Second Meeting of Meghna Advisory Group Bangladesh and India

11-12 February 2020
Dhaka, Bangladesh

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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background Information

IUCN BRIDGE GBM project is funded by the Swedish International Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the Oxfam Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) programme. The project has initiated multi-stakeholder dialogues and joint research to support the cooperative governance of the Meghna Basin shared by Bangladesh and India.

As part of the BRIDGE GBM project, IUCN is working through an informal multi-disciplinary team of experts, the Meghna Advisory Group (MAG). The MAG includes representatives nominated by governments, the academic sector and the civil society organisation (CSOs).

The first meeting of the MAG was facilitated by IUCN during 17 to 19 January, 2019, in Shillong, India. The meeting provided a platform for learning and information exchange among policy makers and practitioners from Bangladesh and India on the opportunities for the joint management of the basin. The meeting mapped the ongoing activities across the Meghna Basin and their impacts on different stakeholder groups. Based on the analysis, the participants identified basin-level land use and socio-economic change analysis as priority areas for research.

Acting on the recommendations of the first MAG meeting, IUCN initiated research on several themes, including; a) the review and mapping of relevant water governance and natural resources management policies in the Meghna Basin; b) the Geographic Information System (GIS)-based land use change analysis in the Meghna Basin; and c) the socio-economic change analysis in the Meghna Basin. It is expected that the outcomes of these research will be consolidated into policy tools and knowledge products to support evidence-based water dialogue in the Meghna Basin.

1.2 Objectives of Second MAG Meeting

IUCN facilitated the second meeting of the Meghna Advisory Group (MAG) on 11-12 February, Dhaka. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

a) Update MAG about the BRIDGE GBM and TROSA programme of activities in the Meghna Basin since the first MAG meeting in Shillong;
b) Jointly review the mandate of current bilateral agreements and national policies with the end view of understanding its application in the Meghna Basin;
c) Discuss the strategy to fund the the joint development of the Meghna Basin, in particular the GEF-Meghna Project Identification Form (PIF);
d) Discuss and finalise the methodology for the collaborative research on the land use and socio-economic changes in the Meghna Basin; and,
e) Provide inputs for the design and facilitation of the Meghna Knowledge Forum 2020

The MAG meeting was attended by more than 35 participants representing government, academic sector and civil society organisations, as well as representatives from the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI).

2 MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The meeting was inaugurated by a high-level panel, which included representatives from the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, and the Member of the Bangladesh India Joint River Commission. Following the inaugural session, specific discussions were facilitated on the bilateral agreements and national policies in the Meghna basin and the opportunities for the development of the long-term transboundary programme for the Meghna Basin using the opportunity provided by the International Water (IW) funding window under the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Day two of the meeting discussed and finalised the methodology of the collaborative research on land use and socio-economic changes, and inputs were collected on the agenda for the Meghna knowledge Forum 2020.

2.1 Inaugural Session

Mr. Raquibul Amin, Country Representative of IUCN Bangladesh, welcomed the participants. He highlighted the role of IUCN as a neutral platform in bringing the representatives from the governments, civil society, and academic sector to discuss water governance issues and challenges in the Meghna Basin. IUCN Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands - Asia, Mr. Vishwa Sinha shared the objectives aim to create an enabling environment for multi-level cooperation for the sustainable management of the Meghna Basin.

Dr. Vivek Saxena, Country Representative, IUCN India in his speech emphasised on the strong interdependencies between people and nature and the value of conserving the biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Meghna Basin for the future generations. The Regional Manager of the TROSA Programme, Mr. Jotiraj Patra from Oxfam, emphasised on the engagement of youth and the most vulnerable communities in the decision-making process. He also said that there is a nexus between humanitarian issues and the ecosystems health, which needs to be considered in water dialogue and basin planning processes.

