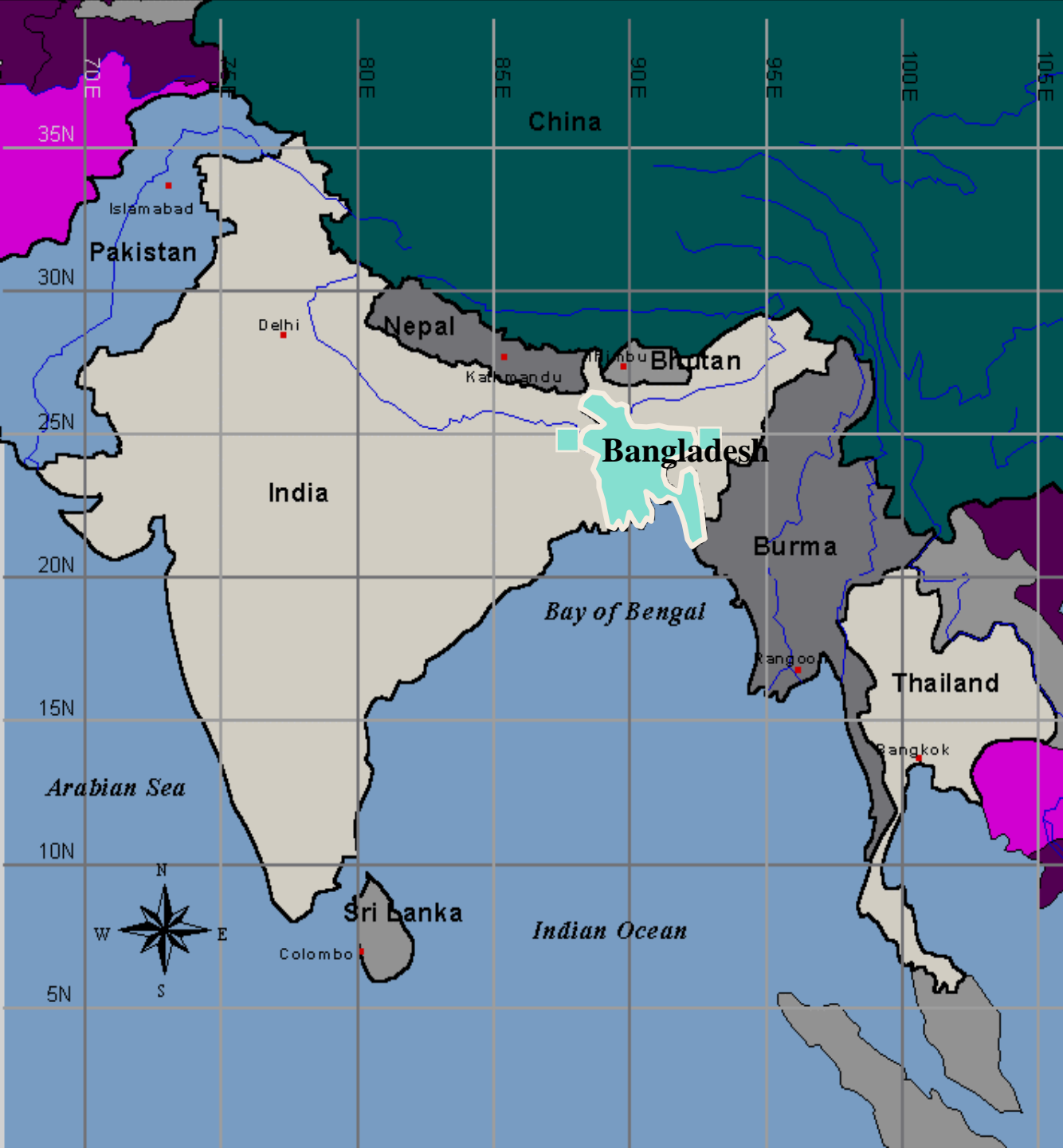


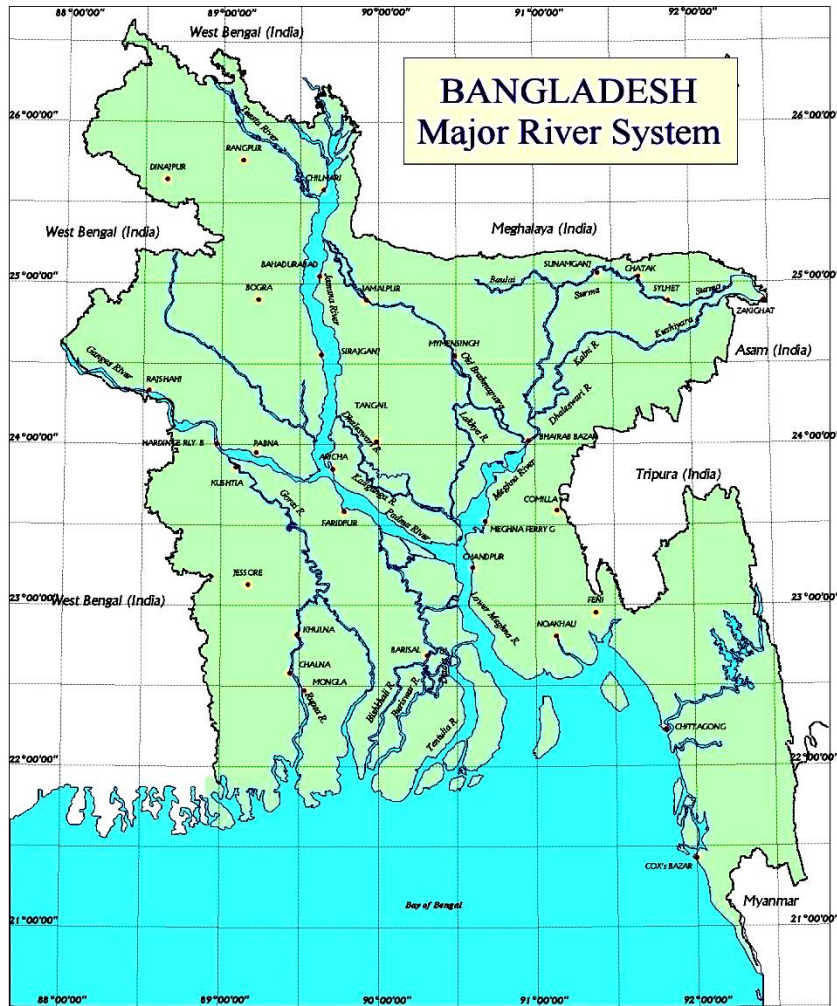
Water Governance in Bangladesh, Outline of Bangladesh Water Development Board(BWDB), Challenges & Expectation to NARBO

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Bangladesh surrounded on the east, north and west by India, by Mynamar on south-east and by Bay of Bengal on south.

Bangladesh



BANGLADESH
Major River System

- The biggest delta in the world.
- Formed by three mighty rivers- Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna .

LEGEND:

