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**STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK  
2006-2010**

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

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*Bangladesh*

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## 1. Context

Sustainable development is vital in securing a win-win situation in both poverty alleviation and sustainable environmental management. In a country like Bangladesh where competition for resources is intense and the carrying capacity of the natural resource base is under severe strain, the concept of ecosystem restoration and regeneration, particularly through participatory management of common pool resources, has immense potential to relieve social tension and improve public well being. At the same time, however, under the private property rights system which is the norm in the country, economic growth brings benefits often at the cost of damage - sometimes severe - to the environments that the poor in particular depend on, minimising, halting or reversing this trend calls for a partnership approach that spans all interests.

Environment and land degradation and depletion of biodiversity in general and forest in particular are widely discussed issues in Bangladesh. The public discourse revolve around poor environmental governance, poverty, over-population, competition for scarce natural resources and lack of awareness as well as poor enforcement of legal provisions on the subject. It is manifested by deforestation, destruction of wetlands, and depletion of soil nutrients, poor waste disposal, air pollution and poor environmental management.

In the last two decades Bangladesh has made significant progress in terms of reducing population growth to 1.7% per annum, increasing economic growth to about 5% per annum or more, and almost halving the percentage of population considered hard core poor. Despite these gains, Bangladesh faces huge challenges to maintain environmental sustainability. The

population is set to double by 2050, reaching some 270 million. Rapid urbanization and population density is already the highest for a non-city state and is likely to average over 1,800 people per km<sup>2</sup> by 2050. As population increases, the pressure on the economy also increases. This is ushering change in the utilisation of resources and in the level of emissions into air, water and land. Still, at present 48% of people live below the poverty line, and the natural resources on which the poor disproportionately depend are increasingly stressed.

Bangladesh is a forest-poor country in reality. Official figures indicate that the country has 14 per cent forest of the total land area (BBS, 1999), but the forest cover is independently estimated at less than 6 per cent based on satellite imagery analysis. Notwithstanding discrepancies, such data underscores the consequence of population pressure on resources, the degradation of ecosystems in Bangladesh, and that the existence of many species are threatened or endangered to the point of extinction.

External environmental trends such as climate change is predicted to raise average sea level around 45 cm by 2030, and could make an additional 10.9% of the coastal land mass and impact on the lives and livelihoods of 5.5 million people who will become environmental refugees. Worst case scenario is a loss of 15-18% of the land with a 1 metre rise in sea level which will affect 30 million people beyond 2050.<sup>1</sup> Being the lower riparian country not only makes Bangladesh highly prone to floods, but also dependent on trends in the 93% of the catchments that lie upstream and outside Bangladesh. Comparable trends in population density, population growth, industrialization, and lack of forest in the catchments are already

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<sup>1</sup> Third Assessment Report of IPCC, 2007

resulting in less and poorer water quality in the dry season.

Bangladesh is a test case of sustainable development efforts that can be undermined both by poverty and economic growth-induced pollution. Poverty in its various dimensions work as a vicious circle on environmental quality. With lack of access and security of tenure to natural resources like land and water, the poor often live on marginal lands and degrade the environment only to ensure their day-to-day survival. On the other hand, growth-induced environmental degradation affects the livelihoods and health of the poor disproportionately as they find work or low cost living space in vulnerable locations. While emphasizing that economic growth is essential to reduce poverty, the PRSP warns that “a careful balancing act must be orchestrated where economic with focus on inclusive growth is maximized without compromising environmental protection.” Maintaining this balance, through select trade-offs, is vital to the poor for two reasons: livelihoods and health; and environment.

The World Bank’s recent Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) estimates that environmental factors account for as much as 22% of the national burden of disease, particularly in the form of respiratory infections from indoor and urban air pollution and diarrhoeal diseases. High use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, and release of untreated effluents into open water bodies by a growing number of industries are wreaking havoc on the country’s fresh water supply and those who depend on this water and aquatic products. The overwhelming majority of victims is, again, the poor and marginalized of rural and urban areas. To this are added dangers to food safety in the forms of poorly regulated environment, production and processing, low quality, lack of sanitary storage facilities and indiscriminate adulteration. Poor food

safety has also drawn considerable public attention of late due both to storage, and processing practices. The CEA argues that achievable goals for reduced exposure to environmental health risks could result in economic savings equivalent to as much as 3.5% of Bangladesh GDP.

## **2. UNDP Mandate for Support**

UNDP's environment and sustainable development strategy and program for Bangladesh, covering 2007-2011, is prepared using a results-based approach and formulated in collaboration with other development agencies. The strategy for Bangladesh is aligned with the UNDAF, CPAP and Government's priorities. Developed with thorough consultations with stakeholders, the strategy and programme supports the Government's national environment policy, national poverty reduction strategy (NPRS), which reaffirms that environment strategy for pro-poor growth and accelerating the pace of sustainable development are the country's most important long-term strategic goals. UNDP will play a major role in supporting policy and institutional reforms to increase sector efficiency in the environment, forest, natural resources, urban environment and health, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

