Welcome

Presentation on

Site management Perspective

Sharing experiences

Of

“Community Based Sustainable Management of Tanguar Haor”

Md. Aminur Rahman

IUCN, Bangladesh
Tanguar Haor

- A Ramsar Site of Bangladesh on its’ North Eastern corner along the Meghalayan hilly border of India

- “Community Based Management system” supported by the Government of Bangladesh is under practice

- Designated area-9500 ha

- Dealt population-60,000
Characterised by-

- Unique water body in the monsoon
- More than 100 depressions of different depths separated by ridges and undulated higher land
- Perennial depressions-16 nos. All others dry up in the winter
- Home stead in 76 surrounding villages-9565 house holds
- Over all difficult terrain in terms of mobility
- Diversified land use
- Diverse stake holders- Local, National, International, conservationists, politicians, Govt. off., professional variation,
Village around TH in monsoon
Tanguar Haor and its resources at a glance

Tanguar Haor – a unique water body in monsoon
Tanguar Haor and its resources at a glance

Tanguar Haor – Swamp forests in monsoon
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Water and swamp forest in Tanguar Haor-monsoon period
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Reeds in Tanguar Haor-safe home for migratory birds
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Post monsoon in Tanguar Haor
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Fish harvested by community from Tanguar Haor
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Fish harvested by community from Tanguar Haor
Post monsoon in Tanguar Haor-collecting Water chest nut (*Trapa maximowiczii*)
Post monsoon in Tanguar Haor - Plants under water
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Birds in Tanguar Haor- winter
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Birds in Tanguar Haor - winter
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Tanguar Haor- Pallas’s Fish Eagle
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Cultivable land in Tanguar Haor during winter
Tanguar Haor resources at a glance

Grazing fields in Tanguar Haor during winter
A co-management system for the TH Ramsar site is in place which conserves ecosystem values and services and provides a basis for an improvement of livelihoods for rural communities.
Considerations of the Management approach

- Understanding the socio-economic and ecological system in practice
- Pointing out the essential management tasks and problems to be solved
- Clarifying and involving the stakeholders in the problem-solving processes
- Analyzing linkages in the system, in particular across levels of organization and across geographical space
- Evaluating capacity-building needs for enhancing the skills and capabilities of people and institutions at various levels
- Prescribing ways to improve policy making and problem-solving.
Observations and learning-1

• *Organise and establish chain of command in the community*

1. Means of physical **communication** are mixed, irregular and season respective.

2. Socio-cultural and historical difference among the communities

3. Interpersonal and social relationship vs. Organizational responsibility

4. Socio-economic diversity of the community.

5. Difference in comparative advantages

6. To make the unique organization functional is challenging

7. Address expectation of community

8. Motivation of the community for resources protection.
Opportunities-1

- Dependency of Community on TH resources
- Sense of social dignity to be involved in community organization
- Social bondage develops through interactions
Observations and learning-2

Set modality for resources protection/collection/harvesting

- TH area is divided by canals, depressions, ridges
- Lack of common interest (access, benefit)
- Sense of customary rights to natural resources.
- Equitable distribution of resources.
- Complex calculation of capacity, professional status, contribution
- Assessment of sustainable harvesting level
- Maintenance of sustainable harvesting.
- Existing procedure of resource management by the government.
- Access of community to the natural resources
- Development conservation nexus.
Opportunities-2

• General concern of the community as to depletion of resources

• Positive response to conservation issues and commitment in public

• Illegal harvesters are Loyal to law enforcers, if not unduly supported by other power corner/s.
Support of the government to new management approach

- Unconventional approach of co-management
- Understanding differs from person to person. Implementation suffers from personal stance.
- Confusion created with fictitious information.
- Staff shortage and bureaucratic system, Revenue matters for example.
- Specific guidelines from the government.
- Effect of influence regarding resource protection measures.
- Dearth of time need to be spent for TH management.
Opportunities-3

• Responsibility of management of TH transferred to MoEF, though not ownership.
• Commitment of government to co-management expressed in all fora.
• Commitment to compliance of International convention on wetlands
• Representation of the Government by the Deputy Commissioner.
Coordination among the government and the community.

- Preference to the community interest and their empowerment.
- Community to abide by laws.
- Revision/modification of legal provisions.
- Formulation of a legal entity responsible for the long-term management.
- Codification of rules and ratification by GoB.
Opportunities-4

- All the parties of co-management are respectful to regulations if ratified by the Government.
- Sensitivity of a paradigm shift in TH management is understood.

In fine, we are hopeful to see the co-management system in Tanguar haor is established.
Thanks to you all

Md. Aminur Rahman  
Policy and Institutional Support Coordinator  
Community Based Sustainable Management of Tanguar Haor Project  
IUCN- Bangladesh Country Office  
Email: Aminur.Rahman@iucn.org; aminurrah@yahoo.co.uk