

Dated, 4th July 2012

Subject : Draft Proposal on Bangladesh consultation on Vision Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries (VGSSF).

Summary

This is the draft proposal on Bangladesh consultation on VGSSF basically get comments on the document, beware and influence Bangladeshi stakeholder and policy makers and also to having a platform so that the participant can consider a coordination network for the cause of small scale fishers in the country. The proposal contains section on background for this proposal, why COAST has been selected for steering Bangladesh consultation, what is the COAST experience and governance in this regard, situation of fishers in Bangladesh: objective, methodology, course of action implementation schedule and budget of the consultation. As discussed total budget of the process will be US \$ 20, 659, we are expecting contribution from IFAD is US \$ 20,000. COAST's Executive Director (Mr. Reza) will be accountable for the project implementation, while it's Assistant Director – Social Justice and Coastal Livelihood (Mr. Munir) will be the project focal person. Duration of the project implementation is July to October 2012.

1. Background

Representatives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish workers (WFF), the International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF) and the International NGO/CSO Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty, have set up a civil society co-ordination group with the purpose of engaging with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) process for developing vision guidelines on small-scale fisheries (VG-SSF). By December 2012 the consultation process should be finished then the guidelines will be finalized in international level. Taking this in view and with the advice from IPC, ICSF has communicated with COAST in Bangladesh, whether COAST can coordinate the national consultation process. A senior staff from COAST has participated in a regional training held in Bangkok in this regard. Several correspondences have been done among ICSF and finally there was a skype meeting with Mr. Thomas of IFAD, Mr. Brain O'Riordan, Mrs. Chandrika (ICSF), Md. Mujibul Haque Munir (COAST) and myself Reza (COAST). It is decided that by December 2012 the consultation will be conducted by COAST and IFAD will fund in this regard \$ 20,000. During skype discussion, there were some objectives, output and methodology have been discussed and primarily agreed as described in below.

2. Why COAST has been selected for the coordination and also why COAST is interested to be involved

COAST has been implementing various advocacy programs on climate change issues both at the national and international levels. The focus of COAST advocacy programs are both the adaptation and mitigation. To save the coastal fishermen communities COAST has been implementing various advocacy and livelihood development program like seminar, meeting, training programs, documentary films etc. COAST advocacy program includes the following demands;

- Increasing coordination among met office and the ministry of disaster management
- Listing the number of fishers. Introduction of Identity Card for fishers

- Enforcing government laws in regards to deep sea fishing
- Strengthening role of local administration for preparedness as per disaster intensity
- Alternative livelihood options in the lean season.
- Flexible fishing loan for the fishers
- Legal assistance to the fishers who driven away to the coast of other country
- All the fishers should have individual identity card issued either by local government or Upazilla (sub district) administration
- District Administration should be given authority to issue Nationality Certificate to the missing fishers.
- Close and continuous vigilance of naval force and coast guard to control pirates.
- All deep sea fishing trawler should be equipped with wire less communication so that they can communicate with naval force/ coast guard in distress situation, relationship and pro-activeness among concerned government authorities.
- Ensure life jacket for every boat passengers.
- Establish radio communications between important inland river ports and water vessels under the purview of same frequency, e.g. wireless systems between boat to boat and boat to port. Strong mobile network can also be introduced. Trawler/boat owner can be enforced for keeping radio on board.

COAST is also trying to promote alternative income generating options for the fishermen of the coastal area. COAST has been implementing the Promoting Sustainable Coastal Aquaculture in Bangladesh (ProSCAB). Main objectives of this project are to reduce poverty from the coastal disadvantaged fishers' community, provide secondary jobs to the poor fishers using some innovative and sustainable aquaculture technologies. Some of the technologies are mud crab fattening in bamboo cages, pesticides and salt free dry fish production in tunnels, fish processing in ice boxes and sea weed or sea vegetable culture. During 2009 and 2010 more than 4000 fishers were provided technical and financial support under this project. COAST has also implemented another pilot project titles "Safe Coast Safe Community" with the funding support of Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN) and Australian Aid in Cox's Bazar. The main theme of the project was to identify the local adapting technologies, giving awareness to boat owners for ensuring life jackets and radios in the boats. All the fishermen of two villages were under this pilot project.

