CHUNATI INTERPRETATION PLAN

Task no.:
USAID Contract no.: 388-C-00-03-00050-00

CHUNATI INTERPRETATION PLAN

Prepared for
Nishorgo Support Project

Prepared by:
Bitapi C Sinha
(Consultant)

Mahbub Alam
(Intern)

July 2008

With Partners : CODEC, NACOM & RDRS

Themes for the panels

1 **Protected areas of Bangladesh**
2 **Map of Chunoti**
3 **Resources of Chunoti**
4 Garjan Forest
5 Elephant MIKE
6 What and how much do elephants eat?
7 Birds – Purple-rumped sunbird, White wagtail
8 Management inputs
9 Threats to the protected area – Encroachment and fuelwood/small timber collection, forest fire, grazing
10 Co management
11 Buddhist culture
12 Attractions developed for the visitors
13 **Wealth of the forest**
14 Animal footprints
15 Dos and don’ts
16 Species that have gone locally extinct
17 Endangered species fact sheet panel in the form of a book.
18 **Bamboo and its product**
19 **Dulahazra as a destination**

Amphibians`

22 species recorded in Bangladesh
6 species are recorded (1990)
2 species are recorded (Management Plan)
4 amphibians (site information brochure)

Reptiles

126 species in Bangladesh
8 are recorded in(1990)
2 species are recorded (Management Plan)
7 species (site information brochure)

Birds

628 species in Bangladesh
137 species recorded in (1990)
11 species (Management Plan)
64 species (Participatory bird survey 2005)
53 species (site information brochure)

Mammals

113 species of mammals in Bangladesh
27 recorded in (1990)
2 species (Management Plan)
19 species (site information brochure)

Plants

5000 in Bangladesh
477 recorded in (1990)
107 plants (Information brochure)

Resources referred:

1 (2006)Management plan for Chunati wildlife sanctuary. Forest Department. Ministry of Environment and Forests
2 (2005) Using Participatory Bird Survey to assess Protected Area Management Impacts: Baseline Report (draft) Prepared by International Resources Group
3 (1990) Chunati: A pilot project a model for the rainforests of Bangladesh. Prepared by the multidisciplinary action research centre
4 (1990) The flora of Chunati Wildlife sanctuary a preliminary survey report. Prepared by multidisciplinary action research centre.
5 ------ Site Information Brochure. Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary. Prepared by Nishorgo Support Project
6 (2007) Protected forest areas of Bang;ladesh: a Visitor's guide. Prepared by the Nishorgo Support Project
7 (1991) The fauna of Chunati wildlife sanctuary a preliminary survey report prepared by Multidisciplinary Action Research Centre
8 Feroz, MM, Alam , MK, and Mollah,AR(2005) assessment of conservation values of Chunati wildlife sanctuary and identification of critical conservation areas for inclusion in Nishorgo support project, NACOM, Dhaka
9 (2004)Conservation of Asian Elephants in Bangladesh. IUCN
10 (2002)Bio-ecological zones of Bangladesh IUCN

Notes:

In the Chittagong hills and Chittagong hill tracts according to various, the one horned rhinoceros, Asiatic two horned rhinoceros, gaur and Banteng were found in this zone but they have become extinct mainly due to the loss of habitat. The same is probably true the clouded leopard, leopard cat, marbled cat, golden cat and mainland serow.(IUCN 2002)

Panel 1 (6.5x5)
Significance of Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. The sanctuary represents several features of bio diversity of north eastern sub continent which is one of the mega diversity region
2. The forests of the sanctuary are important in regulating water flows and checking soil erosion in undulating terrain.
3. It is a natural migration area of the Asian Elephant(*Elephas maximus*)
4. The area has unbroken natural areas of hills and grasslands. They are subjected to heavy biotic interference including jhum(shifting cultivation)
5. Chunati is in the Garjan belt and once had a rich Garjan forest which is now cleared out by illegal felling. A small patch of Garjan still stands in the area.
6. Chunati lies at the northern edge of one of the densest tropical rain forests in Bangladesh.
7. It is an example of restoration of degraded habitat

