Forest Landscape Restoration through Climate Resilient Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project in Bangladesh

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- **Introduction**
  - Climate Resilient Ecosystem and Livelihoods (CREL), the largest single project ever funded by USAID in Bangladesh, was implemented during 2012 to 2018. Aim of the project was to disseminate management methods that help communities better collaborate with local and national governments to balance biodiversity protection with sustainable economic development. It envisages adoption and development of successful forest co-management system to conserve ecosystems and protected landscapes in Bangladesh through improved governance of natural resources, increased resilience to climate change and diversification of livelihoods for forest dependent and climate vulnerable communities.
  - This poster is an outcome of the FLR snapshot analysis that summarizes the key factors responsible for bringing the positive changes and the stakeholders perceptions on the techniques or strategies needed to up-scale the FLR.

- **Methodology**
  - Key informant interview
  - On site observation and photographic records
  - Review of project documents (i.e. Project completion report, website, communication materials and monitoring or evaluation.

- **Major interventions o the project**
  - Initiation and institutionalization of forest co-management
  - Livelihood development activities though AIGA and training
  - Capacity development through modern logistics and training
  - ANR in the potential natural regeneration sites
  - Mass awareness raising in adjacent areas of selected landscapes

- **Impacts on the selected landscape (Figure 1-2 and video)**
  - Increase of seedling recruitment and enhancement of habitat quality through ANR.
  - Improvement of habitat quality as indicated by indicator birds.
  - Increase of timber stock through enhanced protection by CPG.
  - Income level of the forest dependent communities enhanced to reduce forest dependency.
  - Intensive capacity building for financial and entrepreneurial literacy empowered the women and socially vulnerable communities.
  - Promotion of eco-tourism in the selected landscapes had multifaceted benefits to visitors and local peoples.
  - The resilience to climate change impacts and restoration of ecosystem services have substantial impacts at the local level but little significance at the national level.
  - The policy interventions contributed significantly at the national level for good establishment of co-management network and strengthening the community participation in participatory planning and implementation of restoration interventions.

- **Factors of success**
  - Forest co-management though formation of CMOs
  - ANR and protection through CPG
  - Income diversification (i.e., AIGA) and new marketable products development (i.e., pebble toy making), establishment of value chain for some potential products (i.e., vermicompost, handicrafts, agro-based products, etc.)
  - Using FAO (2011) as technical guide for ecosystem restoration
  - Well established monitoring framework and regular data collection and gathering in Crel.Link web portal.

- **Up-scaling FLR**
  - Promoting ANR in sites having potentials of natural regeneration.
  - More involvement of the local government agencies in the protection and management activities.
  - Enhance protection of the ANR sites.
  - Livelihood support should be targeted towards natural resource extractors
  - Realistic decision making based on the analysis of monitoring data.
  - Motivating policy makers for emphasize FRL by retreat to shift them from the conventional working environment and thinking.
  - Hire and designate an appropriate senior liaison lead for each principal agency with which a project works in order to have access to senior government officials.
  - More collaboration of CMOs with the government agencies responsible for forest management.

- **Reference**