

## UNDP Bangladesh

### Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting

Date:	10 May 2020 (time: 11.00—13.00 hours)
Location:	Virtually organized through zoom
Project Title:	Adaptation Initiative for Climate Vulnerable Offshore Small Islands and Riverine Charland in Bangladesh
Project Document presented by:	Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist (Environment Sustainability & Energy), UNDP Bangladesh
Chair:	Ms. Van Nguyen, Deputy Representative, UNDP

#### **Summary of LPAC members' comments:**

Ms. Nguyen, Deputy Representative, UNDP Bangladesh opened the meeting with her welcome remarks mentioning that this was the first ever LPAC virtual meeting. She congratulated Government of Bangladesh for accessing Adaptation Fund (AF), which is the first time in Bangladesh. She appreciated efforts by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and UNDP colleagues in preparing this proposal through rigorous consultation process. She specially mentioned to Mr. Mirza Shawkat, Director (Climate Change), Department of Environment (DoE) for his rigorous contribution for the whole process of development of the proposal.

She explained that the project will cover eight remote islands of the country. Even though the negotiation started long ago, the project document, is very much in line with the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) as the project will be supporting most climate vulnerable people in the isolated islands. Further, she emphasized that this project should capitalizing knowledge of UNDP and government in bringing out innovative solutions to climate adaptation. She also mentioned that although Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate change, people of the country are fighting back and adapting significantly is exemplary for rest of the world. UNDP is supporting Bangladesh for increasing its climate resilience which is not only serving Bangladesh but also contributing towards achieving global environmental goals. She reminded extra responsibility of MOEFCC and UNDP in implementing the project in an effective way to reinforce the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister as global champion on climate change. UNDP's contribution to Bangladesh for climate resilience is not only serving one country, it is also contributing towards our role as global citizens-she opined.

The speech was followed by a presentation from Mr. Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist, UNDP Bangladesh; where he mentioned that this is the first virtual LPAC meeting and this project is one of the first of its kind in this country as Bangladesh has never accessed AF before. According to Bangladesh Coastal Zone Policy, around 187 islands and riverine charlands are most vulnerable in our country. Various climatic and socio-economic factors are the major drivers for the vulnerabilities of these islands. The climate induced vulnerabilities are sea-level rise, increased temperature, salinity intrusion, cyclone, storm surges, and drought along with various socio-economic vulnerability that include remoteness, low level of development intervention, limited access to energy, malnutrition, low level of capacity of local govt institutes (LGI) and communities. He mentioned that there are male dominated society in small islands and food, energy and livelihood securities are threatened due to climate change impacts.

He also mentioned that Adaptation Fund's governance architecture and funding mechanism is different from other global climate funds although it is managed by Global Environment

Facility. He summarizes about project details and mention that duration of this project is 5 years. The Department of Environment (DoE) is the key implementing partner. About 6-7 government implementing partners will be engaged in delivery of various project interventions. NGOs will also be engaged particularly for supporting community mobilization. UNDP is the delivery partner for Adaptation Fund. This project will be implemented in eight climate vulnerable islands (2 major islands and other 6 islands where cyclone preparedness programme will be expanded and mordandized. About 341,000 people will be benefitted from this project. Mr. Faisal also discussed about the project components and interventions, major outcome and output of this project.

Following main presentation, Mr. Shamim Al Razi, Additional Secretary (Development), of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) asked about criteria of selection of those small islands, coverage of the inclusion of island, and the component regarding embankment repair and management. Mr. Faisal added that selection of those islands has been done with following standard climate risks and vulnerability assessment and ranked them due to their vulnerabilities. Mr. Mirza mentioned that a special report is prepared on climate risks and vulnerability and justification for selection of those islands. Vulnerability assessments were conducted to avoid duplication of interventions and to identify most vulnerable islands. The project interventions will be covering the whole area of these eight islands. He also clarified that there is no component regarding embankment construction since it is “red category project” as per DoE’s Environmental Impact Assessment Guideline. Mr. Faisal added that UNDP would not implement any activities that environmental impacts are high. Lots of embankments are there in place constructed by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). Instead of construction, repair and management of these embankments with the active participation of communities and other relevant stakeholders will be done through the project activities. Mr. Khurshid Alam, Assistant Representative, UNDP Bangladesh added that the whole idea is not to prepare any new embankment, but to find out innovative solution to manage embankment.