COAST Trust is running its programs in seven coastal districts of Bangladesh; Bhola, Cox's Bazar, Pathuakhali, Noakhali, Feni, Laxmipur and Chittagong districts.

Under the region of Cox's Bazar it has coverage of all the upazilas; Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Chokoria, Pekua, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Ukhia and Teknaf along with Saintmartin Island.

With all the outreach islands of Bhola District and two upazila of Pathuakhali district it maintains another region named Outreach Island Region. This region covers the outreach islands like *Char* (sandbar island) Motahar, *Char* Kukri Mukri, *Char* Patila, Dhal *Char*, *Char* Nizam, *Char* Zahiruddin and upazila of Monpura under Bhola district and Dasmina and *Char* Kajal Upazila under Pathuakhali district. Under this region there are 12 branches.

It has also another region in Bhola main land which is covering 6 upazilas named Charfession, Lalmohan, Tazumaddin, Burhanuddin, Daulathkhan and Bhola Sadar. It has 18 offices at the union and upazila levels.

There is a region in Noakhali with the coverage of Noakhali sadar, Begumganj Upazila, Laxmipur sadar and Ramgati Upzaila, Feni sadar and Dagan Bhuyan Upazila.

Recently the organization has expanded its programs in Chittagong region with its coverage in Chandgoan, Boalkhali, Patia, Chndanais and Lohagora upazilas.

COAST has extensive experiences in campaigning and advocacy and thereby organizing consultations and different types of public events. COAST organized a nation-wide consultation on Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP) while it had set up a NGO network called SUPRO with the funding support of Action Aid, CordAid and Oxfam Novib during 2004 to 2006. COAST organized nation-wide consultation on Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (BCCSAP) with funding support of Oxfam GB during the period of 2009 to 2012. For doing all these, COAST has a separate program called Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD) for network and advocacy in national and international level. Still EquityBD is engaged in different campaign activities related to climate justice, economic justice, food sovereignty, tax justice and democratization in politics. They are part of different national, regional and international networks. For details please visit www.equitybd.org

COAST also do local level campaign related to coastal livelihood, which are related to safe coastal fishermen community, safe river way movement, getting price support in banning salt import in cooperation with Bangladesh Salt Farmers Federation, preserving mangrove and campaign against mangrove grabbers, rescuing fisherman from India through government channel, having ID card and life support equipment in fishing boat, decentralize and change of boat registration system etc.

EquityBD is governed by COAST. In COAST board of trustee is the highest policy making body. COAST Executive Director is also Chief Moderator of EquityBD. For the year 2011 to 2012 COAST operation cost of \$ 2.36 million and during 2012-2013 the operation cost will be \$ 2.52 million. It is managing revolving credit fund of \$ 7.44 million through its micro finance and technical support to 78762 poor and disadvantage families. COAST maintains a high level management, international accounting standard and auditing. It has registration with Non Governmental Organization Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), Prime Minister Office, Government of Bangladesh and also license of micro finance regulatory authority of Bangladesh Bank. COAST is certified by Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) International, Geneva for its accountability and quality management. It has complaint response mechanism, information disclosure policy and humanitarian accountability frameworks. For all details please see www.coastbd.org.

Taking the governance and experiences, COAST has selected to conduct the consultation and thereby its fund.

3. A brief on Bangladesh Fisherman Community : Life and Challenges

The main source of fishing for the small scale fisher communities in Bangladesh are extensive water resources scattered all over the country in the form of small ponds, *beels* (small water body), lakes, canals, rivers, and estuaries covering about 4.57 million ha and employing about 1.4 million people. The country has a coastal area of 2.3 million ha and a coastline of 714 km along the Bay of Bengal, which is also great source of fish. About 296 fresh and brackish water fish species

(including freshwater prawns) and 511 marine species (including marine shrimp) are available in Bangladesh waters.¹

Most of the fisher's communities of Bangladesh are illiterate and very poor. They have no basic civic facilities, they are not organized, even they are not aware of their rights. These undeveloped and groups of the society are being exploited by the moneylenders, musclemen and local political leaders.