Dr. Malik Fida A Khan, Executive Director, CEGIS and member of Bangladesh India Joint River Commission, shared that there is increasing recognition of the importance of river basin approach amongst the highest level of policymakers in both Bangladesh and India. The Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development between India and Bangladesh in 2011 is one example. The agreement aims to build multi-stakeholder cooperation for the development and implementation of basin approaches in all the river basins shared by the two countries. Focusing on the Meghna Basin, he said among the 54 transboundary rivers shared by Bangladesh and India, 29 are in the Meghna Basin.

The Meghna Basin is one of the least-abused basin with an intact and healthy ecosystem. However, there are challenges, it is estimated that six million tonnes of sediments come to Bangladesh from upstream in the Meghna Basin; this creates problems for the wetland management in the Haor regions (Surma sub-basin) in Bangladesh. The issue of sedimentation is linked with the health of the forest in the Meghna Basin, 90% of which is located in India. We need to promote innovative community-led watershed management to improve the overall hydrology of the Meghna Basin. Two countries need to focus on the equitable sharing of benefits provided by the river basins rather than the sharing of quantity of water.

Mr. Md. Billal Hossain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bangladesh shared his views on the impacts of economic development on nature. He said that Bangladesh is developing rapidly and expected to gain the developed country status by 2041. However, there are consequences of the economic development. Talking about the Meghna Basin, Mr. Hossain said that different parts of the basin face different problems, including sedimentation in the rivers and wetlands (Surma-Kushiyara sub-basin), salt intrusion in the coastal areas and decreasing

water flow in the rivers, particularly in the dry season. To address these challenges, Bangladesh and India need to work together on the development of future scenarios and joint strategies. From the government perspective SDG and Aichi targets are important for the national government, as indicated from the recent announcement by the Government of Bangladesh creating second marine area, 31,088 km2 contributing.

Mr. Mahmudul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh in his speech shared that Meghna initiative is important for the ministry, from the perspective of knowledge generation and the development of policy suggestions. He acknowledged the role of Meghna Advisory Group in facilitating people-to-people contact on technical, scientific and cultural issues. The Meghna initiative is bringing the ground realities to the regional dialogue table through the engagement of CSOs and academic sectors. He recommended alignment of the Meghna initiative with the objectives and targets in the Bangladesh 8th Five Year Plan and Delta Plan 2100.

Existing policy framework and its implication for the Meghna Basin

Mr. Shawahiq Siddiqui, Partner, Indian Environmental Law Organization (IELO), Delhi discussed the mandate of existing bilateral agreements between Bangladesh and India and their application in the Meghna Basin. He said that the statutes of *Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission (1972)* explicitly mention the need to harness benefits from all the shared rivers particularly in areas of flood control and forecasting, as well as joint research to identify solutions for the common water governance challenges, such as climate change. The Framework Agreement on Cooperation and Development between Bangladesh and India, 2011 also promotes the development of joint mechanisms to tackle challenges such as climate change. At the national level, the *North East Region Vision 2020 in India* and *Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100* mentioned about the 'downstream' and 'upstream' cooperation for the integrated management of shared river basins. The presentation concluded that 'transboundary cooperation' and 'benefit sharing' are recurring themes in bilateral agreements and national policy discourse in Bangladesh and India.

Participants were engaged during group work following the presentation, and discussed strategies to build effective partnerships for the sustainable management of the Meghna Basin. The recommendations from the group work are summarized below:

a) Support the development of locally-informed land-use management strategies by engaging community in the dialogue process.
b) Strengthening of local water governance institutions and the engagement of village headmen in the dialogue process will ensure effective community engagement and support to the mainstreaming of customary laws in the existing policies at national and regional levels.
c) Development of livelihood strategies that strengthen engagement of the local communities in securing the sustainable management of the Meghna Basin.
d) Identification of economic/livelihoods opportunities in the Meghna Basis at the transboundary level. The analysis of value chains in ecotourism and agri-horticulture sector.
e) Media engagement is important in highlighting both the challenges and the solutions, and influencing public behavior leading to the creation of an atmosphere conducive for the development of new partnerships.
f) Biodiversity conservation is a good entry point for transboundary cooperation, Joint Forest Management in transboundary conservation landscapes, such as between Sylhet and Meghalaya, highlighted as the opportunity.
g) Development of a basin wide strategy for watershed conservation and management, which is aligned with the national/local level policies, can help minimize the siltation problem.
h) Strengthen the engagement of the State Governments and the North East Council (NEC), India in the Meghna dialogue process. States are responsible for water governance and NEC has the mandate to promote balanced and integrated economic development of northeastern states, thus in the Indian part of the Meghna Basin, NEC is an important stakeholder.

