are learning and enjoying the text books and other educative materials like Ludo games and play cards developed to create awareness. Teachers are also using passages from the resource materials".

Arzumand Ara Begum, Headmistress, Pujkora Purbo Government Primary School, Nangalkot, District: Comilla



Students are playing on Sundarbans Education game using education card



Developing the Education materials through conducting Teachers Workshop



Buy honey from them to promote their livelihood



Livelihood improvement of impoverished honey collectors

The Sundarbans is very rich in natural resources and is home to many rare flora and fauna. Some of the plants have flowers that attract honeybees creating a jungle filled with beehives. Traditionally, poor communities living around the Sundarbans collect the honey between April and June with permission from the government. But they earn very little money to pay their annual debts because of the interference of middlemen. Because there is no effective marketing system, honey collectors risk their lives braving threats from the Royal Bengal Tigers and pirates, but never receive proper payment for their hard work. Moreover, honey collectors use an unsustainable harvesting practice, thus endangering the ecosystem of the Sundarbans. Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) and BEDS are implementing a project to make honey collection a sustainable process and provide the honey collectors a year round livelihood through the Coast Watershed Conservation surrounding the Sundarbans. This project aims to reduce poverty among Sundarbans honey-collector families using Alternative Income Generating (AIG) activities and also reducing over-harvesting while increasing local-community knowledge of Sundarbans' ecosystems.



"Collecting honey from the forest is very difficult and challenging. Many times tigers attack us. But we have to do it for our survival and to repay our debt to moneylenders. After all of our hard work we hardly get paid and middle men take a large share. During training I got to know more about how honey should be collected in a sustainable way and also how to extract it with machines."

Md. Shamsur Dhali, Age 49 years, Village, Munshiganj, Shyamnagar, Satkhira





BEDS, JEEF and Khulna City Corporation representatives with waste pickers

Please help them to live a respectful life

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Improvement project on waste management in Khulna City, targeting waste pickers

Khulna is the third-largest city in Bangladesh with a population of 1.5 million persons. The city is growing rapidly thus creating more household, market, and small business waste than the existing municipal system can manage. The waste pickers are a community who collect remains from the waste dumping zone to recycle and sell it to middleman for very little profit. They work in dirty dumping zones with no health safety standards and often catch communicable skin and other diseases. As a result, general society keeps its distance, shows disrespect, and creates a miserable life for them. Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) and BEDS are now implementing a project to improve waste management within Khulna City communities, and targeting waste picker activities, with the aim of creating a more harmonious coexistence between waste pickers, society and nature. Awareness programs to create harmony between the waste pickers and community are part of the initiative. In collaboration with the Waste Pickers Society in South Asia, the project aims to develop a model for improved community waste management in wards 17, 24, and the Rajbandh waste dumping site. This model will be replicated in other parts of the city at a later stage.



"I am born and brought up in the waste dumping site and always experience contempt from relatives. I couldn't go to school due to poverty and even society restricts me to enter a common eating-place. I hope the new initiative will help to change the peoples' hatred towards us."

Md. Hasan, Age: 13 years, Waste picker, Rajbandh waste dumping site, Khulna





Many houses are still in darkness, please light up them



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KOREA GREEN FOUNDATION



Give2Asia

Renewable energy promotion in rural families

The socio-economic condition in urban areas of Bangladesh is now better than ten years back. But the far-flung rural areas are still struggling to realize basic needs such as electricity. Villages are enveloped in darkness after sunset. Women use kerosene lamps or cook food during daylight only, and students have to skip their study hours. In a step forward to help the community, Korea Green Foundation (KGF), Sumar Lakhani Foundation (SLF) and BEDS are working together on the renewable energy sector in remote areas of Bangladesh. To light up villages at night, an initiative is underway to distribute different types of 2800 Solar Lamps and solar home systems among Sundarbans coastal area families. These solar lights will decrease the need to purchase kerosene, which is associated with respiratory diseases and global warming.



"Buying of kerosene has gone down drastically due to the solar lights in the village. We also have a solar light provided by the BEDS volunteers. My son and daughter read in the night and it also helps me while I am cooking."

Bimola Mandal, Harinagar, Munshiganj, Shyamnagar, Shatkhira





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KOREA
GREEN FOUNDATION



Solar School Project

The rural areas of Bangladesh have a shortage of electricity, and schools and small business establishments have insufficient electricity. Korea Green Foundation (KGF) and BEDS are working together to increase production of eco-friendly clean energy and implementing solar power projects in the schools of coastal Bangladesh. An 11.2 kilowatt solar station has already been installed in the Sundarbans region. This solar station has been providing electricity to the school, which can now run multi-media classes for students. Solar lamps have been provided to students and they carry the lamps to school to recharge them. The process has brought a drastic change in student performance and attendance at the school. In the coming days, small business establishments around the school will also benefit from the project. The power storage capacity is very high, and even when there is no sunshine for 2-3 days, the system still provides electricity. It will help improve local education and economies. Installation of additional solar stations is in progress.



