INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROJECT

Proceedings of
The Round Table Discussion on Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of St. Martin’s Island

Working Paper
WP038

Dhaka
May, 2005

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Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan
(PDO-ICZMP)

Proceedings of the Round Table Discussion
on Holistic Approach for
Sustainable Management of St. Martin’s Island

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Dhaka, May 2005
• All activities should be formulated on the basis of careful evaluation of carrying capacity of the island;
• Endangered and aesthetic species like sea horse, colorful reef, fishes should be preserved;
• Complete restriction and control for human habitation should be executed in the southern side extending from Golachipa to Konapara and Seradia;
• Laboratory should be facilitated with equipment and appliances to perform/ conduct academic research;
• As a signatory of the Convention of Migratory Species; Bangladesh is promised bound to protect and conserve the marine turtle species and the breeding spots for turtle should be protected on priority basis;
• The dog population of the island should be reduced for protecting predation of turtle eggs and hatchlings;
• An advisory committee will be formed comprising the project management personnel of different projects working in the island to frame an integrated and holistic management paradigm;
• Natural trail in lieu of walkway will be established around the island to enjoy the aesthetic view of the island by the tourist;
• Encourage less water demanding cropping (rabi) like wheat, nut, and vegetables;
• Seasonal fish culture with suitable species should be developed without altering the current nature of wetland ecosystem;
• Eco-friendly tourist cottage type accommodation should be facilitated by complete restriction of multi-storied structures;
• To restrict blast water discharge, the movement of merchant ships and vessels should be strictly controlled for entry within 30m depth zone from the shoreline
• Collection of corals and selling of corals, mollusks, bivalves etc. by vendors should be completely stopped by shifting them to other trades like tour guides;
• Generation of electricity by solar and wind mills should be encouraged involving local people;
• Coconut based alternative income generating options will be included in the existing projects.
• Water & Sanitation must be ensured in the island
• Crop intensity be raised
• Biological monitoring shall be a continuous process in view of ECA declaration
• ICZM should facilitate coordination of activities going-on by different agencies

The roundtable ended with a recommendation for an immediate follow-up meeting.

Follow up meeting
A follow up meeting was held on April 4,2005 at 3.00 pm at PDO-ICZMP with representatives form MoEF, DoF, BPC, ECFC, CWBMP and IUCN- Bangladesh.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Round Table discussion on ‘Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of St. Martin’s Island’ was held at the BRAC Centre Inn on March 31, 2005. The Round Table discussion was organized by the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). Program Development Office - Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (PDO-ICZMP) provided facilities for holding the Round Table discussion.

The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Hossain Shahid Mozaddad Faruque, Director General, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). Advocate Goutam Chakraborty MP Hon’ble State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, attended the session as Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, was the Special Guest and Mr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Director General, Department of Fisheries (DoF) was the Guest of Honour. During the inaugural session, Dr. M.Rafiqul Islam, Team leader of PDO-ICZMP, presented the Keynote Paper ‘Towards Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of St. Martin’s Island’.

A total of 31 participants representing ministries and agencies (MoWR, DoF, FD, BPC, DoE, WARPO), universities (DU, CU) and NGOs (CNRS, IUCN) and PDO-ICZMP attended the round-table.

Dr. Rafiqul Islam, in his keynote paper, gave an over-view of St. Martin’s Island. He also mentioned problems facing the island regarding critical biodiversity and vulnerable eco-system. He stressed the need for proper use of existing resources of the island with a proposal of possible integration for its management.

Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh chaired and moderated the technical session and open discussion.

The following 4 papers were presented during the technical session.

1. Marine Biodiversity and its Conservation Measures - Prof. Dr. A K M Abdul Matin, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh.

2. Holistic Assessment of the Faunal Changes; Impact on Fisheries Livelihoods in St. Martin's Island - Dr. Giasuddin Khan, DoF, Dhaka.

3. Empowerment of Coastal fishing Communities of St. Martin Island for Responsible fishing and biodiversity conservation - Dr. Dilip Kumar, TL, ECFC Project, DoF.


In addition, Mr. Osman Ghani of the Forest Department gave a detailed description of involvement of the department in St. Martin’s island.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- St. Martin's Island is a rare island where coral and algae grow side by side and these need to be conserved and preserved;
- Planned aorestation both in the island and upstream with mangrove vegetation should be developed to reduce the damages caused by natural calamities like tidal surges, tsunami etc.
- Activities should be developed on the basis of a Master Plan (to be prepared involving relevant agencies & islands) avoiding unplanned and uncoordinated development activities;
- Aware and motivate local inhabitants about the danger of environmental degradation and facilitate AIGAs;
- Do not allow building of any establishment without prior permission from the authority and stop fish catch around the Island.

While these decisions were made public, protests erupted in St. Martin’s island over the decision to remove illegal establishments. Fear that St. Martin’s island will be depopulated exists among its inhabitants.

The case of St. Martin’s offers a crucial test for establishing a co-ordination mechanism among many institutional actors in a remote small island. It can be turned into a demonstrable model for ICZM.

This Round Table Discussion is a step towards formulation for proper coordination of activities and sustainable management of St. Martin’s Island.
Inaugural Session


2 INAGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session was opened with the recitation from Holy Quran, performed by Mr. Hasan Shariar, Scientific Officer of WARPO. Mr. Mohiudin Ahmad, Co team Leader of PDO-ICZMP conducted this session.

The inaugural session started at 10.00 and was chaired by Mr. Hossain Shahid Mozaddad Faruque, Director General, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). Advocate Goutan Chakraborty MP Hon’ble State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, attended the session as Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, was the Special Guest and Mr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Director General, Department of Fisheries (DoF) was the guest of honour. During the inaugural session, Dr. M.Rafiqul Islam, Team leader of PDO-ICZMP, presented the Keynote Paper ‘Towards Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of St. Martin’s Island’.

Mr. Md. Ekramullah, Senior Scientific Officer of WARPO made vote of thanks
1 INTRODUCTION

St Martin's Island is a small island in the northeast of the bay of Bengal, about 9 km south of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsular tip and forming the southernmost part of Bangladesh. It is about 8 km west of the northwest coast of Myanmar at the mouth of the river Naf. The local people call it Narikel Jinjira. It is almost flat and is 3.6m above the mean sea level. The island is 7.315 km long and is geographically, divided into three parts.

Fishing is the main livelihoods of >5000 people living in this island. St. Martin’s Island is very much resource rich and one of the most biologically diverse area of this region. It is the only coral bearing island of Bangladesh. Recently trades and tourism are emerging.

The National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in Bangladesh was started in 1986. One of the NCS recommendation was ‘Declaration of Narikel Jinjira (St. Martin’s) island and Jinjira coral reefs as Protected Areas and development of a management plan’. The MoEF, under the NCS Implementation Project –I prepared ‘Management Plan for Coral Resources of Narikel Jinjira in 1997 (Tomas Tomascik report). In 1999, the Government of Bangladesh declared St. Martins Island as one of the 9 Ecologically Critical Areas.

The MoEF initiated the following 2 projects to enforce ECA and facilitate conservation of biodiversity.

- St. Martin’s Biodiversity Conservation Project (SMBCP)
- Coastal Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP)

Further, many NGOs have undertaken turtle conservation program on this island.

Meantime, the MoFL, through its ‘Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Community (ECFC) Project’ initiated activities for the large fisher community in the St. Martin’s island.

In order to conserve rich fish biodiversity around St. martin’s island, the DoF has started promotion of a proposal for fish sanctuary. In order to meet energy demand of this remote island, LGED has also developed a green energy model using wind, solar and coconut biomass.

Bangladesh Tourism Corporation promotes St. Martin’s island as a key tourism destination. Domestic tourism has increased manifold in recent years. Unplanned hotel infrastructures are being constructed by private sectors. Introduction of ‘safer’ ferries has attracted further development of tourism. Many overseas entrepreneurs, including from Saudi Arabia, Malaysia have offered to develop St. Martin’s as an exclusive tourist place.

St. Martin’s has also strategic importance due to proximity to Myanmar.

St. Martin’s is at the cross road of development despite being declared as an ECA.

