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INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA CO-MANAGEMENT (IPAC)

Summary Report on Inception Workshop of Central Cluster

June 02, 2009

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JUNE 02 , 2009

*Venue: Training & Resource Centre, BRAC
Tekipara, Madhupur, Tangail*

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Table of Contents

1. Schedule of the Inception Workshop	3
2. Brief Summary	4
3. Summary Description	
A. Opening Session	
i. Welcome Address	5
ii. Remarks by Special Guest	6
iii. Remarks by Chief Guest	6
iv. Remarks by Chairman	7
v. Video Show	8
B. Second Session	
i. IPAC Briefing	9-10
ii. Presentation of PRA/RRA Report of Madhupur and Sherpur Site	10-11
iii. Local People & Leaders Comments, Reaction through Participatory Discussion	11-14
iv. Comments & Reactions by Central & Local Government of Second Session	14-15
C. Third Session	
i. Departments wise Opinion's Sharing of Government's Officials	15-16
ii. Site wise Group Work and presentation	16-18
iii. Speech of Spokesmen of Third Session	19
D. Feedback of the Participants	19
E. Closing Session	20
4. Annex 1: Various Moment of the Workshop	21
5. Annex 2: The List of Participants	22

Integrated Protected Area Co-Management
Ministries of Environment and Forest, and Fisheries and Livestock

Inception Workshop – Central Cluster

Madhupur, 02 June 2009

Venue: BRAC's Training and Resource Center, Tekipara, Modhupur

Schedule:

Time	Event / Activities	Person Concern
Opening Session		
08:30-09:00	Reception and Registration	Cluster Team
09:00 -09:15	Introduction of Participants	Mr. Kazi M A Hashem, Institutional Capacity Building Specialist, IPAC, Dhaka
09:15 -09:30	Welcome Address	Mr. Bob Winterbottom, Chief of Party, IPAC, Dhaka
09:30-09:45	Introductory Remarks by Special Guest	Dr. Azharul H. Mazumder, Team Leader, Environment team, USAID
9:45-10:00	Remarks by Chief Guest	Mr. Khandakar Abdul Gafur Mantu, Upazila Chairman, Madhupur Upazila
10:00-10:15	Remarks by Chairperson	Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Conservator of Forest, Central Circle, Forest Department
10:15-11:00	Context for IPAC, Video Documentation on MACH & NSP	Mr. Parvez Kamal Pasha, Enterprise Support Facilitator, Central Cluster, IPAC
11:00-11:15	Tea Break	
Second Session		
11:15-11:45	IPAC Briefing : Scope of Work, Targeted results & Priorities for 1 st Year	Dr. Ram A. Sharma, Deputy Chief of Party, IPAC, Dhaka
11:45-12:15	PRA/RRA Summary Findings of Madhupur and Sherpur Site	Mr. Shital Kumar Nath, Site Coordinator, Central Cluster, IPAC
12:30-13:00	Comments and Reactions by Local Leaders	Utpal Dutta, Governance Specialist (Moderator) IPAC, Dhaka
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
Third Session		
14:00-14:45	Partners Perspectives: Information Sharing on Progress Achieved, Lessons Learned, and Key Challenges of Participatory Management of Forests and other Natural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Forest Department o Department of Fisheries o Department of Environment o Local NGOs 	Kazi M. A. Hashem, Institutional Capacity Building Specialist (Moderator), IPAC Dhaka
14:45-15:00	Tea Break	
15:00-15:45	Site wise Group Work and Presentation	
15:45-16:00	Feedback of the Participants	
16:00-16:30	Closing, Conclusions & Recommendations	

Brief Summary

A day-long Inception Workshop for the Central Cluster of Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project was held at BRAC's Training and Resource Centre under Madhupur Upazila on June 02, 2009. The participants of the workshop were Local Government Institution representatives viz. *Upazila Parishad & Union Parishad*; government officials viz. Forest Department, Department of Fisheries and Department of environment; Community Based Organization members viz. *Resource Management Organizations, Co-Management Committees & Resource User Groups*; Journalists; local elites & influential persons; donor agency; NGOs; partners & project staffs of IPAC project.

IPAC's Chief of Party, Mr. Bob Winterbottom welcomed the workshop participants and expressed needs for working together to conserve Madhupur National Park; and Wetlands of Kangsha-Malijhi Site, Sherpur and Turag-Bangshi Site, Kaliakoir.

Dr. Azharul H. Mazumder, Team Leader, Environment Team, USAID stressed the requirements of co-management approach in implementing and achieving the objectives of the project.

The Chief Guest Mr. Abdul Gafur Montu, Upazila Chairman, Modhupur thanked IPAC authority for selecting Madhupur National Park as one of the project sites. He assured providing necessary supports from himself as well as Upazila Parisad for the sake of effective and efficient implementation of IPAC's activities.

The Chair of the opening session of workshop Mr. Yunus Ali, Conservator of Forests, Central Circle requested the participants to conserve the Protected Areas by involving with IPAC endeavor for eventual development.

Among others, Dr. Mir Farhadul Alam, Vice Chairman, Madhupur Upazial; Mr. Sha-E-Alam, Divisional Forest Officer, Tangail; Mr. Uttam Kumar Shaha, Divisional Forest Officer, Mymensingh; Mr. Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, District Fisheries Officer, Tangail; Mr. Md. Kaykobad, District Fisheries Officer, Sherpur; and Dr. Ram A. Sharma, Deputy Chief of Party, IPAC project spoke on the occasion.

