

UPDATING SPECIES RED LIST OF BANGLADESH

RAG-Amphibia Field Report 4

**Area Surveyed: Southeastern Bangladesh
(Khagrachari, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar)**

Date: 22-26 Jun 2015



Photo: Indian Bull Frogs for sale in a market in Khagrachari

Prepared by

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02 Jul 2015



Summary

In order to fill the gaps of information on amphibians, and to collect first-hand information for IUCN Red Book on amphibians, the fourth field survey was conducted by a team of five members headed by the Lead Assessor in four sites in southeastern Bangladesh (Khagrachari, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar districts) during 22-26 Jun 2015. A total of 7 species of amphibian under five families was recorded, which is 14% of the country's total amphibian species recorded so far. The most significant observation was the sales of Indian Bull Frog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) in large numbers in the markets of Khagrachari, which is obviously the main reason of the decline of this important species that plays the key role in crop pest control. Other than amphibians, many Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) were seen in the area, which is the first record of the species in the southeastern Bangladesh.



INTRODUCTION

IUCN-Bangladesh, together with Bangladesh Forest Department, took up the project titled 'Updating Species Red List of Bangladesh' 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 five members headed by the Lead Assessor surveyed the hilly areas and wetlands in southeastern Bangladesh (Khagrachari, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar districts) during 22-26 Jun 2015. Unfortunately, the team faced the torrential rain and flash-flood in the entire trip, resulting in sighting of less amphibians and modification of tour plan.

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Team Members

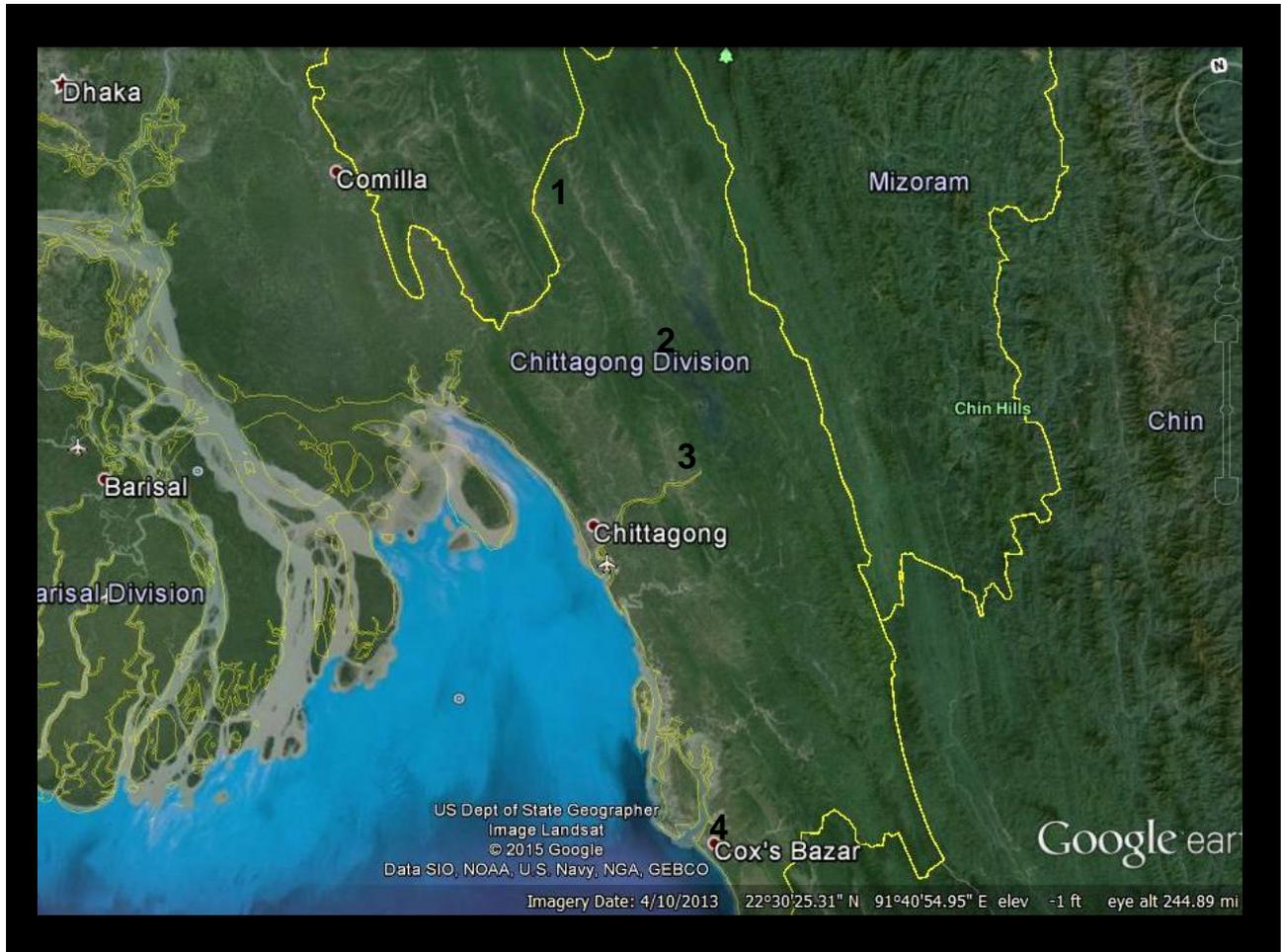
1. Dr. M. Monirul H. Khan, Lead Assessor, RAG-Amphibia
2. Ms. Tania Khan, Assessor, RAG-Amphibia
3. Mr. Ali Ahmed, Assessor, RAG-Amphibia
4. Mr. Nahid Hasan Khan, Field Assistant
5. Mr. Ahsan, Field Trip Manager (IUCN participant)



