

INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA CO-MANAGEMENT (IPAC)

A Summary Report on Inception Workshop at Sundarbans Cluster

April 22, 2009

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Introduction

Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project organized an Inception Workshop at the Sundarbans Cluster on 22nd April, 2009 at the Conference Room, Hotel Royal in Khulna. Representatives from various departments of the Government, NGOs, project personnel, university teachers, tourism operators, research organizations, UNOs, s/UFOs, Upazila Chairman & Members and primary beneficiaries of the Sundarbans were present at the meeting. More than 100 participants attended the day-long workshop which was moderated by Mr. Utpal Dutta, Governance Specialist Mr. Kazi M.A. Hashem, Institutional Capacity Building Specialist from IPAC.

The workshop provided an overview of IPAC and its work in the Sundarbans, and prioritized activities for the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF). It also tried to build a common consensus among the participants on the need to protect Sundarbans with special emphasis on its biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, economic growth and livelihood improvement of the resource dependants.

The workshop had the following sessions:

•	Welcome	IPAC
•	Introductory Remarks	USAID
•	Context for IPAC	Video documentaries on MACH and Nishorgo
•	IPAC Briefing	Scope of work, targeted results and priorities for first year
•	Presentations by	Partners
•	Local leaders	Comment and reactions by Local Leaders
•	Partners Perspectives	Information sharing on progress achieved, lessons learned, and key challenges of participatory management of forests and other natural resources
•	Working groups	Group works and presentation
•	Discussion	Partnerships and Synergies for IPAC Priority interventions for IPAC
•	Closing	Conclusions and Recommendations

Purposes

- 1. To convene representatives of key partners and stakeholders involved with IPAC implementation;
- 2. To reinforce understanding of scope and objectives of IPAC;
- 3. To take account of partner programs and local stakeholder priorities in the organization and planning of IPAC activities

The Inauguration

During this session, Mr. Md. Yunusur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna was present as the Chief Guest. Other participants included Mr. Md. Akbar Hossain, Conservator of Forest (CF), Khulna Circle; Mr. Arham U Siddique, Rural Development Advisor, EC; Mr.

Moazzem Hossain, ADC General, Khulna; Mr. Ashok Kumar Biswas, Director, Khulna Division, DoE; Mr. Sirajul Karim, Deputy Director, Khulna Division, DoF; and Mr. Bob Winterbottom, Chief of Party, IPAC. At the beginning of the session, all the participants introduced themselves.



Honorable guests at the Inception Workshop

Mr. Robert T. Winterbottom, CoP, IPAC

He welcomed all the participants and thanked them for their participation. He also expressed his gratitude to see representatives from different institutions of the society. His speech comprised of a brief overview about IPAC and its objectives.. He mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and different stakeholders including, NGOs and local communities are involved in achieving the goals/objectives of IPAC. He added that the workshop's aim was to have a good understanding about the Sundarbans Reserve Forest and the ideas which the participants would be sharing were very important for making management plans. He talked about Nishorgo Support Project and how it has helped in gathering lessons through its co-management approaches.



Mr. Robert T. Winterbottom, CoP, IPAC welcoming the guests and introducing IPAC

He included that the US Ambassador has emphasized that it is important to gain consensus of all the stakeholders involved in the project. He said, "We need to work together to reduce poverty and increase economic growth which is what IPAC is all about. It is important to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders involved with IPAC. It is a big mission and there is no alternative to working together". He also added that he expected that the workshop would be useful with everyone's participation, and he is looking forward to working together.

Mr. Arham U Siddique, Rural Development Advisor, EC (SEALS project)

He began his speech by briefly explaining the European Commission (EC) funded Sundarbans Environmental and Livelihood Security (SEALS) project; its goals, objectives and activities that will start soon in and around the Sundarbans.



Mr. Arham U Siddique, Rural Development Advisor, EC (SEALS project)

He said that the project aimed at maintaining ecosystem productivity, restoring stakeholder capacity for SRF management, sustainable resource extraction and livelihood improvement. He also mentioned that the SEALS Project will have the opportunity to compliment IPAC's work in SRF management. He wished success to the workshop and IPAC project.

Mr. Sirajul Karim, DD-DoF, Khulna

He said, "IPAC is a new era for Sundarbans conservation and its socio-economic development". He gave an overview of the wetlands and fisheries status of the Sundarbans. He mentioned that the total SRF area in Bangladesh comprises of 40% wetlands with about 400 rivers & canals. There are about 210 species of fish and other aquatic species of commercial and food value. The SRF produces about 15-20,000mt fish and fisheries items per year and the generated around 10 billion taka. About 150,000 fishers are involved with fishing. There are 3 sanctuaries and 18 canals where fishing is prohibited all throughout the year.

He added that the fishery sector has shown a decreasing trend for various reasons such as: over fishing, PL collection, habitat degradation, increase of fisher number etc. He pointed out that the fisheries can be doubled in three years time with proper management. He suggestions included sanctuary establishment, ban of destructive gear, fishing ban in breeding & nursery time, awareness raising, capacity building, habitat restoration of silted up water bodies, cage culture, ensuring modest price of the fish to fisher and provide support to fisher with net & boat for sea fishing. He also pointed out the lack of marketing linkages and mentioned about poverty.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Biswas, Director, DoE, Khulna

He greeted everyone. He said that the inception workshop by IPAC is very important to ensure conservation of the Sundarbans. He added that with climate change, salinity increase, environmental degradation and reduction of biodiversity, IPAC is a timely approach and is welcomed. The Sundarbans is of national and international importance and is a great resource in several aspects of eco-tourism, livelihood, natural protection and others.



