

CSD Newsletter

2024 | Issue 09

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2024 was a truly historic year for Bangladesh and its people: one of loss, of change, of revolution. **On 36th July**, the youth of this nation saw themselves rise to meet one of the greatest challenges of our times head-on and come out victorious. The youth — children, teenagers, young adults, but above all else, students; from all curricula, disciplines, and walks of life, united as one — stood at the helm of a great wave of change paving the way for a better future for all.

It is imperative for the good of our nation and for the human race at large that this future is one that is more sustainable, and in this regard, our youth have led by example. The efforts of students during and after the revolution in working hand in hand to protect and uplift each other, reform our government and state apparatus, and inspire citizens from all walks of life to come together and collectively participate in bettering their communities are crucial steps towards reducing inequalities, promoting peace and justice, and strengthening our institutions. The widespread initiatives and collective actions to aid the victims in areas affected by the recent floods, clean up our cities, and manage traffic in the absence of an active police force further goals of climate action and sustainable communities. The actions of our youth in rebuilding and reforming Bangladesh stand as proof of their power to not only enact change in governance but also their capacity to build the best possible version of our future.

We at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB look to the young heroes of the July Revolution in admiration and as inspirations for their tireless efforts, and in reverence for their sacrifice. Through their work and with the experience they gain, we hope to see them grow to be leaders in their respective fields: pioneers and revolutionaries sowing the seeds of a better, more sustainable future.

Message from Director

Dear Reader,

2024 has certainly been a year of transitions, with a lot of uncertainty and change, both globally and very much felt locally here in Bangladesh this summer, where the country's youth, particularly students, transcending the boundaries of gender, age, class, and academic discipline, spearheaded a historic political and social transition nationwide. Bangladesh's July Revolution stands as an inspiration for changemakers everywhere, so too for us at CSD. We hope this spirit is reflected in the work we do and, in some small way, in our dedication for this newsletter.



Within CSD, we have also gone through significant changes and expansion, as we nearly doubled our team from 11 to 20, brought in 8 new research grants and moved into new areas of research and projects focused on renewable energy, circularity in textiles, marine tenure and biodiversity conservation. This is on top of our existing and new projects on climate change adaptation and resilience, sustainability in education, displacement and dispossession due to megaprojects and giving voice to marginalized communities, especially women, in remote coastal regions of Bangladesh.

Our work continues to focus and embrace being truly transdisciplinary and this is highlighted strongly in two of our projects- Engage and Arise, where we have co-designed the work with NGO partners, local community members, entrepreneurs, fashion designer and artists to address local contextualized challenges faced in the project work areas due to climate change and mega development projects. We continued to nurture the relationship we had built with local stakeholders, both local grassroots practitioners and community members who have been part of co-designing and building on past and ongoing work on giving agency and voice to small scale fishing communities, and enabling them to take part in decision making around natural resource governance. As always, we strive to make our research impactful and solution oriented so that we can contribute to the knowledge and action required to make change in society.

CSD researchers have co-published several peer-reviewed articles this year on a diverse range of topics including climate change and mental health, addressing equity, diversity and inclusion issues in interdisciplinary marine science, stakeholders perception on blue economy governance, non economic loss and damage and more. We continue to work with our local and international partners and collaborators in knowledge generation and dissemination through various channels including webinars, seminars, conferences and publications. This year CSD was represented at several international forums and events including Towards International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) Seminar, Barcelona where ULAB is one of the consortium partners working towards operationalizing IPOS. Others included presenting our work on climate migration and decision making at the ECMN Conference held in Liege, Belgium, and "Relocation as a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in South Asia" in Sri Lanka.

We look forward to expanding and exploring new areas of collaboration in the following year where we are starting three new research partnerships on projects focused on climate transition, green skills, incentives for small scale fisheries and continuing our work with displaced communities in Matarbari. We are also very excited to be rolling out the Green Skills for Climate Change Professionals course in the beginning of the year 2025, which addresses the gaps in knowledge and skills resulting from the prevailing top-down and northern-led approach to climate change education.

Dr. Samiya A Selim,
Professor and Director,
Center for Sustainable Development, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

CSD Annual Retreat 2024

CSD Annual Retreat took place on March 1 in Gazipur. In the annual retreat, our team reflected on their journey at CSD and brainstormed innovative ideas to develop a long-term strategy for continuing their work on sustainable development, for 2024 and beyond.





Seminar on Financial Independence and Digital Skills

On November 2, 2024, ULAB collaborated with G17 UAC Bangladesh and Ali Hossain Girls High School in hosting an inspiring seminar titled “Seminar on Financial Independence and Digital Skills” which focused on SDG 1: No Poverty. Students engaged in discussions on Digital Marketing and Financial Independence—pathways for young people to gain skills and earn through social media platforms.



CSD-ULAB’s Adjunct Associate Professor, Shahana Afrose Chowdhury, guided the students on SDG Goals, encouraging them to use their education to empower others and tackle poverty. She emphasized the importance of digital marketing skills in creating opportunities to combat poverty. Further, Tawhid Reaz, Senior Lecturer, School of Business,

ULAB, shared valuable insights into achieving financial independence and its



SDG 2: Zero Hunger



Organic Farming (Greening ULAB)

Center for Sustainable Development offers Organic Farming (also known as Sustainable Agriculture) as a course for the students who are willing to take a minor in Sustainable Development and it is also offered from the GED department as well. This course gives ideas on organic farming through conceptualization and explanation of terminology related to sustainable/organic agriculture. The course involves the students in the identification of problems regarding conventional farming, chemical hazards, and analyzing relevant situations as well as next-steps planning, and helps the students in creating a knowledge base on and exploring ecological agriculture. The successful completion of this course enables the students to practice a more environment-friendly approach in farming as an alternative to traditional farming that involves harmful chemicals and unsustainable practices. Students from the Organic Farming course in the Sustainable Development minor are diligently working in their fields, cultivating organic vegetables. They have successfully grown a variety of local winter vegetables, including tomatoes, cauliflower, beans, and other types such as sweet pumpkin, peppers, and red spinach.





SDG 4: Quality Education

Greening ULAB Session at Freshers' Orientation

Greening ULAB hosted an informative and engaging session at the Freshers' Orientation (SAP Day) organized by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on January 18. The session was designed to empower incoming students about sustainable practices and ways they can contribute to a greener campus.

Greening ULAB's Research Assistant Sanzida Lisa discussed various ways students can go green, from reducing plastic waste to embracing sustainable alternatives and adopting energy-efficient practices.

Through interactive discussions and informative presentations, the session not only raised awareness regarding environmental concerns, but also



Reflexive Workshop ACCESS4ALL

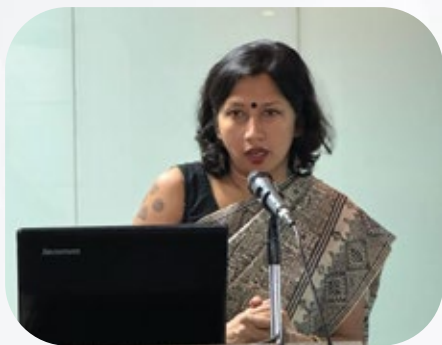
On February 24, 28, and 29, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Independent University, Bangladesh, and BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health organized three reflexive workshops on "Green Skills For A Sustainable Future" as part of the ACCESS4ALL project, "Adapting Climate Education, Skills, and Sustainability for Advancing Locally-Led Solutions". The first took place at the IUB campus, the second at The Enchanted hotel, and the third at BRAC Center Inn.



ACCESS4ALL is a collaborative effort involving ULAB, BRAC JPGSPH, IUB, Maastricht University (UM), and Heidelberg University (UH) secured by the Erasmus+ CBHE Grant. Through this initiative, ULAB aims to co-produce and co-develop a southern-led curriculum to address the gaps in knowledge and skills resulting from the prevailing top-down and Northern-led approach to climate change education.

The first reflexive workshop was organized for senior students and newly graduated job-seekers who participated and shared their views on skill gaps and challenges they are facing in securing jobs in the field of climate change and sustainability. The second workshop was for private sector partners, and the third was for NGO

representatives. The interactive session was the highlight of each workshop, where attendees, under the guidance of facilitators, were divided into 5 groups,



each representing a topic. They discussed the current situation and challenges in the job market, identified the green skills needed for future employment, and explored various learning methods. The session was facilitated by the project team of ULAB, IUB, and BRAC JPGSPH.



The workshops were inaugurated by Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Management, School of Environment and Life Sciences, IUB, followed by a contextual speech by Dr. K. Ayaz Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, School of Environment and Life Sciences,



IUB. Ms. Ishrat Jahan from BRAC JPGSPH briefed attendees on the objectives and outcomes of the ACCESS4ALL project. Later,



Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, School of Environment and Life Sciences, IUB, delivered a presentation on "Greening Skills for a Sustainable Future". Finally, Ms. Sameera Zaman, Lecturer and Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB, summarized the workshop. The events concluded with closing remarks by Dr. K. Ayaz Rabbani, where he thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution to making the workshop and the ACCESS4ALL project a success

Facilitation Training Workshop and Partner Meeting for ACCESS4ALL

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh participated in an engaging and interactive MOOC development workshop as a part of the ERASMUS+ project, ACCESS4ALL.

The workshop took place at BRAC Center Inn on October 28 and 29 with the project partners - BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University (BRAC JPGSPH), Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Maastricht University (UM), and Heidelberg University (UH). The consortium members delved into insightful discussions on MOOC requirements, format, and



online teaching methods, drawing on their past experiences and expertise. With the help of the technical partners UM and UH, the course development teams were guided through frameworks, steps, and guidance required for developing MOOCs with the aim of translating the co-designed short courses for students and professionals. The short courses focus on advancing knowledge on Climate Change Adaptation from a southern context. During the workshop, the project

team mapped out a lessons breakdown and activity plan for MOOC development in the upcoming month and how to encourage the audience to engage in community-centric learning and interactive sessions in a virtual format.

From November 2 to 4, the consortium members reflected on implementation of the courses with a focus on advancing knowledge on the complexities of Climate Change Adaptation from a Southern context. Over the three days, project



the



members from ULAB and IUB conducted several demo sessions of the course to evaluate its feasibility and identify areas for improvement. Following thorough feedback and discussion, the team developed several recommendations to enhance the course and deliver the intended skill outcomes. Furthermore, they reviewed and discussed guidelines for both the course tutors and facilitators to ensure effective delivery of the course.



