



**ULAB**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

# CSD Newsletter 2023 | Issue 8

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*In Loving Memory of*

**Prof. Saleemul Huq  
1952 - 2023**

This year a light went out. As we stand on the cusp of starting a new year, the coming year feels a whole lot dimmer. There is a good reason we at the Center for Sustainable Development feel that way. Professor Saleemul Huq passed away this year on the 28th of October. We are deeply saddened by his passing and extend our sincerest condolences to his family, friends, the ICCCAD team and the many people around the world whose lives he touched in countless ways. Prof. Huq was an acclaimed academic, renowned researcher, relentless climate justice activist, visionary leader and prolific changemaker.



But for all of us at the Center for Sustainable Development, Professor Saleemul Huq was a mentor. He always was available for a chat, for guidance, for advice, willing to participate in any event CSD was organizing and he has consistently participated in all CSD conferences whether as a guest of honour, as a moderator, or as an expert. He was always forthcoming in his commitment to championing the work we were doing at CSD. He had a very busy schedule but his commitment to our work at CSD was unparalleled.



To us at CSD like many across the country and around the globe his loss has left us reeling. His loss is irreplaceable and so the question remains as to how we go forward from here. He has championed young researchers all his life and has taught us how to work together. We take his life's work and champion his work ethic, embody the same kindness he would show to a farmer as he would to a head of state, always willing to work with everybody and leave no one behind from participating at the table, being persistent, never giving up. We at CSD hope to embed his spirit in all the work we do today and tomorrow.

Prof. Saleemul Huq's profound influence remains an enduring source of inspiration for us all. He has taught us what to do. We at CSD are all committed to carrying forward this legacy.

# Message from Director

Dear Reader,

2023 has been a very successful and significant year for the Centre for Sustainable Development. In many ways it has started bearing the fruits of our time and energy invested the past seven years in building up the credibility of this institution as a premier think tank on all sustainability related issues. We have invested in developing deep and meaningful partnerships both at the local grassroots partners and with international stakeholders. We have had several milestone achievements and had many 'high' moments throughout the year, yet it also is the year we had one of our deepest losses, with the passing of Dr Saleemul Huq. We not only lost one of our greatest leaders and champion of climate justice but we lost a true mentor and support of our growing research center. We are sharing our own personal tribute to Prof. Saleemul Huq, one amongst hundreds that highlight the wonderful human being he was, but here we want to remember what a great mentor he was to CSD.

The latest findings from the Planetary boundaries shows that we have transgressed six out of the nine Planetary Boundaries and this really highlights the interconnected nexus of earth systems. The continued erasure of the indigenous people from Gaza, and the continued climate injustice in the form of ecosystem destruction, land dispossession and indigenous erasure are all interlinked. There is ever more need for scientists, government, citizens, and all other stakeholders to come together to address the interconnected challenges in society today. We strive to make our research impactful and solution oriented so we can contribute to the knowledge our work produces.

This year we have started two new international funded projects - Engage and Access4all - the first one working with University of Lausanne and IIT Kharagpur on transboundary riskscape in the Sunderbans. The second one is with IUB and BRAC JGSPH which is an Erasmus grant + CBHE grant on Adapting Climate Change Education, Skills and Sustainability for Advancing Locally-Led Solutions. In addition we have been awarded smaller grants on blue justice and equity in blue carbon capture in the Sunderbans. CSD researchers have co-published several peer-reviewed articles this year in collaboration with other local and international colleagues on our ongoing work with addressing vulnerability and transitioning to viability in coastal communities (small scale fishers and farmers), climate justice issues and building on social resilience. We also explored new avenues of research around decision-making in climate migrant communities, sustainability in education and update of solar energy.

Our work on uptake of science into policy and advocacy work had increased as well. We held our Matarbari exhibition focused on blue growth and displacement in Japan, participated in COP 28 understanding negotiations and speaking on just transitions and mental health. We also participated and presented papers in international conferences in Norway, Nepal and organized our capacity building international workshop in Coxbazar and held our 6th International CSD Conference focused on science-policy dialogue.

We look forward to expanding and taking forward our work on building resilience in climate vulnerable communities and incorporating sustainability and equity into all aspects of development. In addition we are exploring new opportunities in embedding sustainability science in education.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and productive 2024!

## **Dr. Samiya A Selim**

Professor & Director

Center of Sustainable Development

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)



# 6th CSD Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2023

With the central focus on several interconnecting issues- climate change, blue growth, equity, mental health and well-being, resilience and sustainable education- Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB organizes its 6th CSD Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2023. The three-day interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary conference took place on October 28 to October 30. Like the previous five years, this conference brought together local and international experts from across the globe to have meaningful explorations of cross-sectoral and cross-boundary solutions, provide a platform for accelerating innovation, engage with both public and private actors, and foster an inclusive space for collaboration and transformation – within academia and beyond.

CSD always believes that effective solutions to sustainability challenges can only be achieved through collaborative efforts. And to further this commitment, we are partnering with several of our local and international project partners- Engage, NOCRISES, V2V and with our local and international partners – IIT Kharagpur, University of Heidelberg, University of Waterloo, University of Lausanne, WWF, USAID, ZMT Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, and SOR4D.

The primary objective of the conference is to function as an incubator for the exchange of current research and knowledge, fostering their seamless integration into practical applications at the local, national, and international policy levels. It aims to actively bridge existing knowledge gaps by addressing key challenges and presenting viable solutions. Additionally, the conference seeks to promote collaboration and partnerships among participants, creating a conducive environment for the cross-pollination of ideas. Ultimately, the conference endeavors to stimulate the uptake of scientific advancements into policy and action, serving as a catalyst for positive change and progress on a global scale.

Moreover, this conference, which spans multiple disciplines, places a strong emphasis on public policy impact, identifying cutting-edge research with clear and urgent implications for the current national and international policy debate.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## 1. Inaugural Ceremony: Let's Not Re-Invent the Wheel – Connect, Complement, Collaborate

The annual conference made its commencement with the Inaugural Ceremony: Let's Not Re-Invent the Wheel – Connect, Complement, Collaborate on October 28, 2023. The session took place at the Main Campus of ULAB. With an inaugural address by Ms. Tahura Farbin, Lecturer-Cum-Research Associate of the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), the session began. She emphasized the importance and urgency of sustainable development, as well as the rights of marginalized groups and tourists in Bangladesh. Following her speech, Dr. Samiya A Selim, the conference convener and Director and Professor at CSD, welcomed all the guests. This was followed by a speech from Professor Kaiser Hamidul Haque, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB, who discussed the crucial role of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and geopolitics.

Special guest Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed, Board of Trustee, ULAB, highlighted the significance of organic fertilizers made from cow dung and renewable energy, specifically mentioning KK tea being the only tea estate. Another special guest of the programme, Corinne Henchoz Pignani, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland, discussed the impact of climate change and the SDG 2030 agenda, urging for a global academic initiative. Chief guest Engr. Mohammad Hossain, Director General, Power Cell, Ministry of Power Energy and Mineral Resources, emphasized the importance of youth and community engagement in combating air pollution and climate change. Lastly, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder, Dean, Faculty of Science, Stamford University Bangladesh, discussed the interconnections between poverty, health, climate change, and the need to transition to greener energy.





And lastly, Dr. Samiya A Selim reiterated the importance of sharing knowledge and connecting different initiatives in her speech, stating, "Let's not reinvent the wheel. Many organizations, individuals, and think tanks are doing commendable work on addressing sustainability. However, the knowledge created is not always shared or mobilized to inform policy action. We want this conference to provide a common platform for people to connect and complement each other's work, strengthening pathways for research uptake to policy."



## 2. Advancing the Discussion on Financing for Loss and Damage

It has been a great challenge to establish a loss and damage fund. Not many days are left till COP 28 takes place in Dubai. The Transitional Committee set up by the UNFCCC is tasked with coming up with ways to establish a loss and damage fund.

Advancing the Discussion on Financing for Loss and Damage session has gathered discussants from loss and damage, climate change, finance, and relevant background to explore other creative methods that can be used to create a loss and damage fund as well as innovative funding mechanisms such as the International Air Passenger Levy, Bunker Fuel Levy, Windfall taxes on fossil fuel companies to contribute to the setting up of a fund that can be utilized for funding for loss and damage. Therefore, the objective of this session was to discuss innovative funding mechanisms to create a loss and damage fund by answering some key questions put forward to them.

Despite a \$100 billion funding, the impacts of disasters, emissions, and climate change persist. The discussions revolved around the absence of a precise definition for loss and damage, influenced by political issues, cost assessments, and liabilities. In addition, it stressed the necessity for capable countries to support vulnerable ones and emphasized on the Warsaw International Mechanism for addressing climate change impact. However, challenges persist, including an ambiguous distinction between climate disaster and climate change.

Participants proposed various funding solutions, including levying charges on air passengers, imposing taxes on companies, and redirecting subsidies from fossil fuels. The need for public and innovative funding sources was emphasized, as well as the importance of gender-focused discussions in these contexts. Notably, the discussions also addressed geopolitical tensions and the distribution of funds among nations. Suggestions were made to re-evaluate national accountability and transparency while stressing the urgency of marginalized communities' access to these funds.

Issues with the current financial system, including the lack of effective national and trust funds, and the lack of debt funds were raised. There also exists an ambiguity between matters related to climate change and climate disaster. Moreover, the conversation touched on the need to address persisting injustices and highlighted the necessity to delve deeper into the core climate issues despite the ongoing allocation of funds.

Overall, the session uncovered the intricate web of challenges in financing loss and damage associated with climate change, emphasizing the need for transparency, accountability, and persistent efforts to address these issues effectively.





### 3. Roundtable session on “Energy, Innovation, and Industry: A Shift Towards Renewable From Conventional Energy Sources”

The first day of the 6th CSD Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2023, was held on Oct 28, 2023, under the theme of Unpacking Sustainability, Resilience, and Equity. Among the parallel sessions held during the conference, one key session was held to explore and strategize ways to promote sustainable industrial growth in Bangladesh through increased renewable energy integration as an innovative way to shift from traditional fossil fuel use. The special guest for the session were Ms. Waseqa Ayesha Khan, MP ; and Ms. Silje Wnnebo.

The session titled, “**Energy, Innovation, and Industry: A Shift Towards Renewable From Conventional Energy Sources**” delved into the challenges of implementing solar power projects due to high expenses, which hinder their installation in residential homes, commercial estates, and industries. This vital conversation is a testament to our commitment to furthering sustainability and achieving the SDGs. This session, brought together industry actors and key stakeholders from different industrial sectors, government bodies, academia, research sector, financial institutions, the development sector, and technology experts for a roundtable session.

The discussion reflected upon some challenges and opportunities for transitioning to more renewable energy like rooftop solar PV into the energy system. Emphasis was given to roadways and how the different entities like businesses, policy makers, regulators, academia and research organizations, and the development sector can play their role to leverage the transition by reformation of policies. Attendees unanimously recognized the significance of addressing the information gap and dispelling misinformation, as these are key barriers to the widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels.



### 4. Nexus Between Poverty, Climate Change, Health, and Mental Health

With climate change causing the shifting of weather patterns, sea level rise, and extreme weather events, poverty is increasing and the mental health situation is worsening across the globe. Climate change directly impacts livelihood and the poor countries are most vulnerable to it. Recently, it has been revealed by IPCC that the escalating climate crisis presents a growing threat to mental health and psychological well-being. Most discussions related to the linkage of climate change and mental health falls within the health frameworks of emergency and disaster management. There is a growing call for further exploration beyond the health framework to mainstream the mental health crisis within the broader context of socioeconomic and climate change actions.

The goal of this session was to critically analysis the complex relationship among climate change, poverty and health and pave a way forward to developing a conceptual framework that encompasses climate change, poverty and mental health challenges into a single analytical framework.





Psychological concerns such as stress and depression resulting from the adverse effect of climate change are being given importance lately. Women are most vulnerable in this regard. Loss of livelihoods and economic instability resulting from extreme climate events put the women in a position where they are likely to become victim of child marriage, sexual violence, human trafficking and their security is compromised. These greatly impact their mental health. It has been identified that three types of environmental factors impact mental health - physical factors, social factors, and built environmental factors.

