

# Ecological survey and community base conservation initiatives of Endangered Bengal slow loris in Bangladesh



Submitted by  
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## Activities-1: Staff recruitment and team building:

We built a research team 'Walk for Loris' comprising 6 permanent members and 6 interns to conduct the research and conservation work in 2 field sites.

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## Activities-2: Rescue center preparation:

Two abandoned buildings of Bangladesh Forest Department had been modified to prepare the rescue centers in Madhabkunda Eco Park and Satchari National Park. The plastic coated metal net used in preparation of front door, windows and shutter. Two wood made box had been fixed in different three angle to set the camera trap for observation of rescued slow loris. Two wood made tray and three plastic bowl fixed in the plant branches for food supplies. Inside the enclosure, artificial nature like habitat had been created to ensure the safe and stress-free stay over of Bengal slow loris.



Figure 1: Rescue centers; Madhabkunda Eco Park (left) and Satchari National Park (right).

## Activities-3: Workshop on Radio Collar tagging, handling and data collection of Bengal slow loris

A workshop comprising one day in house and three days on field was arranged to train the interns. About 30 graduate and undergraduate students dropped their CVs and cover letters to join our team. Primarily we selected 16 for in house training and we evaluated and prioritized them considering their response during workshop and academic level. We selected 6 interns for on field training session. They stayed three days in the field site, visited rescue center, learn about loris captive care, tagging, tracking and handling. They joined the nocturnal survey and behavior data collection to learn how to encounter loris at night and proper data collection methods. We teach them about loris ethogram and data writing strategy and management.



Figure 2: Workshop activities in Dhaka city and Madhabkunda Eco Park.

#### Activities-4: Tagging, Captive care and release of Bengal slow loris:

Four confiscated Bengal slow lorises were tagged using radio collars and two of them were released in Madhabkunda Eco Park and two in Satchari National Park. These lorises were rescued by Wildlife Crime Control Unit, WCCU of Bangladesh Forest Department and local community peoples from different locations (Table-1). We nursed the loris for four to five days and proper diet and care were provided. The consumption of food in captivity varies according to their age and body weight. Lorises ate avg. 115g food daily. For nightlong observation in the enclosure, we installed two camera traps from different angle. After health checkup, we tagged the lorises by radio collar transmitters and kept it in the rescue center to ensure radio collar doesn't create any inconvenience for the tagged individual. We ensured that (it's feeding and movement was normal) the loris was fit enough to survive in the wild. After releasing the loris in the wild we tracked them and collected behavior data for at least three days as they settled down and choose a new territory. Besides locals were also trained to track the lorises during our absence. The reintroduced lorises will be observed for one year.

Table 1: Radio collar tagging of confiscated Bengal slow loris in Madhabkunda Eco Park and Satchari National park.

SL NO	Tracking ID	Name of the Loris	Rescued from	Released in	Sex	Weight
1.	264924; 148.069 HSL	Madhobi	Lakkhichara Pan Punji, Barlekha	MEP	Female	1.213 kg
2.	264923; 148.048 HSL	Liton	Haluaghat, Mymemsing	MEP	Male	1.17 kg
3.	264922; 148.028 HSL	Anna	Amtoli, Rangamati	SNP	Female	0.910 kg
4.	264902; 148.008 HSL	Hasina	Haluaghat, Mymemsing	SNP	Female	0.927 kg



Figure 3: Radio collar tagging of Bengal slow loris.

Table 2: Sample diet fact sheet of Bengal slow loris in captivity.

Day	Supplied Items	Weight	Consumed Items	Weight
Day-1	Banana	89g	Banana	89g
	Carrot	20g	Tree Gum (ছাতিম, <i>Alstonia scholaris</i> )	6g
	Cucumber	23g	Tree Gum (জিগা, <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> )	29g
	Lory Nectar	174g		
	Tree Gum (ছাতিম, <i>Alstonia scholaris</i> )	51g		
	Tree Gum (জিগা, <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> )	44g		
			<b>Total consumption</b>	<b>124g</b>

