

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **BOOK LAUNCHING ON BIO-DIVERSITY AT DUDHPUKURIA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN CHT**

**DUDHPUKURIA, APRIL 4 --** Today, US Ambassador Dan W. Mozena and USAID Mission Director Richard Greene joined the Honorable Minister of Environment and Forest Dr. Hasan Mahmud at Dudhpukuria Wildlife Sanctuary in Chittagong Hill Tracts to launch two books by Arannyak Foundation titled “Biodiversity of Protected Area of Bangladesh, Volume 1: Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary” and “Biodiversity of Protected Area of Bangladesh, Volume 2: Dudhpukuria/Dhopachori Wildlife Sanctuary.” Ambassador Mozena and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Richard Greene participated in the book launch ceremony with the Minister, forest department officials, local community members, and faculty members from Jahangirnagar University. Speakers emphasized the importance of conserving biodiversity in Bangladesh’s protected areas and the need to document and monitor the existing biodiversity of these areas for both academic and awareness purposes.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the IPAC project has provided US\$30 million dollar since 2000 to conserve 25 protected forests and wetlands across Bangladesh, through co-management, and create new income opportunities for communities living in and around the protected area. USAID has also created the Nishorgo Network, a national network of protected forests and wetlands. Co-management brings together government and community groups to share the roles, rights, and responsibilities of ecosystem conservation. By giving communities a voice in managing their own resources and providing opportunities for alternative livelihoods (such as eco-guides) instead of activities like poaching or illegal logging, USAID has assisted Bangladesh in conserving its biodiversity and increasing economic benefits to communities in and around protected areas. Healthier natural areas and improved, diversified livelihoods help people address climate change impacts like floods, cyclones, and droughts. As part of this visit, the Ambassador also met with the co-management committee representatives of Dudhpukuria community.

The U.S. Government has provided more than \$5.8 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971, including over \$770 million in the health sector. The United States, through

USAID and other U.S. Government agencies, dedicated more than \$180 million in 2011 alone to improve the lives of people in Bangladesh; promote democratic institutions and practices; expand economic opportunity; improve health and education services; increase food security and support Bangladeshi efforts to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.



**GR/ 2012**

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