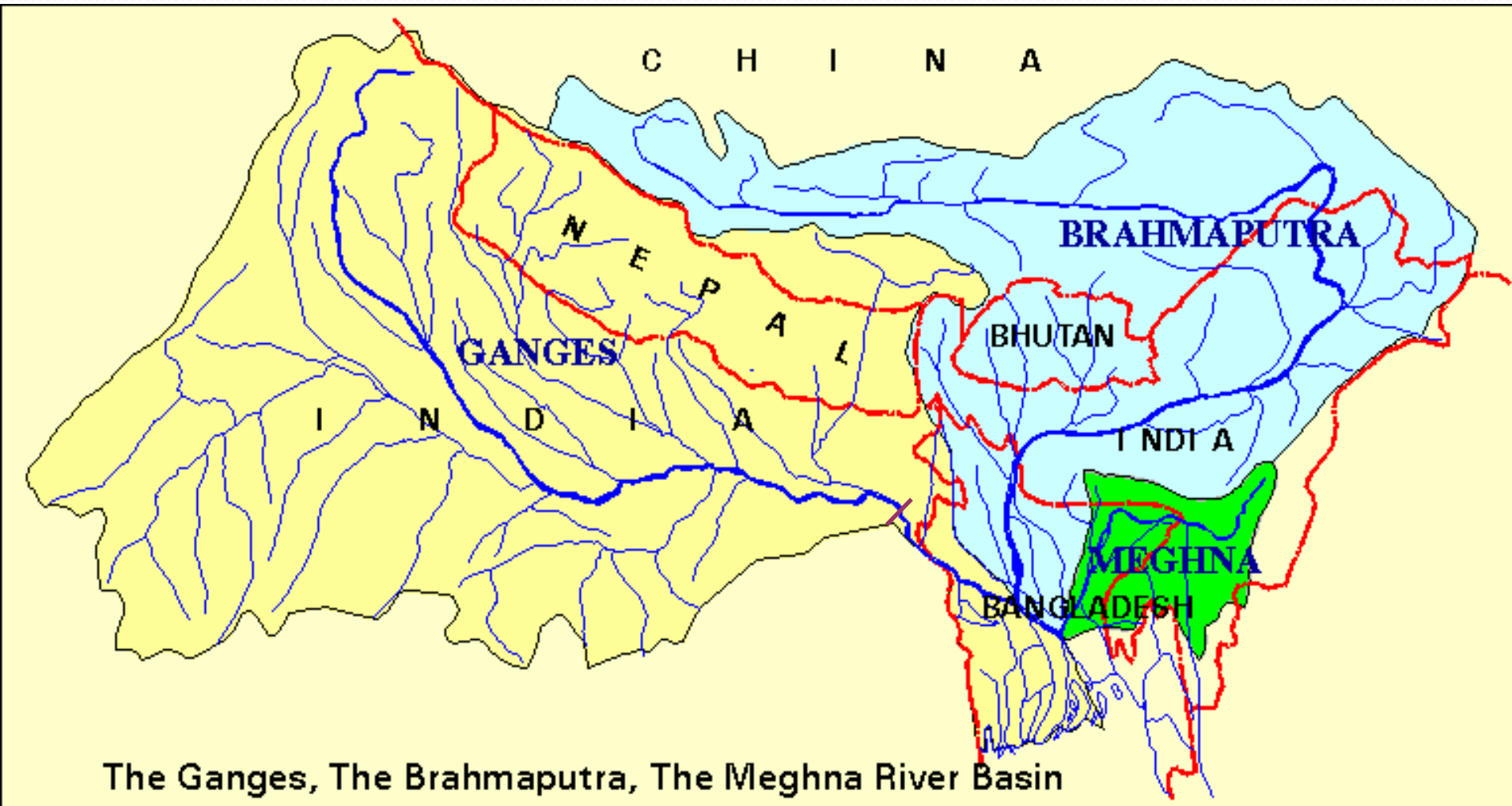
- International boundaries
- Important Town / Location
- River / Canal

0 50 Kilometers

SWMC Surface Water Modelling Centre

2034 4 200117627india/BDR_206_31_02/02/199/008/9/

GANGES-BRAHMAPUTRA- MEGHNA BASINS



Hydrological Characteristics

- Abundance of Water in Monsoon (4 Months)

Hydrological Characteristics



**Severe
scarcity of
water in
dry season**

Water governance

Water governance considered to be the most important challenge to improve water management and service provision.

Water governance in Bangladesh

The National Water Policy, promulgated in 1999 provides policy direction for water sector in Bangladesh. Water resources management in Bangladesh faces immense challenge for resolving many diverse problems and issues.

The most critical of these are alternating flood and water scarcity during the wet and the dry seasons, over-expanding water needs of a growing economy and population, massive river sedimentation and bank erosion.

With the increasing of population, urbanization and industrialization, there is a growing need for providing total water quality management, and maintenance of the ecosystem. There is an urgency to satisfy multi-sector water needs with limited resources, promote efficient and socially responsible water use, delineate public and private responsibilities, and decentralize state activities where appropriate.

