

**Implementation Status & Results
South Asia**

APL on Strengthening Regional Cooperation For Wildlife Protection in Asia (P121210)

Operation Name: APL on Strengthening Regional Cooperation For Wildlife Protection in Asia (P121210) Project Stage: Implementation Seq.No: 8 Status: ARCHIVED Archive Date: 11-Aug-2014

Country: South Asia Approval FY: 2011
 Product Line: IBRD/IDA Region: SOUTH ASIA Lending Instrument: Adaptable Program Loan
 Implementing Agency(ies): Bangladesh Forest Department, Department of Forests, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Key Dates

Board Approval Date	07-Apr-2011	Original Closing Date	31-Dec-2016	Planned Mid Term Review Date	15-May-2014	Last Archived ISR Date	24-Mar-2014
Effectiveness Date	29-Jun-2011	Revised Closing Date	31-Dec-2016	Actual Mid Term Review Date	26-May-2014		

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The project aims to assist the participating governments to build or enhance shared capacity, institutions, knowledge and incentives to collaborate in tackling illegal wildlife trade and other select regional conservation threats to habitats in border areas.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project?

Yes No

Component(s)

Component Name	Component Cost
Bangladesh: Component 1: Capacity building for addressing the illegal trans-boundary wildlife trade	8.30
Bangladesh: Component 2: Promoting wildlife conservation in Asia	23.50
Bangladesh: Component 3: Project coordination and communication	4.60
Nepal: Component 1: Capacity building for addressing the illegal trans-boundary wildlife trade	0.90
Nepal: Component 2: Promoting wildlife conservation in Asia	1.60
Nepal: Component 3: Project coordination and communication	0.20

Overall Ratings

	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	Substantial

Implementation Status Overview

Despite the risks of India's absence in the regional operation and implementation delays, some progress in meeting the PDO is being made. The development of a sustainable regional mechanism for addressing wildlife protection and conservation is being pursued through: (a) India's signature of bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal on cross-border cooperation; (b) Bangladesh's decision under APL 1 to assume the leadership for regional collaboration in trans-boundary wildlife protection by convening thematic meetings among the countries in the region; (c) setting up of the SAWEN Secretariat and drafting of the SAWEN statute; and (d) institutional capacity building for the SAWEN Secretariat under the Nepal project (APL 1) as well as a Bank-supported Institutional Development Fund (IDF) grant to be signed shortly. Also, enforcement agencies were created in each participating country and the APL program is supporting collaboration among them. Finally, trans-boundary human wildlife conflict management initiatives are ongoing in all three APL participating countries although implementation in Bangladesh began only in late 2013.

Progress toward the achievement of the PDO is downgraded to moderately unsatisfactory because of the lengthy process of formalizing the legal status of SAWEN as the regional mechanism for addressing wildlife threats and the slow or delayed actions toward implementing actions in Bangladesh that are critical to meeting the PDO.

The mid-term review (MTR) that took place in Bangladesh and Nepal in May-June 2014 reconfirmed that the project continues to be relevant for both countries and the PDO and components as originally designed remain valid. Adjustments to the scope of project components and to the results framework as well as detailed recommendations were discussed and agreed during the MTR missions in the two countries. Further collaboration on addressing trans-boundary wildlife threats, the viability of the Virtual Regional Center for Excellence (VRCE) and other cross-country issues will be discussed at forthcoming SAWEN meetings and thematic events to be convened by Bangladesh with support from its IDA credit.

BANGLADESH: Implementation progress is rated as moderately unsatisfactory largely because of the delays with the retention of the staff for the Wildlife Circle and the decision on the location of the Wildlife Center as well as continuing issues on the oversight and management of the project, including procurement. On the other hand, progress is being made with the sub-projects under Component 2.2 that began implementation in late 2013. However, disbursements stood at only 22% of the IDA credit at the time of the MTR.

NEPAL: Implementation progress was downgraded to moderately satisfactory due to the impediments faced by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in enabling the execution of the project activities and to issues within the Departments of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation responsible for the implementation of sub-projects that have slowed the progress in meeting some of the intermediate results indicators. Disbursements amount to 44% of the IDA grant.

OVERALL: Although implementation progress is rated as moderately satisfactory for Nepal, the considerably larger project cost and IDA credit for Bangladesh have led to a moderately unsatisfactory rating for the entire APL 1.

