

## DISCUSSION MEETING REPORT

'NbS Bangladesh Portal' and Establishing  
'NbS Bangladesh Network'

Sunday, 12 July 2020

UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

The topic of the discussion meeting, held on 12 July 2020, Sunday via Zoom, is to present on the recently developed NbS Bangladesh Portal ([www.nbsbangladesh.info](http://www.nbsbangladesh.info)) by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and the Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NBSI) at the University of Oxford and to explore the opportunities and needs for "NbS Bangladesh Network". The meeting gives an overview of suggestions and feedback received from the stakeholders to improve the content based on their expectations. Lastly, the meeting explored possible modalities of engagement through the network. There has been a growing interest in NbS among the stakeholders. The discussion suggests having a formalized NbS Bangladesh Network inviting both organizations and individuals who can contribute to the portal and collaborate with other network members.

### Introductory Remarks by Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD

Dr. Saleemul Huq emphasized the need to form an NbS network in Bangladesh explaining two aspects.

**Membership of the Network:** NbS network should invite for individual membership and organizational membership. Potentially, organizational members will be acknowledged as 'Partners' whereas individual membership can be termed under 'General Membership'. The modality of membership will follow an application process and steering committee will analyze the applications to consider them in the network.

**Defining structure and activities of the Network:** It is vital to define the structure and activities of the network to sustain it in the long run. There will be a steering committee through democratic process and members from the committee will be acting their roles for governing, management and maintaining the network for a certain time-period. Furthermore, the network has to be regularly updated about the relevant NbS activities at both national and global levels through meetings and/or workshops. The network can hold regular webinars on various topics to encourage discussions and debates around certain NbS issues, along with taking the outcomes to policy level for influencing implementation. Moreover, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Gobeshona Conference to be held in January 2021, the network can arrange a session under the theme of NbS, exploring the potential actions that can be taken to compliment the biodiversity emergency actions under "Planetary Emergency" resolution proposed by Saber H. Chowdhury, MP which was later unanimously adopted by the Bangladesh Parliament. Also, ICCCAD hosted a [learning hub event](#) lately with the Bangladesh Planning Commission on NbS and Member expressed willingness to explore the policy uptake if proper information can be delivered to them. "Hence, the proposed NbS Bangladesh Network is about sharing information on NbS that will help to enhance the synergy and exploring pathways to take them to policy level for their implementation. So, if we can do it together, it will be even stronger to go forward", said Dr. Huq.

### Tour to [NbS Bangladesh Portal](#) by Tasfia Tasnim, Senior Research Associate, ICCCAD

ICCCAD, in collaboration with University of Oxford, has developed an online portal for NbS in Bangladesh. The purpose of the portal is to collate evidence and NbS case stories from Bangladesh and share different information on global and national NbS events. This portal welcomes relevant stakeholders to share their NbS related case studies and other relevant resources. One of the uniqueness of this portal is that it has the scope to gather grey literatures on NbS along with peer-reviewed journal articles. Furthermore, it offers the opportunity to be a member of this initiative by joining the NbS network as well.

