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Briefing on IPAC Project

Integrated Protected Area Co-Management

First Steering – IPAC Committee Meeting
5 March 2009, Dhaka



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IPAC – What is it?

- Integrated Protected Area Co-Management Project
- Funded by USAID/Bangladesh – Environmental Program, for five years (5 June 2008 – 4 June 2013)
- Implemented through MOFL and MOEF with technical assistance from IRG and partners
 - Dept of Environment
 - Forest Dept
 - Dept of Fisheries
 - Local Government
 - Community Based Organizations in 5 Clusters



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Context for IPAC: USAID Environmental Program

- Management of Aquatic Ecosystems through Community Husbandry (MACH)
 - Community based collaborative management of inland fisheries and wetlands, with Dept. of Fisheries
 - 3 pilot sites: Sylhet and Central
- Co-Management of Tropical Forest Resources in Bangladesh (Nishorgo)
 - Nishorgo Support Project (NSP) with Forest Dept.
 - 5 pilot sites: Sylhet and SE
- Tropical Forest Conservation (Arannayk Foundation)

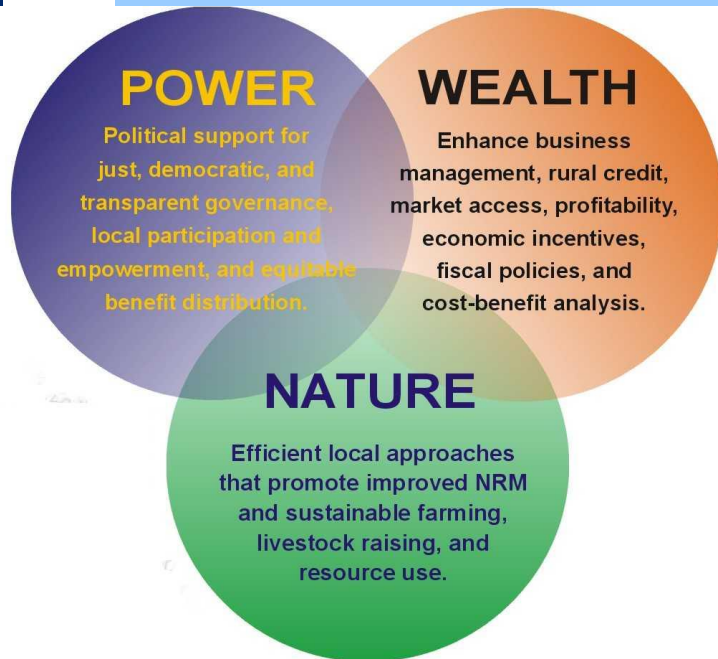
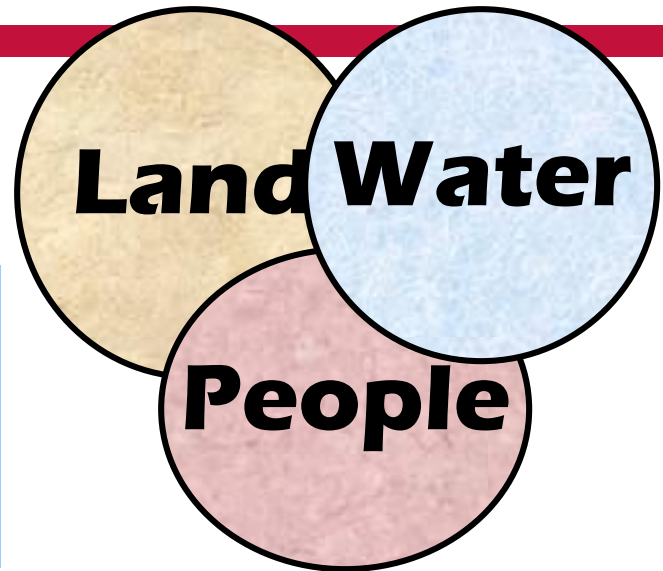


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USAID's program support

- Recognize linkages between rural poverty and dependence on natural resources
- Take improved environment management as an entry to good governance
- Biodiversity conservation and NRM as a means to secure and sustain livelihoods for the poor