2.2 Including community voices in the decision making

In the Meghna River Basin, CUTS International, Jaipur and Oxfam Bangladesh, Dhaka have been facilitating river dialogues with the communities (Nodi Baithaks). These community level dialogues have helped in documenting water governance challenges faced by the local communities.

Ms Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow, and Deputy Head, CITEE and CUTS International, Jaipur, said that Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between Bangladesh and India (2015) promote development of mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of waterways on shared rivers for purpose of commerce. She said, that opening up of shorter transboundary stretches in Barak, Gomti and Haora rivers will create economic benefits for the local communities in both Bangladesh and India. For example, declaration of the Bhanga to Lakhipur (Total Length: 121 km) as part of the protocol route, will allow the traders in India the access to market up to Ashuganj in Bangladesh. However, she said the lack of proper infrastructure and market linkages are the major barriers.

Following the presentation, in the plenary discussions participants shared successful strategies and challenges in promoting community voices in the policy making process. Participants reflections are summarized below:

- Involve headmen and villagers in policy dialogue to strengthen community representation and sharing of their perspectives. The Indigenous people district council meetings provide a good entry point. Bring the governments and community in the same platform to discuss issues. For Oxfam Bangladesh, public hearing as a strategy has worked in providing access to high level policy makers and fisheries dependent communities in the Meghna River Basin.
- Culture provides soft entry point good entry point to facilitate government engagement in water dialogues and as a confidence building strategies among stakeholders. Example, Asian Confluence (Shillong) 'Amor Nadi' or my river programme has used culture as the entry point to engage and inform policy makers about community water governance challenges.
- Link the community issues with popular campaigns at the local and regional level, and the policies of the national governments for effective advocacy on community issues.
- Transboundary forest conservation initiatives and the development of community-based early warning systems to flash floods (Haor region) can help build trust and cooperation among communities living across border.

Low technical capacity and limited spaces for constructive engagement of the communities in the policy making process were highlighted as the major challenge in promoting community engagement in decision making process. There is no one voice at the community level, a common structure is missing, therefore, it is important that communities are sensitized and has been provided with capacity to be able to effectively contribute to the decision making process.

2.3 Joint development of the Meghna Basin

To sustain the Meghna dialogue process, IUCN has facilitated development of proposal, *Strengthening knowledge base and the institutional framework for cooperative governance of the Meghna Basin.* The proposal articulated the strategy to facilitate common understanding of issues for the cooperative development of the Meghna basin. The GEF International Water has been identified as the funding window.

The proposal will support the scientific assessments of water resources and facilitate dialogue on river basin management strategies. One of the objectives of the proposal is to strengthen community engagement in forest and wetland conservation applying Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The Meghna GEF proposal was discussed with participants and their feedbacks on the logframe are summarized below:

- Include landslide hazard zonation, and the development of transboundary flood early warning systems as these are some of the emerging concerns in the Meghna Basin.
- Include climate modelling for the Meghna Basin, and the documentation of how local communities are adapting to climate change. The results will feed the development of strategies to reduce the impacts of floods on the local life and livelihoods.
- Transboundary fisheries cooperation is an opportunity. Many economically important fish species migrate between Bangladesh and India for feeding and/or breeding, therefore joint fisheries management requires transboundary cooperation.
- Value chain analysis – identify and promote values chains that are good for both the people and nature, such as the development of ecotourism and agri-based trade in transboundary landscapes.

