



# CSD Newsletter

## 2021 | Issue 6



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## Cover & Design

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# Message from Director

2021 has been another challenging year for all as we continued to deal with the ongoing pandemic and new variants of Covid-19 outbreak. Throughout these challenges, the Center for Sustainable Development continued to work on the diverse range of sustainability issues – from operationalizing green growth, green skills and green business, to addressing vulnerability and building resilience in marginalized communities (particularly artisanal fishing and farming communities) impacted by climate crisis, to embedding sustainability in education through our Sustainable Development Minor and working on the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. I am happy to share that this year has been a fruitful one in terms of knowledge generation through our research publications, several of which has been the culmination of work the past two years on the above mentioned issues.



In 2021 we had 15 peer reviewed articles in high impact factor journals and several articles and blog pieces published in local newspapers and international websites. The topics range from mental health issues related to climate change impacts, cultural ecosystem services from urban green spaces, resilience in artisanal fishing communities, perspectives on inclusive participatory research, integrating socio-cultural values in marine spatial planning, and more. One of our strongest assets is having a very small but dynamic team of young and experienced interdisciplinary researchers and the result of this is our growing identify as an excellent research institute known for its knowledge generation and knowledge sharing with students, policy makers and the wider society.

Our transdisciplinary work is also possible because of strong partnership with local grassroots level partners who are able to mobilize communities to take part in our research and help build trust with these communities. At the same time, we are part of several global networks and projects which also allows us to work with international partners. The results of these can be found in the various projects highlighted in this newsletter edition such as our work with Keele University where we incorporated art workshops with Monpura communities to highlight impact of salinity in their lives, and our work leading the country coordination for Bangladesh for the project – Vulnerability to Viability in Small Scale Fisheries - with University of Waterloo.

One of the sustainability challenges we face today is the complex space of climate-society interphase - how can we get society to move to a low carbon society, reduce biodiversity loss and environment degradation whilst ensuring that the changes are a win win for both environment and people? How do we create such systems change and inspire others to do the same? We already try to do this through our SD Minor Program and Greening ULAB where we work with students, staff and administration on embedding sustainability in curriculum, campus and community. This is an area where we will focus more in 2022 with the aim of ULAB having the lowest carbon footprint possible and continuing to spread the awareness, knowledge and tools needed to accomplish this at other organizations and in society. Watch this space as we take this challenge forward in 2022! Wishing everyone a healthy and balance year ahead of us.

## **Dr. Samiya Ahmed Selim**

Associate Professor and Director  
Centre for Sustainable Development  
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

# Editorial

## How Do We Build Bangladesh Greener?



Since the last decade, Bangladesh has achieved commendable progress in several greening areas, as evidenced by several strategy documents, rules and regulations, investment initiatives, and active engagement in related global fora. The country contributed to the formulation of the global green agenda, green targets and is recognized as one of the earliest developing countries that have mobilized its resources to fight negative impacts of climate change. But still, concentration is required, particularly in reforming the tertiary education system to generate future leaders knowledgeable about and apply green practices.

Currently, Bangladesh's tertiary education system through public, private, national, and international universities offers opportunities for the students to be enrolled in the environment and climate change-related disciplines (e.g., environmental science, environmental studies and management, environmental technology) for pursuing graduate and postgraduate degrees and studying and conducting in-depth research on these subjects. However, students who choose disciplines other than those lag behind in gaining climate-change and environment-related knowledge that help foster green skills, which might slow down the country's green growth process.

To unlock the full potential of greengrowth in Bangladesh, we can consider incorporating greening knowledge (e.g., efficient energy and water use, sustainable waste management) and practice development under generic or essential skills in the curriculum of all disciplines. If it is too complicated, at least we can offer some sorts of opportunities for the tertiary level students to learn greening side by side their mainstream of education; that will definitely help build future generations knowledgeable on climate change and environmental conservation. One interesting example can be drawn from the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Currently, the university is offering a minor in Sustainable Development Studies (SDS) for students graduating in different disciplines ranging from Media Studies and Journalism to Computer Science and Engineering. The SDS minor offers courses such as Introduction to Climate Change Debate, Environmental Science, Introduction to Sustainable Development, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, and Social Theory and Methods of Social Research. Doing this minor, besides major courses, not only help students to learn about the interesting climatic and environmental phenomena going around the world but also enable them to practice eco-friendly culture in their personal and professional life, which ultimately upholds the green growth potential.

Organization-level greening policy development and implementation is another exciting way for tertiary educational institutes to move the greening process forward. Recently, the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) of ULAB has been assisting the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Skill 21 project to develop greening guidelines for the seven model technical and vocational institutes and two centers for excellence of Bangladesh. A holistic framework that was built upon five dimensions — green campus (reducing carbon footprint from campus), green curriculum (incorporating green issues in the contents), green research (development of research culture), green community (greening practices at community level), and green culture (strengthening green ethics) — was used to frame the guidelines. Tertiary educational organizations can adopt this kind of framework to design their own greening policies and involve students, teachers, and staff in the greening process to benefit the organization, the country.

Students' engagement in different extra curriculum activities, community-based and hands-on learning, and internships opportunities related to environmental protection and climate risk reduction can make green leaders for the future. At ULAB, students have the opportunity to be members of the ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC), which the students lead with responsible faculty's advice. Moreover, the CSD organizes and facilitates hands-on training and internships for the tertiary level students of Bangladesh and abroad. For example, in 2021, USDC, in collaboration with CSD, organized virtual hands-on training on making masks in an eco-friendly way. On the other hand, after graduation, students receive internship and assistantship opportunities at CSD, where they learn different aspects of climate risk reduction and sustainable environmental development by participating in community-level research and development activities. Recently, CSDs interns and Research Assistants conducted fieldwork in the coastal regions of Bangladesh under two international projects, Integrity and NO CRISES (Negotiating Ocean Conflicts among Rivals for Sustainable and Equitable Solutions), to train the community people on salinity intrusion problems and solutions and explore ways for sustainable coastal resource governance.

Tertiary educational organizations are placed to do research and innovation to make Bangladesh greener. Proper facilities and institutional setup to conduct climate change adaptation, mitigation, and environmental conservation can open the doorway to a greener Bangladesh. In 2021, CSD-ULAB published fifteen articles in internationally indexed journals, and more than ten articles in the newspapers and blogs covering different aspects of natural resource conservation and management, climate risk reduction, and environmental sustainable development and presently is conducting researches on institutional green practices development and climate risk governance with an intention to bring the greening effort forward.

Given the importance of tertiary educational organizations in building the future and the prevailing environmental and sustainability issues, organizations are coming under increasing pressure to engage with and respond to climate change and other sustainable development issues. CSD-ULAB, as a part of the tertiary education ecosystem, is working to contribute to building a greener Bangladesh through teaching and learning, research, and knowledge communication. But it is fair to say that this is only the beginning of a long journey ahead, and there is still much work to be done in the coming years.

