



Year 3, Quarter 2 Progress Report September 1, 2005 to November 30, 2005



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**Implemented by IRG
With partners: CODEC, NACOM, RDRS and EWC**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACF	Assistant Conservator of Forests
AIG	Alternative Income Growth
ATDP2	Agricultural Technology Development Program, Phase 2
BCCP	Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs
CBO	Community-based Organization
CEGIS	Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services
CF	Conservator of Forests
COP	Chief-of-Party
CS	Communication Specialist
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
DCCF	Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests
DFO	Divisional Forestry Officer
DPA	Development Project Assistance
DPP	Development Project Proforma (same as DPP)
ECA	Ecologically Critical Area
EDS	Enterprise Development Specialist
ESMS	Ecological & Social Monitoring Specialist
EWC	East West Center
FC	Field Coordinator
FD	Forest Department
FSP	Forestry Sector Project
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
IRG	International Resources Group
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JOBS	USAID Project "Assisting Enterprises to Create Employment
LGCBS	Local Governance & Capacity-building Specialist
LGI	Local Governance Initiative
MACH	Managing Aquatic Systems through Community Husbandry
NPC	National Planning Commission
PAMS	Protected Area Management Specialist
PBSA	Participatory Benefits Sharing Agreement
PCP	Project Concept Paper
PP	Project Proforma
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center
RIMS	Resource Information Monitoring System
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
SF	Site Facilitator
SOAG	Strategic Objective Grant Agreement
UP	Union Parishad
USAID	US Agency for International Development

Nishorgo Support Project Year 3, Quarter 2 Progress Report: September 1, 2005 to November 30, 2005

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS DURING THE 2ND QUARTER

This is the 2nd Quarterly Report of the 3rd Year of the Nishorgo Support Project (NSP). The NSP submits regular progress status reports to USAID against major milestones and deliverables as included in the 3rd Annual Work Plan. This report will present some of the highlights of this past Quarter, identify a number of issues that need to be addressed, and review the status of progress towards the Results identified in the Year 3 Work Plan. In addition, progress during the period has been scored using a simple scoring system, used also in the 1st and 2nd year annual and quarterly progress reports.

We have made a special effort to provide more detailed review and analysis in this Quarterly report, as it represents the half way mark of the project and of the third year. To that end, we have included a summary report on the progress of Nishorgo over the 2 and a half years since the NSP contract was signed. This report is thus considerably longer than the 1st quarterly report, and is expected to be longer than the 3rd quarterly report, which will be similar to the 1st.

In our Year 3 work plan, we said we would pay special attention to the following four "Core Themes" for the NSP. In this period just ended, we have progressed against each of the themes.

Active Social Mobilization and Council/Committee Formation

Agreement was reached at the end of year 2 on the formation of representative Councils and Committees to lead co-management efforts at each site. This year we are working to ensure that these representative governing structures become real and active bodies at each of the five initial pilot PAs. During this period the following can be noted as highlights:

- Councils have met at all sites. Extensive discussion has been undertaken on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prepared with and for the Councils.
- Preparations completed for a proposed December 7th session with senior FD officials to discuss the elements of the proposed MOU and the powers/authorities to be granted to Councils/Committees.
- Simplified Bangla and English versions of the Management Plans for all five sites have been prepared, and are being used in Council meetings to raise awareness of the issues and options relating to FD management of the PAs.
- Planning began in the period for the 2nd West Bengal cross visit by local stakeholders. Participants in the upcoming proposed trip were identified during the period, and additional preparations were under way with the hosting organization in West Bengal.

Support to Re–Orientation of Forest Department at Field Level

We are working to support the Forest Department at the local level. To that end, the following can be noted as highlights:

- Training Plan for FD officials approved by the FD, as proposed by the Training Coordinator of the NSP
- 1st and 2nd Range and Beat Officer courses successfully completed, with extensive leadership of the FD as Resource Persons. Second course completed at Cox's Bazar from 20-22 November. For many of these field level officers, this is the first time they are having the chance to learn the details of the co-management approach to PA management.
- These first two training programs also included the launching of a participatory process by which local FD officers would themselves generate a new "Code of Conduct" for use in and around all Nishorgo PA sites.

Alternative Income Sources for Local Stakeholders

Without some offsetting income or incentive, it is difficult for local low income households can shift their dependence from the PAs to other revenue or income sources. We are thus moving in this third year to create these opportunities at field level. During this period, the following can be noted as highlights:

- Teknaf Game Reserve Ecotourism Week preparations under way for December event
- Presentation made to the Director General of the Parjatan Corporation, along with five major Tour Operators, about the tourism potential represented by Nishorgo conservation efforts. A number of follow up actions were identified, including a trip to be organized by Nishorgo to take private Tour Operators and Parjatan staff to visit northern Nishorgo sites.
- Full enterprise development team now in place, with the hiring this period of the Enterprise Development Specialist in Dhaka and the hiring in Srimongal of an Enterprise Development Officer.
- For homestead and buffer zone planting and plantations, budgets have been prepared for both north and south, and work moving forward at homesteads in the north, but buffer zone plantations still awaiting further action from the FD regional offices.
- Northern and southern field teams are now preparing, with guidance from Dhaka, monthly AIG status updates.

Establishment of Multi–Stakeholder Patrolling of PAs of High Risk Areas

We recognize that core forest areas must be protected, otherwise our social and economic efforts are in vain. During this period the following can be noted as highlights in this area of patrolling:

- Patrolling is in full swing in the four demarcated zones of Lawachara National Park and also at Shilkali. Patrol uniforms are now being worn by community members at Lawachara.
- Progress in forming patrols at Rema Kalenga has moved more slowly because of larger size of the forest and the involvement of an unscrupulous FD local officer.
- In support of this patrolling and protection effort, the Minister has asked that the trees of Lawachara be individually marked and recorded, and the FD was during this period preparing its financial proposal for completion of that work.

Other Supporting Activities

A number of other activities are worthy of mention during the period:

- The mid-year planning session of all field staff at or above the level of Site Facilitator was held in Dhaka from November 15-18. This session was a critically important time for further refining site strategies and for further detail out Gantt charts for achievement of technical activities.
- Importantly, this mid year session, and the extensive participation of the FD in it, assisted in further refining and making more specific the targets that we would aim for in the remainder of the year. The following six explicit targets were agreed to by the FD's NSP Coordinator and with the NSP team. We agreed that by May 31st 2006,;
 1. We will be Able to Clearly Explain Co-Management at Site Level
 2. We will see that All 5 Committees are Formed
 3. We will Ensure that the Council members Can Explain Co-Management and the Draft Management Plans
 4. We will Raise Local Youth Awareness of Nishorgo in Landscape to +75%
 5. Local FD will acknowledge that we are working closely with them
 6. Extensive Tree Planting will be Under Way in 3 zones
- Another important development from the end-November mid year planning was the revision of Site Strategies for all five sites, further clarifying the specific approach to be taken by the NSP field team when implementing co-management.
- Work has continued on getting the PP forwarded to USDA/Delhi so that a PIL can be issued by Delhi to the ERD.
- Decision made during the period to shift from microfinance use of LDF to use of LDF for grants only. COP has now reviewed sample grants manuals from multiple IRG Projects as part of process of preparing new Grants Manual for LDI.
- Major communications instruments and developments during the Quarter included the following:
 - √ Completion and distribution of 3rd Nishorgo e-News and printed Newsletter

- √ Nishorgo website (www.nishorgo.org) is now fully established, populated and operating
 - √ Draft completed for 1st 2-page Site Status Report (for Lawachara). Other sites to follow
 - √ Poster series on Nishorgo begun with 1st of four posters designed for FD review
 - √ Nishorgo Kobor (News) distribution list extended
 - √ Reporter from Daily Star has visited Lawachara to prepare report on community patrolling, due out soon.
 - √ Teknaf visitor booklet under preparation
 - √ Numerous site level communication events, including People's Theatre and songs, have been executed during the period.
- Two new commitments received from private partners for financing of the architectural competition for visitor's center at Lawachara
 - Preparations for December PA-to-PA hike of Bangladesh Scouts at southern sites is fully under way.
 - Sustainable financing report by Anderson/Billah completed and forwarded to FD. Together, FD and NSP are working to get workshop with Joint Secretary as organizer.
 - Development of base maps by CEGIS and NSP is proceeding, with ground truthing completed at all five sites.
 - New Nishorgo Program offices refurbished by NSP at FD Ban Bhaban location. Opening held on November 28th with CCF as chief guest.
 - East West Center Research Program Dr. Fox and Shimona Quazi receive the first ten proposals from potential researchers.
 - Major administrative actions included the following:
 - √ Signature by the FD and the COP, distribution and use of ID cards for all Project staff members in field and Dhaka, including at FD
 - √ Hiring of new EDS in Dhaka office and EDO in Srimongal regional office.
 - √ Beginning of work by Public Private Partnership (PPP) consultant Nazratan Naheem at NSP office.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST EXPECTED YEAR-END RESULTS FROM YEAR 3 WORK PLAN

Expected Year End Result from Work Plan	Status at End of 2nd Quarter
<i>Contract Component #1 & PP Objective #1: Develop a functional model for formalized co-management of Protected Areas</i>	
Participatory Management Plans for three PAs are agreed to by the FD and submitted to the MoEF for approval	Initial three management plans still with FD for consideration. In meantime, the NSP has prepared three short-versions of these management plans, in English and Bangla, for use and understanding of local stakeholders.
Two additional Participatory Management Plans are completed and submitted to the FD	Work under way on the two southern PA management plans.
Five Co-management Councils and Committees meet and begin doing business	At least two Council meetings now held at all five sites.
Illegal logging upward trends at LNP and SNP reversed	Early evidence indicates that logging at Lawachara is slowing dramatically. Not yet clear on Satchuri, although the logging pressure there is less.
Participatory bird surveys completed by communities with Bird Club at all five sites, and results discussed	Work completed.
Initial Council meetings highlight transparency as a necessary element of Council/Committee MOU	Issue has now been included in the MOUs and discussed as part of that document.
<i>Contract Component #2 and PP Objective #2: Create alternative income generation opportunities for key local stakeholders associated with pilot co-managed Protected Areas</i>	
10 new local enterprise per site developed in areas of ecotourism, nursery, orchids, or export handicrafts	Preparations under way.
50 individuals per site begin income enhancing activities due to Project support	Work under way.
Heightened core zone patrolling also reduces degradation from commercial activity in the interface landscapes	Impact of core zone patrolling on the surrounding landscape not yet clear.
New production technologies training for 240 (120 for each region) user group members will be provided for involving them in AIGAs.	Preparations under way.
Partner Government agencies in the landscape work in Council to catalogue on-going and available activities/projects with	Not yet begun.

Expected Year End Result from Work Plan	Status at End of 2nd Quarter
potential synergy with PA conservation	
<i>Contract Component #3 and (part of) PP Objective #3: Develop policies conducive to improved Protected Area management</i>	
Councils include local women, ethnic minorities, low income stakeholders and other often-marginalized groups	Councils continue to include women, minorities and low income groups as key stakeholders, formally recognized by the Councils.
Two options for extra-Revenue budget financing are explored and pursued	No specific progress in this area.
Councils/Committees will highlight conflict resolution role	Conflict resolution role engaged in Rema Kalenga where local FD officer involved in felling and Council called to mediate and resolve problem.
Local FD officials will receive training in conflict resolution processes	FD training plan includes this as an element.
Support will be provided to re-drafting of the Wildlife Act	Support still being provided in this area, but in limited fashion.
At least one major new public-private partnership for conservation will be obtained	Three private donors have committed to support the national architectural competition.
Mechanisms for retaining financial benefits locally will be vetted and agreed upon	Not yet addressed.
Position paper is prepared and vetted giving Council/Committee authority to pre-approve forest management actions in interface landscape	Not yet explicitly addressed, although the spirit of the draft MOU suggests this authority.
Two specific examples of such collaboration evident at year end	Not yet achieved.
The Satchuri National Park (proposed) will be gazetted as a new National Park officially	Completed -- the Satchuri National Park has now been gazetted as the country's newest National Park.
One new area under consideration as new Protected Area	Not yet addressed.
<i>Contract Component #4 and (part of) PP Objective #3: Build constituencies to further policy goals</i>	
Visitor number tracking systems will be put in place at all five PAs	Not yet in place.
Numbers of visitors to Satchuri, Teknaf and Lawachara will double by year end.	Not yet applicable.
Bangladesh Bird Club members, working with Nishorgo Clubs, will be active in organizing efforts to slow or halt brick fields at southern PAs	BBC has expressed an interest in doing something to slow brick fields, but political sensitivities make it not advisable at this time to pursue.
Five or more international refereed publications or papers will be submitted during the year	None yet started.

Expected Year End Result from Work Plan	Status at End of 2nd Quarter
Numerous training and orientation efforts will be executed during the year to explain conservation actions to local citizens	Numerous meetings have begun at local level on this.
Survey data shows that local percept of FD is beginning to improve	Relevant only at end of the year.
<i>Contract Component #5 and PP Objective #4: Strengthen the institutional systems and capacity of the Forest Department and key stakeholders</i>	
Management Scorecard values are set as baseline for all five initial pilot sites	Not yet completed.
Independent "consumer survey" of community perceptions of FD demonstrates improved FD performance at field level during the year	Relevant only at end of the year.
Community Scorecard values concerning Forest Dept local staff are set	Not yet completed.
PA system presentation in written and electronic materials shows as integrated PA system	Not yet addressed.
By year end, key ACFs in the Wildlife Circle are prepared to take over PA management of five pilots	Progress continuing in posting of ACFs to the sites. New DFO now posted to the Wildlife Circle for the Sylhet Division.
Results to new surveys on economic costs and benefits, including poverty implications, of PA management are being used by senior policy makers and circulated in the press	Not yet addressed.
By year end, model is proposed for improvements to in-country training of Forest Officers in PA management	Not yet addressed. This is separate from the short-term training program for the FD.
Local communities at pilot sites will begin collecting a portion of PA visitor fees	Not yet addressed.
Proposal will be made to major donor for new funding round for PA management	Will be incorporated in the newly proposed Srimongal co-management event, and in new proposal from CCF to prepare a proposal for GEF funding.
At least one PPP will be executed under the Nishorgo Conservation Partnerships program	Progress has been considerable towards this via architectural competition process PPP.
Ten applied research case studies by Bangladeshi researchers are launched focusing on one of the six pilot PAs	All researchers have submitted proposals to EWC's Fox and IRG's Quazi for evaluation.
Base values of the Management Scorecard, the Community Scorecard and the five "Core" indicators are set	Management Scorecard base values set. Community Scorecard values not yet set.

