



Meghna Advisory Group Meeting Bangladesh and India

Benefit Sharing framework for cooperative governance
17-19 January (NEHU, Shillong, India)



Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE)



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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Objectives and background of the meeting

From 17 to 19 January 2019, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) facilitated the Meghna Advisory Group meeting in Shillong (Meghalaya, India). The meeting was organised under the BRIDGE GBM project, funded by Oxfam's Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSAs) Programme, and was hosted by North East Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. The meeting's objectives were to:

1. Present opportunities for enhancing the benefits from the Meghna Basin through transboundary cooperation;
2. Discuss water related and natural resource management policies in the Basin;
3. Collect inputs on the composition and facilitation of the Meghna Advisory Group;
4. Map ongoing activities and plans in the Basin and its impacts on different sectors;
5. Identify key gaps in knowledge and define immediate research priorities in the Basin;
6. Explore strategic funding opportunities, such as those provided by GEF International Water, to support activities in the Basin; and
7. Conduct a study tour for participants to the Dawki-Tamabil border

The BRIDGE GBM project aims to enhance water cooperation among the countries sharing the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Basins. In the Meghna Basin, shared by Bangladesh and India, the project is facilitating the development of a transboundary framework to support multi-level cooperative and inclusive governance based on the benefit sharing principles. IUCN and TROSA partners are facilitating research and multi-level dialogue processes to develop the framework,

In July 2018, IUCN facilitated the first multi-stakeholder dialogue on the Meghna basin, *Benefit sharing to enhance multi-level cooperation for the integrated management of the Meghna Basin* in Dhaka. It was attended by more than 25 representatives from government, academia and civil society groups. The meeting listed the variety of ecosystem services provided by the Basin, information gaps hindering the integrated management of the basin, as well as relevant formal and informal institutions working at different levels in the area. The workshop also developed a **Vision 2022** for the Meghna Basin, which aims to develop an enabling environment for the creation of a Meghna River Commission to facilitate its cooperative and sustainable governance.

Based on the analysis of inputs received through the 1st dialogue and literature review, a scoping study was published in November 2018, *Opportunities for benefit sharing in the Meghna Basin, Bangladesh and India*, available [here](#). The report summarised the profile and socio-economic features of the basin and provides a preliminary scoping of opportunities for the development of a benefit sharing framework. The report also recommended formation of a Meghna Advisory Group (AG), to support the development of the Meghna benefit sharing framework. Following which, in December 2018, IUCN initiated the formation of Meghna Advisory Group and requested nominations from key government agencies, civil society organisations, academia and chambers of commerce from both Bangladesh and India to participate in the first meeting in Shillong.

1.2 Participants profile

The meeting was attended by 27 participants from government, academia and civil society, and one private sector representative from Bangladesh. The participants from government included high-level policy makers from both Bangladesh and India. From Bangladesh, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Deputy Director of the Ministry of Water Resources participated in the meeting. From India the participants included: the Chief Engineer level officials from the Brahmaputra & Barak Basin Organization (B&BBO) of Central Water Commission; the Brahmaputra Board; and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Participants also included the Chief of Wildlife Division of the Meghalaya Forest Department; and the representatives from the North East Council (NEC) and

Senior Scientists from North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) and NEHU in Shillong, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi; Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka. For details see Annex 2, participants list.

1.3 Structure of the three day meeting

The three day meeting of Meghna Advisory Group (AG) included two days of dialogue workshop and a one day study tour to the Dwaki-Tamabil Integrated Check Post (ICP) located on the Bangladesh and India International boarder. The first two days of the workshop was divided into four sessions: A) Session 1, introduced participants to the methodology for the development of the Meghna benefit sharing framework and the preliminary scoping of opportunities to enhance benefits from the Meghna Basin. The session also discussed the role and composition of the Meghna Advisory Group; B) Session 2, discussed existing water governance policies; C) Session 3, mapped ongoing anthropogenic activities in the Meghna Basin and its impact on different stakeholder groups; D) Session 4, the proposal for a four year water governance initiative in the Meghna developed for funding through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters (IW) window was presented and discussed. See Annex 1 for the detailed agenda.

2 MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The meeting was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Dr S K Srivastava, NEHU, Shillong. He highlighted the need for sharing of information and consistent dialogue in strengthening cooperative governance of the shared river basins, such as the Barak-Meghna Basin.¹

The sections below provide a summary of presentations and discussions at the Meghna AG meeting in Shillong.

2.1 Opportunities to enhance benefits provided by the Meghna Basin

Mr Vishwa Ranjan Sinha, IUCN Programme Officer for South Asia, presented the profile of the Meghna Basin and the six step process initiated by IUCN for the development and implementation of a benefit sharing framework in the Meghna Basin.

The main highlights of the scoping report, [Opportunities for benefit sharing in the Meghna Basin, Bangladesh and India](#) was presented and discussed. The report prioritise four areas where transboundary cooperation will help reduce overall vulnerability of the basin to the global environmental and human challenges such as Climate Change; and will help enhance the ecosystem benefits provided by the basin for both the countries. The priority areas for transboundary cooperation in the basin includes: a) flood and erosion control; b) achievement food security; c) conservation of the Basin's cultural and ecological diversity; and d) diversification of trade between Bangladesh and India.

One of the important feature of this session was the use of thematic maps for the visualisation of land uses and the administrative boundaries in the Meghna basin. The land use maps of the basin was presented and discussed in detail, these maps provided clear visualisation of the watershed locations. It was discussed that more than 90% of the Meghna basin watershed is located in India and is critical for the maintenance of basin hydrology, particularly the flow regulation downstream in the Haor² regions of Bangladesh.

¹ Please see this [news article](#).

² A bowl-shaped large tectonic depression forming marshy wetland ecosystems in the north eastern part of Bangladesh. These looks like inland seas during the monsoon floods.

Participants agreed with the priority areas for the development of the benefit sharing framework of the Meghna Basin and appreciated the use of maps for dialogue facilitation. Please read the report available [here](#).

Step 1: Identify the full range of ecosystems and social benefits or “basket of benefits” provided by the Meghna Basin

Step 2: Identify stakeholders, the power relations and any potential equity issues

Step 3: Identify opportunities to enhance benefits provided by the Basin and build on the benefit-enhancing scenarios

Step 4: Assess and quantify benefits as well as the trade-offs necessary to build cooperation among stakeholders and distribute benefits and costs equitably

Step 5: Negotiate a benefit sharing agreement, following international water law principles such as equitable and reasonable utilisation, and no significant harm and compensation mechanisms, and applying tools such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).

