

**CLIMATE POLICY, CONFLICTS AND
COOPERATION IN PERI-URBAN
SOUTH ASIA: TOWARDS
RESILIENT AND WATER SECURE
COMMUNITIES**

Newsletter

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CLIMATE POLICY, CONFLICTS AND COOPERATION IN PERI-URBAN SOUTH ASIA: TOWARDS RESILIENT AND WATER SECURE COMMUNITIES

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Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| About Project | 03 |
| Findings from Community Interaction in Project Area | 04 |
| Sharing Workshop with key stakeholders in Khulna | 05 |
| Pre-project Consultation Meeting in Khulna | 09 |
| Kathmandu Inception Workshop | 10 |
| Consortium Members | 11 |

CLIMATE POLICY, CONFLICTS AND COOPERATION IN PERI-URBAN SOUTH ASIA: TOWARDS RESILIENT AND WATER SECURE COMMUNITIES

Climate Policy, Conflicts and Cooperation in Peri-Urban South Asia: Towards Resilient and Water Secure Communities project is being implemented in peri-urban areas of Bangladesh by JJS and BUET with the financial support by Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research through Wageningen University. The project is being implemented in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Other consortium partners are SaciWaters at Hyderabad in India and ICIMOD & MetaMeta in Nepal. The project aims to strengthen and empower communities for the effective management of water insecurity, induced by the combined impacts of climate change and urbanization in the use, management, and governance of peri-urban water resources of South Asia. The project also aims to assess and compare the changing insecurities, vulnerabilities, incidences of conflict, and options for cooperation associated with climate change and urbanization. It intends to research local manifestations of the impacts of urbanization and climate change as experienced in the peri-urban areas of the selected cities. Building on this, it will assess the effects of water, climate and other relevant policies on resource-related conflict and cooperation in peri-urban water resources. Through collaborative efforts between scientists, policy-makers, NGOs, private enterprises and local stakeholders the project also intends to contribute to strengthening community resilience and devising pathways to equitable and sustainable institutional transformations to increase water security. This will yield new frameworks and tools for generating understanding on conflicts and cooperation, sensitizing public opinion and creating an appropriate policy mix to reduce risk-exposure.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement of peri-urban water security by enhancing community resilience to urbanization and climate change through increased cooperation and reduction of conflicts, producing opportunities for improved livelihoods for poor, marginalized,

and vulnerable groups and resulting in climate-smart water resource and climate change strategies, policies and actions at various levels.

The specific objectives are to:

Knowledge, research and innovation

1. Identify and analyze the dynamics that give rise to conflicts or promote cooperation around peri-urban water (in-)security, as shaped by urbanization and climate change.
2. Critically examine water and climate change policies and strategies at local, state, national and regional levels shaping water use in peri-urban contexts and their influence on the potential for conflict and cooperation.

Development

3. Inform climate, water and urban policy (change) processes that impact on the management of water resources, and promote peri-urban water security through technological and institutional innovations, social learning and cross-country learning and international collaboration, to create opportunities for increased cooperation and reduced conflicts.

Capacity Building

4. Increase the capacity of the consortium partners in examining the dynamics of peri-urban water security concerns shaped by climate change and urbanization through south-south and north-south collaboration and exchanges.
5. Use research outcomes and learning in sensitizing state actors, professionals and communities; embed knowledge in academic curricula of the formal educational system, to build a critical mass for climate- and socially sensitive policies and actions promoting cooperation around peri-urban water security.

Findings from Community Interaction in Project Area

In 2014 we had a series of consultation with the community in Khulna project area for identifying the water related problems, conflicts and co-operation process. Community consultation, stakeholder consultation, direct observation, field test and area mapping were performed during visit. Various relevant observations came out from the community people by the conduction of community consultation process.

