

ROLE OF AIGA FOR SUPPORTING PATROLLING GROUP FOR BUILDING CO-MANAGEMENT IN TGR.

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Introduction:

Teknaf Game Reserve, as a part of Teknaf Peninsula, is located in the country's far south -east corner, near Myanmar border. It was established in 1983 over a reserved forest (RF) area of 11,615 ha or 116.15 km² located in the Cox's Bazar South Forest Division. It is made up of 10 forest beats over three Forest Ranges, namely Whykong, Shilkhali and Teknaf. It is under the jurisdiction of Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar District and lies in between the Naf River on the eastern side and the Bay of Bengal on the western side. The GR is part of a linear hill range (reaching altitude of 700 m), gently sloping to rugged hills and cliffs running down the central part of the peninsula, with a north-south length of nearly 28 km. and an east-west width of 3-5 km. (Mollah et al 2004). TGR covers four unions of Teknaf upazila, namely Whykong, Hnila, Teknaf, and Baharchara. The forests of Teknaf are located in the high rainfall bio-geographic zone and so comprise wet evergreen and semi-evergreen plant species.

Teknaf GR has three Co-Management Committees (CMCs) and 14 Community Patrolling Groups (CPGs) formed for forest resources protection purposes. Each CPG consists of 42 members (except one which has 49 members) who work in shifts such that there are seven small groups of six-seven persons and each group works one day a week.

NSP has also formed 102 forest user groups (FUGs) that have 25-40 members in each group in order to reduce people's dependency on forest resources in and around TGR. Out of these FUGs, approximately 40 are all-female groups. NSP has formed these CPGs and FUGs with the consultation of FD and CMC. NSP has been working there for last more than three years.

In addition, NSP is providing different AIGA (Alternate Income Generating Activities) support to both groups in order to reduce their dependency on forest resources. The AIGA supports are categorized in following ways:

Agro forestry based AIGA support:

- a) Cow patenting activities.
- b) Nursery establishment/Plant distribution.
- c) Home Gardening/Vegetable gardening.
- d) Poultry rearing/Chicken support.
- e) Fish culture/pond culture.
- f) Dry fish processing.
- g) Mush room culture.

2. Energy saving based AIGA:

- a) Improved oven program

b) Bio-gas plant.

3. Eco-tourism based AIGA support:

a) Rickshaw/ Van

b) Eco –tour guide

c) Information centre at Teknaf.

4. Culture based (Ethnic community) AIGA support:

a) Pig rearing.

b) Hand loom.

The provision of AIGA support by NSP to these different groups has been variable. Members of patrolling groups, which are thought to contribute considerably more to forest resource conservation, receive individual support, which is worth Tk 3,500 to Tk 5,000 each. On the other hand, members of FUGs receive benefits that are valued at about Tk 500 per person. In addition, the FUG members are only using AIGA option, home gardening, while CPG members have a choice of 20 possible AIGA. The contribution of FUGs to conservation is generally thought to be less than that from CPGs. This study aims to explore this further, and also determine if these AIGAs actually meet their goals of economic upliftment of the CPG members, and reduction of forest dependency in TGR. Another objective of the research is to investigate whether or not this process is sustainable. NSP is also planning for special support to hardcore poor, specially the female. They may be included as the members of FUGs and their skills will be supported through small grants like basket making, net making etc.

Objectives:

The objectives of the research are following:

- 1) To intervene the better options of AIGA and FUG support provided by NSP.
- 2) To evaluate the AIGA support is contributing in economic upliftment and reducing the dependency of supported people on forest resources or not.
- 3) To assess the sustainability of the AIGA support.
- 4) To assess the capacity buildup of the AIGA supported persons in forest resources protection.

Methodology:

The study will be conducted in two phases. Primary and secondary data collection in the first phase while data analysis and report writing will be completed in the second phase.

Secondary data collection will be done from literature, brochures, and websites. The secondary data will be used in order to develop the methodology further, and in order to understand previous works done in the area. TGR area and NSP site offices will be visited in order to conduct site reconnaissance surveys. The information from these will be used to select potential sites / villages for sampling.

Primary data collection will be done using interviews conducted at various levels explained below. I will use individual interview of FUGs and CPG members, and strategic focus group

discussions (FGD) with Forest Department and NSP field officers, CMC members and non-NSP stakeholder villagers at different level in order to address the research questions.

The number of individuals per FGD will be determined according to site conditions. Semi structured & open-ended questionnaires will be used in order to address the research questions.

Category	Number of total members (approx)	Number of individuals in FGD
Forest Guard	12	6
Forester /Deputy Ranger	9	3
Range officer	3	3
NSP field officer (F.O.)	12	3
NSP site facilitator/officer	6	3
NSP senior site co-coordinator/TSPC (southern region)	2	2
CMC members (chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer and one Women representative)	12	6
Key informants other than NSP stakeholders.	6	6
TOTAL # FGDs		7

To interview FUG and CPG members, I will first identify the AIGAs implemented in each range. Then, I will find out which AIGAs are practiced in all 3 ranges and select 3 options common to all three ranges. Nine CPG members will be chosen in each range such that there are three members in each AIGA option. For the FUG members, I will randomly select three persons in each range (all are carrying out home gardening).

Member of the 14 community-patrolling group, 42-49 persons in a group (total = 595) I will interview 9 persons (3 in each option of each CMC), total CPGs member interview is 27. CPGs have right to choose one best option out of about 20, which is suitable for him, while FUGs have only one option to choice. Out of 102 FUGs (102*30=3060 members), I will interview 3 members of FUGs in each CMC. Total number of FUGs interview will be 9 and total number of individual interviews will be (27+9) = 36.