Meeting With Community Ambassadors: ACCESS4ALL



On October 30 and 31, ULAB and UM joined BRAC JPGSPH for a field visit to Satkhira as part of the ERASMUS+ project: ACCESS4ALL. The project team engaged with community ambassadors who shared their perspectives on local climate change impacts. A discussion led by Dr. Mohammed Nadiruzzaman highlighted the complex layers of these challenges. The community ambassadors participated in a group activity to map out local issues based on their experiences and observations. The team also visited a

fishing community where members of said community shared their struggles and experiences. Discussions with local NGO practitioners shed light on observed climate change effects, ongoing community initiatives, and opportunities for future work. These interactions served to enrich the team's understanding, ensuring the co-developed climate change courses remain practical and contextually relevant to the southern region.



"Let's Talk About Research, Shall We?" A Workshop at Notre Dame College

On November 20, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB, conducted a workshop at Notre Dame College, Dhaka titled "Let's Talk About Research, Shall We?"

The workshop and his presentation therein primarily covered two questions: "What is research?" and "As [college] students, what could research mean to us?"

Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah, himself an alumnus of Notre Dame College, included in his presentation a general breakdown of what constitutes research, the possible goals of researchers in conducting research, steps to take beyond simply conducting research, how students can learn to research and especially to have a "research mindset", and encouragement to continue talking and learning about research. Students attending the workshop engaged in the discussions with enthusiasm and came away with a greater understanding of and appreciation for research and all that goes into it



SDG 5: Gender Equality



Empowering Women for Climate Justice" during the launch of SheRAA - Women's Climate Resilience and Adaptation Alliance

On March 27, Dr. Samiya A. Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, joined as a panelist at the event "Empowering Women for Climate Justice" during the launch of SheRAA - Women's Climate Resilience and Adaptation Alliance.

During the event, she addressed critical issues such as structural inequalities, including limited access to resources, with only 2% owned by women. She also discussed the challenges related to land rights, particularly concerning inheritance laws. Professor Selim emphasized the importance of moving beyond mere resilience efforts and instead focusing on interventions that promote gender transformation.



9th International Water Conference by ActionAid Bangladesh

Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB spoke at the 9th International Conference organized by ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) where she shared about our ENGAGE4Sundarbans work on Transboundary Sunderbans Delta using a transdisciplinary approach. The session was moderated by Professor Qazi Kholiquzzaman, former Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation.



Comparative water use changes among Khudrojatis in the Chittagong Hill Tract and Northwest Bangladesh." by Prof. Farida Khan



On April 22, Dr. Farida Khan, esteemed Professor of Economics at the University of Colorado, took a session on "Comparative water use changes among Khudrojatis in the Chittagong Hill Tract and Northwest Bangladesh" at ULAB.

Dr. Farida discussed water usage changes among indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tract. She highlighted how various socio-economic factors impact this issue. The session was interactive, with students actively participating, asking questions, and sharing their views.

Professor Imran Rahman, the Vice Chancellor of ULAB and Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, including other faculty members and Research Assistants of CSD-ULAB were also in attendance.



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

SDG 5: Gender Quality

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



SHIFT Local Inception Workshop

On June 5, the local inception of the "Strengthening Households with Integrated Farming through Energy Transformation" (SHIFT) project, funded by the USAID Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy (BADGE) Project, took place at Anandagram, Tetulia Upazila, Panchagarh, Rangpur coinciding with World Environment Day 2024.

A total of 43 participants attended the inception program. Among the guests were Union Parishad members from Ronochandi and Narayanjot Union Parishad, the Headmaster of Ronochandi High School, officials from the Upazila Agriculture Office, Tetulia, officials from various NGOs such as Association for Social



Advancement (ASA), Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO), several Branch Managers from the Kazi Shahid Foundation (KSF), officials from Kazi & Kazi Tea Estate (KKTE), and other stakeholders.

Mr. K.M. Ahmed Sharif, Program Manager of KSF, delivered the opening remarks. Subsequently, Mr. Md. Mojammel, Government Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer, Mr. Abdullah Al-Faruq, Branch Manager of ASA, Mr. Ramjan Ali, Branch Manager of ESDO Mr. Omar Faruq, UP Member of Ranachandi, Mr. Abu Shaleq, Former UP Member of Banglabandha, and Dr. Abdullah, Manager of KSF & KKTE, shared their opinions on the project's proposed work plan and suggested improvements. Dr. Shahana Chowdhury, Associate Professor, CSD-ULAB, addressed World Environment Day 2024, while Ms. Nayma Akther Jahan, Lecturer and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, discussed the project outline. Mr. Md. Mojammel concluded with remarks on the significance of agriculture for Bangladesh.



Baseline and Need Assessment of SHIFT



With support from USAID BADGE, ULAB is driving sustainable agriculture in Tetulia Upazila, Panchagarh District, through the SHIFT project. This initiative leverages solar energy for irrigation and converts waste into biofertilizers, aiming to promote climate resilience and improve livelihoods.

Recently, the SHIFT team conducted a baseline and needs assessment in Narayonjot and Ronochandi, gathering valuable insights

from 90 households about their socio-economic conditions, interest in solar irrigation systems, and resource-sharing models. During this visit, the team held important discussions to finalize beneficiary selection criteria, focus on land size, willingness to participate, and shared expenses. They received strong support from the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), ensuring smooth progress during this transitional phase.



Local Management Committee Formation and Solar Irrigation System Inspection

With support from USAID's Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy (BADGE) project, the Strengthening Households with Integrated Farming Through Energy Transformation (SHIFT) initiative is transforming traditional farming practices in Tetulia Upazila, Panchagarh, by introducing solar-powered irrigation systems. During a recent visit to Narayonjot and Ronochandi, the CSD-ULAB team, in partnership with the Kazi Shahid Foundation, monitored progress at two project sites where hybrid solar systems are replacing fossil fuel-based solutions. The installation of these systems is not only reducing carbon emissions but also fostering inclusivity through the formation of executive committees, which include women and youth representatives from the beneficiary groups.



By empowering communities and promoting eco-friendly innovation, the USAID-funded SHIFT project is paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector in Bangladesh.



Inauguration of SIPs and Site Inspection for SHIFT

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) team inaugurated the solar-powered irrigation systems (SIP) for the communities in Narayanjot and Ronochandi, Panchagarh, on December 17–18, 2024. The SIP systems will empower local farmers by improving water access for irrigation, boosting crop yields, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. This initiative, funded by USAID Bangladesh through the BADGE project, aims to transform farming practices in the region by introducing sustainable solar irrigation solutions. The launch event included a comprehensive workshop that featured technical training on the maintenance and operation of the SIPs, along with a field visit to ensure proper system functionality.

This effort underscores the impact of renewable energy in enhancing agricultural resilience and supporting local communities.





8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Two-day Pre-training Session for ARISE in Moheshkhali, Coxsbazar

The ARISE (Addressing Resource Innovation Sustainability and Equity) project held an enriching two-day pre-training session in Moheshkhali, Coxsbazar on May 23 and 24. The sessions, located in Matarbari and Kutubjom, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders including the ULAB team's Dr. Samiya Selim, Tahura Farbin, and Atia Fairuz, Mahenaz Chowdhury from Broque Fashion, independent designer consultant Shawon Akond, and dedicated field facilitators from Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)—Munni, Sohel, and Project Manager Aziz.

On Day 1, 15 participants, selected for their prior experience with Nakshi Kantha and their displacement due to the Matarbari Power Plant, engaged in a series of skill development activities. The participants, nine of whom had previously contributed to exhibitions in Dhaka and Japan, practiced on pre-designed fabrics provided by the designers. They also took part in sewing activities to create shirts, cushion covers, and tote bags, guided by instructions on minimizing fabric usage and maximizing efficiency. The session concluded with detailed instructions on the overall process and the role of field facilitators.



Day 2 continued with 17 participants, most from the fishing community, who showcased their existing Nakshi Kantha work. The session began

with a team meeting to discuss the roles of YPSA field facilitators and future

initiatives. Participants were paired to work on pre-designed fabrics, with the choice of tackling simpler or more challenging patterns. In addition to Nakshi Kantha, six women received specialized training on making bags.

The sessions emphasized on the importance of skill enhancement and community support, with participants compensated for their time and transport.

ARISE Project: Training Artisans on Applique Work

CSD-ULAB's ARISE project, in collaboration with Broqué, worked with Shawon Akond and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) to organize a three-day training session in Dhaka from November 14 to 17 at Jothashilpa. This initiative was aimed at enhancing skills in

creativity and craftsmanship of appliqué among six master artisans from Matarbari Island. Guided by two expert trainers from Jothashilpa, the artisans were introduced to the intricate art of appliqué—an ornamental needlework technique where pieces of fabric in various shapes and patterns are sewn or affixed onto a larger fabric to create artful and innovative designs.

The training explored how appliqué can transform simple textiles into works of art, blending vibrant textures and minimalistic designs. Inspired by the landscapes of Matarbari in Cox's Bazar, the artisans applied patchwork techniques, carefully

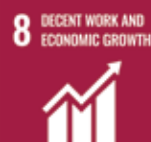
cutting and layering coloured and patterned fabrics into intricate forms. The training was designed to inspire and refine the artisans' creativity,

encouraging them to reimagine their appliqué work. By exploring techniques that ranged from traditional motifs to contemporary expressions, the program aimed to enhance the versatility of their designs, adding depth, texture, and charm to clothing and textiles.



The training was designed with the expectation that the six artisans would become master trainers tasked with passing on their knowledge and techniques to other artisans in Matarbari and Kutubjom. This approach ensures the sustainability of the skills learned, fostering a broader community of artisans who can continue to innovate and preserve the tradition of appliqué work. Their creations, showcased under Matarbari Tales and on their Instagram page, highlight the remarkable skills and creativity of these artisans.

**SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth &
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**



Five-day Training on Crafts Programme to Promote Upcycling and Zero Waste in Matarbari

From October 20 to 24, the ARISE team at CSD, in close collaboration with Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) organized a dynamic five-day training program facilitated by Mahenaz Chowdhury from Broque. Accompanied by a master trainer with 30 years of experience and a skilled master tailor, the sessions took place at a Cyclone shelter in Matarbari, Moheshkhali. The training emphasized upcycling and zero-waste cutting techniques to create a variety of products, including handbags, tote bags, wallets, coasters, and cushion covers.

Among the 30 artisanal women participating were experienced Nakshi Kantha artists and budding entrepreneurs,

eager to hone technical skills to expand their local businesses. This collaboration introduced the women to innovative designs, enhancing their craftsmanship and sparking a vision for alternative livelihoods. Many participants left inspired to spearhead entrepreneurial ventures, becoming role models for other displaced women in Matarbari and establishing sustainable pathways for stitching and artisanal design within the community.



SDG 13: Climate Action

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Winter School 2024

Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB in collaboration with University of Waterloo, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and University of Lausanne - UNIL successfully organized the Sundarbans Winter Field School in Kumirmari, Gosaba Block, Sundarbans, India. Starting on January 19, the remote rural setting saw a gathering of a selected group of early career researchers and graduate students from academia, NGO, government, and local communities. CSD's Director and Professor Dr. Samiya Selim, Senior Research Associate Faisal Imran, and Research Assistants Shahriyer Hossain Shetu and Md. Razin Saleh Alam were part of the Winter School 2024.