Being requested by the Department of Fisheries vide letter No. 503 dated 28-12-2003 to facilitate a dialogue among relevant projects and agencies, the MoWR concurred to such facilitation and resulted into this roundtable discussion.

While arrangements and scheduling for this roundtable discussions were going on, a high level Ministerial meeting was held on January 16, 2005. The meeting decided to:

- Formulate a master plan for development and protection of bio-diversity of St Martin's Island. LGED has been entrusted to prepare this master plan.
- Build several establishments for the tourism development at St Martin's Island.
- All illegal establishments, including the dry fish market, as well as slums, will be removed from the Island.
Address of Welcome

Mr. Hasan Parvez, Principal Scientific Officer, WARPO

Bismillahir Rahmannir Rahim
Respected Chairman, Mr. Hossain Shahid Mozaddad Faruque, Director General, WARPO,
Honourable chief guest Advocate Goutam Chakraborty, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh,
Special guest Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz, ndc, secretary, Ministry of Water Resources,
Guest of Honour Mr. Md. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Director General, Department of Fisheries
Distinguished Guests, Experts, Participants
Ladies and Gentleman
Assalamualaikum and a very good morning to you all.
It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be present here this morning to welcome you all in the round table discussion on Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of the St. Martin's Island.
St. Martin’s Island is located about 9 km south of the Cox’s Bazar-Teknaf and has been formed though a slow process of deposit of numerous species of corals, stones etc. over many years. This is why this island is known as ‘coral island’.
The island is very much resourceful in terms of its biodiversity. Coral, numerous species of fisheries, turtles, shells, wild animals and trees are the main elements of this bio-diversity. These ecosystems are not only bio-diversity hotspots but also provide ecological balance.
Bangladesh has several ecosystems but coral ecosystem of St. Martin’s island has a special conservation value as well as economic importance. This ecosystem attracts tourists from home and abroad. Everyday about 400 tourists visit the island. Other than fisheries, economic activity of this island is based mainly on tourism.
Due to population pressure in recent years, people are found to be engaged in different unwanted activities like collecting valuable corals, killing the rare species of mammals, marine turtles and other aquatic resources by collecting their eggs, skins and sometimes destroying their natural habitats.
This continuous environmental degradation already resulted the process of declining marine reserve and the island has become highly critical. Realizing this situation, the government has declared the island as Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in the year 1999.
To protect biodiversity and maintain marine ecosystem in and around St. Martin’s Island, this is the time to take necessary measures to conserve the resources of this island.
Today we are proud to have such a good gathering of experts and professionals like you to discuss on such an important issue of national interest and hope to come up with useful suggestions and recommendations for sustainable management of St. Martin’s island. We hope your active participation and valuable contribution would make this discussion a meaningful and successful one.
I thank you all for taking trouble to be present here in this auspicious gathering this morning and wish the successful completion of today's discussion.
Allah Hafez.
Towards Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of St. Martin’s Island

Dr. M Rafiqul Islam, Team Leader, PDO-ICZMP

Dr. M Rafiqul Islam said, in his keynote presentation, that 19 districts and EEZ comprises the coastal zone of Bangladesh. If we look into the St Martins Island we can see a tiny island, which is only 7.3 km long, divided into three parts and in between the northern and southern part there is a small tiny belt and tiny island Cheradia. He provided some basic information before giving the detail. He said, human settlement began in St. Martins Island back in 1000 AD and the current population is near about 6,000. There is no information of cyclone havoc; no causalities have taken place so far after the recent Tsunami. This island is rising at a rate of 19 mm/year. In absence of electricity supply, this island remains as a typical remote island with immense natural beauty.

St. Martins is known as Narikel Zinzira as there are plenty of coconut trees around the island. Most of the people here are fishers. Then come agriculture with main crops watermelon, onion, nuts etc. Recently trades and tourism is emerging. But the most alarming issue here is the over extraction/collection of sea cucumber, coral etc.

PDO-ICZMP has already held some discussion and paper published in the media to raise concern about the alarming situation in St. Martins. As the island has multidimensional attraction and only coral bearing island of Bangladesh, people visit there.

However, Carbon dating shows that it is nearly a 30,000 old island. Coral reef, marine turtles are the most precious resources of this island. Marine turtles come here for nesting and breeds regularly. But there is no data on this marine turtles who visits when. This day’s populations of marine turtles are coming down, but efforts are there to protect the biodiversity.

Back in 1999, this island was declared as ECA. Since then it has became a tourist zone. A lot of people visit this island during November to February month. Lot of academic studies have been done and continuing. Several institutions are active there i.e., Bangladesh Navy, Coast Guard and NGOs. Government efforts are also emerging.

All the ongoing activities need to be integrated to achieve the economic growth, to ensure sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. These dimensions should be achieved through conserving the uniqueness and the natural beauty of the St. Martins Island. So, we must work all together.

Employment opportunities for the fishers and tourism need to be developed. But the question is, St. Martins without its natural beauty is simply an island. So if we destroy this beauty all goes out. We need to enforce ECA and conserve environment and coordinate all the activities. LGED has taken initiative to produce green energy in the St. Martins. There is huge scope of ecotourism opportunity. Children work as local guides. We can create professional guides also. Local houses can be modified and used as the tourist /guest houses like Maldives.

To promote tourism, conservation of nature is a must. Tourism effort can contribute to the local and regional economy. There are 9 ECA’s in Bangladesh, but the St. Martins ECA is the most important and it can be enforced. Efforts are there, but enforcement is needed. Opportunistic livelihood options could be fishing, new trades, dry fish processing and cottage industries development i.e., net and boat making.

However, we need to combine all the efforts and try to avoid the duplication. PDO offers facilitation. We can build on existing plan of 1997. It can be a demonstrable model for ICZM. Thank you all.
Presentation of St. Martin’s Island by Dr. M. Rafiqul Islam, Team Leader, PDO-ICZMP

Towards holistic approach for sustainable management of St. Martin’s island

St. Martin’s Island
- The island is 2.14 km long and divided into three parts.
- Dimensions: 1.5 km long and 1.2 km wide.
- Circle area: 1,299,990 sq km.
- A narrow beachfront corridor, the beachfront, the length and the width of the beach are about 1,700 m and 300 m respectively, and the narrowest collar is known as ‘Subtract’.
- In addition, there are a number of creeks ranging from 150 to 500 sq m in which are locally known as ‘Chhena’ or ‘Ghaat’.

Basic information
- St. Martin’s Island is a part of the larger Half of a subcontinent and the world.
- Present population: 6,600, 1981.
- Present population: 5,913, 1981.
- Populations: 7,500 - 9,000.
- Not a single residential area and there are no streets.
- No other environmental problem.

Livelihoods
- Fishing is the main livelihood.
- Agriculture: paddy, mung, sugarcane, garlic, tomato.
- Main occupation: general, hotel.
- Marine: fishing, shrimps, prawns.
- Others: tourism.
- Cattle: cows, buffalos, goats, sheep.
- Other: 100,000.

Only coral island
- Coral skeleton of the island is composed of corals and sand.
- Several living coral colonies are found in small and sandy areas near the reef.
- The duration of colonies also occur in small and sand islands.
- The age of the island is 500 years (1594), according to the island.
- The skeleton of coral is 500,000 years.
- The skeleton of coral is 500,000 years.
- Marine life is very rich making some islands a coral reef.

multi-dimensional importance of St. Martin’s
- Diversity of coral is made up of corals and sand islands.
- The skeleton of coral is 500,000 years.
- Marine life is very rich making some islands a coral reef.
- Cattle: cows, buffalos, goats, sheep.
- Other: 100,000.
Marine Turtles

- Marine Turtles are highly migratory and play most significant role in maintaining marine ecosystem especially the food chain.
- Turtle population has come down and been recorded in the IUCN Red Data Book as endangered.
- It is well recognized that St. Martin's Island is the only spot where Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) among others, comes to nest in the country. The sandy curved beach on the western coast is the best place (70% nests recorded) for turtle nesting.

Tourist zone

- Tourism is the main attraction of St. Martin’s Island especially the northern part of the area during November to February.
- This is due to its diverse natural and biological settings. Of them; coral, turtles, shells, wild animals, trees are important.

