

# Draft

## **Strategic Priorities and Work Plan for 2013**

### **Introduction**

Bangladesh is a rapidly developing country, envisaged to be middle income country by 2021, though currently dealing with complex problems on poverty, safety, (food) security, population pressure and re-occurring disasters like floods, cyclones, and droughts . Currently there is already high pressure on the available land and water resources in the delta. Due to population growth, unregulated economic development and climate change, the pressures will only increase in future.

In line with the ToR for the LCG Working Group for Water Resources Management, this document seeks to identify and prioritize the issues on which the Working Group should focus its attention and propose a number of specific actions/activities for 2013.

### **Objectives**

The overarching objective of the Working Group on Water Management is to contribute to the achievement of MDGs, PRSP, NWMP and other sector objectives and targets within the stipulated timeframes by contributing towards effective and coordinated implementation of National Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programs on Water and related resources Management in Bangladesh.

The Working Group's ToR furthermore lists a wide range of more specific objectives, most of which are, one way or another, related to its mandate to facilitate sharing of information, to provide a platform for dialogue, and to promote better (sector) coordination.

### **Priority issues for 2013 and beyond**

Issues to be addressed in the WM Sub-sector are presented in the National Water Policy (1999) and, in more detail, in a number of national (sub-)sector plans such as the Sixth Five Year Plan (2011), the National Water Management Plan (2004), the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy and Plan (2005), the IWT Master Plan and the Dredging Master Plan and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, Southern delta (agriculture) master plan, Hoar Master Plan, Ganges dependent area development, coastal embankment protection, BCCSAP, National Strategy for Sustainable Development Plan (already approved) etc. including polder and char management issues. The estuary dynamics will be considered as a topic for 'island and estuary management'. The National Water Act and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 will also be looked into. The issue of capacity development/absorption capacity of the concerned agencies will be dealt with.

In terms of contents, the focus of attention of the LCG WG WRM will follow the priority areas identified in the 6th FYP, with particular focus on flood management and control, river management (including dredging and river training works), polder/char development, irrigation, control of salt intrusion and basin-wide WM.

In terms of policy/strategic framework, the group will give particular attention to the Development of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and to updating the National Water Management Plan and their implementation.

On the Development Result Framework, the group will in the coming months review/develop a set of sector-level indicators and, where necessary/opportune, propose 1-2 of those indicators for the national-level DFR. Where possible the group will furthermore try to participate as much as possible in the ongoing consultations on setting the post-2015 agenda and on identifying the Sustainable Development Goals.

With regard to the functioning of the Working Group, the two co-chairs have agreed to make efforts to revive the group. The group will review/actualize/broaden the current membership list, will formulate a ToR and a detailed action plan and will strive to update the information provided on the LCG web page.

The Group will strive to actively follow and where possible participate in the work and activities of other working groups (e.g., WSS, DER, CC&E, Transport, food security etc.) to further promote coherence and inter-sectoral coordination for attaining sustainable results.

It is important to note that the Water Sector is leading in setting up examples of coordinated program development and implementation. So it is imperative that the water sector takes lead in the sustainable development of the country.

Finally, the Group will whenever necessary bring specific issues to the level of the LCG Plenary and will in any case actively contribute to the review, implementation and monitoring of the Joint Cooperation Strategy and JCS Action Plan. The latter with particular focus on those elements which are of imminent importance also for the WRM sector (e.g., streamlining of DPP/TPPs, strengthening of procurement systems, etc.).

### **Activities for 2013**

In order to fulfill its role, the following concrete actions and activities are envisaged for 2013 (both the activities and results to be achieved need to be elaborated further on the basis of discussions on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March):

- Sub group meetings (one every 2 months?)
- Attending other LCG SC meetings (as and when opportune)
- Joint SG meetings (WASH, RED, CC, Governance)
- Joint field trips (any concrete suggestions? SW, CDSP, Blue Gold, river training works etc.)
- Updating LCG website (matrix of activities, membership list, documents, minutes, etc.)
- Collecting and disseminating information (continuous)
- Presentation/sharing of program information and experiences (when opportune for members)
- Presentation of studies/concepts (any ideas?)
- Review/propose/monitor indicators for sector- en national level development results framework in the field of WRM (ASAP)
- Participate in consultations on post-2015 agenda setting (Immediate)
- Annual work plans and reports (annual, first meeting of each year)
- Coordination and harmonization of activities within the water sector as well as amongst other relevant sectors;

- Active contribution in formulation/finalization of national level policies/plans/Acts/rules/regulations relevant to water sector including the National Water Act.