

## **Brief summary of proposed research project Dr Nur Muhammed**

The world's forests, home to more than half of all living species, are very important for existence of the planet. The forest cover is shrinking worldwide. It is estimated that since 1961 tropical countries lost over 500 million ha of forest cover. The indigenous local people (about 200 million), children of forests, live in and around natural forests of Asia, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Central and Latin America. Indigenous peoples constitute most of the world's cultural diversity. They depend on forests for their livelihoods and other subsistence. This people are living miserably; they need not only conservation, but also development. Proposed research on 'livelihood support and potential role of indigenous people in forest management in developing world: Bangladesh perspectives' aims to carry out on three forest dependent indigenous communities in Bangladesh. The objectives of the study are - a. explore the current status, problems and forest dependency of indigenous people in Bangladesh, b. identify the lifestyle pattern, forest based livelihoods and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) system in Bangladesh, c. investigate the rights, access and role of indigenous local commune in forest management d. explore the on-going indigenous community based participatory forest management initiatives and e. identify the logistic support, systemic tools, other technical innovations and policy recommendations required for better forest management and sustained livelihood options. This explorative research will be carried out on the basis of holistic approach. Proposed methodologies for this research include secondary data and questionnaire driven primary cross-sectional data, Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA), key informant interview, application of proxy indicator, SWOT and Spider-Web analysis, etc. as applicable to respective study sites. Indigenous people have a sacred relationship with forest lands. Societies have to work with them in making plans about forests. Empowering indigenous people is essential. If we want to protect the forests we have to begin by dealing with them. We cannot walk over them as has been always the case. The ultimate end users of the results of the proposed study will be 1) The indigenous communities to be investigated (direct), 2) Policy makers (direct), 3) Indigenous communities and policy makers of similar context (indirect) and 4) Researchers and academia of the similar field who are working towards healthy forest & society.-