



**CO-MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL FOREST RESOURCES  
IN BANGLADESH PROJECT  
REPORT FOR YEAR 1, 1ST QUARTER  
JUN 01, 03 TO AUG 31, 03**

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*Prepared for*  
USAID/Bangladesh &  
Forest Department  
Ministry of Environment and Forests

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With subcontractors:  
CARITAS  
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Nature Conservation Management (NACOM)  
Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)



With Partners : CODEC, NACOM & RDRS



## **Co-management of Tropical Forest Resources in Bangladesh Project Report for Year 1, 1st Quarter Jun 01, 03 to Aug 31, 03**

This 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly report of the Co-management of Tropical Forest Resources in Bangladesh Project covers the period June 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 through August 31<sup>st</sup> 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. Joined by Mr. Thomas Catterson, the COP held initial technical and administrative meetings to launch the Project. 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 his return, a number of activities have been completed and results achieved. Included among those activities and results are the following:

➤ **Project Administrative Start-up Under Way:**

The Support Project has made considerable advances in the past three months, including the following:

Contracts with Key Personnel have been signed for the Protected Areas Management Specialist (PAMS) and the Local Governance and Capacity Building Specialist (LGCBS), Mr. Thomas Costa. We have also finalized and signed an employment contract with our Director, Administration and Finance (DAF). Advertisements have been let for the Communications Specialist (CS) position, and candidates are now being interviewed, and other staff members, both administrative and technical, are in the process of being identified.

➤ **Core IRG Team Begins Work Planning Process:**

Core members of the IRG Team are now in the process of completing 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, including co-management (presented by COP), livelihoods (presented by Caritas), Federation development (presented by RDRS), models for local organization and development (presented by all Team members), approaches to communication (by the BCCP), social forestry (the Forest Department), spatial data availability and use (CEGIS), and other topics. In addition, the Core Team members met with key implementing partners, including the Forest Department's Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Circle and senior FD staff members. The Team also met with USAID Project partners from the LGI, ATDP2, JOBS and MACH Projects, to learn more about their goals and identify possible linkages, and had a special presentation on the Forestry Sector Project (FSP) by the Forest Department.

➤ Visioning Exercise with Senior Forest Department Officials

The IRG Team believes it is essential for the FD to identify a clear vision of what it expects to achieve in the area of PA management and, by implication, co-management of PAs. To that end, the COP organized a visioning exercise with three senior staff members of the FD, including the CF/Central Circle and Project Coordinator, the DCCF/Social Forestry, and the DFO/Wildlife for Sylhet. At this 1.5 day visioning exercise, which also include the Project CTO from USAID, participants assessed the likely issues and opportunities that would impact the management of the country's PA system in the year 2010. Results to this exercise are now being prepared by the COP in the form of a White Paper for FD discussion and review.

➤ 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