Mental Health Act 2018, National Health Policy 2020, and National Health Strategy 2020-2030 were passed, however, in order for their proper implementation adequate funds and resources are required along with a more inclusive and practical approach that needs to be adopted to put the policies into effect. It has also been suggested to incorporate community based mental health care services. However, there are several challenges to deal with at the community level. In the rural and marginalized areas, stigma and lack of knowledge regarding mental health make it difficult for individuals to communicate while suffering from mental illness. The mental health experts are mostly Dhaka based, meaning the people from the remote areas are deprived of professional consultancy. In response to that Sajida Foundation has recently designed their community mental health framework with an aim to train the local health care providers with the help of the WHO's training module. The insufficient transportation infrastructure, however, makes the referral process challenging despite the existing training module.

Due to the complex nature of mental health, it is not possible to modify a single tool for measuring the relationship between climate change and mental health. Therefore, it is upon the researchers to take the complex nature, dynamics, and social aspects of mental health into account and explore ways to integrate mental health into the general health care system. For example, remote sensing tool can help to monitor the changes in the environmental factors. Climate scientists are also using the climate models to project future changes in temperature, precipitation, and extreme weather events in different areas. These projections can inform assessments of potential mental health impacts. Moreover, a regression model can be an effective tool to comprehend the relationship among mental health, poverty, and climate change. Vulnerability assessment skill has been developed which is a psycho-social and economic model that takes the impact of poverty into account for climate vulnerable areas. Contextualizing evidence has been emphasized to utilize any new or existing tools for such measurement.



## 5. Blue Growth and Blue Justice

In response to the accelerating environmental crisis, diminishing coastal and marine resources, and worsening climate and social inequalities in Bangladesh, the concepts of 'blue growth' and 'blue justice' have surfaced in the realm of coastal and marine resource management and ocean governance. In this segment, the focus was on presenting recent observations and research findings related to the discourses of local resource-users, as well as incorporating the perspectives of marginalized women. The session also delved into the perceptions of blue governance networks and international sustainable financing, weaving these interconnected themes together comprehensively and offered a way forward. It encourages different stakeholders to engage in an interdisciplinary debate, guided by expert insights. The focus is on supporting a transformative shift toward sustainable ocean harvesting and protection in Bangladesh.







Maheshwaran Govender, from the Office of Knowledge Exchange at ZMT, discussed the ongoing mega developments at Moheshkhali, Bangladesh. These megaprojects have greatly affected the local people, leading to social implications such as displacements and ecological concerns. The voices of the local communities, who are directly affected by these developments, have not been adequately included. So the objective of this research was to investigate the local resource users' opinions on the ongoing mega-project developments as well as identifying areas of consensus and disagreement among the local community regarding these developments.

Marion Glaser, the Working Group Leader, ZMT Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research, discussed the utilization of art-based processes to address conflicts related to the ocean, introducing the audience to the No Crisis project with Bangladesh as a significant case study. She highlighted the role of creative practices and art-based interventions in sustainability research, emphasizing their potential to include voices that are often marginalized or excluded. The presentation delved into their work across seven sites, focusing on workshops with marginalized groups to empower, share skills, and build capacity through knowledge exchange.



Jewel Das, a PhD fellow, highlighted the incorporation of blue economy concepts in Bangladesh's policies, focusing on the need for further research and interventions to address local community issues. The objective of this research was to visualize stakeholder knowledge associated with the blue economy and establish a network among them and encourage diverse groups to brainstorm and share their perspectives on blue governance. He further emphasized the necessity of engaging local stakeholders and prioritizing their opinions, rather than solely focusing on international investments.



Munira Chowdhury emphasized the impact of market forces on redirecting finances towards sustainable projects and addressed the risks posed by climate change to the blue economy. She highlighted the interconnections between climate change management, ocean sustainability, and the significance of oceans to communities.

Dr. Samiya A. Selim, Director & Professor at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB concluded the session with her presentation that outlined three primary focus areas discussion—diversification of skill sets in Moheshkhali, the establishment of an information system for job skills, and the importance of advocacy and agency building within the community.



## 6. V2V Session – Transitions and pathways in small-scale fisheries vulnerability to viability

Despite the critical contributions small-scale fisheries bring to the society, economy, culture, and environment, most often their contribution and the multiple benefits they bring are overlooked as they remain economically and politically marginalized, and are highly vulnerable to change. Moreover, increasing vulnerability due to climate, environmental, economic and policy drivers have contributed to an emerging global crisis in small-scale fisheries. The events of their survivability indicate their strength and firm resilience which are much less studied and understood. Also, it wasn't until recently that they are being included in the policy debates. A holistic understanding of what causes vulnerability and what makes small-scale-fisheries viable is required.

The goal of the panel was to critically examine the diverse factors and conditions contributing to the vulnerability of small-scale fisheries, and to reflect on ways that are crucial to enhance their viability.



The V2V session was structured into two distinct categories, each focusing on diversity and knowledge sharing. The first segment of the session featured a series of 15-minute presentations, highlighting case studies from various countries, including Bangladesh, India, Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Dr. Nayak emphasized the purpose of these presentations in his opening remarks, stating that they provided "a platform to foster deeper connections as we gain both space and attention in the discourse of sustainability." This session aimed to foster a global dialogue and promote greater engagement in sustainable development efforts. The second segment of the session centered on group discussions, with participants forming diverse groups to collaboratively analyze the case studies and devise transformative solutions that can drive meaningful change.

The case studies were closely intertwined with the concept of Vulnerability to Viability (V2V), addressing the issues and challenges faced by small-scale fisheries. Dr. Prateep Kumar Nayak initiated the

presentations by introducing their efforts to transform vulnerable fishing into a sustainable way of life. Dr. Sisir Kanta Pradhan subsequently discussed the five key domains of their paper: "Ecological and environmental attributes, Economic and development factors, Governance and Management, Social and Cultural Influences, and Emerging Issues."

MD. Emon Rahman, a Lecturer-Cum-Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), presented a case study highlighting coping and adaptation strategies employed by small-scale fisheries in response to extreme climate events in the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Dr. Samiya A Selim, Director and Professor, Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB, then delved into V2V transition pathways, emphasizing early warning systems, ocean safety, and education.

Poulomi Ghosh, a Research Assistant at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India, focused on analyzing Vulnerabilities and Strengths within the Multifaceted Cluster of the Ganges Delta. Indah Susilowati, V2V Country Coordinator at the University of Diponegoro, Indonesia, discussed the challenges faced by small-scale fisheries in the Karimunjawa and Batang regions of Indonesia, highlighting the impact of new regulations and the potential role of academicians in driving change.

Dr. Arun Pandit from ICAR – Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, explored the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries across eight rivers in India, questioning the relative lack of attention toward inland fisheries and sparking a knowledgeable and insightful discussion.





Yinji Li, V2V Country Coordinator at Tokai University, Japan, shared a story of a vulnerable-to-viable transformation within the Kinme fisher family in Japan. Mr. Gazi Md Nurul Islam, V2V Country Coordinator at Abdul Razak University, Malaysia, examined the influence of Marine Protected Areas on the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries in Malaysia, offering a community-based perspective.

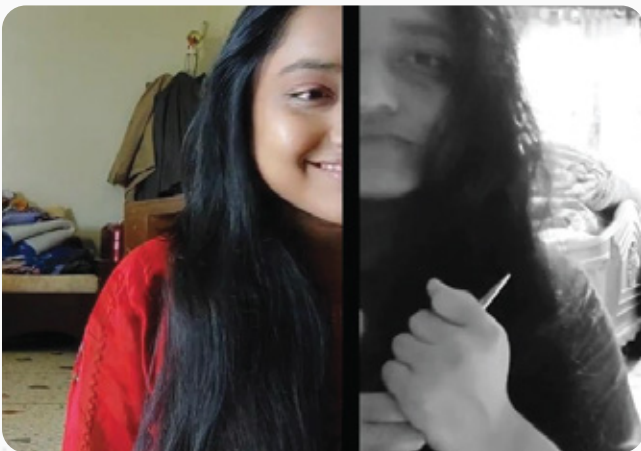
Mr. Ruyel Miah, a PhD Candidate in the V2V Global Partnership at the University of Waterloo, Canada, adopted a governance-centric approach to assess Vulnerability-to-Viability transitions in the Sundarbans Region, considering transboundary implications. Lastly, Akash Kar, a Graduate Student in the V2V Global Partnership at the University of Waterloo, Canada, explored how stakeholder interactions shape the shift from vulnerability to viability in the Sundarban area.

The second segment of the conference featured panel discussions with esteemed panelists. Each panelist shared their valuable perspectives and insights based on case studies, fostering engaging discussions between the audience and the experts.



## 7. Frame by Frame: SDGs in Focus

A visual storytelling on SDGs among ULAB students have been organized to provide the student with a platform to express their ideas and creativity. The competition showcased the potential of creative approaches by the students in advancing global sustainability goals, underlining ULAB's dedication to fostering a better understanding of these vital global objectives. Through this competition the students underwent an experience to engage with some of the most pressing global challenges of the time. And on the other hand, the audience was able to visually explore the portrayal of SDGs through creative storytelling processes.



The video that won the competition was titled "Tangled" by Sanjida Nusrat Ali. This powerful video delves into the harrowing effects of domestic violence on women. It cleverly uses the metaphor of hair combing to symbolize the pain endured by the protagonist. Through the video, the audience witnesses the protagonist's transformation from a young, smiling woman to a broken, lost soul as the violence escalates, taking a severe toll on her mental health. As she reaches her breaking point, she chooses to end the suffering, finding a semblance of peace in a decisive act. "Tangled" thoughtfully addresses Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5, shedding light on mental health and gender equality while portraying the harsh realities of domestic violence experienced by countless women.





The 1st runner up video titled “Plight of Arial Beel Livelihood & Ecosystem,” by Md. Rayhan Kabir Shuvro and Md. Sambitul Islam. The documentary eloquently highlights the intricate relationship between humanity and nature, aligning seamlessly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13, 14, and 16.

“Breathe of Nature” by Sadia Afrin Farin and Ayesha Siddika won the 2nd runner up prize. It portrays a symbolic showcase of the horrible disconnection between nature and humanity. The 3-minute clip sketches a picture of how humanity’s relentless exploitation of Earth’s resources in the name of progress and convenience has wreaked havoc on the planet.



## 8. Harvesting Sustainability: Integration of Agro-Ecology (Ecosystem-Based Agriculture or Nature Based Solutions) in Climate-Resilient Adaptation Practices

The coastal areas of Bangladesh and India are extremely vulnerable to climate disasters that put the agricultural sector of those areas under extreme threat. Climate change, coupled with unsustainable agriculture practices not only put agricultural production at risk but also threatens natural resource sustainability, and the integrity and quality of ecosystems. As the sea-level rises, the agricultural lands are becoming degraded and crop yields are shrinking due to increased salinity. As a result, livelihoods of millions are hampered. Therefore, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, the ultimate solution, uses biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to climate change, restoring ecosystems, improving food production, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for millions. This session aims to critically reassess current ecosystem-based agriculture practices from both practitioners’ and academicians’ perspectives with two very specific objectives in mind; a) Challenges and opportunities of EBA adoption in Sundarbans delta b) EBA Knowledge mobilization for policy advocacy.

Dr. René Véron, professor of Social Geography at University of Lausanne, introduced the transdisciplinary and transboundary project “Engage for Sundarbans.” The project was initiated with the idea of social resilience. It tries to understand the perception of risks not only from the scientists but also from the local communities. He states that in the social resilience approach it is less a question of a managed retreat but more a question of how the community can respond and recover from hazards and risks in events. The project seeks to comprehend the varied perspectives and interpretations of the ‘riskscape’ in the Sundarbans produced by both state and non-governmental entities, as well as diverse members of the local communities.