Locations

No Location data has been entered

Results

Project Development Objective Indicators

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Indicator Name	Core	Unit of Measure		Baseline	Current	End Target		
PDO 1: Progress towards the development of sustainable regional mechanisms for addressing illegal wildlife trade and other conservation threats.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	India signed bilateral MOUs with each of the APL countries on cooperation for wildlife protection and conservation. Institutional capacity building support for the SAWEN Secretariat is being provided under the Nepal project; recently approved IDF grant will strengthen SAWEN. BFD offered to host the Second Regional SAWEN Meeting in late 2014 plus future thematic meetings among countries in the region with support from the IDA credit. Draft SAWEN statute was prepared and shared by the Secretariat with the member countries.	Establishment of Regional coordination forum by Tiger Range Countries		
			Date	07-Mar-2011			09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
			Comments					
PDO 2: Development of at least one protocol each on a common research agenda, knowledge sharing, collaboration and division of labor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	0.00	1.00		
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016		
			Comments		Through the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) and National Tiger Recovery Programs (NTRPs), the APL participating countries agreed on common areas of research and knowledge sharing. However, due to India's absence, it will not be possible to agree on protocols. A revision of this indicator is proposed.	Protocols developed and commencement of their implementation		
PDO 3: Agreement among the enforcement agencies on at least two regional protocols, including approaches and solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	0.00	2.00		
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016		
			Comments		The enforcement units were created in the three countries and the APL program is			

					supporting collaboration among them. However, due to India's absence, it will not be possible to agree on protocols. This indicator will be revised.	
PDO 4: Implementation of at least three regional pilots or initiatives in wildlife enforcement and conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	1.00	3.00
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	01-Feb-2016
			Comments		Trans-boundary human-wildlife management initiatives are ongoing in all three countries but the sub-projects in Bangladesh began implementation only in late 2013/early 2014.	

Intermediate Results Indicators

Indicator Name	Core	Unit of Measure		Baseline	Current	End Target
Regional 1: Development of a common conservation research program for regional wildlife management with particular emphasis on tiger conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	1	Yr 3: 100%
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2014
			Comments		Preparations for hosting the regional coordination meeting of the tiger range countries (TRC) are underway. Bangladesh is implementing its National Tiger Recovery Plan, and various other sub-projects are addressing tiger conservation as well.	Program developed and underway.
Regional 2: Set up a knowledge sharing mechanism among participating countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	The VRCE will be an agenda item at the proposed Second SAWEN meeting.	Yr 3: 100%
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2014
			Comments			Knowledge sharing mechanism established and under implementation.

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Bangladesh Component 1: Indicator 1: New draft Wildlife Conservation Act giving more powers to the Wildlife Circle approved by Parliament	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Completed. Approved by Parliament on July 10, 2012.	Yr 2 - 100%. The target has been achieved.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2013
			Comments			
Bangladesh Component 1: Indicator 2: Specialized human resources in the Wildlife Circle in place with capacity to respond to wildlife crimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	Inadequate capacity to respond to wildlife crimes	MOEF/BFD has not yet developed a strategy for the absorption of 315 new positions for the Wildlife Circle (including 130 staff recruited and trained under the project) into the Government's revenue budget.	Key staff absorbed in the Wildlife Circle.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
			Comments			
Bangladesh Component 1: Indicator 3: Establishment and Operationalizing of Wildlife Crime Control Unit (WCCU) with at least forensic section, legal support arm and wildlife crime bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	The recruitment and training of staff has progressed, but the wildlife crime bank has yet to be developed, and the legal support arm has not yet been established. The vertical extension of BFD HQ is being constructed and will house the WCCU and the forensics laboratory.	Yr 5 - 100%
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
			Comments			WCCU fully operational.
Bangladesh Component 1: Indicator 4: Establishment and operationalizing of Wildlife Center with capacity to facilitate research, education, awareness, communication and M&E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Training is on track but the lack of decision on the site for the Center facilities since project launch is impeding its operationalization.	
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
			Comments			Completion of at least 50% medium term activities in the Wildlife Center's Plans.
Bangladesh Component 2: Indicator 1: Identification of core breeding habitats of flagship species and promoting inviolate areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	0.00	
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
			Comments		Sub-projects are underway to identify core breeding habitats of flagship species (e.g.	Yr 5 - Process completed for declaring core

