



**Annual Progress Report 2006
and
Annual Work Plan 2007
on
Bangladesh National Capacity Self-Assessment
for
Global Environmental Management**

BGD / 04 / G41

ATLAS Project ID: 00044521

Submitted by
Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)
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Executive Summary

The issue of capacity building has become a major priority to the developing nations like Bangladesh. Bangladesh -- being the signatory to the Rio Conventions, namely UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD -- is obliged to implement these MEAs at national levels. With a view to developing capacity building in Bangladesh for global environmental management, the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) Project has been approved by the Global Environment Facility for a period of 16 months. The PRODOC has been signed between the Government of Bangladesh (Economic Relations Division and MoEF) and UNDP on 29 December 2005. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests with technical support from the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The actual project activities have been commenced from July 2006.

The NCSA project in Bangladesh aims to provide the country with the opportunity to identify priority capacity needs in order to effectively address crosscutting global environmental issues. This enabling activity is to conduct a country-driven self-assessment exercise and formulate 'capacity development action plan' for the environmental sector.

In the year 2006, a number of enabling activities have taken place towards the NCSA objectives. Some of the noteworthy activities were: inception workshop, formation and meetings of the Project Steering Committee and Strategic Technical Committee, 8 thematic group meetings and participation of the NCSA team in the NCSA Regional Workshop for Asia held during 20-23 November 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Through the NCSA process, meaningful partnerships are being created among the Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Development Partners, Civil Societies, Educational institutions, Research organizations and private sector. The NCSA project has a multi-stakeholder outlook and plans to foster partnerships in a wide area. Along with that, inception workshops, thematic group meetings and other meetings (Project Steering Committee meetings, Strategic Technical Committee meetings / recruitment of consultants) have ensured the participation of relevant stakeholders.

In the year 2007, a number of Focus Group Discussions will be held with different stakeholders, especially Members of Parliament, in order to sensitize them about the national, regional and global Environmental issues as well as to generate political commitment toward environmental conservation. Suggestions from various meetings have paved the way for the future of this project: to tap on the national resources such as the government's fund through Annual Development Programme (ADP) budget, to utilize existing training institutes for sensitizing stakeholders and last but not the least, to ensure interagency partnership / coordination and retain institutional memory.

Section I: Context:

Bangladesh is a signatory to a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including the Rio Conventions, namely United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). However, the country's capacities at individual, institutional and systemic levels to implement these conventions are limited. It is considered appropriate to build capacity of the country while the Rio Conventions are in different stages of implementation. Need is also felt to enhance the technical capacity of the country to take part in the global negotiation processes and link decisions taken at the global level to matching actions at the country level.

The overall aim of NCSA is to provide Bangladesh with the opportunity to identify priority capacity needs in order to effectively address crosscutting global environmental issues. This enabling activity is to conduct a country-driven self-assessment and develop a Capacity Development Action Plan for environmental sector of the country. The focus of this project is to capture the concerns related to critical capacity constraints for implementing the MEAs; formulate strategic plan how to develop national capacity for thematic issues as well as issues that cut across focal areas; increase awareness on various issues with regard to national capacity for the MEAs; and link past and ongoing activities for the MEAs with overall national development policies.

The overall aim of the GEF-supported NCSA in Bangladesh is to provide the country with the opportunity to take the lead in articulating its own capacity needs and priorities with respect to the global environment management taking into account the three fundamental global conventions i.e. UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD. The primary goal of the NCSA process in Bangladesh is to identify, through a country-driven consultative process, priorities and needs for capacity building to manage the global environment. The specific objectives to be accomplished through the NCSA include:

- To identify, confirm or review priority issues for action within the thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation;
- To explore related capacity needs within and across the three thematic areas;
- To strengthen national procedures to negotiate and implement the global environmental conventions;
- To integrate national data collection and reporting for various conventions;
- To propose a unified capacity building strategy and action plans for future external funding and assistance;
- To formulate an integrated institutional framework to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the strategy and action plans;
- To retain and utilize existing capacity and linkage with institutional framework;
- To link country action to the broader international environmental management and sustainable development framework.