Step 6: Strengthen the institutional arrangement and capacity of key stakeholders for the implementation of the agreement

2.2 Role and composition of the Meghna Advisory Group

Mr Shahad Mehabub Chowdhury, Senior Programme Coordinator, IUCN Bangladesh presented the TOR of the Meghna Advisory Group and discussed its roles and responsibilities, which are as below (See Annex 3: Detailed TOR):

- Support, advise, and guide the design and implementation of the benefit sharing framework, including **identification of data sources**;
- Provide **guidance to ensure that the benefit sharing dialogue builds on existing knowledge and the ongoing** policy and planning processes in the basin;
- Act as ambassadors to present, disseminate and support the implementation of the final strategy within their own countries, organisations and peer groups.

The Meghna Advisory Group is proposed to include 8-10 representatives (at least 33% women) from Bangladesh and India, including policy makers, academicians, and representatives from civil society organizations, and private sector (chambers of commerce from Bangladesh and India).

On the issue of high level government participation in the Meghna AG. Considering the sensitivities around shared water resources and the hierarchical culture in government departments, the representatives from the governments were of the view that high level policy makers from the Central Ministries will not be comfortable participating in meetings with representatives from states or other sectors, such as CSOs and private sector. It was suggested, that IUCN shall conduct national dialogues and one to one meetings with the relevant ministries and discuss the composition and role of the AG as a strategy to build support for such a multi-stakeholder platform for the Meghna basin. These meetings will also provide inputs for the priority areas and strategy for the facilitation of the AG.

The need for the inclusion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in AG processes was particularly emphasised. Further, considering that most of the forest or watersheds of the Basin is under the control of local communities, the representatives from the District Councils in the Meghna AG process, such as the Kashi Council in Meghalaya, was suggested.

2.3 Policy/regulatory framework in the Meghna Basin

The participants from the government of Bangladesh and India shared the policy and plans of their respective agencies in the Meghna Basin. The summaries of the presentations are narrated below. (To download the presentations, please click [here](#)).

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh

Mr Shymol Chandra Karmakar, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh, said that fishing and fishing-related activities are the predominant occupations along the banks of the Meghna River. In terms of catch, Hilsa fishery represents the largest estuarine fishery in the world. Mr Chandra highlighted specific government initiatives to protect and conserve fisheries in Bangladesh, such as the establishment of fish sanctuaries; restoration of degraded habitats; expansion of small-scale aquaculture in floodplains; fingerling stocking programme to conserve biodiversity; and socio-ecological management approaches for the Hilsa fishery. Government is also promoting co-management or community-based fisheries, and as a part of this strategy more than 1.7 million government ID cards for local fisher folk were issued recognising their fishing rights.

Policies on fisheries management:

Policies/Rules/Plans	Goal/Objectives
The Protection & Conservation Fish Act, 1950	Aims to address concerns around gradual depletion of fish resources
The Protection and Conservation of Fish Rules, 1985	
National Fisheries Policy (NFP), 1998	Enhance fisheries production as an employment generation and poverty alleviation strategy and ensure maintenance of ecological balance and conservation of fisheries resources
National Fisheries Strategy (NFS) 2006	Sub-strategies on eight (8) different themes linked to aquaculture extension, capture and marine fisheries, recreational facilities and skill development
Public Waterbody (Jalmahal) Management Policy 2009	Outlines the provisions regarding public water bodies. The policy provides a mechanism to ensure that the real fisher folk have control as they are the one who have to invest in conserving the fisheries resources
Master plan of Haor Area, 2012	Enhance fish production through the installation of fish passes in hydraulic structures, controlling size- and species-wise fishing; establishing of fish sanctuaries to conserve key spawning areas; conservation and management of water bodies and restoration of ecosystems

Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh

Md. Mahmud Hasan, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh, shared the objectives of the National Water Management Plan. The plan aims to harness the benefits from the river basin through improved management and transboundary cooperation. The MoWR, Bangladesh is responsible for the preparation and implementation of water resource management projects, such as river dredging, flood control, drainage, irrigation, riverbank erosion control, delta development and land reclamation. Following five agencies, a) Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), b) Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO), c) Joint River Commission (JRC), d) Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board (DBHWD), and e) River Research Institute (RRI); as well as two research institutes, a) Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), and b)

Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), are working under the ministry to implement the national water policy of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 was discussed, it provides a long-term strategy to prevent floods and soil erosion, strategy to manage rivers and wastes, and ensure portable water supply throughout the country. The BDP 2100 has identified the Haor regions in Bangladesh as one of the most food insecure regions in the country. The plan aims to promote regional cooperation for basin-wide management of trans-boundary Rivers. In particular, joint flash flood forecasting is identified as an important factor to consider as floods constitute one of the major threats within the Bangladesh side of the Meghna Basin. The BDP 2100 therefore also provides a mechanism to support the implementation of the Framework Agreement signed between Bangladesh and India in 2011, available [here](#).

Brahmaputra Board, India

Ms Jyotika Pegu, Engineer, Brahmaputra Board (BB), India, presented the activities of the Brahmaputra Board in the Barak-Meghna Basin. The Brahmaputra Board is responsible for the regional level planning and implementation of integrated strategies for the control of floods and river bank erosion, as well development of detailed project reports for the mega-projects in the Indian part of the basin. Some of the key activities of the Brahmaputra Board discussed are listed below:

- Preparation of Master Plans (including investigation and surveys) for the main stem of Barak River and its tributaries. There are more than 50 sub-basin master plans approved by Government of India (Gol) in the Brahmaputra and Barak Basins, and eight new sub-basins have been identified for the preparation of the Master Plans.
- Master plan of the Barak main stem developed by Brahmaputra Board identifies 14 multipurpose projects for which the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) needs to be developed. The DPR for five Multipurpose Projects have been completed, others are at the draft stages or handed over to state governments for completion.
- The examples of direct implementation in project by Brahmaputra Board in the Barak Basin include construction work to improve river drainage, such as the Harang Project completed recently at the cost 30.49 Crores Rupees (approximately USD 4.2 million) and is expected to benefit an area of 118 sq. km. Another example is the channelization of Umngi River upstream in Balat Village.