Diving into the Program: Understanding the Four Ts

Following the arrival in Kolkata on the 19th, January 20 marked the official start of the Winter School's intellectual journey. After reflecting on the previous day, the participants delved into insightful sessions led by Dr. Prateep and Dr. Jenia, introducing the key themes: Transboundary, Transdisciplinary, Transformation, and Transition—referred to as the Four Ts. Divided into groups focusing on each of these Ts, they conducted household interviews to understand local perspectives through the lens of their respective themes. Discussions and presentations followed, allowing each group to share their initial

findings and set the stage for deeper exploration.

Exploring Biodiversity and Social Dynamics

The program's focus on Kumirmari's environment and community continued on January 21 with a biodiversity walk in the early morning, where the participants identified and cataloged various bird species. The afternoon included a social walk that offered insights into different aspects of Kumirmari life guided by thematic focus areas. The day culminated in group presentations, sparking engaging discussions and knowledge exchange.

Focused Discussion Groups: Preparing for the Final Presentations

On January 22, the participants conducted Focused Discussion Groups (FDGs) to gather in-depth perspectives from the community. Each group explored the Four Ts within the context of Kumirmari, identifying challenges and proposing potential solutions. The insights gathered during these discussions laid the foundation for the program's final presentations.



Presenting Our Findings and Reflecting on the Journey

Each group showcased their findings, highlighting themes like technological advancement, social unity, and gender equality within the Panchayat system in their final presentations on January 23. The presentations were followed by reflections and feedback from peers, fostering a spirit of shared learning. The program concluded with a sight-seeing tour of the Sundarbans, offering a serene and fitting close to this knowledge-packed adventure.

Looking Back: A Transformative Experience

The experience left participants with not only academic insights, but also lasting friendships and a strengthened sense of community. The Kumirmari Winter School 2024 was more than just a learning opportunity; it was a journey of growth, cultural immersion, and meaningful connections—an experience that will hopefully resonate with all participants long into the future.

Workshop on Climate Game (Makeateam)

On March 2, Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, led a workshop centered around a Climate Game. The event, designed to engage participants in the complexities of climate challenges, was followed by a talk where Dr. Selim shared her experiences as a researcher and climate advisor. Highlighting the importance of combining academic research with real-world impact, her insights inspired participants to approach sustainability with innovation and commitment.



“Shackled in Motion: Following the Harm-Chain of Climate Migration” Photo

Tahura Farbin co-organized a photo-ethnography exhibition titled “Shackled in Motion: Following the Harm-chain of Climate Migration,” which was held from March 3rd to March 8th, 2024, at the EMK Center in Gulshan. This event was part of an ongoing initiative funded by the Climate Action Champions Network (CACN) small grants project. The research for the exhibition was conducted by Tasnia Khandakar from BRAC's CPJ and Tahura Farbin from CSD, ULAB. The exhibition presented 15 compelling stories from Dhaka's informal settlements, blending visual art with written narratives to give a human face to the challenges of climate migration. Rather than being a traditional photo exhibition, this photo-ethnography sought to provide a deeper insight into the lives of

individuals displaced by climate change. It was designed not to offer a complete or definitive understanding of their struggles but to provoke reflection and action, encouraging viewers to engage with these communities and support their fight for justice.



CCDB Climate Center visit

On March 7, students currently enrolled in the Biodiversity and Introduction to Climate Change and Debate courses at ULAB visited the CCDB Climate Centre in Sreepur, Gazipur.

During the visit, students gained insights into the impacts of climate change on the five ecological zones of Bangladesh. The students were divided into groups and assigned to locate and identify different biodiversity such as birds, insects, and plants as part of their biodiversity assessment. This hands-on experience complemented their understanding of the intricate relationship between biodiversity and climate change.



“Supporting the establishment of the National Mechanism on Loss & Damage in Bangladesh to mobilize resources: Enhancing climate resilience through a multi-actor partnership platform” hosted by ICCCAD

On April 21, Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, participated in a panel discussion of the workshop titled “Supporting the establishment of the National Mechanism on Loss & Damage in Bangladesh to mobilize resources:

Enhancing climate resilience through a multi-actor partnership platform” hosted by ICCCAD, focusing on the national mechanism for loss and damage. She highlighted the need to coordinate and collaborate on gathering evidence and data and strengthening science to policy action. She also talked about non economic loss and damage, developing tools and methodology for measuring impacts, and the significance of capacity building at the local level.



Towards Inclusive Climate Resilience – Leaving No One Behind

On May 12, Nayma Akther Jahan—Lecturer-Cum-Research Associate at CSD-ULAB, participated as a panelist in the strategic panel of the Dhaka Climate Action Plan launch, titled "Towards Inclusive Climate Resilience – Leaving No One Behind." This event was organized by the Dhaka North and Dhaka South City Corporations in collaboration with



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Ali Chow-

dhury Senate Bhaban. During the panel discussion, Nayma Akther Jahan addressed critical topics related to urban resilience and inclusivity.

The event was moderated by Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yousuf and featured insightful contributions from panelists such as Humayoun Rashid Jhony, S. M. Mehedi Ahsan, Naureen



Chowdhury, Captain Mohammad Fida Hasan, and Bushra Afreen. The discussions delved into the critical need for inclusivity in climate resilience efforts. Topics ranged from the impacts on marginalized communities to the power of community engagement and data-driven solutions in climate action. The consensus highlighted the necessity of prioritizing the vulnerable and fostering collaborations to build a resilient and equitable Dhaka.

Two and a Half Day Regional Workshop and Field Excursion on "Relocation as a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in South Asia," organized by the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, FSLGA, and Knowledge to Action (K2A)

CSD-ULAB Senior Research Associate Mr. Md Faisal Imran participated in a two and a half-day Regional Workshop and Field Excursion on "Relocation as a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in South Asia," organized by the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, FSLGA, and Knowledge to Action (K2A). K2A is an initiative that provides a platform for academics, practitioners, and government officials to share knowledge and apply it for the greater good.

In this workshop, he critically analyzed the relocation process in



Bangladesh as a disaster risk reduc-

tion strategy, with his presentation titled "Living Along the Coast of Bangladesh: A Floating Country with a Sinking Culture." A total of 22 presentations were delivered by academicians, practitioners and government employees where participants extensively discussed the merits and demerits of relocation. On the final day, he visited Galle, Sri Lanka, to speak with families affected by the 2004 Tsunami and observe their relocation settlements. Through this workshop, he acquired valuable knowl-

edge into how relocation can be a significant part of disaster risk reduction. It was an enriching experience that greatly enhanced his networking opportunities, facilitated discussions among peers, and inspired future research initiatives.



ECMN Conference 2024 held in Liège, Belgium from 9th - 12th July : Environmental Changes and Migration: Bridging Discipline

Tahura Farbin, Research Associate and Lecturer at ULAB, presented her research at the ECMN Conference 2024 in Liège, Belgium, from July 9th to 12th. Her presentation focused on the decision-making process of environmental migrants, highlighting how migration is a gradual process shaped by social networks from origin to destination. Based on data collected through narrative storytelling and focus group discussions in Dhaka's informal settlements, her study revealed that migration aspirations emerge after multiple environmental shocks rather than from a single event. She emphasized that the decision-making process is fluid, requires preplanning, and varies between men and women-headed households. Her research also highlighted the rise of trans-local mobilities and the growing role of women in migration decisions. Following her presentation, the audience engaged with insightful questions, offering valuable feedback and sparking discussions that deepened the understanding of the study's findings.



Successful Climate Action Workshop Hosted by SSCCA Bangladesh Teams in Collaboration with CSD and ULAB Communication Office

On September 7, in partnership with ULAB's Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) and the ULAB Communication Office, SSCCA Bangladesh Teams organized a workshop titled "Easy and Impactful Climate Change Practices at Home." The event was held at ULAB, inviting students from Firoza Bashar Ideal College to learn about climate-friendly practices through hands-on demonstrations, activities, and exhibitions. The workshop featured a project focused on creating bio-enzyme cleaners from kitchen waste, highlighting the negative effects of food waste and methane emissions. Participants were introduced to bio-enzyme making as a sustainable, chemical-free cleaning option.



In a live demonstration, five students participated in creating their own bio-enzyme cleaner, while completed samples of bio-enzymes were displayed, including both traditional and yeast-accelerated versions.

After presenting the bio-enzyme project, the team introduced their climate action idea centered around the planting of *Kalanchoe pinnata*, discussing its environmental benefits and importance in promoting sustainable practices. An artistic exhibition was also organized, highlighting themes of reducing food waste, the impact of climate change, the importance of trees, and environmental awareness. This display showcased creative works made by the team, allowing participants to explore these vital topics through visual expression and discussion.

Participants engaged in a quiz session on sustainable practices, where winners received eco-friendly prizes such as *Kalanchoe pinnata* plants, yeast, notebooks, and pens to encourage further involvement in sustainable practices at home.

The event wrapped up with a clay segment, where students crafted climate-inspired models, fostering creativity around environmental themes.

The workshop empowered students to take meaningful actions for the environment starting from their own homes, and SSCCA Bangladesh teams extend its heartfelt gratitude to all participants, volunteers, and partners for making this event a success.



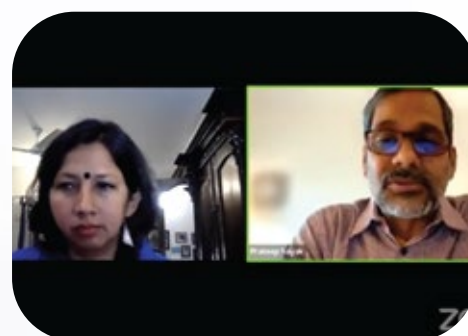
Navigating Waves of Change: Chronicles of Resilience and Transitions in Bangladesh SSF



On February 29, Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, gave a talk at the V2V Thematic Webinar Series 2024 titled “Navigating Waves of Change: Chronicles of Resilience and Transitions in Bangladesh SSF”.

The Thematic series is an initiative of the V2V Global Partnership to facilitate and generate high level discussions on vulnerability and viability themes and topics within the context of SSF: Small Scale Fisheries.

The goal is to feature academics, practitioners, and governmental representatives who have made significant contributions to the theoretical, practical, and policy aspects of SSF in local, regional,



and global contexts.

Dr. Selim, serving as the V2V country coordinator in Bangladesh, presented a webinar examining small-scale fisheries (SSF) through diverse lenses over the past four years. This comprehensive review encompassed topics ranging from resilience to justice, governance to adaptation, and beyond. Emphasis was placed on transdisciplinary research and the pivotal role of dynamic partnerships in generating robust evidence for both policy-making and academic spheres.

