

Concern Over Destroying Frog Habitat on the Occasion of Save The Frogs Day in Bangladesh

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Frog lovers and environmentalists of all ages celebrated the 4th Annual Save The Frogs Day on April 28, 2012. More than 200 events took place in 38 countries including the USA, Bangladesh, Australia, Ghana, Brazil, India and Pakistan. In Bangladesh, 18 Save The Frogs Day events took place around the country, through the assistance of SAVE THE FROGS! USA, One Health Young Voice and Chittagong Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (CVASU).

The central events in Bangladesh on the big day took place at CVASU. Save The Frogs! Bangladesh volunteers arranged a frog painting competition and an art exhibition. A colorful parade also brought attention in the Chittagong Metropolitan area and later a central seminar was held in the CVASU conference room. The theme of the seminar was “Our Role in Frog Conservation in Bangladesh.” In the seminar the speakers expressed their deep concern over habitat destruction by filling the wetland and use of harmful pesticides on crops. An effective discussion was carried out to determine the best method to track the illegal hunting of amphibians for trading, and overharvesting of wild frogs by the tribal people for eating purposes.

Another scientific conference took place in Faculty of Fisheries in Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). Professor Dr. Muklesur Raman, Bangladesh’s famous amphibian biologist, presented the keynote paper



on the seminar. He gave emphasis on the conservation issue of and possible causes of amphibian declines in Bangladesh. He also requested a cessation of inhumane dissection of wild caught frogs for educational and research purposes in Bangladesh and



requested the authorities introduce digital dissecting software in Bangladesh. Another 16 events took place around the country including Shahjalal University of Science and Technology by Green Explorer Society, Sylhet Agricultural University, Sirajgong, Chapai Nawabgong, Noagoan, Chandpur, Coxsbazar and Safari Park. All the events were focused on the role of frogs in nature

and the causes of their declines in Bangladesh and across the world. The events also emphasized how we can help to protect amphibians from unprecedented rate of decline. More than 1,500 participants on those events including school children, Veterinarians, Zoologists, Teachers, Journalists, Politicians, and Farmers got educated regarding the importance of frogs, causes of decline and ways to help the frog populations in Bangladesh.

Unfortunately the amphibian conservation issue is a neglected matter in Bangladesh. No major studies have been conducted yet to identify and quantify the threats to amphibian populations in Bangladesh. It’s an urgent need to identify the diversity and hotspots of frog populations in Bangladesh and to develop proper management strategies to protect the amphibians in Bangladesh. It is hoped that the activity on Save The Frogs Day will generate media attention and community engagement to protect the frogs in Bangladesh.

We aim to establish an international branch of SAVE THE FROGS! to conduct educational programs and research regarding amphibian conservation in Bangladesh. We appreciate your kind help and suggestions on acquiring funding for SAVE THE FROGS! Bangladesh. You can find us at www.savethefrogs.com/countries/bangladesh and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/savethefrogsbangladesh and don’t hesitate to contact me at nurul@savethefrogs.com for any details.

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