

SaciWATERS

South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary
Water Resources Studies, India

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Report of the meeting

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CoCooN - Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change – Project

Main readers/primary target group:

CoCOON Project staff at SaciWATERS and All PIs

Other readers/secondary target group:

SaciWATERS staff for information

CoCooN- CCMCC inception workshop in Kathmandu



The Inception workshop for the project titled **“Climate Policy, Conflicts and Cooperation in Peri-Urban South Asia: Towards Resilient and Water Secure Communities”** supported by Netherland Organization for Scientific Research was organized on 11th -13th of February, 2014 in Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was attended by the project team members from Wageningen University, Netherlands; ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal; Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh; Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS), Khulna, Bangladesh; Nepal Engineering College, Kathmandu, Nepal; South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS), Hyderabad, India and MetaMeta, Kathmandu, Nepal. This kickoff workshop was organized to reflect on the proposal's objectivities, deliverables, timeline etc and also to plan in detail the project activities for the coming one year. The annex one provides the details of the programme agenda.

This back to office report documents the major highlights and the follow ups of the meeting.

Day 1 – February 11, 2014

The day one can be thematically divided into two sessions, session one, focussed on deliberations on some of the key issues of the project namely conflicts and cooperation, periurbanization, urbansheds, problemsheds etc while sessions two encompasses presentations on major findings from the IDRC supported project titled **“Periurban water security in South Asia: Adapting to climate change and urbanization”**. The idea was to reflect on some of the key learning from this project and to deliberate on research uptake for the CoCooN. The session was chaired by Prof. Dik Roth, project lead, from Wageningen University, Netherlands. The main highlights of the day were:

Discussion on ‘conceptualizing conflict and cooperation’: Considering the fact that conflicts and cooperation forms the key areas of the present research project, Prof Dik Roth talked about the theoretical perspective of the same. Discussions followed, gave an opportunity to rethink on some of the definitional paradoxes/binaries as well as the critical need to create an analytical framework for conflict, opportunities and cooperation customized for this project. Integrating climate change, water security and periurbanization processes emerged as a crucial challenge and it was largely decided that cooperation will be considered more as a means of co-production leading to gateway of opportunities, translating into resilient communities.

Discussions on periurban areas and processes: Identifying Periurban areas either as a place or processes has always remained critical part of this project. Dr. Vishal Narain’s vivid presentation on the nuances of periurban areas and processes opened up discussions on some of the key research questions of the present project that needs further deliberation. Some of the important issues discussed were; approach in identifying the unit of analysis i.e Village/ specific cases of conflict or cooperation/ urbansheds, methodology to map flows and processes and rural-urban links, segregating levels of analysis for conflicts and cooperation, e.g. rural-urban, intra-rural, intra-urban, level of engagement with climate change issues etc. Possible data sources, framework for comparative analysis, typology for water conflicts in periurban areas and the probable domain of generalization were also examined in detail.

Discussion on ‘Urbansheds’ as a unit of analysis: Prof Ashutosh Shukla from Nepal Engineering College, gave an excellent presentations on Urbansheds and problemsheds; their definitions, scope, typology and methodology for delineation etc. He talked about the typical case of Kathmandu valley, trajectories of the degradation of Bagmati River, and the emerging realities of conflicts and pathways of cooperation in the rural-urban waterscapes of the valley. The presentation was extremely useful to reflect on the domain of the present study, keeping in view the overall objective.

Second part of the discussion revolved around sharing some of the key findings from IDRC funded periurban-climate change project, by Prof M. Shah Alam Khan from Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka and Dr. Anjal Prakash, from SaciWATERS, India. Prof Khan's presentations was more on understanding the trends and implications of climate change in four cities while Dr. Prakash talked about overall research agenda, major findings, learnings, way forward, and key research outputs. Their presentations provided platform to further discuss on integration of climate change, water security and periurban processes. It also opened up consultation on realistic targets for possible research outputs. The discussion that followed after the presentation provided enough parking lot issues that were discussed at the last day of the meeting.

Day 2 – February 12, 2014

Day 2 of the meeting was devoted on revisiting the project proposal, its overall objectives, work plan and deliverables. The day began with a snap shot on project proposal by Dr. Poulomi Banerjee and presentation of budget by C. Sreenivas from SaciWATERS followed up with detail project planning by country wise research team members. The idea was to chalk out clear action and output plans for the first year of the project cycle by India, Bangladesh and Nepal research team members.



The day ended with presentations from each team consisting of main research approach, probable activities and outputs for the year 1. It was decided that as a follow up activity of the meeting; SaciWATERS will come up with an integrate work plan for each country and shared across the project team members.



Day 3-February 13th, 2014

On the third day, discussions were primarily revolved around research and policy uptake. The session was moderated by Dr. Vishal Narain. The meeting began with the presentation on “policy interface and making choices in policy uptake” by Prof Roth and Dr. Narain. The presentation was drawn from the DFID's approach paper on Research Uptake (DFID 2013), shared in Haque CoCooN-CCMCC workshop. The talk raised relevant questions for this project and provided sufficient scope to brain storm on issues like stakeholders identification and engagement (emphasis on policy makers), capacity building, lobbying and advocacy, communication strategies, monitoring and evaluation etc as understood by DFID vis-a-vie what is feasible in South Asian context. Considerable attention was paid in understanding the level of policy uptake relevant for this project particularly with lieu to the resources and capacity involved. Team members shared their opinion and concerns on identification of key policy makers and the ways to involve them in the project. It was largely decided that linking with other ongoing activities in the field and identifying next layer of users who can take up our research can be a critical aspect for this project. The communication and development strategies should be realistic in nature in informing policy, initiating policy uptake and bringing policy change.





