## Go Wild for Life

# World Environment Day 2016 Youth Cycle Rally Report





#### Submitted by:



#### **Bhairb Area Water Partnership/Initiative for Right View**

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#### Supported by:



Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) House # 79(1<sup>st</sup> floor), Road # 12/A Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 World Environment Day-2016

#### Go wild for life!

Youth Cycle Rally Date: 06 June, 2016 Khulna

A bike rally calls to launch campaign against, "illegal trade in wildlife"

#### Context:

The day is celebrated to raise global awareness about the significance of a healthy environment and to solve various environmental issues by implementing some actions to protect nature and Earth, leading to a positive and healthy environment for all. World Environment Day is run by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

This year's theme has encouraged a fight against wildlife crime. The slogan of World Environment Day, 2016 is **Go wild for life.** This year focuses on the illegal trade of wildlife. Decades of poaching have decimated the wild life population worldwide and are furthered by unawareness, greed and poverty.

In Bangladesh the day is also observed and the day is aimed at stimulating awareness on environment and enhancing political attention and positive environmental action.

The Southwest Coastal Region of Bangladesh is ecologically vulnerable because of its hydro-geo-physical settings. Due to various natural causes and number of human interventions, this region is in the grip of various environmental disasters. According to experts, this region is one of the most vulnerable to Climate change and consequent Sea level rise. The region is also facing a severe water scarcity and water resource vulnerability due to some natural and anthropogenic obstacles today. Salinity has become a major problem for water availability and agricultural development along with improvement of vegetation.

As a result of unsustainable management of natural resources, over-exploitation of the resources of the Sundarban, absence of land reform, and due to man-made environmental degradation, Human Rights are flagrantly violated in this region.

IRV in collaboration of Bhairab Area Water Partnership and Southwest youth water from has been involved in Environment conservation movements and advocacy, and has taken initiatives to coordinate such movements. Though the World Environment Day is focused mainly on Environmental issues, activists and organizations share opinions on environment, ecology, natural resources.

#### **Program Description**

To encourage the citizens and youth to spread the word about wild life crime and the illegal trade in wild life including Sundarbans on the eve of World Environment day on 06 June, 2016 day the support of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP), Initiative for Right view (IRV), Bhirab River Area Water Partnership and South West Youth Water Forum organized Youth Cycle Rally.

At fast tea shirt and plants were distributed among the participants. After that as a chief guest Dr. Mollik Anwar Hossain, director, Environment Department delivered his speech and inaugurated the rally. The chief express his gratitude to the organizer for the innovative program. He shared that conservation of wild life is important for balancing the environment. Youth should be engaged in nature conservation. He requested the participants for planting the trees they got and looking after it. The rally was chaired by Sk. Rafikul Islam, Head Teacher Pollimangal Madhomik Bidalloy and the whole program was coordinated by Marina Juthi, Associate Coordinator, IRV.

Teachers and students from Khulna College, Polli Mongal Madhomik Biddaloy, Bania khamar Madhomik Biddaloy, Textile Madhomik Biddaloy, Bidut Unnayan Board School, St. Xeviours High School, Boira Maddhomik Biddaloy and National Boys School took part in the rally. Beside that journalists, representative of CSOs, NGOs, Environmental Activists were also participated the rally. The rally crossed the main roads of Khulna city.

### Image of the program







News coverage







