



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
PUBLIC-PRIVATE ROUND TABLE ON CONSERVATION OF PROTECTED
FOREST AREAS
RADISSON WATER GARDEN HOTEL
12TH FEBRUARY 2007**

1. INTRODUCTION

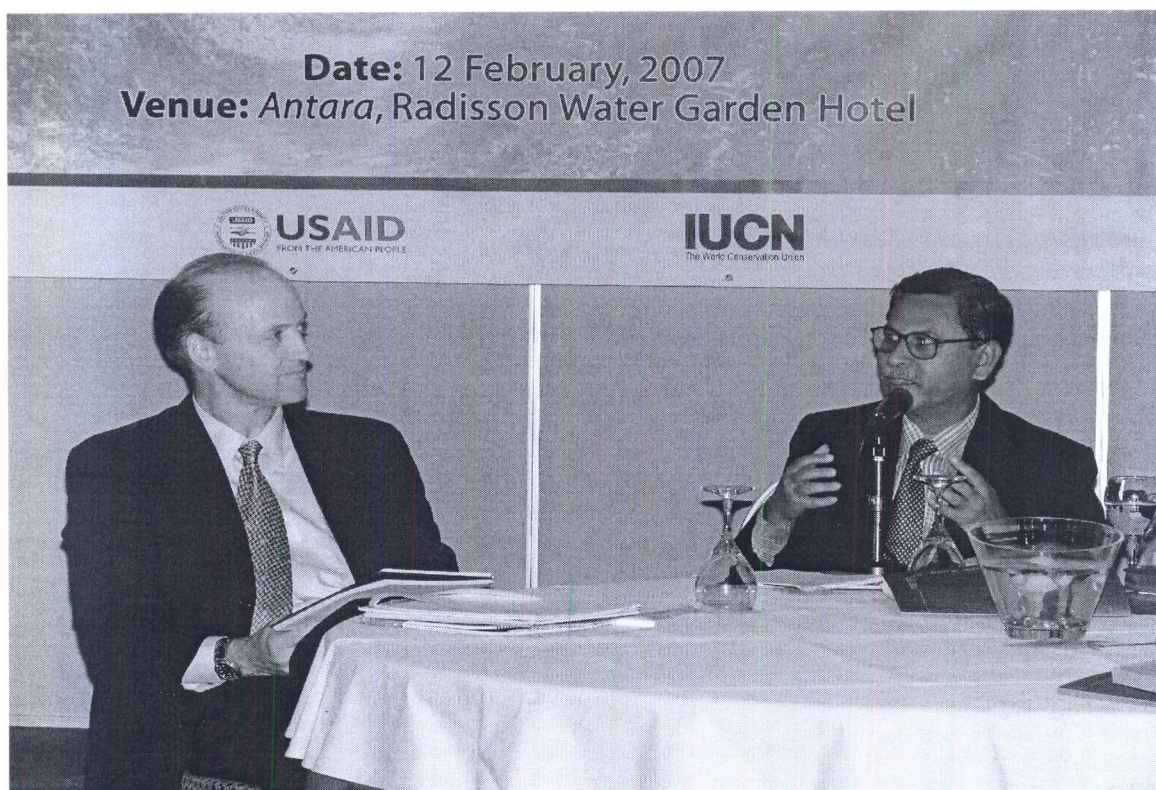
The 'Public-Private Round Table on Conservation of Protected Forest Areas' was held at the Antara Ballroom, Radisson Water Garden Hotel on 12th February 2007. About 50 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from the private sector, Forest Department, Nishorgo Project, USAID and IUCN Bangladesh. The meeting room contained an array of roundtables, bordered by poster and photograph displays of the Nishorgo Project activities. Seated at the head table were: Mr. S. M. Jahurul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Mr. Gene V George, Mission Director, USAID, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Osman Gani, Chief Conservator of Forests and Mr. Phillip J. DeCosse, Chief of Party, Nishorgo Support Project.

The round table was organized in order to provide a platform for the private business corporations, both local and multinational to express their views. Till date, the 'Nishorgo' program has formed 'collaborative management councils' in each of its five pilot sites, Lawachara National Park, Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, Satchori Reserve Forest, Teknaf Game Reserve & Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary. The fruits of this alliance are already being experienced in terms of reduced loss of forests and improved livelihood opportunities for the local people, but the efforts of the program require national and multi-stakeholder support. In the interest of building conservation partnerships with leading national agencies, IUCN Bangladesh initiated a dialogue with leading members of the private sector of the country, on behalf of the Forest Department and the Nishorgo Project. The round table discussion brought all the concerned stakeholders under a common platform, to foster fruitful alliances between the government and private sector for forest management. As part of this initiative, a field trip to Lawachara National Park was organized on the 27th of December 2006, to sensitize the private players and to showcase the on-going activities of the Nishorgo Project. The follow-up roundtable meeting provided a neutral platform for private sector leaders to voice their opinions along with sketching out future directions for meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships, towards enhancing the public-private partnership.