REVIEW OF NISHORGO SUPPORT PROGRESS AND ISSUES AFTER 2.5 YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In light of the fact that the Project is now reaching the halfway point, it is appropriate to pull back and assess the level of progress that has been made in that time towards the goals stated in the Scope of Work, and the goals included in USAID's PMP. This section represents an attempt to do just that.

The review is organized by the Components that make up IRG's contract for NSP and the Objectives that account for the PP.

Component 1 (PP Objective 1): Develop a Co-Management Planning & Implementation Model

During the first year, Project targets centered on getting a clear understanding of the constraints and challenges involved in establishing co-management agreements for the identified protected areas. During the second year, that field level understanding has gradually be translated into specific progress towards putting in place a co-management planning and implementation model. To this end, a number of significant results are worthy of mention:

- *Baseline Social & Environmental Context Established*

Comprehensive social and environmental baseline for tracking impact has been completed. The Project's monitoring system works at three levels. Level 1 includes a small number of easily recognizable indicators of change to the quality of the natural resource and to the local population. Level 2 includes programmatic indicators, such as those included in the Mission PMP. Level 3 is simply a Project impact achievement system. Notable elements and achievements of this overall monitoring system include the following:

- *Participatory Bird Surveys Engage Youth in Monitoring Progress*

The Project has worked with communities to identify and measure baseline values for eight unique bird species in each of the sites. Change in the populations of these eight birds will be a clear -- and easily comprehensible -- indicator of success or failure of efforts to conserve the forest ecosystems. These surveys have already worked to raise local awareness of the status of their natural resources, and will continue to be helpful in raising awareness of changes to that resource base.

- *Illegal Felling Baseline Provides Definitive Evidence of Impact*

The Project has worked with detailed field level data dating back two years showing the numbers and types of trees felled illegally within the PAs. Such data makes it clearly evident that at sites where community patrolling is under way, illegal felling is slowing rapidly, most notably at Lawachara National Park and in the Shilkali section of the Teknaf Game Reserve.

- *Other Monitoring Elements*

- 300+ geo-referenced photographs will provide clear evidence of change over time
- Application and adaptation of international "PA Management Scorecard" to Nishorgo sites

- Development and application of new "Community Scorecard" to all sites
- A software application that generates Project achievement against annual work plan milestones and results.

- *Co-Management Councils formed at All PAs and Meeting Regularly:*

PA Co-Management Councils are beginning already to serve as the local democratic platform for voicing concerns and contributing to management of the Protected Areas. The formation and activation of such participatory and representative Councils represents a stark break with the previous forms of local Government management of PAs, under which the Forest Department claimed near total authority. Already, the Councils are having an impact on PA governance, as the recent example from Rema Kalenga made clear. There, community dissatisfaction with the illegal felling of teak trees by a FD Officer found a voice in the Council. As a result of speaking out in this forum to other community members and to more senior forest officers, the FD Officer was transferred out, along with two Forest Guards, in spite of their protection by senior members of the Government. At Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, an external observer of one of the early Council meetings noted the aggressive verbal attacks on FD Officers by the local community, and praised the FD for calmly responding and for allowing such Councils as a means of constructively venting such concerns.

- *Cross-Visits of Stakeholders and FD to West Bengal Sites a Cost-Effective Means of Generating Enthusiasm for Co-Management Approach*

During the second year, the Project sent a group of senior Forest Officers followed by a larger group of 25 local stakeholders -- five from each of five sites -- to meet and learn from co-management experiences in West Bengal State in India. For a total training cost of \$243/trainee for six days of international training, the effort could scarcely have had greater impact. Those that attended the program have now in many cases become vocal spokespersons for the overall participatory approach to PA management.

- *Community Patrolling with Forest Department Under Way and Showing Impact*

Without urgent and immediate protection of the mature trees found in all the PAs, then they will continue to be gradually cut and stolen, and local ecosystems will degrade accordingly. So while local governance and empowerment is important, if the fundamental natural resource assets upon which future growth depend and not protected and managed, then the potential for long run success will be compromised. Because of this importance to immediate conservation, the Project placed a strong emphasis at the end of the second year and into the beginning of the third year on joint patrols conducted by community members with the Forest Department. These patrols have already had dramatic impact, not only in bringing illegal felling at Lawachara, for example to a halt, but also because they have contributed to a change in the perspectives of the FD staff members. With community members officially participating in protection, the status of FD functionaries has been enhanced, precisely what needs to happen if they are to have the incentive to perform. Similar patrols have been undertaken at Shilkali beat in the Teknaf Game Reserve, as well as at Rema Kalenga and Satchuri.

- *Participatory PA Management Plans Revised and Extended, with Simplified Versions for Local Stakeholders*

Management Plans are the official guiding document -- approved by the Government -- that set the terms for what happens inside the Protected Areas. The Project has developed Management Plans for all three of the northern sites now, and all of them allow a degree of local benefit and participation -- via the co-management structures -- never before included in such management plans for forests in Bangladesh. The three initial plans for the northern sites have been presented to the Forest Department and are now ready to be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for

official vetting and approval. In the meantime, the Project has also developed simplified versions of each of these plans, plus a fourth Plan at Chunati, all of which are now in Bangla. These short version Management Plans are to be the principal means of engaging local stakeholders in the plan implementation. The simplified plans are being prepared with appropriate communication materials (posters, maps, etc.) so that they can be presented to and discussed with the Councils.

- *Initial PA Infrastructure Improvements -- Including Road Signs, Hiking Trails and Informational Signs -- Completed*

One important recommendation of the management plans is that basic information be available at the Protected Areas about where the PAs are located and what can be found in them. To that end, the Project has completed and installed road signs for all of the five PAs. In addition, three trails each at the five PAs (total of fifteen trails) have been identified, described and marked. At each of the trail entry points, signs have been installed showing hikers where the trail goes and what can be found there. In addition, large signs have now been posted in each of the PAs explaining a basic set of "do's and don'ts" for hikers.

Expected 2008 Contract Results and Indicators, Including Status¹

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.1b – Number of protected areas and estimated overall total area in which sustainable co-management plans are being implemented.

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status:

- *Four protected areas covering 2500 hectares will have sustainable co-management plans by 2008*
 - *Status 2005: Five Protected Areas covering an estimated 15,000 hectares have functioning Co-Management Councils and three of those have complete management plans including co-management approach.*
- *Two additional protected areas will have draft co-management plans by 2008*
 - *Status 2005: One additional site at Sitakunda will be explored early in 4th project year.*
- *Co-management plans, together with landscape development plans, impacting 25000 hectares, will be in place around four initial sites.*
 - *Status 2005: Project on track to exceed this target, as landscapes included around Project sites now are 9,500 hectares at the three northern sites and 24,000 at the two southern sites.*

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.1c- GOB agreements to expand protected areas as appropriate

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status

- *IRG Team will work with FD to evaluate current proposed areas for gazetting; to define additional sites over the life of the project; and to assess potential for expansion of current protected areas. This is likely to be only in the order of several hundred hectares per year over the life of the project.*
 - *Status 2005: Two new Protected Areas have been added in the past year, at Medhakachapia in Cox's Bazar (384 hectares) and Satchuri in Habiganj (240 hectares).*

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.1d- Declining incidences of unsustainable and illegal use of protected areas

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status

- *Percentage reduction (cumulative) over the life of the project for each year of implementation.*

¹ These Contract Results can be found in the original IRG Scope of Work for the Nishorgo Support Project contract.

- *Status 2005: Evidence indicates that illegal felling at Lawachara has virtually stopped with community patrols, and slowed considerably at Shilkali garjan forest in Teknaf. .*

Component 2 (PP Objective 2): Improve Ecosystem Management

The purpose of this component is to ensure that a sufficient range of income generation and ecosystem management activities occur to serve as an incentive to PA conservation within core pilot PAs. During the first two years, the Project team realized a number of key outcomes:

- *Household Alternative Income Generation (AIG) Opportunities Rapidly Expanding at All Sites*

The Project's approach to extending alternative income generation opportunities to key local stakeholders has been to work through Groups of low income households. During the first year and a half, a priority was placed upon group formation at all sites, and this has progressed considerably. Now, there are some 90 groups formed at the three northern sites, each of them with between 15-20 members, about half of them women. At southern sites, there are a total of some 35 groups. With that work done, extension of the AIG opportunities is now rapidly expanding at all sites. Priority growth areas for these AIG opportunities have included home gardening, nursery gardens, milk cow rearing, and poultry rearing. The rapid expansion in this area of household AIG will continue in the third year, and is now being tracked on a monthly basis with the new "AIG Matrix" reporting tool.

- *Enterprise Development Strategy Completed Jointly with JOBS Project*

During the second project year, work was completed on a joint assessment of enterprise development opportunities with the JOBS Project. That joint assessment generated a number of first tier and second tier priorities for enterprise development under the Project, and has served as a useful means of keeping the Project on track for those target areas.

- *Ecotourism Sector Enterprise Opportunities Developing*

One of the highly recommended tier one enterprises included in that study was the ecotourism sector. Taking up that recommendation, the Project has in the second year prepared to expand ecotourism opportunities. A series of intensive training programs developed a basic corps of 25 EcoGuides (five from each site), all of whom have received training in forest knowledge and tourist interaction. In addition, a series of three coordination and planning meetings have been held with private Tour Operators and the Parjatan Corporation (the national tourism corporation). With the addition of an Enterprise Development Specialist to the Dhaka team, and Enterprise Development Officers to both the northern and southern teams, the groundwork is now set for expansion of this priority area. Two areas are now set to develop to expand this work. First, the Project has prepared for a December "Teknaf Game Reserve Ecotourism Week". Second, a process is now underway to work with three of the highest profile ecotourism sites (Teknaf, Satchuri and Rema-Kalenga) to prepare communities for the immanent arrival of tourists, in particular by helping them get initial enterprises established to benefit immediately from arrival of those tourists.

- *Energy Alternatives Receiving Increased Attention in Partnership with GTZ*

Fuel wood demand places a burden on Protected Areas that is turning them from forests into grasslands. At the southern PAs, this pressure is most stark, principally due to brickfields located in or near the PAs to household and commercial demand for fuel wood. For this reason, the Project has made alternative energy development a high priority for the southern sites. During the second year, the Project developed a partnership with GTZ's new PURE Project under which opportunities were explored for energy use changes at the southern sites. Now, that planning is coming to fruition in a

series of intensive practical activities that are starting at Chunati. The most imminent of those activities is the upcoming Chunati Alternative Energy Fair, to be hosted by the State minister of Environment and Forests.

The Project has also made headway in deepening a partnership with the new GEF Project for Brickfields Energy Use Conversion. The Project organized a meeting at Cox's Bazar for GEF team members with brickfield owners from the Teknaf and Chunati sites. As a result of such interactions organized at field level, the GEF Project is now planning a follow up with brick field owners in these southern areas under which they would be provided incentives to relocate their brick field sites to clustered locations outside the Protected Areas, where they would use coal rather than the firewood they are currently using.

- *Existing Social Forestry Groups Become Direct Collaborators with Core PA Conservation*

Social forestry groups (usually 5-12 members) have been granted social forestry plots in Reserve Forest buffer zones around three of the five Nishorgo sites. The project has now met with all of these groups, and is incorporating them into management activities of the Council at those sites. These social forestry collaborators are especially relevant to long-term conservation at Nishorgo sites, because they hold 7 year contracts with the Forest Department, under which the benefits they ultimately receive require adherence to forest conservation activities.

Expected 2008 Contract Results and Indicators, Including Status

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.2b/c - Upland forest habitat improved in targeted areas (hectare)

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status

- *25,000 hectares within landscape over life of project.*
 - *Status 2005: Baseline data set with which to track this change, but it is too early to show measurable change, either via photographs or via basal area measurements.*

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.2.1d – Watershed management and/or buffer zone plans and practices in operation.

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status

- *(Indicator is self-explanatory.)*
 - *Status 2005: No buffer zone plans yet in operation. This will need to be a focus of Project year four.*

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.2.2b – Increased income of targeted beneficiaries

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status

- *50,000 people will benefit from increased incomes.*
 - *Status 2005: Project on track to achieve this target.*
- *Net incomes of the poorest quarter of the population will increase by no less than 10 percent.*
 - *Status 2005: Project on track to achieve this target.*

Component 3 (PP Objective 3, Activities 1-8): Enhance Co-management Policy Environment

Improving and setting the policy climate for long-term improvements in PA management has been an important focus of attention of the Project. Work has proceeded on a number of levels, and has generated the following key outputs:

- *Nishorgo Vision 2010 Sets FD Program Targets and Goals Beyond Project Life*

Before any field work got under way by the Project, the Project team facilitated a visioning process with senior FD staff by which they set out their ideas of the challenges and opportunities for Protected Area management leading up to the year 2010. The date 2010 was selected in part because it would be after completion of the Nishorgo Support Project, and would thus require that the FD take up the activities of co-management on their own. The Vision was thus developed in part to be an exit strategy for the Project.

- *Gradual Government Buy-in to the Co-Management Model Under Way*

The Vision, along with other Project activities, have now resulted in gradual Government buy-in to the co-management approach and to the need for consolidation and conservation of these Protected Areas. With two Steering Committee meetings now completed, the education process of senior Government officials is gradually taking place and critical or sensitive elements of the Project approach have been vetted. In mid 2005, another milestone was passed when the Vision document was formally printed and passed to the Prime Minister and other senior Government officials at the National Tree Fair.

The Forest Department is also gradually coming to accept and become advocates for the co-management approach to PA management. With the formal approval of the Project by both the Prime Minister's ECNEC and also by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (in the form of a Project Pro Forma, or PP), the Forest Department staff recognize and accept that this is an official and approved process of the Government. While many entrenched staff members of the Department would still prefer not to share any authority over the Protected Areas, others are gradually realizing the irony that the only way to regain sound management control is precisely by involving local stakeholders in the management process. They are gradually recognizing, added by these formal processes and also by a series of intensive orientation and training courses, that the only avenue to enhanced esteem of the Forest Department is precisely via this participatory approach.

- *Wildlife Act Re-Drafted with Technical Input from the Project*

The Wildlife Act revision process had begun just about the time the Project got under way, and Project staff have been able to provide a direct support to that process, notably in adding sections to the draft Act covering co-management, mechanisms for local benefits sharing from PA management, a revision of PA categories (to clear up confusion from new "Safari Parks" and "EcoParks") and other improvements. Due to Project input, the Act has been considerably revised, and is now being forwarded to the Ministry in English and in Bangla for review at that level.

- *New Wildlife Policy Receives Extensive Input from the Project*

Independent of the Project, the Ministry commissioned an independent unit to draft a Wildlife Policy. Once informed of the process, the Project has provided extension proposed revisions to the Policy, and has met with the Policy's authors to discuss and encourage acceptance of those recommendations. Work on this Policy will continue in the coming months.

