

Coastal Development Strategy in Preparation

In the past two and a half years, we have attempted an insight on coastal livelihoods, strengths and weaknesses of institutions and to develop an integrated knowledge base. We have done many of these in consultation with you.

Last year, while formulating the Coastal Zone Policy, we had consultations with you in all 19 coastal districts. Based on your opinions and comments, the draft Policy has been further refined, which now awaits approval by the government.

This year we shall initiate formulation of a Coastal Development Strategy (CDS) based on the Policy. In this context, let us look beyond. At present the coastal population is 35 million, which would increase to 42 million in 2015 and 58 million in 2050. Coast will transform from a rural to urban setting. The present urban population will grow from 8 (23%) to 26 million (44%). Population of working age is now 19 million. This will become 22 million in 2015 and 31 million in 2050. This means that three million new jobs has to be created by 2015. This would obviously have tremendous pressure on fragile ecosystems and the resource base of the coastal zone.

In the CDS, attempts will be made to address ways and means to conserve the natural resource base and the environment and to reduce poverty; to generate more employment in the non-farm sectors; to make use of the potentials, such as, marine resources, solar and wind energy, gas, minerals, port-centric industries, tourism, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock, salt production and water transportation; utilization of human resources in chars and islands; and to take advantage of other opportunities in the coast.

Our target is to formulate a CDS by June 2005. Soon this will be initiated through a national dialogue. A preliminary draft of the CDS is expected to be ready for regional level consultation in September 2004. Some key decisions are required at the national level with respect to finding a mechanism for implementation of the CDS, setting up a Program Coordination Office and a Coastal Development Fund. The draft CDS will be refined through district level consultation in March 2005.

At the same time efforts will continue to develop a Priority Investment Program (PIP). Proposed projects will be formulated jointly by more than one agency and will, obviously, be multi-sectoral. Presently two such investment proposals are in preparation. Adequate public and private investments are needed for the development of the coastal zone. One of our key activities is to prepare concept notes for investable projects. Investments in the coastal zone are supposed to play a major role in the implementation of the national strategy for poverty reduction.



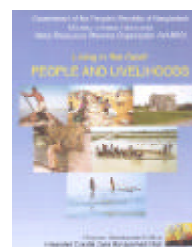
Task Force Meeting on Policy and Strategy Held

The first and second meetings of the Task Force on Policy and Strategy of the ICZMP project were held on 21 January and 7 March respectively in the meeting room of the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). Joint Secretaries/Chiefs from the Planning Commission, Min-

istries of Water Resources, Land, Environment & Forest, Disaster Management & Relief; Director Generals of BWDB, WARPO; President of CARDMA and representatives of the project attended. Mr. Ayub Quadri, Secretary of the MoWR and the chief of the task force chaired the meeting.

PDO's series publication

PDO-ICZMP recently initiated a series publication on Living in the Coast. The first one entitled "People and the Livelihoods" has been published in March 2004. The second in the series, "Problems, Opportunities and Challenges", is now under preparation.



Administrative Arrangement (AA) signed

The Administrative Arrangement for "Support to Program Development Office for Integrated Coastal Zone Management" was signed between the Governments of Bangladesh and the Netherlands on 22nd April at the ERD. Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Joint Secretary of ERD, and Mr. Jaap van der Zeeuw, Charge d' Affaires a. i. of the Netherlands to Bangladesh signed the agreement for respective Governments.

National Coastal Awareness Day (12 November proposed)

A request has been made by different quarters to observe a 'Coastal Awareness Day' on 12 November, in remembrance of the catastrophic cyclone of 1970. The objective is to raise public awareness on coastal problems, vulnerabilities, resources and opportunities. A formal proposal in this respect will be submitted soon for government approval.

Investment proposal for integrated water management

A discussion for preparing a concept note on "Integrated coastal zone water management infrastructure (polder)" was held at PDO-ICZMP on 27 May 2004. Representatives of BWDB, LGED, Forest Department and DPHE participated. PDO-ICZMP facilitates inter-agency dialogue in making proposals.



Women in the Coast: Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming



An information-sharing workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in the Coastal Zone of Bangladesh jointly organized by the Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) and the PDO-ICZMP was held at the DWA training room on 21 April 2004. Ms. Mobaswara Begum, Director of DWA, and Mr. S. M. Shawkat Ali, Additional Director of DWA chaired the workshop successfully.