Welcome Address by Mr. Md. Osman Gani, Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department

Mr. Md. Osman Gani, Chief Conservator of Forests welcomed all the participants to the meeting and stated that this was a tangible opportunity to exchange ideas while identifying areas of partnership building between the private and public sector. He explained the genesis of the Protected Areas regime in Bangladesh, which was an offshoot of the Wildlife Act. Mr. Gani briefly outlined the Nishorgo Project activities, which spun 5 out of the 19 declared protected areas of the country. Then he explained the need for partnership building and encouraging public-private endeavors, which was to sustain on-going activities at the end of the project period in 2009. Mr. Gani cited the Costa Rica example, where the government has imposed a tax of 3% on fuel to protect

the forests, paving a way for receiving contributions for the carbon credits earned from afforestation. He requested everyone to flag their opinions and added that he was eager to hear from the others for exploring and deepening possible partnerships.



Osman Gani delineating the principles of forest management

Roundtable Guidelines by the Moderator, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh

Dr. Nishat, Country Representative of IUCN Bangladesh gave a brief introduction to the IUCN system and how the 'Business and Biodiversity Policy' was the new resolution being implemented by IUCN globally. He explained that the Corporate Social Responsibility or CSR policies are often mistakenly considered as charity, but in reality such is not the case. Dr. Nishat gave a few examples of public-private partnerships such as the Airport Road beautification and maintenance in Dhaka City and the WWF/Goenka Partnership in India for the conservation of Sundarbans Forest.

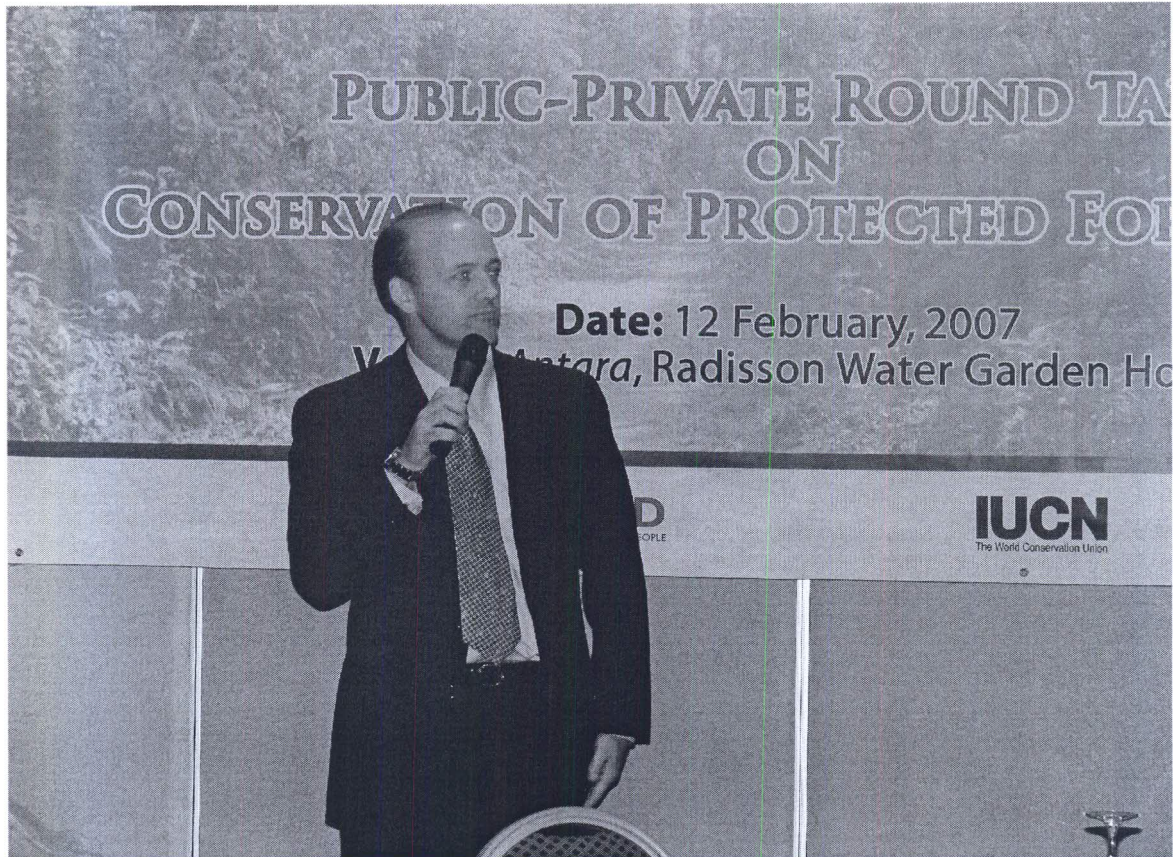
Dr. Nishat then explained that ideally 10% of a country's landmass should be forested and in Bangladesh the actual coverage is much less. He also added that social forestry practices in this country have been applied successfully and this manifests the Government's commitment to its people, by allowing them to receive benefits through participating in forest management. He added that Nishorgo's initiative through its co-

management approach has taken it further and created new opportunities for other stakeholders beyond the traditional forest managers. He further put emphasis on the main objective of the round table forum, which was to showcase Nishorgo's activities, in a bid to engage private business stakeholders and get feedback on how they can be further involved in furthering the process of public-private partnerships. He requested all those present to engage in a fruitful discussion that would bolster partnerships and invited everyone to watch the movie titled 'A Nimble walk through Five Protected Areas'.