Theory of Change (ToC) Workshop of the Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway (AABS) Project, organized by WorldFish in Bangladesh

From May 19 to 21, the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) participated in the Theory of Change (ToC) Workshop of the Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway (AABS) Project, organized by WorldFish in Bangladesh. The workshop, held at Hotel Bengal Blueberry in Dhaka, was funded through the UK Government’s Blue Planet Fund and focused on Work Package 4, which addresses incentive-based marine and coastal ecosystem protection and management.

Representing CSD at the workshop were Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, and a three-member team of Research Assistants (RAs): Shahriyer Hossain, Sanzida Alam, and Dibash Deb. Over the three-day event, Shahriyer Hossain and Sanzida Alam played pivotal roles as translators, bridging communication between the coastal fisheries community members and diverse stakeholders, including government officials from the Departments of Fisheries, Forestry, and Social Protection, as well as representatives from NGOs, academia, and the coastal fishing community. While Dibash Deb worked with the stakeholders as a participant and a representative of CSD ULAB, he also contributed to the mapping exercises and engaged in discussions to align community perspectives with stakeholder objectives.





The Blue Horizon Seminar Series organized by the UNESCO Chair in Ocean Governance, Centre for Blue Governance (CBG)

On April 26th, 2024, Dr. Samiya A. Selim, Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at ULAB, took center stage at the Earth Day 2024 UNESCO Chair in Ocean Governance at the Blue Horizon seminar on climate change with blue economy. The seminar, held as part of the Blue Horizon Seminar Series, delved into the crucial intersection of climate change and the blue economy, addressing pivotal issues concerning the sustainable utilization of oceanic resources.

Professor Selim's participation in the seminar underscored her commitment to advancing discussions on sustainable development, particularly in the context of ocean governance. As an expert in the field, her insights promised to enrich the dialogue surrounding blue governance and its implications for global sustainability.



SDG 14: Life Below Water
SDG 13: Climate Action
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions



STRIVE Project: Advancing Secure Tenure for Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Ecosystems in Coastal Bangladesh



around the world and the subcontinent.

Secure Tenure for Resilient Inclusive and Valued Ecosystems (STRIVE) is a prestigious project undertaken by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in collaboration with coastal communities in Bangladesh. The project is funded by 'Turning Tide', a new window of decolonizing funding. Dr. Sisir Pradhan from the University of Waterloo, Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, and LEDARS (Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society) along with the communities are codesigning the project. Over the past few months, the team has reviewed literature on resource utilization, climate justice, and the state of marine tenure



To gain a better understanding of the situation, ULAB conducted a field visit led by Md Faisal Imran and Tahura Farbin, two researchers from ULAB, along with three other research assistants. The team visited Nildumur and Harinagar villages in Munshiganj, Satkhira, where they met with local fishers and women. Following the visit, Dr. Sisir Pradhan provided a session for all researchers and community mobilizers about goals and processes.

During the session, Dr. Pradhan emphasized the importance of stewardship, entitlements, the intersectionality of climate change impacts, the dangers of "false solutions," and the limitations of

philanthropic funding.

He guided the team on how to see the project from diverse lenses and thinking beyond the conventional implementation. The team is now spending more time to understand the collection of principles, practices, and processes aimed at creating a 'regenerative economy' from an 'extractive economy' that emphasizes holistic approaches to production.

Our aim for a transition must be equitable, and it must address past harms and create new relationships of power for the future through reparations. Without a just process, the outcome will never be achieved.



**SDG 14: Life Below Water &
SDG 13: Climate Action**



Krushna Chandra Jena Chilika-V2V Annual Field School on Environmental Change and Governance organized by the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V)

CSD Research Assistant Sanzida Lisa participated in the Krushna Chandra Jena Chilika-V2V Annual Field School on Environmental Change and Governance organized by the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership at the University of Waterloo, Canada, in collaboration with the Rakhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, and Nirman Odisha, India. This week-long event brought around 50 global participants, including students, faculty, NGO representatives, and community members.

The field school focused on transitioning coastal communities from vulnerability to viability in the Chilika Lagoon of Odisha. Through a blend of classroom and field training, participants explored the theme, "A Commons Approach to Coastal Communities Transitioning from Vulnerability to Viability," gaining valuable insights into the roles of researchers, community engagement strategies, and the environmental impacts on research outcomes.

The participants were divided into three groups and worked on topics such as mapping the commons, mapping changes and adaptation strategies, and blue justice in the context of Chilika Lagoon and small-scale fisheries.



"Shaping IPOS: Southern perspectives on the knowledge to action interface" Barcelona

On 9 April, 2024, Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, moderated the event titled "Shaping IPOS: Southern perspectives on the knowledge to action interface" which was hosted by Institut de Ciències del Mar - CSIC in Barcelona. The key points of the session included discussions on regional priorities and best practices for bridging the gap between knowledge and action. This process ensures that voices from the Global South are not merely acknowledged but also play a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of ocean sustainability efforts. Professor Selim, as one of the expert moderators, led dynamic discussions focused on integrating Global South insights into the knowledge to action framework.



Beyond the Blue: Stories of Hope and Resilience

On October 31, Sanzida Alam, Research Assistant at CSD-ULAB and Early Career Researcher at V2V Global Partnership conducted a workshop at ULAB Sustainable Development Club titled "Beyond the Blue: Stories of Hope and Resilience". The workshop delved into the stories, culture, and traditions of the small-scale fishermen of Bangladesh, highlighting their lives and livelihoods alongside the challenges they face in their day-to-day lives and in adapting to the adversities of climate change. This included a deep dive into who these fishermen are, which regions of the country they inhabit, how their work and social structures generally operate, and discussions on the large and small-scale challenges they face, all paired with real life examples and stories of these fishermen and their communities.

The workshop concluded with a broad discussion on possible sustainable and nature-based alternative livelihoods small-scale fishing communities might be able to implement during fishing ban periods to support their income and well-being. All attendees participated enthusiastically, coming up with their own unique proposed solutions to the problem at hand. With students from the arts, humanities, sciences, and economics in attendance, this served both to engage students from different backgrounds in grasping how these issues could relate to their respective fields and disciplines, and to educate a diverse group of young students on a pressing climate concern of our times and its impacts.



Towards IPOS Seminar

Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, participated in a two-day seminar titled "Towards IPOS Seminar" in Barcelona, Spain on October 8 to 9, 2024. Global experts in academia, policy, and environmental leadership came together to shape the IPOS (International Panel

for Ocean Sustainability) framework, sparking insightful conversations on how to turn scientific knowledge into real-world solutions. Through engaging workshops and discussions, they explored challenges like connecting science with policy and speeding up actions to protect and restore ocean health. With powerful feedback on IPOS's governance and services, participants left energized, ready to champion this bold initiative as it moves towards UNOC. The seminar reaffirmed IPOS's mission to help states turn their commitments into action, ensuring a sustainable future for our ocean.



Department of English and Humanities Graduate Seminar



On November 6, Sanzida Alam, Research Assistant at CSD-ULAB and Early Career Researcher at V2V Global Partnership was invited to the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB's (DEH) Fall 2024 Graduate Student Seminar to showcase her research titled "The Power of Language in Reducing Vulnerabilities among Small-Scale Fishers in Coastal Bangladesh". The paper covers how language and indigenous knowledge influences early warning responses among small-scale fisheries in Bangladesh. She was nominated by DEH course faculty as a student having produced excellent research papers to showcase her research to students as a means of encouraging students to be a part of a culture of knowledge sharing and research dissemination.

Community Perspectives on Pollution Governance in Matarbari under the MODCOMS Project

Sadia Lena Alfee, Research Associate at CSD-ULAB, visited Matarbari, Maheshkhali Upazilla on November 17 to collect data for the WP3 on the pollution governance study under the MODCOMS project along with Jewel Das from ZMT (Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research), Germany and Abu Naser from Agrajatra. This project looks into the local community's perception of environmental pollution and the current local and national pollution governance in practice among Matarbari residents due to the coal power plant construction to see if there is any evidence-policy gap. There were 20 male and female salt and shrimp



cultivators and fisherfolk who talked about how they experience the effects of environmental pollution in their day-to-day lives and the challenges they faced after the power plant went into operation. This project operates in partnership with ULAB, Stamford University, SUST, and Agrajatra NGO.



SDG 15: Life on Land



Tree Plantation event with ULAB and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP)



ULAB and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) co-organized Youthful Roots: Planting Harmony for Tomorrow, a tree plantation event promoting the symphony of sustainability and a greener future. ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC) played a pivotal role in orchestrating the event. The purpose of this initiative was to make the students aware of the idea of sustainability, enlighten minds with eco-consciousness, and elucidate the transformative effect of small steps, emphasizing their collective impact on Earth's well-being.

Prof. Imran Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, warmly expressed his gratitude to all the guests and the attendees of the event. H.E. Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Espen Rikter-Svendsen, Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh, H.E. Ms. Sheela Pillai, Chargé d' Affaires, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore in Dhaka, and Ms. Mehreen who is the president of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) were present at the event and enthusiastically accompanied the students planting the trees.



Bangladesh Forest Department Celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity 2024

On 26 May, Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) celebrated the 'International Day for Biological Diversity' in its head office in Dhaka underscoring the theme "Be part of the Plan." Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow of CSD-ULAB was one of the keynote speakers at the event co-organized by BFD's SUFAL project and IUCN.

In his talk titled “Be part of the Plan’: Where does Bangladesh stand?”, Dr. Irfanullah focused on the importance of contextualizing global conservation plans into local actions, promoting inclusive conservation, and blending climate and conservation actions, particularly Nature-based solutions (NbS) and Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). He also emphasized the need for evidence-based, inclusive policies that can facilitate sustainable financing for conservation.

Mr. Dipankar Talukdar, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) graced the occasion as the chief guest. Dr. Farhina Ahmed, Secretary, MoEFCC and Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IUB were the special guests. Md. Jahidul Kabir, Mr. Imran Ahmed, and Sheikh Mohammad Mehedi Hasan spoke on the occasion. The event was chaired by Md. Amir Hosain Chowdhury, Chief Conservator of Forests, BFD.



Workshop on Biodiversity Mapping and Tree planting



The Secure Tenure for Resilient Inclusive and Valued Ecosystems (STRIVE) team had a three-day fieldwork in Shyamnagar where the team led insightful FGDs with female participants in their workshop on biodiversity mapping and tree planting, addressing the critical importance of safeguarding the Sundarbans’ biodiversity and preventing soil erosion. The site visit and meetings with LEDARS focused on resource-sharing initiatives and effective tree-planting strategies. The visit also included a discussion on using storytelling to amplify local voices, emphasizing the need for creative approaches to preserve and share their stories. On the first day, a workshop on Biodiversity Mapping was conducted, followed by a discussion. The second day featured a meeting with the storytellers, and the final day concluded with a tree plantation activity.



