Mid-Term Evaluation of FAO-GEF Project

GCP/BGD/055/LDF

GEF ID 5636

Community-Based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh

Final Report

MTR conducted in February 2022

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS,

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Acknowledgements

The MTR team consists of two independent consultants; an International Consultant, Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli as the Lead Consultant and Senior MTR Specialist and a National Consultant, Dr. Harunur Rashid.

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MTR team

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MTR Manager

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BCSIR	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CBO	Community Based Organization
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCC	Climate Change Cell
CEGIS	Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services
CMDP-II	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
CAN	Capacity Needs Assessment
CPF	Country Programming Framework
CRAP	Climate Resilient Action Plan
CRVA	Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DoE	Department of Environment
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DMD	Disaster Management Department
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EM	Evaluation Manager
ET	Evaluation Team
ETL	Evaluation Team Leader
EAA	Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EWS	Early Warning System
F&A	Fisheries and Aquaculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPIC	Free, Prior Informed Consent
FPMIS	Field Project Management Information System
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LDCF	Least Developed Country Fund
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LOA	Letter of Agreement
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NFAS	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy
OFP	Operational Focal Point
PIC	Project Implementation Committee
PIR	Project Implementation Report

PSC	Project Steering Committee
PIR	Project Implementation Review report
PMU	Project Management Unit
PMTSU	Project Management and Technical Support Unit
PPR	Project Progress Report
ProDoc	Project Document
PTF	Project Task Force
SC	Steering Committee
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TAPP	Technical Assistance Project Proposal
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCC	Upazila Coordination Committee
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety & Security
UNO	Upazila Nodal Office
WF	WorldFish

Executive Summary

Introduction

1. The findings and conclusions of the Mid Term Review conducted from November 2021 to March 2022 are presented for the project entitled "Community-based climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture development in Bangladesh" GCP/BGD/055/LDF, which received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
2. Project implementation was started in March 2019 and will officially end by March 2023. The total budget allocation is USD 21,775,114, of which GEF allocation is USD 5,425,114 and the total co-finance is USD 16,350,000.

3. The initiative has 4 components, 4 outcomes and 12 related outputs. Implementation of these aims to achieve the below given specific and development objectives:

   a) Development objective: Building climate change (CC) adaptive capacity of vulnerable fisheries

   b) Specific objective: To build climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable fisheries and aquaculture communities in Bangladesh.

4. The purpose of the MTR was to review and assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of project interventions and participation, inclusiveness and gender during the project implementation. The aim of this MTR is to provide lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations that will support in improving the effectiveness and efficiency, as well as the sustainability of the project's outputs and outcomes achieved. The MTR timeline covered a period of 35 months, spanning from the beginning of project execution in March 2019 to January 2022.

5. It is clear from the start of the MTR that only a few activities were implemented, as the Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP) which guides implementation of the project from Government side was approved in September 2020 (nearly 18 months after the launch of the project) and the Project Director (PD) from MoFL was appointed only in October 2020; and also due to the strict lockdown conditions in Bangladesh for the COVID 19 pandemic created situation. All these were beyond the control of the project management.

6. The TAPP is a government formulated document, which the executing agency in this case DOF, follows to implement the project activities. Hence the approval of TAPP was a critical factor for starting the project activities.

Main findings

MTR question 1 – Relevance

Is the project relevant to the country, beneficiaries and donors? To what extent are project objectives relevant and suited to the priorities, policies and strategies of the executing and implementing agencies, donors, stakeholders and target groups?

7. The project components are well aligned with national development goals, policies and priorities and donor strategic priorities (GEF 5 focal area strategies,) and with the FAO Strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The relevance and importance of the project have been confirmed in interviews with the executing agencies. The project is well aligned with the Government strategies. For instance the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) promotes use of climate information and climate adaptation of fisheries sector; the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan seeks to enhance climate resilience of all economic sectors and the Seventh Five Year Plan has highlighted actions for improvement of open water fisheries management and inland aquaculture including coastal shrimp farming, conservation of natural resources and climate change capacity building at local and national levels. Moreover, the interviews with respondents make clear that all the project activities designed are highly important for Bangladesh and are complementary with other interventions in the country. However, some of these national development policies and strategies have been changed/updated by this time. Therefore, it is recommended that the project consults with the most up-to-date national policies to better align with national priorities. Some of these national, international and donor policies/strategies are – National Adaptation Plan 2022, Bangladesh Country Investment Plan for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Eighth Five Year Plan of Bangladesh, Bangladesh United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2017-21), UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2021-2025) Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, NDC 2021, Bangladesh Perspective Plan 2041.

8. During the project formulation, a good number of baseline projects focussing on fisheries, aquaculture and climate adaptation (operated by DoF, DoE, MoEF, IUCN, FAO, World Fish and IFAD) were considered relevant to this project. Most of these projects have either phased out or nearing completion. However, the project has opportunities for cooperation and coordination with some of the existing projects namely Capacitating Farmers and Fishers to Manage Climate Risks in South Asia (CaFFSA), The Aquaculture: Increasing income, diversifying diets and empowering women in Bangladesh and Nigeria, Harnessing Machine Learning to Estimate Aquaculture Production and Value Chain Performance in Bangladesh, Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh II (ECOFISH II), Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries, Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (HFM&LIP), Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project - Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection (HILIP –CALIP) are suggested for fresh co-financing projects. Further, interventions by the co-financing and other related agencies namely Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) will need to be verified and reinitiated.

MTR question 2 – Effectiveness

To what extent the project has delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives?