Photo: Sluice regulator at Harang @Brahmaputra Board

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

Mr Ravi Kant, Chief Engineer of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), discussed about the current plans for the development of inland waterways in India. The National Waterways (NW) Act of India (2016) identified 106 new waterways, taking the total number of NWs to 111. The waterways are divided into five categories based on the level of development. Category I includes those NWs that existed before 2016, and Category V include those where feasibility studies are underway. Of the 111 NWs, 20 are in the northeast region, including NW 16 on the Barak River with the total length of 121 km, from Bhanga to Lakhipur. This route includes one multimodal terminal at Ranighat (Silchar) and provides the opportunity for the development of transboundary trade and transport in the Meghna Basin.

North-Eastern Hill University, India

Dr Devesh Walia, Head of the Environmental Department, NEHU, highlighted the need to for improved understanding of the tectonic activity in the Meghna Basin. This will support planning and waterways projects, as the Meghna is still an active and evolving tectonic plate.

Presentation and photos from the 1st Meghna Advisory Group meeting are available from the link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yVgJ9gmuWDMpjKEhXHdt-oNsBaCPNtVY>

2.4 Mapping of the ongoing activities in the Meghna Basin

The tables below provide an overview of on-going activities in the Meghna Basin and their impact on different sectors and communities in Bangladesh and India, as perceived by the participants. Participants also identified several areas where there are knowledge gaps or low level of information to understand the impacts.

Methodology

Step 1: Participants were divided into country groups – Bangladesh and India, and each country group asked to fill out the table below (step 1), identifying ongoing activities in their part of the Basin and perceived impacts on the different stakeholders. The impacts were ranked on a scale of -5/+5; -5 indicating highest impact level which can lead to serious long-term consequences at the regional level, and +5 indicating positive gains/extreme benefits with implications for cooperation beyond the Basin.

Step 2: The completed table was exchanged between the country groups. Each group was asked to review the activities identified by other country group (Step 1) and identify transboundary benefits and impacts on different stakeholder groups and sectors in their country on the scale of +5/-5.

The Table 1 below provides the analysis of ongoing the activities in the Bangladesh part of the basin and its impacts on the stakeholders; and Table 2, provides the same information for the Indian part of the basin.

Table 1: Activities in Bangladesh and its benefits and impacts on different stakeholders

Bangladesh Group (Step 1)		India response (Step 2)	Brief description of benefits/transboundary benefit sharing
Benefits/water use activities in Bangladesh (including plans/projects)	Benefits/costs to Bangladesh (sector/communities)	Benefits/costs to India	
Hoar Development activities (example, construction of submergible dykes)	Haor Development Board (+2); Ministry of Water Resources (+1); agricultural community (+3); fishing community (-1); environmental groups (-1); international organisations (-1);	Fish import to India from BD (+1)	Dykes help in the conservation of fish diversity and the protection of rice crops from flash floods during April to May each year. Increase in fish production in Bangladesh can help meet the growing demand of fish in the north-eastern states of India.

Mother fishery protection in Hoars and Hilsa Sanctuary	Department of Environment (+2); Department of Fisheries (+3); fishing communities (+4);	Fish migration (-1), fisher folk (-1).	Initiatives aimed at the protection and conservation of fish genetic diversity in the Meghna, Bangladesh: a) Protection of beels to protect mother fishes during dry seasons in Surma and Kushiara River Basins; and b) Hilsa sanctuary near Chadpur, at the confluence of Padma.
Capture fishery, auction based leasing system in Haors	Department of Land (+1); Local Government Engineering Department (+1); fishing communities (+1); private sector (+2);	Fish import to India from Bangladesh (+1)	Occurs mostly on rivers and on Haors along the Meghna basin. However, the leasing system and its impact on the local livelihoods is a topic for investigation as it is seen as favouring the rich and powerful.
Surface water irrigation	Bangladesh Water Development Board (+1); Department of Agricultural Extension (+2); farmers (+3); irrigation operators (+3); private sector (+1);	Import of agricultural goods (+1)	Downstream extraction of river water has no visible effect on upstream in India. But the impact on lower Meghna Basin and delta development processes needs investigation.
Urban flood protection embankments	Bangladesh Water Development Board (+1); urban dwellers (+3); city corporation (+4) ; private Sector (+3); land owners (+5)	No perceivable impact	Around major cities (Sylhet, Sunamgonj, Dhaka and nearby cities)
Dredging of rivers for navigation	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (+2); Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (+2); private sector (+2);	Transboundary inland navigation (+2)	Dredging of river channels in Bangladesh opens new shorter routes connecting northeast India with rest of the countries
Silt removal in Haor and beel	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (+2); Department of Environment (+2); private sector (+1); agricultural community(+2); fishing communities (+3);	No perceivable impact	Protecting beel beds from sediments will benefit local fisheries
River training	Bangladesh Water Development Board (+1); local communities (+4) ; private sector(+2); agricultural community(+2); aquaculture (+1)	Transboundary inland navigation (+2)	Controls bank erosion along the routes from Bhairab to Chadpur, and on Surma and Kushiara

Pond aquaculture	Department of Fisheries (+1); private sector (+2); local community (+2)	Fish import to India from Bangladesh (+1)	In the Meghna basin governments and private sector policies are promoting investment in aquaculture development. Recent trends indicates that production from capture fisheries has been decreasing despite its significance for the local livelihoods.
Flood plain aquaculture	Local community (+2); Department of Environment (-3); Department of Fisheries (+1); private sector (+1); fishing community (-1)	Fish import to India from BD (+1)	In Lower Meghna basin
Local navigation	Private sector (+1); Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (+1); local communities (+2); environment (+2); erosion (-1)	0	Major routes along Surma, Kushiara, and Meghna rivers and its estuaries provide the connectivity to the remote villages
Transboundary navigation	Private sector (+2); economy (+2); environment (+4)	Transit and trade (+3)	Along the protocol route to Karimgonj, and to Ashugonj
Industrial use of water and pollution	private sector (+2); local community (-3); economy (+2); environment (-2); fisheries (-2); agriculture (-1); livestock (-1); public health (-2)	Import of industrial goods (+1)	Many industries exists in Bangladesh along the Meghna River (e.g. in Norshingdi District, Daudkandi, Fenchugonj areas). There is a need for mapping these industries and their impacts on water resources.
Eco-tourism (Netrokona District, and Sylhet Division)	Department of Tourism (+1); private sector (+3); local communities (+1);	Tourism in India (+1)	Opportunities for the development of a transboundary tourism circuit.
Urban expansion into wetlands	Urban development authorities (+3); private sector (+3); real estate developers (+3); fishing community (-4); agriculture communities (-5); economy (+3); environment (-5); navigation (-3); public health (-3)	No perceivable impact	Major cities – Dhaka, Norshindi, Bhairob, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamgonj, Habigonj, Kishoregonj
Swamp forest restoration	Department of Environment (+2); local community(+3); private sector (+1); fishing community (+2); environment (+3)	Fish import to India from Bangladesh (+1)	Swamp forest in the Haor areas of Sylhet are important for the health of wetlands and local flood regulation
Co-management of forest	Forest Department (+1); local communities (+2); environment (+1)	0	There are examples of co-management forests in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habigonj in Bangladesh.

