



## **Nishorgo Support Project**

### **Technical Oversight and Monitoring of Local Currency Activities under Component 5: Year 5 First Quarterly Report April – August 2007**

*Submitted to:*  
USAID/Bangladesh

*By:*  
International Resources Group (IRG)

With subcontractors:  
Community Development Center, Chittagong (CODEC)  
Nature Conservation Management (NACOM)  
Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)

***USAID Contract no.: 388-C-00-03-00050-00***  
(Formerly known as Co-management of Tropical Forest Resources in Bangladesh)



Nishorgo Support Project  
A Project of Forest Department, Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Financed by USAID and Implemented by International Resource Group  
With subcontractors: CODEC, NACOM & RDRS



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## **A. Background & Context**

The Nishorgo Support Project (NSP) is a project of the Forest Department (FD), Ministry of Environment and Forests, funded by the USAID and implemented by the International Resources Group (IRG).

USAID is financing the NSP which represents efforts to create a platform for the co-management of productive rural resources for the benefit of local citizens and the national welfare. To that end, USAID has allocated funds (under monetized grant agreement between the Bangladesh and US governments) for some construction works (as attached herewith) in different areas of Moulavi Bazar (Sreemongal)/Hobiganj (Chunarughat), Chittagong (Chunoti) and Cox's Bazar (Teknaf) districts.

The contract between USAID and IRG for the Nishorgo Support Project includes a range of proposed activities and outcomes associated with achievement of components 2 and 5 of that contract. Component 2 of the contract is entitled: "Interventions and Investments for Improved Ecosystem Management." Component 5 of the contract is entitled: "Ensuring Institutionalization of Co-management". As per USAID Contract Modification No. 6, IRG shall undertake the responsibility for technical oversight of the following additional and specific works with no additional funding. These tasks itemized below will be performed by the FD and the cost for these activities will be paid from the 416(b) Local Currency funds under the control of the FD.

### **Component 2: Interventions and Investments for Improved Ecosystem Management**

#### Restoration of degraded forest habitat

- Social forestry plantations established in the buffer zones around PAs to benefit key stakeholders in PA management;
- Restore plantations on heavily degraded forests in buffer zones;
- Rehabilitate natural habitats in the PAs.

### **Component 5: Ensuring Institutionalization of Co-management**

#### Construction of

- PA visitor services, including
  - Improved hiking trails, foot bridges, signboards;
  - Parking areas for visitors.
- Facilities to support improved performance of the FD staff members, including
  - DFO Office and Residence at Moulavi Bazar for the DFO Wildlife;
  - ACF Quarters at all five NSP pilot PAs;
  - Quarters for two other staff members at all five pilot PAs;
  - Staff barracks at all five pilot PAs.
- Facilities to support outreach and communication to youth and the public, to build stronger institutional support for PA management, including
  - Student Dormitory at all five pilot PAs;
  - Small Visitors Information Center at all five pilot PAs.
- PA boundary demarcations using concrete pillars.

The technical oversight and monitoring role to be performed by IRG shall however not include:

- Signing or otherwise formally attesting the validity of invoices submitted by other contractors implementing construction activities;
- Guaranteeing the structural permanence or solidity of buildings constructed with local currency resources;
- Assuming any liability concerning the use of local currency resources.

**B. Purpose:**

USAID Dhaka, on behalf of USDA will continue monitoring the activities implemented by the Forest Department from the local currency fund. To that effect, USAID/Dhaka, through a modification to the Statement of Work of the existing contract with IRG has granted the authority to IRG for the technical oversight and monitoring of said activities on behalf of USAID.

This report presents the physical progress, work status, constraints and suggested remedies on various work components being implemented by the FD for period covering April 15 - August 31, 2007.

**C. General Issues/Observations:**

- Engineering designs and technical specifications are not always affixed with the bid documents when tenders floated.
- No criteria seem to exist for assessing the contractors' qualification/experience and their selection.
- Remoteness of work location, non-availability of bid specified quality materials and sudden price hikes in the market have been a great deal of concern as expressed by the contractors and the field FD officials.
- Designs and cost estimates of a few work components will require some modifications.
- Most of the contractors are not skilled enough nor have any qualified persons/engineers to understand the technical nitty-gritty rather mostly dependant on the skills of the chief mason.
- Power scarcity is also a concern for certain locations.
- In some locations the work progress is not up to the mark and the contractors need to be pushed to speed up the work for timely completion and handover.