A solar-lit school can change the lives of many students



"This year the performance of the students is better than last year, as the solar light has helped the students to read in the night. Attendance has also substantially increased because the students bring their solar lights to charge them at school."
Kanchon Kumar Sarker, Headmaster, Khejuria Binapani Govt. Primary School.



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KOREA GREEN FOUNDATION



Eco-Village project

The rapid socio-economic growth in Bangladesh is a good sign for the nation. But environmentalists are concerned that the growth is compromising Bangladesh's fragile ecosystem. Moreover, many more remote villages have yet to benefit from these recent developments. There is a dire need for socio-economic growth to reach all layers of society, but without destroying the ecological balance. Korea Green Foundation (KGF) and BEDS are implementing the Eco-Village Project in Bangladesh. It is a comprehensive program that serves as a model of environment-friendly sustainable development by combining: Green Housing – featuring water conservation; Green Education – study materials on ways to maintain the ecological balance; Green Business – socio-economic development through sustainable natural resource management. Green Housing activities have already started showing results. It is expected that the project will help reduce the vulnerability of communities who are dependent on the resources of Sundarbans.



"There was scarcity of drinking water in our village. I used to walk with a water can about 7 kms daily to fetch drinking water. Now, the new project is providing filtered drinking water in my village. I am so happy."

Putul Roy, Age 36 years, Village: Paschim Dangmari, Dacope, Khulna.

Thanks for the water; hundreds are waiting





Visit Sundarbans to promote eco-tourism



Safe drinking water, safe life



Sewing machines changed our life; neighbors are waiting

KOREA GREEN FOUNDATION



Women's Empowerment Project

The Bangladeshi community is quite a progressive society and allows equal rights for both men and women in terms of education and occupation. Unfortunately this progressiveness has yet to reach interior areas where women are still confined to the kitchen. Some women go to the Sundarbans to collect natural resources and provide a helping hand to the family. They exploit the natural resources but are still not able to make a substantial contribution to overcoming poverty. Due to lack of education they also don't have access to skilled job opportunities. Therefore, Korea Green Foundation (KGF), Sumar Lakhani Foundation (SLF) and BEDS are working together to provide livelihoods options and training to empower women in the region. The initiative has already distributed sewing machines and provided training in tailoring to help women become financially independent. Now these groups of women no longer need to go to the Sundarbans for their livelihood. These society-based eco-friendly livelihood activities will help reduce the adverse effects on the Sundarbans' ecosystem.



"Going to Sundarbans to collect palm tree leaves to sell in the market was full of drudgery and danger. The income was also very minimal. But now I can earn a good living from a respectable and safe job as a tailor".

Rupa Begum, Age 36 years, Mathurapur fishing village





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Fishermen Children Education Service

The fishermen families around the Sundarbans have the notion that local natural resources are never going to be depleted. So, the children and their families give little attention to education, resulting in high dropout rates. They are lured by the easily available resources near their home, and the easy money they can make exploiting these resources. The vicious cycle of poverty has created a more permanent problem of dependence on the Sundarbans ecosystem. Moreover, these are Cyclone Aila and Sidr devastated areas where households are still trying to come back to normal. Give2Asia and BEDS are implementing a Literacy Education Service Program in the Sundarbans region of Bangladesh. The main objective of the project is to reduce the number of dropout children. Awareness programs have been conducted to encourage parents to send their children to school. Books, school bags, school uniforms, and solar lights are provided to encourage the children. The program has already received tremendous support and some students have done well on their school examinations. Instead of dropping out of school, the young generation will be provided with vocational training to learn how to reduce the pressure on the resources of the Sundarbans.



"My parents nowadays encourage me to study hard and at night I can read for long hours due to the solar light. Teachers also encourage me and say that if I study hard then I will get a good job."

Anjali Sana, Age. 13 years, Student of Class Seven, Harinagar High School

We are determined to save Sundarbans, join hands with us





Creating alternative livelihoods can save the Sundarbans



Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation through poverty reduction

The Sundarbans has the world's largest single stretch of mangrove forest. However, due to exploitation of the forest for timber, the mangroves are suffering ecological challenges. The Sundarbans mangrove forest is the lifeline for the 3.2 million people living around it. These mangrove forests help mitigate the negative impact of some of the biggest cyclones, resulting in comparatively less damage to the community. Unfortunately, the same community has been engaged in exploiting the resources of Sundarbans due to poverty and lack of job opportunities. Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) and BEDS are now implementing a project to conserve mangrove biodiversity while reducing the poverty of forest-dependent fishermen communities through more effective utilization of natural resources. Fishermen are being trained as part of the project.