Projects

- Coastal & Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Project
- Empowerment of Coastal Fisher Community Project
- ‘Conservation of Biodiversity, Marine Park Establishment and Eco-tourism Development at Saint Martin’s Island’
- St Martin’s Island Sea Turtle Conservation Project

Integration desirable & achievable

- Accommodating
  - Economic growth
  - Sustainable livelihoods
  - Environmental conservation

Our desired goal

- Conservation of uniqueness and aesthetic beauty
- Conservation of pristine environment
- Employment opportunities, specially for fisher
- Development of nature tourism

Ecologically rich and critical

- One hundred eighty-two species of wildlife recorded. Of these, 4 species are amphibians, 28 reptiles, 130 birds and 20 mammals.
- Declared as ECA in 1990

Stakeholders

- People
- Union Parishad
- Agencies (DoE, PD, DoF, BPC, LGED, BMD, BWTA and others)
- Universities (CU, DU)
- Bangladesh Navy, Coast Guard
- Private Sector
- NGOs

Key Questions

- Do we realize that St. Martin’s Islands without its natural beauty is simply an island?
- Is people participating in all these?
- Do we not need to go to enforce ECA?
- Can we not co-ordinate our acts together in this small remote island?
Win-win situation for all in St. Martin’s

March 2005

Green Energy for St. Martin’s

- The renewable resources in St. Martin’s Island could fulfill its electricity demand.
- Total demand of electricity in the island could be fulfilled with renewable resources including wind power and biomass like stover oil.
- Coconut oil, coconut flour, and coconut shell could also be used as a source of power generation.
- Bio-diesel can be produced from the coconut oil to run a diesel engine successfully.
- Used for coconut will support coconut cultivation, a possible income opportunity.
- Available energy will facilitate small scale cottage industries.

March 2005

Eco-tourism

- Tourism in St. Martin’s is basically nature or eco-tourism.
- Conservation of St. Martin’s nature, beauty, life, livelihoods and environment is must to promote tourism.
- Local people can be trained as professional guides.
- Local residents can be supported to refresh guest rooms and house, as in Maldives and elsewhere.
- Tourist should be made aware of ‘Do’s and Do nots’.
- Long term tourism benefit lies in conserving nature.

March 2005

Regional tourism

- Teknaf can be developed as modern tourism hub to promote regional tourism.
- Through negotiations with Myanmar & Thailand, ship crossing linking St. Martin’s island of Bangladesh, similar coastal tours in Myanmar, extended to Thailand can be arranged.
- Teknaf can be promoted as an essential hub facilitating day trips to St. Martin’s, Crab Island, The Bay, Hill Track etc.
- This will contribute to local and regional economy and employment.

March 2005

ECA enforcement

- Efforts to enforce ECA activities are nowhere more important than St. Martin’s.
- St. Martin’s is facing multi-dimensional pressure.
- Local people should be made part and parcel of this enforcement.
- In the long term, ECA enforcement is beneficial for promoting tourism, promoting green energy, ensuring sustainable and continuous employment opportunities.

March 2005

Livelihoods and alternative livelihoods

- Support to main livelihoods – fishing.
- Empowerment of fisher community through ongoing activities.
- Opportunities for new trades in tourism – as guides, service delivery in guest houses.
- Dry fish processing.
- Cottage industries are boat making, net making, coconut processing etc.
- St. Martin’s can offer possibilities of employment for all.

March 2005

What’s needed?

- Change from working individually to working together.
- Combine strengths, avoid duplications.
- A multi-agency/ministry platform.
- PDO-ICZMP offers facilitation of this platform.

March 2005

Build on existing plan

- A 1997 management plan exists.
- Revise and accommodate present day context.
**Build on existing decisions – A master plan for the development of St. Martin’s Island**

- An inter-ministerial meeting on January 16, 2005 decided to formulate a master plan for development and protection of bio-diversity of St Martin’s Island.
- The meeting also decided to build several establishments for the tourism development at St Martin’s Island.
- Sources said all illegal establishments, including the dry fish market, as well as shacks, will be removed from the island.
- The meeting also decided not to allow building of any establishment without prior permission from the authority and stop fish catch around the island.

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**A model of ICZM**

- Through participation of relevant agencies in both planning & implementation
- Through co-ordination at both national and local level
- Through involving local people
- St. Martin’s can be turned into a demonstrable model for ICZM
Address by the Guest of Honour

Mr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Director General, DoF

Chairperson Director General of WARPO,
Honorable Chief Guest, the State Minister Gautam Chakraborty,
Honorable special guest Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz, ndc, Secretary of MoWR.

From his experience of my visit to the St. Martins Island, there are 5000 people living in the St. Martins Island. Most of them are fishers who are very poor. Tourism is growing in a much-unplanned way. Local people think their heritage and culture are being destroyed due to the emerging tourism business. Land, Biodiversity, plantation are in a threat of destruction. Regarding biomass and marine water following are the main thrusts to be taken in concern.

- What are the species composition
- What is quantity of the total biomass
- What is the oceanological changes are there occurring gradually.

These are the important issues to study and it is a continuous process. With one/two days effort it cannot be achieved. Changes in this island can be seen through concentrating these three major areas.

Water pollution is a major factor to destroy the natural habitat of St. Martins. As tourism business is growing, number of mechanized boats is increasing, which is creating immense water pollution and this has to be stopped for the sake of the biodiversity conservation. Creation of sanctuaries could be one of the best solutions to prevent water pollution in this island.

Not only that, this island is the best area for turtle breeding. But the dogs of the island are destroying hundreds and thousands of eggs. Recently American authority imposed one condition on shrimp export that under any circumstances turtles cannot be killed. If we kill turtle then they will not buy shrimp. I hold series of meetings with the Deputy Commissioners of Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira on this matter. This should be controlled anyhow to protect the turtles. If we cannot ensure it, shrimp export will suffer a lot.

We are trying to import turtles excluded device to fasten net for not to capture turtles. Not only that mollusk is also suffering from the water pollution threat in the St. Martins. To stop water pollution universally accepted tool is sanctuary. If we can declare sanctuary area in the 5 metres depth area around the island, alternative livelihoods will be ensured along with preventing the water pollution.

If we can retain shallow water alternative livelihoods options will be strengthened. So we need to involve community people in sanctuary development, only sanctuary declaration cannot help to protect water pollution. I hope from the discussion session valuable suggestions will come up and we will jointly work for the better management of the St Martins Island. Thank you all.
Address by the Special Guest

Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz, ndc, Secretary, MoWR

Mr. Hossain Shahid Mozaddad Faruque Chairperson of the session and Director General of WARPO, Honorable Chief Guest, Advocate Gautam Chakraborty the State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, Guest of honour Mr. Nasir Udddin Ahmed, Director General, Department of Fisheries,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am not fortunate to visit St. Martin’s Island. But I have gathered some knowledge and information from experts like you, websites and media. My very personal view is that to-day’s topic of discussion is very much important and deserves considerable approaches to develop for sustainable management of the St. Martin’s Island. The discussion, I hope, should cover some major areas like;

- Status of habitation
- Economic activities
- Risks and problematic areas and
- Finally a plan that we need to take for the management.

Critical analysis of these can provide sustainable management of the island. Regarding the location of this island, Cox’s Bazar and Peninsula tip is very important. It is above the minimum sea level, which is 3.6 metre. This should be taken into consideration for any plan or to make suggestions.

Coral island consists of various limestone’s. Shell, limestone, coral and permeable makes home for the water aquifer. The island is more than 30,000 years old. It is a coral island, where coral deposition is emerging. So shall we jump for massive development effort right now?

There are 182 different species and we are actually disturbing their lifecycle. Director General, DoF has mentioned rightly that 90% people are fishers. So their source of livelihood should be considered also. Soil of this island is not so fertile, people can only grow watermelon and rice.

There is no record of major risk. But we cannot say, after experiencing the recent tsunami. That this island will not suffer from tidal surge in future Common IT network to the mainland is needed. Regulatory framework for over exploitation is required to protect the biodiversity. He further mentioned that, regarding the plan of Action, MoWR has already formulated CZPo 2005. This is a guideline for all the Ministries. The ministries will do the sustainable development. This discussion session will focus within ICZM umbrella how best can Ministries act to evolve action plan effectively.