Ainun Nishat moderating the round table

Presentation of movie 'A Nimble Walk through Five Protected Areas'



‘Nishorgo in Brief: Progress and Partnerships’ by Philip J. DeCosse, Chief of Party, Nishorgo Support Project

Philipp J. DeCosse delivered a presentation on ‘Nishorgo in Brief: Progress and Partnerships’. Mr. DeCosse started off with clarifying that people thought it would be a hard task to work with the government system and within the overall poverty context. However he added there were greater challenges: the challenge of brick kilns using wood as fuel both in the industry & household. The Govt. had however made it a priority to protect the system of national parks and the steady progress being made was possible due to the following reasons:

1. Logging was decreasing
2. Committees at local levels were active, resolving conflicts and generating other income earning activities in the forest areas.
3. Public participation in forest management ensured a better system of managing resources. 20 years of social forestry had made a strong base for this new approach and the vision was more matured in its planning. It helped all the more when the Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests (DCCF) went on to become the

now Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF). The time limit envisioned in lieu of forest management during his era was till 2010.

4. Reaching out to the people at the 5 sites and providing them a platform to raise their voice, endorsed their support and cooperation.
5. The resources were very productive as the trees at Chunati grew at a very fast pace so restoration was easier.
6. And lastly, the passion for nature embedded in the Bangladeshi culture and the desire for people to visit these places was the driving force.

So how did Nishorgo further make good use of this desire? Mr. DeCosse then explained how they involved children to come up with the name “Nishorgo” and also worked with Scouts to promote this passion for nature. He also talked about Nishorgo’s architecture competition where the largest gathering of architects competed for the best-designed service center. This program was supported by BAY Developments, Mirpur Ceramics and AMK Steel and Mr. DeCosse also mentioned how Radisson and Bangla link had supported books published by Nishorgo. 55 other countries have trust funds and joint communication partnerships going on thus expanding chances for conservation of a unified system of forests was very feasible. Mr. DeCosse agreed the need to increase communication was the call of the day. As the previous CCF would verify, the word protected forest or Nat Park does not mean anything in Bangla, so students really do not understand the impact of this terminology. Therefore, the need to reach out to the students also was really required.

2. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Dr. Nishat then opened the floor to a lively discussion inviting everyone to speak.



Sultana S. Islam, Ainun Nishat & Rokia Rahman exchanging views

Mrs. Rokeya A. Rahman, Director, MIDAS

Mrs. Rokia A. Rahman was the first to take the floor and inquired why the attractive tourist spots were not opened to the general public. She then commented on having traveled to one of these spots in Sylhet and was amazed at how beautiful it was. Mrs. Rahman wanted an explanation as to why no one had advertised about such places as yet and asked the tour operators invited at the round table to inform whether they had contemplated on these tourism aspects or not.

Mr. Hasan Mansur, Managing Director, Guide Tours Ltd.

Mr. Mansur explained how Guide Tours was already operating at the site in Srimangal but the road to Rema-Kalenga was really bad. Teknaf also had not really materialized so far but it was in the offing. He quoted Mr. DeCosse that 10,000 people visiting these sites

every year so that meant the demand was there. Also, a group of Cambodians through the USAID project MACH were being taken by Guide Tours, a veritable indicator of growing tourism.

Dr. Iqbal Anwar, CEO, Prime Foundation

Dr. Iqbal Anwar stated that many people did not know about the topics just mentioned and that a thorough scanning of the relevant players was necessary to pave the path for getting them together. Scanning them would add extra value to what is being done and also increase chances of public-private partnerships.



Iqbal Anwar airing his views

Mr. Salahdin Imam, CEO, Radius Center

Mr. Imam categorically stated three points:

1. Demand for timber had grown, so how could we cut timber sustain ably?
2. The need to increase communication was needed especially with the kind of impact the film, "A Nimble Walk" had made on everyone. Furthermore he added that promoting bird watching tours etc would increase awareness levels.