"The mangrove forest saved us during Cyclone Aila. I used to think that these mangroves are never going to diminish, but after attending the training, I got to know the need of saving them. I am now determined to protect the mangroves for our own survival."

Natabar Sana Age. 47 years, Mathurapur village, Shyamnagar.





Let us protect wildlife and conserve ecosystems

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Wildlife conservation

The Sundarbans region is very rich in terms of fauna. A few endangered species have made their home in this mangrove forest, including the pride of the nation, the Royal Bengal Tiger. There are also turtles, dolphins, vultures and a few rare bird species. But the frequent human interference has disturbed the habitat of these mighty species. BEDS has been instrumental in biodiversity and wildlife conservation for many years now in the Sundarbans region. Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF); IUCN, Bangladesh; Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) and BEDS are now conserving critically endangered species such as turtles, an aquatic bird (Masked Finfoot), dolphins, and vultures. Multi-pronged research is being conducted to find out conservation issues surrounding these rare species. BEDS was the first organisation to find out about the critically endangered or near extinct wild turtle species Northern River Terrapin (Batagur baska) in the Sundarbans area. Education and awareness programs have been organized among the communities surrounding the Sundarbans.





Save rivers, save lives



River culture

Bangladesh is a country with many rivers, where the majority of the population is dependent on river resources or uses the river for transportation. IUCN Bangladesh conducted a trans-boundary study of rivers to determine the extent to which rivers influence the culture and life of common people. Md. Maksudur Rahman of BEDS contributed to develop the "Trans-boundary River Atlas: Present and Future", examining the relationship between life and the river. This photo storytelling process has been widely acclaimed.





Our dream is a green earth; join us to plant trees



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Tree Planting in Schools

The Sundarbans delta region is rich in biodiversity and many different species of trees are found there. A few varieties are used as timber and as a result these varieties are heavily exploited. Bangladesh's rapid economic and population growth have created pressure on the ecology and land use resulting in a reduction in the forest cover. Moreover, during cyclone Aila and Sidr many trees were uprooted, leaving the flood plain regions arid. BEDS is committed to ecosystem conservation and promotes tree planting as one of the most important activities to improve integration between people and nature. Every year, FEE (The Foundation for Environmental Education), Japan; FEE under Global Forest Fund, and BEDS involve teachers, students, and the local community in planting trees on school campuses.



"Our school is in a flood plain area and there are hardly any trees. Last year 1,000 trees were planted on our school campus. After the training, I felt highly motivated to plant trees to save our mother earth, and so I helped plant trees."

Sujata Sarker, student of class five, B.K. (Boro Bagh) GPS School





Women's empowerment is our choice; it can be your choice too



Food Security

Considering the poverty of the community around the Sundarbans, it is essential that the community make provisions to secure adequate food supply. BEDS has partnered with Winrock International to train a group of women farmers on "Improving Knowledge and Application of Home Gardening Techniques" as part of the Farmer-to-Farmer Program. The women farmers were trained on marketing and record keeping of watermelon production. A follow-up evaluation a year later found that many of the beneficiaries started keeping records of their farming investments and returns.



"I have been cultivating watermelon for the last 20 years, but after implementing the training tips I can see growth in production. Moreover, learning a record-keeping system has helped me to find out my annual increase in net profit."

Sabita Biswas, women farmer, Bazua, Dacope, Khulna





Nature Trip

Education is the backbone of a nation. Students are our future. Education is the best medium to reach out to them, as it disseminates knowledge, provides necessary skills, and helps in forming attitudes. BEDS involves communities in creating awareness of the mangrove area habitat through education.

The main objectives of this tour include:

- Encourage teachers and students appreciate and preserve nature;
- Involve teachers and students in promoting Sundarbans tourism and sustainable development; and
- Provide up-to-date information about the Sundarbans using posters, leaflets, flipcharts, video documentation, and other public media.

To achieve these objectives, BEDS started a study tour through the Sundarbans selecting two main sites, Karamjal and Sundarbans Information Centre (SIC). These sites are equipped with various educational materials, and Karamjal has a crocodile and turtle breeding centre. BEDS has created a unique opportunity to enjoy practical and hands-on experience at a minimal cost.

Come, learn and enjoy nature with us!





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Environment Awareness Day Celebration

BEDS is dedicated to raising awareness about the need to preserve the ecosystem from degradation. It is essential to keep environmental awareness ideas fresh within communities. To this end, BEDS organizes different activities to celebrate International Environment Day, Wetland Day, Mangrove Conservation Day, etc. Activities conducted to date include a 'human chain' demonstrating community unity to promote environmental conservation, meetings with the press, and community tree planting.



Your small contribution can make a big change.

Join with us **TODAY!**