9. Important activities achieved until MTR are the review of national fisheries policy (1996) from the perspectives of climate change and gender mainstreaming, the capacity building tools particularly the training manual on climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture developed and used. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been selected and piloting activities have been identified. Work is progressing on developing Early Warning System (EWS) in consultation with Department of Fisheries (DOF) and BWDB. However it has to be initiated through an LOA which has to be quickly done. The Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) undertaken in collaboration with CEGIS is progressing.

10. So far, only to a small extent the outputs and outcomes of the project could be achieved at the mid-term point. The main reasons are delayed approval of TAPP which was approved only in September 2020 without which the executing agencies could not start the project activities at the field level which they were to coordinate with an LOA. The appointment of a Project Director (PD) from MoFL happened only in October 2020. Further lock down due to the COVID 19 pandemic created situation slowed down the implementation of project activities.

MTR question 3 – Efficiency

To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? Has management been able to adapt to any changes and conditions and improve the efficiency of project implementation?

11. The project is well behind schedule and it is not possible to implement all the project activities satisfactorily by the project end date of March 2023. Due to the COVID lockdowns and delayed approval of TAPP and delayed appointment of PD only a few activities described already were implemented. Currently the implementation of project activities has been intensified as there are no lockdown restrictions and all the staff are on board and can move to field without restrictions.

12. However, the management has tried to avert the delayed project implementation by undertaking activities that do not require travelling to the field or that can be done virtually or remotely; some of them are - Development of Training Manual, Started work on CRVAs with CEGIS and Virtual trainings.

13. As few activities have been implemented and partial outputs have been achieved, with no outcomes having been achieved, it is difficult to assess cost effectiveness.

MTR question 4 – Sustainability

To what extent are there financial, institutional and governance, and social and or environmental risks to sustain project results in the long term?

14. As project activities have started very recently, it is difficult at this point to assess all sustainability aspects for the MTR report. The ProDoc describes a chapter on Sustainability of Results which includes social, environmental, financial and economic sustainability and sustainability of capacities developed

and modalities for innovation, replication and scaling up project activities. The Environmental sustainability as per the ProDoc is ensured through positive impacts of the introduced adaptation technologies and approaches on a range of ecosystem services at demonstration areas, and in the longer term on larger areas through upscaling of best practices, which it is too early to say as piloting activities are being grounded. The financial sustainability is ensured through mainstreaming best practices into sectoral policies related to fisheries and aquaculture, environment and DRR, and integration of adaptation priorities and frameworks into sector budgets.

15. MTR assessed that a review of the existing National Fisheries Policy (1998) and National Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (2006), to identify gaps and provide suggestions on how to mainstream climate change and gender aspects has been done. The preliminary review results have been presented and discussed between FAO and DoF. DoF is willing to revise their policies mainstreaming climate change and gender in fisheries and aquaculture. Therefore, sustainability of this output depends upon actual integration of these policy reviews into fisheries and aquaculture policies of Bangladesh.

16. Virtual trainings namely on gender concepts, tilapia culture, impacts on F&A and adaptation to CC were organized for DoF officials in the two project locations during the peak of Covid-19 pandemic were found to be effective utilization of project time. Later, in-person trainings organized were to both DoF officials and community members on Food, Nutrition and Health & safety in the context of COVID 19 in aquaculture, climate change impact and adaptation options on fisheries seems to be more effective. At this moment, it is difficult to assess how sustainable the training effects will be, however the training manuals developed on fisheries and aquaculture technologies, climate forecasting application, DDR management and adaptation and mitigation options, and EWS in fisheries and aquaculture for local communities will be able to bring long-term benefits if they are updated and used by DoF beyond the project period.

17. Sustainability of project outputs and outcomes is also ensured through enhanced capacity of community members, personnel of the DoF and other key stakeholders through training and capacity building and skill development activities and further by overseas trainings.

18. With regard to institutional sustainability, interviewees expressed that the executing partners particularly the DoF staff need technical support from FAO as the concepts of climate change and climate resilience in F&A are new to them. Expectedly, the capacity development trainings organized for the government agencies and other stakeholders will enhance the capacities of these organizations towards climate-responsive F&A operations beyond the project period. Staff of DoF, FAO and other institutions met with indicated that there is a need for sustaining and using the capacity built and the institutional mechanisms established under this project even after the project ends. This can be achieved by developing a well-defined exit plan by the project where DoF should play a central role. It should also be noted that departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability due to regular changes in staff, and other priorities in their work.

19. CBOs formed and piloting activities to be trialled (both components are strongly related) under this project has a great potential to sustain beyond the project period. However, the success depends on – intensity of extension-dissemination actions (for piloting activities) and on the willingness of DoF to support CBOs after the project ends.

20. The government, through its Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CMDP-II), has taken up initiative to establish a Climate Change Cell (CCC) at DoF. However, formation of a cell in the DoF does not guarantee outcomes in the long run unless such structure is recognized in the strategy and receives continuous support. Therefore, the MTR team recommends that the project takes 'CCC strengthening' as one of the key activities for rest of the project period.

MTR question 5 – Factors affecting performance

What are the main factors affecting the project in reaching its results, and how are they affecting the project's performance?

21. As a matter of fact the implementation is low and the main factors that affected performance was the delay in TAPP approval and the appointment of PD from MoFL side and momentum the project has gained currently. Additionally, there were unprecedented circumstances related to COVID 19 created situation. And hence, it was difficult for the MTR team to assess factors affecting performance at this stage. The MTR team rated the different criteria based on the actual status quo of project implementation, and on the analysis of how well factors were considered in the ProDoc. Additionally, the team took into consideration the unprecedented COVID 19 pandemic created situation and the delay in TAPP approval and the appointment of PD from MoFL side. . There are several factors that have influenced the implementation of the project as well as factors that should be considered during the implementation of project in future in order to meet the project's results.