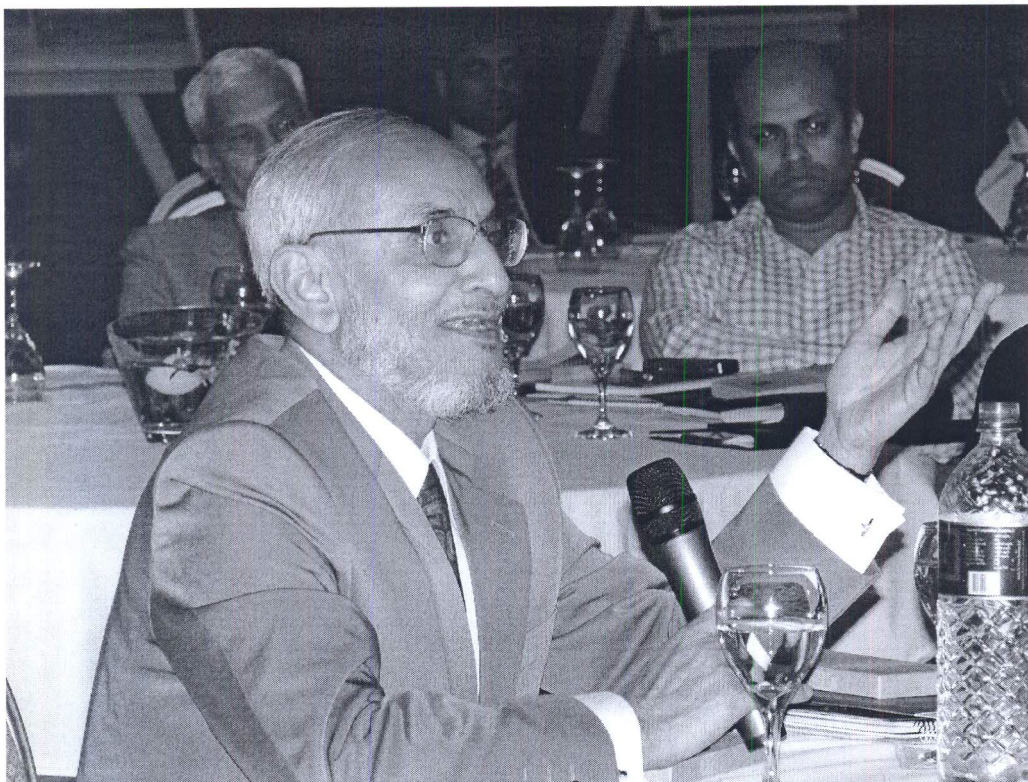
3. He also expressed concern on whether artificial seeding could be possible, with reference to the lone gibbon shown in the documentary.

Mr. Md. Osman Gani, Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department

As a clarification to a query about seeding processes, Mr. Gani explained that in the forests sometimes the prey was more abundant than the predator, which required lessening populations of the former. However the whole process of population dynamics depended totally upon the stability of the forest environment, therefore a healthy environment meant stable populations. On a different note when asked about certifying private timber resources, Mr. Gani commented that it depends on where the wood is consumed. He explained that if one has to transfer the wood from Dhaka then a transit rule is needed to make sure homegrown species are not mixed with others. However these rules are different in places like Chittagong. Normally a Jodh permit is required. On private land however, the owner had complete freedom to do whatever they wished. When asked the exact amount required in saving the protected areas of Bangladesh, Mr. Gani quoted the amount of Tk. 65 crore, explaining that no actual monetary analysis had been done ever since Nishorgo had stepped in.

Mr. Asif Ariff Tabani, Managing Director, Mirpur Ceramics Works Ltd,

Mr. Tabbani stated that much discussion about conservation was underway whereas none about planting and re-growth of forests. Mr. Tabbani had personally planted around 22,000 wood trees and requested the Forest Dept. to have them registered so that after 20, 30 years, he could fell them and sell as timber. However, he expressed confusion at the certification process and asked the residing Forest officials whether there were any clear directions from the Forest Dept. He believed that if transparency in these processes were maintained, then people would go into planting in a big way.



Mr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Chairman, BracNet,

Mr. Chowdhury made an observation that the Jodh permit et al were simply permits to fell trees, therefore an example for the certification of buds to ensure their growth and eventual felling would not be more appropriate for discussion. It was a new arena to think on and if this planting could start happening then the empty areas of North Bengal would be soon re-populated.

Mr. Chowdhury however steered the conversation back to the original purpose of the evening by raising some important points to be discussed:

1. He started off by thanking USAID for all their work in saving protected areas, pointing out that the initial phase of making the locals realize the importance of such an area had been mostly accomplished. He further added that now inviting other stakeholders like the business community towards more cooperation from the private sector was needed. The importance of having a moral obligation towards the society while doing business had risen and especially after reports by the International Panel of Climate Change, further urgency to sensitize the private sector was required. He therefore made a few suggestions:
 - In the next 2 years mobile phone usage will rise to 60 million. If Tk. 1 was collected for every international call made or even 50 p on local calls, for the protection of the forest, companies could directly contribute through

CSR activities. However we would first have to provide these companies with a receiving mechanism.

