

ULLAH, Mahfuz (Bangladesh)

Current employment and position/title:

Secretary General, Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD), Bangladesh

Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

This would be, if elected, Mr Mahfuz Ullah's second term as one of the Regional Councillors from South and East Asia. When a number of Councillors are retiring and the President is not running for the second time, there should be some people to carry forward the experiences and knowledge to share with new Councillors. If elected his understanding would help the Council in ensuring continuity of knowledge. As an incumbent Councillor Mr Mahfuz Ullah served well as a member of the Bureau, Constituency Committee, Governance Committee and Private Sector Task Force. He also contributed his expertise as a member of the Resolution Working Group.

As a Councillor, Mr Mahfuz Ullah developed a good rapport with his other colleagues in the Council and the Secretariat Staff in the Headquarters. As we know, he is also a familiar face and name in his own region and in other regions of IUCN.

Particular qualifications to be a Regional Councillor:

Mr Mahfuz Ullah, one of the leading environmental activists, trainer, and media personality of Bangladesh, is the current Secretary General of the Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD), an independent think-tank. CFSD is a Member of IUCN and is the focal point for the Earth Charter in Bangladesh.

He is the immediate past Chair of the IUCN National Committee, Bangladesh and under his leadership the National Committee was approved by the Council of IUCN. Because of long association with IUCN, Mr Mahfuz Ullah has been exposed to and has a proper understanding about the mission, objectives, different programmes and activities of IUCN at national, regional and global level.

He holds a Masters Degree in Physics and Journalism and Mass Communication and has attended a number of professional courses abroad. He has worked as a Language Expert in China and served as the Press Officer at the Bangladesh Mission in Calcutta. He was also an adjunct teacher for some time in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dhaka University. He is credited for pioneering environmental reporting in the print media of Bangladesh.

Mr Mahfuz Ullah has authored a number of books and reports on environment and politics, the most important of which include: *Communication and Human Rights (et al)*, *Intellectual Property Rights and Bangladesh*, *Environmental Politics in Bangladesh*, *Genetically Modified Organisms and Bangladesh*, *Environment Outlook (et.al)*, *Changing Weather, Changing Climate (et.al)*, *Biodiversity, A Manual for Communicators (et.al)*. Some of these books are often cited globally by academics and researchers.

His other activities and memberships include: Visiting Trainer, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), and Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism & Communication, Life Membership of Bangla Academy and Permanent Membership of the National Press Club. He is also one of the Advisors of the Bangladesh China People's Friendship Association (BCPFA). He also heads another non-government organization called Nijera Shikhi in Bangladesh as Chair of the Governing Board.

He has a close understanding with most of the leading political parties of Bangladesh representing different shades of opinion.