

# Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

## Capacity Building & Community Based Waterbird Conservation Activity in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh Progress Report : December 2006

### 1. Contact person

M. Zahirul Islam, Wilderness Conservation

### 2. Project commencement date

1st July 2006

### 3. Expected project completion date

30th June 2007

### 4. Summary of activities organised:

#### a) Community Awareness Discussion

Three awareness meetings were held at Sonadia Island, in the Teknaf Peninsula and at the Pechardwip area.

Participants: fishermen, & other community people, elites, businessman.

No of participants:

Sonadia west village: 35

Pechardwip: 24

Saplapur: 42

Meeting Brief:

i) 12 October 2006-12-03

Sonadia west village: The meeting was held at the west village of Sonadia Island under Moheshkhali Upazila. During the meeting, some of the old and aged man said that previously many water birds used to feed in the areas along the East village along the rivers and canals. The mangrove cutting did a lot troubles for the resident water birds such as herons, egrets, Cormorants etc. Shrimp farming is the most threatening activity as they said this has reduced the habitat where bird can roost and feed. Some of the outsider sometime come and kill or trap water birds from the Sonadia Island especially from the southern zone and from the Beleker dia area. From the Water bird project we tried to get peoples idea and support regarding the conservation of water birds. People agreed that the areas still remaining untouched are very important also and hunting and trapping by the outsider

have to stop immediately. Some of the persons are interested to work as volunteer if the organization can support them. Participants emphasized to conduct a meeting with the Moheshkhali local government & govt high official to check the bird hunting by the outsiders. Some of the young man of Sonadia also hunts water birds as mentioned by some islanders in the awareness meeting. Participants emphasized to conduct such awareness meeting time to time cover all the people to motivate to bird conservation.

ii) 12 Sep 2006: Pechardwip, Along the Cox's Bazar Seashore.

Meeting Held in Pechardwip area at the Wilderness center. At Pechardwip area people expressed their views regarding water birds and showed much more interest. They said that bird numbers previously were much better than now. The hilly habitat has long been vanished by the indiscriminate cutting of trees and settlement. One of the major problem here regarding birds is the destruction of the only mudflats that is situated along the inner side of the *Casuarina* plantation along the seashore. This is intertidal zone and full of *Cyanodon* grass. Some mangrove formations are also present. Here at least 30 species of water birds feed and rest everyday that attain the highest level in wintertime. Very recently some strong hold outsider trying to transform the area into shrimp farm by alteration of land and dam construction. This is one of the best areas for water birds in the whole area of this type as the seashore habitat is deferent and that does not support all other water birds due to habitat preference. People agreed with the wilderness personnel to keep the area of the mudflat and the shoreline areas safe for the water birds still coming in this area.



**Community awareness discussion**

iii) Sep 05, 2006: area Saplapur, Teknaf Peninsula

Meeting held at Saplapur area of Teknaf Upazila. The area situated at the coast. Most the people are fishermen. At Saplapur we discussed the birds along the coast specially the terns and gulls. Some large flocks are found in the whole areas. People said birds drastically declined. We have seen that fishermen and the bird co exist. But bird flocks are being disturbed by the jeep operated by Tour

Company or tourist while they drive over the flocks to see flying flocks and taking photos. Some of the elite person said to establish a bird sanctuary in the area that will include the hilly range. In fact this is a good initiative from the people and we can include the coastline too. In addition the person needs some training.

We selected some local young man as bird volunteer. Very soon those will be trained after printing the information materials.

#### **b) Water birds survey In Sonadia Island, Badar Mokum & Pechardwip**

Two surveys were conducted in Sonadia Island on 05-06 Nov 2006 and 14-15 Nov 2006.

52 species of water birds have been sighted and ducks has been sighted for the first time in this coming winter at Belekerdia area. The list of birds sighted has been mentioned below in Table-1. During In the morning till noon the major bird area from the Sonadia east village to southern Moghchar area has been surveyed with community people on 15 Nov 2006. The area is vast marshland that is used for shrimp farming at the east of Sonadia's high sand dunes with low grassland that finally mixed with the wetland. The big farm area was once mangrove forest that has been destroyed about 15 years before for farming. The major problem for the small shorebirds is the level of water. The level does not keep any areas mudflats for the small birds to roost & feed. Therefore here shore birds are sighted only in frequent numbers along the tiny bank. During visit we have seen bird hunter who just trapped 3 lesser sand plover from a ground trap he set during late night. The man said it is not usual and he also not doing always. But it has been discussed and emphasized that this should not be done in future and one meeting with the suspected hunters and known hunters will be conducted after finalization of the tentative list.



**Bird hunters with birds (lesser sand plover at Sonadia Island, Bangladesh)**

**c) Outreach Materials**

Design and drafting of posters, Picture cards, Leaflets on water birds has been developed

**d) Selection & Inventory of Local Breeding Area**

The water bird area has been identified at Sonadia Island, Teknaf peninsula. Within shortly the monitoring station work will be initiated and signboards making are in progress.



**Field survey**



**Shaorebirds Habitat at Sonadia south Mudflats**

**Table-1. List of Birds observed in Sonadia Island & Pechardwip (during Sept-Nov 2006)**

	Scientific Name	English Name	R/M
<b>FAMILY 2. ANATIDAE</b>			
	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	M
	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveller	M
	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common Teal	M
	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey	M
	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	M
	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	M
<b>FAMILY 2. SCOLOPACIDAE</b>			
	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	M
	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	M
	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	M
	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint	M
	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot	M
	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	M
	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Fantail Snipe	M
	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Pintail Snipe	M
	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper	M
	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	M
	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	M
	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff	M
	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Greenshank	M
	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper	M
	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	M
	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Avocet-sandpiper	M
<b>FAMILY 5. GLAREOLIDAE</b>			
	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	Small Pratincole	R
	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover	M
	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	M
	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover	M
	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover	M
	<i>Pluvialis dominicus</i>	Pacific Golden Plover	M
	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover	M
<b>FAMILY 6. LARIDAE</b>			
	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern	R
	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	Black-bellied Tern	R
	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern	R
	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	River tern	
	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	Lesser crested tern	
	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Great Crested Tern	R
	<i>Chlidonius hybridus</i>	Whiskered Tern	M
	<i>Larus argentus</i>	Herring Gull	M
	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	Brown-headed Gull	M
	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	Great Black-headed Gull	M
	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	M
<b>FAMILY 7. ACCIPITRIDAE</b>			
<b>FAMILY 11. PHALACROCORACIDAE</b>			
	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Little Cormorant	R
<b>FAMILY 12. ARDEIDAE</b>			
	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	R
	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Indian Pond Heron	R
	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	R
	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Little Heron	R
	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Great Egret	R
	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>	Black Bittern	R
	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	R
	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	R
	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Yellow Bittern	R
	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret	R
	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	R