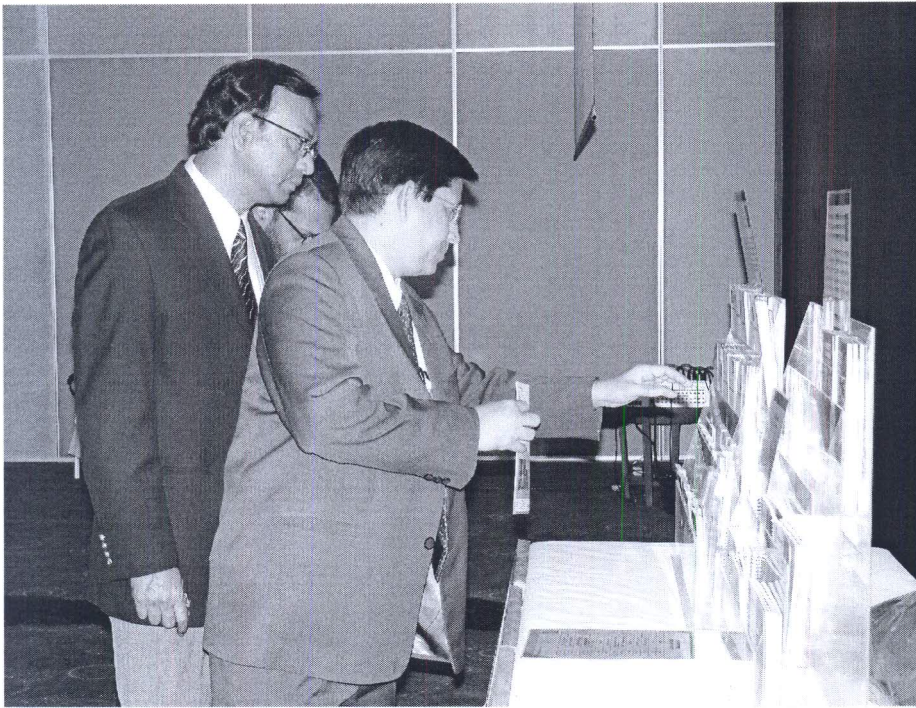
- After a talk with several interested actors and BracNet in this regard, a consensus was reached displaying willingness to set up a trust/foundation where an endowment fund would be kept for such CSR activities. Companies could buy into the fund while the Govt. contributed.

Mr. Chowdhury further went on to state that he too was associated with such a foundation, the NGO Foundation, where TK.125 crore had been generated by Ministry of Finance to give as grants to smaller NGOs.

Mr. S. M. Jahurul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests,

Mr. Islam expressed the need to minimize check posts while carrying out simple processes vis-à-vis the problem regarding certifying trees. He deliberated on the issue of land grabbing by stating that a petition against those in the Bhawal Nat Park and Madhupur areas had been submitted and work on that matter was in progress. Recounting his experiences of implementing appropriate methods of conservation, he mentioned stalling a picnic party in Hakaloki Haor, when he discovered that the picnickers had planned to hunt and consume the migratory birds. Regarding joint ventures and the outcome of this approach, Mr. Islam backed Nishorgo's view that entry fees should go towards the upkeep of guards and reproduction of the saplings with 50% of this money going to the exchequer. Airing his views on the suggestions accumulated throughout the round table dialogues, he commented that a trust or foundation was an excellent idea to conserve forests. This way one could involve not just the conservators but the whole country he added, further citing examples of how the Govt. already has such contributions in some areas with organizations like CEGIS.

Mr. Islam lastly stated that the Govt. had so far failed in some ways to protect the diversity in the jungles. However he added, if public participation had not been there then the forests would have completely been extinguished. Thus he stated that the Nishorgo project would need to be replicated to revolutionize these objectives. He also mentioned the recent observation that saplings were being sold in villages, something that was not being done in the last 15 years. Now most of the wood was coming from homestead forestry and this showed a marked change. Similarly, he cited a recent trip to Nigeria, where the issue of public participation had come up, which was considered of utmost importance. Mr. Islam ended his speech thanking everyone, especially USAID for all their support and cooperation.



S. M. Jahurul Islam picks up a Nishorgo brochure

Mr. Ronald Halder, Nature Documentary Film Maker,

Mr. Halder posed a question about what the Forest Dept. was doing regarding land grabbing near areas of Bhawal National Park and Modhupur areas, which constituted to the Barind tract, an area where reclaiming of Saal forests was required. He further confirmed that since Bangladesh has around 550 species of birds, a large number of people were always visiting these places, therefore streamlining of such tours in lieu of governmental infrastructure was required. He further added that so far only companies like Guide Tours were reaping the benefits but a lot more could be expected.



Ronald Halder confirming the prospects of bird watching

Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh

Once the steady flow of ideas and suggestions had begun, Dr. Nishat elaborated that interested parties were working in isolation and modality could bring them together. He then clarified that everyone was trying to support protected areas but no one really knew what lay within. Further explaining this predicament he mentioned his students collecting shrubs from wetlands and not knowing the English names, finally cataloging them under the traditional ones used. However he further ventured that although IUCN's target was to protect 1.7% of the 17% of the declared forest area, the rest could be forested for timber. These small patches rich in biodiversity owned privately should also be considered, therefore Dr. Nishat extended the query to the Forest Dept. officials and asked them to clarify how current Govt. would define their use. Coming to the licensing issue Dr. Nishat observed that even though the licensing process in Chittagong was different, the need to keep a record of the trees in plantation without further bothering the owner about paper work was present. In order to increase tourism and improve the economic condition, he further inquired Dr. Halder whether bird watching in the protected areas was possible. Dr. Nishat further lauded Mr. Fawthorp of Chevron's remark of not endorsing cash but activity based input as a good idea. He also floated a general question whether this method was possible to be implemented in Nishorgo's 5

protected areas. When the issue of total cost of conserving the protected areas was raised, Dr. Nishat said quantifying cost of salaries of the forest guards, maintaining the visitor centers, developing trails and watch towers and paying the trail guides would give a rough estimate. Dr. Nishat clarified that once the project was over the guides and guards would be sufficiently trained to carry on the work as usual with constant financial support. He further reiterated on the need to formulate a proper business plan, as the time to do so had arrived. He paid special stress on the need to involve university students as well as other school children to encourage more awareness raising. Dr. Nishat further invited a public figure like Mr. Aly Zaker to visit one of the 5 sites and do a personal survey with his feedback, on how to make things work better.