**D. General Recommendations:**

- **Engineering designs and technical specifications:** These documents must be affixed with the bid documents when tenders floated. This will eliminate possible confusions regarding the technical aspects of all construction work components between the contractor, FD and the monitoring engineering firm.
- **Pre-qualification criteria for contractors:** It may be true that quality contractors may not be available at all NSP project sites. Yet, some criteria should be included in the bid document which shall signify the contractors' experience and qualifications. This is particularly important for works like Nature Education Center/Visitors Information Center that requires special skills and knowledge on civil engineering works. The slow progress of Nature Education Center/Visitors Information Center the work at Satchari National Park is an example at hand.
- **Materials quality and price-hike:** For some locations it may be true that the materials available may not be of bid specified or desired standards. Contractors bid on the basis of materials that are available locally. However, in such cases the best possible materials available within the vicinity should be located and used. All such materials must be approved by the concerned/designated FD official. IRG engaged engineering firm, at request, may help the FD in this regard.

As regards cost adjustment of any materials between the market price (caused by sudden rise) and estimated rates (made on the basis of PWD guidelines), IRG considers this as the responsibility of the FD since they (FD) are mandated to follow the PWD rates.

- **Modification of designs and associated costs:** This is being done by Module Architects and will be submitted to the FD soon.

- **Contractors' engineer/skilled person:** This may be a criterion for selecting a winning contractor. This will certainly speed up the work progress as many issues could be resolved without the assistance of the IRG appointed consultant engineers and thus avoiding possible delays.
- **Speed up of ongoing works:** This should be solely managed by the FD and something to be agreed explicitly in writing prior to awarding the contract. Frequent visits by the concerned DFOs may expedite the work progress as the contractors can receive instant decisions from the DFO avoiding possible delays.

**E. Organization of this report:**

This report is presented in the following three sections:

**Section 1:** Synthesis of observations of the construction works by sites;

**Section 2:** Periodic reports submitted by the Module Architects appointed engineering firm of IRG for all construction works except for Visitors Information Center; and

**Section 3:** Periodic reports submitted by the Vitti Sthapati Brindo; IRG appointed engineering firm for Visitors Information Center. Note that Vitti has been the winning firm for this architectural design under a nationwide competition organized under the NSP and hence, Vitti has been considered as most competent firm for the technical oversight and monitoring works of the Visitors Information Center.

## **Section 1**

# **Synthesis of Observations by Site Implementation of Infrastructure Works Funded by USAID Under 416(b) Local Currency by the Forest Department**



**Synthesis of Observations on Infrastructure Works Funded by USAID Under 416(b) Local Currency & Implemented by the Forest Department**  
**Period Covered: April 15 - August 31, 2007**  
**Location: Moulavi Bazar**

Items	DFO's Office	DFO's Residence & Garage	Staff Quarter	Boundary Wall	Road Construction	Water Supply	Electricity	Fencing
Approved cost per PP / Sanctioned Cost	Tk. 3,125,000	Tk. 1,625,000	Tk. 2,000,000	LS Provision	LS Provision	P/site Tk. 400,000	P/site Tk. 800,000	LS Provision
Contracted cost	Tk. 3,110,000	Tk. 1,511,729	Tk. 1,511,729	Tk. 1,786,000	Tk. 1,790,390	Tk. 595,000	To be collected	Tk. 706,032
Biddign & award of contract	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Not applicable	Competetive bidding
Building type	2 storied permanent	2 storied permanent	1 storied permanent	Concrete column, beam with MS falt bar	Herring Bond brick road	Deep Tubewel		This is a part of the boundary wall work
Size/Quantity	250 sq. meter	145 sq. meter	80 sq. meter X 2	1786 sqm	800 run. meter	1		
Approval of design, plans and estimates	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)			
Wrok commence date	11-Mar-07	11-Mar-07	11-Mar-07	10-Apr-07	18-Apr-07	27-May-07		10-Apr-07
Scheduled completion date	10-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	10-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	10-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	10-Jun-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	17-Jun-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	26-Jun-07		10-Jun-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07
Wrok status on June 30, 2007	Nearly 30%	Nearly 30%	Nearly 40%	Nearly 60%	Nearly 80%	The first location failed as the water level was not found even after going much deep. A second spot was choosen and water level found. Pipe installation is nearly complete.	Palli Biddut is yet to start the work	Barbed wire fencing will begin after the pillar works are done
Overall materials quality	In general good	In general good.	In general good.	Appeared good	Appeared good	Satisfactory		