The following are the expected outputs to be achieved during project tenure:

- A participatory NCSA process operationalised;
- National data collection and reporting for various conventions integrated;
- Synergies among Rio Convention regarding capacity building needs established and capacity building needs identified and prioritized at national level by the stakeholders;
- Measures to strengthen national procedures to negotiate and implement the global environmental conventions determined (capacity development action plan developed with suggested M&E and institutional setup)

Section II: Achievements:

Following are the major achievements of the NCSA project over the reporting period:

2.1 National stakeholder consultation workshop (Inception Workshop)

An inception workshop was held on 30 July 2006 in Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM), Dhaka, Bangladesh. Hon'ble Ex-State Minister for Environment and Forest Mr. Jafrul Islam Chowdhury was present as the Chief Guest in the inaugural session while Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest presided over the session. The representative of the concerned ministries/divisions, government departments/ agencies, research organizations, academics from the universities, civil societies, NGOs, development partners, experts, environmental practitioners, press as well as electronic media and other stakeholders were present as participants at the workshop. At the onset, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative of IUCN - Bangladesh Country Office welcomed the audience and Monowar Islam, Project Manager of NCSA presented a short brief on NCSA project. Tariq-ul-Islam, Joint Secretary, MoEF and National Project Director (NPD) of NCSA offered vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.



Fig.1: Inaugural session of NCSA Inception workshop

After the inaugural session, a technical session was arranged where papers were presented on five thematic areas. The title of papers and resource persons were as follows:

- Introduction to CBD and NBSAP: by Dr. Md. Khairul Alam, Chief Research Officer, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Chittagong;
- Introduction to UNCCD and NAP: by Mamunul H Khan, Programme Officer, UNDP, Dhaka;
- Introduction to UNFCCC and NAPA: by Md. Reazuddin, Director (Technical), Department of Environment;
- Issues on capacity building to negotiate and implement global environmental conventions: by Dr. M Aminul Islam, Sustainable Development Adviser, UNDP; and
- Issues towards creating synergies among Rio Conventions and other Conventions – Experience of other developing member countries: by Bhujangarao Durga Dharmaji, International Consultant, NCSA.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

The following four working groups were formed during the inception workshop on the basis of thematic profile as indicated in the section III of the PRODOC:

- WG-1: Capacity need assessments under climate change (UNFCCC / KP)
- WG-2: Capacity need assessments under biodiversity (CBD / Cartagena Protocol)
- WG-3: Capacity need assessments under desertification (UNCCD)
- WG-4: Synergies among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

The ToR and key questions for each working group were formulated in a participatory method. The major outcomes of each group discussions were presented in the concluding plenary session. The major recommendations of each group were presented in the Inception report.

2.2 Formation of Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC was formed on 17th July 2006, with representation from the line ministries and agencies of the government in order to facilitate inter-agency coordination, information exchange and expedite the process of NCSA implementation. The PSC comprises of about 31 ministries/divisions / departments, 2 NGOs, 2 representatives of civil society, UNDP, IUCN as well as the NPD, NCSA project (Annex 5 of the Inception Report). It is the apex body to coordinate the high-ranking Government officials as well as Government's involvement in the assessment, review and endorsement of the activities and outcomes of the process.

2.3 Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting

The first PSC meeting was held on 13th September 2006 at the MoEF Conference Room. Some of the major decisions of the meeting were as follows:

- The draft Inception Report was approved by the PSC and the Project Management Unit (PMU) was to finalize the Inception Report incorporating suggestions and recommendations made by the members of the PSC;
- The PMU was asked to develop a Medium Size Project (MSP) based on the assessment of the NCSA and submit it to the GEF for funding through the MoEF and UNDP on or before 30th September 2007;
- The PSC agreed to extend the actual project period up to 31st December 2007 and accordingly the PMU was to submit the revised TPP before that date;

2.4 Formation of the Strategic Technical Committee (STC)

The STC was formed on the 22nd of August 2006, with representation from PSC members, various line agencies and departments of the government including ERD and Finance Division and national NGOs and UNDP. The composition of this Committee is as follows.