The UNDP strategy aims to minimise, halt and if possible, reverse environmental degradation in ways that will benefit the poor and to enable growth that is consistent with a better environment. In particular through activities undertaken directly under the strategy and through partnership, it aims to change decision making at the macro-level in the direction of reversing past negative environmental trends. It aims to bring principles of good governance to the environment sector, to develop understanding and capacity within government, and to raise the profile of environment in policy making centrally

and in local decision making. It aims to demonstrate and extend restoration of bio-diverse forests to sustain watersheds and protect coastal communities in the face of growing hazards. It aims to demonstrate more integrated approaches to management of land, water, and fisheries that enhance their overall productivity based on healthy ecosystem functions and are based on devolving decision making to local people dependent on those resources in ways that give voices and responsibilities to the poor. It aims through enhanced compliance and enforcement to ensure that industries and urban authorities clean up their past and future growth. The strategy also aims to enable a range of government and non-government stakeholders to generate and share improved information upon which future decisions can be made. With this backdrop the strategic direction can be articulated in the following results framework:

### **3. Environment and Sustainable Development Focus (2006-2010)**

#### **3.1 Mission Statement:**

UNDP Bangladesh in partnership with the public and private sectors, as well as civil

#### **The Approach of the Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster**

- Focus more in the areas of policy, legal aspects and institutional development.
- Identify strategic dimensions to improve compliance of policies, laws, and plans leading to improved environmental governance.
- Demonstrate linkages of environment with poverty, economic growth, human health and governance.
- Strategic communication through dedicated media partnership.
- Foster partnership through networking, joint programming and replication of best practices.
- Prioritize capacity enhancement initiatives targeting individual, institutional and systemic levels
- Demonstrate viable governance models in environment and natural resources.

society organizations, is assisting the country to address national and global environment and sustainable development concerns. This includes policy framing, planning, programming, follow-up implementation and their monitoring and evaluation. These initiatives are premised within the framework of sustainable human development with a focus on environmental management and sustainable development aimed at improving the livelihoods security of the poor. As one of eight MDGs, ensuring environmental sustainability (goal 7) is to be achieved strategically by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes. The objective of this strategy is to ensure that environmental quality and governance are improved for pro-poor growth and sustainable livelihoods. It aims to reverse environmental degradation and improve environmental quality and governance to ensure pro-poor growth and sustainable livelihoods by addressing three complementary outcomes:

- ☑ **Co-management of the environment** will be introduced by taking a pro-poor ecosystem based approach through wider local participation, with a focus on wetlands, forests, hills, coasts and urban areas. This will extend restoration of bio-diverse forests to sustain watersheds and protect coastal communities in the face of growing hazards. It will adopt integrated approaches to management of land, water, and fisheries that enhance their overall productivity based on healthy ecosystem functions and devolving decision making to local people.
- ☑ **Enhance sustainable governance** on gaps in compliance, enforcement and awareness that relate to environmental standards and quality, particularly in the planning process, food production, quality, and safety enhancing enforcement capacity, and

strengthening knowledge in the form of education and participatory monitoring.

- ☑ **The greening of national policy** will be undertaken through coordination and understanding on environmental issues among government agencies. The strategy will support those outside and inside government to adopt better environmental standards considering domestic needs, international obligations, and trans-boundary factors.

The underlying precept of this strategy is to focus broadly on environmental quality and governance as vital needs for reducing poverty. The strategy has been guided by the four output areas of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Bangladesh (2006-2010): (i) policy change and reform, (ii) institutional capacity strengthening, (iii) advocacy and partnerships, and (iv) knowledge management. It has been developed to be consistent with the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (2006-2010). Given the diverse and overarching nature of environmental issues, this will require working with a range of government and non-government partners. Whilst the Department of Environment obviously has a key role, an important lesson from past experience is the need to work with and influence all the relevant government agencies through direct partnerships and through support to civil society.

The strategy is based on three approaches. Firstly, emphasis will be placed on demonstrating and ensuring the uptake of a more integrated and pro-poor approach to ecosystem management. This will focus on restoring the productivity and environmental services of degraded ecosystems through co-management approaches involving local communities, local government and government agencies. This will be focused on specific

locations, complementing and integrating with government initiatives to build local institutions. NGOs are likely to play an important but time bound role in facilitating and strengthening local initiatives. This will be complemented by developing resource related information to support better informed planning.

Secondly, there will be focus on addressing the adverse impacts of development processes on environmental health affecting people, especially the poor. Gaps in existing planning processes, regulations and enforcement will be addressed. Compliance and corporate responsibility will be encouraged, including facilitating partnerships with the private sector. Links will be made with projects within the poverty reduction practice and those of other donors to support the cleaning up and greening of economic growth.

Thirdly, reforming national development processes where there are issues of updating and harmonizing policies, strategies, and practices to mainstream sustainable development issues. Capacity within government and in future generations of policy makers will be built and knowledge bases enhanced to achieve more informed decision making on the environment. This approach also will address international issues and opportunities that affect the Bangladesh environment. To address climate change issues there will be close cooperation with the clusters for sustainable energy and disaster management to mainstream environmental concerns.

#### **4. Programme Areas**

Based on the above analytical discussions following four result areas are being targeted for programmatic responses during 2007-2010 programme cycle and beyond.