22. Under Project Component 4, some communication and awareness raising activities through workshops have been conducted. Communication and awareness strategy to guide knowledge sharing is yet to be developed. However, a few knowledge products and communication material were developed and distributed during the COVID-19. To strengthen CC-communication, the project plans to establish an interactive and user-friendly web portal at DoF-Climate Change Cell and a central information base to share and exchange CC-information. The MTR team did not notice these activities to be started yet, but recommends to start with priority since quick and timely communication of CC-information is central to climate adaptation and resilience. As the project is gaining momentum more communication and awareness material including a brochures on project should be developed. During the MTR field visit the noting pads provided by the project contained information on project in Bengali, which is a good step. However, it is too early to assess the attitudes and behavioural change in the stakeholders and its influence on the project.

23. The M&E at project design was of an adequate level. The ProDoc contains an M&E plan, indicating type of M&E Activity, Responsible Parties, Time Frame and budget. Reporting to GEF is done through the PIRs. As the piloting of activities have been started at field level, M&E specialist who is recruited recently is expected to finalize the M&E framework and development of database. And all the gender mainstreaming activities will be considered during monitoring.

MTR question 6 - Cross – cutting dimensions

To what extent have gender considerations have been taken into account in project design and implementation? Have environmental and social risks been identified and are mitigation measures taken?

24. During the project design, aspects related to gender and vulnerable groups have been adequately considered, including collection of gender conscious data while implementing piloting activities. Though few activities have been executed, the gender aspects were considered in trainings and selection of CBO. Gender expert in the project is responsible for monitoring the gender aspects closely. There is a draft gender strategy and action plan for the project developed.

25. The very first training of this project on 'gender concepts' was held in July 2020, to DoF officials seems to be a good step for 'gender sensitization' among the DoF officials in the two project locations. Further, the MTR team has observed a careful consideration to gender balance during CBO formation. In general there has been conscious effort by the project in gender mainstreaming in all the ongoing trainings and field activities.

26. As per the Prodoc not less than 40% of the selected beneficiaries shall be women. The project has ensured minimum 40% participation of women in training and nearly 40% membership of selected CBOS and one CBO is with 100% women membership. This is very much reflected and observed by the MTR team during the field visits that a two of the CBOs visited have more than 90% women representation and one CBO has 100% women which indicates that the project has ensured very good women participation. Capacity building of women is also on the higher side as 100% are women that are trained in net weaving.

27. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Environmental and Social Risk Screening where the check list has been certified as low risk.

Knowledge activities and products

28. Awareness raising activities through workshops have been conducted. The awareness generation meetings conducted for CBOs has been acknowledged and appreciated by the community as useful and helped in choosing the right piloting activity depending on the ground level situation.

29. The MTR observed that some of the documents on CRVA and Best Practices Training Material, Community and Beneficiary selection guideline, Training Manual on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture are some of the knowledge products that can help increase capacity building of stakeholders and in addressing climate change issues at local level. Both CRVA and best practices manuals can be considered as important knowledge products that can be used beyond the project period. A few pamphlets about COVID19 precautions in Bengali were developed and distributed during the COVID 19 period.

Stakeholder participation

30. All the relevant stakeholders were identified at project design, including gender and vulnerable groups. The stakeholders have been properly defined at the project design level which is still valid;

an elaborated stakeholder analysis was prepared. Stakeholders interviewed are aware of the project showed high commitment to the project and its results. Project Inception workshop was held in June 2021 and participated by key holders of the project. PIC and PSC are functioning, and so far 1 PIC and 1 PSC meetings have been conducted, these meetings have to be conducted as per the schedule.

Overall progress on implementation

31. Overall progress on implementation has been assessed as moderately satisfactory, as only partial outputs were achieved and no outcomes could be achieved. The MTR considered that the COVID 19 pandemic was beyond the control of the project management, and that the delayed approval of TAPP did not allow the executing agencies to start implementing the activities.

Overall risk rating

32. The MTR rates the project's level of risk to be low and there it is likely that the project will reach the objectives as there is no COVID 19 lockdown restrictions now, if an extension until March 2025 is granted and the recommendations made below are addressed.

Key factors influencing results

33. There were number of delays like delayed TAPP approval, late appointment of Project Director that were identified as some of the reasons preventing start of project activities in time. Although project implementation officially started on 10 March 2019 (after signing of agreement by ERD), the TAPP (that guides implementation of the project from government side) was approved in September 2020 and a PD was appointed in October 2020, resulting in 19 months of delay in starting effective project implementation and influencing the accomplishment of results in time.

34. COVID 19 pandemic has been one of the most influencing factors that have affected most of the activities of the project on the ground. Strict lockdown conditions and travel restrictions during the pandemic hampered start of many of the project activities at ground level.

35. Limited administrative support, with regard to number and time of staff delegated to the project, from the government (DoF-MoFL) has been identified as another factor influencing results. The MoFL appointed PD is only on part-time; however, given the volume of work this project requires a full-time PD and a DPD for effective implantation of project activities in collaboration with FAO.

Conclusion (Summarized)

36. Conclusion 1 (Relevance): The project is strategically relevant and is in line with the GEF strategic priorities, national policies and priorities and donor strategic priorities, existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The MTR also found that there are certain complementarities and synergies with the existing inventions and projects by both government and development agencies. However, many of the projects as described in the co-finance were completed and the project team has identified new projects that can replace the outdated and completed projects to have complementarities with the present project.

