

Summary Description

Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) Project

Activity Purpose:

- Provide technical advisory services to GOB environment, forestry and fisheries departments to support the further development of the natural resources sector and the conservation of biological diversity;
- Develop a protected area strategy that applies to all ecologically and economically significant areas, including those outside of freshwater and forest ecosystems;
- Build technical capacity within national and local level institutions for protected areas co-management;
- Expand the geographic area of Bangladesh under co-management to ensure the long-term success of the co-management model and to extend socio-economic benefits to surrounding communities, including increased access to improved drinking water supplies and to opportunities for alternative income generation
- Address within IPAC a series of short-, medium-, and long-term climate change mitigation and adaptation issues.

Location:

Field interventions in five Clusters including 26 targeted sites covering over 360,000 hectares and the surrounding landscapes with rural communities of 2.2 million people:

1. Sylhet (Tanguar Haor, Hail Haor, Hakaluki Haor, Lawachara, Rema-Kalenga, Satchari Khadimnagar protected areas)
2. Chittagong Hill Tracts (Pablakhali, Kaptai protected areas)
3. Southeastern (Teknaf, Inani, Himchari, Medha Kachapia, Fasiakhali, Chunati protected areas)
4. Central (Madhupur and Bhawal National Parks; Kangshaw-Malijhi and Turag-Bangshi wetlands)
5. Sundarbans (Wildlife Sanctuaries and ECA)

Government of Bangladesh Principal Stakeholders:

Ministry of Environment of Forests

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Partners:

International Resources Group (IRG)

World Fish Center – Bangladesh (WFC)

Adivasi Unnayan Kendra – Center for Indigenous Peoples Development (CIPD)

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS)

Community Development Centre – Chittagong (CODEC)

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA)

Asiatic Marketing and Communications, Ltd.

Oasis Transformation Ltd.

Module Architects

Independent University of Bangladesh, Dept of Environmental Studies (IUB)

Jahangirnagar University, Zoology Dept Wildlife Rescue Center (JU)

Arannayk Foundation

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Sundarbans Tiger Project / University of Minnesota and US Fish and Wildlife Service

Development Training and Services, Inc (dTTS)

East-West Center
Environmental Law Institute (ELI)
Epler Wood International
WWF-US

Project Duration:

Five years, from June 5, 2008 to June 4, 2013

Contacts:

USAID Activity Officer: Dr. Azharul Mazumder, tel. 885-5500 ext 2381
Project Directors: Forest Dept., Dept of Fisheries, Dept of Environment
IRG Chief of Party: Bob Winterbottom, tel. 987 3229, 987 1553

Summary:

The Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) will embark upon the *strategic goal* of scaling-up natural resource co-management at the policy and operational level by achieving recognition, acceptance and integration of this approach by the GOB into its management tactics. The overall IPAC *objective* is to promote and institutionalize an integrated protected area co-management system for sustainable natural resources management and biodiversity conservation that results in responsible, equitable economic growth and good environmental governance.

IPAC will build upon and provided additional support to the successful co-management interventions launched under the Management of Aquatic Ecosystems through Community Husbandry (MACH) project and the Nishorgo Support Project (NSP). MACH served to demonstrate the feasibility of the community co-management model to open water and wetland resources. NSP has supported co-management of tropical forest resources and pilot sites of the Forest Dept protected area network. It has concentrated on preserving protected forest areas in Bangladesh, along with biodiversity conservation, by working with local resource users living around officially notified protected areas (wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and game reserves). Particular emphasis has been given to developing the capabilities of local resource management organizations to broker community consensus in understanding, accepting and assuming their roles and responsibilities under a co-management approach in collaboration with the Forest Department.

Under IPAC, carefully crafted, integrated, activities will be implemented over significantly larger areas to: develop a protected area strategy that applies to all ecologically and economically significant areas, including those outside of freshwater and forest ecosystems, build technical capacity within national and local level institutions for protected area co-management, and expand the geographic area of Bangladesh under co-management to ensure the long-term success of the model. Institutionalization and successful implementation of IPAC will also address a series of short-, medium- and long-term climate change adaptation and mitigation issues.

Program:

The IPAC project includes three main components:

1. Development of a coherent strategy for integrated protected areas co-management and biodiversity conservation, through support for constituency building; visioning, policy analysis and strategy development; partnership building for sustainable financing; and development of an outreach and communication strategy with a focus on awareness-raising
2. Building stakeholder and institutional capacity, through support for training to GOB national and local level staff, NGOs and rural communities; strengthening of existing

- training centers and development of new and innovative applied training courses; and development of local support services for integrated, participatory co-management
3. Site specific implementation of co-management in Protected Areas to continue field testing and institutionalization of proven approaches for integrated PA co-management in existing and new aquatic and terrestrial protected areas; this will include the selection of additional sites to scale up the network of co-managed PA, and expanded support for alternative income generation activities, value chain strengthening, public-private partnerships, leveraged conservation financing and local level outreach to increase community interest in conservation and environmental stewardship, while contributing to improved welfare of rural communities through reduced vulnerability and increased adaptation to climate change, increased access to improved drinking water supplies and more secure and diversified livelihoods.

The program will also support cross-cutting approaches to take account of gender perspectives in natural resource management and to enhance gender mainstreaming processes, along with a focus on youth, to improve the livelihoods of young people and to provide a solid future constituency for conservation.

Website: www.nishorgo.org go to link to IPAC