#### **4.1 “Shamol Bangladesh” - Greening Bangladesh: Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation**

Forests, wetlands and mangroves provide “ecosystem services”, which are a mainstay of poor communities. Biodiversity being a major source of food, fiber, fuel, fodder and other useful means for people at large needs adequate attention and increased knowledge for its conservation and wise use in sustainable manner. Sustainable management and conservation of eco-specific biodiversity through poor peoples' active participation can contribute substantially in poverty alleviation within the context of environmental excellence. Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster of UNDP responds to these national priorities and supports with a long term vision to facilitate mainstreaming sustainable development by integrating environmental issues in policies, development planning of subsequent programmes, projects and activities. Greening of national policy by improving coordination and understanding on environmental issues among government agencies is a potential area for making the possible happens. The strategy will support those outside and inside government to adopt better environmental standards considering domestic needs, international obligations, and trans-boundary factors.

UNDP contributed in enhancing national capacity to foster pro-poor growth by ensuring substantive policy inputs and institutionalization of community empowerment and the poor's participation in natural resources management particularly through participatory ecosystem management initiatives in floodplains, charlands (riverine islands), fresh water swamps, dry land and brackish water areas. The Government of Bangladesh, in particular the Ministry of Environment and Forest is supported in the

development and implementation of National Environment Management Action Plan and follow-up implementation of Sustainable Environment Management, Forestry Master Plan, and Integrated Resource Management Plan of the Sundarbans, Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Government, NGOs and civil society organizations have been working to apply the principles of sustainable development towards protecting the country's biodiversity and managing the sustainable use of its scarce natural resources, such as forest, coastal mangrove and freshwater wetlands. Opportunities for enhancing existing national resources are there by greening of hills, plains and coasts for poverty reduction through improved information, and demonstration of community based co-management that enhances biodiversity protection.

#### **4.2 “Sundar Nagari” – Improved and Cleaner Urban Environment Management**

In the last two decades Bangladesh has made significant progress in terms of reducing population growth to 1.7% per annum, increasing economic growth to about 5% per annum or more, and almost halving the percentage of population considered hard core poor. Despite this Bangladesh faces huge challenges which pose serious questions for the environment and sustainability of these trends. With the present growth rate the population could be double by 2050, reaching some 270 million. It is predicted that most of the additional people will live in the rapidly growing urban areas. Population density is already the highest for a non-city state and is likely to average over 1,800 people per km<sup>2</sup> by 2050. Against this backdrop, there is strong imperative for making concerted efforts in directing and managing the urban, cities and towns with coherent vision and planning, improving the environmental condition and services with

putting the wellbeing of the citizens at the centre, particularly that of the disadvantaged living in most vulnerable condition.

Bangladesh being party to Rio Summit (UNCED, 1992), agreed on the Agenda 21 goals on establishment waste treatment and disposal criteria and develop the ability to monitor the environmental impact of waste by 2000 and shall dispose of all waste according to international quality guidelines by 2025. As a follow-up of Rio-Summit in 1992, UNDP supported the Public-private partnership toward making a cleaner city through conversion of vehicles into CNG and supported in banning use of plastic bags. The Ministry of Environment and Forest in partnership with NGOs under SEMP successfully implemented urban solid waste management with UNDP support. Improved environment for urban people, especially the poor by incorporation of environment in planning processes can make the cities more beautiful, healthy and environmentally sustainable.

#### **4.3 Sustainable Land and Water Management**

Among the many environmental issues facing Bangladesh, water and land degradation process is a silent disaster which may have caused more human suffering than any other problem in the concerned areas. Land and water-use management involves legal, technical, and social dimensions which are yet to be developed and practiced in Bangladesh.

Population-induced pressure is exacerbated by degradation of the country's limited natural resources, particularly land (high population density, loss of 1% of cropped area per year, soil erosion, loss of nutrients), water (declining dry season surface water area and quality), fisheries (declining inland capture fisheries, loss of wetland habitat) and

forests (only about 10% of the country, with much degraded) particularly during periods of faster growth due to various structural problems. The obvious victims are the poor due to declining productivity from these resources. Further, poor's are subject to regular victim of natural disasters and hazards which are exacerbated by lack of land use zoning, indiscriminate filling of water bodies and wetlands, and in the long term by human-induced climate change. As the poor live and depend disproportionately on marginal lands, they are the most vulnerable and again the prime victims of these disasters.

#### **4.4 Sustainable Development and Environmental Governance**

Mainstreaming of environment and sustainable development issues into national development framework to achieve the MDGs is one of the prime concerns, considering the competition for scarce resource in general and declining land-population ratio in particular. Bangladesh in general is characterised by weak governance, and this is no different in the many aspects of environmental management. Laws are rarely enforced, institutions have ill-defined responsibilities, transparency and accountability are limited, and there appears to be conflicting objectives in the extensive set of policies and plans that impinge on sustainable development. In response the government is working to reform the governance of the country, to reduce corruption and improve enforcement of the existing laws and standards as well as revise or frame new policies, laws, rules and procedures. This offers opportunities to mainstream the aims of this strategy which aims to build good environmental governance. The Government of Bangladesh is supported in strengthening compliance with multilateral environmental agreements. UNDP mobilized GEF and Montreal Protocol resources to support the Government to

maximise the pro-poor benefits to Bangladesh particularly by community based ecological critical area management, prepared National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change; ending use of persistent organic pollutants and emissions adversely affecting the global climate.\*

National government and its agencies are divided along sectoral lines with little technical expertise at the Ministry level, but specialist capacity in their respective fields in line agencies. The ministries, departments and agencies have the scope to mainstream sustainable development and environment, as well as holding government mandates for example to regulate and to maintain the productivity and health of the national environment. Inevitably here are overlapping interests and conflicting activities, with limited effective cooperation and coordination. However, there is no mechanism or forum that can effectively ensure environment and climate change issues are addressed and harmonised in policy or project planning. The emphasis is on economic and physical planning, for example through the Planning Commission.

