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INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA CO-MANAGEMENT (IPAC)

A Summary Report on
Inception Workshop for
IPAC Chittagong Hill Tracts Cluster

October 30, 2008

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Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC)

A Summary Report on Inception Workshop for IPAC Chittagong Hill Tracts Cluster

Venue: Conference Room, Hill District Council, Rangamati

October 30, 2008

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1 Introduction

An inception workshop for the Integrated Protected Area Co- management (IPAC) project was convened on October 30, 2008 at the Rangamati Hill District Council Conference Room. Mr. Muniruzzaman Mohsin, Member, Rangamati Hill District Council, formally opened the workshop as Chief Guest. A welcome speech followed by Bob Winterbottom, Chief of Party of the IPAC project team. In his brief introductory and welcoming remarks, Winterbottom stressed the role of IPAC in reducing poverty, conserving biodiversity and contributing to local community development in the landscapes surrounding targeted Protected Areas that IPAC will support with co-management planning and implementation activities.

Mr. Prasenjit Chakma, Chief for Policy & Confidence Building with the UNDP Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Development Facility, then highlighted the following components of the CHTDF project in his presentation. The goal of the project is to improve the socio-economic condition of local community, through interventions in community development, capacity building, confidence building and raising gender awareness. To date, by working with over 15 NGOs, the project has formed over 2170 para-development committees at the local level, and trained some 10,000 PDC members in 16 upazillas. Livestock rearing projects have been particularly successful. He attributed the success of CHTDP to: (1) Multi- sectoral area based approach; (2) a participatory approach, and (3) use of direct grants to the PDCs. Despite its successes, more needs to be done in the years ahead, as capacity building is not yet up to the mark, health and education activities are still largely on a pilot basis and environmental issues have not yet been well addressed. Some of the constraints faced by CHTDF include institutional issues, land rights, widely dispersed population and changes in project leadership.

Dr. Azharul Mazumder, Team Leader of the USAID/Bangladesh Environment Program, then presented his remarks. He acknowledged the critical importance of the UNDP-CHTDF program, and close collaboration between CHTDP and IPAC, particularly in terms of logistical support. He noted that it will be especially challenging to pursue the goals of IPAC related to the establishment of a co-management system for Protected Areas in the CHT, but that the potential for achieving significant results and impacts underscored the importance of IPAC's interventions in CHT.

The Chief Guest then spoke and noted that deforestation continues to be a major problem in Bangladesh, and deforestation and the loss of biodiversity are especially serious in CHT. Therefore, he welcomes the support of IPAC to assist in conserve the remaining biodiversity in CHT.

Dr. Ram Sharma, Deputy COP for IPAC, then presented a detailed review of the background and context for IPAC, citing the successes of MACH and Nishorgo. He went on to present the key objectives and three main components of IPAC, and described how

IPAC will work in CHT in the targeted protected areas of Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaptai National Park.

Two officials of the Forest Department then spoke: the Conservator of Forests of the Rangamati Circle, followed by the Conservator of Forests of the Chittagong Circle. In their remarks, they stressed the following points:

CF Rangamati Circle:

- Deforestation has occurred in CHT for various reasons
- Social Forestry started in Bangladesh in 1982. But it was not implemented in CHT
- Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary comprises one fourth area of Kachalong Reserve forest
- Kaptai lake can be well managed by conserving the forest in CHT
- Water supply can't be maintained if forest is not conserved in CHT
- Salinity is increasing in Karnafully river due to decreased sweet water flow upper hills of Kaptai Lake catchments area.
- Bamboo of CHT is used all over the country
- Kaptai lake is a tourist hot spot in Bangladesh.
- The oldest Teak plantation of Bangladesh is in Kaptai.

CF Chittagong Circle:

- Forest should be managed by collaboration with local peoples
- Hill forest should be managed to reduce soil erosion and for agricultural use
- Siltration is occurring due to deforestation in CHT
- Local People has right on forests
- Forestry / Horticulture were not covered in UNDP-CHTDF program
- Plantation can be taken by PDCs under UNDP-CHTDF program in their land.

2 Open Discussion

An open discussion period then followed, in which the main points included:

Comments / opinion from the local community people of Pablakhali and Kaptai:

- Indigenous people's rights were not mentioned in the presentation.
- How will the Indigenous people's rights be protected in IPAC?
- Grass root level traditional leaders should be included in the process of protected area management.
- Will there be any eviction?
- Does the IPAC project match with the peace accord of CHT?
- The project should be approved by the Chittagong Hill tracts Regional Council.
- Local communities need more assistance from the Forest Department.

