BANGLADESH

Ecosystem-based Adaptation 2020-2024

Supported by the Least Developed Countries Fund

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Excavating and re-excavating 35 ponds and 17.8 km of canals, and establishing 27 rainwater harvesting systems to boost water security

Training local authorities, communities and 37 Village Conservation Groups to plan, implement and upscale ecosystem-based adaptation to tackle climate impacts

Restoring 180 hectares of wetlands and forests, planting 249,000 tree saplings

UN environment programme

gef

PROJECT TITLE:

ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES TO ADAPTATION IN THE DROUGHT-PRONE BARIND TRACT AND HAOR WETLAND AREA

EXECUTING ENTITY:

Department of Environment (DoE) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

KEY TARGETS:

6,000

Individuals benefitting from the project's activities

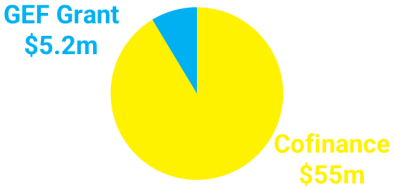
1,500+

Individuals adopting climate-resilient livelihoods

180

Hectares of wetlands and forests restored

FUNDING:



PROJECT PARTNERS:

The Barind Multipurpose Development Authority and Bangladesh Water Development Board

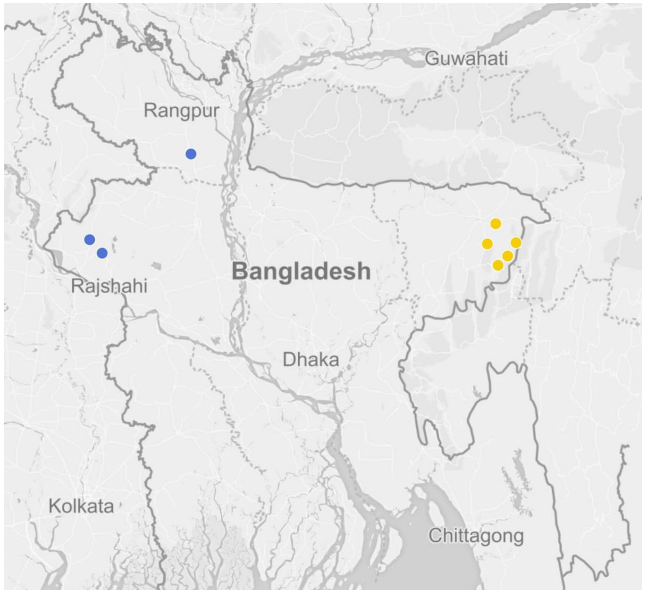
INTRODUCTION

- The dryland forests of the Barind Tract and the wetlands of the Haor Area of Bangladesh provide a range of valuable ecosystem services to local communities that derive most of their income from agriculture and fishing.
- Climate change impacts, including droughts and floods, are harming communities that live in Haor and the Barind Tract, damaging agricultural productivity and fisheries.
- In an approach known as 'ecosystem-based adaptation', this project is restoring the Haor wetlands and the dryland forests of the Barind Tract in order to protect communities from these climate impacts.
- The project's main approaches involve strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of decision-makers to carry out ecosystem-based adaptation, and supporting adaptation technologies that will conserve surface water in the Barind and reduce erosion in the Haor.

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- In the Barind Tract dryland area, climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of droughts leading to water insecurity and reduced agricultural productivity.
- Conversely, in the Haor wetland area, climate change is expected to cause erratic rainfalls and floods, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases, damaging agriculture and increasing erosion and sedimentation that negatively affects the habitats of indigenous fish species, and in turn, local fisheries.
- The ecosystem services provided by the Barind Tract drylands and the Haor Area wetlands are under threat due to ecosystem degradation resulting from unsustainable resource use. Climate change is further compounding ecosystem degradation, putting the local communities and their livelihoods at risk.

PROJECT LOCATION



The project is being implemented in the Barind Tract (blue) in the Tanore, Nachole Chapainowabganj and Pirganj 'upazilas', and in the Haor area (yellow) in the Barlekha, Juri, Kulaura, Golapganj, and Fenchuganj 'upazilas'.

TECHNOLOGIES & METHODS

- **Ecosystem-based adaptation** is the holistic strategy of using ecosystems – and the services they provide – to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on communities.
- For example, using climate-resilient indigenous plant species, the project is **restoring 180 hectares** of degraded swamp, upland and dryland forests.
- To further support adaptation, the project is implementing **water conservation technologies,** such as excavating or re-excavating 35 ponds and 17.8 km of canals, while establishing 27 rainwater harvesting systems.
- The project is **training local authorities,** communities, committees, and 37 Village Conservation Groups to plan, implement, maintain and upscale ecosystem-based adaptation.
- To improve access to scientific and traditional knowledge on ecosystem-based adaptation, the project is funding climate change research, and establishing a **central information database** for lessons learned and cost-effectiveness of ecosystem-based adaptation interventions from the Haor Area, Barind Tract and other regions across Bangladesh.
- Furthermore, strategies and models promoting the **replication and upscaling** of ecosystem-based adaptation interventions are being developed.

CONTACTS

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RESOURCES

- UNEP project page
- Video: What is 'ecosystem-based adaptation'?
- Climate adaptation resources & multimedia

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