The National Water Policy sets new paradigms for the water sector. The water policy of the government aims to provide direction to all agencies working with the water sector, and institutions that relate to the water sector in one form or another, for achievement of specified objectives.

Those are:

- harnessing and development of all forms of surface water and ground water
- legal and regulatory environment
- private sector participation;
- community participation;
- regulation separated from supply; and
- new rights, obligations and accountability
- country to design future water resources management plans by itself with economic efficiency, gender equity, social justice and environmental awareness

Major Steps in Water Governance

- Water Resources Planning Act, 1992 and establishment of WARPO
- National Water Policy ,1999
- Guidelines for Participatory Water Management, 2000
- National Water Management Plan,2004
- Bangladesh Water Act, 2013
- Draft Bangladesh Water Rules, 2015 under Bangladesh Water Act, 2013

Bangladesh Water Act 2013

Bangladesh Water Act 2013 (BWA) is a framework Law to integrate and coordinate the water resources management in the country.

The Water Act will establish a new, integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of countries rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater.

The BWA entails a coordinated and comprehensive water regime in respect of development, management, extraction, distribution, use, and protection and preservation of water resources in the country. The need for a comprehensive legal framework to face the growing challenges regarding water rights, protection of water resources, water use, water services and management is widely acknowledged.

Executive Committee of the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) is the principal water regulator as per Water Act.

Main features of Bangladesh Water Act 2013

The Bangladesh Water Act will ensure:

- best use of Water Resources
- integration of the acts of different organizations
- legitimize water rights of poor and disadvantaged
- control of uncontrolled/unaccounted abstraction, diversion, pollution
- an optimal, efficient way of using scarce water resources.

Key measures of the Water Act

- Right to water
- Adoption of National Water Policy and National Water Resources Plan
- Clearance Certificates
- Water Stressed Areas and Safe Yield
- Restricting abstraction, Protection Orders and Compliance Order
- Right to information and false information
- Water resource protection / pollution control and water quality standards.

Adoption of National Water Policy and National Water Resources Plan

National Water Resources Council (NWRC), the apex body to provide policy guidance to the implementation of water resources National Water Policy, National Water Resource Plan and the Bangladesh Water Act. The committee is comprised of 34 members (including 12 Ministers, 13 Secretaries among others) to be chaired by **Prime Minister**. Secretary/Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources acts as Member-secretary.

The Water Act allows the Government to update Water Policy after public hearing from time to time.

There is an Executive Committee of the National Water Resources Council(NWRC) for the efficient performance of its functions. . The Executive Committee is comprised of 24 members chaired by Minister, Ministry of Water Resources .

Without prior permission issued by the Executive Committee, no individuals or organizations will be allowed to extract, distribute, use, develop, protect, and conserve water resources, nor they will be allowed to build any structure that impede the natural flow of rivers and creeks.

Vision and Mission of BWDB

- Develop and manage water resources projects
- Management and mitigation of river bank erosion
- Stake-holders participation in project planning, design and implementation
- Environment friendly development
- Promoting food production by surface water irrigation

Reform Program of BWDB

- EPWAPDA started functioning in 1959 for flood control
- In 1972 BWDB came out as separate organization
- In last 40 years the country experienced major changes in various aspects .
- Water Development Board Act, 2000