Mr. Ashok Kumar Biswas, Director, DoE, Khulna

He hoped that IPAC will play an important role in protecting the SRF. He mentioned that the Government has declared up to 10km to the periphery around the SRF as an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 1999 with an objective to protect the SRF. According to him, the country will be highly benefitted if SRF is protected considering the present context of environmental degradation. He believed that this would bring positive impact for the mainland as well.

Mr. Md. Yunusur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna

He said that the workshop is special because it has representatives from different types of occupational strata from the Government, NGO, leading political party officials, Union Parishad resource users, project personnel, university teachers, tour operators etc. who has language and income diversity. Sundarbans is a World Heritage Site and needs to be protected. There is a need to improve the environmental condition and economical development of the dependent people of SRF. He emphasized on the coordination among the three departments (FD, DoF & DoE) and the participation of the beneficiaries for project implementation. He referred to a line mentioned by the US Ambassador that the Sundarbans did not belong to Khulna or Bangladesh only, rather it is a resource for the world.



Mr. Md. Yunusur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna

He said that he had some idea about Nishorgo Support Project's (NSP) work, and it was good approach. He pointed out that it was a TA project which may lead to a large development project. He emphasized the importance of ownership feeling for any resource protection. He pointed out that only law was not enough for resource management; the condition of people needs to be considered simultaneously.

He added that alternative income opportunities should be created. According to him, the project will only work if the local community is involved and asked regarding what they

require so that they do not choose to go into the SRF, and this should include the real fisher, *mowali* and *bowali*. He pointed out that the environment of the Sundarbans is different from other forests, and people do not live inside it. The mechanism for management is important and needs to be appropriate. He gave importance to the necessity of raising environmental awareness related to the livelihood of local communities. Finally, he recommended being close to local communities, and setting activities in accordance to their suggestions.

Mr. Akbor Hossain, Conservator of Forest, Khulna Circle

He thanked the Divisional Commissioner for his suggestion and assured him that they will be taken into account. He said that the forest was under management for more than 100 years, and changes are taking place in it due to climate change. Some projects have been implemented with partial success. He expressed his hope about good outcomes through IPAC in the Sundarbans. He said that the context of Sundarbans was different and people did not live inside it. About 3.5-4 million people depend on it. He emphasized on the high dependency of people on Sundarbans that needed to be reduced for its conservation which was also the main objective of the project.



Mr. Akbor Hossain, Conservator of Forest, Khulna Circle

He also mentioned that a workshop will be organized at local level which would help in identifying the activities needed for the local communities. This would ensure greater participation of local people and the three departments coordinate among themselves.

Video Show (Video documentaries on MACH and Nishorgo)

During this session, two short videos were shown- one was on *Baikka beel* under MACH project and the other was on the forest sites under NSP supported by USAID. The former one was on wetland management and the other one on forest management. Both the projects were implemented using co-management approaches. They had good successes in resource management and livelihood improvement. In the video, the beneficiaries explained the situation of the forests and wetlands taking into account the condition they were in before the projects were initiated and then the improvements that were made later onwards. They also mentioned what work had been done and how they have benefited from it. Overall, it showed that good lessons could be learned through co-management that could be used in other areas. The workshop participants were encouraged after they saw the documentary and expressed that Co-Management approach could be used for SRF also.

Project Presentation

In this session, presentations were given by some projects that were working in the SRF including IPAC. They were:

A. IPAC: Dr. Ram A. Sharma, DCoP, IPAC on behalf of the CoP, IPAC presented an overview about the project highlighting IPAC, its goal, objectives etc. He also showed the achievement, lessons learned and limitations of MACH & NISORGO projects. He talked about the expected results, stakeholders, possible interventions, opportunities and threats related to IPAC.



Mr. Ram Sharma, DCoP of IPAC.

- B. Sundarbans Environmental and Livelihood Security (SEALS) Project: Mr. Arham U Siddique, Rural Development Advisor, EC presented about the project.. He said that SEALS is an EC funded project which will be working in 3 districts and 12 Upazalis for 7 years with a fund of 10.4m Euro and the focus area of the work will be SRF. The project is at its planning stage. The project's objective is to maintain or improve the ecosystem productivity and the environmental & social integrity of the north coastal area with the purpose of sustainable development at the SRF. The expected result is the establishment of sustainable management and sustainable resource extraction. The main activities under the project are: improvement of sustainability with respect to resource extraction, development of alternative livelihood for the SRF dependents and reduction of disaster risk to the Sundarbans Impact Zone (SIZ) communities. There are some risks and assumptions that may have impacts on the project. He said that SEALS has good link with IPAC.
- **C. Sundarbans Tiger Project:** The presentation was given by Christina Greenwood on Tiger Action Plan. The Sundarbans Tiger Project is working under the umbrella of the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. The project is working for the last 3-4 years with the objective to support the FD for tiger conservation using co-management approach. It is getting support from the Zoological Society of London.



Mr. Adam Barlow (left) and Ms. Christina Greenwood (right)

Two Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACFs) are working for the project. The initiatives of the project include taking care of policy management, forest protection, tiger-human conflict mitigation, training, research & monitoring, education and awareness. The main objective of the project is to provide a control point of guidance to all those involved in tiger conservation. The project is trying to increase the number of tigers. One of the main problems in Sundarbans is the tiger-human conflict where both parties are involved in killing the other. The FD has good knowledge regarding this issue, and has the opportunity to improve the situation.