- Groundwater is the only predominant source for freshwater supply in this area
- Water pollution from urban solid waste and wastewaters (tannery, butchers shop, manufacturing industries and other industries).
- Salinity increases highly in the river water during the summer season.
- People can use river water during rainy season for agriculture purposes but in summer period they cannot use river water because of salinity intrusion

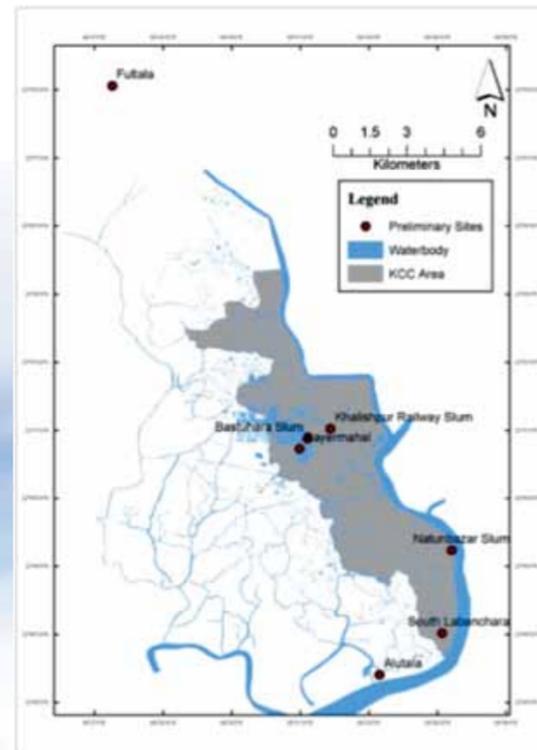


Focus Group Discussion

Focus Group Discussion was conducted for understanding conflict and cooperation around peri-urban areas. Both physical and socio-economic issues including industrial use, water logging, water/resource use, urban pocket, climate migration, etc. were considered in selecting of the study sites. Physical (e.g. canal, river) or virtual (e.g. groundwater transfer) 'water linkages' between the urban and peri-urban areas were also considered.

Based on secondary information and site visits, 16 preliminary sites have been selected for further exploration. The major issues of these 16 sites are

1. Alutala: Waste dumping-People conflicts, Fishermen-Farmer
2. Putimari: Waste dumping-People conflicts, Fishermen-Farmer
3. Tetultala: Farmer-Fisherman Conflicts
4. Shantinagar: Womens' burden for collecting water
5. Harintana: Scarcity of water for agriculture
6. Chanmari: Water logging
7. South labanchara: Salinity in Tube-well Water
8. Sacibunia: Poor water related services by authorities
9. Greenland Abason Area: Water Related Cooperation
10. Bastuhara Slum: Water scarcity
11. Khalishpur Railway Slum: Water scarcity
12. Natunbazar Slum: Water scarcity
13. Bagmara Khalpar Area: Water logging in rainy season
14. Rayermahal: Sluice gate
15. Rupsha: Water vendor/Water business
16. Mashiali: Pipe Irrigation system



Sharing Workshop with key stakeholders in Khulna

Under the specific objectives of capacity building activities, JJS has arranged a sharing meeting on 30th December, 2014 not only in examining the



ATM Zakir Hossain, Executive Director, JJS

dynamics of peri-urban water security concerns shaped by climate change and urbanization through south-south and north-south collaboration and exchanges but also to discuss the progress and future possibilities of CoCoon project. The meeting took place in Hotel Royal International at 4 pm. Different stakeholders from government, non-government and community representatives such as District Administration, Khulna Development Authority, Khulna City Corporation, Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Public Health and Engineering Department, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Urban Development



Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta, Faculty of Environmental Science Discipline, KU

Directorate, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Khulna University, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Community Based organization representatives, People from peri-urban communities, NGOs, Activists, Journalists etc. attended the meeting.

The Executive Director ATM Zakir Hossain facilitated the inaugural session and briefed about project activities and targets. He added that JJS is a



Rashed Jalal, Research Associate, IWFM, BUET

social development organization working for 30 years in development sector.