Species	**Bangladesh**	**In Chunati**	
		1990	**Now**
Plants	5000	477	107
Mammals	113	27	19
Birds	628	137	53
Reptiles	126	8	7
Amphibians	22	6	4

Panel 2 (7x6)
Protected areas of Bangladesh
Same as Teknaf

Panel 3 (6.5x5)
Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary

Formerly part of the reserve forests of Chittagong forest division, the area was designated a wildlife sanctuary in 1986. Topographically the sanctuary consists of broken hillocks 50-100m high in the north-south direction with narrow strips of valleys and streamlets. The eastern boundary of the reserve is formed by the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway. Chunati wildlife sanctuary is one of the five protected areas where forest department has initiated co-management approach. Local people and Forest Department are working side by side to conserve the biodiversity as well as supporting economic development of the area.

WELCOME
FOOT TRAIL BANAPUKUR
CHUNATI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Panel 4 (7x6)
What is there in Chunati

1	Amphibians	**Common toad and Skipper frog**
2	Reptiles	**Common Skink**
3	Birds	**Black rumped flameback,Coppersmith barbet, Chestnut headed bee eater, green bee eater, greater coucal,house swift, spotted dove, black drongo, jungle myna, asian pied starling.**
4	Mammals	**Elephant,wildboar, barking Deer, Porcupine, fishing cat, Bengal monitor lizard**
5	Plants	**Garjan,, Chapalish, Teak.**

SAMIZDAT PHOTOGRAPH

Gmelina arborea

Panel 5 (7x6)

Wealth of the Forest

Wherever we live on this earth, forests are important for us. Forests are the lungs of the earth. The forests filter the air and water. They convert carbon dioxide to the life saving oxygen.

Forests are a wealth because they

1. Provide a home to many plants and animals
2. protect us against flood, drought and erosion
3. are a source of medicine and food

Medicinal Value

Some common species	Plant Parts	Uses
Amlaki(*Emblica officinalis*)	Fruit	Preparation of trifla,ayurvedic medicines and also for pickles
Bahera(*Terminalia bellerica*)	Fruit	Constituent of trifla
Bel(*Aegle marmelos*)	Fruit	Stomach related ailments
Sonalu(*Cassia fistula*)	Fruit	Pulp used as purgative

Forests have enough for everyone's need but not enough for greed. Forests are home to the wild animals that live there and therefore the wealth belongs to them. If we take out anything from the forest it will be burglary and a punishable offence.

Panel 6 (6.5x5)
Bamboo
Bamboo is known as poor mans timber.and is extensively used in house building. Four species of bamboo are found in Chunati *Melocanna baccifera, Schizostachyum dullooa, Bambusa burmanica, Gigantochloa andamanica*

Bamboo lops and tops are used in pulp industry to produce paper. Bamboo is used as raw material for basket making, handicrafts, mats, screens etc.

Bamboo is the tallest growing grass. It flowers gregariously at an interval of about 35 years.

Panel 7, a (6.5x5)
How are elephants helpful?

- Elephant can provide water for other species by digging water holes in dry - riverbeds
- The depressions created by their footprints and their bodies trap rainfall
- Elephants act as seed disperses by their **faecal** matter. It is often carried below ground by dung beetles and termites causing the soil to become more aerated and further distributing the nutrients
- When they pass through the forest they clear pathways that act as firebreaks

Status of Elephants in Bangladesh

Forest Division	District	Forest Areas	Min no. of elephants	Status
Chittagong	Chittagong	Chunati Banskhali Fasiakhali	24	Resident
Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar	Teknaf Nila	44	----

		Himchari Dua Palong		
Chittagong Hill Tract	Khagrachari	Dhignala Laxmichari	23	----
Chittagong Hill Tract	Rangamati	Kasalong Pablakhali Kaptai	38	----
Chittagong Hill Tract	Bandarban	SanguRuma Matamuhuri Alikadam	45	----
Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Pathaaria	7	Non-resident
Mymensingh	Netrokona	Durgapur	12	Non-resident
TOTAL			**196**	