Influential aborigine leaders including Mr. Ajoy A. Mree, Mr. Anthony Mangsang and Mr. Uzine Nokrec also raised their opinion in the workshop.

The participants were familiarized with the scope of work and major components of IPAC in the beginning of workshop. A presentation on PRA/RRA report on Madhupur and Sherpur Sites depicted the current situation of the Central Cluster.

- On the basis of information provided in this workshop, the local representatives/leaders and journalists put their comments, reactions and suggestions in an exclusive session. Afterward, local government institution representatives, GOB department officials, representatives from NGOs shared and commented on their lessons learned; commented and suggested on the key challenges in favor of conservation through co-management approach. In the afternoon, all the participants were divided into four groups who prepared their recommendations/suggestions on pre-set five questions. Each of the group findings were presented in front of plenary session and rest of participants provided their inputs for enrichment.

Also, it is to be noted that IPAC project was formally inaugurated in Central Cluster by this workshop to conserve forests and wetland through co-management.

Summary Description

Opening Session

The Inception Workshop started at 9:00am in the hall room of Training & Resource Centre, BRAC, Tekipara, Madhupur.

Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Conservator of forests (CF), Central Circle, Forest Department was Chaired the first session; where Mr. Khandoker Abdul Gafur Montu, Upazila Chairman, Madhupur Upazila was Chief Guest and Dr. Azharul H. Mazumder, Team Leader, Environment Team, USAID nominated as Special Guest. Mr. Bob Winterbottom along with all of the abovementioned dignitaries took their seats in dais.

Introduction of the Participants

As per request of the workshop moderator, Mr. Kazi M A Hashem, Institutional Capacity Building Specialist, IPAC, the participants introduced themselves initially. A total of 93 participants attended (Annex # 2) in the workshop from different stakeholders group as follows:

Category	Number	Details
Upazila Parishad	3	Upazila Chairman & two Upazila Vice-Chairman
Union Parishad	1	Chairman
Forest Department	10	CF, two DFOs, two ACFs, three Range Officers, one Forester & one Forest Guard
Department of Fisheries	8	Two DFOs, one AD, four S/UFOs, one Asst. UFO
Co-Management Committee	3	Three from Srimangal (LNP, SNP & RKWS)
Resource Mgt. Organization	11	nine from Central Cluster & two from Hail Haor
Resource User Group	5	From Central Cluster
Journalist	5	From Central Cluster
Local Elite	5	From Central Cluster
NGOs & CBOs	13	Representatives from MACH-CNRS & MACH-Caritas; and local NGO representatives viz. JAUP, AMS, SEMP, Shapla Samaj, IPDS, SEHD & JAKS
Donor	1	USAID
IPAC Partners	28	Five from IPAC-Dhaka, two WFC, two BELA, two Oasis, and RDRS 17
Total	93	

Welcome Address by the Chief of Party, IPAC

Mr. Bob Winterbottom, Chief of Party, IPAC Project in his welcome address stated how pleased he was with the excellent participation of all concerned which brought everyone together for the better understanding of IPAC Project.



He expected to know what needed to be done, what the challenges and scopes were; and the specific recommendations and possible suggestions. He informed that the primary assessment of the project areas and achievements of MACH and Nishorgo will be shared. He also mentioned that the IPAC Project is the continuation of MACH and Nishorgo.

Moreover, the Chief of Party stressed the role of IPAC in reducing poverty, conserving biodiversity and contributing to local community development in the surrounding landscapes.

In conclusion, Mr. Bob Winterbottom hoped that the participants will contribute actively to ensure productive outputs of the workshop for future collaboration.

Introductory Remarks by the Special Guest

Dr. Azharul H. Mazumder, Team Leader, Environment Team, USAID mentioned the objectives of IPAC Project. He stressed the need of co-management in implementing and achieving the objectives of the project. He also reinforced that how the project work will be done, what is process of work, what is co-management, etc. He talked about the natural



resources and its biodiversity of IPAC's Central Cluster. He also thanked the members of CMCs, RMOs, FRUGs of different parts of IPAC's project area who came to share their experiences with the other participants of this workshop.

Remarks by the Chief Guest

Mr. Khandoker Abdul Gafur Montu, Upazila Chairman, Madhupur thanked to IPAC authority for selecting Madhupur National Park as one of the project sites. He recognized that it is appropriate time for intervention with such types of project activities in this area.



He requested all the participants to help in implementing the project. The Upazila Chairman assured to provide necessary support from his part as well as Upazila Parisad for the sake of effective and efficient implementation of IPAC's activities.

Remarks by the Chairperson

Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, Forest Department presided over the first session of the workshop. In his remarks, he described how the forest and wetland resources are closely linked in this area, and if not properly conserved and maintained then how this will harmfully impact on lives and livelihood. He assured that the government acts, laws, policies and rules on forests, fisheries, wetlands and environment are being enabled to protect the country and its citizens from adverse effects to the nature and climate.



He was referring that once Madhupur forests was enriched with lot of rare and beneficial plants including medicinal plant; but now the present status of forests reminds its glorious past as only as history.

