



# Community-Based Adaptation FAST FACTS

## BANGLADESH

### Community-based wetland management project

**Grantee:** BIRAM (Boudhi Investigate and Research Assembly of Men)

**Type of organization:** NGO

**Number of participants:** 2,000

**Location:** Borkona Godabanne Chora Adam, Panchari, Khagrachari Hill District

**CBA Contribution:** \$46,096

**Co-financing:** Community \$1,473 (in kind)

**Project Dates:** July 2011–December 2012

The Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) is a five-year UNDP global initiative, largely funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) along with other donors. Delivering through the GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP) and UNDP Country Office, the goal of the Project is to strengthen the resiliency of communities addressing climate change impacts. UNDP partners with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to enhance community mobilization, recognize volunteers' contributions and ensure inclusive participation around the project, as well as to facilitate capacity building of partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). Testing the Vulnerability Assessment Reduction (VRA) and other community-engagement tools, the Project is generating invaluable knowledge and lessons for replication and upscaling. The Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland,

and AusAID provide additional funding.

This CBA project aims at improving the capacity of the community to adapt to climate change. Borkona Godabanne Chora Adam is a hilly region located in the southeastern part of Bangladesh where most households depend on rice cultivation as their main source of income. While there are some communities that engage in animal husbandry, vegetable cultivation, business, and fish culture, agriculture remain the primary occupation. Increasingly, farmers are experiencing reductions in yields due to degraded soils, lack of irrigation and rudimentary farming technologies. These impacts are prompting migration amongst farmers, resulting in neglected fields, and leaving many families without income. In some cases, farmers are borrowing money at high interest rates--increasing their financial burden--to meet basic needs. These temporary coping methods often leave community members more vulnerable to food insecurity than before.



Degraded wetland habitat

The Godabanne Chora stream plays a critical life-supporting role to the community (2,000 people). It is the main source of irrigation during the dry season, and it is the primary water supply for fish farming. The stream's water levels are lowering due to climatic and anthropogenic pressures (e.g. decreased rainfall and increased temperatures), threatening people's livelihoods and affecting the rich biodiversity of the connecting wetland. Different species of native birds, frogs, snakes, lizards, tortoise, fish and plants are also facing critical conditions due to excessive exploitation and improper wetland management. As a consequence, some important species, such as vultures, are disappearing from the area, which disrupts the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

### CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Climate change projections for Bangladesh predict an increase in temperatures, reduced and erratic rainfall, and more frequent rainstorms. Over the last 10 years, the region has shown a declining trend in average annual rainfall (which varied between 1500 to 5000 millimeters to a variation of 1900 to 2800 millimeters), with annual average temperatures increasing (from between 7°-36°C to between 14°-42°C). With decreased precipitation, rain-fed agriculture, which is the predominant form of agriculture in the region, will suffer from reduced crop productivity. The predicated rise in temperature is likely to increase pest and disease infestation in farming systems, which could reduce productivity and increase production costs making it even more difficult for the region to achieve food security. Without reliable water sources to feed crops,

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households and wetlands, the Borkona Godabanne Chora Adam area will continue to suffer from degraded lands, biodiversity loss, and impaired livelihoods.

## ADAPTATION MEASURES

The project consists of the following activities:



Community-based Wetland Restoration

- Training on sustainable natural resource management;
- Creating a boundary for protected areas of the wetland;
- Improving dams and canals for water collection;
- Piloting new crop varieties suitable for degraded and marginal land;
- Training in livestock breeding, improved agricultural techniques and fruit harvesting to enhance income-generating activities;
- Conducting a baseline survey of socio-economic and biodiversity status;
- Repopulating fish and birds species in the wetland area;
- Developing a plantation to improve wildlife habitat; and
- Holding discussions, workshops, and presentations to increase awareness about climate change and adaptation.

The community will benefit from more secure water and natural resources that will facilitate stable and diverse livelihoods. Long-term sustainable wetland management will ensure that community members are able to continue to live harmoniously with the environment and serve as stewards of environmental conservation.

### FOCUS ON...

#### Global environmental benefit

*A strong emphasis on sustainable wetland management and biodiversity are integral to this project. Protection and maintenance of the wildlife habitat will increase biodiversity in the wetland area and ensure a properly functioning ecosystem. The promotion and repopulation of specific endangered species will also reduce the risk of extinction and biodiversity loss.*

#### Community participation and sustainability

*Inclusive focus group discussions ensure that specific local needs and knowledge are taken into account. A wide variety of stakeholders—from vulnerable farmers to religious leaders—participate in these discussions, which prove to be invaluable during project development and are expected to serve as a key monitoring tool. Women, who are the most vulnerable community group, account for over half of all participants, and are playing an integral role in project planning. They will take active roles in farming system initiatives and income generating activities. A community committee will be established and trained to oversee and ensure the continuation of wetland management and other activities.*

#### Policy influence

*Information sharing and awareness raising activities will inform about climate change impacts, vulnerability of the ecosystem and biodiversity and their services to the livelihood of the community. Nationally, the Borkona Godabanne Chora Adam project will demonstrate a replicable model of wetland management to encourage adaptation activities in communities facing similar challenges to climate change.*

**For more information about CBA or CBA projects visit: [www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba](http://www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba)**

Further information, lessons learned, and experiences gathered from climate change adaptation activities globally are available at the Adaptation Learning Mechanism: [www.adaptationlearning.net](http://www.adaptationlearning.net)



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