Identifying Beneficiaries for Piloting Agro-Ecological Intervention

In early October, 2024, the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB team visited Protapnagar union, Assasuni, Sathkhira under the Engage4Sundarbans project to gather feedback from participants before the intervention of agroecology. Under the project, CSD will give technical support and supervise the agroecological intervention being piloted. After doing one year of investigation, involving diverse experts from different disciplines in research, gathering local knowledge, involving community in the decision-making process in designing piloting, the full team involving CSD and SAJIDA Foundation agreed to proceed further on this intervention. Participants from the community (equally male and female in groups) who are mostly vulnerable to natural hazards were selected to cultivate four crops in the area. Four species were chosen after a thorough screening process that included an examination of their potential market value out of sixty other crops grown in Protapnagar. These include sunflower, fennel seed, beetroot, and mustard. The team also looked at the possible applications of pond aquaculture.

In addition, CSD involved a Technical Advisor of marketing, who will assist in investigating potential markets for these crops, scrutinizing availability of by-products, training farmers to produce the product effectively, ensuring better quality and selling directly to the potential buyers. During this visit, CSD shared a detailed plan with the farmers in a prescribed form together and addressed the feedback which was co-designed by them. Following that, CSD is currently involved in scoping the feasibility of the potential land lease for this intervention.

Finally, this intervention is fully designed by following the framework of Nature-based Solution (NbS), where we considered existing societal challenges and the economy, took into account the existing governance system, prepared a detailed cost-benefits analysis, investigated further trade-offs and mainstreaming NbS. CSD aims to contribute in academic and practitioner spaces via co-producing knowledge through evidence by blending theoretical and action-based research.

The project is a collaboration between CSD-ULAB, led by Dr. Samiya Selim and Md Faisal Imran, Jenia Mukherjee, Indian Institute of Technology and Rene Veron from University of Lausanne, supported by SNSF. Moreover, Sajida Foundation is an implementation partner in this agroecological experimentation.



SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution

Bangladesh Consultation on Global Digital Compact & Summit of the Future 2024

On March 27, Dr. Samiya Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, delivered a keynote address at the "Bangladesh Consultation on Global Digital Compact & Summit of the Future 2024." The event was organized by the Bangladesh Initiative for Connecting, Empowering & Amplifying Unified Voices on Global Digital Compact & UN Summit for the Future 2024.

During her keynote, Dr. Selim emphasized the critical importance of inclusivity and access to services, particularly in remote communities. She addressed how digitization can serve as a powerful tool in achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



MoU between Seeds of Peace and ULAB

ULAB and Seeds of Peace have established a collaborative partnership to promote youth engagement in the Student Society for Climate Change Awareness project on 27th February, 2024. The project is a transformative accelerator program in the South Asian region, addressing the pressing issue of climate change through youth leadership. Empowering university students with the knowledge and tools they need, this initiative fosters dialogue and action on climate justice. With a focus on marginalized communities, the project not only trains 1,250 student society members but also encourages them to spearhead climate awareness campaigns within their universities. Through sustainable practices these young leaders create a ripple effect of climate awareness, extending their impact beyond campus borders.

Through the signing of the MoU, both parties ensure a smooth recruitment and engagement process, dissemination and facilitation of the course and its materials, providing support and mentoring to the students in developing the climate action plans, and finally ensuring fair evaluation and assessment of student engagement, course completion and reporting through regular communication of the both parties.

BADGE: Grant Kick-off Meeting

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Awarded by USAID to Promote Sustainable Agriculture Through the Use of Solar Energy for Irrigation. Traditional farming practices rely heavily on fossil fuels for irrigation and chemical fertilizers, leading to environmental degradation, resource depletion, and climate change. USAID, through the Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy (BADGE) project, has awarded the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) grant funding to tackle these issues through a groundbreaking project & "Strengthening Households with Integrated Farming through Energy Transformation (SHIFT)". SHIFT aims to revolutionize conventional approaches to agriculture and energy usage, fostering sustainability and climate resilience. By leveraging solar energy for irrigation, SHIFT seeks to promote sustainable food production while providing essential freshwater support to Tetulia Upazila, Panchagarh District. Moreover, by converting waste into biofertilizers and optimizing electricity usage, the project aims to reduce chemical dependency and enhance community livelihoods.

ULAB is proud to spearhead this transformative endeavor with the support of USAID, marking a significant step towards a more sustainable and resilient future for Bangladesh.



International Funded Projects

ACCESS4ALL

ULAB secured the Erasmus+ CBHE Grant for the project titled Adapting Climate Change Education, Skills and Sustainability for Advancing Locally-Led Solutions - ACCESS4ALL in 2023. In collaboration with BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Independent University Bangladesh, Maastricht University, and Heidelberg University, ULAB aims to co-produce and co-develop a southern-led curriculum. Climate education in the Global South has long been shaped by narratives and practices from the Global North, often leaving a gap between higher education and employability in green transformation fields in countries like Bangladesh. To address this, the ACCESS4ALL project was launched. Its mission is to reshape curriculum development for climate change in the Global South and bridge the gap between academic learning and employment opportunities in Bangladesh. By engaging different stakeholders—including NGOs, the private sector, academia, and students—the project has mapped out in-demand green skills and co-developed a course tailored to these needs. ACCESS4ALL is developing short courses to equip students and professionals with demand-driven green skills, empower and mobilize communities in climate-affected areas, and create a globally-accessible repository for the resources.

ACCESS4ALL has taken one step further in closing this knowledge gap and broadening access to climate education with its innovative approach in transforming its co-developed course for emerging climate professionals into an MOOC. This online course, incorporating diverse pedagogical methods, aims to introduce learners—both within the Global South and beyond—to climate issues unique to this context. Together with the in-person course, this MOOC represents a groundbreaking approach, with a strong focus on community engagement and the Southern context, equipping students with essential green skills for a sustainable future.

ACU

CSD-ULAB has been awarded the ACU Commonwealth Climate Change Resilience Grant 2023. The project, titled “Building Resilience Together - Integrated Learning Module to Address the Vulnerable Communities in Bangladesh”, addresses one of the strategic priorities of the Commonwealth Climate Resilience Network (CCRN) of contributing to the resilience of communities. This project aims to focus on the co-development of learning materials for future professionals interested in working with climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. The goals of the project are to develop an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary understanding of community development and resilience, to support the role and develop the capacity and technical skills of the future workforce in community development and climate resilience in Bangladesh, and to enable networking among students and professionals and establish opportunities for collaboration.

The project has co-developed a course and parts of the course content are being taught in the Introduction to Climate Change course at ULAB. The mid-year report and the end-year report provided after the mid-term exam of the students has ensured the evaluation of the content planned for the course.

ARISE

ARISE (Addressing Resource Use Through the Lens of Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity), was launched in January 2024 as a collaborative initiative by CSD-ULAB and Young Power for Social Action (YPSA), funded by the Environmental Defenders Collaborative (EDC). The project exemplified a transdisciplinary action-oriented approach, fostering collaboration across diverse sectors and expertise. This initiative, spearheaded by CSD-ULAB, brought together academic institutions, NGOs, community organizations, and market players to address the socio-environmental challenges arising from extensive blue economy developments in the Maheshkhali region.

The ARISE project prioritized an inclusive and integrative framework, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships with YPSA, Jothashilpo, and Broque. This collaboration leveraged expertise in environmental justice, community empowerment, expert designers, and market development, ensuring the initiative addressed the interconnected dimensions of environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic resilience. These partnerships were vital in bridging academic research with ground-level action, creating pathways for meaningful change.

The initiative also established market linkages through the IMAGINE project, connecting artisans with mainstream markets to ensure accessibility and scalability for their products. This transdisciplinary approach was instrumental in launching Matarbari Tales, a brand that highlighted the resilience and creativity of 30 women artisans. By combining academic insights, grassroots activism, and market expertise, ARISE transformed challenges into opportunities for these women, enabling them to reclaim their agency and redefine their futures. In essence, ARISE demonstrated the strengths of transdisciplinary research and collaboration in tackling complex socio-environmental issues.

ENGAGE

The project 'Elicit Needs-based Grassroots Action through Cross-Group Engagement (ENGAGE)' aims to enhance social resilience through Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and diverse livelihood options in the Sundarbans. The project aims to overcome the boundary of the social-political system of the Sundarbans and facilitate transboundary knowledge exchange by creating a consortium of academics, NGOs and governments from India and Bangladesh. Its goals include supporting adaptive practices within the Sundarbans riskscape, exploring, understanding, and mapping climate risks and disaster impacts on the Sundarbans, and stimulating situated adaptive mechanisms to harness social resilience in and of the delta through trans-disciplinary engagement to craft high impact pathways across (post)development interventions at the ground level, unleashing cross-learning possibilities from bilateral exchanges across transboundary Sundarbans.

While the academic partners ULAB, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, and University of Lausanne focus on research components, implementation partners SAJIDA Foundation and Sundarban Jana Sramajibi Manch (SJSJ) work on-field in both countries to implement integrated farms and inland fisheries in the vulnerable Sundarban region. Through these interventions, the project works to create a community-to-community knowledge sharing platform with a participatory approach to involve the local communities. For this, academics, NGOs, Governments and communities come together to work towards enhanced social resilience in one of the most climatic-risk prone areas in Bangladesh and in India.

SHIFT

Co-funded by USAID and ULAB, the 18-month "Strengthening Households with Integrated Farming through Energy Transformation" (SHIFT) project aims to create an innovative energy-water-food nexus, mitigating climate change, achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and optimizing resource usage. Traditional farming practices heavily rely on fossil fuels for irrigation and chemical fertilizers, causing environmental degradation and climate change. USAID, through the Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy (BADGE) project, has awarded ULAB grant funding to address these challenges with this groundbreaking project. Its objectives include shifting to renewable energy-based irrigation, promoting local biofertilizers, and facilitating electricity exchange.

SHIFT aims to revolutionize conventional approaches to agriculture and energy usage, fostering sustainability and climate resilience. By leveraging solar energy for irrigation, SHIFT seeks to promote sustainable food production while providing essential freshwater support to Tetulia Upazila, Panchagarh District. Moreover, by converting waste into biofertilizers and optimizing electricity usage, the project aims to reduce chemical dependency and enhance community livelihoods. Direct beneficiaries are the approximately 400 residents of Tetulia, with potential for broader community impact.

On April 25, 2024, the kick-off meeting between ULAB and USAID BADGE marked the official launch of the SHIFT project. With representatives from ULAB's Center for Sustainable Development and USAID BADGE, the event set the stage for collaboration and impact.

