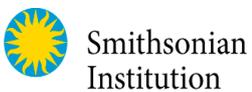




USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh) Bagh Year Three Quarter 1 Summary of Progress



USAID’s Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh)

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Acronyms

ACME	Accelerating Commitment for Monitoring and Evaluation
AWP	Annual Work Plan
Bagh	USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (USAID's Bagh Activity)
BBG	Bangladesh Border Guard
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
BGB	Border Guard Bangladesh
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
COP	Chief of Party
CREL	Climate Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
ETRT	Emergency Tiger Response Team
EU	European Union
FD	Forest Department
FTRT	Forest Tiger Response Team
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPS	Global Positioning System
HTC	Human Tiger Conflict
ICT	Institutional Capacity Development and Training
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forests
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PEC	Project Evaluation Committee
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
SAC	Special Award Condition
SCBI	Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
SEALS	Sundarbans Environmental and Livelihoods Security
SERC	Smithsonian Environment Research Center
SI	Smithsonian Institution
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Research Tool
SOW	Scope of work
SRCWP	South Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TPP	Technical Project Proforma
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VRTT	Village Tiger Response Team
WCCU	Wildlife Crime Control Unit
WCS	World Conservation Society
WTS	Wildlife Technical Specialist
ZPO	Zoological Park Organization

Introduction

USAID's Bagh Activity contributes to protection of the tigers and conservation of the Sundarbans, with the overall goal of conserving biodiversity of Bangladesh. Bagh is a four-year project implemented by WildTeam in partnership with the FD of the MoEF, USAID, Smithsonian Institution and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies. This is Year 3's First Quarter report of project implementation. The report highlights key accomplishments during the implementation period of January 1-March 31, 2016.

Quarter 1 Summary of Progress

Technical Implementation Activity

Component 1 (Expanded knowledge base): The Quarter 1 of 2016 was very productive for Component 1. The activities initiated and/or accomplished in quarter 1 are:

- A two-month extensive field research in the entire Sundarbans for tiger monitoring, prey monitoring, habitat monitoring (vegetation sampling and mapping), water salinity mapping, and DNA-based population monitoring.
- Two teams, each comprising around 20 people, carried out khal survey in East and West Sundarbans for occupancy estimation of tigers and prey. A team of around 45 people covered the whole Sundarbans surveying the land mass to collect various non-invasive biological samples and vegetation sampling. Data collected during these field trips will be analyzed in Q2 and Q3 of year 2016.
- A disease monitoring research was initiated, and a questionnaire survey was conducted in 14 villages (n=280 households) to assess the perception of local community about domestic dogs and their role as disease vectors for tigers. In Q2, Bagh plans to collect blood samples from selected villages in Sundarbans periphery to investigate the presence of CDV (Canine distemper virus) in dog population.
- Nonetheless, Component 1 faced several challenges pertaining to field logistics, foreign and local procurement, and lack of trained research staff. These issues need to be addressed in a priority basis to execute the AWP 2016 smoothly.

Component 2 (Reduced illegal wildlife trafficking): In Q1 of year 3, Component 2 focused on the key areas of its interventions to deliver realistic solutions for greater collaboration and enhanced capacity to reduce wildlife trafficking. Activities in Q1 at a glance:

- Two separate trainings on 'Spatial Analysis Skills Training' and 'Basic SMART Patrolling Techniques and Database Management' were organized for selected FD staff members in January and February.

- Based on a feasibility study, Bagh recommended the use SAT Phone and Delorme during SMART patrolling in the West Sanctuary since mobile network is not available in that area.
- Bagh prepared the draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and standing instructions to help ensure safety and security during law enforcement activities in Sundarbans. A day-long workshop was organized on March 29 to discuss the potential scopes and opportunities with DF and other stakeholders for extending SMART patrolling to other Sundarbans ranges.
- During regular field trips, the Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) unit of Component 2 gathered a total of nine wildlife parts seizure information. Quarterly report on wildlife crime for has been finalized. A total of 81 calls have been recorded by the Tiger Hotline, and 16 of those were validated and shared with local FD to take further actions.
- SMART patrolling on 13-18 January covered 296 kilometers during 36 hours of patrolling in West Sanctuary and Satkhira range. On completion of SMART training, a list of new patrol teams has been submitted to the PD for approval. Formation of Community Patrol Group (CPG) in Khulna, Chandpai and Sarankhola ranges has been completed.