Day-2	Banana	52g	Banana	52g
	Tree Gum (ছাতিম, <i>Alstonia scholaris</i> )	33g	Tree Gum (জিগা, <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> )	19g
	Tree Gum (জিগা, <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> )	19g	Insect larva	5g
	Insect larva	5g		
	Lory Nectar	174g		
	Cucumber	20g		
			<b>Total consumption</b>	<b>76g</b>
Day-3	Tree Gum (জিগা, <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> )	14g	Tree Gum (জিগা, <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> )	14g
	Boiled Egg	45g	Boiled Egg	35g
	Lory Nectar	101g	Banana	56g
	Banana	56g		
			<b>Total consumption</b>	<b>105g</b>
			<b>Average</b>	<b>101.67g</b>

Ecological data of tagged Bengal slow lorises has been collecting from two field sites. We are observing each of the lorises for three days per month following focal animal sampling protocol (Nekaris 2001). The location of lorises was recorded every 15 minute of interval using portable GPS. We recorded the feeding items and the methods of feeding (by licking, by hand, etc). The locations of sleeping trees were recorded & marked and height was measured by using a portable Laser Range Finder. Moreover, Diameter at Breast Height, DBH of the sleeping trees were measured using measuring tape.



Collecting natural gum for lorises



Supplying food in captivity for lorises



Observing captive behavior of lorises through camera trap



Releasing loris in the wild



Feeding insect in the wild



Feeding fig fruit in the wild

Figure 4: Captive care, release and observation of confiscated reintroduced lorises.



Collecting ecological data in drizzling



Collecting ecological data in MEP



Tracking loris in MEP



Tracking lorises in SNP



Writing data in MEP



Tracking loris in SNP

Figure 5: Tracking and data collection of reintroduced Bengal slow lorises.

## Hashtags:

#Ecology\_and\_conservation\_of\_Bengal\_slow\_loris

#We\_walk\_for\_loris

#isabelafoundation

## Publications:

Video Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsIcQd2BL1U&t=9s>

News cover: <https://www.tbsnews.net/environment/nature/conserving-bengal-slow-loris-bangladesh-712818>



Bengal slow lorises are globally endangered species. PHOTO COURTESY

## Conserving the Bengal slow loris in Bangladesh

**WILDLIFE**  
**WE SAVED HUMAN** BY **SANJIB BHANU**  
The Bengal slow loris is a queer animal — one of the 10 non-human primate species in the country. Very few know of slow lorises, even fewer know of their ties with us, the humans

There is only one mammal not from the primate to Bangladesh. All it is a threatened wild animal. The Bengal slow loris is a queer animal — one of the 10 non-human primate species in the country. Very few know of slow lorises, even fewer know of their ties with us, the humans. The Bengal slow loris is a queer animal — one of the 10 non-human primate species in the country. Very few know of slow lorises, even fewer know of their ties with us, the humans.

**The Xerox animal print**  
All lorises were a Xerox — black and white animal print. They were as big as a dog and as small as a mouse. They were as big as a dog and as small as a mouse. They were as big as a dog and as small as a mouse.



Slow loris population is under heavy stress due to illegal wildlife trafficking.

primate that has no winging abilities. Slow lorises possess unique adaptations in their hands and feet, enabling them with a pseudo-thumb grip to hold onto branches for extended periods.

**Sweet tooth**  
Slow lorises are voracious eaters, and their diet plays a critical role in their survival. They are omnivores, feeding on a variety of insects, fruits, and nectar. Their diet is primarily composed of insects, with a particular preference for termites and beetles. They use their pseudo-thumb to hold onto branches for extended periods.

**How the loris is a loris**  
Slow lorises are slow-moving animals. They are nocturnal and spend most of their time in the forest canopy. They are omnivores, feeding on a variety of insects, fruits, and nectar. Their diet is primarily composed of insects, with a particular preference for termites and beetles.

**Alarm factors**  
As lorises are kept in captivity and as many aspects of their life cycle are unknown, they are often the subject of illegal wildlife trafficking. They are often kept in captivity and as many aspects of their life cycle are unknown, they are often the subject of illegal wildlife trafficking.



“Lorises, despite being venomous and potentially dangerous animals, carry high demand in illegal pet markets. Illegal wildlife trafficking is still an underrated conservation concern in Bangladesh. There are several records of lorises being rescued from village groves. These also pose unique questions and hypotheses on the Bengal slow loris ecology.”

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The Bengal slow loris is the smallest primate in Bangladesh. PHOTO COURTESY

with the conservation practices are for proper and more intense.

All these studies will help us understand the population of slow lorises and identify other primate species in Bangladesh. However, more research is needed to understand the population of slow lorises and identify other primate species in Bangladesh.

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