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INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA CO-MANAGEMENT (IPAC)

FIFTH AND FINAL ANNUAL WORK PLAN
June 1, 2012 – June 4, 2013



July 16, 2012

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COVER PHOTO:

Co-Management Congress and Fair held in Dhaka on 23-24 March 2012, where more than 700 community leaders and field representatives from 25 forest and wetland protected areas, as well as other stakeholders including government staff, NGOs, donor representatives and implementing partners participated. The Congress was inaugurated by honorable Minister of Environment and Forests (MOEF), Govt. of Bangladesh as Chief Guest and the USAID Mission Director and the Secretary, MOEF as special guests.

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Acronyms

ACF	Assistant Conservator of Forests
ADP	Annual Development Plan
AIG	Alternative Income Generation
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CMC	Co-Management Committees and Councils
CMO	Co-Management Organization
COP	Chief of Party
CPG	Community Patrolling Group
DC	District Commissioner
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
DoE	Department of Environment
DoF	Department of Fisheries
ECA	Ecologically Critical Areas
ECNEC	Executive Committee for National Economic Council
EWC	East-West Center
FD	Forest Department
FRUG	Federation of Resource User Groups
FUG	Forest User's Groups
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
IPAC	Integrated Protected Area Co-management
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
LOI	Leaders of Influence
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MACH	Management of Aquatic Ecosystems through Community Husbandry
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MoL	Ministry of Land
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NS	Nishorgo Sahayak
NSP	Nishorgo Support Project
PA	Protected Area

PMARA	Performance Monitoring and Applied Research Associate
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RIMS	Resource Information and Management System (of Forest Department)
RMO	Resource Management Organizations
RUG	Resource User Groups
SEALS	Sundarbans Environment and Livelihood Support (EU funded project)
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOW	Statement of Work
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
VC	Value Chain of conservation enterprises

COVER STORY

USAID's IPAC project organized a two-day Co-Management Congress and Fair on March 23- 24, 2012, coinciding with the national co-management day, with the main objective of achieving sustainability of the Co-Management platform that has been developed and formalized under donor and GOB supports. In addition to the community and GOB stakeholders from the IPAC's 25 protected areas, the participants included the greater Nishorgo Network community including co-management organizations (CMOs) supported by GIZ in Chunoti, EU SEALs in the Sundarbans, IUCN/SDC in Tanguar Haor, and Arannyak Foundation in Inani. The congress contributed to and symbolized the CMOs sustainability commitment in accordance with the IPAC's PY4 Work Plan's main objective.

The Honorable Minister of Environment and Forests, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP inaugurated Nishorgo Network's Co-management Congress and Fair at the Independent University Bangladesh Campus in Dhaka. The USAID Mission Director, Mr. Richard Greene; Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Mr. Mesbah UI Alam; Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. Md. Yunus Ali; IUB Vice Chancellor, Dr. Omar Rahman; and Chairman of Board of Trustees, IUB, Mr. Towhid Samad were special guests at the opening event.

More than 300 CMOs members from 25 forest and wetland Protected Areas actively participated in the congress along with another 300 representatives from partner organizations, field staff, donor representatives and government officials. The two-day program included experience and knowledge sharing sessions focusing on forests, wetlands, regional network and the Sundarbans. Additionally, four technical sessions were held focusing on Sustainability of the CMO Platform, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, Sustainable Livelihoods Development, and Wetland Resources Management. The CMO representatives actively participated and interacted among themselves and left the congress encouraged and satisfied with focused goals and commitment to the co-management for biodiversity conservation. They learnt from each other and resolved to replicate best practices for furthering the progress that they had made over the past few years.

As IPAC enters its fifth and final year, we look forward to working with our co-management partners, in the field and in Dhaka, to ensure robust co-management for the conservation of Bangladesh's forests and wetlands today and into the future.

Executive Summary

USAID's Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Program Year (PY) 5 Annual Work Plan covers the fifth and final year of the IPAC contract, from June 1, 2012 through June 4, 2013. As the final work plan for the IPAC project, it is based on the continuation and consolidation of policy and field activities into the fourth Quarter of the PY4, and then evolves into a phased close-out of policy and technical activities as well as administrative and finance responsibilities.

The three highest priorities of the IPAC team in the 5th PY include: (1) completion and consolidation of outstanding tasks and deliverables to achieve the greatest possible impact; (2) steps to ensure the sustainability of project successes; and (3) steps to ensure that knowledge is transferred between IPAC and those that will continue supporting expanded wetland and forest co-management in the coming years.

The PY 5 Annual Work Plan planning process has paid special attention to these three priorities. The Work Plan itself is organized in such a way as to highlight how project activities will address the three priorities. Where applicable for those deliverables or milestones identified for Components 1, 2 and 3, we have included a brief discussion on sustainability, highlighting those actions the team will take to ensure that successes are sustained. We have included a number of actions that are deliberately aimed at assisting in the transfer of knowledge and capacity between IPAC and other implementing parties, including the follow on Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) team and also other co-management partners.

The IPAC team is on track to complete all of the results described in its Statement of Work as well as 20 of 21 PMP indicators. The specific Activities proposed in PY 5 are designed and included so as to ensure targeted results achievement.

Eight priority activity areas are identified in the introductory part of Section 2. These priority activity areas will serve to focus the IPAC implementing team on those priorities. Fifty (50) specific project activities are identified in subsequent sections, associated with Components 1, 2 and 3. The specific activities are numbered by Component. In Annex 1, the 50 specific activities are included in summary form, with their time frame noted and a detailing of the key resources required to achieve them.

As part of its focus on sustainability, the project team will take a number of steps to support the development of a network of PA co-managers across the country. Building institutional capacity is integrated into national-level and site-based works to ensure an adequate foundation of human and institutional resources to drive forward and sustain this network, which we continue to refer to as the Nishorgo Network.

The pace of expenditures to achieve PY 5 targets will follow a pattern common to final year project work plans. In the 1st and 2nd quarter, expenditures will rise above current levels as specific sustainability and consolidation activities are undertaken. Starting in the 3rd quarter, monthly expenditures will steadily fall as activities are completed and staff begins to depart from the project. In the final quarter, almost no technical activities at all are to be undertaken (other than documentation and knowledge transfer), and the focus will be on the range of closeout activities.

During the third and fourth Quarters of PY5, IPAC will facilitate this phased project close-out. This includes the cessation of policy and field activities, close-out workshops with IPAC partners, closing of field offices and ultimately the Dhaka headquarters, inventory disposition, final reporting, termination of all CCN and expat staff, and submission of final invoice to USAID. A close-out schedule is provided in Annex 2 of this Work Plan

A number of Key Personnel positions have changed, or will change, in association with this closeout process. The Chief of Party position is being replaced, and IRG will propose a reconfiguration of the COP and DCOP in light of that change.

The IPAC PY 5 Work Plan was collaboratively developed by cluster-level and Dhaka-based staff and program partners based on wide ranging multi-stakeholders consultations during May 2012. A series of 2-day cluster-level workshops were held with CMO representatives, IPAC field staff and GOB field partners to develop this ambitious and integrated Work Plan. In addition to cluster planning meetings, IPAC staff engaged in broad-based consultations with GOB partners in Dhaka.

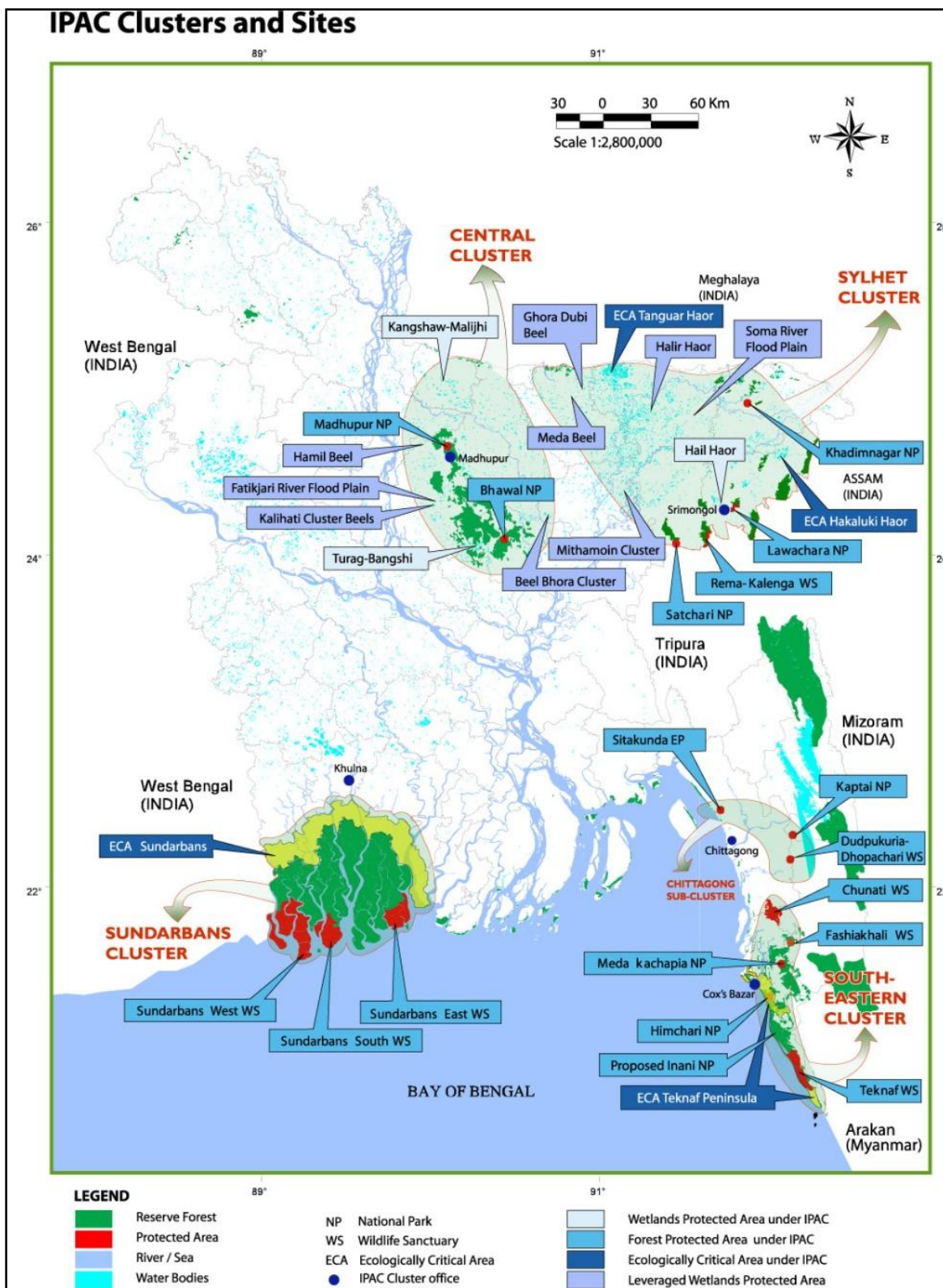


Figure 1: Map of IPAC working areas

I IPAC Overview and Introduction

I.1 Introduction

USAID's Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) project contributes to sustainable natural resource management and enhanced biodiversity conservation in targeted forest and wetland protected area (PA) landscapes with the goal of preserving the natural capital of Bangladesh while promoting equitable economic growth and strengthening environmental governance. IPAC is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), through a consortium of partners led by International Resources Group (IRG).¹

The technical support contract for IPAC was awarded on June 4, 2008 by USAID/Bangladesh through the PLACE Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) through Task Order no. EPP-I-01-06-00007-00. The IPAC contract provides for technical advisory services and other support to be provided over a five year period (2008-2013) to GOB environment, forestry and fisheries agencies responsible for the conservation of wetland and forest protected areas across Bangladesh. This network of co-managed forest and wetland protected areas is now recognized as the Nishorgo Network. Over the final year, the IPAC team will continue to work directly with key stakeholders at the local level to support the further development and sustainability of the conservation and co-management of protected forest and wetland ecosystems in the Nishorgo Network of Bangladesh. IPAC is managed from its Dhaka-based headquarters with field activities in 25 forest and wetland Protected Areas implemented through a network of five Cluster offices based in Modhupur, Srimongol, Cox's Bazar, Kaptai and Khulna (see IPAC sites map).

This IPAC Fifth Annual Work Plan, covering the period of June 1, 2012, through June 4, 2013, focuses on continuation of integrated policy and field activities to sustain co-management for protected area conservation across Bangladesh for the first three Quarters, and then a phased project close-out over the third and fourth Quarters. The Plan strives to provide a clear road map for IPAC staff and partners to ensure sustainability of the Nishorgo Network co-management platform that contributes to conservation of Bangladesh's forest and wetland Protected Areas while also facilitating an efficient project close-out.

The Work Plan begins with general information about USAID's IPAC project, and then provides specific work plan information for the project's three major components: Development of IPAC Strategy, Building Institutional Capacity, and Site Specific Implementation. This is followed by sections on Cross-Cutting Gender and Youth priorities, and Project Management, including Administration and Finance as well as Monitoring and Evaluation.

IPAC's expected results are drawn directly from the Scope of Work, and summarized in Table I below, while the IPAC Performance Targets are included in the approved Performance Management Plan (PMP), the targets and indicators for which are included in Section 5. More detailed component- and site-based work plans as well as a close-out plan are presented in matrix form as an Annex to this report.

¹ In addition to IRG, the IPAC team sub-contract partners have included: WWF-US, dTS, East West Center, ELI, Epler-Wood International, WorldFish Center, CNRS, CODEC, BELA, Asiatic Communications, Oasis Transformation, Module Architects, Independent University of Bangladesh and Jahangirnagar University. Those with active sub-contracts in some or all of PY 5 include: East West Center, WorldFish Center, CNRS, CODEC, Asiatic Communications, Module Architects, Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) and Jahangirnagar University (JU).

Table 1: IPAC Technical Components and Overall Expected Results, from IPAC Contract Scope of Work

IPAC Component	Overall Expected Results
Development of IPAC Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal Policy recognition of PA as a system and management unit, and development of a national Integrated Protected Areas Co-management Strategy and Action Plan that devolves co-management authority to communities • Pragmatic conservation financing mechanisms developed and approved by the GOB to mainstream conservation financing in favor of co-management implementation at the national and local levels • At the local level, financial support through conservation financing mechanisms will facilitate adaptation of the communities as well as the GOB to climate change related vulnerabilities • Successful implementation of the conservation financing mechanism and demonstration of its sustainability • Climate change mitigation through improved land use initiatives and adaptation of the communities as well as the GOB to climate change related vulnerabilities
Building Institutional Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalization of co-management by the GOB as the accepted approach for PA management and biodiversity conservation • Ensure the sustainability of gains achieved under MACH and NSP • A cadre of professionals trained in PA management and co-management within the GOB institutions, as well as community organizations and NGOs. • Community-based natural resource management organizations involved in IPAC are sustainable, transparent, pro-poor and equitable.
Site Specific Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the IPAC strategy establishing sustainable, more productive and resilient PAs • Declaration of additional forest PA per the Wildlife Preservation (Amendment) Act of 1974 • Increase the number of hectares under co-management and the visibility of the approach, by expanding co-management into additional PAs, including freshwater wetlands, coastal ecosystems and the designated Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA) • Development and demonstration of Co-management and eco-restoration plans to rehabilitate degraded critical ecosystems through co-management while building stakeholder capacity for restoration. • Recovery of areas of the Sundarbans damaged by Cyclone Sidr • Public-private sector alliances for PA co-management established and successfully operating.

The IPAC Project Year 5 Work Plan is written in the following main Sections and Annexes:

- ✓ Section 1 provides a general overview of IPAC and the PY 5 Work Plan process.
- ✓ Section 2 is the centerpiece of the Work Plan and includes the strategies, priorities and specific activities that are being proposed. It includes detailed component-based as well as project management work plans. Also, the Site Specific Implementation work plans are included in this section.
- ✓ Section 3 focuses on cross cutting priorities for gender and youth.
- ✓ Section 4 covers Project Management work plans including Finance & Administration and Monitoring & Evaluation
- ✓ Section 5 provides a summary of targets towards outcomes and deliverables, based on IPAC's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP).
- ✓ Annex 1 includes a summary table, including time frame, of priority activities by Component. Annex 2 includes a set of Closeout activities for the final 2 quarters of the project. Annex 3 provides highlights of major targets and planned activities. Annex 4 includes the detail, site by site activity and output matrices for all 25 of the IPAC-supported sites. Annex 5 includes an estimated summary budget for the final year.

1.2 IPAC Progress to Date

After four years, IPAC has built a solid foundation for the Nishorgo Network as an integrated protected area system of forests and wetlands conserved through co-management. This includes consolidating initial achievements of previous pilot Nishorgo Support Project and MACH Project, and scaling-up a field presence to 25 protected areas managed from five clusters to support a co-management platform of 55 co-management organizations and nearly 1,000 village community groups. It also includes the development and implementation of the Nishorgo Network Strategy and Action Plan and corresponding brand to promote this national PA system based on co-management.

Some other significant IPAC achievements include the following:

- ✓ The Sundarbans Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP), a seminal management plan outlining co-management as forest and wetland conservation basis for this crown jewel of Bangladesh's PA system is approved and now being implemented at field level
- ✓ Collaborative REDD+IFM Sundarbans Project (CRISP) concept note submitted to the Bio-Carbon Fund as PIN document
- ✓ Bangladesh REDD+ARR Protected Area Project (BRAPAP) concept note finalized
- ✓ 900 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Plans for IPAC Villages
- ✓ 35 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Plans at PA landscape level
- ✓ 22 Co-Management Plans developed for all IPAC PAs
- ✓ Co-Management Impact Assessment completed
- ✓ Lesson Learned book developed, printed and launched
- ✓ Eco-Tourism Assessment and Visitor Management Study for Lawachara National Park
- ✓ 701,988 hectares of land under improved natural resources management
- ✓ 658,426 hectares of areas of biological significance under improved management
- ✓ 18 policies developed in support of conservation and sustainable natural resources management
- ✓ 182,871 local community stakeholders, including 88,773 women, with increased economic benefits
- ✓ 18,996 people, including 6,330 women, receiving training in NRM and/or biodiversity conservation
- ✓ 292,366 people are aware on climate change vulnerability; and 62,182 people with increased capacity in climate change adaptation
- ✓ 266,475 metric tons of CO₂ (carbon-dioxide) reduced or sequestered through improved forest management and conservation
- ✓ 123,448 local community stakeholders, including 59,926 women, with access to improved water supply
- ✓ \$2,399,667 generated from conservation-based income generation activities
- ✓ \$18.34 million leveraged financing for conservation
- ✓ 1,763,846 people, including 606,022 women, aware of the Nishorgo Network
- ✓ 814,779 recorded visitors to Nishorgo Network Protected Areas

1.3 IPAC Implementation and Management Strategy

Over the next year, IPAC implementation will achieve the targeted project results and activities through a modified matrix management approach wherein team members report to both a functional manager and a project manager. Under a functional manager, work is divided among groups – each concentrating on their area of knowledge – located on a hierarchical organizational structure. Ownership of the project is shared among the functional managers. Under a project manager, the focus is on teams with cross functional expertise. The team's task is to complete the project with the advantage of speed and flexibility. The project manager is the owner of the project and is ultimately responsible.

IPAC has put in place a modified matrix management system that is continually addressing three layers of complexity: (1) obligations of staff and sub-contractors to the contractual outcomes of their technical specialties, (2) obligations of staff to their Cluster and site-based program, and (3) the obligations of staff to support several cross-cutting themes like gender and youth. Due to the technical and geographical complexities of IPAC, the need to maximize the utility of resources, and the desire to apply consistent approaches and techniques to the implementation of the project, the program has continued the application of matrix management techniques.

Site-based activities will be managed through relevant Cluster offices, with technical support coming from Dhaka-based specialists. While all Cluster-based staff report to their project manager, IPAC also involves functional teams in Communications, Capacity Building, AIG/VC, and Performance Monitoring. Additionally, Dhaka-based technical support is provided in Technical coordination as well as Governance. Monthly and bi-weekly technical coordination meetings provide a regular forum for strengthening overall management and for addressing potential challenges that can arise under matrix management.

1.4 Approach to IPAC PY 5 Work Plan

This Work Plan presents a plan of action to guide IPAC through the final year of this five-year project, covering the period of June 1, 2012 through June 4, 2013. It builds off of the solid foundation of policy work and field activities developed during the first four years of IPAC as well as the previous MACH and NSP pilot projects. It strives to build legacy of sustainability with the IPAC co-management platform in the increasingly visible Nishorgo Network of integrated forest and wetland protected areas conserved through co-management, and includes an efficient project close-out strategy for the final two Quarters of the year.

In the spirit of co-management, this Work Plan was developed with key stakeholders in a collaborative manner. Initial Annual Report-Work Plan planning meetings were held with the three GOB agencies, IPAC Technical Specialists and Cluster Directors in late April. This was followed by a series of four 2-day Work Plan Development workshops held in Khulna, Cox's Bazar, Modhupur and Srimongol in May. During these workshops, CMO representatives, IPAC staff and GOB partners reviewed past achievements and developed cohesive work plans to the site level aimed at ensuring co-management sustainability, addressing target weaknesses in ICS implementation, and integrating community climate change adaptation plans to the landscape level. Cluster site-level and technical work plans were then consolidated into an integrated work plan that was shared with the USAID, IPAC Cluster Directors and Staff, and GOB partners from Forest Department, Department of Fisheries and Department of Environment, prior to submission to USAID.

1.5 Risk and Risk Management

The IRG team is aware of a number of noteworthy risks to successful completion of the year 5 work plan as presented. The following should be noted:

- Non-renewal and replacement of a significant number of long-term wetland community-based leases is executed by the Ministry of Land through the offices of the District level and Upazila level administration,

and is outside the immediate scope of the project team. Efforts have been taken in earlier project years to ensure that community-based leases are not cancelled, and a number of activities will continue to stop that lease transfer process in year 5 also. But this leasing process is outside IRG's immediate management control, and thus presents a risk to our program for the year, and for the project as a whole. However, IPAC will provide technical assistance in preparing draft letters with supporting documents to enable USAID to follow up at the concerned ministries level.

- The IPAC team has been able to undertake social forestry activities as well as other investments inside and around the boundaries of the forest PAs. These inside-the-PA investments were initially intended for execution by the Forest Department (with parallel investments that were to have been implemented directly by the Departments of Environment and Fisheries). There remains a risk to our pursuit of expanded social forestry and other internal PA investments due to this lack of local currency financing within the partner organizations themselves. IRG is unable to ensure availability of such funding, although the IPAC team will work to manage this risk through regular dialogue with the relevant departments.