As an answer to Ms. Nusrat Noman, Deputy Secretary, ERD question on whether there is any Co-financing of this project, Arif Faisal clarified that co-financing is not mandatory for AF project. However, he asked whether it is possible to GoB to provide co-finance as it was mentioned earlier during project formulation level consultation. Ms. Nusrat added that it should be included in the TAPP if any co-financing is included there. She also added that she will discuss with senior management to provide co-finance to this project.

Mr. Solaiman Haider, Director (Planning), DoE suggested whether project should follow Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP) or Development Assistance Project Proposal (DPP), considering the nature of the work. Mr. Faisal informed that since the Adaptation Fund project provides grants support for piloting innovative adaptation intervention, this project is also not investment project and not revenue generating one. So, TAPP is adequate for this project. At this point, Ms. Nusrat Noman also added that it is totally grant based project and return of revenue was not expected so TAPP should be most appropriate. Mr Faisal also mention that another similar nature of LDCF supported project title “Integrating Community-based Coastal Afforestation and Reforestation Programme” implementing by the MoEFCC also project prepared TAPP. Mr. Ashrafuzzaman, Deputy Chief, Agriculture Division of Planning Commission added whether TAPP or DPP should be done, will be decided by the Planning Commission since there is a sharp margin between TAPP and DPP.

Mr. Solaiman Haider from DoE also mentioned about the importance of the feasibility study of proposed adaptation interventions. Since this project has conducted many feasibility studies, he shed light on the importance of the results of those study reports. Location specific

adaptation options should be chosen for the adaptation interventions. By thanking Mr. Haider, Mr. Khurshid of UNDP added that in ProDoc, activities are kept and written in a flexible manner so that location specific adaptation interventions can be chosen and implemented accordingly.

Mr. Sanjoy, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC opined his observation regarding change of the title of the project. Since this project is supporting some “mitigation actions” like solar irrigation, nano-grid, etc., she suggested to include “mitigation” along with adaptation. He asked why only adaptation is mentioned in the title. Mr. Arif Faisal replied that this was suggested by Adaptation Fund Board to include some mitigation option which will ultimately support adaptation and will provide other co-benefits. He also added that change of project title is not possible now as the project is already approved by Adaptation Fund Board and registered in their website with the name. Mr. Sanjoy also mentioned that beneficiary selection should avoid duplication. Consultation with relevant stakeholders are very essential for this purpose. Ms. Nusrat Noman also added that local government should be engaged very rigorously during the selection of beneficiaries to avoid double counting and any other duplication.

Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, MoEFCC added that it is crucial to decide who will work at field level operation. Design of resilient housing and other field level intervention should be finalized with proper consultation with local govt officials and other technical agencies (FD, LGED, etc.).

Mr. Mirza Shawkat mentioned that Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) should be engaged for designing climate resilient housing and also agreed with the importance of rigorous consultation with relevant engineering background people to finalize the design and also gave opinion on to develop beneficiary selection criteria to select suitable beneficiaries. Forest Department should be involved for implementation of green belt and mangrove plantation activities in this project. He suggested to engage at least two DPDs from the DoE to supervise the field level activities from two divisions of Barishal and Rangpur. Mr. Khurshid added that at ProDoc, project interventions are kept flexible so that suitable project management options can be selected considering the actual field reality and demand. Regarding the housing design, beneficiary selection can be finalized during PSC, PIC or project board meeting.