- **Co-management Approach**
 - Linking core development concerns in a single process
 - Instilling a multi-stakeholder approach, taking the poor as central to implementation
 - **Power shift**

Purpose of IPAC



1. Support natural resources management and conservation of biological diversity
2. Develop an integrated Protected Area Strategy for wetlands, forest ecosystems and ecologically critical areas
3. Build technical capacity for PA co-management
4. Expand the area under co-management and ensure benefits to communities
5. Address climate change mitigation and adaptation



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Expected Results - 1



- *Strengthening of stakeholders engaged in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation – to preserve Bangladesh’s natural capital while promoting equitable economic growth and stronger environmental governance systems*



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Expected Results - 2



- *Empowerment* of resource user groups and capacity building to enable their central role in participatory, multi-stakeholder, transparent approach to resource management and benefit sharing



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Expected Results - 3

*Widespread adoption of co-management approach with communities, local government bodies and technical departments assuming **joint responsibility** for sustainable use and conservation of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems*





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Specific Results over five years (illustrative)

- Formal policy recognition of a PA system and approval of a national integrated PA co-management strategy and action plan
- Institutionalization of co-management as the accepted approach for PA management and biodiversity conservation
- Pragmatic conservation financing mechanisms developed and approved by GOB
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation through improved land use and adaptation of communities
- Communication Strategy and Action Plan in support of IPAC designed and implemented



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Specific Results over five years (continued)

- Community based NRM organizations involved in IPAC are sustainable, transparent, pro-poor, equitable
- Cadre of professionals trained in PA management and co-management within GOB institutions and community organizations
- Development and demonstration of ecological restoration plans to rehabilitate degraded critical ecosystems through co-management
- Public-private sector alliances for PA co-management established and successfully operating



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Proposed IPAC Project Sites





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Targeted Locations for Site Specific Implementation