Since the GEF proposal requires leveraging of co-funding, the participants identified the following as potential sources of co-financing: 1) World Banks River Management Improvement Program; 2) IFAD's Climate adaptation and Livelihood Protection (CaLIP) programme. The CaLIP is working to build small farmers resilience to floods, through the development of early warning systems in the Haor regions of Bangladesh. The project is implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department and the National Disaster Management Authority, India, which will provide funding for flood and disaster control.

2.4 Meghna socio-ecological change analysis

IUCN is facilitating research to identify major trends in the socio-economic changes in the Meghna Basin. Indian Institute of Economic Growth (New Delhi) and Asian Centre for Development (Dhaka) are the lead research partner from India and Bangladesh. The research is being done using a common methodology.

Dr. Saudamini Das, Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi University, presented the study objective, the data source and its access. She said, the study aims to understand major trends in water dependency of different sectors, and compare socio-economic development index to water based activities or water dependency. There are more than 25 districts in the Meghna River Basin, and the district census data is available from 2001 onwards. Sources of data being reviewed includes – NSS data (available from 1950s onwards), ICRISAT data in Agriculture; and Economic Survey data. Dr. Das introduced participants to the Vulnerability Atlas of India. The atlas focus on natural disasters like earthquake and floods, climate change impacts are not accounted. Sharing the preliminary results of analysis, Dr Das said, review of reports from Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA) platform and vulnerability analysis of Indian agriculture to climate change (district level data) indicates that agriculture system in the Meghna Basin, in India, is not vulnerable to climate change.

Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque, Department of Economics, East West University, Dhaka shared that the major data sources used for the Bangladesh study include the Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES) data published by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data (2000, 2005, 2010, 2016), Population Census, Labor Force Survey data; Agriculture Statistics and Fishery Statistics.

Participants feedback on the socio-economic analysis:

Water use and extraction by different sectors in Meghna Basin –

a) Rice (Boro) and Jute cultivation, does not requires much extraction of water from the system. Same is true for the plantation agriculture (tea and rubber), most of the tea plantation are rainfed. However, there are impacts on water quality and land use changes.
b) Mining and Construction are the two sectors with major impacts on water quality
c) Aquaculture in Sylhet division has not much impact, but in Mymensingh District of Dhaka Division aquaculture is quite intensive. Fish food used by the industries could be a source of organic waste pollution.

d) New Industrial zones are being developed, particularly in Bangladesh to promote food processing industries;

e) Urban centers are expanding and we need to understand the impacts of the urbanization in the basin.

Establish and quantify linkages between different sectors.

a) Cement is a growing industry in the Meghna Basin, many are coming up in Bangladesh to feed the demand of urban infrastructure development. The industry needs limestone, a lot of which is contributed by the mining industry in Meghalaya. The extraction of limestone resulted to air and water pollution in the basin.

b) Pollution from agriculture activities and the paper and pulp industries, tea gardens (Plantation Agriculture); Ammonia pollution from Boro rice cultivation. If the Boro rice is submerged for more than 15 days, happening quite often due to recurrent floods and changing climate.

2.5   GIS-based land-use change analysis and Meghna basin Atlas

The methodology for the land-use change analysis (LULC) for the entire Meghna Basin was presented by the principal research investigators, Mr. Md Nasrat Jahan, Associate Specialist, Remote Sensing Division, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Dhaka, Bangladesh and Dr Devesh Walia, Head, Department of Environmental Studies, North- Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, India.

The LULC will cover the period of 2005 to 2019. The analysis will be done using Landsat 8 images from the dry season land use in the Meghna Basin. The study will Review the available LU/LC data/maps from 2005 for the six different time durations (A to F): 2005 – 2010 (A); 2005 – 2015 (B); 2005 – 2019 (C); 2010 – 2015 (D); 2010 –2019 (E); and 2015 – 2019 (F) to identify hot spots and drivers of change in the basin.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines were used to categorize the land used into eight types, six of these are based on IPCC definition[1] (Forest land; Cropland; Grassland; Wetlands; Settlements) and Aquaculture, Orchard and other plantation, Mining sites included in the list due to their significance in the Meghna Basin.