He raised his view that the cause of reducing forests is not only government failure but also dependent on surrounding people's sense of rights and responsibilities. In addition, he claimed that climate change is also one of the main reasons for decreasing forests; the consequence of many devastating natural disaster such as floods, tornado, cyclone, Sidr, Alia, etc. He stated that women, children, aged and disabled people, animals and crops are mainly affected by natural disasters.

In conclusion, the chairman welcomed IPAC and requested everybody to conserve the Protected Area and requested especially the participants to involve with IPAC endeavor for conservation and eventual development.

Video Film Show

Mr. Parvez Kamal Pasha, Enterprise Support Facilitator, Central Cluster, IPAC showed the following video films as part of setting context of Inception Workshop:

- A video show on *Baikka Beel* of Hail Haor, Srimangal demonstrated some of the achievements of MACH project. Participants focussed on how the lost fish species & other natural resources can be brought back through proper management of wetlands and how local people especially who are dependent on fishing, can be benefited by using the *beels*, *khals* (canals), *haors*, rivers etcetera through the co-management approach. The video show also gave a direction on how people can protect wetlands and increase native fish production though conserving sanctuary.
- The next video show was on Lawachara National Park, Satchari National Park, and Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary of Srimangal which gave an idea of bio-diversity conservation

through Nishorgo Support Project. The participants realized that how the co-management approach was effective for conserving the forest resources; how eco-tourism can be an income source for the local community. Also, the participants entertained themselves by watching rare wildlife of the mentioned forests.

Closing the first session and Tea Break

After an interaction regarding the video show, the chairperson concluded first session and allowed a fifteen minutes tea break before second session.

Second Session

The second session was presided by the three members of Department of Fisheries viz. Mr. Kaykobad, District Fisheries Officer, Sherpur; Mr. Md. Kafiluddin Ahmed, Assistant Director, Dhaka; and Mr. Md. Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, District Fisheries Officer, Tangail.



After their introductory points, the workshop moderator, Mr. Kazi Hashem invited Dr. Ram A. Sharma, Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), IPAC Project to present an overview on IPAC.

Dr. Ram A. Sharma's presentation on IPAC

Dr. Ram A. Sharma mentioned that IPAC project is the continuation and combination of Nishorgo and MACH Projects. The IPAC project started on June 5, 2008 and will continue its journey till June 4, 2013. In Nishorgo and MACH projects, there were five and three Sites respectively whereas IPAC will work in 26 protected areas and Madhupur is one of those areas.

To figure out the stakeholders of the project, he stated that IPAC is a project under the Bangladesh Government funded by USAID. The project will run under two Ministries viz. Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock (MoFL) and Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) along with three departments viz. Forest Department (FD), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Department of Environment (DoE). The technical assistance is provided by International Resource Group (IRG), USA and its partners. The project is being implemented through co-management approach by involving local level stakeholders, GOB institutions, local government institutions, professionals, NGOs and CBOs.

He pointed out the purpose, objectives, three main components, specific results, locations along with maps of the IPAC project. He also showed IPAC work priorities, time-table and IPAC interventions in Central Cluster including Madhupur.



PRA/RRA Summary Findings: Mr. Shital Kumar Nath, Site Coordinator, Central Cluster, IPAC

Mr. Shital Kumar Nath presented the summary of PRA/RRA findings of Madhupur Forest and Kangsha-Malijee wetlands of Sherpur. He highlighted strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of those areas. Simultaneously he suggested recommendations to solve the problems.

As per presentation, the main threats to forest i.e. clear felling; illegal timber felling; collection of fuel-woods, bamboo and house building materials; hunting; unplanned tourism; excessive proceedings compelled community more dependent on resources; encroachment; lit fire etc.

He presented the challenges i.e. boundary demarcation; occupancy right of forest dwellers in land/resources use; amendment & update of Forest Acts/Rules; prohibition of indiscriminate resources use; coordination in plantation programs; replacement of planted forest by natural forest; empowerment of Resource User Group; prohibition of fuel-wood, bamboo and building material collection; reducing poverty and unemployment; revising FD's policy for forestry production in favor of biodiversity conservation; controlled use of chemical, fertilizer & insecticides; establishing co-management approach for biodiversity conservation etc.

He presented some opportunities such as eco-tourism development including eco-guide, eco-cottage, tourist shop, transport arrangement for tourists and other accommodation facilities; organizing ethnic cultural show; plantations; handicraft production by using forest resources; forest patrol group; scope for Alternative Income Generating Activities(AIGA); habitat restoration and rehabilitation etc.

Later, he presented PRA/RRA findings on Kanshaw-Malijee wetlands of Sherpur. He highlighted the reasons for wetland degradation inter alia siltation, change of river direction, loss of connectivity between river and flood land, dewatering, agricultural and homestead encroachment; and over fishing, brood fish and fingerlings catching, using illegal gears, *khata* fishing, current net, fishing by *bana* fencing, fishing by dewatering, existing leasing policy etc.

As part of recommendation, he pointed out that opening the connecting canals by re-excavation, construction of embankment of Malijee River, riparian plantation across the identified rivers and canals; prohibiting encroachment etc; and to revive fisheries resources. His presentation also included reducing fishing pressure; allowing brood to spawn and fingerling to grow up; prohibition of dewatering; fish friendly leasing policy etc.