The project is working in peri-urban areas of Khulna aims to contribute to the improvement of peri-urban water security by enhancing community resilience to urbanization and climate change through increased cooperation and reduction of conflicts, producing opportunities for improved livelihoods for poor, marginalized, and vulnerable groups and resulting in climate-smart water resource and climate change strategies, policies and actions at various levels. Mr. Rashed Jalal from IWFM, BUET then discussed about project



Dr. Mallick Anowar Hossain, Director, Department of Environment, Khulna

approach. Project advisory board member Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta facilitated the sharing meeting after a brief about project approach by Mr. Jalal. He thinks that a common framework can be developed by discussing with every actor from different organization.

Dr. Mallik Anowar Hossain, Director of Environment, Khulna, said that, replacement of the original settlements by new settlements is increasing day by day. So this issue should be considered in planning of selecting research sites. He also suggested taking Thailand as an example where they first develop everything in a town then they put people there. But in case of our country we go first in a place then make settlements. He thinks every section of the government should work together.



Masudur Rahman, Faculty of Environmental Science Discipline, KU

Each of the four groups was requested to present their findings. Mr. Masudur Rahman presented on behalf of group-I. He suggested considering research from Khulna University in identification of administrative conflicts. He also suggested ensuring institutional strength in waste management and establishing treatment plant.



Mostafa Sarwar, Faculty of Urban and Rural Planning Discipline, KU

Dr. Mostafa Sarwar explained why they choose four sites from 16 sites as a member of group-II. According to him Alutala/Putimari can be selected as conflicts between water use for agricultural purpose and fisheries purpose is present there.

Besides upstream polluted water pollutes downstream fresh water. He included that Harintana was only agricultural area once but it rapidly being transformed into urban area. It eventually increases agricultural production cost. Soil erosion geared up here that will cause eutrophication in the Mayur River in future. He also suggest to take Bagmara Khalpara area as a research site as it is a low land area which triggers localized water logging that is causing health hazard too. He added conflicts between agriculture and a fishery is



Dr. Ahsanul Kabir, Faculty of Urban and Rural Planning Discipline, KU

present in Rayer mahal area.

Dr. Ahsanul Kabir proposes to take underground water use and aquifer depth level into consideration while selecting research sites. He added that differently power company extracting water excessively as KWSA cannot control water extraction outside the KCC. Professor Shafiul Islam added



Kazi Anisuzzaman, Deputy Director of Agriculture

that policy making is under processing but the main problem in peri-urban area is conflicts. Sometimes control authority cannot control activities related to water use. In addition to that, maintenance and follow up authority is also absent. He

suggested to take different sites based on different types of conflicts.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Department Mr. Kazi Anisuzzaman requested not to harm any agricultural land while implementing any project as we have very limited productive agricultural land. He thinks sluice gate management is a large factor in managing water issues in Khulna peri-urban areas. He further added that only a combined group of people from all sectors can make sluice gate management fruitful.

Deputy Director of Local Government Md. Habibul Haque Khan pointed to the poor water management system of Khulna City though it is one of the largest City Corporations among top



Md. Habibul Haque Khan, Deputy Director, Local Government

four in Bangladesh. He added that water was unusable in KCC but day by day the situation is improving. Projects fail due to conflicts between sectors and practice of top-down approach in our country. He suggested taking bottom-up approach for successful implementation and sustainability of projects and also emphasized in ensuring coordination among related sector. He thinks involving Khulna University and Khulna University of Engineering and Technology would be a wise decision towards prosperous implementation of any projects. He assured to help us from his department related to the project we are implementing.

Deputy Managing Director, KWSA Eng. Md. Kamal Uddin Ahmed informed that, KWSA is going to implement a big project for supplying sweet water for KCC people. The project will

collect sweet water from Madhumati River and will be established eight reservoirs in different areas in KCC to reduce water crisis. The main reservoir will be established in Samantasena under Rupsa upazila. He also added that, water is not equal everywhere, we are going to face water crisis in near future. So, we should be prepared for the future water crisis.

