

Strengthening Alternative Income Generation

Connecting producers directly with the market

In the past quarter, strengthening Alternative Income Generation (AIG) activities in protected areas has been a key focus of IPAC. IPAC strongly believes that co-management and nature conservation is better achievable through economic empowerment of the forest and wetland dependents.

On November 14, 2010 Aarong and Tipra Community Producers Group signed a deal to create a direct value chain, where the local community will directly send products to the chain store by eliminating middlemen. Nishorgo Network, established by the government to benefit local communities through conservation of forest and wetland biodiversity, helped facilitate the deal with support from USAID's Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Ambalika Deb Borma from the Tripura Community and Aziza Sultana Mukta from Aarong at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka. The deal will particularly be beneficial to the Tipra community that is forest and wetland dependent. They will no longer need to turn to these protected areas for livelihood options, as they will find alternative sources of income.

The network has been formalized precisely to allow local communities to work hand in hand with the government to conserve nature in ways that benefit the poor. Representatives from the Tipra Community Producers Group, Aarong, Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, Department of Environment, USAID, IPAC and other partners were present on the occasion. IPAC hopes to continue with more partnerships as such to strengthen the value chains between the forest and wetland dependents with private sector. Through alternative livelihoods achieving a better future for nature conservation and co-management will be possible in Bangladesh.



Producers displaying their products

“This is a great step towards nature conservation, mitigating the negative impacts of climate change in Bangladesh, and towards food security” - Reed Merrill, Chief of Party, IPAC