SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OPERATIONAL PHASE-7 BANGLADESH

September 2022

Table of Contents

List of Table

List of Figures

List of Maps

List of Annexes

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHT	Chattogram Hill Tracts
CBA	Community Based Adaptation
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
COP	Conference of Parties
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO	Civil Societies Organization
ECA	Ecologically Critical Area
EPI	Environmental Performance Index
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Green House Gas
ICCA	Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LD	Land Degradation
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
LULC	Land Use Land Cover
MCPP	Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NC	National Coordinator
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDRM	National Disaster Risk Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
REDD	Reduce Deforestation and Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

The table below shows the OP7 Financial Resources for Bangladesh. The SGP will implement OP7 for the first time in Bangladesh; therefore, several of the titles listed in the table are not applicable.

OP7 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US$)[1]

Total SGP Grants to date since (year):	**Not Applicable**
OP7 GEF Core Funds:	USD $500,000 (tbc)
OP7 GEF STAR Funds:	**USD**
OP6 GEF Core and STAR remaining balance (if applicable)	**USD**
Other funds (secured)	**USD**
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	**USD**

1. INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is located in the northeastern region of South Asia, between 20°34/ and 26°38/ North latitude and 88°01/ and 92°41/ East longitude. It has an area of approximately 147,570 square kilometers, including inland water bodies and estuarine water. Rivers and inland water bodies cover 6.7% of the country. Almost half of the land is elevated less than 10 meters above sea level. Bangladesh features three broad types of landscapes: floodplains covering 80%, terraces covering 8%, and hills representing 12% of the country's land area. Bangladesh's current population is 165,158,616 with a population density of 1,119 persons per square kilometer and a growth rate of 1.22 percent. The proportion of people living in the urban areas is 52,009,072.[2]

Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2021 was $2,503.[3] However, according to World Bank's recent report, the extreme poverty headcount ratio is just about 12%, while the moderate poverty level is around 20%. On the other hand, it has improved quite a few socio-economic indicators over the last few years, one being girls' education.

Unfortunately, despite such positive changes, the country suffers from inadequate attention to its natural resources systems. Bangladesh is at the crossroads of the Indo-Himalayan and Indo-Chinese sub-regions, in the transitional zone for flora and fauna of the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia and is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.[4] The country has a wide range of natural ecosystems, making it one of the most ecologically significant and biologically diversified landscapes in terms of migratory species, steppingstones, staging grounds, and flyways for migratory birds.

[1] The level of SGP OP7 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF7 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third-party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP6 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP7 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

[2] BBS (2022), Population and Housing Census, 2022, Ministry of Planing, Government of the People's Republic Bangladesh, pp 05. http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/2022-07-28-14-31-b21f81d1c15171f1770c66102038

3 Bank, W. (2021). World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.

[4] Feeroz, M.M. 2013. Introduction: Protected areas. In: Feeroz, M.M. (edt.) Biodiversity of Protected Areas of Bangladesh, Volume III, Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary. Arannayk Foundation Bangladesh, pp 11-20

Bangladesh's natural habitats include a variety of forests, freshwater wetlands, and coastal and marine types, all of which are home to substantial animal and plant species. Though Bangladesh is a small and densely populated country, it is rich in biodiversity. The current updating species red list of Bangladesh has considered and assessed 49 species of amphibians, 167 species of reptiles, 566 species of birds and 138 species of mammals and 253 freshwater fishes among vertebrates and 141 species of crustaceans and 305 butterflies from the invertebrate group are present in Bangladesh, including 31 regionally extinct species.[5]

Despite these, the overall situation regarding environmental performance levels is much to be desired. Recently, the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) presented a data-driven overview of the global condition of sustainability. It rates 180 nations based on their progress in improving environmental health, preserving ecosystem vitality, and mitigating climate change. Bangladesh ranked 177 and the EPI score is 23.1%.[6] The following graph represents the EPI ranking and the categories of ranking. Note that except for fish stock and to an extent in relation to pesticides and nitrogen management, the country ranks practically at the bottom among 180 countries in almost all cases.

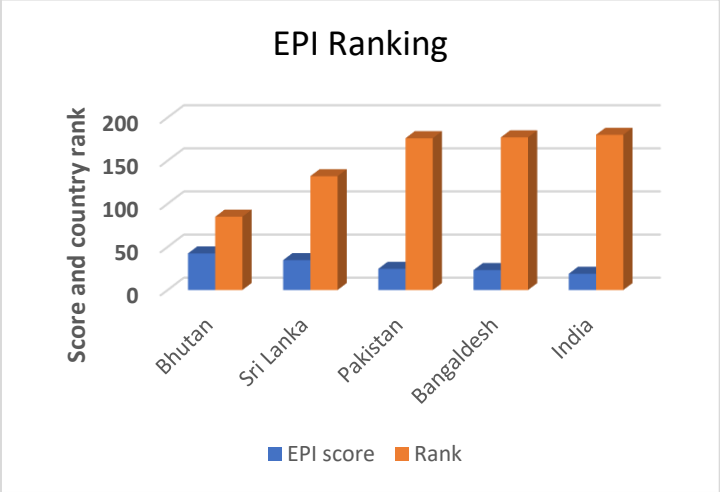


Figure 1: EPI Ranking

[5] IUCN Bangladesh. 2015. Red List of Bangladesh Volume 1: Summary. IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka, Bangladesh, pp. xvi+122.

[6] Wolf, M. J., Emerson, J. W., Esty, D. C., de Sherbinin, A., Wendling, Z. A., *et al.* (2022). *2022 Environmental Performance Index.* New Haven, CT: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. epi.yale.edu

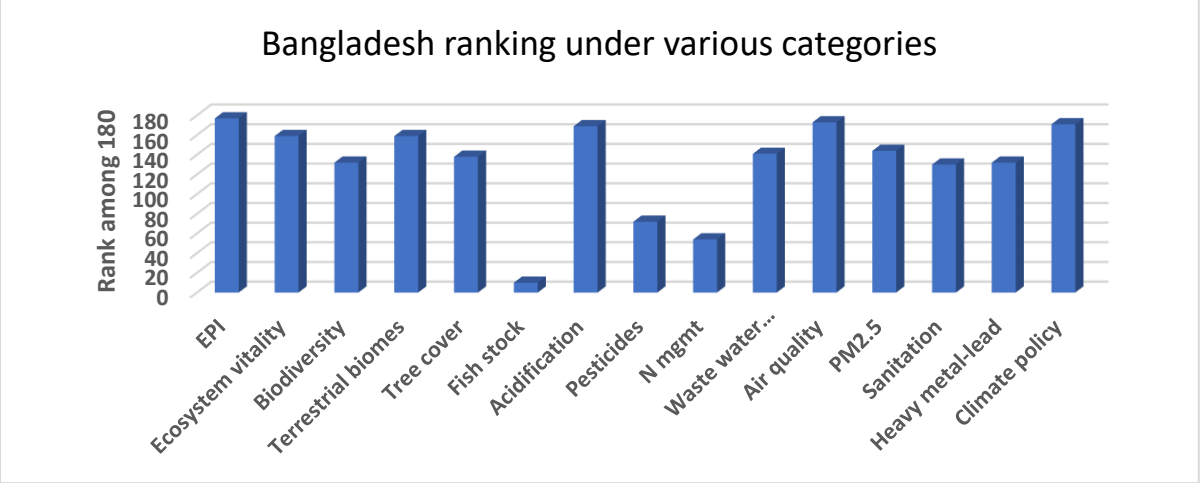


Figure 2:Bangladesh ranking under various categories

Like most other parts of the world, Bangladesh has experienced a critical time that has been detrimental to the country's biodiversity and ecology. Natural environmental changes, temperature rise, sea level rise, and other factors like natural hazards and fast population growth in a small land area are responsible for the pressure on ecosystems and losses in biodiversity. So far, the government, in collaboration with several international conservation organizations, has attempted to facilitate and manage this difficult situation.

As a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aligns its Operational Phase strategies with those of the GEF and co-financing partners. The GEF provides a global portfolio of *innovative*, *inclusive, and impactful* projects that address global environmental and sustainable development issues.

Action at the local level by civil society and community-based organizations, including women groups, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities, is recognized essential to form multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to the GEF-7 Programming Directions, UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and national priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments.[7]

Building on its over 30 years of successful operations in total over 128 countries, the 7th Operational Phase of the SGP aims "***to promote and support innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.***"

Bangladesh is going to implement the GEF SGP programme for the first time. GEF OP7 will fund several projects, each receiving up to $50000. This Country Programme Strategy (CPS) is the principal document for directing the GEF SGP Bangladesh activities throughout the Seventh Operational Phase 2019 – 2023. The CPS, which is based on more than 20 years of SGP work and experience in the nation, specifies the aim, strategic goals, and results that GEF SGP Bangladesh wants to achieve during this

[7] The initial SGP OP7 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-7 replenishment negotiations in 2017, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper "GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7" (GEF/C.54/05.rev) in June 2018.

operational phase. The strategy will also follow global approaches of 3 'Is'- innovation, impact and inclusion for the successful implementation of SGP projects in Bangladesh.

2. SUMMARY

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) was established in 1992 as a GEF corporate programme to contribute toward the conservation and restoration of the environment via support provided to the local people by promoting community actions that maintain the balance between social, economic, and environmental aspects. SGP supports relevant, effective, and efficient projects in achieving global environmental benefits while addressing issues of livelihoods, poverty reduction, gender equality and women empowerment at the local level.

The SGP OP7 has focused on thematic areas, including community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food security, low-carbon energy access co-benefits, local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, community-based adaptation, CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms.

The CBOs and NGOs will implement SGP in Bangladesh, one of the crucial considerations in addressing the country's threats due to climate change and deteriorating environmental conditions. The SGP project activities will significantly contribute to a series of interventions, which are socially, environmentally, and economically proven in biodiversity conservation, abatement of climate change impacts, reduction of land degradation, sustainable forest management, livelihoods enhancement, and capacity development aspects, including chemical and waste management.

Based on criteria like the global significance of biodiversity conservation, climate hotspots, the vulnerability of ecosystems and the engagement capacity of NGOs, CSOs, local community, the landscapes were selected through stakeholder consultations and endorsement from the National Steering Committee.

Haor Basin and Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula were selected for the OP7 landscape based on the given criteria and stakeholder consultations. The NSC has finally approved two landscapes for OP7 implementation in Bangladesh.

The haor area is comparatively less developed than many other parts of the country due to its geographical and hydrological settings, although it is one of the major economic production zones (in terms of rice and fish) of the country. Despite the zone's economic importance, a quarter of the total population lives below the poverty line (LPL). *Haors* are abundant in aquatic biodiversity, especially with different fish species. The haor area is home to thousands of migrating birds and patches of degraded swamp forests. The Haor region is a habitat for many threatened species, including the globally threatened Pallas's Fish Eagle. Although Bangladesh's economic growth is continuing at a steady pace, the haor area has long lagged to be in the mainstream of national development.

The Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, located in Bangladesh's far southeastern corner, features diverse physiography, including hills, piedmont plains, tidal floodplains, and sea beaches. Degraded forests cover more than 30% of the region due to different human activities (like shift cultivation) and landslides due to heavy rains caused by impacts of climate change, such as frequent cyclones. Poverty is one of the peninsula's primary challenges, with around 38% of the population living below the poverty line. Agriculture, forest-related activities, and harvesting marine resources are the basis of

livelihoods. The region supports many threatened biodiversity, which includes Asian elephants, Spoon-billed sandpipers, Marine turtles, sharks and Rays etc.

During Operational Phase 7 (OP7), the SGP has planned to work on community-based initiatives that contribute to global environmental aspects and will benefit vulnerable communities through a multifocal landscape approach. In this regard, 70% of the OP7 grant will be allocated to the prioritized landscapes. The remaining 30% of the grants will be used for **innovative, inclusive, and impactful projects to be implemented outside the selected priority** landscapes.

3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Bangladesh ranks extremely poorly among 180 countries managing its natural resources, ecosystems, and overall environmental performance. Bangladesh is ranked seventh in the Global Climate Risk Index 2020 as the most vulnerable country to climate change.[8] With rising climate risk, the country has to face more frequent and floods, cyclones, salinity, and biodiversity losses, decreasing wetlands & forests and the adverse impact on agricultural and food resources and livelihoods. Bangladesh's development strategy, by and large, tried to balance socio-economic growth and ecological resilience. The 8th Five Year Plan aims to bring Bangladesh closer to attaining Upper Middle-Income Country status, achieving primary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets quite a few of which relate to judicious management of various natural resources and ecosystem while eliminating extreme poverty by FY2031.

Considering the long-term challenges for development outcomes presented by climate change and natural disasters, the Government of Bangladesh has developed the 'Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100'.

While Bangladesh has been more focused on resilience, it is now trying to expand the scope of its development process towards prosperity and has prepared a prosperity plan named the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCPP); it sets an example for vulnerable countries to adopt a similar plan. In the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, the government will enhance resilience, grow the economy, create jobs, and expand opportunities, using the action on climate change as the catalyst.

Climate change adaptation has been expressly incorporated into the 7th and 8th five-year plans and the Second Perspective Plan (2021-2041). In 2021, an updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) was developed to reduce GHG emissions, limiting global temperature rise to two degrees Celsius, ideally 1.5 degrees Celsius, over pre-industrial levels. The National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (NAP) includes climate change adaptation actions into the planning process by establishing the necessary institutional arrangements for strong governance and an enabling environment for adaptation initiatives.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) has been in place to decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly in developing nations, via deliberate planning based on future climate change estimates. NAP is regarded as one of the most effective instruments for adapting to climate change, assisting governments in preparing comprehensive medium and long-term climate adaptation planning for implementation.

The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) was prepared in 2009. BCCSAP had 44 programs organized under six theme areas to address climate change's adverse effects while

[8] Eckstein, D., Künzel, V., Schäfer, L., & Winges, M. (2019). Global climate risk index 2020. *Bonn: Germanwatch*.

promoting low-carbon economic growth. (1) Food security, social protection, and health; (2) Comprehensive disaster management; (3) Infrastructure development; (4) Research and knowledge management; (5) Mitigation and low-carbon development; and (6) Capacity building and institutional development were the priority pillars for strategy implementation.[9] The BCCSAP is now being updated to expand climate actions and interventions to address the adverse effects of climate change.

3.1 Alignment with National Priorities

Bangladesh has ratified/endorsed several commitments, including the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, UNCBD, UNCCD, NBSAP, NAMA, NAPA, NAP and NDC, and commenced many Government plans and policies. Bangladesh's eighth five-year plan, which runs from July 2020 to June 2025, is more concerned with people's well-being, has higher economic aspirations, and is committed to environmental sustainability. Table 1 provides a quick overview of the relevant conventions, national plans and programmes aligned with GEF SGP OP7 strategic priorities.

Table 1:List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programs

Conventions/ national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / commence
Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP)	2009 and reviewed is under finalization.
Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100	4 September 2018
Bangladesh Renewable Energy Policy	2008
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2004
Climate Change Trust Act	2010
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Bangladesh signed on 5 June 1992, and ratified it on 3 May 1993
Country Investment Plan (CIP) for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change 2020-2025	13 December 2017
Disaster Management Act. of Bangladesh	September 2012
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan	2015
GEF-7 National Dialogues	Convened in March 2014
Kyoto Protocol	2001
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	2013
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Adopted on 29 Oct 2010, entered into force on 12 Oct 2014
National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)	2005 update in 2009
National Environment Policy	1992 and updated in 2018
National REDD+ Strategy 2016	27 May 2015
National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010-2021	14 September 2009

[9] Bangladesh climate change strategy and action Plan (BCCSAP). *Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: Dhaka, Bangladesh*.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	Bangladesh submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to UNFCCC on 25 Sept 2015, the updated NDC was submitted on August 26, 2021
SC National Implémentation Plan (NIP)	23 May 2001
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Signed on23 May 2001 and ratification on 12 March 2007
The Paris Agreement	2016
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	September 2015
UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)	Bangladesh as a Party signed on 14 Oct 1994 and ratified on 26 Jan 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Ratified and entered into force in 1997
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1994
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	Prepare and came into implementation in November 2005
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	First national communication 2002
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2017

3.2 Gaps and Opportunities

Bangladesh has seen significant environmental degradation, which is a serious concern. These include deforestation, biodiversity loss, wetlands degradation, losses to inland fisheries[10], soil nutrient depletion, and inland salinity intrusion. Furthermore, natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and tidal surges have caused severe socio-economic and environmental destruction. Factors contributing to the situation include a large and rapidly growing population; industrial development without adequate controls on industrial pollution; improper use of agricultural chemicals and pesticides; poorly designed flood control, drainage, and irrigation works; overcutting and indiscriminate felling of forests, as well as artificially lowered stumpage prices and royalties for forest products; a lack of community control over open access resources; insufficient land use planning. The leading cause of man-made issues is a lack of awareness of ecological principles, poverty, and a lack of suitable substitute resources. The size and increase of an already massive population are the most crucial elements that will hamper development in Bangladesh if not addressed appropriately. With a high growth rate and a huge population, the country's land resources for development would be severely strained in the coming years.

Furthermore, misusage of laws, outdated development models, global changes, and unequal access to these resources may all contribute to the deterioration of natural resources in the same way that population pressure does. Bangladesh is dealing with several significant environmental challenges for these reasons; several environmental acts, rules, and policies have been taken already; however, they

[10] This may seem contradictory to the earlier mentioned high ranking (10 out of 180) in fish stock. In fact, what has happened is that aquaculture has progressed tremendously in response to the severe losses in inland capture fisheries,

are not well enforced. The government, other agencies, and non-governmental organizations must work collaboratively to meet the implementation gaps.

The country has the opportunity to collaborate with different organizations and stakeholders in various projects to protect the environment. Many policies and strategies that have been cited above show clearly that Bangladesh is well-poised to take a significant leap in adaptation as well as in mitigation to climate change. It should be mentioned, however, that many of the impacts of climate change are visible at community, household, and individual levels and while large programmes are necessary for coordination, actions at the local and community levels are necessary for fast and targeted actions. While there are programmes which need to be taken simultaneously at both small and large scale, many can be done much faster and effectively at small scale.

The other issue that is important is that while in some cases, single programmatic action can be taken, for better sustainability at the community level, those with scopes for income and employment generation usually have better chances of success. Hence while formulating action plans, mono-focused programmes should be avoided as far as possible.

Overall, community-based organizations (CBOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and academic institutions may be the main actors to simultaneously achieve our national strategic goals and GEF-SGP strategic priorities. Bangladesh has the opportunity in the future to develop in terms of community-based conservation management and adaptation to climate change. Also, by appreciating local knowledge and different viewpoints, collaborative goal formulation, developing networks and partnerships, and sharing ideas, information, and intelligence, the government, NGOs, CSOs and private sectors can engage effectively to conserve biodiversity and enhance ecological resilience from the very root level.

3.3 OP7 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Country Programme

The Bangladesh government has many ministries, departments and agencies that deal with various areas of environment and climate change. The GEF SGP's contribution to national priorities and GEF-OP7 corporate outcomes are presented in the Table 2. It briefly describes the country program and its complementarity with UNDP country strategic programming and national priorities.