The relevant key regulatory national agencies include the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Land, and Ministry of Water Resources. Under these the Department of Environment is a regulatory body with limited staff resources and a lack of presence at district and upazila levels. Other agencies have more of an implementation focus in defined sectors, including the Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, and Bangladesh Water Development Board. Several have developed plans and strategies to operationalise their sectoral policies, including the National Conservation Strategy 1992, National Environmental Management Action Plan 1995, Forestry Sector Master Plan 1995-2015, National

Water Plan 2000, and National Fisheries Strategy 2006. These policies, plans and strategies tend still to reflect a techno-centric approach that is divided on sectoral grounds, although those prepared more recently give greater importance to the broader issues of people's livelihoods and the associated environment. In practice policies are strongly influenced by many overlapping ad hoc decisions, which however well intentioned suffer from a lack of sound information and analysis. For example, departments have specialist staff take a sectoral view and defer to their parent ministries, yet at the ministry level there is a lack of technical expertise and senior staff are frequently transferred so may not get time to understand complex environmental issues. The country still awaits a national framework to harmonize and bring together the various strands of these policies into in a unified framework. Along the same vein, coordination of government agencies and effective implementation of policy provisions and directives have remained a challenge as daunting as ever.

The link between environment and poverty is neither clearly focused nor adequately strategize. The main thrust of the National Environment Policy 1992, for example, is on "maintenance of the ecological balance and overall progress and development of the country", without any recognition and reference to the complexities of the environment-poverty nexus. Similarly, the National Rural Development Policy 2001 underscores the "need for exploring all possible means of expanding employment and decent income earning opportunities in rural areas along with measures to enhance the capacity and power of the rural poor to develop and sustain their livelihoods", but has got little to say on the broader impact and implications of these measures for the social and physical environment.

## **5. Programme Management**

The implementation of environment and sustainable development related projects under the CPAP is managed via the Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster through a streamlined management structure in compliance with UNDP's Results Management Guide. The Cluster Professional Team comprises of Assistant Country Director (ACD) and a Programme Analyst. ACD works under the guidance of the Deputy Country Director and the Country Director. Each member of the cluster will be responsible for contributing:

1. Policy and strategy formulation and support;
2. Programme development support services;
3. Project monitoring, assurance and oversight;
4. Advocacy and marketing; and
5. Strategic partnerships and resource mobilization.

The portfolios under the Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster are primarily managed by the Programme Manager. As such the Programme Manager is responsible for the programme portfolio in terms of planning, implementing and managing the delivery of innovative policies and practices, program development, capacity building, project monitoring and assurance, marketing and advocacy and knowledge services.

The role of the Programme Manager is to provide strategic advice and management. The overall vision is a team of Programme Managers who are on top of the development discourse and are fully acquainted with contemporary research.

In managing the portfolio, Programme Managers plays the function of project assurance, which involves assuring that the projects comply with the Annual Works Plans (AWPs) and quarterly work plans (including HR and procurement plans), reporting, monitoring and evaluation plans

and rules and regulations. Quality assurance is an aspect as well as financial soundness and general compliance to governing documents (plans, AWP, rules/regulations etc.). The philosophy is to let the Project Manager do what he is good at – that is managing a project, and limit UNDP interventions in projects to setting the wider perimeters for the project (AWPs) and assure that the project delivers according to the plans and in accordance with the financial requirements.

The Cluster Support Team comprises of one support staff (Programme Associate) that assists in terms of providing information to the Programme Manager so that he/she can fulfill the assurance role. In addition to this, the Team provides other support functions like keeping files up to date, assisting in organizing missions, gather information relevant for policy advice etc.

All in all the new realigned structure and business processes of UNDP, Bangladesh and Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster constitutes a system which is more lean, simple and efficient and gives increased responsibility to the Project Manager, and strengthens the accountability in terms of the delivery of project results. The traditional production of project outputs is in the new structure supplemented by a strengthened policy dimension. This more holistic approach – project outputs backed by policy interventions - will increase the likelihood of achieving the intended project and programme outcomes.

### **5.1 Operating Strategies of Implementation**

UNDP support programme countries to strengthen their own capacities to design and implement development strategies that reflect specific national circumstances and goals, within an overall framework of

internationally agreed development goals. The work is intended to be strategic, integrative, focused on inter-sectoral linkages, and always aimed at strengthening national institutions, governance capabilities and citizen participation. Partnerships with government, other national stakeholders, United Nations and other non-UN organizations, donor organizations and international and regional bodies underpin this strategy of engagement at country level.