D. Bangladesh Cetacean Development Project (BCDB): Ms. Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur gave the presentation. The project has been working for the last four years for the conservation of dolphins which are a globally important.



Elisabeth Farhni Monsur

There are 6 types of dolphins and the important species is *Irrawaddy*. Bangladesh has a high number of *Irrawaddy* dolphins and the estimated number is around 6,000 individuals. The dolphin habitat in Bangladesh is about 60 km off from the sea shore. The dolphins are facing a threat and are caught by fishing gears and other methods. The presence of dolphins works as an indicator of fish presence. The presence of dolphins in the SRF occurs in the East Coast area and in the Swatch of No Ground. The captain and crews of the Guide Tour Ltd vessels carry out the study. There are three hot spots of dolphins in the SRF. More study is needed on the dolphins and attempts should be taken to protect them.

E. PRA Findings: Mr. Faruque Biswas, Site Coordinator, Sundarbans Cluster, IPAC presented the basic PRA findings from Sarankhola. The presentation gave a brief overview on the number of villages in the landscape, primary stakeholders, and statistics of inhabitants, issues, opportunities, AIGAs and possible interventions for IPAC.



Mr. Faruque Biswas, Site Coordinator, Sundarbans cluster, IPAC

Open Discussion

The session was facilitated by Mr. Utpal Dutta, Governance Specialist, IPAC. In this session people were asked to give open opinions on Sundarbans conservation.



Utpal Dutta, Governance Specialist, IPAC

There were 3 categories of people (a) Local stakeholders (b) NGOs, projects, Tour operators, Universities and (c) Government officials. The category-wise issues and recommendations are presented below. The individual discussion is given in Annex-1.



Local Stakeholders Speaking about their Issues

Local Stakeholder

Issues/Problems/queries

- The Sundarbans is very important for local communities living near it and Bangladesh.
- There is a need to protect the Sundarbans
- People are poor in the area, especially post larva (PL) collectors.
- Participants wanted to know how the project will be implemented.
- The fish are killed at source location.
- Supati, Katka, Berabunia are the locations of massive destruction.
- *Aton jal* (a type of local net used for fishing)is the cause of destruction and done during four months (*Kartic Magh*).
- River erosion is a problem and is not mentioned in the project.
- Piracy is a big problem. The coast guards/navy only go to inspect the sea and not the west side of the Sundarbans.
- Political personnel are involved in causing Sundarbans deforestation.
- Canals have been silted up in Sarankhola area due to the embankment and the water flow has been reduced.
- The leaf deposition is increasing causing fire in the SRF. Water scarcity adds to the problem when forest fires occur.
- No tarmac road from Upazila to the forest causes limitation to Eco-tourism.
- Many fishers have been jobless and are involved in forest resource extraction.
- Money lenders (Dadandar) are rich in general and make money from the business while the poor fisher remains poor.
- The conservation of SRF is very important for many reasons like environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and for future generation.
- The rich are involved in stealing which is a threat for SRF.
- Increased population is a problem for SRF as it increases pressure on SRF resource extraction.
- Many people have migrated to India due to non-issuance of permit.

Recommendations

- Discuss with beneficiaries while setting the IPAC activities.
- Need to conserve the SRF for the present and future generation.
- Stop issuing license for *Aton Jal*.
- Open permit to collect grass.
- AIGA support for fishers, PL Collectors and others.
- AIGA support (Agriculture, homestead gardening, vegetables).
- Support to *Mowalis* by AIGA like poultry, donation, employment generation, interest free loan etc.
- Home-based cottage industry support for women.
- Provide training to fisher & bowali.
- Training on agriculture.
- Training to fisher as per his/her capacity area.
- Fish marketing development.

- Improvement of road communication towards SRF from the Upazila headquarters.
- Allow PL collection to the real needy with conditions.
- Plan to protect people from tiger attacks.
- Only tourism can play significant role in poverty reduction.
- Activities for education enhancement so that the next generation can switch to other occupations.
- Ensure security of fisher & *Bowalis* especially for the west and south.
- Involve political leaders in the project.
- All parties should be involved with honesty and transparency.
- Rehabilitate the fisher especially for those who are sea going.
- Mass awareness raising is required.
- Special awareness for women would be useful.
- Awareness raising through *Imams* / (religious leader).
- Development of tourism (accommodation, guide, food supply).
- Fish culture in canals.
- Construction of cyclone shelters.
- Birth control measures.
- The *khas* land in Chars should be given to the poor.

NGO, Project, Eco-tourism, University

Issues/Problems/Oueries

- Sundarbans is of great importance.
- Climate change (warming, sea level rise, salinity increase) affecting Sundarbans and adjacent areas.
- Scarcity of drinking water in the SRF area.
- Threat of pirates and insecurity of assets.
- Present tourism activities do not favor forest conservation.
- People will not come forward if they do not see their benefit.
- What would be the co-management approach to involve 177 Unions?
- How will co-management approaches work in such a huge area?
- The fisher do not get fair price of their fish.
- Poor road communication to the forest area.
- Birds (hash Pakhi) eggs are taken from the SRF.

Recommendations

- Awareness building on the importance of SRF.
- Promotion of education by improving schools and colleges.
- Training on sustainable honey collection.
- AIGA support.
- Api-culture promotion.
- Vocational training.
- Cottage industry.
- Drinking water support to the people.

