



Water Resources Minister Visited PDO



Mr. Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, and Dr. Md. Omar Faruque, Minister and Secretary-in-charge respectively of the Ministry of Water Resources visited the Program Development Office (PDO) of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) project on 4 August and held a discussion with project officials. Project Director Mr. HSM Faruque apprised them of different aspects of the project and activities of PDO. The Minister emphasized the need for formulating a feasible program for effective continuation of the project.

Land Use Zoning

The coastal zone of Bangladesh is unique in terms of its landscape, biodiversity and natural environment. Its diversified land use has accelerated the pace of economic activities on the one hand and also contributed to various social tensions and conflicts on the other. All are aware of the need for an integrated land use framework. In this backdrop, PDO-ICZMP has initiated a preliminary study on coastal land zoning.

With this objective, a technical discussion was held in Dhaka on 2 August. Participants from the Ministry of Land, WARPO, Department of Fisheries, Department of Environment, Forest Department, Bangladesh Shrimp Foundation, BSCIC Salt Project, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Local Government Engineering Department, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka University, Soil Resource Development Institute, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, IWM, CEGIS, CDSP and PDO-ICZMP attended. Ten papers were presented.

Later an open discussion was held. Participants agreed to go for a study on coastal land zoning and formed a ten-member technical support group. The group held its first meeting on 18 August at the PDO meeting room.



TC meeting held

Seventh meeting of the inter-ministerial technical committee on integrated coastal zone management plan (ICZMP) project was held on 10 July at the conference room of the Ministry of Water Resources. Secretary of the Ministry Mr. Ayub Kadri chaired the meeting. The meeting endorsed the draft coastal zone policy and decided to send it to the steering committee for approval. The meeting also approved the two-year work plan 2004-05 and the revised work plan for 2004 of ICZMP project.

Task force meeting held

The ICZMP task force on policy and strategy held its third meeting on 27 June at the conference room of the Ministry of Water Resources. The chief of the task force and Secretary of the ministry Mr. Ayub Kadri chaired the meeting.

The reconstituted task force on livelihoods held its first meeting on 28 June at the conference room of the Ministry of Water Resources. The chief of the task force and Joint Secretary of the ministry Mr. Md. Habib Ullah Majumder chaired the meeting. The meeting emphasized timely initiation and completion of the stakeholder consultation. Members of the task force have been requested to attend at least one consultation as per their convenience.

The reconstituted task force on knowledge base held its first meeting on 1 July at the conference room of the Ministry of Water Resources. The chief of the task force and Joint Secretary of the ministry Mr. Md. Habib Ullah Majumder chaired the meeting. The meeting decided to discuss a report on filling knowledge gap in its next meeting.

Concept note on fisheries development

The first meeting for preparation of a concept note on marine fisheries resources development was held at the PDO office on 24 June. Participants from the Department of Fisheries, Marine Mercantile Department, ECFC project, WARPO and PDO attended. A seven-member working committee was formed in the meeting. The working group held a meeting in Chittagong on 28 July to start writing the concept note.

Workshop in the Water Development Board



A workshop on partnership development in ICZM process, jointly organized by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), and the PDO-ICZMP, was held at the BWDB on 21 July. Mr. Mukhlesuzzaman, Director General of BWDB moderated the workshop. Mr. HSM Faruque, Project Director of ICZMP project and Director general of WARPO, gave a presentation on various aspects of the project, while Mr. Md.



Saeedur Rahman, Project Director of the Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project (CERP) described BWDB initiatives in the coastal zone. Besides officials of BWDB, WARPO and PDO, representatives from Local Government Engineering Department, Department of Agriculture Extension, Coast Guard, Forest Department and the Ministry of Water Resources participated in the workshop.

PDO officials visited coastal areas

A team from PDO-ICZMP toured the southeast areas of the coastal zone on 10-14 August. On the first day, they visited riverbank erosion area and part of the town protection embankment in Chandpur and held a discussion with the BWDB Executive Engineer Mr. Serajul Islam. On 11 August, they visited part of CDSP area and held a discussion with the settlers in Boyar Char, and then visited Char Majid. In the evening they had a discussion with Prof. Nuruddin Mahmud, ICZMP focal point in the Department of Marine Science, Chittagong University.



They discussed about the possibility of organizing a workshop on the catch and conservation of marine resources for people's welfare. On 12 August, they met Dr. Shafaat Hossain Khan, Chief Engineer and ICZMP focal point in Chittagong Port Authority and were briefed about activities, problems and prospects of the port. The team reached Cox's Bazar on the same day and held a discussion with Dr. Dilip Kumer, Team Leader of ECFC project. On 13 August, the team visited Teknaf and exchanged ideas with Mr. Nurul Alam Talukder, Chief Engineer of BWDB, Chittagong zone. They had an unscheduled meeting with Mr. Zafar Ahmad, National Project Director of ECFC, in the same evening.