UNDP will adopt a programme approach to implementing the Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster strategic framework for the Bangladesh Country Programme. In doing so UNDP will collectively with government and donor partners, develop and design projects responding to the needs and priorities outlined in the CPAP and elaborated in the Programme Framework. The programme will be implemented around four operating strategies: Policy Advice and Technical Support; Capacity Development; Knowledge Generation and Management; and Partnerships

#### *5.1.1 Policy Advice and Technical Support*

Upstream policy advice and advocacy provides a vision for and complements strategic interventions at downstream levels. UNDP will provide timely and high-quality advice, expertise and comparative lessons to national policy makers and other partners via tapping into its global network of development practitioners etc.

#### *5.1.2 Capacity Development*

Capacity Development is one of the single most important UNDP services. All UNDP work must be targeted toward improving national capacity. Capacity development is seen as the ability of individuals,

institutions, and societies to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve objectives in a sustainable manner. Capacity development strategies are designed to help countries diagnose capacity constraints and cost capacity building strategies. UNDP will mainstream issues and concepts of capacity development into programme designs and related activities and outputs.

#### *5.1.3 Knowledge Generation & Management*

Current design and implementation of programmes, rarely take into account the need to extract, retain and develop knowledge in specific areas of intervention, be it electoral reform, parliamentary development, or local economic development. Building knowledge retention capacities are crucial in the context of the overall objective to build and improve national capacities. Knowledge generation and management will be pursued as a key component of programme design and implementation.

Moreover, one area hitherto underemphasized is cross-programmatic, cross-sectoral integration. The programmes will focus on developing this overall partnership strategy within the proposed areas of focus.

## **6. Partnerships and Cross-Cutting Strategies**

### **6.1 Potential Partners in this Strategy**

Implementation of this strategy will rely on partnerships; this will be based on adoption of a clear set of principles. In addition to general principles of good partnerships (see box), these partnerships will build on existing UNDP projects and partnerships by strengthening capacity and understanding to address environmental issues. The components and partnerships will address gaps and complement other development partners, whether in generating new funding sources, or activating existing stakeholders in economic growth or poverty reduction to address environmental degradation. The partnerships will learn as they develop, generate knowledge products, and work to ensure public availability of information and knowledge so that all levels in society can take better informed decisions on how they impact their environment. The strategy will also widen partnerships through networking so that they may sustain after project funding ends. In the last decade environmental issues tended to be seen as the concern of the Department of Environment, but experience has shown the weaknesses of this. While the Department of Environment has an important role for which its capacity and commitment need to be enhanced,

#### **Principles of Partnership**

- An effective partnership sets clear objectives and ground rules.
- An honest partnership recognizes the right to disagree.
- An efficient partnership uses the strengths of each to build the capacity of the other.
- A strategic partnership focuses on the long term.

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environmental issues are the concern and product of decisions from a wide range of government and non-government actors. Therefore partnerships among these stakeholders need to be built if environmental degradation is to be reversed and sustainable development taken up.

Government agencies are vital for the sustainability of changes in policy and practice. Under this strategy there are two key levels. Firstly, the relevant ministries for environment and forests, fisheries and livestock, water resources and land, along with mechanisms that would improve their coordination that could include both the Planning Commission and Cabinet division. Secondly the relevant line agencies in these sectors (environment, forests, fisheries, water), and in addition including regional bodies notably in the hill tracts and in the coast. Notably the land administration has no agency separate from the general administration, so training and capacity building across the administrative cadre will be a vital part of partnering.

### **6.2 Local government: lack of decentralization, limited capacity**

Local government in the form of elected councils comprises the more than 5,000 Union Parishads which each represent the inhabitants of on average around 10 villages. They have a vital role in influencing adoption of best practices, such as sustainable use of common pool resources, raising local issues such as pollution to higher levels, local development planning, and being one party in co-management of natural resources. The elected representatives often have substantial influence and power locally, and the chairmen hold in rotation the chair of the Upazila Development Coordination Committee. The three women members per Union have a vital role in raising environmental issues of

concern to women. There have been recent initiatives supported by several donors, including UNDP to strengthen the capacity of the Union Parishads in terms of good governance and capacity to plan and use local development resources; nevertheless they still often have limited transparency and capacity in good governance as well as technical knowledge.

Local government in the form of Union Parishads will be primarily partners in the eco-system based approaches that are implemented and replicated. This will require partnering with Ministry of Local Government at the central level, and creating bridges between local government, local community organisations and advisory support from officials at the Upazila level and above. There is scope not only to partner with specific Union Parishads as part of local co-management arrangements to sustain natural resources, but also to work to enhance their capacity to address environmental issues in planning local development activities and in being a force to regulate adverse environmental impacts of economic growth.

### **6.3 Limited public involvement and access to information**

There are gaps between the country's environmental policy and regulatory frameworks which do not go far in terms of offering clear guidelines for ensuring meaningful public involvement in development including environmental management, and recent trends. For example, the water sector has formal guidelines of people's participation; the fisheries sector is now promoting community based co-management as its way forward, while the Forest Department is piloting co-management for protected areas. These changing attitudes offer a timely opportunity for mainstreaming public participation in environmental decision making and management.