Items	DFO's Office	DFO's Residence & Garage	Staff Quarter	Boundary Wall	Road Construction	Water Supply	Electricity	Fencing
Constraints if any	Common: Contractors do not have own engineer. This creates problem in understanding technical specs. Additional issues are: (a) Deviated from using the specified sand at plinth work; (b) Limited skilled masons specifically for brick pointing works.	(a) Deviated from using the specified sand at plinth work; (b) Limited skilled masons specifically for brick pointing works resulting temporary halt of the work.	(a) Deviated from using the specified sand in foundation trenches and at plinth work; (b) Brick pointing works not up the mark.	Work progress has been satisfactory but could have progressed more if rain did not interrupt.	Overall work progress is satisfactory but the workmanship is not up to the mark. Also rain has caused interruption to work progress.			
Remedies suggested	(a) Specified sand must be used; (b) Increase the number of skilled masons for exposed brick works	(a) Specified sand must be used; (b) Increase the number of skilled masons for exposed brick works	(a) Specified sand must be used; (b) Increase the number of skilled masons for exposed brick works	None	The work quality needs to improved and the contractor has been advised accordingly.			
Follow up actions	(a) Contractor agreed to provide the specified sand while finishing the floor works (b) Will search for additional mason and until found one, the existing mason will work at all work sites	(a) Contractor agreed to provide the specified sand while finishing the floor works (b) Will search for additional mason; until found one, the existing mason will work at all work sites	(a) Contractor agreed to provide the specified sand while finishing the floor works (b) Agreed to bring in skilled mason	None	Frequent visit by the monitoring engineer and concerned FD officials			

**Synthesis of Observations on Infrastructure Works Funded by USAID Under 416(b) Local Currency & Implemented by the Forest Department**

**Period Covered: April 15 - August 31, 2007**

**Location: Lawachara National Park (LNP)**

Items	ACF's Bungalow & Park Office	Students Hut/Dormitory	Dormitory/Barrack for Staff	Animal Recovery Shed	Renovation of Forest Bungalow
Approved cost per PP/Sanctioned Cost	1,032,500	1,875,000	2,100,000	1,250,000	242,081
Contracted cost	1,005,543	1,684,453.89	2,067,335	1,220,000	
Biddign & award of contract	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding
Building type	Semi permanent; side wall with CI sheet roof	1 storied permanent	Semi permanent; side wall with CI sheet roof	Semi permanent; side wall with CI sheet roof	Repair/renovation works
Size/Quantity	147.5 sq. meter	150 sq. meter	150 sq. meter X 2	250 sqm	1
Approval of design, plans and estimates	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)
Wrok commence date	11-Mar-07	13-Mar-07	11-Mar-07	13-Mar-07	27-May-07
Scheduled completion date	10-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	12-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	10-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	12-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	26-Jun-07
Wrok status on June 30, 2007	Nearly 35%	Nearly 40%	Nearly 45%	Nearly 40%	No data
Overall materials quality	In general as per specified specifications.	In general good.	In general good.	Apparently ok.	Apparently ok.
Constraints if any	Deviated from using the specified sand in foundation trenches and at plinth work. Other than this no deviations noted.	Deviated from using the specified sand in foundation trenches and at plinth work. Other than this no deviations noted.	Deviated from using the specified sand in foundation trenches and at plinth work. Other than this no deviations noted.	None	None
Remedies suggested	None	None	None	None	None
Follow up actions	None	None	None	None	None

**Synthesis of Observations on Infrastructure Works Funded by USAID Under 416(b) Local Currency & Implemented by the Forest Department**