- *Assessment of Options for Sustained Financing of PAs Completed*

Presently, none of the Protected Areas are financed in a way that is sufficient to cover recurrent costs over future years. Rather, allocations are made to protected areas via a disjointed budgeting process led by the Ministry of Finance. The Project believes that PAs cannot be sustained over the long run unless the financing mechanisms are clarified, and unless some mechanisms exist for local retention of benefits from PA conservation. To that end, a team of experts was commissioned by the Project to make recommendations for revisions to the current process for financial management and

sustainability of Protected Areas. That study is now complete, and those recommendations are set for presentation to senior economists, Government officials and academics. The Project's goal is to put in place a number of mechanisms for local retention of revenue over the coming years.

- *Complementary Projects Leveraged to Further Nishorgo Goals*

The Project has been notably successful in its efforts to leverage resources and expertise from other complementary projects and programs. Most notable of these leveraging opportunities has been collaboration with the GTZ PURE Project, the USAID JOBS Project, the AED governance project (working on the Zones of Good Governance collaboration), and the GEF brick fields project. Opportunities still exist for closer collaboration between the NRECA Project and the new enterprise activity of USAID when that mechanism is put in place.

Expected 2008 Contract Results and Indicators, Including Status

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.3c- Number of formalized co-management agreements in place with communities surrounding targeted protected areas

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status

- *Number of protected area hectares covered by agreements*
 - *Status 2005: No formal agreements have been signed, although the Bangla Co-Management Draft Constitution has been completed and is being reviewed by all five Councils for debate and later signature.*
- *% of total protected area under agreements*
 - *Status 2005: When these Constitutions are signed, they will cover 22,600 hectares, or an estimated 8% of the protected areas.*
- *Number of reduced legal, regulatory or administrative barriers to local sustainable co-management by communities adjacent to protected areas*
 - *Status 2005: New Code of Conduct, new approved PA Management Plan, new Act and new Policy will all represent reduced barriers when they are completed.*
- *Number of communities adjacent to protected areas that have engaged in formal co-management relationships with actors, institutions external to the community*
 - *Status 2005: This is being tracked, but it is too early to demonstrate definitive results.*

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.3d- Inter-Agency agreements in place allocating usage rights to local communities

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status:

- *Number of communities that have developed plans, protocols, agreements and local codes governing and allocating usage rights.*
 - *Status 2005: Development and approval of the Co-Management Constitution and Management Plan must precede such protocols.*

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.3e- Co-management policy agenda established and being acted upon by GOB

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status

- *Improvements in the rules by which the Forest Department makes community based management agreements.*
 - *Status 2005: New PCP and PP for Nishorgo represent improvements in these rules, opening the door to the FD to make such agreements. Development of PCBSA, as a co-management equivalent of the PBSAs used for social forestry, represent another improvement.*
- *Tools and information systems developed to support policy process*
 - *Status 2005: Spatial data system being put in place, as is Management Scorecard and Community Scorecard, all of which will represent progress in this area.*

Component 4 (PP Objective 3, Activities 9-16): Lay the Foundation for a Conservation Constituency

The Project has considered it essential to move rapidly in developing a clear and focused communication strategy that would begin to lay the foundation for a conservation constituency that will be essential for sustained multi-stakeholder support to PA conservation. In this area, a number of key outputs and milestones were achieved, including the following:

- *Communications Strategy Identifies Target Groups for Change Under Nishorgo Program*

Early in the Project, a careful effort was made to identify the target groups for behavioral change that are necessary to successful development of constituencies in support of conservation. To that end, a detailed communications strategy was developed for the Forest Department. That strategy identified priority groups for change, including especially young environmental enthusiasts (especially the Scouts), educated middle-to-upper income likely visitors to the Protected Areas, senior Government officials working on PA-related activities, and environmental activist groups, among others. The strategy has guided communications interventions of the Project since then.

- *Image and of Nishorgo Program Furthered with New FD Uniforms*

The Project has worked to develop a cadre of Officers within the FD that have reoriented their management approach to be consistent with the Department's own Vision 2010. (See work under Component 5 on Code of Conduct and training/orientation program for FD officers.) One means of supporting those Officers, and the Department in general, is to extend the image and recognition of the Nishorgo Program. To that end, the Project has obtained approval to develop new uniforms for the PA staff members of the Department. The new uniforms are to be green and have the Nishorgo log prominently displayed. Such uniforms will be a stark departure from the current dress and appearance of the Department at field level, where either no uniform is worn at all, or the khaki of government officials are worn. The new uniforms are meant to connote an approachability and non-authoritarian image that is consistent with the Nishorgo co-management goals. Funding for the uniforms is to be provided by a private textile manufacturer, and the terms of this private contribution are being worked out.

- *Nishorgo Image Expands with New Communications Materials*

A range of communication materials have been developed that further recognition of the Department's Nishorgo Program. Notable among these is the recent souvenir booklet prepared for the highly publicized National Tree Fair, the publication of which was entirely financed in a public-private partnership with the Radisson Water Garden Hotel.

Other important communication materials include: 3 newsletters, in both hard and email versions; Bangla and English brochures; banners; hats; pens; website; CDROM reference tool, and many others.

- *Public-Private Partnerships Program Designed and Under Way*

In many countries of the world, public private partnerships have been developed to support conservation efforts. In the Bangladesh Nishorgo Program and Support Project, these partnerships are being actively sought, not so much for the financial contribution of the private sector, but more importantly with the objective of building a private constituency that supports the goals of PA conservation.

One of the first Project milestones in this regard was the development of an innovative public private partnership approach called "Nishorgo Conservation Partnerships". Designed to establish a mechanism that would at the same time facilitate private participation in PA conservation and provide a transparent mechanism for private contributions, the NCP was designed to include the Arannayk Foundation as a key partner supporting the FD.

Thus far, the NCP has been presented to the Government's Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee and has the active support thus far of the Department. It is this mechanism that has assisted in attracting contributions of the Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Dialogue is under way about the NCP, with a planned Public Private Round Table planned at which such issues can be discussed. A number of key events are in the planning stages to expand this NCP program through privately-financed national photo competitions, national architectural competitions, support to community patrolling, and similar activities.

- *Active Partnership with Bangladesh Scouts Assists in Raising Nishorgo Profile*

The Bangladesh Scouts exist in nearly every school in the country, and number nearly one million young people, of which 150,000 are girls and the rest are boys. The Project has developed and deepened a relationship with the Bangladesh Scouts, and to that end organized and held a national Scouts hike for three days. In addition, a number of activities are under way with young people, including Scouts, at the schools around the five pilot sites, principally for awareness raising about the co-management goals of the Project. This partnership will continue to deepen with a planned hike in the southern PAs and with other events.

- *Range of Environmental Civil Society Institutions Become Partners to Nishorgo and PA Conservation*

Apart from the Scouts, the Project has worked to deepen other partnerships with civil society, including especially IUCN/Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Bird Club (BBC). A formal subcontract has been signed with IUCN/Bangladesh under which IUCN will assist the FD in developing a coalition of civil society institution supportive of PA management goals. In addition, the Project has worked with the BBC in the design and implementation of participatory bird surveys in all of the PAs. These surveys bring together the young and often urban members of the BBC with local young people at the PAs.

Expected 2008 Contract Results and Indicators, Including Status

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.4c- Growing public awareness and understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation and environmental services

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status:

- *(specific indicator not included in original contract)*
 - *Status 2005: Awareness of the Nishorgo Program and of biodiversity increasing, but too early to demonstrate improvements in this area.*

Component 5 (PP Objective 4): Ensuring Institutionalization of Co-Management

A number of important steps were taken to move towards a long-term institutionalization of co-management at the FD. Included among these are the following:

- *Critical Staff Positions Receive High Priority at Forest Department*

In the first year and a half of implementation, it was urgently recommended that key positions at PA level and in the management level of the FD be filled by persons capable of supporting change. In recent months, many of those key positions have been filled in a way that significantly supports Project implementation.

When the Project began, there was not a single FD Officer at the level of Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) at the PA level. This has now been addressed, and four of the five pilot sites are benefiting from leadership of ACFs, with the fifth (Satchuri) being temporarily supported by the ACF from Chunarugat. In mid 2005, the Chief Conservator appointed 11 new field staff in supporting roles (Range and Beat Officer) to the Nishorgo sites.

Two Dhaka level changes have also provided greater impetus to Project sustainability. First, the National Project Coordinator has now also been officially assigned as the Conservator of Forests (CF) for Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation. Most of the PA management strategic decisions must be taken by this CF position, so it is extremely supportive to achievement of Project goals that the National Nishorgo Coordinator also be the CF/Wildlife. Also, it is worth noting that the new assignment of the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) has also been a supporter of PA conservation and Nishorgo since its inception, and was in fact one of the three senior FD officials that led the Vision 2010 process.

- *Orientation & Training Program for All Nishorgo PA Field Officers Under Way*

With the official approval of the Nishorgo Project Pro Forma (PP) and PCP, the Project is now considered a central and official part of the Department. Such official approval is critical to reorientation of FD staff. With this approval now in place, the Project has been able to launch a series of orientation and training programs for all FD staff working in or around Nishorgo Project sites. While the coverage of this training will expand in future, the Project is now focusing on the Nishorgo site staff initially. In the process, all Range and Beat Officers, as well as Forest Guard and Plantation Assistants, will receive training. In addition, all ACFs and DFOs involved with the Project will also receive training.

One of the most important elements of this training is the presence of senior FD staff members, including the CF/Wildlife and CF/Central Circle, as resource persons in the courses. Their presence makes it clear to field level FD staff that the Project's goals are in fact the goals of the FD also.

- *New "Code of Conduct" under Development by Forest Department*

The image of the Forest Department in recent years has been neither positive nor complimentary. In almost any forum, if one raises the name of the FD, people will accuse the Department of being the primary cause of forest loss. Although in fact the worst of the Department's behavior can be closely attributed to powerful political actors outside the Department, the fact remains that many Officers are engaged in illicit activities and that the image and performance of the Department is in need of improvement.

The FD Nishorgo Vision 2010 includes a description of what the "new" Departmental Officer working on Nishorgo and Protected Areas will look and act like. The document emphasizes this new Officer's emphasis on: dialogue with local citizens rather than executive decision-making; ecosystem management rather than plantation management; and transparency over secrecy, to name a few.

The Project has now begun facilitating a process whereby FD Officers themselves, through a series of iterative steps, develop their own new Code of Conduct for Officers involved in Nishorgo. Work has begun at the first Range and Beat Officer Orientation Program in October, and will continue as these orientation programs are completed for all Officers working in or around Nishorgo sites.

- *New FD Nishorgo Program Office Completed within FD Ban Bhaban Office*

Training and orientation courses help raise the profile and understanding of Nishorgo's aims within the Department. Such gradual buy in is also greatly supported when FD staff see that the Nishorgo program is physically present at the FD itself. Partially with this in mind, the Project has supported development of a new Nishorgo Program office space in one large room at the Department. Located in the wing of the Department's first floor at Ban Bhaban, this new "Nishorgo Program" office design is the same green, red and dark veneer wood used in the Nishorgo Project office in Banani.

- *East West Center Applied Research Program on "Livelihoods" Under Way*

Future and improved decision-making on protected areas requires that research be undertaken continuously at PA level, addressing critical questions of both social and environmental management of the PAs. To the end of both providing applied research inputs to the Nishorgo Program and building a cadre of young researchers interested in the PAs, the Project formalized a subcontract with the East West Center of the Honolulu, Hawaii under which the Center will provide advice and writing support to two series of ten case studies conducted on the Nishorgo Protected Areas. The case study program has now begun, with the first series of candidates submitting proposals for the competitive grant award process for the first series of studies.

- *Economic Focus on Poverty and Protected Areas Under Way*

Nishorgo's efforts to conserve Protected Areas are undertaken with the understanding that poverty reduction and economic growth is furthered by conservation of natural assets such as the PAs. To gain a better understanding of the linkages between PA management, poverty reduction and environmental economics, the Project has undertaken a number of analysis intended to extend and communicate that relationship. Analytical papers focusing on the interactions of poor and PAs have been completed to that end, and further work is expected.

- *Institutional Assessment of Protected Area Management Needs Completed*

In order to guide all its efforts in institutional strengthening and capacity building, the Project developed an institutional assessment of needs to put in place a viable PA management system. That in depth institutional "roadmap" continues to serve as a guide for future progress in PA management developments. While the Project has not yet been successful in engaging senior decision-makers from the Ministry in debating and taking on this assessment, we are confident that thee roadmap will be taken up at a later date, once these officials recognize that progress and success is being achieved.

Expected 2008 Contract Results and Indicators, Including Status

End-of-Contract Indicator 6.5b- Forest Department skills and experience to promote co-management of protected area improved

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status:

- *Number of staff of FD trained, gender disaggregated*
 - *Status 2005: Training has just begun of FD staff, with approval of the PP. Number trained now is 18 men and 1 woman.*
- *Number of training courses*
 - *Status 2005: With training begun only recently (PP was approved in September 2005), only two courses have been held.*

End of Contract Indicator 6.5c- Enhanced GOB Agency capabilities for working together on integrated NRM programs

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status:

- *Number of agencies receiving training*
 - *Status 2005: None yet.*

End of Contract Indicator 6.5d- Local Govt. w/ improved land-use and NRM planning & governance capabilities

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status:

- *Number of government units receiving training in NRM planning and governance*
 - *Status 2005: None yet.*
- *Number of individuals receiving training in NRM planning and governance*
 - *Status 2005: None yet.*

End of Contract Indicator 6.5e- Improved local NGO capabilities to support ICDP

NSP 2008 Contract Targets and Status:

- *Number of local NGOs receiving training in integrated conservation and development*
 - *Status 2005: Three.*
- *Number of individuals receiving training in integrated conservation and development*
 - *Status 2005: Fifty-seven.*
- *Number of NGOs participating in Roundtables, workshops and national or community meetings*
 - *Status 2005: Five.*

Project Issues

Generally, the Project is progressing according to the plan and targets in the contract and subsequent work plans. However, a number of implementation issues are to be resolved for NSP's more effective implementation such as:

- *Local Currency Program via Forest Department an Integral and Urgent Part of Project Success*

The activities programmed under local currency support include those activities in Objectives 5 and 6 of the Nishorgo Support Project official Project Pro Forma. These two activities target improvements to visitor services in the PAs and forest/habitat regeneration in the PAs. In addition, and equally importantly, the local currency resources designed to come through the Forest Department facilitate FD staff involvement in a wide range of NSP activities, including participation in field work, training courses and project meetings. In short, the local currency is a critically important means of ensuring that the Project goals are met effectively and in a timely fashion.