Main discussion points:

-   The proposed Meghan basin LULC will only focus on dry season changes overtime, however, the participants suggested extending the analysis to wet season also, as this would help better understand the seasonal changes in the land uses overtime. In dry season, the GIS-based analysis cannot differentiate between Beels (Natural Wetlands) and Aquaculture sites, two completely different land use types in the Meghna Basin. Also, in monsoon, the Haors regions of Meghna Basin, in Bangladesh, are flooded with water forming huge wetlands, but in dry season the same area is used for Boro rice cultivation – so how to distinguish between the two? If the analysis only focus on dry season annual data, it will not capture the extent of changes in the submerged area in/or after monsoon. The land use change analysis for the wet season can help us to better understand the linkages between the agriculture and fisheries based livelihoods.
-   Geographical boundary of the Meghna Basin: The investigators presented a map of Meghna with a total area of 100,842 sq.km. This included part of a distributary of Brahmaputra (Old Brahmaputra River) in the north west of the Meghna Basin. The participants were divided on the question on whether the old Brahmaputra stream is part of the Meghna Basin. CEGIS and NEHU to further investigate and revise the map based on the technical consideration.

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[1] Basis for Consistent representation of Land Area

- Participants suggested to include the analysis of at least two images – one from 2005 (base year) and 2019 from October to give a picture of what is happening in wet season.

2.6 Meghna Knowledge Forum 2020

To create awareness on the social and ecological value of the Meghna Basin, IUCN is facilitating a scientific symposium, the Meghna Knowledge Forum (MKF) 2020. The Forum aims to provide a learning exchange platform on shared water governance issues in the Meghna Basin linked to Natural Resource Management (NRM) and community inclusion. It will bring together more than 100 policymakers, researchers, civil society organisations (CSOs) and private sector representatives working in the Meghna basin, as well international experts on transboundary water resource management.

The objectives of the MKF 2020 was presented to the participants and they were asked to provide inputs on the objectives and design of the forum, including the priority themes for the thematic sessions, side events and knowledge café, specific support from partners and stakeholders.

Based on the inputs and follow up consultations with partners, **28-30 May 2020** was fixed as the **date for the Meghna Knowledge Forum 2020 in Shillong**.

Participants prioritised following three thematic focus areas for MKF 2020, as below:

1. *Geophysical and Ecological diversity of the Meghna Basin* (focusing on the context and available data to understand the system)

2. *Cultural and Socio-economics of the Meghna Basin* (Culture and socio-economics go hand-in-hand, so we have clubbed them together)

3. *Inclusive Basin Governance in the Meghna Basin* (issues and interfaces between different actors/sectors for the inclusive governance)

For thematic sessions, a two hour format was suggested. On the outcomes of MKF, the idea of a Shillong Declaration was discussed (providing a blue print of cooperation). It was also suggested that the knowledge outcomes from the Forum could be organised into modules.

Promoting common cultural traditions and heritage in Bangladesh and India in the Meghna Basin was emphasised by the participants. It was suggested that IUCN approach the Ministry of Culture in both countries to participate in the event.

Media fellowship, and the engagement of PhD students and sharing of their research results through the MKF 2020 platform was suggested to promote media and youth engagement at the forum.

