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**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY JOIN TOGETHER  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORTS IN CHUNATI**

**DHAKA, AUGUST-- 12:** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the German development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on August 10 to support global climate change mitigation and adaptation in Bangladesh. At a signing ceremony, Mr. Peter Palesch, Country Director, GTZ Bangladesh and Ms. Denise Rollins, Mission Director of USAID Bangladesh, pledged to work together in the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) region. The collaboration between the two organizations will be funded by €2.5 million from the GTZ's Participatory Forest Management and Reforestation in Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary Project (CWS Project) and US\$15.5 million from the USAID four-year Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project.

The IPAC Project works in 26 major wetlands and forest protected areas and numerous smaller ecologically important freshwater wetlands throughout Bangladesh. It is designed to improve natural resource management through collaboration with local communities and the government. Chunati is one of three sanctuaries included in IPAC. Chunati is an ecological hotspot that serves as a major corridor for movement of Asian elephants between Burma and Bangladesh and is a habitat for garjan (*Dipterocarp spp.*) – an important timber species under threat. As part of a series of activities to improve the environment, USAID and the GTZ will plant trees to help restore 2,000 hectares of forest land, and will collaborate on ways to decrease carbon emissions in the region. These initiatives will help restore the severely degraded sanctuary, raise awareness through public education, and create alternative income opportunities for over 125,000 people who live in communities in and around Chunati.

Through USAID, the U.S. Government is working to improve the lives of the people of Bangladesh, especially the very poor. USAID funds programs in Bangladesh in five broad areas: improving health and pre-primary education, creating income opportunities for rural poor, supporting good governance at all levels, enhancing food security, and strengthening disaster preparedness and providing emergency assistance following natural disasters. The U.S. Government has provided over \$5 billion in assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In 2009, USAID's planned assistance will total about US\$172 million, including specific assistance for people living in the Cyclone Sidr affected region.

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