Because of this importance, it remains urgent to finalize the process of moving local currency through and into the FD. In order for this to happen, it will also be both supportive to the Department and to outsiders (USAID) that transparency in expenditures of the funds be assured with the presence of some outside monitoring body for the activities undertaken with the local currency.

- *Continuing Presence of Brickfields at Both Southern Sites and Near to Northern Sites Poses Obstacle to Long-term Success*

It is clear that the brickfields close to Chunati and Teknaf are extracting fuel wood from the two PAs at a rapid rate. It is also clear that long-term conservation of these two areas will not be possible without addressing the presence of these brickfields, who are in most cases located within proximity of Reserve Forest or Sanctuary/Reserve, and thus in direct contradiction with the Brick Fields Act. At the level of the Project, however, we do not have the political clout or leveraging capability to ensure rapid removal of these brickfields. We will continue to work with Councils, who are expressing in many cases a desire to see them

removed, but it will take time to develop a counter force to the powerful local elites behind these brick fields.

- *Corruption Continues to Exert Enormous Pressure Counter to Project Goals*

Corruption continues to be a real and present obstacle to achievement of Project goals. Clear and demonstrable progress has been made in combating corruption with the presence of Co-management Councils, but much more remains to be done, especially since the amounts of potential corrupt earnings are astronomical. As a corrupt field FD official recently told to his boss after harvesting a stand of teak, "I just made more money than you will make in your entire life." The resources at hand are exceedingly valuable teak trees and fuel wood sought after by powerful timber merchants, brick field owners and other commercial parties. The stakes are high, the level of violence is real, and thus the necessary counterforce required is significant. Corruption, in fact, poses the most significant challenge to the Nishorgo Support Project goals.

- *Arannayk Foundation Development Critical to Nishorgo*

The Nishorgo Support Project's technical and policy activities must be transferred in two directions before the Project closes. On the one hand, many of the activities are to be gradually integrated into the fabric of the FD's way of doing business. On the other hand, many activities are simply not appropriate for adoption by a government department. This second category includes support to public p-private partnerships, financial support for co-management councils and committees, specialized training or educational opportunities for the FD staff, and similar things. This exit strategy for this second category of activities is the Arannayk Foundation. For this reason, the Nishorgo Project's long-term success requires the success of the Foundation. The Foundation requires perhaps more flexibility in its ability to pick up new opportunities with potential for long-term contributions to PA management.

- *Policy/Political buy-in from the Government at Ministerial Level Critical*

Given the overt and covert involvement of political appointees even at low levels of Project implementation within departments, it is in fact extremely important to have support from those political arenas. Critical upcoming issues include the approval of all site management plans, the full acceptance of the public-private partnership approach, approval of the new Act and Policy, and the commitment to expand the Protected Areas system. The Project has begun a special communication effort targeted to such policy makers from the political side, and will continue to expand such efforts. But continued and targeted support in this area from USAID would be extremely beneficial.

- *Increased Takeover of Project-supported Activities by the FD in Dhaka*

In the coming periods, it has now become increasingly important to have more direct involvement of senior FD staff at the Wildlife and Territorial sections of the Department actively engaged in Project-supported activities. Examples of this include the need for involvement in the management plan process, in guiding the co-management councils, in support to decisions necessary for ecotourism expansion, and similar efforts.

- *Expanded Capacity Development Opportunities for FD PA Management Staff and Key Counterparts*

In order for the work of Nishorgo Project to continue expanding throughout the FD's PA management staff, a concerted and intensive capacity building and training program would be extremely beneficial.

- *Must deal with Activities in the Landscape Buffer Zone Reserve Forests and Expand Dominion of the PA managers*

At present, clear felling is still being planned in the interface landscape zones around Nishorgo PAs. Such clear felling in these forests poses a number of problems for core zone management. First, it fundamentally alters a landscape that is programmed in many cases to be expansion zones for the PA system. Secondly, it establishes a threat to wildlife and biodiversity conservation via such changes to habitats. Thirdly, it refocuses FD staff attention on these large-scale logging operations, which are executed with minimal input of local stakeholders. The net effect of this clear cutting is quite negative to the PA management goals, and it may be considered a high priority to find ways of altering this policy within the landscape zones. The PP language can be beneficial in this respect in helping to set a special policy for all lands within the landscapes around PAs.

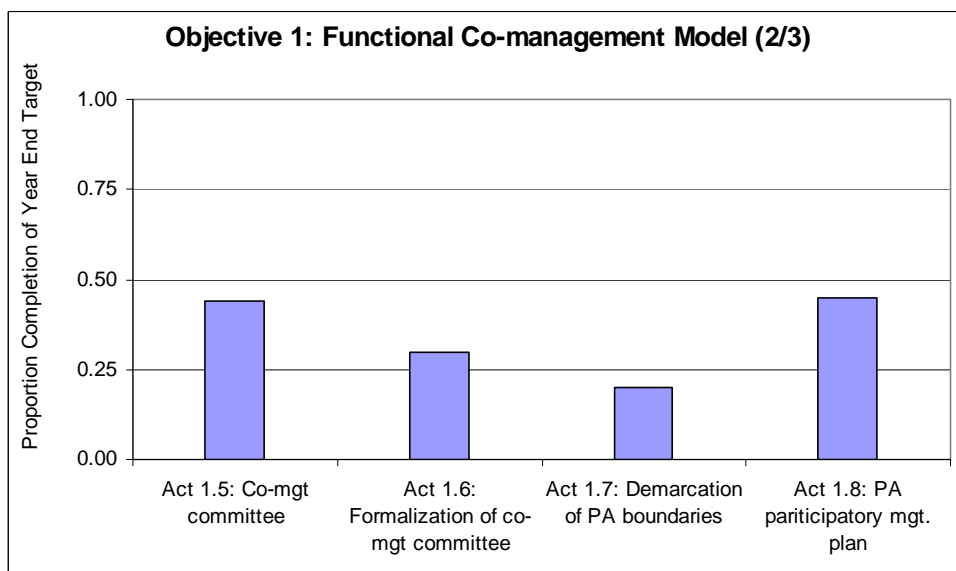
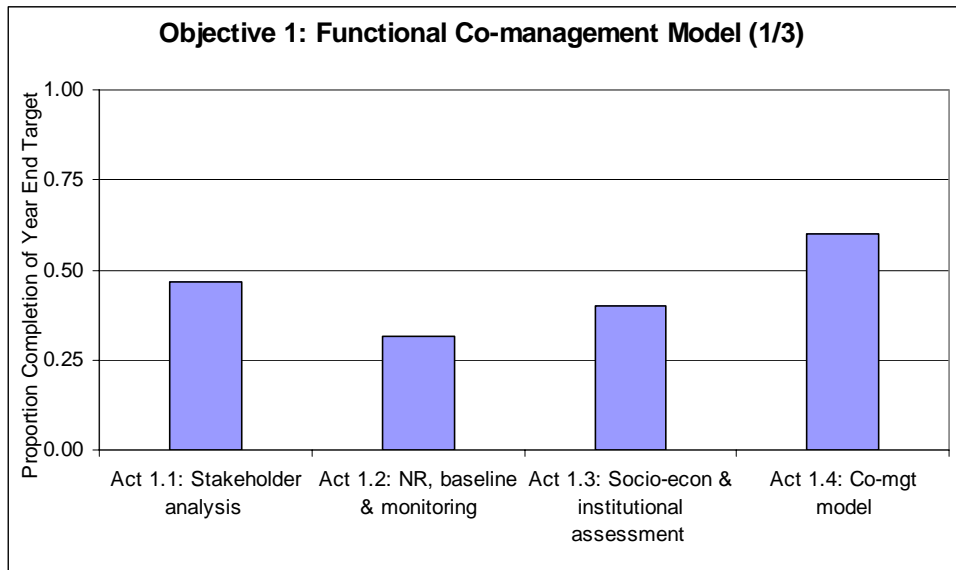
- *Tea Estate Ownership Partnership Critical for Northern Sites*

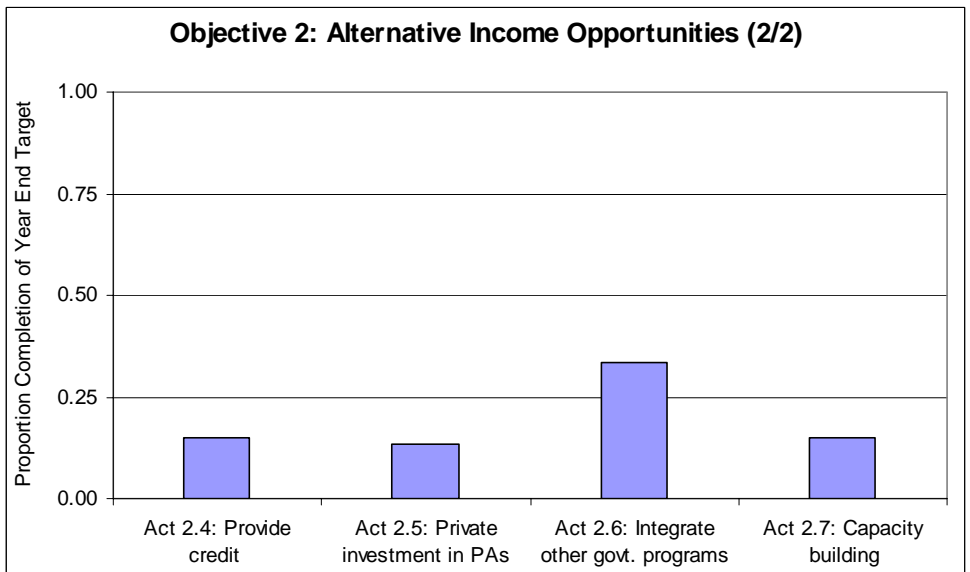
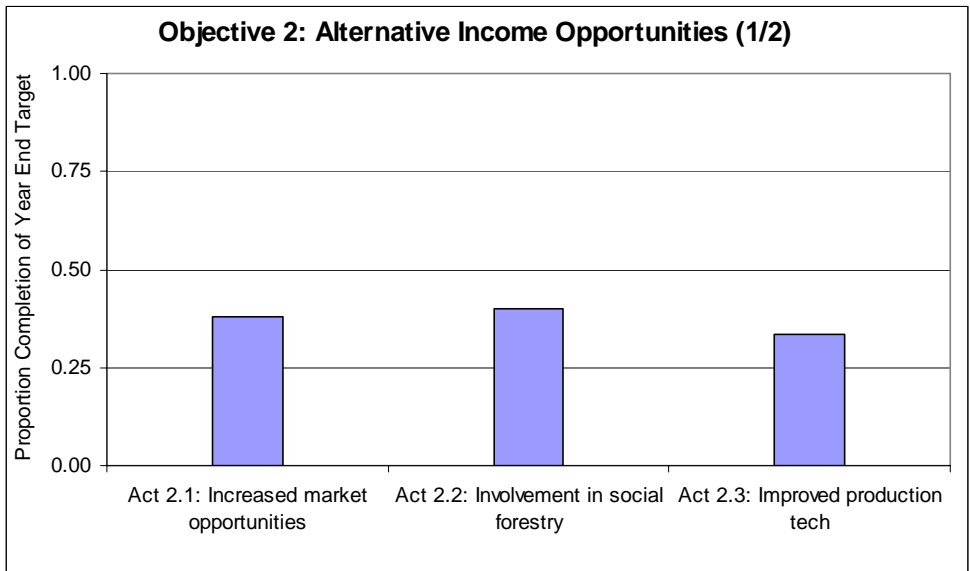
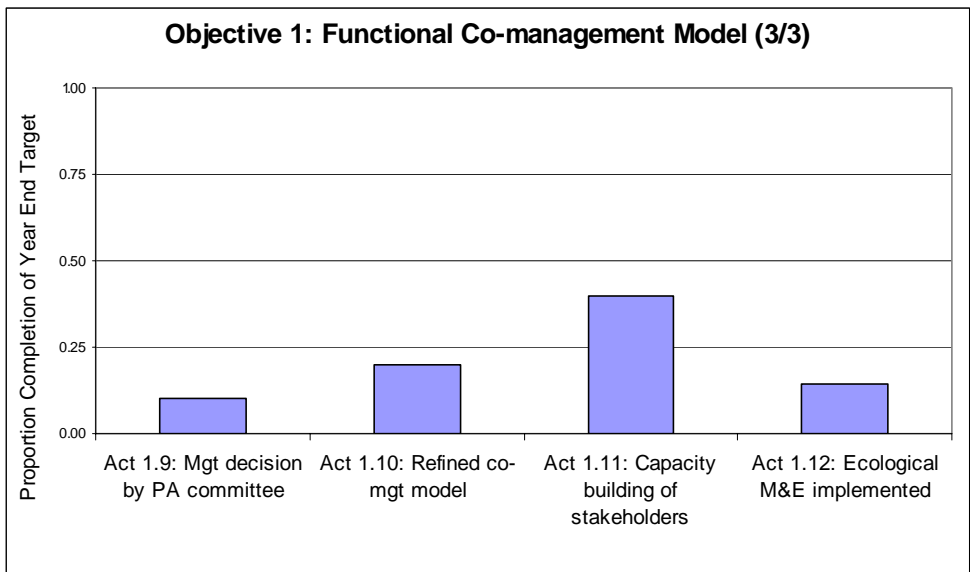
Tea estate interaction with the northern sites is a critical factor in PA conservation. Much of the damage is being done by itinerant tea estate laborers, or unemployed people, who see the PAs as a zone that is unprotected or controlled. Thus far, the Project has been limited in the extent of interaction with the tea estates, principally because the tea estate owners restrict any such access without official permission from them. The Project is working in this direction, and achievement of this permission and buy-in from the tea estate managers and owners is critical to future success at the northern sites.

