

# Building Network for Climate Justice

Yearly Progress Report 2018 on Climate Justice Resilient Fund Project, COAST Trust



Pic-01: A courtyard meeting is going on in Char Kukri Mukri, Bhola of CAIGT campaign [Date: 07/11/2018]

## 1. Project brief and Objective

COAST Trust has signed an agreement with NVF (New Venture Fund) to implement a project titled **Community Led Initiative for Climate Justice and Resilience Justice Resilient (CJRFP)** and started implementation since 01 January 2018 through successful completion of planned activities. The report of 1<sup>st</sup> year (01 January-31 December 2018) is prepared and submitted to comply with the agreement.

### a. Goal and Objective

**Goal:** Saving the earth from climate change impact also for protecting vulnerable coastal people in Bangladesh through networking and advocacy in national and international level.

The following **objectives** of the first year (2018) is achieving one of the integral part of Project's strategic goal.

- i. To establish CSO (Civil Society Organization) network leadership to strengthen the advocacy, campaign and networking at local, national and international level on climate change issues.
- ii. To sensitize and influencing the different level of stakeholders (policy makers, government officials, media professional social actors etc.) through seminar, press conference and to promote mass opinion in favor of coastal protection issues like embankment construction, protection of internal displaced people due to climate change, protection of coastal fishermen and preservation mangrove & forest etc.

## 2. Key Results achieved

- i. Established CSO network with leadership in 7 coastal districts i.e. Khulna, Bagerhat, Barishal, Bhola, Noakhali, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar and started campaign and advocacy at local level.
- ii. 22 seminars conducted at local & national level on coastal protection issues like embankment construction, protection of coastal fishermen, preservation of forest and protection of internally displaced people to sensitize different stakeholders and strengthen mass opinion.
- iii. Policy makers and government officials have shown their commitment to play positive role in construction of embankment and afforestation & forest preservation issues.
- iv. Respective government authority (Disaster Management Bureau) has agreed in principle of a policy on "Internal displacement management" and made commitment to work on it.
- v. 60% female staff is recruited in PIU and field level to comply with the gender emphasis strategy. Apart, 7 community radios broadcasted 6 social awareness programs on climate change & adaptation, reducing violence against women & children, cyclone preparedness & disaster risk reduction, reproductive health and child marriage targeting the adolescent, youth and rural women.
- vi. Around 25 national and 47 local newspapers have regularly covered the news of project events i.e. policy advocacy and campaign with mass opinion towards protecting coastal people. The newspapers have been able to reach 6 million readers at local and national level.

# Progress on detail activities during the period

## 3. Progress on Project Management level



Pic-02: A meeting is held in COAST Training room on, induction with the partners and possible activities of first year [Date: 22/07/2018]

i. **PIU, project staff and Plan of Operation:** One of the core activities was to set up Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to implement the program activities smoothly. COAST has set up the PIU after getting the official approval from the government authority (NGO Affairs

Bureau-NGOAB). The PIU is decorated with necessary official equipment according the project plan. PIU also has recruited required personnel for the PIU and field and oriented them on project goal and planned activities for three years period. After orientation, a new project operational plan (year wise) is developed. For detail information can visit the following link <http://coastbd.net/cjrp/>

ii. **Operational & advocacy partners and CSO network at local level:** COAST established partnership with seven organizations in project areas to implement operational and advocacy activities. The partners are oriented on project goal, strategies and activities including budgetary allocation. Through these partners, a greater constituency of network is developed for policy advocacy and campaign on climate resilient issues.