STRIVE

Securing Blue Carbon Ecosystems for Sustainable Fisheries and Climate Adaptation in the Sundarbans (STRIVE) is a pioneering initiative aimed at developing an inclusive, community-centered framework for the management of blue carbon ecosystems in the Sundarbans, Bangladesh. With our local partner LEDARS and funded by The Meridian Institute, STRIVE is a two-year project that integrates action research, capacity building, and policy advocacy to empower communities with secure tenure rights and the skills needed to engage with blue carbon markets.

A key focus of the project is on strengthening local institutions and enhancing women's leadership to ensure that blue carbon and climate action initiatives are equitable, just, and rooted in community-driven solutions. By drawing on global expertise and leveraging strong relationships with local fishing communities and area management authorities, STRIVE seeks to establish a sustainable stewardship model for blue carbon systems. This model prioritizes the knowledge, care, and active agency of local communities in managing these critical ecosystems.

STRIVE's key activities include empowering community institutions by strengthening local organizations and women-led groups to amplify their voice and influence in managing blue carbon ecosystems. The project also facilitates multi-actor platforms, creating forums at local and national levels to ensure that blue carbon and climate agendas respect and uphold community rights and justice principles. Action research is a core component, exploring pathways for secure community stewardship over blue carbon systems, with a focus on tenure rights and equitable participation in carbon markets. Additionally, the project emphasizes developing practical and scalable frameworks and protocols for community-driven management of blue carbon ecosystems, providing models to inform both national and international practices.

V2V

The Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership is a transdisciplinary knowledge network supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada under its Partnership Grants Program. It unites members from Africa, Asia, Canada, and other regions with the shared goal of addressing the challenges faced by small-scale fisheries (SSF) globally.

The V2V Global Partnership focuses on identifying and addressing the diverse factors that contribute to the vulnerability of small-scale fishers. Through collaborative engagement with fishing communities, NGOs, governments, and academic partners, the partnership works to enhance the viability of SSF by fostering resilience, sustainability, and equitable governance systems. The V2V network emphasizes community-engaged, transdisciplinary research and operates in six Asian countries—Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand—and six African countries—Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania. By bridging physical, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries, V2V creates a platform for knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and co-developing solutions to address the impacts of global change on small-scale fisheries.

Ultimately, the V2V Global Partnership aims to empower small-scale fishers to transition from vulnerability to viability, ensuring their sustainability and contributions to food security, livelihoods, and ecological health worldwide.

ADD+

Bangladesh's coastal regions face escalating climate risks, including rising sea levels, severe cyclones, erosion, waterlogging, and salinization. These challenges not only disrupt ecosystems but also profoundly impact the livelihoods of coastal communities, particularly those reliant on fishing and agriculture. Climate change is also reshaping marine environments, altering local fisheries and intensifying socio-economic vulnerabilities.

The Climate Change Adaptation, Dispossession, and Displacement (ADD+) project, funded by the Institute of Social Research (ISR), aims to address the critical gaps in understanding how climate change adaptation (CCA) measures in Bangladesh may inadvertently lead to dispossession, displacement, and gendered inequalities. While many CCA programs exist, they are often fragmented, unevenly implemented, and risk contributing to maladaptation, where adaptation efforts harm rather than help vulnerable populations.

The ADD+ project focuses on mapping the relationship between climate change adaptation (CCA) and displacement by investigating how adaptation strategies in coastal Bangladesh affect local communities, particularly in terms of land use, displacement, and livelihood disruptions. It also examines the gendered impacts of CCA programs, analyzing how these initiatives disproportionately affect women, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and power imbalances.

Through a desk based review and interviewing policymakers and government officials the project aims to enhance understanding of how CCA strategies in Bangladesh contribute to or mitigate displacement and dispossession, while identifying maladaptive practices and pathways to equitable solutions.

INSIGHT

The Investigating the Socioeconomic Nexus of Ecosystem Services in Key Biodiversity Areas (INSIGHT) project under the Protibesh program of USAID aims to examine diverse ecosystem services (ES), the number of people dependent on the benefit of ES, and the monetary value provided by wetlands and forests across Bangladesh, highlighting their significance for human well-being and ecological health. The analysis focuses on nine key biodiversity areas (KBA's): Sundarbans, Hakaluki Haor, Tanguar Haor, Hail Haor, Khadimnagar National Park, Ratargul Swamp, Rema Kalenga National Park, Lawachara National Park, and Satchari National Park. All of these sites demonstrate a rich tapestry of flora and fauna on which people depend for a variety of resources including freshwater, plant and animal life native to the areas, fuel wood, medicinal plants, and more, in addition to holding significant cultural and recreational value. The objectives of the program include calculating the ecosystem services and the population-based reliance of humans on the protected ecosystems mentioned in the RFA, to ascertain and evaluate the monetary value and population numbers of any potential economic gains from improved environmental conservation of the protected areas, and to assess the financial losses for local communities in and around particular KBAs in the event that there is no conservation of the environment and the hazards now present continue.

Sustainable Development Minor Courses Offered

Introduction to Sustainable Development

This course provides a foundational understanding of the theory of Sustainable Development by exploring its origins, concepts, and key global and national issues. Students learn about the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework and critically examine development challenges such as inequality, climate change, resource scarcity, and energy crises, while connecting the goals with local and global context. The course also tries to understand the complexity and barriers to sustainable development and students try to identify innovative approaches to overcome them, fostering a multidisciplinary perspective aligned with Liberal Arts education.

Methods of Social Research

Methods of Social Research is an interdisciplinary course that introduces students to the fundamentals of social research. Starting with an introduction to the broader research system as a whole, it explores diverse research methods, equipping students with both qualitative and quantitative research skills as well as facilitating critical thinking. This course is mandatory for students pursuing a minor in Sustainable Development and attracts students from diverse academic backgrounds, including English, BBA, MSJ, CSE, EEE, and Bangla. By providing an inclusive and collaborative learning environment, the course encourages students to connect their disciplinary perspectives with social science research. The course's primary objective is to prepare students with essential research skills, starting from selecting a research topic and identifying key literature to formulating research objectives and questions and crafting a full-fledged academic research proposal furnished with a conceptual framework, detailed methodology, work plan, milestones, and budget. Through individual reflections, peer working and group projects, students collaborate across disciplines to explore their interests and address knowledge gaps in social science, with a focus on finding solutions to pressing social and sustainability issues.

Environment Science

This course examines and explores the critical relationship between natural environmental systems and human activities, highlighting the essential resources they provide and the challenges of the natural system in light of the current population rise. Students get a chance to learn and identify the causes and consequences of environmental issues and delve into strategies for adaptation and mitigation. It offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding how environmental dynamics shape human well-being and ecosystems, and vice-versa.

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation courses are instrumental in delivering understanding of ecological balance, sustainable practices, and their significance in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By educating individuals on the importance of biodiversity, the courses promote active knowledge sharing and equip participants with the tools to tackle challenges such as climate change, food security, and environmental sustainability. Moreover, these courses act as a conduit for interdisciplinary learning, integrating insights from biology, environmental science, economics, and sociology to offer a holistic understanding of nature conservation. By engaging participants in hands-on activities such as field studies, habitat restoration projects, and policy simulations, they foster critical thinking and practical skills essential for addressing complex global challenges. Additionally, such programs emphasize the intrinsic value of biodiversity and its role in cultural, spiritual, and economic contexts, encouraging a deeper appreciation and stewardship of natural resources. Through global collaborations and partnerships, these courses also build networks of conservation advocates, amplifying their collective impact toward achieving a sustainable future. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation courses contribute to SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), 14 (Life Below Water), 2 (Zero Hunger), 6

(Clean Water and Sanitation), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering ecological awareness, sustainable practices, and global collaboration.

Sustainable Agriculture

The Sustainable Agriculture course is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the principles and practices that support environmentally sound, socially responsible, and economically viable farming systems. This course explores the critical balance between agricultural productivity and the stewardship of natural resources, focusing on topics such as soil health, water conservation, integrated pest management, crop rotation, agroforestry, and integrated farming system. Students will delve into the challenges posed by climate change, global food security, and the ecological impacts of conventional farming, while learning innovative approaches to address these issues. The curriculum combines theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on experiences through fieldwork, case studies, and collaborations with local farming communities. By emphasizing sustainable techniques and their application across diverse agricultural systems, this course equips students with the skills and knowledge to drive positive change in agriculture, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for both rural and urban landscapes.

Introduction to Climate Change

The course "Introduction to Climate Change" offers an engaging perspective on Climate Change by intertwining climate science, policy, and real-world impacts. Its content aligns with several SDGs by fostering critical analysis, debate, and understanding of climate change and its socio-economic impacts. The teaching approach, which includes critical discussion, group projects, and case studies, fosters interdisciplinary thinking and equips students with skills to collaborate effectively on global challenges. By emphasizing group dynamics, critical analysis, and respectful communication, the course not only addresses technical aspects but also prepares students to tackle the social dimensions of sustainability, embodying the spirit of the SDGs.

Comprehensive linkages are explored by linking SDGs 2, 5, 11, 13, 15 and 17: The course's structure reflects the interconnected nature of climate issues, moving from GHG emissions and their role in global warming to attribution science, which provides evidence for climate-related phenomena. This is seamlessly tied to global policies and frameworks like the UNFCCC, which shape mitigation and adaptation strategies. The course then delves into the impacts of climate change on agriculture, health, ecosystems, and migration, culminating in actionable solutions such as climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem-based adaptation, and inclusive policy-making.

Grassroots, Community and Development

This course gives ideas on grassroots economic development through conceptualization and explanation of terminology related to economic development. The course involves the students in the identification of problems regarding conventional development, analyzing situations, and next steps planning. This course is intended to develop students' ability to utilize a participatory approach to further practice sustainable community development. By offering different case studies classes, discussions will cover diverse issues and approaches of grassroots economic development starting from community-based natural resource management, disaster risk reduction, indigenous practices to cross-cultural perspectives, and globalization. It helps the students create a knowledge base and and explore new ideas. After completion of the course, students will generate and explore alternatives for grassroots economic development which will eventually contribute progress towards SDG 1 (Poverty alleviation), SDG 3 (Well-being for all), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 10 (Reduced income inequalities). This course would also facilitate Liberal Arts education

Testimonial from SD Minor Students

Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, *master's student in Sustainability Management and a Teaching Assistant at the University of Waterloo, Canada.*

"Sustainability is no longer about doing less harm. It's about doing more good."
— Jochen Zeitz

This quote perfectly describes my academic and professional journey, inspiring me to approach sustainability not as a challenge to minimize but as an opportunity to create meaningful change. As a current master's student in Sustainability Management as well as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Waterloo, Canada, I often reflect on how my undergraduate studies at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) laid the foundation for this path.