2. Work Plan Strategy, Priorities and Activities

This chapter of the Work Plan provides overall strategies and priorities as well as plans of IPAC's three main technical components outlined in the Scope of Work. While each technical component is presented separately, implementation is necessarily integrated and emphasizes sustainability of a co-management platform to achieve long-term integrated conservation and management results for Bangladesh's expanded Protected Area system. Development of IPAC Strategy focuses on building a sustainable policy framework for co-management sustainability, and includes Policy Support and Communications & Outreach sub-components working together at both the national and site-based levels. Building Institutional Capacity targets government officials and community co-management and other local stakeholders with specific opportunities to build capacity in co-management. Emphasis this year will be given to the co-management platform, both co-management organizations and community groups, to give them the necessary management and technical tools to sustain their co-management work beyond the life of IPAC. Site Specific Implementation is the heart of this Work Plan and provides site-specific work plans presented per Cluster and emphasizing sustainability of co-management in each site.

Three high level strategic considerations are taken for the 5th PY, including: (1) completion and consolidation of outstanding tasks and deliverables to achieve the greatest possible impact; (2) steps to ensure the sustainability of project successes, in particular through increasing leadership by Bangladeshi organizations and staff; and (3) steps to ensure that knowledge is transferred between IPAC and those institutions and individuals that will implement PA co-management in the future, including the grantee that is selected by USAID to implement the CREL project. These high level priorities cut across all project activities.

The Component-by-Component sections below (2.1 through 2.3) and the Annexes include a number of specific activities and outputs that will guide the team throughout the final project year.

The following priority activity areas are developed to keep the team fixed on a smaller and more focused set of priority activity areas and outputs. These highest priority activities and outputs include the following:

- 1) **Implement incrementally the Policy Framework that will enable a lasting Nishorgo Network of protected wetlands and forests.** This includes implementation and continued validation by the Government and partners of the Nishorgo Network Strategy & Action Plan as the foundation for an integrated system of forest and wetland protected areas. This also includes ensuring the principles of co-management for PA conservation are adequately captured in sector-level draft acts, orders, rules and regulations related to protected area conservation.
- 2) **Expand Nishorgo Network Reach to the National Level.** IPAC will facilitate the nesting of a number of co-management constituents working at the local level to raise their voice and profile in regional- and national-level discourse on co-management, sustainable development, conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and food security. This includes finalizing a national network of CMCs, ECA management committees and RMOs by consolidating recently formed regional networks and developing their constitutions with clear roles and responsibilities; strengthening a growing network of eco-guides and eco-cottage owners; and linking the Nishorgo Network with the network of wetlands CBOs.
- 3) **Enhance public awareness of, commitment to and support of a national Nishorgo Network of PAs.** Sustainability for co-management of Bangladesh's forest and wetland protected areas rests significantly on generating broad-based public awareness of and commitment to effective conservation of these areas. The communications program targeting the general public as well as various national and site-

based constituencies will raise the profile of the Nishorgo Network and the importance of the Network to sustainable development, food security, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The branding of the Nishorgo Network will be seen increasingly as a Bangladeshi network, although USAID will continue to be recognized as a major supporter of the Network.

- 4) **Build capacity of CMOs, including their constituent members, at IPAC's 25 field sites.** IPAC has facilitated the development of a network of 55 co-management organizations, supported by nearly 1000 village community groups. Emphasis in PY 5 will now be on further building the capacity of this co-management platform to function effectively at both the site-based and national levels (see greater detail Table 2 below).
- 5) **Develop capacity for Climate Change Adaptation.** This year, IPAC will finalize Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plans incorporated into PA Co-management Plans. Consultation with GOB and Donor agencies for implementation of 1000 VCFs level plans will be initiated. Before that, these plans are compiled and consolidated as greater protected area base so as to lead to the implementation directly and/or rolled-up to the PA landscape level for sharing and leveraging support from local government.
- 6) **Consolidate impact and expand the reach of AIG and value chain (VC) activities.** Targeting PA-dependent poor, especially women, youth and ethnic minorities, IPAC will complete its remaining AIG/VC activities during quarters 1 & 2. Value Chain work will focus on responsible tourism development through expanding the number of community eco-guides and eco-cottages, and building links to Bangladesh's growing tourism. Nature Tourism Value Chain work will also highlight links to the PA Visitor Interpretation Centers as a key interaction point with nature tourists. Improvements will be made in the nature tourist experience. Improved cooking stoves (ICS) will receive a high priority in year 5. AIG work will prioritize aquaculture, tree nursery and homestead gardening to generate increased income as well as to enrich the nutritional value of diets in IPAC sites. Additionally, Value Chain work will strengthen and expand the bamboo handicraft weaving value chain linking ethnic minority producers for national and international markets.
- 7) **Leverage Investments to Expand and Sustain the Nishorgo Network.** IPAC will continue to work with USAID, other donors (including EU, World Bank, UNDP/FAO, GIZ and Arannayk Foundation) and their projects as well as the private sector to stimulate investment to both expand and sustain the Nishorgo Network. Building off of a successful Sundarbans co-management coordination with EU SEALS in April-May 2012, IPAC will continue to work with Forest Department to leverage recently initiated EU SEALS, World Bank Regional Wildlife Project and GIZ project necessary for effective co-management of the Sundarbans as well as other protected areas. This year IPAC will complete fundraising and construction for the Lawachara Co-Management Nature Interpretation Center (CONIC).
- 8) **Facilitate Efficient IPAC Project Close-Out.** Commencing in the third Quarter of this plan, IPAC will facilitate a phased close-out. This will include completion of policy and field activities, close-out events at the Cluster and national level, inventory disposition, final reporting, field and headquarter office close-downs, CCN and expat staff termination, administrative and financial records management, and submission of final invoice.

The sustainability of the CMO in particular is of particularly high priority for the IPAC team, and we will thus focus on implementing a six part plan for CMO sustainability, per Table 2 below.

Table 2: Six Part Plan for Sustainability of Co-Management Organizations (CMO)

This year, IPAC is taking a number of specific steps to ensure that existing Co-Management Organizations can sustain effective conservation and development objectives beyond the life of the project. Specific measures include the following:

- a) **Finalization and implementation of site-specific co-management plans that integrated climate change adaptations plans** covering IPAC's sites. This includes the incorporation of climate change adaptation plans in each of the 22 PA co-management plans for 17 forest and 5 wetland PAs that have been developed and finalized during PY4 based on consultations with local GOB Partners. This process will be completed in two phases : existing co-management plans will be updated by including guidelines for the development of PA landscape adaptation plans, and finally integration of newly developed plans into existing co-management plans.
- b) **Expanded CMOs capacity building & human resource development.** Special emphasis will be given to organizational and financial management as a part of project proposal development training to be imparted to all the CMOs. A performance monitoring scorecard for CMOs developed in year 4 will further be field validated and implemented to efficiently guide progress toward sustainability. Additionally, capacity and commitment of government agencies to work with and support CMOs as partners for conservation will be developed.
- c) **Informing and Educating CMO so that they can become strong advocates to protect the rights and benefits** they have gained from co-management. This is particularly urgent given the possible reversal of some of the wetland leases. The team will take special efforts to train and orient CMO members on their rights and options given the current policy framework for wetland and forest co-management.
- d) **Sustainable financing mechanisms** are being developed to cater to the specific opportunities of each Protected Area. It includes registration of CMOs with the Department of Social Welfare so that they can generate and manage funds. Fund raising opportunities include strengthening of entrance fee revenue sharing and nature tourism opportunities in PAs with significant or growing numbers of visitors; finalization of a broad-based revenue sharing policy for the Sundarbans CMOs; scaling-up of social forestry opportunities to generate revenues while also re-greening the landscape; leveraging an expansion of Arannayk Foundation support for CMOs working on conservation of tropical forests; linking CMOs to GOB budget support opportunities; and leveraging further donor and private sector support to expand and sustain the co-management platform. As a demonstration, Satchari CMC will be linked with a finance company under its corporate social responsibility for providing eco-restoration support for the homesteads of select VCF members in its landscape. Additionally, some selected VCFs will be registered with Cooperative Society Affairs, on pilot basis so as to enter into integrated financing opportunities.
- e) **Development of a policy and regulatory framework that highlights the role and importance of CMOs.** We will highlight co-management as Bangladesh's PA conservation approach and identifying opportunities for GOB financial and technical support to utilize and sustain CMOs as effective partners.
- f) **Strengthening of national and regional networks of CMOs.** We will work to support –national and regional voices and platforms for CMOs in order to more effectively influence GOB policy and financial support for co-management of PA conservation.

IPAC will approach this year's focus on Nishorgo Network sustainability in an integrated manner, ensuring strong collaboration and communication that harmonizes IPAC's policy and field work, and ensures efficient and effective investment of technical assistance to achieve results. Additionally, IPAC will continue to focus on Quality Assurance and Quality Control to ensure excellence in all of IPAC's work. This includes strenuous monitoring and verification of all activities and impact through the Performance Monitoring Plan, annual audits of sub-contracted implementing partners, and on-going reviews and strengthening of IPAC operations and management systems. IPAC will facilitate a phased project close-out commencing in the third Quarter and completing at the end of the contract.

2.1 Development of a Coherent Integrated Protected Areas Co-Management Strategy (Component I)

Over the next year, the IPAC Team will work with national and field-based partners to strengthen a policy framework that contributes to sustainability of the Nishorgo Network, Bangladesh's integrated system of forest and wetland Protected Areas conserved by co-management. This includes policy-level work to ensure a regulatory framework is in place for effective co-management as well as technical support to field work to operationalize recent policy development (for example, Entrance Fee distribution, Wildlife Compensation and revised Social Forestry rules) in order to demonstrate its effectiveness and its role in sustaining co-management in the field. It also includes Communications and Outreach necessary to build awareness of and commitment to Nishorgo Network at both the national and site-based levels.

2.1.1 Policy Support

Policy Support will focus on solidifying the regulatory framework for conservation of protected areas through co-management. It includes tracking and accelerating various national regulations and policies as well as demonstrating and operationalizing recently-established policies that support and can help sustain co-management. Priorities include the following:

- 2.1.1.1 **Operationalize the Nishorgo Network Strategy & Action Plan.** This Strategy & Action Plan was completed in PY 4 and provides a policy framework for an integrated protected area system that includes forest, wetland and potentially other kinds of protected areas to be conserved by co-management. Regular consultations and briefings linked to an aggressive Nishorgo Network branding campaign will build awareness of and commitment to the Nishorgo Network as Bangladesh's national and integrated protected area system.
- 2.1.1.2 **Accelerate Revisions to Forest Act, Wildlife Act and Protected Areas Rules.** While most technical work for these three essential policies has already been completed, this year senior IPAC staff will track progress through the legal process in order to ensure principles of co-management are maintained. This requires regular consultations with Forest Department and MoEF as well as possible technical support to complete drafting of PA rules. Both the amended Forest Act and Wildlife Act have been passed by the cabinet and are currently lying with the Parliament Secretariat for passing in National Parliament. USAID may contribute immensely by pursuing at policy level during their regular consultations with the concerned ministries for early finalization and gazette of the draft acts and rules. IPAC will soon provide a position paper on pending acts and rules.
- 2.1.1.3 **Support Wetland Leasing Policy Reform.** IPAC will continue to work with the Department of Fisheries to reform wetland leasing policy away from the current economically determined and time constrained model to one that is more adaptive, ecologically-based and reflective of co-management. Specific activities include technical assistance to complete a Government Order on co-management of wetland fisheries

management, and technical support to expand community and co-managed approaches to wetlands management in consultation with Ministry of Land and Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock. IPAC will provide technical support to enable USAID pursuing follow up for early resolution of community wetland leasing with the concerned ministries.

- 2.1.1.4 Co-Management Impact Assessment.** In collaboration with GOB and NGO partners, IPAC has recently completed an impact assessment of co-management for conservation, looking at ecological, economic and social parameters of co-management. The findings of this study will be used to confirm and strengthen it as an effective approach for protected area conservation management in Bangladesh.
- 2.1.1.5 Implementation of Social Forestry Plantations.** The revised Social Forestry rules provide a significant opportunity for integrating forest rehabilitation with financial sustainability for co-management organizations as well as development opportunities for PA-dependent poor. IPAC will replicate the pilot initiative of the Lawachara NP buffer zone to Rema Kalenga WS, DDWS and Chunati WS this year; distribute tree seedlings at sites; also leverage swamp plantations at wetland PAs. Besides ensuring the success of this work, IPAC will share results and encourage adaptation of this approach at larger scale by Forest Department with co-management organizations in the future.
- 2.1.1.6 Implementation and Expansion of Entrance Fee Revenue Sharing.** Especially in parks and sanctuaries with large numbers of visitors, Bangladesh's entrance fee revenue sharing system provides a significant opportunity for financing sustainability of co-management for conservation. IPAC in Year 4 has worked with Forest Department and relevant CMCs to assess progress and constraints associated with the visitor management and entrance fee system in Lawachara National Park, including monitoring both the flow and use of funds. IPAC will seek to use the findings of this study to streamline the process, expand Entrance Fee Revenue Sharing into new Protected Areas, and continue with previously-initiated work to adapt this to a broader revenue sharing policy for the Sundarbans and improved visitor management systems for other PAs. In Year 4, entry fee collection through 2 CMCs is introduced in Kaptai National Park. The lessons learned and capacity build during LNP visitor management study will be used in designing and implementing a similar study in Satchari by employing cluster staff.
- 2.1.1.7 Refine and Clarify Rules and Guidelines for CMO Use of Facilities on Government FD land:** Some confusion remains on forest PA lands about who (between CMO and FD staff) should be responsible for different activities, and who should manage financial revenue generation resources. During PY 5, we will clarify these confusions through work with FD and CMOs to clarify roles and benefits. These will be a particularly high priority for management of PA Visitor Interpretation Centers, student dormitories, picnic sites and other sites for revenue generation and financial sustainability of the CMO.
- 2.1.1.8 Incorporation and Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Plans into PA Co-Management Plans.** This year, IPAC will continue to work with CMCs

working in forest Protected Areas to integrate and incorporate PA based climate change adaptation plans, that are accumulated from VCFs level plans, into the PA co-management plans so these climate change adaptation plans can be implemented at local level involving the GOBs and Donors as possible. Consultations between CMOs and Union Parishads and Upazilas will be arranged for leveraging available finances and services for the implementation of these plans. Additionally, some of the proposed AIG interventions included in climate change plans will be covered under IPAC AIG and value chain activities and also through suitable linkages established with the ongoing GIZ and EU supported projects in Chunoti and the Sundarbans. Importantly, IPAC will ensure that each of these plans incorporates a Sustainability Plan that charts a course for institutional and financial sustainability beyond the life of IPAC. IPAC will also provide technical support to ensure adequate provision of capacity building and training is provided to support efficient implementation of these co-management plans.

2.1.1.9 Forest Carbon Finance Support. Per notification from the World Bank BioCarbon Fund in late May 2012, the forest carbon markets continue to be extremely weak. The IPAC team has created a number of viable carbon projects, and built the capacity for both developing them and supporting their approval. Given the weak carbon markets, we will reduce this activity in the final year to provide support for carbon only if a specific and clear selling opportunity should arise.

2.1.1.10 Expand Nishorgo Network Reach to the National Level. This year, IPAC will facilitate the nesting of a number of co-management constituents working at the local level to raise their voice and profile in national-and regional-level discourse on co-management for conservation. This includes developing a national network of CMCs, ECA management committees and RMOs covered under IPAC, and strengthening regional networks that have recently been formed; finalizing the constitutions for regional and national networks through CMOs' constitutions; strengthening a growing network of eco-guides and eco-cottage owners and linking them with Tour Operators by organizing Eco-Tourism Expo/Meet; and linking the Nishorgo Network with the network of wetlands CBOs. Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) will be consulted and the proposed Expo will be linked with coming National Tourism Week. Follow up meetings will be arranged to establish gainful linkages between Tour Operators and trained Eco-guides.

2.1.2 Communications & Outreach

For the 5th and final year of IPAC, the Communication & Outreach Work Plan strongly focuses on the sustainability of Nishorgo Network as endogenous Bangladeshi-owned and led network. This Work Plan is designed for the sustainability of Nishorgo Network among CMOs, Government of Bangladesh and general citizens through a series of campaigns and outreach activities at the national and field level. It also includes specific activities that support IPAC project communications work.

Nishorgo Network National Communications & Outreach

IPAC has been working towards mass awareness regarding Nishorgo Network's objectives, relevance and work to the general population as well as the importance of its acceptance to the CMOs. The target group includes those

who are directly involved and working with the forest and wetland Protected Areas as well as Bangladesh's youth, policy makers and implementers, thinkers and the general public. After completing four years of communication work of which two were strongly focused on building the brand of Nishorgo Network, IPAC now will focus on long term sustainability of this brand and how the CMOs can best utilize the Nishorgo Network umbrella to continue doing their work for nature conservation. Also, with a more aware youth and media, IPAC now plans to gain increased level of commitment from the general population and continue to support related initiatives by donors and GOB. Activities to strengthen the Co-Management platform around the country keeping in mind the core objectives of IPAC as well as climate change and food security issues in general is IPAC's main goal during this year.

In particular in the final year, we will take particular efforts to work with IPAC partner, CNRS that are committed to support and facilitate a Nishorgo Network across the country. We will work with CNRS to: (1) help them convene and dialogue with the CMOs across the country that are the co-managers of the Nishorgo Network sites; (2) support them in managing and expanding a knowledge portal that would capture prior IPAC, MACH and Nishorgo information, but also would include other partner reports and information; and (3) support them in expansion of the www.nishorgo.org website. This is our preferred recommendation after analysing different alternatives and impacts (an exhaustive paper will be submitted to USAID later, which will include analyses of possible alternatives and their impacts, and "no action" option as well). We have held talks with CNRS as part of the work planning process

2.1.2.1 Expand Nishorgo Network Reach to the National Level. This year, IPAC will facilitate the nesting of a number of co-management constituents working at the local level to raise their voice and profile in national-and regional-level discourse on co-management for conservation. This includes developing a national network of CMCs, RMOs and ECA management committees, and strengthening regional networks that have recently been formed; strengthening a growing network of eco-guides and eco-cottage owners; and linking the Nishorgo Network with the national network of wetlands CBOs.

2.1.2.2 Youth Engagement: The IPAC team will give special focus to youth by arranging focused campaigns involving schools and universities. Debate competitions, Bangladesh scout involvement, and other awareness programs will keep the youth engaged in nature conservation in Bangladesh. Nishorgo Clubs will be engaged as more focused campaigns roll out during quarters 1 and 2 of the year 5.

2.1.2.3 Select Priority "Rights-based" Communication Campaigns: We plan to conduct 2-3 targeted campaigns focusing on high priority issues of rights and benefits. The immediate campaign will be around wetland leasing. Subsequent campaigns will be focused on rights for community entry fee sharing and related sustainable finance issues.

2.1.2.4 Expand Communications and Outreach within Visitor Interpretation Facilities and Sites: As the Lawachara Visitor Interpretation Center structure is soon to be completed, we will immediately begin the process of preparing the outreach and communications material to be used within the facility. Once CONIC structure is completed with private donor's contributions, its interpretive materials furnishing will be completed with the project's resources. This will include preparation of nature interpretation materials; work with the Lawachara CMO on the content of the materials, and on management of the Interpretation Center, and then installation

of the interpretation materials within the Lawachara Janaki Chora site. With the broader objectives of supporting this same communication and outreach role, we will work with communities to upgrade the quality of nature interpretation included at other sites.

2.1.2.5 Dialogue and Documentation of Lessons Learned from Wetland and Forest Co-Management. A number of documents have been prepared about the lessons learned from earlier work on forest PA co-management. But in this final year, we will take a less intensive and more broadly-participatory approach to capturing the lessons learned from recent year's work in PA co-management. We will organize a series of topical workshops to draw out these lessons learned from different activities within the project. We will do so in partnerships with one or more Bangladeshi organizations committed to continuation of co-management and to heightened exposure to the Nishorgo Network.

2.1.2.6 Airing of the Nishorgo Network Documentary: The Nishorgo Network documentary has been approved by USAID during the 4th year work plan. IPAC will broadcast the documentary and plans to widely show it both nationally and internationally during the 5th year.

2.1.2.7 Nishorgo Network Bengali Promotional Materials: The already designed Nishorgo Network focused promotional materials will be distributed to the field. Posters and trail brochures for Nishorgo Network will continue to be distributed.

IPAC Communications & Outreach

There are a number of operational activities that the IPAC Communications Team will also support that are less directly related to the Nishorgo Network than those activities explained in the previous section. We will ensure compliance to ADS 320, participate in various USAID supported events, prepare success stories and various technical reports, and in general ensuring timely, professional and effective communication of IPAC's progress. A more detailed list of these activities is included here:

2.1.2.8 Reports and Publications: The Communication Team will produce and assist with IPAC technical reports and publications. This covers a range of different kinds of materials from quarterly Bengali newsletters to technical reports.

2.1.2.9 Celebration of International Day and Participation in Fairs: IPAC will participate in celebration of different National and International days linked to conservation of forests, wetlands, environment and co-management. Depending on scope, IPAC will engage with stalls, workshop, competitions, youth involvement in America week and other activities. These activities will continue for the first three quarters of the year. IPAC staff and CMC member will participate in Rio+20 Summit to receive the UNDP Equator Prize awarded to the Chunati CMC.

2.1.2.10 Engaging Media: Following the same model as last year, IPAC will engage the visual, print and internet media. Journalists' visits to PAs will be planned and press releases will be issued to mark special events and accomplishments for the first two quarters.

2.1.2.11 High Level Visits to IPAC sites from the GOB and USAID: For the first three quarters IPAC will continue to support effective high level visits to IPAC sites. This includes providing all aspects of preparation and implementation and working in close collaboration with USAID.

2.1.2.12 Providing Communications Assistance to GOB: IPAC will provide assistance to the Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, and Department of Environment.

2.1.2.13 Website Development: IPAC has already launched the redesigned website. For the next year IPAC will maintain the website to best represent the work of IPAC and related initiatives. As the year progresses, CNRS will be increasingly engaged with the sustainability of the www.nishorgo.org website. We will support that CNRS have transparent access to all IPAC materials as they build a Nishorgo Network supporting website.

2.1.2.14 Cluster Team Engagement: Various communication and outreach related visits will take place during the first three quarters. The cluster team and Dhaka team will work in collaboration to deliver best results.

2.1.2.15 Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) Document Preparation and Submission. We will work to prepare and submit a number of documents to the DEC, upon dialogue with the COR and identification of those documents to be included.