37. Conclusion 2 (Effectiveness): The project has made good progress under Component 1, preparing the review of the existing National Fisheries Policy (1998) and National Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (2006) was undertaken to identify the gaps and provide suggestions on how to mainstream climate change issues and gender aspects. The preliminary review has been presented and discussed among FAO and DoF. The Government is expecting further support from FAO on revising the National Fisheries Policy.

38. The Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) at national level is ongoing, which being undertaken by the Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in close collaboration with the DoF. The assessment among others will guide the development of community management plans and also review of and strengthening of existing community Early Warning Systems (EWS) to incorporate fisheries and aquaculture aspects. As per the MTR assessment the report will be completed July 2022.

39. The manual which is being refined including the community knowledge on climate change is being used for training Government officials and community members. So far, the project has trained 60 Government officials and 1045 households in climate change impact on fisheries, adaptation options and disaster risk management.

40. Component 2 -As per the discussions held with FAO, DoF, and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) the existing EWS system will be enhanced to meet the requirements of project sites and the project beneficiaries of North East Haor region and South West Coastal region. The required LoAs have to be signed between FAO and BWDB including the time frame to cover two seasons as required for the study.

41. Under this Component 3, out of 100 CBOs the project has already established 45 CBOs of 25 members each. During the field visit the MTR assessed that preparations were made and CBOs have been trained to start the implementation of a few pilot activities.

42. Conclusion 3 (Effectiveness and Efficiency): Many activities planned during the period under this MTR are yet to be implemented. Although the MTR team did not find any shortcoming in the logic of the project, it is too early to make an assessment on the likelihood impact on the outcome of the project, due to delay in the implementation of the activities. Nevertheless the pace on the implementation of activities at ground level should be increased with better coordination between DoF and FAO and by appointing Field Facilitators to catalyse the activity implementation. The project has gained momentum now and all the project staff are on board. The MTR team assessed that the project is highly relevant to all the stakeholders in line with GEF, FAO and the country priorities. Interviewees confirmed the value of this project to Bangladesh and importance of implementing project activities and achieving the main project results which are new to Bangladesh from the climate change impacts and climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture view point.

43. Conclusion 4: (Sustainability): The MTR assessed how sustainability aspects were considered at the project design. The long-term sustainability of project intervention are promoted by adoption of a strategy that promotes the upscaling and replication of climate resilient adaptation being tested through piloting of activities through gender balanced CBOs.

44. The capacity of the community, personnel of the DoF and key stakeholders through training and capacity building and skill development by both internal and overseas trainings ensure the sustainability of project outputs and outcomes. One of the roles of PSC is to ensure sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication. Long-term results depend upon the sustainability project results and the institutions established under the project particularly at the field level and beneficiary level. There is a need for process documentation of piloting activities so that there will be institutional memory and the successive DoF staff or Upazila Coordination Committee can use it as a guide to continue the ongoing activities and replicate the same beyond the project tenure. It is therefore recommended that an exit strategy as given under Component 4 are prepared in time which should include factors pertaining institutional and financial sustainability. This strategy include roles and responsibilities of various partners involved, their expectations, responsibilities and ownership beyond the project tenure.

45. Conclusion 5 (progress to impact): Based on the assessment on those activities implemented the MTR considers the quality of project management and execution as satisfactory. However as outputs are achieved partially and no outcomes could be achieved till now, it remains difficult to evaluate these criteria. The overall assessment of the progress is considered to be moderately satisfactory.

46. Therefore, the MTR team considers and recommends that it is likely that project will achieve its main targets and objectives if an extension is granted until March 2025, bearing in mind that many interviewees proposed an extension beyond 2 years, so as to satisfactory bring the project to a satisfactory conclusion with sound exit strategy paving way for sustainability of project outcomes and results.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions, the MTR has prepared the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 (Efficiency)	**The MTR recommends an extension of the project for two years up to March 2025 in order to make it possible for the project ream and the executing partners to satisfactorily achieve the project outputs and outcomes.**
Rationale for recommendation: Important activities achieved are review of national policy on fisheries, capacity building tools particularly the training manual on climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture have been developed and used. CBOs have been selected and piloting activities have been identified. Work is progressing on EWS through BWDB however it has to be initiated through an LOA which has to be quickly done between FAO and BWDB. CRVA is progressing well which is being done by CEGIS. Many activities planned during the period under this MTR are yet to be implemented. Although the MTR team did not find any shortcoming in the logic of the project, it is too early to make an assessment on the likelihood impact on the outcome of the project, due to delay in the implementation of the activities. Nevertheless the pace on the implementation of activities at ground level should be increased with better	

coordination between DoF and FAO and by appointing Field Facilitators to catalyse the activity implementation.

Based on the reasons for delay the MTR team considers that the project results, and the outputs and outcomes, can be achieved only if the project is granted a no cost extension. Hence, the MTR recommends an extension of two years up to March 2025.

Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, Member of the PTF and FAO GEF Coordination Unit
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 2 (Factors affecting performance)	**FAO to ensure better coordination with DOF to ensure smooth implementation of project activities particularly at field level.**

Rationale for recommendation

FAO staff in Bangladesh both at field level and Hq level and consultants have been working hard in unprecedented circumstances and remote areas. However at field there is a need for better coordination support between FAO staff and DoF staff in implementing the project activities as per the timeline. While implementing activities jointly, sometimes FAO staff are unable to join the DoF staff in time due to the security clearance they have to secure before going to the field. This has to be sorted out.