Fishing in Bangladesh was an occupation undertaken primarily by members of particular *Hindu Jaladas* castes. Given the low social status associated with fishing, these communities traditionally occupied the lower rungs of the social hierarchy in rural communities. Even in Bangladesh Muslim society, where caste is not recognized, groups involved traditionally in fisheries are accorded a generally low social status.

There are some other problems for the fishers. The various crises faced by fishing communities are the following:

- **Natural disaster** e.g. crop and asset damage due to flooding, drought, heavy rainfall, cyclone, tidal surge etc.
- **Social problem** e.g. dowry, polygamy, divorce, land disputes, eve teasing, acid throwing, etc.
- **Physical illness** e.g. income erosion due to sudden medical expenses, illness of main income earner, etc.
- **Financial/Social insecurity**; these include *dadon* (taking loan from informal sources with high interest), money extortion, NGO credit, looting of net and harvest, accident, sudden death or killing of family income earner, lack of income and employment opportunities, consumption crisis, legal expenses to settle disputes, looting of common resources etc.

Climate change impact in recent years has been accelerating the suffering of the small scale fishers. Coastal fishers are more vulnerable to natural disasters than other class or professional group of coastal communities. People of fishing communities, for their livings, have close interaction with nature for centuries. Fishing from the adjacent river basins, estuaries and littoral waters is the only way of living for almost all the fishers. It is the coastal fisher who contributes about 22-25% of the total fish production in the country, but, ironically, they are the first victims to violent natural disasters. During every cyclone or tidal surge hundreds of fishers died, sometimes they driven away to the coast of other countries and face acute sufferings including imprisonment.

The main impacts of climate change on coastal area in Bangladesh are sea level rise, reduction of freshwater availability by salinity intrusion and increasing cyclone frequency.

¹ Zahurul Karim, Khan Shahidul Huque, Md. Golam Hussain, Zulfiqar Ali, and Mosharraf Hossain, Growth and Development Potential of Livestock, Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum, 26–27 May 2010, Dhaka

Water salinity and its distribution in the coastal area are increasing with the increasing of sea level rise. Soil salinity in South Western part of Bangladesh is increasing, this salinity intrusion including sea level rising creates harmful effect on existing fish species. Water salinity exceeds the expected salinity level that especially required for fresh water fish production. Increased temperature may affect the distribution and physiological pattern of some fish species. Now-a-days the fishers can not fish near to the shore. The fishes have migrated to deep sea and the poor fishers hardly reach those areas.

Some of them may also migrate to the higher latitude for cooler place.

Sea level rise may destroy the mangrove forest as well as destroy the marine fish nursery ground. Perhaps the worst victims are the petty-earning small fishermen living along the coastal areas of Bangladesh. They faced huge difficulties during last couple of years due to vagaries of nature. Many had to accept death while in their modest effort to come back to shore following the issuance of warning for the super cyclone called *SIDR* (name of cyclone, which was category 4) in 2007.

Many had to abandon their fishing trips a number of times in a bid to safeguard their lives.

A significant proportion of these poor fishermen lost their fishing nets and boats, which have been taken away by high waves fuelled by depressions and cyclonic storms.

A successfully completed fishing trip generally requires about 14 days.

People must come to shore and take shelter if signal number three (3) or above is issued (MODM, 1998). Issuance of signal number 3 or above in a seaport is therefore considered as 'potentially dangerous' and signifies highly rough sea conditions. Following the issuance of such warnings, fishermen along the coastal region had to come back to the shore frequently during the monsoon of 2007 by frequently abandoning their 'fishing trips'. Throughout the year, there had been twenty two such warnings (signal # 3 or above). During peak fishing season (between June/July and November), there were ten brief periods where sea-going fishermen either made their fishing trips or remained along the shore to safeguard their potential investment.

While the fishermen chose not to risk lives and refrained from fishing trips, they had to accept loss of income potential. In case they went for fishing, following the issuance of a warning they had to come back early by abandoning the fishing trip.

