

Designing a Co-management Model for Protected Areas of Bangladesh

By

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Introduction

Bangladesh as a nation inherits the legacy of an eternal and colorful past and tradition. The forest, flora and fauna in the smoothing natural environment are mingled with our tradition. But these resources are degrading rapidly due to population pressure. To arrest these losses, some of the areas with rich biodiversity were declared as National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries where extraction of forest produces were banned by the law. Except banning of extraction of forest produces from these PAs Forest Department didn't go for any sort of management for these areas resulting steady loss of resource from these areas.

In Bangladesh situation it is not practicable or feasible to manage these PAs by FD alone ignoring peoples' need with stricter provision of law. The only way to overcome the situation is to go for collaboration with local communities in managing the protected areas.

Purpose / Goal

To develop a co-management model for a pilot protected area to conserve bio-diversity within the socio-economic and cultural context existing in the PA and its adjacent areas and replicate this model for other PAs after necessary adjustment developing a sustainable PA management system.

Barriers

1. People living within PA and its adjacent areas are dependent on PAs for their livelihood.
2. People living in and around PAs do not have trust on FD.
3. People outside the PAs are generally not aware of PAs and its resources.
4. Indigenous people living in PAs considered PAs as their lands.
5. Fund constraints.

Benefits

1. Help in conserving resources for this and future generation.
2. Help in building trust between FD, communities and local leaders.
3. Increase economic activities in and around PAs.
4. Awareness among people about PAs and their resources.
5. Less dependency of PAs on public funding.

Activities

Activities	Indicator of success (Date of completion)	Resources needed
To identify the communities living within the PA and its adjacent areas and their dependence on the PA.	Communities and their needs on PA are identified. (September, 04)	PRA by an independent organization (Probably by an NGO)
Develop a community development plan based on ideas of the community and findings of PRA and availability of fund.	Community development plan prepared. (December, 04)	FD with the help of community leaders and NGO.
Develop Resource Management Organization comprising of representatives from different stakeholders.	RMO is formed. (March, 05)	FD, community leaders and NGO.

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Activities	Indicator of success	Resources needed
Identify the income generating activities (IGA) in each PA without a negative impact on resource conservation.	IGA identified. (June, 05)	FD, RMO and conservation experts.
Improve existing management plan of PA emphasizing resource, conservation, rehabilitation and IGA.	Management plan improved. (September, 05)	FD and conservation experts.
Prepare a plan for IGA on the basis of activity 4.	IGA plan prepared. (December, 05)	FD, RMO and environmentalists.
Discuss with communities regarding benefit sharing mechanisms and sign benefit sharing agreements specifying rights and responsibilities of different groups.	Number of agreements signed. (March, 06)	FD, RMO and NGO.
Implementing revised management plan and IGA plan and monitoring their effects on the PA.	Arrest of loss of bio-diversity in the PA. Mistrust between FD and communities reduced. (September, 07)	FD and independent monitoring by an expert group.

Impacts

Positively impacted	How impacted
Communities FD PA visitors Scientists and researchers Tourism Industry People USAID ADB	Earn their livelihoods from IGA Less time on protection. More facilities to visit PA. More studies and researches. Attract more tourists from home and abroad. More aware of PA and its importance. Contribution towards tropical forest conservation Contribution towards poverty alleviation

Negatively impacted	How impacted
Communities FD Timber traders Poachers Local leaders Environmentalists and conservationists	Disturbed by increased visitors in PA Reduction of authority Reduced supply of timber Less chance of poaching Less chance of politics with PA Concerned with increased visitors in PA.