

## Partnership Agreement

Between

The Community Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable Development (Compass) program of US Forest Service International Program, Rupayan Golden Age, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 99 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212

and

North South University, Plot-15, Block-B, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229

This partnership agreement is designed to reflect the understanding between the following two parties. This partnership agreement is executed in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by and between these two parties:

**1. The Community Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable Development (Compass)** program of US Forest Service International Program hereinafter called "Compass program of USFS/IP". Compass is an interagency partnership activity of USAID Bangladesh and United States Forest Service, International Programs (USFS/IP). The objectives of this program are to:

- Build the capacity of Bangladeshi institutions to address issues in natural resource management in Bangladesh.
- Develop individual awareness and capacity of students, professionals, and private citizens to address natural resource management issues in Bangladesh.
- Improve employability capacity and career opportunities among marginalized at-risk youth.

In collaboration with USAID Bangladesh, USFS/IP has been working in Bangladesh since 2009 and has developed longstanding partnerships in the country by providing need-based capacity building technical assistance in support of national-level capacity for forest management and monitoring. Following this work, in July 2019, Compass Program was launched focusing on new thematic areas to work for the entire country particularly highlighting Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and Dhaka districts which will continue up to July 2024. During this five-year period, Compass will address natural resource management challenges in Bangladesh through the six main components below:

- Component 1: Establish a Youth Conservation Corps in Bangladesh
- Component 2: Strengthen community capacity and promoting public participation.
- Component 3: Increase technical cooperation on forest and ecosystem management.
- Component 4: Strengthen the capacity of academic & research institutions in natural resource management and resilience.
- Component 5: Promote the global exchange of natural resource knowledge and skills.
- Component 6: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

The Compass program is meant to offer technical support that intends to establish and maintain a long-term partnership between the USFS, the Bangladesh Forest Department, Bangladeshi universities, NGOs, CBOs, and CSOs. The partnership is intended to transfer

tools, instruments, skills, knowledge, and forest management excellence from the USFS to Bangladesh to sustainably manage the forest ecosystem. Compass supports approaches such as gaining competence of ecosystem service valuation, enhancing community capacity in managing and governing natural forests, establishing Youth Conservation Corps, enhancing institutional capacity to manage natural resources, and support of alternative livelihoods away from natural resource extraction to conservation. Hereinafter, Compass is referred to as the "Compass program of USFS/IP" which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include the said Compass program, its successors and permitted assigns) of the ONE PART;

AND

The North South University via its Department of Environmental Science and Management (ESM) is committed to offering multidisciplinary education geared towards knowledge and policy suited for the environmental challenges of the present and future.

*(The Compass program of USFS/IP and NSU are hereinafter collectively referred to as "Parties" and individually as a "Party")*

## **2. Background**

The Compass program has been designed to collaborate with key academic institutions to provide technical and financial support in strengthening academic and research institutions. The component aims to enhance institutional capacities in preparing students to enter the workforce trained in urban forest, modern remote sensing and satellite imagery applications, data gathering and analysis techniques in natural ecosystem management and monitoring, REDD+ related activities focused on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), and technology based natural resource management tools. Some potential activities of the program include, but are not limited to, collaborative research, competitive grants and fellowships programs, country and international trainings on new technologies and techniques, support in establishing laboratories, upgrading facilities, acquiring materials and equipment, seminars, technical exchanges, competitive fellowships program.

The program intends to collaborate with public and private universities to support the transfer and development of innovative tools, systems, and technologies in space-borne imagery for forest management and monitoring. Foreign universities/research institutions may collaborate with Bangladeshi counterparts on joint publications and research programs and will participate in international conferences to present results of research collaborations, facilitating the participation of Bangladeshi counterparts in the conferences when possible.

## **3. Purpose of the partnership agreement**

The purpose of the partnership agreement is to engage in capacity building activities for students and faculties of ESM, NSU and collaborate on overall improvement of the practice of urban forestry & natural resource management of the country. When appropriate, the activities performed under this partnership will extend to other departments of NSU too.

## **4. Specific purposes may include, but are not limited to**

- To facilitate partnership between ESM, NSU, and US Universities/research institutions.
- To collaborate on joint research, conference, seminars, webinars, and fellowship programs.
- To support competitive research grants, students' field visits (sessional), and preparing thesis papers.



- To provide training on new technologies, techniques, methods, and concepts.
- To publish research findings in suitable forms such as research articles or book chapters.

#### **5. NSU**

The activities carried out under this partnership will pertain to the ESM, NSU. Apart from the mentioned department, technical assistance may be required from other departments of the University, which will also be coordinated by under this partnership agreement.

#### **6. Support from**

Under this partnership agreement, NSU via ESM intends to provide various support services in kind to the Compass program that will include:

- Students and faculty participation in different events/programs under the Compass program.
- National and international forestry/environmental day observance and arrangement of workshops/webinars for students/and faculties and Compass program participants.
- Participate and support in collaborative research work and production of scientific knowledge relevant to policy issues.
- Publish research results with the acknowledgement of Compass Program where the fund of Compass program is supported.
- Joint supervision and publication.
- Logistic support for workshops/seminars related to the objectives of the program.
- Coordinate with Compass program through bi-monthly meetings.

#### **7. Support from Compass program to NSU**

Under this partnership agreement, the NSU-Compass program collaboration may include but is not limited to:

- Support collaborative research between Compass program and ESM, NSU.
- Competitive small grants for research, thesis paper, and in-field training, and launch/participate in existing fellowship program.
- Support local, national and international trainings on new concepts, methods techniques, and technologies.
- Support in providing soft skills development trainings for students.
- Support in organizing and participating in various national and international conferences, seminars, and webinars.

#### **8. Duration**

Partnership agreement will be effective from the signing date onward till July 2024 (subject to availability of funds).

#### **9. Termination**

Either of the participants may terminate this partnership agreement by giving thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other.

#### **10. Limitations and Scopes**

This partnership agreement does not replace or interfere with any third-party agreements or contracts in force whatsoever, by USAID or the participants, either before or after the signing of this partnership agreement.

This partnership agreement does not create any legal obligations on behalf of USAID or USFS/IP, nor does it constitute an obligation or commitment of funds by USAID or USFS/IP. The partnership agreement is not legally binding under international law.




### 11. Communication

Any correspondence regarding the implementation of this partnership agreement between Compass program and IFESCU should be addressed below:

Compass program of USFS/IP	NSU
Project Lead	Chair
Compass Program	Department of Environmental Science and Management, North South University
Rypayan Golden Age, 6th Floor, 99 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh	Plot-15, Block-B, Bashundhara Dhaka 1229, Bangladesh

### 12. Amendment

This partnership agreement may be amended upon the initiative of either party by submitting a proposed amendment in writing to the other party.

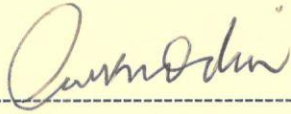
### 13. Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute both parties shall resolve the issue on the basis of mutual agreement.

### 14. Counterparts

This Partnership Agreement is executed by the parties in two originals and each of which is considered authentic.

In witness whereof, the Parties executed this Partnership Agreement as of the date first above



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**Dr. Abu Mostafa Kamal Uddin**

Project Lead  
Compass program  
USFS/IP

Date: 07 OCT 2021



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**Professor Atiqul Islam**

Vice Chancellor  
North South University  
Bashundhara

Dhaka  
Date: 07 OCT 2021