



## INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA CO-MANAGEMENT (IPAC)

Implemented by Ministry of Environment and Forests (Forest Department & Department of Environment) and Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Resources (Department of Fisheries)

### Activity Purpose:

1. Support the further development of the natural resources sector and the conservation of biodiversity
2. Develop a protected area strategy that applies to all ecologically and economically significant areas, including freshwater and forest ecosystems
3. Build technical capacity for protected areas co-management
4. Expand the geographic area under co-management to ensure the long-term success of the model and to extend socio-economic benefits to surrounding communities
5. Address climate change mitigation and adaptation issues

### Location:

Field interventions in five Clusters including 26 targeted sites covering over 360,000 hectares and the surrounding landscapes with rural communities of 2.2 million people:

1. Sylhet (Tanguar Haor, Hail Haor, Hakaluki Haor, Lawachara, Rema-Kalenga, Satchari, Khadimnagar protected areas)
2. Chittagong Hill Tracts (Pablakhali, Kaptai protected areas)
3. Southeastern (Teknaf, Inani, Himchari, Medha Kachapia, Fasiakhali, Chunati, Dudpukuria-Dhopachori protected areas)
4. Central (Madhupur and Bhawal National Parks; Kangshaw-Malijhi and Turag-Bangshi wetlands)
5. Sundarbans (Wildlife Sanctuaries and ECA)

## SUMMARY

The Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) Project has embarked upon the strategic goal of scaling-up natural resource co-management at the policy and operational level by achieving recognition, acceptance and integration of this approach by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) into its management tactics. The overall IPAC objective is to promote and institutionalize an integrated protected area co-management system for sustainable natural resources management and biodiversity conservation that results in responsible, equitable economic growth and good environmental governance.

IPAC is building upon the successful co-management interventions launched under MACH and Nishorgo Support Project (NSP). Institutionalization and successful implementation of IPAC will also address a series of short, medium and long term climate change mitigation and adaptation issues.

## PROGRAM

The IPAC Project includes three main components:

1. Development of a coherent strategy for integrated protected areas co-management and biodiversity conservation, with support for constituency building; visioning, policy analysis and strategy development; partnership building for sustainable financing; and development of an outreach and communication strategy
2. Building stakeholder and institutional capacity, through support for training to GOB national and local level staff, NGOs and rural communities; strengthening of existing training centers and development of new and innovative applied training courses; and development of local support services for integrated, participatory co-management
3. Site specific implementation of co-management in Protected Areas to continue field testing and institutionalization of proven approaches for integrated PA co-management; to scale up the network of co-managed PAs, expand support for alternative income generation activities, value chain strengthening, public-private partnerships, leveraged conservation financing and local level outreach while contributing to improved welfare of rural communities through reduced vulnerability and increased adaptation to climate change, improved access to drinking water supplies and more secure and diversified livelihoods

The program will also support cross-cutting approaches to take account of gender perspectives in natural resource management and to enhance gender mainstreaming processes, along with a focus on youth, to improve the livelihoods of young people and to provide a solid future constituency for conservation.

**Project Duration** : June 5, 2008 to June 4, 2013



## What is Co-Management?

Collaborative Management, or co-management, is an approach used by government technical agencies to collaborate with local communities and other stakeholders in the management of designated forest lands, wetlands and other natural resources. To implement a co-management approach, managers engage these local stakeholders through a participatory process that empowers them with a voice and well defined role in decision-making and provides sufficient economic incentives to engage their interest and commitment to the successful achievement of the agreed upon natural resource management objectives.

## How is the Government of Bangladesh Involved?

IPAC is being implemented through the Ministries of Environment and Forest and Fisheries and Livestock. The primary technical implementing agencies of the Government of Bangladesh are the Forest Department, the Dept of Fisheries and Dept of Environment. Other government stakeholders are also involved, including the Ministries of Lands, Water Resources, Finance, Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs and others. At the local technical level, technical staff play a key role in co-management, along with local NGOs, community based organizations and other local leaders.

## Who are the ultimate beneficiaries of IPAC?

The principal targeted beneficiaries of IPAC are the men, women and youth of poor rural households living in the landscapes around the targeted protected areas. However, the successful implementation of IPAC will generate benefits to the entire nation of Bangladesh over the medium and long term.

## What impact will IPAC have on poverty reduction?

Bangladesh has the highest population density of poor people in the world. As population nears 140 million, tree cover has fallen to 4-6% of surface area. Deforestation and conversion of wetlands damage the livelihoods of the very poor most as they depend to a significant extent on collection of plants and fish for consumption and sale. By scaling up the positive impacts obtained from the MACH and Nishorgo pilot projects, IPAC will have a very significant and positive impact on poverty reduction.

## Contact Information

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## How will IPAC benefit local communities?

The Nishorgo and MACH projects have invested in building the capacity of resource user groups and their related organizations. This investment has resulted in a large pool of local human resources for co-management. These local stakeholders are themselves now proficient in the application of co-management principals and approaches. Under the IPAC project, further support will be provided to ensure that technical agencies and local communities become self sufficient in their roles of co-management, and are able to sustain the economic and other benefits of co-management, including increases in local incomes and increased security of the livelihoods of people living in and around protected areas.

IPAC will also contribute to the improved welfare of rural communities through reduced vulnerability and increased adaptation to climate change, increased access to improved drinking water supplies and more secure and diversified livelihoods.

## Partners of IPAC

International Resources Group (IRG)  
Center for Indigenous Peoples Development (CIPD)  
Community Development Centre (CODEC)  
Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd.  
Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB)  
Development Training and Services, Inc (dTS)  
Epler Wood International  
World Fish Center – Bangladesh (WFC)  
Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)  
Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA)  
Oasis Transformation Ltd., Module Architects  
Jahangirnagar University (JU), Arannayk Foundation  
East-West Center, Environmental Law Institute (ELI)  
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