Local people are both the key target of sustainable development and the PRSP and also the means to addressing many environmental issues at the local level. Attitudes and knowledge about environmental issues are changing but there remain knowledge gaps, while the poor have limited capacity individually to address many issues. There is scope and demonstrated success in bringing together local people, both single stakeholder groups and the diverse members of local communities that use natural resources (including landless men and women, fishers, farmers, and elites from several villages) to restore and sustain natural resources and even take a more integrated ecosystem based approach locally, but this takes considerable external support to facilitate. An increasingly better educated and affluent youth, particularly in urban centres is set to be a potentially important influence for a better environment but also a pressure on natural resources and as consumers a potential cause of pollution and degradation.

### **6.4 Civil society: diverse but fragmented**

The over 12,000 Non Government Organizations in Bangladesh are part of a highly diverse sector ranging from vast service providers to small local welfare groups, pressure groups, and service contractors. Many have a high reputation internationally and have links with international NGOs. Micro-credit and savings dominate the activities of many, and membership of such groups covers a high percentage of the rural poor. However, many are dependent on external funding, and cannot self sustain environment related activities. To these can be added a small but growing number of community based organizations that have been created through project supports and now have government registration and manage one or more natural resource

within their areas and are key actors in implementing long term sustainable natural resource management.

The media, particularly newspapers and TV, with the advent of private channels, but also radio have laid an increasingly well informed part in raising environmental issues and influencing opinion of the public and policy makers. Much information and orientation of journalists has been provided as part of projects, including SEMP. Local media, mostly folk theatre, are also effective in informing and influencing the many poor people who cannot access the mass media. Despite this the level of investigative journalism is limited by both knowledge and external pressures.

### **6.5 Private sector: limited incentives and motivation**

The challenge is how to put the growth process led by the private sector on a cleaner track with least cost within a shorter time frame. Corporate social and environmental responsibility is not yet a widely accepted practice in domestic industries, but is now starting to be emphasized by those multinationals that operate here or that are buyers from national industries. Can Bangladesh afford to continue make the same mistakes in pursuing economic growth, disregarding its social and environmental implications, that already industrialized nations are now spending much efforts on redressing? Can Bangladesh exporters do business against the rising trend of environmentalism in the industrial countries, in the form of environmental and health safety standards, eco-labeling and certifications? What are the constraints and opportunities in the way? Does the corporate sector, including small and medium enterprises, in Bangladesh have the capacity to internalize the ISO 14000 series? If not, what can be done? Here comes the vital importance of a partnership of all

stakeholders with the private sector, the engine of growth the world over including in Bangladesh.

### **6.6 Cross-practice linkages within UNDP**

Strengthening cross-practice environmental linkages within UNDP is essential to the success of this strategy. Specifically it is expected that this cluster will link with local governance in the Local Governance Support and Development Fund Projects to bring maintenance of ecosystem functions and productivity for poor people into Union Parishad planning. Also that it will help direct local environmental health initiatives under the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction project, and seek to mainstream sustainability issues into local climate change adaptation and disaster resilience activities taken up under the Comprehensive Disaster Management project. Table 4 highlights these and other proposed collaborations that are included in the strategy

### **6.6 Gender equality**

The Strategic Framework sets out initiatives designed to address key gender equality priorities in the UNDP context. Those initiatives will be integrated into the work plans under each of the governance projects. Future activities of different project will, to the widest possible extent, be gender neutral and will extend support to research and capacity-building needed for gender issues to get the deserved attention.

### **6.7 Managing and expanding knowledge**

Sound, extensive and relevant information is fundamental to Environment and Sustainable Development activities, both for external audiences and internal policy and programme use. This will lead to well-

coordinated information across the staff, enabling the Cluster to measure, assess and monitor that the work is up to standard. Tools of information technology will be used as appropriate to ensure successful knowledge management and expansion.

## **7. Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators**

As per Country Programme Action Plan requirements, a set of indicators (Table 3) has been incorporated for Environment and Sustainable Development. UNDP draft Strategy Plan 2008-2011 also requires development of country specific indicators, which will assist to monitor progress in the specific development fields.

**Table 1: Cross-practice programmatic collaborations with Environment and Sustainable Cluster**

<b>Clusters</b>	<b>Potential areas of collaboration</b>
Energy & Climate Change	Climate change mitigation, Sustainable energy, rural energy, renewable energy
Democracy and Governance	Environment and Sustainable Development Caucus at the Parliament Integration of ESD concerns into the Public Administration Training Centre and Police Curriculum as well as courses in higher education institutions
Local Governance	Sustainable Rural Planning with focus on environment and landuse in Planning Guidelines to be developed for Union Parishads. An Upazila-based planning and municipal solid waste management type of work may be taken into consideration. Also possibly more importantly, extractive activities and the rules and laws related to management of activities such as sand, stone quarries may be specially emphasized.
Pro-poor Policy Cluster / Local Poverty Initiative	Initiative on Poverty-Environment Nexus as part of Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction and Rural Poverty-environment nexus.
Disaster Management	Risk management, River Bank erosion, Climate change adaptation
MDG and E-Development	Sharing knowledge management, application of ICT4D in sustainable development networking and relevant initiatives
Communication/ Directorate	Media Partnership, environmental advocacy and awareness, knowledge products

