



Site Status Report: TEKNAF GAME RESERVE

Teknaf is the only Game Reserve of the country and was established to preserve habitat for a large diversity of wildlife, in particular the elephant. It is the most undulating of the five NSP sites, and the third largest Protected Area after the Sundarban Sanctuaries and the Pabla Khali Wildlife Sanctuary. The adjacent forest, coastline and sea create an exotic natural ambiance.

Within the larger Teknaf Reserve, the Project is focusing first on the northern Whykeong Range, where the forest is still relatively intact compared to the southern areas. Working with communities and other local stakeholders in the Whykeong and Baharchara sides of the Reserve, the Project endeavors to with newly formed Co-Management Councils and Committees (one each in Whykeong and Baharchara) to deliver income generating alternatives through small scale household production in the short-run and community-based nature tourism in the medium-run.

In December NSP observed "Teknaf Eco Tourism Week" which was preceded by a Bangladesh Scouts hiking program to raise awareness of the Reserve. Both programs were publicized in national media.



A nursery farmer checks his seedlings in Teknaf.

Progress Since November 2005

- Range and Beat officers received Orientation training on Nishorgo program. The foresters drafted their own Code of Conducts.
- The 3rd Co-management Council meeting took place. Copies of a draft Constitution were distributed for discussion and vetting.
- Community patrolling has become a very successful initiative to check illegal felling at Shilkhali Garjan Forest. Three patrolling teams have been established (36 members per team). The Patrolling groups are holding bi-weekly coordination meetings.
- As part of broad based social promotion targeting the younger generation, NSP arranged an art completion for school children and folk song ceremony where 125 people attended.
- Beneficiaries training conducted on home gardening, nursery development and other AIGAs are continuing. Demonstration materials have been given to the beneficiaries, who provide labor.
- The field office is maintaining close collaboration with the local Forest Department.
- NSP has taken a new office at Baharchara side.
- Training on Eco-tour guiding & Bird survey were given to 6 local youths.
- For incorporating the school and college level students in conservation of Teknaf Game Reserve, 2 'Nishorgo club' have been formed aiming at increased social mobilization for forest protection.
- To promote Eco-tourism at Teknaf Game Reserve, NSP arranged 'Teknaf Ecotourism Week' on December 22-28, 2005 where tourists along with tour operators visited and enjoyed services from the local community.

TEKNAF GAME RESERVE: At a Glance

- **Forest Type:** Tropical Evergreen and Semi Evergreen Forest.
- **Area:** Approximately 11,615 hectares
- **Flora & Fauna:** The Game Reserve supports one of the highest biodiversity in the country, with 290 plants species; 55 mammal species; 286 bird species; 13 amphibian species and 56 reptile species, including an estimated one third of the total wild elephant population of the country.
- **Flagship Species:** Asian Elephant is the most important one. Others are rare Malayan tree shrew, Wild Boar, Clouded Leopard, Hog-badger, Jungle Cat, Fishing Cat, Indian Python, Capped Languor
- **Settlement:** 115 villages including Muslim, Hindus, Ethnic community Chakma, Rakhain, and Rhoingha refugees.
- **Location & Accessibility:** The northern end of Teknaf Game Reserve lies 48 Km. South of Cox's Bazar. Teknaf Game Reserve lies in Cox's Bazar District and is managed by Cox's Bazar (south) Forest Division. It embraces 5 Unions of Teknaf Thana, namely Baharchara, Hnilla, Sabrang, Teknaf and Whykong.
- **Visitor Infrastructure:** The Forest Department has guest house in Teknaf (4 room) and Enani (3 room).

- To increase awareness for the Nishorgo Program, NSP arranged a Park to Park hiking for the Scouts from Chittagong region, where 75 Scouts joined. The hiking program started from Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary and ended in Teknaf Game Reserve. The hiking program was publicized in National media.
- The number of tourists are gradually increasing in this area who are hiring NSP's Eco tour guides.
- Demonstration AIGA support provided among 102 user group members

Planned Activities

The major key activities for the next quarter will be:

- Co-management committees will be formed at the next council meeting
- Copies of TGR Management plan will be circulated to council members for discussion.
- Young people awareness program targeting the school and college level students at 10 educational institutions will start from February.
- 2 more training courses for Forest Guards and malis will be held.
- Support will be given for AIGAs. The patrolling team will get priority in this regard.
- Alternative Energy Fair will be held to popularize energy sources other than fuel woods.
- Planned for 10 hectare enrichment plantation in core area and another 10 hectare plantation in buffer zone.

Impact from NSP's Intervention

i. Illegal Felling:

After the community patrolling was initiated a marked slow down in illegal felling can be observed. In some places of Shilkhal Sample plot (Garjan forest) the incidence of illegal felling almost ceased.

ii. Income Generation Activities in Locality:

Relevant IGA	Participants Trained / Oriented			Participants doing New IGA			Demonstration funds Disbursed			New Beneficiaries Targeted for the Coming Month		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Eco-Guiding	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nursery	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
Home Gardening / Vegetable Gardening	66	40	106	7	-	7	17,670	11,330	29,000	45	20	65
Total	79	40	119	7	-	7	17,670	11,330	29,000	57	20	77

Summary Status: User groups Formed: 31
 User group Member: 705 (Female: 196; Male: 509)

People Level Impact: Nurul Alam

32 year old Nurul Alam lives in Whykong in his ancestral home. For livelihood he depends on farming as well as on the surrounding forest. Now its been a year and a month that Nurul Alam joined NSP initiated Rykong Forest Protection Group. After interacting with NSP, Nurul Amin realized the importance of PA conservation. So he himself decided to lessen his dependence on the forests and be more related with farming. Therefore, Nurul Amin participated in Nishorgo Support Project's 3 day long 'Vegetable Farming' training course in September '05. Nurul Alam was specially benefited by learning about the modern techniques for farming and applying fertilizers. He started to cultivate vegetables in the land adjacent to his home. In initial stage, NSP helped him with seeds and 30 kg fertilizers. The NSP staffs also inspired him for farming to a greater extent. Later Nurul Alam found out that the yield of his spinach, tomato, cabbage and other vegetables that he had cultivated is much higher than the times before he took the training. Even his neighbors are praising him and now motivated to participate in NSP's income generation training courses. Nurul Alam said that Nishorgo not only enlightened him about the new techniques of vegetable farming but also increased his self confidence and gave him inspirations. He had profited from selling the vegetables in market along with consuming them. He his term he had double profits from this initiative.



Nurul Alam