We have ECA 1999; we have also the Management plan of 1997. These frameworks need to be reinforced rather formulating new plan. This discussion session can make the basis for further progress. We know human habitation there which is 1000 years old. So the people of the area are more important.

We will have to decide to utilize the people living there. We must take them into the fold of management. Thank you.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to participate in this round table discussion session. St. Martins is situated in the extreme Southern part of Bangladesh, which is full of seaweeds, and corals. The island is rich with its natural resources varied characteristics. It is famous and important to the researchers and academicians for its diverse natural resources.

However, marine fishing has a long history. It started since the human settlement. Since then fishing based economy was established in this island. Every year around 1650 MT fishes are being captured from the sea worth of Tk. 4.0 crore It is enriched with biodiversity, agricultural practices also exists here.

Number of tourists in this island is increasing. Due to the population pressure; people are destroying forest resources to meet the fuel need. Infrastructure construction is destructing the habitat. It is best place of turtle breeding.

Since 1960’s coral collection has started commercially. Unplanned extraction of coral is declining its species and it is creating pressure to other species’ also. ICZM has created the opportunity to work together on this issue. About 12 ministries and 35 departments/ agencies are working on the ICZM platform. Therefore we will have to emphasize on the followings

- Livelihoods development
- Biodiversity conservation and
- Economic development

We will have to work together on the overall development of this island. Prime Minister will extend her support on to it. Not only that, other agencies will contribute to conserve biodiversity in the St. Martin’s Island.

We will have to conserve the natural beauty of this island for the sake of our future generation. I truly agree with the Team Leader of PDO-ICZMP that without people’s awareness it cannot be done properly. I also agree with the DG, DOF, that this island should be better managed not only for its beauty and resources but also for the research and educational purposes.

Though I have some practical experiences on this island but still so far I understood, we will have to be proactive to protect the ecological balance in that place. Partnership and alliances is a must to embark on to this process and with the cooperation and coordination of the agencies this can be done very smoothly.

Our Honorable Secretary has already explained the CZPo and considering all the dimensions this workshop remain very important as it can provide valuable suggestions. Hoping that all of us will work together in near future. We will have to take over the government decisions, which are based on the prospective suggestions. We must work together on it for the better management of this island.

With these I inaugurate the session and wish success of the Round table discussion. Thank you all.
Chief Guest, the Honorable State Minister Advocate Gautam Chakraborty
Special guest Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz ndc, Secretary of MoWR,

I am honored to be part of the round table discussion on “Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of St. Martins Island”. Coral Island or St. Martins is very rich in terms of the biodiversity which provides the ecological balance. St Martin’s ecosystem is the most special amongst the other ecosystems of Bangladesh. About 400 persons per day visit this island of beauty. But the over exploitation of the coral reef and marine turtles is declining the natural habitat. The Government of Bangladesh has declared St Martins as Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 1999.

We should emphasize on to the importance of managing the island’s fragile resources in a sustainable manner. We have to protect its biodiversity. Only declaration of ECA is not enough. As the Team Leader of PDO-ICZMP and the DG, DoF have mentioned earlier, sanctuary can be a better option to protect the biodiversity in the St Martin’s Island.

CZPo has been passed and we will have to put together all these considerations. As a result St. Martins could be the first step towards the operationalization of the CZPo. To stop the destruction of the biodiversity, we will have to work together.

However, from the technical session many more suggestions on the methodology, technology, ways and strategies and ecosystems will hopefully come up. I thank you all.
Technical Session
3 TECHNICAL SESSION

Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh Country office, chaired the technical session. Dr. Ainun Nishat commenced the technical session by mentioning that the keynote paper has been presented already, which has reflected the thoughts of PDO-ICZMP on the sustainable management of the resources of St. Martins Island.

The following 4 papers were presented during the technical session.

1. Marine Biodiversity and its Conservation Measures - Prof. Dr. A K M Abdul Matin, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh.

2. Holistic Assessment of the Faunal Changes; Impact on Fisheries Livelihoods in St. Martin's Island - Dr. Giasuddin Khan, DoF, Dhaka.

3. Empowerment of Coastal fishing Communities of St. Martin Island for Responsible fishing and biodiversity conservation - Dr. Dilip Kumar, TL, ECFC Project, DoF.


In addition, Mr. Osman Ghani of the Forest Department gave a detailed description of involvement of the department in St. Martin’s island.

Suggestions were received soon after the completion of each presentation.

However, all participants contributed the open discussion session.
Marine biodiversity (of the St. Martin’s Island) and its conservation measures

Dr. A K M Abdul Matin, Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Chittagong

The synopsis of this presentation was that to defer the definition of St. Martins Island. He said, it is not a Coral Reef island rather a Coral Helimida Reef Island. His presentation was comprised with many photographs of the existing and extinct biodiversity of the island.

Recommendations:

- Artificial propagation to stop extinction is a must to conserve the biodiversity in St. Martins Island.
- Special attention to be given on the intense effort to make lime from the oyster shells.

Presentation of Marine Biodiversity and its Conservation Measures
**Introduction**

Some is the case for other resources. The coastal fishery largely depends on artisanal fisheries for their livelihood. Besides, industrial fisheries also play substantial role in the country’s economic development. But, these fisheries resources have been destroyed through various ways. Along the coastal area, the by collectors mercilessly destroy thousands of planktonic organisms round the year.

Surely, these are the acute indications of the loss of marine biodiversity and variety of the ecosystem as a whole.

**Objective**

This article has been written to draw further attention of the government, non-government, corporate agencies and the people from all walks of life to give more emphasis on regarding the well understanding of the values of marine biodiversity and the conservation of the same for the future generation.

**Research on Biodiversity**

A considerable number of research works regarding the biodiversity have so far been done in Bangladesh with the participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Some of those are:

- Zafar (1989-90) has studied on coexistence abundance in the Kaptaika (Chandpur) Bay of Bang Polder. The total number of species found is around 800 species.
- Rahman (1997-98) has studied on coexistence abundance in the Madhupur (Ukhia) Bay of Bangladesh. A total of 137 species were identified.
- Sardar (2002-03) has studied on coexistence abundance in the Chittagong (Moulsham) Bay of Bangladesh. A total of 123 species were identified.
- Sayem (2003-04) has studied on coexistence abundance in the Khulna (Khulna) Bay of Bangladesh. A total of 118 species were identified.
- Haque (2004-05) has studied on coexistence abundance in the Cox's Bazar (Ukhia) Bay of Bangladesh. A total of 105 species were identified.

**Map of St. Martin**


**Natural View of of St. Martin**


**Biodiversity of Flora & Fauna**

Some Important Mollusks

- **Name**
  - Mollusca
  - Chela
  - Valve
  - Family
  - Genus
  - Spec.
  - English Name

- **Description**
  - Shell soft, smooth, round, water surface covered by small ribs, light surface of coat smooth marked by impression of radial rib.
  - Sand size shell and sandy bottom of the coastal area.

- **Habitat**
  - Coastal area and sandy bottom of the coastal area.

- **Distribution**
  - It is found in the Indo-West Pacific.

**Biodiversity of Flora & Fauna**

- **Classification**
  - Phylum
  - Class
  - Order
  - Family
  - Genus
  - Spec.
  - English Name

- **Description**
  - Minimum shell length 7.5 cm. Commonly 5 cm.
  - Body colour is often greyish white, mottled with brown patches. Males are brown.
  - Males are larger than females.
  - Female has 2 pink bands on the shell.

- **Habitat**
  - It is found in the Indo-West Pacific.

- **Distribution**
  - It is found in the Indo-West Pacific.
Significance of Biodiversity

Role of Plant Diversity

- This mangrove forest is also a safe haven against any kind of natural hazards including storms, typhoons, and tsunamis.
- Intertidal small-scale or subsistence systems fisheries exist in the Sundarbans employing more than 200,000 people.
- Diversity of a variety of terrestrial and aquatic animals
- Most major fishing grounds in the GBR are adjacent to the mangrove forest areas.