Table 2: SGP Country Programme's alignment with SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives and Country Priorities/Projects/Programmes

1	2	3
SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	**SGP Country Programme's OP7 Priorities**	**SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes**
Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species Key objectives/focus: 1) Improve management effectiveness of protected areas through ICCAs and shared governance with private sector and government. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and	**Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species** 1) Improve community-led biodiversity-friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)	There are complimentary projects with • Community-based Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation in Ecologically Critical Areas of Bangladesh Responding to Nature and Changing Climate, DoE • MACH Management of Aquatic Ecosystems through Community Husbandry, A project of the

1	2	3
SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	**SGP Country Programme's OP7 Priorities**	**SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes**
approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.) 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species	2) Enhance community-led actions for protection of threatened species	Government of Bangladesh Sponsored by USAID • Integrating Community-based Adaptation into Afforestation and Reforestation Programme in Bangladesh, a project of MoEFCC and UNDP.
Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc.). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.	**Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security** 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands	• Community-based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh • Institutionalization of Food Safety in Bangladesh for Safer Food
Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of the Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.	**Low-carbon energy access co-benefits** 1) Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas. 3) Encourage the private sector to promote renewable energy and energy efficient	• Promoting Low Carbon Urban Development in Bangladesh funded by UNDP • Bangladesh developed Roadmap and Action Plan for Implementing Bangladesh NDC • Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2021 Bangladesh • Net metering guideline 2018 • National Action Plan for Clean Cooking in Bangladesh 2020
Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 1) Reduce and promote an alternative to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy 3) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture 4) Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management	**Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management** 1) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy 2) Reduce/remove the use of chemicals in agriculture 3) Management/terminate the use of mercury management	• The government developed legislation on waste management, including e-waste and solid waste management • Private sectors are also involved in waste management, such as: Prism, Dustha Shasthya Kendra (DSK). • The disposal of industrial and agrochemical waste requires the attention of municipal and government authorities and the general public.

1	2	3
SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	**SGP Country Programme's OP7 Priorities**	**SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes**
		• Reduction of demand for mercury in mercury-containing products in Bangladesh
Community-based Adaptation (With other funding – not eligible with GEF funding) 1) Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities 2) Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA 3) Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes.	**Community-based Adaptation** 1) Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities 2) Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA 3) Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes. 4) Promote climate resilient adaptations emphasizing Nature-based Solutions.	• Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation (CBACC-CF) Project – Bangladesh. This project is helping to secure sustainability through adaptation and mitigation measures • National Adaptation Plan (NAP) • Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 • Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009
CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms 1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to the global environment and sustainable development issues	**CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms** • Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to the global environment and sustainable development issues	• Stakeholder consultations in developing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), NDC, BDP 2100 and other national policy documents.
Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory) 1) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)	**Enhancing social inclusion** 1) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects and progrmmes	• UNDP, through its program for inclusive growth and human development. • Gender mainstreaming is institutionalized in all government programmes
Knowledge Management (mandatory) 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices	**Knowledge Management** 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs/NGOs and private sector 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices	• The GEF SGP, through its global knowledge management programme provides supports to CBOs and CSOs on knowledge sharing, documentation and dissemination of results and lessons learned from the strategic initiatives • UNDP CO supports to improve the capacity of CBOs and CSO for

1	2	3
SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	**SGP Country Programme's OP7 Priorities**	**SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes**
		effective implementation of various initiatives
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (mandatory) 1) Administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms	**Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation** 1) Administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms	• The SGP develops M & E strategy for the country programme to monitor the project implementation • Projects implementation and performance review involving stakeholders • Mid-term performance evaluation of projects and programmes

4. OP7 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1 Grantmaking within the Landscapes/Seascapes

a) Process for Selecting Landscapes/Seascapes

For the selection of landscapes/seascapes, the following criteria have been considered:

- Global Environment Characteristics
- Socio-economic Characteristics
- Stakeholder Engagement and Capacities
- Long-term potential for SGP role
- Additional Criteria

The methodology for ranking the initial landscapes based on initial baseline analysis is detailed out in Annex 2. Five areas for the landscapes/seascapes have been considered in the initial stage. These are i) Barind Tract, ii) Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT), iii) *Haor* and Wetlands in the north-east, iv) Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula, and v) Brahmaputra-Jamuna floodplain.

Based on the OP7 grantmaking procedures, four steps were followed to assess and finalize the landscapes/seascapes.

1. **Baseline Assessment:** The process of baseline assessment development was done in three phases from May to July 2022. The process encompassed the following: Desktop research, the baseline assessment of the landscapes, stakeholder consultation (KII and FGDs) in the selected landscapes, and discussion at the meeting of the NSC to identify landscape/seascape. In addition, discussions on the outcomes, outputs, activities, and monitoring tools were done during the preparation of the baseline report. The summary of the baseline assessment is detailed out in Annex 1.
2. **Stakeholder consultation:** The baseline information was collected from the primary data sources. More than 10 KIIs and 5 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held in the five chosen landscapes (KIIs and FGDs picture and report attached in Annex 2). As a result, we gained

additional information for the baseline evaluation, and community engagement assisted in ranking the landscapes (Annex 3).

3. **Consultation:** The priority landscapes/seascapes were chosen after consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC), which agreed to consider the landscapes/seascapes on the *Haor* areas and Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula. The NSC considered these two landscapes for OP7 to ensure sustainability through SGP interventions. High levels of adverse climate change effects, biodiversity loss, and socio-ecological vulnerabilities signify urgent and immediate interventions to enhance these two landscapes' environmental and social conditions.

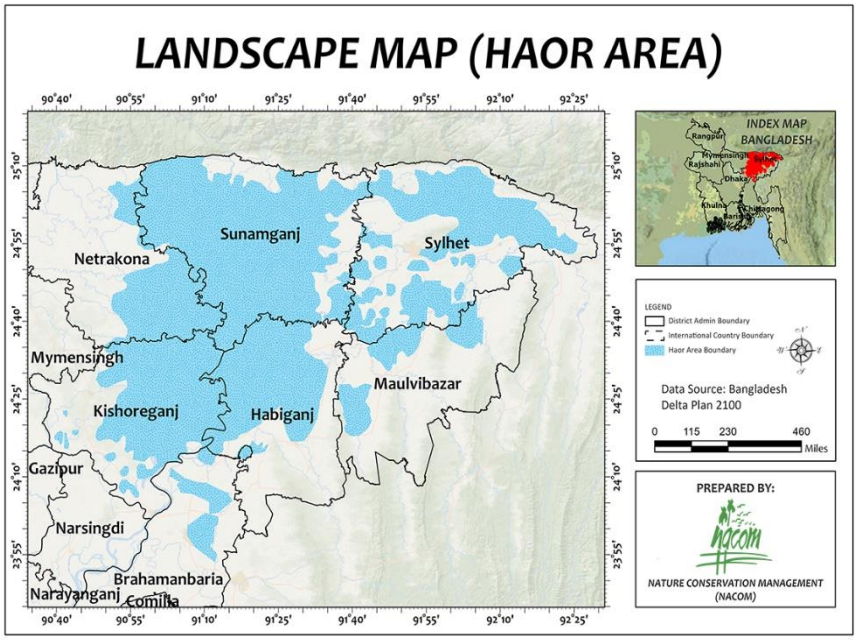
4. **Finalization of CPS landscape:** Two landscapes are finalized based on Baseline Assessment, stakeholders' consultations, and the NSC decision.

b) Selected Landscapes

In consultation with the NSC and experts, it was agreed to continue with the *Haor* area and Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula as landscapes during the OP7-SGP period. Some of the areas of both landscapes are Govt. declared Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA) and Ramsar site. The landscapes have been chosen based on the global significance, climate change vulnerabilities, severe land degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation, fragile ecosystems, socio-economic susceptibility, and other exposures.

Landscape 1: *Haor* Area

Haors, with their distinct hydro-ecological features, are huge bowl-shaped floodplain depressions in Bangladesh's northeastern region, encompassing around 1.99 million hectares (19,998 sq km) and housing approximately 19.37 million people. Haor areas extended to Sunamganj, Sylhet, Habiganj, Maulvibazar, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, and Brahmanbaria districts and have 373 *Haors*. These 373 *Haors* span an area of around 859,000 hectares, accounting for approximately 43 percent of the overall area of the *Haor* districts. It is a wetland habitat mosaic that includes rivers, streams, canals, extensive regions of periodically flooded farmed plains, and beels.[11]



Map 1: Landscape map (Haor Area)

[11] BHWDB & CEGIS (2012), Master Plan for *Haor* Area. Volume 1- Executive Summary, Volume 2: Main Report.

Coordinates and Total hectares of the area(s)

Table 3: Total hectares of the area(s)

District wise *Haor* and their areas			
District	**Total area in ha**	***Haor* area in ha**	**No. of *haor***
Sunamganj	367,000 268	531	95
Sylhet	349,000 189	909	105
Habiganj	263,700 109	514	14
Maulvibazar	279,900 47	602	3
Netrakona	274,400 79	345	52
Kishoreganj	273,100 133	943	97
Brahmanbaria	192,700 29	616	7
Total	1,999,800 858	460	373

Table 4: Landscape Coordinates

Landscape Coordinates		
District	**DMS Coordinates (Lat)**	**DMS Coordinates (Long)**
Sunamganj	25° 4' 50.2464'' N	91° 25' 16.8816'' E
Sylhet	24°53'30.12" N	91°52'59.88" E
Habiganj	24°22'30.00" N	91°25'0.12" E
Maulvibazar	24°28'40.08" N	91°46'0.12" E
Netrakona	24° 56' 5.0100'' N	90° 45' 5.4396'' E
Kishoreganj	25°54'39.96" N	89°01'30.00" E
Brahmanbaria	23°57'10.08" N	91°07'0.12" E

Source: *Haor* Master Plan 2012[12]

Typology of the Haor area

The physical environment and hydrology of the *haor* area result in a unique hydrological regime, which presents several opportunities and limits for the lives and livelihoods of the local communities. Annual rainfall ranges from 2200 mm on the western border to 5800 mm in the northeast corner, with some catchments extending to India receiving up to 12000 mm. About 74% of the topsoil texture of the *haor* region is clay to clay loam, 21% loam and the rest are silty loam, sandy loam and sand. Flood water recession depends on soil and topography at the end of the monsoon season. As a result, Rabi crop cultivation starts at different times in the *haor* region. Among the locations of the *haor* districts, the highest rainfall was recorded in Sunamganj, closest to Cherrapunji (annual ppt. is 12m), which is the highest precipitation area in the world. The mean annual rainfall varies between 3,600 mm and 7,800 mm in Sunamganj. The primary disaster here is flash floods, which engulf the primary production sector (e.g., agriculture) and endangers the lives and livelihoods of the *haor* region's communities[13].

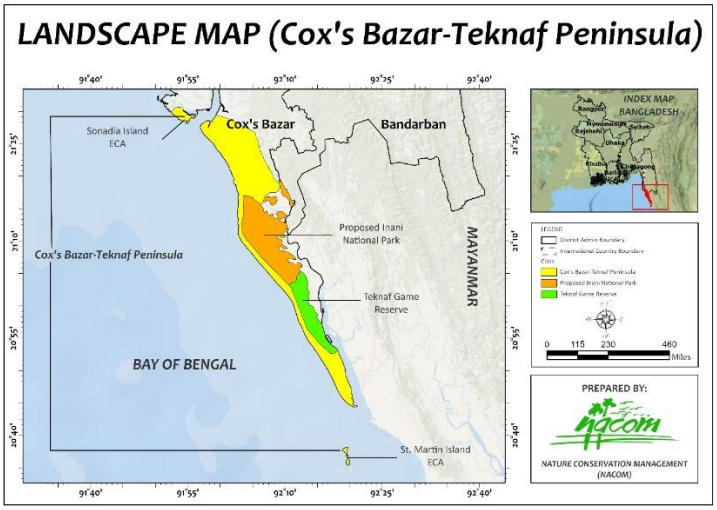
The population of the seven haor districts is 15709890 people (BBS, 2022 census). The total *haor* region's population growth rate each year is 1.09 percent, which is lower than the national rate. The *haor* districts have around 3.66 million households. In the *haor* area, 29.56% of the population lives Below Poverty Line (BPL), slightly higher than the national average of 29.26%.[14]

Landscape 2: Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula

This hilly watershed in the country's southeast region is intersected by several rivers and numerous springs and waterfalls. There are three Ecological Critical Areas (ECA) in this area; (i) the western coastal zone of Teknaf Peninsula, which is a long, narrow, and forested peninsula; (ii) St Martin's Island, a sedimentary continental island located 10 km south of Teknaf Peninsula, and (iii) Sonadia Island, a barrier island a few km north of Teknaf Peninsula. Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula is one of Bangladesh's ecologically critical areas. The peninsula features a continuous line of sandy beaches along the Bay of Bengal for 120 kilometers, supposedly the world's longest beach. Wooded hillsides surround this

[12] Ibid
[13] Ibid
[14] Ibid

coastal boundary in places. Wetlands along the Naf River constitute the peninsula's eastern boundary and Myanmar's western border (Burma).



Map 2: Landscape map (Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula)

Coordinates and Total hectares of the area(s)

The landscapes that are selected for the OP7 have two different areas. The Cox's Bazar Teknaf peninsula's total area in hectares of 20,373. The Teknaf Upazila (sub-district) occupies an area of approximately 38868 hectares

Table 5:Landscape Coordinates and Total hectares of the area(s)

Landscape Coordinates					
District/ECA	**DMS Coordinates (Lat)**	**DMS Coordinates (Long)**	**Type of Ecosystem**	**Location**	**Total area in ha**
Cox's Bazar	21°34'59.99" N	92°00'60.00" E	Coastal-Marine	Cox's Bazar	9,908
Teknaf	20°52'0.12" N	92°17'60.00" E	Peninsula	Cox's Bazar	10,465
Sonadia ECA	21°28'59.99" N	91°53'59.99" E	Island	Cox's Bazar	4,916
St. Martin Island	20°37'22.86" N	92°19'12.76" E	Island	Cox's Bazar	590

Typology of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula

The peninsula features a continuous line of sandy beaches along the Bay of Bengal for 120 kilometers, supposedly the world's longest beach. The Teknaf peninsula is an exposed shore limited on the north by mountainous terrain and Ukhia Upazila, on the south and west by the Bay of Bengal, and on the east by the Naaf River and the Myanmar coast. The Naaf River is roughly 55 kilometers long and travels south before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. The climate in the peninsula is humid; the rainy season lasts from June to September. Between April and May and October and November, tropical cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal. Year-round temperatures range between 25 and 30 degrees Celsius. Due to extreme, uninterrupted monsoon rainfall landslides frequently occurred in Cox's Bazar hilly region. The devastation aggravates along with weak structure, unplanned and erratic use of hills, and settlement development. Landslides can overwhelm and even pollute streams and waterbodies with

excess sediment. In extreme cases, they can dam streams and rivers, impacting water quality and fish habitat.[15]

The area's ecosystem is under the pressure of salt production, shrimp farming, cattle grazing and small-scale fishing. Many farmers are now shifting their mindset towards high-value crops like vegetables, horticulture, and floriculture. Stretch mud flats and mangrove patches are significant habitats in this area. A large portion of the earlier mangrove area has been converted to shrimp farms and salt pans. The coastal zone and the nearshore areas of Teknaf Peninsula beach consist of diverse habitats in their natural condition, i.e., beaches, dunes, and estuaries. The coastal vegetation along the peninsular beach is represented by sand dune vegetation. The succession sequence of strand vegetation of the tropical coast is discernable in some areas. But, in most cases, the seral communities are deflected due to intense human disturbance. The vegetation of the dunes consists of 35 species of Angiosperm, including 26 dicots and 9 monocots.[16]

c) Strategic Initiatives in the Landscapes (*Haor* Areas)

Based on consultations with the NSC and stakeholders at various levels throughout the scoping process, the following project components have been prioritized within GEF SGP target regions to be implemented within the landscapes. Project evaluation criteria and eligibility are mentioned in Annex 4.

- **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species**

- ***Improve community-led biodiversity conservation practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, eco-tourism, infrastructure, etc.):*** All stakeholders should be included in the management of ecologically critical areas/protected areas to share responsibilities and participate in implementing actions. Provide capacity-building training to the local community, government, CBOs, NGOs, and private sectors to increase the management capacity to deliver effective field-level project implementation and shared governance practices.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Community-based conservation of threatened species (Fish and Bird).
  2. Projects that support swamp forest restoration and regeneration to reduce adverse impacts of flash floods
  3. Community-based tourism, eco-tourism, and livelihood improvement of poor haor community

- ***Enhance community-led actions to protect threatened species:*** Promoting community-based biodiversity protection inside the *haor* regions and assisting the community in gaining economic advantages from ecotourism and eco-services. In addition, the community must conserve endangered species and maintain their habitats.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Promote the conservation of globally and nationally important ecosystems
  2. Community-based conservation of endemic and threatened species of flora and fauna.

[15] Ahmed, B.; Rahman, M. S.; Rahman, S.; Huq, F. F. and Ara, S. 2014. Landslide Inventory Report of Chittagong Metropolitan Area, Bangladesh. BUETJapan Institute of Disaster Prevention and Urban Safety (BUET-JIDPUS); Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. 125p.
[16] PDO-ICZMP, 2005. Coastal land uses and indicative land zones. Working Paper WP040. Programme Development Office for Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan Project, Water Resources Planning Organization, Ministry of Water Resources, Dhafieldka.

- ***Community-led haor ecosystem conservation through the nature-based solution:*** Engaging the local community to restore wetland ecosystem for sustaining socio-ecological resilience to address adverse effects of climate change.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Projects that promote the use of innovative technologies for nature-based solution
  2. Conservation of wetlands focusing on the globally and nationally important wetlands (e.g., Ramsar site)

- **Sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security**

- ***Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including vulnerable ecosystems:*** Fishes and fishery resources in *haor* areas face tremendous extinction challenges**.** Comprehensive efforts to restore habitats and conserve fish species are critical to sustaining the livelihoods of *haor* communities. To address livelihood and food security in *haor* areas, a long-term strategic food production system must be implemented. During the flash flood, people commonly lost their primary agricultural production, which is the only source of their livelihood. Diversification in agriculture production and value chain market mechanism must be introduced and practiced addressing climate vulnerability in *haor* areas. Due to early flash floods, many fish were damaged in haor area. In haor ecosystems, we need to ensure the conservation of wild fruit and fish production.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Supports agriculture productivity and food security.
  2. Projects that contribute to diversification of agricultural production and ensure positive impact on food chain
  3. Facilitates youth entrepreneurship and CBOs in agro-forestry
  4. Engagement of farmers to livestock production
  5. Skill development to enhance alternative livelihoods

- ***Stop deforestation from the supply chain and expand the restoration of degraded lands:*** Protect areas and swamp forests from human disturbances and keep the local people out of protected areas and swamp forests so that damaged biodiversity may be repaired and regenerated. Swamp forest restoration by locally raised seedlings and involving local communities was initiated in a range of wetland management projects involving a wide range of government agencies, donors, and NGOs. Swamp forest restoration is being on at Hakaluki *Haor* in Moulvi Bazar district, as well as Pangnar, Sanuar-Dakuar *Haor*, and Tanguar *Haor* in Sunamganj district. Restoration of degraded swamp forest areas will engender considerable benefits to local communities and enhance the socio-ecological resilience of *haor* areas. These conservation actions need to be continued in the *haor* areas.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Support degraded soil improvement and Land Management for sustainable farming
  2. Stop soil erosion and soil pollution as well as improvement soil nutrient
  3. Engage youth in the utilization of fallow land with agro-forestry/livestock related enterprise.
  4. Projects that address deforestation and forest degradation.