Local People & Leaders Comments, Reaction through Participatory Discussion

The workshop moderator requested participants to express their comments and opinions so that the project can move in the right track. Mr. Utpal Dutta, Governance Specialist, IPAC project facilitated the session.

Kangsha-Malijee, Sherpur Site

Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman, Chairman of RMO, Jhinaigati, Sherpur

Mr. Aziz said that MACH project took the initiative to run Resource Management Organization (RMO) and Federation of Resource User Group (FRUG). Through MACH project, they excavated *Beels*, Canals (*Khals*) and increased production of more or less lost fishes and found out alternative income generation sources for those who were dependent on fishing. Besides they were involved in swamp and riparian plantation.

He shared that the Garo Hill (Jhinaigati Upazila, Sherpur) was a dense forest together with lot of wildlife. But due to food scarcity now a days the wild elephants come out to locality to search food and divest people's resources.

He suggested that IPAC should create sanctuaries to conserve the forest and wildlife and provide AIGAs for local people and arrange security to keep people's resources safe.

Mr. Mukhlesur Rahman, Chairman of FRUG, Dhanshail, Sherpur

Mr. Mukhles recalled that MACH was trying to reduce pressure and dependency of people on wetlands by forming FRUG and capacity building through appropriate training. People of local community especially fishing community were given micro credit and encouraged to involve in AIGAs. Simultaneously, the project created awareness by conducting various meetings, workshops, courtyard sessions, folk dramas, etc. FRUG also played role in tree plantation.

Madhupur Site

Mr. Ajoy Mree, Chairman of Joyenshahi Adivashi Unnoyon Parishad

Mr. Ajoy Mree asked the following questions:

- Where IPAC will work in Madhupur?
- Does it work in National Park or Reserve Forest?
- What will IPAC do for the rights of Aborigines (*Adibashi*)?
- What will be done for their land rights?

Then he criticized the many NGOs that came in Madhupur to work for the benefits of Aborigines and gave a lot of commitments but at last did nothing for them. That's why he requested to IPAC authority before starting the project; the above questions should be clarified to them. In addition he suggested that the Ministry of Land should be included in this project.

Rafiqul Islam Khan (Rabi), Chairman, Society for Protection of Medicinal Plant & Environment (SEMP)

He stated that he has been living in Madhupur for 20 years and working to increase medicinal plants. Since he is staying with aborigines and doing research on Aborigines religion, culture, language and their life & livelihood, he has seen that Aborigines people have deprived from many things even from basic rights.

He added that as wood-collecting and tree felling are easy way of income, so the indigenous people are interested to do this though they do not want to damage the forest. So, he counseled for promoting AIGAs among local communities. He recommended that medicinal plants can

be a form of AIGA. He alerted that we should stop banana cultivation in the forest area because it can be harmful for the forest area.

M. A. Rouf, President, Madhupur Press Club, Tangail

Mr. Rouf warned that the forest is getting depleted day by day. He told that 1,000 hectare forests have been degraded within last six months. He regretted that many journalists wrote on this issue but nobody and no organizations came ahead to protect the forest. He wanted to know what kind of initiatives have been taken from IPAC project to protect the forest, seeing that it has been working since June 2008. He then enlightened the participants of the workshop that many muscle men, political persons and rich men are using poor people and aborigines to cut the tree and to smash up the forest for making more money. He said that “the question is how the IPAC will protect them”.

He suggested saving the forest by increasing forest land, not to give lease the forest area, stop all kinds of leasing system, increase manpower, etc.

Mr. Uguine Nokrec, Leader, Joyenshahi Adivashi Unnoyon Parishad

He urged that creation of social forest should be stopped immediately. He said “don’t cut natural forest to increase social forest”. He also mentioned that the adivashi communities are always against social forestry and banana plantation. He desired that administration, laws and rules should be strong and powerful and it should be implemented effectively.

Srimangal site

The session facilitator Mr. Utpal Dutta invited representative of Srimangal to share how they have been working and what kind of impact Nishorgo and MACH have brought to them.

Mr. Abu Taher, Chairman of CMC, Satchhari National Park, Srimangal Site

Mr. Abu Taher shared Nishorgo’s activities in Satchhari National Park by following points:

- After rescuing wild animals, release those in the forest
- Increase Plantation in the forest
- Provide one hectare land to each beneficiary to reduce dependency on forest
- Promote AIGAs
- Through creating awareness, try to conserve bio-diversity

He also said that shortages of manpower and lack efficiency are the main barriers of Forest Department. On the other hand, he said “forest act is very weak and we should make it strong as early as possible to protect out forest”.

Mr. Md. Abdul Muhit, Member of RMO, Sanada, Srimangal Site

To share MACH project’s achievements in *Bikka Beel*, he pointed out the following things:

- In *Hail Haor* through the eight RMOs, 14 sanctuaries have been set up to increase production of indigenes fish in Bangladesh.
- The main focus and importance has given in *Baikka Beel* among all the *Beels* of Hail Haor.
- At the beginning of the MACH project, people were not interested to accept its activities but due to its success, now the people of this community are rushing to be a part of its activities.
- At present, the fish production of this area increased. Even the fish that was almost found nowhere was found and could be cultivated through creating *Abhoyassram* using *Beels* and that has been done by MACH Project.