Presently the position Project Director of DoF, is an additional charge and is unable to provide full time to the project. As per the ProDoc the PD will be the lead person for the project on behalf of the Government and will be supported by Deputy Project Director. It was informed to the MTR that PD is able to provide part time support to the project and the DPD position is not sanctioned. Hence, MTR recommends that the PD may be made full time assisted by DPD as many activities at Field level are to be implemented by DOF through a LoA. This needs the serious attention of PD and DPD for a timely completion of project activities and to ensure their sustainability. During the discussions with DG DoF, the DG indicated to the MTR team that DPD appointment is possible. The same was discussed with BH who may follow it up with Dg, DoF.

Since the beginning of the project only one PSC and one PIC meeting was conducted. In this connection, it is recommended that the PSC meets regularly as per the schedule.

LOAs are signed particularly with Bangladesh Water Development Board to develop the EWS covering two seasons. The agreements made within the consultation mechanism on activities and outputs should be reflected in Monitoring and Evaluation system so that the project's performance can be tracked periodically. The Results Matrix as presented in ProDoc and updated in the Project Inception Report is overall coherent and logical.

This recommendation is made to contribute to the overall improvement of the "Factors affecting performance", namely quality of project execution and management arrangements, Project oversight by

FAO and National Partners, Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Partnerships and stakeholder involvement.	
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, PSC, PMU, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible and as per the timeline.

Recommendation 3 (Sustainability and Exit Strategy)	**FAO to ensure that exit strategies (What will happen after the project end and beyond the project tenure) will be prepared timely, to ensure sustainability of project results.**

Rationale for recommendation

The MTR assessed how sustainability aspects were considered at the project design, and no project or programme is approved by the Government unless environmental and other sustainability issues are properly evaluated. The long-term sustainability of project interventions are promoted by adoption of a strategy that promotes the upscaling and replication of climate resilient adaptation being tested through piloting of activities through gender balanced CBOs. The capacity of the community, personnel of the DoF and key stakeholders through training and capacity building and skill development by overseas trainings ensure the sustainability of project outputs and outcomes. One of the roles of PSC is to ensure sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication.

The Environmental sustainability as per the ProDoc is ensured through positive impacts of the introduced adaptation technologies and approaches on a range of ecosystem services at demonstration areas, and in the long term on larger areas through upscaling of best practices, which it is too early to say as several piloting activities are being grounded.

The financial sustainability is ensured through mainstreaming best practices into sectoral policies related to fisheries and aquaculture and frameworks into sector budgets. At the local level, adaptation technologies will be promoted that give local fishermen and fish-farmers and aquaculture communities financial and economic incentives to adopt them, i.e. adaptation technologies are expected to generate economic benefits to the communities in the short as well as in the longer term in order to be considered sustainable.

The pilot activities designed generally have the potential for upscaling and replication. However, sustainability of such pilot activities should be ensured through discussions and agreements made between FAO, the executing partner and relevant stakeholders in this case the community and CBOs on the modalities of responsibilities of upscaling and replication and ownership after the project comes to end. Interviewees expressed that the executing partners particularly the DoF staff need technical support from FAO as climate change and climate resilience concept is new to them and for that the capacity development training are important for the government agencies and other stakeholder. Staff of DoF and FAO and other institutions met with indicated that there is a need for sustaining and using the capacity built and the institutional mechanisms established under this project even after the project ends. The UCC officials indicated to the MTR that trainings and awareness programmes on climate change impacts and

climate risks should be taught to them during the probationary period of their recruitment so that they can handle disaster mitigation actions efficiently. MTR recommends that this should be considered and discussed in the PSC to recommend to the Government for appropriate action. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability due to regular transfers and other priorities of their work.

At ground level UCC role is more in ensuring sustainability of developed institutions and interventions of the project / piloted activities. At present UCC is supporting by resolving any disputes or issues that arise at field level as all departments connected with fisheries and rural development are represented in the UCC. However, representation of Forest department should be ensured the UCCs in Khulna region, as the presence of FD in the UCC Particularly in Dacrope and Shyam Nagar will address certain issues related to mangrove resources being used by the beneficiaries of the project.

The government has taken up initiative to establish a Climate Change Cell (CCC) at DoF. However, formation of a cell in the DoF does not guarantee outcomes in the long run unless such structure is recognized in the strategy and receives continuous support. Therefore, MTR team recommends that the project takes 'CCC strengthening' as one of the key activities for rest of the project period.

Long-term results depend upon the sustainability of project results and the institutions established particularly at the field level and beneficiary level. MTR recommends for process documentation of piloting activities so that there will be institutional memory and the successive DoF staff or UCC can use it as a guide to continue the ongoing activities and replicate the same beyond the project tenure. It is therefore recommended that an exit strategy as given under Component 4 are prepared in time which should include factors pertaining institutional and financial sustainability. This strategy should include roles and responsibilities of various partners involved, their expectations, responsibilities and ownership beyond the project tenure.

Responsibility	FAO, PTF, PMU, in consultation with PSC.
Proposed time frame	Start development of Exit strategy as soon as possible.