River bed sand mining	Private sector (+3); Department of Land (+2); Communities (+1); construction and realty sector (+2); fisheries (-2); farmers (-1); Bangladesh Water Development Board (-2); environment (-1)	0	There is a need for mapping of sand mining hotspots and its impact on the local ecology and community livelihoods.
Stone quarrying in Sylhet	Private sector (+2); tourist (-3); local communities (+2); ethnic groups (-1); public health (-2); environment (-1);	0	There is a need to investigate the negative impacts and ways to minimise it, and the role of the local economy and stakeholders in stone quarrying.
Landfill	Private sector (+2); municipalities (+2); land owners (+3); public health (-3); ground water (-1); environment (-2)	0	Big landfills are located around major cities in Bangladesh; similar situation in India.
Power production	Bangladesh Water Development Board (+1); private sector (+2); farmers (+1) ; fishers (-2);	Import of power by India (+1)	There are many thermal power stations near Ashugonj, Habigonj, Mouvlibazar, Norshindi, Dhaka and its vicinity
*Score on the scale of -5 to +5, where '-5' denotes very high impact; '0' no impact; and '+5' very high benefit.			

Table 2: Activities in India and its impact on different stakeholders

India Group (Step 1)		Bangladesh Group (Step 2)	Brief description (India/Bangladesh)
Benefits/water use activities (including planned projects)	Benefits/costs to India for different sectors and communities on the scale of +5/-5	Benefits/costs to Bangladesh (sector/communities)	Brief explanation/additional information
Multipurpose /hydropower projects	Human settlements (-2); navigation (-1); fishery(-2); energy(+3); local employment(+2); ground water recharge (-2)	Fish breeding (?); agriculture (-3); livestock (-2); economy (-1); environment (data gap); navigation (+2); Tourism (?) <i>[Question mark indicates data deficiency.]</i>	Examples: (i) Tipaimukh High Dam-Manipur; (ii) Umngot Hydro Electricity Project (HEP)-Meghalaya; (iii) Tuirial HEP-Mizoram; (iv) Myntdu Leska HEP-Meghalaya; (v) Serlui HEP-Mizoram

Waterways development	Traders (+4); tourism (+4); community (+4); road transport (-1); aquatic biodiversity (-2); water quality (+2); economy (+3); export (+2);	Trade (+2); tourism (+1); local community (+2); pollution (?); economy (+1);	National Waterways (NW) -16 (Barak River); navigation in smaller rivers Gomati river (Tripura-Bangladesh); Umngot river (Meghalaya-Bangladesh)
Irrigation projects/barrages:	Improved agricultural production; agricultural income (+3); drinking water (+2); communication (+2); tourism (+2); fish culture(+2); aquatic organism(-2)	Agriculture (-2); fisheries (-2); economy (?)	(i) Sonai Irrigation Project-Assam; (ii) Rukni Irrigation Project-Assam(iii) Maharani, Tripura; (iv) Juri, Tripura; (v) Khowai, Tripura, (vi) Manu, Tripura
Lift irrigation	Agricultural production and income (+3); ground water recharge (+1); downstream water availability (0); water quality (-2)	Agriculture (-1); Fisheries (-1); economy (?)	In the flood plains of Tripura and other North-eastern States
Cement	Environment (-1); water quality (-3); infrastructure development (+3); employment(+2);	Location information needed;	Manufacturing plants in Bangladesh (supply comes from India)
Coal mining (Simsang, Nongal Bibra, Siju, Ranikor, Balat) in Meghalaya	Environment (-3), health (-3), economy(+4), employment (+3), wildlife habitat (-2)	Water pollution (-2); public health (-1); environment (-2); fisheries (-1);	Coal mining has an impact on habitat ecology; affects fish biodiversity and fishery potential of the Simsang River, Meghalaya, India (or Someswari River in Bangladesh)
Oil and gas exploration (e.g. Rengte-Mizoram)	Energy security (+3); air quality (-2);	More information on plans and impacts on ongoing activities to understand the impacts.	Drilling by ONGC stopped in Mizoram; ONGC's earth-spoil storage collapsed and caused pollution in the nearby Chhimulang River, a tributary to the Barak River.

Limestone mining: (i) Nongtrai-Meghalaya,(ii) Shella-Meghalaya	Local employment (+3); Local income, trade and commerce (+2); infrastructure development (+2); pollution (-3); health hazard (-2); cave systems of Meghalaya (-3);	Water pollution (-2); public health (-1); environment (-2); fisheries (-1); economy (+1);	9% of the India's limestone reserves are distributed in the state of Meghalaya ³ . Mining is carried out by open cast Method with serious impacts on locally.
Sand mining (e.g. Umngot	Livelihoods and income (+3); infrastructure development (+2); flood moderation (+1); river morphology (-4); aquatic life (-3)	Water pollution (-2); public health (-1); environment (-2); fisheries (-1); flooding (-1);	Mostly done by local communities, informal sector. In Meghalaya, the National Green Tribunal has issued directives to stop sand mining from the riverbeds at these effect the biodiversity and ecosystems surrounding these extraction areas.
Brick fields on river banks	Local employment (+3); infrastructure development (+2), pollution (-3), health (-2); agriculture (-2)	More information needed	Brick kilns are growing at the cost of agricultural land, both in Bangladesh and India, to feed the construction industry and urbanisation.
Nature conservation through Protected Areas approach:	River flow (+3); ground water recharge (+2); flood and erosion control (+4); biodiversity (+5); ecotourism (+4); carbon sequestration (+5); rest and recreation (-1); community right to resources (-1)	Agriculture (+1); fishery (+1); environment (+1); economy (+1); preservation of traditional knowledge (+4); conservation of medicinal plants (+4); community through non-timber forest products (+3);	(i) Balphakram NP-Meghalaya; (ii) Nokrek WLS-Meghalaya; (iii) Sipahijala WLS-Tripura; (iv) Siju WLS-Meghalaya; (v) Narpouh-Meghalaya; (vi) Rowa WLS-Tripura; (vii) Dampa Riger Reserve-Mizoram. Engagement of community in protected area management is emphasised, leading to additional benefits. Nature conservation through Sacred Grooves e.g. Mawphlang-Meghalaya;
Collection of non-timber forest products:	Local food security and income (+4); tradition and modern medicine		Broom grass; bamboo; bay leaves; cinnamon; clack pepper lac; mushrooms; honey; aromatic and medicinal plants;