- **Low-carbon energy access co-benefits**

- ***Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods:*** Encourage research and technology transfer for advances in sustainable energy; decentralized renewable energy; increasing energy efficiency; and cleantech innovation.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Promote access to renewable energy by community.
  2. Supply of solar energy in household level and small business
  3. Projects that promote Improved Cock Stove to use alternative fuelwood for cocking purpose
  4. Solar irrigation system for agriculture production

- ***Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas:*** Supply off-grid energy sources for the local population to reduce pressure on natural resources (trees). This will reduce the high dependency of the local community on biomass for fuel consumption. Introducing energy-efficient practices and innovative eco-friendly ideas to the local communities can be considered alternative options.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Replicates best practices of renewable energy.
  2. Promote renewable energy in small business in rural market and in urban setting

- **Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management**

- ***Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy:*** Reducing chemical and rural waste disposals by increasing community awareness on the adverse impacts of chemicals, industrial and urban waste disposals into the environment, particularly into the water bodies. Establishing a platform for community dialogue in collaboration with other stakeholders to save the marine ecosystem from waste pollution.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Encourage community waste management entrepreneurship.
  2. Promote ban and reduction of single used plastics.
  3. Facilitate use biodegradable products.
  4. Projects that promote public awareness on chemical waste pollution
  5. Ensure systematic elimination of chemical and persistent organic pollutants from uses
  6. Projects that promote 3R policy in waste management practices

- ***Reduce/remove chemicals in agriculture production:*** Promote organic fertilizers among the farmers and encourage communities to make compost in their gardens, reducing agrochemical use in agriculture across the landscape.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Ensure the use organic fertilizer instead of chemical fertilizer
  2. Facilitate biological control of pests.
  3. Provides organic fertilizer at a low price.
  4. Creates awareness among the farmers about negative impacts of fertilizer and pesticides uses.
  5. Projects that provide training to the farmers about use of organic fertilizer and biological control of pests

- **Community-based Adaptation**

- ***Reduce vulnerability and improve the resilience of communities:*** Promote local people's skills, experience, knowledge, and networks to implement an effective resilience plan in the face of adversity, including climate change hazards.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Supports to enhance communities' resilience.
  2. Community -based, ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions
  3. The reduction of climate vulnerability of poor communities in Haor regions.

- ***Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA:*** To minimize community vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and strengthen adaptive capacity while offering ground-level climate change adaptation experience by bringing together experienced local and regional stakeholders.

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Shares the ground level experience to different platforms on CCA.
  2. Promote gender mainstreaming and social inclusion in climate change adaptation.
  3. Awareness and education related to climate change and its impacts.

- ***Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes:*** Sharing experience and knowledge from pilot activities amongst practitioners, policymakers, researchers, funders, and the community at risk is essential

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Promote CBA mainstreaming in the national policy formulation
  2. Creates awareness and empowering local communities to participate in national and global environmental concerns.
  3. Facilitate *seminar, conference, dialogue, and workshop for policy advocacy.*

- **CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms**

- ***Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to the global environment and sustainable development issues:*** Create and promote CSO-government-private-sector frequent dialogue platforms that increase community, private-sector, and stakeholder engagement in the formation of national policies, strategies, and plans, as well as regional and international conferences and negotiations

  Typology of Projects:
  1. Strengthening of CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms for conservation initiatives.
  2. Projects which will support a platform on National and subnational discussion on environmental, economic, gender, youth, and water concerns.
  3. Projects that assist with capacity building and the creation of a CSO/CBO collaboration.
  4. Supports research on conservation, climate change, pollution control, community development and livelihood improvement.

-

d) Strategic Initiatives in the Landscapes (Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula)

Based on consultations with the NSC and stakeholders at various levels throughout the environmentally scoping process, the following project components have been prioritized within GEF SGP target regions to be implemented within the landscapes.

- **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species**

- ***Improve community-led biodiversity conservation practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy:*** Collection of shrimp-fries, shells and fishing in rock-pools, wild plant extracts pose threats to the intertidal habitats and biodiversity. Wildlife poaching in the Peninsula area (esp. monitor lizards and turtles) and habitat destruction of wildlife specially elephant, is a major threat on the foothill side and protected areas. Extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides for agricultural purposes poses a high risk of generating threats to biodiversity. The Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive (under construction) from Inani to Teknaf is causing alteration of the beach ecosystem and loss of habitat in some places. Beach driving is also causing beach compaction and death of crabs and other organisms. So, community-based biodiversity-friendly approaches should be promoted in this area and all stakeholders should be included in the management of protected areas/ecologically critical areas to share responsibilities. Provide capacity-building training in the landscapes for the local community, local government, and private sectors to increase the management effectiveness of stakeholders for shared good governance.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Supports community-based conservation of threatened species (Birds, Reptiles and Mammals).

  2. Community-based tourism, eco-tourism, and livelihood improvement .

  3. Projects that support protection and conservation of mangroves, ecosystems, and coral reefs.

  4. Protection and conservation of threatened species of Sea Turtle and Elephant.

  5. Projects that support protection and regeneration of mangrove forest for developing greenbelt shelter.

- ***Enhance community-led actions for the protection of threatened species:*** Promoting community-based biodiversity protection in the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula areas including the nearby protected areas and assisting the community in gaining economic advantages from ecotourism and eco-services. In addition, supporting the community in conserving endangered species (elephant, turtles etc.) and maintaining their habitats. The Teknaf peninsula deserves the highest level of protection to serve as a refuge for marine and terrestrial wildlife. The area should be significantly free from direct human intervention and maintain environmentally friendly conditions to sustain ecosystem viability. Ensure permanent ban on the human settlements in the beach area and no existence of infrastructure or any other similar human developments. Various protection measures must be implemented to conserve biodiversity in the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. The conservation of globally and nationally important ecosystems and endemic and threatened species of flora and fauna

  2. Promote conservation of threatened wildlife species

  3. Projects that support to enhance awareness to conserve ecosystems and species

- **Sustainable agriculture and fisheries and food security**

- ***Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems:*** The Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, poses a unique habitat for a few endemic fish species under threat of extinction. Habitat conservation is critical for sustaining fishery resources and ensuring livelihood and food security for the local community. Also, conservation efforts must protect wildlife and the production of wild fruits/vegetables as a part of long-term food security plans. Financial and technical support to protect the fragile habitat of the Cox's Bazar and Teknaf Peninsula landscape must be ensured.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Agriculture diversification and contribute to food security.
  2. Projects that contribute to enhance agriculture productivity and food chain
  3. Facilitate youth and CBOs for entrepreneurship
  4. Ensure engagement of farmers to livestock production
  5. Supports skill development to enhance alternative livelihoods

- ***Increase diversification and livelihood improvement:*** Promote diverse income-generating activities and livelihood alternatives at the local level. Encourage innovative ideas in terms of livelihood improvement. Implementation of skill development initiatives for the local communities must be carried out as a part of alternate income-generating activities. Involve the local community in nature-based solutions to enhance ecosystem goods and services and devoid of habitat destruction activities.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Supports skill development for alternative livelihoods
  2. Gives training to small handicraft business
  3. Projects that work on sustainable agricultural production and food security

- ***Stop deforestation from the supply chain and expand the restoration of degraded lands:*** Protect areas and forests from human and livestock disturbances and keep the local people out of protected areas and forests so that damaged biodiversity may be repaired and regenerated. Periodic monitoring is needed to identify changes in tree species' composition, structure, and diversity. Stakeholder engagement has been necessary at every level of land restoration, necessitating extensive coordination among local authorities, community leaders, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other partner groups. Plantation activities, monitoring and maintenance of the plantation areas and other endangered species can be part of biodiversity and forests conservation. On the other hand, a sensitization campaign helps build community understanding of the necessity of preserving ecological services. Forests co-management strategy must be implemented as a part of ecosystem restoration.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Support to prevent Soil degradation and Land Management
  2. Engaging youth in the utilization of fallow land with agro-forestry/livestock related enterprise.
  3. Projects that work for forest protection to combat deforestation.

- **Low-carbon energy access co-benefits**

- ***Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods:*** Encourage research and technology transfer for advances in sustainable energy; decentralized renewable energy; increasing energy efficiency; and cleantech innovation.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Promotes renewable energy in small business, irrigation, and water supply.

  2. Support access to renewable energy by installing solar energy in household level and Improve Cookstoves

- ***Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas:*** Ensure supply off-grid energy to the local population to address and lessen pressures on natural resources (trees) due to the local community's significant reliance on biomass for fuel consumption in terms of energy efficiency, more eco-friendly innovative ideas may also be adapted.

  Typology of Projects*:*

  1. Replicates best practices of renewable energy.

  2. Facilitate access to renewable energy in rural and urban market

- **Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management**

- ***Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy:*** Reducing chemical pollution and rural waste disposals by increasing community awareness of the adverse impacts of chemicals, and industrial and urban waste disposals on the environment, particularly the marine ecosystem. Establishing a community dialogue platform in collaboration with stakeholders to save the marine ecosystem from waste pollution.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Encourage community waste management entrepreneurship.

  2. Promotes reduction of single used plastics in marine areas.

  3. Facilitate production and use biodegradable products.

  4. Promotes public awareness to stop use of plastic and chemicals

  5. Projects that prompts elimination of chemical and persistent organic pollutants

  6. Projects which promote 3R waste management practices

- ***Reduce/remove the use of chemicals in agriculture:*** Promote the use of organic fertilizers among the farmers and encourage communities to make compost in their gardens, reducing agro-chemicals use in agricultural lands. Regenerative agriculture practice can be introduced to reduce the emissions burden from agriculture fields.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Encourage organic fertilizer instead of chemical pesticides.

  2. Provides organic fertilizer at a low price.

  3. Create awareness among the farmers on the use of organic fertilizer

  4. Provides training to the farmers on the biological control of pests.

- **Community-based Adaptation**

- ***Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities:*** Promote local people's skills, experience, knowledge, and networks to implement an effective resilience plan in the face of adversity, including climate change hazards. Implementation of community-led

climate resilience plan must be ensured to address vulnerabilities and enhance the adaptive capacity of the local community.

Typology of Projects:

1. Support to enhance communities' resilience.

2. Community-based, ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions

3. The reduction of climate vulnerability of poor communities in Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula areas.

- ***Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA:*** To minimize community vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and strengthen adaptive capacity while offering ground-level climate change adaptation experience by bringing together experienced local and regional stakeholders.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Share the ground level experience to different platforms on CCA.

  2. Promote gender mainstreaming and social inclusion in climate change adaptation.

  3. Awareness and education related to climate change and its impacts.

- ***Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes:*** Sharing experience and knowledge from pilot activities amongst practitioners, policymakers, researchers, funders, and the community. Lessons from CBA practice can be used to prepare recommendations for policy development.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Promote CBA mainstreaming in the national policy formulation

  2. Create awareness and empowering local communities to participate in national and global environmental concerns.

  3. Facilitates seminar, conference, dialogue, and workshop for policy advocacy.

- **CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms**

- ***Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to the global environment and sustainable development issues:*** Create and promote regular dialogue among CSOs-government-private-sector to increase community, private-sector, and stakeholder engagement in the formation of national policies, strategies, and plans, as well as participation in regional and international conferences and negotiations.

  Typology of Projects:

  1. Strengthening of CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms for conservation initiatives.

  2. Projects which will support a platform on National and subnational discussion on environmental, economic, gender, youth, and water concerns.

  3. Assist with capacity building and the creation of a CSO/CBO collaboration.

  4. Supports research on conservation, climate change, pollution control, community development and livelihood improvement.

4.2 Grant making Outside the Landscape/Seascape

During SGP OP7, Bangladesh will devote 30% of the overall funding allocation to promote innovative, inclusive, and impactful initiatives outside of priority landscapes/seascapes. The initiatives that will be financed should promote a nationwide CSO-Government-Private-Sector Dialogue platform, social inclusion and empowerment, and knowledge management.

a) CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform

CSO-government-private-sector dialogue platforms are essential for ensuring stakeholder engagement and the sustainability of project initiatives. Under OP7, SGP Bangladesh intends to support any initiative that raises community awareness and voice, enabling all stakeholders to engage in global, regional, and national policy dialogue. Environmental issues, climate change challenges, and opportunities need to be addressed in the policy dialogue platform. Establishing the dialogue platform will help us cooperate with multilateral development partners. They are facilitating the experience-sharing media via where CSOs, private sectors, and government agencies may learn about environmental and climate service possibilities related to their project initiatives.

Typology of Projects:

1. Projects that encourage/increase community participation and voices in global and national policy, strategy formulation connected to global environment and sustainable development challenges.

b) Promoting Social Inclusion, including gender equality and women empowerment

Social inclusion is essential where gender equality, equity and women empowerment must focus on collective, inclusive decision-making. Women are also more vulnerable to any kind of natural hazard.

Various significant impediments prevent women, minority groups, and other disadvantaged socio-economic groups from fully participating in development initiatives in Bangladesh. *Patriarchal society's* attitudes, limited access for women to productive resources, and unsuitable conditions for women's involvement and learning are lacking for women in Bangladesh. The GEF SGP will promote gender equity and social inclusion by developing initiatives to reduce barriers to gender mainstreaming.

Women have access to and control over extremely few resources because conventional norms give men complete power and decision-making authority over resources. However, there are certain legal changes that wife and husband are entitled to equal rights to the assets they created jointly. Following that, the wife and husband of farmer households in the designated land/seascapes are granted a similar identity card for their holdings.

Typology of Projects:
1. In every project proposal it needs to be ensured they include gender mainstreaming, environmental, and social protections.
2. Encourage female empowerment and inclusion in all initiatives and programs.
3. Projects which ensure gender economic and social empowerment, allowing women to lead in environmental conservation stewardship.

c) Knowledge Management

Knowledge management emphasizes an integrated approach to creating, capturing, organizing, accessing, and utilizing information assets. As part of capturing information on the project's implementation process, each project has a fixed budget for Knowledge Management that integrates into the planned project, allowing them to capture and share project progress and best practices. Recognizing the country's limited capacity for knowledge management; capturing, organizing, disseminating, and sharing of lessons learned, the GEF SGP aims to promote the sharing and management of lessons learned and best practices while projects are implemented that focus on developing robust knowledge management systems as a strategic tool for scaling up good practices and influencing policymakers.

Local knowledge management might involve peer-to-peer learning, project review at community meetings, and organizing training on various topics.

At the national level, stakeholders will be involved through workshops to share the grantee's best practices with others. Develop webinars that collect and disseminate knowledge via the internet and social media.

Typology of Projects:
1. Regular monitoring through website of SGP OP7.
2. Document SGP OP 7 implementations, including gender-disaggregated information and data, via frequent monitoring and review.
3. Display success stories of initiatives performed by women and disadvantaged groups, particularly those that provide considerable advantages to them.
4. Encourage inclusive and balanced farmer-to-farmer and south-south exchange programs.
5. Participate in/organize knowledge fairs, expos, and national events.
6. Pay attention to and celebrate national and worldwide environmental events.
7. Document and create best practices and lessons learned from project implementation. Distribute the information, education, and communication resources with others

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Although SGP exclusively supports CBOs, NGOs and CSOs, it is critical to ensure that key parts of the SGP OP7 Strategy and CPS will be disseminated to the INGOs, national and local NGOs, and other stakeholders. To effectively communicate the GEF SGP, Bangladesh will establish a communication plan for OP7.

- Successful communication through narrative, visual media, social media, events, reports, and publications (Secretariat quarterly newsletter) is required. During project implementation, it will also be highlighted that CSOs strengthen their capacity to use social media, document and disseminate project activities, and provide an open knowledge exchange platform among stakeholders.
- The program will undertake capacity assessments and continue providing training to grantee staff on project execution and reporting per a common reporting standard.
- The programme will develop a uniform reporting template that will be measurable and verifiable.
- The program will monitor project execution and encourage grantees to submit quarterly reports and schedule a day meeting with grantees to discuss how to improve positive results while minimizing limitations and difficulties.

- SGP should create an information booklet and distribute it to all stakeholders, as well as communicate via press releases, calls for proposals, posters, documentaries, photo stories, websites, the internet, radio, television, and print media.
- The program encourages applicants to undertake baseline assessments or gather baseline data before implementing the project so that the project's impact may be easily identified. Ensured synchronization of messaging from all stakeholders, in particular, CSOs/CBOs/NGOs
- The program should undertake case studies and stories about successful initiatives to share the lessons learned with others.
- The program will use the media to publicize the news of its workshop activities as a medium for promoting SGP's contributions to national priorities.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

The resource mobilization strategy is attentive to the local communities needs and innovative projects that contribute to global biodiversity conservation. A competitive process will select the project.

6.1 Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

Project Level

Local-level program implementation requires in-kind and/or in-cash support from the CSOs/CBOs/NGOs and the wider community. Grantees will be expected to continue contributing in-kind co-financing to improve project implementation capacities, inclusiveness, and impact throughout OP7, as well as in-cash co-financing through donations from suitable sources, to further mobilize financial resources.

Landscape and Country level

At the landscape and country level, there are established mechanisms to attract potential cash and in-kind co-financing opportunities with local foundations, NGOs, and multilateral and bilateral donors.

6.2 Co-financing Opportunities

There are several prospective options from stakeholders as part of the co-financing. Funders, local governments, and business sectors in landscapes are welcome to provide financial and in-kind co-financing to project activities to optimize the benefits. The private sector must fulfill its corporate social responsibility by sponsoring CBOs and CSOs that focus on natural resource protection and livelihood improvement. However, CBOs and CSOs must build partnerships with different ministries and agencies to support GEF projects. Other stakeholders might contribute in-kind contributions and should not be overlooked when fostering collaboration and cooperation.

7. GRANT MAKER PLUS & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The SGP country team and the NSC members will assist communities and civil society organizations develop a network and relationships with local and national governments, donors, foundations, societies, and the private sector. NGOs and CBOs are urged to invest in-kind or monetary resources to help GEF initiatives effectively accomplish their long-term development goals.

SGP works to establish strong partnerships with different international and national organizations, including Indigenous Peoples Organizations, to raise awareness about SGP project opportunities and resource mobilization and policy advocacy.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the implementation of OP7, it is likely that both program and project implementation may be affected by the following risks, highlighted in the table 6 below:

Table 6:Description of risks identified in OP7

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measures foreseen
Support from Local government	Medium	Medium	Clear communication on OP7 CPS to be shared with local GOB and other partners
Dissemination of CPS OP7	Medium	Medium	Communication plan
Misuse of grant funds	Low	Low	Ensure proper reporting and transparency
Gender inclusiveness	Low	Low	Ensure that the proposal formulation and assessment structure explicitly assist gender mainstreaming.
Innovation ideas	Medium	Medium	The NC/SC function must be proactive to support creative project proposals.
Less number of Local NGOs in the landscapes	Medium	High	Resource mobilization plan
Social & Environmental Assessment and Management system	Low	Low	GEF/SGP supports small-scale projects, and some procedures need assessing and managing environmental and social performance throughout the project cycle.
The establishment of protected areas restricts access to previously available natural resources.	Low	Low	Alternative livelihoods and more ecologically friendly livelihoods are incorporated into project plans.
Lack of trust from the broader community of CSO/CBO	Medium	Medium	Early involvement of the whole community at the start of the project highlighting CSO/CBO objectives and interventions
COVID-19 pandemic situation	High	High	COVID-19 precautions

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

9.1 Monitoring Approaches at Project and Country Levels

The M&E framework is expected to use conventional and participatory techniques at all levels of involvement. This M&E approach will be the foundation for quarterly assessments of the GEF-SGP projects' impacts, restrictions, and solutions. The program creates a uniform and comparable list of indicators for initiatives in the early stages of development.

