

**“Study on non-economic loss and damage in vulnerable areas caused by climatic stressors and identify measures for preventing/reducing such losses”**

**RESEARCH PLAN (Version 2.0)**

**A. Background**

Through collaboration with lead national researchers and academics great advancement has been made on loss and damage literature in Bangladesh. As such, case studies have showed that even with adaptation efforts, Bangladesh is still likely to bear severe negative impacts from climate change and will need considerable national and international level support. With respect to this research, there still remains a gap in exploring non-economic losses and damages due to environmental events. Understanding these types of impacts is important since they play a vital role to understand how societies are shaped and function. Furthermore, such value systems play a significant role in determining how societies react to various shocks and stressors such as climate change. What is potentially at stake is entire cultures, traditions and ways of life.

**B. Overall Research Aim**

The main purpose of the study is to explore non-economic loss and damages caused by climatic stressors at the household level in the selected districts. The study will also look at the different scenarios of loss and damages in the project areas with the expectation of understanding the underlying causes, types and natures of non economic loss and damages and potential measures for reducing such losses and damages. The findings of the study and the final report will be used for both national and international climate change policy discourse.

This research study will gather information on local perspectives of non-economic losses and damages that previously have not been explored. To accomplish this, the team will investigate the following broad research questions (to be expanded):

1. What kind of relationship does the local community have to the land?

2. How have slow- and fast-onset events affected the daily lives of villagers over the years and what challenges or opportunities has this created?
3. What kind of support do they receive from the government or NGOs for addressing these challenges?

### **C. Approach and Methodology**

The case study for “**Non-economic loss and damage in vulnerable areas caused by climatic stressors and identify measures for preventing/reducing such losses**” is a critical assessment of the impacts of climate change for the coastal households in Bangladesh. The following steps will be taken for the study:

1. **A preliminary literature review:** Currently underway, the literature review is targeted at encompassing existing research and publications, including academic journals and grey literature. The literature review aims to discover what research has already been conducted in the region with respect to various climatic processes and impacts on local communities. Not only has there been a gradual shift from rice to fish cultivation in most areas of the two regions but such livelihood changes has been widely researched as a development strategy for other communities forced to cope with slow onset processes such as sea level rise.
2. **Preliminary visit, initial discussions with vulnerable communities:** Selected Unions/Villages will be finalized in consultation with local community members, consideration of the literature review and analysis of the preliminary visit. The research team will make a preliminary visit to two vulnerable communities in each of the selected districts and discuss the tentative issues and ideas related to non-economic loss and damages. This preliminary visit would include at least two FGDs and four KIIs in each community. Furthermore, this discussion at the individual and group level will help to finalize the tools of the study.

3. **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** To collect data and information regarding non-economic loss and damages, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) will be conducted from eight villages of two selected districts. The aim of this method is to empower locals to express and analyse their own life experience and conditions and to articulate their own situation. It attempts to give legitimacy to their voices, traditional knowledge and experience and draw a narrative from the reality they face. FGD are also beneficial because it allows for more feedback from a larger audience in a shorter period of time. Since, however, not all individuals will be present during these discussions and not all persons will have the opportunity to speak out key informant interviews (KII) will also be conducted in the second field study.

The study plans to conduct **five FGDs in each of the study districts (four FGDs with mixed group and one FGD with women only)**. All FGDs will be conducted at the village/union of the respective districts. In total ten FGDs will be conducted from both districts **(as indicated below)**:

District	Upazilla	Union	Village	FGDs	
				Description	Total
Satkhira	Shyamnagar	Munshiganj	1. Singhortoli 2. Chunkuri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One FGD with mixed group per village</li> </ul>	10
		Gabura	1. Chakbara 2. Dumuria		
Khulna	Koira	Uttar Betkhasi	1. Katmar char 2. Padma Pukur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One FGD with female per Upazilla</li> </ul>	
		Dakhin Betkhasi	1. Pata khali 2. Jour sing		

The FGD participants will include climate vulnerable mixed groups (i.e. both males and females from identified households) and women groups. The mixed group FGDs will be formed to reduce the biasness of the collected information. A range of 10-14 people will be invited to participate in each FGD.

4. **Key Informant Interviews (KII):** Also known as life story interviews, KII will take the form of semi-structured life history interviews that will allow individuals to explain changes in their lives using stories, perspectives and variables of their choice. The purpose of having semi structured interviews to allow for flexibility and reduce the chances of imposing pre-conceived explanations. It is predicted challenges to the change of livelihoods will appear organically from the interview itself.

At the beginning, KIIs will be conducted with the Project Implementation Officer (PIOs) at the study Upazilla level. To learn more on history and trend of climate induced hazards and associated non-economic loss and damages at local level. If time and availability permits, a KII will also be conducted with the Chairman of each of study Union. Additionally, two KIIs will be conducted in each of the study villages. In total 18-22 KIIs will be conducted from both districts (**as indicated below**):

District	Upazilla	Union	Village	KIIs	
				Description	Total
Satkhira	Shyamnagar	Munshiganj	1. Singhortoli 2. Chunkuri	• Two KIIs per village (one male and one female)	Min. 18, Max. 22
		Gabura	1. Chakbara 2. Dumuria		
Khulna	Koira	Uttar Betkhasi	1. Katmar char 2. Padma Pukur	• One KII/Union Porishad chairman	
		Dakhin Betkhasi	1. Pata khali 2. Jour sing	• One KII/PIO at Upazilla level	

Both the FGDs and KIIs will provide responses to the checklist. This checklist will include topics such as the socio-economic status of the respondents, livelihoods, problems and challenges of livelihoods, history and trend of non-economic loss and damages, types, factors and causes of non-economic loss and damages, awareness

on climate change etc. The checklist will be expanded into a guide to help facilitators draw out stories rather than just responses. This guide will be developed following the preliminary field visit and may be amended in the primary visit as the facilitator deems appropriate.

#### **D. The Field Team for FGDs/In-depth Interviews**

A field team comprising in total of six members will be in the field to collect the field data/information under the study. Teams of three members will be visiting four of the eight study villages to collect data.

An experienced facilitator will lead the FGDs. The other members will accompany the facilitator and translate, take notes, photograph and voice record sessions. The prepared checklist will be further developed into a guide so as to conduct the session and discuss the relevant issues and topics. It will be important for the facilitator to encourage the local communities to share stories rather than just responding to questions in a straightforward manner.

#### **E. Pre-field review sessions of the study team (before departing for the final field visit)**

A one day long pre-field review session shall be organized for all the team members at ICCCAD/BCAS before departing for the field in September 2014. The team leader and Co-PI of the study team will conduct the review sessions to explain the objectives and field research methodologies including FGDs and in-depth interviews, The checklists and related issues for FGDs and interviews will be discussed in detail during this day. The Co-PI will explain the guideline of conducting FGDs and all the potential challenges/issues with the checklist.

#### **F. Proposed Work Plan**

	Activities	Month 1				Month 2				Month 3				Month 4	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14
	Month	July		August				September				October			
	Day	20-26	27-2	3-9	10-16	17-23	24-30	31-6	7-13	14-20	21-27	28-4	5-11	12-18	19-25
1	Literature review														
2	Preliminary field study with FGD														
3	Conduct desk-based research and begin writing first draft														
4	Prepare questionnaire for subsequent FGD and KII														
5	Conduct main FGD and KII														
6	Analyse field research and prepare final draft report														
7	Submit first draft report and 2 page summary														
8	Prepare stakeholder workshop														
9	Submit final report														