Reform Program of BWDB

Water Development Board Act, 2000

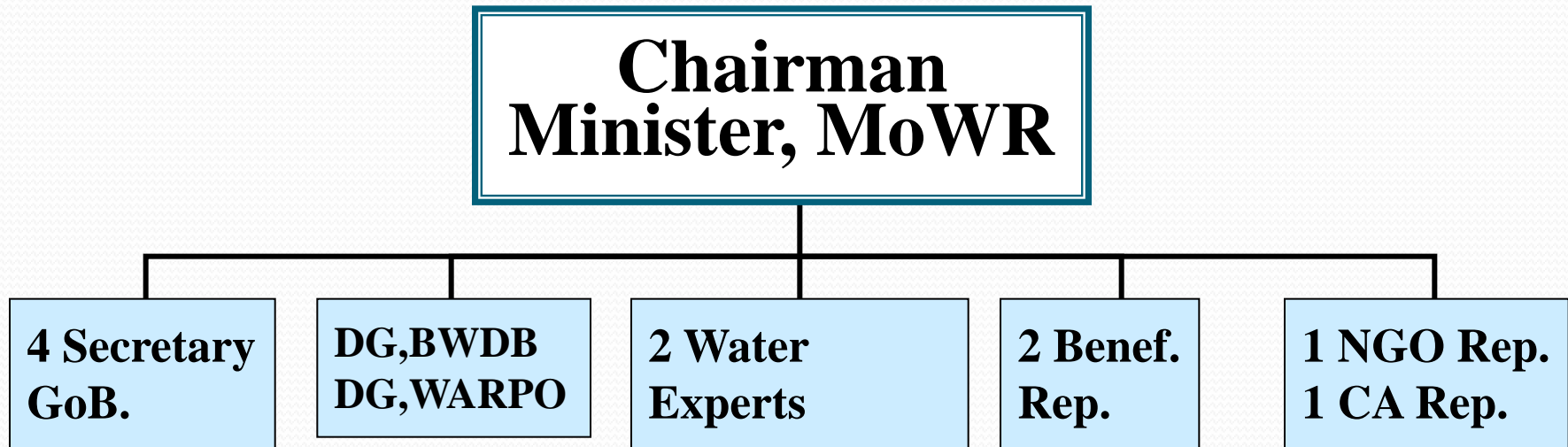
Important aspects of the Act:

- Peoples participations at all stages of water sector project development
- Multi-sectoral use & equitable distribution of water

Reform Program of BWDB

- Separation of policy & planning from operational management activities
- Ensuring participation of beneficiaries, civil society, professional group/experts in the function of BWDB

BWDB's Governing Council(Parishad) Structure



BWDB Structure

DIRECTOR GENERAL

ADG (West)

ADG (Planning)

ADG (East)

ADG(Fin.)

ADG(Admn.)

Reform Program of BWDB

- Reform of BWDB organizational setup undertaken in 1998 before enactment of BWDB Act 2000
- Under this process, reduction of staff from 18,032 to 8935

Contribution of Water Sector Projects

- Over 700 projects (including 139 coastal polders) built covering nearly 43% of the country for flood protection/drainage improvement/ irrigation/rural development. These projects:
 - Contribute to national food production
 - Improve socio-economic condition
 - Alleviate poverty

Contribution of Water Sector Projects

- Protect lives, properties and crops
- Reduce recurring maintenance of infrastructures like roads, public & private properties, homestead
- Accelerate women development
- Enrich rural economy

Contribution of Water Sector Projects

- Erosion control measures reduce poverty
- Embankment/Canal dykes facilitate communication
- Channel improvement supports navigation
- Drainage improvement reduces health hazards

Contribution of Water Sector Projects

- Environment degradation prevented through afforestation
- Water conservation restores ecology
- Reduction of salinity preserves bio-diversity
- Reclaimed land used for resettlement of landless poor and mangrove forestry
- Create scope for future development

Some milestone projects of BWDB



The program is implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources, through Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB, lead agency) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

To reduce poverty for 150,000 households living in 160,000 ha area of selected coastal polders by creating a healthy living environment and a sustainable socio-economic development.”

The essence of Blue Gold is to establish and empower community organizations/water management organizations (WMOs) to sustainably manage their water resources and to make these resources more productive.



Some milestone projects of BWDB

The Char Development and Settlement Project Phase IV (CDSP IV), is the fourth phase in a series of projects that have been developing newly accreted land (chars) in Bangladesh for over two decades dealing with multi sector agencies.

Protection from CC



Climate Resilient Infrastructure



Field Level Institutions



Land Settlement



Surveys and studies and O & M



Livelihood Support



What is thereafter

- Food & accommodation for increased population in future
- Further development in the potential areas to cope up with future needs

Presently: population about 164million,
production 24 million metric ton,

In 2025: population about 176 million,
production needed 40 million metric ton

Vision of Water Sector

Overall vision of Bangladesh is to be a country that is democratic, economically self-reliant, driven by coherent, secure, just and equitable principles with a population of capabilities and potential.

