

## **BDF Environment and Climate Change Development Partners- Lines to take**

### **Background**

1. GoB updated its Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) in 2009 (available on Ministry of Environment and Forests-MoEF- website). The strategy clearly lays out the links between poverty reduction and climate change. It prioritizes climate resilient development (adaptation) and includes actions for low carbon growth (mitigation). It highlights adaptation measures to ensure food security and social protection for the most vulnerable; improved comprehensive disaster management; climate-proofing of infrastructure; intensified climate change research and knowledge; investment in low carbon development and mitigation; and appropriate institutions and capacity building to help the country tackle climate change.
2. BCCSAP affirms that the needs of the poor and the vulnerable, including women and children, will be prioritized in all activities implemented under the Action Plan. Climate change, climate variability and natural disasters are a major driver of rural-urban migration, so managing the urban environment is an increasing challenge. Unmanaged urban expansion is a major cause of pollution and environmental degradation
3. Key priority actions proposed under the strategy include: improved livelihoods in ecologically fragile areas, improve flood, sea surge and cyclone disaster forecasting and warning; community based disaster preparedness; strengthened and repaired embankments, polders and additional shelters; improved water management systems to reduce water logging and saline intrusion on the coast and river erosion more generally; extended mangrove forest green belt for coastal protection; improved field data and climate change modeling at a scale useful for sub-national planning; investments to improve energy efficiency; capturing greenhouse gases from waste and agriculture to reuse as energy, compost, etc; and reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD).
4. A small Climate Change unit is housed within the MoEF with the aim of providing better technical information for more systematic planning in the face of climate change as well as awareness raising and disseminating information on climate change out across government more broadly.
5. Bangladesh used to chair the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group in the international climate change negotiations and remains a strong LDC voice in this group speaking on behalf of vulnerable countries.
6. GoB has allocated US\$100 million of its own budget to a special climate change fund.
7. On the environment more broadly, GoB has made some progress towards MDG 7, promoting access to improved drinking water and sanitation; maintaining biodiversity and improving the living conditions of slum dwellers; but, as MDG 2008 progress report highlights, further effort and some change will be required if Bangladesh is to meet this Goal.

### **Lines to take**

#### **Principal achievements**

Welcome -

- The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and GoB's contribution of \$100 million to a dedicated Climate Change Fund
- Drive to promote shared benefits and collaborative management with communities of protected areas, water bodies, wetlands, social forestry)
- Improved climate change and water modeling and forecasting provided by Bangladesh Engineering and Technology University (BUET), Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Systems (CEGIS) and the Institute for Water Modeling (IWM) that can contribute to more systematic and longer term planning
- Improved and more effective early warning system and community level preparedness for natural disasters

- First steps taken to establish a carbon baseline for the Sundarbans mangrove forest on which many poor people depend for their livelihoods and which buffers against cyclones

### **Main challenges going forward**

Urge GoB to -

- Coordinate better between departments responsible for water, forests, environment, fisheries and agriculture, otherwise integrated natural resource, water and environmental management is difficult to achieve in reality
- Establish more effective, transparent and accountable institutional arrangements to prioritize and approve climate change actions and projects under BCCSAP, involving CSO, private sector as well as the state
- Take effective fast track action to repair damaged coastal embankments before the monsoons set in
- Take speedier domestic action to scale up local climate change implementation and “readiness”;
- Implement available financing now that result in visible, credible actions and scale impacts on the ground, building on proven approaches [Note: Dredging not necessarily proven or cost effective; Future climate change financing is performance based. Local implementation speaks louder than words internationally.]
- Target the 15 districts where access to safe water and improved sanitation coverage is below 30%
- Generate data and a baseline so that MDG 7 indicators can be monitored - currently there is insufficient data to monitor national progress on most environment sustainability indicators
- As well as adaptation, mainstreaming mitigation in accordance with BCCSAP – carry out effective actions to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a whole

### **Urban environment**

- Recognise that the growth of towns and cities represents an opportunity, not a threat; and cannot be resisted, but must be managed
- Ensure the inclusion of urban sector poverty reduction strategies in the 6th Five Year Plan
- Implement regulations to limit environmental pollution
- Support and enhance cooperation between different government ministries, city corporations, municipalities, development partners, civil society (including poor urban communities and the private sector) to deliver a comprehensive and integrated approach to urban issues

### **Immediate actions (for discussion)**

Development partners stand ready to support the BCCSAP with grant finance and technical assistance. However, for this to happen immediate steps by GoB are critical to ensure successful, transparent and accountable implementation.

- Allow the World Bank to financially administer the climate financing pool fund on behalf of GoB
- Make the current BCCSAP committees more effective and efficient to enable GoB
- Set a clear criteria for climate change project appraisal and funding; put in place a strong monitoring and lessons learning platform
- Streamline the process for approving climate change related implementation and projects [Review the current Planning Commission pro-forma process]
- Make sure that capacity and a clear results framework is in place to guide the approval of proposals and monitoring of results
- Clarify roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis MoEF in relation to other line ministries on environment and climate change
- Involve local governments, private sector actors, as well as broader civil society
- Build the capacity of rural and urban slum communities that are capturing gas emissions by conserving and enhancing natural assets or managing waste
- Establish an in country carbon market mechanism to enable community groups to benefit from REDD<sup>1</sup> and other carbon financing
- Carry out a strategic review of successful pilots in collaborative, community based natural resource and protected area management to provide evidence for future policy and legislative reform

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<sup>1</sup> Reduced emissions through deforestation and degradation (REDD) financing

- Continue the recent “Urban Conversation” and establish a framework for monitoring actions under it