The unfinished trips caused a significant loss of their livelihoods, especially in the peak fishing period.

Support towards small scale fishers from the government of Bangladesh is yet to be up to desired level. A large part of the inland small scale fisher catching fish from the open water bodies. But some of the recent policies are supporting mainly the large scale fishers and rich man with strong policy makers. Water bodies are being leased to the influential rather than the fisher communities.

In Bangladesh, there is almost no effective platform of fisher communities. To raise the voice of the destitute fisher there is no or effective mechanism so far. Some NGOs are working with fishers but the coverage, frequencies and effectiveness, specially regarding their rights is pretty weak.

4. Objectives for Bangladesh SSF consultation

So, taking above situation in view, we are proposing following objectives in this regard

- (i) dissemination of draft VGSSF, collect opinions from all level of fishermen on sample basis and from all level of stakeholder,
- (ii) try as best possible to gather all government agencies, NGOs and private sectors who are working with small scale fisheries,
- (iii) try to develop a coordination among the group who are working with small scale fishermen community,
- (iv) interaction with national level policy makers on VGSSF and do advocacy for the betterment of life and livelihood of small scale fisherman of Bangladesh and
- (v) prepare recommendations on VGSSF and also a future recommendations on how to proceed forward for greater networking and advocacy for sustainable small scale fisheries in Bangladesh

5. Methodology

- (i) Translation of VGSSF and preparation of summary document
- (ii) Five sample areas selection for having focus group (FGD) discussion on VGSSF
- (iii) Selection and orientation of partner NGO /CSO and fisherman group leaders who will organize FGD and other consultation activities
- (iv) Selection of five sample fishermen community places representing 1 from coastal area, 3 from riverine area (1 from sweet water area, 1 from mixed water area and 1 from saline water area) and *haor* (large water body) area. In each area there will be 2 FGDs with 15 participants in each FGD. There will be one workshop in each area/ district with fisherman and multi stakeholders, with the findings of the FGDs to validate the findings and for getting more assessment.
- (v) Invitation to the South Asia / regional campaigners key person in this regard to assist and share experiences and concern in this regard,
- (vi) Conducting national conference / consultation on summing up grass root consultation and presentation to the national level policy makers,
- (vii) Try as much as possible media attention in this regard in five districts and in national level on this consultation and
- (viii) Preparation of compilation and a final document on the whole process and findings in view of the objectives.

6. Course of action implementation schedule during July to November 2012

Sl no	Activities						
		July	August	Sept	October	November	December
1.	Translation of VGSSF and preparation of summary document	√					
2.	Advertisement in news paper on the consultation process and to ask who want to participate	√					
3.	Five sample area selection for having focus group (FGD) discussion on VGSSF	√					

Sl no	Activities	July	August	Sept	October	November	December
4.	Selection and orientation of partner NGO /CSO and fisherman group leaders who will organize FGD and other consultation activities	√					
5.	Selection of five sample fishermen community places representing coastal area, riverine area (sweet water, mixed water and saline water) and <i>haor</i> area	√					
6.	Finalization or revision of course of action in view of experiences from above process, specific time table especially of FGD and national consultations.	√					
7..	Invitation to the South Asia / regional campaigners/ key person in this regard to assist and share experiences and concern in this regard.	√					
8.	Conducting 10 FGDs in grass root level (2 FGDs in each 5 different areas), 1 workshop in each area on the findings of the FGDs		√				
9.	Conducting national conference / consultation on summing up grass root consultation and presentation to the national level policy makers,			√			
10.	Try as much as possible media attention in this regard in grass root on this consultation and			√			
8.	Preparation of compilation and a final document on the whole process and findings in view of the objectives				√		
9	Contingency time for completion of the report as mentioned above.					√	

7. Budget

According to our primary assessment we will need an amount of \$ 20,000.00 for completion of program successfully.