³ Lamare, R Eugene & Singh, Om Prakash. (2017). LIMESTONE MINING AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS IN MEGHALAYA, INDIA. ENVIS Bulletin Himalayan Ecology. 24. 87-100.

	(+2); loss of biodiversity(-3);		
Important wetlands	Ground water recharge (+3); aquatic biodiversity (+5); flood moderation (+4); local income (+3); local food security(+4); ecotourism (+4);	Environment (+1)	Numerous wetlands in the state of Meghalaya. Some beel (wetland) is the largest surface water body of floodplain wetlands in the Barak Valley, Assam.
Timber logging	Forest cover (-3); income (+3); water quality (-2);	Erosion (-1); flash floods (-2); sedimentation (-2);	Both legal timber extraction from the revenue forest managed by indigenous communities and illegal timber extraction by Mafia has contributed to the degradation of the forests.
Cash crops	Agricultural production (+4); income (+3); export and foreign exchange (+1); agro-industry (+2); pollution(-2); natural forest (-2); agro-biodiversity (-2)	Trade (+1)	Pineapples, oranges, erica nuts, bananas, tea, cashew nuts, bay leaves, cinnamon, rubber, flowers, orchids are tradable agriculture products.
Fisheries; Aquaculture	Income (+3); fish diversity (+1); transboundary conservation and trade (+2)	?	Most of the Indian states located in the Meghna Basin are promoting aquaculture. However, there is no clear understanding on its socio-ecological impacts.
Tourism; e.g. Dawki, cave tourism, Fossil Park	Local income (+3); conservation (+2); government revenue (+3); cultural heritage (+2); pollution (-3)	Tourism (+1)	There are many sites in the border areas that can be linked to transboundary trade and navigation routes.
*Score on the scale of -5 to +5: where '-5' denotes very high impact; '0' no impact; and '+5' very high benefits.			

2.5 Priority areas for investigation in the Meghna Basin

Based on the mapping exercise, participants identified knowledge gaps and joint research opportunities to fill these gaps to support the dialogues and integrated planning on the Meghna Basin:

Priority area 1: Impact of current planning and infrastructure development in the Meghna Basin

- Comparative analysis of relevant national and provincial policies to support the identification of benefit-enhancing opportunities aligned to government policies;
- Joint research to document threats to habitat quality and the variety of pressures contributing to wetland degradation in the Meghna Basin, e.g. land use changes and its impacts on natural disasters, fisheries and agriculture;
- Documentation of environmental and socio-economic impacts of mining industries in Meghalaya and other parts of the Meghna Basin. This study will support the development of a framework for inclusive and environmentally sound mining practices in the Meghna Basin;
- Joint environmental and social impact assessments for hydropower projects (planned and on-going) in the Meghna Basin. This will inform and strengthen ongoing cooperation in the energy sector and opportunities for joint hydro-power development; and
- Effectiveness of current flood embankment infrastructure and strategies (its design, use of construction materials, etc.), particularly in border zones.

Priority area 2: Sustainable management of ecosystem for livelihoods and disaster risk reduction (DRR)

- Study on the hydrological interdependencies between and among the sectors in the Basin;
- Joint research on land use changes and its impact on the ecology, community livelihoods and delta development process;
- Joint research on common themes, such as the impact of climate change and aquaculture development on capture fisheries in the Meghna Basin. The research will support the identification of specific interventions to minimise the impact in these two sectors on capture fisheries which is still the main livelihood for local communities in the Basin;
- Joint research projects to feed the development of management plans for Haor ecosystems. This will target both conservation and development issues, and highlight the linkages with upstream catchment management in the Meghna Basin (e.g. Meghalaya, Tripura); and
- Joint field survey to identify ecologically sensitive areas for conservation by both countries.

Priority Area 3: Modelling, scenario-building and economic integration in the Basin

- Nexus between food, energy and water security, in particular, the identification of trade-offs for the development of agreements;
- Data for modelling of flood-related vulnerabilities and climate change impacts, with focus on water-dependent economic sectors and community and livelihoods;
- Impacts and benefits of inland waterways development on local communities, biodiversity and ecology. Business cases and scenarios on community benefits and women empowerment opportunities created through the development of navigation-based tourism in the Meghna Basin, especially in the border areas;
- Consultation and research to identify localised opportunities for the economic integration and people-to-people interaction along the border areas (e.g. Dawki-Tamabil border zone), where there are opportunities for cooperation on watershed management and joint development of fisheries, tourism and inland navigation;
- Understanding and quantifying roles of rainwater harvesting and other conservation measures in improving flow characteristics and water availability within the Meghna Basin. This will help identify ways to simultaneously maximise benefits from the basin and ensure sustainable development; and
- Data and information on hydro morphological factors—understanding flow characteristics, its linkages with seismicity and discharge in selected transboundary tributaries of the Meghna Basin.

Priority Area 4: Re-establishing the past economic glory of the region

- Before 1947, Meghalaya, Assam and Bangladesh were part of the Bengal presidency and one of the most prosperous regions in the area, with highest per capita income compared to any other part of British-ruled India. Joint research and cooperation between Bangladesh and India (represented by states) can be used to trace and re-establish historical connectivity and trade routes. This will help revive cultural ties and will feed into the integrated management of the Meghna Basin. It will also help change the existing narrative for Bhutan and the Northeast region of India, from a 'land-locked' to a 'water-linked' region.