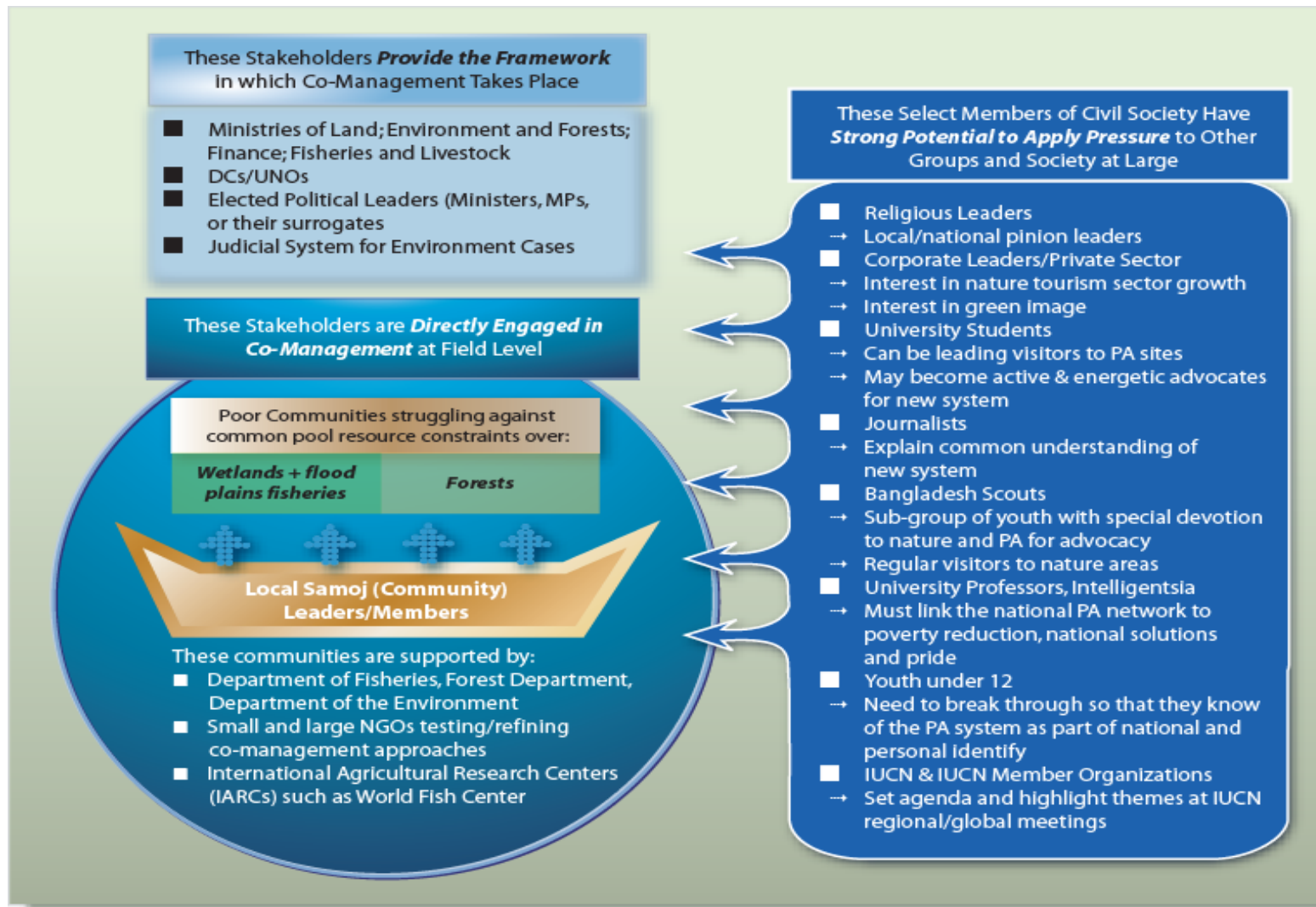
- *Chittagong Hill Tracts:* Pablakhali, Kaptai
- *Sylhet:* Tanguar Haor, Hail Haor, Hakaluki Haor, Lawachara, Rema-Kalenga, Satchari, Khadimnagar
- *Southeastern:* Teknaf, Chunati, Inani, Himchari, Medha Kachapia, Fasiakhali, St Martin's
- *Central:* Kangsan-Malijhee watershed, Turag-Bangshi, Madhupur, Bhawal
- *Sundarbans:* Sundarbans Wildlife Sanctuaries and ECA



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IPAC Stakeholders





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IPAC Team / Implementing Partners