The next session was ‘elevator pitching our project’ wherein the team members were asked to divide into country groups and summarize the project in 2 minutes consisting of **what is the research all about? Why is it interesting? And who is the most important audience?** Each team was asked to nominate two persons, one as a project representative and other as an influential policy maker. The idea was that project representative should be able to summarize the main points and effectively communicate to the policy person in an elevator in a minimum amount of time. Similar kind of exercise was done in Haque, CoCoon-CCMCC workshop with an idea that if one cannot explain the project in 2 min, means that one doesn’t know how to summarize the main points. Elevator pitch has been designed in a way which shows that one has met the main policy person in an elevator and gets time to tell about the project. It was a very interesting exercise and brought a refreshing change to the discussion.



The final session was discussion on parking lot issues and the main points conversed are as follows:

Connecting to list of other CCMCC projects: it was been decided that creating a network with other CCMCC/NWO, funded initiatives will be critical for this project. Considering the fact that the consortium is already working/going to work in Bangladesh and India in similar kinds of projects funded by NWO, it will be probably good to integrate these with the current project through knowledge exchange, and capacity building initiatives.



Identifying the advisory committee members: It was been unanimously decided that there will be an advisory committee for this project consisting of two resource persons (one from government and other academic/research fraternity) from each country. Dr. Survarna, IFS, Commissioner, Rural development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, India and Mr. Sultan Ahmed from Bangladesh were nominated. Nepal team was asked to come up with their respective advisory committee members within a weeks’ time.

Identifying the thematic working groups: It was been decided that thematic working groups will work across countries on different cross cutting issues. They will essentially advice and guide the team on project activities and outputs. The names for the working group was not formally announced but largely decided that it will evolve during the course of the project cycle.

Training on Participatory Impact Pathway Assessment (PIPA) workshop: Conducting PIPA workshop is one of the important capacity building deliverables proposed for the project and to ensure its effective implementation it was decided to merged with quarterly orientation programmes planned in the last quarter of this year. MetaMeta, SaciWATERS in consultation with ICIMOD was asked to coordinate for this.

Follow up activities: As part of the follow up activities SaciWATERS has been entrusted to coordinate on following activities:

1. To send workshop report to all the project partners
2. To prepare an integrated action plan for all the partners for year 1. This has to be done in cognizance with the plan received from the country teams.
3. To prepare the final list of advisory committee members (names to be taken from country teams)

ANNEX 1
Program of the CCMCC inception workshop
February 11 – 13, 2014
[Hotel Himalaya](#), Kathmandu, Nepal

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

DAY 1: Exploring and developing the project

Chair and Moderator: Dik Roth

09.30 – 10.00	Opening, introduction by the participants, overview of the workshop
10.00 – 10.30	Conceptualizing cooperation and conflict – Dik Roth
10:30 – 11:00	Discussions
11:00 – 11:30	Tea\Coffee
11:30 – 12:30:	Climate change in periurban South Asia: Major trends (from phase 1 of the project) - Prof. M.S. Khan
12:30 – 1:00	Discussions and summarization of major points – how do we look at climate change, conflict and cooperation in the present project
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch
2:00 – 2:45	Peri-urban areas and processes - Vishal Narain
2:45 – 3:30	Urbansheds - Ashutosh Shukla
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee / tea break
4:00 – 4:30	Recap of Major outcomes of IDRC peri-urban project Phase I - Anjal Prakash
4:30 – 5:30	Water, peri-urban areas and climate change; Understanding how we conceptualized it in present project

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

DAY 2: Roles, planning and activities of the partners

Chair and Moderator: Anjal Prakash

09.30 – 10.00	Planning of the project: short introduction by Poulomi Banerjee and Anjal Prakash
10: 00 to 1:00	

Division of groups as follows:

The participants will be divided into country groups – Bangladesh, India and Nepal. They will have to refer to the activity sheet in the proposal and devise and delimit the overall plan of the project focusing on Post-Doctoral research, Research, Knowledge and Innovation, Development and Capacity Building aspects of the project.

Project leaders:

MS Khan – Bangladesh

Ashutosh Shukla – Nepal

Vishal and Poulomi – India

WUR, ICIMOD and MetaMeta will devise their own work plan and present their engagement in the project

1:00 – 2:00	Lunch
2:00 – 4:00	Group presentations from all leaders
4:00 – 4:30	tea\Coffee
4:30 – 5:00	Presentation of Budget and clarifications – C Sreenivas
5:00 – 5:30	Organizational structure and reporting relationship of the project – Anjal Prakash

Thursday, February 13, 2014

DAY 3: Scientific knowledge and policy uptake

Chair and Moderator: Vishal Narain

9:30 – 9:40	Short introduction and overview by Vishal on how the day is organized
9.40 – 10.45	“What are we doing”? Elevator-pitching our project (Dik Roth)
10:45 – 11:00	Tea\Coffee break
11.00 – 11:30	Research Uptake for the present project – Vishal Narain
11: 30 – 12:00	‘Uptake’ in the research (science) – policy interface and making choices in policy uptake – Dik Roth
12:00 – 12:30	Discussions on research uptake for the present project
12:30 – 1:00	Parking lot issues
1: 00 – 2:00	Lunch and close of workshop