2.2 Building Stakeholder and Institutional Capacity (Component 2)

One of the keys to ensuring sustainability of co-management for Protected Area conservation is building effective institutional capacity and human resources through effective capacity building and training. IPAC will implement an increasingly strong capacity building and training component that strives to balance capacity building in national and field GOB agencies to commit and support co-management as an effective tool for forest and wetland protected area conservation, and especially on the co-management platform in order to ensure sustainability of co-management beyond the life of IPAC. As IPAC enters the fifth year of the project, we have a solid foundation of co-management reflected by 55 co-management organizations supported by nearly 1000 village community groups working together to conserve 25 Protected Areas. This year, as part of IPAC's sustainability plan, extra effort will be given to training and capacity building of the CMOs and community groups so that they have both the technical skills and managerial competence to sustain effective co-management for protected area conservation while ensuring development opportunities for PA-dependent poor.

Building Institutional Capacity involves the integration of three sub-components. At the core of this is Local Training Support. This includes specific training programs that will be rolled-out in early first quarter to build capacity of CMOs, community groups and CPGs. Key to this is an aggressive campaign to impart refreshers to Nishorgo Shahayaks to work more closely and effectively with village community groups on institutional sustainability, alternative income generation including tree nursery and climate change adaptation and co-management planning. An additional focus includes more intense support for co-management organizations to build organizational and financial management skills, necessary for their sustainability and project proposal development. This will be further augmented by facilitation and strengthening of National Training Programs and Regional and International Training Programs.

2.2.1 Training Support

In order to achieve effective sustainability of the co-management platform for conservation of the Nishorgo Network co-managed Protected Area system, IPAC will place particular emphasis on capacity building and training activities to sustain the co-management platform. The two main targets for this are co-management organizations

and local governments, and community conservation organizations. Most importantly, in the Year-5, IPAC will complete all the planned training module development, for the publication and distribution among the greater stakeholders like GOBs, and CMOs.

CMOs and Local Government Training & Capacity Building

Co-management organizations will be targeted through monthly meetings while local government will be reached through quarterly and semi-annual consultations. Specific local training activities include the following:

- 2.2.1.1 Training-of-trainers conducted for and materials distributed to CDs, SFs and SCs** in each Cluster, building skills and capacity to facilitate training in technical areas of conservation and development, climate change vulnerability and adaptation planning, and organizational and financial management.
- 2.2.1.2 Development and implementation of a monthly program for CMCs and other CMOs**, coinciding with the monthly meetings, and including thematic discussions on organizational management, financial management, conservation and development, climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, and monitoring and evaluation.
- 2.2.1.3 Development and implementation of Local Government orientations and consultations** that focus on conservation and development, climate change adaptation plans implementation, and also identify local budget opportunities to support co-management.
- 2.2.1.4 Capacity building of the subordinate field staff of the three GOB agencies** in all the clusters by holding 2-days orientations.

Community Patrol Group and Joint Patrol Refresher Course

In order to ensure both safety of Community Patrol Group members as well as effective collaboration between FD field staff and community patrollers, IPAC will provide additional technical support and material distribution for Community Patrol Groups for Joint Patrol implementation, based on revised guidelines.

Community Organization and VCF Training & Capacity Building

Community organizations will be targeted primarily through the network of nearly 1,000 VCFs located in Protected Area landscapes. IPAC believes building their capacity and voice to be active leaders in co-management organizations is critical to the success and sustainability of Nishorgo Network's co-management approach. Thus, extra emphasis will be given to engage these organizations, continue providing alternative income generation opportunities to the identified VCFs, and build capacity in leadership and organizational as well as financial management. Specific activities include the following:

- 2.2.1.5 Refresher Training-of-trainers conducted for and materials distributed to Nishorgo Shahayak** in each Cluster, building skills and capacity to facilitate training in technical areas of conservation and development, alternative income generation including tree nursery, climate change vulnerability and adaptation planning, as well as organizational and financial management.

- 2.2.1.6 Development and implementation of a monthly program for each VCF**, coinciding with the monthly meetings, and including natural resources management, alternative income generation training, climate change adaptation plan implementation, and monitoring and roles and responsibilities, based on developed by-laws.

In order to ensure specific outcomes of this process, we will support finalization and implementation of **climate change adaptation plan for each VCF, as well as achievement of alternative income generation targets**.

2.2.2 National Training Programs

This year IPAC will facilitate national training programs to build capacity of GOB officials and co-management partners. Where possible, IPAC will strive to ensure the long-term sustainability of these programs so that such training opportunities exist in Bangladesh for a next generation of co-managers. Four specific national training activities include the following:

- 2.2.2.1 Certificate Course in Conservation Biology & Applied PA Co-Management.** This year, IPAC will support the successful JU-IUB collaboration for a one-month in-residence certificate course in conservation biology and applied PA co-management. The course will be implemented two times this year, targeting a total of 60 participants including GOB field-based staff and NGO field workers. IPAC will work with JU-IUB to explore a long-term plan to sustain this course through one participating university.
- 2.2.2.2 Applied Research on 2 Priority Thematic Areas in Co-Management Sustainability and Resilient Ecosystems.** IPAC through WFC will lead two final rounds of the successful Applied Research programs conducted in prior years by the East West Center in association with WFC by following a comprehensive policy that was finalized during the initial years of IPAC. Targeting 15 mid-level GOB officials in each round, and possibly also analysts from the non-government sectors, this program will integrate provision of a research support with a series of write-shops and field-level support to effectively mentor researchers for international quality work. The final products of this program are two books publishing research findings, this year focusing on co-management for biodiversity conservation in Bangladesh. We will urge partners to place a special emphasis in year 5 on applied research that will help in understanding the political economics of the wetland leasing issues. The research findings and analyses will help design and implement informed projects on conservation co-management, such as CREL.
- 2.2.2.3 Orientations of the mid-level officials of the three GOB agencies** on natural resources management and wetland conservation. Two batches (each comprising 25 officials) of trainees will be oriented in 2-days workshops to be held at Dhaka (as was done in Year 4).
- 2.2.2.4 Annotate, Archive and Make Accessible** – where possible in digital form – the comprehensive body of knowledge gathered during and before IPAC on co-management. IPAC will take special steps to ensure that all data and other information produced directly by the project or contributed to by the project are organized and archived in such a way that they will be readily available to partner organizations. Specific categories of knowledge to be included in this Annotated Archive include the following:

- Digital spatial data obtained by the project, including where appropriate satellite imagery and maps.
- Socio-economic field or household survey data used for the PMP monitoring or other analytical purposes
- Fish catch data collected or used for the project monitoring purposes
- Bird monitoring data used for the project
- All reports produced
- All full length and short-videos, including the Nishorgo Network documentaries
- Published book, proceedings, articles produced
- Communications materials (posters, leaflets, trail brochures). These should be made available in appropriate Adobe Illustrator or other unprocessed file versions, so that future users can modify as appropriate
- Policy documents supported or contributed to by the project
- Training Modules and Manuals prepared under the project
- These materials will be organized and annotated and put in a digital archive of which multiple copies will be made for partners, USAID and other interested parties.

2.2.3 Regional and International Training Programs

This year, IPAC will continue to facilitate a series of regional and international capacity building and training opportunities for GOB officials and co-management partners including members of regional/national networks executive committees. Importantly, these activities are all closely correlated to GOB DPPs. This year's program includes the following:

- 2.2.3.1 1 Regional Study Tours**, targeting 10 participants, to Thailand and in collaboration with RECOFTC. The preparation for this visit is completed in Year 4.
- 2.2.3.2 1 Cross Site Visits to Nepal**, targeting 13 participants, in collaboration with CIRDAP. The cross visits to Nepal have been a very cost effective means of broadening the exposure of partners to the PA co-management process, and have had strongly positive benefits for work done under IPAC (and Nishorgo before that). We propose completing one more round of such training in PY 5.
- 2.2.3.3 3 Cross Site Visits to India**, targeting 16 participants each in three batches, in collaboration with CBA. The cross visits to West Bengal have been even more cost effective than the Nepal visits, in part because trainees have all travelled on ground transportation, and also because the language of training and exposure has all been in Bengali. We will continue this successful program thrice in the final year.

2.3 Summary Priorities for Site-Specific Implementation of Co-Management in Protected Areas (Component 3)

2.3.1 Landscape Development Fund & Leveraging

A key tool for IPAC's co-management sustainability plan, LDF grants and leveraging of similar financial support to finance conservation-linked development through co-management organizations will continue. While the LDF and leveraging activities are captured in site-specific work plans, a summary of opportunities includes the following:

- 2.3.1.1 Over the year, LDF will wrap-up the second round of grants** to co-management beneficiaries from various wetland and forest Protected Areas. Grants monitoring and evaluation will be done in close coordination with a steering committee comprising of representatives from GOB (FD, DoF and DoE), IPAC and USAID. In the third round of LDF, two CMCs (Dhopachari and Dacope-Koyra) will be granted based on the proposals submitted recently. IPAC intends to initiate, implement and wrap-up all grants by the end of 3rd quarter of the year.
- 2.3.1.2 IPAC will continue to leverage additional financial support** to broaden and deepen co-management and especially to help sustain the co-management platform. This includes on-going work with GIZ in Chunati and the Sundarbans, and stepping-up efforts with Arannayk Foundation to expand their support from present three to many more CMCs. Ultimately, IPAC envisions working with Arannayk Foundation to ensure long-term financial support necessary to sustain Nishorgo Network's most effective co-management organizations.
- 2.3.1.3 Continue Capacity building efforts for CMOs on Financial and Grants Management** to sustain the Co-management organization's skill and capacity for smooth and standard financial management, and also exploring future financial opportunities so as to attract more donor funded projects for long term financial sustainability beyond IPAC Project. Over the Year-5, IPAC will organize and facilitate final round training on financial management and project proposal development skills, finalize the relevant training module and orientation on the policy manual of CMOs. We will engage the new USAID implementing partner of CREL to join this CMO training process.

2.3.2 Community Based Climate Change Adaptation

Nishorgo Network has facilitated climate change mitigation through the reduction/sequestration of about 300,000 tons of Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs) through combined forest conservation and reforestation activities in and around PAs. Nishorgo Network has built climate change adaptation capacity through the facilitation of nearly 1,000 PA community-based climate change vulnerability assessments and action plans. Aggregated at the landscape level, these adaptation plans will provide the basis for Upazilla and PA-level climate change adaptation plans. More importantly, the planning process has provided a unique opportunity for local communities to become informed, work together to find a voice, and become advocates for building climate change adaptation into local development planning.

In year 4, nearly 1000 community based climate change adaptation plans have been prepared at the VCF level. In Year 5, the VCF level plans will be rolled up to PA level and will be integrated into the PA Co-management plans, and be shared with local government agencies and Govt. and Non-Govt. Organizations through consultation

meetings/workshops at Upazilla/Union Parishad for facilitating leveraging support from local government and other organizations.

2.3.2.1 Develop capacity for Climate Change Adaptation. This year, IPAC will finalize Climate Change Vulnerability Adaptation Plans incorporated into PA Co-management Plans. Consultation with GOB and Donor agencies for implementation of VCFs level plans will be initiated. Before that, these plans are compiled and consolidated as greater protected area base so as to lead to the implementation directly and/or rolled-up to the landscape level for sharing and leveraging support from local government.

2.3.3 Local Outreach for Strengthening the Nishorgo Network

In this PY 5, we have described (in Section 2.1.2) a number of activities designed to support local level communication and outreach. In addition to those activities, there is one explicitly CMO-focused activity that we include here, and it focuses on the critical challenge of building a network of CMOs for forests and wetlands from across the country.

During PY 4, the project helped to form regional Nishorgo Network Executive Committees. Also in PY 4, the project facilitated a two-day long National Congress of CMOs including representatives from different CMOs to share and discuss their experiences, success, problems and recommendations for strengthening the conservation effort.

As discussed above in 2.1.1.10 and 2.2.1.1, we will support a National Network of CMO from both forests and wetlands. Cluster level meeting of the executive committee will be organized to finalize the draft of the constitution of the network and also preparing work plan for the year. National and regional level meetings will be organized to form the apex body of the network and also to formulate the future plan and constitution specifying their roles and responsibilities. CNRS, an experienced partner NGO in developing networks of wetland CBOs, will provide special support and inputs in the development of the CMO network. Exchange visits within the country and capacity building will be arranged, and logistic support will be included where necessary. Regional executive committee will use the existing offices of CMOs for holding their regular meetings on rotation basis.

2.3.4 Alternative Income Generation & Value Chain Activities

Over the next year, IPAC will strengthen its support for conservation-linked alternative income generation (AIG) and value chain (VC) initiatives, growing off of the platform established especially during the last two years. These activities are incorporated into site-based work plans, and are summarized below.

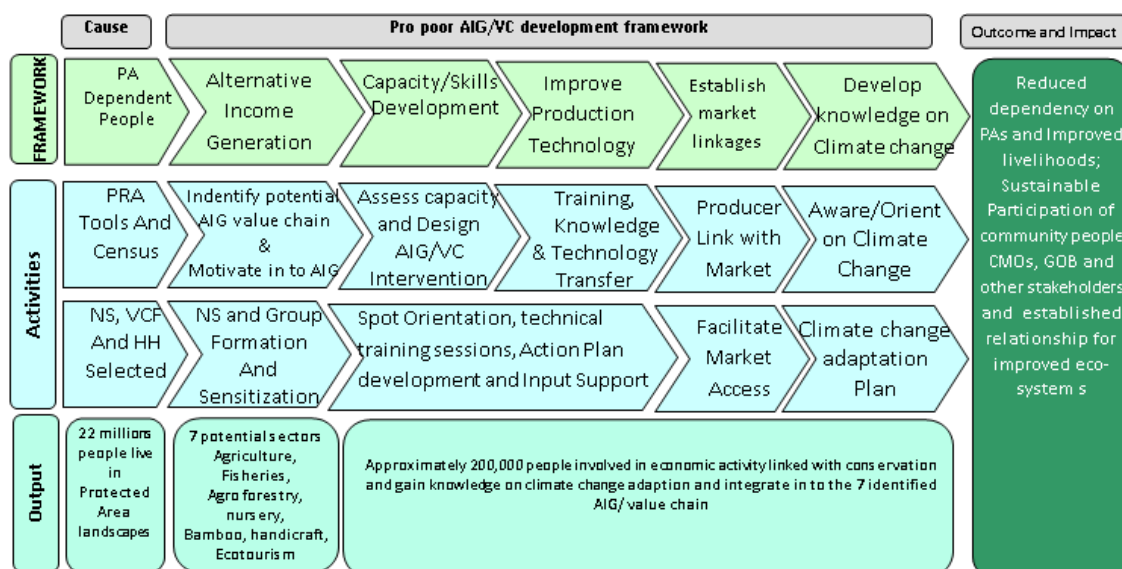


Figure 3: IPAC's AIGA/Value Chain (VC) Framework

2.3.4.1 Sustain the results of AIG activities through strengthening the existing framework and extension/outreach capacity of the Nishorgo Shahayaks.

Working with Nishorgo Shahayaks as trained extension and outreach vectors for AIG messages, IPAC will be completing the remaining targets of AIG and value chain outputs in all IPAC Protected Areas. Additional AIGA support will be provided in some identified villages under newly formed CMCs, particularly in Sundarbans. In addition, 230 three nurseries will be developed by 230 selected Nishorgo Shahayaks who have minimum homestead land and capacity to provide matching contribution. Support will target PA-dependent poor, especially women, youth and ethnic minorities. All the activities will be carefully monitored to ensure that adequate technical support is provided for success.

2.3.4.2 Support Nature Tourism Value Chain (a): “Nature Tourism Expo”.

IPAC will expand and strengthen the number of community eco-guides and eco-lodges, and link them to the broader eco-tourism sector actors, as critical steps toward sustainability. These nature tourism activities will be further strengthened by the “responsible eco-tourism” communications campaign. In the 2nd quarter, IPAC will organize a widely publicized Nature Tourism Expo or Fair at which all nature tourism actors and businesses from Nishorgo Network sites will be able to engage with current and future business partners. The Expo/Fair will be designed to expand awareness of nature tourism opportunities in the country (and thus of the Nishorgo Network in which many of those tourism opportunities can be found) while at the same time facilitating business linkages between those involved in the nature tourism value chain. Maintenance works for some existing eco-tourism facilities will be taken up after field assessment. Eco-Guides-TOAB linkages will be established.

2.3.4.3 Support Nature Tourism Value Chain (b): Expand Eco-cottage Enterprises and Other Visitor Services.

An estimated 5 new mid-size Eco-cottage enterprises will be developed by private entrepreneurs within the Nishorgo Network sites. IPAC will support the identified private entrepreneurs by providing technical plan, design and estimates. A nominal kind

support (up to maximum Tk. 50,000/- worth for each cottage completed by a private owner) may be provided mainly for furnishing once Eco-cottage has been completed though owner's own contribution. In addition, the services available to nature tourists will be become more readily available, including both Eco-Guide services as well as those PA level trail signboards, brochures and informational services necessary to support nature tourism within the PA. Where necessary, we will work with existing CMO to ensure that key informational services and materials at existing Network sites are maintained in sufficient condition to support nature tourism's continued expansion. Entry fee collection through CMCs will be strengthened at Kaptai and efforts will be made to start similar arrangement at Khadimnagar.

2.3.4.4 IPAC will continue to support development of minor value chains, including bamboo product production, and weaving, etc. In each instance, IPAC will support links between producers and buyers, ensuring quality control as well as sustainable management of raw materials.

2.3.4.5 IPAC will focus on greater awareness of PA dependent communities on Improved Cooking Stoves installation and use. This year, IPAC will continue to support links between ICS builders and VCFs/landscape households, ensuring quality control and latest technology as well as regular coordination for continued ICS post-installation services. Site based awareness and leveraged efforts will strengthen and especial focus will be to increase numbers of ICSs installation in the households of IPAC PA landscapes.

2.3.4.6 CONIC Fundraising & Development: The landmark building at Lawachara is now in construction from private funds donated by private businesses and individuals. It will stand as an important symbol of public-private partnership (PPP) in Bangladesh. In light of dramatic increases in construction costs, some additional fund raising will need to be completed, as is coordination with the Forest Department and the Lawachara CMO to ensure that the community benefits from the construction.

2.4 Cluster- and Site-level Plans for Implementation of Co-Management in Protected Areas (Component 3)

Section 2.4 below gives detailed information for site level implementation, with information included cluster-by-cluster and site-by-site. The targets and activities presented in this Section are summarized in Sections 2.1 through 2.3. Annex 4 includes site-by-site activities and expected achievements. Annex 3 includes a summary of the AIG/VC and other targets included in the site plans.

2.4.1 Cluster Plans Introduction

USAID's IPAC Project completed its fourth year by May 2012 and entered into the fifth and closing year (June 2012-June 4, 2013) with focus on confirming the sustainability of co-management platforms in order to achieve sustainable conservation of PAs, ensuring effective co-management, livelihoods improvement of dependent communities and addressing climate change impacts on local community. IPAC covers 9 National Parks, 5 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 2 River basins, 1 Haor, 1 Eco-Park, 4 Eco-logically Critical Areas, and the Sundarbans Reserved Forests that includes East, West and South wildlife sanctuaries and the recently gazetted 3 dolphin sanctuaries. Currently 17 RMOs, 15 ECA Union Parishad Committees, and 23 CMCs are operational in IPAC Protected Areas that have a large number of community-based organizations including 228 Village Conservation Committee/Groups (VCC/VCG) in wetlands PAs and 748 VCFs in forest PAs, besides a number of their federations such as Peoples Forums and Federations of Resources User Groups (FRUGs). A large number of Community Patrol Groups (CPG) and Sanctuary Guards are actively patrolling forest and wetlands PAs. Nishorgo Sahayaks (NS) as representatives of VCFs are active in social mobilization and conservation extension at the PA landscapes. Eco-Guides are promoting responsible eco-tourism and Nishorgo Clubs of youths are helping bio-diversity conservation through co-management. IPAC will continue strengthening the co-management organizations in order to strengthen their sustainability with a special focus on the recently formed CMOs and to enhance coordination with Govt. stakeholders (FD, DoE, DoF) during the project year 5.

With the objective of developing a participatory Annual Work Plan, IPAC conducted cluster level consultation workshops during April-May 2012, where Cluster teams and IPAC Dhaka team along with the concerned local stakeholders (GOB Depts. and CMOs) enthusiastically participated and shared their views to arrive at the consensus. Further, the site teams shared the draft work plan with their respective CMOs through monthly and/or special meetings for its finalization.

In final year of the project, IPAC will work to close-out activities in all protected areas in a manner that supports long-term sustainability of co-management for conservation and development as well as climate change adaptation. Specific efforts will be given to ensure institutional sustainability through registering of CMOs with the Department of Social Welfare. Financial sustainability will be targetted by leveraging financial resources for conservation, entry fee, benefits sharing, and implementation of climate change adaptation plans with GOB, NGO and/or donor funding source.

Also, IPAC will continue to reinforce integrated work priorities including social mobilization and final round capacity building and training efforts for the CMOs, Nishorgo Sahayaks, GOB Officials and other concerned stakeholders under the PA network with conservation linked awareness and mass communication. Greater emphasize and focus will be given on ICS installation and expansion of eco-tourism and PA entry fee system, and PA bio-physical improvements activities. Technical support will be provided to strengthen regional networks of

CMOs, and foster stronger links to government agencies, in a way that fosters increased CMO independence and autonomy.

The cluster/site teams will strengthen their efforts to achieving conservation effectiveness through regular staff coordination meetings, on-site visits, followed by adequate reporting and documentation and close-out workshops.