Response from FD officials and others:

CF, Chittagong Circle:

- Fertilizer and chemicals from agricultural lands also contribute to pollution of the water bodies of CHT
- A large area of forest in CHT can be protected by IPAC

CF, Rangamati Circle:

- Illicit felling is going on in CHT
- Social forestry project has not initiated in CHT due to political reasons.
- There will be no duplication of IPAC activities with FD activities in CHT
- The number of forest cases should be reduced under collaborative management supported by IPAC

DFO, Rangamati North:

- Agriculture can cause land degradation, especially on steep hillsides; so forestry activities should be given more emphasis.

ACF, Kaptai National Park:

- Indigenous knowledge should be included in IPAC.

Dr. Ram sharma's comment:

- Traditional shifting cultivation should be developed and adjusted with Forest Management system in CHT.

Comments from local journalists and NGO:

- Environment friendly indigenous tree species should be planted instead of solely Teak plantations.
- Native species of fish should be cultured in the lakes
- Harvesting of eggs (Sital Fish) is going on illegally in Barkal & Kaptai areas, and the eggs are being sent to other places of outside of CHT.

3 Working Groups

The workshop participants then divided into three working groups, to discuss and agree upon priority interventions for (1) Pablakhali landscape, (2) Kaptai landscape and (3) training. The following results and recommendations emerged from the working groups.

Presentation by Pablakhali Group:

1. Stake holders need to be included in IPAC implementation:

- Chairman
- Headman
- Karbari
- Teacher
- Elite persons
- Range officer
- Beneficiaries

2. Priority activities to be taken in field implementation:

- Discussion / meeting with local community
- Committee formation by beneficiaries
- Taking self employment activities
- Training on income generation activities.

3. Required training on AIGA:

- To be discussed in site level

Presentation by Kaptai Group:

1. Stake holders need to be included in IPAC implementation:

- FD officials (ACF, Range officer, Beat officer)
- Karbari/Headman
- Elite Society
- Youth community
- Journalists
- Imam/ religious leaders
- Sawmill owners
- Timber merchant
- Teacher
- NGO
- Govt. Officials
- Poor women

2. Priority activities to be taken in field implementation:

- Information collection
- Awareness campaign (meeting, mass gathering etc.)
- Economic development activities (Horticulture, nursery, poultry, livestock, fisheries)
- Training on handicraft
- Eco-tour Guide Training

- Financing in collecting tourist vehicle

Presentation by Training Group:

Economic development Training

- Horticulture,
- Nursery,
- Poultry,
- Livestock,
- Fisheries
- Tour operator related training
- Visitor management training
- Training on wildlife behavior/ biology
- Handicraft

Group management training

- Financial management training
- Communication training

4 Discussion after Group Work presentation

After the Work Group presentation, a number of comments were made in the ensuing discussion:

Assistant Director Department of Fisheries:

- In 1990 DOF took the co-management approach.
- Environmental issues should be given more emphasis
- Conflict between mangrove forest destruction and shrimp cultivation is reducing as a result of the initiatives taken by DOF

Divisional Fisheries officer (Rangamati):

- Creeks in the forest can be brought under fishculture in IPAC
- Training on fisheries can be imparted under IPAC

Upazila Fisheries officer (Rangamati):

- Local community around the Kaptai lake should be included in the Kaptai Lake management system
- Conflict between DOF and BFDC can be resolved by workshop with departmental officials, local community, and fisherman. IPAC can arrange this type of workshop.

Comments from Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC):

- BFDC should get priority in management and development of Kaptai Lake in IPAC.
- Dependence in forest is reducing day by day and pressure is mounting on the resources of Kaptai lake
- Alternative Income Generation Activities should be increased
- Management system of Kaptai lake should be developed by involving the local fishermen
- More sanctuaries can be developed to maintain bio-diversity of Kaptai lake
- Awareness building activities should be undertaken for fishermen and fish traders
- PRA, RRA should be carried out for Kaptail Lake.
- License is issued to fishermen for only one year in Kaptai lake
- Middlemen take the most profit from Kaptai lake fisheries
- Poor fishermen can be brought under some development activities like health, credit etc.

Comments from Department of Environment (DOE), Assistant Director, Cox's Bazar:

- VCGs (Village Conservation Group), ECA committee of CWBMP can be used as stakeholder under IPAC
- Functionality zoning system can be started under IPAC
- Emergency disaster fund can be raised in coastal areas.
- DOE has taken decision on banning of brickfield establishment in CHT

Concluding remarks:

At this point, Dr. Giashuddin Khan of WorldFish Center then provided a few summary, concluding remarks:

- The mindset of Forest Department has changed remarkably
- More study is required about Kaptai lake management
- IPAC can carry out study to develop creeks and their impact on Kaptai lake
- Community can guard their own resources
- Forest, wetland and people should be integrated to ensure food security in community level

As the inception workshop program came to a close, Bob Winterbottom intervened to confirm that an awareness raising campaign can be organized as part of IPAC communications activities at both the upazila and community levels. Dr. Azharul Mazumder of USAID then intervened to confirm that there will be no eviction under the IPAC project. Furthermore, he noted that BFDC will be considered as an important agency in Kaptai lake management under IPAC and that the recommendations of this workshop should be given priority and can be modified according to the needs of local communities in CHT.

