Informing People About Eco-Friendly Trail Hiking In Protected Areas

Mohammed Mizanur Rahman
Divisional Forest Officer
USF Plantation Division
Rangamati, Bangladesh
mizan9090.ziri@gmail.com
Objectives

- Increasing public awareness about protected areas
- Create a positive relationship between protected areas and the visitors.
- Sensitize the visitors to enjoy forest beauty with no harm to forest flora and fauna.
- Making trail hiking attractive, educational and funny.
Background

- Protected areas (PAs) in Bangladesh
- PA management in Bangladesh
- Nishorgo Support Project (NSP)
- Eco-tourism
Eco-tourism is being started particularly through that "Nishorgo Support Project (NSP)" with five protected areas (Pilot sites) of the project.

The protected areas are-

- Lawachara National park (LNP)
- Satchari National Park (SNP)
- Rema-Kalenga Wildlife sanctuary (RKWS)
- Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS)
- Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS)
According to the official records tourism at these protected areas is getting popularity day by day among the people of Bangladesh. With its surging number of visitors unsustainable tourism is an emerging threat to the PAs. These includes-

- hindrance in natural regeneration
- harassment of wildlife
- littering
- noise pollution

The other most significant difficulties for protected area management is exclusion of rural forest related livelihood.
Co-management approach is overwhelmingly facilitating ecotourism development at these PAs. To address the threats and to check the uncontrolled tourism some awareness raising activities and people-oriented approaches have been taken. These include:

1. Establishment of designated hiking trail/trails inside the protected areas
2. Organizing school awareness program
3. Awareness program for scouts
4. Awareness raising campaigns at community level.
5. Alternative livelihood development training and support for PA-dependent communities.
6. Training community members as eco-tour guides to educate and guide visitors alongside the marked trails.
Key Features /What Is Done?.......... 

Communication tools involved-

1. Trail Brochure.
2. Placing signboard.
3. Disseminating information through Leaflet (do’s and don’ts)
4. Excursion/field trips with school children and scouts
5. Website development
6. Establishment of visitor information center

7. Training Module

Important Outcomes

- It is seen that positive attitude towards nature and the forest is increasing among the visitors.
- The local eco-tour guides significantly contributed to tourism management by educating the visitors especially from biodiversity and environment point of view.
- Through the active involvement of the local people particularly youth as eco-tour guide created alternative income generation source.
CPG Women at Chunoti
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THANK YOU