## 4. Progress on implementation of planned activities

### a. Issue based seminar for policy influencing

According to the project plan, COAST conducted 21 seminars against the target of 29 event. These events are conducted at district and national level on different climate resilient issues. The following table shows a summary of conducted events:

Sl.	Issues/ events	Tar get	Achive ved	Stakeholder Participation				
				Total	Policy Maker	Govt. official	CSO	Media
01	Seminar on construction of Embankment and reform of WDB (Water Development Board)	05	03	135	03	33	78	21
02	Seminar on coastal afforestation and mangrove preservation to protect coastal erosion	04	04	185	02	59	97	27
03	Seminar on protecting small scale fishers from climate change impact	09	07	252	01	58	141	48
04	Seminar to influence govt. for IDP (Internal Displacement Policy) and its management	09	05	223	01	47	141	34
05	Seminar on Blue Economy in view of poverty reduction and sustainable development	01	01	77	00	07	58	12
06	Consultation on climate change global Negotiation (CoP-24) to develop country position on climate change issues	01	01	56	01	02	30	23



**b. Result on issue-based discourse and CSO opinion**

**b.1. Seminar on construction of Embankment and reform of WDB (Water Development Board)**



*Pic-03: District level seminar in Barisal on Embankment & reformation of water development board [Date: 18/10/2018]*

Three seminars and dialogues are conducted in three districts i.e. Chattogram, Barishal and Bhola on this issue. The main discourse was the coastal districts are already vulnerable to looming threat of climate change impact as there have been no necessary embankments to protect the coastal poor and their land asset. The participants raised the following observation as concerned;

- Due to lack of quality embankments in coastal area, people are suffering from inundation and water logging during tide and ebb. People are vulnerably exposed also to cyclonic tidal surge due to lack of embankment.
- The prolonged water logging has been causing water crisis especially increasing salinity and drinking water scarcity in the coastal area.
- Increasing salinity also impacted the agriculture land quality and lands are becoming barren over the time. That's why people are forced to move from their own land and are displaced.
- The existing bureaucratic process of WDB (Water Development Board) and policy procrastination takes long time for implementing embankment development projects. Unplanned construction of embankment also resulted to hinder the quality and undermined the effectiveness. Following the above concerns the seminar has proposed some policy recommendation in relation with embankment construction;
- Government should review the existing policy to make the WDB pro-poor, participatory in planning in the implementation of embankment in the coastal area.

- To ensure adequate budget and technologies to enable WDB to prepare effective and need based action for embankment construction.
- To involve local communities along with other actors in the process of implementation, monitoring and maintenance.

**b.2. Seminar on coastal afforestation and mangrove preservation to protect coastal land**



*Pic-04: District seminar in Naakhali on Coastal afforestation & mangrove preservation [Date: 08/11/2018]*

Four seminars on above issues are conducted during the 1<sup>st</sup> year (2018) of the project. Coastal vulnerability issues related with existing forest and mangrove depletion are discussed in the seminars. Around 40-50 million people living in the coastal area are already vulnerable to landslide, river erosion and severe cyclonic hazards due to increasing trend of diminishing of the coastal forests. The seminars focused to emphasize and enhance the govt strategies with effective actions for coastal afforestation, mangrove preservation for protecting coastal population towards both adaptation and mitigation strategies of fighting climate change. The participants of the seminars raised following concerns and recommendations;

- Increasing trend of forest depletion in the coastal area causing severe river and sea erosion and people are forced to displace.
- Despite having huge quantity of *Khas* land (government owned land), government failed to utilize it properly towards afforestation that would save the coastal area and their population.
- Government should review the Land Management policy and increase coastal afforestation process through proper utilization of *Khas* land.
- Sustainable management of coastal forest has to be ensured in the coastal area through ownership of local people, increasing government's budgetary allocation for this sector and involving people in forest management.

### **b.3. Seminar on protecting small scale fishers from climate change impact**

Seven events have been conducted on coastal fishers and their livelihood issues.



*Pic-05: District level seminar in Khulna on Small scale fisherman community [Date: 23/10/2018]*

The seminars have elaborated more than 5.1 million coastal peoples' livelihoods, who are directly or indirectly depended on fishing and related activities under extremely difficult conditions. Their economic hardship is most likely to be aggravated by climate change and its negative impacts manifested in various means. There are special needs for protection of coastal fishers through enabling policy and actions to be taken by government. Seminars have made the following recommendations for coastal fishers' and their livelihood improvement;

- Government should take especial measures through enabling policy formulation to protect coastal fishers from climate change impacts.
- Separate registration system for sea-going fishermen is need to be introduced. Ensure more advanced technological and adequate logistical supports from government to save them.
- Government will have to enhance or ensure need based 'Social Safety Net Program' to improve their livelihood.