Participant suggestions on the potential institutions/speakers/knowledge-partners/sponsors to include in the MKF are summarized in the table below:

Bangladesh	India
Institutions	
From Governments:	**From Governments:**
- Ministry of Water Resources	- Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Ministry of Fisheries And Livestock	- Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)	- North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NARCOM)
- Haor Development Board	
Knowledge partners:	

- National River Conservation Commission of Bangladesh - Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) - Institute of Water Modelling (IWM)	**Engagement of the non-traditional ministries (from Water Dialogue perspective)** - Ministry of Tourism - Ministry of Culture - Ministry of Power - Ministry of Planning **Potential Funding:** - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) – co-funding and stalls - North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (phase III, 2021, scaling up phase)
Private Sector: (engage and influence) - Cement Industry (major growth industry) - Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI)	**Private Sector: (engage and influence)** - Chambers of Commerce (FICCI, ASSOCHAM) - Teas Boards - Power Companies
Potential Speakers and High-level Guest: - MP Sunamgajnj - Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury - Former Secretary and Advisor, Government of Bangladesh and Former Executive Director, BRAC - High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India	**Potential Speakers and High-level Guest:** - Dr. Rajdeep Roy, Member of Parliament, Silchar - High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh - Minister of Water Resources, Meghalaya
Ensuring the participation of indigenous groups particularly emphasized. Mapping of marginalized and indigenous voices including women and youth suggested. Specific suggestions - - The members Autonomous District Councils in Meghalaya, India. Leaders of Khasi, Jaintia, Manipuri, Garo tribes (people who live by the rivers) to facilitate sharing of ground level information on challenges and opportunities in the Meghna Basin. - Head of Mawlynnong Village, Meghalaya (Cleanest Village)	

2.7   Conclusion of the workshop

The workshop provided the opportunity to get feedback on the project activities design and implementation. It also provided participants the opportunity to build their capacity on the GIS-based land-use change analysis, and understand the current available data available for the Meghna Basin to undertake the socio-economic analysis of changes.

In the inaugural session, participants could hear the view of high-level government officials from the Water and Environment Ministry in Bangladesh on the value of the project and its importance for the government. Mr. Mahmudul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh said, *"Meghna initiative is important for the Ministry, from the perspective of knowledge generation and the development of policy suggestions."*

The session on policy perspective highlighted that there is enough space in the current water policies and agreements, as benefit sharing and transboundary cooperation are recurring theme in the current policies.

It is important to establish and quantify linkages between different sectors – understand the interdependencies and conflict. The collaborative research on socio-economic and LULC change analysis in the Meghna Basin will provide facts and data to analyze and quantify these linkages.

Moving from water sharing to ecosystems protection approach of the project was appreciated by the participants. *"We need to learn from the past, and move away from the focus on sharing of water volumes to the conservation of ecosystem for long-term sustainability of various economic sector in Bangladesh and India,"* said Ambassador Tariq Karim, the representative from the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI).

Participants Feedback

Below is the summary of feedback received from 16 participants (11 Male and 5 Female). Among the respondent 10 were from Bangladesh and 6 from India.

1. On the question of whether the workshop met its stated stated objectives - 55% strongly agreed, and 45% agreed. None indicated disagreement. *(1 strongly agree, 2 agree, 3 disagree, 4 strongly disagree).*

2. All the participants (100%) indicated satisfaction with the opportunity provided during the workshop to share their opinion.

3. What worked well during this workshop and the sessions participants liked most:
   a) More than half of the participants liked the session on collaborative research (LULC and socio-economics) and the MKF 2020 discussions. Many participants liked the idea of institutions from Bangladesh and India doing research, using same methodology and with the focus on the full Meghna Basin.
   b) Many participants liked the inaugural session, as it facilitated participation of high-level governments and clarified the objectives of the workshop
   c) Participants felt they could build their capacity on the existing agreements and policies in the Meghna River Basin, including GIS based land use change analysis. They also liked the sharing of ground level information based on the community consultations (Nodi Baithaks). They could learn about the dynamics of community and ecosystem interactions.