Mr. Janalal Chakma, Chief Executive of CIPD, a local NGO that will be directly involved as a member of the IPAC in supporting implementation of IPAC in the CHT Cluster, then intervened to note:

- CIPD is working in CHT since 1998
- They have been working with UNDP, WFP, MJ, PKSF
- CIPD seeks help and collaboration from all people of CHT.

The Workshop ended with a closing speech by the Chief Guest, in which he noted that IPAC will end after five years but it's sustainability depends on the local community; we should work to make it a model for the whole of Bangladesh.

Annex – I : List of Participants

Inception Workshop Integrated Protected areas of Co-management (IPAC)

Venue: HDC Conference Hall

Date: 30/10/08

	Name Participants	Designation & Address	No. of Person
Pablakali Protected Area Site			
1.	Mr. Shibir Bichitra Barua Bagaichari Upazilla, Rangamati	UNO, Baghaichari, Rangamati.	1
2.	RO, Pablakhali WS Sanctuary	Range Officer, Pablakhali	1
3.	Mr. Prya Nanda Chakma Chairman, Sarbatali Union Parisad, Baghaichari Upaziall.	Chairman Sarbatali UP, Baghaichari	1
4.	Md. Abdur RazzaQ	Member, Sarbatali UP, Baghaichari	1
5.	Mr. Amulya Raton Chakma	Karbari, Perachara, Baghaichari	1
6.	Mr. Shanta Shil Chakma	Karbari, Churkhali, Baghaichari	1
7.	Mr. Md. Kader Member	UP Chairman, Amtali, Baghaichari	1
8.	Mr. Subus Chandra Chakma	Headman, Amtali	1
9.	DFO North	Rangamati	1
Kaptai National Park			
10.	Mr. Md. Mohir Uddin	UP Chairman, Kaptai	1
11.	Mr. Ridoy Rangon Roaza/Nila Chanda Roaza	Headman, Bharjyatali Mouza, Kaptai	1
12.	Mr. Amulya Raton Tanchangya	Headman, Arachari Mouza, Kaptai	1
13.	Mr. Jitendra Kumar Dewan	Headman Jibtali	1
14.	Mr. Vavatosh Dewan	Headman, Kamilachari, Kaptai	1
15.	Mr. Md. Abdus Sattar	Range Officer, Kaptai National Park	1
16.	Mr. Md. Zahidur Rahman	ACF, Kaptai National Park	1
17.	Mr. Md. Uttam Kumar Shaha	DFO, North, Kaptai, Rangamati	1
18.	Mr. Md. Moinuddin Khan	DFO, East, Kaptai, Rangamati	1
19.	Mr. Raton Kumar Mozumder	CF, Rangamati	1

Local Social Elite			
20.	Mr. Tuser Kanti Dewan	Chairman, Headman Association	1
21.	Mr. Gouton Dewan	President, Forests and Land Rights Movement Committee	1
22.	Mr. Avoy Chakma	Timber trading Association, Rangamati	1
VIP Guest			
23.	Dr. Jagat Jyati Chakma	Chairman, HDC, Rangamat	1
24.	Deputy Commissioner	DC, Rangamati	1
25.	Ms. Sila Dewan	Chairperson, CIPD	1
26.	Mr. Tuku Talukdar	Chairperson, Green Hill	1
27.	Mr. Bihari Rangan Chakma	Member-HDC, Rangamati	1
28.	Md. Moniruzzaman Mohsin	Member-HDC, Rangamati	1
29.	Mr. Ushatan Talukder	Member-CHTRC	1
30.	Ms. Lata Chakma	Member-CHTRC	1
Journalist			
31.	Mr. Sunil Kanti Dey	Chairperson , Press Club/ The Daily Samakal	1
32.	Mr. Horikhisor Chakma The Daily Prothom Alo, Rangamati	The Daily Sangbad	1
33.	Mr. Satrong Chakma The Daily Samakal Rangamati	The Daily Purbakon	1
34.	Mr. Sakawat Hossain The Daily Purbakon Rangamatri	Purbakon	1
35.	Mr. Santi Moy Chakma The Bangladesh Observer Rangamati	The Daily Star	1
NGO			
36.	Mr. Robert Stoelmen	Chief, UNDP-CHTDF, Rangamati	1
37.	Md. Abbas	ED, PARA, Rangamati	1
38.	Mr Mohammad Ali	ED, Shining Hill, Rangamati	1
39.	Ripon Chakma	ED, RDA, Rangamati	1
40.	Amlan Chakma	ED, Taungya	1
USAID			
41.	Dr. Azharul Mazumder	Environment Team leader, USAID/Bangladesh	1
IPAC			
42.	Mr. Robert Winterbottom,	Chief of Party, IRG, IPAC	1
43.	Dr. Ram Sharma	Deputy Chief of Party, IPAC	1
44.	M. Quamrul Ahsan	Communication and Outreach Specialist, IPAC	1