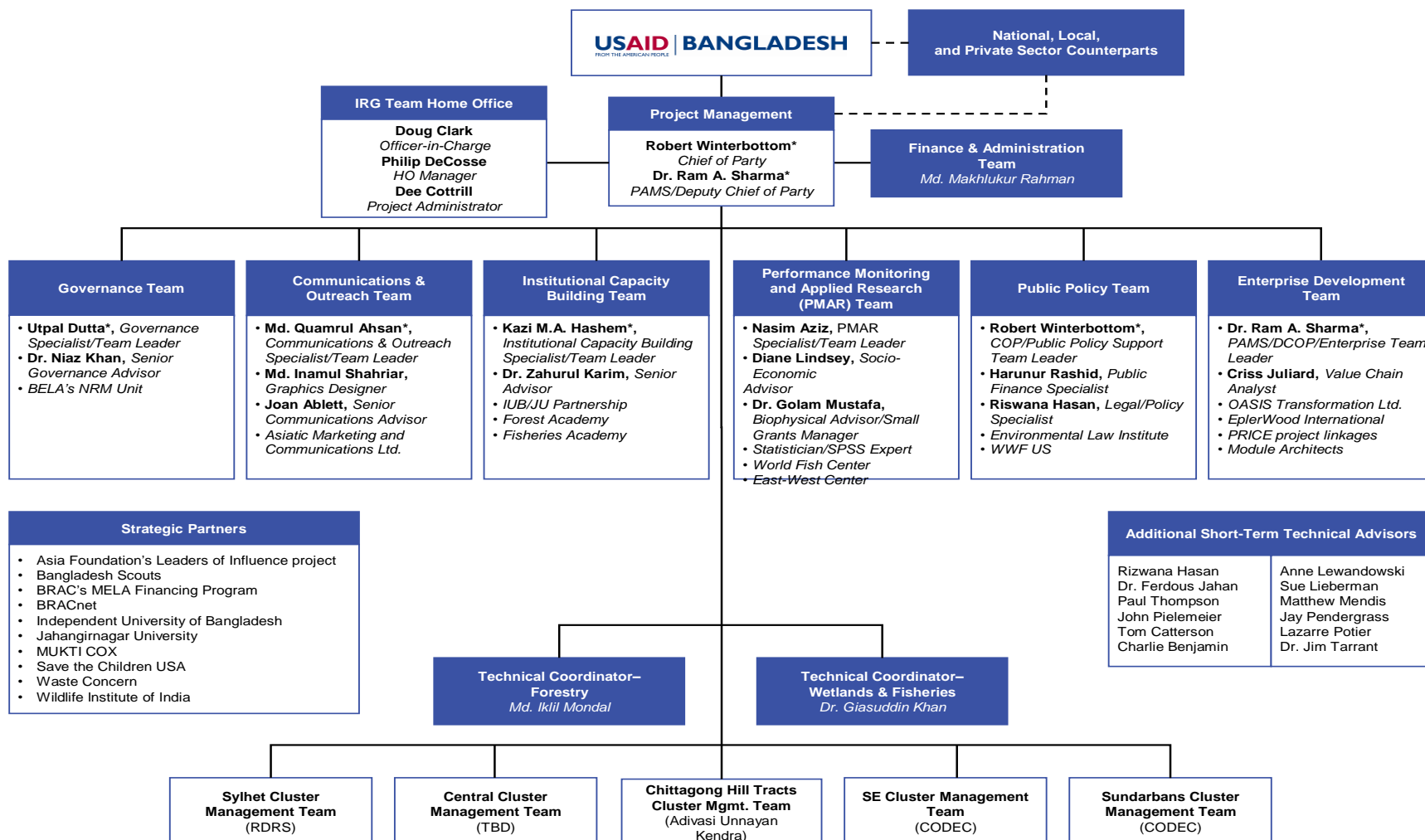
- IRG with WWF, East West Center, Epler Wood Int'l, dTS, ELI
- World Fish Center – Bangladesh
- Adivasi Unnayan Kendra /Center for Indigenous Peoples Development - CIPD
- Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services - RDRS
- Community Development Center - CODEC
- Asiatic Marketing and Communications, Ltd.
- Oasis Transformation Ltd.
- Independent University of Bangladesh/Jahangirnagar University
- Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association - BELA
- Module Architects
- Arannayk Foundation, Bangladesh Scouts, BRACNet and other strategic partners



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IPAC Team Organizational Structure





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Work Plan Components and Tasks

1. Development of Coherent IPAC Strategy
 - Constituency Building
 - Strategy Development
 - Partnership Building for Sustainable Financing
 - Outreach
2. Building Stakeholder and Institutional Capacity
 - Training
 - Local support services
3. Site-Specific Implementation
 - Selection of demonstration sites
 - Alternative income generation and financing
 - Outreach
4. Cross-Cutting Approaches – gender and youth perspective



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IPAC Work Plan Priorities - 1

- Organize working group to develop IPAC strategy
- Facilitate and mobilize widespread support for national IPAC program
 - Engage national leadership, local government, civil society
 - Promote synergy and collaboration with other programs/projects (EC-Sundarbans, others)
- Build on lessons learned from CWBMP, Nishorgo, MACH and other co-management initiatives
 - Scale up from 45,000 ha to more than 350,000 ha



IPAC Work Plan Priorities - 2



- Work with existing community based organizations and established entities – and replicate in other areas
 - UFC, RMO, FRUG
 - CMC, CPG, FUG, others
- Emphasis on communication, training, social mobilization, environmental governance, partnerships and linking conservation and improved community well-being



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Proven approach and good practices of MACH

