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## SUCCESS STORY

### Nishorgo Network Co-Management Organizations March Ahead

**Co-Management Committees and Resource Management Organizations step ahead to manage their natural resources through GTZ partnerships for mitigating climate change**



Photo: GTZ, Dhaka

Presidents from CMCs and RMOs take a lead to show their concern about managing wetlands and forests, and express their enthusiasm on GTZ partnerships. Business through ICS will not only employ some of their members but also add to the sustainability of their organizations.

***Co-Management Committees & Resource Management Organizations are empowered under the USAID funded Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC) Project by developing their capacities as development partners with GTZ to combat climate change through ICS installation in their landscape villages.***

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“We need to strengthen our communities and ecosystems through our own efforts by conserving our wetlands and forests,” voiced out Presidents from 7 Co-Management Organizations (CMOs) (5 Resource Management Organizations (RMOs) and 2 Co-Management Committees (CMCs)) under the Nishorgo Network. This type of statement even a decade ago in Bangladesh was unheard because people had no authority to conserve their natural resources.

Nishorgo Network comprises of protected forests & wetlands including National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Ecologically Critical Areas of Bangladesh. The RMOs are groups comprising of local stakeholders who manage wetlands and CMCs consist of forest dependent local people along with representatives of Forest Department.

Through USAID, the CMOs & other related departments have been conserving their designated forests and wetlands for the last 10 years. Now, members of these organizations have the capability to manage their own natural resources by attracting finance from donors such as GTZ as partners.

A Financing Agreement about the project entitled, “Sustainable Energy for Development” was signed between GTZ and 7 CMOs on 22 June 2010. Under this project, the CMOs will be installing 3500 domestic Improved *Chulla* Stoves (ICS) and 70 Industrial ICS. This initiative will help to combat the impact of climate change, reduce people’s dependency on fuelwood, efficiently use biomass, improve health of women and increase the economic condition of some of the locally unemployed people.

USAID has empowered local people to take a stand for their natural resources by forming organizations that collaborate with the Bangladesh Government to manage their natural resources. This new partnership between CMOs and GTZ is yet another achievement of USAID where they have been recognized as independent organizations which can directly receive funds and implement development projects.