Mohon Kumar Mondol, Founder and Executive Director, LEDARS, gave a presentation on the approaches and strategies for climate resilience activities undertaken by LEDARS based on the nature-based solutions. Currently they are implementing two projects in the southern part of Shatkhira, in Assasuni, Shyamnagar and in the southern part of Khulna. LEDARS, being a community-based organization, their first strategy is community engagement to have a better understanding of the context of the community and what needs to be done. Different people's organizations in the name of different groups are being formed by them so that the community people can take an active part in planning for their development. Along with building capacity on adaptation mitigation, they are providing support to the community by providing, supporting and facilitating low-cost agricultural technology, knowledge management, afforestation, adaptive fruit tree plantation, preservation of local seed, and organic agriculture.



Julfiqar Haider, Program Development Officer, SAJIDA Foundation, gave a presentation on the Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCDM) Programme of SAJIDA Foundation. The goal of the program is building climate resilient communities in vulnerable regions of Bangladesh. This program is working with an aim to develop five types of capital (human, natural, physical, social, and financial). Both of their interventions are aligned with agroecology. The first intervention is nature-based solutions which are being implemented through integrated farming, community-based integrated farming. Another intervention is climate resilient agriculture with an effort to create market linkage.

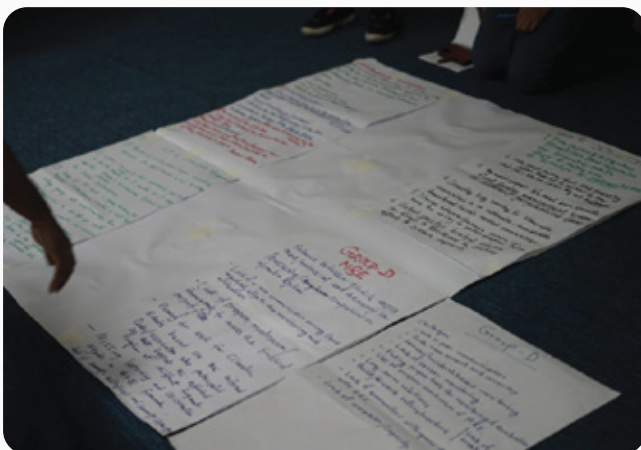
The final presentation by Shreyashi Bhattacharya, PhD Scholar, IIT, Kharagpur and Debjyoti Mondal, focused on the development of the inland fisheries and aquaculture of Kumirmari, India. Sundarban Jana Sramajibi Manch is arranging different awareness campaigns. In collaboration with other institutions and NGOs, SJSM has effectively provided solutions for fish farming and agriculture of that region.

Following the presentations, there was a Q&A session and then the final session of the conference ended with a panel discussion round. The panelists reflected on the existing practices and policies on agroecology. They have also provided insightful and analytical answers to the questions asked.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



## 9. Anecdotes of Resilience: Facing floods with Nature by our side



The session explored the interconnectedness among flood risks, associated human sufferings, and societies' never-ending attempts to find solutions to fight inundation through storytelling. The panelists and the audience engaged in a discussion by sharing personal examples of flood risks and uncertainties; diverse methods of flood risk management, including nature-based solutions; opportunities for community and youth engagement in them; and challenges around monitoring and evaluation, both in rural and urban contexts.

It has been argued that there is no such thing as natural disaster or disaster caused by nature; disasters are anthropocentric. Nature contains within itself the capacity and resources to recover from floods. There are three types of Flood Risk Management (FRM) methods that can help communities maximize the benefits of floods, such as Non-structural method, Soft/ Green structural method, and Hard structural method. Among them, the non-structural method is the most effective, however, in order to achieve the most effective result, it is important to combine these three with upstream and downstream dams and produce cost-effective projects. Flood Green Guide have arrived in Bangladesh and institutions can train people to prepare for floods using games, simulations, and roleplays.

People need to learn to live alongside flood and find solutions around it. When floods arrive, they change the geography and establish

equality. The land never stays the same after a flood arrives, however, the greenery helps. Green vegetation works as a shield against flood to protect the river banks from erosion. Large expansion of greenery can help sustain the river banks and also the ecology and geography.

Every year, floods are affecting the financial condition of the people living in flood prone areas. It leaves them in such a dismal state that they find it very difficult to even meet their basic needs. Initiatives taken by youth and government organizations have come forward to help these rural people during the time of the disaster. A statement was made that people from rural areas are not poor because of their families but because of the lack of opportunities due to floods.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## 10. Sustainability in Education: Empowering Future Change-Makers

Education stands out as a potent instrument for driving transformative change on a global scale. Environmental and sustainable education equips individuals with the knowledge and consciousness required to recognize their pivotal role in shaping the environment. In Bangladesh, educational institutions are embracing sustainability education across all educational tiers. It is imperative to gain insights into how this knowledge is conveyed in kindergartens, schools, and universities. The round-table discussion addressed the key issues on the role of education in mainstreaming sustainability in society from the perspective of educators, government teacher's trainers and social entrepreneurs.

The discussants identified existing classroom practices and curriculum design to be the central factors for developing the sustainability mindset of the students. The current education system of the country mostly prioritizes subjects like math and science over climate and environment education. Along with that, classroom discussion regarding climate change or any other sustainability issues tend to be theory-based, leaving the students with limited scope to develop their practical skills. This practice needs to be changed and environment and climate education should be included into the curriculum to prepare them as responsible citizens. The prevailing philosophy of education should evolve to not just assess the academic excellence of students but also emphasize knowledge creation and giving back to the Earth. Students should be actively engaged in environmental issues, with assignments that encourage them to be environmentally friendly and work on projects aligned with Sustainable Development Goals. The students need to be instilled with values that teach them not only to take care of their own body but also to take care of the planet they are living in.

Prioritizing the emotional development of students by fostering empathy, compassion, and understanding is crucial. It is upon the responsibility of the teachers in ensuring a classroom with such an environment. To ensure that teachers should be provided with training and support that goes beyond subject matter expertise.

However, the challenge lies in the inconsistency between students' behavior at school and at home, highlighting the importance of aligning parental values with educational goals. And it has been suggested at the end that government-led initiatives and directors are necessary for a coordinated approach to sustainability education.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## 11. Identifying the Opportunities: A Symposium on Cultivating Green Skills for a Sustainable Future

To assist the transition to a green economy, Bangladesh's education and skill-development systems must be reoriented to match the growing need for job-related green skills. Universities as centers of learning and innovation play a critical role in building lasting climate-related capacities around the world. To support climate-affected populations in Bangladesh, a more climate-sensitive workforce is needed by upskilling students, practitioners, and communities. This interactive workshop brainstormed with key stakeholders



such as NGOs, academics, civil society actors, policy influencers, and the Government to co-design and co-develop innovative, practice-based, and contextualized curricula, training materials, and guides for green skills and climate adaptation.



Professor Imran Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, addressed the persisting unemployment crisis of Bangladesh due to lack of skills, particularly at the graduate level, and stated that it is only to get worsened by the adversity of climate change. There are no other alternative remedies other than providing a scope for the youth to develop their skill.

Afterwards, Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Professor, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Brac University, expressed her concerns about marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, children, and elderly citizens. She also stated that vulnerable communities can aid in addressing wider societal issues.

Multiple issues and challenges were raised from the break-out group discussion. Among which importance of more grass-root level collaboration among organizations, making green skill knowledge and resources accessible, developing required soft and technical skills, devising more simplified and need based training modules to equip the target group, increasing women participation in technical training, knowledge of business ethics and communication skills were the primary and recurring concerns brought up by the participants.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



## Knowledge 2 Action (K2A) Workshop

The Cluster of Cooperation (CLOC) Knowledge to Action (K2A) network, in collaboration with the Center for Sustainable Development, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (CSD-ULAB), organized a workshop held from the 25th to the 27th of October 2023. This 2.5-day event took place at the Long Beach Hotel, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, bringing together a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in a multi-actor and transdisciplinary forum. The workshop, aptly titled "Impact of Climate Change and Blue Economy in South Asia Coastal Communities," served as a platform for researchers, practitioners, community members, and policymakers to convene and deliberate on the pressing challenges confronted by coastal communities in South Asia, stemming from the complex interplay of climate change impacts and the burgeoning blue economy developments.





The objective of this workshop is to understand climate change and blue economy impacts on ecosystems, societies, and economies. It aims to foster local and collaborative approaches, focusing on three aspects: 1) comprehending local climate and blue economy effects, 2) co-creating solutions, and 3) devising action plans. Diverse participants, including indigenous communities, policymakers, researchers, farmers, journalists, and artists, are invited to discuss governance, livelihoods, justice, and resilience within the context of climate change and the blue economy, addressing various perspectives and actions at different scales.

The first day of the workshop commenced at Hotel Long Beach, where each participant introduced themselves. Dr. Samiya A Selim, Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, delivered the welcoming remarks, alongside Lena Robra, Head of Academic Engagements at Academic Swissnex, and Jakia Hasan, Senior Scientific Officer at the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Bangladesh. The following day of the workshop featured sessions that continued to focus on diversity and adaptation. Dr. Mokhles Rahman, CNRS - Bangladesh, Md. Ehsanul Hoque, National Officer (Environment) from UNHCR Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar, and Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rob Mollah, Chairman of Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), played key roles in these discussions.

On the second day of the workshop, themed "Blue Growth and Blue Justice," activities commenced at 9 am at the Long Beach Hotel. Dr. Prateep Kumar Nayak from India initiated the day's proceedings with a presentation. Subsequently, participants engaged in breakout group discussions, focusing on equity issues related to blue growth and blue justice. Three distinct groups formed, each bringing individual perspectives to the table and facilitating productive sharing and interaction. In the afternoon, from 2 pm to 6 pm, the program took participants on a field trip to various locations facilitated by NACOM. The journey began in Janarghona Union, where attendees observed climate-resilient fruit cultivation techniques. Moving on to Kolatoli, they witnessed a Biogas plant serving five families. The third spot featured Biochar in Borocchora, showcasing salt-tolerant varieties of watermelon, pumpkin, and bottle gourd cultivation. The final stop was Pechardip, where participants visited a sea turtle conservation and reproduction center, gaining valuable insights into marine conservation efforts.

The third and concluding day of the workshop began with student presentations, with participants sharing their reflections on the field trip experiences. These presentations covered various aspects of climate-resilient livelihoods, blue growth, and blue justice, aligning with the diverse streams assigned during the field tour. The workshop drew to a close with final remarks delivered by Dr. Lena Robra and Dr. Samiya Selim, encapsulating the collective insights and outcomes of the engaging 2.5-day event.



## Reflecting and Innovating: CSD Annual Retreat 2023

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) embarked on a day of introspection and innovation during its Annual Retreat on January 21, 2023, held at the serene Matir Chula Resort in Gazipur. This retreat served as a pivotal moment for the team to collectively look back at their journey and chart a course for the future.

Team members engaged in thoughtful reflections on their individual and collective contributions to sustainable development through the years. The shared experiences fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges faced and the milestones achieved, creating a foundation for informed decision-making. The core of the retreat was dedicated to brainstorming sessions where team members actively contributed innovative ideas. These ideas laid the groundwork for the development of a long-term strategy, shaping the direction of CSD's work on sustainable development for 2023 and beyond.

The key outcomes of our endeavor encompass the identification of focal points crucial for sustainable development initiatives, enabling us to discern and prioritize areas with the greatest potential for positive impact. Through a meticulous process, we have formulated strategies aimed at elevating community engagement and fostering collaboration, recognizing the inherent significance of inclusive participation in the success of sustainable projects. Furthermore, our exploration extends to cutting-edge technologies and methodologies, ensuring that our initiatives are imbued with innovation, efficiency, and the potential for enduring positive change. This comprehensive approach underscores our commitment to not only address immediate challenges but also to forge a path towards a sustainable and resilient future through impactful projects.

As CSD continues its commitment to creating positive change, the insights and strategies developed during the retreat serve as a roadmap for navigating the complex landscape of sustainable development challenges in the coming years. With renewed inspiration and a refined strategy, the CSD team eagerly anticipates translating their ideas into action. The Annual Retreat not only reinforced their dedication to sustainable development but also solidified their resolve to make a meaningful impact on the world.