- **Site Assessment, Stakeholder Identification and Participatory Action Plan Development**
- **Formation and training of Resource Management Organizations (RMOs) – access to leases**
- **Formation and training of Resource User Groups (RUGs) – access to AIG, credit**
- **Inclusion of women members in RMOs and RUGs**
- **Institutional linkages with UP, UZ and wider forum**
- **Awareness building on wetlands / fisheries management**



Proven approach and good practices of MACH



- Establishment and management of sanctuaries
- Periodic ban on fishing (breeding season)
- Local controls and enforcement to stop use of destructive fishing gear
- Conflict resolution at the community level
- Habitat restoration through re-excavation and plantation
- Re-introduction and conservation of threatened fish species
- Contour planting of crops on hill slopes of watershed



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MACH Achievements

- **Fish Production (Food Security)**
 - 44- 247% increase in production
- **Consumption (Food Security)**
 - Fish consumption increase 27-72%
- **Enhanced Biodiversity (fish, birds, swamp & riparian trees & plants)**
- **Reduced Poverty (improved income to poor families through ALGA)**
- **Policy (improved governance)**
 - 8 Permanent Sanctuaries established
 - Inland Capture Fisheries Strategies has been adopted





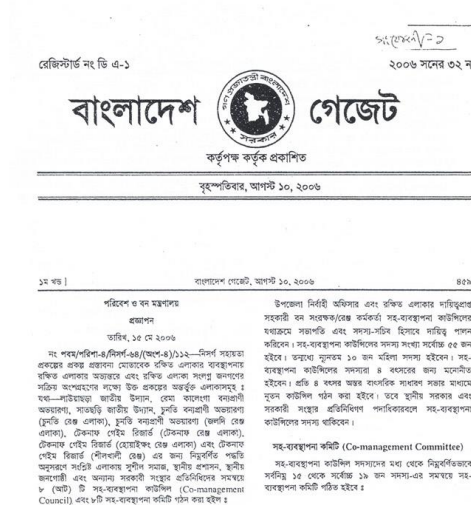
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Nishorgo Program for forest Protected Areas

- Designed to build on / extend key elements of MACH to develop pilot for co-management of forest protected areas
- 5 years – very good progress, many accomplishments, like MACH – also different
- *MACH and NSP – both serve as a foundation for IPAC*

Transparent Governance: Nishorgo Co-Management Committees





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Group Formation & Empowerment





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Conservation Enterprises: High Quality Ethnic Gift Enterprise