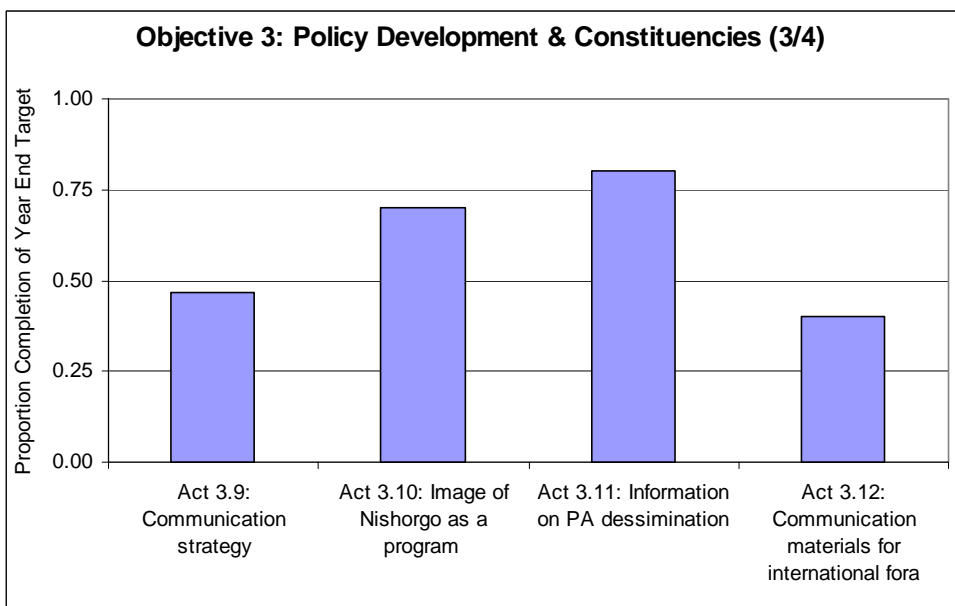
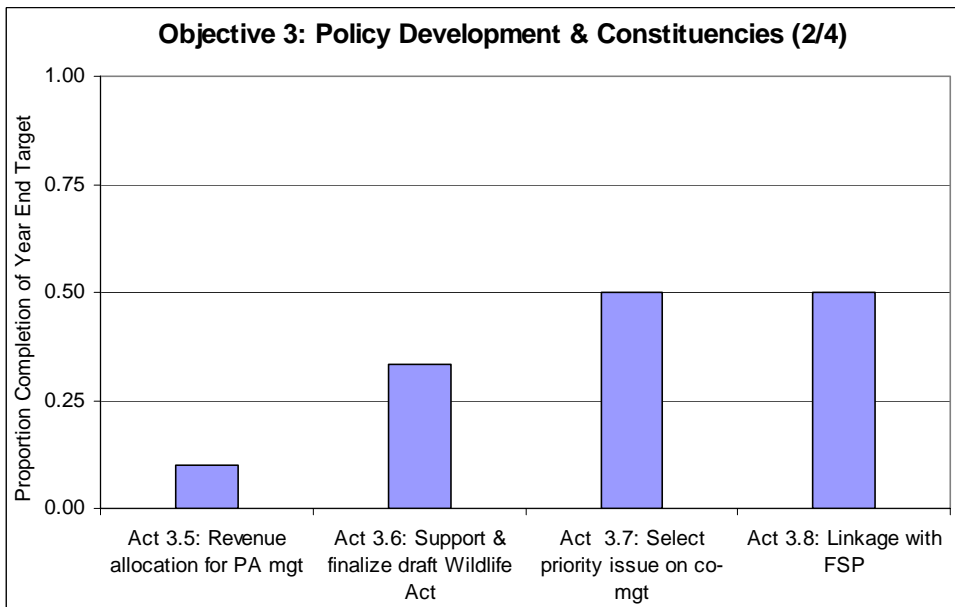
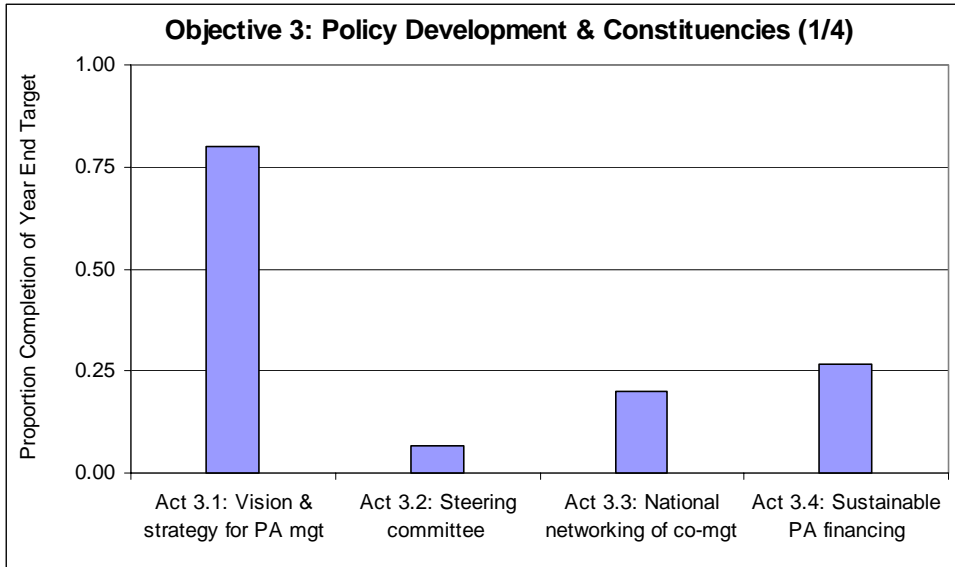
ANNEXES

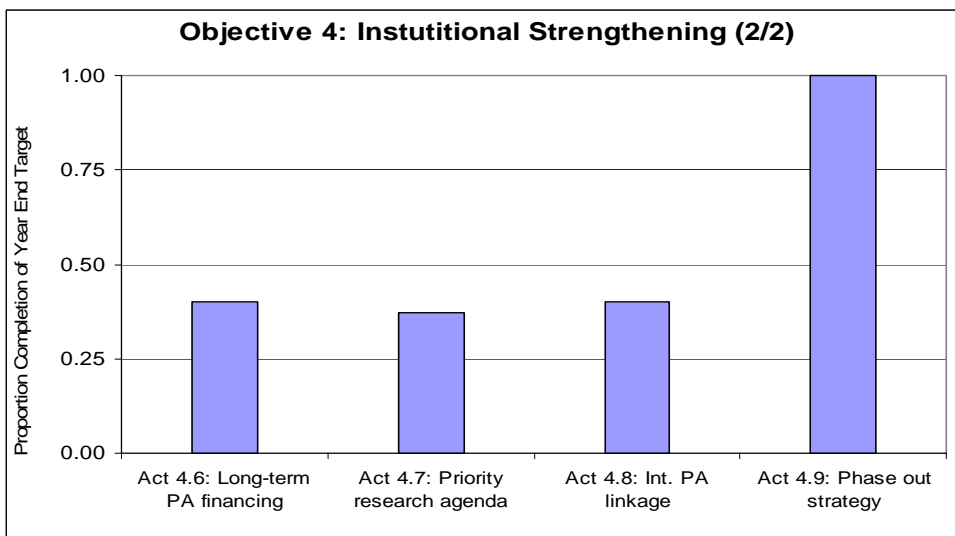
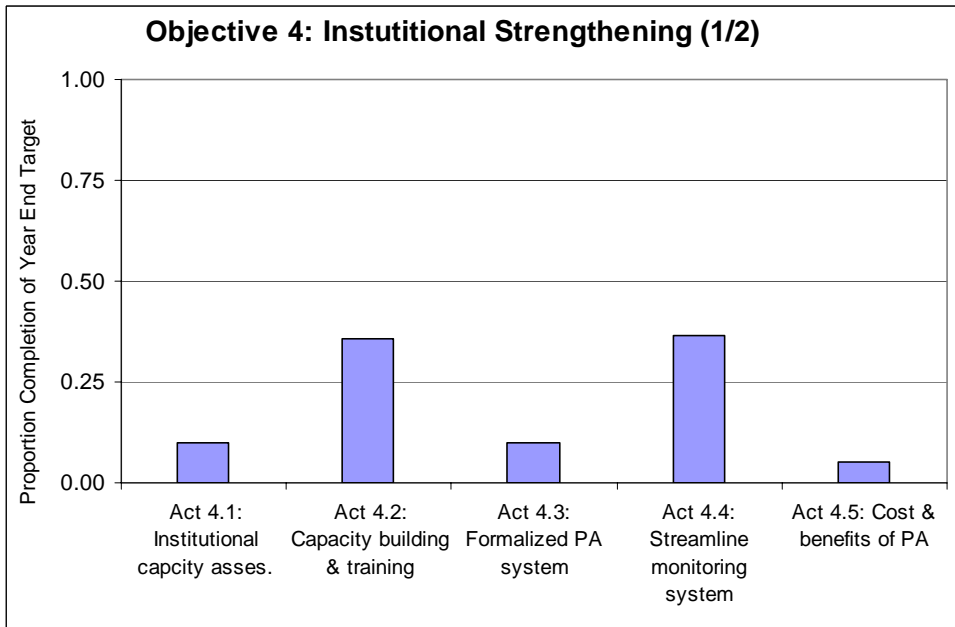
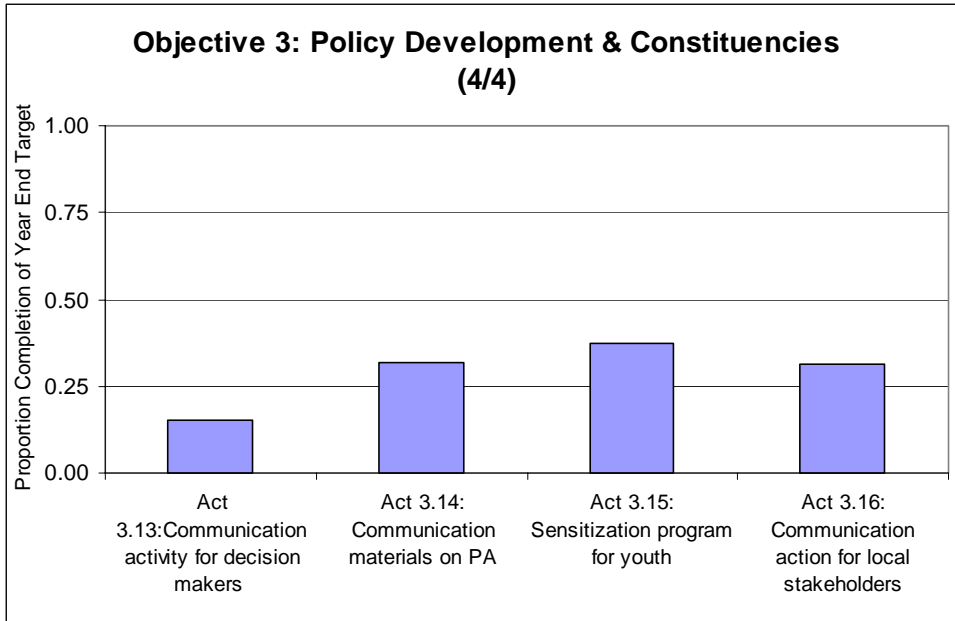
ANNEX 1: GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF PROGRESS AGAINST MAJOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE 1ST HALF OF YEAR 3

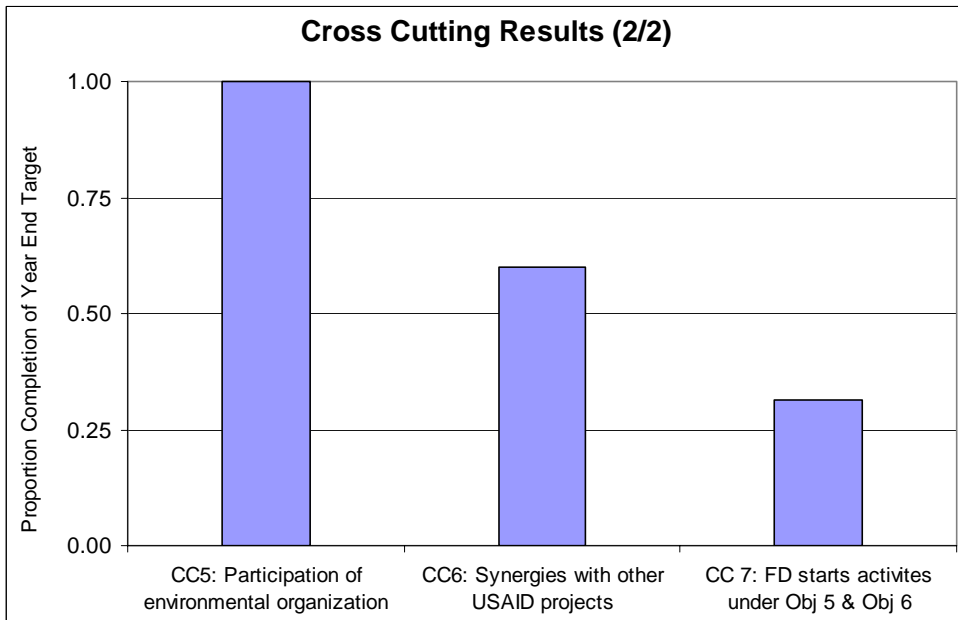
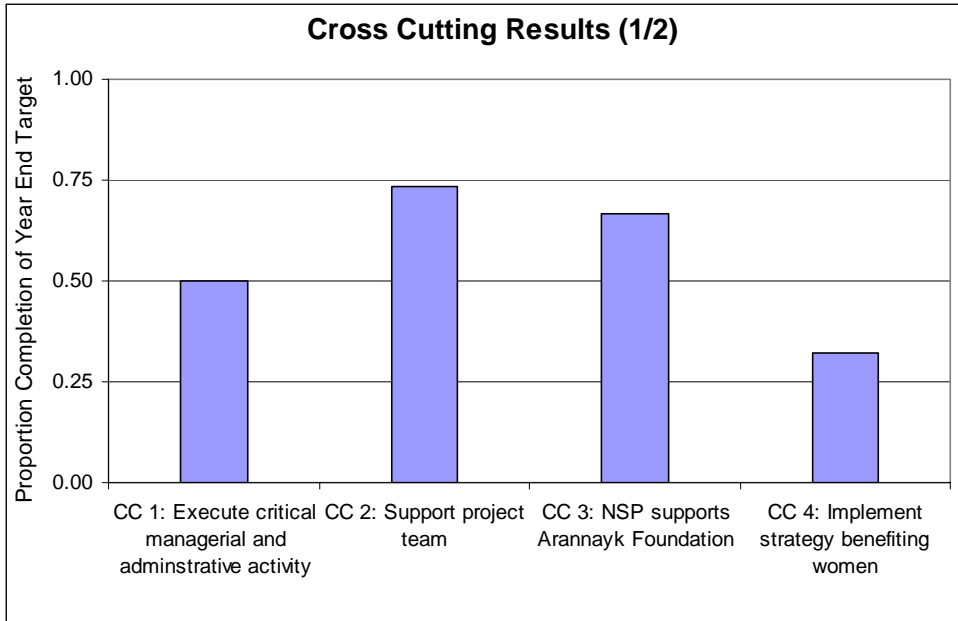
(Note: Each of the Activities below includes one or more milestones. Progress against each of the milestones is scored on a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 indicates that the work is fully completed. Each milestone is scored by indicating how many of five stages of development have been completed for it (e.g. in startup, in development, etc.).