During the discussion the attendees were been informed about the progress of the project. They prioritize selective study sites from pre-selected 16 fields. They suggested ten possible sites, i.e., Alutala, Harintana, Labonchara, Bastuhara, Khalishpur Railway Slum, Mohammadnagar, Rayer Mahal, Fultala, Moheswarpasha where Alutala



Masudur Rahman, Faculty of Environmental Science Discipline, KU

was the prime selection followed by Harintana. Major conflicts identified in these areas like fishermen-farmers water use conflicts, agricultural land acquisition for building houses, rapid urbanization and population growth, lowering water table, water logging, and waste dumping in open water bodies etc.

Stakeholders identified the following issues of the ten possible sites

| Site | Conflicts and Cooperation |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Alutala | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative conflicts (sluice gate operation) Fishermen-farmer water distribution conflicts Upstream-downstream conflicts New migrated urban area Land grabber-fisherman conflicts Sweet water-saline water conflict Community participation is present |
| 2. Harintana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishermen-farmer water distribution conflicts Upstream-downstream conflicts Water logging due to unplanned settlements. Scarcity of irrigation water and low agricultural production Decrease of cultivable land due to rapid urbanization Lowering of water table Decrease in soil nutrient |
| 3. Labonchara | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water logging Drinking water scarcity Water pollution Salinity in surface and ground water KWASA is constructing a reservoir is south labonchara |
| 4. Bastuhara Slum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking water problem Wastewater problems |
| 5. Khalishpur Railway Slum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water scarcity Over-extraction of ground water by water vendor and industries Lowering of water table in dry season |

| Site | Conflicts and Cooperation |
|--------------------|---|
| 6. Gollamari | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage Outlet of KCC Solid waste dumping from slaughter house Dumping of clinical wastes |
| 7. Rayer Mahal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water logging Scarcity of irrigational water Salinity in ground water Poor service of water distribution authority |
| 8. Sachibunia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River grabbing (Mayur, Kajibacha, Hatia) River drying Water logging Surface water pollution |
| 9. Fultala | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCC-local people conflict for ground water extraction Lowering of ground water level Irrigational water problem |
| 10. Maheswar-pasha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarce ground water KCC is planning to treat surface water in supplying water for communities. |

Recommendations from participants are

- Sluice gate management should be in coordinated approach ensuring community participation considering upstream and downstream water distribution conflicts.
- Consider protection of scarce agricultural land from infrastructural development during any project implementation.
- Only integrated approach from every concerned department can make this attempt fruitful.
- Khulna City Corporation, Khulna Water Supply and Sanitation Authority should work together in support with Khulna University, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology and Local Government Institutions to implement any

project in identifying issues related to water insecurity and establishing cooperation in peri-urban areas of Khulna, Bangladesh.

- Commercial extraction of groundwater by water vendor and industries should be minimized for maintaining water table recharge.
- To sustain any project, maintenance and follow-up activities should be ensured by authority after project implementation.
- In successful implementation of peri-urban project, sediment management should be considered along with water management.
- Bottom-up approach should be introduced to avoid conflicts and ensure cooperation.

The participants also recommended working in collaboration with the following institutions

- District Administration
- Khulna Development Authority
- Khulna City Corporation
- Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
- Bangladesh Water Development Board
- Urban Development Directorate
- Department of Agricultural Extension
- Bangladesh Water Development Board
- Local government and Engineering Department
- Department of Public Health and Engineering
- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Environment
- Khulna University
- Khulna University of Engineering and Technology
- Institute of Water and Flood Management
- Community Based organization representatives
- People from peri-urban communities
- NGOs
- Activists

Pre-project Consultation Meeting in Khulna

Considering water conflicts and security are important issues of Southern part of the country, a consulting meeting was arranged on CSS Ava Center,