- Security improvement.
- Raised land for cattle shelter.
- Identification and promotion of saline tolerant crop.
- Eco-tourism can help in conserving SRF.
- Souvenirs can be developed for tourists.
- Cultural event development.
- Hut development for tourists.
- Eco-cottage development.
- Identification of actual fisher, Bowalis and Mowalis.
- Identify the actual forest users.
- Consideration of EIA.
- Stakeholder identification has to be accurate.
- Ensure the participation of the stakeholders.
- Check if the present forest law supports co-management.
- We should know the ecosystem health before ecosystem enhancement/habitat restoration.
- Undertake research on many lesser known issues.
- At which stage and how the three departments will be involved needs to be clarified, unless it may not work.
- The number of dependents and ways of dependency should be identified clearly.
- What would be the AIGAs and its coverage? The target needs to be set.
- Work in large scale and for long time.
- Integration of all stakeholders is a must for success of the project.
- A monitoring cell to review the progress and plan.
- Improvement of road communication
- Forestation in WAPDA land.
- CBO formation by *Bowali/Mowali*.
- Development of education center.
- Floating education center.
- Information center.
- Visitor's center.

Government Officer

Issues/Problems/Queries

- Local people are in favor of SRF protection.
- The people are very poor.
- The open water fisheries are in a fragile condition.
- The fisheries of the SRF are also vulnerable.
- PL collection is destructive.
- Fishing by poisoning is a great threat for SRF fisheries
- The actual fishers do not get the benefit out of it.
- Less manpower in protecting SRF.
- The rate of revenue for *golpata* is outdated and low.

Recommendation

- Separate identity for breeding and nursing ground.
- Ways of creating ownership feeling among the users.
- Consideration for stopping royalty-base fisheries management.
- Consider for piracy reduction.
- Ensuring benefit to the stakeholder for participation in the project.
- Boat & gear support for fishing in the sea.
- Proper stakeholder identification is important and should be done
- Create roles and position for the participants.
- Strong linkage and coordination will be necessary.
- If no AIGA is produced, then the project will have less success.

Working Groups

During this session, all the participants were divided in four groups to work on four questions.

The groups were from (1) Satkhira (2) Sarankhola (3) Chandpai and (3) Khulna –Bagerhat. The topics of the four questions were:

- (1) Key communities and stakeholder groups to be involved in field level implementation
- (2) High priority interventions to be supported for site level implementation
- (3) Priority areas for capacity building and training for supporting alternative income generation activities
- (4) Strategies for involving local communities in Sundarban's Biodiversity conservation

The outcome of the group work is presented in Table-1.

Table-I: Outcome of the Group Work

Group Name & Questions	Satkhira	Sarankhola	Chandpai	Khulna-Bagerhat
Q-1: Stakeholders	 Fisher (fish, PL, Crab). Bowali Mawali Day labor. Local representative. Involved GoB and NGO personnel. Involved traders 	 Fisher Bowali Mawali. Farmer Laborer Local representative. Social workers 	 FD. Local public representative and Political parties. Traders involved with SRF. NGOs. Different occupational groups (doctor, teachers, lawyers & journalists). Government officials. Religious leader (<i>Imam</i>) <i>Mowalis, bowalis</i>, Fisher communities. 	 Fisher Bowalis. Mowalis Boat traders Trawler traders. Forest resource traders. Chunari Tour operators. Dadondar. Fish traders/aratdars Political leaders. Local Government. NGOs. Media workers. Respective departments.
Q-2: Priority activities	There should be effective coordination between concerned GOB departments and NGOs. FD has to take the role of coordination. Sharing meeting with all stakeholders at field level. Ensure the participation of local community in activity implementation. Ensure the participation of political leaders. Specify the roles and responsibilities of all implementing partners	 Cottage industry Fish culture Poultry farm. Dairy farm. Agricultural activities. Apiculture at local level. Nursery of prawn and plants. Social forestry. 	 Awareness raising Eco-tourism. Soft loan to SRF user fisher, Mowalis and Bowalis. Freshwater fish culture. Development of road communication. Cottage industry. Ensuring safe drinking water and health service. Creation of research work. 	 Baseline survey. Strategic planning. Institutionalization. Group, organization, Co-operative society formation. Capacity building and training of the stakeholders. Organic management planning. AIGA Forestation in Khas land. Possible agriculture of apiculture, paddy, water melon. Forestation/nursery of agriculture-base. Cottage industry. Crab, snail, mussel, sea weed. Mele, mat, mushroom
Q-3: Training, capacity building for AIGA	 Crab fattening. Apiculture. Expansion of mat preparing activity. Poultry & livestock. Block & buttic work expansion. Expansion of 	 Training Cottage industry-Bamboo, cane, katha Tailoring. Goat rearing. Poultry farming. 	 Training on fisheries management. Training on hatchery and nursery development. Training on animal 	• In all relevant aspects.