## SDG 4: Quality Education

### Greening ULAB Session at Fresher's Orientation (SAP Day)

Greening ULAB, an initiative dedicated to promoting sustainability at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), conducted an informative session during the Fresher's Orientation (SAP Day) on September 11th and 12th, 2023. The session aimed to empower incoming students with knowledge about sustainable practices and inspire them to contribute to a greener campus.

The session, led by ULAB CSD's Teaching Assistant, Sanzida Alam, covered a range of topics related to environmental sustainability. Emphasis was placed on actionable steps students could take to reduce their environmental footprint, such as minimizing plastic waste, embracing sustainable alternatives, and adopting energy-efficient practices.

Through interactive discussions and informative presentations, the session engaged students actively. The goal was not only to raise awareness about the importance of sustainability but also to inspire the incoming class to become advocates for a greener campus and planet. The session represented a pivotal step in fostering a culture of sustainability at ULAB. By reaching out to the incoming students, Greening ULAB aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and encourage proactive participation in preserving the environment.

The Greening ULAB session at Fresher's Orientation marked a significant effort towards promoting sustainability within the university community. As the new academic year commenced, the initiative set the stage for a greener and more environmentally conscious campus, with the incoming class motivated to play an active role in this collective endeavor.



## SDG 5: Gender Equality

### WOW Festival 2023: Empowering Women, Celebrating Diversity

The Women of the World (WOW) Festival in Bangladesh, launched in 2017 and adapted to virtual formats during the pandemic, is hosting its two-day "WOW, Women of the World" event at Dhaka Shilpakala Academy on February 24th and 25th, 2023. The festival, inaugurated by Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, addresses critical issues such as colorism, moral policing, and gender equality. The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) actively participates by showcasing an exhibition that applauds regional women entrepreneurs in stitching and mending businesses. ULAB's involvement contributes to the broader discourse on gender equality and women's rights. The festival features interactive workshops, speed mentoring sessions, a marketplace supporting women-owned businesses, and diverse cultural performances, including the disability arts theater piece "SwarnaBoal" and a closing performance by the rock band Chirkutt. The WOW Festival serves as a vital platform for dialogue, celebrating diversity, and empowering women, fostering ongoing efforts for gender equality and inclusivity.





## SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

### Ensuring sustainable access to improved WASH services for rural people in Shibchar Upazila of Madaripur District, Bangladesh

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), with SAJIDA Foundation, has successfully completed the project “Ensuring sustainable access to improved WASH services for rural people in Shibchar Upazila of Madaripur District, Bangladesh”. In January 2023, an end-line study based on SAJIDA Foundation’s WASH services in the area was conducted to evaluate the impact of the project in the community, analyze the progress made since the baseline, and identify best practices, gaps, and challenges for WASH in that area. As the area faces grave challenges when it comes to access to services such as water supply, and basic sanitation facilities, the project involved assessing the impacts of the newly installed piped water supply and WASH blocks in the schools and community clinics of the area.



## SDG 7 : Clean and Affordable Energy

### Research on Prospect of rooftop solar PV systems in Industries in Bangladesh: A thematic analysis on Drivers and Barriers

CSD has done research on Prospect of rooftop solar PV systems in Industries in Bangladesh: A thematic analysis on Drivers and Barriers. The main objective of the research was to understand the underlying causes of the slow progress in installing rooftop solar PV systems the present research will focus on the driving factors for installing the rooftop solar PV systems, and the barriers to shift from captive power plants to rooftop solar systems, and give recommendations based on the findings to how to incorporate rooftop solar into the industry. It was found from the study that cost effectiveness, energy security, environmental awareness has driven the uptake of RSS whereas the upfront cost, cumbersome paperwork, structural barrier in old buildings roofs, and lack of accurate information has worked as barriers for installation of RSS. If the information gap can be reduced between the industry actors and favorable policy can be formulated with the end users, the uptake can be even more which will help achieve our goal to have 40% renewable energy by 2041.



## SDG 8: Decent Work And Economic Growth

### CSD Talk: Sustainable Solutions with Mr. Mirajul Huq, Founder of Baah Store

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) organized a talk on sustainable solutions featuring Mr. Mirajul Huq, the Founder of Baah Store, on April 9th, 2023, at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Permanent Campus. Baah Store is a pioneering digital sustainable brand in Bangladesh, specializing in eco-friendly, upcycled, and sustainable goods.

The session aimed to provide ULAB students with insights into the integration of sustainability into business models. Mr. Mirajul Huq, as the founder of the first-of-its-kind sustainable brand in Bangladesh, shared his expertise on navigating the intersection of profitability and minimal societal and environmental impact.

The talk served as an educational opportunity for students, fostering an understanding of how businesses can prioritize sustainability without compromising profitability. The session highlighted the innovative approaches adopted by Baah Store in promoting eco-friendly and upcycled goods.





The belief underlying the organization of such seminars for students is to cultivate a culture of sustainability within the university campus. By empowering students to become change agents and encouraging informed and responsible actions, the university aims to contribute to a more sustainable future.

The talk with Mr. Mirajul Huq underscored the significance of incorporating sustainable practices in business and inspired students to consider the environmental and societal impacts of their future endeavors. Such initiatives align with CSD's mission to instill a culture of sustainability and responsible decision-making among the students of ULAB.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

### Revisiting environmental and ecological conservation including anticipatory action in the present context for city resilience building

On 14 June, Dr. Irfanullah was a panelist of a session on 'Revisiting environmental and ecological conservation including anticipatory action in the present context for city resilience building'. This session was organized by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Islamic Relief, and World Vision Bangladesh at the 7th Urban Dialogue in Dhaka.

### Community Engagement and Social Innovation to Combat Air Pollution

Sameera Zaman participated as a panelist at the South Climate Conclave: Dhaka Chapter on September 27, 2023. During the panel, she had dialogues and interactive sessions on the topic of Community Engagement and Social Innovation to Combat Air Pollution, during which she had the opportunity to deliver an expert perspective on how to engage youth at higher education institutions and at the community level to improve air quality. The conclave was organized by GenLab, with the support of the U.S. Department of State at Radisson Blu Water Garden, Dhaka, where participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and The U.S. Department of State attended.



### Research Directions in Sustainability in the Built Environment

The Center for Sustainable Development and the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) collaborated to host a seminar featuring Dr. Simi Hoque, P.E., Professor, and Program Director at the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA. The seminar, titled "Research Directions in Sustainability in the Built Environment," took place on August 2, 2023.

Dr. Hoque's presentation centered on crucial aspects of sustainability within the built environment, offering valuable insights into contemporary research directions. Attendees had the opportunity to delve into topics related to sustainable practices, environmental considerations, and the future trajectory of sustainability in the construction and development sector. The seminar provided a platform for ULABians to engage with an esteemed expert in the field, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainability challenges and opportunities within the built environment. The collaborative effort between the Center for Sustainable Development and the Department of EEE exemplifies ULAB's commitment to facilitating knowledge-sharing sessions that contribute to the university's academic and research excellence.



The event concluded with a vibrant exchange of ideas and discussions, further emphasizing the importance of sustainability research in shaping the future of the built environment. The ULAB community extends gratitude to Dr. Simi Hoque for sharing her expertise and contributing to the university's academic discourse. The seminar's success reflects ULAB's dedication to providing a holistic educational experience, incorporating valuable insights from distinguished professionals to enrich the learning journey of its students.

## SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



### Greening ULAB

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) is taking bold strides towards a greener and more sustainable future with its ambitious program, Greening ULAB. Spearheaded by the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), this comprehensive initiative aims to weave sustainability into the fabric of campus life, seamlessly integrating eco-friendly practices into academic teachings and research pursuits. The program encompasses a range of projects, from optimizing energy consumption through cutting-edge technologies to fostering a culture of waste reduction and recycling. Initiatives such as minimizing water usage and transforming organic waste into nutrient-rich compost showcase ULAB's commitment to holistic sustainability. Complementing these efforts are seminars, workshops, and events hosted by Greening ULAB, creating awareness and empowering students to embrace eco-friendly practices. By encouraging students to take the lead in adopting and promoting sustainable behaviors, Greening ULAB aspires to instill a sense of environmental responsibility, creating a lasting impact on both campus life and beyond. Through its innovative approaches and integrative strategies, Greening ULAB stands as a catalyst for positive change, paving the way for a more sustainable future grounded in environmental consciousness and responsible resource management.

### Sustainable Initiative: Waste Management and Recycling at ULAB Campus

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has partnered with Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) to implement a progressive initiative aimed at installing waste bins dedicated to collecting PET bottles within the ULAB Campus. This initiative has been designed with the primary objective of enhancing knowledge, promoting practical waste management, and raising awareness among students regarding recycling practices on the campus.

As part of this collaborative effort, BPCL will take charge of collecting PET bottles deposited in the designated waste bins. Subsequently, these bottles will undergo recycling processes, ultimately being transformed into resins used in the production of various products. The primary objectives of this initiative revolve around three core goals. Firstly, it seeks to enhance knowledge among the student body through the installation of waste bins, which will serve as educational tools fostering a deeper understanding of waste management and recycling practices. Secondly, the initiative emphasizes practical application by encouraging students to actively participate in the separation and disposal of PET bottles. This hands-on engagement in waste reduction practices contributes significantly to the overall cleanliness and sustainability of the campus. Lastly, the initiative aims to build awareness about the importance of responsible waste disposal and recycling, fostering a sense of environmental consciousness within the campus community. Together, these goals form a comprehensive approach to instilling sustainable practices and environmental awareness among students.

Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) will play a pivotal role in the success of this initiative. Their responsibility involves the collection of PET bottles from the designated waste bins, followed by the recycling process that transforms these bottles into valuable resins. The repurposing of these resins will contribute to the creation of diverse products, aligning with principles of a circular economy.

The introduction of this waste management and recycling initiative signifies ULAB's commitment to environmental sustainability. The university envisions each member of the campus community actively participating in waste reduction practices, thereby collectively contributing to the broader goal of achieving a sustainable campus environment. In embracing this eco-friendly initiative, ULAB is taking a significant step towards becoming a more environmentally responsible institution. The collaboration with BPCL underscores the importance of industry partnerships in fostering sustainable practices. As the initiative unfolds, it is anticipated that ULAB's campus will serve as a model for waste management and recycling, inspiring other educational institutions to follow suit.



**Initiated by the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB, in Collaboration with Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL)**



## The ULAB Earth Day Fair 2023

The Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) successfully organized the Earth Day Fair 2023 on Wednesday, celebrating Earth Day in advance. The event, generously sponsored by OrganiKare and Kazi Tea, aimed to promote sustainable practices and environmental responsibility, as highlighted in an official press release.

The primary objective of the fair was to provide the next generation of citizens with an alternative platform prioritizing the planet over profit. It served as a unique opportunity for businesses to showcase products designed to minimize environmental degradation.

This year's ULAB Earth Day Fair offered a diverse range of activities, including Tie-Dye sessions, Play with Clay, and Pick and Paint with Clay Station Dhaka. Attendees had the chance to immerse in a Yoga session and engage in games and fun-based activities centered around learning about investing in our planet.

CSD organized a special workshop during the Earth Day Fair, led by the talented designer Rukaiya Purna. The workshop provided a platform for emerging designers in Bangladesh to delve into sustainable fashion, exploring innovative ways to create fashion with minimal negative impact on the environment.

A highlight of the fair was the sustainability talk session by Dr. Maliha Mannan Ahmed, managing director of OrganiKare and a member of ULAB's Board of Trustees. Dr. Maliha's insightful discussion focused on the significance of entrepreneurship and investment in sustainable practices to safeguard the future of our planet.

The Earth Day Fair 2023 underscored ULAB's dedication to sustainable development and its role in shaping environmentally responsible citizens. The event served as a demonstration of the university's commitment to promoting sustainable practices across various aspects of life.