Mr. Muzammel, Project Manager, ICBAAR, UNDP added that the project should have a good exit strategy specially to ensure the sustainability of significant project interventions. The project should form a technical advisory committee at PMU level involving relevant technical experts from Architecture, LGED, DoE, FD, DAE, DDM, IDCOL, BWDB, etc. to ensure climate resilient and environment friendly infrastructures and other interventions. In addition, he also opined that, to ensure the quality of works and to create ownership of LGIs at field level, there should have a Project Implementation Committees (PIC) headed by Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) with other relevant stakeholders and representative from DoE as key implementing partner.

Lastly, Mr. Khurshid Alam of UNDP in his thanking note added that UNDP will submit the final ProDoc by 14<sup>th</sup> May after addressing all LPAC comments. He also kindly request support from everyone concerned for the approval process. Mr. Ashrafuzzaman from the Planning Commission replied to Mr. Khurshid Alam’s request and said that the Planning Commission will extend all required support for on-time approval of the project.

Finally, Ms. Van Nguyen ended the meeting by thanking everyone and acknowledging their feedback and suggestion and fruitful discussion. She also noted that UNDP alone can’t succeed in this approval and implementation process. Collective effort of GoB and UNDP will make

this project a big success. She requested ERD and Planning Commission to get the project it's final approval without any delay so that it can get started on time.

**Meeting Recommendations:**

1. UNDP will share ProDoc by addressing the suggestions agreed in the LPAC by 14 May 2020.
2. Instead of creating seven DPD positions, the revised document only keeps those provision for few big investment implementing ministries, and other ministerial engagement can be done through MOU and LOA. Implementation of local infrastructural interventions such as housing should be kept flexible in the document which could be done either by NGO or by LGED, and modality will be approved in the PSC.
3. Beneficiary selection process and criteria should be developed by the project and endorsed in the PSC.
4. Formation of a technical advisory committee at PMU level involving relevant technical experts from Architecture, LGED, DoE, FD, DAE, DDM, IDCOL, BWDB, etc. to ensure climate resilient and environment friendly infrastructures and other interventions.
5. To ensure the quality of works at field level and create ownership of LGIs, there should have a Project Implementation Committees (PIC) at project site headed by UNO with other relevant stakeholders and representative from DoE as key implementing partner.
6. Project activities will be kept flexible so that locally suitable intervention can be implemented.
7. The climate resilient shelter should be designed with input from top experts and should be endorsed by PSC.
8. A TAPP on the project will be prepared by DoE and shared to the MoEFCC, Planning Commission and ERD preferably by last week of May 2020.
9. Govt will provide co-financing support to the project both in cash and kind and it will be reflected in the TAPP.

Prepared by:

Signature:



Name:

Arif M. Faisal

Designation:

Programme Specialist, Environment Sustainability and Energy

Date:

14 May 2020

LPAC minutes approved by:

Signature:



Name:

Van Nguyen

Designation:

Deputy Resident Representative

Date:

14 May 2020

**Attachments:**

1. Project Document
2. LPAC Presentation
3. List of participants and zoom screenshot

**Participants:**

**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

1. Mr. Shamim Al Razi, Additional Secretary (Development)
2. Mr. Sanajay Kumar Bhowmick, Joint Secretary
3. Mr. Mijanur Rahman, Deputy Secretary (Climate Change)

**Department of Environment**

4. Dr. A K M Rafique Ahmed, Director General
5. Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali, Director (Climate Change)
6. Mr. Solaiman Haider, Director (Planning)

**Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance**

7. Ms. Nusrat Noman, Deputy Secretary

**Planning Commission**

8. Mr. Md. Ashrafuzzaman, Deputy Chief, Agriculture, Water Resources & Rural Institution Division

**UNDP Bangladesh**

9. Ms. Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative
10. Mr. Khurshid Alam, Assistant Resident Representative
11. Mr. Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist (Environment Sustainability & Energy)
12. Dr. Muzammel Haque, Project Manager, ICBAAR Project
13. Ms. Saudia Anwer, Project Manager, NAP Project
14. Mr. Md Rezaul Haque, Programme Associate
15. Ms. Tanzina Dilshad, Project Officer