Sl	Subject	Analysis	BD Taka	US \$
1	Four month salary of the Project Coordinator (Mr. Munir)	Four months salary and benefits @tk.32,805 per month gross salary.	131,221	1,620.01
2	Translation and its printing	Translation (appropriate to the new-literate) of guideline BDT.30,000 and printing of 1000copy @ BDT.50, total BDT 80,000.00	80,000	987.65
3	News paper advertisement for assessing interest from grassroots and national level	02 national level advertisement BDT.100,000 and 04 local level advertisement BDT.60,000, Total BDT 160,000.00	160,000	1,975.31

4	Field visit for selection of facilitation group and fisherman group	Four district visit (Bhola, Cox'sbazar, Sunamgonj, Bogra and Khulna) by 02persons. Each district for 4days. Transport (2p x tk.5,000), Food (2p x tk.600 x 4d), Lodging (2p x tk.1200 x 3d), total tk.22,000 x 5dist, G.Total tk.110,000.00	110,000	1,358.02
5	Orientation to the facilitator group (at PROSHIKA HRD Center, Koitta, Manikgonj)	2days orientation for 25 facilitators from 5districts, total participants 30p. Program includes Food (tk.56,028), Venue charge (tk.25,760), Accommodation (tk.69,552), Logistics (tk.5796), Stationeries (tk.4,500), Car renting (tk.30,000), Travel & Honorarium (tk.100,000), Total tk.2,91,636.	291,636	3,600.44
6	Cost of FGD in the field	Total 10 FGDs in 5 districts. Per FGD 15 participants. FGD cost : (2 FGD x 15p x tk.300) = tk.9,000 (per dist cost) x 5 dist, Total tk.45,000.	45,000	555.56
7	District seminar based on FGD findings	Venue: tk.4000, Banner & Stationary tk.4000, Food & Ref : tk.250 x 60p, total 15000, Travel: tk.200 x 20 fishermen, total tk.4000, Multimedia/Sound system tk.4000, Media & Communication tk.4000, Documentation & reporting tk.4000. Total per dist tk.39,000 x 5dist = total 5dist tk.1,95,000	195,000	2,407.41
8	Cost of national conference	Note-1 (mentioned below)	470,500	5,808.64
9	Institutional fee for NGOs for facilitating the process	10 Networking Organizations (NGOs) @tk.5,000, Total tk.50,000.	50,000	617.28
10	Documentation and Reporting	Hard copy documentation tk.30,000/- , printing of the hard copy tk.50,000/-	80,000	987.65
11	Audit Fee	Project audit by external auditor	20,000	246.91
12	Communication / office utilities		40,000	493.83
	Total Budget		1,673,357	20,659
14	COAST Contribution		53,357	658.73
15	IFAD Contribution		1,620,000	20,000

Note- 1 : Detailed Budget of National Conference

Subject	Analysis	BD Taka	US \$
Hall room renting at CIRDAP	3session in 2days, per session tk.15,000	45,000	555.56
Multimedia renting	(2 multimedia @tk.3000 for 2days)	12,000	148.15

Participants Travel	(10 participants @ tk.2500 from 5dist)	125,000	1,543.21
Night stay & DA	(10p x tk.500 x 2d x 5dist)	50,000	617.28
Refreshment & Lunch	(Total 150 participants x tk.335 x 2d)	100,500	1,240.74
Photocopy/Stationary/Logistics	Per person folder tk.20, pen tk.10, pad/khata tk.20, badge tk.20, bag tk.500, photocopy tk.50, total tk.620 x 150 person. 2 Banners @tk.2500, total tk.5,000/-. G.Total tk.103,000.00	103,000	1,271.60
Media Mobilization		15,000	185.19
Communication & Car renting (tk.5000 + 3car x tk.2500 x 2d)	Communication tk.5,000 and car renting tk.15,000 (3car @tk.2500 for 2days)	20,000	246.91
Total National Conference Budget		470,500	5,808.64

8. Accountability and Reporting

COAST Executive Director (Mr. Reza) will be accountable for the implementation of this project. And within the COAST his colleague Assistant Director – Social Justice and Coastal Livelihood (Mr. Munir) will act as focal person in this regard. COAST will maintain international accounting standard (IAS) and other statutory requirement in this regard.

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4th July 2012, Dhaka