	weaving	• Fish culture.	and poultry rearing.	
	(tat)activity.	• Others	Community-based	
	Homestead	- Others	eco-tourism	
	gardening.		development.	
	One household one		• Training on water	
	farm project		resource	
	implementation.		management.	
	Nursery of Bagda		• Training on	
	and Golda.		cooperative-based	
	 Plant nursery and 		organization	
	small gardening.		development.	
	 Project related 		 Include local people 	
	training.		in research activities	
	 Provide food support 			
	form the			
	Government			
	(VGD/VGF) until			
0.4.6:	AIGA established	0 1		
Q-4: Strategy for involving	Awareness raising Awareness raising	• Courtyard	Awareness raising	 Group formation
local	through different media (print &	meeting.	through art, essay, debate competition	with stakeholders.
community	electronic), leaflet,	• Participation of representative of	and through drama	 Capacity
	poster, loudspeaker	local	and song	building.
	announcement,	government.	arrangement to the	 Fishing rights to
	mobile video show,	• Participation of	students of school &	the sea.
	arrange local cultural	religious and	college and general	 Awareness
	events (jari gan, pot	social leaders.	local people.	raising.
	gan).	• Jari & Pot song.	Awareness through	 AIGA support.
	 Activities for the 	• Awareness	poster, leaflet and	Local level
	school and college	raising with the	billboard.	management
	students for	participation of	• Public consensus	committee formation.
	awareness raising on	educational	(janomat) building	
	the need of SRF	institute and	through meeting,	
	conservation.	local NGOs	gathering, rally etc.	
	• Action for getting		• Ensure the	
	active support		participation of the	
	mentality of the local		local public	
	and national political leaders.		representative.	
	• If the SRF can be		Mosque-based wareness raising	
	well protected, the		awareness raising	
	stake of the local		program. • Formation of	
	community will be		Wildlife	
	restored and people		Conservation	
	will come forward.		Committee at local	
	• Creation of the sense		level.	
	to all people that the		• Involvement of	
	SRF is a World		schools, colleges	
	heritage.		and universities in	
			research work.	
			• Involve women in	
			all activities.	

Discussion after Group Work presentation

An open discussion was held during this session with participation from all participants. The discussions are given below as a summary.





Left: Open discussion of the participants.

Right:Mr. Kazi M.A. Hashem, Institutional Capacity Building Specialist, IPAC

- Need to work with proper coordination
- A Forum formation with the participation of those who are working with SRF and the FD can take the lead. This forum will identify problems and propose for solution
- Need to involve other actors in project implementation
- The primary stakeholders are blamed for SRF destruction; the powerful people's role on SRF destruction should also be discussed
- Khulna University can be considered for research work
- Income can be earned through eco-tourism development
- Coast guards, navy and police can be considered as stakeholders
- Monitoring is crucial and a third party monitoring cell can be formed
- The aspects of Sundarbans can be considered for inclusion in the education curriculum
- Mongla port and BIWTA can be considered as stakeholders
- A website can be developed for the project
- Proper use of the forest guard for SRF conservation
- Find out the specific salinity range of different areas in order to promote aquaculture
- More AIGA support can be given by forming cooperative-base activities
- Identify the actual profession of the users of forest; organize training for their own profession. It will have impact on sustainable resource harvesting
- Provide ID card to actual SRF users and make a database for record and update.
- Consider the negative impact of Farakka Barrage in SRF conservation

Closing Session

Mr. Goutam Biswas, Project Coordinator, CODEC-IPAC and Mr. Robert T. Winterbottom, CoP, IPAC took part in delivering speeches.

Mr. Goutam Biswas thanked all the participants for being present in the workshop and for making it fruitful. He thanked the IPAC members, the hotel authority, Sundarbans Cluster Team for their effort in organizing the workshop. He said that there will be more consultation at field level. Finally, he sought the cooperation of everyone to make the project successful.



Mr. Goutam Biswas, Project Coordinator, CODEC-IPAC

Mr. Robert T. Winterbottom thanked all the participants for attending the workshop and for their active participation. He said that it was very useful, and that the issues that were discussed and raised have been taken into consideration. He mentioned some of the issues and recommendations that will be given emphasis. He also said that the dialogue and discussion will be continuing and it is the beginning. The project personnel will go close to the ground and discuss with all the participants/stakeholders. He expressed hope that with the participation and cooperation of all concerned, the project will be successful and will achieve the goal and objectives. Finally, he closed the workshop thanking the participants once again.



Closing session of the Inception Workshop

Annexes

Annex-I: Individual remarks of open discussion of the inception workshop.

	Category-1: Local Stakeholders				
Sl	Name	Issues/problems	Suggestions/Recommendations		
1	Mr. Hazrat Ali, Fisher, Khurikhali, Sarankhola	 The fish are killed at source location. Supoti, Kotka, Berabunia are the locations. Aton jal is the cause of destruction For four months (Kartic –Magh). 	 Need to conserve the SRF for us Stop the license issue for <i>Aton Jal</i> Open the permit for grass collection AIGA for fishers Training on agriculture Training to fisher as per his/her capacity area Fish marketing development. Improvement of road communication Home-base cottage industry support for women 		
2	Ashim Mridha, UP Chariman, Munshigonj, Satkhira	 Wanted to know the project will be implemented River erosion is a problem and is not mentioned in the project Piracy is a big problem. The coast guard/navy only go to sea not the west 	 Discuss with beneficiaries in setting the activities Provide training to fisher & bowali Allow PL collection to real needy Plan to protect people from tiger Only tourism can play significant role in poverty reduction Activities for education enhancement so that the next generation can switch to other occupation Creation of AIGA Ensure security of fisher & Bowalis especially for the west and south 		
3	Mr. Shajahan Dulal, UP Chairman, Sarankhola	 Political personnel are involved in Sundarbans deforestation Canals have been silted up in Sarankhola area due to embankment. Water flow has been reduced The leaf deposition is increasing causing file in the SRF. No tarmac road from Upazila to the forest limiting Eco-tourism 	Involve the political leaders in project. Improvement of road quality from Upazila to forest All parties should implement with honesty and transparency		
4	Mr. Wadul Hoque, Bowali, chalitabunia, Soutkhali, Sarankhola	 People are very poor Many fisher have been jobless and involved in forest resource extraction 	AIGA Rehabilitate the fisher specially for sea going		
5	Ms. Sagar Akhter, UP member, Rayenda, Sarankhola	PL collectors are very poor Those who are dadandar are rich in general and make money from the business	AIGA support to PL Collectors and stop PL collection		
6	Dulal Howlader, Mowali, Sarankhola	Need to protect the Sundarbans	• Support to <i>Mowalis</i> through AIGA like poultry, donation, employment generation, interest free loan etc		
7	Mr. Nazrul Islam, Teacher &	• The conservation of SRF is very important for many reason of	 Mass awareness raising Special awareness to women		

