

Government Order (GO) in English translation Establishing Co-Management Councils and Committees under Nishorgo Support Project

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No. pabama/parisha-4/nishorgo-64/(part-4)/112—According to the proposition of Nishorgo Support Project and in order to ensure active participation in participatory co-management by the stakeholders in and around the Protected Areas within the purview of the project, i.e. Lawachara National Park, Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, Satchari National Park, Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary (Chunati Range Area), Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary (Jaldi Range Area), Teknaf Game Reserve (Teknaf Range Area), Teknaf Game Reserve (Whykheong Range Area) & Teknaf Game Reserve (Shilkhali Range Area), 8 (eight) Co-management Councils are hereby formed with representation from civil society, local government, local residents, and other government agencies as per the following structure:

Co-management Council

- (a) Civil Society
 - Honorable Member of the Parliament- Advisor
 - Pourashava Chairman (If present)
 - UP Chairman and members (with at least 1 woman member) from UPs around the PA - 13
 - Local elite, teacher, physician, social worker, newsman, religious leader, freedom fighter - 6-8
- (b) Local Administration
 - UNO - 1
 - ACF/Range Officer - 1
 - Representative from Law Enforcing agencies - 1
(Police, BDR, Ansar & VDP)
- (c) Local Residents
 - Resource user Group representatives - 9
(poor stakeholders who are dependant on forest resources)
 - Resource Owning Group - 6
(owners of brickfields, saw-mills, wood and furniture business owners)
 - Ethnic minority Group representative - 3
 - Local youth representative - 2
 - Representative of major stakeholder groups - 1
 - Representatives from Local NGO/publicly established organizations - 2-4
 - Representatives from other organizations - 4-6
 - Directorate of Agricultural Extension
 - Directorate of Animal Husbandry
 - Directorate of Fisheries
 - Directorate of Local Governance
 - Directorate of Health & Family Planning

Directorate of Social Welfare
Directorate of Youth Development
Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)

UNO and the respective ACF/Range Officer will act as the Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Co-management Council. The Co-management Committee will consist of no more than 55 members. At least 10 of the members will be women. The members of the co-management council will be elected for 4 years. New council will be formed every 4 years through Annual General Meeting. However, representatives from local government and government institutions will remain as ex-officio members of the committee.

Co-management Committee

Co-management Committee, consisting of minimum 15 and maximum 19 persons, will be formed amongst the members of the Co-management Council according to the following structure:

UNO	- Advisor (ex-officio)	
ACF/Range Officer	- Member-Secretary (ex-officio)	
Local Government representative (one being woman)		- 3-4
Representative from Civil Society	- 2-3	
Representative from Resource User Groups	- 2	
Local youth representative	- 1	
Representative of Resource Owning Group	- 2	
Representative from ethnic minority groups	- 2	
Representative from Law Enforcing Agencies	- 1	
Representative from other Government institutions	- 2	
Representative from NGOs	- 1	

Members of the Co-management Committees will be elected by the members of the respective groups in the Co-management Council. Except for the Member-Secretary and the representative from law enforcing agencies, all members will be elected for 2 years tenure. No person can be a member for more than two consecutive terms. The members of the Co-management Committee will elect one President, one Vice-President and one Treasurer amongst themselves. ACF/Range Officer in charge of the Protected Area will be ex-officio Member-Secretary of the Committee. The account of the Committee will be operated with the joint signature of the Member-secretary and the Treasurer. Co-management Committee will have its own office. An accountant cum administrative officer will be on duty at the office at all times. The said officer will maintain financial and other records of the committee. The financial bookkeeping will be audited on a yearly basis by institution/organization as directed by the advisor. The administrative officer will be responsible to the Member-secretary for all his activities. His salary will be bourn by the committee from its own fund. The President will chair the meetings of the committee and the Member-secretary will convene the meeting as well as perform secretarial responsibilities.

2. The job responsibilities of the Co-management Council and the Co-management Committee will be as follows:

Job responsibilities of Co-management Council

- (1) Co-management Council will convene an annual general meeting and at least one meeting in addition to the annual general meeting;
- (2) Will provide pertinent suggestions to the Divisional Forest Officer on any modification, addition or correction after reviewing the annual work-plan of the protected area;

- (3) Will take collective decisions on activities that have adverse effect on areas in and around the Protected Area;
- (4) Will provide required guidance to the Co-management Committee on Protected Area management;
- (5) Will develop policies for distribution of goods and services gained from Protected Area among the stakeholders and also oversee such distribution among the stakeholders by the Co-management Committee;
- (6) Will provide required approval to the Protected Area Annual Work Plan developed by the Co-management Committee;
- (7) Will play effective role in quelling any conflict that arises among the members of the Co-management Committee from time to time.

Job responsibilities of Co-management Committee

- (1) Co-management Committee will act as the executive body of the Council and will be accountable to the Co-management council for all their activities;
- (2) Will liaise with FD officials responsible for management of the Protected Area on local stakeholders' participation;
- (3) Will distribute the proceeds from goods and services from the Protected Area among the groups or teams linked with management activities according to the guideline developed by the Council;
- (4) Will support Forest Department in employing labor from groups/teams linked with Protected Area management in development activities undertaken by Nishorgo Support Project for Protected Area Management;
- (5) Will develop and submit project proposals requesting funds for development of the Protected Area and landscape zone;
- (6) Will develop work plan for expenditure of fund collected locally through Protected Area management and will ensure spending upon approval from respective Divisional Forest Officer;
- (7) Will maintain proper accounts of all local collection and expenditure from Protected Area Management. All accounts needs to be audited by institution/organization as directed by the Advisor;
- (8) Will take required steps, upon approval from the Divisional Forest Officer, to initiate patrols for maintenance of Protected Area resources;
- (9) Will play supportive role in containing any conflict arising between local stakeholders and Forest Department or any other government/non-government organizations.

3. This order will be effective immediately.