Organized by the Centre for Sustainable Development, ULAB, the Earth Day Fair 2023 exemplified a commitment to inspire a new generation dedicated to preserving the planet for future generations. Through such events, the CSD aims to contribute to the broader mission of promoting sustainability not only in Bangladesh but beyond.





## EcoQuest 1.0: Trash to Treasure

Greening ULAB, in collaboration with ULAB Sustainable Development Club, successfully organized an engaging and student-centric event called "EcoQuest: Trash to Treasure Creation." This event aimed to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG12), focusing on recycling, responsible consumption, and sustainable production. The primary objectives were to raise awareness, provide hands-on experience, and instill a sense of community responsibility among the student body.

The event commenced with an interactive workshop conducted by Nayma Akther Jahan Lecturer-Cum-Research Associate, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), setting the stage for the participants by imparting knowledge on sustainable living, recycling, and eco-friendly practices. This session laid the foundation for the subsequent activities, ensuring that students were well-equipped with the necessary information.

The heart of EcoQuest was the treasure hunt, where teams, formed by participants, embarked on a thrilling journey across the campus. Clues related to the SDGs guided teams to various locations where they uncovered ingredients or materials associated with sustainable practices. This activity not only made learning enjoyable but also promoted teamwork and problem-solving skills.

During the treasure hunt, teams actively collected eco-friendly materials, underscoring the importance of sustainable sourcing. Each collected ingredient was intricately linked to a specific SDG, enriching participants' understanding of the interconnected global goals.

The highlight of the event was the Product Creation Challenge. Post the treasure hunt, teams utilized the collected ingredients to craft innovative and eco-friendly products. Examples included Eco-bricks from plastics, DIY crafts, painting arts from natural substances, and repurposing old clothes into bags. This challenge not only stimulated creativity but also encouraged teams to align their creations with specific SDGs.

Teams showcased their creations during a presentation session, elucidating the connection to SDGs and the significance of their choices. Judges awarded prizes based on established criteria, recognizing outstanding contributions. This segment served as a platform to celebrate the achievements of the participants and reinforce the importance of sustainable practices.

EcoQuest: Trash to Treasure Creation emerged as a successful and impactful event, accomplishing its objectives of raising awareness, fostering creativity, and promoting sustainable practices. The collaboration between Greening ULAB and ULAB Sustainable Development Club underscored the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement. The event not only educated students about the SDGs but also inspired them to actively contribute to a more sustainable and responsible future.



## The Baseline Information of the current usage of Single-used plastics at ULAB

Plastic pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Single-use plastics, in particular, have garnered widespread attention due to their significant contribution to the global plastic waste crisis. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive understanding of the current usage and disposal practices of single-use plastics within specific contexts. In this research paper, we present the baseline information on single-use plastics at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). By assessing the types, quantities, and distribution of SUPs used within the campus, this study aims to provide a foundation for developing effective strategies to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable practices. Additionally, the research examines existing waste management practices and explores the challenges and opportunities associated with SUPs disposal within the campus.

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) is a leading private liberal arts-based university that strongly incorporates the practice of sustainability through its General Education Department and its Center for Sustainable Development (CSD). The University has its own flourishing permanent campus at Mohammadpur that is green and environment-friendly. The University is continuously working to fabricate a clean, safe, and green campus through its eco-friendly practices, and learning, and by raising awareness of sustainable environmental policies and students, staff, and other stakeholders across the University. As an institution of higher education, ULAB recognizes its responsibility to address environmental challenges and foster a culture of sustainability. The need for a comprehensive understanding of the single-use plastic situation on campus is crucial to inform evidence-based decision-making and guide the development of targeted interventions. This baseline study fills the knowledge gap by conducting a detailed assessment of SUPs consumption, disposal practices, and waste management infrastructure at ULAB. The findings from this research will serve as a vital resource for ULAB in its efforts to develop and implement effective strategies to minimize SUPs waste. By providing a comprehensive overview of the current situation, the research aims to guide the formulation of policies, infrastructure improvements, and awareness campaigns that promote sustainable alternatives and reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastics at ULAB.





## Patharghata and Moheshkhali Field Trip on Climate Change Adaptation of small Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh

In the pursuit of understanding the socio-economic dynamics of coastal communities, a research team led by Emon Rahman embarked on a transformative field trip covering two distinct locations: Patharghata and Moheshkhali. This report encapsulates the vivid experiences, challenges, and observations made during the four-day expedition.

### Patharghata: Unveiling the Resilience of Fishermen

The journey commenced along the southern coast, immersing the team in the lives of hundreds of fishermen. The exploration of Patharghata revealed a stark reality of vulnerability and uncertainty, counterbalanced by the resilient spirit of the community.

Despite facing numerous challenges, the people in Patharghata exhibited a profound sense of hospitality. At every encounter, the team was asked about meals, and in some instances, locals generously offered food and tea. This unwavering warmth stood out as a testament to the indomitable human spirit prevailing in the face of adversities.

A poignant aspect discovered was the persistence of the Dadan system, introduced by the East India Company in the 18th century. Nearly 80% of the male population in the region worked as fishermen, bearing the weight of overwhelming loans that they struggled to repay. The decline in fish stocks and the unpredictability of the sea added to the challenges faced by these resilient individuals.

A concerning trend emerged as the protectors of the ocean, namely the Naval Police, Foresters, and Coast Guard, were perceived as extortionists by the locals. Frustration and resentment brewed among the residents due to their experiences with these authorities. Furthermore, the intrusion of foreign fishermen during bans added to the woes, with naval patrols seemingly inactive in protecting Bangladeshi waters.



### Moheshkhali: A Microcosm of Struggle and Hope

The field trip extended to Moheshkhali, providing the team with insights into the unique challenges faced by KO like their counterparts in Patharghata, were depicted as individuals surviving on borrowed time. The risks posed by tropical cyclones, storm surges, and coastal flooding were well-known to them, yet they persevered with limited choices. The intrusion of Indian fishermen during fishing bans in the Bay of Bengal highlighted a critical issue. While Bangladeshi fishers were penalized for rule violations, foreign counterparts seemed to operate with impunity, showcasing an imbalance in the protection of maritime boundaries.

The field trip, though short, served as a catalyst for further exploration into the challenges faced by coastal communities. The stories of resilience, economic struggles, and the clash between local fishers and external authorities provide a compelling narrative that calls for attention and action. The team acknowledges the need for continued research to delve deeper into the complexities of coastal life, advocating for sustainable solutions and policy interventions to alleviate the burdens on these communities.





## Systems Understanding for Governance in Bangladesh – Insights from Netmapping Exercise with Coastal Stakeholders

Dr. Samiya A Selim delivered a presentation during the course on Ocean and Coastal Conflicts at the University of Bremen, Germany, from January 16th to 19th, 2023. The course, led by Marion Glase, focused on exploring the origins, trajectories, and management of conflicts in ocean and coastal environments.

Dr. Selim's presentation delved into the social-ecological system of Bangladesh, specifically addressing opportunities and challenges under changing climatic conditions and the unique flat and low-lying topography. The coastal region's funnel shape, coupled with high population density, presented challenges that were examined in-depth.

The presentation underscored the unique challenges posed by the funnel-shaped coastline, presenting a series of geographical constraints and heightened vulnerability to environmental changes. Dr. Selim delved into the repercussions of high population density along these coastal areas, shedding light on its far-reaching impacts on resource management, infrastructure development, and the broader socio-economic fabric of the region. Moreover, the social-ecological system was described as being marked by a substantial level of poverty, with diverse livelihoods intricately tied to climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and water resources. This intertwining of poverty and dependence on climate-sensitive industries accentuates the complexities and interdependencies within the region's socio-economic landscape, necessitating comprehensive strategies for sustainable development and resilience.

The transformation of traditional rice fields into shrimp farms, driven by salinity intrusion, has resulted in the impending loss of livelihoods for up to 20 million coastal residents. This shift has particularly affected the landless population, presenting them with limited opportunities for sustainable income. Faced with this challenge, many individuals are compelled to make difficult choices, such as migrating in search of better prospects or accepting low-paying and sometimes hazardous jobs. The situation is exacerbated in regions like the Sunderbans, where alternative livelihoods are scarce, forcing communities to grapple with the economic repercussions of the changing landscape.

Dr. Samiya A Selim's presentation provided a comprehensive understanding of the social-ecological dynamics in Bangladesh's coastal regions. The insights gained from the netmapping exercise with coastal stakeholders shed light on the interconnected challenges and opportunities within the system, emphasizing the urgency of effective governance to address complex issues arising from climate change and ecological shifts.

## ULAB Students' Visit to CCDB Climate Center



As part of their coursework on Global Development to Sustainability, Environmental Science, Introduction to Climate Change, and Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, students from the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) embarked on two field visits to the CCDB Climate Center in Sreepur, Gazipur on March 11, 2023, and August 10, 2023. The primary aim was to provide practical insights into the impacts of climate change on Bangladesh's ecological zones and explore sustainable technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.





During the visits, students were exposed to a range of sustainable technologies, including desalination of drinking water, solar drip irrigation, agroforestry, hydroponic vegetable cultivation, and floating rice cultivation. These technologies were showcased as practical measures for climate change adaptation. The CCDB Climate Center's role in minimizing fossil fuel use and developing prototypes for climate change mitigation was observed and appreciated by the students.

The visits strongly aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate Action, emphasizing the urgency to combat climate change and its impacts. Additionally, the experience touched on other SDGs such as affordable and clean energy, life on land, clean water and sanitation, and industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

Key learning points included a nuanced understanding of how climate change affects the diverse ecological zones of Bangladesh and the importance of adaptive measures. The exposure to sustainable technologies emphasized the role of innovation in addressing climate challenges and highlighted the CCDB Climate Center's pivotal role in research, development, and practical application of climate change mitigation strategies.

The field visits to the CCDB Climate Center proved to be enriching experiences for ULAB students, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications. These educational excursions reinforced the importance of proactive measures, technological innovation, and collaborative efforts in addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change. The visits align with ULAB's commitment to providing holistic learning experiences, preparing students to be informed, responsible, and proactive contributors to sustainable development.

### **Training on 'Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) and Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)' organized by Climate Change and Disaster Management Program (CCDM) of SAJIDA Foundation**

Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah was the lead facilitator of a training on 'Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) and Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)' organized by Climate Change and Disaster Management Program (CCDM) of SAJIDA Foundation in Shyamnagar, Satkhira, Bangladesh, on 8 and 9 January 2023. He was also a resource person at the session on 'Forestry and Biodiversity Sector' at the 6th Training on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, organized by Climate Change Program of Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) in CCDB Hope Foundation, Ashulia, Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 12 January 2023.

### **The Annual Conference 2022 of Bangladesh Botanical Society**

Dr. Irfanullah was the keynote speaker at the Annual Conference 2022 of Bangladesh Botanical Society, held on 28 January 2023 in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The title of his presentation was 'Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) and Our Global Challenges'. He was also a resource person of a virtual lecture on 'Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) for Our Resilient Development' organized by Conservation Study Circle (CSC) of Bangladesh (CSC Session 3), on 7 January 2023.

### **Bangladesh's Climate Budget and Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) at the event on the World Environment Day 2023**

Dr. Irfanullah was a speaker on Bangladesh's Climate Budget and Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) at the event on the World Environment Day 2023, organized by ActionAid Bangladesh in Dhaka on 5 June.

### **Review of climate budget and recommendations for climate public finance management in Bangladesh**

On 11 July, Dr. Irfanullah joined a distinguished panel at the dialogue on 'Review of climate budget and recommendations for climate public finance management in Bangladesh'. Eminent think-tank of Bangladesh the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organized the event. Dr. Irfanullah proposed a number of recommendations to improve Bangladesh's climate budget, specifically focusing on its overall structure, ensuring inclusivity in budget allocations, tracking of funding against climate-relevant plans, and ensuring accountability through establishing a new 'Bangladesh Climate Finance Portal'.