Component 3 (Minimized human-wildlife conflicts): Bagh Activity aims to prevent human wildlife conflict, reduce fatalities, and to provide victim relief through Component 3. The following activities were completed and/or initiated under this Component in Q 1:

- Regular village forum and VTRT meetings continued throughout the quarter. A total of 147 VTRT meetings and 15 leader meetings were held in all four ranges. Bagh recruited a VTRT sustainability consultant to help execute its VTRT Sustainability Plan.
- Regular operations of FTRTs and ETRTs continued. The FTRTs organized 14 community meetings and held 13 meeting with the FD counterparts. The ETRTs rescued 6 wild animals and birds and safely released those into the wild. HTC data collection and analysis continued as planned.
- The team organized 9 safety forest working safety trainings for forest resource users in all four ranges of the Sundarbans. The trainings drew a total of 439 participants. Besides, a training styled as "First Aid and Forest Working Safety Training" was organized in March 2016 to build long-term capacity of the FD and Project staff to deliver first aid and forest safety trainings for local stakeholders and forest resource users.

Component 4 (Enhanced communications, outreach, and gender engagement):

Component 4 aims to address human threats to tigers, wildlife, and the environment by focusing on behavioral change through communications, outreach and gender

engagement. The main highlights during the first quarter under Component 4 are as below:

- A two-year National Tiger Awareness Campaign and the TigerCaravan was launched on 11-12 February 2016 to raise mass awareness across the country about the dire situation of Bengal tigers and Sundarbans. As part of its plan to visit 100 strategic locations across the country, the TigerCaravan visited around 87 locations in 11 districts, and organized 89 shows of the Sundarbans diorama and street drama. Nearly 150,000 people have visited the TigerCaravan in Q1.
- Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the TigerCaravan to show her support for tiger conservation during the children and juveniles' rally at Bangabandhu National Stadium marking the Independence Day on 26 March 2016.
- As part of Bagh's efforts to drive positive behavior change at the community level, a total of 111 village forums were organized in 22 wards in the Sundarbans periphery, engaging around 2594 villagers (1065 men and 1529 women). A School Campaign was organized in February under the Community campaign phase 2 (Commitment Campaign). The campaign reached out around 6,600 students in 41 schools.
- This quarter, the team published 13 issues of TigerTuesday, a weekly newsletter providing updates and success stories of USAID's Bagh Activity.
- The Bagh PPP Strategy and Guideline was approved by the COP in February 2016. A Partnership Monitoring Committee (PMC) and a ToR have been developed, which were approved by the COP in first Quarter of 2016. Bagh's PPM Specialist has also been working on Partnership tool and Product Development and Partnership Management System development to implement the PPP Strategy.
- A Gender Survey was completed in Sundarbans periphery to identify gender baseline information. The Bagh Gender Policy and Sexual Harassment Policy were approved by the CEO to help the Project deliver more gender inclusive and healthy work environment.

Component 5 (Improved livelihoods for conservation):

Component 5 made the following progress in Q1 as part of its efforts to promote environmentally sustainable livelihood in the Sundarbans periphery:

- The team welcomed on board a Livelihoods Manager, two Livelihoods Specialists (Khulna based) in Q1. The Partnership Consultant will also support the team to carry out its activities.
- Beneficiaries of alternative livelihood interventions have been finalized. The pool comprised of 2133 people from 1017 households (M=1230, F=903).
- A MoU was signed with HBPS (Pebble) for a joint collaboration to help selected beneficiaries generate income by making handicrafts. 303 beneficiaries were selected initially. 4 training centers have been designed for Satkhira and Chandpai

range to train the targeted people. Besides, another non-profit entity—the Dhaka Handicrafts has agreed to work with Bagh.

- The Honey Consultant has started working, and 50 units of beehives boxes were made ready for distribution.
- Regarding Eco-tourism, the team made exposure visits to three tour operators and held meeting with Managing Director (MD) of another tour firms to explore opportunities for collaboration to promote Eco-tourism in the SRF.

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The activities initiated and/or accomplished in quarter 1 (January to March 2016) include:

- Development of online database system "BaghTracks" has been completed. The Bagh staff members have been trained on the usage of the database.
- Bagh received the Knowledge-Attitude Survey report from Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), which conducted the survey. The report has been shared with all Bagh staff.
- The Bagh M&E Team made field visit to Chandpai on 17-22 January for ensuring quality of data, provide on-the-job training and observe field research activities. Other planned activities including field data entry also continued throughout the quarter.

Institutional Capacity and Development Team (Team ICT)

In Q1 of Y3, the Team ICT supported Component # 2, 3, and 4 and the overall Project to organize different trainings and dialogues/workshops.