ANNEX 2: SCORES FROM PROJECT MONITORING SYSTEM USED TO GENERATE SUMMARY PROGRESS GRAPHICS

(Note: Each of the Activities below includes one or more milestones. Progress against each of the milestones is scored on a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 indicates that the work is fully completed. Each milestone is scored by indicating how many of five stages of development have been completed for it (e.g. in startup, in development, etc.).

PCP Objective 1: Develop a functional model for formalized Co-mgt of PAs

Sl. No.	Milestones (Project Results)	Sub-scores
1.01	Act 1.1: Stakeholder analysis	0.47
1.02	Act 1.2: NR, baseline & monitoring	0.31
1.03	Act 1.3: Socio-econ & institutional assessment	0.40
1.04	Act 1.4: Co-mgt model	0.60
1.05	Act 1.5: Co-mgt committee	0.44
1.06	Act 1.6: Formalization of co-mgt committee	0.30
1.07	Act 1.7: Demarcation of PA boundaries	0.20
1.08	Act 1.8: PA participatory mgt. plan	0.45
1.09	Act 1.9: Mgt decision by PA committee	0.10
1.10	Act 1.10: Refined co-mgt model	0.20
1.11	Act 1.11: Capacity building of stakeholders	0.40
1.12	Act 1.12: Ecological M&E implemented	0.14
		0.33

PCP Objective 2: AIG opportunities for key local stakeholders associated with PAs

Sl. No.	Milestones (Project Results)	Sub-scores
2.01	Act 2.1: Increased market opportunities	0.38
2.02	Act 2.2: Involvement in social forestry	0.40
2.03	Act 2.3: Improved production tech	0.33
2.04	Act 2.4: Provide credit	0.15
2.05	Act 2.5: Private investment in PAs	0.13
2.06	Act 2.6: Integrate other govt. programs	0.33
2.07	Act 2.7: Capacity building	0.15
		0.27

PCP Objective 3: Enhance Co-Management Policy Environment

Sl. No.	Milestones (Project Results)	Sub-scores
3.01	Act 3.1: Vision & strategy for PA mgt	0.80
3.02	Act 3.2: Steering committee	0.07
3.03	Act 3.3: National networking of co-mgt	0.20
3.04	Act 3.4: Sustainable PA financing	0.27
3.05	Act 3.5: Revenue allocation for PA mgt	0.10
3.06	Act 3.6: Support & finalize draft Wildlife Act	0.33
3.07	Act 3.7: Select priority issue on co-mgt	0.50

3.08	Act 3.8: Linkage with FSP	0.50
3.09	Act 3.9: Communication strategy	0.47
3.10	Act 3.10: Image of Nishorgo as a program	0.70
3.11	Act 3.11: Information on PA dissemination	0.80
3.12	Act 3.12: Communication materials for international fora	0.40
3.13	Act 3.13: Communication activity for decision makers	0.15
3.14	Act 3.14: Communication materials on PA	0.32
3.15	Act 3.15: Sensitization program for youth	0.37
3.16	Act 3.16: Communication action for local stakeholders	0.31
		0.39

PCP Objective 4: Strengthen the institutional systems and capacity of the Forest Department and key stakeholders

Sl. No.	Project Results	Sub-scores
4.01	Act 4.1: Institutional capacity asses.	0.10
4.02	Act 4.2: Capacity building & training	0.36
4.03	Act 4.3: Formalized PA system	0.10
4.04	Act 4.4: Streamline monitoring system	0.37
4.05	Act 4.5: Cost & benefits of PA	0.05
4.06	Act 4.6: Long-term PA financing	0.40
4.07	Act 4.7: Priority research agenda	0.37
4.08	Act 4.8: Int. PA linkage	0.40
4.09	Act 4.9: Phase out strategy	1.00
		0.35

Sl. No.	Cross-cutting Results	Sub-scores
CC 1:	CC 1: Execute critical managerial and administrative activity	0.50
CC 2:	CC 2: Support project team	0.73
CC 3:	CC 3: NSP supports Arannayk Foundation	0.67
CC 4:	CC 4: Implement strategy benefiting women	0.32
CC 5:	CC5: Participation of environmental organization	1.00
CC 6:	CC6: Synergies with other USAID projects	0.60
CC 7:	CC 7: FD starts activities under Obj 5 & Obj 6	0.31

ANNEX 3: PROGRESS AGAINST USAID PMP SO6 NISHORGO INDICATORS AS OF NOVEMBER 2005

Indicators	Unit	Year 2 (actual/baseline)	Year 3 (achievement)	Remarks
SO 6 Indicator: 6.a Extent to which best practices from USAID projects are used elsewhere	No. of Occasions	0	0	The "best practice" referred to here is the co-management approach itself, which we expect to be used elsewhere at other national parks and other PAs beginning in 2007 or 2008.
SO 6 Indicator: 6.b : Increased production of natural resources in targeted areas	Kg/ha/Year No. of trees	0	24 women owned nursery operations have produced estimated 12,000 saplings. Eco-tourism conditions being put in place.	Increased "production" will come from two sources: tree planting/regeneration in the buffer and ecotourism.
SO 6 Indicator 6.c Maintaining or increasing biodiversity in the targeted areas	No. of indicator bird species/km ²	Baseline population set in 5/05 for eight indicator bird species in all five PAs.	Next measurement 5/06.	Bird populations are expected to show measurable increases by 2007 or latest May, 2008.
IR 6.1 Effective Community Based Resource Management Mechanisms Implemented				
Indicator 6.1 b: One third of the Protected Areas (PAs) network operating under a collaborative management model.	No. of PAs out of the 16 PAs existing when NSP started. One third would be 5 or more PAs.	0	5	All five pilot sites are beginning to operate under a co-management model.
Indicator 6.1.c: Number of hectares of forest covered by co-management agreements and covered by landscape investment plans for sustainable resource management.	Ha of forests, and ha under investment plan (landscape)	0	PAs covering 22,664 ha -- conditions for investment being put in place	Targeted forested area is 22,664 ha and landscape is 107662 ha. Landscape has been defined, investment has started.
Indicator 6.1 d: Existing Protected Areas network increased in size by 10 percent.	Ha	0	2 new PAs added during the year, at Satchari (242 ha) and Medhakachapi a (~350 ha)	Most increases will come from buffer zones around existing PAs
Indicator 6.1 e: Management performance scores improve at pilot protected area sites.	Performance Index; lowest – 36, highest is 264.	36	45	Management scores have improved, principally with posting of senior officers to PAs (ACF-level). Coming years will see additional improvements.
Intermediate Result 6.2: Select Habitats and Ecosystems Restored				
Indicator 6.2.c: Habitat within targeted protected areas improved.	ha	0	1767 ha	The project has successfully initiated protection of LNP (1250 ha), SNP (242 ha) and 275 ha of valuable Garjan Plantation of

Indicators	Unit	Year 2 (actual/baseline)	Year 3 (achievement)	Remarks
				TGR. The protection is given by the community surrounding PAs under the Co-management council. Within the coming months RKWS and CWS will be brought under community patrol.
Indicator 6.2 d: Declining incidence of unsustainable and illegal use of natural resources	BA/ha	82		The baseline data indicates total basal area of all sample plots in the five PAs. Year 3 data collection is scheduled on Jan-Feb. Unchanged figures will indicate declining incidence of illegal use of nature resources. Basal area will be re-measured in 2006.
Indicator 6.2.e: The rate of deforestation is reversed in pilot co-managed PAs.	% reduction	Rate of deforestation for LNP is 106 trees/month/year.	36% reduction occurred at LNP.	The baseline data for LNP (and for others as well) represents last two years average data. Data collection for other PAs ongoing.
Intermediate Result 6.2.1: Innovations and Best Practices Adopted				
Indicator 6.2.1.c: Households implementing improved land-use practices and activities within and surrounding pilot protected areas	Number of households.	0	142	Alternative income activities are on a rapid upswing, now that low-income groups formed in year 2 are adopting improved practices.
Indicator 6.2.1.d: Number of Hectares outside of protected areas under community management agreements	Ha	0	50	Social forestry agreements from FSP have been adapted and used on NSP sites, bringing fuelwood plantations on these lands to support NSP goals.
Indicator 6.2.2b: Number of income generating activities, introduced by the forestry project, and consistent with protected areas conservation being implemented by targeted stakeholders in targeted landscapes.	nos	0	8	Major activities amongst these eight now include milk cow rearing, poultry rearing, vegetable home gardening, fish pond cultured and nursery development.
Indicator 6.2.2c: Number of households implementing alternative income generation activities in targeted landscapes	nos	0	Northern sites - 76, Southern sites - 56	
Intermediate Result 6.3: Select Policies Implemented that Support IRs 1 and 2				
Indicator 6.3c: Co-management conceptual model developed and implemented in the pilot PAs.	Number of protected areas with co-management agreements	0	0	Councils have formed at all sites, and those Councils are now reviewing draft Constitution for formalizing their role. Constitutions not yet signed.
Indicator 6.3d: Key operational procedures in place enabling the implementation of co-management of pilot protected areas.	Identified key procedures developed, approved, and implemented.	0	3	Procedures for completion of new PA-related participatory benefits-sharing agreements have been adapted for PAs. The new draft Wildlife Act has established procedures for establishing co-management.
Indicator 6.3e: Co-management agenda established and being	Number of locally generated policy	0	0	No such issues have yet arisen, with the exception of the Rema Kalenga council addressing the

Indicators	Unit	Year 2 (actual/baseline)	Year 3 (achievement)	Remarks
acted upon	issues addressed at the national level.			problem of corrupt practices by one local Range Officer and two Guards, all of whom were protected by senior national-level political forces.
Indicator 6.3.1: Number of communities and resource management groups actively participating in the co-management of protected areas.	Number of communities and/or resource management organizations with signed co-management and/or concessionary contracts.	0	35	At each PA, many local groups are now members of the co-management process, including local CBOs, local NGOs, local associations and other groupings.
Intermediate Result 6.4: Public Awareness of Key Issues Increased				
Indicator 6.4a: Number of individuals reached by public awareness activities	Number	200	15,000+	Communication & outreach activities were many during the period, including Scouts Hike, 1st Chunati Alternative Energy Fair, Ntv interview, West Bengal trip press conferences (local level), local school art competitions (southern sites), people's theatre, world environment day rally, and similar activities.
Indicator 6.4b: Increase in newspaper, television, and radio coverage of biodiversity and NRM issues.	Number	News Paper = 5; TV = 2	Local News Paper = 66, National News Paper = 67; TV = 7	BTV, NTV, Channel I & ATN Bangla covered news on major events and various NSP activities.
Indicator 6.4c: Tenfold increase in the number of paying visitors to target PAs.	Annual numbers of paid visitors and annual percent increase of paid visitors.	0	0	FD is now preparing to institute entry tracking systems and a new entry fee for all five PAs, upon which we expect a rapid increase in paying visitor numbers.
Indicator 6.4d: Increased capacity of local environmental NGOs, RMOs (civil society) capable of advocating for priority conservation issues.	Number of policy initiatives identified and advocated by local organizations.	0	0	BELA and others supporting protection of the Lawachara National Park (used our materials)
Intermediate Result 6.5: Improved Institutional Capacity				
Indicator 6.5a: Forest Department skills and experience improved to promote co-management of PAs.	Recording of administrative changes within the DF and observation of field operations.	0	8	This includes mostly appointments of young and skilled staff to PAs, and relocation of non-productive staff members. In addition, oversight by FD of field operations has improved markedly with the National Project Coordinator (Mr. ROy) now appointed as the CF/Wildlife, overseeing the protected areas system.
Indicator 6.5b: High level inter-agency Government Steering Committee functioning and advancing the cause of improved PA management and NRM programs.	Committee meeting minutes and recording of actions taken by the Committee.	1st meeting of SC	2nd meeting of SC, including support to public private partnerships (NPC)	Steering Committee has been briefed on developments, but has not yet become an active and strong voice for change.
Indicator 6.5c: Improved local government, CBO		Virtually no involvement	West Bengal trip and other	

Indicators	Unit	Year 2 (actual/baseline)	Year 3 (achievement)	Remarks
and RMO capabilities to support integrated conservation and development programs.		except initial awareness sessions.	initiatives make large impact on local govt and CBOs.	
Indicator 6.5 d: At least \$1 million dollars of additional funds raised from national and international donors.	Cumulative funds raised.	\$0	\$100k	Includes GTZ/PURE (\$25k) plus leveraged support from ADB FSP Project (\$75k).

ANNEX 4: SELECT PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE 2ND QUARTER

NISHORGO TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

Current Update: **10 October 2005**

Previous Update: 27 September 2005

TOP PRIORITIES

- I. *CONSTITUTE & CONVENE PA COUNCILS*
 - II. *ORIENT & TRAIN LOCAL FD STAFF*
 - III. *DEVELOP ENTERPRISE & AIG*
 - IV. *IMPLEMENT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PA PATROLLING*
-

I. CONSTITUTE & CONVENE PA COUNCILS

1. Constitute PA Councils at all sites

- a. Status: Council meetings have continued at all sites. Whykeong Council met 9/28 for 2nd time, Chunati met to 2nd time on 9/29.
- b. Action:
 - i. LNP to meet again on 10/15; RKWS to meet again on 10/16; Satchuiri to meet again on 10/17.
 - ii. Shamsul to draft MOU/Constitution for Lawachara by 10/12 for translation into Bangla and discussion with Council members.

2. Follow up from West Bengal trip

- a. Status: No progress this period.
- b. Actions:
 - i. Hashem to finalize training report after receiving impact feedback from Tariqul.
 - ii. Mehrin/Hashem to prepare film script for 20 minute film.
 - iii. Shahriangr to prepare short 20 minute video clips
 - iv. (after 20 minute film done) Shahriar to prepare 10 minute Bangla film on women in West Bengal
 - v. (after 10 minute film done) Shahriar to prepare 7 minute English film for policy meetings.

3. Revise Site Strategies for Each of Five Sites

- a. Status: Work under way. Critical to ensure that gender perspective incorporated in these strategies, as well as careful consideration of ethnic and religious issues.
- b. Action:
 - i. Next draft to be completed by Shamsul (with input from field teams) prior to mid-year planning session on November 13.

4. Engage Tea Estates in the Council and Site Level Activities
 - a. Status: Philip and Nasim (friend of Shamsul's) briefed Mr. Waihidul Haque, President of the Bangladesh Tea Association, on September 28 at NSP. Mr. Haque invited Nishorgo to make a presentation jointly with the Arannayk Foundation to the next meeting of the Association in Dhaka in late October.
 - b. Action: Ensure that invitation arrives for presentation to next monthly meeting.

