Nishorgo Support Project

STUDY TOUR TO PROTECTED AREA CO-MANAGEMENT SITES IN INDONESIA

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Prepared for
Nishorgo Support Project

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With Partners : CODEC, NACOM & RDRS

Study Tour to Protected Area
Co-Management Sites in Indonesia

Context: Nishorgo Support Project is working to further protected area co-management in Bangladesh. (See more at www.nishorgo.org.) To the end of improving the approach being applied in Bangladesh, it is helpful to learn from similar experiences in other countries. Indonesia has achieved a number of interesting results in this area, most notably in Bunaken National Park, but also in a number of other protected areas.

Objective: The objective of this study tour is for s select number of Government Officials to learn from the experiences of co-management and to adapt lessons learned to the Bangladesh case. A secondary objective is to make networking contacts at the CIFOR and ICRAF that may be useful for supporting regional research and knowledge sharing on the Bangladesh PAs.

Specifically, the following specific objectives may be considered:

- Proposal for the Forest Department to be a Focal Point for CIFOR in Bangladesh (at present, CIFOR lists NO Bangladeshi institutions as partners or focal points)
- Proposal for CIFOR or ICRAF to support forest/habitat restoration or rehabilitation research and knowledge management.
- Proposal that CIFOR consider undertaking research to learn from Bangladesh's experience with forest governance under the Nishorgo co-management pilots.

Participants: Participants include Forest Department staff and the Evnronment Team Leader of USAID/Bangladesh.

Rationale for Protected Areas and Other Places to be Visited:

Three sites are being proposed for the Study Tour in Indonesia.

Bunaken National Park near Manado

Bunaken National Park in Indonesia is a medium-sized (89,000 hectare), developing country marine protected area that has suffered a history of insufficient stakeholder involvement, leading to frequent conflicts and ineffectual park management.

Bunaken was established as a National Park in 1991. The National Park includes the islands of Bunaken, Manado Tua, Mantehage, Siladen, Nain and part of Arakan Wowontulap.

As a trial, the Bunaken National Park is managed by a collaborative management structure that represents park authorities, local communities, private sector, university, and local government agencies. The Natural Resource Management project has been the main catalyst and supporter for Bunaken management since 1991.

For WWF, Bunaken National Park is an anchor site for the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Eco-region Action Plan. WWF provides support for participatory enforcement and patrol, which resulted in significant reduction of blast fishing. Furthermore, WWF conducted trainings for identification and monitoring of fish spawning aggregation sites or SPAGS. High-valued fish species such as groupers and napoleon wrasse aggregate for reproductive activities.

Bunaken National Park's co-management effort also includes a mangrove component which has relevance to Bangladesh's mangrove forest management issues. This co-management initiative has generated many lessons and much attention for those working on co-management. It has won numerous awards for its success, including the British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award.

Kayan Mentarang National Park near Balikpapan:

Kayan Mentarang National Park covers an area of 1,600,000 ha and is located in the far interior of East Kalimantan province. The park comprises the largest remaining block of rainforest in Borneo and as such forms a very important refuge for numerous species, including many species that are endemic to the Bornean mountain bioregion. About half of the reserve consists of species-rich dipterocarp lowland and hill forest while mountain forest ranges up to Kayan Mentarang's highest mountain at 2,000 m. 40 Percent of the park has an elevation above 1,000 m.

The park is inhabitated by several thousand Dayak and Punan people who live from shifting cultivation and rice farming. Wildlife is hard to see due to hunting by native Dayaks.

WWF has been working on developing co-management agreements with the local peoples to assist in conservation of the park. WWF has also focused on eco-tourist projects in cooperation with the local people. It has 5 field-offices in settlements around the park, which are helpful for information. It also has a research station at Long Alango, north of Long Pujungan, which can be visited, and is probably the best place to see wildlife.

See more information at http://www.nature- conservation.or.id/kalimantan/ mentarang.html

Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park in West Java

Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park (GGPNP), a small park, located in West Java, faces unique challenges. As GGPNP lies in the Puncak mountain area just south of Jakarta, about 30 million people live within 100 kilometres of the 15,000 hectare park. As the Puncak area is a favourite get-away for weekend visitors from Jakarta, over the last decades developers have heavily rebuilt this area for recreational uses – constructing many hotels, swimming pools, golf courses and discos. Located as it is in the midst of these developments, GGPNP has become the focus for mass tourism.

Each year an estimated 50,000 urban people visit the park, attracted by the mild climate and spectacular views rather than biodiversity (Wells et al. 1999). The Cibodas and Selabintana areas have become very popular, and tourism has reached the level of mass tourism associated with beaches and other large-scale attractions. One Saturday morning during April 1999 between 0830 and 0900, the author witnessed some 45 visitors entering the park (Cibodas) in groups of between 2 to 10. This was an ordinary day. Tourism reaches its peak during public holidays and festivals, such as the Independence day holiday, when large groups of students camp and climb in the park. During the early evening on 16th August, somewhere between 600 and 1,000 people climb to the Surya kencana meadow to camp. The objective is to see the sun rise over Mount Gede on 17th August – Independence day.

According to statistics from the conservation agency, PHPA, at least 96% of the tourists visiting GGPNP are Indonesians. The remaining 4% are mostly from Europe, North America, Japan and Australia (PHPA, 1995a). PHPA surveys reveal that in general most visitors (97%) enter the park for recreational purposes such as walking, bird watching, picnicking and perhaps bathing. There are no other facilities for recreation purposes such as 'white-water rafting' or mountain bike tails.

Local people have gained some benefit from the popularity of GGPNP amongst the urban populations of nearby Bogor and Jakarta. This is mostly clearly seen in the income generating opportunities generated by the tourists. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays villagers sell farm produce, garden plants and a few handicrafts at a large market in Cibodas. Tourism generates increased business for small family shops and kiosks and for local businesses such as nursery gardens. Some families have also opened simple 'homestay' accommodation. Other villagers work in transportation, ferrying tourists on the back of their motorcycles (ojek). All these activities increase earnings in the local community.

A visit to GGPNP offers an excellent mirror with which to think about collaboration and the challenges of management of intensely used PAs in Bangladesh.

CIFOR and ICRAF in Bogor near Jakarta

CIFOR is the leading center for international forestry research, including research on the interactions of forest, parks and people. A visit to both CIFOR and ICRAF would be helpful in stimulating research efforts on the Bangladesh PA system.

(As time allows) *Krui Forest Zone with Special Purpose*

Krui "[Forest] Zone with a Special Purpose" is essentially a dammar forest (dammar as in varnish) that has been managed by communities for a very long time and under local customary law could not be converted unless all communities agreed to do so, which prevented its being turned into yet another oil palm plantation. This may well be the closest to the Nishorgo situation. Krui is just on the other side of the Sunda straits from Java in South Sumatra so it is not very far to travel from Jakarta. ICRAF has been doing extensive research on this site for many years, so issues relating to Krui could be highlighted during a meeting at CIFOR/ICRAF in Bogor.