- Team ICT organized the 'National Dialogue for the Protection of Tigers in the Sundarbans' which included a workshop in Dhaka on 1 March and a high-level dialogue in the Sundarbans on 8-9 March 2016 to convene high-level decision makers from relevant ministries and departments, the US Embassy, USAID and other stakeholders to strengthen the efforts for protecting tigers and the Sundarbans. Besides, a 17-day SMART Patrolling Training was successfully organized in Sundarbans west sanctuary.
- As per the M&E indicator # 7 of Bagh M&E plan, against 11,000 targeted person-hours from external participants, roughly 81% (8,831 person-hours) was achieved. The target has not been achieved as a major capacity development event (Exposure Trip to Nepal) has been shifted to Q2 Y3. Of the person-hours achieved in Q1, less than 2.4% (210 person-hours) was generated by women participants. 24 women participants attended in 18 training events for external beneficiaries.

Bagh Performance Progress (Jan-Mar 16) based on performance indicators

- A total of 8830.5 training person-hours (standard indicator F4.8.1-29) were delivered by the Bagh Activity. This achievement is around 80% of the quarterly target.
- The Knowledge Attitude Survey indicates that 31.6% respondent obtained 41 and higher score for knowledge (custom indicator 3), and 28.3% respondent obtained 61 and higher score for attitude (custom 4). This is the baseline for the two indicators.
- During the reporting period, 380 individual activities (custom indicator 5) have been performed by VTRT and BaghBandhu. This is 127% of the quarterly target.
- Data collection of five research activities (custom indicator 6) has been completed and analysis was in progress throughout the reporting quarter.
- A total of 28 human-wildlife conflicts occurred and out of these, 75% (21) incidents have been effectively managed (custom indicator 11). The achievement is 5% higher than the quarterly target. Of the total 28 incidents, including 14 human tiger conflicts were observed and 64% was effectively managed.
- There was no result observed for the standard indicator F4.8.2-28, custom indicator 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 13.

For details, please see Annex I and Annex II.

Annexes:

Annex I: USAID'S Bagh Activity Performance Progress (January – March 2016) by disaggregation

Annex II: USAID's Bagh Activity Targets & Results (January-March 2016)



USAID'S Bagh Activity Performance Progress (January – March 2016) by
disaggregation

Standard Indicators

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q1' 2016 Target	Q1' 2016 Result
F4.8.2-28	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance	Number	1	0
	Category			
	Laws			
	Policies			
	Acts			
	Conventions			
	Strategies			
	Plans			
	Regulations			
	Agreement			
	Protocols			
	Guidelines			
	Stages			
	Analyzed			
	Drafted			
	Proposed			
	Accepted			
	Implemented			
F4.8.1-29	Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	Number	11000	8830.5
	Gender			
	Men			8620.2
	Women			210.3
	Third Sex			
	Group			
	Forest Department			4138
	CMOs			
	VTRTs			705
	Forest Resource Collectors			3603
	BaghBandhu			384.5
	Students			
	Teachers			
	Researchers			
F4.8.1-6	Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance	Number	-	-
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			

Custom Indicators

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q1' 2016 Target	Q1' 2016 Result
Custom 1	Relative abundance of tigers in target habitat	Tiger track set/km (Khal survey)	-	-
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Sanctuary			
	Sundarbans East			
	Sundarbans West			
	Sundarbans South			
		Number of Tiger/100 Sq Km (camera trap)	-	-
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Sanctuary			
	Sundarbans East			
	Sundarbans West			
	Sundarbans South			
Custom 2	Relative abundance of tiger prey species in target habitat	Tiger prey track set/km (Khal survey)	-	-
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Sanctuary			
	Sundarbans East			
	Sundarbans West			
	Sundarbans South			
		Index of tiger prey pictures	-	-
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q1' 2016 Target	Q1' 2016 Result
	Chandpai			
	Sanctuary			
	Sundarbans East			
	Sundarbans West			
	Sundarbans South			
Custom 3	Percentage of individuals with increased knowledge in community groups on wildlife conservation	Percentage	10%	-
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	Group			
	VRTT			
	BaghBondhu			
	FRC			
	Others			
Custom 4	Percentage of individuals with improved attitude in community groups on wildlife conservation	Percentage	10%	-
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	Group			
	VRTT			
	BaghBondhu			
	FRC			
	Others			
Custom 5	Number of individual activities conducted by community groups (VRTTs, Baghbondhu) for wildlife conservation	Number	300	380
	Group			
	VRTT			257
	BaghBondhu			123
	Type of activities			
	Social meeting			136
	Wildlife rescue operation			6
	Commitment session			28
	News			23
	Personal consultation			2
	Village forum			87
	Patrolling			68
	Other			30
Custom 6	Number of priority research studies conducted for better understanding of Sundarbans ecosystem	Number	0	5
	Category			
	Threat assessment			1
	Wildlife and habitat monitoring			4
	Social Research			
	Stages			
	Planning			
	Data collecting			5
	Analyzing			4