8	Journalist, Sarankhola Mr. Ali Haider, Volunteer, Sarankhola	 environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and for future generation. The humanity has gone down and the rich do the thieving. The poor thieve for survival. Sundarbans gives us many type of protect and at a mother of the region. It needs to be protected 	 AIGA support (Agriculture, homestead gardening, vegetables) Training Development of tourism
			 (accommodation, guide, food supply) Fish culture in canal Construction of cyclone shelter Promotion of education by improving of schools and colleges Training on sustainable honey collection Api-culture
9	Mr. Shahjahan Siraj, UP	Increase population is a problem.Many have migrated to India due to	Activities for birth controlThe khas land in the Char should be
	Chairman, Koikhali,	non-issuance of permit	given to the poor • Awareness raising through <i>Imams</i>
Cat	Satkhira	Project, Eco-tourism, University	
1	Mr. Ripon,	• Climate change (warming, sea level	Drinking water support.
	Prodipon	rise, salinity increase) affecting Sundarbans and adjacent area • Scarcity of drinking water	Security improvement.Raised land for cattle shelter.Identification and promotion of saline
2	Mr. David,	 Insecurity of assets Present tourism in not in favor of	tolerant crop
	Rupantar Écotourism	forest conservation. • People will not come forward if they do not see benefit. • What would be the co-management approach to involve 177 UP	 Eco-tourism can help in conserving SRF Souvenir can be developed. Cultural event development. Hut development for tourist experience Eco-cottage development. Security ensuring Identification of actual fisher, bowalis and Mowalis. Consideration of EIA
3	Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, Bangladesh Mohila Aynjibi Somitee	How the co-management will work in such a huge area.	 Identify the actual forest users. The labor are the actual users. Stakeholder identification has to be accurate. EIA. Ensuring the participation of the stakeholders.
4	Prof. Fazlul Hoque, Forest Discipline, Khulna University		 Check if the present forest law supports the co-management. We should know the ecosystem health before ecosystem enhancement/habitat restoration. Undertake research on many unknown issues. At which stage and how the three departments will be involved should be clarified, unless it may not work.
5	Mr. Sirajul		• The number of dependents and ways of

	Karim, UCEP		 dependency should be identified clearly. What would be the AIGAs and its coverage need to be set. Work in large scale and long time. Integration of all stakeholders is a must. A monitoring cell to review the progress and plan. Awareness building on the importance of SRF. Vocational training. Cottage industry.
6	Sk. Asad, Executive Director, UDAYAN Bangladesh	 Poor road communication to the forest area. The fisher do not get fair price of their fish. 	Improvement of road communication
7	Mr. Goutam Mondal		Forestation in WAPDA landCBO formation by Bowali/Mowali
8	Dr. Gertrud Neumann Denzan, Researcher Germany	 Eggs of birds (Hash Pakhi) are collected by local people. Children understand Sundabans as a place where poaching of deer and cutting trees (outcome of an art competition) take place 50% people of Burigoalini area have eaten deer meat indicating the vulnerability. 	Development of education center. Floating education center. Information center. Visitors center
Cat		ment Officei	
1	Mr Touhidur	PI collection is destructive	AIGA to PL collectors
1	Mr. Touhidur Rahman, AFO, Mongla	 PL collection is destructive. Fishing by poisoning is a great threat for SRF fisheries 	AIGA to PL collectors
2	Rahman, AFO,	• Fishing by poisoning is a great	 AIGA to PL collectors Separate identity for breeding and nursing ground. Ways of creating ownership feeling among the users. Consideration for stopping royalty-base fisheries management. Consider for the piracy. Ensuring the benefit to the stakeholder for participation in the project. Boat & gear support for fishing in the sea.
	Rahman, AFO, Mongla Prafulla Kumar Sarker, Marine capacity Building	 Fishing by poisoning is a great threat for SRF fisheries The open water fisheries is in a fragile condition. The fisheries of SRF is also 	 Separate identity for breeding and nursing ground. Ways of creating ownership feeling among the users. Consideration for stopping royalty-base fisheries management. Consider for the piracy. Ensuring the benefit to the stakeholder for participation in the project. Boat & gear support for fishing in the
2	Rahman, AFO, Mongla Prafulla Kumar Sarker, Marine capacity Building project Mr. Shahabuddin,	 Fishing by poisoning is a great threat for SRF fisheries The open water fisheries is in a fragile condition. The fisheries of SRF is also vulnerable. Local people are in favor of SRF protection. They are very poor. The actual fisher do not get the befit 	 Separate identity for breeding and nursing ground. Ways of creating ownership feeling among the users. Consideration for stopping royalty-base fisheries management. Consider for the piracy. Ensuring the benefit to the stakeholder for participation in the project. Boat & gear support for fishing in the sea. Proper stakeholder identification is