Arannayk Foundation			
45.	Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed	ED, Arannayk Foundation	1
CIPD			
46.	Mr. Janalan Chakma	ED, CIPD	1
47.	Nikhilesh Chakma	SC, CIPD-IPAC	1
48.	Gazzi Sazzad	SC, CIPD-IPAC	1
49.	Pulak Chakma	ESF, CIPD-IPAC	1
	Total Participants		49

Annex – II : Presentation on Integrated Protected Area Co-Management

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IPAC Presentation

Integrated Protected Area Co-Management

IPAC Inception Workshop
30 October 2008, Rangamati

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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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Key MACH Activities

- Apprise community, policy makers & local govt. on project
- Environmental Awareness
- Wetland Co-Management: RMOs & UFCs
- Community Development: RUGs/ FRUGs
- Habitat Restoration
- Policy issues
- Wetland pollution abatement initiatives
- Monitoring (fish, GIS, hydrology, communities, credit)



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Proven approach and good practices of MACH - 1

- 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



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Proven approach and good practices of MACH - 2

- 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



MACH Achievements and Results

- 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



Transparent Governance: Nishorgo Co-Management Committees



Group Formation & Empowerment



Conservation Enterprises: High Quality Ethnic Gift Enterprise



Conservation Enterprises: Eco-Guides



Conservation Enterprises: Nishorgo Eco-Cottage Network



**Institutional Capacity:
Forest Department Staff**
Nature Tourism Micro-Plan Development Training



Trails, Walkways & Bridges



Purpose of IPAC



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

IPAC Clusters

- Working in 5 Clusters:
- CHT
 - Sylhet
 - Southeast
 - Central
 - Sundarbans



Expected Results - Overall



- *Strengthening of stakeholders* engaged in NRM – to assist in the preservation of Bangladesh's natural capital while promoting equitable economic growth and stronger environmental governance systems
- *Empowerment* and capacity building of resource user groups to enable their central role in multi-stakeholder, transparent approach to improved NR management and benefit sharing

Expected Results - Overall

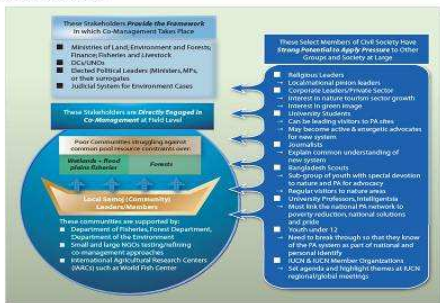
- Widespread adoption of co-management approach with local communities, local government bodies and technical departments assuming *joint responsibility* for sustainable use and conservation of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems



Specific Results over five years (illustrative)

- Formal policy recognition 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

IPAC Stakeholders



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

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

IPAC Work Plan Components and Tasks

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

Proposed IPAC Interventions in CHT

- Organization of collaborative management of targeted Protected Areas, including Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaptai National Park (Reserved Forests)
- Collaboration with Regional /District Councils, other development projects and local NGOs to capitalize on opportunities to conserve remaining natural forests and wetlands / water bodies through community-based management
- Training, capacity building, market surveys, value chain strengthening and development of AIG with local communities surrounding targeted PAs and community conservation areas
- Other priority interventions to be identified in Inception Workshop, planned Oct 30 in Rangamati

Anticipated Benefits for Local Communities

- Community organization and social mobilization
 - Access to training
 - Skills development for AIG
- Participation in preparation of PA landscape management plans
- Voice in PA co-management decision making
- Entry fees
- Buffer zone plantations and NRM interventions
- Employment in conservation enterprises
- Public – private partnerships
- Environmental services
- Increased ecosystem productivity

Timetable for IPAC Implementation in CHT - 2008

June	Contract award, convene national partners
July	Planning workshops with Dept of Fisheries and Forest Dept - Dhaka
July 15	Draft first annual work plan
August	Recruitment of field staff
Sept	Planning workshop with Dept of Environment - Dhaka
Sept	Initial site visit to CHT – Rangamati – Pablakhali
Oct	Begin hiring and mobilization of field staff – CHT Cluster
Oct 30	<i>Inception workshop with local partners – CHT Cluster</i>
Nov	Field work for communications strategy, site assessments
Nov 19	National launch of IPAC in Rangamati
Dec	Orientation training and team-building with partners and field staff