



Coastal Zone Policy 2005 Approved

The Government of Bangladesh has approved the 'Coastal Zone Policy 2005' at a Cabinet meeting on 17 January. The goal of this policy is 'to create conditions through integrated management, in which the reduction of poverty, development of sustainable livelihoods and the integration of the coastal zone into national processes can take place'. To realize this goal, emphasis will be given, on priority basis, for optimum utilization of natural resources, livelihood enhancement and area-based development.

Coastal zone is different from rest of the country in a number of aspects. A participatory and integrated approach holds the promise of reducing conflicts in the utilization of coastal resources and optimum exploitation of opportunities. The Government, therefore, has formulated this policy that would provide a general guidance to all concerned for the management and development of the coastal zone in a manner so that the coastal people are able to pursue their life and livelihoods in a secured and conducive environment.

The Coastal Zone Policy is a harmonized policy that transcends beyond sectoral perspectives. The policy initiates a process that commits different Ministries, Departments and Agencies to agree to harmonize and coordinate their activities in the coastal zone and elaborates the basis for a firm co-ordination mechanism.

The Government declares, through this policy, its intention of integrated coastal zone management following the principles of the coastal zone policy. Following this policy, all concerned Ministries, Agencies, Local Government Institutions, NGOs, private sector and the civil society will put their efforts for the development of the coastal zone. It is important to take into account the conflict of interest in using the resources and the explored activities that are responsible for the adverse impact on the environment.

The policy sets the establishment of a permanent 'Program Co-ordination Unit (PCU)' to facilitate ICZM as a process.

Formulation Process:

The Coastal Zone Policy 2005 was formulated through an extensive process of multi-level consultation over a period of more than two years. An outline of the policy was prepared and presented in October 2002. A preliminary draft was presented at a national seminar in May 2003. The first draft of the Coastal Zone Policy was presented and discussed at all 19 coastal districts during Sept.-October 2003. The draft, along the process, was posted on website for public viewing and comments. The draft was reviewed at the Task Force on Policy and Strategy; and discussed and endorsed at the inter-Ministerial Technical Committee and the inter-Ministerial Steering Committee during 2004.

Investment program is under preparation

Priority investment program for integrated coastal zone management is being formulated. Under this program, concept notes for doable projects will be prepared. These are prepared under a multi-agency framework. Agencies which have so far participated in this process are BWDB, LGED, DPHE, DoF, Forest

Department, DAE, BPC, BRDB, Local Government Division, DWA, Ministry of Land, DLS, DMB, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, SPAARSO, SRDI, GSB, SoB, DoSS, Bangladesh Navy and NGOs. WARPO is responsible for overall liaison and coordination.

District Information Booklets

Information booklets (in Bangla) separately on nineteen coastal districts, such as, Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Chandpur, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Gopalganj, Jessore, Jhalkati, Khulina, Lakshimpur, Narail, Noakhali, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Satkhira and Shariatpur, prepared by the ICZMP project is almost ready for publication. Entitled as "District Information", this booklet contains summary description on history, natural environment, people, economic activities, problems and prospects of each district. This has been prepared to raise public awareness at the local level, to facilitate free flow of information and to enable local stakeholders to participate in planning.

PDO officials visited Southeast

A team from PDO-ICZMP toured some areas in the southeast during 6-9 January. On 6 January evening, Team Leader of the ECFC project briefed the progress of the project. On 7 January, the team visited St. Martin's Island and held discussion with local people. On 8 January, Mr. Jahirul Islam Jewel of the Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project, an initiative of the Department of Environment, met the PDO team and gave a briefing on the project and the problems of the island.

2nd Revised TAPP approved

The Finance & Planning Minister has approved the second revised TAPP of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) project on 26 January 2005. Total estimated cost of the project is 209 million Taka. This project, led by WARPO under the Ministry of Water Resources, was initiated in February 2002. The project closes in December 2005.

Renewable energy potential in St. Martin's Island

A lecture session on renewable energy potential in St. Martin's Island was held at the PDO meeting room on 7 February 2005. Mr. Tazmilur Rahman, Manager of the Sustainable Rural Power Project of LGED was the main speaker. He presented a description on the possible quantum of renewable energy sources like solar, wind and organic (from coconut), problems and prospects. In view of the demand for and supply of energy in St. Martin's Island and its isolation from the national power grid, participants discussed about the feasibility of taking up special program for the island.