### **Dealing with the manifestation of localised vulnerabilities of climate change**

Dr. Irfanullah was a member of the Expert Group on 'Dealing with the manifestation of localised vulnerabilities of climate change' to develop a policy brief coordinated by Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh facilitated by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

### **Dealing with the manifestation of localised vulnerabilities of climate change**

The 3rd Annual Gobeshona Global Conference on Research into Action, organized by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, commenced from 10th to 16th March 2023. Dr. Samiya Ahmed Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, played a pivotal role as a Panelist in the Opening Session on 10th March at 10 AM (Bangladesh Standard Time).

The weeklong online conference brought together global experts to delve into the theme of "Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience," addressing crucial aspects of climate change research and action. The Center for Sustainable Development extended an invitation to a session at the Gobeshona Global Conference-3 titled "A Value-based Approach to Understanding Non-economic Loss and Damage."



Jointly organized by SAJIDA Foundation and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), this session aimed to facilitate a discussion on the role of context-specific values in comprehending non-economic loss and damage.

The session, scheduled for 12th March 2023 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time), centered on exploring how values unique to specific contexts can enhance our understanding of non-economic loss and damage. The collaborative effort involved SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB, promising a diverse and insightful discussion.

Dr. Samiya A Selim shared expertise and insights during the Opening Session and contributed to shaping the dialogue around Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience.

The Gobeshona Global Conference-3 session exemplifies the commitment of academic and research institutions, including ULAB and SAJIDA Foundation, to actively engage in discussions that contribute to a deeper understanding of climate change challenges. The value-based approach discussed in the session reflects a concerted effort to find context-specific solutions and pave the way for effective strategies in addressing non-economic loss and damage.

# SDG 14: Life Below Water

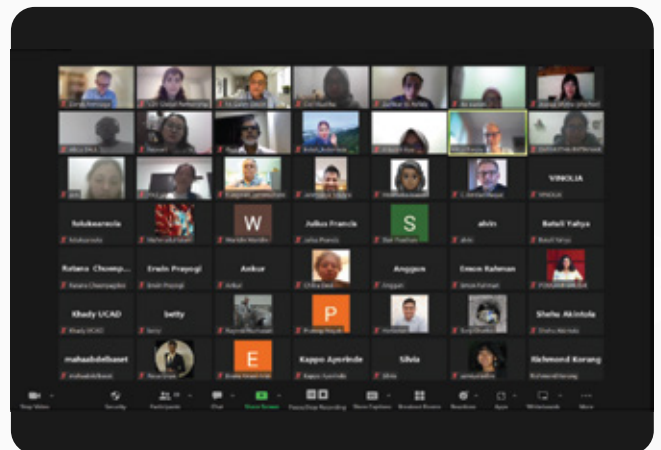


## "Bridging Shades of Blue" workshop, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain)

Dr. Samiya A Selim participated in the "Bridging Shades of Blue" workshop on March 23-24, 2023. The workshop focused on sharing insights from a Seascape Assessment of Global Environmental Assessments and collaboratively exploring ways in which the International/Intergovernmental Panel for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) could enhance the global ocean science-policy interface.

## Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership

On 20-24 February, the V2V team of CSD-ULAB (Professor Samiya A Selim, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, and Md. Emon Rahman) participated in a series of virtual workshops organized by the V2V Global Partnership – a collaboration of institutions based in 12 countries in Africa and Asia, led by the University of Waterloo. Dr. Irfanullah, co-lead of the Knowledge Mobilization Working Group (Kmb WG), co-designed and co-facilitated the workshop of the Kmb WG on 23 February.



**Webinar on**  
**Blue Economy Development**  
**in the Current Climate Induced Challenges**

**Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing**  
**UN World Ocean Day 2023**

Date: 8 June 2023  
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM  
https://bit.ly/3898928  
Session ID: 89138951006

<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<b>Key Discussant</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
 <b>Mr. Muhammad Nazmul Ahsan</b> Deputy Secretary Ministry of Natural Resources	 <b>Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah</b> Global Change & Technology Studies Expert University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh	 <b>Dr. M. A. Sattar Mandal</b> Emeritus Professor & Former Vice-Chancellor Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)
<b>Speakers</b>		
 <b>Dr. Abdullah-Al Mamon</b> Department of Fisheries and Marine Science Bangladesh Science and Technology University	 <b>Dr. M. Tamvir Hossain Chowdhury</b> Deputy Chief Officer (ICD) Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh	 <b>Dr. Md. Asaduzzaman</b> Deputy Professor of Marine Science Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

**Organized by: Blue Resources Development Network**

## Blue Economy Development in the Current Climate Induced Challenges

On 8 June, Dr. Irfanullah was the key discussant at the webinar on 'Blue Economy Development in the Current Climate Induced Challenges' organized on the occasion of the World Ocean Day 2023 by Blue Resources Development Network, Bangladesh.



## CSD-ULAB Team Participation at the 5th ECCWO Symposium in Bergen, Norway

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) demonstrated its commitment to global collaboration and climate research by participating in the 5th International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans (ECCWO). The symposium, held from April 17–21, 2023, in Bergen, Norway, served as a platform for international experts to discuss the profound impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems.

The 5th edition of ECCWO aimed to foster a comprehensive understanding of climate impacts on ocean ecosystems, emphasizing the ecosystem services they provide and the interconnectedness with communities, businesses, and individuals reliant on these ecosystems.

During the recent event hosted by CSD-ULAB, Dr. Samiya A Selim, the Director and Professor at CSD-ULAB, delivered a distinguished talk on 'Reflections on Participatory and Transdisciplinary Research Approaches in Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Development.' Dr. Selim emphasized the significance of the V2V project as an exemplary transdisciplinary initiative, showcasing its effectiveness in addressing the transition from vulnerability to resilience. Another noteworthy contribution came from Md Emon Rahman, a Research Associate at CSD-ULAB, who presented research findings on 'Adaptation Strategies of Small-Scale Fishers to Storms and Extreme Climatic Events in the Coastal Region of Bangladesh.' His presentation delved into the intricate dynamics of the social-ecological context and its impact on fishers' vulnerability to extreme events, shedding light on their decision-making processes related to fishing in the aftermath of such events. Importantly, this research project represents a collaborative effort between ULAB and East Carolina University, USA, reflecting the commitment of CSD-ULAB to fostering global partnerships in addressing critical issues related to climate change and sustainable development.

The CSD-ULAB team's active participation in ECCWO signifies a commitment to global collaboration in understanding and addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By sharing insights and research findings, the team contributed to the collective effort to find sustainable solutions for ocean ecosystems and the communities intertwined with them.

The ECCWO Symposium provided an invaluable platform for the CSD-ULAB team to showcase their research and engage with the global scientific community. The shared knowledge and experiences contribute to the broader discourse on climate change and sustainable development, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts in mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans and communities.



## CSD-ULAB Participation in V2V Global Partnership Workshop

A delegation from the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), comprising three members, actively participated in a week-long workshop organized by the Vulnerability to Viability Global Partnership. This collaborative initiative, spanning seven years, focuses on small-scale fisheries (SSF) in 12 countries.

The CSD-ULAB team, serving as country coordinators, played a pivotal role in representing Bangladesh and sharing insights into their work on SSF. The workshop aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange, discuss best practices, and foster regional cooperation, focusing on critical themes such as resilience, blue justice, marine tenure, gender, and equity.





CSD-ULAB recently organized a workshop on knowledge mobilization, highlighting their proficiency in translating research findings into actionable strategies within the realm of small-scale fisheries. Concurrently, they played a pivotal role in steering discussions on Asia regional cooperation, actively fostering collaboration among participating countries to collectively address shared challenges and promote sustainable practices in fisheries. Through extensive engagement, the team facilitated knowledge sharing among over 75 participants hailing from 15 countries. This exchange encompassed experiences, insights, and best practices related to small-scale fisheries, resilience, and marine resource management. Furthermore, the workshop served as a platform for establishing valuable connections with professionals, researchers, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds. These collaborative efforts contribute significantly to the formation of a robust global network dedicated to advancing sustainable fisheries practices.

The CSD-ULAB team expresses sincere gratitude to the Vulnerability to Viability Global Partnership, country hosts, and the University of Waterloo organizers for their hospitality and the successful execution of a collaborative and enriching workshop.

This participation reinforces ULAB's commitment to global sustainability and its active role in fostering positive change in small-scale fisheries and related sectors.



## Art Competition and Poster Exhibition on SDG 14: Life Below Water



Greening ULAB, in collaboration with ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC), organized an Art Competition and Poster Exhibition centered on SDG 14: Life Below Water. This innovative event aimed to spotlight the magnificence and critical significance of marine life while advocating for the preservation of our oceans and aquatic ecosystems. The call was open to all artists, and an enthusiastic array of students participated, showcasing their creative prowess and commitment to raising awareness about ocean conservation.

The Art Competition encouraged students to express their interpretations of marine life's beauty and the urgency of safeguarding it through various artistic mediums. Their vibrant and insightful artworks depicted the diversity of underwater ecosystems and highlighted the pressing need to protect and conserve our oceans. Additionally, the Poster Exhibition served as a platform for students to exhibit their compelling visuals, conveying powerful messages about the importance of SDG 14.



## Art-Based Workshop for Women Empowerment in Matarbari, Moheshkhali

In March 2022, a transformative art-based workshop was organized in Matarbari, Moheshkhali, as part of the NOCRISES global project. The initiative aimed to empower local women facing displacement due to the Japan-funded Matarbari 1 coal power plant.

The workshop, co-designed by Hum Studio Interactive, Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenforschung, and the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), focused on upskilling women to cope with the sudden shock-induced hardships caused by displacement.

Participants utilized storytelling, stitching, and drawing to communicate their experiences, lifestyle, hopes, and dreams. Embroidery emerged as a powerful tool for self-expression, allowing these women to transform adversity into art.

Original designs from the workshop were exhibited in Dhaka on October 14, 2022. The exhibition served as a platform for these women to share their stories with a broader audience, showcasing the strength and resilience of the participants.

The storytelling continued with the 'Stitching' exhibition presented at the SOWCO Gallery in Tokyo in partnership with Market Forces. Curated by Ms. Mahenaz Chowdhury, the exhibition not only shed light on the resilient stories of these women but also aimed to create international market linkages, providing a pathway for their livelihoods.

Beyond being a visual display, the artistic expression became a testimony to the strength and creativity of the women in Matarbari. The workshop and subsequent exhibitions highlighted the transformative power of art in empowering communities facing adversity.

The NOCRISES project's art-based workshop successfully empowered women in Matarbari, offering a platform for self-expression, resilience, and international visibility. The initiative exemplifies the potential of art as a tool for empowerment and community development.



## SDG 15: Life on Land

### Restoration in Action: Cases from Bangladesh

On 19 April, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah delivered a virtual lecture titled 'Restoration in Action: Cases from Bangladesh' to the students of the Master's Programme of the Graduate School of the Environment, Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Wales, UK, where he presented three case studies on restoration and community-based management of Tanguar Haor, mangrove enrichment plantation, and restoration of Rohingya refugee camps.

### Inception Workshop for ENGAGE Project by CSD-ULAB in Collaboration with SAJIDA Foundation

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) joined hands with SAJIDA Foundation to conduct a successful Inception Workshop for the ENGAGE project. The project, titled "Social Resilience in the Sundarbans Delta: Eliciting Needs-based Grassroots Action through Cross-Group Engagement," aims to enhance social resilience in the Sundarbans region.

The primary goal of the ENGAGE project is to bolster social resilience in the Sundarbans Delta through the implementation of climate-smart and diverse livelihood options. To achieve this, the project seeks to transcend political boundaries in the Sundarbans by fostering transboundary knowledge exchange. The collaboration involves creating a consortium of academics and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from both India and Bangladesh.





The academic partners, including ULAB, IIT Kharagpur, and the University of Lausanne, will primarily focus on the research components of the project. On the implementation front, SAJIDA Foundation and Sundarban Jana Shramajibi Mancha will take the lead, working on-field in both countries to execute adaptive practices. This unique collaboration between academia and implementation partners aims to create a holistic and effective approach to address the challenges faced by the Sundarbans Delta.