II. ORIENT & TRAIN LOCAL FD STAFF

5. Implement Range/Beat Officer 3-day Intensive Courses for all sites
 - a. Status: 1st northern course held October 3-5 in Srimongal. Course well done and implemented. Summary story on 1st training session sent to USAID and being posted on website. Report on training completed by Hashem.
 - b. Actions
 - i. Hashem to meet with Monoj to finalize dates/planning for remaining Range/Beat and then ACF/DFO and Guard/Mali training course series.
6. Design and make new "Nishorgo" uniforms for FD staff
 - a. Status: Shirts completed as per request of CCF and NPC. CCF and NPC have selected preferred style and color.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Mehrin to follow up with NPC on finalization of specs.
 - ii. Philip/Mehrin to follow up with apparel industry for PPP contribution to make uniforms.
7. Develop local FD/community procedures for receiving tourists
 - a. Status: Nasim has proposed TOR for guidelines development. Modinul Ahsan, ACF/Srimongal, very interested.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Mehrin to visit Satchuri with Modinul week of 16th and propose FD actions to receive increased tourists.
 - ii. Philip/Modinul to draft basic set of issues for FD to consider, based on Nasim's TOR.
8. Prepare Simplified Versions of 3 Northern Management Plans for Local FD/stakeholder awareness
 - a. Status: Translation to Bangla in process, due on/about October 20th.
 - b. Action:
 - i. With Bangla version complete, Mehrin/Lutfun/Nasim to prepare communication materials for use with Co-Mgmt Council/Committee.

III. DEVELOP ENTERPRISE & AIG

9. Prepare immediately for restoration/rehabilitation plantations and wildlife improvements in landscape
 - a. Status: As per 9/13 bi-weekly coordination meeting minutes, DFO's have been asked to prepare plans for these restoration actions -- in coordination

with NSP team -- and this has been completed for Teknaf. Other sites not yet done.

- b. Actions:
 - i. Tariqul/Jalil to complete & submit all three northern plans by 17th October, after consultation with communities and with the FD
 - ii. Goutom/Nazmul to coordinate with Tapan for Chunati. Plans due by 30 October.
 - iii. Philip to request Teknaf plan proposed by DFO/Teknaf and team.
 - 1. Goutom/Nazmul to include Banskali restoration/planting activities in Chunati plan

10. Formalize Enterprise Development Team in Dhaka and Field Staffs

- a. Status: Asif Shams -- the new Enterprise Development Specialist at NSP -- will begin on October 24th. RDRS has selected EDO and is now completing hiring procedures. CODEC has identified candidate for EDO and is finalizing selection.
- b. Actions:
 - i. Northern EDO to take up post on October 15th.
 - ii. Southern EDO to take up post soon (no date yet).
 - iii. Full team to prepare Enterprise/AIG updated plan at mid-year planning session.

11. Support Increase in Ecotourism at NSP sites

- a. Status: Agreed as follow up to Parjatan meeting that NSP will invite major tour operators to follow up meeting/planning sessions. Continued discussions on community-based sustainable tourism planning.
- b. Actions:
 - i. Mehrin to prepare/send invitations for session at NSP with major operators for October 25th.
 - ii. Eco-Guide pricing proposal to be finalized/discussed.
 - iii. Prepare for "Teknaf Game Reserve Ecotourism Week" in December/January
 - iv. Philip to prepare TOR for site-level sustainable tourism enterprise identification/planning to be conducted in Nov/Dec/Jan.

12. Further extend Alternative Income Generation technologies

- a. Status: New AIG matrix input from NSP/North and NSP/South sent in.
- b. Actions:
 - i. Tariqul/Goutom/Hannif to submit revised/increased AIG targets by 30th October.
 - ii. Nasim/Shaufiq/Dhrubo to prepare tools/instruments for improved AIG data collection, tracking and reporting and take to the field to implement.

13. Expand GTZ (PURE Project) partnership to reduce fuel wood consumption at southern sites

- a. Status: PSL/PURE action plan completed by Dr. Khaleq and Asma, with support from Shaufiq and other NSP staff.
- b. Actions

- i. Philip to collect/send comments to GTZ/PURE on proposed action plan
- ii. Goutom and southern team to incorporate GTZ/PURE proposed energy activities in planning for southern sites.

14. Link with USAID-supported brick technology intervention in dialogue with brickfield owners

- a. Status: Draft report submitted by TERI to USAID.
- b. Action:
 - i. Nasim to compile comments on draft report recommendations and forward to TERI/USAID
 - ii. Goutom to review and make comments/recommendations.
 - iii. Mehrin to track down Minister's speeches/pronouncements on brickfields.

IV. *IMPLEMENT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PA PATROLLING*

15. Joint Patrols with FD Underway at all Northern PAs

- a. Status: Patrols operating at LNP and Teknaf.
- b. Action:
 - i. Produce, distribute and begin using Nishorgo patrolling uniforms for all LNP patrol groups.
 - ii. Patrols under way at Satchuri but to be reviewed by Ram/Monoj/Shamsul, etc.
 - iii. Patrols to be launched at Rema-Kalenga, after Council review/discussion.
 - iv. Initial monitoring/watch patrols to be launched at Chunati by end November.

V. *OTHER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES*

16. Finalize all issues on Landscape Development Fund (LDF) Microfinance & Grants Components

- a. Status: Philip completed review of Grants manuals from Senegal, Guatemala and Madagascar.
- b. Action:
 - i. Philip to complete grants section (Component 2) and forward formally to USAID for clearance by Mision Director October 17th.
 - ii. Shamsul to prepare note on justification of 10% interest rate for Monoj (and Ministry).

17. Explain Quantified NSP Impacts with AIG Matrix and Other Tools

- a. Status: Nasim/Dhrubo have completed graphic of changes in illegal logging at LNP showing impact of NSP presence and patrolling. Revised AIG matrix sent for NSP/South. Nasim preparing supporting tools to extend/simplify the AIG collection/tracking process.
- b. Action:

- i. Nasim to prepare detailed extended AIG matrix and data collection tools/questionnaires, then go and ground truth with Dhrubo and Shaufiq. Done by 30th October.
- ii. Tariqul/Goutom/Hannif to extend AIG matrix information in October 25th report to include:
 - 1. Male/female distinction
 - 2. Updated/accurate data on social forestry
 - 3. Initial/rough estimate of annualized income impacts
- iii. Initial summary report for distribution to MoEF, etc, to be prepared by Nasim.

18. General Policy Actions with MoEF (prepare PP, declare Satchuri as NP, move on Wildlife Act, etc.)

- a. Status: PP revised again and completed on evening of 9th October to meet MoEF issues. New Wildlife Policy proposed by IPSU being circulated for comment by NSP.
- b. Actions:
 - i. Philip and Proj Director to **follow up on Satchuri designation**.
 - ii. General communication strategy to be discussed on 10/10 at NSP office with Azhar etc.
 - iii. Set date for next Steering Committee with NPC.
 - iv. **On PP**, new revised 15 copies to go to MoEF on 10th. Khaled to obtain GO attached to final PP as evidence of approval. Copy to be urgently sent to USAID for PIL signature.
 - v. **Wildlife Policy** comments to be sent to Ram/Philip on 11th October for immediate forwarding to NPC.

19. Hold NSP Mid-Year Progress & Planning Meeting at NSP/Dhaka

- a. Status: As per work plan, a mid-year review of progress and planning is called for. This year's mid-year review will be attended by staff from SF level and up. Meeting to be held from 13th-17th November at NSP offices in Dhaka. Principal objectives of the 5 days of sessions will be the following:
 - i. Review and assimilate/finalize 5 site strategies prepared by Shamsul
 - ii. Prepare 6-month Team -based Action Plans for following teams (simple generic Gantt 1 page format to be given):
 - 1. Communication and Outreach
 - 2. Enterprise & AIG
 - 3. Ecological & Social Monitoring
 - 4. Landscape Development Fund
 - 5. Training & Capacity Building (already drafted)
 - 6. Public-Private Partnership
 - 7. Policy
 - iii. Resolve any outstanding admin/finance issues.
- b. Action:
 - i. Request CCF to attend wrap up session.
 - ii. Ensure full time participation of the FD, after discussions with the NDC.

20. Collect additional poverty data at mouza level for PAs from BBS to finalize socio-economic report

- a. Status: Nasim dates set and went to BBS for data.
 - b. Actions: Nasim to follow up and obtain final data. _____????
21. Marking & Cataloguing of Trees at Lawachara
- a. Status: Being discussed by FD as to feasibility.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Proj Director and CF/Central Circle to advise on status of planning.
22. EastWest Center applied research support work starting with Dr. Fox
- a. Status: All advertisements completed and sent to relevant institutions.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Shimona to conduct informational session in Dhaka in November.
 - ii. Shimona to conduct informational session in Chittagong on November 17th.
23. Implement architectural competition for Nishorgo Visitor Interpretation Centers
- a. Status: Nazratan and Mehrin have met to plan for follow up. Meeting obtained with Lafarge Cement Commercial Director for October 13th re PPP. Costs estimates for competition completed by Mehrin.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Nazratan to finalize costs/details package to use in obtaining private funding.
 - ii. Prepare for Lafarge fund-raising meeting on October 13th.
24. Incorporation of Nishorgo Ideas in new Bangla Sesame Street
- a. Status: No action, except inquiry to Mary Hobbs (Education/USAID) to follow up with Sesame Street.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Mehrin to call Fuad about on-site filming needs.
 - ii. Mehrin to contact Mary Hobbs about other possible follow up.
25. Prepare Series of Nishorgo Posters
- a. Status: Shahriar and Mehrin underway on 1st model of posters.
 - b. Action: Shahriar to finish 1st draft poster for comment/review by _____.
26. Ensure publication of News Articles and coverage on Community Patrolling Activities
- a. Status: Daily Star now at Lawachara to report on community patrolling.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Article by Daily Star to come out week of 10/10.
 - ii. Mehrin to link Daily Star article to next RECOFTC e-newsletter
 - iii. Mehrin to submit fortnightly news to Indian PA Update Magazine
 - iv. Mehrin to take journalists to Satchuri after Ramadan.
27. Completion of Site Status Reports
- a. Status: These two page reports were planned for periodic update.
 - b. Action:
 - i. First two reports (on LNP and RKWS) to come out by 13th.

28. 3rd Nishorgo Khobor released
 - a. Status: Text being drafted
 - b. Action: Edit and release by 23rd November.

29. Update/Extend e-Khobor newsletter Distribution List
 - a. Status: Mehrin working to expand list, especially to international audience that might be supportive of future funding/financing.
 - b. Action: Revised list due for completion by October 23rd.

30. Revise www.nishorgo.org Web Site
 - a. Status: Extensive reorganization and new "look" completed.
 - b. Action
 - i. Sizes of large PDF files to be shrunk.
 - ii. Abstracts of major articles to be added.

31. Implement Widely Publicized Dialogue on Appropriate Bangla Words for "Protected Areas"
 - a. Status: Awaiting meeting with Wildlife Trust and Prof Rashid.
 - b. Action: Philip to follow up with Prof Rashid and develop proposed plan of action.

32. Develop public-private partnership for patrolling with support from Grameen or other communication company
 - a. Status: No action this period.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Nazratun to prepare budget/funding package and identify key contacts at Grameen

33. Build new Nishorgo Program offices at Ban Bhaban 1st floor
 - a. Status: Work under way now.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Work continuing, scheduled for completion on/about November _____.

34. Develop base maps for all Nishorgo sites
 - a. Status: Purchase Order for Phase 2 work signed.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Phase 2 work to be completed by December 20th.
 - ii. Submission of rectified digital data to be made to FD by 20th Dec.
 - iii. CEGIS to forward information to enable purchase of higher resolution RS data (Nasim to coordinate)

35. PA Sustainable finance strategy developed
 - a. Status: Report completed by Drs. Anderson and Billah. Sent to NSP in parts, and Philip compiling all parts now.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Zareef to put document parts into whole, do simple formatting, distribute to key partners for review/comments.
 - ii. Consider for use in proposed IUCN opening workshop on "Economic Growth and Protected Areas" for end-October.

36. Begin IUCN "Coalition" Partnership under Subcontract
- a. Status: Details of contract discussed with IUCN. Proposed first workshop on "Economics, Livelihoods and Protected Areas" for November or possibly on PPP and PA Management targeted to the private sector.
 - b. Action:
 - i. IUCN to sign subcontract -- reviewing commitment to PA management under the FD
 - ii. IUCN to advise on dates for meeting
 - iii. Philip to discuss with FD/CCF/NPC and revise accordingly
 - iv. Philip to contact Mostain Billah on planning
37. Prepare for PA-to-PA Scouts hike in the southern sites
- a. Status: Some discussions held.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Mehrin to follow up with Enam ul Haque (BBC) & Mihir Kanti Mazumder (JS/Finance/Admin) to set dates for December
 - ii. Dates to be forwarded to Gene George for possible participation.
38. Plan for VIP Trips to Sites in November
- a. Status: At least four groups identified for these VIP trips, which are intended to build partnership/buy-in to the Nishorgo Program.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Mehrin to complete VIP target list for VIP trips by October 24th.
 - ii. 1st VIP trip of make field visit to Satchuri and then to prepare a schedule and agenda for the first visits to start by November 5th.
39. Public-Private Partnerships Development
- a. Status: Nazratun contract signed and work under way. She'll focus on:
 - i. PPP for patrolling
 - ii. PPP for architectural competition
 - iii. PPP for photo competition
 - iv. PPP general network
 - b. Action:
 - i. (see relevant actions reviewed above on architecture, patrolling)
 - ii. Photo competition concept piece due by October 23rd.
40. Begin preparations for "Encounter in Srimongal" meeting on co-management for March, 2006
- a. Status: Meeting set for 10/10 at NSP with Dee, Azhar, and team. Note prepared by Shamsul.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Hold planning meeting and prepare minutes.
41. Compliance with USAID/DEC Report submission requirements
- a. Status: Awaiting IRG/DC response on strategy. Zareef under way on formatting of LNP Field Appraisal.
 - b. Action: Zareef/Shahriar to prepare first document in DEC format using the "Lawachara NP Field Appraisal".

42. Generic NSP Briefing Package Prepared for All Sites

- a. Status: NSP/North prepared various briefings.
- b. Action
 - i. NSP/North to forward previous briefings to Mehrin
 - ii. Mehrin to prepare general elements of site briefing for review. Should include
 1. PowerPoint key elements
 2. Maps (Nasim)
 3. Cloth posters
 4. Video clips as relevant on DVD (for TV showing)
 5. Physical items (eg stoves, dhaincha, nursery bags, etc.)

43. ID Cards Completed for NSP Staff at All sites

- a. Status: All Dhaka cards produced and signed.
- b. Action:
 - i. Mehrin to get signature from NPC.
 - ii. Field IDs to be prepared/signed.