**Dr. Rumana Sultana**

Assistant Professor and Research Associate  
Center for Sustainable Development  
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## Virtual Workshop: Make Your Own Mask

On 20th May 2021, ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC) and clothing brand Ratnavali jointly organized 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, USDC and Lecturer, CSD-ULAB, A.F.M Moniruzzaman, Assistant Professor, ULAB, and Raka Nashin Nawar, Director and Ad-maker, Apple Box, were present during the mask making session.



# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

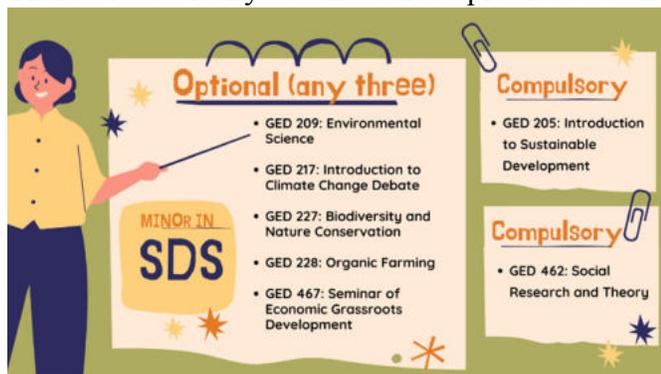


## Minor in Sustainable Development Studies (SDS)

CSD-ULAB offers a minor in Sustainable Development Studies (SDS). The minor provides an opportunity for the students to expand their knowledge, and develop skills to be fit for different fields in the job markets. As most of the companies, multinational companies, banks, businesses and NGOs are encouraged to “go green” that’s why ULAB has offered the subjects which will help its students to stand ahead in the competition of the job market.

The objective of the SDS is to make the students aware of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have been introduced by the United Nations (UN). The minor subjects are designed to make the students understand the basics of the SDGs and incorporate the knowledge in their individual careers to prosper.

There are basically seven courses provided to the



students, and five of the courses should be taken

to complete minors under SDS. Two of the courses are compulsory and three elective courses. These courses have a mixture of science, theories, research work, fieldwork, ideas on farming and many more.

## A Part of Sustainable Development Studies (SDS) Minor Alumni



**Alfi Shahrin** is working as a Nutrition Counselor at Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV).

**A.S.M Saad** is presently employed at The Daily Kaler Kantho as Business Reporter.



**Farzana Akter** is currently working at Somoy Television as a Reporter in News and Current Affairs.

**Ismat Jahan Tandra** is presently working at Scholars Zone as an Executive Officer in the Visa Application Department.



**Jannat Shancharika Shuchi** is presently working as an Evaluation Associate on the Evaluation project of the Advancing Women’s Right of Access to Information in Bangladesh (AWRTI) under the USAID

Bangladesh Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (BMEL) Activity.



**Mahadi Hasan** is currently working as a Merchandiser at Ananta Jalil Industry Park.



**Mizanur Rahman Shamim** is working as the Head of Admin and Environmental Sustainability at AB Apparels Limited (AB Group)



**Rafia Islam** is currently working as an Officer in the Climate Change and Disaster Management unit at Sajida Foundation, Head Office at Dhaka.



**Raisa Rozana Khan** is working as O'levels Biology Teacher at British Standard School, Dhaka.



**Rokiya Hossain Harem** is working as an English Faculty at Wordbridge School, Dhaka.



**Shafiul Amin Muhammad Muyeed** is currently working at BRAC Bank Limited as an Officer in Asset & ROC Operations department.



**Tamanna Afrose** is working at Healthport Bangladesh which facilitates and provides world-class healthcare services for the people of Bangladesh. Tamannah is working there as an Executive.

## Spring 2021 Student Project: Online Survey on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Regarding Sustainability

### Sameera Zaman

Lecturer and Research Associate, Center for Sustainable Development, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Even though the contribution to the current global changes is lower than the worldwide average, Bangladesh has been at the forefront of the climate change debate, being ranked at the 7th position of the Global Climate Risk Index 2020 (Eckstein et al. 2020). Data sources show Bangladesh is already much greener in terms of energy consumption per capita (The World Bank, 2014) and non-degradable waste generation per year (Jambeck et al., 2015). Similarly, the carbon emission of Bangladesh was evaluated to be 0.5 metric tons per capita, which is way below the global average of 4.6 metric tons per capita (The World Bank, 2016). Green technology, such as eco-buildings and solar panel

installations, is also not uncommon in a few places of the country. Despite numerous policies and regulations implemented by the government and with a strong will to achieve the SDG targets, Bangladesh is still at 162nd place in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) developed by the Yale Centre for Environmental Law & Policy, 2020. With the nation developing rapidly in terms of its economy and infrastructures, to mention a few, it appears that Bangladesh is still low on its environmental performance, denoting a poor state of sustainability (Wendling et al., 2020) in the country.

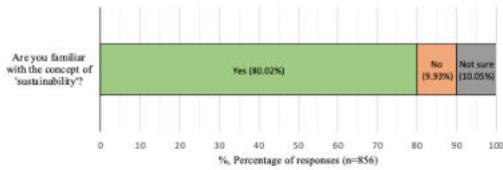
Beyond policies and initiatives taken up by the government, the people have the responsibility to create a conscious society, and encouraging positive social cues for sustainability has become necessary for the country. However, the level of knowledge, perception, and practices regarding sustainability still remains undetermined at a mass scale. Does knowing about sustainability always translate into actions? The students' project aimed at answering this question and establishing possible gaps between knowledge, attitude, and practices.

As part of their coursework, the students of GED 205 – Introduction to Sustainable Development and GED 209 – Environmental Science designed an online survey to collect data on an individual's knowledge about sustainability, their attitude or willingness to perform sustainable practices, and what actions are they taking in their regular lives.

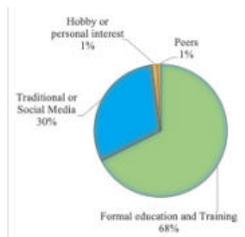
This survey was conducted online through Google Form to avoid in-person interactions due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Each group developed its own questionnaire, but a basic standardization was maintained. They have shared the link to the survey through emails and social media platforms and the respondents filled it out at random. In that, there was no control of who took the survey, but a majority of the respondents were young (66.02% were under the age of 25), and 56.52% of them were students. Since the study was conducted online, the results are only reflective of the people who use online platforms and may not accurately represent the state of sustainability among the mass people of Bangladesh. Similarly, the questionnaire was in English, limiting the responses to English-speaking people only.

The total number of responses recorded was 1127. However, due to some differences in the questionnaires, not all respondents answered all of them.

## KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY



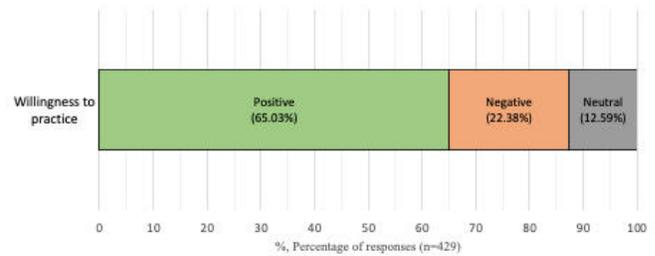
It was found out from the survey that 80.02% of the respondents were familiar with the concept of sustainability, while 10.05% were not sure if they knew what sustainability is. Only 9.93% of the respondents have directly stated that they do not know about sustainability.



However, upon asking further questions, 41.02% of respondents who said they are familiar with the concept of sustainability (n = 685) could actually identify all three components of sustainability – namely the environment, the society, and the economy. Out of that, most people have learned about sustainability through formal education and training (68%) and traditional and social media (30%).

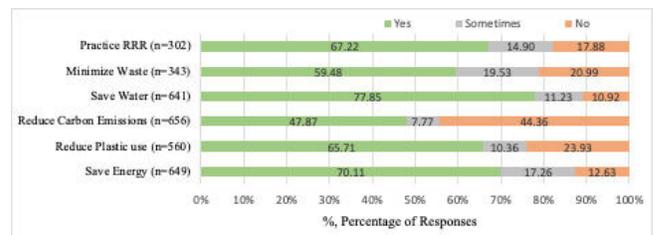
## ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

To evaluate their attitude towards sustainability, the respondents were asked if they were willing to practice sustainability in their day-to-day lives. 65.03% responded positively, saying that they were willing to take up sustainable practice while 22.38% responded negatively, saying that they are not specifically willing to put in extra effort in behaving sustainably. 12.59% responded neutrally, meaning that they sometimes willingly take up sustainable actions, but not at all times.



## EXISTING PRACTICES REGARDING SUSTAINABILITY

Among these respondents, they were asked what kind of practices they undertake in terms of sustainability. The responses are summarized in the chart below, where the majority of the respondents claimed that they always try to minimize waste and use of plastic, try to save water and energy, take steps to reduce their carbon emissions and practice RRR (reduce, reuse and recycle).



Chi-squared tests were performed to find dependency between different variables. A significant correlation was found between knowledge and willingness to develop sustainable habits. However, it was not proven from this study that any such practices were significantly correlated to knowledge or willingness. Hence establishing a gap between knowledge/attitude and practices was not achieved from the results.

Despite that, this survey still raises crucial issues that need to be addressed in the future. With over 80% of the respondents claiming to have knowledge about sustainability, only 41% could identify that sustainability is not only a matter of the natural environment, but also about the economy and the society. This signifies that there are discrepancies in the state of knowledge about sustainability. Sustainable behavior is not only dependent on acquiring knowledge, but also on identifying ways this knowledge can be translated into actions (Liobikiene and Poškus, 2019). The concern-behavior gap has been studied by Kennedy et al. (2009), where the key reasons for knowledge not translating into actions could be due to financial reasons, lack of skill and time, and ingrained

habits that are difficult to change. Similarly, the practices regarding sustainability can also be considered cost-cutting measures, given the high cost of living in Dhaka city.

The results also shed some light on the accuracy of the responses, leaving some questions on how individuals assess themselves. The process of online surveys can also be misleading, as, through online platforms, we can only reach out to a certain sub-set of the population who has access to technology and the internet and can speak the English language. For more accurate results, these factors needed to be considered, along with proper sampling of the whole population.

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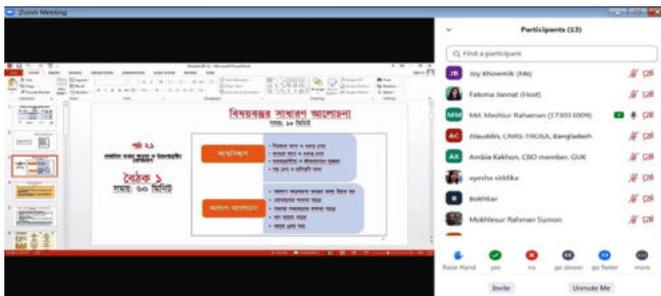
# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



## Project: Trans-boundary River of South Asia -TROSA

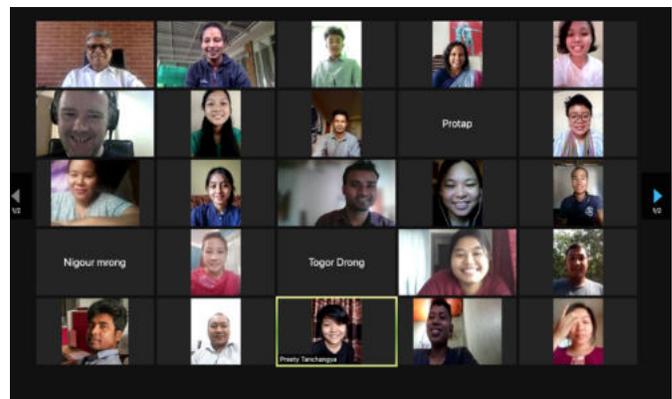
Oxfam in Bangladesh and the Sweden government funded the Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia - TROSA project to address the poverty of the people living in the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna river basins in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. The project addresses the underlying causes of poverty and marginalization of people living in the mouth of the Salween River. One of the primary beneficiaries of this project is the women living in the estuary, as the women living in these river communities are relatively more vulnerable.

CSD-ULAB prepared a training manual written entirely in Bengali to enable women to speak and participate equally with men in river resource management decisions. We were happy to publish our training manual written in Bengali in February, which also consists of memories of the language movement. The effort will remain to promote the use of the mother tongue at all levels in future developmental research in CSD-ULAB.



## Capacity Building Workshop

Professor Imran Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, gave opening remarks at a capacity-building workshop for more than fifty researchers and enumerators working on a new project at CSD-ULAB. Prof. Rahman mentioned that the project was ideally suited to CSD-ULAB’s areas of expertise, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous women, as well as on those working in the informal economic sector. Noting the importance of equity in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in ULAB’s liberal arts pedigree which is best suited to analyze complex social problems, Prof. Rahman commended the team with the hopes of many long-term relationships in the future with CSD-ULAB. The capacity building day was organized by Dr. Oliver Scanlan, Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, and the project leader for this workshop. Mukatsree Sathi Chakma of Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities chaired the session in this event. Sarah Marandy, Director of Social Programmes for Gram Bikash Kendra, a key partner in the Dinajpur district, also attended. The training on the use of the software ‘Open Data Kit’ was provided by Mr. Anitta Mankhin.”



# 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

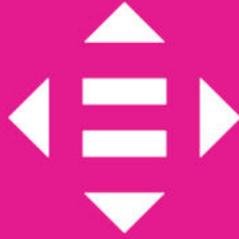


## Everything Change: Creativity and the Climate Crisis

On 16th June 2021, Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, 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 would be in the future. Furthermore, other key questions were also addressed, which included, 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? And 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.



# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



## Project: Politics and Power in Land Administration

As a core component of our European Union funded Land Project, the project proposal set out an ambitious plan to bring “findings from the field” into the University curricula of participating institutions. The aim is to incorporate local stakeholders, in principle beneficiaries of the European Union-funded “SALE Project”, into one class respectively in six academic courses (does it mean that the aim was to incorporate local stakeholders as principal beneficiaries for this project?). In theory, the aim is to facilitate the “cross-fertilisation” of the overall project, which will include “EU Studies” and “International Development Curricula” in it. Four virtual classroom sessions have been conducted, along with monitoring and evaluation, carried out among instructors and students. The four courses that have 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 virtual classrooms contributed to understanding the issues in their course of study. The virtual classroom also improved their understanding of the practicalities of development interventions.

Additionally, the fieldwork component for the project had been completed over the last six months, which brought together international scholars from Senegal to Australia to produce a special issue on land administration.



# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Urban Resilience



On 23rd February 2021, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, talked on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Urban Resilience to the master's students of the Institute for Housing & Urban Development Studies (IHS) at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. On 6th April 2021, he also spoke at the training session on Flood Green Guide Virtual Training, organized by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Environment & Disaster Management (EDM), USA for practitioners of South Asia.

**Presentation:** [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349521695\\_Nature-based\\_Solutions\\_NbS\\_for\\_Urban\\_Resilience](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349521695_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_for_Urban_Resilience)

## Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Resilient Development

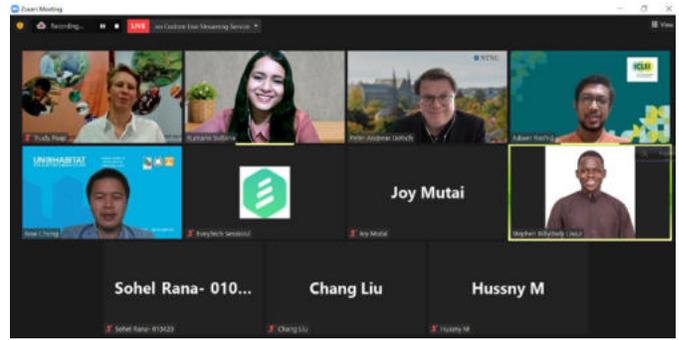
Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, spoke on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Resilient Development at the training sessions on 'Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) Tool and Guideline' organized under the National Resilience Programme – Programming Division Part (NRP-PD) of the Government of Bangladesh on March 18th and 23rd, 2021. He showed how NbS could be integrated into disaster management by harnessing ecosystem services. On 27th March 2021, Dr. Irfanullah also delivered a guest lecture on NbS in disaster management to the students of the Organizational 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](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350134375_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_for_Resilient_Development_A_Disaster_Risk_Management_Perspective)

## Innovate 4 Cities Conference 2021

Green spaces are well recognized for socio-economic and environmental benefits in cities by enhancing human well-being. United Nations' SDG 11 also underlined the need for accessible, safe, and inclusive green and public spaces. On 12th October 2021, CSD-ULAB hosted a session on "Use of open-source tools and innovative methodologies for public and green space assessments and strategies" in collaboration with UN-Habitat, ICLEI (Bangladesh), and

the Norwegian University of Science and Technology at the Innovate 4 Cities Conference 2021. In the session, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, presented and discussed how participatory approaches can be integrated into sustainable urban green space planning. The key outcomes of this conference were updated to the Global Research and Action Agenda for Cities and Climate Change Science and COP26.



## Webinar: Public Space for a Healthy and Livable Dhaka City



On 31st January 2021, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, spoke in a webinar organized by Urban research Initiatives (URI) and the Center for Cities and Citizens (C3). She highlighted the importance of green space management and inclusion of local peoples’ perceptions in the urban green space management strategies for a healthy and livable Dhaka city.

## Dialogue: Challenges to Understanding and Managing Cultural Ecosystem Services

Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, spoke as a panelist on “Residents’ perceptions of the role and management of green spaces to provide cultural ecosystem services in Dhaka, Bangladesh” at the CEM dialogue organized by IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021. In this webinar, the authors of a forthcoming special issue in Ecology and Society sponsored by CEM examined how cultural ecosystem service (CES) concepts have been applied across a range of cases, including different methodologies for eliciting and valuing CES.



# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



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



Since 2020 CSD-ULAB has been working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) as an implementation partner of the Skills 21 project, a joint initiative of the Government of Bangladesh and 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, scoping missions were conducted in the Vocational Teachers Training Institute (VTTI), Bogura, Technical Teachers Training College of Tejgaon, Dhaka, Institute of Marine Technology, Bagerhat, Jamalpur Technical School and College, Jamalpur, Feni Polytechnic Institute, Post -Malipur, Feni Sadar, Feni to move this process forward.

As a part of this project, CSD-ULAB's work was presented in a webinar jointly organized by German and Bangladeshi teams working on the TVET education system. More than 110 participants joined and discussed inclusive TVET education and greening practices.

### Webinar: Scaling Up Sustainable Green Growth

CSD-ULAB organized a webinar session with Ms. Eun Joo Allison Yi, Senior Environmental Specialist, Environment, and Natural Resources & Blue Economy Global Practice (ENB), on 'Scaling Up Sustainable Green growth' on 19th September 2021. Honorable Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of ULAB School of Business, Prof. Imran Rahman was present at this event as the chief guest. Professor Imran Rahman delivered the welcoming speech and Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, wrapped up the session with her closing remarks.

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



## 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 about this in rural agriculture-dependent communities of Bangladesh with an intention to contribute to this sector through research addressing SDG: 13 (Climate Action). This research was funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of Bangladesh.

### Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort

Earlier week of June, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, has joined The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)'s Climate Research Cohort programme as 'Research-to-Action Facilitator'.

Representing the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), he supported twenty-six young and enthusiastic researchers from 16 countries, from Jamaica to New Zealand, to design and implement Research-to-Action (R2A) projects of this Cohort. Eighteen mentors (senior researchers) worked with one or two mentees in their journey till the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, UK.

Link: <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/cop26-commonwealth-futures-climate-research-cohort/?fbclid=IwAR0W3fyDBqTIKWm9xvEisan0Sgz6Re3hzW26sXjF1jEKhRhmlTgxHTGInps>

### International Disaster Management Exhibition

On 19th May, at the International Disaster Management Exhibition, under the World Humanitarian Forum 2021 in London, Dr. Haseeb Md Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, was on 'Water Crises and Resilience' panel. He talked about the importance of our outlooks towards the water crises, our understanding of water security leading to conflict and instability under changing climate, and the role of civil society and academics in transboundary water



governance. He also highlighted how Bangladesh has been creating examples in climate finance (BCCTF) and budget and community-based adaptation.