During my time at ULAB, I majored in English Literature and minored in Sustainable Development (SD). The SD minor was a turning point in my academic journey, shaping my understanding of global and local sustainability challenges. Courses such as Introduction to Sustainable Development and Introduction to Climate Change Debate provided me with foundational insights into the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental systems. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation helped me appreciate the delicate balance of ecosystems, while Environmental Science grounded me in the practical realities of environmental challenges. The most impactful course, however, was Social Theory and Methods of Social Research, which equipped me with critical thinking and research skills to approach sustainability with a human-centric perspective.

These lessons found practical application during my tenure as a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at ULAB. Projects such as ENGAGE4Sundarbans and my participation in the Winter Field School gave me invaluable opportunities to connect with communities affected by climate change. Listening to their stories, conducting focus group discussions, and presenting findings allowed me to understand the lived realities of sustainability challenges. These experiences reinforced the importance of collaboration and interdisciplinary approaches in addressing complex issues.

The SD minor also had a profound impact on my career choices. It provided me with the skills and confidence to navigate diverse roles, from research to teaching. Today, as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Waterloo, I find myself applying the interdisciplinary knowledge and research skills I developed during my undergraduate years. The ability to analyze societal patterns, conduct research, and effectively communicate findings continues to inform my work and studies.

Reflecting on my journey, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities the SD minor created. It shaped not only my academic interests but also my vision for the future—a future where sustainability is a shared goal and a collective responsibility. The experiences and lessons from my undergraduate days remain a constant source of inspiration, reminding me that every step forward, no matter how small, contributes to a more sustainable world.



Rafia Islam, Admissions officer and interviewer, Planet Education Networks, Canary Wharf, London, UK.

From childhood I was very connected with nature which encouraged me to learn more about Sustainability in my undergrad. Being an active member of ULAB Sustainable Development Club I learnt about SD courses. I loved the courses so much that I ended choosing my undergraduate dissertation and internship with a SD topic. I did my internship at Dutch Club, Dhaka and worked on 'Sustainable HR and employee engagement as well as greening the Dutch Club'. At the same time, I did an internship at Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB for Greening the university campus.



During my time at ULAB, I majored in Human Resources Management (BBA) and minored in Sustainable Development (SD). Courses like Introduction to Sustainable Development and Introduction to Climate Change Debate have helped me to gain a deep knowledge about connections between social, economic, and environmental systems. As a Biology and Zoology lover, studying Biodiversity and Nature Conservation was one of my favourite subjects of SD minor. This subject gave me wonderful insights of ecological balance of animals, plants and microorganisms which provide us a healthy ecosystem to live in. On the other hand, Environmental Science helped me to understand environmental challenges of atmospheric sciences, ecology, environmental chemistry, geosciences etc. Last but not the least, Social Theory and Methods of Social Research prepared me as an educational researcher as I had limited background in social theory.

During my time as a Research Assistant at the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) at ULAB, I was able to apply these lessons in a practical context. I have worked on several projects of National and International organisations such as Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Coast Guard, Solar C, Heidelberg University, European Land, Oxfam, Goethe-Institute, Marine communities of Bhola, Nijhum Dwip, Maheshkhali, No Crises Project, V2V project (Among 12 countries), IUCN, ETH Zurich University, Switzerland. These projects provided me with meaningful chances to engage with communities impacted by climate change by listening to their stories, conducting focus group discussions, and presenting findings. Moreover, I got a chance to get research related training and communicate with several researchers from different countries.

The SD minor not only enhanced my student life but also selected my career choices. The practical knowledge I got as a Research Assistant, helped me to secure a job as an Officer at Sajida Foundation, Head Office, Sustainable Development and Disaster Management Unit. The Centre for Sustainable Development (ULAB) played a vital role to get the job. All these experiences helped me to grow my communication level so high that I feel confident in any job now.

Though I have completed my MBA in Human Resource Management from University of South Wales, UK, I am planning to do my PhD related to Sustainable Development in the near future. I am truly grateful to the SD minor to shape my career as well.

Publications of 2024

Peer-reviewed Research Articles

Bhowmik, J., Irfanullah, H. Md., Selim, S. A., & Budrudzaman, M. (2024). Assessing climate change-induced losses and damages to coastal ecosystem services: Empirical evidence from Manpura Island, Bangladesh. *Climate Risk Management*, 100641. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2024.100641>

Das, J., Govender, M., Irfanullah, H. Md., Selim, S. A., Glaser, M. (2023). Stakeholder perceptions of blue economy governance networks and their equity implications in Bangladesh. *Marine Policy*, 170, 106359. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106359>

Hossain, M. K., Srivastava, A., Oliver, G. C., Islam, M. E., Jahan, N. A., Karim, R., Kanij, T., & Mahdi, T. H. (2024). Adoption of artificial intelligence and big data analytics: an organizational readiness perspective of the textile and garment industry in Bangladesh. *Business Process Management Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/bpmj-11-2023-0914>

Kaikkonen, L., Shellock, R.J., Selim, S.A. et al. Fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in interdisciplinary marine science. *npj Ocean Sustain* 3, 49 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-024-00087-1>

Lilier, K., Mikulewicz, M., Selim, S.A. et al. "What Can We Do?": A Psychological Perspective on (Mal)Adaptive Coping Strategies and Barriers to Coping in an Area of Severe Climate Vulnerability in Bangladesh. *Int.J. Behav. Med.* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12529-024-10329-8>

F., Tafon, R., Knol-Kauffman, M. and Selim, S. A., Introductory commentary: Marine conflicts and pathways to sustainability in an era of Blue Growth and climate change. *Maritime Studies* 23, 3 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-023-00347-9>

Book Chapters

Chowdhury, S.A. (2024). Young Rohingya Refugees: Risks and Future Prospects in Bangladesh. In: Ullah, A.A. (eds) *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-8001-7_16-1

Jahan, N.A., Habib, T., Chowdhury, S.A., Habiba Iqbal, U. (2024). The Nexus of Migration: Economic, Sociopolitical, and Environmental Impact Factors in Bangladesh. In: Ullah, A.A. (eds) *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Handbooks in Asian Studies. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-8001-7_103-

Conference Proceeding

1. **N.A. Jahan , M.S. Hossain , and S.B. Alam,**(2024), Commercialization Of Four-Wheeler Electric Vehicles Charging Station in Bangladesh: Challenges And Opportunities, Conference proceedings, International Conference on Business Research (ICBR), University of Moratuwa , Sri Lanka.

Editorial

Brown S, Heck N, Kebede AS, Rezaie AM, Selim SA and Narayan S (2024) Editorial: Adapting and building local resilience to sea level rise impacts on coastlines. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 11:1524037. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2024.1524037

Op-eds, Blog Posts, and Other Publications

Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, December 09). Ethics In Scholarly Publishing Is More Than Following Guidelines. *The Scholarly Kitchen*

Lisa, S.A. (2024, October 27). Gender Inequality and Environmental Risks in Panchagarh's Stone Quarries. *The Business Standard*.

Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, October 24). Scholarly Publishing: The Elephant (And Other Wildlife) In The Room. *The Scholarly Kitchen*

4. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, October 14). Sustainability: When Being Small Is Big Enough To Create A Legacy. *The Scholarly Kitchen*

5. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, October 10). Biodiversity conservation requires more than just frameworks. *The Daily Star*.

6. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, September 17). To reform Bangladesh's environment sector, focus on biodiversity conservation. *The Daily Star*.

7. Lisa, S.A. (2024, September 03). A summer programme that changed my perspective about research. *The Business Standard*.

8. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, August 31). Why should Bangladesh have Sundarbans biosphere reserve? *The Daily Star*.

9. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, August 22). Understanding Resilience in Scholarly Publishing. *The Scholarly Kitchen*.

10. Lisa, S.A. (2024, August 17). The great Dhaka market adventure: Bargains, bazaars, and beyond. *The Business Standard*.

11. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, July 29). (Re)Defining Our Diversity Discourse. In: *Point/Counterpoint on the Framing of DEIA Efforts: Should We Separate the Personal from the Professional?* by H.Md. Irfanullah, Lettie Y. Conrad, and Dianndra Roberts. *The Scholarly Kitchen*.

12. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, July 8). Bangladesh's way forward to biodiversity conservation. *The Daily Star*.

13. Shetu, S.H. (2024, July 05). Essay: The dichotomy of public and private space in Bangladesh: A gendered perspective. *The Business Standard*.

14. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, June 17). Scholarly publishing is not a philanthropic venture. Response to COPE editorial: Can we make English-language publishing more accessible? *COPE*.

15. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, June 17). Looking beyond the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *EON*.

16. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024). When climate change gives 'loss and damage' a new meaning. *Crisis Response Journal*, 19(2), 74-75.
17. Imran, Md. F. (2024, June 10). Why we should be wary of billionaire-driven climate solutions. *The Business Standard*.
18. Shetu, S.H. (2024, May 15). Learning to level up: Is navigating the challenges of Bangladesh's education system just a game with levels? *Dhaka Tribune*.
19. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, May 8). In tackling climate change, we must aim for just resilience. *The Daily Star*.
20. Lisa, S. A. (2024, May 3). Our unhealthy obsession over speaking English with an accent. *The Business Standard*.
21. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, April 25). Before COP29, let's get our priorities in line. *The Daily Star*.
22. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, April 09). Is our research supporting our policymaking? *The Daily Star*
23. Guest Editor (2024, April 3). Navigating the Rising Tide of AI-Generated Publications: Insights from ACSE Advisory Cabinet. *Editors Café*. (Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah is one of the authors)
24. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, March 27). Integrating our conservation and adaptation approaches. *The Daily Star*.
25. Shetu, S.H. (2024, March 23). Kumirmari Winter Field School 2024 : Fostering tomorrow's researchers. *The Business Standard*.
26. Lisa, S.A. (2024, March 22). Are we missing the beauty of life's little moments? *The Financial Express*.
27. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, March 20). Creating a community for conservation. *The Daily Star*.
28. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, March 4). Where do We Stand on Open Access? A Reflection on the R2R Conference 2024. Open science round-up: February 2024, *International Science Council*.
29. Iqbal, U.H. (2024, March 03). Stop our wetlands from fast disappearing. *Daily Observer*.
30. Shetu, S.H. (2024, February 27). Essay: A Siren's Cry- Humanity's Exploitative Reflection in "Jibaro". *Kitaab*.
31. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, February 07). Forest Department's leadership crucial for conservation. *The Daily Star*.
32. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, January 22). Overcoming our environmental policy inertia. *The Daily Star*.
33. Lisa, S.A. (2024, January 16). When can I get off the 'adulthood' roller coaster? *The Business Standard*.
34. Irfanullah, H.Md. (2024, January 09). Trust in Scholarly Publishing. *The Scholarly Kitchen*.