This framework will allow continuous improvement in project execution and address changes brought about by the program at the level of program activities (community level) and effect at the national level.

- While a baseline assessment has been given for the chosen landscapes, these are broad. The specifically chosen project area must have a clear specific baseline based on whatever indicators are to be used for monitoring; some of these indicators are shown as yellow shaded indicators in Table 7.

- Progress will be monitored at the beginning with the creation of the plan, with a perception of the baseline and a future goal and objective.
- Clear reporting criteria with well-defined dates for progress/final reports will be established.
- M&E workshops will be held following the launch of OP7 to allow all CSOs/CBOs/NGOs to develop technical and analytical M&E capabilities.
- All concerned government and relevant stakeholders monitor and evaluate project performance and provide feedback to the program office.
- Local governments are an integral element of the initiative, providing full support and engagement. The planned activities are part of the local government's plan of action for local development goals.

Table 7:M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP7 CPS.	At the start of OP7
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review.	Assess the effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management.	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least an annual review[17] to ensure OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed[18].
Annual Monitoring Report Survey[19]	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tool to record and analytically present results to donors.	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submissions for further action.	Staff time	Once per year, from June- July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous	Once per operational phase

[17] It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July).
[18] Please note OP7 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact. This CPS update process should be part of the Annual CPS Review.
[19] Timely and quality country level submissions to *Annual Monitoring Process* are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and supporting strategic development/ implementation of CPS.		operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP7 CPS development and its implementation. Global technical M&E support can be expected.	
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database.	NCs, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to the annual monitoring cycle (May-June of every year).
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/ management standards and norms.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide the requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on a risk-assessment basis

9.2 CPS Results Framework

CPS outcomes framework is a planning and management technique that serves as the basis for project monitoring and assessment. It provides a program-level structure for managers to assess performance and alter relevant programs and activities as needed. It provides the reader with an immediate understanding of what a program is going to do. The Results Framework focuses specifically on the program's impact and outcomes.

Table 8:Results Framework of SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy

The CPS will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals;		
		
Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD): **CPD: Output 3: By 2022, environmental management, sustainable recovery and reconstruction, and resilience to climate change and natural disaster are strengthened at all levels**		
OP7 SGP Programme Goal: Promote and support innovative, inclusive, and impactful initiatives, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.		
1 **OP7 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives**	**2** **OP7 CPS Indicators and Targets (Identify relevant targets for the CPS)**	**3** **Means of verification**
Strategic Initiative 1: Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species	Approximately 3000 hectares of the Cox's Bazar-Tehnaf Peninsula landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (GEF core indicator 4.1) Approximately 1000 hectares of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula, and Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (GEF core indicator 2.2) Approximately 500 hectares of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula, marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity; excluding protected areas (GEF core indicator 5) Approximately 2000 hectares of the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, Forest habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity; excluding protected areas (GEF core indicator 5) At least two community-based protected area/ conserved area/Ecologically Critical Area networks strengthened Two endemic and/or threatened species and varieties of flora and fauna conserved	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review

	Approximately 5000 hectares of Haor landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (GEF core indicator 4.1) Approximately 1500 hectares of Haor swamp forest habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity; excluding protected areas (GEF core indicator 5) Approximately 1000 hectares of Haor protected areas under improved management effectiveness (GEF core indicator 2.2) Approximately 1500 hectares of haor habitat under improved fish micro-sanctuary practices to benefit biodiversity; excluding protected areas (GEF core indicator 5) At least three community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened in the Haor region and the Coz's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula	
Strategic Initiative 2: Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security	Approximately 1500 hectares of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula, landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3) Approximately 1500 hectares of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares) in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, (GEF core indicator 3.1) Approximately 1 number of linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, (esp. SMEs) 20 number of small-holder farmers in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets Approximately 1000 hectares of the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula landscapes under sustainable fishery resource management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3) Approximately 500 hectares of the Haor landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)

	Approximately 1000 hectares of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares) in the Haor area (GEF core indicator 3.1) Approximately 2000 hectares of degraded lands restored (hectares) in the Haor area (GEF core indicator 3.1) 1 number of linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management in the Haor area (esp. SMEs) 30 number of small-holder farmers of the Haor supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets Approximately 2000 hectares of Haor landscapes under sustainable fishery resource management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3)	
Strategic Initiative 3: Low-carbon energy access co-benefits	50 KW of installed renewable energy capacity from local technologies (e.g., on types of renewable energy technology biomass, small hydro, solar) in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 2 number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 2 number of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 30 number of households in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued Approximately 100 hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 50 KW of installed renewable energy capacity from local technologies (e.g on types of renewable energy technology biomass, small hydro, solar) in the Haor area. 2 number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication in the Haor area.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

	2 number of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication in the Haor area. 20 number of households in the Haor area achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued Approximately 100 hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated in the Haor area.	
Strategic Initiative 4: Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management	3 tons of Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), POPs and mercury containing materials and products removed or disposed (GEF core indicator 9.6) off in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 2 number of communities working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste and mercury management in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 2 tons of Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), POPs and mercury containing materials and products removed or disposed (GEF core indicator 9.6) off in the Haor area. 2 number of communities working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste, and mercury management in the Haor area.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Strategic partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD country partners Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review
Strategic Initiative 5: Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions	3 number of community-based urban solutions/ approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) deployed in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 2 number of communities with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 3 number of community-based urban solutions/ approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) deployed in the Haor area. 2 number of communities with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development in the Haor area.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
Strategic Initiative 6:	3 number of CSO-government-private sector dialogues convened in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula, to support community voice and	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams

CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms	representation in national/ sub-national policy development. 50 number of representatives from social inclusion group (indigenous people, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) supported with meaningful participation in dialogue platforms in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 2 number of Public-Private Partnership on key global environmental issues promoted in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 3 number of CSO-government-private sector dialogues convened in the Haor area to support community voice and representation in national/ sub-national policy development. 50 number of representatives from social inclusion group (indigenous people, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) supported with meaningful participation in dialogue platforms in the Haor Area. 1 number of Public-Private Partnership on key global environmental issues promoted in the Haor area.	Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 7</u>: Enhancing social inclusion	10 number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11) in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 5 number of SGP projects led by women and/or mainstream concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. At least, 3 of these projects will target socio-economic benefits and services for women. 2 number of SGP projects that have targeted support for Indigenous Peoples in terms of country level programming and management in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 2 number of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. At least 1 number of SGP projects that demonstrate models of engaging persons with disability in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 10 number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11) in the Haor area.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review

	5 number of SGP projects led by women and/or mainstream concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women in the Haor area. 2 number of SGP projects that have targeted support for Indigenous Peoples in terms of country level programming and management in the Haor area. 2 number of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth in the Haor area. At least 1 number of SGP project that demonstrate models of engaging persons with disability in the Haor area.	
Strategic Initiative 8: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management	1 number of projects administering results management modalities in programme design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. Frequency of updating SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. (Please checkmark one: Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Bi-Monthly, Quarterly) 1 number of south- south exchanges at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools, and approaches on global environmental issues in the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. 1 number of projects administering results management modalities in programme design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms in the Haor area. Frequency of updating SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning in the Haor area. (Please checkmark one: Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Bi-Monthly, Quarterly) 1 number of south- south exchanges at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools, and approaches on global environmental issues in the Haor area.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review

10. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

The following table shows the signature of NSC members and an endorsement of the CPS.

Sl. no.	Name and Designation	Position	Ministry/Dept/Orgs	Signature
1	Ms. Zakia Afroz, Joint Secretary (Planning)	Chair person	Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change	
2	Mst. Papia Sultana, Asst. Director (Planning)	Member	Department of Environment	
3	Dr. Mariam Akhtar, Assistant Chief Conservator of Forest (Planning),	Member	Bangladesh Forest Department	
4	Mr. Raquibul Amin, Country Representative	Member	IUCN, Bangladesh	
5	Dr. Ferzana Islam, Professor	Member	Dept. of Agroforestry and Environmental Sciences, Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University, Dhaka	
6	Dr. S.M Atikullah, Freelance Consultant	Member	Independent Consultant	
7	Mr. Md. Abu Nashir Khan, Assistant General Manager, (Environment and Climate Change)	Member	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)	
8	Ms. Tasmin Akter, Deputy Programme Manager	Member	Manusher Jonno Foundation	
9	Ms. Rumana Binte Masud, Government, Public Relation Coordinator	Member	Friendship Bangladesh	
10	Md. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, Programme Manager	Member	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Bangladesh	
11	Lutfor Rahman, Executive Director	Member	Greentech Foundation, Bangladesh	
12	Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist (Nature, Climate and Energy)	Member	UNDP Bangladesh	
13	Mohammed Muzammel Hoque, National Coordinator	Ex-officio/Secretariat	GEF Small Grants Programme	

Annex 1: Report on Baseline Assessment for selected landscape

Report on

Baseline Assessment for selected landscape

Summary Sheet:

Characteristics/Feature	Landscapes	
	HAOR Region	Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula
1. Demographic Characteristics		
No. of districts (whole or part)	7	1
Population	21.38 in million	22, 89,990
Ratio (Male: Female)	100:99	104:100
Minorities/Ethnic Communities	Hindu and like Dhamail, Kusti, Wangalla & Agalmaka by Garo	Chakma, Rakhain, Marma, Mong, Mogh, Santan
Major occupation	Agriculture, business, fishery	Fishing, Tourism, Salt cultivation
2. Geological features		
Area (km^2)	8584.6	258.79
Soil type	Fertile, sand and clay	Acidic and less fertile
Climate	Sub-tropical monsoon climate	Sub-tropical monsoon climate
3. Unique features	Swamp forests, Hakaloki Haor, Tanguar Haor	World's largest sea beach, sandy beach, ECA
Characteristics/Feature	**Landscapes**	
	HAOR Region	**Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula**
4. Land cover (km^2)		
Forest	663.45	1052.368825
Agriculture	13,109.45	1482.71
Bare land	-	13.77
Households	2,579,609	415954
Rivers	418.72	More than 235km
Canal/Khal	264.48	-
5. Ecological characteristics		
Biodiversity	Fresh water flora and fauna	Various flora and fauna including saline water
Major ecosystem types	Wetlands, shrubs, swamp forest	Sandy beach, hill forest
Forest types	Swamp forest	Hill forest

Characteristics/Feature	Landscapes	
	HAOR Region	Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula
6. Major threats/gaps		
Ecological threats	Loss of habitat of flora & fauna, Invasion by alien species, deforestation	Loss of habitat of flora & fauna, Landslides, Hill cutting,
Environmental threats	Flash flood, decreasing haor areas	Landslides, deforestation
Sustainability related threats	10- 20% migration due to flash flood,	Forest area converted into other human settlement, excessive use of natural resources, urban development
Social discrimination	Violence against women, increasing human resources at rural area	Violence against women, increasing human resources at rural area
Women's participation in local NGOs, CBOs	Over 40%	40%-50%
7. Opportunities/ Scope		
8. Collaboration area	Organic farming, fishing, adaptation plan	Land restoration, reduce marine pollution
9. Major stakeholders	NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and Local Govt	NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and Local Govt

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Bangladesh's Small Grants Programme (SGP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is creating the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for its 7th Operational Phase (OP7). To prepare the CPS, baseline information from the chosen landscape is collected. Two approaches are used to prepare the baseline for OP7. The evaluation process was led by the country's CPS Consultation and Scoping Exercise, which lays out the understanding of the objectives and strategy for delivering OP7 outcomes. The Landscape Strategy defines the landscape approach to supporting global environmental activities that are aligned with the SGP Country Programme Strategy's selected strategic objectives that would contribute to community-level sustainable development.

1.2 Methodology

- ***Selection and delineation of the landscapes***

The landscapes at the community level were chosen during a national consultation meeting. The landscape boundary was defined based on the region covering the key natural features and other ecological factors. ArcGIS was used to create the map of the selected landscapes. The two landscapes considered are the HAOR Region and the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula (Fig. 1, Fig. 2).

Sunamganj, Sylhet, Habiganj, Maulvibazar, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, and Brahmanbaria are all part of the Haor region. On the other hand, the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula has a total land area of 2,492 square kilometers, accounting for slightly more than 1.5 percent of Bangladesh's total land area. Both environments are significant in terms of biodiversity and cultural variety and are inhabited by many of the country's most vulnerable people groups.

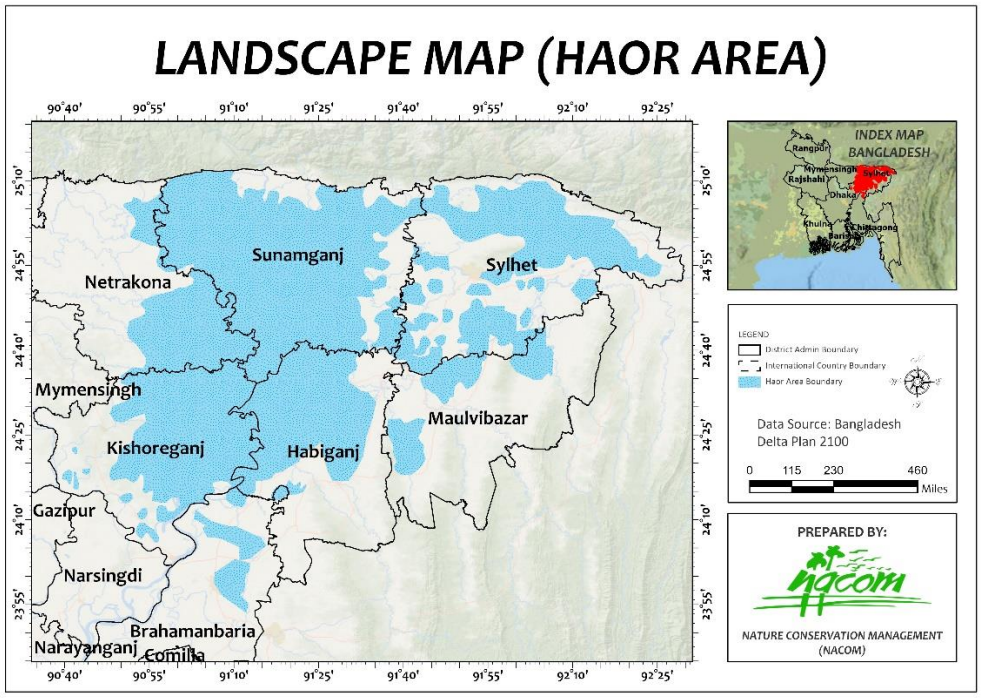


Figure 1: Map of the selected Landscapes (HAOR Region)

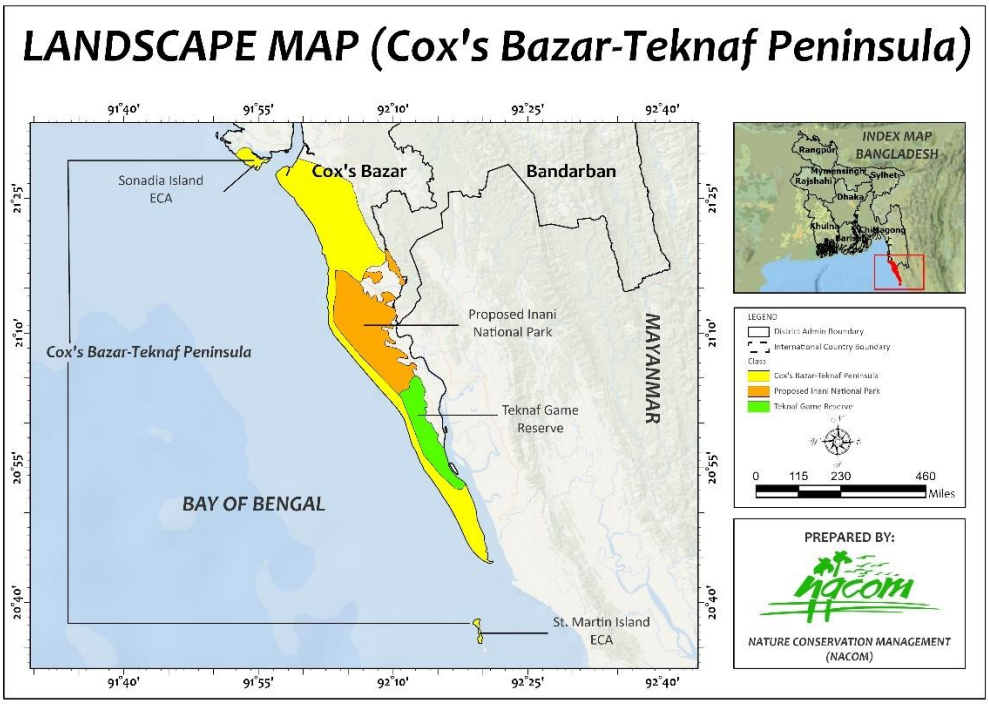


Figure 2: Map of the selected Landscapes (Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula

The Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula is critical for numerous endangered flora and fauna that offer livelihoods for many people in the surrounding area. In 1999, the government of Bangladesh declared this entire peninsula an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA), and within this peninsula are three environmentally significant forests, namely Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary, Inani Reserve Forest, and Himchari National Park, all of which are under stress due to the growing population, Rohingya influx and reliance on natural resources. To safeguard the three natural forests described above in Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula, the government proclaimed them reserves and limited access.

- ***Data Collection***

This report's data and information were gathered from secondary and primary sources. A participatory approach was used to collect primary data. Separate checklists were created and utilized for KII and FGD workshops held with community stakeholders. The checklists contained, among other things, important environmental concerns, difficulties, attempts by various authorities to resolve the issues, and potential for enhanced natural resource management for environmental and local livelihood advantages.

A total of 6 field level consultation workshops were held with the involvement of concerned local communities and their organizations, civil society, local government authorities and other relevant partners at the community and district levels in each selected landscape. A total of 45 local people (including women) participated in the community level consultation meetings (Table 1).

Table 1: Consultation meetings and workshop, and participants

Name of landscape	District	No. of event	Total	Male	Female	Hindu
Haor Region	Sunamganj	3	17	13	4	4
Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula	Cox's Bazar	3	28	12	16	3
Total		**6**	**45**	**25**	**20**	**7**

- ***Analysis of baseline data***

Data and information gathered from each landscape were assessed using several approaches, including Scoring. For each of the landscapes chosen, all of the information was analyzed, ranked, and prioritized.