- To get the continued benefits from *Hail Haor*, need to increase home-grown fish production and more assistance and follow up activities are needed and IPAC is doing that since June, 2008.

Mr. Maolana Md. Tajul Islam, Treasurer of CMC, Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, Chunarughat, Srimangal Site

Mr. Tajul Islam expected IPAC's cooperation for the Forest Department's capacity building as well as conserving the forest. He ensured that the people of local community will be with IPAC for making it possible. Finally, he proposed the IPAC authority to arrange overseas visit to exchange learning from others and to see how other country became successful to protect their forest.

Turag-Bangshi Site, Kaliakoir

Mr. Md. Abdus Samad, Chairman of RMO, Alua, kaliakoir

Mr. Abdus Samad's viewpoints on MACH Project were:

- From 1999 to till date by the assistance of MACH project, four RMOs and five FRUGs have been formed and for the result of this, the fish production of this area has increased significantly.
- Local people are aware and motivated on fish production and its necessity.
- All of the results of MACH project will go in vain because a lot of industry has been set up in this area. The environment is polluted by the industry effluents and its carbon emission. The wetlands especially *Beels* are mostly affected.

At last, he expected that IPAC will work for saving the forests, fishes and environment.

Dr. Mir Farhadul Alam, Upazila Vice Chairman, Madhupur

Dr. Mir Farhad cited that he is pleased to see that all sections of people came here to share their experiences to protect our valuable resources. He mentioned that our country is going to do everything to meet up our crisis. From his part, he promised to help IPAC to gain its goal.

Mr. Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, District Fisheries Officer, Tangail

Giving thanks to all of the participations, Mr. Ashraf Uddin said that we should communicate with the people to motivate them to protect our resources. He also warned that the time has gone; we should start at this moment. He also reminded that we must achieve our target and we must make our wetlands and forest useful for our people.

Mr. Md. Kafiluddin Kaiyum, Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries, Dhaka

Mr. Kaiyum thanked the participants and said that he was very happy listening to varied opinions, reactions and suggestions from their own experiences. He told that IPAC will bring more impact than MACH and Nishorgo. Moreover, he exclaimed that IPAC will ensure people's participation through co-management approach to get the positive result.

Closing the Second Session and Lunch Break

Finally, Mr. Kaykobad closed the second session by requesting IPAC authority to remember the feedback of the participants. He hoped that IPAC will achieve its goal, objectives and outcomes.

Then the workshop moderator announced one hour break for lunch and Juhur prayer.

Third Session

The third session was presided over by Mr. Md. Shah-E-Alam, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Tangail along with Mr. Uttam Kumar Saha, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Mymensingh.



The chairs of the stage were taken by Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Conservator of Forest (CF), Forest Department, Dhaka; and Khandoker Abdul Gafur Montu, Upazila Chairman, Madhupur.

After the chairpersons introductory wishes, the workshop moderator, Mr. Kazi Hashem invited the government's officials for sharing their opinion.

Department of Fisheries

Mr. Md. Aminul Haque, Upazila Fisheries Officer, Jhinaigati Sherpur

Mr. Haque said that Jhinaigati is a flash flood affected area and for this reason the excavated *beels* were being filled up with soil and sanctuaries also being filled up. So he recommended to start excavation as early as possible. He recalled that during MACH project, the fish production was comparatively good which proved that co-management approach and sanctuaries were able to protect beels. He requested that IPAC should come ahead with initiatives and activities to dig our wetlands and create sanctuaries to save our lost fishes.

Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin, Upazila Fisheries Officer, Madhupur, Tangail

Mr. Ruhul Amin said that Madhupur is also good place for fisheries. He mentioned that the renowned Bangshai River is flowing through this area; we should utilize the river to enhance fish production. He suggested making three sanctuaries in Bangshai River; if possible it can produce huge fishes.

Mrs. Anwara Begum, Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer, Sherpur

Mrs. Anwara said "the situation of my area is comparatively different from others. There is a *Beel* named *Aura Baura* but yet no RMO has been established. If we do not take initiatives then we can not keep it and it can go under individual through lease. Since it was under MACH project, IPAC can take over the beel by giving government's revenue because the revenue was not given since 2000.

Forest Department

Mr. Sorfuddin, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mahdupur National Park, Tangail

Mr. Sorfuddin said that Madhupur forest is different from other forest. He suggested providing with AIGAs for forest resources users with a view to conserving the forest.

Mr. Hossain Muhammad Nishat, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Bhawal National Park, Gazipur

Mr. Nishat informed that there exist about 400 industries surrounding Bhawal national park; consequently the rivers including Turag-Bangshi, canals, *eels*, are being polluted by the effluents of the industries. Therefore he suggested IPAC authority to make the government and people understand on the effects of this kind of pollution. Besides this, he recommended that during PRA activities, people participations should be ensured and at the same time political leaders should be mobilized to come ahead to conserve the forests, fishes and environment.

