



Building climate resilient livelihoods in vulnerable landscapes in Bangladesh (BCRL)

Basic Information

GEF ID

10207

Countries

Bangladesh

Project Title

Building climate resilient livelihoods in vulnerable landscapes in Bangladesh (BCRL)

GEF Agency(ies)

FAO

Agency ID

FAO: 643688

GEF Focal Area(s)

Climate Change

Program Manager

Fareeha Iqbal

PIF

Part I – Project Informatic

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:
Cleared.

YS, 4/19/2019:

Modification requested. CCA-1 in Table A is aligned with 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF. However, the proposal seems to cover CCA-2 (mainstream CCA and resilience for systemic impact) aspects as well.

Recommended action: Please consider including CCA-2 in the Table A.

Agency Response The PIF has been revised to include CCA Strategic Objective 2, please see Table A.

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/30/2019:

Cleared.

FI, 4/26/2019:

Thank you for the explanations. However, please note that the attached Word version of the PIF is a blank document. Please resubmit.

FI, 4/19/2019:

The agency has provided excellent level of detail in Table B. However, further information is requested on the items below:

Component 1:

- a) please explain what will go into the review report;
- b) Bangladesh has relatively high capacity and awareness on climate change issues at government departmental level, and adaptation is an area that receives active attention. Please ensure that the LDCF-supported measures to build institutional capacity and foster coordination are demonstrably above and beyond the BAU situation, or efforts that will occur regardless of LDCF support;

Component 2:

- c) please provide additional information on operationalization of the EWS as mentioned in 2.1.2, and which aspect of this activity will be LDCF-supported;
- d) please provide further information on the innovation incubators (2.2.2) and the kind(s) of innovation these are expected to foster.
- e) 2.1.3 discussed development of long term value chain plans; will any of these be implemented by the project?

Component 3:

- f) have any superstore chains expressed preliminary interest? What level of confidence is there is being able to establish links of project-supported producers with the superstore chains?

Agency Response

Thank you for the feedback and we have revised Section 1a. Part 2 in the PIF accordingly - please refer to the attached word version of the PIF where all revisions are highlighted in yellow. Our response to the requested information are as follow:

Component 1:

- a) The review report will contain updated vulnerability and adaptation related information and address the existing investment gaps in four landscapes to support the national country investment plan for the environment, forest, and climate change (EFCC) sectors. (Please see the output 1.2.1. and the indicator under outcome 1.2)

b) This will be ensured by the capacity building program of the Govt. entities. The capacity building program will be detailed in PPG period and as based upon planned technical and capacity needs assessment, and in close consultation with Govt. entities and related partner (ongoing and planned) CCA programming.

Component 2:

c) A combined early warning system will be developed and operationalized in collaboration with Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), and Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of BWDB. Please *refer to 2.1.2* component output description in the revised PIF, *page 18*.

d) The major objective of the innovation incubator is mentioned under *outcome 2.2, page 18*. More detailed analysis is planned and is anticipated to utilize the PPG phase for supported agri-business and investment models, technical expertise and stakeholder consultations to further identify and pinpoint innovation incubators.

e) Yes, prioritized value chains (e.g. for select high value products and niche markets, please see *Annex D* for specific products under discussion) will be implemented in collaboration with private entities to support the resilient livelihood activities mentioned in Annex D (see attachment).

Component 3:

Systematic consultations with superstore chains have not been conducted during the PIF preparation stage. However, few selected village super markets were consulted regarding the proposed approach. Based on these consultations the PIF preparation team believes there is a market demand and profitable business opportunities involving the climate resilient livelihood commodities listed in Annex D. Systematic consultations with superstore chains will be conducted during the PPG stage. We are confident that superstore chains will continue to be interested to engage further in the project's approach.

The revised PIF has been resubmitted in the Portal.

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was

requirements of the GEF financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of GEF financing was

identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/26/2019:

Cleared.

4/19/2019:

Additional information is requested.

Please identify for each row of the co-finance whether it is investment mobilized or recurrent expenditure.

Agency Response These are the recurrent expenditures. Necessary changes are made in Table C of the revised PIF.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes.

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

YS, 4/19/2019:

Yes. Bangladesh is currently eligible to access up to USD \$10 million in LDCF resources during GEF-7.

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

YS, 4/19/2019:

Yes. The PPG amount requested of \$200k is within the allowable cap.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/30/2019:

Cleared. The project is expected to deliver direct adaptation benefits to 120,000 people, of whom 50% will be women. The Metadata sheet has been adjusted.

FI, 4/26/2019:

Adjustments requested:

- 1) In the Metadata sheet, please adjust the sectoral breakdown to add up to 100%;
- 2) Thank you for revising the number of direct beneficiaries. However, it is still lower than the amount expected for an LDCF project of this size. Please either revise further, or provide an explanation;
- 3) Please provide an explanation for why women beneficiaries are expected to be 40% instead of 50%.