Annex-2: The Workshop Schedule and Agendas

Facilitator invites guests at front stage: 1. Mr. Md. Yunusur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna Division 2. Mr. Arham U Siddique, Rural Development Advisor, EC Mr. Md. Akbar Hossain, Conservator of Forests, Khulna Circle 4. Mr. Moazzem Hossain, ADC General, Khulna 5. Mr. Ashok Kumar Biswas, Director, Khulna Division, DOE 6. Mr. Sirajul Karim, Deputy Director, Khulna Division, DOF Mr. Bob Winterbottom, Chief of Party, IPAC Session 1 – Chair: Conservator of Forests 9h30 Welcome Speech IPAC (Bob Winterbottom) 9h45 **Introductory Remarks** EC (Arham U Siddique) 9h50 **Introductory Remarks** DOF (Sirajul Karim) DOE (Ashok Kumar Biswas) 9h55 **Introductory Remarks** Introductory Remarks ADC General (Moazzem Hossain) 10h 10h05 **Introductory Remarks** Div C (Yunusur Rahman) 10h10 Introductory Remarks CF (M. Akbar Hossain) Context for IPAC 10h15 Video documentaries on MACH and Nishorgo (Facilitator) Tea Break 10h45 Session 2 11h15 IPAC Briefing IPAC, Dr. Ram Sharma Mr. Arham U Siddique, Rural Development Advisor, EC 11h35 **SEALS** Briefing 11h45 TAP Briefing Ms. Christina Greenwood, Program Manager, Wildlife Trust 13h PRA/RRA Report Mr. Md. Faruque Biswas, SC 13h15 Lunch Session 3 14h15 Local leaders Comment and reactions by Local Leaders 15h15 Partners Perspectives Information sharing on progress achieved, lessons learned, and key challenges of participatory management of forests and other natural resources Forest, Fisheries, Environment Dept. Local NGOs 16h00 Break out Sessions 4 Working Groups (guidance from Facilitator) Chadpai – site specific implementation Saronkhola Range - site specific implementation Satkhira Range - site specific implementation Khulna – Overall Involvement Session 4 16h45 Plenary Presentation by Working Groups (10 minutes each) 17h25 Discussion Ouestions and Answers (facilitator) Dr. Giasuddin Khan, Technical Coordinator, WFC/IPAC 17h45 Closing Comments Mr. Igbal Kabir, BELA Mr. Sirajul Karim, Deputy Director, Khulna, DOF Mr. Ashok Kumar Biswas, Director, Khulna, DOE Mr. Arham U Siddique, Rural Development Advisor, EC Mr. Md. Akbar Hossain, CF, Khulna Circle Mr. BobWinterbottom, Chief of Party, IPAC 18h Closing Word of Thanks (Mr. Goutam Biswas, PC, CODEC)

Annex-3 Guidance for Working Groups

Formation of Working Groups

Please sign up to participate in one of 4 Working Groups.

Chandpai

Saronkhola Range

Satkhira Range

Khulna

Try to ensure balanced participation in each of the three working groups.

General Guidance

For each Working Group, please designate a Discussion Leader, and a Rapporteur.

Please address the assigned topics and tasks, as outlined below, during a one hour working period.

For the Rapporteur, please plan and prepare a short summary (maximum of 10 minutes) of the discussions and recommendations to share with other participants in the plenary session.

Assigned Tasks

For each of these site specific working groups, please discuss and develop recommendations for:

- (a) key communities and stakeholder groups to be involved in field level implementation
- (b) high priority site level interventions to be supported
- (c) recommendations for the most promising and needed areas of skills development training for Alternative Income Generation (AIG) and other priority areas or topics for Training and Capacity Building
 - Non timber related AIGAs
 - Fisheries related AIGAs
 - o Other AIGAs
- (d) What would be the mechanism for involving people for conserving Sundarbans

Annex-3: Group Work Participants

Sl	Group Name	Name of participants
1	Satkhira	Mr. Ashim Mridha
		Shahajn Mridha
		Sirajur Rahman
		Bijoy proshad
		Rajesh Chakma
2	Sarankhola	Shajahan Dulal
		Sheikh Asad
		Obidul Hoque
		Nazrul Islam
		Ali Hayder
		• Dulal
		Hazrat Ali
		 Mohbaksher
3	Chandpai	No name available.
5	Khulna-Bagerhat	Mr. Hiru, group leader

Annex-4: Inception Workshop Participant List

Sl.	Name	Designation	Organization
No.			
1	Mr. Younus Ali	Ranger	FD
2	Md. Shaidul Islam	Ranger	FD
3	Rajesh Chakma	ACF	Forest
4	Md. Maksudur Rahman	Program Coordinator	CCEC
5	Md. Kamruzzaman	UNO, Batiaghata	Deputy Commissioner's office, Khulna.
6	Christina Greenwood	Project Manager	Wildlife root of Bangladesh
7	Adam Barlow	do	do
8	Mihir Kumar Das	DFO	Sundarbans East division
9	M.G. Kuddus Bhunyan	ACF	Do
10	Mr. Sahabuddin	Range officer, Chadpai	Sundarban East division
11	Md. Modirul Ahsan	Co-ordinator	WTB
12	A. N. M. Hossaon	ACF	FD
13	Nazrul Islam Badal	Director	The Guide Tour
14	M. A. Halim	Program Officer	Rupantar
15	Md. Rafiqul Islam	Forest ranger, Sunderbans Weat Division	FD
16	Md. Moazzam Hossain	ADC general	DC office, Khulna
17	Mina Halder	ED, SEBA	SEBA
18	K.M. Nadim Haider	S.F.	CODEC, IPAC
19	Md. Rafiqul Islam	CSPC	Do
20	Goutam Biswas	PC-CODEC, IPAC	CODEC-IPAC
21	Ram Sharma	DCoP	IPAC
22	Kanailal Devnath	PMARA	IPAC
23	Utpal Dutta	IPAC-Dhaka	IPAC
24	Narayan Chandra Mondal		

