

SECTION I:

Events & Field Trips

CSD Annual Retreat

On 7th January CSD had its annual meeting at ULAB permanent campus, which is at Dhaka Uddan, Mohammadpur. The meeting was organised to reflect on some of the highlights from the [previous year](#) and to strategize and set goals for the new year ahead.



Moheshkhali and Nijhum Dwip Field Research



In the month of January CSD team went to Moheshkhali and Nijhum Dwip, Cox's Bazar for the [NO CRISES](#) project. As part of the work, we tried to understand natural resource use and governance in the region. Through Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) and Governance mapping we wanted to bring out the authorities and the systems of the

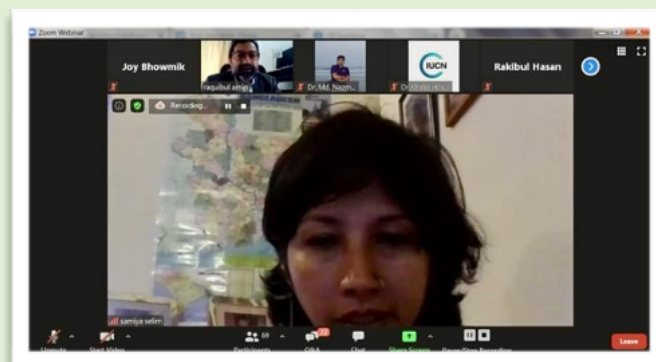


region and how they function together as a community, when dealing with environmental change.

Gobeshona Conference



On 24th of January 2021, Gobeshona Global Conference-I was organised by ICCCAD and one of the sessions was jointly organised by Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



During this session presenters discussed the importance of forests and their roles for moderating climate change mitigation and adapting as a Nature-based Solution (NbS).

Collaboration with The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort

Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah has joined the above [Climate Research Cohort](#) as the facilitator of its Research-to-Action initiative. He is also one of 18 international mentors of this Cohort, which has brought together 26 early-career climate researchers from 16 countries. This program is designed and facilitated by ACU and British Council, UK and will run from March to December 2021.

ETH Zurich-ULAB Collaboration Field Research



ETH Zurich conducted a pilot project in the month of March to understand the climate risk, land loss and migration of the people living by the Jamuna riverbank. CSD's research assistants were part of the project.



This research work was conducted to know why the

people who are living by the Jamuna Riverbank frequently migrate. Their problems during and after the flood and how they cope up were the reasons to initiate the project.

Project: Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) in Small Scale Fisheries



In April 2021, Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB prepared a V2V Situational Analysis (SA) report on Small-Scale-Fisheries of Bangladesh based on existing and ongoing research and literature from secondary sources (From 2011-2021). It has been identified according to geographic location within the country e.g., river, bay, ocean, *haor*. This report is part of V2V research and practice (e.g., policy briefs, journal articles) that is done by 12 member countries of V2V global partnership.

Later on, 13th April 2021, on behalf of the V2V Bangladesh Country team, CSD presented the insights and details of the SA report in V2V Webinar.

Daily Star Roundtable Organised by MJF



Daily Star and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) organised an online discussion titled "Sector-Wide Impact Assessment on Coastal Small Fishers" on April 7, 2021. Dr Samiya Selim participated as a panelist at this event. She spoke about the findings from CSD study on Impact of Covid 19 and Fishing Ban on coastal fishers. She mentioned the need to seek out alternate livelihoods, particularly for the women.

Their study found that the women who had access to growing their own food or had other ways of meeting their economic needs, fared better during the ban period. Other findings included lack of agency, identity and limited government support during fishing ban.

SDG Network: The Association of Commonwealth Universities



The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is an international organisation dedicated to building a better world through higher education. The ACU leads a strategic plan 'The Road to 2030' that promotes the role of Higher Education (HE) to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through international collaboration. As part of this initiative, ACU established a steering committee on the SDGs network across the globe to facilitate the discussion of the role of universities in achieving SDGs.

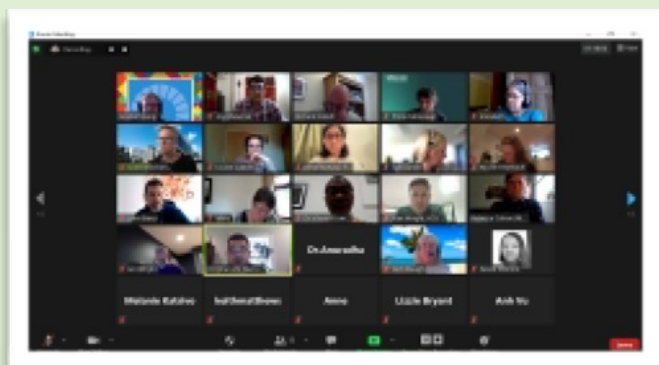
During the session Mr. Bhowmik explained that University might play a vital role in achieving a country's SDG target; however, strong partnership among different stakeholders including policymakers is a prerequisite. Moreover, different governments around the world must engage universities actively to achieve SDGs on time. A cluster of universities in partnership with private sectors can be assigned to lead the activities of different goals.