Cluster-level Program Team:

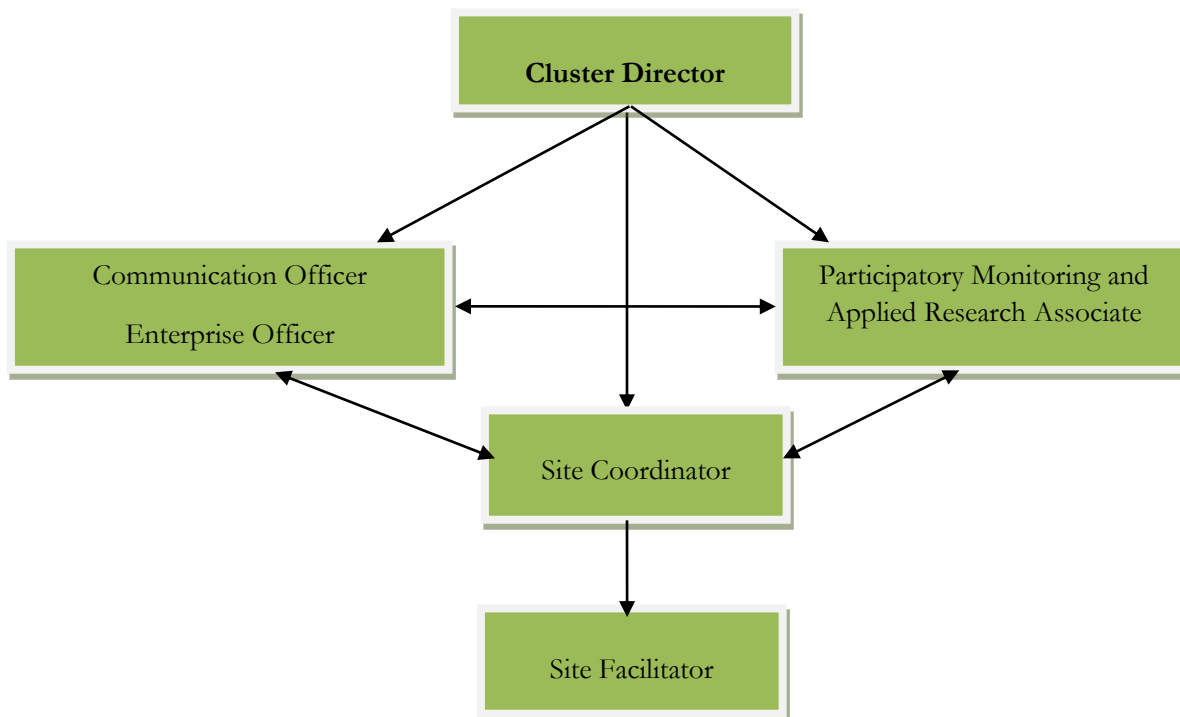


Figure 4: IPAC sites organogram for field implementation

The following are the cluster-specific work plans for the project closing year.

2.4.2 South Eastern Cluster

IPAC Southeastern Cluster, the largest cluster considering the no. of PAs, is situated in the southeastern part of Bangladesh. The longest sea beach in the world, the Bay of Bengal and beautiful hilly river Naf tides over the southeastern cluster and covers the National Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and ECA PAs within its geographic focus. Tourists from around the world come here round the year. There are 7 (6 forest PA and 1 ECA) protected areas under this cluster with the total 123,339 hectare area in the districts of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, and 3 Forest Divisions (Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Chittagong; and Cox's Bazar South and North Forest Divisions). The Protected Areas are challenged with some major problems: illegal removal of forest produce, forestland and beach-land encroachment, brickfields within and around PAs, scarcity of fresh drinking water, migration of climate change refugees, influx of Rohingya migrants since 1990, growing population with high growth rate and related poverty, etc. The cluster has continued biodiversity conservation through a range of PA awareness and social mobilization activities over 270 VCFs and 9 CMCs, functioning with the capacity building

supports from IPAC. A range of alternative livelihoods improvement activities has been implemented for participatory conservations through co-management.

Table 3: Southeastern Cluster Protected Areas

Name of PA	GOB Partner	Total Area (hectare)	Upazila/District
Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 40,772 Core zone: 7,764	Lohagara, Bansh'khali/Ctg & Chakaria/Cox's Bazar
Fasiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 12,065 Core zone: 1,302	Chakaria/Cox's Bazar
MedhaKachapia National Park	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 6,319 Core zone: 396	Chakaria/Cox's Bazar
Himchari National Park	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 5,891 Core area: 1,729	Cox's Bazar Sadar/Cox's Bazar
Inani National Park /ECA	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 15,844 Core zone 7,700	Ukiiya, Cox's Bazar/Cox's Bazar
Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 32,055 Core zone: 11,615	Teknaf/Cox's Bazar
Teknaf Peninsula Ecologically Critical Area	Dept. of Environment	10,465	Cox's Bazar, Ramu, Ulkiya, Teknaf/Cox's Bazar
Total Cluster Areas		123,339	

Through the PY4, significant achievement of the Southeastern cluster included: UNDP's Equator Prize 2012 awarded to Chunati CMC for their sustainable contribution to conservation for Chunati WS; Fashiakhali and Medhakachapia CMCs reformed according to new GO; final documentation submitted for Social Welfare's registration by three CMCs; and preparation of VCF based Climate Change Adaptation Plans with the active participation of VCF members and facilitated by Nishorgo Shahhayaks. The cluster has facilitated 3 LDF Projects implementation by the concerned CMCs with successful close-out during fourth quarter of year 4. In addition, leveraged financing from Arannayk Foundation for Inani CMC and from GIZ for Chunati CMC has been ensured through technical coordination.

In the closing project year 5, Southeastern cluster will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with the Department of Social Welfare; final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMCs, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for social forestry plantations; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIG and VC activities with extended service; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based

and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the Cluster will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects through AF and GIZ.

Brief Description of PAs

Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary

The Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1986 through a gazette notification (No: XIT/Forest-1/84/174 2 dated 18 March 1986) from the MoEF under the Wildlife (Conservation) (Amendment) Act of 1974, comprises of 7,764 ha reserved forests of Jaldi and Chunati Ranges under Chittagong Wildlife and Nature Conservation Division. The sanctuary harbors a wide diversity of tropical semi-evergreen flora and fauna and is home to the Asian Elephant. The sanctuary is surrounded by 60 villages with about 44,000 populations, engaged primarily in agriculture. The sanctuary is challenged with some major problems: excessive removal of forest produce, forestland encroachment, brickfields within one km of the sanctuary, local population growing with high growth rate, illiteracy, poverty, scarce drinking water, etc. Since 1984, FD has been maintaining this sanctuary as a conservation site and currently there are 37 staffs who are primarily involved in protection duties.

Since 2003 collaborative management with a multi-stakeholders platform has been introduced under Nishorgo Support Project. IPAC has been promoting co-management of natural resources of the sanctuary for biodiversity conservation and improving livelihoods of neighbouring population. In this context, IPAC is working with two CMCs formed under the NSP during 2005-2006 (Jaldi CMC on 27 July 2006 and Chunati CMC on 24 Aug 2005). Later in 2010 the two CMCs were reformed (Jaldi on 01 August 2010 and Chunati on 31 July 2010) under the framework of new Government Order. The two CMCs cover 60 Village Conservation Forums, 2 People's Forum, 12 Community Patrolling Groups with 259 patrollers who participate in joint forest patrolling with FD, 08 Forest Conservation Clubs, and 60 Nishorgo Shakayaks at village level.

In the Year 5, focusing on the visible impacts to sustaining the CMCs, Chunoti WS will reinforce facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for social forestry plantations; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and social mobilization activities focusing school-based and scouts program; participate in strengthening of regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the team will render regular efforts for AF and GIZ grants projects of the concerned CMCs.

Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary

The Fakshiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary (FKWS), established in 2007 through a gazette notification under the Wildlife Preservation order (Amendment) Act of 1974, comprises of 1302 ha reserved forests of Fakshiakhali block, Dulahazara block and Ringbong block areas of Fashiakhali Range of Cox's Bazar North Forest Division. The Wildlife Sanctuary has a wide diversity of tropical semi-evergreen flora and fauna and is home to the Asian Elephant. The Wildlife Sanctuary is stretched out to the Bay of Bengal to west, Cox's Bazar–Chittagong high way to east, and in the north and south it is surrounded by Fashiakhali and Dulahazara Mouza areas. There are 30 villages in and around the Sanctuary with about 46,450 population, engaged primarily in agricultural, salt production and fishing.

The Wildlife Sanctuary is challenged with some serious problems: immigration of climate change refugee migrants since 1991, excessive removal of forest produce, forestland encroachment, brickfields within one km of its boundaries, growing population with high rate, illiteracy, poverty, scarce drinking water, etc. Currently there are 19 staffs who are primarily involved in protection duties under Fashiakahali and Dulahazara Beats. Since 2009 collaborative management with a multi-stakeholders platform has been introduced under IPAC project.

IPAC has been promoting co-management of natural resources of the Sanctuary for biodiversity conservation and improving livelihoods of neighbouring population. In this context, IPAC is working with the CMC, formed on November 17, 2009, as a platform of multi-stakeholders including FD, civil society, local forest users and administration. The CMC in this sanctuary has 30 Village Conservation Forums, 1 People's Forum, 2 Community Patrolling Group with 42 patrollers who participate in joint forest patrolling with FD, and 30 Nishorgo Shahayaks, and a Forest Conservation Club. To enhance the capacity of the CMOs and other stakeholders, IPAC organized a number of trainings, orientations, exposure visits and specialized workshops focussing on participatory ADP preparation for the CMCs, trainings on co-management, financial and policy issues, networking with GOB agencies, etc. Regular monthly meetings of CMCs, CPGs and VCFs have been conducted and the CPGs have been oriented, dressed/equipped and involved in joint forest patrolling with FD Forest Guards.

Fasiakhali WS in the fifth year, will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social Welfare Affairs; conduction of final round of capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site-based awareness to increase ICS use at landscape households; follow up maintenance of existing social forestry plantations; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; participate for strengthening regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage AF grants projects of the CMC.

Medhakachapia National Park

The Medhakachaphia National Park (MKNP) was established in 2004 through a gazette notification from (No: MOEF/Forest-03-32/2003/356 dated April 4, 2004) the MoEF under the Wildlife Preservation order (Amendment) Act of 1974. The park comprises of 395.92 ha reserved forests of Medakachapia and Khutakhali mouza areas of Funchari Range under Cox's Bazar North Forest Division.

The park has a wide diversity of tropical semi-evergreen flora and fauna and is home to the Asian Elephant. The park is stretched out to Bay of Bengal to west, Cox's Bazar–Chittagong high way to east, and north and south surrounded by Medakachaphia and Khutakhali Mouza area. There are 13 villages in and around the park with about 18305 population, engaged primarily in agricultural, salt production and fishing. The park is challenged with some serious challenges: climate refugee migrants coming in since 1991, excessive removal of forest products, forestland encroachment, brickfields within one km of the park, growing population with high growth rate, illiteracy, poverty, scarce drinking water, etc.

Since 2004 FD has been maintaining this park as NP and currently there are only 10 staffs who are primarily involved in protection duties. Since 2004 collaborative management with a multi-stakeholders platform has been introduced under IPAC project. IPAC has been promoting co-management of natural resources of the park for biodiversity conservation and improving livelihoods of neighbouring population. In this context, IPAC is working with a CMC formed under the IPAC on November 17, 2009. This CMCs is a platform of multi-stakeholders including FD, civil society, local forest users and administration. The CMC has 13 Village Conservation Forums, 1 People's Forum, 1 Community Patrolling Group with 21 patrollers who participate in joint forest patrolling with

FD, and 13 Nishorgo Shakayaks at village level. Main past activities included: CMC formed under new GO, 13 VCFs and 1 PFs formed, and regular monthly meetings of CMCs, CPGs and VCFs. CPGs functioned after members were oriented. The CPGs were dressed/equipped and were involved in joint forest patrolling with FD Forest Guards.

Over the year 5, Medhakachapia NP will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation linked AIGA and VC with extended services; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; participate in strengthening regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage AF grants projects of the CMC.

Himchari National Park

This Park, established in 1980 as Himchari National Park (HNP) through a gazette notification (No. XX/For-63/79/89 dated 15 February 1980, in exercise of the power conferred by section 23 of the Wildlife (Preservation) Act of 1973, comprises an area of 1,729 hectare under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division. Five Forest Beats (Kalatali, Himchari, Jhlongja, Linkroad and Chainda) are represented and the Park is surrounded by 35 village with 24,373 households having nearly 150,000 people. The park harbors a wide diversity of tropical semi-evergreen flora and fauna and is home to the Asian Elephant. Himchari NP once had lush tropical rain forest, but is now more of grasslands with sporadic trees, and sandy, sun-drenched beach. The park is an elongated hill range towards southern tip of the country and bounded by the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar road in the east, the Bay of Bengal in the west, Cox's bazar city in the north and the Inani National Park in the south. The park is challenged with some grave problems: influx of Rohingya migrants since 1990, excessive removal of forest produce including fuelwood collection for the Cox's Bazar town, beach-land encroachment, growing population with high growth rate, illiteracy, poverty, scarce drinking water, etc. Since 1983 FD has been maintaining this National Park as a conservation site and currently there are only 20 staffs who are primarily involved in protection duties. There is a big waterfall in the NP which is a major tourist attraction.

IPAC has been promoting co-management of natural resources of the park for biodiversity conservation and improving livelihoods of neighbouring population. In this context, IPAC is working with one CMC formed on 7 July 2010, representing 35 VCFs and a Peoples' Forum. Five CPGs have been formed and are oriented for community patrolling along with the FD field staff by following the community patrolling guidelines as developed under IPAC.

Himchari NP in the upcoming year, will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; participate in strengthening regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage AF grants projects of the CMC.

Inani National Park

Inani National Park (proposed) comprises an area of 7,700 hectare of evergreen and semi-ever-green tropical forests. The park is in Inani Forest Range under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division and covers 4 Forest Beats

(Swankhali, Inani, Jalipalong and Rajaplong). It is surrounded by 21 villages with 13,777 households of population 82,000. The park harbors a wide diversity of tropical semi-evergreen flora and fauna and is home to the Asian Elephant. The Park is comprised of patches of lush tropical rain forest, grasslands, and sandy, sun-drenched beach. The park is an elongated hill range towards southern tip of the country and bounded by the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar road in the east, the Bay of Bengal in the west, Himchari NP in the north and TWS in the south. The park is challenged with some serious issues: influx of Rohingya migrants since 1990, excessive removal of forest products, land encroachment, growing population with high growth rate, illiteracy, poverty, scarce drinking water, etc. FD has been maintaining this National Park as a conservation site and currently there are only 15 staffs who are primarily involved in protection duties. There is a stone beach in the NP which is a major attraction to the tourist. IPAC has been working in the Inani National Park since Marh 2009 with coordination and coopeartion of the Inani Protected Forest Area Co-management Project (IPFACMP) funded by Arannayk Foundation.

In the Project Year 5, focusing on the visible impacts to sustaining the CMC, the Inani team will collaborate with the IPFACMP team to reinforce facilitation of the capacity building of CMC members, CPGs and other stakeholders, consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; habitat restoration, eco-tourism facilities and network links, and to strengthen ICS; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; participate in strengthening regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies.

Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary

The Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1983 as Teknaf Game Reserve (TGR) through a gazette notification from the MoEF under the Wildlife (Conservation) (Amendment) Act of 1973. The Game Reserve is recently renamed as Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) by a notification No: MOEF/Forest-02/wildlife/15/2009/492 dated 09 December 2009. The sanctuary comprises of 11,615 ha reserved forests of Teknaf, Shilkhali and Whykong Ranges under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division. The sanctuary harbors a wide diversity of tropical semi-evergreen flora and fauna and is home to the Asian Elephant. The sanctuary is an elongated hill range towards southern tip of the country and bounded by the Naf River in the east and the Bay of Bengal in the west. The sanctuary is surrounded by 114 villages with about 150,000 population, engaged primarily in agriculture and fishing. The sanctuary is challenged with some important issues: influx of Rohingya migrants since 1990, excessive removal of forest products, forestland encroachment, brickfields within one km of the sanctuary, growing population with high growth rate, illiteracy, poverty, scarce drinking water, etc. Since 1983 FD has been maintaining this sanctuary as a conservation site and currently there are 40 staffs who are primarily involved in protection duties. Since 2004 collaborative management with a multi-stakeholders platform has been introduced under Nishorgo Support Project.

IPAC has been promoting co-management of natural resources of the sanctuary for biodiversity conservation and improving livelihoods of neighbouring population. In this context, IPAC is working with three CMCs formed under the NSP during 2005-2006 (Teknaf CMC on 06 Aug 2006, Shilkhali CMC on 29 Sept 2006 and Whykong CMC on 29 Aug 2005). Later, in 2010 all these CMCs were reformed under the framework of new Government Order (Teknaf CMC on 25 Oct 2010, Shilkhali CMC on 18 Aug 2010 and Whykong on 2 Dec 2010). These CMCs are platforms of multi-stakeholders including FD, civil society, local forest users and administration. The three CMCs in this sanctuary have 114 Village Conservation Forums, 3 People's Forum, 11 Community Patrolling Groups with 419 patrollers who participate in joint forest patrolling with FD, 09 Forest Conservation Clubs, and 114 Nishorgo Shakayaks at village level. In Year 4, regular monthly meetings of CMCs, CPGs and VCFs were conducted. CPGs have been oriented, dressed/equipped and are involved in joint forest patrolling with FD Forest Guards. Entry fee is being collected since Nov 2009 at Mochani Nature Park.

In the final Year, focusing on the visible impacts to sustaining the CMCs, Teknaf WS will reinforce facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; participate strengthening regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. The Cluster will render regular efforts for LDF grants project of the concerned CMCs.

Priority outcomes for PY-5 include the following in south-eastern cluster:

- ✓ **Sustainability of CMOs for effective co-management:**
With IPAC supports, Southeastern Cluster will complete regular site specific activities, and monthly/periodical and coordination meetings of Co-management Platforms. Special focus will be on ensuring office and functional facilities for CMOs, and completion of their registration process, as well as fostering stronger links to local government agencies especially Forest Dept. Also field level technical facilitation for 3 LDF grants projects currently under implementation will be completed after which their monitoring will be taken up. Leveraging financial supports from GIZ in Chunati and AF in Inani will be completed. Arranging final round of capacity building efforts on PP development and fund raising, co-management and financial management for CMOs and GOB field staff, conservation and development for Nishorgo Sahayaks, strengthening regional networks of CMOs, cluster level closure workshops will be completed. Further, the team will focus on finalization and implementation 4 Arannayk projects submitted to AF. USAID may help expedite the approval of submitted project proposals by following up with Arannayk Foundation.
- ✓ **Effective conservation management of Protected Areas:**
To continue conservation effectiveness in Protected Areas, the cluster will continue arranging awareness and outreach activities including Interactive Popular Theater Shows, Spot-based Mass gatherings, Day's observation, Tree fair participation, and Nishorgo clubs engagement. Special focus will be to strengthen Joint Patrolling efforts of 31 CPGs with 801 active members and Forest Guards by providing refresher training programs with revised guidelines, to effectively carry-out their work. Also, conservation awareness efforts will be strengthened for Scouts involvement at local and regional level, school programs, etc. Additionally, PA bio-physical improvements activities such as social forestry at Chunati (51 Acres) will be completed and follow up continued for regular maintenance of existing plantations at Fasiakhali (20 Acres) will be arranged.
- ✓ **Sustained the results of AIG/VC activities and ICS Intervention:**
Working through 257 VCFs and strengthened field facilitation support to 3,900 HHs through input supports and training for AIGAs including tree nursery support to selected NSs, effective co-management will be achieved. Southeastern cluster will monitor and provide technical support for leveraging GOB and other extension services at local level for successful and smooth implementation of AIGAs. In PY 5, special efforts will be given for installation of 1,000 ICSs (Improved Cooking Stoves) with site based demonstration and awareness on ICSs for popularizing the PA network in a sustainable manner, and also through strengthening Value Chain links, and support networks for sharing of information and technology beyond the life of project.
- ✓ **Improved Economic benefits of PA-dependent communities from Expanded eco-tourism opportunities:**
Over the PY5, the Cluster will work with FD and CMCs to ensure effective PA entry fee revenue collection and sharing mechanism in Chunoti and Teknaf PAs. The cluster will support and facilitate holding regional level responsible/eco-tourism campaign. Also, efforts will continue to facilitate expansion and maintenance of eco-tourism facilities including trails and brochures development, making student dormitories functional,

establishing new eco-cottages and branding, arranging refreshers for eco-guides and strengthening their link/networking with Eco-cottage owners, tour operators and hotel/motels.

✓ **Landscape communities adapted to Climate Change vulnerability:**

This year, Southeastern Cluster will arrange sharing sessions through monthly CMC meetings on PA based Climate Change Adaptation Plans throughout 252 VCFs. Also, assistance will be provided for integrating these plans into respective PA Co-management plans, and arranging consultation workshops at local/regional level so as to facilitate adaptation strategies with the provision of leveraging technical and financial support for their implementation from GOB, NGOs and/or other donors.

2.4.3 Sundarbans Cluster

The world's largest mangrove forests, the Sundarbans including the 3 wildlife sanctuaries – East, West and South, and the Sundarbans ECA are covered in this IPAC Cluster. The Sundarbans has off late gained full attention of the Govt. and Donor community due mainly to its diverse biodiversity and high significance as source of ecosystems services including carbon financing. The flagship species, the Royal Bengal Tiger resides in the Sundarbans and it is one of the highest tiger dense forests in the world. The Sundarbans is located adjacent to the Bay of Bengal and so performs as the natural fencing for the coastal areas and Bangladesh from high tides, storms and cyclones. The Cluster is in the south western part of Bangladesh and covers 3 districts (Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat) and 10 Upazilas. The cluster comprises of whole Sundarbans Reserved Forests (SRF) including 2 divisions, and the ECA adjoining the Sundarbans. The total area of Sundarbans Reserved Forest is 600,017 ha, which includes the three PAs area of 199,299 ha. The landscape area is about 160km in length and 10km wide where IPAC is carrying out activities. There are about 104,429 households and 708,291 people in the coastal surroundings of the Sundarbans. The Forest department has 1 circle, 2 divisions, 4 ranges, 17 stations, 72 patrol camps and about 1,000 staff for the management of the Sundarbans.

Major threats for the Sundarbans include natural calamities such as storms and cyclones, high biotic pressure on the forests and wetlands, high salinity hampering the land productivity including agriculture, lack of fresh water, illegal felling of trees, tiger & deer poaching, post larvae shrimp collection, and destructive and over fishing. The pirates are also a big concern for the Sundarbans dwellers, especially for the poor resource collectors. The reduction of dependency of the local people from the Sundarbans is a big challenge as there is little opportunity of effective alternative livelihoods and measures. Fisheries have huge impact on the Sundarbans economy and people living around the Sundarbans landscape have a stake on it. The tourism is quite rich and very prominent in the Sundarbans due to major flagship attraction for tigers for foreign and local tourists. The cluster Team focused on building up the capacity of 4 CMCs and 201 VCFs and 4 PFs of the Sundarbans.

Govt. agencies, in particular Forest Dept. and Department of Fisheries, are very enthusiastic about IPAC's co-management approach in conservation of the Sundarbans, and as a result, Donors and National, International organizations have come to the Sundarbans with long-term projects, which are under implementation at the landscapes through co-management platforms. However, regular coordination and links need to be maintained by appreciating the CMOs and their gainful partnerships in the donor funded projects. IPAC is now covering the entire Sundarbans, and has developed IRMP (Integrated Resource Management Plan) and facilitated consultation with GOBs and Donor.

