

CONFLICT BETWEEN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES AND LOCAL RESIDENT RIGHTS IN MADHUPUR NATIONAL PARK, BANGLADESH

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The government of Bangladesh considers most people of the Garo ethnic minority in the Madhupur forest to be illegal occupants of a national park. Encroachment by the Garo into the forest over many years and their use of forest resources have been regarded as problematic for the protection of the natural environment in Madhupur National Park. However, the major environmental problem in the Madhupur forest is actually that of unsuitable management by the government, which allows natural forest to be converted to artificial plantations. Governmental policies, such as the removal of the Garo people from a region of habitation and the questioning of their legal standing, have infringed upon the Garo's rights, creating social problems in the Madhupur forest. This situation can be attributed to excessive demarcation of the national park land at the time it was established.

Keyword: Garo, Deforestation, National park, Natural environment protection, Encroachment