**Period Covered: April 15 - August 31, 2007**

**Location: Satchari National Park**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Nature Education/Visitor Information Center</b>	<b>Pond Excavation</b>	<b>Renovation of FD Guest House</b>
Approved cost	Tk. 3,429,641	Tk. 312,000	Tk. 116,809
Contracted cost	Tk. 3,341,793	Tk. 228,985	To be obtained
Biddign & award of contract	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding
Building type	2 Storied permanent	Earth digging	Repair and renovation
Size	100 sqm		
Approval of plans and estimates	Approved (design/estimates are as per the 1st prize winner (Vitti Sthapati ) in the nation-wide architectural design competition) nature education center	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)
Wrok commence date	11-Mar-07	13-Mar-07	27-May-07
Scheduled completion date	10-May-07; extended up to 28-Jun-07	12-May-07	26-Jun-07
Wrok status on June 30, 2007	The status report as of 12th June 2007: about 10% estimated.	Completed	Nearly completed
Overall materials quality	Initially unacceptable quality of bricks and brick chips brought to site. Contractor has taken them back at the advice of Vitti engineers.	N/A	To report
Constraints if any	The selection, technical know-how, quality and experience of the selected contractor has been a concern. FD was apprised of this concern. Subsequently NSP has appointed engineer through Vitti for proper continuous supervision and monitoring of the works. While work quality is being strictly monitored but as of June 12, 2007 the work progress has been unsatisfactory. NSP has kept the FD posted at regular time intervals. Additionally, rain has been a major interruption to work progress.	None	-do-

Remedies suggested	Vitti (monitoring firm) has prepared a check list for all major construction, wood, electrical and plumbing items for the contractor to follow. This will ensure quality of materials to be used for the structure. Contractor must be motivated to speed up the work.	None	-do-
Follow up actions	Monitoring engineer is continually supervising the work to ensure the look, quality and image of the infrastructure befitting to a PA environment.	None	-do-

**Synthesis of Observations on Infrastructure Works Funded by USAID Under 416(b) Local Currency & Implemented by the Forest Department**

**Period Covered: April 15 - August 31, 2007**

**Location: Rema-Kalenga**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Renovation of FD Guest House</b>
Approved cost	Tk. 800,000
Contracted cost	To be obtained
Biddign & award of contract	Competitive
Building type	Repair and renovation
Size	N/A
Approval of plans and estimates	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)
Wrok commence date	27-May-07
Scheduled completion date	26-Jun-07
Wrok status on June 30, 2007	Nearly 60% completed
Overall materials quality	In general appeared good
Constraints if any	None
Remedies suggested	None
Follow up actions	None

**Synthesis of Observations on Infrastructure Works Funded by USAID Under 416(b) Local Currency & Implemented by the Forest Department**

**Period Covered: April 15 - August 31, 2007**

**Location: Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS)**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Dormitory/Barrack for Staff</b>	<b>Fencing</b>	<b>Foot-trail</b>	<b>Renovation of Forest Bungalow</b>
Approved cost per PP/Sanctioned Cost	Tk. 1,050,000	Tk. 400,000	Tk. 300,000	Tk. 854,000
Contracted cost	Tk. 1,050,000	Tk. 400,000	Tk. 299,995.47	Tk. 853,531.84
Biddign & award of contract	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding	Competitive bidding
Building type	Semi permanent; side wall with CI sheet roof	Development work	Development work	Repair/renovation
Size/Quantity	150 sq. meter X 1	Data to be collected	Data to be collected	2
Approval of design, plans and estimates	Approved	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)
Wrok commence date	Data to be collected	Data to be collected	Data to be collected	Data to be collected
Scheduled completion date	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07
Wrok status on June 30, 2007	Nearly 90%	Nearly 60%	Nearly 80%	Completed
Overall materials quality	In general quality of a number of items is not good. Storng reservations registered by the NSP appointed monitoring firm and USAID engineer	Module to collect data	N/A	Module to collect data
Constraints if any	Overall work is of very poor quality. A wide variety of materials need to be chnaged. USAID field vist report suggested complete dismantling of the structure. However, a number of remedial actions were discussed in a meeting with the PD and he would inform the concerned DFO for their immediate impelmentation (refer detail in the report submitted by Module).	Data to be collected	N/A	Data to be collected

Items	Dormitory/Barrack for Staff	Fencing	Foot-trail	Renovation of Forest Bungalow
Remedies suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exposed bricks to be plastered, pointed and then painted in red matching normal brick color;</li> <li>- Redoing of the white wash work;</li> <li>- Existing false ceiling shall be totally removed and replaced with a better one;</li> <li>- Door frames will be completely replaced with better wood and finishing;</li> <li>- Door shutter and verandah rail shall replaced to follow the approved design;</li> <li>-Electrical wiring shall be concealed using appropriate PVC pipe matching the approved specifications;</li> <li>- All electrical switches and fan dimmers will be replaced to match the approved specifications;</li> <li>- Existing window designs shall be changed to conform with the specified specifications.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Follow up actions	The proposed changes are being done by the concerned official. In the next report the compliance to the agreed changes will be reported.	N/A	N/A	N/A