The working session was comprised of three presentations on (1) an overview of the ICZMP project and activities, (2) the gender status in the coastal zone of Bangladesh and (3) DWA activities. Among the participants were representatives of DWA, WARPO, PDO-ICZMP, LGED and NGOs (BRAC, Caritas, Nijera Kori,



CARE Bangladesh, SAP Bangladesh). Participants emphasized the need for gender-segregated data. They also recommended for formulation of special programs and allocation of resources for overall development and empowerment of women in coastal chars and islands and in areas vulnerable to flood and erosion. Aspects of health, water and sanitation, welfare and participation of women of minority ethnic communities, way out to combat violence against women, enabling institutional environment, etc., were specially highlighted in the discussion. Greater interaction and cooperation between the DWA and the PDO-ICZMP has been solicited for developing investable projects for reducing gender gap in the coastal zone.

Biodiversity study

PDO-ICZMP organized a lecture session on biodiversity and sustainability in the coastal zone on 26 April 2004. Dr. Nick Willoughby, Coastal Biodiversity Specialist of the Fourth Fisheries Project, made a presentation highlighting main features of the coastal zone of different countries, biodiversity, means of measuring biodiversity, shrimp culture, effect of natural shrimp fry collection on biodiversity, mainstreaming of biodiversity issues, etc. Representatives of Fourth Fisheries Project, BMD, DoF, CWBMP, WARPO, PDO-ICZMP, CNRS, Caritas, IUCNB and University of Asia Pacific participated.



Registering fishers' organization

Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities (ECFC) Project organized a workshop in Cox's Bazar on 21 March 2004 to identify an appropriate institution for registration. District level officers of the Department of Women Affairs, Cooperative Department

and Department of Social Services elaborated relative advantages and limitations of registering with respective agencies. The objective of the workshop was to help grassroots fisher groups to make independent choice on a relatively favorable institution for registration. PDO-ICZMP facilitated the discussion.



GoB Departmental experts join

Four experts nominated by different ministries have joined the PDO-ICZMP. They are: Mr. Akhter Hussain Bhuiya, Institutional Expert (Ministry of Establishment); Mr. Md. Shahjahan Mian, Environmental and Resources Economist (Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock), Mr. Muinur Rashid, Coastal/Marine Engineer (Ministry of Water Resources) and Ms. Begum Rehana Akter, Bio-diversity Conservation and Environmental Expert (Ministry of Environment & Forest. Another expert from the Ministry of Agriculture is expected to join soon.

Planning at Union Parishad Level

An experimental program on local level planning is being implemented in four coastal unions under the Char Develop-

ment and Settlement Project. Char Darbesh union in Feni district is one of them. A team from PDO-ICZMP visited Char Darbesh on 1 April 2004 to learn from their experience. They exchanged views with the Chairman and Members of the Union Parishad. It may be mentioned that several infrastructure development schemes under a special fund are implemented under this program. All planning have been done with the direct participation of the Union Parishad and the plan is implemented through different local level government agencies.

Workshop on coastal vulnerability

CEGIS organized a workshop in Dhaka on 9 March 2004 to share the finding of a research on vulnerability of the livelihood groups in the coastal zone of Bangladesh. The FAO and The Netherlands Partnership Program sponsored the research with facilitating support from PDO-ICZMP.



River erosion - a major problem in the coast

Problem: River erosion is a major natural hazard in the coast. Each year around 3,000 hectares of land are devoured in the Meghna estuary. In last 20 years about ten million people suffered from river erosion and their number is increasing day by day. Valuable assets, infrastructures, commercial centers, industries, educational institutes and cropland are lost. This hampers development activities of the area and rehabilitation of the victims is a major concern.

The size and configuration of the islands are changing. Despite new accretions in many areas, damages caused by erosion are difficult to overcome socially and economically.

Extent of the problem: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalkati, Pirojpur, Noakhali, Chandpur, Shariatpur, Lakshmipur and Feni are erosion prone districts. Studies show that in the next 30 years, eastern and western banks of the Meghna River, Haimchar, northern Bhola and northern Hatiya will continue to erode.

Remedial measures: Bangladesh Water Development Board is trying to check river erosion by several engineering measures.



These measures help in getting temporary solution. Among these are:

- Hard point / revetment
- Groyne
- Spur
- Porcupine (bamboo cage)
- Dumping of block (made of hard rock or cement)

Forecasting and warning related to river erosion are some measures

to reduce the impact, where the people of the vulnerable areas get information so that they can shift to a safer place and save their valuables. Different government and non-government organizations also help them. In some areas, people plant vetiver and other trees as a protective measure.

One major initiative of the government to rehabilitate the victims of erosion in the coastal zone is the implementation of 'Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP)'. The project has distributed khas land among 5,000 landless families till September 2003, and has a target of covering a total of 13,000 families during the project period.