Make Your Own Mask

On 20th May, ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC) and clothing brand Ratnavali jointly organised a virtual workshop called "Make Your Own Mask". About 50 students from different schools, colleges and universities of Bangladesh participated in this national level virtual workshop.



Joy Bhowmik, Advisor, ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC) was present during the session. A.F.M Moniruzzaman, Assistant Professor, ULAB, and Raka Nashin Nawar, Director and Ad-maker, Apple Box were also present during the making session.



CSD ULAB faculty Mr. Joy Bhowmik is engaged with the steering committee as a regional lead for South Asia. On the occasion they discussed the university's experiences for local SDG contributions where he shared ULAB's contribution.

Project: Greening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutes



Since 2020 Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh is working with ILO as an implementation partner of the Skills 21 project, a joint initiative of the Government of Bangladesh and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Funded by the European Union. Within this project, the CSD team is working with seven Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes and two Centres for Skills Excellence in Bangladesh to implement green initiatives to ensure green economic growth.



In June 2021, a scoping mission was conducted in the Vocational Teachers Training Institute (VTTI), Bogura, to move this process forward.

Project: Politics and Power in Land Administration



As a core component of our EU Land Project, the project proposal set out an ambitious plan to bring “findings from the field” into the University curricula of participating institutions. Specifically, the aim was to incorporate local stakeholders, in principle beneficiaries of the European Union-funded “SALE Project” into one class respectively in six academic courses. In theory this is supposed to include “EU Studies” and “International Development Curricula” to facilitate the “cross-fertilisation” aim of the overall project. So far four such virtual classroom sessions have been conducted, with monitoring and evaluation carried out among instructors and students. The four courses that have so far engaged with the Virtual Classrooms component have a total of 196 enrolled students across both Dublin City University and Wageningen University and Research. Broadly speaking, student response has been very positive, with 82% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the virtual classroom contributed to their understanding of the issues in their course of study, and that the virtual classroom improved their understanding of the practicalities of development interventions.

In addition, the last six months have seen the completion of the fieldwork component for the project, and the bringing together international scholars from Senegal to Australia, to produce a special issue on land administration. This research cluster will be meeting for the first time on the 29th

July and we hope to have a strong proposal for a suitable leading journal completed by August.

Project: Climate Change Induced Drought in Bangladesh: Vulnerability Indicators and Effectiveness of the Adaptive Strategies



Agriculture is the largest employment sector in Bangladesh. It contributes to employment for more than 42% of Bangladeshi people. However, this sector is at risk due to the negative consequences of environmental changes. So, understanding the human-nature system in the context of agriculture can show us the path of climate risk reduction in this sector.



In June 2021, the CSD team conducted a field survey to explore more of this situation in rural agriculture-dependent communities of Bangladesh and intend to contribute to this sector through research addressing SDG: 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). This research was funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Resilient Development



Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah spoke on the above topic at the training sessions on 'Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) Tool and Guideline' organised under the National Resilience Programme – Programming Division Part (NRP-PD) of the Government of Bangladesh on March 18th and 23rd. He showed how NbS could be integrated in disaster management by harnessing ecosystem services. On March 27th, Dr. Irfanullah also delivered a guest lecture on NbS in disaster management to the students of the Organisational and Policy Context of Disaster Risk Management Course of the Brac University's Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM), Dhaka.

Presentation: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350134375_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_for_Resilient_Development_A_Disaster_Risk_Management_Perspective

Nature Conservation in Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Bangladesh has been sheltering around a million Rohingya's in Bangladesh since August 2017 in the world's largest refugee camp. In a couple of sessions, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah spoke about environmental degradation due to this refugee crisis and how nature conservation and ecosystem management are being taken care of in Cox's Bazar. The first session was organised by the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Wales, UK (March 16th) and the second

session was by Delta State University, USA on the occasion of Earth Day (April 22nd).

Presentation: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350439277_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_in_Disaster_Management

Earth Day

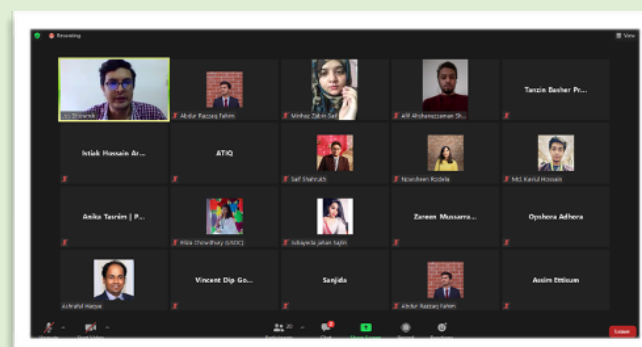
On the occasion of World Earth Day 22nd April, 2021, CSD has organised a webinar titled "Eco-friendly entrepreneurs for restoring our Earth".