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SELETED LANDSCAPES

2.1 Introduction

The two selected landscapes cover a total geographical area of 20011611.7 square kilometers. The area covered by each landscape has presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Information of each landscape

Landscape	District/Upazilla	Total area in sq.km.	Haor area in sq.km.	No. of haor
Haor Region	Sunamganj	3670002.68	5.31	95
	Sylhet	3490001.89	9.09	105
	Habiganj	2637001.09	5.14	14
	Maulvibazar	279900.47	6.02	3
	Netrakona	274400.79	3.45	52
	Kishoreganj	2731001.33	9.43	97
	Brahmanbaria	192700.29	6.16	7
Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula	Cox's Bazar Sadar	99.08	0	0
	Teknaf Upazila	104.65	0	0
	Sonadia ECA	49.16	0	0
	St. Martin Island	5.9	0	0
TOTAL		**13275266.33**	**4.6**	**373**

2.2. Physical characteristics

2.2.1 Haor Region Landscape

Geology and structure

Since the Cretaceous period, the Indian subcontinent has evolved as a result of a collision between the northward advancing Indian plate and the stationary Eurasian plate. During the Oligocene period, a portion of the northeast Indian plate broke and sunk below sea level. Since then, the Bengal Basin has begun to develop, filling with silt through a process of deltaic sedimentation into a gradually subsiding tectonic basin.[20]

[20] CARE Bangladesh. (2016). CARE Bangladesh Programme Strategy: Haor Region 2015–2020.

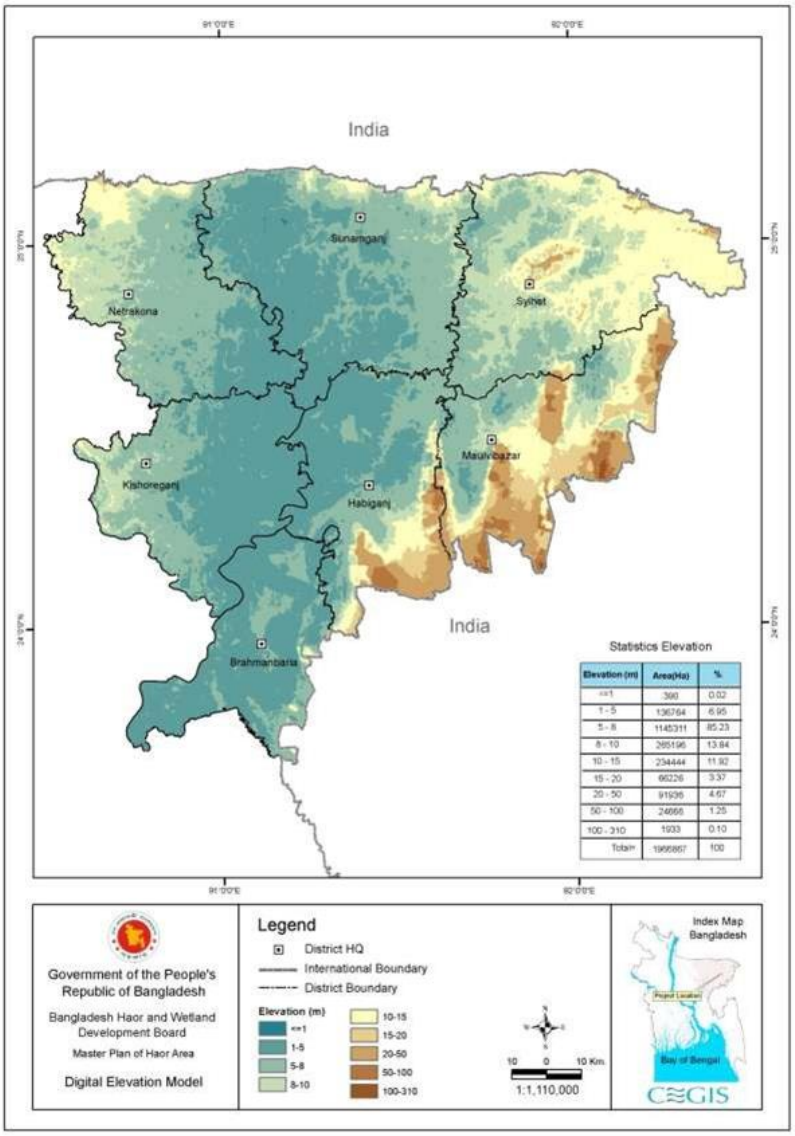


Figure 3: Location and Digital elevation model map of selected landscape [21]

Bangladesh is the eastern extension of India's center-wide Indo-Gangetic plains, which physically separate the Peninsular (shield) region to the south from the extra Peninsular region (Himalayan Mountain ranges) to the north and northeast. The Bengal Basin is primarily located in Bangladesh, with a small portion in India's West Bengal State. India surrounds the basin on three sides. The Sylhet Trough is a subbasin of the Bengal Basin that is made up of 13-20 km thick alluvial and deltaic sediments that are underlain by much older gneiss and granite rocks. The basin is surrounded to the north by the Shillong Plateau, to the east by the Indian Burmese mountains, and the west by the Indian Shield. The southern and eastern sections of the Sylhet Trough are distinguished by a series of north-trending folds caused by deformation from the Indo-Burmese mountains. The Tripura Hills, which run along the region's southern border, are made up of anticlines.[22]

[21] CEGIS (2012b). Master Plan of Haor Areas. Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

[22] Ibid

Mass movement and flashflood

A flash flood is the outcome of a complicated geophysical and human-caused event. The duration and size of the flood effect are getting far greater than in past floods. Because they combine the devastating force of a flood with extraordinary speed and unpredictability, flash floods are the deadliest type of flood. Flash floods can occur under a variety of settings. Flash flooding happens when rain falls quickly over saturated or dry soil with little absorption capacity. Runoff accumulates in gullies and streams, and when they merge to form greater volumes, it frequently produces a fast-moving front of water and debris.[23]

There are several causes of flash floods in Bangladesh. The flash floods are mostly seen in the Haor area. The major causes of flash floods are strong rainfalls upstream. Because our haor is located at the foot of the Meghalaya Mountain range, when significant rainfall happens in that hilly area, the water comes first and then hits the haor area. The properties of the rainfall influence the frequency and size of flash floods. When there is a continuous pattern of rainfall, the earth cannot absorb the water, which increases runoff and causes flash flooding. Another cause of the flash flood is geomorphology. The haor is primarily low ground, and the water flow direction is to the lower land, which is the cause of the flash flood in this area.

2.2.2. Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula Landscape

Geology and structure

The beach formation along the south-eastern margin of the Bay of Bengal, extending continuously for 120 kilometers from Badarmokam, the southernmost tip of Bangladesh's land mass in Teknaf Peninsula up to Bankkhali river along the northern side of Cox's Bazar urban area, magnificently identifies itself as the world's longest natural sea beach. One of the distinguishing features of Cox's Bazar's very long beach is that the whole beach formation is made up of moderately thick, well-sorted sandy materials. The beach is imagined forming inside a vast section of the Bay of Bengal's shallow marine 'Plain of Denudation' that stretches along the Arakan coast. Most of the beach's length is geographically defined by consecutive anticlines that stretch parallel to the shoreline, such as Cox's Bazar Anticline, Inani Anticline, and Hnila Anticline. Neogene sediments dominate these structures. Bhuban, on the other hand, is the oldest exposed rock-unit in the Hnila Anticline. Bokabil is the oldest exposed formation in the other two structures. The western sides of these anticlines have been regionally influenced by faults, resulting in the absence of the faulted sections in the Bay. Local faulting has also impacted the Anticline. The faulted portions of the Anticlines may have produced widespread deposition of massive sediments along the eastern coast of the Bay, leading in the construction of the dominantly prolonged gentle slope of the Shelf and the formation of the regionally extended superb beach of Cox's Bazar. Cox's Bazar's beach creation is a recent geological feature that emerged on a broad and regionally extended gentle slope of the Shelf. The depositional characteristics of the beach sediments are heavily influenced by moderate ocean current dynamics. The lenticular form of the dark heavy mineral deposits that occur as placer in the coastal region. The deposits may be found in both the back and fore dunes. There is also evidence of recurrence in the cycles of mineral deposition. However, the vertical extent of repetitions has not been explicitly determined.[24]

[23] Parvez, M., Islam, M. R., & Dey, N. C. (2022). Household food insecurity after the early monsoon flash flood of 2017 among wetland (Haor) communities of northeastern Bangladesh: a cross-sectional study. Food and Energy Security, 11(1), e326.

[24] Reimann, K. U., & Hiller, K. (1993). Geology of Bangladesh.

Mass Movement and Landslides

Landslides are one of the most significant and recurring disasters in Bangladesh's mountainous areas. Devastating landslides have periodically struck the country's mountainous regions in recent decades, generally as a result of climate change as well as other human factors such as excessive population density, uncontrolled land use, and widespread hill cutting. [25]

On the other hand, because of climate change, worldwide heavy one- or multiple-day precipitation events have grown drastically. Rapid land-cover change (e.g., unplanned urbanization on steep slopes, hill cutting), combined with increased intensity and frequency of adverse weather events (e.g., heavy rainfall in a short period of time), is causing devastating effects (e.g., landslides) in Bangladesh, which also has limited capacity to deal with the consequences of climate change. Particularly in the Cox's Bazar Area, where many urban people' livelihoods, quality of life, property, and future prosperity are constantly threatened by the hazards of rainfall-triggered landslides, which climate change is anticipated to exacerbate. Furthermore, there is no formal hill management strategy in Cox's Bazar. This has resulted in several informal settlements along the way. This has promoted several informal settlements along Cox's Bazar's landslide-prone hill slopes. The formal authorities believe these colonies to be unlawful. Furthermore, the settlers claim to be legal occupiers even though they lack legitimate possession documentation. Nonetheless, because of their political strength or connections with government officials, they can rent out such susceptible residences. This is how, over the last few decades, there has been a severe land tenure dispute among the official authorities, settlers, and local populations. This type of conflict has also damaged the institutional setup in Cox's Bazar for lowering landslide danger.[26]

2.3 Land use/Land cover

The land cover status of each landscape has been described by considering the forest, agriculture, rivers, canals and so on. The land cover condition of each landscape has described separately below.

2.3.1 Haor Region Landscape

Land cover status

The Haor Region landscape is rich in forest resources (Table 3). The natural rivers, canals, and swamp forests are the major unique features of this landscape.

Table 3: Land coverage condition of the landscape [27]

Land Type	2010
	Area (ha)
Agriculture Land	1,310,945
Settlement (homestead, pond and Road)	372,413
Hill	133,417
Forest (Excluding hill forest)	66,345
Perennial water bodies	48,360
River	41,872

[25] Islam, S. (Ed.). (2003). *Banglapedia: national encyclopedia of Bangladesh* (Vol. 3). Asiatic society of Bangladesh.

[26] Reimann, K. U., & Hiller, K. (1993). Geology of Bangladesh.

[27] CEGIS (2012b). Master Plan of Haor Areas. Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

2.3.2 Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula Landscape

Land cover status

Cox's Bazar, located in southeast Bangladesh, is a coastal district that falls within the administrative division of Chittagong. The district has a total land area of 2,492 square kilometers and represents just over 1.5 per cent of Bangladesh's total land area. Located at the southern end of the district is a narrow peninsula barely 15kms across at its widest point, comprised of Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas (subdistricts). This peninsula is called the Teknaf Peninsula.

Table 4: Land covers status [28]

Land Type	2008
	Area (ha)
Total farm holding	148,271
Operated area	200468
Permanent cropped area	12140
Temporary cropped area	131159
Permanent fallow area	1377
Others	55792

Table 5: Land covers status

Land Type	2008
	Area (ha)
Total farm holding	97031.8811
Operated area	268965.41
Permanent cropped area	91431.03
Temporary cropped area	146505.11
Permanent fallow area	4125.77
Others	330207.701

2.4 Socio-economic Characteristics

2.4.1 Haor Region Landscape

The haor basin is bounded by the hill ranges of Meghalaya (India) on the north, the hills of Tripura and Mizoram (India) on the south, and the highlands of Manipur (India) on the east. The basin includes about 47 major haors and some 6,300 beels of varying size, out of which about 3,500 are permanent and 2,800 are seasonal. According to 2010 statistics, the total population of the seven Haor districts is around 19.37 million people, with an average household size of 5.3 persons. By 2020 and 2030, the population might reach 21.38 million and 22.92 million, respectively. The overall population growth tendency in the Haor region is lower than the national average. Haor basin regions are Sunamganj, Habiganj, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sylhet, Maulvibazar, Brahmanbaria. In the Haor districts, the sex (Female: Male) ratio is, on average 100:99, suggesting that the male population is smaller than the female population.[29]

[28] District Statistics 2011 Cox's Bazar

[29] CEGIS (2012b). Master Plan of Haor Areas. Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

In this landscape, aboriginal peoples like Dhamail, Kusti, Wangalla & Agalmaka by Garo are living in this area. Hindus are about 10%. Many people migrate to the capital and abroad for many reasons like occupation, flash floods and other natural hazards. The percentage of economically active people above the age of 15 is a popular indicator of employment chances. Currently, 61.84 percent of the economically active workforce in the Haor region will work, which is higher than the national average of 58.74 percent. As a result, the employment situation in the Haor region is critical to our economy. The seven Haor districts cover around 1.99 million hectares, with a net planted area of approximately 1.31 million hectares. Bangladesh has a total rice field area of 11.35 million hectares, with the Haor zone accounting for 15.3 percent of that total. The Haor region produces 5.25 million metric tonnes of rice, accounting for 16.5 percent of the total rice output in Bangladesh. Non-rice harvested land accounts for around 9.8% of overall.

2.4.2 Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula Landscape

The ECA site in Cox's Bazar' is located in the extreme southeast part of Bangladesh, near the Myanmar border. The site is divided into three sections: i) the western coastal zone of Teknaf Peninsula (10,465 ha in area), which is a long, narrow, and forested peninsula separating the Bay of Bengal from the estuary of the Naf River and neighboring Myanmar; (ii) St Martin's Island (590 ha), a sedimentary continental island located 10 km south of Teknaf Peninsula; and (iii)Sonadia Island (4,924 ha), a barrier island a few km north of Teknaf Peninsula.

The total human population of Cox's Bazar district is 22, 89,990 (male 11, 69,604 and female 11,20,386; men-women ratio 104:100) with an average density of 919 per sq km and an annual growth rate is 2.55%. Ethnic minorities like Chakma, Rakhain, Marma, Mong, Mogh, Santan etc. live here. Due to climate change and frequent natural hazards, many families shifted to Dhaka and Chittagong. The primary means of production in the areas are sea fishing and the cultivation of betel nuts and leaf (pan). Most households within the area are involved with these activities in one way or another. Fishing is done using small to large boats, as well as without boats on the shore and in the Naf River. As a perennial crop, Betel trees provide little in the way of labour opportunities for poorer households. Betel leaf gardens require significant amounts of labour at all stages of cultivation.

Most people are farmers with field experience. The area's principal economic activity is resource extraction, harvesting, and gathering. Their farming method is called mixed farming. Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid crops are grown by them.

2.5 Ecological Characteristics of the Landscapes

2.5.1 Natural ecosystems

Haor Region Landscape

The ecosystem of Haor wetlands is varied. In these marshes, a diverse animal population includes rots, rats, people, and amphibians. Lowland planting also improves wetlands in the majority of critical Haor regions. Several initiatives are being made to preserve the natural environment and local heritage, including water conservation, improved irrigation, and fish development, and making the Haor a safe zone for birds and wildlife.

Floras in this area are balanced by several trees, including Hijal, Koroch, Arjun, Satim, and Barun. Cattle, Guisap, Vodor, Mechobag, Khatas, Fox, Worm snake, Kingfisher, Duel, Sparrow, Parrot, Bulbul, Eagle, Kite, Egret, and others are among the wildlife. Tengra, Bailla, Gang tengra, Chapila, Kali baush, Mrigal, Shol, Khalisha, Taki, and Gutum are examples of freshwater fish. Many species that older

people saw before are no longer observed. The principal trees in this region that protect the landslide are Abolish, Koroch, and Hijol. Dumur, Kolmi, and palm trees are also disappearing. Vultures, Duel, Bulbuli, Woodpeckar, Gangchil, Owl, and Darkak are among the birds threatened. Guishap, Vodor, Fox, and Mechobagh are uncommon. Other extinct fishes include the chanda, Boufish, Gutum fish, and others.

Cox' Bazar Teknaf Peninsula landscape

The Teknaf Peninsula has one of the world's longest sandy beach ecosystems (80 km). It serves as a transitional habitat for animals from the Indo-Himalayan and Indo-Malayan Eco regions. The peninsula serves as an important bird habitat, with over 81 species reported, and offers nesting places for four internationally vulnerable species of sea turtles. It also lies along international bird migration flyways. Finally, the inshore waters are home to critically endangered marine species. The Teknaf Peninsula mangroves provide various services, including a collection of biological processes that provide an environmental good or service.

There is a territorial forest, mangrove forest, and marine ecology in the region. Species are becoming scarce as a result of habitat change. Sharks, Hill Moynas, Hornbills, Elephants, Hoolock Gibbons, and Long-tailed Macaques will go extinct. Higher canopy trees such as Boilam, Telsur, Chatian, Uriam, Garjan, Golden Jackal, and dog have risen in quantity while the spoon-billed sandpiper has dropped. The settlement, agricultural, forest land, shrimp culture, salt pan, commercial area, unsustainable tourism, and Rohingya immigration are all observed in these places.

2. 6 Major Threats, Issues and Opportunities

2.6.1 Major threats and issues

The information concerning major threats and issues pertaining to the environmental, ecological and sustainability were gathered from the discussion and consultation with the communities, including local authorities, civil society, community organizations, other relevant partners, as well as through the review of related documents of each landscape. The threats/ issues are briefly presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Major threats/issues related to environment and ecology

Landscape	Major threats/ issues
Haor Region	• Flash Floods and floods • Inundation • Threats to native species and increasing invasion species • Loss of native species of lake and pond fishes due to biding for the commercial fishery. • Facing effects of climate change phenomena on agriculture and wetland sectors • Outmigration of people to semi-urban/urban areas (15-20%) • Increasing settlement in highly vulnerable areas, e.g. Eroded areas, river banks, etc. • Increasing violence against women (resulting in divorce) • Un controlled and destructive tourism
Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula	• Landslides, Forest degradation due to Rohingya influx • Degrading condition of the land • Loss of native species • Increasing invasion of species

Landscape	Major threats/ issues
	• Deforestation • Hill cutting for human settlement • Observed and realized the effect of climate change on agriculture, marine and forest ecosystem. • Salt Production • Decrease in soil fertility because of the pH level • Excessive collection of timber, fuel wood from the forest • The exploitation of local fishes using long and fine mesh net (for collecting fishes) • Indiscriminate killing and poaching of wildlife such as tortoises, monitors, birds, rabbits, porcupines and boar • Human-wildlife conflicts, including the killing of birds • Water pollution from tourism and extensive use of plastic wastes • Poor coordination and partnership among development actors • Lack of identification of indicator species • Lack of habitat improvement interventions for flora and fauna

2.6.2 Major scope/opportunities

The major opportunities in each landscape were derived from consultation, meeting and interaction with local communities, civil society, community organizations, other relevant partners and review of relevant documents. The scope/opportunities are briefly presented below (Table 7).