## International Project: Integrity



CSD-ULAB, in collaboration with the Keele University, UK, is working for salinity tests with citizen scientists and incorporating arts to present the vulnerabilities of climate change in Monpura under the Integrity project. As a part of this project, on September 26-27th, 2021, a research team from CSD visited Monpura (an island very close to the Bay of Bengal and one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change), Bhola. The objective was to facilitate participatory research by training young residents of the island to become citizen scientists by doing salinity tests of the soil of their own, making them address their vulnerabilities through arts medium with international communities; and to collect nine soil samples for salinity tests from three planned transect lines.

## Webinar: Earth Day

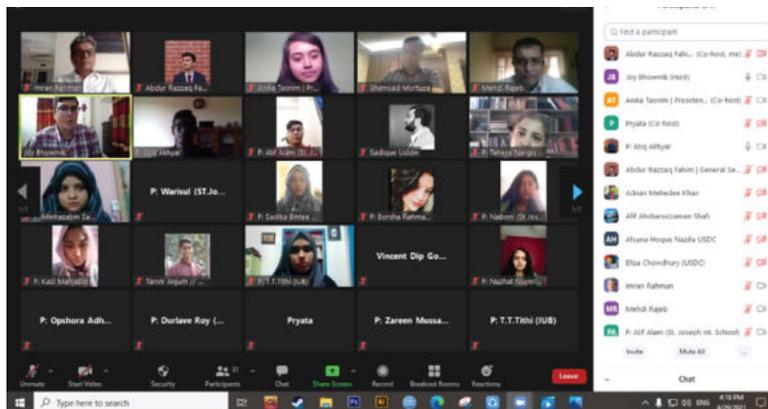
On World Earth Day 22nd April 2021, CSD has organized a webinar titled “Eco-friendly entrepreneurs for restoring our Earth”. This event was organized to celebrate Earth Day and to remind everyone the importance of taking care of our planet. This year’s event was organized by inviting a few of the eco-friendly entrepreneurs in Bangladesh who created their business to bring awareness among people through their work.



## Weeklong Campaign: Restoring our Earth

On the occasion of the World Earth Day 2021 celebration, ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC), in collaboration with Farming Future Bangladesh-ফার্মিং ফিউচার বাংলাদেশ, under the supervision of CSD-ULAB, has successfully organized a weeklong campaign titled 'Restore Our Earth'.

This was a social media, and home-based campaign where 20 youths from 110 applicants were selected from different educational institutions and learned to grow at least five edible plants (mix of vegetables and medicinal plants) at their home to consume in their daily lives. 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 behavior change communication practices.



## Part of Gobeshona Platform on Climate Change Research



On 24th January 2021, Gobeshona Global Conference-1 was organized by International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), and one of the sessions was jointly organized by CSD-ULAB and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). During this session, presenters discussed the importance of forests and their roles in moderating climate change mitigation and adapting as a Nature-based Solution (NbS).

## International Collaboration: ETH Zurich Field Research

ETH Zurich conducted a project in March of 2021 to understand the climate risk, land loss, and migration of the people living by the Jamuna river bank. CSD's research assistants were part of the project. This research work was conducted to know why the people living by the Jamuna River bank frequently migrate, their problems during and after the flood, and how they cope with those.



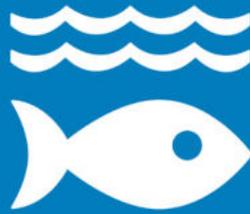


## Webinar: Research and Innovation for a Greener Bangladesh

Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, spoke on a webinar session “Research and Innovation for a Greener Bangladesh” organized by the World Bank Group on 15th December 2021. Md. Mostafa Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was present at the discussion as the special guest.



# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



## International Project: NO CRISES (Negotiating Ocean Conflicts among Rivals for Sustainable and Equitable Solutions)

This project aims to contribute to the overall challenge of ocean sustainability, using the United Nations SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development) as the overall framework. As a part of this project, CSD-ULAB has been conducting research on resource use and governance in the coastal regions of Bangladesh.

### *Moheshkhali Fieldwork*

In January CSD team went to Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, for the NO CRISES project. In the fieldwork, we attempted to understand the region's main problems through EGS and Governance mapping



### *Satkhira Field Research*



A team of researchers led by Dr. Samiya A Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, has conducted a 5-days (18-22 October, 2021) field research on coastal resource use and governance near the Sundarban mangrove, Shyamnagar, Satkhira. The field study, part of the 'NO CRISES' research project, focused on obtaining data on coastal communities' access, utilization, and allocation of ecosystem services under climate change, and governance of natural resources and its conflicts.

In the course of three days, a total of 30 participants (equally represented by both genders) from 5 locations- around the villages of Harpangasia, Chokbara, and Boropukur were part of the survey. The participants were divided into five groups to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGD); each contained 6 respondents. The participants were mixed, only women or men

with varying professions ranging from farmers, honey collectors, and fishers depending on the survey zones. The topics were tailored, adhering to the NO CRISES agenda.

## International Project: Vulnerability to Viability (V2V)

The Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) project is a transdisciplinary global partnership and knowledge network. The aim of this project is to support the transition of small-scale fisheries (SSF) from vulnerability to viability in Africa and Asia. The V2V partnership brings together people and organizations regardless of physical, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries through a shared interest in addressing global change impacts on small-scale fisheries. This project is involved in conducting transdisciplinary, community-engaged research in six countries in Asia - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand - and six countries in Africa - Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania.

In April 2021, CSD-ULAB prepared a V2V Situational Analysis (SA) report on SSF of Bangladesh based on existing and ongoing research and literature from secondary sources (From 2011-2021). It has been identified according to the geographic location within the country, e.g., rivers, bay, ocean, haor. This SA report is a part of V2V research and practice (e.g., policy briefs, journal articles) that is conducted by 12 member countries of the V2V global partnership. The SA report will soon be published in the “Working Paper Series” of V2V Global Partnership under the title “A Situational Analysis of Small-Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh: From Vulnerability to Viability”. The Working Paper Series will provide a collaborative and interactive platform for academics, practitioners, representatives of civil society, and individuals interested in making written contributions to the theoretical, methodological, practical, and policy aspects of small-scale fisheries, both locally and globally.

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

## V2V Field School: Environmental Change and Governance Rethinking Coastal Sustainability and Development

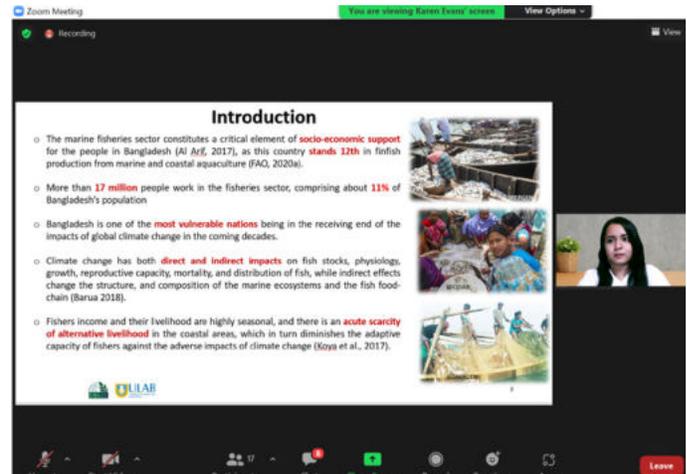
The rapid social and biophysical changes confronting coastal communities (e.g., with livelihoods, property rights, physical and mental health, biodiversity, water and habitat quality, and climate variability) are in many respects unprecedented under pressures from COVID-19.