4. Important learning points in the workshop:
   a) Mandate of Bangladesh and India Joint River Commission – provides a platform for bilateral cooperation in Meghna Basin
   b) Significance of scientific information in advocacy
   c) Networking and knowledge sharing - by bringing different sectors together (communities, research and policymakers)
   d) The need for bridging the gaps between community needs, research and policy

5. Improvements required and missing information:
   a) Community representation was missing – since the ultimate objective is to improve the life and livelihoods of community,
   b) Agenda was very dense. Participants suggested three days for the workshop, and shorter days (morning to 3pm) - not full days.
   c) Research topics for future exploration - Macro-level data analysis on capture fisheries and income related disparities; hydrological and morphological knowledge;
6. Follow-up after workshop: Workshop report with the summary of each session; regular communication within the group through basin calls; and webinars sharing the results of collaborative research.

AGENDA	
Day 1: Tuesday, 11 February 2020	
Time	**Sessions**
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
	Inaugural Session
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome remarks by **Mr.. Raquibul Amin,** Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh
09:05-09:15	Introduction of the BRIDGE GBM and Meghna Advisory Group by **Vishwa Ranjan Sinha**, Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, South Asia
09:15 – 09:25	Remarks by **Jotiraj Patra, OXFAM**, Regional Manager, TROSA Manager, Oxfam
09:25 – 09:30	Remarks by **Dr. Vivek Saxena,** Country Representative, IUCN India
09:30 – 09:40	Remarks by **Dr. Malik Fida A Khan**, Executive Director, CEGIS
09:40 – 09:50	Remarks by **Dr. Md. Billal Hossain**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bangladesh
09:50 – 10:00	Remarks by **Mr.. Mahmudul Islam**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh
10:00 - 10:30	**Coffee Break and Group Picture**
10:30 – 11:30	**Session 1: Introduction to the Project Theory of Change in the Meghna Basin** Vishwa Ranjan Sinha, Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia *(Discussions and inputs from the participants)*
11:30 – 13:00	**Session 2: Policy perspective in the Meghna Basin (policy analysis)** Discussants from from Bangladesh and India *Facilitator: Ms. Archanana Chatterjee, National Coordinator, IUCN India*
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 15:00	**Session 3: Working with the communities in the Meghna basin** **Presentations:** a) Inclusive cross border trade in the Meghna basin *Ms. Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow, and Deputy Head, CITEE, CUTS International, Jaipur* b) Community voices in Water Governance: Outcomes of the Nodi Baithaks *Mr. Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique, Project Coordinator-Water Governance. Oxfam Bangladesh* *Q and A from Participants*
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break
15:20 – 16:30	**Session 4: Strategy for joint development of the Meghna Basin** EcosysteMs. for Life: Strengthen knowledge base and institutional framework for the cooperative governance of the Meghna basin (E4L-Meghna) (Participants inputs on the proposed activities, including the partnerships and strategies required for its successful implementation)
16:00	End of meeting with coffee break
18:30 – 20:30	**Networking Dinner**
Day 2, Wednesday, 12 February 2020	
09:00 – 09:15	**Recap from Day 1** (facilitated discussions)

09:15 – 10:30	**Session 5: Meghna socio-ecological change analysis** *Presentation of methodology, approach and expected outputs* **Bangladesh:** Mr. A.K. Enamul Haque, Department of Economics, East West University, Dhaka, **India;** Dr Saudamini Das, Professor, The Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi *(after presentations, plenary discussions to gather inputs on available data sources and gaps, and for the fine tuning of the methodology and the expected outputs)* Facilitator: Mr. Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique, Project Coordinator-Water Governance, Oxfam Bangladesh
10:30 – 10:50	**Coffee break**
10:50 – 12:30	**Session 6: GIS based land-use change analysis and Meghna basin Atlas** *Presentation of methodology, approach and expected outputs* **Presentation:** Mr. Md Nasrat Jahan, Associate Specialist, Remote Sensing Division, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Dhaka *(after presentations, plenary discussions to gather inputs for fine tuning of the methodology, approach and expected outputs)* Facilitator: Mr. Mohammad Shahidul Islam, Director, Remote Sensing Division CEGIS, Dhaka & Dr Devesh Walia, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Studies, North- Eastern Hill University (NEHU), India
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch break**
14:30 – 16:30	**Session 7: Meghna Knowledge Forum 2020** *Presentation: MKF 2020 objectives and expected outcomes* Ms. Archana Chatterjee, National Coordinator, IUCN India (Presentation followed by participants inputs on the objectives and design of the forum, priority themes for the Thematic sessions, side events and knowledge café, specific support from partners and stakeholders) Facilitator: Mr. AJM Zobaidur Rahman Soeb, Media and Communications Coordinator, Oxfam Bangladesh
16:30 – 16:45	**Meeting wrap-up and main action points**