❖ Joint Secretary (Development), MoEF	: Chairperson
❖ Representative of IMED	: Member
❖ Representative of Planning Commission	: Member
❖ Representative of ERD	: Member
❖ Representative of DoE	: Member
❖ Representative of UNDP	: Member
❖ Representative of BCAS	: Member
❖ Country Representative, IUCN	: Member
❖ Project Manager, NCSA	: Member Secretary

The STC plays a role in reviewing and advising on project activities and ensuring coordination between the different thematic technical groups. The STC was also involved in coordinating the NCSA process and ensuring Government involvement through its members' involvement in both technical and management aspects of the project.

2.5 Strategic Technical Committee (STC) meeting

The first meeting of the STC was held on 31st August 2006 at the MoEF Conference Room. Following is a short account of the major decisions of the meeting:

- The meeting agreed that all the recommendations made by the STC members should be incorporated into the Inception Report.
- The Inception Report may then be placed for approval of Project Steering Committee to be held on 13 September 2006.

2.6 Thematic Group Meetings

Four major Thematic Groups (TGs) were identified based on the thematic profiles as discussed during the inception workshop. Under those a total of nine TGs were identified. Among these TGs three under UNFCCC, 3 under CBD and 2 under UNCCD and 1 under synergy were identified. The proper persons and institutions have also been identified for the respective TGs. However, the list of the TG members was not exhaustive rather flexible in nature and expert or suitable persons were co-opted to any of the TGs based on his/her knowledge and expertise and invited to the TG meetings. The ToR of the TGs were developed by the PMU in due course.

Prior to each meeting a resource person was selected to prepare a theme paper as per the ToR of the TG and it was then distributed to the participants for their perusal. In the TG meeting the resource person presented the paper and the expert members gave their input which were then considered to prepare the final version of the Thematic Report.



Fig.2: Thematic Group meeting of NCSA

Eight TG meetings have been organized in the reporting period. The names of the TGs, resource persons invited and meeting dates are given in the table below.

SL	TG	Resource Person	Meeting date
TG on UNFCCC			
1	TG on Mitigation, Kyoto Protocol – mandates and elements (CDM)	Mr. A. H. M. Maqsood Sinha, Executive Director, Waste Concern	2 November, 06
2	TG on Adaptation, implementing NAPA – five year PoW on Adaptation (including access to LDC fund, Special CC fund, KP Adaptation Fund, GEF-RAF etc.)	Mr. Mohammad Reazuddin, Director (Technical), Department of Environment	30 November, 06
3	TG on reporting and post 2012 climate change regime (e.g. NatCom and NAPA)	Dr Atiq Rahman Executive Director Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies	27 December, 06

TG on CBD			
4	TG on Bioprospecting and ABS issues	Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Member Director (Crops), BARC	28 November, 06
5	TG on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety including risk assessment and risk management	Mr. Solaiman Haider Assistant Director Department of Environment	17 December, 06
6	TG to address capacity needs to implement CBD 2010 Countdown (including NBSAP, 4 th National Biodiversity Report of Bangladesh to CBD, GTI, SBSTTA etc)	Dr. G P Das, Country Coordinator, Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II	29 November, 06
TG on UNCCD			
7	TG on land degradation including resource mobilization (Global Mechanism of GEF)	Mr. Jalal Uddin Md. Shoaib, Principal Scientific Officer, Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI)	14 December, 06
8	TG on issues other than land degradation, and reporting and communication including NAP	Dr. S M Imamul Huq Professor Department of Soil, Water and Environment University of Dhaka	20 December, 06
TG on Synergy			
9	TG on Synergies among the Rio Conventions	Mr. M. Qamar Munir, Project Manager, Institution and Policy Support Unit (IPSU), Ministry of Environment and Forest	To be held by February 2007

2.7 Participation at international events

The NCSA National Project Director (NPD) and Project Manager (PM) participated at the NCSA Regional Workshop for Asia held on 20 - 23 November 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was held among representatives from different Asia regions, those are implementing NCSA in their own country. This workshop basically gave a platform for the representatives of different country to share their experience and knowledge, constraints and difficulties faced by them as well as the lessons learnt, while execution of the NCSA project in their concerned country. The workshop was also able to advise and enhance the capacity of the PM and NPD to execute the NCSA project effectively.