Recommendation 4 (Collaboration for Sustainability)	**The project should collaborate with a number of existing and planned F&A and CC-related Project in Bangladesh.**

Rationale for recommendation

In the ProDoc, a number of projects operated by DoF, DoE, MoEF, IUCN, FAO, WorldFish and IFAD in the field of F&A and climate adaptation were considered as co-financing projects. However, most of these projects have either phased out or nearing completion; but part of the results of these projects or their 'sustained' components within the community have potential for collaboration. The project team has identified (in October 2020) a number of existing and planned F&A projects in Bangladesh with potential for Co-Financing. The MTR team recommends active collaboration with these projects for efficient and sustained achievement of results. In addition to the above F&A projects, the MTR team recommends to collaborate with 'Projection of Sea Level Rise and its Sectoral Impact' and 'Environmental Flows for the

Sundarbans Ecosystem' projects operated by CEGIS and 'Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement', and 'South-West Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management (Phase-2)' projects operated by BWDB.	
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh and DoF
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 5 (Financial management and co-financing)	**Revise budget lines to meet the expenditure during the extended period. Assess cost-effectiveness of pilot activities for replication beyond project tenure.**
Rationale for recommendation In order to meet the expenditure during the extended period of two years it is recommended to revise the budget lines across components. This is particularly to meet the salaries of project staff. As such the expenditure overview provides some insight into the actual expenditure and expenditure ratio. Recording expenditure of piloting activities in a detailed way will provide deeper understanding on the amount of funds required for replication of successful pilot activities beyond the project tenure. These details should also be included in the exit strategy. As the project has gained momentum and it is expected that the important progress towards achieving outputs and outcomes will start emerging, it is recommended that it is the right moment to start revise the budget lines to meet the expenditure during the extended period.	
Responsibility	PSC, PTF and FAO operations management
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 6 (Financial management and co-financing)	**Modify co-finance including the ongoing projects and by removing projects that are completed and no more applicable.**
Rationale for recommendation The co-financing table shows the actual amount materialised at the time of project development. The PIR also mentions that all these projects were completed projects. A fresh set of ongoing projects with potential for co-financing was provided by the project.	

It is recommended that the FAO works out on including these potential ongoing projects for co-financing by replacing outdated projects. These projects could be potential sources for upscaling the replication of project activities which should be considered.	
Responsibility	FAO, PTF, PMU in consultation with PSC
Proposed time frame	Within the next 6 months.

Recommendation 7 (Awareness and Communication)	**FAO to ensure that a methodological awareness raising strategy for the entire project is prepared and implemented.**
Rationale for recommendation A few awareness raising activities have been conducted particularly on climate change impacts and EWS. Awareness levels on climate change and EWS of specific target groups that were identified in the ProDoc; poor and smallholder aquaculture and fishing dependent communities, government extension and technical staff, fisheries and aquaculture pond owners and consumers should be increased by the end of the project. For this, MTR recommends that awareness should be a continuous process and is crucial for attaining sustainable project results and for changing attitudes and behaviours of stakeholders through increased awareness and knowledge.	
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh / Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 8 (Alignment with Policies and Strategies)	**FAO to ensure alignment with updated National Development Policies and Strategies**
Rationale for recommendation From the time of the project formulation, a few of the national development policies and strategies have been changed or updated by this time of MTR. For this, MTR recommends that the project consults with the most up-to-date national policies namely National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2022), Country Investment Plant for Environment, Forestry & Climate Change, 8th Five Year Plan of Bangladesh, Bangladesh UNDAF (2017–2021), Bangladesh UNSDCF (2021-2025), Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, NDC 2021 and Bangladesh Perspective Plan 2041.	
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, PMU and PSC
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 9 (Strengthening DoFs CCC initiative)	**FAO to ensure strengthening of DoF's Climate Change Cell initiative through capacity building**
Rationale for recommendation A Climate Change Cell (CCC) within the premises of DoF is being established by the project. MTR team has observed that DoF staff are very much interested and enthusiastic about the CCC. However, formation of CCC at DoF HQ does not guarantee outcomes in the long run, unless such institutional structures are recognized in organizations strategies and receive continuous support. Hence MTR team recommends that the project takes "CCC strengthening" as one of the key activities for rest of the project period	
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, DoF, MoFL, PMU and PSC
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

1. Introduction

47. This MTR document presents the findings and conclusions of the Mid Term Review conducted on the Full Sized Project on "Community Based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh" (hereinafter called the Project) GCP/BGD/055/LDF. The project was started on March 2019 with an official end date in March 2023. The Project is implemented by FAO, with DOF, GoB as the implementing partner.

48. The total budget is USD 21,775,114 of which USD 5,425,114 is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The remaining amount of USD 16,350,000 comprises of Co-financing which is completely in kind as pledged by the Project partners and other national counterparts namely DoF, DoE, MoEF-IUCN, WF, IFAD and FAO.

49. The MTR field mission was conducted in Hoar region of North East and Coastal region of South west Bangladesh covering 10 villages (Check this number) in 4 districts based on random selection in consultation with FAO and the DoF. Around 200 members of the CBOs were present and participated in the MTR during the group meetings with 8 CBOs and 2 UCCs.

1.1. Purpose of scope of the MTR

50. The MTR was conducted with the purpose of achieving the twin objectives. One is reporting to the donor (GEF), the UN executing agency FAO and to the national government that are the counterparts in the project execution. Secondly, it has an educational purpose, providing an assessment of the progress made by the Project in accomplishing the objectives and outcomes proposed; in identifying corrective measures required to improve the implementation mechanisms if any, and in optimising its effects. Finally guiding the project team in future decision making during the remaining period of the project.

The Main aims of the MTR are as follows:

- Provide accountability – to respond to the information needs and interests of actors with decision making power;
- Improve the project – project improvement and organization development provide valuable information to managers and others who are responsible for regular project operations including field level implementation;
- Contribute to knowledge and learning – in depth understanding and contextualization of the project and its practices, of particular benefit to FAO GEF Coordination unit (FAO GEF CU), FAO staff and future developers and implementers and other stakeholders.