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q1' 2016 Target	Q1' 2016 Result
	drafting			
	Final reporting			
Custom 7	Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management	Hectares	15000	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Stages			
	New			
	Continue			
Custom 8	Number of joint community patrolling groups functioning	Number	1	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
Custom 9	Number of SMART patrols conducted inside forest	Number	3	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
Custom 10	Number of forest resource collectors applying safety measures	Number	75	0
	RC groups			
	Honey collectors			
	Fish/ shrimp fry collectors			
	Fish collectors			
	Crab collectors			
	Golpata collectors			
	Wood/fire wood collectors			
	Genders			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Stages			
	New			
	Continue			

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q1' 2016 Target	Q1' 2016 Result
Custom 11	Percentage of human-wildlife conflict incidences effectively managed	Percentage	70%	75%
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			100%
	Sharankhola			100%
	Chandpai			46%
	Type of wildlife conflict			
	Tiger			64%
	Snake			100%
	Wild boar			33%
	Crocodile			
	Deer			
	Monkey			100%
	Jungle Monitor			
	Dolphin			
	Wildcat			100%
	Fishing cat			
	Wild fox			
	Bird			
Custom 12	Number of people in a target group (e.g. forest resource collectors) who have adopted eco-friendly AIG schemes	Number	100	-
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	FRC Category			
	Honey collectors			
	Fish/shrimp fry collectors			
	Crab collectors			
	Wood/goalpata collectors			
Custom 13	Amount of investment in eco-friendly AIG schemes through PPPs under Bagh	USD	10,000	-
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	AIG Category			

USAID's Bagh Activity Target vs Result January-March 2016

SPS reference (f)/custom #	Title	Unit	Baseline	2016 Target (Jan-Mar'16)	2016 Result (Jan-Mar'16)	LoP Target	Cumulative Result (Jan'15-Mar'16)
Custom 1	Relative abundance of tigers in target habitat	Tiger track set/km (Khal survey)	0.36*	-	0.36*	-	-
		Density: number of tiger/ 100 square km (Camera trap)	2.17**	-	-	-	-
Custom 2	Relative abundance of tiger prey species in target habitat	Tiger prey track set/km (Khal survey)	80%*	-	80%*	-	-
		Index of tiger prey pictures obtained by Camera-traps at a sampling grid.	NA	-	-	-	-
Standards & F4.8.2-28	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance	Number	0	1	0	6	2
Custom 3	Percentage of individuals with increased knowledge in community groups on wildlife conservation	Percentage	31.6%	10%	-	30%	-
Custom 4	Percentage of individuals with improved attitude in community groups on wildlife conservation	Percentage	28.3%	10%	-	30%	-

SPS reference (f)/custom #	Title	Unit	Baseline	2016 Target (Jan-Mar'16)	2016 Result (Jan-Mar'16)	LoP Target	Cumulative Result (Jan'15-Mar'16)
Custom 5	Number of individual activities conducted by community groups (VTRTs, Baghbondhu) for wildlife conservation	Number	1300	300	380	4200	1396
Standards & F4.8.1-29	Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	Number	0	11000	8830.5	55560	15659.5
Custom 6	Number of priority research studies conducted for better understanding of Sundarbans ecosystem	Number	0	-	5	10	6
Custom 7	Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management	Hectres	0	15000	0	71500	68348
Custom 8	Number of joint community patrolling groups functioning	Number	0	1	0	6	0
Custom 9	Number of SMART patrols conducted inside forest	Number	0	3	0	30	12
Custom 10	Number of forest resource collectors applying safety measures	Number	0	75	0	1000	364
Custom 11	Percentage of human-wildlife conflict incidences effectively managed	Percentage	60%	70%	75%	80%	71%
Standards & F4.8.1-6	Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable	Number	0	-	-	2400	-

SPS reference (f)/custom #	Title	Unit	Baseline	2016 Target (Jan-Mar'16)	2016 Result (Jan-Mar'16)	LoP Target	Cumulative Result (Jan'15-Mar'16)
	natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance						
Custom 12	Number of people in a target group (e.g. forest resource collectors) who have adopted eco-friendly AIG schemes	Number	0	100	-	600	-
Custom 13	Amount of investment in eco-friendly AIG schemes through PPPs under Bagh	USD	0	10,000	-	70000	-

Note: "-" data were not collected due to the implementation not started/maturity.

* Result of Khal survey during 2015-2016 by USAID's Bagh Activity

** Result from "Tiger Status Report of Bangladesh Sundarban" Published by Department of Forestry, Ministry of Forestry and Environment, Bangladesh October 2015.