

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bangladesh
Program Title:	Environment
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	388-006
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$2,500,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$2,500,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2007

Summary: USAID's program to improve the management of open water and tropical forest resources includes technical assistance and training to do the following:

- Establish community-based resource management systems;
- Restore selected aquatic and tropical forest habitats and ecosystems;
- Heighten awareness among stakeholders, local governments and national level policy-makers regarding the need to manage natural resources sustainably; and
- Improve public sector and NGO natural resource management capacity.

Direct beneficiaries include target communities of poor fisher-people and forest resource users whose lives depend upon open water and forest resources. Indirect beneficiaries include surrounding communities where up to 80% of the families are partially dependent on these resources.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Open water resources (\$1,000,000 DA). USAID will fund a second phase of an initiative to manage aquatic ecosystems through community husbandry. Building on the success of the first phase, USAID will fully develop community-based resource management organizations and related institutions and will work to ensure their sustainability. Wetlands rehabilitation will intensify, so the impact of a healthy ecosystem on biodiversity and productivity can be fully assessed. The second phase of the aquatic ecosystems initiative will expand outreach and public education efforts. Prime grantee: Winrock International; three subgrantees.

Tropical forest resources (\$1,000,000 DA). USAID will support a newly initiated project to improve the management of Bangladesh's tropical forest resources and protect the country's remaining natural tropical forest areas. USAID will use a co-management approach that it successfully piloted with open water resources. The new project will help establish links between the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems while building local capacity in tropical forest resources management. It will complement USAID's other environmental activities, consolidating lessons learned in community-based resource management, and stimulating the development of a protected area management system in Bangladesh. Prime contractor: International Resources Group; four subgrantees; seven resource organizations.

Natural resources policy (\$500,000 DA). To help institutionalize the community-based co-management approach, USAID is planning to initiate a natural resources policy project. The groundwork to commission an assessment of the implementation of the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) natural resources-related policies has been completed. The assessment will help USAID define the best probable niche for future policy work in the natural resources management arena. Principal grantee: TBD.

FY 2005 Program:

Open water resources (\$700,000 DA). USAID intends to continue funding for the aquatic ecosystems project to support community-based resource management organizations, related institutions and beneficiary groups. USAID will work to ensure their sustainability as well as expand wetlands rehabilitation. Support for expanded outreach and public education will further develop the constituency for co-management of natural resources. USAID plans to expand support for the use of the co-management approach by the GOB and by others involved in environmental protection activities.

Tropical forest resources (\$1,100,000 DA). The project will develop a co-management planning and implementation model for selected protected areas (national park, wildlife sanctuary and game reserve), improve ecosystems management, encourage the development of a constructive policy environment for co-management, and create a conservation constituency in Bangladesh.

Natural resources policy (\$700,000 DA). USAID will continue addressing natural resources policy issues in order to institutionalize the co-management approach.

Performance and Results: USAID's aquatic ecosystem activities preserve biodiversity and open water ecosystems that benefit a population of more than 500,000 through increased fish production and improved nutrition and incomes. 18,866 of floodplain area are now being sustainably managed - a dramatic improvement from four years ago, when no floodplain areas were managed sustainably. 66 community-managed fish sanctuaries have been established, including 8 in important waterbodies that the GOB has now designated as permanent sanctuaries. In addition, 333,000 native trees have been planted at three project sites to help restore wetland and riparian ecosystems. 225 community credit groups with 4,598 members (about one-third of them women-led) have been created to help make up for lost income due to restricted fishing and other resource-use practices through alternate income generation program. Through these groups, more than four thousand individuals have received credit and technical assistance. To stimulate policy support for natural resource conservation, USAID cooperated with a multi-donor review of the fisheries sector and helped pioneer the development of the National Wetlands Network, an influential association of activists and organizations that helps inform policymakers about wetland conservation issues. In a major breakthrough, for the first time in Bangladesh, public wetlands normally leased and exploited by elites have been turned over to the community in perpetuity to be managed through community efforts as permanent fish sanctuaries. This precedent-setting action is the first step in the establishment of a national sanctuary system and will contribute to USAID's overall goal of co-management of common pool natural resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources. The newly initiated Tropical Forestry program has developed a realistic work-plan and conducted important socioeconomic, biological and physical appraisals in four protected areas. The project team is working with government officials to assess issues and opportunities that would improve management of the country's Protected Areas System. In addition, the idea of creating a "Protected Area Management Program" within the Forest Department has met with a positive response. The Arannayk Foundation was successfully established as a not-for-profit company as a result of USAID's efforts.

By the time the environment program is completed, USAID anticipates that wetland and tropical forestry co-management systems will be incorporated into local planning processes throughout Bangladesh; a large constituency for wetlands and tropical forest conservation will be established; and there will be widespread support for both the wetland and tropical forestry conservation and the co-management approach among influential policy makers in Bangladesh.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

	CSH	DA
388-006 Environment		
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	2,275	4,773
Expenditures	2,275	2,487
Unliquidated	0	2,286
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	0	2,370
Expenditures	0	1,577
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	2,275	7,143
Expenditures	2,275	4,064
Unliquidated	0	3,079
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	0	2,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	0	2,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	0	2,500
Future Obligations	0	2,700
Est. Total Cost	2,275	14,843