Priority Area 5: Seismotectonics framework for the basin

- The Meghna Basin lies in a tectonic convergence zone and is thus prone to earthquakes. This has implications for water governance in the region, such as the occurrence of flash floods, location and design of hydropower dams, waterways and other public utilities.

2.6 Discussion on the GEW IW proposal for the Meghna Basin (E4L-Meghna)

Based on the outcomes of the Meghna dialogue in July 2018 and the literature review, IUCN developed a concept note, *Ecosystems for life: A Bangladesh-India initiative on innovative benefit-sharing approaches for the sustainable management of the Meghna River Basin (E4L-Meghna)*. The concept has been designed for funding through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) International Water (IW) window of the World Bank.

The concept was discussed at the Meghna Advisory Group meeting and received positive feedback. The Ministry of Water Resources from Bangladesh and India are proposed as the Executing Agencies. The goal of the Program is to improve life and livelihoods of local communities in the Meghna basin through improved management of basin ecology jointly by the two countries.

The concept note was shared with the Meghna Advisory Group and following main projects components were discussed in details (please see Annex 4 for the logframe):

- **Component 1:** Development of appropriate methodology and capacities for the management of shared river basins and benefit-sharing in the Meghna Basin;
- **Component 2:** Integrated water management and associated livelihood systems;
- **Component 3:** Development of long term planning for joint management in the Meghna Basin using benefit sharing approaches;
- **Component 4:** Regional and inclusive collaborative mechanism for planning, coordination, and monitoring of basin management; and
- **Component 5:** Project knowledge management, dissemination of best practices, monitoring and evaluation.

Below is summary of the comments received from the participants on the Meghna GEF IW proposal, E4L-Meghna:

- Strengthen the focus on gender issues. It was suggested that gender assessments during project preparation will be undertaken to define specific activities to bridge the gender gap.
- Include the mention of Barak in the title of the proposal. It was argued that in the Indian side, Barak is more commonly used and understood. However, representatives from the Central Water Commission (CWC) of India shared that 'Meghna' has been used by CWC for its various offices since 1973-74, such as the Meghna Circle and Meghna Division at Silchar.
- Strengthen information on the socio-economic aspects/indicators of the Meghna Basin. Include information on population below poverty line, livelihood types, dependency on ecosystems, vulnerability and type of threats to the basin (including natural disasters) from climate change and current land use pattern. This will help in strengthening the argument for the mainstreaming of ecosystem based approaches in the natural resource use and management policies in the Meghna Basin.

- From a Bangladesh perspective, disaster management and control was identified as the biggest motivation for policymakers to engage in bilateral water dialogue process with India. The Delta Plan of Bangladesh 2100 clearly recognises the need for transboundary cooperation and therefore, the benefits linked to climate change resilience and adaptation needs to be highlighted in the proposal.

2.7 Visit to the Tamabil-Dawaki border

On the day 3, participants visited the Dawki-Tamabil Integrated Check Post, located approximately two hours from Shillong, India. It is one of the few road border crossings between Bangladesh and India in West Jaintia Hills district in the state of Meghalaya, India. The corresponding post in Bangladesh is Tamabil post.

The Dawki ICP foundation stone was laid in January 2017 and is fully operational now. It is used mainly for coal and agriproducts trade with Bangladesh.

The visit to the Dawki-tamabil, provided participants the opportunity to better understand various ongoing economic activities in and around the border area, particularly opportunities for transboundary trade and tourism development. More than 500 trucks cross the border every day during peak season. The site was choked with traffic, with trucks carrying stones and coal to Bangladesh from the mines of Meghalaya, or oranges from Bhutan transiting to Bangladesh via India. Participants also visited the boating sites on the Dawki River at the Bangladesh-India border.



Photo 2: Meghna AG Participants at the India-Bangladesh friendship gate in Dawaki-Tamabil Border (Bangladesh and India) @IUCN

2.8 Conclusion of the workshop and participants' feedback

The participants felt the workshop was well coordinated and very intensive. Discussions on the existing activities of government agencies from Bangladesh and India, together with the mapping of ongoing activities in the Meghna Basin strengthened understanding of issues and challenges among the participants.

Participants liked the use thematic basin maps during the workshop as this gave them a good overview of the geography, land uses and socio-ecological context of the Basin.

The brainstorming session on the mapping of the Meghna Basin activity was quite challenging, with little information available on various aspects of the Basin and with so many participants from diverse sectors. But the exercise was helpful, as it helped develop a common understanding of the basin among different stakeholders. The exercise clearly highlighted that different sectors may have a completely different view on impacts of certain activity on different sectors. During the Meghna Basin mapping exercise, discussions took place in each country group leading to consensus on the qualitative impacts and benefits on different sectors and communities.

The field trip provided an enriching experiences and participants could learn about benefit sharing opportunities that could be developed at local level to enhance the livelihoods and well-being of people in both Bangladesh and India. One example is Umngot River Lake, a unique place of exotic waters and much tourism potential. There is a need to measure this tourism potential and provide advisory on how Bangladesh and India can develop this area jointly.

It was suggested that Ministry of External Affairs is an important player in both countries, and needs to be included in the Meghna Advisory Group dialogues. Also, there is also a need to engage private

sector in the dialogue process, for example the dredging industry in Bangladesh is becoming an important player. A 'Business Case' for the constructive engagement of private sector in the dialogue process can also be developed.

ANNEX 1

Benefit sharing strategy for the Meghna Basin (Bangladesh and India)
Advisory group (AG) meeting, 17 to 19 January 2019
North East Hill University, Shillong, India

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 17 January 2019	
Time	Sessions
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
Session 1: Workshop background and introduction of participants	
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome (IUCN and NEHU)
09:15 – 09:30	Rounds of introductions
09:30 – 09:40	Introduction to the agenda
09:40 – 10:00	BRIDGE programme and introduction to benefit sharing approaches Six steps or the roadmap to develop and implement benefit sharing agreements and examples
10:00 – 10:30	Findings from the Meghna report, Benefit sharing opportunities in the Meghna Basin: profile and preliminary scoping study, Bangladesh and India Discussions on the profile and outcomes of Meghna dialogue, July 2018
10:30 – 11:00	Role and composition of the Meghna Advisory Group Presentation and feedback from participants
11:00 - 11:20	Coffee break and group picture
Session 2: Existing policy and plans in the Meghna Basin	
11:20 – 13:00	Framework and opportunities for joint development in the Meghna Basin Discussants from the governments of Bangladesh and India <i>5 mins presentation from each participating government agency from Bangladesh and India on existing policy, plans and the governance in the Meghna Basin</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
Session 3: Mapping of the activities and impacts of stakeholders	
14:30 – 16:00	Group work 1: Refined analysis of benefits and stakeholders Mapping benefits, stakeholders per country and understanding trends and challenges Participants mapped the ongoing activities in the Basin and their impact (per country or group of stakeholders)
16:00 – 16:20	Coffee break