Table 4: Sundarbans Forests

Name of PA	GOB Partner	Total Area (hectare)	Upazila/District
Sundarbans West Forest Division	Forest Dept.	71,502.10	Shyamnagar/Satkhira
Sundarbans East Forest Division	Forest Dept.	31,226	Sarankhola, Morrelgonj, Mongla/Bagerhat
Sundarbans West Forest Division	Forest Dept.	36,970.45	Dacope, Koyra/Khulna
Sundarbans Ecologically Critical Area	Dept. of Environment	59,600	Sarankhola, Morrelgonj, Mongla/Bagerhat Dacope, Koyra/Khulna Shyamnagar/Satkhira
Total Cluster Areas		199,298.55	

Recently three dolphin sanctuaries have been gazetted in the Sundarbans. During the PY4, some of the most significant achievements of the Sundarbans cluster include formation of two new CMCs at the West and South divisions respectively; final documentation submitted for Social Welfare's registration by the concerned CMCs; preparation of VCF based Climate Change Adaptation Plans with the active participation of VCF members, and facilitated by Nishorgo Shahhayaks. The cluster has facilitated 2 LDF Projects implementation by the concerned CMCs with successful closeout in the fourth quarter of year 4. Also, leveraged finance from FTF-AIN project of WFC has been ensured for East division for sustainable biodiversity conservation of respective PAs through co-management is continuing.

Over the final year of project, the Sundarbans cluster will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with the Department of Social Welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMCs, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects like Arannayk and others for the concerned CMCs, with regular NGOs and Donors coordination mechanism.

Brief Description of each PA

Sundarbans West Forest Division (Satkhira Range, Munshigonj)

The Sundarbans West Wildlife Sanctuary of the West Forest Division was declared in 1996 under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Order, 1973 (amended in 1974) under Satkhira Range with the area 71,502 hectares. The

total forest area under the Range is 184,992 ha including 113,490 ha reserve forest. The PA is surrounded by the reserve forests to the east and north, the Bay of Bengal to the south, and the Indian Sundarbans to the west. The landscape area of the site is to the north of the SRF boundary. The landscape, about 35km in length and 5km wide covers 1 district (Satkhira), one Upazila (Shyamnagar), 5 Unions and 44 villages (76 VCF). There are about 26,738 Households and 121,920 people in the landscape. The Forest Department has 4 Station Offices, 10 Patrol Camps and 150 staff for forests management. The Forest Range has the second highest number of tigers (112) among the four Ranges. It is also rich for forest and fisheries resources. Honey resources are significant in this Range of the Sundarbans.

Main threats to the forests for this site are illegal harvesting of trees, tiger & deer poaching, prawn post larvae & shrimp collection, and destructive and over fishing. The pirates are also a big concern for the Sundarbans dwellers, specially the poor resource collectors. The tiger-human conflict is very high in the area. On an average, 2 tigers are killed by human and 5 people are killed by tiger per year. Most of the landscape area has been transformed to shrimp farms which are controlled by rich and powerful people. As a result, traditional practices of agriculture activities have reduced and the scope of land-based activities for poor people is limited. Most of the people remain unemployed and are dependent on the natural resources of the Sundarbans for livelihood. Increase of salinity in the area is problem and the scope of agriculture is reducing scarcity of irrigation and drinking water. The numbers of Sundari trees are reducing in the forest and natural balance of the Sundarbans in the area is getting disturbed. The tourism in the site has an increasing trend over the last 10 years.

Over the Fifth year, Sundarbans West division will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plan; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. The team will render regular efforts to leverage grants projects like AF and others for the concerned CMCs, with regular NGOs and Donors coordination mechanism.

Sundarbans East Forest Division (Sarankhola Range)

The Sundarbans East Wildlife Sanctuary in the East Forest Division was declared in 1996 as Protected Area under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Order, 1973 (amended in 1974). The PA is under the Sarankhola Range and the area is 31,227 hectare. The total forest area under the Range is 130,998 ha including 99,771 ha reserved forest. The Range area is bounded by the Baleswar River to the East, the Bay of Bengal to the south, Khulna Range forests to the lower west, Chandpai Range forests to the upper west, and main land to the north. The landscape area is about 25km in length and 5km wide covering two districts (Pirojpur and Borguna) and two Upazilas (Mothbaria and Patharghata).

IPAC is working only in the landscape of Sarankhola Upazila of Bagerhat district since December 2008. The working landscape area covers 4 unions and 21 villages (21 VCF) covering 24,440 Households with 134,420 people. The Forest department has 3 Station Offices and 13 Patrol Camps with about 175 staff for forests management under the Range. The PA and the Range area are very rich in both forest and wetland biodiversity. There are tigers (49), deer, wild boar, monkey and many species of birds in the forest. The forest vegetation covers sundari, gewa goran, bain and the golpata (nypha) as major species.

There are three major rivers and many large canals which support many fish species including the Hilsa. The tourism in the site is vessel and overnight stay-based. The prominent places of tourist visits are Kochikhali, Kotka and Jamtala beach. There is an effective flood control embankment over the periphery of the landscape towards the Sundarbans and the saline water intrusion is low in Sarankhola area. There are some agricultural activities in the landscape but mainly with one crop. The scope of expanding AIGA value chain or market flows that can effectively initiate livelihoods or employment for the poor and Sundarbans dependent people is reasonable in the site. Especially there are many ponds that can be used for fish culture.

In the year 5, IPAC team in the Sharankhola Range of Sundarbans will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects like AF and others for the concerned CMCs, with regular NGOs and Donors coordination mechanism.

Sundarbans East Forest Division (Chandpai Range)

The part of East Wildlife Sanctuary's landscape falls in Chandpai Range of Sundarbans East Division and the area is 100,021 ha. The Co-management committee here is actively involved in conserving the part Sundarbans Reserve Forest. The forests and wetlands are rich in floral and faunal biodiversity. The site is surrounded by the Sarankhola Range forest area to the east and south, mainland landscape to the north, and the reserved forest of Khulna Range to the west. The landscape area of the site is to the north just after the reserve forest ends, and is about 50km in length and 5km wide where IPAC is carrying out activities since December 2008. It covers 2 districts (Khulna & Bagerhat), three Upazilas (Dacope, Mongla and Morrelgonj), 5 Unions and 29 villages (34 VCF) with about 24,440 Households and 134,420 people in the landscape. The Forest Department has 4 station offices, 22 patrol camps and about 200 staff for the forests management under the Range. The tourism is very prominent in Chandpai Range and there are two tourist spots, Kanramjal and Harbaria which are suitable for day trip and many tourists visit there.

In the closing year, the IPAC team in Chandpai Range of Sundarbans will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plan; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects like AF and others for the concerned CMCs, with regular NGOs and Donors coordination mechanism.

Sundarbans West Forest Division (Khulna Range, Dacope-Korya)

The Sundarbans South Wildlife Sanctuary of the West Forest Division was declared in 1996 under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Order, 1973 (amended in 1974). The PA is under Khulna Range and the area is 36,970 hectare. The total forest area under the range is 161,345 ha including 124,375 ha reserved forest. The landscape

area of the site to the north after the reserved forest is about 50km in length and 5km wide and covers 1 district (Khulna), two Upazilas (Dacope & Koyra), 10 Unions and 114 villages with about 50,811 Households and 217,531 people. The Forest Department has 9 station offices, 19 patrol camps and 220 staff for forests management under the Range.

The site has 147 tigers and is also rich in forests and fisheries resources. Because of the shrimp farming in the main land and reduction in agriculture activities, the potential for land-based activities for poor people has been reduced. The cyclone Aila in May 2009 made huge damage, making people homeless and property-less. Many of them are still residing on the embankments, with highly distressed life. The 06 unions (Sutarkhali, Dakkin Bedkashi, Uttar Bedkashi, Koyra, Moharajpur and Moharsharipur) that IPAC is working since December 2009 at Dacope and Koyra Upazila, were highly affected by cyclone Aila; people are suffering with extreme food deficiency, drinking water, shelter and others. The embankment and other infrastructures of the area have not been repaired or reconstructed. Most of the people remain unemployed and are dependent on the natural resources of the Sundarbans for livelihood.

Over the final year, the IPAC team in Khulna Range of Sundarbans will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plan; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. The team will provide technical assistance for LDF and leverage grants projects like AF and others for the concerned CMCs, with regular NGOs and Donors coordination mechanism.

Priority outcomes for PY-5 include the following:

✓ **Sustainability of CMOs for effective co-management:**

Facilitated with IPAC supports, Sundarbans Cluster will complete regular site specific activities, monthly/periodical coordination meetings of Co-management Platforms, ensuring office and functional facilities for CMCs and completion of their registration process with Social Welfare for CMCs, as well as fostering stronger links to local government agencies especially Forest Dept. Field level technical facilitation for a new LDF grants project that will be ensured, and strong monitoring for existing 2 LDF projects in East division will be done. Arranging final round of capacity building efforts on PP development and fund raising, co-management and financial management for CMCs and FD field staff, conservation and development for Nishorgo Sahayaks, strengthening regional networks of CMCs, and cluster level closure workshops will be other important activities. Further, the cluster will be focusing on implementation of Arannayk LDF projects that have recently been submitted by the CMCs. USAID may help facilitate the project approvals at an early date so they can be started during IPAC period.

✓ **Effective conservation management of Protected Areas:**

With focus on conservation effectiveness in Protected Areas, the cluster will continue arranging awareness and outreach activities including Wall Writings, Interactive Popular Theater Shows, Spot based Mass gatherings, Day's observation, Tree fair participation, Nishorgo club engagement, etc. Also, conservation awareness efforts will be to strengthen Scouts involvement at local and regional level, school programs, etc.

✓ **Sustained results of AIG/VC activities and ICS Intervention:**

Throughout the 90 VCFs, strengthening of field facilitation support to 2,730 HHs who received input supports and training for AIGAs, will be ensured. Sundarbans cluster will monitor technical support for leveraging GOB and other extension services at local level for successful and smooth implementation of AIGAs including tree nursery support to selected NSs. Further, the cluster will facilitate to leverage FTF's AIN supported fish culture AIGAs. In PY 5, special efforts will be given for installation of 1,900 ICSs with site based demonstration and awareness on ICSs in the PA network in a sustainable manner, through ensuring and strengthening Value Chain links, and support networks for sharing of information and technology.

✓ **Improved Economic benefits of PA-dependent communities from Expanded eco-tourism opportunities:**

In the PY5, the Cluster will work with FD and CMCs to adopt and maintain effective PA entry fee revenue collection and sharing mechanism in concerned areas, based on Govt. approval of the Sundarbans revenue sharing guidelines. The cluster will support and facilitate holding regional level responsible/eco-tourism campaign. Also, attempts will continue to facilitate maintenance of existing eco-tourism facilities and explore expansion of new eco-tourism facilities, holding refreshers for eco-guides and strengthening their link/networking with Eco-cottage owners, tour operators and hotel/motels.

✓ **Landscape communities adapted to Climate change vulnerability:**

In the final year, Sundarbans Cluster will arrange sharing sessions through monthly CMC meetings on PA based Climate Change Adaptation Plans developed throughout 209 VCFs. Also, assistance will be provided in integrating these plans into respective PA Co-management plans, and also arranging consultation workshops at local/regional level so as to facilitate adaptation strategies with the provision of leveraging technical and financial support for their implementation from GOB, NGOs and/or other donors. Additionally, the cluster will continue re-excavation of existing ponds and regular maintenance of PSFs as necessary, for ensuring fresh water supply to landscapes.

2.4.4 Central Cluster

Central cluster represents a unique composition of forest and wetland protected areas where 9 RMOs & 8 FRUGs and 2 CMCs that are successfully managing 4 (2 forest and 2 Wetland) Protected Areas comprising 79,500 hectares (3 Forest Divisions: Tangail, Mymensingh and Gazipur; and 3 fisheries districts: Tangail, Gazipur and Sherpur) including a core zone of 15,360 hectares. Nearly 1.3 million people (in 9 Upazillas and 32 Union Parishads) are impacted in the IPAC PAs landscapes where local communities subsist on agriculture, fishing, forestry, garments, handicrafts, fruits & vegetable cultivation activities, etc. Main threats for the PAs are illegal felling of trees, forestland and wetland encroachment, over fishing, pollution, illegal saw mills, brick kilns, etc. Co-management of the PAs is critically important for mitigating these threats and restoring the habitats to ensure improved biodiversity conservation. IPAC initiated project implementation since 2008 in Modhupur and Bhawal National Parks and erstwhile MACH sites, Tourag-Bangshi and Kangsha-Malijhi river basins. VCFs and PFs have been formed for conservation through a range of PA awareness and social mobilization activities. Overall 126 VCFs under forestlands and 98 RUGs under wetlands are functioning with the capacity building and other project supports from IPAC.

Table 5: Central Cluster Protected Areas

Name of PA	GOB Partner Agency	PA Area (hectare)	Upazila/District
Modhupur National Park	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 24,292 Core zone: 8,436	Modhupur/Tangail & Muktagacha/Mymensingh
Tourag Bangshi river basin	Dept. of Fisheries	Total Area: 10,000 in monsoon and 1,000 in winter	Kaliakoir/Gazipur & Mirzapur /Tangail
Kangsha Malijhi river basin	Dept. of Fisheries	Total Area: 7,430 in monsoon and 900 in winter	Sherpur Sadar & Zhinaigati /Sherpur
Bhawal National Park	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 37,769 Core zone: 5,022	Gazipur Sadar, Kapasia & Rajenthrapur/Gazipur
Total Cluster Areas		79,491	

Through the PY4, significant achievements of the Southeastern cluster include : final documentation submitted for Social Welfare's registration by two CMCs and one RMO; preparation of VCF based Climate Change Adaptation Plans with the active participation of VCF members and facilitated by Nishorgo Shahhayaks; 3 LDF Projects under implementation of the concerned CMOs; RMOs and FRUGs successfully managing endowment and revolving funds implementation; and regional Nishorgo Network Executive Committee formation. Also, very good progress has been made for leveraging ICS installation under climate change trust fund (CCTF) project of FD, and CMOs' office renovation works. Further, the cluster rendered collaborative support to implement IPAC's private sector linkages for value chain efforts for Modhupur basketary group.

In the Fifth and final year, Central cluster will continue facilitation of CMCs/RMO's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduct final round of capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC/RMO/FRUGs, CFWs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness to increase ICS use in landscape households by leveraging FD's CCTF ICSs; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. The Cluster will render regular efforts for the implementation of LDF and Arannayk leverage grants projects of the concerned CMOs, as well as continue support to RMOs and FRUGs for managing endowment and revolving funds.

Brief Description of each PA

Modhupur National Park

Modhupur National Park was established in 1982 by gazetting 8,436 hectare sal forests under the Wildlife (Preservation) (Amendment) Act, 1974. The park is surrounded by 187 villages and nearly 2.4 Lac local people from 71,000 households (from 115 Moujas in 7 Union Parishads) are engaged in subsistence agricultural activities which draw heavily from the Park resources. The area is gateway to the central and northern districts which are

important centers for agricultural commodities and trade: The area is especially well-known for the production of good quality banana, pine apple, jack fruit and bamboo. Forest Department maintains 26 field staff with 4 Range Offices (Modhupur & Rasulpur Sadar, and Dokhola & Aronkhola) and 8 Beat Offices. Major threats to forests include encroachment of forestland mainly for agriculture and settlement, unauthorized timber and fuel wood extraction, illegal saw mills, unclear forest land tenure, etc. Co-management approach has critically proved important in mitigating these threats and restoring the habitats to ensure improved biodiversity conservation. Co-management platforms have been developed for MNP, including 89 VCFs and 2 Peoples' Forum (for 36 Villages), represented by 2 CMCs for Dokhola Range and Jaus Rasulpur Range, with strong participation of relevant stakeholders, and equitably drawn from ethnic community, civil society and government depts. as per the Govt. Gazette.

Over the Fifth year, the IPAC team in Modhupur NP will continue facilitate CMCs' registration with Social welfare affairs; implementation of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CFWs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness for increasing ICS use in landscape households to leverage FD's CCTF ICSs; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. The IPAC team will render regular efforts for LDF and Arannayk leverage grants projects of the concerned CMCs.

Turag-Bangshi River Basin

Turag Bangshi river basins (in rainy season 10,000 hectares and in dry season 1,000 hectares), located 45 km north-west of Dhaka, covers Kaliakoir Upazila of Gazipur District and Mirzapur Upazila of Tangail District, with a population of 2.82 Lac (*Male 1.47 Lac and F-1.35 Lac*) covering 58,099 Households across 250 villages in 8 unions. Main occupation of local people is agriculture and fishing. There are 4 Resource Management Organization (RMO), and 3 Federations of 64 Resource User Groups formed under MACH project. The main rivers of Gazipur District are Turag & Bangshi with a number of beels including Makosh, Jethua and Alua. Five water bodies (*Galachipa Kum, Lalkhar Kum & Gabtoli Kum* at Turag River and *Bara Daha* at Alua beel & *Naokhola Daha* at Mokosh beel) are provided under RMOs' management under MOUs with MoL through MoFL, with 20 fish sanctuaries (of total 31 ha area), which impact 10,000 ha of water body in rainy season. IPAC site team has been effectively providing technical support to the 4 RMOs but the following challenges continue:

- ✓ Jal mahal leasing policy is still pending to be amended, and so this might create vacuum of authority for RMOs, thereby risking proper management of endowment funds
- ✓ Industrial water pollution at Makosh beel & Turag river is high
- ✓ Regular drought affects habitat capacity for fishes, especially at Makosh & Alua beels where some people engage in unauthorized fishing

In the project Year 5, the IPAC team in Turag Bangshi will continue conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, RMO/FRUG members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Fisheries Dept. Also, Turag Bangshi team will render regular efforts to existing RMOs and FRUGs for endowment and revolving funds.

Kangsha-Malijhi River Basin

Kangsho-Malijhi river basin, comprising 7,430 hectares in rainy season and 900 hectares in the dry season, is situated in Sherpur Sadar and Jhinaigati Upazillas of Sherpur District. The project area, about 200-240 km north of

Dhaka, comprises 26 villages in 14 Unions, with a total population of 478,292 (male 247,727 and female 230,565) and 111,328 households. The main rivers of the Sherpur District are Old Bhramaputra, Mirgi, Malijhee, Kangsha, Bhogai, Chellakhali and Maharashi. Local population basically lives on agriculture and fishing. The water body is managed by 5 RMOs and 5 FRUGs. The total of 16 staff members are working under local DoF, managed through the District Fisheries Officer with HQs at Sherpur. Five water bodies, under RMOs' management with MOU from MoL through MoFL, cover 22 fish sanctuaries of total area 7.62 ha, impacting 7,430 ha in rainy season. Only one permanent fish sanctuary, Dainner Kur has been declared in 2003. Besides RMOs, 118 RUGs of 2,256 members (M-1466, F-790) are operating, with financial support from the revolving fund with the objective of reducing open water capture fishing pressure, especially during breeding/spawning season.

After successful implementation of MACH project, IPAC integrated Kangsha Malijhi since its inception as a direct implementation PA. IPAC cluster team has been providing utmost support to RMOs for functioning effectively. During the period of IPAC implementation some risk factors are identified as below:

- ✓ A vested interested group has filed a court case against the Aura Baura RMO
- ✓ The extension of water bodies lease period is not duly approved yet

During Year 5, Kangsha-Malijhi river basin will continue to be facilitated by IPAC: Aura Baura RMO's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, RMO/FRUG members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and fostering stronger links to Fisheries Dept. Also, Kangsha Malijhi field staff will render regular efforts for LDF and grants projects of the concerned RMO, as well as existing RMOs and FRUGs for endowment and revolving funds.

Bhawal National Park

Bhawal National Park, comprising Gazipur Sadar and Sreepur Upazilas under Gazipur district, is located 40 km north of Dhaka, on the eastern side of Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. The Park was established in 1982 (re-gazetted subsequently in 1996), comprising gazetted area of 5,022 hectare of sal forests, through the Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Order, 1973. This park is the closest recreation site for the dwellers of the capital, Dhaka as well as tourists coming from all over the country. The Park is surrounded by 23 villages, engaged in primarily subsistence agricultural activities as well as brick making. Threats to Bhawal National Park include encroachment for agriculture land, and fuel wood extraction for home and brick kiln consumption. The Park is administered through Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division (Dhaka), with 1 Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2 Range Officers (for Park Range and Bhawal Range) and 7 Forest Beat Offices and 26 other personnel engaged in different management activities.

The IPAC Project has been working with the stakeholders of Bhawal National Park since 2008 to assist Forest Department in conservation of its unique biodiversity and improvement of livelihoods of neighboring communities. Since then a platform of co-management has been formed including 37 VCFs and progressing to form a Peoples' Forum.

Over the Fifth year, Bhawal NP will continue facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plan; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; exploring to expand eco-tourism facilities and network links, and responsible tourism campaign; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program.; and more importantly, foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and local NGOs as well

Priority outcomes for PY-5 include the following:

- ✓ **Sustainability of CMOs for effective co-management:**
With IPAC supports, Central Cluster will complete regular site specific activities, periodical coordination meetings of Co-management Platforms; ensuring office and other functional facilities, and completion of registration process with Social Welfare for 2 CMCs and a RMO, as well as fostering stronger links to local government agencies especially Forest Dept. and Fisheries Dept. IPAC team will complete field level technical facilitation for 3 LDF grants projects under implementation, and strong monitoring for existing RMOs and FRUGs for endowment schemes implementation and revolving funds management. Other important activities will include arranging final round of capacity building efforts on PP development and fund raising, co-management and financial management for CMOs, conservation and development for Nishorgo Sahayaks, strengthening regional networks of CMOs, cluster level closure workshops, etc. Further, the cluster will be focusing implementation of submitted 2 Arannayk projects based on awards that may be revolved beyond IPAC project life.
- ✓ **Effective conservation management of Protected Areas:**
To continue conservation effectiveness in Protected Areas, the cluster will continue arranging awareness and outreach activities including Miking, Spot based Mass gatherings, Day's observation, Tree and Fish fairs participation, and Nishorgo club engagement. Special focus will be to strengthen Joint Patrolling efforts between 450 CFWs and Forest Guards through providing training programs with revised community patrolling guidelines, to effectively carry-out their work. Also, conservation awareness efforts will be accelerated to strengthen Scouts involvement at local and regional level, school programs, etc.
- ✓ **Sustain the results of AIG/VC activities and ICS Intervention:**
Central Cluster will accomplish distribution of remaining targets of Y4 AIGAs. Working through 60 VCFs, all out efforts will be made to strengthen field facilitation support to 1,800 HHs who received input supports and training for AIGAs, expecting to continue re-investments in a revolving manner, and also to continue monitoring and technical support for leveraging GOB and other extension services at local level for successful and smooth implementation of AIGAs including tree nursery support to selected NSs. Further, special efforts will be given for leveraging FD's CCTF ICSs (Improved Cooking Stoves) installation through site based demonstration and awareness on ICSs, popularizing in a sustainable manner, through strengthening Value Chain links, and support networks for sharing of information and technology beyond the life of project.
- ✓ **Improved Economic benefits of PA-dependent communities from Expanded eco-tourism opportunities:**
Over the PY5, the Cluster will work with FD and CMCs to explore opportunity to adopt PA entry fee revenue collection and sharing mechanism in Modhupur NP. The cluster will support and facilitate to holding regional level responsible/eco-tourism campaign. Also, the team will finalize promotional material distribution, and maintain record keeping of visiting tourists; also facilitate expansion of eco-tourism facilities including refreshers for eco-guides and strengthen their link/networking with Eco-cottage owners, tour operators and hotel/motels in Bhawal NP.
- ✓ **Landscape communities adapted to Climate change vulnerability:**
This year, Central Cluster will arrange sharing sessions through monthly CMC meetings on PA based Climate Change Adaptation Plans developed throughout 206 VCFs; assist in integrating these plans into respective PA Co-management plans; and arrange consultation workshops at local/regional level so as to facilitate adaptation strategies with the provision of leveraging technical and financial support for their implementation from GOB, NGOs and/or other donors.