Significance of Biodiversity

Role of Animal Diversity

- Corals are essential for the natural base of protection against any kind of destructive wind and sea waves.
- Corals also provide a suitable sheltering place for many species including numerous, crabs, sponges and so on.
- Most of the species of seaweed found in the coral reef.
- On the other hand, crabs, snails, and other aquatic organisms play a primary role in maintaining the ecosystem by cycle and with a good foreign exchange.

Loss of Biodiversity

Major Causes

- Over exploitation of fisheries resources
- Grazing for the non-timber species or in the coastal P. arietinum
- Impact of pollutants, e.g. pesticides, sewage, industrial emissions, oil spills etc.
- Introduction of alien species.
- Impact of pests and local influenza pestilence.
- Traditional and unexplained explosion of shrimp farming near the mangrove forests.
- Construction of the Keraniganj Bridge over the estuary of the Jamuna river from the mangrove coastal forest during the last years.

Conservation of Biodiversity

Convention/Protocols Signed or Ratified By Bangladesh

- Plant Protection Agreement for the South East Asia and Pacific Region. 1954.
- Plant Protection Agreement for the South East Asia and Pacific Region. 1954.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Action Plans For Biodiversity Conservation

- Integrated coastal profiles identifying critical areas including coastal areas, physical processes, development patterns, coastal hazards and isolated areas for management.
- Effective monitoring and surveillance within the exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Bangladesh and transport route of toxic and other hazardous materials.
- Promoting the use of environmentally sound fishing methods and technologies and alternative methods for pest control and monitoring the protection of those found to be environmentally unsound.
- City-based ships to be equipped with pellets detector and firing equipment.

References

- Widespread and rapid increase of coral reef fishery, 1989.
- Website on "New Pacific Region". 2006.
- Website of Sustainable Development Network in Bangladesh (SDB)
- Widespread and rapid increase of coral reef fishery, 1989.
- Website on "New Pacific Region". 2006.
Holistic Assessment of the Faunal Changes: Impact on Fisheries Livelihood in St. Martins Island

Md. Sirajul Islam, Assistant Chief, DoF, Dhaka

This presentation entailed the fisheries resources in the St. Martins Island. Seaweed cultivation, pearl culture, aquaculture in the wetland body, cage culture in the northern part of this island has been described as the potential alternative livelihoods for the fishers. Tourism can be promoted by ensuring cottage/huts, tourist guides, ornamental fish trade, jobs in Marine Park, electricity supply, solar energy usage, sanctuary establishment, restriction of the mechanized boats etc.

**Recommendations:**

- Holistic approach to attain sustainable management.
- Stop the destructive growth of tourism.
- Uses of local peoples house for the tourists rather then constructing hotels.
- To examine the importance of the rare species sea horse.
- Jurisdiction of the marine turtles need to be clarified.
- Assessment of the carrying capacity of the island.

Presentation Impact on Fisheries Livelihood in St. Martin’s Island
Contd. Lobster
- 3 spp. of lobster

Sea weed
- 10 spp. of algae/sea weed (Nurul Islam, 1998)
- 22 spp. (Another survey)

Mollusc/Bivalves
- 154 spp. of Molluscs (Tomasick, 1997)

Oyster/Pearl/Grab
- 3 spp. of oysters. Pearl bearing spp. 7 spp. crab

Others
- Amphibian - 5sp., Turtle - 5sp., Snail - 5sp.

Reef Fish Species for Bangladesh compared to the World

Fisheries activities and livelihood
- 90% households engage in fishing and fish traders.
- Some others engage in crab, mollusc collection, sea weed collection and coral collection.
- 150 no. of boats (Motorized) and some non motorized boats.
- Fish production 1650 mt./year. 4 core tk.
- Net use: Drift gill net, Fixed gill net, Gill net, Seine net, Hook line, etc.
- Most of the women and children engage in fish drying (6 fish drying industries are present).
- Marketing to the other areas is not possible due to lack of electricity, ice factory, communication, etc.

Historical Changes in Faunal Composition and Abundance
- Both species and quantity wise fishes have drastically declined primarily for over fishing
- Not only by Bangladesh but also by Thailand and Malaysia (Interreader)
- About 25 years back fishes were in abundance near the coast of the island but they are now only available in the deep sea.
- Some of the species have completely extinguished while some others on the verge of extinction (14 species), i.e. Saccophora, Breviramea, and Soterilus
- Other molluscs, bivalves, seaweeds, turtle, etc. are declined over decade.
- Coral production is also under threatened condition.

Use and impact chart for the St. Martin island
Contd.

Probable Alternative Livelihood

- Sea weed culture (Not harvest from Wild)
- Pearl culture
- Aquaculture in fresh water bodies
- Cage culture
- Rent Cottage/Hut (Highly decorated) to tourist
- Tourist Guide (Literate people VIII, IXth)
- Snorkeling facilitator rather than Scuba diving
- Tourist boat operator (Motorized/Non motorized)
- Ornamental fish trader by Artificial breeding technique (Not collection from Wild)
- Oil collector and oil supplier
- Electricity supplier (By using solar cell rather than using diesel)

Recommendations

- Establishment of sanctuary upto 5-10 m water depth around the St. Martin’s Island
- Restrict the expansion of inhabitants from Chittagong to Sundar
- Protect fishing during low tide upto 20 m
- Restrict movement of merchant ship, vessels, etc. upto 30 meter depth from SS. West and Eastern bank of Island
- Stop collection of coral, sea weeds, turtle, mollusks, bivalves, etc. by enforcement of law
- Taking initiative for intensive survey of the fish resources and setting restriction of limited number of fishing boat depends on survey results
- Banning of beach seine net to protect invertebrate
- Ensure the enforcement of fisheries law
- Complete prevention of building construction or any other PWD infrastructure
- Assessment of coral reef carrying capacity and monitoring of the activities for sustainable environment
- Restrict collection of rocks, coral, etc. by tourist
- Cooperation with the coastguard and BS to protect the biodiversity of the island
- Development of eco-museum in lieu of multistoried hotel model, etc.
- Banning of jinik shop (Mollusc shop) in the island
- Provision (i) Marine park (banning of fishing etc.) and (ii) should bring fish from the island by responsible tourist boats/boats
- Consider the island as a marine museum so that Govt. can earn revenue from the tourist entrance in the island
Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities of St. Martin’s Island

Dr. AKM Nowsad Alam, Sr. National Expert, ECFC Project, Cox’s Bazar

To empower the fisher folk community in the St. Martins Island village organization was formed through appraisal, problems and opportunities analysis, prioritization and then making of the Action Plan. Community interaction has been increased through this process.

Recommendations:

- To impose ban the use, production and collection of the current net.
- To protect aquatic resources from water pollution.

Presentation of Empowerment of the Fisheries Community of St. Martins Island
Empowerment...
- Awareness programme related to voting rights, women’s rights, marriage, protection of environment etc.
- Preparation of PAPD
- Starting radio community oriented radio programme – by the communities for the communities
- Developing CCRF for the island with focus on conservation of coastal biodiversity and natural resources through stakeholders’ participation
- Constituting committee for periodic review of compliance

Future priority
- Issue of identity cards to VO members
- Registration of boats
- Discarding destructive fishing gears and practices – e.g.
- Keeping the island and the beach clean and free from plastics and other solid wastes brought by visitors
- Starting another school exclusively through their own resources

Future priority....
Taking benefit from tourism – so far communities are kept away
- Starting production of quality dried fish without using any insecticide — High value St. Martin dried fish
- Production of packed coconut based food items which is a traditional delicacy of the island

Future priority....
- Developing facilities for accommodating visitors as paying guests
- Training community members to serve as eco-tourist guide
- Initiating eco-friendly livelihood activities.
Tourism for Employment Generation in St. Martin’s Island

Mr. Ziaul Haque Howlader, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

Sustainable livelihoods can be ensured through opting fishing and tourist guide side by side. To do so LGED is developing the master plan, which will be implemented by the MoE. Agency cooperation is needed to promote tourism for the employment generation.

Recommendations:

- Involvement of the COAST Guard and the Bangladesh Navy.
- Plan for the rainy seasons.
- Land ownership development in the southern part of the island.