Photo: The survey team during the tea-break in Panchari, Khagrachari.



Photo: The survey team in Vana Vihar, Rangamati.



Map: Southeastern Bangladesh showing four survey sites: 1) Panchari, 2) Vana Vihar, 3) Kaptai National Park, 4) Cox's Bazar town.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Site-1: Panchari

Survey Date: 23Jun 2015

Panchari is a hilly area situated in the north of Khagrachari district. The hills are mostly of low elevation and are covered by bushy natural vegetation and plantation. The mixed evergreen forests exist in the form of small patches near the border. We surveyed the area from Panchari proper up to Dudukchari in Bangladesh-India border. The most significant observation was the sales of Indian Bull Frog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) in large numbers in the markets of Khagrachari, which is obviously the main reason of the decline of this important species that plays the key role in crop pest control. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 1. Other than amphibians, many Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) were seen in the area, which is the first record of the species in the southeastern Bangladesh.

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

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Common Toad <i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	2
2	Asmat's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya asmati</i>	4
3	Skipper Frog <i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	7
4	Common Tree Frog <i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>	1
5	Berdmore's Microhylid Frog <i>Microhyla berdmorei</i>	1



Figure: Common Tree Frog



Site-2: Vana Vihar

Survey Date: 24Jun 2015

Vana Vihar is mainly planted vegetation in hills and is surrounded in three sides by Kaptai Lake. It is situated on the edge of Rangamati town. The area is protected by the Buddhists since the area is under the Buddhist religious centre. Therefore, the wildlife of the area live freely despite the fact that the vegetation is mainly planted. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 2. Other than amphibians, very healthy population of Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) exist in the area, because the pilgrims provide food to them.

Table 2. Amphibians recorded in Vana Vihar, Rangamati.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Common Toad <i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	1
2	Asmat's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya asmata</i>	2
3	Skipper Frog <i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	3
4	Indian Bull Frog <i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>	1



Figure: Skipper Frog

Site-3: Kaptai National Park
Survey Date: 25 Jun 2015

Having an area of 5,464 ha, Kaptai National Park is situated in Rangamati district. It was declared a National Park in 1999, which was previously a Reserved Forest. The area is hilly, surrounded by Kaptai Lake, making the area beautiful and popular to tourists. The vegetation are mainly planted teak and natural mixed evergreen forest, together with bamboo and bushes. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Amphibians recorded in Kaptai National Park, Rangamati.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Asmat's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya asmata</i>	2



2	Pierrei's Cricket Frog <i>Fejervarya pierrei</i>	1
3	Berdmore's Microhylid Frog <i>Microhyla berdmorei</i>	1
4	Cope's Frog <i>Hylarana leptoglossa</i>	2
5	Smith's Litter Frog <i>Leptobrachium smithi</i>	1

Site-4: Cox's Bazar town

Survey Date: 26Jun 2015

Our plan was to base in Cox's Bazar town and work in Neikkhonchari, but the flash flood cut off the road communication with Neikkhonchari, so the team surveyed Cox's Bazar town instead of Neikkhonchari. The area is mainly along the beach with some brackish or fresh water ditches and streams that serve as habitats for amphibians. The amphibians that were recorded are given in Table 4.



Table 4. Amphibians recorded in Cox's Bazar town.

Sl. No.	Species Name	No. Counted
1	Common Toad <i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>	1
2	Skipper Frog <i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	3
3	Indian Bull Frog <i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>	1