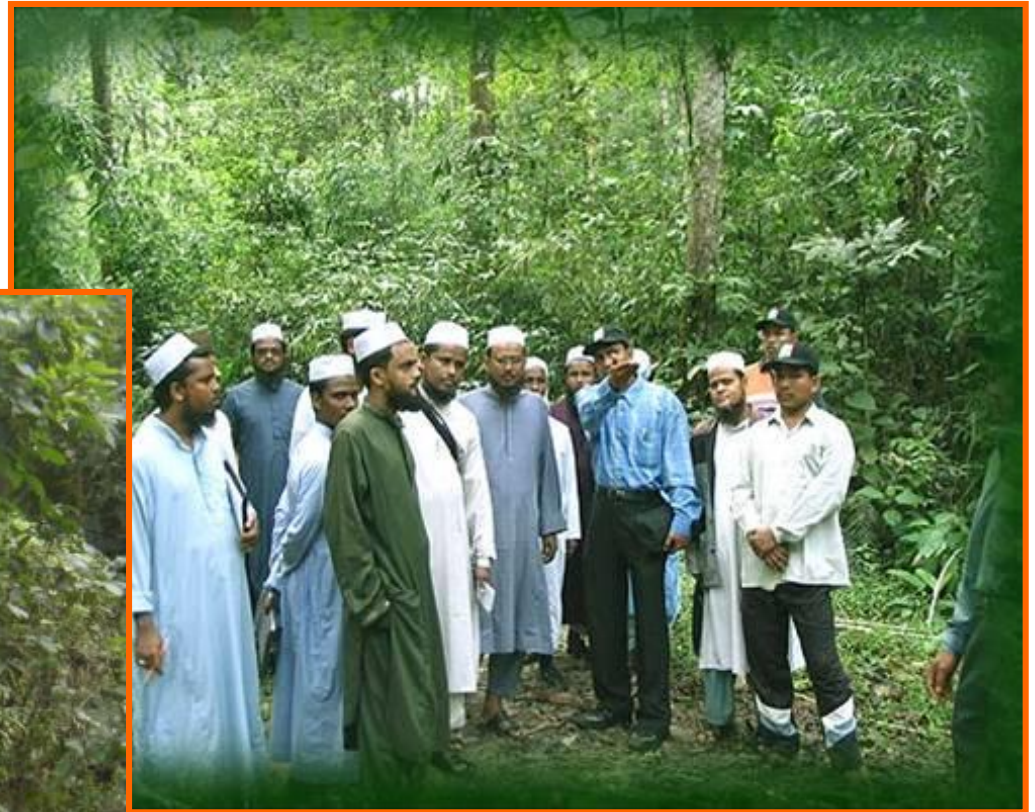




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Conservation Enterprises: Eco-Guides





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Conservation Enterprises: Nishorgo Eco-Cottage Network





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Institutional Capacity: Forest Department Staff

Nature Tourism Micro-Plan Development Training





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Trails, Walkways & Bridges





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Nishorgo Interventions and Accomplishments

- Established Nishorgo Program with name, logo, branding
- Elaborated Vision 2010 and Code of Conduct
- Wildlife Circle and PA leadership in Forest Dept
- Prepared PA landscape management plans
- Organized study tours, cross visits, short courses – considerable effort in capacity building
- Communication campaigns – over 500 articles in media
- Set up Co-management Councils and Committees CMCs in 5 PAs
- Community patrolling groups CPG organized
- Reduced collection of twigs / restored undergrowth, increase in some bird species
- Starting working with local user groups, AIG training



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Nishorgo Interventions and Accomplishments - 2

- Outreach with ethnic minorities / indigenous peoples, to market cloth / crafts
- Promoted improved cookstoves, pilot biogas plants
- Restored / constructed buildings, developed trails, improved signage, EcoCottage network and dormitories / accommodations infrastructure for PA visitors
- Promoted Public private partnerships, new designs for infrastructure development
- Significant increase in number of visitors to PA, especially Lawachara LNP
- Prepared proposal to share 50% of entry fees with CMC
- Pioneered proposal to sell carbon credits linked to PA management (Chunoti)
- Annual development planning process organized, as joint effort of CMC - Forest Dept and stakeholder representatives



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IPAC activities underway to address these and other issues and challenges:

- working to gain approval of entry fee guidelines
- completed assessment of sustainability of co-management committees, and developed recommendations to improve their effectiveness
- drafted a new government order for co-management institutions, with clearer articulation of roles, authorities, benefits for CMC as well as duties, responsibilities
- plans to reinforce / emphasize linkages between AIG and conservation (bamboo with Oasis; community based ecotourism development with Epler Wood)
- assessing how to strengthen legal and policy framework and drafting new government order to define PA system / network and reinforce co-management approach (ELI and BELA)



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Timetable for IPAC Implementation - 2008

June	Contract award; convene national partners
July	Planning workshops with Dept of Fisheries and Forest Dept
Aug	Prepare first annual work plan
Sept	Planning workshop with Dept of Environment
Sept	Initial site visit to CHT – Rangamati – Pablakhali
Oct	Inception workshop – CHT Cluster
Nov	IPAC National launch – Rangamati
Nov	Complete initial round of hiring of field staff
Dec	Orientation training for field staff
Dec	Assistance from Environmental Law Institute



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Timetable for IPAC Implementation - 2009

Jan	Field work for communications strategy
Feb	Inception Workshop – SE Cluster, NE Cluster
March	First Steering Committee meeting
March	Convene Policy Working Group
March	Prepare Ecotourism Strategy – Teknaf peninsula
April	Inception Workshop – Sundarbans and Central Clusters
April	Enterprise / value chain training
April	Certificate Course on Conservation Biology
May	Complete Communications Strategy
May	Study tours – Nepal, India
June	Approval of DPP