Anthropogenic threats needs to be considered regarding the floral diversity. Tourism must be developed in a sustainable manner, as there is close linkage between human and the nature.

Presentation of Tourism and Employment Generation

- Overview of Tourism Development
  - Tourism has become one of the largest and fastest growing commercial activities in recent years. In the last fifty years, tourism has emerged as a force having economic, social and political impact, which crossed borders of the nations. There were 8.94 million international tourist arrivals in 2006.
  - The tourism industry in Bangladesh reported increase in tourist arrivals for the 6th consecutive year since 1999-2000. Arrivals in 2006 (12,107,093) surpassed the earlier peak figure of 12,107,003 in 2003. In terms of foreign exchange, 75,387.50 million was earned during the same period. Maximum of three arrival tourists visited the tourist spots existed in the coastal zone of Bangladesh.

- Development of Tourism and Employment Generation:
  - Tourism industry is one of the first growing sectors of the world and also, in many circumstance, tourism becomes an important alternative profession of the people.
  - Tourism is a great tool for poverty alleviation. It helps reduce poverty to a great extent by involving local people and creating job opportunities.

- Development of Tourism and Employment Generation:
  - Tourism jobs and businesses are usually created in the most underdeveloped regions of a country, helping to equalize economic opportunities through a nation and providing an incentive for residents to remain in rural areas rather than crowd cities areas.
Development of Tourism and Employment

Generation:

- The tourism industry provides government with hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues each year through accommodation and restaurant taxes, airport users' fees, sales taxes, park entrance fees, employee income tax and many other fiscal measures.

Tourism and Employment:

Travel and tourism is an important job creator, employing an estimated 3.25 million people around the world. The vast majority of tourism jobs are in small or medium-sized, family-owned enterprises. Research shows that job creation in tourism is growing at 1.5 times faster than any other industrial sector. One out of nine workers on this planet depend directly or indirectly on tourism. Direct employment in the tourism sector in Bangladesh is more than 100,000 and indirect employment may be more than 200,000.

Contribution of Tourism for Socio-economic upliftment in the Coastal Zone:

The contribution of tourism for employment generation and the socio-economic upliftment is very immense. The tourism activities in the coastal area help augmentation of local products sale, exhibition of indigenous art & culture and get local people involved with this industry as well as create small and medium-scale factory. The following two case studies would give a clear picture of tourism impact for the socio-economic upliftment in the coastal zone:

Case Study on Poverty Reduction through Tourism in Kuakata:

Surrounding the tourist motel there has taken place an uplift of roads and streets. And a large number of small and medium sized enterprises has ventured their business far and near of the motel. The thana community of Kuakata is coming forward with their handmade products and traditional culture to tourists. Poor people of the area are selling different goods such as local food, flowers, handicrafts which are directly bought by tourists. And thus, tourism activities generate direct income for poor people.

The Scenic Beauty of Kuakata

The coastal facilities in Kuakata are at present very inadequate and unserviced. These are hotels and motels in both public and private sector. As thousands of tourists both domestic and international flock to Kuakata, various types of job at huge number have been created even there. Local people can exhibit their local made products like coconut and shell items, handicrafts, foods etc. Young people works as travel guides, even a photographer at the beach earns one thousand Taka per day. Women produces assorted types of attractive items by crochets and sold it for tourists. At present, in the beach tourists won't find any beggar. It proves all the hardworking people have been provided in the tourism industry directly or indirectly.

Tourism Activities in the St. Martin Island:

- Tourism activities are taking place in the St. Martin Island both by the Public and Private Sector. The peak season for tourism activities is 'November to March'.
- During the last peak season Bangladesh Pakistan Corporation contracted only 24 package tours with several number of tourists. (The total number of tourist was only 640). These package tours were conducted by professionally trained up and environmentally sensitized guides of BPC.
- The number of package tours and tourists conducted by the private sector are a bit higher than those. BPC did not establish any structure here considering ecologically critical biodiversity of the island. BPC conducts day trip package tours to St. Martin from Teknaf. BPC created tourist facilities at Teknaf for easy smooth day trip to St. Martin island.

Cox's Bazar

The tourism industry provides government with hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues each year through accommodation and restaurant taxes, airport users' fees, sales taxes, park entrance fees, employee income tax and many other fiscal measures.

 PDO-ICZMP  Proceedings on Round Table Discussion on ‘Holistic Approach for Sustainable Management of St. Martin’s Island’; May 2005

 PDO-ICZMP
Tourism for Employment Generation in St. Martin's Island:

1. As the island is declared as an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 1993, limited number of tourism activities i.e. eco-tourism can help immensely not create additional livelihood for the local people. Here a strong cooperation among the departments like Bangladesh Fisheries Corporation, Department of Environment and Forest, Water Development Board, etc., is needed.
2. Ignorance and misconception among the department activities create barrier of the smooth work of the tourism development of the island.
3. For better coordination and smooth and coordinated tourism development, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism convened an international meeting on 15/10/2004, where various Heads of Local Government and Local Development, Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Forest and the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and other concerned representatives were present.

More Attractions in the Coastal Area and other places of Bangladesh

4. Existing Dry fish village and all kinds of local entrepreneurs would have to be benefit by concerned DC with the help of Police Administration.
5. The affected shilin and coastal should be recorded to shilin fund not by the DC: DC would inform the MCAT regarding the total area of the affected island. Help from the Land Record and Survey Office would be sought in this regard.
6. BIFTA would take initiative to identify the safe river route to St. Martin Island.
7. DC would inform the Local Government Department regarding the disaster of St. Martin Union Parishad.

Tourism for Employment Generation in St. Martin’s Island:

- In the meeting, eco-tourism activities like Maldive can be promoted here. In the inter-ministerial meeting following decisions were taken:
  1. LGSD will prepare a Master Plan in collaboration with M&E and MCAT. Ministry of Environment will organize fund for preparation of the Master Plan.
  2. Construction of Walkway around the St. Martin Island for tourists.
  3. Prior permission will have to be taken from the DC, Cox’s Bazar for construction of any permission will upon seeking opinion from the M&E and MCAT.

Sundarbans

Kaptai Lake

Rangamati
Courses Offered by NHTTI

A. Diploma in Hotel Management

B. National Certificate Courses
1. Food & Beverage Production
2. Food & Beverage Service
3. Bakery & Pastry Production
4. Housekeeping & Laundry Operations
5. Front Office & Secretarial Operations
6. Travel Agency & Tour Operations
7. Computer Literacy

Total number of successful trainees since 1974 till Dec 2004:

1. Above 20,000 students
2. Most of them are employed in and outside the country.

Twice intake yearly in two shifts (for NCCG)
3. Evening shift intake 150 students and Evening shift intake 150 students.
4. Total yearly intake 600 students

Awareness Creating Activities by BPC for Local People in the Tourism Spots
Conclusion:
Like before, BPC would like to reiterate that a proper and strong coordination, exchanges of ideas and sharing of knowledge among the concerned ministries, departments and agencies for the promotion of tourism and create alternative livelihood for the local people of the St. Martin island are badly required. St. Martin island can be an ideal spot for promotion of tourism and reduce poverty like the islands of Maldives. Dispute of ownership, mud-slinging and blaming games on the island through the media seriously halt any kind of development activities in the St. Martin, let alone tourism.
Open Discussion & Concluding Session
4 OPEN DISCUSSION

Dr. Md. Liakath Ali, PDO-ICZMP

Mr. Ziaul Huq from BPC has mentioned in his presentation that involvement of BWDB is also important in tourism development in St. Martin’s Island. Why?

Dr. Ainun Nishat

BWDB’s involvement has been mentioned to undertake any types of protection measures from Teknaf to the St. Martin’s Island.

Dr. S.M.A Rashid, Coastal & Wetland Biodiversity Management Project, DoEnvironment

I have noticed that one thing is missing and/or has not been mentioned in this round table discussion and that is about the ongoing Coastal & Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP). We all know about the ECA declaration and CWBMP is a GEF funded project for ECA management. Although this project has been delayed due to some miss initiatives and decisions. Hopefully within the next five years this project will work out effectively.

As ICZM has taken an effective initiative to discuss together on Sustainable management of St. Martins Island, they should also contact with Department of Environment who are executing CWBM Project.