Consultation Meeting at CSS Ava Center February 12, 2013

Khulna at 12 February, 2013 on Climate Policy Conflicts and Cooperation in Peri-Urban South Asia: Towards Resilient and Water Secure Communities project supported by Netherland Organization for Scientific Research. In first session, ATM Zakir Hossain from JJS had welcomed all to the meeting. Then Dr. M. Shah Alam Khan, BUET; Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikdar, Dept of Environment; ATM Zakir Hossain, JJS; Ms. Umme Kulsum, CAFOD; and Dr. Rezaur Rahman, BUET had given their speeches on the selected issues. After the speeches, Dr. Poulomi Banerjee and Mr. ATM Zakir Hossain had facilitated the discussion part of session-one. Ayesha Akhter Rony from JJS had facilitated the session-two through briefing about background and involvement in water and climate change activities. After that, Dr. Vishal Narain, MDI, India had given a presentation on 'Peri-urban South Asia: Issues and Challenges'. Then Dr. Poulomi Banerjee from SaciWATERs, India had presented a presentation of the proposals. At discussion session, water conflicts and security, resilience, causes of water pollution and river decease of peri-urban and rural area was discussed. Some changes had been made in the proposal based on the discussion. Consolidations of the discussion were also very effectual. Participants had discussed on climate change and water issues in Khulna, urbanization, water security and adaption options, climate change policy, planning and strategy in Bangladesh.

Kathmandu Inception Workshop

The Inception workshop for the project 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 objectives, deliverables, timeline etc and also to plan in detail the project activities for the coming one year.



CoCooN- CCMCC inception workshop in Kathmandu

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. 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. Identifying peri-urban 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.

Prof Ashutosh Shukla from Nepal Engineering College, gave an excellent presentations on urban-sheds and problemsheds; their definitions, scope, typology and methodology for delineation etc. 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 peri-urban-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.

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 Saci-WATERS followed up with detail project planning by country wise research teams. The day ended with presentations from each team consisting of main research approach, probable activities and outputs for the year 1.

On the third day, discussions were primarily revolved around research and policy uptake. 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.

Consortium Members

Wageningen University

Wageningen UR is a collaboration between Wageningen University and the DLO foundation. The mission of Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) is to explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life. The strength of Wageningen UR lies in its ability to join the forces of specialised research institutes and Wageningen University. It also lies in the combined efforts of the various fields of natural and social sciences. This union of expertise leads to scientific breakthroughs that can quickly be put into practice and be incorporated into education. This is the Wageningen Approach.

SaciWaters

SaciWATERS, the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, is a policy research institute based in Hyderabad, India. From its inception in 2001, it has focused on critical issues related to water resources management in south Asia. A key endeavour at SaciWATERS has been to enhance the dominant water resources management paradigm in the region with a consideration of all issues using a pro-poor human development approach. The emphasis is on the accumulation of new knowledge through a combination of research, capacity building, and advocacy. Accordingly, it partners with universities and academic institutions from across global north and south to fundamentally reshape water resources knowledge systems in south Asia.

JJS

JJS is an environmental and social development organization working since 1985 with an area focus to the South-West region of Bangladesh. Though it started working as volunteer organization to a small and limited scale, it is quite a large NGO in the south-west coastal region of Bangladesh. JJS is continuing and expanding in terms of activities, area coverage, projects and number of serving people. It has legal entity from NGO Affairs Bureau and some other authorities.

IWFM, BUET

Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research was established in 1974 and later renamed as the Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) in 2002. The Institute pursues research and capacity development in the field of water and flood management that is vital for economic development and social prosperity of the country. The Institute also provides advisory and consultancy services to government and non-government organizations

MetaMeta

MetaMeta provides research and consultancy services in water governance, and offers specialised communication products geared to the international resource management & development sectors. MetaMeta has also developed innovative new models for managing and monitoring complex programmes.

ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD support regional transboundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. They strengthen networking among regional and global centres of excellence.