Guest column CDSP activities in Boyar Char

CDSP-2 started preparatory work in Boyar Char in 2002. The main program will commence in 2005 and will be completed by 2009. CDSP has finished plot-to-plot survey for land settlement, which is the most important component for the people of Boyar Char.

At the outset, CDSP exchanged ideas with the people on project objectives and activities through information dissemination meetings. To ensure people's participation in project implementation, eight sub-polder committees have been formed. One cyclone shelter was built and one more is under construction. Eight km of earthen road was constructed and six test tube wells have been installed.

Based on people's demand and participation of the sub-polder committees, a plan has been made that includes construction of 22.5 km embankment, 7.5 km guide bund, six sluice gates, 38 km drainage channel, 2 cross-dams, 15 km paved and 51 km earthen road, 20 cyclone shelters, 27 bridge/culverts, 1 bus stand, 5 community ponds, 10 cluster villages, 600 deep tube wells and 11,000 sanitary latrines. The plan also includes

massive social forestry with the help of the Forest Department.

Problems

There are some problems, which should be solved. These are:

a. district boundary

Boyar Char belongs to Lakhipur and Noakhali districts. The district boundary should be fixed. Otherwise it would hamper land settlement.

b. rehabilitation of 3,000 families

The embankments are planned with sufficient setback distance in view of possible bank erosion in future. This would leave 3,000 families outside the proposed embankment who would be vulnerable to tidal surge. A study will start soon for their rehabilitation.

c. shrimp project

Although Boyar Char is outside shrimp zone, some neighboring chars have been earmarked for shrimp culture. This may affect the land use in future resulting in various socio-economic problems and negative impact on the environment.

- Zainal Abedin, Maksudur Rahman
CDSP-2, Noakhali



Environmental Pollution

Ecological balance of the coastal region is being threatened due to environmental pollution affecting the southern part of the country along the Bay of Bengal. About 35 million people are going to be affected by coastal pollution. The sea is full of resources that keep the natural balance of the ecosystems and support the livelihoods of the coastal people. Due to environmental pollution, the coast has already lost some of its aquatic species including fishes and mangrove forest.

Sources of pollution

The coastal region gets polluted as the pollutants originating from land based activities are carried through different rivers and canals to the sea. Water channels are used for dumping industrial wastes that ultimately end up in the sea.

The next concern is the municipal waste. Though urban areas have higher density of population, there is no facility for waste treatment and sanitation. The situation is already alarming in Chittagong and Khulna. As a result, water pollution is increasing.

The sea is heavily polluted with oil. About three thousand ships including oil tankers come to our ports every year. There are several thousand mechanized trawlers and boats that spill oil. Besides, ship-breaking industry is located in Chittagong. Sea is also polluted by oil spill because of accidents in ships. Incidents like dumping of wastes into the sea by foreign vessels are also reported.

A number of industries namely fertilizers, cement, pulp and paper, leather, food processing, pharmaceuticals, metal, textile, chemical, petroleum and lubricant plants, etc, discharge heavy metals into the coastal water. Besides, arsenic contamination in water is also a great concern.

The rapid and unplanned increase in shrimp culture is also becoming a concern. The use of antibiotics and other chemicals used in shrimp fields is causing pollution in the water, which may harm other aquatic lives.

Plastic bottles and other plastic products are most common forms of litter in the coastal water, mostly coming from the tourist zone and from the ships. These will affect the coastal lives for unknown period of time.

Solid and municipal waste of the coastal cities is a major concern. Chittagong City

Corporation area alone produces 1200 tons of solid waste annually. Most of these are dumped in two places. Halisahar is one such dumping ground, which is very close to the sea and is connected by a canal.

Industrial effluents in the coastal water in the Chittagong region are very high as most of them do not have any treatment plant that is required under the environment law. As a result, all the polluted discharges come directly to the sea through different canals and rivers. There are about 370 industrial plants marked as the "top polluter".

Shrimp culture in Cox's Bazar uses 620 tons of urea annually. It also generates 15 tons of waste daily, which comes to the water.

Waste disposal and sanitation system in Barisal city is also inadequate. About 70 tons of municipal waste is produced daily and 20-30 per cent of it directly comes to canals, rivers and other low-lying areas.

Preventive measures

Department of Environment takes action against environmental degradation and pollution. There are pollution control regulations for brickfields, treatment plants for hazardous industries, restoration of hills and also for conservation of ecologically critical areas. To check environmental degradation, the government has already signed a number of international treaties and conventions. As a result, mass awareness is increasing.

Some NGOs working in Khulna, Cox's Bazar and Barisal are involved in the treatment of the municipal waste, clinical waste and cleaning of the beach area. A project of the Ministry of Environment and Forest is engaged in keeping the St. Martin's Island beach clean from tourism related pollution. Ministry of Labor with assistance from the UNDP has taken an initiative to reduce pollution resulting from ship breaking. Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation is practicing Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) to reduce the pollution level in their fish processing centers.

The proper implementation of the Environment Policy and implementation Plan 1992 and compliance with international treaties and conventions is needed.