### **b.4. Seminar to influence govt. on climate induced displacement**

Internal migration and displacement have become a major policy concern for Bangladesh because of much heated public debate on this issue. Extreme, sudden and slow onset climate events like cyclone, river erosion, drought or water crisis and salinity are forcing the people to move from the coastal and non-coastal areas where around 20 million people are in risk of displace.

They are heading towards the cities for alternative livelihoods. Inadequate policy action making these population more vulnerable to their socio-

economic arena as the displaced and trapped people have been facing persistent insecurity of basic needs such as food, water and sanitation. They either starve or struggle with further natural disaster risks and degraded environmental conditions. The gender differences in suffering are clear. Women are the primary victims of disaster events and also bear more of the burdens of ensuing food and water crises. Following the above concern, five seminars are conducted in the project areas.



*Pic-06: District level seminar in Chattogram on internally displaced people [Date: 31/10/2018]*

Seminars focused to formulate a national policy on climate displaced management and recommendations as;

- A strong Internal Displacement Policy (IDP) is imperative that need to be developed focusing the rural urban management strategies for displaced people.
- The policy will be developed fully with economic motivation that will support and ensure socio-economic livelihood of displaced people and promoting broad level of environmental adaption and resilience in view of climate change.
- Government must support to climate induced displaced and poverty-stricken people with national budgetary measures with adequate and need base social safety net programs.

### **b.5. Seminar on Blue Economy in view of poverty reduction and sustainable development**

Bangladesh now has a large maritime area (118,813 square kilometer) in the Bay of Bengal, especially after legal victories over its two neighboring countries India and Myanmar. Assuming that the economic activities of blue economy in Bangladesh can develop some emerging sectors such as shipping and port facilities, seaborne trade, fisheries, coastal tourism, aquaculture etc. Having more resource than land, the sea could help the coastal people to improve their livelihood following appropriate

planning with action. To realize the above ambitions, Bangladesh needs a strategic plan and policy to explore and effectively utilize those resources. CJRP has selected this issue and conducted national seminar to influence policy makers to address particular coastal issues i.e. improving coastal livelihood.



*Pic-07: Seminar on Blue economy was at CIRDP Auditorium, Dhaka. [Date: 21/07/2018]*

The seminar has made following recommendation in case of Blue Economy strategies;

- Develop an appropriate policy framework that will ensure employment and income generation opportunities for coastal poor as long term and sustainably.
- Government should adopt appropriate measure to ensure and access of coastal poor in diversified fishing sector in Bay of Bengal. To achieve the target, government must support to coastal people with adequate financing with latest technologies without any discrimination.
- The Blue Economy strategies will not hinder the environmental protection in the coastal area. Regarding the issue, a separate environmental protection policy for “coast zone or Bay of Bangle” to be developed.
- Safety Measure have to ensure by the government for poor coastal fishers’ in both natural calamities and pirates.

#### **b.6. Consultation on climate change global Negotiation (CoP-24) issues to develop country position and participate in CoP**

IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) special report (October 2018) has analyzed and showed that coastal and low-lying countries are the most vulnerable to climate change impact.

Bangladesh is in one of these countries and exposed to coastal inundation, salinity & drought and around 50 million people are at the risk of

being displaced. These countries are always struggling to save their people and seeking necessary support from international communities to fight climate change impact and achieve resilient capacity.

COAST has conducted one national consultation to develop CSO opinion for developing country position for CoP 24, the global climate change negotiation, where government delegation would participate.

COAST also participated in CoP 24 during 01-14 December 2018 and conducted two press conferences, one seminar with international NGO/CSO alliances and displayed photo exhibition about vulnerability and resilient of Bangladesh in the CoP premise in Poland.