51. The scope of the MTR covers the implementation of all four project components between the start of the project in March 2019 and January 2022. It is clear from the start of the MTR that only a few activities were implemented, due to the technical reasons of approving TAPP and the appointment of PD from MoFL side and to the strict lockdown conditions in Bangladesh for the COVID 19 pandemic created situation, which is beyond the control of the project management. The TAPP is an internal governmental approval mechanism, only when the TAPP is approved the executing agency in this

case DoF can start the project activities. Under these circumstances only a few activities particularly revision of National policy, capacity building exercises, formation of CBOs, identifying piloting activities and sites for piloting activities, exposure visits, preparatory work of EWS, CRVA could be implemented by the project, which were reviewed by the MTR team.

1.2. Objective of the MTR

52. The MTR timeline covered a period of 35 months, spanning from March 2019 to January 2022. The geographic scope includes the two project areas; North east haor wetlands area that are increasingly affected by flash floods, erratic rainfall and drought; and South west coastal areas that are increasingly affected due to rising sea levels, salt water ingression and storm surges which are becoming more frequent.
53. The main objective of this MTR is "To review the progress and effectiveness of the implementation process and mechanisms used towards achieving project objectives, outcomes and outputs. The MTR findings and recommendations will be instrumental in improving the overall design and execution strategy if needed during the remaining period of the project".

In particular the review aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

a. To assess the relevance of the intervention in relation to the needs and expectations of the beneficiaries including the participating upazilas, FAOs Country Priority Areas namely 1. Reduce poverty and enhance food security and nutrition (access and utilization) and 2. Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/ intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization and GEF Focal Areas Objectives CCA-1: Reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of Climate Change (CC), CCA-2: Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of CC and CCA-3: Promote transfer and adoption of adaptation technology.

b. To review the progress made by the project from March 2019 till January 2022, particularly in terms of its contributions in realizing the project objectives. In doing so, the review will assess the progress made and the gaps to be filled to achieve the expected targets.

c. To assess the progress made towards achieving project sustainability and its potential long term impacts, if any.

d. To identify lessons learned and corrective measures in relation to project design, implementation and management.

56. The main questions for each criterion as given in the MTR are provided in the box below. During the inception period of the MTR, an evaluation matrix was prepared and included in the Inception Report, which is given as Appendix IV of this report. The evaluation matrix contains key questions per criterion, and specific sub-questions for each criterion and also indicators for different sub-questions, as well as the sources of information to be consulted and the review methods to be applied so as to collect as much information as possible and to ensure validation and triangulation of the findings of the MTR.

Box 1. Main MTR review questions (as defined in the ToR of the MTR)

1. Relevance (rating required)	**Relevance:** Are the project outcomes congruent with country priorities, GEF focal areas/operational programme strategies, the FAO Country Programming Framework, the Community Based Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh project objectives and the needs and priorities of targeted beneficiaries (government institutions, local communities, and farmers)? Has there been any change in the relevance of the project since its formulation, such as the adoption of new national policies, plans or programmes that affect the relevance of the project's objectives and goals? If so, are there any changes that need to be made to the project to make it more relevant? How appropriate and relevant is the project approach and intervention logic in terms of its objectives and anticipated outcomes, and within the project region context? To what extent is the project fit-for-purpose to: - Build capacity of DoF in fishery climate change management. - Strengthen policy and strategy related climate change and gender. - Supporting adoption of climate resilient by communities - Raise awareness of community in climate change management including DRM and early warning system
2. Effectiveness of project results (rating required)	**Delivery of results:** To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives? What broader results (if any) has the project had at regional and global level to date? Were there any unintended consequences? Is there any evidence of environmental stress reduction (for example, in direct threats to biodiversity) or environmental status change (such as an improvement in the populations of target species), reflecting global environmental benefits or any change in policy, legal or regulatory frameworks? To what extent can the achievement of results be attributed to the GEF-funded component? How effective has been the project so far in engaging with key decision makers and other key stakeholders in country to mainstream the project in implementation and decision making? What are the enabling and constraining factors influencing the achievement and non-achievements of the outcomes? In particular, - What constrain affected progress or may affect the achievements of projects results? - What enabling factors have led to or may lead to successful implementation of project activities and achievement of results? **Targets:** To what extent has the project delivered on achieving the set targets? How were the targets developed and set? To what extent the set targets are relevant to the project? To what extent the targets need to be readapted in line with the project progress to date? **Likelihood of impact:** Are there any barriers or other risks that may prevent future progress towards and the achievement of the project's longer-term objectives? What can be done to increase

	the likelihood of positive impacts from the project? To what extent can the progress towards long-term impacts be attributed to the project?
3. Efficiency (rating required)	To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? To what extent has project management been able to adapt to any changing conditions to improve the efficiency of project implementation? To what extent has the project built on existing agreements, initiatives, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other projects, partnerships, etc. and avoided duplication of similar activities by other groups and initiatives?
4. Sustainability (rating required)	**Sustainability:** What is the likelihood that the project results will be useful or persist after the end of the project? What are the key risks that may affect the sustainability of the project results and its benefits (consider financial, socioeconomic, institutional and governance, and environmental aspects)? What efforts are being made to ensure sustainability of project results in the long term? **Replication and catalysis:** What project results, lessons or experiences have been replicated (in different geographic areas) or scaled up (in the same geographic area, but on a much larger scale and funded by other sources)? What results, lessons or experiences are likely to be replicated or scaled up in the near future?
5. Factors affecting progress (rating required)	**Project design:** Is the project design suited to delivering the expected outcomes? Is the project's causal logic coherent and clear? To what extent are the project's objectives and components clear, practical and feasible within the time frame allowed? **Project execution and management:** To what extent did the executing agency effectively discharge its role and responsibilities in managing and administering the project? What have been the main challenges in terms of project management and administration? How well have risks been identified and managed? What changes are needed to improve delivery in the latter half of the project? **Challenges:** Outline if any challenges that have affected implementation of the projects and results - Given the challenges faced, at this point in time, will all project activities be successfully completed by the current project end date, or will there be a need for adjustments (in time frame and/or targets)? **Financial management and co-financing:** What have been the financial-management challenges of the project? To what extent has pledged co-financing been delivered?

