



# UPDATING SPECIES RED LIST OF BANGLADESH

## RAG-Amphibia Field Report 3

Area Surveyed: Northeastern Bangladesh (Greater Sylhet)

Date: 20-26 Apr 2015



Photo: Smith's Litter Frog - A rare frog of Bangladesh

*Prepared by*

**M. Monirul H. Khan**  
**Lead Assessor, RAG-Amphibia**

**02 Jul 2015**



## Summary

IUCN-Bangladesh took up the project to evaluate the status of different species that are known to occur in Bangladesh. In order to fill the gaps of information on amphibians, and to collect first-hand information, the third field survey was conducted by a team of four members headed by the Lead Assessor in five sites in northeastern Bangladesh (Greater Sylhet) during 20-26 Apr 2015. A total of 12 species of amphibian under five families was recorded, which is 25% of the country's total amphibian species recorded so far. The most notable record of amphibian was Smith's Litter Frog (*Leptobrachium smithi*), which is a rare species in Bangladesh and is restricted to the mixed evergreen forest floor. Moreover, three species of rare bird (Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*, Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* and Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata*) were recorded.



## INTRODUCTION

The third field trip of the 'Red List Assessment Group (RAG) - Amphibia' under 'Updating Species Red List of Bangladesh' project was conducted during 20-26 Apr 2015. This is a joint project of IUCN-Bangladesh and Bangladesh Forest Department, which is supported by The World Bank. The first-ever national Red List Assessment was done in the year 2000, so an updated assessment was very much necessary. A total of about 1,700 species under seven groups are in the process of assessment by experts.

IUCN-Bangladesh took up the project to evaluate the status of different species that are known to occur in Bangladesh. In order to fill the gaps of information, and to collect first-hand information, there are limited provisions to conduct field surveys. As the third field survey on amphibians, a team of four members headed by the Lead Assessor surveyed the mixed evergreen forest, plantation, bush, reed and wetland habitats in northeastern Bangladesh (Greater Sylhet) during 20-26 Apr 2015.

A total of 12 species of amphibian under five families was recorded, which is 25% of the country's total amphibian species recorded so far. The most notable record of amphibian was Smith's Litter Frog (*Leptobrachium smithi*), which is a rare species in Bangladesh and is restricted to the mixed evergreen forest floor. Moreover, three species of rare bird (Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*, Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola aexilis* and Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata*) were recorded. The information will be useful to the respective RAGs.

### Team Members

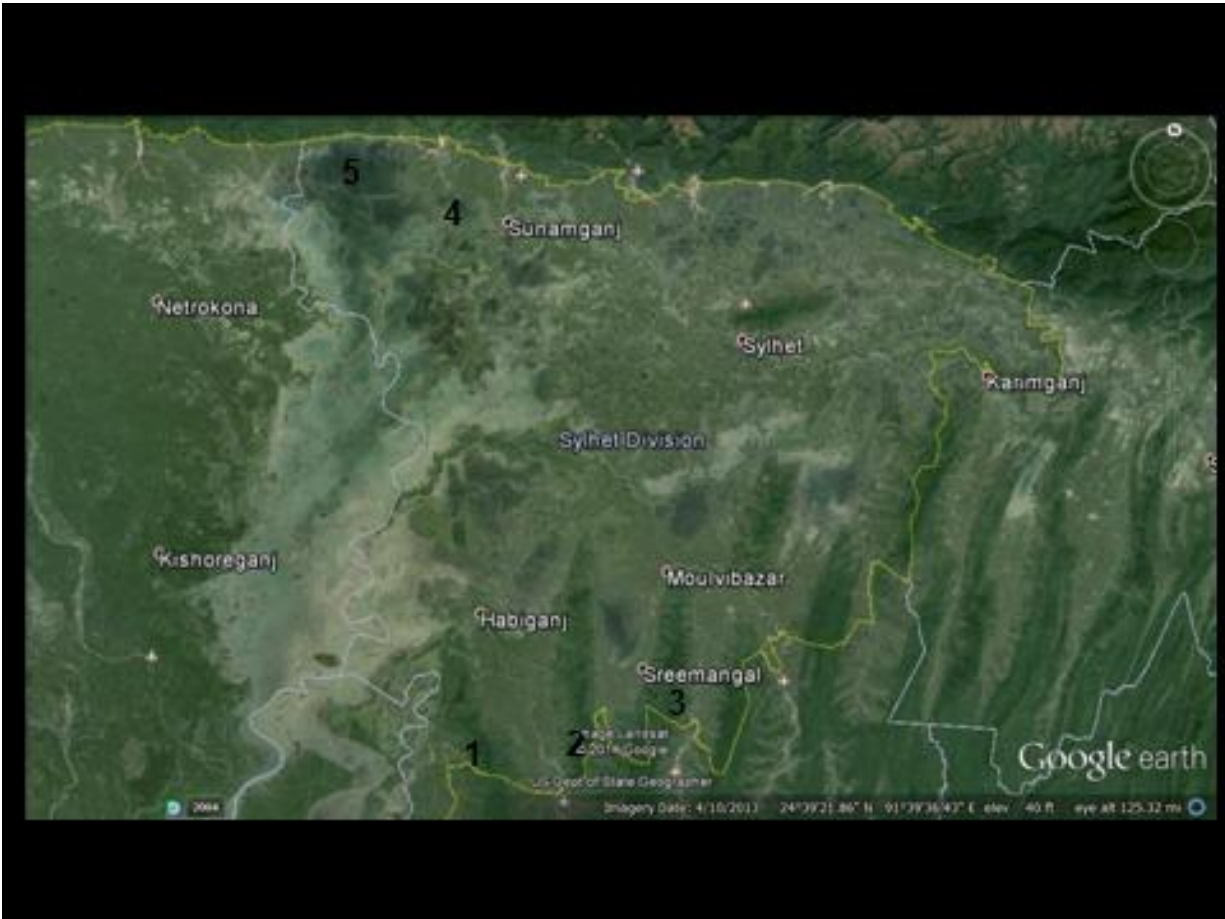
1. Dr. M. Monirul H. Khan, Lead Assessor, RAG-Amphibia
2. Ms. Tania Khan, Assessor, RAG-Amphibia
3. Mr. Ali Ahmed, Assessor, RAG-Amphibia
4. Mr. Shovon, Field Trip Manager (IUCN participant)