## Feedback on the NbS Bangladesh Portal moderated by Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, ICCAD

Topic	Comments/Feedback from the participants <sup>1</sup>
<b>Case stories' tab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detailed guidelines needed on parameters and indicators of case stories which has rationalized those as an NbS intervention</li> <li>- Criteria can be drawn from IUCN's 'Global Standard for NbS'</li> <li>- Sorting the case stories following some thematic areas (e.g. agriculture, flood, river erosion, forestry, waste management) would help us identifying gaps and where we can work more</li> <li>- Request to be made for case studies from other relevant institutes</li> </ul>
<b>Grey literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There has been a lot of interventions on other sister concepts of NbS (EbA, Eco-DRR, PA management, ecosystem restoration, etc.), but they are mostly in grey literature. The synthesis of those reports as a summary version on the website would be helpful. But question came on who would do the summary (the network members or the moderator of the portal)</li> <li>- While uploading any report or summary, proper tagging with key terms would increase the readership</li> </ul>
<b>Policy tab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scope for uploading the government rules on ECA or protected area management and other relevant publications</li> </ul>
<b>Update on events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On 23 July, there will be Launch of the 'IUCN Global Standard for NbS' and if the information can be uploaded on the NbS Bangladesh website</li> </ul>
<b>Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How other members can upload literatures, what is procedure and who will give the permission?</li> <li>- Suggestions came to have both organizations and individual members in the "Partner Tab" or "NbS Network"</li> <li>- Identify focal person from relevant organizations and put their contact details in the "Partners Tab" so that anyone can reach them urgently, if required</li> <li>- How the NbS Bangladesh platform can be used to promote collaboration opportunities?</li> </ul>
<b>Integrate new and additional information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adding different ongoing and pipeline projects' information from relevant organizations (both NGOs/CSOs and government departments and ministries)</li> <li>- Provide NbS-related literatures with access link to help readers learning this concept</li> <li>- If there is any opportunity to provide a market-linkage between buyer and seller of NbS goods from Bangladesh via this NbS platform</li> <li>- Government has mechanisms, like conducting EIA and SIA and if there is any scope to showcase those on the NbS Bangladesh website and how to integrate NbS there</li> </ul>
<b>Wider reach out of the portal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Having a Bangla version of the portal, in addition to the English one</li> <li>- Having web TV included on the website so that events can be telecast on online social media platforms</li> <li>- A uniform/unique format of the name of the network/portal should be maintained all over the social media (e.g. Twitter) for this branding.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> As per decision, prioritization will be made as immediate, short-term and medium-term actions points in due course.

## Discussion on NbS Bangladesh Network

- **Institutional membership** is important from policy perspective, as individual often cannot do everything.
- There should be an **expert panel** in the NbS Bangladesh Network to analyze different issues and provide reviews.
- Policy intervention is important in the long run as NbS is not in the policy level yet. So, there is need for having a **strategy/policy review paper** to understand the NbS context in different sectors and how can we bring coherence among several policies to promote NbS as they often are scattered and colliding.
- There is scope to develop a **comprehensive guideline on NbS** from this Network, both from the technical perspective and benefits.
- As implementation often **involve district and sub-district level authorities**, there should be training/orientation of local people at the field level to smooth the NbS uptake both from the top-down and bottom-up approach.

## Way Forward

Dr. Huq mentioned that setting-up a definition of NbS initially is very important and that can be drawn from the "IUCN Global Standard for NbS". Prompting for solutions are the most important ones and there is need for best cases and scenarios to scale-up. ICCCAD will look into the feasibility of the suggestions and will plan to implement those in shorter, medium and longer time duration.

Further potential actions would include:

- ICCCAD will send out invitation to government/non-government organization to express their willingness and information to join this "NbS Bangladesh" web-portal to share information on NbS related interventions.
- ICCCAD will start welcoming membership, both individual and organizational, for the "NbS Bangladesh Network". The process will follow to develop a steering committee with timeline and ToR. ICCCAD will seek application from higher authority/lead of an entity for institutional membership. Under the Partner Tab on the web-portal, organizational membership would be acknowledged whereas individual members will be part of the general membership, approved by the steering committee.
- Network can conduct sector wise policy analysis to see the current status of NbS parameters in them. In this regard, webinar is a good option to prompt the discussion around different sectors and generate ideas to take them forward to the concerned authority and advocate for the implementation. ICCCAD will have a bilateral conversation with organizations to brainstorm on potential thematic webinar series.