The ENGAGE project is made possible through funding from the Swiss National Foundation under their call SOR4D - Solutions Oriented Research for Development. This support underscores the project's alignment with solution-oriented research that contributes to sustainable development in the Sundarbans region.

The successful inception workshop marks the commencement of a vital initiative aimed at promoting social resilience in the Sundarbans Delta. The collaboration between CSD-ULAB and SAJIDA Foundation, supported by academic and implementation partners from both India and Bangladesh, reflects a comprehensive and transdisciplinary approach to addressing the complex challenges in the region. The ENGAGE project sets the stage for impactful research, knowledge exchange, and on-the-ground interventions to enhance the well-being of the Sundarbans communities.

### Regional cooperation on adaptation to cascading climate risks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya held in Kathmandu, Nepal

Tahura Farbin, Lecturer and Research Associate participated in a Science-Policy Dialogue on "regional cooperation on adaptation to cascading climate risks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya" in Nepal. The two day science policy dialogue engaged stakeholders from key constituencies from the eight regional member countries(RMCs), including: policymakers, adaptation experts, UNFCCC national focal points, climate scientists and academics, civil society organizations, Indigenous people, economists and practitioners, as well as experts from international organizations.





Day 1 of the science policy dialogue the participants discussed cascading climate risks of the transboundary rivers across the HKH and the importance to the HKH and the need for regional cooperation on adaptation to these types of risks, and build a collective HKH voice at the global level,

Day 2 and 3 the participants explored the barriers and enablers of building a regional cooperation mechanism of adaptation in the HKH, how these barriers can be addressed and collectively worked on a shared vision of what a cooperation mechanism on adaptation in the HKH region should look like. The 2.5 days of science policy dialogue ended with some clear objectives to be taken to COP 28 and presenting a united front to negotiators at COP 28. Some of the objectives that received the most attention were:

- More regional cooperation on adaptation to climate change in the HKH. The cooperation has the potential to yield multiple benefits: reducing the costs of climate action, helping overcome national- level resource constraints which limit the scale of ambition and action by state and non-state actors, adding credibility to voluntary climate pledges and targets, and enhancing climate diplomacy.
- Collaborating on the basis that the HKH is an ecosystem rather than predominantly on political borders. The workshops ended up calling for more collaborative research that are transboundary rather than focused on only one country.
- The science policy dialogue put emphasis on cross-scale governance capacity and policy support using the structures already in existence like the SAARC; actively working on climate diplomacy, negotiations, and coalition building; and capacity strengthening, implementation, and finance to achieve .



## SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

### Collaboration with Keele University under SDGs 4 and 13

Furthering the ongoing collaboration between the CSD-ULAB and Keele University, UK, on 24 February 2023, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah delivered a virtual lecture titled 'Climate Change, Impact, and Solutions - The Story Bangladesh Tells' organized by the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment of Keele University under its course 'Climate Change & Sustainability: Global Perspectives'.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing between SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB

An important milestone was achieved in the realm of collaborative efforts for sustainable development, climate change, and health. SAJIDA Foundation and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) formalized their commitment to working together by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This collaboration signals the commencement of an exciting journey towards fostering cooperative efforts in sustainable development, climate change, and health, as highlighted in the press release. The primary objectives of this partnership include leveraging the combined expertise, resources, and networks of both organizations to conduct impactful research, create innovative solutions, and promote sustainable practices.

Zahida Fizza Kabir, Chief Executive Officer of SAJIDA Foundation, and Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, served as the key signatories representing their respective organizations during the MoU signing ceremony.

Zahida Fizza Kabir expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, "We are thrilled to announce our partnership with ULAB. This MoU signifies the start of a dynamic collaboration focused on sustainable development, climate change, and health." The collaboration reflects a shared vision to address pressing global challenges through joint efforts and coordinated initiatives.

The press release emphasized that the collaboration will extend its impact across multiple domains, including sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and health-related initiatives. By pooling their strengths, SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB aim to contribute significantly to addressing complex issues within these vital sectors. The signing of the MoU between SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB marks a strategic and promising alliance in the pursuit of sustainable development, climate resilience, and improved health outcomes. The collaboration sets the stage for meaningful research, innovative solutions, and the promotion of sustainable practices, reflecting a shared commitment to creating positive and lasting impacts in these critical areas.



## MoU Signing: ULAB and CCDB for Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed an MoU with Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) for Research Partnership, Knowledge and Resource sharing, Capacity Development, Internship, Advocacy, Networking, and Joint Project and Technology Development related to Climate Change and Sustainable Development. CCDB Climate Centre will also arrange Exposure visits and Talent showcases for the students of ULAB. In the signing program Vice Chancellor of ULAB Prof. Imran Rahman, Executive Director of CCDB Juliate Keya Malakar, Head of Climate Change Program of CCDB Mr. Foellullah Talukder, Dean of School of Science and Engineering Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, Visiting Research Fellow, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Acting coordinator of CCDB Climate Centre Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Adaptation Manager of CCDB Climate Centre Md. Kamal Hossain, Associate Professor Mirza Rasheduzzaman, and Lecturer Tahura Farbin were present.



## Engaging with International Scholarly Publishing Initiatives

On 21 and 22 February, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah virtually participated in the hybrid workshop titled 'Strategies for Improving Sustainability' organized under the Researcher to Reader (R2R) Conference 2023, in London, UK. On 19 April 2023, he was a panelist of a virtual panel discussion on 'Policy Brief on South-South and North-South Collaborations on Open Access' organized by Open Access India.

Dr. Irfanullah was on the Advisory Panel of R2R Conference 2023, a member of the Conference Program Committee of the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA), UK for 2023, a member of the Organizing Committee of the 9th Annual Meeting of the Asian Council of Science Editors (ACSE), Dubai, and a Co-Chair (since April 2023) and a member (since January 2023) of the 'Environment and Sustainability Committee' of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), UK.

In June 2023, Dr. Irfanullah was elected as a Council Member of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), UK for 2023-2025.

## V2V members in Action: Participating in the 5th International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans (ECCWO 5) in Bergen, Norway

The 5th International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans (ECCWO 5) in Bergen, Norway, witnessed robust participation from the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership. Dr. Prateep Kumar Nayak, the V2V Project Director from the University of Waterloo, played a pivotal role by convening two sessions. Dr. Samiya Selim and Dr. Jenia Mukherjee, V2V country coordinators, were invited speakers, while Md. Emon Rahman, an early-career researcher, presented a case study. The sessions covered topics such as transitioning fisheries systems, ocean-based carbon dioxide removal approaches, and adaptation strategies for small-scale fishers in Bangladesh. The symposium showcased 19 papers on fisheries vulnerability and resilience and eight papers on ocean-based carbon dioxide removal. These contributions underscored the V2V Global Partnership's commitment to advancing research on climate change impacts, resilience strategies, and sustainable development in marine ecosystems.

## International Hybrid Event: Launch of alliance for locally-led approaches for transformative action on loss and damage (ALL ACT)



Ms. Tahura Farbin participated in the Launch of alliance for locally-led approaches for transformative action on loss and damage (ALL ACT) hosted by ICCCAD and IIED, on 6 March 2023. The event was a hybrid event attended by dignitaries from all over the world.



Dr. Saleemul Huq of ICCCAD and Tom Mitchell from IIED gave the opening speech introducing the key issues, priorities and vision for tackling Loss and Damage particularly in context of COP 27 decision and roadmap for COP28 and beyond. ALL ACT will directly support countries and communities experiencing loss and damage by helping them optimize existing finance, expertise, and delivery mechanisms through creation of a national facility, and make them ready to deploy the additional funds when available.

This initiative has been designed based on the shared vision that emerged from the deliberative dialogues series organized by IIED and ICCCAD, jointly worked with Least Developed Country (LDC) group, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Youth Coalition and other stakeholder groups to co-develop a shared understanding of the issues, possible solutions and potential approaches to tackle and finance Loss and Damage (L&D). At the launch event ICCCAD and IIED co-presented their shared vision of LDCs, SIDS, the support partners along with progressive funding agencies and Philanthropies in actioning ALL ACT.

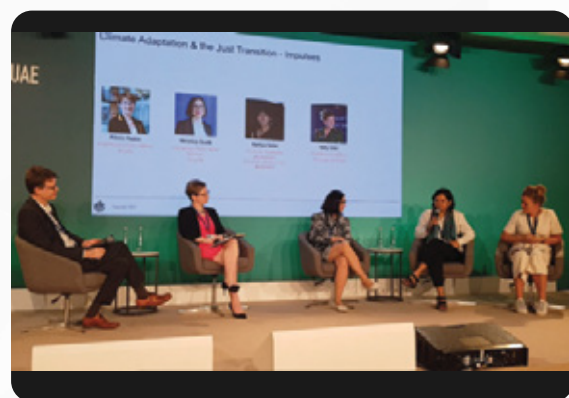
During the event the parties also shared approaches to closing the knowledge gap on non-economic loss and damage by creating a Loss and Damage Research Observatory This online platform will lay the foundations for a collaborative South–South–North community of practitioners, ultimately leading to informed policy on this critical area of climate action.

## COP 28

Professor Samiya A Selim, Director, CSD and Tahura Farbin, Lecturer and Research Associate had the privilege of participating in COP 28.

Tahura Farbin attended the opening ceremony of COP 28. In the opening ceremony COP 27 president handed over the baton to Sultan Al Jaber. A scientist whose absence was felt by COP audience was Prof. Saleemul Huq. This is the first year he was not there since its inception. Prof. Saleemul Huq's absence was felt by all at this year's COP. The opening ceremony of COP 28 paid tribute to Prof. Saleemul Huq with a minute silence. Something unprecedented happened at this year's COP unlike any other COP before. The operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund was announced by COP 28 President Sultan Al Jaber on the first day of COP- the exact words were - "Hearing no objections it is so decided" . The table erupted with celebration when the operationalization of the loss and damage fund was adopted with the host country pledging the first USD 100 million. By the end of Day 12 the pledge stood at USD 725 million.

Prof. Samiya A Selim, Director at the Center for Sustainable Development, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, delivered a thought-provoking session titled 'Collapsing Time and Space: Technology and Climate Smart Disaster Response' on Sunday, 3rd December 2023. In her talk, Dr. Selim delved into the intricate dynamics of disaster response, stressing the significance of comprehensive research both pre and post-disaster. She emphasized that safety doesn't conclude with disaster mitigation; it extends to the critical phase of rebuilding. Acknowledging the diverse needs of different communities, Dr. Selim advocated for tailored solutions, recognizing that a one-size-fits-all approach is ineffective. She stressed the need for more collaborative efforts required across sectors. Dr. Selim posed a pivotal question: How can we seamlessly integrate the public sector, private sector, government workers, and NGOs into a unified response mechanism? The answer, she asserted, lies in strong networks, harnessing technology, and utilizing data and information effectively.



On the 5th day of COP 28 Prof. Samiya Selim was a panelist in another session titled Climate Adaptation and Just Transition where her focus was on upskilling the workers that are needed to shift to have a Just transition. Furthermore, in the discussion points she raised she stressed the importance of getting out of silos and more emphasis on partnerships, involvement with the private sector etc.

Other sessions included a breakfast dialogue session at the Ritz and another session in the Bangladesh Pavillion titled "Fostering Resilience: The Path to Bottom up Mental Health Support in Climate - Affected Communities".

# INTERNATIONAL FUNDED PROJECTS

## Adapting Climate Change Education, Skills and Sustainability for Advancing Locally-Led Solutions (Access4all)

ULAB has secured the Erasmus+ CBHE Grant for the project titled Adapting Climate Change Education, Skills and Sustainability for Advancing Locally-Led Solutions - ACCESS4ALL. In collaboration with BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Independent University Bangladesh, Maastricht University and Heidelberg University, ULAB aims to co-produce and co-develop a southern-led curricula to overcome the gaps in knowledge and skills due to the existing top-down and Northern-led approach to climate change education.

By aligning with the Government of Bangladesh's plan to transform towards a green economy, and addressing the need for contextualized knowledge, green skills and learning from locally-led innovations in the Global South, ACCESS4ALL will develop short online courses with inputs from key stakeholders to equip individuals with demand-driven green skills, empower and mobilize communities in climate-affected areas, and create a globally-accessible repository for the resources.