2.4.5 Chittagong & Chittagong Hill Tracts

Chittagong & CHT Cluster represents its uniqueness of blending National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary PAs and the country's hill forests and beautiful lakes, full of biodiversity. The total area of this cluster is about 49,190 hectares covering 3 PAs (Kaptai National Park under Chittagong Hills Tract, Dudpukuria- Dhopachari Wildlife Sanctuary under Chittagong South Forest Division, and Sitakunda Reserved Forest under the Sitakunda Botanical Garden Division). The Forest Department has 6 Range Offices and 17 Beat Offices for the management of the 3 forest PAs. The PAs harbor ethnic communities and rich biodiversity, and are important for the adoption of appropriate climate change strategies due to their closeness to Bay of Bengal and so the landscape areas are very much vulnerable. The areas are very much renowned for different types of vegetable production, agriculture, pond and lake fish culture, bamboo and handloom products. Jhum cultivation by the ethnic communities is practiced in some forest areas. The area is especially well-known for tourism, hydroelectric project and paper mills, and houses the largest manmade fresh water body in Bangladesh. Local communities depend on nearby forests for wood, and minor forest product like bamboo and bush meat. The neighboring areas are now polluted by the industrial waste and increasing ship breaking industries and face challenges due mainly to illegal felling, forestland encroachment, tobacco cultivation, forest fires and livestock grazing. To conserve the forest for future generation, the PAs required co-management initiatives to be taken with the local stakeholders and Government.

IPAC has been working in this cluster since 2008 through a local NGO, CIPD, but in 2010 CODEC has taken over the implementation responsibilities.

Table 6: Chittagong & CHT Protected Areas

Name of PA	GOB Partner	Total Area (hectare)	Upazilla/District
Kaptai National Park	Forest Dept.	Total Area: 43,666 Core zone: 5,464.78	Kaptai/Rangamati
Dudpukuria Dhopachari Wildlife Sanctuary	Forest Dept.	Core zone: 4,716.57	Rangunia & Chandanish /Chittagong
Sitakunda Eco Park	Forest Dept.	Core zone: 807.75	Sitakunda/Chittagong
Total Cluster Areas		49,190.32	

Through the PY4, some of most significant achievement of the Chittagong/CHT cluster include formation of the remaining CMC at Dohajari Range of DDWS; adoption of PA entry fee revenue sharing system by Kaptai NP CMCs; social forestry plantation at Dudhpukuria; reformation of Kaptai and Karnafully CMCs; final documentation submitted for Social Welfare's registration by three CMCs; and preparation of VCF based Climate Change Adaptation Plans with the active participation of VCF members and facilitated by Nishorgo Shahhayaks. The cluster has facilitated 3 LDF Projects implementation by the concerned CMCs with successful closeout of 2 projects during fourth quarter.

In the year 5, Chittagong/CHT cluster will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round of capacity building efforts for NSs, CMCs, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; social forestry plantations; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities by focusing school based and scouts programs; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. and other GOB agencies. Also, the Cluster will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects from AF for the concerned CMCs.

Brief Description of each PA

Kaptai National Park

Kaptai National Park was established in 1999, and comprises with an area of 5464.78 hectares of hills, valleys and forests. The forests are degrading mainly due to intense biotic pressure. Biodiversity influences peoples' economic, social and cultural development and hence their quality of life. The knowledge, cultural traditions, innovations and indigenous management practices of the communities and traditional practices of farmers and rural communities concerning biodiversity are being threatened in this cluster by the destruction of forests resources, pollution of natural habitats and failure to recognize the social, economic and cultural values of biodiversity.

IPAC started its activities with the PA since November 2008 and a platform of co-management organizations has been formed, including 39 VCFs, 02 Peoples' Forum, 02 FCC and two CMCs (Kaptai & Karnafully). The CMCs meet on a monthly basis and have increasingly become active in supporting Forest Department to protect Kaptai National Park. Ten Community Patrol Groups were formed with 114 members and joint patrolling has continued along with FD field staff. The surrounded 39 villages cover 1885 households that are engaged in multidimensional activities such as agriculture, pond and lake fish culture, vegetable cultivation, and bamboo and handloom products. Jhum cultivation by the ethnic communities and small trade of vegetables are also very well-known income opportunities in this area.

The area is especially well-known for tourism, lakes, and Kaptai Hydroelectric project and Karnafully Paper Mill project. Kaptai Lake is the largest man-made fresh water body in Bangladesh and its fishes are very well known around the country. The major threats to Kaptai NP include illegal removals of forest resources, traditional *jhum* cultivation, pollution of Kaptai lake, land capture, inhabitation and settlement from others areas, conflict between ethnic community and settlers, forest fires, illegal timber felling for furniture and house constructions, fuel wood extraction for home and brick kilns. Forest Department maintains 10 Beat offices and 2 Range Offices in Kaptai and Karnafully.

Over the next year, Kaptai NP team will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness for increasing ICS use in landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities by focusing school based and scouts program; more importantly, strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects of AF for the concerned CMCs.

Dudpukuria- Dhopachari Wildlife Sanctuary

Dudpukuria-Dhopachari Wildlife Sanctuary (DDWS), established in 2010, comprises total 4717 hectares of reserved forests. The sanctuary is situated along with the borderline of Chittagong, Rangamati and Bandarban districts. The Wildlife sanctuary is located in the reserve forests of Khurusia and Dohazari Forest Ranges under Chittagong South Forest Division. The sanctuary, accessible from Chittagong metropolitan city by road, is surrounded by eight settlements of Bengali, Marma and Thanchyanga communities, harboring about 1000 households. Most of the people depend on the sanctuary for their reimbursements for fuel wood, timber and minor forest products like bamboo and bush meat. Main challenges to the Sanctuary include: illegal felling, forest fires, forestland encroachment and livestock grazing. To conserve the forests for future generation, the sanctuary requires co-management initiatives to be conducted by the local stakeholders and Government. IPAC started its activities with the PA community mobilization and awareness raising, and initiated to establish co-management platforms. Forest Department maintains 3 Beats Offices and 2 Range Offices in Khurusia and Dohazari Ranges. Two CMCs have been formed at Dudpukuria and Dhopachari under DDWS. The VCF, PF, CPG group formation activities are continuing with the collaboration of FD.

During the year 5, DDWS team will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for social forestry plantations; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; exploring eco-tourism opportunities and network links; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities by focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMCs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF grants projects of the CMCs.

Sitakunda Eco Park

Sitakunda Eco-Park is situated in Sitakunda Upazilla under Chittagong District and is bounded by Sitakunda Paurashava and Sitakunda Chandranath Mondir (Temple) on the north, hills and Hathazari Upazilla on the east, Barabkunda Union of Sitakunda Upazilla, Kumira, Bangladesh Military Academy & Fouzdehat Cadet College on the south, and Muradpur Union of Sitakunda Upazilla and Bay of Bengal are on the west. The botanical garden and eco-park area, comprising with 808 hectare, consists of hundreds of hills with their elevation ranging from 25 meters to 400 meters. The highest peak rises up to 400 meters, where Chandranath Mondir (Temple) is situated. It is very renowned place and every year people from home and abroad (India) come here to offer their prayers. Two waterfalls, Sahasradhara with clear vision, and Suptadhara not seen, are found in these hills.

Sitakunda Botanical Garden and Eco Park are surrounded with settlements, mainly of Bangali and Tripura (nearly 50 families) communities, harboring about 14,612 households. The terrain is undulating with natural forests of rich diversity in flora & fauna, and numerous creeks/streams. The inhabitants depend on Sitakunda hill forest resources for agriculture and other consumption needs. A large number of people visit Sitakunda Botanical Garden and Eco-Park. The development of eco-tourism infrastructure will attract more visitors and ecotourism awareness activities will be planned accordingly. Local administration initiatives and ensuring security of tourist will help the process. Ship breaking industries have adversely impacted the forest and landscape and other threats include illegal felling, forest fires, livestock grazing, forestland encroachment, and timber and fuel wood of extraction for home and sale. IPAC has started its activities with the PA since December 2010 by initiating community mobilization to conserve the Eco park and awareness raising. Total 10 VCFs are formed in surrounding areas based on a PRA/RRA survey.

In the Fifth year, Sitakunda Eco Park team will continue facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability

adaptation plans; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links and responsible tourism campaign; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept.

Priority outcomes for PY-5 include the following:

- ✓ **Sustainability of CMOs for effective co-management:**
Facilitated with IPAC supports, Chittagong & CHT Cluster will complete regular site specific activities, and monthly/periodical coordination meetings of Co-management Platforms. PY 5 special focus will include ensuring office and other facilities, and completion of registration process with Social Welfare for CMCs, as well as fostering stronger links to local government agencies especially Forest Dept.; complete field level technical facilitation for 2 LDF grants projects at DDWS and the strong monitoring for existing 2 LDF projects at Kaptai NP; arrange final round of capacity building efforts on PP development and fund raising, co-management and financial management for CMCs and subordinate field staff of GOB agencies, conservation and development for Nishorgo Sahayaks; strengthening regional networks of CMCs; and cluster level closure workshops. Further, the cluster will be focusing implementation of 2 Arannayk projects that have recently been submitted.
- ✓ **Effective conservation management of Protected Areas:**
With the continuation of conservation effectiveness in Protected Areas, the cluster will continue arranging awareness and outreach activities including Trail hiking, Spot based Mass gatherings, Day's observation, Tree fair participation, and Nishorgo club engagement. Special focus will be to strengthen Joint Patrolling efforts between 13 CPGs with 170 active members and Forest Guards through providing refresher training programs with revised guidelines, to effectively carry-out their work. Also, conservation awareness efforts will be strengthened, comprising Scouts involvement at local and regional level, and school programs. Additionally, PA bio-physical improvements activity: social forestry at Dudhpukuria WS (15 Acres) will be completed and follow up maintenance of existing 10 Acres social forestry plantations will be done.
- ✓ **Sustained results of AIG/VC activities and ICS Intervention:**
Throughout 65 VCFs, field facilitation will be strengthened to support 1,950 HHs who received input supports and training for AIGAs, expecting continuing re-investments in a revolving manner. Chittagong & CHT staff will monitor and provide technical support for leveraging GOB and other extension services at local level for successful and smooth implementation of AIGAs including tree nursery support to selected NSs. In PY 5, special efforts will be given for installation of 700 ICSs with site based demonstration and awareness on ICSs, in the PA network in a sustainable manner, ensuring strengthening of Value Chain links, and supporting networks for sharing of information and technology beyond the life of project.
- ✓ **Improved Economic benefits of PA-dependent communities from Expanded eco-tourism opportunities:**
During the PY5, the Cluster will work with FD and CMCs to strengthen effective PA entry fee revenue collection and sharing mechanism in Kaptai NP. The cluster will support and facilitate holding regional level responsible/eco-tourism campaign. Also, expansion of eco-tourism facilities will include trails and brochures development, functionalizing picnic spots, establishing new eco-cottages and branding, refreshers for eco-guides and strengthen their link/networking with Eco-cottage owners, tour operators and hotel/motels.
- ✓ **Landscape communities adapted to Climate change vulnerability:**
Upcoming year, Chittagong & CHT Cluster will arrange sharing sessions through monthly CMC meetings on PA based Climate Change Adaptation Plans developed throughout 76 VCFs in the last year. Other important activities include assistance in integrating these plans into respective PA Co-management plans, and arranging

consultation workshops at local/regional level so to facilitate adaptation strategies with the provision of leveraging technical and financial support for their implementation from GOB, NGOs and/or other donors.

2.4.6 Sylhet Cluster

The IPAC Sylhet cluster is located in northeast part of Bangladesh and consists of diversified ecosystems such as hill forests, rain forests, watersheds of important rivers and wetlands, plains, agriculture, and significant wetlands, ECA, 2nd RAMSAR site of the country, etc. By road the cluster HQs is around 250 Km from Dhaka. Total landscape area of PAs is around 125,736 hectares including core zone of 35,871.8 hectares. Other specialty of the cluster is that all the 3 Government partners (FD, DoF & DoE) are directly involved in co-management and institutionalization process. Sylhet Cluster also represents a unique composition of forest and wetland protected areas where 8 RMOs with their 2 Central Union Committees for the Haors, and 4 CMCs for National Parks & Sanctuary are continuing successfully with IPAC supports. The cluster covers all the 4 districts of Sylhet division (i.e. Hobiganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet and Sunamganj) comprising 13 Upazillas. Major rivers are Surma, Kushara, Boulai, Patlai, Monu and Khoai, with hundreds of *charas* and streams flowing from the surrounding hills.

The IPAC project in the cluster, building on the sound foundation of MACH project for wetlands and Nishorgo Support Project for forest PAs, includes attractive tourism places, and has attracted attention of the different stakeholders: new CMO representatives from other IPAC clusters have visited Lawachara and Hail Haor as part of their exposure/cross learning on co-management and biodiversity conservation. For instance, this cluster is the pioneer for implementation of Govt. policy on 50% benefit sharing of total entry fee with local community engaged in visitor's management system for eco-tourism. Also, the cluster is pioneer for implementation of Revised Social Forestry Rules, 2010.

Table 7: Sylhet Cluster Protected Areas

Name of PAs	GOB Partner	Total Area (hectare)	Upazila/District
Lawachara National Park	Dept. of Forest (Wildlife division)	Total Area: 18,178 Core zone: 1,250	Kamolganj & Sreemongal /Moulvibazar
Satchari National Park	Dept. of Forest	Total Area: 8,342 Core zone: 243	Chunarughat & Madhobpur /Hobiganj
Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary	Dept. of Forest (Wildlife division)	Total Area: 13,327 Core zone: 1,795	Chunaroghat & Sreemongal /Hobiganj
Khadimnagar National Park	Dept. of Forest	Total Area: 15,679 Core zone: 678.8	Sylhet sadar & Goain Ghat /Sylhet
Hail haor	Dept. of Fisheries	Total Area: 13,000 Core zone: 3,795	Moulvibazer sadar & Sreemongal /Moulvibazar

Tanguar haor ECA	Dept. of Environment	Total Area: 26,344 Core zone: 9,727	Daharmopasha & Tahirpur /Sunamganj
Hakaluki haor ECA	Dept. of Environment	Total ECA area: 30,866 Core zone: 18,383	Baorolekha, Juri, Kulaura, Fenchuganj & Golabganj /Moulvibazar & Sylhet
Total Cluster Areas	Total	125,736	

Through the PY4, some of the most significant achievement of the Sylhet cluster includes final documentation submitted for Social Welfare's registration by the remaining two CMCs; preparation of VCC/VCG based Climate Change Adaptation Plans with the active participation of VCF members and facilitated by Nishorgo Shahhayaks. The cluster has facilitated 3 LDF Projects under implementation by the concerned CMC and ECAs; and RMOs and FRUGs engaged for endowment and revolving funds implementation; technical support to 3 AF grants projects that have been successfully closed in quarter-3; and regional Nishorgo Network Executive Committee formation. Further, the cluster rendered collaborative support to implement IPAC's private sector linkages through value chain efforts for Dolubari weaving group. With Govt. CCTF (Climate Change Trust Fund) DoE and FD have been implementing separate wetlands biodiversity conservation projects at Hakaluki and Tanguar Haor ECAs.

In the Fifth year, Sylhet cluster will continue facilitation of remaining CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMOs, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for social forestry plantations; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; and facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept., Dept. of Fisheries and local Administration. The team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects of AF submitted by the concerned CMOs; and continue support to RMOs and FRUGs for endowment and revolving funds management.

Brief Description of each PA

Lawachara National Park

The Lawachara National Park, comprising semi evergreen rainforest as a part of West Bhanugach Reserved Forest, is located in Kamalgonj and Madhubpur Unions of Kamalgon Upazila and Kalighat and Srimangal unions of Sreemongal Upazila under Moulvibazar District. In 1996, a good forest patch was declared as National park, comprising 1250 ha out of 2740 ha west Bhanugach reserve forest. The Park authority is with the Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Division of Forest Dept. Approximately, 167 plants, 4 species of Amphibians, 6 species of Reptiles, 246 species of birds, 20 species of Mammals are available in the Park. About 18 families of Hollock gibbon have given the Park a flagship attraction; other key species include Capped Langur, Slow Loris, Pig-tailed Macaque, Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel, and Barking Deer. The park is surrounded by 30 villages (including two Khashia punjis inside the park) and 6 Tea gardens, which are dependent on park's natural resources.

IPAC has been working with Lawachara National Park stakeholders since 2008 to scale up NSP initiatives further to achieve the sustainability of co-management platform that was developed with the support from NSP (Co-Management Councils & Committees were formed in Lawachara under NSP). IPAC started reforming co-management platform as per the new GO. Under IPAC, 30 VCFs, a Peoples' Forum, 5 CPGs including one female group are functioning well. According to new gazette a Council & a Committee has been formed on 18 April 2011 and registration of the CMC with the Department of Social Welfare is under process.

LNP CMC has been implementing its first phase of revolving fund with Arannayk Foundation fund worth BDT 10 lac, which has been recently completed. Entry fee collection as user fee revenue has started from 1 November 2009, and as of April 2012, in total 263,658 tourists visited LNP and contributed to generate revenue of BDT 5,668,580. IPAC trained unemployed youths are working as Eco-guides for facilitating tourists, and IPAV supported entrepreneurs are working to build 03 eco cottages surrounding LNP. For students and their guardians a Dormitory has been established in LNP.

Over the Fifth year, Lawachara NP team will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round of capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; monitoring of conservation-linked AIG and VC activities with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. The team will render regular efforts for leveraging grants projects of AF by the CMC, and ADP implementation.

Satchari National Park

The word "Satchari" refers to the seven streams, flowing through the parks' forest area. The tropical evergreen/semi-evergreen Satchari National Park (SNP), established in 2006, comprises an area of 243 hectares as a part of the 6205 hectares Raghundan Hills Reserve Forest. The Park, situated in the Paikpara Union of Chunarughat Upazila under Habiganj district, is under the jurisdiction of Satchari Wildlife Range under Moulvibazar Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Division. There are 24 species of mammals, 149 bird species, 6 species of amphibians, and 18 reptile species in the park. Hoolock Gibbon and Phayre's Langur are the resident flagship attractions in the park. Among the bird species, Oriental pied Hornbill, Red Jungle Fowl, Red-headed Trogon, pygmy Woodpecker are common. The park is surrounded by 38 villages (include one Tipra ethnic settlement within the core zone) and 8 Tea gardens.

The Integrated Protected Area Co-Management Project as continuation of NSP is working since 2008 for scaling up NSP initiatives in order to attain sustainability of co-management platform, which includes a reformed CMC, 38 VCFs, a Peoples' Forum and 1 CPG. The CMC is registered with the Department of Social Welfare. AIG/VC activities have emphasized homestead gardening, agriculture, fish culture, weaving, bamboo product development and plant nursery. The CMC has been implementing a revolving fund with Arannayk's leverage fund for additional AIGA support for dependent VCF & CPGs. Also, GIZ provided supports for installation of Improve Cooking Stove (ICS) to the park dependent households. Entry fee collection has continued since 1 November 2009 and up to April this year 113,654 tourists have visited the SNP and total revenue collected amounts to Tk.1,801,175. There are 6 trained Eco-guides who have been working in the park, and one student dormitory has been established.

In the year 5, Satchari NP team will continue facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change

vulnerability adaptation plans; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIG and VC activities with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. The team will render regular efforts for Arannayk leverage grants project of the CMC.

Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary

Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary (RKWS), officially established in 1982 with 1795 ha area, is a part of 6232 ha Tarap Hill Reserve Forest. It is home to a variety of plants, animals and birds and provides some of the best bird-watching experiences in the country. The PA is located in Gazipur and Ranigaon unions of Chunarughat Upazila of Habigonj district; and in south and west it is bounded by Indian province of Tripura. Biodiversity of the PA consist 167 birds, 7 amphibians, 18 reptiles, and 37 species of mammals whereas cultural diversity is very rich with four different ethnic communities with diversified cultures.

The sanctuary is surrounded by a large population from 60 villages, who depend on sanctuary's natural resources in various degrees, including firewood, cane and bamboo, timber, and sun grass as well as agriculture. Land encroachment for farming and housing and illicit tree felling are the main threats to the sanctuary. On the foundation of NSP, the IPAC was launched in 2008 with the view to demonstrate replicability of co-management for establishing a good governance system that will ensure sustainable co-management of protected areas of Bangladesh. A co-management platform including a reformed CMC, 45 village conservation forums, a Peoples' Forum, 05 Community patrolling groups (CPG), and 05 Youth Clubs are functioning currently.

The CMC is registered with the Social Welfare Department as an NGO to attract donor support and alternative income generation/value chain (AIGA/VC) activities with leveraged support from Arannayk's revolving funds and ICSs installation through GIZ support are on-going. Training programs were conducted to develop skills of the local community, and awareness programs were organized on illicit felling, encroachment, climate change, global warming, etc. Due to remoteness and difficult communication, eco-tourism has yet not developed in a significant level, though the project supported training of Eco-Guides, building an eco-cottage for tourists and construction of a tourist shop have been implemented.

During year 5, Rema Kalenga WS team will continue facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for social forestry plantations; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation of PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. The team will render regular efforts for leverage grants project like Arannayk of the CMC.

