

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bangladesh
Program Title:	Environment
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	388-006
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$900,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$900,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID's program to improve the management of open water and tropical forest resources includes technical assistance and training to establish community-based resource management systems; restore aquatic and tropical forest habitats and ecosystems; heighten awareness among stakeholders, local governments, and national level policymakers of the need to sustainably manage natural resources; and improve public sector and non-governmental organization natural resource management capacity. USAID's co-management approach directly encourages improved governance by empowering communities to manage their own resources, thereby challenging the central government's customary "command and control" mentality. By involving all stakeholders, particularly resource users, the approach demonstrates unique opportunities to implement transparent and accountable natural resource management practices. Direct beneficiaries include target communities of the poor. Indirect beneficiaries include communities where up to 80% of the families are partially dependent on these resources.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will further expand wetlands rehabilitation and ecosystem restoration, public education, and outreach to build a broad-based constituency for co-management. USAID will encourage the expanded use of the co-management approach by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and others involved in environmental protection activities. USAID will develop a co-management planning and implementation model for select protected areas to improve ecosystems management, encourage appropriate policy, and create a conservation constituency. USAID will also support complementary natural resource policy assistance to institutionalize the co-management approach. Grantees and contractors include: Winrock International and International Resources Group (IRG).

Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor during Periods of Stress (\$450,000 DA). Support for alternative income-generating activities, the promotion of community stewardship, and environmentally-friendly interventions at the local level will consolidate community support and participation in co-management. A protected area, capacity-building needs assessment will be completed to fine tune technical assistance. Grantees and contractors include: Winrock International and IRG.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will build upon its successful efforts in developing community-based resource management organizations and its work with local institutions to ensure capacity and sustainability. A public-private conservation alliance supporting tropical forest co-management will be developed. Additional support will be required to build the capacity of the Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation. Grantees and contractors include: Winrock International and IRG.

Increase Food Security of Vulnerable Populations (\$450,000 DA). Continued support to promote environmentally sound community wetlands management will help sustain the supply of food for the poor by increasing fish production and improving nutrition. USAID will develop a forest buffer zone management plan that will enhance sustainable agricultural productivity. Grantees and contractors include: Winrock International and IRG.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will consolidate and disseminate lessons learned to ensure wide replication of the wetland resources co-management model and its sustainability. Co-management agreements are planned in five protected areas. USAID will address policy and regulatory constraints identified during an initial assessment of the natural resources policy environment. USAID also plans to provide targeted capacity-building support in protected area management. Grantees and contractors: same as above.

Protect and Improve the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor during Periods of Stress (\$450,000 DA). USAID plans to develop a mechanism to ensure the sustainability of alternative income-generating activities in target resource-dependent communities, including the creation of appropriate market linkages. Grantees and contractors: same as above.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$500,000 ESF). USAID expects local resource management organizations to assume responsibility for wetland management. As a part of the exit strategy, USAID anticipates the formation of subdistrict-level wetland resources management committees and the establishment of a trust or endowment fund to support future activities. Planned support for forest co-management will strengthen local co-management committees and build the capacity of the Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation. Grantees and contractors: same as above.

Increase Food Security of Vulnerable Populations (\$450,000 DA). USAID will assist local resource co-management organizations as they assume responsibility for enhancing sustainable fish production. USAID also anticipates that the forest co-management committees will promote sustainable production in the buffer zones of targeted protected areas. Grantees and contractors: same as above.

Performance and Results: Wetlands covering 19,686 hectares in three major floodplains are now sustainably managed by 16 local resource management organizations. Over 500,000 trees have been planted to rehabilitate wetland, riparian and upland habitats, and 72 permanent fish sanctuaries have been established, all benefiting over half a million poor families. USAID assistance has also reintroduced 28 species of native fish and 47 species of native plants. More than 348,000 people attended various awareness-raising programs in the past year. The formation of 245 community credit groups (one-third of them women-led) enables members to pursue alternative income-generating activities, increasing incomes by 47% and reducing pressure on wetlands. As a result of USAID's intervention, 12 public wetlands areas have been turned over for local community management as permanent fish sanctuaries. Fish production for these targeted areas has increased by 50%. The GOB's Local Government Engineering Department has now moved to adopt USAID practices in three subdistricts. In addition, USAID's co-management model was adopted in the GOB Department of Fisheries draft "Inland Capture Fisheries Strategy," which could be applied to all open water fisheries and wetlands throughout Bangladesh.

During FY 2004, USAID initiated a tropical forest co-management project in close partnership with the GOB Forest Department and succeeded in reaching agreement on the establishment of local co-management committees - a groundbreaking concession for the Forest Department. A training and exchange visit took senior Forest Department officials to India to observe co-management experiences in West Bengal. An in-depth institutional analysis of the Department was completed. USAID has also assisted in the establishment of a local Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation as authorized under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. In October 2004, the U.S. Treasury transferred an initial tranche of \$3.5 million to the Foundation. By completion of the environment program, USAID expects wetland and tropical forest co-management systems to be incorporated into local planning processes nationally. In addition, a large conservation constituency will be established, and there will be widespread support for conservation and the co-management approach among policymakers.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-006 Environment	CSH	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	2,275	7,143	0
Expenditures	2,275	4,064	0
Unliquidated	0	3,079	0
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	0	2,465	0
Expenditures	0	2,718	0
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	2,275	9,608	0
Expenditures	2,275	6,782	0
Unliquidated	0	2,826	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	0	900	1,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	0	900	1,000
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	0	900	1,000
Future Obligations	0	2,700	0
Est. Total Cost	2,275	14,108	2,000