This event was organised to celebrate Earth Day and to remind everyone that it is important to take care of our planet. This year's event was organised by inviting a few of the eco-friendly entrepreneurs in Bangladesh who created their business to bring awareness among people through their work.

Restoring Our Earth

On the occasion of the World Earth Day 2021 celebration, ULAB Sustainable Development Club (SDC) in collaboration with Farming



Future Bangladesh-ফামির্ং ফিউচার বাংলাদেশ and supervision from Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) has successfully organised a weeklong campaign on 'Restore Our Earth'.

This was a social media and home-based campaign where 20 youths from 110 applicants from different educational institutions learned to grow at least five edible plants (mix of vegetables and medicinal plants) at their home that they can consume in their daily life. Also, they were guided to install waste segregated bins at home to recycle the recyclable solid wastes including paper, plastic, and organic waste. They had to post all the evidence of their activities from their Facebook profile by tagging five of their friends as a challenge to do the same as part of their social behaviour change communication practices.

An Equitable and Sustainable Future of Academic Publishing

On May 27th, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, a Chef of *The Scholarly Kitchen*, was on the panel of the Closing Plenary of the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP)'s 43rd Annual Meeting, USA. Dr. Irfanullah shared his thoughts on environmental and climate responsibilities of the publishing industry. He also advocated for using sustainability lenses to see the world around us.

Oxfam in Bangladesh, Trans-Boundary River of South Asia

TROSA



Oxfam in Bangladesh and the Sweden.se government-funded Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia - TROSA project to address the poverty of the people living in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna river basins in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. It is working to address the underlying causes of poverty and marginalisation of people living in the mouth of the Salween River. One of the major beneficiaries of this project is the women living in the estuary. Women in the river community are relatively more vulnerable.

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) has prepared a training manual written entirely in Bengali to enable women to have their say and participate equally with men in river resource management decisions. We are happy to publish our training manual written in Bengali in the month of February, which is full of memories of the language movement. This effort will surely involve many more in future developmental research in the ongoing effort to promote the use of mother tongue at all levels.

Everything Change: Creativity and the Climate Crisis

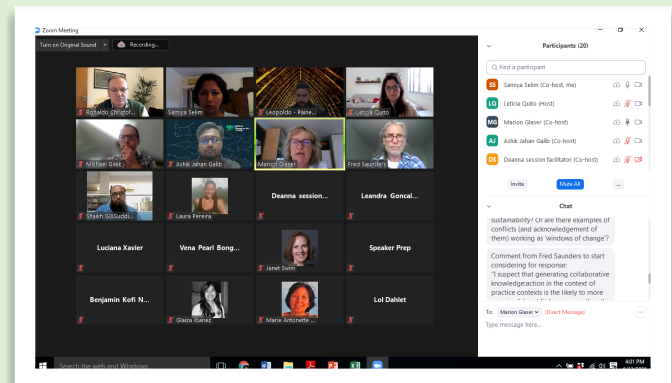
On 16th June 2021 Dr Samiya Selim participated in one of the discussion sessions of the above event as a panelist. During this session they discussed how the energy of our planet will be in the future.



Where will we get the energy in thirty years' time? Will the houses and offices in the future be the energy drainers or will they become energy producers? Under what leadership will we have reached net zero, and if so, how did we do it? The most important aspect of the session was that, with the idea of innovation and creativity keep the world's remaining fossil fuels or are we ready to use them carelessly like the last thirty years. These were the questions for discussion on the 5th day of the event.

The Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress (SRI) 2021

The world's first transdisciplinary gathering in sustainability took place June 12-15 2021 where Dr Samiya presented at the panel on Trade-offs and Synergies in Ocean Conflict Transformation.



As social, economic, technical and ecological changes interact, Blue Economy agendas expand, ocean and coastal conflict hotspots and conflict engagement arenas and conflict-related research projects emerge. This session included academics from Brazil and Bangladesh as well as ocean conflict stakeholders from outside academia including local NGOs Manusher Jonno Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Society Bangladesh.