Khadimnagar National Park

Khadimnagar National Park, located 15 km northeast from Sylhet in Khadimnagar Union of Sylhet Sadar Upazila, is under the jurisdiction of Khadimnagar Beat of North Sylhet Range-I of Sylhet Forest Division. In 2006 the reserve forest was declared as Khadimnagar National Park (KNP) through a gazette notification. The forest is a semi deciduous tropical forest where tall trees are deciduous and the under storey evergreen and covered mostly with natural pecha bamboo. The park area is surrounded by 22 villages (with 12,500 HHs) covering three unions, and local people have varied degree of stakes in the Park's forest resources. Also the Park is surrounded by 6 tea

estates and ethnic communities (Patra Samprodai) reside in 6 villages. The forest has a total of 217 species of plants, and 20 amphibians, 9 reptiles, 28 birds and 26 species of animals (Macaque, Capped langur, Wild fox, Monkeys, Jungle fowl, common Mongoose, Fishing cat, White backed vulture, Brahmin kite, Moyna, Python, Wildfowl, Cobra, Dhanesh, Dove, Eagle, Mathura, Vultures, etc.). The forest is rich especially in bamboo and cane but population growth is putting heavily biotic pressure. Main threats to the Park include illicit felling, indiscriminate fuel wood/bamboo/cane/sun grasses collection, coal preparation, forest land encroachment and poaching.

IPAC is working to promote and institutionalize co-management system for sustainable NRM and biodiversity conservation and the co-management platform developed includes 22 VCFs, a Peoples' Forum, and a CMC. A CMC office is set up within the FD Beat Office premises. The conservation-linked AIG/VC activities are continuing and in March 2011 a LDF grant was provided to the CMC for demonstrating Mushroom cultivation by gainfully involving forest dependent HHs. Accordingly technical skill development training is imparted by leveraging with Sylhet Horticulture Center and Mushroom development and marketing cooperative. Besides, for developing eco-tourism, some tourist facilities such as trail brochure and signboards have been put in place.

In the Fifth year, Khadimnagar NP team will continue facilitation of CMC's registration with Social welfare affairs; conduction of final round of capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; monitoring of conservation-linked AIG and VC activities with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation PA entry fee sharing; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities by focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Forest Dept. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects of AF for the CMC.

Hail Haor (including Baikka beel Permanent Sanctuary)

Hail Haor is located in Sreemongal Upazila and partly Moulvibazar Sadar Upazila of Moulvibazar district, and anticline between the Balishira and Borshijora hills to the East and the Satgaon hills to the west. This wetland is fed by 350 hilly streams which originate in the surrounding hills and the Gopla River is the only outlet with water flows to Bijna river. The watershed area of the haor is about 600 square kilometers, including 60 villages with 30,000 households comprising 172,000 population. Most of the community people are dependent on the haor in various ways: fishing for livelihood and protein intake, farming, grasses for cattle and thatching, fodder, firewood, and herbal medicine.

Hail Haor covers about 14,000 ha in the wet season but in the dry season the water area falls to nearly 4,000 ha. It comprises 130 beels and individual water bodies such as canals. Formerly the Haor was connected with Kushiara and Monu rivers but has now lost the connection due to construction of series of flood control dykes and sluice gates. It has recognition as a globally important wetland for its rich biodiversity (the home to 98 fish species and 160 bird species) and recently the Bird Life International has listed it as an "Important Bird Area".

The USAID supported MACH (Management of Aquatic ecosystem through Community Husbandry) project was launched by DoF during June 1999, and continued up to June 2010 with a follow up phase. IPAC included Hail haor since its inception (2008) as a direct implementation site. For sustainable management of the wetland resources, 8 Resource Management Organizations (RMOs), registered with the Department of Social Welfare, and including representatives of local fishers and farmers, men and women, poor and local elites, are operating in the Haor areas. With the support of the project, 21 water bodies (486 ha), with 14 fish sanctuaries (65 ha), are being managed by the RMOs under an MOU with the MoL through MoFL. Baikka beel has been declared as a permanent fish sanctuary during July 2003. Besides RMOs, 107 RUGs of 2293 resource users/fishers are functioning with

financial support from their five federations (FRUGs) having revolving funds provided under MACH. IPAC site team has been providing utmost support to the RMOs and FRUGs to play their role effectively in the management of Hail Haor resources but the following issues have emerged for their resolution:

- ✓ Duration of some leases for managing the water bodies have not duly extended yet, this might create vacuum of authority for the RMOs
- ✓ Frequent drought affects the habitat quality for fishes, especially as it reduces water depth in the beels, which makes common people greedy to poach fishes

In the Fifth year, Hail Haor team will continue facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, RMO/FRUG members, CPGs and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for wetland plantation and sanctuary management; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIG and VC activities with extended services; expanding eco-tourism facilities and network links, and facilitation PA entry fee sharing; and facilitation of awareness and outreach activities focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Dept. of Fisheries and local Administration. Also, the team will render regular efforts to RMOs and FRUGs for endowment and revolving funds management.

Tanguar Haor (ECA & RAMSAR site)

Tanguar Haor, one of the country's resource rich wetland, comprises with 51 beels associated with 3 major rivers (Boulai, Patlai, Rajar dair). Located at the foot of Meghalaya hill range, it has a total area of 9,727 ha, provisioning livelihood support to 10,205 households with 56,000 people living in 88 villages. Due to its status as an ECA and RAMSAR site, the GOB in 2001 decided to put in place a community based management system by transferring its ownership from Ministry of Land (MoL) to the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) under the supervision of the District administration. The haor ecosystem accommodates 73 floral species including reeds, shrubs, grasses & tree species; 141 fresh water native fish species; 11 amphibians; 34 reptiles and 208 species of birds.

Since 2007 under the authority of DoE with SDC's financing support, three environmental NGOs (IUCN, CNRS and CBSMTHP) are implementing a technical project for developing capacity of local people and members of local government such as UPs in wise use of natural resource according to RAMSAR principle, uplifting livelihood status and policy advocacy. Four water bodies have been declared as permanent sanctuaries and seedlings of swamp species have been planted over 06 ha. Joint revenue sharing mechanism is developed and being practiced (benefits distribution as: Fishers-40%, CMO-36% and GOB-24%), and about 68 lac BDT is deposited in CMOs account. In addition, 28 types of AIG activities are being practiced by using more than BDT 10 Million fund gathered from members' regular savings. These activities are operating under the lead role of the central committee within which 04 Union committees and 80 nature conservation groups are operating. A wetland Biodiversity conservation project under FD with the support of CCTF (Climate Change Trust Fund) is under implementation covering the ECA, focusing on establishing plantations and livelihoods. IPAC Team is working in collaboration with CBSM-TH Team and providing support to facilitate the existing institution framework for strengthening co-management as well as networking with other nature conservation GO and NGO institutions.

During the year 5, Tanguar Haor team will continue facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMC members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for swamp plantations; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; exploring eco-tourism opportunities and network links; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities by focusing school based

and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links with Dept. of Fisheries and local Administration. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF and leverage grants projects from AF funding as solicited by the CMO.

Hakaluki Haor ECA

Hakaluki Haor, the largest haor in the South Asia and one of the most important as mother fisheries, supports around 2 lac people for their livelihood. It covers Barolekha, Kulaura and Juri Upazilas of Moulvibazar district and part Fenchugonj and Golabgonj Upazilas of Sylhet district, with anticline between Bhatara hills in west, and Patharia and Madhob hills in the east. Surrounding people are dependent on the haor in various ways: fishing for livelihood and protein intake, farming, cattle grazing, fodder, firewood, etc. Over the period of 50 years, the haor has reached at a state of critical condition of degradation due to over extraction of resources, natural/human accelerated sedimentation and human pressure. In recognition of need for protection Hakaluki Haor, in 1999 it was declared as an “Ecologically Critical Area” (ECA) covering 40,000 ha in rainy season; the waters in dry season reduce to approximately 6,000 ha. It has 276 beels and the Haor is fed by 7 major canals which drain out to the mighty Kushiara River through Juri River.

This Haor is recognized as globally important wetland for its rich biodiversity and is habitat to globally threatened bird species (the home to 107 fish species, 526 plant species and 558 wildlife species). DoE under MoEF’s “Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project” (CWBMP, 2003-10) with the support of GEF-UNDP, implemented the project with the main objectives of ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant wetland biodiversity through co-management. Under the project, 28 (21 registered) VCGs (village conservation group) have been formed by including 953 local fishers, farmers, poor and local elites, who are responsible for managing the haor resources and its ecosystem with technical support from the DoE. Union & Upazila level ECA committee are extending help in protection of around 1,000 ha. Natural regeneration of swamp trees (coppice management) is encouraged and planted trees include 132,893 swamps and 30,000 riparian trees. As seed fund, the project granted BDT 38,00,000 to 28 VCGs for continuing organizational, community level activities, providing AIGs support in different farm trades for livelihood enhancement of poor, and focusing on biodiversity conservation. Two projects under DoE and FD with the support of CCTF (Climate Change Trust Fund) are under implementation covering the ECA, focusing wetlands biodiversity conservation. From the beginning, IPAC field activities have continued in coordination with the DOE Team under CWBMP by employing existing CMOs for strengthening co-management platform as well as networking with other nature conservation government and non-government agencies and institutions.

Over the year 5, Hakaluki Haor team will continue facilitation and conduction of final round capacity building efforts for NSs, CMO members, and local GOB agencies; consultation and implementation of climate change vulnerability adaptation plans; additional efforts for swamp plantations and Sanctuary Management; site based awareness to increasing ICS use at landscape households; monitoring of conservation-linked AIGA and VC with extended services; exploring eco-tourism opportunities and network links; facilitation of awareness and outreach activities by focusing school based and scouts program; strengthen regional networks of CMOs; and foster stronger links to Dept. of Fisheries and local Administration. Also, the team will render regular efforts for LDF grants project of the CMC.

Priority outcomes for PY-5 include the following:

✓ **Sustainability of CMOs for effective co-management:**

With IPAC supports, Sylhet Cluster will complete regular site specific activities, periodical and coordination meetings of Co-management Platforms; PY 5 special focus will include ensuring office and other functional facilities, and completion of registration process with Social Welfare for remaining CMCs, as well as fostering stronger links to local government agencies including FD, DoF, DoE and local Administration. Also, continuance will be ensured for field level technical facilitation of 3 LDF grants projects at all three PAs of Sylhet sites, and strong monitoring for existing leverage financial supports like AF at Forest PAs of Sreemongol sites as well as existing RMOs and FRUGs for endowment schemes implementation and revolving funds management. Arrangements will complete final round of capacity building efforts on PP development and fund raising, co-management and financial management for CMOs and the subordinate field staff of GOB agencies, conservation and development for Nishorgo Sahayaks, strengthening regional networks of CMOs, cluster level closure workshops, etc. Further, the cluster will be focusing implementation of submitted 3 Arannayk projects based on awards during the IPAC period but the generated benefits and funds will be revolved beyond IPAC project life.

✓ **Effective conservation management of Protected Areas:**

To strengthen conservation effectiveness in Protected Areas, the cluster will arrange awareness and outreach activities including Interactive Popular Theater Shows, Spot based Mass gatherings, Day's observation, Tree fair participation, Nishorgo club engagement, etc. Special focus will be to strengthen Joint Patrolling efforts between 10 CPGs with 206 active members (including 20 female) and Forest Guards through providing refresher training programs with revised guidelines, to effectively carry-out their work. Also, conservation awareness efforts will be strengthened, comprising Scouts involvement at local and regional level, school programs, etc. Additionally, PA bio-physical improvements activities like social forestry at Rema Kalenga (20 Acres) and Tanguar Haor (25 Acres, swamp plantation) will be initiated, and follow up will be continued for regular maintenance of existing plantations of 45 Acres.

✓ **Sustained the results of AIG/VC activities and ICS Intervention:**

Working through 105 VCFs, strengthened field facilitation will be ensured to support 2,850 HHs who will receive input supports and training for AIGAs, expecting to continue re-investments in a revolving manner. Sylhet cluster will monitor and provide technical support for leveraging GOB and other extension services at local level for successful and smooth implementation of AIGAs including tree nursery support to selected NSs. In PY 5, special efforts will be given for installation of 2,566 ICSs with site based demonstration and awareness on ICSs, popularizing the PA network in a sustainable manner, through strengthening of Value Chain links, and supporting networks for sharing of information and technology beyond the life of project.

✓ **Improved Economic benefits of PA-dependent communities from Expanded eco-tourism opportunities:**

Over the PY5, the Cluster will work with FD and CMCs to ensure effective PA entry fee revenue collection and sharing mechanism in Rema-Kalenga, Stachari and Lawachara PAs. Along with FD, efforts will be made to get entry fee approvals from the ministry. The cluster will support and facilitate holding regional level responsible/eco-tourism campaign; continue to facilitate maintaining existing eco-tourism facilities and expansion of eco-tourism including trails and brochures development; functionalize student dormitories; establishing of new eco-cottages and branding; refreshers for eco-guides and strengthen their link/networking

with CMOs, Eco-cottage owners, tour operators and hotel/motels. Additionally, the cluster will explore tourism opportunities at Tanguar and Hakaluki Haor ECAs.

✓ **Landscape communities adapted to Climate change vulnerability:**

This year, Sylhet Cluster will arrange sharing sessions through monthly CMC meetings on PA based Climate Change Adaptation Plans developed by 276 VCFs. Also, assistance in integrating these plans into respective PA Co-management plans will be ensured, and arrangements will be made for consultation workshops at local/regional level so as to facilitate adaptation strategies with the provision of leveraging technical and financial support for their implementation from GOB, NGOs and/or other donors.

3. Cross-Cutting Gender and Youth Focus

The PY 5 Work Plan builds upon a cross-cutting gender-aware strategy. So as to achieve more effective social change and acceptance of new forest and wetland practice, IPAC has placed a special effort on the key role of the Nishorgo Shahayak, many of whom are women. In the context of rural villages and social organization, IPAC recognized in earlier project years that the unique capacities of women at the local level would be particularly advantageous in advancing the acceptance and active participation if the project were to work with a high percentage of women as outreach and extension vectors.

The IPAC gender focus also is evident in our emphasis on a number of economic opportunities, in particular the use of improved stoves, tree nursery and vegetable gardening value chains, and fish pond cultivation. All of these were designed and implemented with the objective of being particularly advantageous to women as critical partners. This focus on the unique and critical role of women will continue in year 5, with a further increase in the numbers of women in a variety of activities.

IPAC has also placed special emphasis on engaging the youth in understanding the elements of co-management, and the larger existence of a PA network that they can benefit from now and in their futures. The project will continue this emphasis on youth in year 5, in particular through extended activities with the Bangladesh Scouts, Nishorgo Clubs at PA level, and CPGs.

4. Project Management

IPAC will continue to provide strong management and administrative support to ensure effective and efficient functioning of the project. The sections below describe plans for Administration and Finance as well as Monitoring and Evaluation.

4.1 Administration & Finance

The IPAC Administration & Finance (A&F) Team remarkably contributed on multiple fronts during the 4th year of implementation and has achieved significant outputs. As the year has ended and stepped into the last year, careful attention has been given at how the administration team can respond to priority issues including those that could be of importance identified by the Government of Bangladesh and USAID in the coming year including those that are required for smooth closeout of the project. The A&F Team will provide continued support to ensure smooth and effective implementation of IPAC in a manner that is compliant with USAID regulations and Bangladesh laws, as well as quality control and quality assurance. Over the Fifth year, Periodic reviews would be essential, and the team is expected to work and provide support on the following key areas:

- 4.1.1 **DPP Revision:** The administrative team will continue to provide much needed support for formal approval of the DPPs for all three GOB departments. The recasting of the DPPs have been completed and submitted to the respective ministries. IPAC remains standby to provide additional supports to the FD, DOF and DOE for holding the Steering Committee and incorporate recommendations in the DPPs as suggested by the Planning Commission. IPAC administration will continually need to maintain liaison with the three departments in DPPs approval process.
- 4.1.2 **IPAC Subcontracts:** As this is the last year of the project, the A&F team will need to keep continuous and careful monitoring of all the subcontract budgets. Last year, IRG has intensively reviewed the future roles and involvement of all IPAC subcontractors' and reallocated resources from those having excess to those who were in deficit. Apart from the technical implementations, timely closeout of subcontracts, auditing, property transfers and disposition, and documents retention would be key activities for the team in the year 5. This year two audits will be conducted; one for PY 4 in Jun-Jul 2012, and other for PY 5 in Jan – Feb 2013.
- 4.1.3 **Staffing:** Almost all CCN employment contracts will need to be extended as per the approved LOE provisions. IRG will review those on a case by case basis and extensions will be given after proper assessment of individual performances and in keeping with the budgetary provisions. In addition, payment of final social benefits to all CCNs would be made in this year depending on the length of contracts and policy provisions.
- 4.1.4 **Quality Control:** The periodic administrative and financial reports will be submitted to the mission on time. They would include quarterly accruals, quarterly financial progress, annual tax and MRR, and monthly VAT reports. Annual inventory of non-expendable properties would also be submitted. IRG may require a budget modification request. As applicable, IRG will be seeking approval of the changes in order to proceed with a restructuring of the budgetary support to meet the goals and objectives of the IPAC project contract. Further details will be provided directly to USAID when due.

- 4.1.5 **Project Closeout:** Project closeout would entail a voluminous and wide variety of administrative works. Major works would involve; termination of all leases, service agreements, preparing complete inventory of non-expendable properties (NXP), processing mission's approval for their disposition, delivery of NXP (as the mission approves) and receipt acknowledgement, closeout of all subcontracts, finalizing payments to all vendors and utility departments, demobilization of the LTTA expatriates, closeout of all employment contracts and disbursement of social benefits to CCNs.

4.2 Monitoring & Evaluation

In line with PMP framework and indicators set for the project, IPAC has made a substantial progress in most of the indicators' while areas of biophysically improvement, beneficiary people, improved cooking stoves and overall performance of the CMOs remained to be strengthened and so require support for longer duration and substantial inputs. During final year of the project focus will be on consolidating the achievements and further progress will be made with special focus on the issues mentioned above. IPAC's Performance Monitoring Team will continue to monitor and report on IPAC's impacts especially as related to the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) on a regular basis. Further, over the three quarters in PY5 the team will also undertake the following actions to strengthen overall performance monitoring:

- 4.2.1 **Socio-economic Baseline & Impact Surveys.** A sample household survey covering IPAC direct beneficiary households (AIGA/Value Chain and LDF beneficiaries), key participants in conservation (e.g. CPGs) and control (non-participants) will be conducted to evaluate improvements of economic status of beneficiaries for PMP indicators and wider impacts of co-management. The baselines of the sample HHs were taken earlier while they were included as IPAC direct beneficiary HHs.
- 4.2.2 **Assessment of the CMOs Based on Score Card.** Yearly assessments of forest CMCs, wetland RMOs and Union Committees from ECAs will be completed and reviewed for comparison with the baseline (in 2011) and 2012 assessments. Monitoring team will continue working closely with IPAC implementing teams at site level in strengthening important aspects of CMOs scoring which includes resources management, organization, pro-poor and women aspects, governance & leadership and Govt. supports for promoting co-management approach.
- 4.2.3 **Indicator Bird Monitoring for Program Year Review.** Indicator forest bird survey will be completed during 1st and 2nd quarter of PY5 in 10 PA sites. Dr. Monirul H. Khan will continue to lead the survey along with volunteer bird watchers from communities. The baseline for Lawachara NP, Satchari NP, Rema-Kalenga WS, Chunati WS and Teknaf WS is 2008 survey conducted by Nishorgo Support Project while for other 5 PA sites e.g. Khadimnagar NP, Modhupur NP, Kaptai NP, Fasiakhali WS and Medakachapia NP the baseline is 2009 survey conducted in 2010 under IPAC Project.
- 4.2.4 **Landscape Identification & Endorsements from the CMOs.** The process of identification of landscape as CMOs' zone of influence is progressing and will be endorsed by respective CMOs.
- 4.2.5 **Landscape Mapping for Forest & Wetland Protected Areas.** All the IPAC PA sites will be mapped at landscape level; this process is underway and concerned site offices will be provided with updated maps. Further the process of identification and mapping of PA landscapes as CMOs' zone of influence is progressing and will be endorsed by respective CMOs.
- 4.2.6 **Fish Catch Monitoring & Reporting on Biodiversity Assessment in Selected Wetlands.** Fish catch and biodiversity monitoring in 14 wetland spots in four wetland systems of Sylhet (Hail Haor), Central (Turag-Bangshi river basin and Kangsha-Malijhee river basin) and Khulna (fish landing points of

Sundarbans) clusters will be completed. During PY5, the WorldFish Center will report on 2011-12 data and compare with Fish Catch Monitoring Report (January 2012) as well as end of MACH-project baseline for Hail Haor, Tanguar Haor and Turag-Bongshi river basin. Another report will be developed by the WorldFish Center on the Sundarbans' fish catch monitoring for which the data is being collected at landing points.

- 4.2.7 Study of Nishorgo Name and Brand Recognition, and Recognition of PA Network:** PMP indicator #17 was included to monitor increased awareness of the PA network, and of the Nishorgo unified branding supported by the project. To date, PA network awareness has been measured by monitoring site level activities and outreach. But Nishorgo has also had a national and regional communications campaign. In PY 5, a market analysis study will be undertaken to assess levels of recognition of the PA network, and the brand Nishorgo, as well as the number of people that associate the PA network improvements with the contributions of the US Government through USAID.

Additionally, regular PMP reporting will continue for coming quarters. The PMP team will report monthly from each PA sites and this will be compiled quarterly for USAID reporting.

5. IPAC Performance Monitoring Targets

The IPAC PY 5 Work Plan is guided by achieving all performance monitoring targets. As per the table, as below, IPAC is making great progress on achieving most targets in line with Results Framework and most of the indicators set for the project. Performance monitoring team of the project is constantly providing inputs to the project management and implementing teams to strengthen co-management platforms.

Through program year four, foundation has been laid in project landscapes in the frame of setting baseline for biophysical improvement in forest and wetland PA sites with indicator bird survey, fish catch monitoring, coupled with land-use classification of remote sensing data; beneficiaries from economic growth, climate change awareness and adaptation, improved water facilities; capacity building of stakeholders; policy supports to promote co-management approach and overall strengthening of CMOs institutional capacity with optimum use of USG assistance. However, substantial inputs will be required since meaningful shift in natural resources management from traditional approach as well as biophysical improvement usually takes longer time and supports. In program year 5, the overall project progress will be consolidated to promote sustainability of 55 CMOs active in 25 IPAC PA landscapes.

This work plan will pay close attention to addressing those indicators where full targets have yet to be reached. Special emphasis will be given to Indicators 21, number of GOB PAs with improved performance; and 13, number of individuals benefiting from use of improved stove and bio-gas plants. This year, IPAC will also report on Indicator 15, increase in density of indicator bird species in wetland and forested landscape. Importantly, IPAC will support USAID in annual reporting requirements at the end of the USG fiscal year as well as roll-up final results in the IPAC Final Report. Performance monitoring targets against 21 indicators of the project are set as below:

Table 8: Performance Targets for Program Year 5 (targets and achievements are cumulative).