25	Goutam Mondal	C&P.A	CCEC
26	Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul	Divisioner Coordinator	BELA
27	A K Hiru	President	Khulna Press Club
28	Ripon Ghos	Project Coordinator	Prodipon
29	Md. Iftekharul Alam	Upazi9la Fisheries officer, Sarankhola	DoF
30	Md. bakhtiar Nur Siddique	DFO, SDF, Bagerhat	FD
31	Md. Sirajul Karim	Divisional Deputy Direstor	DoF
32	Syed Abdul Quayum	Scientific officer	Dept of Eco
33	Md. Masum khan	U.F.O	DoF
34	Nilu Roy	UP Member	
35	Setara begum	UP member	
36	Sheikh Obayadul Huq	Timber business	
37	Noorjahan	UP Member	
38	Alya Begum	UP Member	
39	Sofarof Hossain	Shrimp Firm Owner	
40	Emdadul Huque	Local Leader	Mongla
41	Md. Hazrat Ali	Fisherman	
42	Giasuddin Khan	Technical coordinator- IPAC	
43	Shah Zaman khan popul	Manager	The Bengal tours
44	Aly Hyder	Teacher	3
45	Md. dulal Chah	Honey collector	
46	Elisabeth farah Mansur	Education and training coordinator	BCDP/ WCS
47	Dr. M.G. Mastafa	Bio-Physical advisor	IPAC-World Fish
48	Chitta Rangen Paul	AFO	DoF
49	Md. Aslam Majumder	Forest Ranger	FD
50	Abani B Chakma	DFO(w)	FD
51	Md. Arham Uddin Siddique	Rural development Advisor	European Commission Delegation
52	Anowar us Saleh	TA & DFO	FD
53	Goutam Kumar Ghos	Site Coordinator	IPAC-CODEC
54	M.Nazmul Azam Devid	M.D.	Rupantar, Eco-Tourism Ltd.
55	SK. Abdul Majid	M/O	UCEP Bangladesh
56	Bipul Krisna Das	ACF	Sarankhola
57	Ferdaushi Ali	Journalist	
58	Kimberly Debriansky	STP, WTB	WTB
59	Profulla Kumar Sarkar	DNPD, marine fish	DoF
60	Binay Krisna Rana	S.F.	CODEC-IPAC
61	Ashok Kumar Biswas	Director, Khulna	DoE, Khulna
62	Md. Sirajur Rahman	Sr. Upazila fisheries officer	DoF
63	Abu Naser Md. Yasin Nowroz	DFO	DOF
64	Md. Faruq Biswas	SC	IPAC
65	Kamrul Uddin Ahmed	Range officer	Forest division
66	Khaled Mahmud	CAO	IPAC
67	Sharif Shariful Hasan	S.A.	IPAC
68	M.A. Hasan	Photo Journalist	Purbamahal
69	Md. Sarwar Hossain	Site Facilitator	CODEC-IPAC,Khulna,
70	Suriya Ferdaus	Intern	IPAC
71	Mamunor Rashid	Divisional officer	BELA, Khulna
72	Md. Abdur Rahman	DFO, Bagerhat	DoF

73	Mojibur Rahman	Director	DoF, Dhaka
74	Md. Sabur Hossain	UNO	Paikgassa Upazila,
75	Md. Rafiqul Islam	T.O.	Shaplaful, Bagerhat
76	SK Asad	E.D	Udayan
77	Sahajahan Dulal	Chairperson	U.P,Phasayer
78	Md. Rezaul Karim	Forest Ranger	FD
79	Laily	U.P. member	3 no, Union
80	Sagar Akter	UP Member	
81	G.N. Shahjahan Siraj	Chairman	5 no. Kaikhuli UP.
82	Bijoy Prosad Biswas	UP Chairman	UP
83	Nazrul Islam	Teacher	
84	Sk yakub Ali	SUFO	DoF
85	Dr. Md. Mujibur Rahman	Assistant Professor	ES KU Discipline
86	Jahalmosab	UP Member	Chela
87	Md. Babul Hang.	Bawali	Chela
88	Md. Harun Gsazi	Secretary, Mongla Press	
		Club	
89	Mrs. Salina Begum	Local Leader	Total bari.
90	Dr. Gertrud Neuman Denzam	Researcher	
91	Md. Eunusur Rahman	Divisional Commissioner	Khulna
92	Rajib Jones Mitra	COGF	IPAC
93	Mwdudur Rahman	Direction	CCEC
94	A.K. F. Haque	Professor	FWT Dicipline, Khulna.
95	Asim Mridha	Chairman	Munshigonj
96	Khan Md. Rezaul Karim	Add. District magistrate	D.C. office
97	A.Z.M. Touhidur Rahman	A.F.O.	DoF, Mongla, Bagerhat.
98	Zahangir	BCD Coordinator	Bangladesh, CDP.
99	Nadira Khanam	Communication Specialist, IPAC.	IPAC, DHAKA
100	Robert T. Winterbottom	CoP pf IPAC	IPAC, Dhaka.
101	Kazi M.A. Hashem	*	,
102	Utpal Dutta	Government Specialist of	IPAC, Dhaka.
		IPAC.	
103	Kazi M.A. Hashem	Institutional Capacity Building Specialist.	IPAC, Dhaka.
102	Nahid Ferdaus	Intern	IPAC, Dhaka.