**Table 2: Projects of Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster**

Area of Program/Project	Areas of coverage	Financial and other information	Partnership
Sustainable Development and Environmental Governance	<p>Integration of environment, climate resilient development and regional sustainable development issues into national development framework to achieve the MDGs.</p> <p>Strengthening environmental governance. Improve enforcement of the existing laws and standards.</p> <p>Ensure compliance to global environmental management.</p> <p>Demonstrate poverty-environment linkages in rural development planning. GEF Small Grant Programme.</p>	Indicative Target: US\$ 12m	Support from GEF and Montreal Protocol Multi-lateral Fund, DFID, UNDP Regional Centres, UNEP & IUCN. Ministries of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Land, Water Resources, Agriculture, Energy, Planning, Departments of Environment, Forest, Agricultural Extension, Divisional Commissioners, WARPO; Research Institutions : BIDS, Universities, CPD and NGOs.
Sustainable Land and Water Management	<p>Mainstreaming sustainable land &amp; water management in related policies, institutions and legislation.</p> <p>Institutional and human capacity development for implementation of the National Land Use policy.</p> <p>Knowledge management system for efficient land &amp; water management.</p> <p>Resource mobilization for implementation of policies, plans and programmes on improved land water management.</p>	Indicative Target: US\$ 20 m	Support from GEF. Implementing Partners: Ministries of Environment & Forest, Land, Agriculture, BMDA, BIDS, WARPO, IUCN,
Greening Bangladesh: Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation	<p>Harmonization of policies and institutional mandates in favour of peoples' participation, collaborative management and biodiversity conservation. Community conserve forest. Restoration of natural forest ecosystems in select sites and sustainable co-management modalities demonstrated integrating watershed management approach</p> <p>Capacity development at the community, institutional and systemic levels to restore and sustain the forest ecosystems and improved governance in an around forest ecosystems.</p>	Indicative Target: US\$ 15m	Implementing Partners: MoEF, Land & Agriculture; Development Partners: SDC, USAID, Carbon Financing Institutions
Improved and Cleaner Urban Environment Management	<p>Integration of environmental policies and principles of sustainability into urban planning and management.</p> <p>Demonstration of environmental services through private-public-community partnership in selected Municipalities.</p> <p>Institutionalization of green and clean city environment regime.</p>	Indicative Target: US\$ 10m	Implementing Partners: MoEF, Local Government Division, Municipalities, Centre for Urban Studies, Public-private Partnership.

**Table 3: Programme Component indicators (cluster level indicators)**

Component	Expected Outcome	Indicators
Environment and Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Forest and biodiversity conservation Policies and institutional mandates harmonized in favour of community based collaborative management ;</li> <li>➤ Urban Environmental Management Improved;</li> <li>➤ National policy on sustainable land and water harmonized and management capacity enhanced;</li> <li>➤ Environment and sustainable development issues mainstreamed into national development framework to achieve the MDGs;</li> <li>➤ Compliance for Global Environment Management Ensured</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community based forest and biodiversity Conservation systems institutionalized in 4 potential sites for improving livelihood of the rural poor depend on forest resources. Adaptation to climate change through coastal afforestation project initiated.</li> <li>2. Environmental policies and principles of sustainability incorporated into urban planning and management and environmental services through private-public-community partnership.</li> <li>3. Policy brief on regional Sustainable development agenda prepared. Policy analysis and management options on Land and water Management into planning process developed. Poverty-environment-climate pilot demonstration planned for 3 sites.</li> <li>4. Environment and Climate Resilient &amp; gender sensitive development strategies and Plans are prepared. Policies and institutional mandates are harmonized to facilitate in achieving MDGs;</li> <li>5. Institutional capacity for Ozone, POPs and other toxic chemical management enhanced to ensure ICTP compliance.</li> </ol>

**Table 4: CPAP Indicators on different Outcomes (project level indicators)**

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	
<p>Forest and biodiversity conservation Policies and institutional mandates harmonized in favour of peoples' participation, collaborative management</p>	<p>Community Conserved Area (CCA) systems institutionalized for improving livelihood of the rural poor depend on forest resources</p> <p>Natural forest ecosystems in select sites restored and sustainable co-management modalities demonstrated integrating watershed management approach</p> <p>Sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities created for the poor resource users in an around the target forest ecosystems</p> <p>Capacity enhanced at the community, institutional and systemic levels to restore and sustain the forest ecosystems and improved governance in an around forest ecosystems.</p> <p>➤ Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) management institutionalized</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The status of habitats, biodiversity and livelihoods of forest resource users in and around forest lands in three potential areas are assessed;</li> <li>➤ Appropriate CCA approaches identified and demonstrated;</li> <li>➤ Sustainable afforestation approaches demonstrated in the accreted coastal lands</li> <li>➤ CDM project developed with community involvement</li> <li>➤ Functional linkage with knowledge networks established;</li> <li>➤ Innovative watershed management in the TL and PT areas demonstrated;</li> <li>➤ Sustainable alternative (or supplemental) livelihood opportunities identified;</li> <li>➤ Individual and community capacity building on the identified areas;</li> <li>➤ Capacity needs assessed at the individual, community, institutional and systemic levels (reference: MITchel's Report NSP and NCSA)</li> <li>➤ Sustainable land zoning and utilization in and around forest areas demonstrated</li> <li>➤ Sustainable forest management included as a regular agenda items in the review and coordination meetings at the upazila and district levels;</li> <li>➤ Relevant policies (leasing policy, Forest Act, Forest Policy etc) and institutional mandates of MoL, MoEF, MoEF and MoA analyzed</li> <li>➤ Recommendations prepared for harmonization and institutional reforms;</li> <li>➤ ECA Management Plan Implemented and institutionalized in 4 ECA sites.</li> </ul>