Efforts of PDO-ICZMP: In the draft coastal zone policy, the issue of river erosion and the rehabilitation of the erosion victims have been adequately mentioned. In the coastal development strategy it will be discussed more elaborately and appropriate strategies will be devised to address this issue. Already several projects have tentatively been identified and suggested for incorporation in the government's strategy for 'Economic Growth, Social Development and Poverty Reduction'.



Endangered Neighborhoods

Irrigation project threatened

The erosion in Meghna threatens Chandpur Irrigation Project, the largest in the country. A pilot project worth 20 million taka has been taken to stop erosion. (Jugantar, 23 March 2004)

Padma threatens Jajira

A vast area of Jajira upazila of Shariatpur district is facing severe erosion by the Padma River. Many houses and agricultural land have already vanished. The victims are taking shelter in other places. (Jugantar, 19 January 2004)

Bishkhali trims down Bamna

The Bishkhali River is slashing Bamna of Barguna district. The area of the upazila has been reduced from 39 to 29 sq miles due to erosion. (Jugantar, 7 January 2004)

Baleswar pounds Rayenda Bazaar

The existence of Rayenda bazaar of Sharankhola upazila in Bagerhat District is under risk due to continuous erosion by the Baleswar River. Over 500 families became homeless and are now living in embankments and in others' land. (Jugantar, 20 November 2003)

Debpur closure vanished

Debpur closure along with 300 feet of embankment at Dhankhali union of Kalapara has vanished in the Ramnabad River. Croplands are flooded by tidal water and three bridges collapsed. (Jugantar, 18 November 2003)

Amua port is at risk

Amua river port protection dyke in Katakalia Upazila of Jhalkati district is eroding after six months of its construction. A large area of the dyke and 14 commercial centers have been devoured in the riverbed. (Jugantar, 18 November 2003)

Erosion by the Rahmatkhali

A vast area of Lakshipur is about to disappear due to erosion by the Rahmatkhali River. Human settlements with market place, school, mosque and bridge may be devoured at any moment. (Jugantar, 12 November 2003)

Rally in Bhola

Several thousand people of Kachia and West Ilisha unions of Bhola have brought out a rally demanding blocks to be put along the banks of the Meghna River before the onset of monsoon. They have formed a River Erosion Protection Com-



Readers' Corner

Request for the newsletter

4 May 2004

Greetings from SANKALPA Trust and thanks for sending a copy of the book "Living in the Coast - People and Livelihoods." This will immensely help us to understand coastal livelihoods. We like to receive your newsletter (Tatarekha) on a regular basis.

Executive Director
SANKALPA Trust,
Patharghata, Barguna



Feature on various issues

22 May 2004

Greetings. We benefit from information provided by your newsletter. On behalf of the coastal people, I request you to publish features on migration, mobility, income generating activities, primary health care, water and sanitation, nature conservation and coastal vulnerabilities.

S.M.A. Majed
Chairman, Soladana UP
Paikgachha, Khulna

Bigger size newsletter needed

23 May 2004

The size of the newsletter is too small to meet the need of the readers. Its size should be double. In addition to project news, it should cover features on various aspects of the coastal people. It should reach more people.

Hemayet Uddin Himu
District Representative
Massline Media Center
Jhalkati

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 liveli-

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

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

New items in the web

Reports including Living in the Coast and 'updated inventory of projects and initiatives' have been added. Your opinion on the website is welcome. Our web address: www.iczmpbangladesh.org

Our recent publications

WP025	Inventory of Projects & Initiatives in the Coastal Zone (update 2003)	December 2003
WP026	Proceedings of District Level Consultations on CZPo	December 2003
WP027	Women of the Coast - A Gender Status Paper on the Coastal Zone	January 2004
WP028	Role of the Private sector: An assessment of the status in the coastal zone of Bangladesh	February 2004
WP029	Compendium on Selected Laws Relating to and/or having Bearing on Coastal Areas	March 2004
	Living In the Coast : People and Livelihoods	March 2004


**CZAP
2004**

Coastal Zone Asia-Pacific Conference 2004 will be held at Brisbane, Australia during 4-9 September, 2004. For registration details and contact: www.coastal.crc.org.au/czap04

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

For further information, please contact

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Salt Production

Salt production is one of the economic activities in the coast. There are 41000 listed salt farmers. In 2003-2004, 0.9 million tons of salt was produced. Salt industry contributes Taka 8.5 billion yearly to the national GDP.