2.8 Network and knowledge sharing

In order to expedite the NCSA process, a web based or electronic information and dissemination system has been developed. The website (www.iucnbd.org/nca) -- being established for Bangladesh NCSA and linked with global UNDP-NCSA network -- will facilitate information sharing at the national/global level. Regular updating of the web site will continue in this matter.

2.9 Expected achievements in 2007

The NCSA project is expected to identify the needs in the following areas:

- i) Policy Reform and Development within GoB;
- ii) Institutional Reforms and developments in Bangladesh;
- iii) To address the development issues and challenges on the peoples lives, livelihood, environment and ecosystem due to climate change, loss of biodiversity and land degradation through thematic assessment and focus group meetings;

Section III: Organization and Management

3.1 Project Management Unit (PMU)

The NCSA project is being managed by a Project Management Unit (PMU). The Project Manager has been entrusted to coordinate the day-to-day implementation of the project activities and manage the activities of staff in the Project Management Unit. The Project Manager, with the assistance of the PMU, provides the necessary administrative and logistic support in the whole NCSA process. It has been suggested during the consultative meetings of PDF - A stage that the PMU will be based within IUCN-Bangladesh Country Office, with strong working links with NPD, NCSA and Joint Secretary (Dev), MOEF. The organogram of the PMU-NCSA is placed in Annexure - 1.

3.2 Project Steering Committee (PSC)

With view to ensuring Government's ownership in the NCSA process, a Project Steering Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests with representatives from the other Ministries / Divisions, Department of Environment, Forest Department, ERD, IMED, Planning Commission along with identified stakeholders in the NCSA process. This Committee will meet at least three times during the project period. It is the apex body to coordinate the high-ranking Government officials as well as Government's involvement in the assessment, review and endorsement of the policy decision as well as the activities and outcomes of the process.

3.3 Strategic Technical Committee (STC)

The MoEF has issued a notification on 22 August 2006 regarding the formation of a Strategic Technical Committee (STC). A sub-group of the Project Steering Committee participates in the STC. This small group of experts is chaired by the NPD and have an in-depth involvement in the project activities with advice and input into strategic and technical issues related to project implementation. The STC have a role in reviewing and advising on project activities and ensuring coordination between the different thematic technical groups.

3.4 National Consultants

Three national consultants have been appointed for providing specialized technical support to the project working closely with the Project Manager to implement the project activities and to achieve project objectives. The first drafts of their reports are due in January 2007.

3.5 International Consultant

The international consultant has been deployed before inception workshop. He will be rendering his inputs in this quarter for preparation of the draft Interim NCSA report.

Section IV: Partnerships

Through the NCSA process, meaningful partnerships are being created among the Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Development Partners, Civil Societies, Educational institutions, Research organizations and private sector. The NCSA project has a multi-stakeholder outlook and plans to foster partnerships in a wide area. Along with that, inception workshops, thematic group meetings and other meetings (Project Steering Committee meetings, Strategic Technical Committee meetings / recruitment of consultants) have ensured the participation of relevant stakeholders.

Section V: Lessons learnt and Looking toward the Future in 2007

5.1 Lessons learnt

The major lessons learnt in the year 2006 have been gathered through the inception workshop, thematic group meetings and other strategic meetings. Different organizations from the government and non-government have effectively participated at the meetings and based on their recommendations, the following highlights are being reported.