Mr. Andrew Fawthrop, President & Managing Director, Chevron

Mr. Fawthrop mentioned that around 50,000 trees had been planted by Chevron and although the idea of a central fund did seem appealing to them, they did not believe in doling out cash. Instead Chevron tried to get involved locally, by funding a school for instance. They also did a survey and found out that only 25% of the trees planted actually survived so they believed in investing in the plant's greater survival rate instead. However this also meant a bigger share, as now more people were involved in it. So quoting Nishorgo's Chief of Party, Mr. Fawthrop said it is better to involve the people and once stability in the management of the forest was reached, examples of the 5 protected areas mentioned could pave way for greater opportunities. He then went on to cite Costa Rica's example regarding climate change and how carbon fixation was successful simply because the forests were stable with 20 year guarantee to their trees. He further stressed that unless this guarantee of 20 years per *ha* was not given, it will not be possible to do carbon crediting. Mr. Fawthrop reinstated on Chevron's activity based initiative by commenting that it was a splendid idea to create a visitor center. He applauded the suggestion for a foundation while hoping to exercise better team cooperation.

Mr. Enayetullah Khan, Chairman Wildlife Trust,

Mr. Khan pointed out on how United News organization of Bangladesh (UNB), could take a bit of the credit for Chevron's (then UNOCAL) plantation of 50,000 trees as voice against their gas pipelines had been raised by the former. Drawing attention to the day's topic, Mr. Khan mentioned Dr. Nishat's comment on public-private partners in neighboring countries but also remarked that unfortunately not much was going on in Bangladesh. He further talked about how UNB also worked with US fish and Wildlife Association. Recounting a bird watching trip with Mr. Enam ul Haque, a conservationist and trustee of the Wildlife Association, Mr. Khan was marveling at the rich variety of the birds when the former stated the reason simply owing due to the rich diversity of trees. The more different the trees, the more varied the birds, a fact Mr. Khan believed to be the essence of conservation.

Mr. Iftekhar A. Khan, Managing Director, Bay Developments Ltd,

Mr. Khan posed a very straightforward question, wanting to know the actual cost of saving the 1.7% or 120,000 *ha* of forest land, in order to get a clearer view of how Bay Developments and the others present could help. He further directed his question towards Mr. DeCosse of Nishorgo, wanting to know the outcome of the project after the 5-year time frame was over. As a parting note, Mr. Khan called everyone's attention upon the real need for a business plan

Mr. Shamnoon M. Chowdhury, PR & Communication Executive, Banglalink,

Mr. Chowdhury was next called to take the floor and he began by giving a brief overview on Banglalink's very active participation in trying to conserve the environment with a business plan. He informed the other guests about how Banglalink had invited tour guides to chalk out spots where Banglalink could go and distribute branded items e.g trash cans etc. Quoting Chevron, Mr. Chowdhury also stated that their main aim also was not to distribute cash but to participate via activities. By creating a platform through initiatives like funding agencies or foundations was a good idea, also campaigns like "Plant a Tree" to customers via SMS or some other Tele-operated mechanism would do well.

Mr. Ian Barrow, General Manager, Radisson Water Garden Hotel,

Mr. Barrow was next invited to say a few words and he started by mentioning Radisson's long time involvement with Nishorgo. Mr. Barrow said the main interest factor was to look for some kind of opportunity to offer their catering services. Therefore, as a hospitality partner, Radisson wanted to offer the invisible services like training of staff at the visitor centers etc. Catering to the 10,000 visitors supposedly going to these places meant innumerable options for Radisson, a challenge they took up willingly.



Ian Barrow & Aly Zaker putting their suggestions forward

Mr. Aly Zaker, Managing Director, Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd,

Mr. Zaker raised the issue that sufficient youth were present to drive the campaign for awareness raising, where beyond the corporate and media world lay greater opportunities. Therefore he suggested making them more conscious and aware about the pressing issues under discussion.

Gopal Bagchi, Sr Executive – Customer Support, Holcim Bangladesh Ltd,

Mr. Bagchi wanted to share Holcim's activities with the other guests. He mentioned how Holcim had received ISO 14000 certification, planted 3 plantations while the representative himself had planted 2000 mahogany trees.

Mr. Shuvashish P. Barua, Head of CSR, Grameenphone,

Mr. Barua steered the dialogue towards what he thought to be the actual theme of the round table discussion: public-private partnership. He stated that the objective of a private business corporation would be to make profit at the end of the day while being ethically and socially responsible. Paying taxes was also a major part of displaying these moral obligations. He further added that Grameenphone had done quite a fair share of their CSR, referring to Dr. Nishat's example of the Dhaka beautification project where Grameenphone had a major part to play.

Regarding social responsibility, Grameenphone's support of the national cricket team had not only boosted their performance but also paved a parallel path for encouraging upcoming talent. He further stated that public and private conservation should not be made on an ad-hoc basis but a more steady system of project specific programs to encourage partnerships opening up a world of opportunities. Therefore, the Endowment Fund idea according to Mr. Barua seemed feasible, as he cited Chevron and BAT

engaging in similar approaches. Mr. Barua ended by restating that any work done regarding CSR should be project specific.