## Annex I: List of Participants

Sl.	Title	Participant	Organization	Designation
01	Dr.	Saleemul Huq	ICCCAD	Director
02	Dr.	Haseeb Md. Irfanullah	ICCCAD	Expert, NbS Project
03	Mr.	Farid Uddin Ahmed	Arannayk Foundation	Executive Director
04	Mr.	Md. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal	Arannayk Foundation	Project Coordinator
05	Ms.	Afsari Begum	Practical Action	Sr. Specialists-DRR
06	Dr.	Mohammad Muzammel Hoque	ICBAAR programme, UNDP	Project Manager
07	Mr.	S. M. Saify Iqbal	CPRD	Senior Research Assistant
08	Dr.	Mohammad Zashim Uddin	University of Dhaka	Professor, Department of Botany
09	Dr.	Mokhlesur Rahman	CNRS	Executive Director
10	Dr.	Samiya Selim	ULAB	Director, CSD
11	Mr.	Sohel Rana	Urban Development Specialists	UN-Habitat
12	Dr.	Md. Rafiqul Islam	DLS	Focal point (Disaster Management and climate change) & ULO
13	Mr.	Arif M. Faisal	UNDP	Programme Specialist
14	Mr.	Raquibul Amin	IUCN Bangladesh	Country Representative
15	Mr.	AKM Rafiqul Islam	DoE	Deputy Director
16	Ms.	Fahmida Akter	BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University	Senior Research Fellow
17	Dr.	Ali M Rezaie	ICCCAD	Research Coordinator
18	Ms.	Farah Anzum	ICCCAD	Research Associate
19	Ms.	Tasfia Tasnim	ICCCAD	Senior Research Associate

## Annex II: Group Photo



## Annex III: Meeting Concept Note and Agenda

# Discussion on 'NbS Bangladesh Portal' and Establishing an NbS Network in Bangladesh

Sunday, 12 July 2020 |

Time: 12:00 pm – 01:00 pm |

Mode: Zoom Meeting

## CONCEPT NOTE

**Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** have been emerging as an integrated approach, having the potential to tackle climate change impacts at relatively low-cost whilst delivering multiple benefits for people and nature. To enhance understanding of the importance of NbS and to scale-up their implementation in Bangladesh, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and the Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NBSI) at the University of Oxford have developed the **NbS Bangladesh Portal** ([www.nbsbangladesh.info](http://www.nbsbangladesh.info)). The portal will showcase the collated scientific evidence and evidence from practice on the effectiveness of existing NbS projects from across Bangladesh. It also contains the information on case studies, news, or any upcoming events on NbS.

ICCCAD has been conducting several activities on NbS since October 2019 to enhance knowledge base and strengthen engagement among relevant stakeholders. In March 2020, ICCAD and Bangladesh Planning Commission jointly organized the Learning Hub Event on "[NbS for the Development Planning in Bangladesh](#)". In May 2020, people from Bangladesh and around the world joined the discussion through the IUCN-ICCCAD webinar on "[NbS and Our Changing World](#)". Additionally, the NbS Bangladesh portal has been launched on the World Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2020. NbS has received global recognition, such as - UNFCCC's COP25 had NbS as an important issue; and COP26 has made NbS one of important agenda. The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) also has NbS as one of its 8 tracks. Thus, it is imperative to bring together relevant stakeholders in Bangladesh – working on and interested in NbS – to join in the discussion and participate in the "NbS Bangladesh Network".

To initiate the dialogue, ICCAD with support from the University of Oxford would organize an hour-long discussion on '**NbS Bangladesh Portal' and Establishing an NbS Network in Bangladesh**. The virtual meeting will take place on Sunday, 12 July 2020 at 12:00 pm – 01:00 pm.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE DISCUSSION

- Opportunities and needs for "NbS Bangladesh Network"
- Introduce the NbS Bangladesh web portal to the network members
- Seek feedback on the portal from the members and how to improve it
- Explore possible modalities of engagement through the network

## DISCUSSION AGENDA

- Introduce the need and purpose of having a NbS Bangladesh Network
- Tour to the NbS Bangladesh Portal and its various tabs highlighting the purpose
- Open discussion and feedback to improve the NbS Bangladesh portal by understanding the network's expectation from this web portal
- How network members can help/contribute to improve the content of the portal?