

Concept Paper for CICA Workshop on “Ecosystem Restoration in the Context of Climate and other Vulnerability”

10-11 July 2023 (Virtual Platform)
Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2023

Background

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. Each CICA member state has a unique topography, biodiversity and ecosystems, environmental hazards, climate change risks, and other vulnerabilities. International and regional cooperation among the member states may enhance their environmental resilience through ecosystem restoration to address the adverse impacts of climate and other environmental vulnerabilities.

According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 published by Germanwatch¹, most CICA member states are considered climate-vulnerable countries. Extreme temperature, erratic rainfall, flood and drought, more intense tropical cyclones, sea-level rise, seasonal variation, riverbank erosion, ocean acidification, and man-made activities are causing severe negative impacts on the lives and livelihoods of millions of people of the CICA members.

The CICA member states having forests, wetlands, and coastal and mangrove ecosystems are incredibly vulnerable to climate change. Industrialization, environmental degradation, and climate change affect biodiversity and the ecosystem of the forests, wetlands, and coastal and mangroves. Ecosystem-dependent communities of the member states suffer from various vulnerabilities, especially environmental degradation and climatic disasters, adversely affecting their lives and livelihood diversity, infrastructure, agriculture, water security, health, and overall wellbeing.

While the CICA member states are under different types and intensities of climatic vulnerabilities, strengthening ecosystem restoration and enhancing the adaptive capacity is an increasing and immediate necessity. The experiences of proven initiatives and best options of member states could help other member states to address the environmental degradation of forest, wetlands, coastal, and mangrove ecosystem. Besides, many environmental and climate-induced challenges and disasters and their impacts are transboundary. Potential responses thus call for much more coordinated regional response and action.

The 2023 action plans under the CBMs were approved on 14 December 2022 in Astana, Kazakhstan, by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOC) of the CICA. As per the meeting decision, a CICA workshop on “Ecosystem Restoration in the Context of Climate and Other Vulnerability” will be organized in May 2023 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

¹ https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_2.pdf

Theme/Title/Type of Activity

The proposed workshop would also bring forth an overview of ecosystem restoration in the context of climate and other vulnerabilities, experiences of proven best options/practices, and identify opportunities to form modest collaborative initiatives for the restoration of the ecosystem. The proposed workshop will be facilitated by sharing experiences on ecosystem restoration in the context of climate and other vulnerabilities among CICA member states. This concept paper would serve as a basis for the efficient organization of the workshop.

In preparation for the workshop, each CICA member state will be requested to prepare the country presentation. Each Member State shall choose any theme (out of three) and accordingly prepare their country presentation. The presentation would be focused on climate change vulnerabilities, major initiatives, proven practices/options, the example of regional cooperation (if exist) with neighboring countries/regions, and suggested future collaborative actions to be undertaken under the CICA.

The country presentation will be presented by each member state (a maximum of 10 minutes will be allocated for each presentation) at the workshop. Senior policymakers, experts in the fields of environment and climate change, and national policy planning (i.e., ministries and agencies) will be expected to involve in the preparation of a country presentation on the respective country to accomplish the workshop objectives. The proposed workshop is designed to engage all member states.

Event Date

10-11 July 2023

Venue/Platform

Virtual (Zoom Platform), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Organizers of the Workshop and Contact Information

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, will organize the workshop jointly.

Contact Information:

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Participants from the CICA Member-States

Participants from the relevant ministries and agencies, experts, representatives of relevant companies, and academia from the following CICA member states could attend in the virtual platform:

CICA Member States: 28 States

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam.

Proposed Agenda or Programme

The issues and the thematic areas which can become the basis for preparing country experiences to be presented and discussed in different sessions are given below as the provisional programme:

Theme-1: Restoration of wetlands ecosystem

Theme-2: Restoration of Forests and Coastal Mangrove Ecosystem

Theme-3: Means of Implementation, Capacity Development, and Experience Sharing

Please refer to *Annexure 1 for detailed draft agenda*.

Expected Outcomes and Objectives

1. Expected Outcomes:

The workshop would result in identifying and understanding vulnerabilities of wetlands and marine ecosystems, the forest and coastal mangrove ecosystems, restoration experiences, and best practices assessing the common needs for means of implementation, prioritizing common result areas, and enhancing cooperation among its member states. It will help better address risks through joint efforts amongst the member states and with the countries beyond/other regional organizations/groupings if required.

2. Expected Objectives:

The key objective of the workshop is to initiate a process towards sharing experiences on the restoration of degraded forests, wetlands, coastal and mangroves in the context of climate and other vulnerabilities, and efforts towards conservation of marine ecosystems. It would help member states take necessary actions for ecosystem restoration of degraded forests, wetlands, and coastal areas, as well as the conservation of marine ecosystems sustainably.

Working Languages/Interpretation

English