Table 7: Major scope/opportunities

Landscape	Major scope/opportunities
Haor Region	• Rehabilitation of degraded land and conversion into productive land for Cash crops, Fishery, plantation etc. • Restoration of the degraded wetland and biodiversity (i.e., conservation from siltation, encroachment, and invasion spp.) • Restoration of Reed bank • Restoration of critical bird and aquatic habitat along with restoration of endangered species, management of birds and fish sanctuaries • Rehabilitation of grazing areas • Introduce any conservation initiatives emphasizing Nature-based Solutions • Mixed species fish culture, cage culture in open water etc. • Organic farming of vegetables and fruits • Promotion of livelihoods through the development of small irrigation and conservation of water sources • Ecotourism-based enterprise development i.e. Home-stay (by ethnic group), local raw materials based handicraft, etc. • Biodiversity conservation • Microfinance institution development in rural areas • Gender awareness, empowerment of women for capacity, skill and techniques • Increasing agriculture production through maximum use of abandoned agricultural land in the rural area • Increasing the women's active participation in local level institutions such as CBOs, NGOs, user groups, conservation committee etc. • Alternative energy development such as biogas, solar, eco-friendly stove • Community based seed bank establishment for local landraces conservation

	• Local adaptation plan preparation for highly climate change vulnerable area.
Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula	• Restoration of the degraded lands • Biodiversity conservation, including flora and fauna • Afforestation program specially to protect the vulnerable people from landslides • Introduce any conservation initiatives emphasizing Nature-based Solutions • Coastal area friendly any climate resilient programmes • Plastic and waste management and promotion of circular economy • Promotion of community-based ecotourism and ecotourism-based enterprises development, i.e., home-stay establishment and promotion of ethnic culture • Gender awareness, capacity building on skill and techniques • Increasing women's active participation in local level institutions like CBOs, NGOs • Promoting small handy craft items by giving microfinance. • Alternative energy development such as biogas, solar etc. • Local adaptation plan preparation for high climate change vulnerable areas.

2.7 Key Strategic Initiatives, Plans and Actions Underway

Various government and non-government groups, including local communities, have carried out various activities in accordance with their own strategy and plan. The following actions were carried out in each landscape based on strategy and plan. The key activities performed in each landscape are listed below (Table 8).

Table 8: Key activities carried out in the selected landscapes

Landscape	Key strategic initiatives, plans and actions underway
Haor Region	• Disaster preparedness (awareness and capacity building) • Wetlands (Haors) conservation programme • Roadside plantation, Kanda plantation with suitable tree species • Organic vegetable and fruit production, livelihood related activities • Small irrigation • Mitigation and adaptation related activities • Awareness activities related to gender and social inclusion • Ecotourism promotion activities • Disaster preparedness (awareness and capacity building) like flash floods. • Fish sanctuary and threatened species conservation activities • Control of pesticides pollution from agricultural activities
Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula	• Restoration of degraded land • Awareness programme of biodiversity conservation • Forest Conservation and habitat rehabilitation • Elephant conservation and Human-Elephant conflict resolution • Marine threatened species conservation • Maintenance and cleaning activities on the beach • Climate resilience Infrastructure development • Control of plastic pollution on the beach and marine ecosystem • Awareness programme on climate related issues. • Training on skill and knowledge development related to local resource-based handcrafts • Plantation in degraded land • Disaster preparedness (awareness and capacity building) like cyclone, landslides, etc.

2.8 Stakeholders and their Roles

The major stakeholders and their roles were identified during the field level consultation workshops. The potential major stakeholders and their roles are briefly described below (Table 9).

Table 9: Key stakeholder and their roles

Landscape	Key stakeholders	Roles and responsibilities
Haor Region	• Local government	• Coordination and integration of co-funding, monitoring, and evaluation • Technical assistance for capacity building, company growth, biodiversity protection, wetland management, and other activities. • Technical assistance for conservation groups' capacity building and public awareness. • Farmer technical assistance, seed assistance, commercial vegetable and fruit production, cash crops, agriculture biodiversity conservation, technology transfer, small irrigation cofounding, marketing, and so on. • Technical assistance to farmers for livestock farming, capacity building, business growth, and assistance with genetic improvement of animals through breeding programs. • Women empowerment and awareness programs on women's rights, roles, and responsibilities, encouraging societal peace through reduced gender and caste/ethnicity discrimination, child rights, and so on.
	• Ecotourism Board	• Ecotourism promotion at the local, national, and worldwide levels and local support for ecotourism promotion efforts.
	• NGOs	• Establish coordination and linkage between user groups and service providers, social mobilization, disaster awareness, gender, social inclusion/exclusion/discrimination, fund raising, co-funding for comparable initiatives with other organizations.
	• CBOs	• Working with communities to raise awareness about climate change and biodiversity protection.
Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula	• Local government	• Coordination and integration of co-funding, monitoring, and evaluation. • Technical assistance for capacity building, company growth, biodiversity protection, wetland management, and other activities. • Technical assistance for conservation groups' capacity building and public awareness. • Farmer technical assistance, seed assistance, commercial vegetable and fruit production, cash crops, agriculture biodiversity conservation, technology transfer, small irrigation cofounding, marketing, and so on. • Technical assistance to farmers for livestock farming, capacity building, business growth, and assistance with genetic improvement of animals through breeding programs. • Women empowerment and awareness programs on women's rights, roles, and responsibilities, encouraging societal peace through reduced gender and caste/ethnicity discrimination, child rights, and so on.

Landscape	Key stakeholders	Roles and responsibilities
	• Ecotourism Board • NGOs • CBOs	• Ecotourism promotion at the local, national, and worldwide levels, as well as local support for ecotourism promotion efforts. • Establish coordination and linkage between user groups and service providers, social mobilization, disaster awareness, gender, social inclusion/exclusion/discrimination, fund raising, co-funding for comparable initiatives with other organizations. • Working with communities to raise awareness about climate change and biodiversity protection.

3. ELABORATING SGP OP7 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE

3.1 Strategic priorities for grant making in OP7

The strategic priorities were determined following community-level consultations and scoping activities with key stakeholders. In OP7, the selected strategic goals are further explored within the landscape context with project typologies for grant making. During the OP7 phase, the SGP Bangladesh concentrated their work largely on the theme areas listed below.

- Restoration of degraded wetlands, emphasizing globally and nationally significant wetlands.
- Reclamation of degraded public and communal lands, with a special emphasis on shifting agriculture regions, eroded areas, and the conservation of water resources.
- Crop diversification, small irrigation, and the promotion of excellent agricultural practices, including new climate-wise agroecology, are all being promoted and mainstreamed.
- Conservation of globally and nationally significant ecosystems as well as endemic and vulnerable flora and fauna.
- Implementation of government policies in SGP landscapes by increasing private sector co-funding.
- Conservation of agro- and forest genetic resources and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from these resources.
- Promote renewable and alternative energy, as well as energy efficiency, by building on and expanding previous successful projects.
- Green and promotion of circular economy
- Projects conceived and conducted by women and ethnic communities will be given priority.
- Strengthening forums for CSO-government policy and planning discussion.
- Promoting gender equality and social inclusion in projects and programmes implementation
- Raising awareness of and enabling local communities to act on national and global environmental issues.
- Conservation of globally threatened species and their habitat

4. MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Modalities for implementation of OP7 strategic plan in the landscapes

The GEF/SGP implementation modality is appropriate for implementing the OP7 strategic plan. Local government agencies, NGOs, INGOs, civil society, and community-based organizations are all involved in the coordination and network at the local level. Those communities are best adapted for networking and collaborating to effectively implement the OP7 SGP strategic plan and create co-funding.

4.2 Strategy for effective engagement of local communities and other stakeholders

Community-based organizations, local communities, indigenous people, and other non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply for the project to execute the OP7 strategic plan. The following approaches for effective participation of local communities and other relevant stakeholders have been proposed by several levels of community consultation and relevant stakeholders meeting in selected two landscapes.

- The project should represent the community's genuine challenges and needs.
- Ensure that community rights are considered in terms of resource management with optimal usage, which contributes to community ownership development.
- The initiative should benefit the residents and other stakeholders directly.
- Assure the community and other stakeholders of reasonable co-funding and generous contributions to community-friendly projects that help to project implementation synergy.
- At various stages of project execution, the roles and obligations of local communities and other stakeholders should be stated.

4.3 Strategy for monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are critical components of the project. SGP has conducted many sorts of monitoring and evaluation. One of the most successful project assessment and knowledge building strategies is participatory monitoring and evaluation. The following techniques are proposed for project-level Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation.

- Encourage participatory monitoring and evaluation, which allows for community engagement from the beginning to the end of the project.
- Hold periodic group meetings and workshops for project managers and other key stakeholders to discuss and improve the best monitoring procedures for field projects.
- Encourage local institutions, women, and communities (marginalized, indigenous) to participate in project monitoring and evaluation activities at all levels, facilitating knowledge management and dissemination.

Annex 2: Report on Stakeholder consultation in the selected landscapes for OP7

Report on

Stakeholder consultation in the selected landscapes for OP7

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) was established in 1992 as a GEF corporate programme to contribute toward the conservation and restoration of the environment via support provided to the local people by promoting community actions that maintain the balance between social, economic, and environmental aspects. SGP supports relevant, effective, and efficient projects in achieving global environmental benefits while addressing issues of livelihoods, poverty reduction, gender equality and women empowerment at the local level.

The SGP OP7 has different thematic areas, including community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food security, low-carbon energy access co-benefits, local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, community-based adaptation, CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms.

Small Grant Programme (SGP) Operatinal Phase 7 will be be implemented the first time in Bangladesh by the CBOs, CSOs, and NGOs. The programme will be funded by GEF, SGP. During the Operational Phase 7 (OP7), the SGP has planned to work on community-based initiatives that contribute to global environmental aspects and will benefit vulnerable communities through a multifocal landscape approach. In this regard, 70% of the OP7 grant will be applied to the prioritized landscapes. The remaining 30% of the grants will be used for innovative, inclusive, and impactful projects to be implemented outside the selected priority landscape areas.

Initially, five landscapes were chosen for baseline assessment to identify two critical landscapes for OP7 implementation. Based on the score and decision of the NSC, two landscapes are selected for SGP. The five main landscapes are chosen by considering different criteria e.g., global environmental characteristics, socio-economic characteristics, and stakeholder capacity. Primary data and information are collected through the KIIs and FGDs. Many issues related to environmental degradation and the importance of their conservation were highlighted during KIIs and FGDs. Also, NGOs, CSOs and the private sector have the capacity and high interest to implement the SGP successfully.

The FGDs and KIIs elaborated the areas ecosystem, livelihood pattern, land use, climate vulnerabilities, climate migrants, electricity condition, agriculture pattern, ethnic communities and many more, which are very pertinent to designing the country program for the SGP.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is “to promote and support community-based innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes”. This objective will be achieved through several strategic initiatives which will promote integrated approaches in addressing key global environmental issues.

2.1 Scope of work

- OP7 Country Programme Strategy consultations and Scoping exercise through Communications, outreach and capacity development about OP7 and its strategic initiatives, multi-stakeholder consultations, Selection of the landscape area(s) of focus, and Grant-making outside the selected landscape area(s).

- Selected Landscape/Seascape Baseline Assessment through Baseline analysis, Elaborating SGP OP7 Strategic initiatives, and proposing Modalities for implementation
- Country Programme Strategy Finalization

2.2 Purpose of the field report

The purpose of the filed report was to collect baseline data from different landscapes. After collecting the baseline data two areas will be selected for the landscape of OP7 based on the scoring of the criteria. Also, through this baseline assessment we will be able to understand about the community's perspective towards ecosystem, biodiversity and their conservation.

3. METHODOLOGY

Primary and secondary data and information are collected and used during the preparation of the country program of the SGP. The criteria for landscape selection are used to assess and prioritize two landscapes to implement OP7. Focus group discussions are interviews investigating participants' knowledge and experiences about different aspects and how and what they know about the conservation of the ecosystem and/or biodiversity. Also, from the KIIs, many vital issues are coming out to address conservation needs and the adverse effects of climate change. PRA tools were used to conduct the FGDs.

4. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Landscape 1: Barind Tract

4.1.1 FGD Findings

Global Environmental Characteristics The ecosystem of Nachole, Rajshahi includes all about forest, pond, river. The landscape consists of trees, animals, and microbes. Planting native fruits especially mango; then guava, and timber tress, near homesteads is a traditional land use practice in Nachole. Some significant changes in the ecosystem include less rain and less fish in natural resources. For barrenness, they transformed their many paddy fields into mango gardens. The soil of this area is naturally appropriate for mango cultivation. Some of the lands are used for guava cultivation. Some mustard and wheat field are also visible here in various seasons. There are a lot of climate change impacts in this region. Due to less rain, their yields have been reduced in recent years. They don't get enough water for irrigation. Due to drought, local communities couldn't cultivate their crops. Grid electricity condition is quite good in Nachole. Approximately 80% of the electricity is supplied by Rural Power Company Limited (RPCL), and the rest is provided by Power Development Board (PDB).

Image 1: FGD of Rajshahi

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

The livelihood of Nachole is mostly encompassing agriculture and farming. Most people are engaged with mango gardening. Many residents, especially the female members, said they have a small farm, farming cows, goats, ducks, and various domesticated animals. Some male members drive a van to maintain their family. Agriculture dominates the economic activity

of Nachole. Approximately 70% of the people relate to mango gardening. Some peoples drive an auto rickshaw van to maintain their financial condition. This area is too much fertile for mango cultivation. Other than that, different rice variety cultivated here. Aush is generally grown in July-August cropping season and Aman in December-January cropping season. Guava and mustard are also produced here in several seasons. Here, the traditional government system is the same all over the country. Sometimes local arbitrators control the situation or any dispute. Some ethnic minorities are living here in genealogy. We got two minority group names: Hindu, and Santal.

Due to climate change, family migration from the region to other parts of the country is too low. But many male members go to the city area for employment. Most of them are related to masonry. It should be mentioned that the poverty level is too high in this area.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

There are a lot of NGO/CBOs in this area working for the community development. A few such as BRAC, ASA, GRAMEEN, CCDB, RAJ DEVELOPMENT, BEDO, BIYS, and ESDO. The number of NGOs working for the environment sector is insignificant. We found that CCDB is working for SDG-6 goals. In the Mallikpur village of Nachole upazila there is only one (01) primary school found. There are no high schools and colleges in this area. A high school is located far away, like 9-10 kilometers.

FGD Scoring[30]

Criteria		Score	Remarks
Global Environmental Characteristics	Which species are already extinct according to their opinion i.e. birds, trees, animal, fish, fruit etc.	2	
	What is the scenario of land degradation in the region?	3	
	What is the scenario of climate change impact in the region?	2	
	How much they know about biodiversity?	1	
	Condition of electricity access	3	
	How much they are aware about the conservation of biodiversity?	1	
Socio-economic characteristics	Literacy rate (high, medium, low)	1	
	Poverty level (high, medium, low)	1	
	Livelihood pattern	2	
	Condition of agricultural production in this region	2	
	Numbers of ethnic minority groups?	2	
Stakeholder Capacities	Are the NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community based organizations (CBOs) sufficient for the community?	3	
	Are the NGOs, CSOs and CBOs working properly for the conservation of the biodiversity in the community?	2	

[30] Low=1, Medium=2, High=3

4.1.2 KII Findings (NGOs)

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

The ecosystem in Nachole was mentioned before. The species already extinct in this area are parrot, buffalo, and Cotton Pygmy Goose (*Nettapus Coromandelianus*). The soil of this area is mixed with alluvial soil and loamy soil. This soil is too fertile; for this reason, people depend on cultivation. This type of soil is too much appropriate for mango forest. Here in the regional grid electricity condition is good. Approximately 70-80% of electricity is supplied by Rural Power Company Limited (RPCL), and 20-30% is provided by Power Development Board (PDB). But still, load-shedding is a common problem in this region, the same as all over the country. There is a lot of climate change impact in this region. Some consequences are drought, increasing temperature day by day, etc. In Nachole area deforestation rate has been low till now. But it is true that due to overpopulation, sometimes people cut down their trees to make houses for their living.

Image 1: KIIs of Rajshahi

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

Due to climate change, many locals switch from agriculture and start driving autorickshaws, vans, etc. They have already begun to change their occupations. Most of the people in this region are poor. Approximately 60-70% of the population are lower class, 10-20% are middle class, and the rest are higher class. Hindus, and Santals are the prominent minority communities here. Drought is the main climatic hazard here, and people cannot do cultivation due to a lack of water in the summertime.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

There are a lot of NGO/CBOs in this area. Approximately 40 to 50 NGOs are working here like BRAC, ASA, GRAMEEN, CCDB, RAJ DEVELOPMENT, BEDO, BIYS, ESDO etc. Local peoples are interested about any kind of conservation programme. They want to conserve the ecosystem and work for the conservation.

4.2 Landscape 2: Chattogram Hill Tract (CHT)

4.2.1 FGD Findings

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

In this area, Forest ecosystem and Grassland ecosystem are Natural Ecosystem. The brief details are included below-

Forest ecosystem: Forest ecosystems mainly consist of a wide variety of trees, herbs, shrubs, climbers, grass, lichens, and algae. Forest ecosystems have better productivity and diversity in comparison to other ecosystems. Plants make up about 99 percent of earth's living species and the rest 1 percent include animals. The composition of plant and animal species in the forests differs from place to place, even within the same type of ecosystem. Forests occupy roughly 40% of the total land. As in another ecosystem, the decomposers of the forest ecosystem are bacteria and fungi. Decomposers are primarily found in soil and bacteria are represented by the numerous heterotrophic.

Image 2: FGD of Khagrachori

Grassland ecosystem (Natural Ecosystem): Grasslands are areas where the vegetation is dominated by grasses and other herbaceous (non-woody) plants. Grasslands occupy about 24% of the earth's surface. Grasslands occur in regions too dry for forests and too moist for deserts. They noticed a change in the trees because they were occasionally being destroyed. Sometimes the cause is man-made, while other times it is natural. The majority of the population in this region is a farmer, which is why the land is being used for farming. The climate has seen some obvious alterations. Less rain and rising temperatures over the duration of the year have altered the pattern of rainfall. In this area, the grid electricity is terrible. Not every family has access to energy. On the other side, those who do have electricity are unhappy since load shedding occurs frequently.

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

The majority of people are farmers and have experience working in the fields. The main economic activity in the area is resource extraction, harvesting, and collection. Their agricultural practice is mixed farming. They cultivate Kharif Crops, Rabi Crops, and Zaid Crops. They don't have a conventional form of government. They have their own system of government. There are 2/3 minority groups like: Chakma, Marma, and Tripura. No climate migration happened from the region to other parts of the country due to climate change.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

BRAC and GRAMEEN are the leading NGO's that are working for community development, especially in the environment sector. Municipal Corporation, BRAC, and GRAMEEN are the leading NGO's that are working for community development, especially in the environment sector.