The resulting implications for coastal sustainability and development, i.e., the resilience and well-being of coastal communities and the coastal ecosystems upon which they depend, are profound. We urgently need to consider if and how coastal communities are prepared to respond and adapt to rapid social-ecological changes amidst the ongoing impacts from the pandemic and to craft governance responses that foster deliberate transformations and help build sustainable coastal social-ecological systems.



## International Conference: IMBIZO 6

The impacts of increased human activity on marine ecosystems that are already compromised by pollution, overfishing, and climate change, make the need for sustainable management crucial. In October 2021, Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, played the convener role in the IMBIZO 6: Marine Biosphere Research: Buoyant Solutions for Ocean Sustainability Conference Workshop 3 - 'Ocean Governance and Climate Adaptation: Comparing Responses, Charting Future Courses'.



In the same conference, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, presented her research on "Social-Ecological Vulnerability to Climate Change and Risk Governance in Fishing Communities of Bangladesh". She talked about the importance of organization, planning, and implementation level risk governance.

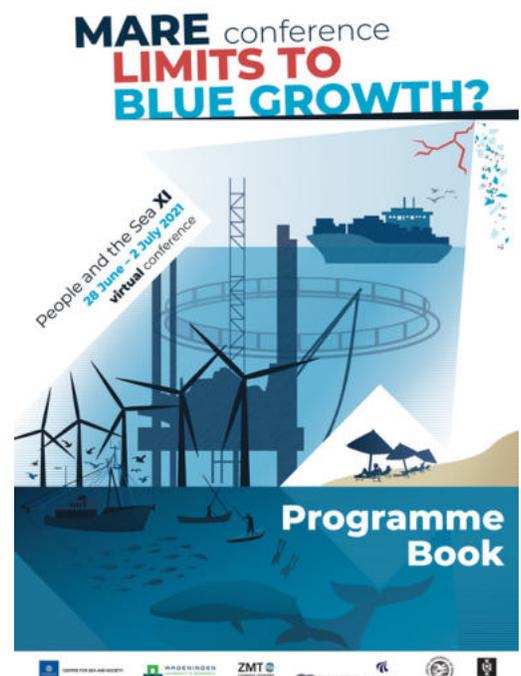
## Daily Star Roundtable Organized by MJF

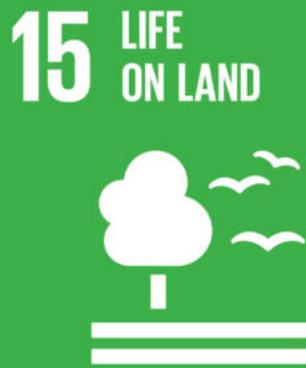
Daily Star and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) organized an online discussion titled "Sector-Wide Impact Assessment on Coastal Small Fishers" on 7th April 2021. Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, participated as a panelist at this event. She spoke about the findings from the CSD study on the Impact of COVID-19 and the fishing ban on coastal fishers. She mentioned the need to seek alternative livelihoods, particularly for 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 the fishing ban.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/round-tables/news/sector-wide-impact-assessment-coastal-small-fishers-2083373>

## Maritime Research(MARE) Conference: People and the Sea XI 2021

Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, spoke on two sessions, "Blue conflicts and pathways to sustainability" and "Prospects for small-scale fisheries transitioning from vulnerability to viability" at the MARE Conference on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. CSD Visiting Research Fellow, Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah delivered his speech in the session "Commons, Community, and Conservation: Making Commons Dynamic through Communication-Decolonisation and Community-based Conservation". In addition, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor & Researcher Fellow, CSD-ULAB, talked in another session titled: Impacts and Responses to COVID-19 in Coastal and Marine Areas.





## Session: Nature Conservation in Rohingya Refugee Crisis

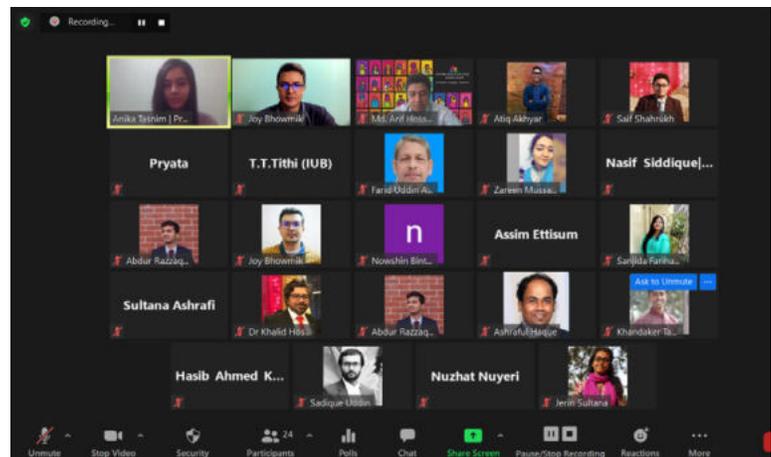
Bangladesh has been sheltering around a million Rohingyas in Bangladesh since August 2017 in the world's largest refugee camp. In a couple of sessions, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research fellow, CSD-ULAB, spoke about environmental degradation due to this refugee crisis and how nature conservation and ecosystem management are being taken care of in Cox's Bazar. The first session was organized by the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Wales, UK, on 16th March 2021, and the second session was by Delta State University, USA, on the occasion of Earth Day.

**Presentation:** [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350439277\\_Nature-based\\_Solutions\\_NbS\\_in\\_Disaster\\_Management](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350439277_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_in_Disaster_Management)

## Session: World Environment Day

The CSD and ULAB Sustainable Development Club organized weeklong activities on the World Environment Day celebration occasion in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Farming Future Bangladesh (FFB). CSD arranged painting and speech competitions and solutions of ecosystem degradation for youths from school and college groups. Four brainstorming training workshops on river and Haor ecosystem, terrestrial ecosystem, and urban ecosystem restoration were also organized for youths from university groups for supporting them in designing innovative and sustainable action plans of restoring those ecosystems.

Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Former Executive Director-Arannayk Foundation, Mr. Ashraful Haque Nobel, Project Management Specialist, USAID, Dr. Khalid Hossain, Program Coordinator, IUCN, Md. Arif Hossain, CEO & Executive Director, Farming Future Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Jude William Genilo, head of Media Studies and Journalism Department, ULAB and Mr. Joy Bhowmik, Adviser, USDC and Lecturer, CSD-ULAB, were present during the closing ceremony of the competition where 10 participants from different universities of Bangladesh presented their action plans. They were commended for their ideas, provided with further insights from the judges, and encouraged to continue their efforts in restoring ecosystems. The best three participants of the competition will have the lucrative opportunity to visit some sites of IUCN to acquire practical knowledge on ecosystem restoration.



# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## Workshop: ULAB-Keele Workshop on Technology and Sustainable Development

ULAB and its partner Keele University, UK, recently held a remarkable two-days (July 28-29) long virtual workshop titled “Opportunities and challenges for circular technical energy storage in remote communities in Bangladesh”. Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, and her colleagues represented ULAB. Prof. Dr. Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to ULAB Board of Trustees and the Dean of ULAB School of Business, also joined as a guest. Also, his welcome speech and valuable opinions added to the significance of the program.



The workshop was successful, with lively discussions between distinguished faculties and students from both universities. The discussions focused on identifying scopes of bringing the expertise of both the partners in examining the logistic, technical, economic, and cultural barriers to circular design in portable charging infrastructure in rural communities in Bangladesh. The two-day workshop ended with identifying expertise, links, resources, and opportunities for future collaborations.

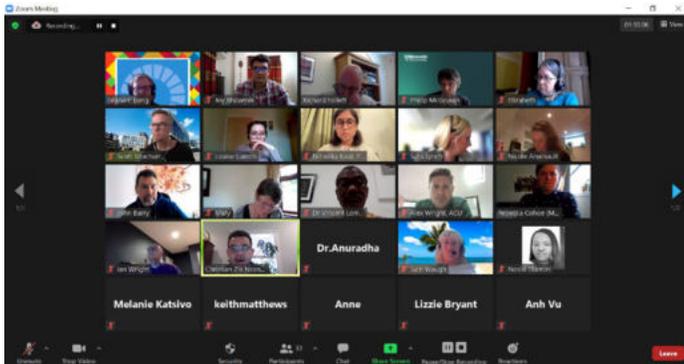
## Part of ACU SDG Network

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is an international organization 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 a 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. Mr. Joy Bhowmik, Lecturer and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, is engaged with the steering committee as a regional lead for South Asia. On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the committee discussed the university’s experiences for local SDG contributions, where Mr. Bhowmik shared ULAB’s contribution.

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 worldwide 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.

The full presentation is available at the following link-PQhKP8HWV9GloxHHRprqYQhUGU KSY931S6dYa8p8&h=AT2YC8RiO0Z8uW00n9Jy7rLUeV6Bg6Ny7YDvWctEHTHmuPtSW24\_Qwjfau7xePftjS8lzfNVOP5dlUEUohhFU12nwhnpyLp48gm4hzYS3HNZ7N10RzEgePC28TxLTNJFCmM&\_\_tn\_\_=-UK-R&c[0]=AT1rWOEN0Js-t6Qkr33IXtl\_hhBsFeNTaOqx8og11Vma1v3z9TmHeYY9MVvqNSkLisMk3WrAZbjr6IKyBAvyNI1Cfla2G5DvA1QK2ejntKpJlIQ36PKM6dQAHfhTeUAQR7BCzHjx3Cvb6DC7u20J4NiL-Jftbl402y0DbEE0j-upg



## An Equitable and Sustainable Future of Academic Publishing

On 27th May 2021, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, and 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 the environmental and climate responsibilities of the publishing industry. He also advocated for using sustainability lenses to see the world around us.

## Webinar: Resilience and Scholarly Publishing

On 19th January 2021, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, presented a paper entitled "So, what does resilience mean to scholarly publishing?" in a webinar organized by the Association of Learned and Society Publishers (ALPSP), UK. By using the resilience framework in the context of disasters, like floods, Dr. Irfanullah explained how resilience can be explained for academic publishing in the ongoing pandemic situation.

**Presentation:** [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348619222\\_So\\_what\\_does\\_resilience\\_mean\\_for\\_scholarly\\_publishing](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348619222_So_what_does_resilience_mean_for_scholarly_publishing)

## Bangladesh 100 Program

Bangladesh 100 Program, virtual immersion was organized by CSD-ULAB, on 26th January 2021. Bangladesh100 is a part of the Common Purpose Global Legacy campaign, which invests in young people so they can become a connected generation of leaders with a clear vision for what their legacy will be.

Bangladesh100 builds the Cultural Intelligence and social capital that young people need to impact their city in the years to come. Participants took a societal challenge for Bangladesh100, "How can we encourage Dhaka to maximise its use of renewable materials and energy sources, to help move the city towards becoming a zero-waste environment?"

Dr. Samiya Selim, Director CSD-ULAB, spoke on the opening session pointing out the role of young people in environmental conservation and climate action. Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, and Joy Bhwomik, Lecturer, CSD-ULAB played an advisory role in the event.

## Publications

### Journal Articles

- Alam, M. S., & Sultana, R. (2021). Influences of Climatic and non-climatic factors on COVID-19 outbreak: a review of existing literature. *Environmental Challenges*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envc.2021.100255>
- Bhowmik, J., Irfanullah, H. M., & 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>
- Bhowmik, J., Selim, S. A., Irfanullah, H. M., Shuchi, J. S., Sultana, R., & Ahmed, S. G. (2021). Resilience of small-scale marine fishers of Bangladesh against the COVID-19 pandemic and the 65-day fishing ban. *Marine Policy*, *134*, 104794. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104794>
- Breckwoldt, A., Lopes, P. F. M., & Selim, S. A. (2021). Look Who's Asking—Reflections on Participatory and Transdisciplinary Marine Research Approaches. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, *8*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.627502>
- Brodie, S., Frainer, A., Pennino, M. G., Jiang, S., Kaikkonen, L., Lopez, J., Ortega-Cisneros, K., Peters, C. A., Selim, S. A., & Văidianu, N. (2021). Equity in science: advocating for a triple-blind review system. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, *36*(11), 957–959. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2021.07.011>
- Smith, A. C., Tasnim, T., Irfanullah, H. M., Turner, B., Chausson, A., & Seddon, N. (2021). Nature-based Solutions in Bangladesh: evidence of effectiveness for addressing climate change and other sustainable development goals. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 511. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2021.737659>
- Irfanullah, H. M. (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, M. 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>
- Pennino, M. G., Brodie, S., Frainer, A., Lopes, P. F. M., Lopez, J., Ortega-Cisneros, K., Selim, S., & Vaidianu, N. (2021). The Missing Layers: Integrating Sociocultural Values Into Marine Spatial Planning. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, *8*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.633198>
- 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>
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Sultana, R., Irfanullah, H. Md., Selim, S. A., Raihan, S. T., Bhowmik, J., & Ahmed, S. G. (2021). Multilevel Resilience of Fishing Communities of Coastal Bangladesh Against Covid-19 Pandemic and 65-Day Fishing Ban. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.721838>

Sultana, R., & Selim, S. A. (2021). Residents' perceptions of the role and management of green spaces to provide cultural ecosystem services in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Ecology and Society*, 26(4). <https://doi.org/10.5751/es-12656-260405>

## Newspaper & Blog Articles

Budrudzaman, M. (2021). "Crab Farming: How to do it sustainably" The Business Standard

Budrudzaman, M. (2021). "Fisher folks in Gaburia demand government support for alternative livelihoods", Fifth Edition of V2V Commons

Budrudzaman, M. (2021). *Bangladesh needs to factor mental health into disaster-response policies*. The Third Pole

Budrudzaman, M. (2021). *Masculinity: A Two-edged Sword*. The Daily Sun.