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					elephants, marine turtles, tigers) and will recommend establishment of inviolate areas. However, no plans for actually establishing inviolate areas are underway.	breeding habitats of flagship species as inviolate areas.	
Public Disclosure Copy	Bangladesh Comp 2: Ind. 2: Management of wildlife corridors & buffer zones according to principles of smart green infrastructure & practices to ensure socio-economic activities are biodiversity friendly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	0.00	
				Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
				Comments		Sub-projects are underway to identify wildlife corridors and buffer zones; however there will be a need to consolidate the lessons from these activities and develop guidelines.	Yr 5 - Process of regularising the guidelines initiated.
Public Disclosure Copy	Bangladesh Component 2: Indicator 3: Development of models based on research information for tiger and elephant conservation to reduce conflict with humans	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Yr 2 to 5 - Testing of models.	
				Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	01-Jan-2016
				Comments		Sub-projects are underway to address HEC, THC, and Human-Langur conflict. A range of models are being tested, including fodder plantations, switching to crops less desirable to wildlife, fencing, etc.	
Public Disclosure Copy	Bangladesh Component 2: Indicator 4: Identification of suitable models, and development of replication strategy and master plan for mitigating THC and HEC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Replication strategy and master plan developed.	
				Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
				Comments		Suitable models for replication cannot be identified until results of subprojects are known. The Master Plan for mitigating THC and HEC would be included in the Wildlife Master Plan to be developed under the TA component.	
	Bangladesh Component 2: Indicator 5: Development and implementation of ecotourism plans to enhance the revenue earning opportunities of PAs and affected communities by 20%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Twenty percent increase in revenue earning opportunities.	
					Sub-projects focused on ecotourism development are underway. It is doubtful whether baseline revenue at the household or tourism entity level was assessed,		

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					which could make it difficult to measure the increase in revenues. An international Ecotourism Adviser has begun to assist in developing ecotourism plans for selected protected areas but it is not clear that the revenue target can be measured or achieved by the end of the project.	
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
			Comments			
Areas brought under enhanced biodiversity protection (ha)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hectare(Ha)	Value	0.00	0.00	
			Date	07-Dec-2012	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2016
			Comments	Core sector indicator - Bangladesh: Component 2: Indicator 6	The areas brought under enhanced biodiversity protection can be determined only after all funding proposal activities have been identified and funds are committed.	
Bangladesh Component 3: Indicator 1: Establishment of Regional Policy Steering Committee & Operational Steering Committee for Regional Coordination (OSCRC); and made operational	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	The use of SAWEN as well as of thematic meetings on trans-boundary wildlife conservation issues has been proposed as the mechanism for regional coordination at both the policy and operational levels. It is anticipated that India will participate at the thematic meetings to be convened by Bangladesh with support from the IDA credit.	Both structures are fully operational.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2013
			Comments			
Bangladesh Component 3: Indicator 2: Development and implementation of project communication plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	A project website has not yet been developed. A draft communications strategy, developed under Component 1 will be finalized and implemented by a media firm (recruited at the time of MTR).	Operationalization of plan is underway.

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			Date	07-Mar-2011	09-Jun-2014	31-Dec-2013
			Comments			
Nepal Comp 1: Indicator 1: Review of key policy and legislation to identify and rectify their implementation challenges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	Nepal currently has -National Parks and Wildlife conservation Act, Forest Act and Forest rules	Completed. These policies have been reviewed. The key constraint identified was weak implementation rather than policy shortcomings.	Updated policies and regulations fully operational.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments			
Nepal Comp 1: Indicator 2: Establishment and operationalizing of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with at least forensic section, legal support arm, wildlife crime units and wildlife crime bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	WCCB has been created at central level and nineteen district level WCCBs established at field level. Capacity building for NAFOL (National Forensic Laboratory) and training for law enforcement agencies are ongoing.	WCCB fully operational.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments			
Nepal Comp 1: Indicator 3: Establishment of legislation for effective compliance of CITES and set up of national CITES secretariat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Nepal is signatory to CITES but needs to revise local laws and regulations to ensure more effective compliance of its obligations under CITES. Legislation to address these shortcomings has been drafted but is yet to receive parliamentary approval.	Legislation completed.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments			
Nepal Comp 1: Indicator 4: Effective training programs conducted to increase capacity of staff on wildlife conservation and management and respond to illegal wildlife trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value			
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments	Assessment of capacity of DNPWC and DOF staff conducted during Yr 1.	Participants were selected in consultation with the management of DNPWC and DOF based on needs, job performance of the candidates and their potential. At present, 60% of the training programs (4 out of 7)	50% greater satisfactory capacity assessment against baseline based on survey.