*Pic-08: Consultation on Climate change global negotiation in CoP-24, Poland*

To develop of country position, the CSO participants raised following recommendation for government in climate change global negotiation;

- Bangladesh should take position for a high emission reduction target by big emitting countries to keep global warming to 1.5°C. To achieve this target, big emitters will revised their NDCs and provide time bound implementation target.
- The proposed “Paris Implementing Rulebook” must be a legally binding agreement and its communication, reporting, monitoring and verification through adopting a way of transparent and accountable manner.
- In case of climate induced displacement, the CSOs call for TFD (Task Force on Displacement) to draw the responsibilities of international communities especially rich and developed countries on how they can ensure cooperation to the vulnerable countries.
- TFD is asked to make recommendation for developed countries to develop a dedicated funding mechanism for vulnerable countries to implement their program reducing displacement challenges.

## 5. Introduced CAIGT to beneficiaries

Ensure necessary and increasing effort to improve adaptation and resilient capacity could minimize the adverse impact of climate change of coastal people. That's why appropriate adaptation technologies become important for the coastal area.



Pic-09: In Sandwip self-dependent Farida by scaffold system goat rearing [Date: 23/11/2018]

COAST has select and introduced four new CAIGT (Climate Adaptive Income Generation Technology)

for coastal poor people. These technologies are i. Bed system vegetable cultivation, ii. Integrated fruit-fish-field crop (Triple F Model) cultivation, iii. Sack gardening and iv. Semi-scavenging/ Scaffolding goat rearing activities. Following activities are performed under CAIGT approach;

- There are 229 beneficiaries have selected those who are vulnerable due to climate change
- Trained the beneficiaries on four selected CAIGTs.
- Asset distribution in an amount of BDT 207344 (US\$ 2570) among the beneficiaries. Now they have start and running their respective CAIGT.
- 19 volunteers have been selected and trained them to support the CAIGT beneficiaries to run their IGAs with effective way.
- Total 62 number of Awareness Campaign are conducted on three issues (Water& Sanitation, CAIGT and afforestation) among communities. This campaign has able to reach 1250 families in project working areas and contributed to enhance their knowledge climate adaptive issues.

## 5. Financial performance

The total project budget was estimated for 1<sup>st</sup> year (2018) implementation period was US\$ 2, 12,326 (As BDT 1, 71, 34,708). Project has been able to utilize the amount US\$ 1, 46,696 (As BDT 1, 18, 38,386) where fund utilization rate is 70%. Implementation has been delayed due to late selection of project partners and receiving NGOAB approval. However, the rest of the unspent money is under revision and submitted a revised proposal for re-approval.

## 6. Unaccomplished activities

The project didn't able to implement the following activities during 1<sup>st</sup> year implementation period;

- Three seminar on embankment and WDB reform issues at district and national level
- Three seminar on protecting small scale fishers' issues at district and national level
- 54 beneficiaries have got CAIGT asset in against the target of 79 during 1<sup>st</sup> year implementation period.



## 7. Lessons Learned

Implementation of the project activities was very challenging due to following issues.

- i. **Quality Staff for project implementation:** It was challenging to recruit quality staff for implementation of project activities. There was requirement of write up skill and developing policy brief for respective field of advocacy. Such candidates are hardly found among the recruited staff especially with knowledge on climate change and water development issues.
- ii. **Delay in selection of advocacy partners:** The grass root or local level CSO/NGOs are interested to implement projects related to service delivery activities. That's why a few policy advocacy partners (primarily selected) shown their political sensitivity on some campaign issues like embankment, WDB

reform and IDP. As these are related with land management politics they wanted to avoid proposed engagement and it caused delay on the final selection.

- iii. **Budgetary limitation in campaign activities:** Some advocacy partners have avoided or somehow deferred to conduct the propose advocacy activities at district level as there have limited budget according to local price and purchasing.
- iv. **National level event is not conducted due to political uncertainty:** We have start our campaign during Oct-Dec 2018 period to develop policy briefs on respective advocacy issues. By this time national election propaganda has been started across the country where people, CSOs and policy makers were involved. This situation was in fact disfavored to conduct our advocacy and policy influencing events at national level.

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