The country will have crossed the middle income threshold in 2021.

In spite of all challenges, Bangladesh will achieve goals of SDG by 2030

Bangladesh will become a peaceful, prosperous and developed place after crossing the status of a middle-income country and will enter a new era of first world in 2041.

Vision of Water Sector

In line with national vision, water sector is playing a vital role.

In this context, Bangladesh Water Development Board, the biggest organization dealing with water resources of Bangladesh needs to have vision as follows :

- Build capacity to minimize loss of lives and assets consequent upon water based disasters.
- Ensure river basin management involving beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- Stabilize river courses thereby preventing river erosion.
- Reduce dependence on ground water in the winter months through improved management and conservation.

Vision of Water Sector

- Augment the flow of the Ganges and its tributaries, thereby reducing saline intrusion in the GDA.
- Improve rivers & channels by re-excavation and dredging.
- Efficient operation of the systems developed with sustainable approach.

Vision of Water Sector

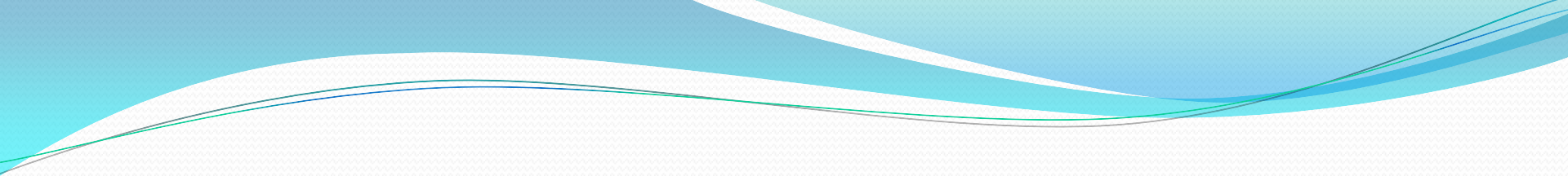
- Foster GBM regional co-operation for augmentation, sharing and dissemination of information
- Build and enhance human capacity for planning and managing water resources
- Ensure environmental restoration

Vision of Water Sector

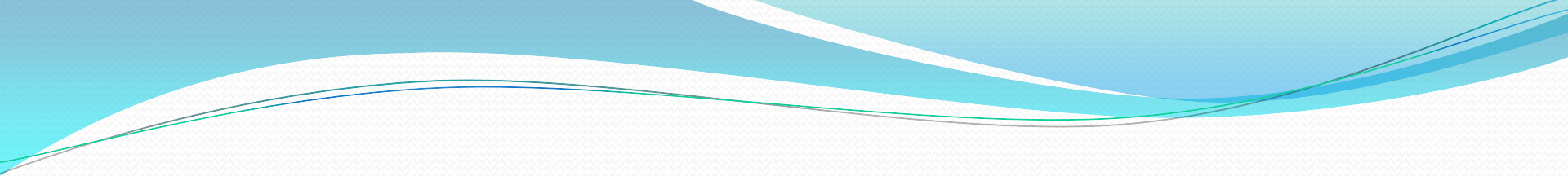
- Estuary development.
- Attain food autarky covering population keeping scope for future development.

Expectation from NARBO

Bangladesh is situated in the downstream part of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basin. It has 57 cross-border rivers. Basin wide approach is essential for proper management of water resources in this region. We expect proper sharing of water of rivers through the advocacy of NARBO.



NARBO works for River Basin Management in Asia. Its activities are very fruitful for food security, sustainable development, and better livelihood of peoples of these areas. We expect NARBO to be stronger to deal with win-win sharing of common river/basin water.



Some topics such as climate change adaptation in Asia, bilateral and multilateral policy-level discussion among the countries; way to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) can be raised for future discussion.



Thanks for patience
hearing.