18:30 – 20:30	Networking dinner
Day 2, Friday, 18 January 2019	
09:00 – 09:20	Recap from day 1 (facilitated discussions)
09:20 – 11:20	Group work 1, continued
11:20 – 11:40	Coffee break
11:40 – 12:30	Presentation and discussions of group work outcomes
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
Session 4: Long-term finding opportunities to implement the benefit sharing plan for the Meghna Basin	
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Presentation on the GEF process and the GEF IW concept note for Meghna</p> <p><i>Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India initiative on innovative benefit-sharing approaches for the sustainable management of the Meghna River Basin (E4L-Meghna)</i></p> <p>Country group work: review of the proposed project logical framework and next steps and schedule</p> <p>IUCN to present the GEF process for proposal development and preliminary ideas for the drafting of the GEF proposal for the Meghna Basin. Based on the presentation, participants will deliberate on specific refinements needed in the proposed log frame and specific support needed from government and other key stakeholders, and partnership and co-funding opportunities</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Closing remarks
Day 3, Saturday, 19 January 2019 (exposure visit)	
08:30 – 17:00	<p>Participants to visit a transboundary tributary of the Meghna River originating from Meghalaya – Dawki, Umgot River</p> <p>Leave hotel – 7:00 am and back to hotel by 6:00 pm</p>

ANNEX 2

List of participants			
Advisory Group (AG) Meeting, 17 to 19 January 2019			
Benefit sharing strategy for the Meghna Basin (Bangladesh and India)			
Venue: North East Hill University, Shillong, India			
Sno	Title	Name	Organisation
Bangladesh			
1	Mrs	Sharmeen Soneya Murshid	Member, National River Commission (NRCC) and Executive Director, Brotee
2	Mr	M. Mokhesur Rahman	Executive Director, Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)
3	Mr	Md. Mahmud Hasan	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of Bangladesh
4	Mr	Shyamol Chandra Karmakar	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Govt. of Bangladesh
5	Mr	Tarik Ahmad Karim	Member, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI)
6	Mr	A.K. Enamul Haque	Department of Economics East West University, Dhaka
7	Mr	Mohan Kumar Das	Senior Researcher, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)
India			
8	Mr	PM Scott	Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission (CWC), MoWRRD
9	Mr	Ravi Kant	Chief Engineer, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)
10	Mrs	Rita Brahma	Advocacy and Liaison Officer, The North East Research and Social Work Networking (NERSWN)
11	Mrs	Haobam Suchitra	Scientist/Engr. North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong
12	Mr	PR Marak	CCF Wildlife, Meghalya Forest Department
13	Mr	Thomas	North Eastern Council (NEC) Secretariat, Nongrim Hills, Shillong-793003
14	Mr	Gopal Chetri	Advisor, IFCWM, North Eastern Council (NEC)
15	Mrs	Jyotika Pegu	Engineer, Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati
16	Mr	Mihin Dollo	Director, Natural Resources, North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP), Shillong
17	Mr	Devesh Walia	Head, Dept. of Environment, North East Hill University (NEHU)
18	Mr	Kulhu Mero	Department of Geography, North East Hill University (NEHU)

19	Mr	L. Serjit Singh	Research Scholar, North East Hill University (NEHU)
20	Ms	Devapriya De Munshi	Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)
21	Ms	Marbakor Mary Lynrah	Project Scientist-B, Meghalaya Climate Change Centre, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)
22	Mr	Chandan Mahanta	Hydrology expert and Prof, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati
23	Mr	Partha J Das	Head, Water, Climate and Hazard Division, Aaranyak, Guwahati
24	Mr	Sanat K Chakraborty	Editor, Grassroots Options, Shillong
25	Mrs	Saudamini Das	NABARD Chair and Professor, The Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi
26	Mr	Sabyasachi Dutta	Director, Asian Confluence, Shillong
27	Mr	Veena Vidyadharan	Fellow and Centre Head, CUTS International, Jaipur
IUCN staff			
28	Mr	Mohammad Shahad Mahabub Chowdhury	National Coordinator-Bangladesh Mangroves for the Future, IUCN Bangladesh
29	Mr	Vishwa Ranjan Sinha	Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia Regional Office
30	Mr	Vishnu Sharma	Administrative Assistant, India Country Programme Office

ANNEX 3

Meghna Basin Advisory Group (AG) *Benefit Sharing Strategy for the Meghna Basin (Bangladesh and India)*

Terms of Reference

Background

Benefit sharing in transboundary water governance

Traditionally the negotiations on the governance of Transboundary River Basins (or river basin shared by more than one country) have focused on sharing of volumes of water. Once the water is divided, each country (or user group) then seeks to optimise management within its borders rather than across the shared basin.

Significantly different from the traditional approach, negotiations based on benefit-sharing focus on allocating the ecological and social benefits derived from various uses (and non-uses) of water, rather than the water itself. Benefit sharing therefore, enables a basin-wide planning perspective, which not only allows for better management of resources but also provides a greater scope for identifying cooperative management arrangements that are acceptable to stakeholders and countries, thus reducing existing conflicts and avoiding future conflicts.

BRIDGE programme in the GBM

[Building River Dialogue and Governance \(BRIDGE\)](#) is a global programme facilitated by IUCN, and implemented in 15 river basins across the globe. The programme aims to support stakeholders and countries find innovative ways to foster cooperation for the sustainable governance of shared river basins. The BRIDGE approach builds on learning, demonstration, leadership, and consensus-building.

In the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna (GBM) Basin BRIDGE initiated its activities in 2016 and has facilitated development of a regional network of more than 30 CSOs, working on water governance issues, from the five GBM countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal). Through a series of regional dialogue and consensus building activities the GBM CSOs Network developed a '[common vision](#)' or the GBM CSOs Vision, the vision identifies CSO led actions to support cooperative governance and sustainable management of the water resources in GBM Basin.