Group work and presentation

The participants were divided in to four groups based on working areas of Central Cluster viz. Kanshaw-Malijee, Madhupur National park, Turag-Bangshi and Bhawal National Park with the following questions:

- On the basis of priority, what kind of necessary trainings including Alternative Income Generating Activities can be provided to enhance the skills and capabilities?
- What will be the indicators to measure the achieved changes of IPAC activates through implementation?
- How you can include yourselves in the difference?
- What are the more effective activities can assist at site level?
- What are the local initiatives to protect resources?

After group wise discussion each of the groups presented their findings in plenary session:

Group: Madhupur National Park

Presented by: Professor Golam Samdani

- Wetlands become filled up with water in rainy season
- Indiscriminately catching fish
- Amendment of Forest Act
- The problems of forest and forester regarding land rights
- Social forestation and forest lands seized illegally
- Lack of employment and alternative income source
- Ensure local people participation in forest and wetlands management
- Modernize forest and fish act and law
- Set up sanctuaries in forest and wetlands
- Provide training on small enterprises
- Provide training on eco environment friendly agriculture
- Develop forests and wetlands
- Administrative assistance
- On the basis of local people and its representative's opinions, strategy of the project should be formulated

Group: Bhawal National Park

Presented by: Hossain Muhammad Nishat, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Bhawal, Gazipur

- Rapid industrialization
- Increased population
- Survey and record of land
- Scattered forest
- Tendency to grab the forest land
- Form group of Forest Guards
- Motivation
- Training on tour guide
- Flower garden
- Fish culture
- Form co-management council and committee
- Increase the number of wild animal and species
- Improve the number of tourists
- Develop shade of trees
- Meet up the basic demands such as food, education, accommodation, costume, health of indigenizes people
- Make effective coordination of different organization

Group: Kangsha-Malijee Site

Presented by: Md. Tota Mia, Chairman of RMO, Dholibaila, Sherpur

1. The problems of protecting wetlands
 - Rainy water of Hills fill up the wetlands
 - Grabbing the *Jalmohal*
 - Stealing the fishes of *Abhoyasram* at night
 - Using hazardous net and disobeying the Fishing Act to catch fish
 - Not to promote AIGAs for the fisherman
 - Lack of finance to excavate *Beels*
2. Training
 - Provide training on fish culture in ponds, nursery, beef fattening, poultry-duck rearing, driving, LMAF
3. Indicators to measure the achieved changes of IPAC activates through implementation
 - Collect information of catching fish
 - Collect data from market
 - Observe fishermen's income either increased or decreased
 - Observation of capacity building training that fishermen could earn more through AIGAs
 - Direct assistance of RMO and FRUG members
 - Monitoring and follow up by fisheries office
4. Effective activities of site level
 - Excavation of the part of sanctuaries as well as catchments area of sanctuaries of *Beels*, *Khals*, rivers.
 - Forestation in the catchments area of excavation activities
 - Provide Laptop, Multimedia etc. and teach RMO and FRUG to operate

- Supply TV, DVD player along with various video show, documentary films to RMO and FRUG Offices
- Take initiatives to connect electricity in RMO and FRUG Offices.

Group: Turag-Bangshi Site

Presented by: AKM Sirajul Islam, Secretary of RMO, Turag, Kaliakior

- Effluents of industries
- Fill up wetlands
- Wetlands are grabbed by powerful person
- Stealing fish from sanctuaries
- There is no act and law on fish sanctuaries
- Appoint security guard to protect fish sanctuaries
- Local Government administration should be connected in this project
- Build up awareness among local community
- Provide training for capacity building on AIGAs
- Give training on poultry, tailoring, beef fattening, fish culture including various vocational training
- Increase the fish production
- Increase the fish species
- Try to enhance fishermen's income
- Excavation of fish sanctuaries
- Reduce water pollution
- Arrange training on management
- Ensure active and effective participation of Upazila Fisheries Officer

Mr. Uttam Kumar Shaha, Divisional Forest Officer, Mymensingh

Mr. Uttam Kumar Shaha opined that the eco-system is keeping the balance of environment, no one can create it. If eco-system fails to keep the balance we will be losing forever. Forest plays a vital role on eco-system to make it effective and active. He suggested that comprehensive social mobilization activities are needed to aware people about this aspect.

Closing the Third Session

Mr. Md Shah-E-Alam, Divisional Forest Officer, Tangail

The chairman of the third session expressed his apology to the participants for not giving the opportunity to express their views due to short of time. He thanked all the participants for their active and concentrated participation with patience and declared the third session over.

Feedback of Participants

Moderator of the Inception Workshop requested all the participants especially women participants to give their feedback on how they feel and what they realize from Inception Workshop.

Mrs. Shamsunnaher, D.D Shapla Samaj

Mrs. Shamsunnaher said, "The contents of the workshop are practical and discussion is really structured and creative. I am happy to be here with all others to know and share views. I hope it will not stop here; we want to see its practical implementation in future".

Ms. Jui Mree, Coordinator, IPDS

She said “Adivashi people are deprived from many things. They are being tortured year after year. It’s our expectation and hope that IPAC will work for *Adivashi*’s rights. That’s why, I am seeing the lights of hope and I feel happy in this workshop. My thanks are to you all”.