On information availability, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment has mentioned that we have huge amount of information. Kamal Sheikh emphasized on the zonation of St. Martins Island in one of his famous writing. Besides, the ongoing St. Martin’s project also establishing Marine Park to do the zoning. That means there are many initiatives going on and we can take examples from them rather inventing new things to this island.

For national interest we all must have to work together. CWBMP is linked with other projects like ECFC, St. Martins Project. Not only that, some components of SEMP are also linked with CWBMP and this project has good linkage with LGED’s energy related component. However, it has been told in this session that 12 Ministries and 35 agencies are linked with ICZMP. So, why cannot we bring all the works and examples together in this discussion session? Decision from the highest body is crucial to work on sustainable management of the island.

All though Prince of Saudi Arabia has shown keen interest in the tourism development of this island, but as the St. Martin’s is already a declared ECA, thoughtful actions are required before intervene anything new in this island.

On marine turtle conservation issue, I must tell you that as GEF emphasizes on the globally endangered species and St. Martins is the only island where three types of turtles do their nesting. We do not find any nesting record of Horn bill turtle since 1992.

Moreover as the DG of DoF have already mentioned about TDE (Turtle exclusion Device), I have not seen this example yet. In India this is made at a cost of Taka 500-700. If we can make it also, then our fishers will be able to use this.

On diversity issue, it must be mentioned that many of the species are declining. I am going to this Island since 80’s and now keora trees cannot be seen like before, as the investors are buying land and fencing boundary by cutting keora trees. In southern part of this island in Cheradia we will not find any keora trees.
Dr. Ainun Nishat
We would like to hear from you about the sustainable management of this island. We have not acknowledged your project, is not correct. Because Dr. Rafiq, team leader of ICZMP has mentioned in his presentation about ongoing projects including your one.

Can you please elaborate on the present status of the project. As NPC, you can directly recommend for introducing TED.

Dr. S.M.A Rashid
We have actually started from the last year. We have field office in Cox’ Bazar. We are going to open a Teknaf field office by next month and this office will look after the St. Martins Island also. Moreover, we are trying to establish communication and coordination mechanism by contacting with ECFC’s village group organizations.

Dr. Ainun Nishat
For the sustainable management of the St. Martins Island, coordination amongst the 4 ongoing projects is very important. We expect your cooperation in that particular issue.

Dr. S.M.A Rashid
I can tell you that for the sake of the sustainable management of this island, coordination among the relevant Ministries, agencies and project will be established soon. Yesterday I had a meeting with the Secretary of MoEF and I have mentioned all the issues I discussed here and he assured me that if I can provide the ECA related steps to him, then he will peruse it to the other Ministries. Therefore, today’s session is very important to chalk out the expert opinion and recommendations.

Dr. Ainun Nishat
To add with your comment it should be mentioned here that, we will have to find out whether there are any other projects going on in addition to mentioned projects. I hope that the new Chairman of BPC will cooperate with the theme we are discussing here. For the sustainable management of St. Martins Island, we will certainly need the involvement of DoF, FD, LGED, and BPC. In this regard, ICZM can collect and compile the study/survey reports of the St. Martin’s project to make it as a baseline report. You can also collect the Tomas Tomascik report from IUCN library. Therefore I would request Dr. Rafiq and Dr. Rashid to sit together and discuss today’s suggestions and take the written decisions to the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment to ensure effective coordination.

Professor AKM Abdul Matin, Institute of Marine Sciences, Chittagong University
We will have to think about the monitoring issue as well.

Dr. Ainun Nishat
From IUCN’s part I will take this responsibility.

Dr. S.M.A Rashid
For the conservation of Marine turtles, we should concentrate on the identified breeding grounds in St. Martins Island. So far 20 breeding grounds have been identified and we will have to prioritize the effective breeding grounds and provide adequate and proper protection there.

Mr. Abu M Kamal Uddin, PDO-ICZMP
To me, selection of effective breeding place can come later on as it requires a bit detail works. However, I propose we can form a body from today’s discussion, who will work further on to this issue and I am quite sure that all the projects have resources.
We have already contacted with the project directors of the mentioned projects and Dr. Rafiq has already mentioned that ICZM could be the platform.

**Dr. Ainun Nishat**

Only offer to act as a platform is not enough. Dr. Rafiq will have to knock on Mr. Mushfiq and Mr. Kamruzzaman. We need to communicate with them for effective actions. I also will go with him if necessary.

I fully agree with your proposal for platform. Committee/ group power will be needed. That is why we will have to go to the Secretary of the MoEF. We will have to cooperate with Dr. Rashid to get the government’s assurance.

**Mr. Osman Ghani, Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Department**

I want you to think about the “Nature Trails” rather than making walk way around the beach.

**Ms. Nahid Sultana, Scientific Officer, WARPO**

We have talked a lot about the existing tourist and fisheries resources and potential in St. Martins Island, but not about agriculture. Can we suggest cultivating specific less water demanding crops like soybeans, peanuts, and wheat according to the soil types? It can be done as an alternative to the traditional rice cultivation system.

**Mr. Hasan Shariar, Scientific Officer, WARPO**

I have been to Kutubdia Island few days back and found the ground water crisis. Water is crucially needed to any kind of development intervention. Therefore, we will have thought about the existing aquifer of this island.

**Dr. Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, Khulna University**

What type of tourism we will promote for the St. Martins Island? During the on and off-seasons, carrying capacity of this island vary. It is hard to find an inch of place in the beach area during on season. This entails the risks of the carrying capacity of this island. Moreover we will have to investigate that whether the construction of multistoried building and safety tanks are polluting seawater?

It has been suggested that seaweed culture and fresh water aquaculture could be the major alternative livelihoods in this island. But we must think about the risks underneath of aquaculture. Aquaculture will eliminate most of the species (out of 16 existing species) as it allows only 3-4 species cultivation.

As seaweeds can be found densely in the northwestern beach of the island. People will certainly concentrate on to that area. Therefore, it may repeat the land grabbing stories of Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat. So we will have to be more careful to pick the area for seaweed culture. We must ensure that EIA will take place before any types of intervention.

**Dr. Ainun Nishat**

Three strong points have been identified by him and these are

- to develop and enforce socially and environmentally responsive tourism guide.
- regulatory framework for the sustainable management of the natural resources.
- proper zoning is needed for program or any kind of intervention and Environmental assessment should be done beforehand.

**Mr. Mokhlesur Rahman, CNRS**

St Martins Island is comprised with small area and if we want establish Eco-park there, Laboratory or Hatchery establishment may harm the entire process. Because the use of heavy metals and bio
undegradable materials in the laboratory will certainly pollute the seawater. We do have same types of ecological conditioned areas elsewhere in Bangladesh, we can produce and nurture the species there also. We will not be able to recycle the pollutants once that laboratory will be on.

Dr. Ainun Nishat

Persons with research interest on seaweeds, algae, and coral will use this laboratory. We do have hatchery in Cox’s Bazaar and still we are not habituated to eat mollusks, so we will have to think about these issues as well. We will have to perform the environment assessment in terms of ensuring sustainability and harmful activities in this island should be controlled strongly. Social control needs to be strengthened to stop in migration in this island. People who are already there shall be prohibited far to move further in the south of Galachipa. If necessary we can ask the government to buy out the khas land. As far I know the island was entirely under khas land, local investors made the Dalil (agreement) later on. In a sense we can take it up with the high officials.

Md. Sirajul Islam, Department of Fisheries

We have much more options over there. Shark watching is rather profitable than to collect shark fins. But, people are collecting shark fin in an unplanned manner. If we can plan for the next 15-20 years we can go for shark watching. Propagation of marine ornamental fishes is not possible. Because within salinity level of an aquarium, ornamental marine fish species never survive.

Mr. Mokhlesur Rahman, CNRS

Most of the fisheries research institutes and the training centers are mal functioned and mismanaged. We have heard that some of the scientists had to sell the fishes of the research pond for their living. Because they had no money. My point is that it is not so easy to run research activities in such a remote area like St. Martins island. So, level of researchers is matter of question.