3. CONCLUSION

Remarks by Mr. Gene V. George, Mission Director, USAID

Mr. George was next asked to share his thoughts. As a representative of USAID, Mr. George said his main aim was to hear everyone's opinions and thoughts and not simply a dialogue. He further added that the training being offered by the hospitality industry could be of use and not monetary value. A similar example would be that the Jamuna Bridge was built by everyone's tax money. He further stated that he respected the decision of the corporations to refrain from giving money but rather getting involved in activities. Mr. George brought forward the tremendous need to give the locals a signal of the value of the forest and the best way to tackle it would be the Passion for Nature approach. He approved the idea of involving the Scouts but also mentioned that university students should be the next targets. With reference to the recent group of 20 university students who went to *Lawachara* he mentioned that when they were asked whether anyone of them had ever been anywhere other than Sundarbans and Cox's Bazaar, only 3 out of 20 said they had. The others normally flew off to Bangkok. He also mentioned the frequent changes of the ministry secretaries had not aided in better communication. However he reinforced that with enough resources, pilot programs could be done and be achieved sustainability.

Mr. George ended by stating that the retention of fees, credibility and trust factor gave empowerment. He was happy to note that the discussions so far had been encouraging. He also stated that simply providing resources was not enough but sustainable mechanisms were also required. Recognizing the bottom line for corporations to earn profit should not be considered an anomaly, where the win-win situation was not a bad thing at all. Identifying areas where these can be implemented was required. He further stated that for an organization like USAID, who would not always be here, the realization that force does not always give results and one needs to give time for things to happen, was very important. In reference he cited the example of how USAID had to wait for one year while FD provided Nishorgo with ownership.



Gene V. George concluding the discussion

Summary of the Discussion

Dr. Nishat summarized the dialogue with a brief overview of all that had been discussed, suggestions, remarks and comments included.

Following are the main features the evening's summary:

- The general idea formulated by the discussion on public- private participation could prove to be fruitful by minimizing the red tape.
- The need to distinguish between forests for production or for protection was the call of the day. Therefore a thorough survey of flora and fauna could determine which approach of conservation to apply.
- Eco-tourism could be another arena to focus on for public-private partnerships. (Dr. Nishat mentioned requesting the Sundarbans authorities to prevent noise pollution by visitors playing loud music.)
- Providing basic facilities at the visitor centers, trails and walks would enable better management.
- Training rickshaw wallahs in and around the protected areas to enhance eco-tourism. (Dr. Nishat cited an example of rickshaw drivers in Bharatpur Nat Park, India)
- Finding possible partnerships and business plans was needed.

- Capacity building e.g. habit of paying guides once in the park, etc should be encouraged.
- Ensuring stability at the beginning of any public-private project was deemed necessary.

Recommendations:


After an evening of engaging and interactive discussions, the following recommendations were accumulated by various suggestions put forth by the guests:

1. Identification of all international players and parties for public-private partnerships.
2. Fund generation through innovative and interactive approaches, where companies can launch special schemes for this purpose.
3. Setting up a trust/foundation with a steering committee and active Govt. financial support.
4. Developing a business plan. Calculating amount of contribution required from both Govt. and private parties.
5. Listing potential contributors to these partnerships e.g. hospitality industry.
6. Inviting telecommunication companies to contribute a certain percentage of per phone call made towards these partnerships.
7. Making project specific programs to aid more focussed contributions from the public and private sectors involved.

4. ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of Participants

Sl.#	Name and Designation	Organization and Contact Information
1.	Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury Chairman	BracNet Brac Center 8 th floor. 75 Mohakhali C/A Dhaka-1212 Tel. 9884635 /9884637/9884639
2.	Aly Zaker Managing Director	Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd. Hs 63, Rd 7B Block H Banani, Dhaka Tel.: 9893303
3.	Andrew L. Fawthrop President/MD	Chevron Bangladesh
4.	Aniruddha H Roy	USAID American Embassy Madani Avenue Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh
5.	Anne Williams Director, Office of Economic Growth Food and Environment	USAID American Embassy Madani Avenue Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh
6.	Asif Ariff Tabani Managing Director	Mirpur Ceramics Works Ltd. House-1, Road-28, Block-K Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh. T: 9891942, 8821539, 8821109, 8860137 F: 880-2-8822026
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8.	Dr. Azharul H. Mazumder Environment Team Leader	USAID American Embassy Madani Avenue Baridhara, Dhaka-1212
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10.	Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Environment and Forest Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka
11.	Dr. Ronald Halder Nature Documentary Film Maker	Halder's Dental Clinic House-28, Rd-17/A Block-E, Banani Dhaka, Bangladesh
12.	Enayetullah Khan Chairman	Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh
13.	Gopal Bagchi Sr. Executive-Customer Support	Holcim Ltd. 
14.	Hasan Mansur Managing Director Guide Tours Ltd.	Guide Tours Ltd. Darpan Complex Plot-2(1 st floor) Gulshan circle-2 Dhaka-1212 T:9892850/8829436/8832793-5
15.	Ian Barrow General Manager	Radisson water Garden Hotel Airport Road, Dhaka Cantonment Dhaka 1206 T:8754555
16.	Iftekhhar A. Khan (Pintu) Managing Director	Bay Developments Ltd. Bays Galleria 57 Gulshan Avenue Dhaka