Now, in phase II, the BRIDGE in the GBM is supported by [Transboundary Rivers of South Asia \(TROSA\) programme](#) of Oxfam Novib and is working on two main objectives, a) Institutionalisation of the GBM CSOs Network through development and implementation of a governance mechanism for the network; and b) Transboundary Benefit Sharing Strategy (TBSS) for the Meghna Basin.

To develop the Meghna TBSS, IUCN facilitated a Benefit Opportunity Analysis Dialogue (BOAD) on Meghna basin, on 4 and 5 July 2018 (Dhaka, Bangladesh). The BOAD was attended by more than 25 participants from Bangladesh and India, from the government, academic and the civil society organisations. IUCN also initiated research on the ecological, social aspects and economic aspects of the Meghna basin. The inputs received from the Meghna BOAD in Dhaka and the research was compiled to produce a report titled [Benefit sharing opportunities in the Meghna Basin](#) published by IUCN in November 2018. The report scopes out the variety of benefits provided by the basin and then articulate the opportunities for these benefits to be maximised through joint development.

Advisory Group and its Objectives

To guide the process of further development of a Meghna TBSS in an inclusive and transparent manner, IUCN is facilitating establishment of a multi-disciplinary advisory group (AG) with representatives from governments, research institutions and civil society organisations (members of the GBM CSOs Network) and private sector representatives working in the Meghna Basin.

Composition: The AG will be composed of 8-10 representatives (33% women) from Bangladesh and India with the following responsibilities:

- **Policy Makers and Planners:** 3-4 representatives from government (Water Resources; agriculture, fisheries, environment, etc.)
- **Academicians:** at least 2 from each country working with the government from a government funded academic institution (hydrologist and social scientists).
- **Civil Society Organizations:** at least 2 representatives from the civil society organizations working on water governance issues in the Meghna Basin.
- **Private Sector:** representatives from relevant private sector platform or chamber of commerce with presence in the Meghna basin.

Responsibilities of the Advisory Group:

- Support, advise, and guide the design and implementation of the Meghna Benefit Sharing Strategy, including identification of data sources. In particular, the AG will provide guidance to ensure that the assessment builds on existing knowledge to provide practical decision-oriented analysis to policy makers and planners in the Meghna Basin.
- Share information and update IUCN and other AG Members on the existing and upcoming opportunities to link the strategy with policy and planning decisions and processes, and facilitate the realisation of those opportunities whenever possible.
- Act as ambassadors to present, disseminate and support the implementation of the final strategy within their own countries, organisations and peer groups.

To achieve this, the AG members will commit to

- Participate in the advisory group meetings (at least two meeting during 2019) for the development of Meghna TBSS. These meetings will be held either in Bangladesh or India.
- Review and comment on draft strategy and participate in coordination calls facilitated by IUCN to discuss updates, identify actions, or improvement needed for in the Meghna TBSS

ANNEX 4

Proposed GEF IW concept on Meghna

Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India initiative on innovative benefit sharing approaches for the sustainable management of the Meghna River Basin (E4L-Meghna)

Proposed project objective: To develop and implement innovative benefit sharing approaches between Bangladesh and India, leading to sustainable management of the Meghna river basin and improved livelihood of local communities

Project components	Project outcomes	Project outputs
Component 1: Development of appropriate methodology and capacities for the management of shared river basins and benefit sharing in the Meghna Basin	<p>1.1 Improved understanding of shared basin management, enhancing capacities of communities, as well as local and central administrations to design, prioritise and implement cooperative approaches in the Meghna Basin;</p> <p>1.2 Improved identification of benefits provided by the Meghna Basin through special studies;</p> <p>1.3 A multi-stakeholder process leading to the development of a benefit sharing opportunity analysis in the Basin</p>	<p>1.1.1 Capacity building programme on shared basin governance developed and carried out</p> <p>1.2.1. An assessment of ecosystem services provided by the basin (quantitative and qualitative) is developed and disseminated</p> <p>1.3.1. Multi-level dialogues lead to the development of a joint benefit sharing diagnostic analysis (BSDA)</p>
Component 2: Integrated water management and associated livelihood systems	<p>2.1 Efficient and cost-effective priority measures in place to immediately reduce degradation of the Basin and maximise benefits from and to the Basin (including on ecosystem management, DRR and basin livelihoods mechanisms)</p>	<p>2.1.1 Community based incentive-oriented restoration of forests/agroforestry and wetland landscapes in at least xx hectares in the Meghna Basin;</p> <p>2.1.2 Critical terrestrial and freshwater habitats are designated as protected areas through a coordinated joint approach;</p> <p>2.1.3 Joint mechanisms for reducing flash flood impacts on agriculture and</p>

		<p>fisheries sector in Bangladesh pilot tested;</p> <p>2.1.4 Public-private partnerships are developed to support communities' benefits (e.g. eco-tourism action plan, improved fisheries value chain)</p>
Component 3: Development of long term planning for joint management in the Meghna Basin using benefit sharing approaches	<p>3.1 A benefit sharing Strategic Action Plan is developed, prioritising benefit-enhancing scenarios</p>	<p>3.1.1 Strategic Response Lines to key problems developed including a basin-wide benefit sharing strategy</p> <p>3.1.2 Strategic actions identified</p>
Component 4: Regional and inclusive collaborative mechanism for planning, coordination, and monitoring of the basin management	<p>4.1 Governments of both countries mainstreaming project outcomes and outputs into their schemes and financial outlays</p> <p>4.2 Institutional frameworks established for knowledge management and capacity building on multilevel water governance</p>	<p>4.1.1 Policy guidance is developed and mainstreamed through national and regional workshops and policy advisory for integration of the BS-SAP recommendations</p> <p>4.1.2 A JRC sub-committee for the Meghna is initiated through the formation of a joint working group which includes representatives from government, basin users and civil society</p>
Component 5: project knowledge management, dissemination of best practices, monitoring and evaluation	<p>5.1. Project monitoring system developed and implemented</p> <p>5.2 Project best practices and lessons learned disseminated in the GBM basin</p>	<p>5.1.1. Results based M&E system developed</p> <p>5.1.2. Midterm and final evaluation implemented</p> <p>5.2.1. Best practices and lessons learned collected and disseminated</p>