Closing Session

After 30 minutes of break for tea the closing session of the work shop has been started

Mr. Bob Winterbottom, Chief of Party, IPAC

Mr. Bob Winterbottom opined that the participants of all sites got a clear idea on IPAC project. The IPAC team also learned what they need to do. He said that the participants identified problems, challenges throughout the workshop; and this is time to take appropriate initiatives for practical solutions. He appreciated all the opinions and committed that IPAC will consider all the suggestions during implementation of the project. He also said that without participation and assistance of local community, government and non government personnel it would not be possible to realize the actions that the participants voiced in the workshop. Finally he concluded his speech by giving sincere thanks to everybody.

Dr. Azharul H. Mazumder, Team Leader, Environment Team, USAID

Dr. Azhar explained that IPAC has come to work after negotiating with the government for benefits of local people and the project will not be threats for Adivashis. He ensured that IPAC will not take any initiative which will go against Adivashis and their rights. On the other hand, IPAC will provide AIGAs among the people who are dependent on Forest and Wetlands. He also justified that IPAC is not able to do anything against Adivashi because all of the activities will be implemented according to the plan of local community. So, he requested all to come forward and use IPAC resources/staffs for the sake of implementing its activities through co-management approach. He mentioned that it can not be said that we will be able to bring the forests and wetlands as it was previous; but we will at least try with heart and soul to do the best; perhaps it would be returned. To give an example he said that natural beauty has come back in Baikka Beel after ceaseless effort of 20 years. At last he convinced everybody to take oath that from today’s workshop no one will cut any tree.

Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Conservator of Forest, Forest Department, Dhaka

Finally the Chairperson, Mr. Yunus Ali said that we have lot of wetlands and extraordinarily dense forest but we do not understand what kind of resources these are. We have been filling up the wetlands by damaging hills and reducing forest by cutting trees; consequently the climate has been changed and the environment has been polluted. He warned by quoting a scientist that Bangladesh would go under Bay of Bengal within 2050. He said IPAC will work for conserving and increasing our resources to save us from natural disaster. For attaining IPAC’s goal everybody’s assistance and cooperation should be needed.

At last he declared the end of the workshop and requested all the participants, “Please stand up and protect our forest and wetlands along with environment.

Annex 1

Various moment of the workshop



Registration



One part of the Audience



Moderator taking Participant Reaction

Annex 2
Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project

Inception Workshop

Venue: BRAC's Training & Resource Centre, Tekipara, Madhupur

Date: 02.06.09

Total Participants: 93

Sl.	Name of the Participants	Designation	Institution
Upazilla Parishad			
1	Mr. Khandaker. A. Gafur Montu	Chairman	Madhupur Upazila
2	Dr. Mir. Farhadul Alam	Vice chairman	Madhupur Upazila
3	Ms. Zostina Nokrec	Vice chairman	Madhupur Upazila
Union Parishad			
4	Mr. Shohrab Ali	Chairman	Sholakuri Union
Forest Department			
5	Mr. Md. Yunus Ali	Conservator of Forests	Central Circle, Dhaka
6	Mr. Md. Shah-E-Alam	Divisional Forest Officer	Tangail
7	Mr. Uttam Kumar Saha	Divisional Forest Officer	Mymensingh
8	Mr. Hossain Md. Nishat	Asstt. Conservator of Forests	Bhawal National Park
9	Mr. Shorfuddin	Asstt. Conservator of Forests	Madhupur National Park
10	Mr. Md. Nawshadul Alam	Range Officer	Madhupur National Park
11	Mr. ABM Zashimuddin	Range Officer	Dokhla, Madhupur NP
12	Mr. Md. Mohibul Hossain	Range Officer	Madhupur National Park
13	Mr. Md. Sarwar Jahan	Forester	Madhupur National Park
14	Mr. Shahadat	Forest Guard	
Department of Fisheries			
15	Mr. Md. Kafiluddin Kaiyum	Assistant Director	Dhaka
16	Mr. A. K. M Kaykobad	District Fisheries Officer	Sherpur
17	Mr. Ashrafuddin Ahmed	District Fisheries Officer	Tangail
18	Ms. Anwara Begum	Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer	Sherpur
19	Mr. Md. Aminul Haque	Upazila Fisheries Officer	Jhenaigat
20	Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin	Upazila Fisheries Officer	Madhupur
21	Mr. Md. Monirul Haque	Upazila Fisheries Officer	Kaliakoir
22	Mr. Indra Chandra Das	Assistant Upazila Fisheries Officer	Madhupur
CMC, FRUG, RMO Member			
23	Mr. Abu Taher	Chairman	CMC, Satchari NP
24	Mr. Ananda Mahon Sinha	Member	CMC, Lawachara NP
25	Mr. Md. Tajul Islam	Treasurer	CMC, Rema Kalenga WS
26	Mr. AKM Sirajul Islam	Secretary	RMO, Turag, Kaliakoir
27	Mr. Md. Tota Mia	Chairman	RMO, Dholibeel
28	Mr. Md. Sheikh Ahmed	Member	RMO
29	Mr. Md. Saidul	Member	RMO, Jhenaigati
30	Mr. Abul Bashar	Secretary	RMO, Mokosh, Kaliakoir
31	Mr. Md. Abdus Samad	Chairman	RMO, Alua, kaliakoir
32	Mr. Md. Abdul Muhit	Member	RMO, Sananda
33	Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan	Secretary	RMO, Sherpur
34	Mr. Md. Lutfur Rahman	Member	RMO, Baragangina
35	Mr. Md. Chunnu Mia	Chairman	RMO Kaliakoir
36	Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman	Chairman	RMO, Jhenaigati
37	Mr. Mukhlesur Rahman	Chairman	FRUG, Dhanshail
38	Mr. Lutfur Rahman	Chairman	FRUG, Jhenaigati
39	Mr. Md. Nurul Islam	Member	FRUG, Sherpur