Discussion on arsenic

PDO-ICZMP organized a lecture session on "Pond Preservation for Arsenic Mitigation in the Coast" on 6 July 2004. Ms. Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive of BROTEE, was the speaker. She described the research initiative, research methodology, state of arsenicosis, relationship between arsenicosis and poverty and pond preservation as a community managed mitigation measure. Representatives from Disaster Management Bureau, DPHE, Engineering University, CEGIS, WARPO and ICZMP project participated.

Bhairab water is poisonous

Water of the Bhairab at Nowapara-Fultala point in Abhoinagar upazila has been contaminated causing death of fish. People along the riverbank have stopped using river water. They complained that chemical waste from 20 industrial plants on the riverbank along with wastewater used for post-harvest jute processing has been drained into the river.

-Prothom Alo, 14 August 2004

Ship-breaking pollutes

Poisonous gas is leaked out while breaking platform of large oil tankers. Birds and trees are dying. People of adjoining areas are suffering from health hazards. Workers work under primitive and hazardous conditions without cleaning the poisonous and dangerous wastes beforehand.

-Prothom Alo, 6 October 2003

Coral island losing beauty

Saint Martin, the only coral island of the country, is an attractive location for local and foreign tourists. Number of tourists has increased significantly in last one year. The island is losing its beauty due to lack of government initiative and plan, lack of awareness of the tourists and many other local problems. Natural environment is degrading.

-Zugantar, 13 December 2003

No spawning in Halda

Some indigenous fish species like Ruhi, Katal and Mrigel are yet to release spawns this year at the Halda River, the main source of naturally bred fries in the country. This is unprecedented in recent history. The non-spawning might aggravate the gradual extinction of these species. Experts mention that indiscriminate netting of egg carrying fishes and pollution of the river are the major causes of non-spawning. Experts demand that Halda River should be made a fish sanctuary and setting up of industries on the banks of the river without treatment plants should be prohibited.

-Daily Star, 4 July 2004



UPL publication on the coastal zone

UPL has published a book in July 2004 that contains detail information and data of the coastal zone on natural environment, socio-economic condition of the people and other relevant subjects. Title of the book is 'Where Land Meets the Sea - A Profile of the Coastal Zone of Bangladesh'. A team of PDO and WARPO experts prepared the manuscript in last two years using numerous references and through consultations. The draft was finalized based on the comments received from members of the inter-ministerial technical committee of ICZMP project. The book will help readers to have adequate understanding of the coastal zone and has already stimulated interest among the policymakers



Series publication

The second book of the PDO series on 'Living in the Coast' entitled 'Problems, Opportunities & Challenges' has been published in June 2004. The book has highlighted various issues, potentials and what is to be done.



READERS' CORNER



Received Tatarekha

I have gone through your bulletin (Tatarekha) in one go. I have been fascinated by its timely contents. Please send copy regularly. Kindly send a copy of 'Living in the Coast-People and Livelihoods'.

Md. Nurul Islam
Executive Director
VDS, Patharghata

I like to send photo

I, being a photojournalist, had an opportunity to visit many areas and to see many things. I thank you

for giving attention to the coastal people. I like to send photographs on the coast.

Md. Arifur Rahman
High School Road
Barguna

Send Living in the Coast regularly

The series on Living in the Coast has been providing us information on various development issues including health, education, safe water supply and sanitation that would bring change in the life of the poor coastal people. I thank

you for sending Tatarekha regularly.

Gazi Motiar Rahman
Executive director
Khalifa Foundation
Amtali, Barguna

Right to information

Thanks for the well-edited, well-printed and informative bulletin no.10. I hope that its publication will continue with quality. Many projects have so far been implemented and many more will be. I have never seen any initiative like your bulletin that really

promotes right to information. I hope that this initiative will bring qualitative change in the lives of the coastal people.

AHM Bazlur Rahman
Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio & Communication

Your valuable opinions have inspired us and enriched the newsletter. We hope that such cooperation will continue..
-Editor

Our recent publications

Living in the Coast: Problems, Issues and Challenges	June 2004
Where Land Meets the Sea: A Profile of the Coastal zone of Bangladesh	July 2004
WP030 Areas with special status in the coastal zone	July 2004

Besides, other PDO publications are available in our website: www.iczmpbangladesh.org

Information on PDO-ICZMP

Program Development Office-ICZMP is a multi-sectoral and multi-ministerial initiative financed by the governments of Bangladesh, the Netherlands and the UK. An inter-ministerial steering committee and a technical committee guide it. Ministry of Water Resources is its lead ministry and Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) is the lead agency. The project's goal is to create conditions in which the reduction of poverty, development of sustainable

livelihoods and the integration of the coastal zone into national processes can take place. Its intended outputs are:

- * Coastal development strategy
- * Coastal zone policy
- * Priority investment program
- * Enhancing livelihood capacity
- * Enabling institutional environment
- * Integrated knowledge base

Contributions are requested from readers, individuals and organizations for the next bulletin.

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