CSD Team Members

Dr. Samiya A Selim

Dr. Samiya Selim is a Professor and the Director of Center for Sustainable Development (CSD). She has studied and worked in both UK and Bangladesh the past 15 years in the field of environment conservation, climate change and sustainable development. Her specialization is in the areas of ecosystem based management, sustainable livelihoods, social-ecological systems, climate change adaptation and resilience, ecosystem services, and science-policy interphase. Skilled in integrating social and natural sciences to address complex global challenges, particularly in the context of coastal social-ecological systems. Over the last 15 years, she has consulted for international organizations such as UNICEF, FCDO, USAID, UNDP, and ILO. Currently, Dr Samiya serves as the Country Coordinator of a global project on small-scale fisher resilience and vulnerability. In addition, she holds leadership roles, including Co-Chair of the Human Dimension Working Group, which focuses on understanding the interactions between human and ocean systems.



Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, PhD

Dr. Irfanullah is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center. He is a biologist-turned-development facilitator, who often introduces himself as a research enthusiast. Over the past 25 years, Dr. Irfanullah has worked for different international environment and development organizations, academic/ research institutions, funders, and government agencies in different capacities. He frequently writes, talks and conducts research on natural resource management, environmental governance, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, nature-based solutions (NbS), locally led adaptation (LLA), and scholarly communication to stir conversations on these concepts and approaches. He is also an advocate of evidence-guided policy and practice change for effective conservation and resilience building efforts. Dr. Irfanullah has a PhD in aquatic ecology from the University of Liverpool, UK.



Dr. Shahana Afrose Chowdhury

Dr. Shahana Afrose Chowdhury is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Center for Sustainable Development with over 12 years of teaching experience and expertise in leading and managing renewable energy and sustainable development projects. Her extensive background includes research and development in renewable energy, climate change, environment, agriculture, and rural development, with significant contributions to the academic and development sectors in Australia and Bangladesh.

Dr. Shahana holds a PhD in Green Chemistry from Monash University, Australia, and a Research Master's degree in Food Chemistry from RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Currently, she teaches sustainable development courses under the General Education Department and is actively engaged in two USAID-funded projects: SHIFT, focusing on renewable energy and agriculture, and INSIGHT, which evaluates ecosystem services in key biodiversity areas. Her work exemplifies a commitment to sustainable practices and impactful research.



Sameera Zaman

Sameera Zaman is a Lecturer and Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB since 2021. Through her research, she manages to pursue her passion for finding sustainable solutions to new-age problems and understanding the complex interactions of society with nature. Her current research areas include sustainability in education, sustainable behaviour, circular design, and the socioeconomic impacts of climate change. She completed her MSc. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Freiburg, Germany and has over 8 years of experience working on national and international research projects.



Tahura Fabin

Tahura Farbin serves as a Lecturer and Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development. With a diverse background, she has a unique understanding of the scientific foundations of environmental challenges, the governance of socio-ecological systems, their connections to economic structures, and strategies for translating scientific knowledge into action. Her research focuses on climate migration, loss and damage, and blue justice. Her most recent work explores the blue injustices resulting from the Matarbari power plant construction. She is currently the project focal for three internationally funded projects: STRIVE, ARISE, and ADD+. She completed her MSc. in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science from Lund University in 2019 and has four years of experience working on loss and damage issues.



Nayma Akther Jahan



Nayma Akther Jahan is a Lecturer and Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. She is the focal of USAID funded project SHIFT which looks into the energy food water nexus and resource sharing model in Tetulia. Her research focuses on sustainable energy, industrial sustainability, gender and climate crisis, etc. Before joining ULAB, she worked as a Deputy manager at Dnet and Assistant Consultant at EQMS Consulting Ltd. With more than six years of industry, academia, development, and consulting expertise, Nayma thrives in achieving customer success with customized, creative solutions. Along with her expertise in both qualitative and quantitative research approaches, she has a track record of leading teams and collaborating across functional boundaries to accomplish important goals. Nayma, a Lund University alumna with a background in Environmental

Md. Faisal Imran

Md Faisal Imran is a highly skilled academic and practitioner who currently serves as Senior Research Associate cum Lecturer at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB. He is an experienced development professional with over 8 years of experience in research including design, implementation, and management. His expertise lies in biodiversity and nature conservation, Nature-based solutions (NbS), and social-ecological systems. He is a project focal for Enagage4Sundarbans project that aims to address societal challenges, ensure economic benefits for society, and conserve biodiversity. Additionally, he oversees the project 'Protibesh', which is funded by USAID.

In his early career with USAID, Mr. Faisal has experience working with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and communities, and has completed numerous projects involving data management and analysis.



Ummay Habiba



Ummay Habiba is a Lecturer & Senior Research Associate at CSD-ULAB. She has completed her M.Phil. on Sociology and Human Geography from the University of Oslo, Norway, where she also served as a seminar tutor. Passionate about the development and education sectors, Habiba thrives in roles requiring field engagement and educational initiatives. Her expertise lies in employing a mixed-methods approach combining deep observation and ethnography, enabling her to uncover profound insights about human behavior and societal dynamics.

Beyond her academic and professional pursuits, she is an ardent debater in Bengali dialects and English parliamentary formats, a creative storyteller through painting and Pictionary, and a dedicated emergency volunteer, contributing to critical efforts like the Rana Plaza disaster response and the Rohingya camp.

Her leadership experience includes serving as Project Coordinator during the UN Theme Week in Oslo (2019) and being an Erasmus Youth Peacemaker with YMCA-YWCA the same year. As a UiO-PRIO M.A. Fellow from 2020 to 2021, Habiba further honed her skills in research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Sadia Lena Alfee

Sadia Lena Alfee is a Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB and also a part-time Lecturer at the General Education Department. She has completed her bachelor's in Soil, Water & Environment from the University of Dhaka and did her master's in Environmental Risk Management from the University of Glasgow, UK. She holds the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship and has several publications in international journals. Her career started as a freelance researcher and later on as a proposal developer for Footsteps Bangladesh. She is currently exploring different critical issues around community justice and analysing their perception and behaviour to intervene the existing global and national policies on solving two of the triple planetary crises - pollution and climate change impacts.



Shrobona Shafique Dipti

Shrobona Shafique Dipti is a Lecturer and Research Associate in the General Education Department and the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). She holds a Master's degree in Social Anthropology from SOAS, University of London, and both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Disaster Management from the University of Dhaka. Her research interests span urban anthropology, human and more-than-human entanglements, and urban governance. Through methods rooted in memory and nostalgia, Shrobona examines the complex dynamics of urban life, revealing how lived experiences both shape and are shaped by the evolving cityscapes of Bangladesh.



Md. Tanim Hasan

Md. Tanim Hasan is the Admin Officer at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD). He completed his Graduation and Master's in Economics from Khulna University. He handles the center's financial matters, such as project billing, accounts payable, payroll, and budget. He approaches all aspects of any job with a positive, hard-working mindset and is passionate about helping find solutions to any challenges.



Sanzida Alam

Sanzida Alam is a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB, and the editor of the V2V newsletter. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in English and Humanities and a minor in Sustainable Development Studies. Currently, she is pursuing an MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL at ULAB as a recipient of the V2V Global Partnership Scholarship. She is passionate about interdisciplinary research, with interests that include, but are not limited to, discourse analysis, gender studies, indigenous knowledge, effective communication, the role of language in problem-solving and community dynamics, climatic vulnerabilities, colonial studies, social injustice, and sociopolitical and economic issues. She also enjoys creative writing, including short stories, poetry, and scriptwriting.



Md. Razin Saleh Alam

Md. Razin Saleh Alam is a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB. He has completed his Bachelor of Arts in English and Humanities with a concentration in Linguistics and TESOL and a minor in Sustainable Development from the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. His educational background and work experience have enabled him to develop a profound research interest in teaching philosophies, teacher and student agency, postmethod pedagogy, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Additionally, he has four years of experience as a professional graphic designer. In the Access4ALL project, he will be utilizing his skills in designing and developing materials and contents for the course as well as oversee the marketing strategies.



Isra Tahiya Islam

Isra Tahiya Islam is a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). She completed her Bachelor's degree at ULAB, with a major in English and Humanities, and a minor in Sustainable Development Studies. Alongside her role at CSD, she also serves as an English Speaking and Listening Instructor at the Center for Language Studies (CLS). Her research interests lie in the politics of language, psycholinguistics, and the correlation between environment and culture. Isra has also worked as a Campus Ambassador for Teach for Bangladesh (TFB), advocating for inclusive and high-quality education for all. She is currently engaged in the European Union-funded Project, ACCESS4ALL.



Atia Fairuz

Atia Fairuz is a full-time Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), contributing to the STRIVE, ARISE, and ENGAGE4SUNDARBANS projects.

She holds a BBA with a minor in Sustainable Development and began her career in 2019 as a volunteer at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP). She has worked with prominent organizations, including Oxfam, AYAT, Massachusetts General Hospital and Integral Global.

In February 2024, Atia collaborated with UNICEF veteran Laila Karim to develop a primary healthcare toolkit benefiting 4 million garment workers in Bangladesh. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Disaster Management at Brac University, specializing in Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development, while contributing to national and regional disaster management efforts with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

Atia also volunteers as the MEAL Officer for the Works For Humanity Foundation, which earned the prestigious Joy Bangla Award from the Government of Bangladesh in 2017.



Md. Sakhawat Hossain Saikat

Md. Sakhawat Hossain Saikat is a research assistant in the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts of Bangladesh. He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in disaster and human security management (DHSM) from the Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP). He has a keen interest in exploring the intersection of disaster management, renewable energy, and sustainable development. He is currently engaged with an USAID's project focused on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in the northern communities.



Sawda Yasmin

Sawda Yasmin is a research assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). With an MSc and BSc in Statistics from Khulna University, she has extensive experience in statistical analysis and modeling. A dedicated member of Project ENGAGE, she documents project processes and analyzes household survey data. Previously, she worked as a data analyst on a feasibility study for a new maintenance workshop under the Ministry of Railway, Bangladesh. Currently, she is developing a research idea in sustainable development.



Asraful Islam

Asraful Islam is a Research Assistant (Ethnographer) at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). He is a dedicated researcher and academic with expertise in Environmental Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, human behavior, and socio-cultural dynamics. He holds an MA in Sociology from South Asian University, and a BSS in Anthropology from Jahangirnagar University. With over two years of diverse research experience; Asraful has contributed to projects on gender vulnerability, climate-induced migration, food safety, and indigenous medical systems. He is skilled in ethnographic and qualitative research, project management, and tools such as NVivo, Sirvecto, and ATLAS.ti. His work reflects a commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering resilience in vulnerable communities. Currently, he is engaged in the STRIVE team project focused on blue carbon research in the Sundarbans; frontier belt of Satkhira.



Arwin Shams Siddiquee

Arwin Shams Siddiquee is an intern at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). A high school grad, digital artist, and aspiring writer, Arwin's interests include language, history, anthropology, and music theory, among other things. As an intern, he primarily works between and across projects.





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