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					were completed with the remainder scheduled for completion by July 15, 2014.	
Nepal Comp 2: Indicator 1: Interventions put in place to improve protection and conservation of key flagship species	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	0.00	
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments		Eight Window 2 sub- projects are under implementation. MOU for one additional subproject has been signed.	Outcome assessments are linked to regional conservation benefits.
Nepal Comp 2: Ind 2: Models developed to manage wildlife corridors & buffer zones on principles of Smart Green Infrastructure & practices to ensure socio-economic activities are biodiversity friendly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	0.00	
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments		Four ongoing pilot projects would lead to models on grassland management, invasive species management and water resources management.	Process of institutionalising the models initiated.
Nepal Comp 2: Ind 3: Develop of models based on research information for tiger, rhino & elephant conservation to reduce conflict with humans thereby ensuring long term conservation of these species	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Window 2 sub-projects: (i) Community based human-elephant conflict management in Jhapa District; (ii) improving management of Bardia National Park through habitat and human wildlife conflict management.	Yr 2 - 5 testing of models.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments			
Nepal Comp 2: Ind. 4: Identification of suitable models, and development of replication strategy and master plan for mitigating tiger human conflict, human elephant conflict & the rhino human conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Based on the outcomes from the Window 2 sub- projects mentioned above, a regional replication strategy and action plan will be put in place.	Strategy and masterplan developed.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments			
Nepal Comp 2. Indicator 5: Development and implementation of ecotourism plans to enhance the revenue earning opportunities of PAs and affected communities by 20%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	Procurement of consultant for assessment of ecotourism potential is underway.	Twenty percent increase in revenue earning opportunities.
			Date	07-Mar-2011	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments			

Areas brought under enhanced biodiversity protection (ha)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hectare(Ha)	Value	0.00	0.00	
			Date	07-Dec-2012	30-May-2014	31-May-2016
			Comments	Core sector indicator- Nepal: Component 2: Indicator 6		
Nepal Comp 3: Indicator 1: Establishment of Regional Policy Steering Committee & Operational Steering Committee for Regional Coordination; and made operational	<input type="checkbox"/>	Text	Value	0	The use of SAWEN as well as of thematic meetings on trans-boundary wildlife conservation issues has been proposed as the mechanism for regional coordination at both the policy and operational levels. It is anticipated that India will participate at the thematic meetings to be convened by Bangladesh with support from the IDA credit.	RPSC and OSCRC fully operational.
			Date		30-May-2014	30-Jun-2013
			Comments			

Data on Financial Performance (as of 08-Jul-2014)

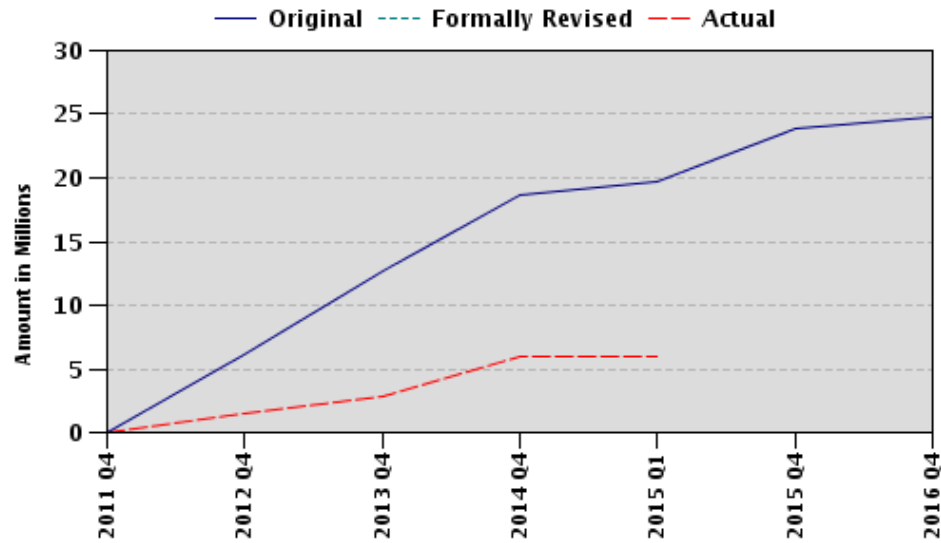
Financial Agreement(s) Key Dates

Project	Ln/Cr/Tf	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Original Closing Date	Revised Closing Date
P121210	IDA-49090	Effective	07-Apr-2011	02-Jun-2011	29-Jun-2011	31-Dec-2016	31-Dec-2016
P121210	IDA-H6660	Effective	07-Apr-2011	27-Jun-2011	20-Jul-2011	31-May-2016	31-May-2016

Disbursements (in Millions)

Project	Ln/Cr/Tf	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P121210	IDA-49090	Effective	XDR	22.90	22.90	0.00	5.14	17.76	22.00
P121210	IDA-H6660	Effective	XDR	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.88	1.12	44.00

Disbursement Graph



Key Decisions Regarding Implementation

Some changes to project activities and the results framework are expected. Discussions on possible changes took place during the MTR in Bangladesh and Nepal. The extent of the changes to project activities will depend upon the achievement of the steps in the respective action plans in the two countries -- as agreed during the MTR -- within the next three months. All of the changes would need to be documented through a formal project restructuring and the amendment of legal documents on the Bank side as well as revisions of appropriate documents/programs on the Government side.

Restructuring History

Level 2 CD Decision on 27-Feb-2014

Related Projects

There are no related projects.