Dr. Ainun Nishat

We are quite unsure about the sustainability of the laboratory set up. Those who are building this should keep it in their mind. Not only that, they can also think about the possibility of shifting the physical facility to Teknaf-Shah Parir Dwip. Shah Parir Dwip could be a proper place for research and eco-tourism development.

Mr. Nawshad has mentioned that the people of St. Martins Island have the idea that, they will be evacuated some day from the island. But we are saying that it will not bring benefit to those people. So, consultation with the local people is a big factor. Population limit of the settlement is also necessary.

Mr. Mokhleur Rahman

ICZM is a platform during its lifetime. But what will happen when ICZM will be phased out?

Mr. Nuruzzaman, DoF

I have mentioned earlier to do the seaweed and pearl culture experimentally, as we know that 200 tons of red seaweed goes to the Myanmar illegally per year. So we will have to think about it also.

Dr. Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, Khulna University

For the sustainable management of this island, Social and Environmental Impact Assessments are must. We should also think about the risk of ballast water discharge. If many vessels move around the island, disastrous situation may occur. So restriction is needed. Another alarming issue is the extensive collection of shark fin. Dr. Nawshad has mentioned about introducing solar tunnel drier into the St. Martins Island, which will ultimately reduce the excessive use of insecticides in fish drying.
Dr. Ainun Nishat

Approach, motivation and recommendations are needed to stop shark fin collection rather than to say stop or ban it.

Ms. Rehana Akhter, PDO-ICZMP

People can have alternative livelihood from the coconut by-product. Family planning activities must be given proper attention as most of the families in St. Martin’s are large with 8-10 members.

Ms. Akhteruzzaman, Deputy Director, DoF

EIA is essential before initiating any sorts of intervention in the St. Martin’s island. We will have to think about the solid waste management along with the sewerage water treatment.

Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmad, Co Team Leader, PDO-ICZMP

If I had the decisive and implementing power I could have done the following

- We do not actually understand the social dynamics. We say that, many things are needed for the livelihoods. This is vague. Because, people who are doing fish drying, shell trades are not the local people. These investors are from Teknaf and Cox’s Bazaar. People are very poor in St. Martins. If we can stop the commercial extraction of these resources, local people will not loose much. They are already looser stakeholders. Big stakes belong to Teknaf /Cox’s Bazaar. Therefore, commercial extraction of natural resources must be stopped and government should have strong political will to this issue. We need to plan how the local people can sustain.

- Pleasing nature should be conserved. People go to the island to enjoy its natural beauty. We can work along with Government’s sanitation program (2010) and the sanitation goal can be covered before 2010. We do not need to go for new programmes.

- We will have to impose higher toll to every tourist. Tourist who can effort the toll will visit the island.

5 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. M Rafiqul Islam, Team Leader PDO-ICZMP made concluding remarks by saying that, “we must move forward with a common understanding/view on the issues we have already agreed upon. In doing so,

- This exercise has to be linked to Master Plan, assigned to LGED.
- By next week, a formulation will be prepared for the Secretary, MoEF.
- A follow-up meeting is scheduled on April 4, 2005 at the PDO.

6 FOLLOW-UP MEETING

As per decision of the round-table discussion, a follow-up meeting was held on April 4, 2005. Proceedings of the meeting is presented in Annex-C.
ANNEX-A: PROGRAMME

Venue: BRAC INN Center, Mohakhali, Dhaka
Date: 31 March 2005, Thursday

9:30 - 10:00 Registration

OPENING SESSION
10:00 - 10:05 Recitation from the Holy Quran
10:05 - 10:10 Welcome address by Mr. Md. Hasan Parvez, PSO, WARPO
10:10 - 10:25 Key note paper: Towards holistic approach for sustainable management of St. Martin’s Island by Dr. M. Rafiqul Islam, Team Leader, PDO-ICZMP
10:25 - 10:40 Address by the Guest of Honour Mr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Director General, Department of Fisheries
10:40 - 10:45 Address by the Special Guest Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
10:45 - 10:55 Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest Advocate Goutam Chakraborty MP Hon’ble State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources
10:55 - 11:00 Address by Chairperson Mr. Hossain Shahid Mozaddad Faruque, Director General, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO)
11:00 - 11:05 Vote of Thanks

11:05 - 11:30 Refreshment

TECHNICAL SESSION

Session Chair: Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN-Bangladesh Country Office

11:30 : Marine biodiversity (of the St. Martin’s Island) and its conservation measures - Prof. Abdul Matin, Institution of Marine Science (IMS) Chittagong University, Chittagong
11:45 : Holistic Assessment of the faunal changes; impact on fisheries livelihoods in St. Martin’s Island - Dr. Md. Giasuddin Khan, District Fisheries Officer, Department of Fisheries (DoF)
12:00 : Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities of St. Martin’s Island - Dr. Dilip Kumar, TL, ECFC Project, Department of Fisheries (DoF).
12:15 : Tourism for Employment Generation in St. Martin’s Island - Mr. Ziaul Haque Hawlader, Executive Officer (Planning), Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC.
12:30 : Open discussion
14:25 : Closing remarks by the chairperson
14:30 Lunch

Rapporteurs of the discussion: 1) Mr. Nasiruddin Md. Humaun, DOF
2) Dr. Shamim Ara, WARPO
## ANNEX-B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX-C: MINUTES OF THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON 4 APRIL, 2005

Facilitated by the PDO-ICZMP, the follow-up meeting was attended representatives of three on-going projects and relevant agencies

- Coastal & Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (DoE)
- Empowerment of Coastal Fisher Community Project (DoF)
- St. Martin’s Biodiversity Conservation Project (DoE)
- Department of Fisheries
- Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation
- IUCN

This was the first ever interaction of 3 ongoing projects on a platform.

**Project Components of 3 on-going projects:**

**St. Martin’s Biodiversity Conservation Project**
- Household Survey/Base line
- Biodiversity conservation
- Proposed Marine Park
- Prevention of sandstone, natural stone and coral extraction
- Seaweed, shell, coral, mollusk extraction prevention
- Awareness building (weekly) activities on conversation, cooking, cleanliness of beach etc.
- Dissemination of Do’s or Don’t’s for the tourist in the island
- Encourage household tourisms (20 so far)
- In Situ / ex-situe turtle conservation (Conapara, Galachipa 9000 released)
- AIG training/livelihood skill dev. training
- Laboratory, maritime museum, research centre from Dhaka to St. Martine’s office-cum Barrack, Dormitory
- Solar/Wind energy for the project office complex
- Commissioning of a ship for research & eco-tourism

**Empowerment of Coastal Fisher Community (ECFC) Project (DoF)**

1) Vill. Organization, (4 villages) (St. Martine’s Marine Fisheries Management)
   - 8 organised = Male +Female

2) Capacity building / linkage for AIG
   - training : 50 training sessions so far

3) Grant for organizations (as seed money)

4) Participatory Resource Management

5) 2 schools, Health care, Sanitation, legal aid

6) Village resource centers

**Coastal & Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP) - (DoE)**

Primary role; Implementation of ECAs

ECA – boundary definition/land tenure
- BD Poush has been awarded the job of community mobilization (Starting April 2005)
Village Conservation Groups (VCGs)
- Resource management
- Awareness
- Alternative livelihood
- Tourism
- Habitat management

Components of all three projects, working on 500-600 households, were described and analyzed. Room for working together became evident. After a thread-bread discussion, the following recommendations were made.

**Recommendation:**
- All agreed to contribute and participate in the preparation of the Master Plan, emphasizing on:
  ◊ Enforcement of the ECA to conserve biodiversity
  ◊ Establishment of fish sanctuary and marine park
  ◊ Promotion of nature tourism based on assessed carrying capacity of the island in relation to waste disposal and drinking water availability. Tourism infrastructure in Teknaf preferred
  ◊ Empowerment of fisher community through group mobilization and alternative skill training
  ◊ Expressed reservation about a move to depopulate St. Martin’s island
- Representatives of active projects agreed to meet quarterly and share programs of on-going activities in the St. Martin’s Island.
- Appreciated the facilitating role of the PDO-ICZMP, an inter-Ministerial set-up, and suggested continuation of the role in future.

**List of Participants**

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