Sl.	Indicators	Unit	Baseline	Program Target (June 2008 - May 2013) *	Achievement PY1 (through May 2009)	Cumulative Achievement PY2 (through May 2010) *	Cumulative Achievement PY3 (through May 2011)	Cumulative Achievement PY4: (through May 2012)	PY5 Target (June 2012 – May 2013)	Remarks on achieving full targets under IPAC (June 2012 – May 2013)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance.	ha	134,268	716,500	10,524	201,500	224,626	701,988	14,512	Remaining 14,512 ha will be captured from CMOs command area (landscapes) assessment which is currently being implemented in the PA sites.
2	Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance.	ha	23,918	600,000	3,500	147,553	170,135	658,426	Achieved	
3	Number of hectares of natural resources showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance.	ha	48,817	3a. Landscape only-2000;	80	3a. Landscape only-329;	3a. Landscape only-804.48;	3a. Landscape only- 1,611	3a. Landscape only-389	Remaining 389 ha will come from bio-physical interventions being done currently.
				3b. Core+ landscape - 302,000		3b. Core+ landscape- 553	3b. Core+ landscape- 1,097.86	3b. Core+ landscape- 190,358	3b. Core+ landscape- 111,642	Remaining 111,642 ha will coincide with progress in Indicator 4.
4	Number of hectares in areas of biological significance showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance.	ha	23,918	300,000	25	224	294	188,747	111,253	Remaining 111,253 ha area will be captured based on indicators from birds and fish catch monitoring, and CMOs scorecard assessments currently ongoing.

Sl.	Indicators	Unit	Baseline	Program Target (June 2008 - May 2013) *	Achievement PY1 (through May 2009)	Cumulative Achievement PY2 (through May 2010) *	Cumulative Achievement PY3 (through May 2011)	Cumulative Achievement PY4: (through May 2012)	PY5 Target (June 2012 – May 2013)	Remarks on achieving full targets under IPAC (June 2012 – May 2013)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5	Number of policies, laws, agreements or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance.	Nos.	4	20	2	9	15	18	2	Remaining <u>2 policy</u> outcomes will be achieved in the final year
6	Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance.	Pers.	137,830	300,000	14,308	23,968	65,041; (F-31,574)	182,871; (F-88,773)	117,129	Remaining <u>117,129 people</u> will be counted based on an assessment of indirect beneficiaries from landscape due to improved ecosystem services.
7	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation.	Pers.	32,203	20,000	228; (F- 68)	8,932	14,561; (F-4,995)	18,996; (F-6,330)	1,004	Remaining <u>1,004 stakeholders</u> will be trained through capacity building program during PY5.
8	Number of people with increased adaptive capacity to cope with impacts of climate	Pers.		8a. Aware: 200,000	450	8a. aware: 129,597	8a. aware: 225,050;	8a. aware: 292,366;	8a. Aware: Achieved	

Sl.	Indicators	Unit	Baseline	Program Target (June 2008 - May 2013) *	Achievement PY1 (through May 2009)	Cumulative Achievement PY2 (through May 2010) *	Cumulative Achievement PY3 (through May 2011)	Cumulative Achievement PY4: (through May 2012)	PY5 Target (June 2012 – May 2013)	Remarks on achieving full targets under IPAC (June 2012 – May 2013)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	variability and change as a result of USG assistance.			8b. Adapt: 70,000		8b. adapt: 0	8b. Adapt: 13,666	8b. Adapt: 62,182	8b. Adapt: 7,818	Remaining 7,818 persons will be brought under adaptive capacity through implementation of LDF and CCA plans during PY5.
9	Greenhouse gas emissions, measured in metric tons CO2 equivalent, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance in natural resources management, agriculture and/or biodiversity sector. (metric Ton CO ₂ e).	ton		300,000 t			78,276 t	266,475 t	33,525 t	USAID's C calculator is used.
10	Number of people in target areas with access to improved drinking water supply as a result of USG assistance.	Pers.		30,000		6,694	91,600; (F-44,466)	123,448; (F- 59,926)	Achieved	

Sl.	Indicators	Unit	Baseline	Program Target (June 2008 - May 2013) *	Achievement PY1 (through May 2009)	Cumulative Achievement PY2 (through May 2010) *	Cumulative Achievement PY3 (through May 2011)	Cumulative Achievement PY4: (through May 2012)	PY5 Target (June 2012 – May 2013)	Remarks on achieving full targets under IPAC (June 2012 – May 2013)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	Number of people receiving USG supported training in environmental law, enforcement, public participation, and cleaner production policies, strategies, skills and techniques.	Pers.		750	35	453; (F-47)	594; (F-103)	767; (F-104)	Achieved	
12	Number of people receiving USG supported training in global climate change including framework convention on climate change, greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation, and adaptation analysis.	Pers.		100		378	441; (F-51)	441; (F-51)	Achieved	
13	Number of individuals benefiting from use of improved stove and bio-gas plants.	Pers.	25,167	44,800	2,800	6,281	9,578; (F-4,650)	14,296; (F- 6,940)	30,504	A comprehensive effort is underway with GIZ and leverage supports to capture <u>remaining coverage of 30,504 persons.</u>

Sl.	Indicators	Unit	Baseline	Program Target (June 2008 - May 2013) *	Achievement PY1 (through May 2009)	Cumulative Achievement PY2 (through May 2010) *	Cumulative Achievement PY3 (through May 2011)	Cumulative Achievement PY4: (through May 2012)	PY5 Target (June 2012 – May 2013)	Remarks on achieving full targets under IPAC (June 2012 – May 2013)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	Market and non-market revenue generated from AIG, ecotourism and other economic activities in PA sites.	USD		\$2,000,000	\$156,933	\$724,236	\$908,401	\$2,399,667	Achieved	
15	Increase in density of indicator bird species in wetland and forested landscape.	%	5 Forest PAs (NSP)	Forest >10% Weland >30%	in 5 Forest PA			-	Final survey is in progress	Results from <u>final bird survey currently in progress</u> will enable achieving program target.
16	Amount of leveraged financing for conservation.	USD		\$ 21.50 million	\$ 12.7 million	\$ 17.24 million	\$ 17.37 million	\$ 18.34 million	\$ 3.16 million	Further leverage funds are being sought to sustain conservation co-management in project sites; remaining <u>\$3.16 million.</u>
17	Number of individuals that are aware of a national Protected Areas network.	Pers.	320,000	2,500,000	16,722	182,978	1,163,792; (F- 349,306)	1,763,846; (F- 606,022)	736,154	Remaining 736,154 outreach target will be achieved through media coverage.
18	Number of communities with Co-management agreements.	Nos.	387	400		142	748	966	Achieved	

Sl.	Indicators	Unit	Baseline	Program Target (June 2008 - May 2013) *	Achievement PY1 (through May 2009)	Cumulative Achievement PY2 (through May 2010) *	Cumulative Achievement PY3 (through May 2011)	Cumulative Achievement PY4: (through May 2012)	PY5 Target (June 2012 – May 2013)	Remarks on achieving full targets under IPAC (June 2012 – May 2013)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19	Number of training curriculums developed and trained modules designed and taught.	Nos.		20	1	10	14	17	3	Remaining 3 training modules have been planned in PY5.
20	Number of recorded visitors to targeted PAs.	Pers.		1,000,000		252,525	427,059	814,779	185,221	Visitors are being counted from selected PA sites and remaining 185,221 persons will be covered in PY5.
21	Number of GoB protected areas with improved performance	Nos.	24	45		0	0	29	16	Efforts are being made to improve performance of remaining 16 CMOs . For which final assessment is planned in February/2013.

* PMP revised based on the progress in 2010.

Annex I: Technical Component Work Plan Matrices

Activity	Outcome	Activity	Time Frame	Key/Special Resources
Component I: Development of IPAC Strategy Coherent Integrated Protected Areas Co-Management Strategy (Component I)				
2.1.1.1	Policy Support for integrated PA co-management	Operationalize Nishorgo Network Strategy & Action Plan	I,2 & 3 Quarter	COP with CDs
2.1.1.2		Accelerate revisions to Forest, Wildlife Acts; PA Rules	I & 2 Quarter	Technical Forestry Coordinator tracking & meetings
2.1.1.3		Support Wetlands Leasing Reform	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	Wetland Policy Specialist meetings & STTA technical support
2.1.1.4		Support Dissemination of Co-Management Impact Assessment	I & 2 Quarter	COP
2.1.1.5		Implementation of Social Forestry Plantations	All Year	Technical Forestry Coordinator technical support to sites
2.1.1.6		Implementation/Expansion of Entrance Fee Revenue Sharing (including Sundarbans Revenue Sharing Guidelines)	I & 2 Quarter	Technical Forestry Coordinator meetings with FD and MoEF, incorporation to ADPs
2.1.1.7		Refine and Clarify Rules/Guidelines for CMO Use of Facilities on Govt land	I & 2 Quarter	COP with CDs
2.1.1.8		Incorporate Climate Change Action Plans into PA Co-Management Plans	I & 2 Quarter	Technical Forestry Coordinator technical support to sites
2.1.1.9		Forest Carbon Finance Support	All Year	meetings; presentations; consultations
2.1.1.10		Regional and National networking of Nishorgo Network Executive committees	I,2 & 3 Quarter	Governance Specialist with site teams and CMOs

Technical Component Work Plan Matrices, continued

Activity	Outcome	Activity	Time Frame	Key/Special Resources
Component I: Development of IPAC Strategy				
2.1.2.1	Nishorgo Network National Communications & Outreach	Expand Nishorgo Network Reach to the National Level.	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Communications Team with Cluster Teams; events
2.1.2.2		Youth Engagement (debates; Scouts, schools colleges; Nishorgo Clubs)	1, 2, & 3 Quarter	Communications Team with Cluster Teams; events
2.1.2.3		Priority "Rights-based" campaigns (primarily in support of wetland leasing rights awareness)	1 and 2 Quarter	Governance and field teams.
2.1.2.4		Expand outreach through Visitor Interpretation Facilities support at all sites	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Field teams at site level. Visitor interpretation design supported through STTA by B. Sinha.
2.1.2.5		Dialogue/documentation on Lessons Learned	2 & 3 Quarter	STTA working with COP and field teams
2.1.2.6		Airing of the Nishorgo Network Documentary	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Communications Team with Asiatic; materials
2.1.2.7		Nishorgo Network promotional material distribution	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Communications Team with Asiatic; posters, flipcharts, brochures
2.1.2.8	IPAC Communications & Outreach	Project & Technical Reports Production & Distribution	All Year	Communications Team; Reports
2.1.2.9		Celebration of national & International Days & Participation in Fairs and Expos	1, 2, & 3 Quarter	Communications Team with Asiatic; Events
2.1.2.10		Engaging Media	1 & 2 Quarter	Communications Team; Press Releases; Media Gatherings; visits
2.1.2.11		High level visits to IPAC sites	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	COP, DCOP, Communications Team, Site Teams; Site Visits
2.1.2.12		Communications Assistance to GOB	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Communications Team with Asiatic; Events
2.1.2.13		Website Development & Management	All Year	Communications Team with Asiatic; Website
2.1.2.14		Cluster Team Communications Support, especially for IPT and journalist support	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Communications Team; workshops
2.1.2.15		DEC Prep and Submission	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Communications Team with HO Support

Technical Component Work Plan Matrices, continued

Activity	Outcome	Activity	Time Frame	Key/Special Resources
Component 2: Building Institutional Capacity – Field Activities				
2.2.1.1	CMOs Training & Capacity Building	Training of Trainers programs for materials for CDs, SFs and SCs	1 st & 2 nd Quarter	Cluster Directors, PMARAs, SFs & SCs; trainings; training manuals and materials
2.2.1.1a		CPG Refresher Training	1&2 Quarter	CBT Team and Governance Specialist supporting site teams; training; technical materials
2.2.1.1b		CMC registration and full functionality	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Governance Specialist with site teams and CMCs
2.2.1.1c		Formulation of bylaws and training conduction	1, 2 & 3 Quarter	Governance Specialist with site teams and CMCs
2.2.1.2		Development of Monthly Orientations and Refresher Training for CMCs and other CMOs.	1 st & 2 nd Quarter	Cluster Directors, PMARAs, SFs & SCs; trainings; training manuals and materials
2.2.1.3		Development/implementation of site-based Local Government consultations	1 & 2 Quarter	Cluster Directors, PMARAs, SFs & SCs; trainings; training manuals and materials
2.2.1.4		Refresher Training of Trainers and workshops for Nishorgo Shahayak. Training of subordinate field staff of GOB agencies	1 st & 2 nd , Quarter	Cluster Directors, PMARAs, SFs & SCs; trainings; training manuals and materials
2.2.1.5		Monthly training program for each VCF	1 st & 2 nd , Quarter	Nishorgo Shahayaks supported by Site teams; technical materials

Technical Component Work Plan Matrices, continued

Acti- vity	Outcome	Activity	Time Frame	Key/Special Resources
Component 2: Building Institutional Capacity – National/Regional/International Training				
2.2.2.1	National Training Programs	Certificate Course in Conservation Biology & Applied PA Co-Management for 60 participants	2 nd & 3 rd Quarter	JU-IUB sub-contract; residential training; final curriculum published
2.2.2.2		Small Grants Program for Research on Co-Management completion	1 st to 2 nd Quarter	Publication of research reports
2.2.2.3		Annotate, Archive and Make Accessible Knowledge-base (including training programs)	1 st & 2 nd Quarter	CBT Team, Local STTA and Interns
		NRM and Wetland conservation training	1 st Quarter	CBT team
2.2.3.1	Regional & International Training Programs	Regional Study Tours to Thailand for 10 participants	1 st Quarter	CBT Team; RECOFTC; Training; International Travel
2.2.3.2		Cross Site Visit to Nepal for 13 participants	2 nd Quarter	CBT Team; CIRDAP; Training; International Travel
2.2.3.3		Cross Site Visit to India for 15+15+15 participants of Stakeholder including ROs in 3 trips	2 nd and 3 rd Quarter	CBT Team; CBA; Training; International Travel

Technical Component Work Plan Matrices, continued

Activity	Outcome	Activity	Time Frame	Key/Special Resources
Component 3: Site Specific Implementation (General support; see Summary Matrix in Annex 3 for greater detail about the AIG and other quantified targets for PY 5)				
2.3.4.1	AIG/VC Support	AIG Round Two Technical Support including Tree nursery to NSs	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	AIG/VC technical support; site-level coordination; link to LDF
2.3.4.2		Nature Tourism Value Chain (a): “Nature Tourism Expo”. Maintenance of existing eco-system facilities	1 st and 2 nd Quarter	AIG/VC technical support; site-level coordination
2.3.4.3		Nature Tourism Value Chain (b): Expand Eco-Cottage Enterprises and Other Visitor Services	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	AIG/VC technical support; Possible interns or graphics experts for visitor service information re-issue; site-level coordination
2.3.4.4		Support to Minor Value Chains, including Bamboo and Weaving	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	AIG/VC technical support; site-level coordination
2.3.4.5		Emphasis on Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) installations and use	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	AIG/VC Team with Cluster Teams
2.3.4.6		CONIC Fundraising & Development	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	COP, DCOP, PO; meetings & presentations
2.3.2.1	Communities adapted to Climate Change vulnerability	Cluster based consultation workshops on Climate Change adaptation plans and Leveraging support from local government	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	Governance Specialist with site teams and CMCs
2.3.1.1a	LDF Grants & Leveraging	LDF and AF Activities follow up for revolving	I, 2, 3 & 4 Quarter	Grants Manager w/ Cluster Teams; LDF/AF grants
2.3.1.1b		LDF Project Completion and closeout, then follow up	I, 2, 3 & 4 Quarter	Grants Manager w/ Cluster Teams; LDF/GIZ grants
2.3.1.1c		LDF Project commenced at Dhopachari, and Dacope-Koyra and completion	I, 2, 3 & 4 Quarter	Grants Manager w/ Cluster Teams; LDF grants
2.3.1.2		Leveraging Additional Donor Support (including Arannayk and others)	I, 2, & 3 Quarter	COP, DCOP, CDs & Grants Manager; meetings
2.3.1.3		Capacity building of CMOs on Financial and Grants Management	I, 2 & 3 Quarter	COP, DCOP, Grants Manager, & CDs; meetings

Technical Component Work Plan Matrices, continued

Acti- vity	Outcome	Activity	Time Frame	Key/Special Resources
Project Management				
4.1.1	Administration & Finance	DPP budget Revisions	1 & 3 Quarter	A&F Director; technical assistance
4.1.2		IPAC Sub-Contracts Management	All Year	A&F Director; audits; meetings
4.1.3		Staffing	All Year	COP, A&F Director; audits; meetings
4.1.4		Quality Control	All Year	COP, DCOP, Technical Specialists; Field Visits; Cluster Meetings
4.1.5		Project Closeout (See Annex 2 for more detail)	All Year	COP, DCOP, Technical Specialists; Field Visits; Cluster Meetings
4.2.1	Monitoring & Evaluation	Socio-Economic Baseline Survey	2 3 Quarter	PMP Specialist & Team; Technical Assistance
4.2.2		CMO Scorecard Assessments	3 Quarter	PM Team w/ STTA. Field visits; Report
4.2.3		Indicator Bird Monitoring Assessment	2 Quarter	STTA; Field visits; Report; Presentation
4.2.4		Landscape identification and endorsements from CMOs	1 & 2 Quarter	PMP Specialist & Team; Technical Assistance
4.2.5		Landscape Mapping for Forest & Wetland PAs	1 & 2 Quarter	PMP Specialist & Team; Technical Assistance
4.2.6		Fish Catch Monitoring	2 & 3 Quarter	PM Team w/ STTA. Field visits; Report
4.2.7		Nishorgo and PA awareness and recognition market study	2 & 3 Quarter	PM Team with Communications Team and w/ STTA (from Asiatic). Field visits; Report

Annex 2: IPAC Closeout Plan

SI	Topic	Activity	Time Frame	Key/Special Resources
Close-Out Plan				
1	Finance	Final budget realignment with USAID	September 2012	IPAC with USAID COR, plus HO STTA
2		Internal audit of financial and contractual backup	August 2012	IRG HO support
3		Preliminary final invoice submission	August 2013	IRG HO
1	Personnel	Final LOE realignment with USAID	September 2012	IPAC with USAID COR, plus HO STTA
2		CCN termination schedule	November 2012	COP with IRG and subs
3		CCN termination packages	December 2012	COP with Finance & Admin Team
4		CCN transition assistance	January 2013	COP with Finance & Admin Team
5		Expatriate demobilization schedule	March 2013	COP with IRG HO
1	Inventory Disposition	Inventory disposition schedule	September 2012	COP with Finance & Admin Team
2		Inventory audit	October 2012	Finance & Admin Team
3		Inventory disposition approval request	January 2013	COP with IRG HO
4		Inventory disbursement – field	March 2013	Cluster Teams with Finance & Admin Team support
5		Inventory disbursement – Dhaka	May 2013	Finance & Admin Team
1	Admin & Auditing	Office Closedown administration – field	March 2013	Cluster Teams with Finance & Admin Team support
2		Office Closedown administration – Dhaka	May 2013	Finance & Admin Team, plus HO STTA
3		Grants & Subcontracts administration and closeout	April 2013	COP with Finance & Admin Team and IRG HO support

Annex 3: Highlights of PY5 Planned Activities (Site Specific Implementation)

Following activities are targeted in the Final Year's Annual Work Plan, which will be implemented throughout the IPAC Clusters. These activities along with capacity building efforts will be implemented, in addition to the regular periodical meetings and conservation mobilization activities of the Nishorgo Network platforms. Detailed activities in each cluster are given in Annex 4.

Outcome	Activity	Y5 Target
Sustainability of CMOs for effective Co-management	Renovating CMO's (CMC/RMO/ECA) own Office with Furniture	11 # CMOs Office
	Social Welfare Affairs Registration of CMOs, and facilitation Annual Audits	17 # Registered CMOs
	Reformation of CMOs	9 # CMOs reformation
	Training on CMO's Policy Manual and Project Proposal development, Climate change, PA entry fee record keeping	5 # Training
	Refresher ToTs for Nishorgo Sahayaks and FOs	36 # ToT
	Workshop of Regional NN Committees	5 # workshop
	Cluster level Closeout Workshops (CMOs/Council members, GoB Depts., IPAC site team)	5 # workshop
	Facilitating implementation of CMO's projects (e. g LDF, other donor and Endowment fund schemes)	12 # LDF, 15 # AF, 1 # GIZ and Endowment in wetland PAs
	Performance assessment of Co-management Organizations (CMO Score card)	45 CMOs
Effective conservation management of Protected Areas	Nursery development by Nishorgo Sahayaks and VCFs members	230 # Nursery
	Cluster level campaign involving Scouts/University students	5 # event
	Facilitating Social Forestry Plantation coordinating with Forest Dept.	86 acre Social Forestry 25 acre swamp plantation
	Seedling distribution among Youth clubs and Students	12,000 # seedlings
	Conduction of Bird monitoring, and Fish Catch monitoring	In 10 PAs
Sustained the results of AIG/VC activities and ICS intervention	Distribution of new and remaining AIG/VC inputs and regular follow up	3,177 # Households
	Workshop on ICS installation services, and demonstration at Village level	17 # workshop
	Ensuring and monitoring ICS installation and relevant services	6,266 # ICS
Improved Economic benefits of PA-dependent communities from Expanded eco-tourism opportunities	Facilitation for appropriate adoption and implementation of PA entry fee collection and revenue sharing system between CMOs and FD through ADP	9 # of CMOs with entry fee
	Expanding Eco-tourism facilities and relevant services, Renovating and maintenance of existing infrastructures	5 # package NSP renovation 3 # new package
	Cluster/regional level Responsible eco-tourism campaign	5 # event
	Refresher training for Eco-Guides linking tour operators at cluster level	5 # training
Landscape communities adapted to Climate Change vulnerability	Sharing/Consultation with CMCs on consolidated PA Co-Management Plan that is Integrated with climate change adaptation plan	45 # consultation meeting
	Workshop on climate change adaptation linking to local GoB and Donors, etc.	21 # workshops

Annex 4: Site-Based Work Plan Matrices

Please refer to separate IPAC document including the Annex 4.

USAID's Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project

House 68 (2nd Floor) Road 1, Block I

Banani, Dhaka 1213 Bangladesh

Tel: +88-02-987-3229

Fax: +88-02-989-6164

Website: www.nishorgo.org