

Weekly Bulletin

Environment and Sustainable Development Policy Issues



Bird Flu crisis: UNDP shares concern with GoB

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The ESD team met with Dr C.S Karim, the Advisor for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture to discuss about the emerging crisis of bird flu and also to brief on the outcomes of the ESD cluster scoping mission. The mission which was to determine the strategic premise and programmatic scope for the cluster, came up with three major outcomes that included: I) Pro-poor ecosystem based approach to natural resources management, II) Improving environmental standards through enhanced compliance and III) Environment and sustainability mainstreamed into national development process. The advisor was very happy to note the outcomes and

found them compatible with government's priorities. He underscored the need for programmatic approach to enhance compliance of environmental policies, rules, and regulations. The advisor pointed out the increasing trend of land, water and air pollution by the industrial processes and requested UNDP to provide technical assistance in the government's efforts to introduce effluent treatment Plants (ETP) for the polluting industries.

On the issue of bird flu, which is looming as a crisis in Bangladesh, the advisor flagged a number of issues and requested for the intervention of the UN Resident Coordinator. He particularly expressed his con-

cern about the delay in sending samples abroad for H5N1 (or any other type) to confirm the tests. The advisor mentioned that he would welcome the assistance from the UN Agencies especially in three areas- in expediting the process of confirming the test for avian flu, strengthening and upgrading the local laboratories and arranging training to enhance the required skills of lab personnel .



Upcoming event:

Mid-Term National Workshop on National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management to be held on 17-18 April 2007

Institutionalization of Biodiversity Conservation under UNDP Project

The government of Bangladesh has formed three ECA (Ecologically Critical Area) Coordination Committees with a gazette notification on 22 March 2007. These ECAs- two for Sylhet and Moulavibazar region and one for Cox's Bazar, St. Martin and Sonadia region, are to coordinate the conservation activities currently undertaken by the government implemented 'Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP) funded by UNDP-GEF. The ECA Coordination Committee will be chaired by the District Commissioner and comprise 16 members from district level departments, NGO, media and lawyers association.

Climate Change: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Summary for Policymakers

On April 6, 2007, the IPCC released its fourth Assessment Report (AR4) on climate change impacts. The AR4 provides the strongest statement to date on the consequences of climate change, concluding that 'it is likely that anthropogenic warming has had a discernible influence on many physical and biological systems'. The report presents projections of impacts on policy-relevant sectors, including water, ecosystems, food, coastal systems, industry, settlement and society, and health, and on major regions, including Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Europe, Latin America, North America, polar regions, and small islands.