



**বাঘ আমাদের গর্ব
বাঘ সুরক্ষা করবো**



Bagh has been strengthening honey production around Sundarbans

Improved Livelihoods for Conservation

Background

The Sundarbans has a great significance from the economic and ecological context for Bangladesh. This forest plays an important role for millions of people who are dependent directly or indirectly on the resources of the Sundarbans for their livelihoods. A focused livelihood strategy for the dependent population is key to meet their subsistence requirements as well as to reduce the poaching of tigers and their prey in the Sundarbans Reserved Forest (SRF). In this frontier, Bagh works with selected beneficiaries for their livelihoods development and in turn, will involve them with existing conservation efforts by the Forest Department (FD)

Approach

Bagh aims to ensure sustainable economic development and thus to reduce the dependencies on the resources of the Sundarbans. The component helps make the relationship between beneficiaries and sales channels closer and accessible. The following approaches are taken for the implementation of alternative income generating activities (AIGA) under Bagh:

- No philanthropy or subsidies
- High-quality and market driven products
- Private sector engagement
- Market linkage

Beneficiaries

Bagh is working with selected beneficiaries based on their capability and skills from a beneficiary pool. The beneficiaries were selected from the following target groups:

- Village Tiger Response Teams (VTRTs); (49 teams comprised of 344 members)
- Tiger victims (about 341 tiger widows)
- Resource collectors; (about 6,983 BLC holders from FD)
- Community Petrol Group (CPGs); 23 teams comprised 186 members

Bagh Livelihoods options

High quality and market driven products (non-commodity based) are targeted, such as:

- Crafts
- Honey (Apiculture)
- Tourism products development

Objective

Reduce dependency on natural resources and encourage positive conservation actions in SRF through alternative and supplementary incomes with eco-friendly livelihoods initiatives

Expected results/outcomes

About 600 even more beneficiaries will be involved in Bagh livelihoods activities initially.



Geographical coverage

Livelihood options will be focused on 22 wards of the administrative areas of all four ranges in the SRF.

Partners


Bagh signed a MoU with Hathay Bunano p.s. Under this MoU, beneficiaries from 500 households were already trained to produce crafts for Pebble. Bagh is also negotiating potential partnerships for its livelihoods interventions with several other organizations including Ayesha Abed Foundation (AAF), Bengal Tours Limited, Pugmark Tourism Limited, Rupantor Ecotourism Limited and Silverwave Tours Limited.



Eco-tourism is another area of Bagh's livelihoods interventions

Way forward

- Building public-private partnership (PPP) and creating a Tiger Brand
- Product packaging and labeling developed
- Launch brand to public
- Product promotion in target market
- Beehives management and harvesting training
- Community-based tourism (CBT) product development and training
- Tourism sustainability and best practices



Bagh's beneficiaries were trained to make crafts for global brand Pebble

Contact

USAID's Bagh Activity, WildTeam
House 42, Road 38, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh. Tel: +88 02 9896370
Website: www.wild-team.org

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