Section 3:

Publications

Journal Articles

Newsletter

CSD Newsletter 2020

Journal Articles

- Bhowmik, J., Irfanullah, H. Md., & Selim, S. A. (2021). Empirical evidence from Bangladesh of assessing climate hazard-related loss and damage and state of adaptive capacity to address them. *Climate Risk Management*, 31, 100273. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2021.100273>
- Irfanullah, H. Md. (2021). So, what does resilience mean for scholarly publishing? *Learned Publishing*, 34(1), 57–63. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1351>
- Miñarro, S., Reyes-García, V., Aswani, S., Selim, S., Barrington-Leigh, C. P., & Galbraith, E. D. (2021). Happy without money: Minimally monetized societies can exhibit high subjective well-being. *PLOS ONE*, 16(1), e0244569. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244569>
- Nayna Schwerdtle, P., Baernighausen, K., Karim, S., Raihan, T. S., Selim, S., Baernighausen, T., & Danquah, I. (2021). A Risk Exchange: Health and Mobility in the Context of Climate and Environmental Change in Bangladesh—A Qualitative Study. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(5), 2629. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18052629>
- Pemberton, S., Tripathy Furlong, B., Scanlan, O., Koubi, V., Guhathakurta, M., Hossain, Md. K., Warner, J., & Roth, D. (2021). “Staying” as climate change adaptation strategy: A proposed research agenda. *Geoforum*, 121, 192–196. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.02.004>
- Scanlan, O. (2021). When Donors Collide: The Implications of Contradictory Interventions in a Bangladesh Agrarian Environment. *Studies of Transition States and Societies*, 13(1). <http://publications.tlu.ee/index.php/stss/article/view/902>
- Selim, S. A., Glaser, M., Tacke, F. I., Rahman, M., & Ahmed, N. (2021). Innovative Aquaculture for the Poor to Adjust to Environmental Change in Coastal Bangladesh? Barriers and Options for Progress. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.635281>

Section 4:

Introducing New CSD Team Members

Sabiha Ahmed Diba

Sabiha Ahmed Diba is a Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) of ULAB. She completed her graduation and post-graduation in Disaster and Human Security Management from Bangladesh University of Professionals. She has almost 2 years of working experience for different NGOs and INGOs. She has conducted research on Indigenous Knowledge as Adaptation strategies against cyclone impact on agriculture in Baliatoli Union, Patuakhali District, Bangladesh for her master's Thesis and also "the Assessment of the Community Resilience Against River Bank Erosion for Kazipur Upazila, Sirajganj district" in her undergrad research project. She has also experience in working on the Flood Risk and Protection Study of the Padma River near Maowa back in 2016 and Sirajgonj Riverbank Erosion Protection Embankment and Settlement Study in 2015.



Her publications and research interests include Social Sciences, Disaster Management, Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Public Health, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Women Empowerment, Child Rights, Human Security, Persons with disabilities (PWDs), Humanitarian Crisis, Emergency Response, etc.

Emon Rahman

Md. Emon Rahman is a Research Associate at the Center for



Sustainable Development (CSD). He has completed his graduation and post-graduation in Disaster and Human Security Management from Bangladesh University of Professionals. His research interests focus on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, social vulnerability, refugee and migration. He worked on the assessment of landslide risk and explored land cover changes in Chittagong Metropolitan Area. Mr. Rahman has also carried out qualitative research on the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh and the challenges of national and regional security in terms of socio-cultural aspect.

Previously, He has worked as a Research Consultant at Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and was responsible for digitising updated mouza boundaries of 64 districts of Bangladesh. He has also worked as an intern faculty at Gulzar group of Institutes, India and was involved in cross cultural exchange between Bangladesh and India. He also facilitated training sessions and group activities on global warming and Sustainable Development Goals. He is interested in pursuing further research on GIS and IT based disaster preparedness, community resilience, disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction, and nexus approach toward climate change.

Jannat Shancharika Shuchi

Jannat Shancharika Shuchi is a student of the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB. She is now in her last semester and completed an internship at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB since she has chosen Sustainable Development (SD) as her Minor subject. Now she is working in CSD as a Teaching assistant



(TA). Jannat is passionate about making her future goals with the SDGs, and actively wants to work more on that field. She writes newspaper articles and stories. She has the motto of working in the International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) in the long run, and to do something for the human as well as the social welfare.

Sameera Zaman

Ms. Sameera Zaman is a Lecturer-cum-Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development. She is an experienced environmental and social researcher, with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Management from Independent University, Bangladesh, and a Master's in Environmental Sciences from the University of Freiburg, Germany. By employing different research tools and designs, she manages to pursue her passion in finding sustainable solutions to new-age problems and understanding the complex nature of the environment and its interactions.



Her previous work experience in Research includes working as a Graduate Research Assistant for a few years at the Institute of Hydrology, Chair of Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation as well as the Chair of Remote Sensing and Landscape Information Systems. In Bangladesh, Ms. Zaman has conducted research on diverse thematic areas including sustainable fashion, implementation of the circular design, and socio-economic impacts of climate change. Apart from research, her previous professional experience includes working with gender equality and disaster management in the development sector, in addition to working with Environmental Management Systems in different industries.

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