FI & YS, 4/19/2019:

Additional information and adjustments are requested:

- i) Core Indicators have been identified in the Portal template, which is incorrect as these correspond to the GEF Trust Fund projects only. These should be deleted from the table.
- ii) For adaptation to climate change (LDCF, SCCF), we currently require submission of an excel file with a sheet for Core Indicators (sex-disaggregated) and another sheet for project metadata. If target values are not yet known, please enter indicative information.
- iii) The PIF mentions that the project will provide direct adaptation benefits to 20,000 people. For a \$10 million LDCF request, this is a very low number. Please significantly revise this figure.

Agency Response

- i) As requested, the indicators have been deleted from the portal template.
- ii) The CCA Core Indicators and Metadata spreadsheet has been uploaded in the portal.
- iii) In consultation with partners, the project revisited the estimated number of direct beneficiaries - the number has been increased/revised to 48,000 persons.

Please find below our responses to requested adjustments:

- 1) This has now been corrected in the updated Metadata excel file.
- 2) After discussions among the project team, the number of direct beneficiaries has been further revised to 120,000 people.

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3) After further discussion, the gender ratio has been revised to ensure 50/50 balance among the direct beneficiaries – this is also reflected in the updated excel file. Through its market-based interventions aimed at strengthening agribusiness and value chain development, particularly to improve the livelihoods of women, the project will strive to ensure that women constitute 50% of the direct beneficiaries. With regards to CCA Core Indicator 4 on the number of people trained (in this case government staff), we remain with a 40% women and 60% men ratio given that women still remain underrepresented in the inter-ministerial agencies targeted by the project.

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/19/2019:

Yes.

In addition to the CCA Rio Marker "2", a "1" value has been selected for the Climate Change Mitigation Rio Marker as the project is expected to contribute to GHG mitigation (sequestration and avoidance) through climate-resilient land use practices such as cultivating leguminous plants, returning more organic matter to the soil through plant residue retention, etc.

Agency Response

art II – Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

YS, 4/19/2019:

Yes. Bangladesh is increasingly facing climate change stress that is affecting its natural systems, population, economy and wellbeing of poor communities, due in part to its low-lying geographical location. The country frequently experiences floods, storms, tropical cyclones, droughts, sea level rise, hydro-morphological changes, river bank erosion, and salinity intrusion. The increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events combined with low-socioeconomic development pose serious challenges to both human and ecological coping mechanisms, resulting in high vulnerability across landscapes that the proposed project will focus on: (i) High Barind Tract; (ii) waterlogged areas; (iii) saline-prone areas; and, (iv) Chittagong Hill Tracts. Additional barriers articulated are: i) Limited institutional and human resource capacity and cross-sectoral collaboration on vulnerability reduction; ii) Dearth of decision support systems; iii) Lack of appropriate adaptation technologies and practices to reduce vulnerability of smallholders; iv) Limited financial resources and market support for enhancing resilient livelihoods; and, v) Low awareness of climate risks and adaptation measures among local stakeholders, and lack of effective knowledge management, monitoring, and evaluation.

Agency Response

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared.

FI, 4/19/2019:

Several relevant baseline initiatives have been described. However, it is not clear which of these baseline initiatives are being considered as co-financing the proposed LDCF project, and how specifically they will be leveraged by the LDCF. Please provide additional information.

Agency Response

Currently, we have commitment letters and consent from the sources listed in Table C in the PIF. The project is in consultation with other potential baseline initiatives (as outlined in section 1a, part 2 - please see the revisions) and additional/specific linkages and co-finance will be further discussed in the PPG phase.

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/19/2019:

Yes. The proposed project is structured around four components:

Component 1 will strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration and enhance national institutional capacity to mainstream and foster climate resilience.

Component 2 will promote climate vulnerability decision-support systems, climate resilient research and innovation and build foster climate-resilience and adaptation knowledge, climate innovation, and build awareness about climate change vulnerability, climate-resilient livelihoods. For example, it will share information to national stakeholders and local people on hydrological and meteorological issues through a website, mobile app, and SMS. In addition, long-term value chain adaptation plans will be developed to manage anticipated shifts in the suitability and viability of key farming systems in targeted landscapes based on integrated climate and agroecological zone models.

Component 3: will formulate local gender-differentiated participatory adaptation plans, implement innovative financial solutions and investment models, and support climate resilient livelihoods. Here, market opportunities will also be created by linking private investments and superstore chain in climate resilient livelihood and adaptation measures to promote the crops. It will also include activities designed to establish public-private partnership agreements to finance climate resilient and adaptive solutions in the four selected vulnerable areas based on action plans developed (which will examine sustainable production, storage, improved and low-cost agricultural inputs, transportation, improved value chain & SMEs, stronger access to markets, etc.).

Component 4 will ensure the monitoring and evaluation framework for different activities, concentrate on effective knowledge management for M&E, and raise awareness about climate change vulnerability and adaptation technologies among vulnerable communities and the public and private sectors.