*Photo: The survey team watching a tree frog in Rajkandi Reserved Forest, Moulvibazar.*



*Photo: The survey team in TanguarHaor, SunamganjmmM.*



***Map: Northeastern Bangaldesh showing five survey sites: 1) Satchari National Park, 2) Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, 3) Rajkandi Reserved Forest, 4) Surma River and 5) TanguarHaor.***

## SURVEY FINDINGS

**Site-1: Satchari National Park**  
**Survey Date: 20 Apr 2015**

Satchari NP is situated in ChunarughatUpazila of Habiganj district. It is an area of 242.91 ha, mostly covered by mixed evergreen forest and bamboo. It was declared a NP on 15 Oct 2005. We conducted our survey from morning up to evening. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Amphibians recorded in Satchari National Park, Habiganj.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Asmat's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryaasmati</i>	4
2	Nepal Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryanepalensis</i>	1
3	Cope's Frog <i>Hylaranaleptoglossa</i>	4
4	Common Tree Frog <i>Polypedatesleucomystax</i>	1
5	Berdmore'sMicrohylid Frog <i>Microhylaberdmorei</i>	3



**Figure:** Berdmore'sMicrohylid Frog

**Site-2: Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary**  
**Survey Date: 21 Apr 2015**

Rema-Kalenga WS is situated in ChunarughatUpazila of Habiganj district. It is an area of 1,795.55 ha, covered by mixed evergreen forest, plantation, bamboo, bush and cultivated areas. It was declared a WS on 07 Jul 1996. We conducted our survey from morning up to night. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 2. Other than amphibians, good number of the globally threatened White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) was seen.

**Table 2.** Amphibians recorded in Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, Habiganj.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Asmat's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryaasmati</i>	5
2	Terai Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryateraiensis</i>	2
3	Nepal Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryanepalensis</i>	4
4	Cope's Frog <i>Hylaranaleptoglossa</i>	3
5	Skipper Frog <i>Euphlyctiscyanophlyctis</i>	6
6	Indian Bull Frog <i>Hoplobatrachustigerinus</i>	1
7	Berdmore'sMicrohylid Frog <i>Microhylaberdmorei</i>	6



**Figure:** Asmat's Cricket Frog



**Site-3: Rajkandi Reserved Forest**  
**Survey Date: 22 Apr 2015**

Rajkandi Reserved Forest is situated in Kamalganj Upazila of Moulvibazar district. This forest is situated along the hill range named Rajkandi Range. The area has a patch of natural mixed evergreen forest, which is surrounded by plantation of trees and cane as well as busy and bamboo-covered areas. The entire area has small wet areas in the forms of narrow streams, pools and marshes. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 3. Other than amphibians, two species of rare bird (Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* and Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola naefferi*) were recorded.

**Table 3.** Amphibians recorded in Rajkandi Reserved Forest, Moulvibazar.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Asmat's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya asmati</i>	4
2	Pierrei's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya pierrei</i>	1
3	Terai Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya teraiensis</i>	4
4	Nepal Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya nepalensis</i>	3
5	Skipper Frog <i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	11
6	Ornate Microhylid Frog <i>Microhyla ornata</i>	3
7	Berdmore's Microhylid Frog <i>Microhyla berdmorei</i>	4
8	Mymensingh Microhylid Frog <i>Microhyla mymensinghensis</i>	2
9	Smith's Litter Frog <i>Leptobrachium smithi</i>	1

**Site-4: Surma River**  
**Survey Date: 23 Apr 2015**

Surma River is the largest and most important river of the Greater Sylhet, which runs through Sunamganj and Sylhet districts. Since it was the early wet season, the river had moderate water and water current. We surveyed the riverbank on our way from Sunamganj town to Tanguar Haor. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 4. Other than amphibians we have found some rare wildlife, viz. Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) and Pallas's Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*).

**Table 4.** Amphibians recorded along the bank of Surma River, Sunamganj.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Skipper Frog <i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	28
2	Indian Bull Frog <i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>	5





**Site-5: TanguarHaor**  
**Survey Date: 24-25 Apr 2015**

TanguarHaor is a huge marshland of global renown, which is one of the two Ramsar Sites in Bangladesh. It is situated in the bordering area of Sunamganj district. The rain water from the nearby Meghalaya hills drains in the Haor, which drains out through Surma River and other rivers of the region. The wetland is divided in many 'beels', which have slightly different water depths and vegetation types, making the region excellent habitat for water-dependent organisms like fish, frogs and waterfowl. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 5. Other than amphibians, one species of rare bird (*Grassbird Chaetornis striata*) was recorded.

**Table 3.** Amphibians recorded in TanguarHaor, Sunamganj.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Asmat's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryaasmati</i>	6
2	Pierrei's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryapierrei</i>	3
3	Terai Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryateraiensis</i>	4
4	Nepal Cricket Frog <i>Fejervaryanepalensis</i>	7
5	Skipper Frog <i>Euphlyctiscyanophlyctis</i>	37
6	Ornate Microhylid Frog <i>Microhylaornata</i>	1
7	Indian Bull Frog <i>Hoplobatrachustigerinus</i>	8