17.	Iqbal Habib Architect	VITTI Sthapati Brindo Ltd.
18.	Ishtiaque Zahid Architect	Vitti Sthapati Briuda
19.	Khalid Quadir CEO	BracNet Brac Center 8 th floor. 75 Mohakhali C/A Dhaka-1212 T: 9884635/ 9884637
20.	Khandakar Shahidul Islam Director	Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries
21.	M. A. Reaz Marketing Consultant	Tata International Ltd. Star Center H# SE(C) 2A R# 138, Gulshan 1 Dhaka 1212 Tel.: 8859132
22.	Md. A. K. M. Shamsuddin Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests	Forest Department Ban Bhaban Agargaon Dhaka
23.	Md. Abu Sayed General Manager	Bashundhara Group Bashundhara City Tower 13 / KA / 1 Panthapath Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh T: 880-2-8158025-34
24.	Md. Iklil Mondal Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests	Forest Department Ban Bhaban Agargaon, Dhaka
25.	Md. Rafiqul Islam Program Coordinator	Ayesha Abed Foundation BRAC
26.	Mehrin A Mahbub	NSP
27.	Monika Biswas	NSP
28.	Monowar Islam Project Manager NCSA Project	IUCN-Bangladesh Country Office House-11, Road-138 Gulshan, Dhaka
29.	Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed	Arannayak Foundation

	Executive Director	House-68(2nd fl) Road-1 Block-I, Banani Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh Phone: 9873229/9871553
30.	Nasira B. Mansoor CSR Manager	BAT
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36.	Robert Wong Political Officer	US Embassy Wongree State. Gov.
37.	Rokia A. Rahman Chair	Avlinks Ltd
38.	Sadia Haque	NSP
39.	Sakif Ariff Tabani Director Marketing	Mirpur Ceramics Works Ltd. House-1, Road-28, Block-K Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh. T: 9891942, 8821539, 8821109, 8860137 F: 880-2-8822026

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42.	Sher M. Khan	USAID American Embassy Madani Avenue Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh
43.	Shuvashish P. Barua Head of CSR	Grameenphone Ltd. Celebration Point Plot # 3 & 5, Road # 113/A Dhaka T: 9882990
44.	Sultana Shaheda Islam President	Gulshan Club Ltd. House-2. Road-50. Gulshan 2. Dhaka. Bangladesh. T: 8619180-4
45.	Tom F. Johnk	The Economist

Annex 2: Programme

- 5:00 pm: **Welcome note by *Mr. Md. Osman Gani*, Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department**
- 5:05 pm: **Round Table Guidelines by the Moderator, *Dr. Ainun Nishat*, Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh**
- 5:10 pm: **Presentation of movie: 'A Nimble Walk through Five Protected Forest Areas'**
- 5:20 pm: **'Nishorgo in Brief: Progress and Partnerships' *Philip J. DeCosse*, Chief of Party, Nishorgo Support Project**
- 5:30 pm: **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**
- 6:45 pm: **Summary of discussion by the Moderator**
- 6:50 pm: **Remarks by *Mr. Gene V. George*, Mission Director, USAID**
- 6:55 pm: **Closing note by *Mr. S. M. Jahrul Islam*, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests**
- 7:00 pm: **Dinner**

Annex 3: Synopsis

Public-Private Round Table on Conservation of Protected Forest Areas

Public Private Partnerships (PPP) can be described as partnerships between members of the public and private sector for the purpose of delivering a service that has traditionally been provided by the public sector. Provision of these services is made in the mutual interest of both public and private sector actors. Examples of public-private partnerships in Bangladesh are manifold, including the many transport sector facilities (transport being a traditional domain of the public sector) being cleaned, maintained or otherwise serviced by the private sector. The best-known example of this is the Airport Road, but many other similar examples exist.

In the provision of conservation services such as Protected Forest Areas, however, the examples of public-private partnership are, however, few and far between. The 19 Protected Forest Areas of the country are under severe stress, in spite of the best efforts of the Forest Department. The Department has recently embarked on an innovative program for improved management of these areas -- called Nishorgo. But this Government-led effort will succeed most effectively only when it receives broad support also from leading members of the private sector.

The Nishorgo Program can benefit from two broad categories of support in partnership with the private sector:

- (1) *An active network of institutions and individuals committed to conservation.* The leading companies and individuals of the country can be a unique force in ensuring conservation of protected areas for the future generations of the country, and for the livelihoods of the poor living near to them today. This category of partnership -- which we may call "advocacy" -- is probably the most important potential contribution of public-private partnerships for conservation.
- (2) *The periodic financial contributions that can support conservation efforts.* The contribution of financial and human resources to support visitor services, mass communication efforts and other needs of the PA system can be mutually beneficial to the public and private sectors.

The primary objective of this Round Table is to bring together a group of leading private business leaders, both national and multi-national, to explore and identify a common ground for deepening partnerships in the interest of conservation of the Protected Forest Areas of the country.