In TGR three Co-Management Committee comprising of 19 members, total (19 X 3) = 57. I will conduct focus group discussion with 4 people from each CMC (chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer and one women representative) i.e. total (4*3)= 12 members will be conducted FGD. I will conduct focus group discussion also with 6 Forest guards, 3 Foresters, 3 Range officers who are serving in TGR. I will also conduct focus group discussion with 3 field officers, 2 site facilitators, 1 senior site coordinator and TSPC (southern region) who are directly involved in AIGA support program. Key informants other than NSP members like schoolteacher, ex - chairman, ex -members etc. Total FGDs will be 7 (shown in the above table).

2) AIGA/FUG is a sustainable management system for the people of in and around PA for reducing dependency on forest resources or not.

References:

Mollah AR, MM Rahman and MS Rahman. 2004. Site level field appraisal for protected area co-management Teknaf Game Reserve. Nature Conservation Movement (NACOM), Bangladesh.

Lastname FI, FI Lastname, FI Lastname. Year. Title. Journal Title and issue and page numbers. (or Publishers name). Address, number of pages.

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Format of questionnaire for household survey (for CPGs and FUGs members):

1. Name and Address of the respondent:

Name:

Vill: P.O. Union:

Upazilla: Dist:

2. Demographic profile:

Male	Female	Age class				Educational status		
		>5	5-15	15-60	<60	Primary	Secondary	H. Secondary

3. Total income of the family:

Sources of Income	Monthly/Seasonal income	Total income/year
Paddy/Vegetables cultivation		
Betel leaf/Betel nut production		
Fruits (water melon) cultivation		
AIGA/FUG		
Others (fishing/fuel wood collection, etc.)		
Grand total income /year		

4. Land ownership: land less/share cropper, small farmer, large farmer.
(> 1 ha.) (< 1ha.)

5. Household ownership:

Own land, Forest land (forest villagers or encroachers), Rent (forest land or personal land), others (please specify).

6. Did NSP provided training before AIGA support:

7. If yes, level of training:

a) Orientation b) In depth

8. Access to Micro credit, if any:

Bank, Ngo, other leasing agency, others (please specify).

9. Did you learn any other AIGA techniques besides those provided by NSP?

10. If yes, what type of technique you received and applied:

11. From where you learned the technique of AIGA?

12. Seasonal pattern of activities:

Seasonal activities	Feb- April	May-July	Aug-Oct	Nov-Jan
Paddy cultivation				
Vegetable gardening				
Shrimp fry collection				
Fishing				
Betel leaf cultivation				
others				

13. Did you face any natural disaster in the recent past? Y/ N.

14. If yes, what type of natural disaster you faced?

(Food shortage, Cyclone, Drought, Severe Diseases, others).

15. How did you mitigate the disaster?

16. Name of the CMC that you are working:

17. Name of the forest user group/ community-patrolling group, if any:

18. Size of the forest user group/ community-patrolling group:

19. Interval of community patrolling duties:

20. Duties at what time, day/night or by rotation:

21. Is there any leader/head in each group?

22. How do you take any decision at the patrolling time?

23. If any emergency arise what do you do:

24. When you detect any forest offence what do you do?

25. Do every time you get forest guard with you? Y/ N.

26. Did you face any difficulties/obstacles from anybody in patrolling?

27. If yes, what type of obstacles you faced?

Physical attack, direct threat, indirect threat, others (Please specify).

28. Who select you for AIGA?
29. What type of AIGA support you received:
30. Who chose the type of AIGA to be adopted?
31. When did you receive the AIGA support?
32. How much return you already received from AIGA support you provided?
33. Is it helping you for eradication of poverty/economic upliftment:
34. Do you continuing the AIGA that you have provided or in the mean time you already handed over? Y/ N
35. If no, what are you doing with that money that you earned from AIGA?
36. Do the F.O./Site facilitator monitor your activities of AIGA support? Y/ N.
37. If yes, how frequently they visit your house?
(once a week, once a month, others)
38. Do the Beat officer/Range officer monitor your activities of AIGA support? Y/N.

Format of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) for (Forest guard/ Beat officer/Range officer/Field officer/Site facilitator/CMC members, Group leader of patrolling/ FUG group, Key informants other than NSP):

1. Name of the FGD group (Attach participant list):
2. How long have you been working in this PA?
3. Name of the CMC of your area:
4. Are you directly involved in NSP Programme:
5. What type of programme do you are involved in?
(Patrolling, CMC member, support facilitator, support monitoring, others.)
6. How many patrolling group are working in your area?
7. What is their contribution on forest resource conservation?
8. Is it sufficient or excess in this area?
9. Do you think any change or rearrangement is required for any patrolling group in your area?
- 10 How many forest user groups are in your area?
11. Do they have any contribution on conservation of forest resources?
12. Are you involve in patrolling activities: Y/N?
13. If no, what is your role in forest resource conservation?
14. Do you have any contribution for choosing AIGA support providing?
15. If yes, how do you contribute in AIGA support providing?
16. When you detect any forest offence what did you do?
17. Did you face any difficulties/obstacles from anybody in doing NSP work?
18. What is your achievement that already achieved?

(Detected forest offence, Awareness creates in local people for conservation, AIGA support activities increase, Monitoring of AIGA support, others).

19. Do you think AIGA support is sufficient for reducing dependency on PA?

20. Do you think NSP is doing better for nature conservation? Y/N?

21. What is your suggestion for NSP activities?

AIGA support should increase, Awareness should increase, CMC should be more active, others
(Please specify):