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	
Urban Environmental Management Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ a. Environmental policies and principles of sustainability incorporated into urban planning and management</li> <li>➤ b. Environmental services through private-public-community partnership</li> <li>➤ c. Green and clean city environment regime instituted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Gap in urban environmental policy, planning and management identified</li> <li>➤ The status of city planning process and institutional backup at selected municipalities assessed</li> <li>➤ Strategy and guideline on urban environmental planning prepared</li> <li>➤ Institutional mechanism for inter-agency collaboration developed</li> <li>➤ Capacity enhancement needs on urban environmental planning at municipal level assessed</li> <li>➤ Training module for municipal staff on urban environmental planning developed</li> <li>➤ Training conducted for municipal staff on urban environmental planning</li> <li>➤ Study tour for municipal staff for better conceptualization on urban planning and management organized</li> <li>➤ Stakeholders at municipal level for environmental service identified</li> <li>➤ Social entry points and partnership strategy identified</li> <li>➤ Public awareness raised among educational institutions</li> <li>➤ Municipal level environmental priorities identified through participatory planning exercise</li> <li>➤ Action plan for priority based environmental services developed</li> <li>➤ Pilot urban environmental service through public-private partnership demonstrated</li> </ul>
Compliance for Global Environment Management Ensured	<p>Institutional Capacity for ozone depleting substance phase out enhanced</p> <p>National Implementation Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) phase out approved</p> <p>Project developed and approved as a follow up of National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yearly inventory on ozone depleting substances imported and consumed in Bangladesh updated</li> <li>➤ Annual basis data on ozone depleting substances imported and consumed reported to the ozone secretariat, Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund Secretariat and to the implementing agencies.</li> <li>➤ License for import of Ozone Depleting Substances issued</li> <li>➤ Import and consumption of ozone depleting substances monitored.</li> <li>➤ Public awareness raising campaign on ozone conducted</li> <li>➤ Training for policy maker and stakeholders on ozone organized</li> <li>➤ Stakeholder meeting on refrigeration sector phase-out programme and MDI sector phase-out organized</li> <li>➤ Montreal Protocol Executive Committee (EX Com) events and Meeting of Parties (MoP) attended and</li> <li>➤ The implementation of other ODS projects- NPP and MDI co-coordinated and monitored</li> <li>➤ Ensuring Bangladesh remains in compliance with respect to the Montreal Protocol obligations</li> </ul>

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	
<p>Environment and sustainable development issues mainstreamed into national development framework to achieve the MDGs</p>	<p>Adaptation to climate change through coastal afforestation; Environment and Climate Resilient &amp; gender sensitive development strategies and Plans are prepared. Policies and institutional Analysis for regional sustainable development report prepared; Institutional capacity enhanced and Improved Environmental Governance reduced pollution as well as reduced poverty and vulnerability;</p> <p>Increased access to new financing mechanisms such as payment service for ecosystem services and capacity to adapt to climate change strengthened.</p> <p>Effective partnership developed for gender sensitive collaborative resource management and adaptation to climate change institutionalized. MDG monitoring system established</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Union and district level Strategies and Plans in 3 Pilot sites are prepared.</li> <li>➤ Environment, Water, Agriculture, Fisheries and Land Sectoral Policies and their institutional mandates reviewed for harmonization. Poverty-environment initiative demonstrated to achieve MDGs. An effective coordination mechanism established at the MOEF in partnership with Planning Commission and relevant agencies.</li> <li>➤ Poverty-environment-climate mainstreaming project initiated. Pro-poor gender sensitive eco-friendly rural development planning manual prepared and practiced in pilot sites in 3 Divisions on access to ecosystem services; tools/methodologies used for development frameworks. Local government officials and community leaders trained in EIA and ecosystem services.</li> <li>➤ A number of local government officials are trained in planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting on sustainable development, EIA, land use planning and climate risk reduction projects. Communication strategy developed.</li> </ul>

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	
National policy on sustainable land and water harmonized and management capacity enhanced	<p>Sustainable Land and water Management mainstreamed in related policies, institutions and legislation</p> <p>Institution strengthened and capacity developed for implementation of the national landuse policy</p> <p>SLM knowledge management system enhanced</p> <p>Human capacity developed for local level institutional coordination and advocacy on SLM</p> <p>Resource mobilized for implementation of the national landuse policy, plans and programmes</p> <p>Institutional capacity building issues addressed in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)</p>	<p>Policy brief on mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management (SLM) into landuse decision making using economic instrument developed</p> <p>Sectoral ministries and related department are mandated to incorporate SLM in their plan and policies</p> <p>The number of tools to be established with land and water management objectives that would be promoted for rehabilitation of degraded land and water</p> <p>Baseline parameters for national landuse policy established</p> <p>Integrated monitoring plan developed</p> <p>Effective institutional coordination framework developed</p> <p>Action plan developed for the land use policy that will include land-zoning and land utilization plan and investment plan for land development</p>