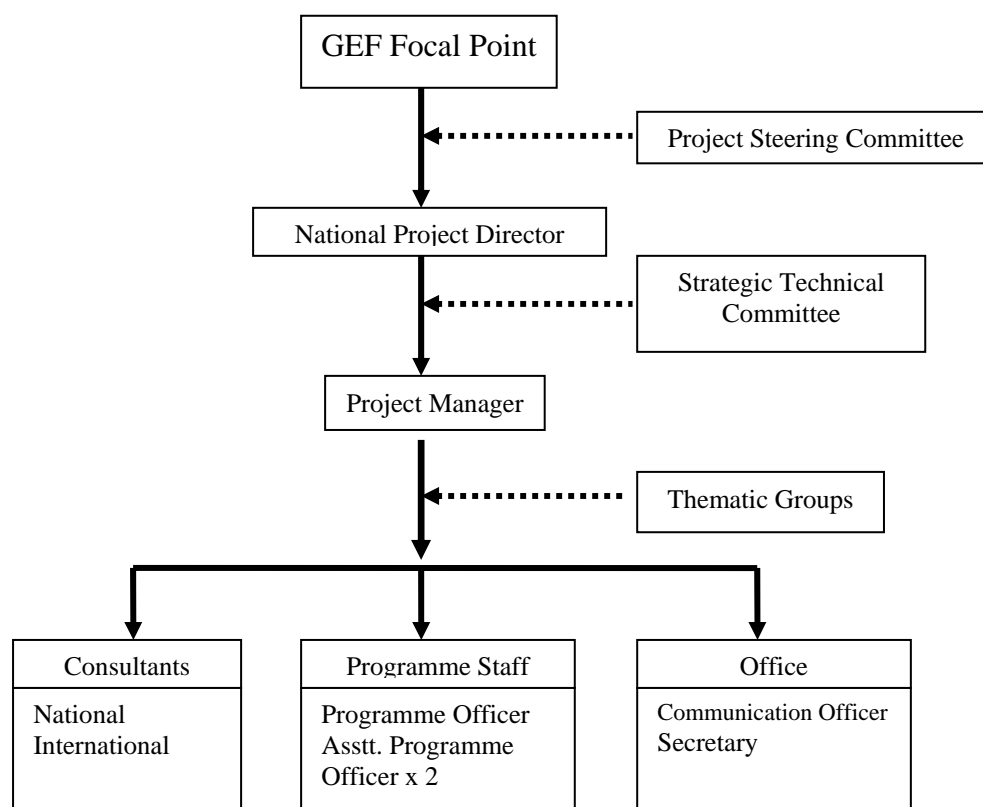
- The utilization of national training institutes such as Bangladesh Public Administration and Training Center (PATC), National Academy of Education and Management (NAEM), Academy for Planning and Development (APD), Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD), Rural Development Authority (RDA), Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) and BRAC for the capacity development training one of the major recommendations of a number of thematic group meetings.
- Retention of institutional memory was reported as one of the major backlogs of the NCSA process. In this regard, designation of focal points and creation of separate cells (such as, the Climate Change Cell in the Department of Environment) for the Rio conventions came up as one of the more workable solutions to face the Priority Environmental Issues (PEIs).
- Private sector sources of funding through tapping their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies came up as a major recommendation, to resolve the funding crisis and to be able to avail small size grants. Business houses as potential donors were hence to be sensitized and incorporated in the NCSA process.
- The in-house or Government allocated Annual Development Programme (ADP) should be explored. Along with that, on-going and potential development projects can also have a component devoted to climate change, biodiversity and desertification.
- Interagency cooperation and exchange of information or experience sharing exercises is mandatory for achieving the set goals of NCSA project.

5.2 Future strategic directions/recommendations

- In the year 2007, a number of Focused Group meetings will be held with different stakeholders, especially Members of Parliament, in order to sensitize them about the national, regional and global environmental issues and its activities and to also generate political commitment. Following the general elections, this activity is expected to gain momentum.
- Public training institutes as mentioned above will be utilized for disseminating NCSA objectives and the training modules or Training of Trainers (ToTs) will incorporate a chapter or section on the 3 Rio Conventions and their realization in Bangladesh.
- A Road Map for whole NCSA process has been developed to indicate the future direction. The schematic Road Map is presented at Annexure – 2.

Organizational Structure

The overall structure and Staff Position of the PMU is given the diagram below:

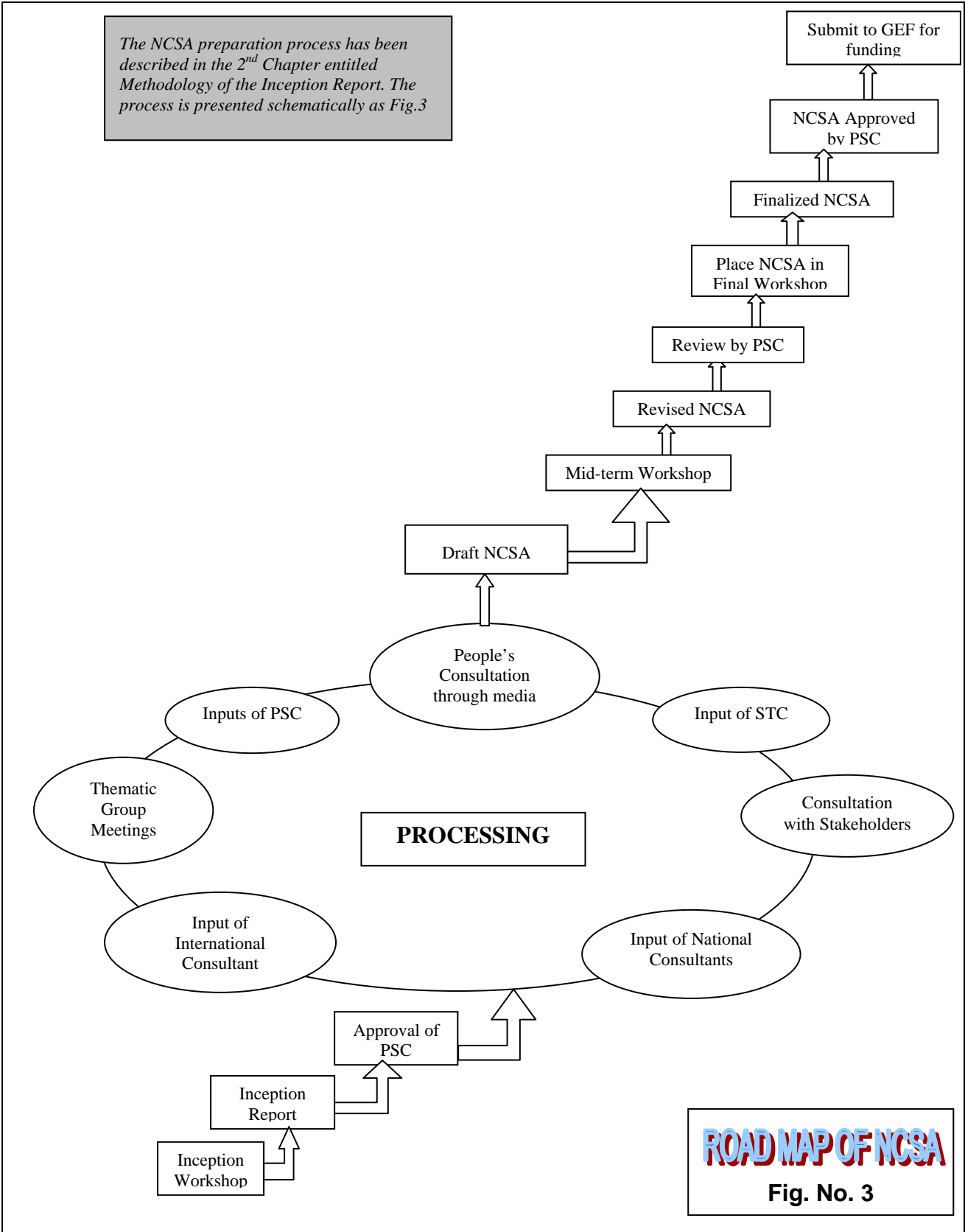


Staff Position

SL No	Name	Designation	e-mail address	Phone
1.	Mr. Tariq-ul-Islam Joint Secretary, MoEF	National Project Director	jsdev@moef.gov.bd	88-02-7167240
2.	Mr. Monowar Islam	Project Manager	monowar@iucnbd.org	01720-213927
3.	Dr. Haseeb Md Irfanullah	Programme Officer	haseeb@iucnbd.org	01817-118522
4.	Ms. Rizwana Shamshad	Asst. Programme Officer	rizwana@iucnbd.org	01712-222489
5.	Ms. Remeen Firoz	Asst. Programme Officer	remeen@iucnbd.org	0191-345621
6.	Mr. M Mahbubur Rahman Masum	Communication Officer	masum@iucnbd.org	0171-2061502
7.	Ms. Dominica Rozario	Secretary	dominica@iucnbd.org	0171-1664276

ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NCSA:

The NCSA preparation process has been described in the 2nd Chapter entitled Methodology of the Inception Report. The process is presented schematically as Fig.3



ROAD MAP OF NCSA
Fig. No. 3