Agency Response

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes. It is aligned with the GEF's programming strategy for the LDCF and SCCF for the period 2018-2022.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/26/2019:

Cleared for PIF stage.

4/19/2019:

Please see comment for Part II, item 2, regarding baseline projects.

Agency Response As above - please refer to our response for Part II, item 2.

6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/30/2019:

Cleared. The target number of women direct beneficiaries is now 50%.

4/26/2019:

Yes. However, please provide explanation for women beneficiaries target of 40% (instead of 50%).

4/19/2019:

Not yet. Please see both review comments for Part I item 6 (Core Indicators).

Agency Response

Please refer to our response for Part I, item 6, above and the submitted CCA Core Indicators.

Please refer to our response for Part I, Q 6 as well as the revised CCA Core Indicator and Metadata excel file.

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared. The information provided is adequate for PIF stage.

YS, 4/19/2019:

Not clear. Potential for scaling-up is clearly articulated. However, aspects regarding innovation and sustainability are not explicitly stated.

Recommended action: Please clarify how the proposed project is innovative and sustainable.

Agency Response

The PIF has been revised to reflect the requested clarifications - please refer to section 1a part 7, "*Innovation, sustainability, and potential for scaling-up*" (all revisions are highlighted in yellow in the attached PIF).

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes. District coordinates of the project's four target landscapes have been provided.

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI. 4.26.2019:
Cleared.

FI, 4/19/2019:
Further information is requested. The PIF includes information on relevant government agencies and several private sector actors consulted. Please also provide information on consultations with local communities, including women's groups, and CSOs/NGOs.

Agency Response Clarification is made in the revised PIF, section 2 on stakeholders.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared.

FI & YS, 4/19/2019:

Additional information is requested. The discussion in the PIF is adequate for this stage. The project will design a gender strategy to ensure there is gender equality in all the project activities and will build the capacity of female farmers. The farmers field school (female) will be strengthened through post-harvest activities, MSME support and agribusinesses. The project will actively incorporate a strong gender dimension at all stages, including involvement in all programming and capacity building opportunities.

Recommended action: Please submit the sex-disaggregated CCA Core Indicators for this project.

Agency Response The CCA Core Indicators and Metadata spreadsheet with sex dis-aggregated data has been uploaded in the portal.

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

YS, 4/19/2019:

Yes. The private sector will be highly involved in the proposed project through outcome 3.2 (Innovative financial instruments and investment models piloted) and outcome 3.3 (Implementation of adaptation technologies and innovation). The specific private enterprises related to each of the targeted landscapes are also sufficiently provided in the annex.

Agency Response

Risks

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared. However, please see CEO Endorsement stage comment.

YS, 4/19/2019:

Additional information requested. The PIF states that private entities will be highly involved in the project. While, the PIF identifies cross-sectoral coordination among concerned ministries and local government authorities as a risk, PIF does not clarify how the project will secure private entities' active and strong engagement nor recognize it as a risk.

Recommended action: Please clarify the measures in securing private entities' active involvement.

Agency Response Thank you for raising this important issue. Necessary changes have been made in table 5, section 5.

Coordination

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined?
Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared for PIF stage. Please see CEO Endorsement stage comment.

YS & FI, 4/19/2019:

Further information requested. There is detailed discussion of coordination with other bilateral/multilateral initiatives. However:

- 1) Further coordination could be considered for: a) PPCR projects, such as "Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security" by IFC; and, b) GCF projects entitled "Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Third Pole" by WMO.
- 2) Please discuss the institutional arrangements for project management/coordination/execution.

Agency Response

- 1) Coordination with suggested projects a) "Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security" and, b) "Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Third Pole" are discussed in Section 6.
- 2) Institutional arrangements are discussed in Section 6.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes. The PIF is aligned with various national strategies such as the NAPA, NDC, and others.

Agency Response**Knowledge Management**

Is the proposed “knowledge management (KM) approach” in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project’s/program’s overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

YS, 4/19/2019:

Yes. The project will enable stakeholders at the national, regional and local level to have access to improved knowledge and data through development of mechanisms for peer-to-peer learning, systematic long-term approaches to capacity building, and dissemination of useful information.

Agency Response**art III – Country Endorsements**

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country’s GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes. A LoE from Bangladesh's current OFP has been submitted, dated April 17, 2019.

Agency Response

EFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/30/2019:

Yes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

- 1) Please provide further information on how the proposed project will coordinate with other relevant planned or ongoing initiatives.
- 2) Please discuss in detail how sustainability of project activities and outcomes will be ensured.
- 3) Please outline a plan for sustainable private sector engagement.
- 4) Please discuss how the project will seek to address the particular vulnerability of women and, put in place measures to empower them.
- 5) Please discuss how communities will be engaged in project design and implementation.
- 6) Please provide further information on the establishment of the innovation incubator.

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	4/19/2019	4/26/2019
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/26/2019	4/30/2019
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/30/2019	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		