Sl.	Name of the Participants	Designation	Institution
40	Mr. Md. Abdul Jabbar	Member	FRUG, Kaliakoir
41	Mr. Md, Shakur Al Mamun	Member	FRUG, Kaliakoir
Journalists			
42	Mr. M.A. Rouf	President	Press Club, Madhupur
43	Mr. Md. Aminul Haque	Secretary	Press Club, Madhupur
44	Mr. Md. Golam Samdani	Professor	Dist Sr Rep, Independent
45	Mr. Tapan Kumar Debnath	Editor	Ajker Muktagachha
46	Mr. Md. Aminul Islam	Staff	Ajker Muktagachha
Local Elites			
47	Mr. Atul Chandra Biswas	Asst. Headmaster	Corpus Christy School
48	Mr. Md. Akhter Hossain	-	Madhupur
49	Mr. Rakesh Dalbot	-	Pachishmile
50	Mr. Saiful Islam	-	Modhupur
51	Mr. M. Hafizul Alum	-	Madhupur
NGOs & CBOs			
52	Mr. Ajoy A. Mree	Chairman	JAUP
53	Mr. Anthony	Member	JAUP
54	Mr. Shekhor Mrong	Member	JAUP
55	Mr. Shulekha Mrong	ED	AMS
56	Mr. Rabiul Islam Khan	Chairman	SEMP
57	Mrs. Shamsunnahar	D.D	Shapla Samaj
58	Ms. Jui Mree	CO	IPDS
59	Mr. Gulam Mostafa	ED	Bicharan
60	Mr. FMA Salam	PC	SEHD
61	Mr. Eugene Nokrec	PC	JAKS
MACH-CNRS, CARITAS			
62	Md. Shajahan	Field Officer	MACH TB site
63	Pallab Sarker	Site Coordinator	MACH TB site
64	Md. Nuruzzaman	Site Coordinator	MACH KM Site
USAID			
65	Dr. Azharul H. Mazumder	Team Leader, Environment Team	USAID, Dhaka
IPAC/IRG, Dhaka			
66	Mr. Mr. Bob Winterbottom	Chief of Party	IPAC, Dhaka
67	Dr. Ram A Sharma	Deputy Chief of Party	IPAC, Dhaka
68	Mr. Kazi M. A. Hashem	Institutional Capacity Building Specialist	IPAC, Dhaka
69	Mr. Utpal Dutta	Governance Specialist	IPAC Dhaka
70	Ms. Nadira Khanom	Communication Specialist	IPAC, Dhaka
IPAC/World Fish Center			
71	Mr. Masood Siddique	Performance Monitoring & Research Associate	Central Cluster
72	Mr. Md. Mazharul Islam	Cluster Implementation Facilitator	Dhaka
IPAC/BELA, Dhaka			
73	Mr. Shomnath Lahiri	Senior Researcher	BELA
74	Mr. Monjurul Ahmed	SC	BELA
IPAC/Oasis, Dhaka			
75	Mr. Christopher Sarker Bijoy	Business Development Manager	OASIS
76	Mr. Md. Kamruzzaman	Business Development Assistant	OASIS
IPAC/RDRS, Dhaka			
77	Mr. Ahmed Hossain	Project Coordinator	IPAC/RDRS, Dhaka
IPAC/RDRS, Srimangal			
78	Mr. ABM Shahidul Haque	Enterprise Support Facilitator	IPAC, Srimangal

Sl.	Name of the Participants	Designation	Institution
IPAC/RDRS, Central Cluster			
79	Mr. Shital Kumar Nath	Site Coordinator	IPAC, Madhupur
80	Mr. Md. Motiur Rahman	Cluster Support Project Coordinator	IPAC Madhupur
81	Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain	Communication, Outreach & Governance Facilitator	IPAC Madhupur
82	Mr. P. K. Pasha	Enterprise Support Facilitator	IPAC Madhupur
83	Mr. Mizanur Rahman	Accounts Manager	IPAC Modhupur
84	Mr. Md. Anisur Rahman	Accountant	IPAC Madhupur
85	Mr. Sabbir Ahmed Saber	Admin Assistant	IPAC, Madhupur
86	Mr. Md. Tuohidur Rahman	Site Facilitator	IPAC, Kaliakoir
87	Mr. Md. Abdul Jalil	Site Facilitator	IPAC, Gazipur
88	Mr. Lutmon E. Poduna	Site Facilitator	IPAC, Madhupur
89	Mr. Baly Chambugong	Field Organizer	IPAC Madhupur
90	Mr. Swapna Chisim	Field Organizer	IPAC, Madhupur
91	Mr. Md. Kamruzzaman	Field Organizer	IPAC Sherpur
92	Mr. Primus Pahan	Field Organizer	IPAC, Kaliakoir
93	Mr. Ahasan Habib	Field Organizer	IPAC, Bhawal