MINOR OR WRAP UP ITEMS

- Mehrin to have MOU with Scouts signed

PENDING

- USAID/RCO actions -- awaiting contract mod with budget changes
- Approval of 3rd year work plan by USAID (and FD?)
- Response from MSU on their proposed multi-country research plan covering Chunati and Teknaf.

MOVEMENTS OF DHAKA STAFF

- Ram to southern sites for 4-5 days.
- Hashem to the southern sites from 22nd to 28th of October
- Nasim to Srimongal 17th to 20th October.
- Mehrin to Satchuri the week of the 16th.
- Shamsul to attend the three northern council meetings from 15th to 17th, and then go to the south to meet on site strategies in Cox's Bazar.

NISHORGO TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

Current Update: **28 November 2005**

Previous Update: 15 November 2005

TOP PRIORITIES

- I. *CONSTITUTE & CONVENE PA COUNCILS*
- II. *ORIENT & TRAIN LOCAL FD STAFF*
- III. *DEVELOP ENTERPRISE & AIG*
- IV. *IMPLEMENT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PA PATROLLING*

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I. CONSTITUTE & CONVENE PA COUNCILS

44. Strengthen Councils and Form PA Co-Mgmt Committees

- a. Status: This process fully under way.
- b. Action:
 - i. Council and Committee formation and experiences to be primary subject of 1 day session with senior FD staff on Dec 7th
 - ii. (Also, see detailed milestones in the Council/Committee Technical Team 6-month Plan.)

45. Undertake 2nd West Bengal Trip for Local Stakeholders

- a. Status: Number of participants finalized from NSP side. Agreed that all eight Range Officers from NSP sites will go.
- b. Action:
 - i. Participants from stakeholders to be selected.
 - ii. Check on PP allowable limits for stakeholder "cross-visit" and discuss with Monoj
 - iii. Clarify contract terms with Nabarun in West Bengal.
 - iv. Identify filming team to accompany travelers.

46. Revise Site Strategies for Each of Five Sites

- a. Status: Strategies revised during mid year planning into new six month Site Actions Plans.
- b. Action:
 - i. Shamsul to provide narrative strategy addition to each site by mid-December.
 - ii. Site Action Plans to be reviewed, finalized and returned to field by Dec 1.

47. Engage Tea Estates in the Council and Site Level Activities

- a. Status: Awaiting date for next meeting of Tea Estate Owners Association at next meeting.
- b. Action: No action, except continuing to check in with Nasim on next Tea Owners meeting.

48. Mobilize Complementary GOB and NGO Support to Councils
- a. Status: Discussed in mid year planning that now is time to start bringing in other GOB Departments and major NGOs to support co-management process, and particularly Council.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Consider for inclusion in next Steering Committee
 - ii. Consider meeting/briefing in Dhaka for concerned Departments and NGOs

II. *ORIENT & TRAIN LOCAL FD STAFF*

49. Implement Series of Training Programs for field FD Staff.
- a. Status: 2nd Range/Beat Officer training completed.
 - b. Actions: Continue with next courses, as per training plan.
50. Design and make new "Nishorgo" uniforms for FD staff
- a. Status: Mehrin has spoken to tailor, who is making two demo shirts.
 - b. Action: Mehrin to make 2 demos of this green shirt for use in marketing with private apparel companies.
51. Develop local FD/community procedures for receiving tourists
- a. Status: Recommendations submitted to Monoj by Mehrin.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Ram to follow up with Tariqul to ensure NSP contribution. Likely NSP/North contributions to include: Temporary meeting area; Repaired toilets; Installation of road signs
 - ii. Monoj actions on preparing the area for the VIP tours.
52. Prepare Simplified Versions of 3 Northern Management Plans
- a. Status: Translations done and copied for circulation.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Need FD staff member to lead prep of one of the Mgmt Plans for presentation to local stakeholders (Modinul Hasan??). Mehrin, Lutfun and Nasim to support FD staff member designated by Monoj in preparation of briefing packet.

III. *DEVELOP ENTERPRISE & AIG*

53. Prepare immediately for **restoration/rehabilitation plantations and wildlife improvements in landscape**
- a. Status: Plans prepared for three types of land at all five sites, and discussed for both north and south. Budget identified and ready.
 - b. Actions: Ram to oversee next steps.
54. Formalize Enterprise Development Team in Dhaka and Field Staffs
- a. Status: Done. Two EDOs and EDS now in place. EDS and one EDO now working at Teknaf to get prepared for the Teknaf Ecotourism Week.

55. Support Increase in Ecotourism at NSP sites
- a. Status: Under way with focus on Teknaf Week as highest priority next step.
 - b. Action: (See Teknaf Week below for more info.)
 - i. Asif S to organize first field visit of the Operators to Teknaf. (Tom of Economist to be included).
 - ii. Re consultancy on Ecotourism Specialist to three sites to work with communities on enterprise development.
 1. Identify best consultant for the work.
 2. Philip/Khaled to ensure approval.
 3. Asif Shams to discuss and finalize schedule with consultant for immediate beginning of work.
56. Undertake Teknaf Game Reserve Ecotourism Week in December
- a. Status: Discussed with Council, and with FD. Asif has left to Cox Bazar to begin planning. Agreed with CWBiodiversity Project to provide Ecotourism people to support process.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Most urgent action is field prep, which is now being done by Asif, Goutom and others at field level.
57. Further extend Alternative Income Generation (AIG) technologies and **Reporting in AIG Matrix**
- a. Status: Revised Matrices sent in for November.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Nasim to revise format for AIG data collection.
58. Expand GTZ (PURE Project) partnership to reduce fuel wood consumption at southern sites
- a. Status: Agreed to move with GTZ on Energy Fair and then 3 month intensive plan.
 - b. Actions
 - i. Implement Alternative Energy Fair set for 3-5 December. Mehrin lead from Dhaka. Goutom/Nazmul to coordinate from south.
 1. Budget approval high priority
 - ii. 3 month plan to be circulated by Nasim and agreed to.
59. Link with USAID-supported brick technology intervention in dialogue with brickfield owners
- a. Status: No action since last report.
 - b. Action: Philip/Nasim to get meeting organized by Mamun Khan with Shaufiqul of the GEF Project to coordinate our activities with theirs.

IV. IMPLEMENT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PA PATROLLING

60. Joint Patrols with FD Underway at all Northern PAs
- a. Status: Patrols operating at LNP and Teknaf. Patrol uniforms being used at LNP.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Additional patrol modalities to be discussed.

61. Marking & Cataloguing of Trees at Lawachara
 - a. Status: FD sent letter to NSP asking for funding. Nishorgo to approve, subject to labor coming from key stakeholders.
 - b. Actions: Ram/Monoj to agree with DFO/Sylhet on modalities for getting it done. NSP is ready.

V. *OTHER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES*

Policy, Planning, Data and Research

62. Finalize all issues on Landscape Development Fund (LDF)
 - a. Status: Philip completed review of Grants manuals from Senegal, Guatemala and Madagascar.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Philip to complete grants section (Component 2) and forward formally to USAID for clearance by Mission Director October 17th.
63. Vetting of Participatory NSP Management Plans by the MoEF
 - a. Status: Three Mgmt Plans presented to FD on two occasions, and refined accordingly.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Present final Draft Mgmt Plan for northern sites to DCF/ACF training on 7th 8th December.
 - ii. Discuss next steps with Monoj
64. General Policy Actions with MoEF (prepare PP, declare Satchuri as NP, move on Wildlife Act, etc.)
 - a. Status: Wildlife Act and Policy discussed with JS/Admin and with NPC.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. General communication strategy and "Informal PA Working Group" to be discussed with Azhar and NPC/Monoj.
 - ii. Review list of priorities for USAID support with Monoj.
 - iii. Set date for next **Steering Committee** with NPC.
 - iv. Wildlife and Protected Areas Act:
 1. Will also discuss Public Consultation process with IPSU/FD/NSP
65. Hold NSP Mid-Year Progress & Planning Meeting at NSP/Dhaka, November 13-17
 - a. Status: Done.
 - b. Action: Philip to complete editing/finalizing of Tech Team Plans and Site Plans for next six months and return to field.
66. Collect additional poverty data at mouza level for PAs from BBS to finalize socio-economic report
 - a. Status: Nasim not able to get necessary data from BBS, even with generous support from Mostain Billah.
 - b. Actions: Need new strategy; perhaps via another donor funded project in BBS.

67. EastWest Center applied research support work to start
- a. Status: Submissions made by ~10 researchers. Jeff Fox dates proposed for February trip.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Continue receiving submissions.
 - ii. Prepare booklist for reading.
68. Build new Nishorgo Program offices at Ban Bhaban 1st floor
- a. Status: Opening held on 28 Nov with CCF an senior FD staff.
69. Develop base maps for all Nishorgo sites
- a. Status: Field work ground truthing done at all sites except sitakunda.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Submission of rectified digital data to be made to FD by end December.
 - ii. TOR for RS data to be discussed/finalized by Nasim et al
 - iii. RS data from LISS for all five sites and Quickbird for Whykeong to be obtained in January/February and submitted to NSP in May.
70. PA Sustainable finance strategy developed
- a. Status: Philip drafted workshop proposal to be hosted by MoEF. Agreed to by Mostain.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Review proposal with Monoj and then CCF.
 - ii. Send to JS/Dev for date setting.
 - iii. Philip to edit report ahead of presentations.

Communication Activities

71. Prepare 1st Visitor Information Booklet -- for Teknaf
- a. Status: Nasim drafted text of booklet.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Philip to review/edit text.
 - ii. Shahriar to prepare mockup.
72. Improve Communication to/with FD National and Local staff
- a. Status: A number of information/communication gaps have arisen between the NSP and the FD, particularly concerning scheduled activities.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Boards of upcoming activities to be placed in all Site offices and in regional offices.
 - ii. Newsletters to be distributed to all local FD staff
 - iii. Philip/Ram to begin 1/2 presence at FD, for 3 days a week, each week, to work in new Nishorgo Program office.
 - iv. Nasim to begin working at the FD NP offices.
73. Complete and Print 1 page Visitor Information Brochures for All Five Sites
- a. Status: Lawachara model completed.
 - b. Action: All five to be completed by early December by Shahriar.

74. Prepare Series of Nishorgo Posters
- a. Status: 1st poster drafted on "Nishorgo and Nature".
 - b. Action: Complete and print first poster for Energy Fair. Then follow with second poster on "Nishorgo and Poverty Alleviation".
75. Ensure publication of News Articles and coverage on Community Patrolling Activities
- a. Status: Daily Start report postponed.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Mehrin to link Daily Star article to next RECOFTC e-newsletter
 - ii. Mehrin to submit fortnightly news to Indian PA Update Magazine
 - iii. Mehrin to take 7-10 journalists to Lawachara and then Satchuri on/about November 24th/25th.
76. Completion of Site Status Reports
- a. Status: These two page reports were planned for periodic update. Final text sent to Philip for final review for LNP site.
 - b. Action: First two reports (on LNP and RKWS) to come out by November 17th.
77. 3rd Nishorgo Khobor released
- a. Status: Done.
78. Update/Extend e-Khobor newsletter Distribution List
- a. Status: Done, although may have been some glitches in sending them out.
 - b. Action: Shahriar to check with Nazrul to be sure no glitches. Mehrin to check with select recipients to be sure they received it.
79. Implement Widely Publicized Dialogue on Appropriate Bangla Words for "Protected Areas"
- a. Status: Awaiting meeting with Wildlife Trust and Prof Rashid.
 - b. Action: Philip to follow up with Prof Rashid and develop proposed plan of action.
80. Develop public-private partnership for patrolling with support from Grameen or other communication company
- a. Status: IUCN has met with Grameen.
 - b. Action: Follow up with Grameen (Mehrin to identify).
81. Begin IUCN "Coalition" Partnership under Subcontract
- a. Status: Agreed tentatively on participation in first Round Table on PPP
 - b. Action:
 - i. Philip to finalize/explain terms with IUCN , and then IUCN to sign subcontract
 - ii. IUCN to submit first budget for Round Table
82. Prepare for PA-to-PA Bangladesh Scouts hike for December
- a. Status: Agreed to go ahead with Scouts hike.
 - b. Actions:

- i. Mehrin to follow up with Scouts on details and go to field for preparatory work.
- 83. Plan for VIP Trips to Sites in December
 - a. Status: Agreed with Secretary/MoEF and two JS's that this trip would be done first for the MoEF staff. Target date is now December 10th. Mehrin has completed 1 page concept.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Circulate 1st VIP trip to MoEF
 - ii. Finalize 2nd VIP trip with women (Nazratan)
- 84. PPP: National Photo Competition
 - a. Status: Design completed and budget set. HP contacted, and others. Drik ready to be host.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Contact additional funding sources for private contributions.
- 85. PPP: National Round Table with Private Sector on Conservation
 - a. Status: Agreed that this be invited round table for January to be co-hosted by IUCN and FD.
 - b. Action:
 - i. Prepare for January event with letter from CCF to Secr/MoEF as host.
 - ii. Meet and discuss with IUCN.
- 86. PPP: Implement architectural competition for Nishorgo Visitor Interpretation Centers
 - a. Status: Commitments from Bay and AMK Steel.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Follow up with Partex and Mirpur.
 - ii. Nazratan to iron out details of the competition, including procurement issues, with IAB and FD (and Khaled)
- 87. Begin preparations for "Encounter/Rally in Srimongal" meeting on co-management for March, 2006
 - a. Status: Philip revised concept and circulated, based on last meeting.
 - b. Actions:
 - i. Follow up meeting set for Wednesday.
- 88. Compliance with USAID/DEC Report submission requirements
 - a. Status: Zareef revising 1st document.
 - b. Action: Zareef to complete by December 5.
- 89. Generic NSP Briefing Package Prepared for All Sites
 - a. Status: NSP/North prepared various briefings.
 - b. Action
 - i. Mehrin to prepare general elements of site briefing for review. Should include PowerPoint key elements Maps (Nasim) Cloth posters Video clips as relevant on DVD (for TV showing) Physical items (eg stoves, dhaincha, nursery bags, etc.)
- 90. ID Cards Completed for NSP Staff at All sites

- a. Status: Done.

91. Incorporation of Nishorgo Ideas in new Bangla Sesame Street

- a. Status: No action, except that we are on standby to bring Sesame Street cameramen to our sites for filming.

MINOR OR WRAP UP ITEMS

- Mehrin to have MOU with Scouts signed
- Continue meeting monthly site reporting and AIG reporting targets.
- Begin sending regularly calendar to the field

PENDING

- USAID/RCO actions -- awaiting IRG revisions to budget mode
- Response from MSU on their proposed multi-country research plan covering Chunati and Teknaf.
- Receipt of IUCN/USFWS elephant studies from IUCN??