**Synthesis of Observations on Infrastructure Works Funded by USAID Under 416(b) Local Currency & Implemented by the Forest Department**

**Period Covered: April 15 - August 31, 2007**

**Location: Teknaf Game Reserve (TGR)**

Items	ACF's Bungalow & Park Office		Students Hut/Dormitory		Dormitory/Barrack for Staff		Nature Education/Visitor Information Center			Renovation of Forest	
Bungalow	Fencing	Electricity	Road Construction	Foot-trail	Water Supply	Pond Excavation					
Approved cost per PP/Sanctioned Cost	Tk. 1,032,500	Tk. 1,875,000	Tk. 1,050,000	Tk. 3,464,000	Tk. 50,000	Tk. 950,000	Tk. 600,000	Tk. 500,000	Tk. 530,000	Tk. 200,000	Tk. 93,750
Contracted cost	Tk. 1,032,500	Tk. 1,875,000	Tk. 1,050,000	Tk. 3,464,000	Tk. 50,000	Tk. 950,000	Tk. 600,000	Tk. 500,000	Tk. 530,000	Tk. 200,000	Tk. 93,750
Biddign & award of contract	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding	Competetive bidding
Building/work type	Semi permanent; side wall with CI sheet roof	1 storied permanent	Semi permanent; side wall with CI sheet roof	Semi permanent; side wall with CI sheet roof	Repair/renovation works	Semi permanent	Connection with pole and wiring etc.	Brick soling	Development works	Tubewell/Ring well installation	Development works
Size/Quantity	147.5 sq. meter	150 sq. meter	150 sq. meter X 2	250 sqm	1	No data	Teknaf range Beat Office	969 sqm	Approx. 2 km	1	1
Approval of design, plans and estimates	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	Approved. Locally designed & estimated (not by NSP eng. firm)	N/A	No data	No data	N/A	N/A
Wrok commence date	24-Apr-07	30-Apr-07	19-Apr-07	28-Mar-07	25-Jun-07	3-May-07	25-Jun-07	26-Apr-07	5-Mar-07	22-Apr-07	22-Apr-07
Scheduled completion date	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-07
Wrok status on June 30, 2007	Nearly 35%	Nearly 40%	Nearly 35%	Nearly 40%	Work began prior to awarding monitoring contract to Module	Nearly 60%	Nearly 95%	Completed	Completed	Nearly 80%	Completed
Overall materials quality	Deviations in some items noted.	Except for brick-chips all others found as per specification	Except for brick-chips all others found as per specification	Apparently ok.	Module to collect	Look-wise appeared ok.	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A

Constraints if any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engineering designs were not affixed with the bid documents;</li> <li>- Estimated cost appeared low as additional verahdahs missed out through oversight which has caused some concerns for contractor;</li> <li>- Contractors seemed sloppy about speedy work completion compared to other sites;</li> <li>- Deviated from using the specified sand in foundation trenches and at plinth work;</li> <li>- Bricks and brick-chips were found not up to the required standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engineering designs were not affixed with the bid documents;</li> <li>- Contractors seemed sloppy about speedy work completion compared to other sites;</li> <li>- Deviated from using the specified sand in foundation trenches and at plinth work;</li> <li>- Bricks and brick-chips were found not up to the required standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deviated from using the specified sand in foundation trenches and at plinth work. Other than this no deviations noted.</li> <li>- Lack of skilled masons;</li> <li>- Exposed brick work was found not up to the mark.</li> </ul>	None	-do-	The foundation works of pillars (strength) could not be checked;	REB is yet to give connection	None	None	None	None
Remedies suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Module will work with the DFO to channelize the less quoted amount to make up for the deficit;</li> <li>- Contractor will replace the bricks and brick chips as agreed with the DFO;</li> <li>- Contractor must be motivated for completion of the work on time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor will replace the brick chips as agreed with the DFO;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exposed brick work must match with the required standard;- Need skilled masons to maintain quality.</li> </ul>	None	-do-	None at this stage. Module will continue monitoring and report in the next quarter's report if anything found wrong.	FD needs to pursue the matter with REB	None	None	None	None

Follow up actions	FD to see that the bircks and chips are changed and contractors complete the work on time.	FD to see that the brick chips are changed.	- Exposed brick work has been re-done and now looks ok.	None	-do-	None	None	None	None	None	None
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## Section 2

### Reports of Module Architects

### Section 3

Reports of Vitti Sthapati Brindo