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Co-Management Week Highlights Environmental Conservation

On May 28-31, the USAID-supported Management of Aquatic Ecosystems through Community Husbandry (MACH) project and the Nishorgo Support Project, and the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) jointly organized a “Co-Management Week” event in the northeastern town of Srimangal. U.S. Ambassador Patricia Butenis and State Minister for Environment and Forests Jafrul Islam Chowdhury were keynote speakers at the inauguration ceremony. The event provided an opportunity for to share lessons learned and raise awareness of co-management of natural resources as an effective means to poverty reduction. Participants included GOB representatives, other donors, media journalists, local co-management groups and USAID staff members.



Photo: A Nishorgo tour guide points out illustrations of the endangered species found within Lawachara National Park to Ambassador Butenis.

Co-Management Week activities began with site visits to project areas in the Hail Haor wetlands and Lawachara National Park. Participants were able to observe the successful initiatives to restore the diminishing wetlands and wildlife in Hail Haor and conservation efforts to preserve the forest in Lawachara.

On the second day, a roundtable discussion convened GOB officials, local stakeholders, representatives from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, NGO leaders and environmental specialists from surrounding South Asian countries. The participants talked about the impact of cooperation between local government and community groups in conserving natural resources to support the livelihood of local citizens, and discussed possible interventions to improve overall conservation efforts in the future.



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