FGD Scoring

Criteria		Score	Remarks
Global Environmental Characteristics	Which species are already extinct according to their opinion i.e., birds, trees, animal, fish, fruit etc.	3	
	What is the scenario of land degradation in the region?	3	
	What is the scenario of climate change impact in the region?	3	

	How much they know about biodiversity?	1	
	Condition of electricity access	2	
	How much they are aware about the conservation of biodiversity?	1	
Socio-economic characteristics	Literacy rate (high, medium, low)	1	
	Poverty level (high, medium, low)	1	
	Livelihood pattern	1	
	Condition of agricultural production in this region	2	
	Numbers of ethnic minority groups?	2	
Stakeholder Capacities	Are the NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community based organizations (CBOs) sufficient for the community?	3	
	Are the NGOSs, CSOs and CBOs working properly for the conservation of the biodiversity in the community?	1	

4.2.2 KII Findings (CSOs)

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

According to the respondent, he is unaware of any extinct species here. The soil in this region is a mixture of muddy and sandy soil. Sandy soils are one of the poorest types of soil for growing plants because they have deficient nutrients and poor water holding capacity, making it hard for the plant's roots to absorb moisture. This type of soil is perfect for the drainage system. The land degradation is not so much in this area. In this area, load shedding occurs frequently, and their grid electricity system is not up to the mark. Some climatic hazards in the region are landslides, heavy rainfall, and water accumulation. This area is facing deforestation. People cut trees for personal use, and some people cut trees illegally.

Image 3: KIIs of Khagrachori

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

Most of the male members are farmers in this region, and some do business. 30-35% of female members work as day laborers, and almost 20–30% of female members make hand-made crafts, while the rest are homemakers. 50–60% of people are below the poverty level in the region. The national poverty rate is the population living below the national poverty line. National estimates are based on population-weighted subgroup estimates from household surveys. 2 to 3 ethnic minority groups live in the region like: Chakma, Marma, Tripura.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

Respondent thinks the number of NGOs, CSOs, and CBOs is more than enough for this region. But only a few NGOs are working on this program to conserve biodiversity. The local area seems helpful enough. They have a keen interest in these conservation initiatives.

4.3 Landscape 3: Haor

4.3.1 FGD Findings

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

In this area, floras are balanced by different trees, especially Hijal, Koroch, Arjun, Satim, Barun etc. The faunas are cattle, Guisap, Vodor, Mechobag, Khatas, Fox, Worm snake, Kingfisher, Duel, Sparrow, Parrot, Bulbul, Eagle, Kite, Egret, etc. Freshwater fish, like Tengra, Bailla, Gang tengra, Chapila, Kali baush, Mrigal, Shol, Khalisha , Taki, Gutum. Older people mentioned that they don't see many species they have seen early. Abolish, Koroch and Hijol are the main trees in this area that protect the landslide. Dumur, Kolmi, Palm trees are also vanishing. In the list of birds, vultures, Duel, Bulbuli, Woodcutter, Gangchil, Owl, Darkak are at risk. Animals like Guishap, Vodor, Fox, Mechobagh, are less seen. There are also vanishing fishes like chanda, Boufish, Gutum fish etc. Here 40% land is used for cultivating crops and 40% is watersheds, and another 20% is used for residence, institute, mills, and bazar. In winter, this side area of watersheds becomes dry, and they cultivate vegetables. Heavy rain and flood is the most common disaster in this area. Participants said it has been becoming more devastating day by day. Nonseasonal rain, cyclones, and high temperature also affect this area. Power Development Board (PDB) provides the electricity in the region. Village people said the electricity supply system is standard, but they experience prolonged power cuts during heavy rain or flood.

Image 4: FGD of Sunamganj

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

There is some diversification among the occupation in this area. They are engaged with agricultural lands, fisheries, poultry, agro-business, and jobs. A significant number of people are based on fishing in season and off-season. In the off-season, some people go to other areas as day laborers for agricultural activities, they also do stone and sand collection. But in the fishing season, the main purpose of all aged people is fishing and selling them on the market. The majority of the fishermen's spouses in the Haor region is housewives. They also participated in other home tasks such as net making, sewing, basket making, and so on. This district's key economic sources are agriculture, business, tourism, fishing, sand lifting, stone mining, and other industries. Different families depend on various professions. The main exports of this region are Paddy, fish, and vegetables. Farmers are engaged in producing field crops and homestead farming like vegetables and fruit production, fish farming, livestock, and poultry. The main crops are Boro rice, potato, mustard, brinjal, and other vegetables. The Gram Panchayat system is depicted in the local area. The Gram Sabha elects the Gram Panchayat members. Aboriginal peoples like Dhamail, Kusti, Wangalla & Agalmaka by Garo are living in this area. Hindus are about 10%. Many people migrate to the capital and abroad for many reasons like occupation, flash floods and other natural hazards.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

Two NGOs are working here for community development ASA, and BRAC. There is no CSO; two CBOs Manushattay Foundation, Nandonic Foundation, also work for the environment-related programme.

FGD Scoring

Criteria		Score	Remarks
Global Environmental Characteristics	Which species are already extinct according to their opinion i.e. birds, trees, animal, fish, fruit etc.	3	
	What is the scenario of land degradation in the region?	2	
	What is the scenario of climate change impact in the region?	3	
	How much they know about biodiversity?	1	
	Condition of electricity access	2	
	How much they are aware about the conservation of biodiversity?	2	
Socio-economic characteristics	Literacy rate (high, medium, low)	2	
	Poverty level (high, medium, low)	1	
	Livelihood pattern	1	
	Condition of agricultural production in this region	2	
	Numbers of ethnic minority groups?	2	
Stakeholder Capacities	Are the NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community based organizations (CBOs) sufficient for the community?	3	
	Are the NGOSs, CSOs and CBOs working properly for the conservation of the biodiversity in the community?	3	

4.3.2 KII Findings (CBOs)

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

Loamy soil in the haor area, sandy soil in the river, and poly soil have been seen in different regions. Siltation in the haor areas now hampers various activities. The electricity supply is good, but the load-shedding is another problem here. Flood, heavy rain, unseasonal rain, lightning, and high temperature are the primary climatic hazards. Day by day, the temperature becomes warmer, and floods become terrible. Influential people cut trees for the human habitat.

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

The increasing frequency and intensity of climate hazards, diminishing agricultural yields and reduced production, rising sanitation and health risks, and increasing water scarcity caused Poverty, infrastructure damage, deforestation, and health damage. Agricultural land is less than in other districts. The number of people depends on fisheries and river transport income. Some Garo lives in city and Hindus are 15% in this area.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

NGOs like BRAC, Care Bangladesh, CNRS, ASA, Sancred Welfare Foundation (SWF) etc., CSOs Padakkhep, Uddipon, Nandonic Foundation etc., CBOs Manusher Jonno Foundation, Kaiyar Gaw Welfare Organization, Dream Alive Community (DAC) etc. working here for the community development. Not all CSOs, NGOs, and CBOs worked in the environment-related programme. During flash floods, many CBOs and CSOs were made to fund and rescue people.

4.3.4 KII Findings (NGOs)

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

The NGO respondent said similiar kind of ecosystem that mentioned before. However, he added that Sunamganj is located underneath Meghalay state of India. Here 40% area is under watershed. There are about 95 Haors. the most prominent haors are Saneer haor, Hail haor, Hakaluki haor, Dekar haor, Maker haor, Chayer haor,Tanguar haor and Kawadighi haor. The water bodies and land inside the haor are owned by Government (khas land) and leased out every year or every three years for fishing. During the winter season when the water level is lower, marginal land of the haor are cultivated with paddy. Land use in this area is mainly river, beels, baors, ponds, tanks, ditches, cultivated, field crops, forest and woodland and residential area. Only one crop is grown annually in the haor area, i.e. the Boro season rice. Power Development Board (PDB), Palli Bidyut and Solar power plant in covers different districts of Sunamganj. Rural areas also covered by these three companies. The electricity supply was disconnected last month to avoid accidents as Chhatak and Sunamganj grid substations were inundated by flood. Nowadays load shedding is almost a daily occurrence due to national power crisis in this area. Flash flood, heavy rain, lightning, unseasonal rain, cyclones, and high temperature are the major hazards. Rainfall changes affect the economy, residents, and health, in a word, every aspect of the life of local people. Flash flood is common in the Haor areas which damage the crops. Nearby haor area forest is decreasing for over population. He said Korchar haor, pakhnar haor, Dekar haor, Tanguar haor are becoming deforestation rapidly.

Image 5: KIIs of Sunamganj

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

The influences of climate changes on their livelihood are migration, job switches, changes in crop calendar, rainwater harvesting, repair/reconstruction of houses, following the weather forecast, and purifying water to drink. Decreasing crop production, reduced fisheries, loss of forest ecosystem, loss of biodiversity, loss of cultivable land, and loss of personal belongings. Yearly flooding is the main reason the people here live below the poverty line. It hampers livelihood, education, health, sanitation, and legal aid support. Flash floods affected these areas and damaged maximum areas. For that, cultivation and industries can't support economic strength. People depend on the tourist business.Manipuri, Khasia, Garo, and Hajong are live in Indian Bordar area of this district. Hindus are about 10%, Christian and Buddhist are so small amount.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

NGOs (BRAC, Care Bangladesh, CNRS, ASA, Sancred Welfare Foundation (SWF) etc), CSOs (Padakkhep, Uddipon, Nandonic Foundation etc), CBOs (Manusher Jonno Foundation, Kaiyar Gaw Welfare Organization, Dream ALive Community (DAC) etc).

4.4 Landscape 4: Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula

4.4.1 FGD Findings

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

The area has territorial forest, mangrove forest and marine ecosystem. Because of the habitat change species are reducing in number. Shark, Hill Moyna, Hornbill, Elephant, Hoolock Gibbon, long tailed macaque is going to be extinct. Spoon billed sand piper declined, Turtle and dolphin these species are decling in numbers,higher canopy trees such as Boilam, Telsur, Chatian, Uriam, Garjan, Golden Jackal and dog increased in number. The land use pattern in these areas is diversified e.g. settlement, agriculture, forest land, shrimp culture, salt pan, commercial area, unsustainable tourism, Rohingya influx are seen. Climatic change impacts like temperature increased, irregular rainfall, intensity and frequency of cyclone and storm surge increased. The condition of grid electricity in the region is increased.

Image 6: FGD of Cox's Bazar

- **Socio-economic Characteristics**

Majority people in this region do work as fisherman,run small business, agriculture, fish drying, tourism, forest resource extraction, salt pan worker, rickshawpuller etc. As an agricultural practice they cultivate different varieties however, the soil in not fertile in this region. Limited number of agriculture practices seen in this region. Paddy, watermelon, battle leaf, lemon, bitter gourd, sweet gourd, banana grown in this region. Traditional government system is present in the region. Ethnic minorities like Chakma, Rakhain, Marma, Mong, Mogh, Santan etc lives here. Due to climate change and frequent natural hazards many families shifted to Dhaka and Chittagong.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

Many NGOs, CBOs and CSOs are working in the region. Some of them are NACOM, YPSA, PHALS, PULSE Bangladesh, MUKTI, Coast Trust, CMC, VCG, VCF. There are two universities in the region Chattogram Veterinary University, Cox's Bazar International University.

FGD Scoring

Criteria		Score	Remarks
Global Environmental Characteristics	Which species are already extinct according to their opinion i.e. birds, trees, animal, fish, fruit etc.	3	
	What is the scenario of land degradation in the region?	3	
	What is the scenario of climate change impact in the region?	3	
	How much they know about biodiversity?	2	
	Condition of electricity access	2	
	How much they are aware about the conservation of biodiversity?	2	
	Literacy rate (high, medium, low)	2	

Criteria		Score	Remarks
Socio-economic characteristics	Poverty level (high, medium, low)	1	
	Livelihood pattern	2	
	Condition of agricultural production in this region	3	
	Numbers of ethnic minority groups?	2	
Stakeholder Capacities	Are the NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community based organizations (CBOs) sufficient for the community?	2	
	Are the NGOSs, CSOs and CBOs working properly for the conservation of the biodiversity in the community?	2	

4.4.2 KII Findings (CSOs)

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

He mentioned the same ecosystem as written in the above section. The soil in this region is mainly Sandy, sandy clay. Land degradation have seen as a form of landslide and beach erosion. Huge deforestation occurs in Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary and Himchari National Park as unsustainable forest resource use, human pressure, Rohingya influx, natural disaster, political and influencial person's pressure and reluctance of GoB officials.

- **Socio-economic Characteristics**

People in this region are losing their interest on agricultural production due to salinity intrusion, increase temperature, increase pesticide, seasonal change, irratic rainfall etc. Most of the lands are used for either shrimp cultivation or salt cultivation. Male members are do fishing, tourism, small business, agriculture, fish drying as their livelihood. Females are also contributing to the fish drying, small business, handicrafts, and tourism. About 60% population in this region are are poor.

Image 7: KIIs of Cox's Bazar

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

As many NGOs, CSOs and CBOs are working in this region people are concern about environment and they want to work for the conservation of the biodiversity of the Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula. There are two main universities and youth groups are involving themselves in my innovative nature-based businesses.

4.5 Landscape 5: Young Brahmaputra Jamuna Floodplain

4.5.1 FGD Findings

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

From the FGD participants said, the ecosystem of this area includes mainly everything available in the country. To mention a few faunas, they talked about different cattle, birds, snakes, horses, etc. They also said floras such as eucalyptus and a few trees (java plum, mango, etc.) They talked about a few changes in the environment. The fauna, including kites, cormorants, sparrows, and falcons, are going extinct. Also, flora, including banyan and other trees, are getting vanished day by day. However, the number of eucalyptus trees is going up constantly. They said 70-80% of the land is used for cultivating crops, and 20-30% is used for other purposes. Extreme heatwave is generated during summer, whereas the amount of rainfall goes down daily, as described by them. However, the frequency of floods is higher than before, as mentioned by the participants. PDB and Palli Biddut are available in the area.

Image 8: FGD of Jamalpur

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

The majority of the people of that region are small business holders or farmers, as they said. Key economic activities in the area are small businesses, according to them. The main commercial product of Sarishabari Upazila is jute. A lot of jute is produced in Sarishabari Upazila. Based on this jute, six jute mills are currently being operated in Sarishabari. Besides, the rice, chilli, mustard etc. is also conducted. (Bangladesh National Portal, 2022). They also told us they cultivate paddy, jute, corn, potatoes, eggplants, etc. Apart from these crops, the bumper yield of coriander crops has been seen in the char areas and on the riverbank of Sarishabari in Jamalpur. (Bangladesh Post, 2022). According to them, no traditional government system is present in the area. They said an ethnic group is currently in the area, which is Hindu. No one migrated from the region due to the climate change issue told by them. No special cultural heritage is present in the community as they described. But there is a park named "Swapnil Park." (Bangladesh National Portal, 2022)

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

According to Bangladesh National Portal, 2022, around 40 NGOs are working in that area. Schools and Colleges are present in the area as per their description. However, they denied any universities, CSOs, or local government presence. Our respondents said that no NGOs, CBOs, or CSOs are working in the community development sector regarding environmental issues told by them.

FGD Scoring

Criteria		Score	Remarks
Global Environmental Characteristics	Which species are already extinct according to their opinion i.e. birds, trees, animal, fish, fruit etc.	2	
	What is the scenario of land degradation in the region?	2	
	What is the scenario of climate change impact in the region?	1	
	How much they know about biodiversity?	2	
	Condition of electricity access	1	
	How much they are aware about the conservation of biodiversity?	2	
Socio-economic characteristics	Literacy rate (high, medium, low)	1	
	Poverty level (high, medium, low)	1	
	Livelihood pattern	1	
	Condition of agricultural production in this region	2	
	Numbers of ethnic minority groups?	1	
Stakeholder Capacities	Are the NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community based organizations (CBOs) sufficient for the community?	3	
	Are the NGOSs, CSOs and CBOs working properly for the conservation of the biodiversity in the community?	1	

4.5.2 KII Findings (CBOs)

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

As the interviewee mentioned, the ecosystem of Sarishabari includes many types of flora and fauna. Fauna includes different types of snakes, cows, goats, chickens etc. In flora mango trees, jackfruit etc are mostly available here. The speaker told us that she has seen regular flora and fauna in this area. According to her, snakes and crocodiles are going extinct. She also mentioned that this area contains inclusive of a high amount of Poly in the soil. Regarding land degradation, she told us it happens in the riverside due to river erosion and flood. Electricity in this area is supplied by "Palli Bidyut". Moreover, she also told us that the major climatic hazards in this region include flooding, drought, erratic rainfall, and thunderstorms. Furthermore, she mentioned the rising drought, thunderstorms, and heat waves in this area as a sign of climate change. Deforestation is happening in this area due to increased use of land, the interviewee mentioned.

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

According to the respondent, Climate change is hampering people's livelihood by damaging their crops. The speaker said that, amongst the male members of this community have the profession of fishing, farming, driving and small business. 50% of females are involved in handicrafts. The poverty level of this region is more than 80% according to her. There are only one ethnic minority group of 20% Hindu according to her.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

The speaker thinks that the number of NGO's, CSO's and CBO is not enough for this region. She also said that the local government and NGOs will work on this program to conserve biodiversity if they get the opportunity. She concluded that 40-50% of the local community is cooperative and very interested in this kind of conservation program.

4.5.3 KII Findings (NGOs)

- **Global Environmental Characteristics**

As the interviewee mentioned, the ecosystem of Sarishabari includes many types of FLORA and FAUNA. The fauna includes many types of rare birds such as Kanda Khocha, Dahuk, Shamuk Phor etc. The FLORA includes Mahogany and Eucalyptus mostly. He also told us that, the ecosystem here is natural and very harmonized. According to him, some species of birds are going extinct such as Dahuk, Kadakhocha etc because of local bird hunters. He mentioned that, the soil type of the area is "Bele" and "Doash". He told that land degradation only happens in the riverside areas. In this area, electricity is supplied by "Palli Bidyut". Moreover, he also told us that, the major climatic hazards in this region include Flood and Heat waves. Furthermore, he mentioned the rising temperature in this area as a sign of climate change. However, no deforestation occurred in this area because there are no forests in this area.

Image 9: KIIs of Jamalpur

- **Socio-economic characteristics**

According to the speaker, Climate change is hampering people's livelihood by damaging their crops. The speaker said that, amongst the male members of this community have the profession of fishing, Farming, Driving and small business. 50% of females are involved in handicrafts. The poverty level of this region is more than 80% according to her. There are only 1 ethnic minority group of 20% Hindu according to her.

- **Stakeholder Capacities**

The speaker thinks that the number of NGO's, CSO's and CBO is not enough for this region.

5. CONCLUSION

As CBOs and NGOs will implement SGP in Bangladesh, one of the crucial considerations in addressing the country's threats due to climate change and deteriorating environmental conditions. 30% of the allocated/committed resources to the grantees (CBOs and NGOs) will be in-kind co-finance, which the grantees and local governments will cover. The SGP project activities will significantly contribute to a series of interventions, which are socially, environmentally, and economically proven in biodiversity conservation, abatement of climate change impacts, reduction of land degradation, sustainable forest management, livelihoods enhancement, and capacity development aspects.

These projects will benefit the vulnerable communities of the two finally selected landscapes. Up to $50000 will be provided by the SGP to different small programme that should be innovative and socially acceptable.