Diba, S. A. (2021). *Country in Action: Bangladesh*, Fourth Edition of V2V Commons Newsletter.

Diba, S. A. (2021). Do we know the reason behind asking for climate justice? The Financial Express

Diba, S. A. (2021). Does the cost of sustainable products keep people away from living sustainably? The Business Standard

Irfanullah, H. M. (2021). Our Societies, Journals, and the Narrative of Accessibility and Equity in Open Research. The Scholarly Kitchen

Irfanullah, H. M. (2021). Recognition in Peer Review. The Scholarly Kitchen

Irfanullah, H. M. (2021). Ask The Chefs: How Does Identity Influence Peer Review? The Scholarly Kitchen

Irfanullah, H. M. (2021). The North is Drawing the South Closer, But, This is Not the Whole Picture of Geographical Inclusion. The Scholarly Kitchen

Irfanullah, H. M. (2021). Let's Talk About the Volunteers in Scholarly Publishing. The Scholarly Kitchen

Irfanullah, H. M. (2021). Preprints Are Not Going to Replace Journals. The Scholarly Kitchen

Irfanullah, H. M. (2021). Open Access and Global South: It is More Than a Matter of Inclusion. The Scholarly Kitchen

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Raihan, S. T. (2021). *Insight into Nijhum Dwip and their Fishing Community*, Fourth Edition of V2V Commons Newsletter.

Selim, S. A. (2021). *Measuring Impact of COVID-19 on the Socio-Ecological System of the Bay of Bengal*. *United Nations-Academic Impact*,

Suchi, J. S. (2021). *Vulnerabilities in Small Scale Fishing Communities – Bangladeshi Perspective*, Fourth Edition of V2V Commons Newsletter.

Zaman, S. (2021). *Does helping the environment make you happier?* The Financial Express

## CSD TEAM MEMBERS

### Dr. Samiya Selim



Dr. Samiya Selim is an Associate Professor and Director of the Center. She is also a Postdoctoral Researcher at Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Germany. Her expertise lies in interdisciplinary research of social and natural sciences and applying these in relevant conservation and development projects. She has worked in both the UK and Bangladesh for the past 12 years in the field of environment conservation, climate change and sustainable development.

### Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah



Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah is a part-time Visiting Research Fellow of the Center. Over the past 22 years, he has evolved from being an algal taxonomist to an aquatic ecologist, from a conservationist to a development practitioner. At the current stage of his evolution, Dr. Irfanullah finds his niche in nature-people-knowledge nexus. Over these years, he has developed interest in and understanding of natural resource management, environmental governance, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, technological innovation, and poverty alleviation – all focusing on human well-being.

### Dr. Rumana Sultana



Dr. Rumana Sultana is an Assistant Professor and Research Associate at the Center. Over the last 8 years, she has been involved in several research and development projects related to environmental conservation and climate risk reduction in Bangladesh, Japan, Mauritius, and Thailand. Her specialization lies in the areas of environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, natural resource management, disaster risk management, and Geographic Information System (GIS).

### Joy Bhowmik



Joy Bhowmik is a Lecturer & Research Associate at the Center. His research interest focuses on climate change-induced loss and damage and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, campus sustainability, and sustainable development goals. Besides his teaching, he develops and leads campaign

plans on awareness-raising issues such as solid waste management and energy efficiency. He is currently advising Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative and a Global Youth Climate Ambassador to build youth capacity and nurture the next generation of leaders.

### Dr. Oliver Scanlan



Dr. Oliver Scanlan is a Research Fellow at this Center. He is a specialist in climate change and its implications for global security.

### Sameera Zaman



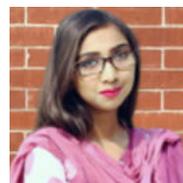
Ms. Sameera Zaman is a Lecturer-cum-Research Associate at the Center. She is an experienced environmental and social researcher, with a Master's in Environmental Sciences from the University of Freiburg, Germany. By employing different research tools and designs, she manages to pursue her passion in 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 at the Institute of Hydrology, Chair of Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation as well as the Chair of Remote Sensing and Landscape Information Systems.

### Emon Rahman



Md. Emon Rahman is a Research Associate at the Center. He has completed his graduation and post-graduation in Disaster and Human Security Management from Bangladesh University of Professionals. Previously, he has worked as a Research Consultant at Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and as an intern faculty at Gulzar Group of Institutes, India. Mr Rahman 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.

### Sabiha Ahmed Diba



Sabiha Ahmed Diba is a Research Associate at the Center. 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. 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.

### Mohammad Budrudzaman



Mohammad Budrudzaman is an aspiring researcher looking to contribute to the development sector with groundbreaking research. Current areas of interest are gender studies, resettlement issues, minority rights, autism, public health, public policy, and administration. His journey from a student of English and Humanities towards Development Studies is a transformative one, all those analyses and interpretations of societal systems and human actions through literature have inspired and led him to work for the humanitarian cause. Aside from these core areas, he also has a fascination for conversation analysis and psychoanalysis.

### Syed Tauheed Raihan



Syed Tauheed Raihan is a Research Assistant of the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) of ULAB. He has completed his undergraduate at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) under the Department of English and Humanities. He minored in sustainable development under the General Education programme (GED). Raihan brings skilled data analysis

and graphical mapping for the projects he is working on. Raihan completed his internship at Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited working as an Intern Researcher. His main involvement prior to this was in the teaching field where he worked as an English Language Instructor for the Workplace Skill Development Academy (WSDA) – New Zealand, and earlier as a Mathematics Teacher at Maple Leaf International School. Raihan is pursuing higher education in Policy Analysis and Global Governance.

### Md. Mashiur Rahaman



Md. Mashiur Rahaman is a Research Assistant at the Center. Currently, he is a graduate student of Creative Writing at ULAB. His undergraduate major was in English and Humanities, and he completed the degree from the same university. His interests in research span from humanities to social sciences. He is specifically interested in digital humanities, translation studies, literary history, cultural studies, political economy, and sustainability and development. He aspires to conduct research to make human life, which is heavily affected by severe socio-economic disparities and digital technologies, easier and just.

### Md. Wahed Alam



Md. Wahed Alam is a Research and Admin Officer of the Center.



## CSD Activities in 2021





# UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH

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