

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (IDCOL), BANGLADESH



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

GLOBAL
PROGRAMMING
CONFERENCE

Project title

Climate Resilient Sustainable Coastal Forestry in Bangladesh

Result areas

Forestry and land use
Ecosystem and ecosystem services

Sector

Public

Total financing, USD

USD 80 million

GCF financing, USD

USD 60 million

Financial instrument

Senior Loan

Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it

Coastal zones of Bangladesh are highly vulnerable to climate change due to the combined effects of sea level rise, increased intensity of cyclones and associated storm surges. Mangrove forests are an integral part of coastal ecosystem which act as a major carbon sequester, provide economic resource and reduce vulnerability of storm surges through coastal protection. Increased climate vulnerabilities and over exploitation of natural resources are degrading the mitigation potential of the mangroves and threatens the communities (9.9 million) dependent on it.

The main objective of the proposed project is to increase carbon sink and increase ecosystem and community resilience through forestry. Support mechanisms, such as integrated zone management and knowledge sharing, will also be promoted. The Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) will implement the project and IDCOL will be the accredited entity.

Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged

According to the 7th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), the country aims to increase forest cover to 15% by 2020, which is consistent with the relevant targets of sustainable development goal (SDG), and the Environment Forestry and Climate Change Country Investment Plan (GoB 2017).

Potential stakeholders include: Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh Forest Department, Economic Relations Division (ERD)/NDA, IDCOL, NGO's, local government and local communities.

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Activities

- Activity 1.1.1 Afforestation of mangrove and associated species in newly accreted land. Plantation of Koera and Baen in 20,000 ha and Golpata plantation along 400 km. Along with the mangrove species, plantation of non-mangrove Jhao in 100 ha. area and strip plantation along 1000 km.
- Activity 1.1.2 Reforestation and enrichment of mangrove and associated species in deforested areas. Plantation of non-mangrove species in 100 ha., mound plantation in 100 ha., and mangrove enrichment in 300 ha. In addition, nursing of 15,000,000 seedling for free distribution, 500,000 seedlings for institutional plantation, and 13,920,000 seedling for tree outside forests (ToF).
- Activity 1.1.3 Conservation and management of 4 preserved/protected areas. Conservation and management of the protected areas will ensure that local people do not over-exploit forest resources and the plantation activities can become sustainable.
- Activity 1.2.1 Arrangement of 40 awareness-raising workshops to target communities on addressing climate change through coastal ecosystems and their services.
- Activity 1.2.2 Participatory identification of environmentally-friendly, economically viable, socially acceptable, climate-resilient alternative livelihoods per target area. Provide support for alternative income-generating activities to at least 20,000 people in the selected communities. Sample livelihood systems could be: family orchards, crab farming, beekeeping, shrimp culture, trees outside forest (ToF), nurseries, ecotourism, improved cook stoves, pickles, plant *Nypa fruticans*, sustainable fuel, seed banks, seed money, among others.
- Activity 1.2.3 Establishment of a financial mechanism to support the implementation of climate-resilient alternative livelihoods (e.g. micro financing) for 12,000 people.
- Activity 1.2.4 Capacity-building of communities and associations for the implementation of climate-resilient, alternative livelihood systems and ecosystem management through organizing training/awareness- raising/sensitization workshops for at least 20000 people.
- Activity 1.2.5 Support on value chain improvement and access to market of sustainable coastal products.
- Activity 1.2.6 Establishment of a "local" Payment for Ecosystem Services program for the selected 4 protected areas.

Other activities include Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Development of Monitoring and Assessment Framework.

Expected outcomes

The project aims to sequester 2.64 Mt CO₂e per year and 79.16 Mt CO₂e throughout the estimated project lifespan (30 y). Also, the coastal greenbelt will protect coastal communities from cyclones and storm surges. The alternative livelihood options will benefit the local communities and help them to improve their socio-economic conditions as well as conserving the forestry program. The project will impact almost 9,925,881 people living in the coastal zones directly or indirectly which is 6.89% of the total population of the country. Also, many government officials and community members will be trained and their capacity, knowledge, and awareness will be raised through this project.

Paradigm shift potential

This project will set an example of community-based coastal forest management system in the country, integrating coastal forest management with human settlement planning and local livelihoods. With the value chain improvement activity sustainability of the livelihood component will be ensured as better market will be developed in the areas to sell goods. This will open a path to take more initiatives of similar types of projects and encourage NGOs, and private organizations to get involved in such approaches. The project will also build capacity of local communities and staff of forest department and other relevant ministries on coastal ecosystem management which will ensure that these people can actively manage similar projects. Evidence-based best practices established by the GCF project will continue to inform subsequent phases of the programmes as well as enhance policy and planning, extending beyond the duration of the project. Developing an action plan and financial strategy through activity 2.2.4 for long term Green belt conservation and maintenance will ensure sustainability of the project and open a path for undertaking similar attempts.