SI no.	Title	Name	Organisation
**Participants List** **Second Meeting of the Meghna Advisory Group** **11-12 February, 2020, Dhaka (Bangladesh)**

SI no.	Title	Name	Organisation
Bangladesh			
1	Mr.	Mahmudul Islam,	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
2	Mr.	Md. Billal Hossain	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3	Mr.	Malik Fida A Khan	Executive Director, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
4	Ms.	Mahbooba Panna,	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL)
5	Mr.	M. Abdur Rakib	Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
6	Mr.	Md. Shahad Mahbub Choudhury	SCWFP, Department of Fisheries (WB project)
7	Dr.	A.K. Enamul Haque	East West University
8	Ms.	Sarah Enamul Haque	East West University
9	Ms.	Umme Marzana	East West University
10	Mr.	Md. Aminul Haque	Water Resources Planning Organisation (WAPRO)
11	Mr.	Md. Mahbubur Rahman	Embassy of Sweden
12	Mr.	Dario Trombetta	European Union
13	Mr.	Mohammad Ishtiuq Hossain	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
14	Mr.	Md. Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury	Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)
15	Dr.	Md Khalid Hossain	Oxfam Bangladesh
16	Mr.	Mushfiq Ahmed	Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
17	Mr.	Mohammad Shahidul Islam	Director, Remote Sensing Division, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
18	Mr.	Md Nasrat Jahan	Associate Specialist, Remote Sensing Division, CEGIS
19	Ms.	Mashuda Parvin	CEGIS
20	Ms.	Selina Perveen	CEGIS
21	Mr.	Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique	Oxfam Bangladesh
22	Ms.	Nuzhat Nueary	Oxfam Bangladesh

23	Mr.	AJM Zobaidur Rahman Soeb,	Oxfam Bangladesh
24	Ms.	Fatema Jannat	Oxfam Bangladesh
25	Dr.	Mohan Kumar Das	IWFM, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)
26	Dr.	Md. Jhangir Hussain	2030 Water Resource Group (WRG), World Bank
27	Ambassador	Tariq A. Karim	India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI)
28	Ms.	Chiara Vidussi	European Union
29	Mr.	Dario Trombetta	European Union
India			
30	Mr.	Shawahiq Siddiqui	Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Partner, Indian Environmental Law
31	Ms.	Suchitra Devi Haobam	Scientist North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC)
32	Mr.	Jotiraj Patra	Regional Manager, TROSA, OXFAM
33	Mr.	Sayandeep Chattopadhyay	Senior Research Associate, Asian Confluence
34	Mr.	Veena Vidyadharan	Fellow, CUTS International
35	Dr.	Devesh Walia	Department of Environmental Studies, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong
36	Ms.	Saudamini Das, IEG, Delhi	The Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi
IUCN Staff			
37		Raquibul Amin	CR IUCN Bangladesh
38		Israt Jahan	Programme Asssistant, IUCN Bangladesh
39		Vivek Saxena	CR IUCN India
40		Archana Chatterjee	Programme Coordinator, IUCN India
41		Vishwa Ranjan	Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands South Asia

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE

IUCN Asia Regional Office
63 Sukhumvit Soi 39
Klongton – Nua, Wattana
Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Tel: +66 (2) 662 4029
Fax: +66 (2) 662 4387
asia@iucn.org