



CO-MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL FOREST RESOURCES IN
BANGLADESH PROJECT
REPORT FOR YEAR 1, 2ND QUARTER
SEPT 01, 03 TO NOV 30, 03

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Prepared for
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Forest Department
Ministry of Environment and Forests

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With Partners : CODEC, NACOM & RDRS



Year 1, 2nd Quarterly report For the period Sept 01 03, to Nov 30, 03

This 2nd quarterly report of the Co-management of Tropical Forest Resources in Bangladesh Project report covers the period September 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003.

The Support Project contract between IRG and USAID was signed on June 1, 2003. IRG's Chief of Party, Philip DeCosse, mobilized for a start-up mission to Dhaka during the period July 7 to July 18, 2003. After a return to the US of two and a half weeks, the COP returned to take up post in Dhaka on August 7, 2003. Since the 1st Quarterly reporting period, a number of achievements can be noted, including the following:

Project Administrative Start-up

- o A permanent Project office space has been located and the lease agreement signed, for a location within sight of the Forest Department. The Team is exploring opportunities for making part of this office space available to the Arannyak Foundation so as to facilitate collaboration between the Project and the Foundation;

- o Administrative and financial procedures are being put in place. In late October, we received a Project startup visit from two IRG/Washington staff members, including the Project Manager, Anne Lewandowski.

- Core IRG Team Completes Work Planning Process

Core members of the IRG Team completed a five week work plan development process. The process included review of the contract Scope of Work, IRG's Technical Proposal to USAID, relevant technical issues, and many other topics. The process was a key opportunity for all the Project subcontractors to provide input to the specific approach to be adopted.

- Agreement on Four Initial Pilot Sites for Co-management Effort

Closure has now been reached, and it is agreed that the initial pilot sites will include the Lawachara National Park, the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Satchuri Reserve Forest (the portions proposed for a Wildlife Sanctuary), and one site in the southeast. The Support Project is now proceeding to prepare infrastructure and resources to test co-management at each of these sites, and to undertake further reconnaissance at possible sites in the southeast.

- Visits to all Pilot Sites

The COP has made field visits with key FD staff and IRG Team members to each of the four pilot sites. Visits were rapid, lasting no more than one day per site, and were intended to get an initial sense of issues and context for eventual co-management efforts in and around them.

- Visioning Exercise with Senior Forest Department Officials

As a result of the initial visioning exercise conducted with senior forestry officials, the Chief of Party is now drafting a vision statement for protected area management in Bangladesh.

□ Agreement on Formalization of a “Protected Areas (PA) Management Program” at the Forest Department

After considerable discussion and meetings with the Forest Department, it was agreed in a meeting with the CCF and other senior FD staff that the FD would formalize the creation of a “Protected Area Management Program” at the Department, to which this USAID contract would serve as a Support Project.

• Progress Towards Development of an Image and Logo for the FD’s Protected Areas (PA) Management Program

Project staff have prepared and presented ideas for a name in Bangla to be given to this PA Management Program, presenting the ideas to a meeting of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Circle staff in October. At the same meeting, options for the PA Program name and logo were presented on stationary, hats, t-shirts, badges and posters. Subsequently, the Support Project launched a national competition among young students to find a creative name for the PA Management initiative, with advertisements in both Bangla and English language newspapers. A widely publicized awards ceremony, and official declaration of the Program name, is planned for November or early December.

• Dialogue and Familiarization on the PA Management Program and Co-management at the FD

The Support Project staff members have held numerous meetings with FD staff members, and particularly those from the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Circle, to explain and discuss the principles and approaches relevant to co-management and improved PA management. In September, two senior international experts in co-management and protected area management visited (one from India and one from the US), and made a presentation on co-management experiences in Asia to some 40 members of the Forest Department. In addition, the COP has met with staff members at the national and regional level to conduct similar discussions.

• Presentation on the Program at Sylhet Week in September

On September 16th, the COP prepared and presented a multi-media presentation entitled “Parks for People: Co-management of National Parks in Bangladesh” at the America in Sylhet Week activity. The presentation served as another opportunity to highlight the people-centered approach that this USAID project is supporting at the Forest Department.