## Elicit Needs-based Grassroots Action through Cross-Group Engagement (ENGAGE)

The project 'Elicit Needs-based Grassroots Action through Cross-Group Engagement (ENGAGE)' aims to enhance social resilience through climate-smart and diverse livelihood options in the Sundarbans. The valuable partnerships plan to overcome the political boundaries of the Sundarbans and facilitate transboundary knowledge exchange by creating a consortium of Academics and NGOs from India and Bangladesh.

While the academic partners ULAB, IIT Kharagpur and University of Lausanne focus on research components, implementation partners SAJIDA Foundation and Sundarban Jana Shramajibi Mancha will work on-field in both countries to implement integrated farms and inland fisheries in the vulnerable Sundarban region. Through these interventions, the project will create a community-community knowledge sharing platform with a participatory approach to involve the local communities. For this the academia, NGOs and communities come together to work towards enhanced social resilience in one of the most climatic-risk prone areas in Bangladesh and in India. The current activities of this project can be found on the website.

## Addressing Resource Use Through the Lens of Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity (ARISE)

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB, and Young Power for Social Action (YPSA) are coordinating the Ocean Defenders Grant Program, named "Addressing Resource Use Through the Lens of Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity (ARISE)," funded by the Environmental Defenders Collaborative (EDC).

The project responds to challenges faced by the Maheshkhali region's coastal communities, dealing with environmental and social issues due to extensive blue growth and development, including the construction of a deep-sea port and a coal-based power plant. The project plans a multifaceted approach, encompassing stakeholder workshops, community engagement events, skill development training, and the creation of a Maritime Information Support System (MISS). It aims to empower local communities affected by displacement and environmental degradation, fostering their voice in decision-making processes.

Plans involve additional support, including business initiatives, entrepreneurship training, mangrove regeneration, and small-scale financial schemes for livelihood improvement. The initiative aims to create sustainable change in the lives of affected communities, aligning with the broader goals of the Environmental Defenders Collaborative.

## Secure Tenure for Resilient, Inclusive and Valued Ecosystems (STRIVE)

The collaborative initiative involves three key partners: the University of Liberal Arts in Bangladesh, the University of Waterloo, and LEDARS. The project aims to develop an inclusive community-based management framework, empowering local fishers, especially women to enhance their voice and agency in stewardship over blue carbon ecosystems. Together, the involvers will address challenges in blue carbon markets in the Sundarbans. Through a multi-actor platform, the consortium endeavors to navigate the intricacies of blue carbon markets, ensuring equitable recognition of community rights. With a plan of over two years, the project aligns with the Marine Tenure Initiative, contributing to learning areas on funding consortiums, climate-tenure nexus, and community-led climate stewardship. The initiative underscores the importance of equity, justice, and gender considerations in fisheries management and tenure-climate nexus at both local and global scales.

## ACU Commonwealth Climate Resilience Challenge Grants

CSD ULAB has been awarded the ACU commonwealth Climate change resilience grant 2023. The project is titled "Building Resilience Together - integrated learning module to address the vulnerable communities in Bangladesh".

The project aims to address one of the strategic priorities of the Commonwealth Climate Resilience Network (CCRN) of contributing to the resilience of communities, this project aims to focus on the co-development of learning materials for future professionals interested in working with climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. This one year long project will develop short courses in consultation with relevant practitioners to help support the role and develop the capacity, and technical skills of the future workforce in community development and climate resilience in Bangladesh; and to enable networking among students and professionals and establish opportunities for collaboration.



# Publications

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- Gerhardinger, L. C., Rudolph, T. B., Gaill, F., Mortyn, P. G., Littley, E., Vincent, A. F., Herbst, D. F., Ziveri, P., Jeanneau, L., Laamanen, M., Cavallé, M., Gietzelt, J. M., Glaser, M., Chambon, M., Jacquemont, J., Selim, S. A., Brugere, C., Brito, C., Pereira, L., . . . Colonese, A. C. (2023). Bridging Shades of Blue: Co-constructing Knowledge with the International Panel for Ocean Sustainability. *Coastal Management*, 51(4), 244–264. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08920753.2023.2244082>
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- Sultana, R., Irfanullah, H. Md., Selim, S. A., & Budrudzaman, M. (2023). Vulnerability and ecosystem-based adaptation in the farming communities of Droughtprone Northwest Bangladesh. *Environmental Challenges*, 11, 100707. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envc.2023.100707>
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# CSD Team Members

## Dr. Samiya A Selim

Dr. Samiya A Selim is a Professor and Director of the Center. She completed her Postdoctoral Research at Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Germany, in May 2023. Her expertise lies in inter-disciplinary 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 15 years in the field of environment conservation, climate change and sustainable development.



## Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah



Dr. Irfanullah is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center. He is a biologist-turned-development facilitator, who often introduces himself as a research enthusiast. Over the past 24 years, Dr. Irfanullah has worked for different international environment and development organizations, academic/ research institutions, funders, and government agencies in different capacities. He frequently writes, talks and conducts research on natural resource management, environmental governance, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, nature-based solutions (NbS), locally led adaptation (LLA), and scholarly communication to stir conversations on these concepts and approaches. He is also an advocate of evidence-guided policy and practice change for effective conservation and resilience building efforts. Dr. Irfanullah has a PhD in aquatic ecology from the University of Liverpool, UK.

## Dr. Shahana Afrose Chowdhury

Dr. Shahana has more than twelve years teaching experience, leading and managing projects on renewable energy, experienced in research and development with a demonstrated history of working in the renewable energy, development sector and renowned academic institutions in Australia and Bangladesh. She is skilled in handling sustainable development projects, renewable energy, climate change and environment, agriculture and rural development, gender and migration. She is currently teaching sustainable development courses under the General Education Department.



## Md. Faisal Imran



Md Faisal Imran is a highly experienced development professional with over 7 years of experience in research including design, implementation, management, and documentation. He is now working as a Senior Research Associate cum Lecturer at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB. He completed his Master's in Zoology (specialization in fisheries) and his Bachelor's in Zoology from Jagannath University. In his early career with USAID, Mr. Faisal has experience working with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and communities, and has successfully completed numerous projects involving data management and analysis.

## Sameera Zaman

Sameera Zaman is a Lecturer-cum-Research Associate at the Center. She is an environmental and social researcher, with a Master's in Environmental Sciences from the University of Freiburg, Germany. By employing various 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 water treatment, phytoremediation and nature conservation. Her current research interests are in the areas of mainstreaming sustainability, sustainable development, responsible consumption and production, and sustainable education.



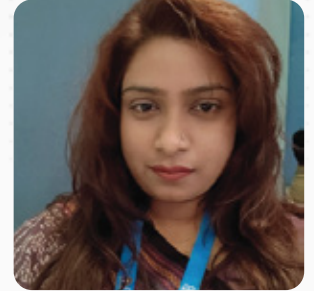


### **Tahura Farbin**

Tahura Farbin is a Lecturer-cum-Research Associate at the Center for Sustainable Development. She has a transdisciplinary background with a Bachelor of Laws from University of London and a Master of Science in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science from Lund University, Sweden. Her transdisciplinary background has prepared her to understand the natural science basis of today's environmental challenges, the governance of our socio-ecological systems, how these relate to our economic structures and how to go about putting scientific knowledge into action.

### **Nayma Akther Jahan**

Nayma Jahan is a Research Associate cum Lecturer at the Center for Sustainable Development. With a multidisciplinary degree in Geography and Environment from Dhaka University and a masters in Environmental Management and Policy from Lund University, Sweden she is mostly interested in sustainable energy and climate change mitigation related research. She has more than 6 years of working experience in various sectors, from academia to private sector, consultancy, development sector which has prepared her to blend theoretical and practical knowledge to problem solving.



### **Emon Rahman**

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

### **Md Wahed Alam**

Md. Wahed Alam has been working at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) as the Research and Admin Officer for four years. Previously he has been a part of JAAGO Foundation as Relationship Officer in the Child Welfare and Sponsorship Department (CWSD). He has completed his graduation from East West University (EWU) and Masters in Business Administration from University of Dhaka (DU). He handles the financial matters of the center such as project billing, accounts payable, payroll and budget. He approaches all aspects of any job with a positive, hard- working mindset, and is passionate about helping find solutions to any challenges.



### **Fozla Azim**

Fozla Azim is a career-driven, fast learner, ambitious, and focused person with the capability of solving problems with analytical and strategic thinking. Currently working as a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD). Major in Finance and Minor in Sustainable Development at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Urban development , Renewable energy, Disaster policy, Transboundary, and Alternative Livelihood Options are his current interests. In the Future, he wishes to pursue higher education in Climate Change and Disaster Management and SDG so that he can work for the women, children, minorities, and deprived people.

### **Ummey Habiba Iqbal**

Ummey Habiba Iqbal is working as a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. She has studied and completed her post graduation in Geography and Environment from University of Dhaka. As a geographer, she has a deep interest in the area of Climate change, Environmental analysis, Water resource management, Social Geography, Spatial Analysis using GIS, Image processing and Analysis using Remote Sensing. Previously, she has worked as a Research Assistant at the Bangladesh Initiative for Policy and Development. Besides, she has more than three years of research experience in the Department of Geography and Environment at University of Dhaka.







### **Shahriyer Hossain Shetu**

Shahriyer Hossain Shetu is a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Concurrently, he holds the position of English Speaking and Listening Instructor at the Center for Language Studies (CLS) since 2020. Having earned his Bachelor's Degree with a Major in English and Humanities and a Minor in Sustainable Development, he has also received the prestigious student scholarship awards, namely 'Dean's Honors List 2019' and 'Named Scholarship 2021' during his undergraduate tenure. Shahriyer is a writer, researcher, and an instructor. His writing mostly focuses on fiction, non-fiction, translation, opinions, satire, poetry, and prose, with numerous publications featured on both national and international platforms. While his earlier research focused on areas such as Feminism and Postmodernism, Shahriyer's current research interests lie in the domains of Climate and Sustainable-based research.

### **Sanzida Alam**

Sanzida Alam is a Research Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Humanities with a minor in Sustainable Development Studies (SDS) at ULAB. Sanzida also works as an English Instructor at English Champ and as a translator and transcriptionist for research projects. She has served as a team lead on multiple projects, effectively coordinating efforts, fostering collaboration, and motivating her teammates to achieve their goals. She has engaged in several workshops, seminars, and projects that allowed her to work in dynamic environments and collaborate with professionals from different disciplines. Her research interest lies in the areas of English as a Second Language, Material Development, insertion of local culture in language, literary sociability, sustainability, and development.



### **Md. Razin Saleh Alam**

Md. Razin Saleh Alam is a Teaching Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts degree from ULAB in English and Humanities. He previously served as a Peer Mentor at the ULAB Student Affairs Office, guiding and supporting students in their academic journeys for more than a year. In addition, Razin is a proficient graphic designer with more than three years of diverse experience, using his creative skills to communicate ideas visually and effectively. He works part-time as a translator and transcriber for research projects. Moreover, he has been actively involved in a diverse range of extracurricular activities. His research interests lie in the areas of circular economy, renewable energy, climate change, and sustainable livelihood. He is passionate about exploring innovative approaches to achieve sustainable development, focusing on creating systems that promote resource efficiency, reduce and adapt to adverse climate effects, harness renewable energy sources, and foster sustainable livelihood opportunities.

### **Isra Tahiya Islam**

Isra Tahiya Islam is a Teaching Assistant at the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Currently, she is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree at ULAB, with a Major in English and Humanities, and a Minor in Sustainable Development Studies. Alongside her studies, she holds a role as an English Speaking and Listening Instructor at the Center for Language Studies (CLS). Isra is also a Campus Ambassador for Teach for Bangladesh (TFB), advocating for inclusive and high-quality education for all. Beyond her academic focus within her major on language politics and psychoanalysis, her research interests also include climate change and the development of green skills.





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