Source: IUCN 2004

Food for Elephants in Chunati Wildlife sanctuary and its surrounds

Local name	**Scientific name**	**Portion taken by elephant as food**
Bansh	*Bambusa* sp.	Node, Leaf , newly sprouting branch , matured branch , if immature , then the entire bamboo
Muli bansh	*Melocanna baccifera*	Node, Leaf , newly sprouting branch , matured branch , if immature , then the entire bamboo
Jam Chapalish	*Syzygium* sp. *Artocarpus chaplasha*	Bark Fruit
Kanthhal	*Artocarpus heterophyllus*	Fruit
Aam	*Mangifera indica*	Fruit
Segun	*Tectona grandis*	Bark
Narikel	*Cocos nucifera*	Leaf
Kala Chhon	*Musa* sp. *Cyperus difformis*	Tree, leaf , fruit , but not the root Entire tree
Dumur Fuljharu	*Ficus* sp. *Thysanolaenamascima*	Fruit Entire tree

There are 17 fodder species of elephants found in Chunati wildlife sanctuary

PANEL 7, b (6.5x5)
Difference between African and Asian elephants

	African	**Asian**
Distribution	Found in Africa	Found in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka
Weight	4000-7000 kg	3000-6000 kg
Shoulder height	3-4 meter	2-3.5 meter
Skin	More wrinkled	Smoother
Highest point	On the shoulder	On the back
Size of ears	Bigger, reach up to the neck	Smaller ,do not reach over the neck
Shape of the back	Concave	Convex or straight
Tusks	Existing with both sexes. Big with males	Males have tusk. females have only rudimentary or no tusks
Food	Mainly leaves	Grass and bark
Trunk end	With two fingers	With one finger
Toe nails	Fore legs 4 or rarely 5 hind leg 3 or rarely 4	Fore leg 5 hind leg 4 or rarely 5

Panel 8 (7x6)
Birds

141 resident and migratory birds have been recorded from Chunati of which **23** are migratory. They come here from Central Asia and Europe. Six Indicator species of Chunati are Greater Racket tailed drongo, White rumped shama, **white crested laughihg thrush**, Hill myna, Puff throated babbler, red jungle fowl.

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Panel 9(3x2)
Lost Heritage

Gaur *Bos gaurus* Occurred in the forests of Bangladesh in the northeast, southeast and north till the 1970s

Swamp Deer (Barasingha) with hard antler *Cervus duvauceli* Occurred in the forests of the northeast, north, northwest, central, southeast and southwest. It existed in the forests of Greater Sylhet until 1950

Swamp Deer with Velvet antlers

Great Indian one horned Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* Occurred in the northwest, north, northeast and southeast of Bangladesh until the end of the 19th century.

Blue bull or Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* Occurred in the northwest until the 1940s

Marsh Crocodile or Mugger *Crocodylus palustris* Occurred widely in the freshwater wetlands, both marshlands and rivers, even until the 1950s

Wild Buffalo *Bubalus bubalis* Wide distribution in the forested and grassy areas almost all over the country 100 years ago and existed in Sundarban and Madhupur until the 1930

Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* Ocurred widely in the deciduos forests and dry areas in the central northwestern and northern areas until the 1940s The last confirmed record is from the deciduos forest of central Bangladesh in the end of 1970s

Panel 10
HORNS AND ANTLERS

Male deer or stags have antlers, which are shed and regrown each year. Antlers are solid and branched and are used for both defence and asserting supremacy during the breeding season. Deers found in Chunati is Barking Deer.

Antelopes have horns that are permanent. Horns are hollow and unbranched like that of a cow or a buffalo and are found on both sexes. Like antlers, they are also used for self-defence as well as battles for breeding dominance.

Panel 11
How can you help in saving Chunati National Park?

You have to make a choice whether to destroy everything and only see them in pictures and in antique shop or **SAVE** them for generations to come.

1. You can help preserve the forests by not using products that are made of raw material extracted from the Protected Area.

2. When you visit, please contribute to the local economy through purchase of tickets, brochures and souvenirs.

3. Hire eco guide, your host for the day, for an educational and enjoyable trip. This way you are contributing to the benefits for the local people.