Participant List

Participant lists from five different landscapes mentioning below:

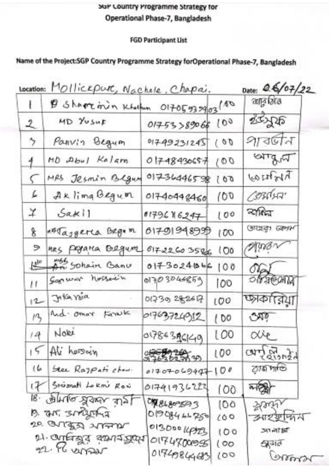

SGP Country Programme Strategy for
Operational Phase-7, Bangladesh
FGD Participant List
Name of the Project:SGP Country Programme Strategy forOperational Phase-7, Bangladesh
Location: Mollickpur, Nachole, Chapai. Date: 05/07/22

Figure 4: Participants list of Rajshahi


SGP Country Programme Strategy for
Operational Phase-7, Bangladesh
FGD Participant List
Name of the Project: SGP Country Programme Strategy for Operational Phase-7, Bangladesh

Figure 5: Participants list of Khagrachori

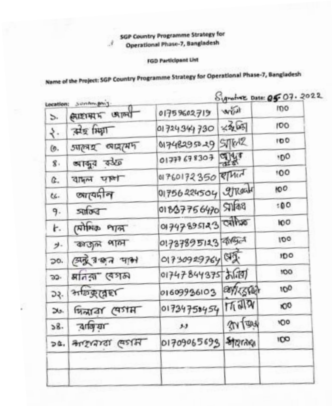

SGP Country Programme Strategy for
Operational Phase-7, Bangladesh
FGD Participant List
Name of the Project: SGP Country Programme Strategy for Operational Phase-7, Bangladesh

Figure 6: Participants list of Sunamganj

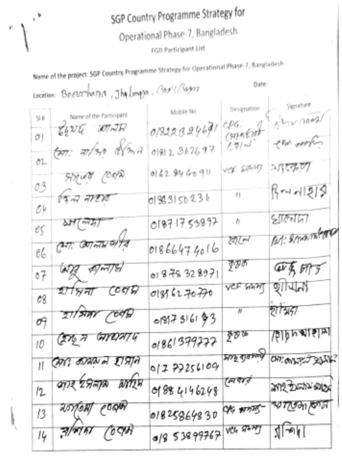

SGP Country Programme Strategy for
Operational Phase-7, Bangladesh
FGD Participant List

Figure 7: Participants list of Cox's Bazar

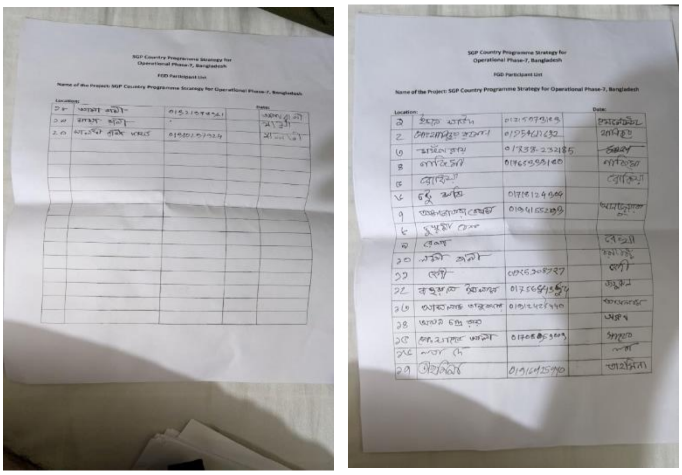


Figure 8: Participants list of Jamalpur

Scoring from FGDs

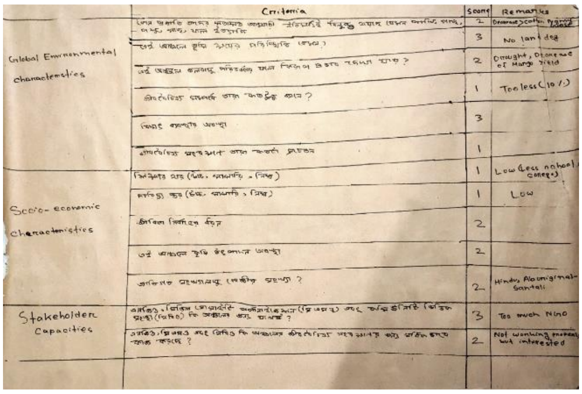


Figure 9: Scoring from Barind Tract

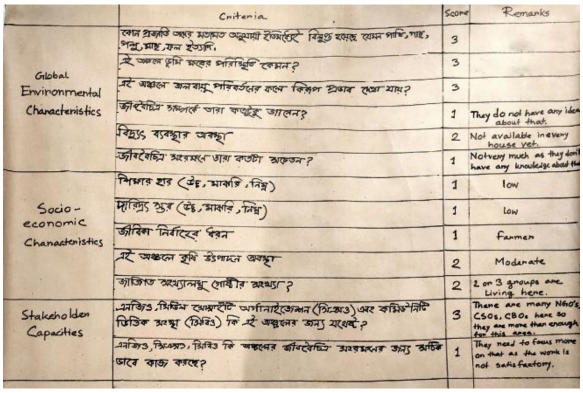


Figure 10: Scoring from CHT

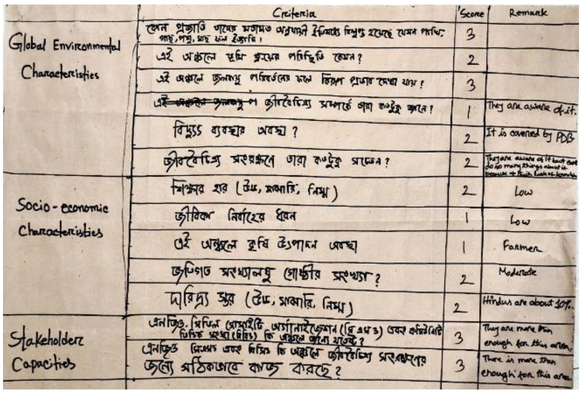


Figure 11: Scoring from Haor Region

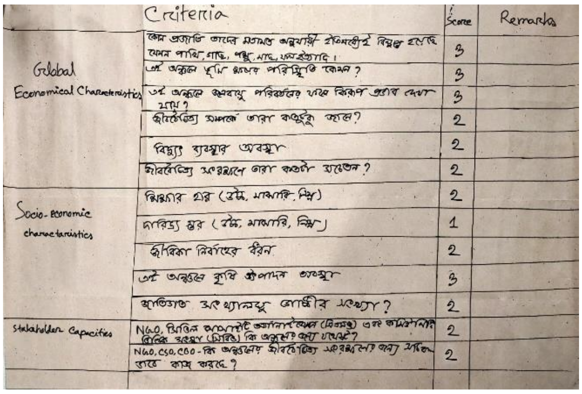


Figure 12: Scoring from Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula

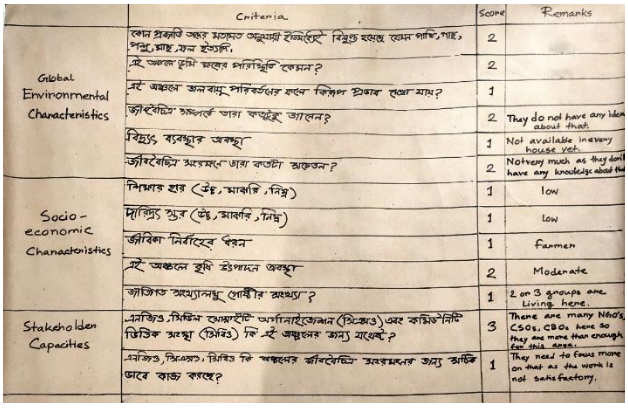


Figure 13: Scoring from Brahmaputra-Jamuna Floodplain

Annex 3: Report on Criteria for Selection of Target Landscapes/ Seascapes

Report on

Criteria for Selection of Target Landscapes/ Seascapes

Four significant characteristics were used in each of the five landscapes according to GEF SGP guidelines and one additional characteristic was added according to the country's condition to determine the most vulnerable landscape. At First, expert team ranked each of these landscapes by providing score value based on the characteristics. A higher score value denoted greater significance of landscape selection. The landscape selection was determined by calculating the score at two stages—first at the indicator level and finally at the overall level by summing the score of the five major characteristics. Equal weights were assigned to each major characteristics for selecting landscape. Based on the total score most important two landscapes were identified.[31]

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF TARGET LANDSCAPES/ SEASCAPES

Global Environmental Characteristics (20)	**Landscape 1 (Barind Tract)**	**Landscape 2 (Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT))**	**Landscape 3 (HAOR)**	**Landscape 4 (Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula)**	**Landscape 5 (Brahmaputra-Jamuna Floodplain)**
Presence of important ecosystems that are recognized globally and/or nationally	1.5	2.5	2	2.5	2
Presence of globally and/or nationally threatened species	1.5	2.5	4	4.5	2
Areas of increased threats to ecosystem integrity	2	2.5	3.5	3	2
Presence of degraded land areas that are prioritized globally and/or nationally	2.5	3	2	2.5	2
Areas with low access to grid electricity	2	2.5	2	2	2
Areas facing climate change vulnerability	2	3	3.5	3.5	2.5
Areas covered by International Waters Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) – Large Marine Ecosystems and Water Basins	1.5	2	2	2.5	1.5
Areas recognized as important/priority through international and national processes and institutions (example, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Key Biodiversity Areas, Land degradation (LD) hotspots, deforestation hotspots (SFM), aligned with NBSAP, NAPA, and other national strategies in relation to MEAs)	2	2	2	2.5	2
Socio-economic characteristics (20)					
Areas of the country with high poverty/low human development index	7	4	6.5	4.5	4.5

[31] Flanagan, B. E., Gregory, E. W., Hallisey, E. J., Heitgerd, J. L., & Lewis, B. (2011). A Social Vulnerability Index for Disaster Management. Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, 8(1). https://doi.org/10.2202/1547-7355.1792

Presence of strong traditional systems of governance (such as ICCAs)	3	4	4.5	3	5
Presence of important cultural heritage (including sacred sites, archaeological features, traditional knowledge, etc)	5	5.5	3.5	3.5	4.5
Presence of Indigenous peoples/ ethnic minority groups	5	6.5	5	5.5	5.5
Stakeholder Capacities (20)					
Availability of organizations (NGOs, CSOs and CBOs)	9	10	10.5	11	9.5
Availability of partner institutions (local governments, civil society groups, universities, others)	9	9	8.5	8.5	9
Additional considerations: long term potential for SGP role (20)					
Build on gains and networks of previous operational phases	0	0	0	0	0
Provides opportunities for deeper impact and broader adoption (scaling up, replication, policy influence)	5	6	6.5	6.5	5
Presence or potential to collaborate with other large-scale efforts for co-financing and joint initiatives (e.g., GEF and UNDP Projects, multilateral/bilateral donors, private sector, foundation)	6	6	7.5	7	5.5
Logistical considerations (example, geographic accessibility, security concerns, infrastructure)	6.5	3.5	4	5	4.5
Additional criteria (20)					
NSC opinion	8.5	9	12	9	8
Stakeholder Opinion	9	9.5	8	9	8.5
TOTAL	**88**	**93**	**97.5**	**95.5**	**85.5**

Annex 4: Report on Project Eligibility and selection criteria

Report on

Project Eligibility and selection criteria

1. BACKGROUND

The major goal of the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) is to promote and develop a Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Bangladesh that is focused on:

- Exhibiting community-level strategies and technologies that, if repeated across time and place, might lessen risks to the global environment.
- Learning from community-level experiences and assisting in the dissemination of effective community-level strategies and innovations among NGOs, CBOs, host governments, development assistance agencies, GEF, UNDP, funders, and others operating on a broader scale.
- Creating partnerships among local stakeholders to increase the ability of local communities, NGOs, and CBOs to address environmental and sustainable development challenges.

2. TYPE OF PROJECT

The CPS is expected to encourage SGP Bangla initiatives aiming at:

- Targeting biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and persistent organic pollution
- Strengthening capability.
- Making resource mobilization and sustainability easier.
- Promoting innovative initiatives, such as sustainable livelihoods.
- Improving community engagement and involvement.

3. THEMATIC AND/OR GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: (FOR DETAIL SEE WEBSITE COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY)

The landscapes will cover the following thematic areas. Grants to projects focusing on these topics will account for 70% of GEF/SGP financing. While 30% of total financing will be set aside for strategic relationship development, major demonstration projects, and highly creative initiatives, independent of thematic or geographic emphasis limitations.

- Biodiversity
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Climate Change (Adaptation and Mitigation)
- Land Degradation
- International Waters
- Chemicals and Waste

4. KINDS OF PROJECTS

The kinds of projects eligible for support from SGP Bangladesh include:

- **In the biodiversity focal area.**

In general, SGP interventions to address biodiversity problems in a biodiversity-rich country like Bangladesh should be designed to undertake activities aimed at mitigating biodiversity loss (whether on land or in fresh water) caused by:

i) Habitat destruction.
ii) Sources of point or diffuse pollution; and
iii) Over-exploitation of natural resources.

Based on SGP experiences in other countries, examples of activities that NGOs, CBOs, and local communities in Bangladesh could undertake in this category include conserving biodiversity in all its forms; promoting sustainable use of biodiversity; protecting watersheds and catchment areas in

biodiversity significant ecosystems and habitats; and promoting the creation of parks, reserves, and protected areas; preserving flora and fauna species; restoring biodiversity-significant habitats or ecosystems; promoting ecotourism; sustaining fisheries, farm animals, and livestock in a way that promotes biodiversity conservation; promoting agricultural biodiversity; promoting environmentally sound natural resource management, and so on.

- **In the Sustainable Forest Management focal area**

SGP address problems related to sustainable forest management by taking some activities like:

i) Afforestation, reforestation, and enrichment plantation
ii) Awareness related activities in the hilly forest region
iii) Sustainable forest management through community people participation
iv) Stop illegal resource collection from the forest

- **In the climate change focal area.**

SGP interventions to address climate change problems in Bangladesh should, in general, be designed to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change by undertaking activities aimed at:

i) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs);
ii) Removing barriers to energy efficiency and conservation; and
iii) Promoting alternative renewable energy sources.

Based on SGP experiences in other countries, examples of activities that NGOs, CBOs, and local communities in Bangladesh could undertake in this category include promoting energy conservation and efficiency; developing and deploying renewable energy sources; preventing or mitigating air pollution from GHGs; introducing alternative energy sources such as biogas, solar energy etc.

- **In Land Degradation focal area**

The major activities in the land degradation prevention sector will be focused on slash and burn rehabilitation and conservation (shifting cultivation or lands and restoration and protection of forest) With the adoption of slope land agricultural technology, slash and burn areas will be enhanced. One cluster (the hills of the Chattogram Hill Tract) would be prioritized for carrying out actions connected to land degradation prevention through indigenous residents who have traditional rights to the slash and burn fields.

5. STRATEGICALLY, IT IS ENVISIONED THAT THE CPS WOULD FACILITATE SGP Bangladesh PROJECTS GEARED TOWARDS:

1. Enhancing the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and local communities to contribute to global environmental benefits by addressing local environmental problems in the GEF priority areas of biodiversity and climate change, land degradation and so on.
2. Fostering collaboration among all stakeholders to promote ecologically sound, socially equitable, and long-term growth for all segments of society.
3. Integrating or scaling up SGP-supported innovative initiatives through institutionalizing the participation and involvement of NGOs, CBOs, and local communities, particularly in activities that integrate environmental protection with sustainable livelihoods within the context of sustainable development.

In this regard, it is envisioned that the CPS would facilitate SGP Bangladesh projects that are strategically oriented toward supporting innovative interventions by NGOs, CBOs, and local communities that:

1. Build the capacity and capability of NGOs, CBOs, and local communities to effectively plan, implement, and monitor interventions that promote sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development while protecting the quality of the environment and its natural resources; and
2. Initiate and institutionalize suitable strategies and processes to encourage self-sustaining NGO, CBO, and local community activities in the GEF's biodiversity and climate change priority areas.
3. Remove impediments to the implementation of long-term solutions and long-term accomplishments in alleviating burdens at the economic-environmental interface.
4. Promote resource mobilization to mobilize additional funds through the establishment of smart partnerships and strategic alliances among diverse stakeholders, including members from the donor community.
5. Encourage multi-stakeholder networking for improved delivery and impact, particularly those based on performance metrics, success stories, and lessons learned.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Broad parameters:

1. Direct relevance/benefits to GEF-SGP's Focal Areas
2. Contribution of the project towards SGP-OP7 Strategic Initiatives
3. Contribution of the project towards addressing key biodiversity/environmental threats/challenges
4. Contribution to sound biodiversity / environment management, and generation of livelihood/employment opportunities
5. Quality and clarity of the proposal
6. Equity and Gender
7. Implementation capacity, Exit Strategy and Policy dialogue
8. Co-financing

Parameters
A. Direct relevance/benefits to GEF-SGP's Focal Areas – 15 points.
1) Biodiversity 2) Sustainable Forest Management 3) Climate Change (Adaptation and Mitigation) 4) Land Degradation 5) International Waters 6) Chemicals and Waste
B. Contribution of the project towards SGP-OP7 Strategic Initiatives – 15 Points
Strategic Initiative 1: Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species Strategic Initiative 2: Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security Strategic Initiative 3 Community-Based CC adaptation/Mitigation Strategic Initiative 4. Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits (Renewable & Clean Energy) Strategic Initiative 5. Chemicals and Waste Management Strategic Initiative 6. Sustainable urban Solution (Urban biodiversity, urban greenery, plastic and waste mgt.)
C. Contribution of the project towards addressing key biodiversity/environmental threats/challenges of the country (other than ones reflected under A)– 15 Points

Parameters
1) Species loss 2) Habitat fragmentation and loss 3) Over harvesting of natural resources 4) Human wildlife conflict 5) Forest fires 6) Waste and pollution 7) Invasive species Others (specify)……
D. Contribution to sound biodiversity / environment management, and generation of livelihood/employment opportunities -15 Points
1) Awareness and education on biodiversity and environment. 2) Efficient and sustainable management of ECA/PA/Parks/Biological corridors and state forests. 3) Integrated watershed management 4) Sustainable management of community and private forests 5) Sustainable management of areas under agriculture 6) Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity 7) Sustainable harvesting/management of Non-Timber Forest Products and product development 8) Eco-tourism/Promotes rural livelihood and income generation opportunities. 9) Promotes youth employment opportunities Others (specify)……
E. Quality and clarity of the proposal – 10 points
1. Project rationale and problems are well identified and defined? 2. Project objectives are clear, and interventions /activities are well linked to addressing the identified problems? 3. Realistic/reasonable budget and is consistent with the activities.
F. Implementation capacity, Exit Strategy and Policy dialogue - 10 points
1. Project implementation capacity of the applicant 2. Demonstrates long-term sustainability of the project interventions 3. Promotes policy dialogues and/or influences policies
G. Equity and Gender - 10 points
a) Promotes gender equity/concerns b) Benefits poor/disadvantaged community/groups c) Innovative approaches/ideas
H. Co-financing – 10 points
Co-financing from other donors/partners/grantee including in-kind/cash contribution