



# Academic and Research Activity

## Strengthening Natural Resource Management Capacity

Community Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable Development (Compass) Program

## What we do

USAID's Compass Program, in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, is working to enhance the technical capacity of students, researchers, and faculty members at forestry universities and research institutes in Bangladesh. Compass is achieving this by leveraging the science-based technical expertise of the USFS and fostering institutional partnerships between Bangladeshi and U.S. universities. We are partnering with the University of New Hampshire (UNH), USA, and Davey Institute, USA, and utilizing their expertise to modernize forestry curriculum and strengthen students' and faculties' knowledge of natural resource management.

## Key Results

600

Students, educators, and professionals received training on Google Earth Engine, R-script, and statistical software. These professionals are now more equipped

TO CREATE GREATER IMPACT  
IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR



80

STUDENTS AND  
GOVT OFFICIALS



now know utilizing cutting-edge inventory tools and quantification methods through i-Tree. Compass introduced i-Tree in the urban forestry sector of the country



50 THESIS  
FELLOWSHIP

to build their research capacities. With Compass, they designed and implemented research projects for their bachelor's and master's degrees.

### TREE BASELINE

calculated vital benefits  
and estimates



for the Dhaka North City corporation, Dhaka South City corporation & National Botanical Garden in Dhaka

3

Upgraded  
curricula

Compass co-developed the Forestry and Environmental Science curriculum along with the University of New Hampshire

# Our partners



# Our Accomplishments

## IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

We partnered with seven universities, the Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), and one civil society organization (CSO) to strengthen their institutional and organizational capacities. In collaboration with UNH, we supported the modernization of B.Sc. & M.Sc. curricula of three forestry universities. We also supported the establishment of a germplasm center for endangered Boilam (Anisoptera scaphula) species at the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Studies, University of Chittagong (IFESCU).



## ENHANCED CAPACITY OF STUDENTS AND FACULTIES

We trained 616 students, researchers, faculties, and early career professionals in various forestry and natural resource management areas. These training sessions focused on practical applications such as using Google Earth Engine for forestry purposes, applying R for biostatistics, Geoinformatics, iTree, and more. We collaborated with the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) and Green Savers, a CSO, to complete Dhaka's urban tree inventory using i-Tree. Moreover, we conducted research studies on:

- 1 The political economy of urban green spaces in Dhaka city with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET),
- 2 Understanding the principles and challenges of people-centric forest landscape restoration (FLR) with IFESCU, and
- 3 Plant leaf dust accumulation in Dhaka city with Stamford University Bangladesh. Students also received thesis and management plan support through this collaboration.

## ENGAGEMENT IN CONSERVATION

We supported 377 students in visiting various key ecosystems in Bangladesh. These field visits allowed students to gain firsthand experience and knowledge of the diverse ecosystems present in the country. Compass also celebrated environment-specific international days by organizing seminars, rallies, essays, and other competitions with 1,756 forestry and environment students.



### For more information, contact

info@compass-bd.org +8801796662956 www.usfsbd.org

**DISCLAIMER:** This product is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of Compass and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, U.S. Forest Service or the United States Government.