	Has any additional leveraged co-financing been provided since implementation? How has any shortfall in co-financing or unexpected additional funding affected project results? **Project oversight, implementation role:** To what extent has FAO delivered oversight and supervision and backstopping (technical, administrative and operational) during project identification, formulation, approval, start-up and execution? **Partnerships and stakeholder engagement:** To what extent have stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society, indigenous populations, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, people with disabilities and the private sector, been involved in project formulation and implementation? What has been the effect of their involvement or non-involvement on project results? How do the various stakeholder groups see their own engagement with the project? What are the mechanisms of their involvement and how could these be improved? What are the strengths and challenges of the project's partnerships? Has the stakeholder engagement plan been adhered to and documented? Have all stakeholders been made aware of the ESS plan and the grievance complaint mechanism? **Communication and knowledge management**: How effective has the project been in communicating and promoting its key messages and results to partners, stakeholders and a general audience? How can this be improved? How is the project assessing, documenting and sharing its results and lessons learned and experiences? To what extent are communication products and activities likely to support the sustainability and scaling up of project results? **M&E design:** Is the project's M&E system practical and sufficient? How has stakeholder engagement and gender assessment been integrated into the M&E system? How could this be improved? To what extent are the Monitoring, Review and Learning (MEL) strategy and relate tools adequate and effective? **M&E implementation:** Does the M&E system operate per the M&E plan? Has information been gathered in a systematic manner, using appropriate methodologies? How effectively has project been able to report against the GEF – LDCF Adaptation indicators (refer climate change adaptation monitoring and assessment tool)? To what extent has information generated by the M&E system during project implementation been used to adapt and improve project planning and execution, achieve outcomes and ensure sustainability?

	Are there gender-disaggregated targets and indicators? How can the M&E system be improved?
6. Cross-cutting priorities (rating required)	**ESS:** To what extent were environmental and social concerns taken into consideration in the design and implementation of the project? Has the project been implemented in a manner that ensures the ESS Mitigation Plan (if one exists) has been adhered to? To what extent was gender integrated into the project's objectives and results framework? Were other actors – civil society, indigenous peoples or private sector – involved in project design or implementation and what was the effect on project results?
7. Gender	**Gender and minority groups, including indigenous peoples, disadvantaged, vulnerable and people with disabilities:** To what extent were gender considerations taken into account in designing and implementing the project? Has the project been designed and implemented in a manner that ensures gender-equitable participation and benefits? Was a gender analysis done? To what extent are women participating in the project?

1.3. Intended users

57. As described in the MTR Inception Report, the MTR team used the elaborate stakeholders' analysis given in the ProDoc and the TOR of the MTR for the stakeholder selection. The MTR described the role of various stakeholders in the project, supported with reasons for the inclusion or exclusion of certain stakeholder in the MTR, prioritised the stakeholders for the involvement in the MTR, and explained how the stakeholders would be involved during the MTR.

    The main users of the MTR report are as given below:

58. FAO Bangladesh and the Project Task Force are expected to use the findings and recommendations suggested in the MTR to continue and improve the project activities and plan for sustainability of the results achieved and to take appropriate course correction wherever needed;

59. Project Team: The project team will use the findings and course corrections suggested in the MTR to adjust the project activities and to decide, in conjunction with the community, CBOs and the DoF and the donor on the course correction needed to take.

60. The Government of Bangladesh, responsible for project execution in close collaboration with FAO as GEF Implementing Agency. The Government counterparts namely Department of Fisheries (DoF), Department of Environment (DoE), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) all the Upa

Zilla administrators and Upazila Coordination Committees (UCCs) involved in the implementation of Project activities, who will use the results and conclusions of the MTR to improve the scope of the outcomes in the remaining part of the project.

61. GEF Secretariat and the FAO – GEF CU are the intended users of the conclusions and recommendations of the MTR to support in the strategic decision making on the way forward. Additionally, the MTR will serve as a resource for future evaluations by the GEF of its interventions.

62. Additionally, there are other stakeholders who may not directly consult the MTR report, but can benefit from the recommendations presented in the report:

63. Organizations namely Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Bangladesh Forest Department, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and the Disaster Management Department (DMD).

64. Fish farmers, fishermen, village/rural level community institutions (CIs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), local community organizations, local community beneficiaries, local leaders and women's organizations.

1.4 methodologies

65. The MTR was conducted in accordance with the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and follows the FAO-GEF Guidelines for MTRs. A consultative and transparent approach was used and executed in close collaboration with the FAO office in Bangladesh, Project Steering Committee and the Evaluation team of FAO. FAO-GEF CU MTR Focal Point and the FAO Bangladesh MTR Manager provided with support and guidance. MTR used different methods which started with desk work on reviewing the documents and reports namely Pro Doc, the Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and minutes of the meetings of PSC and PTF. During the field mission interviews were conducted and discussions were held individually as well as in groups, with key stakeholders particularly the members CBOs met with and their views were collected. Discussions were held with DoF officials at field offices. Meetings were also held with Bangladesh Water Development Board, and higher officials at Dhaka. Zoom meetings were held with Additional Secretary, Planning, MoFL, DG and ADG, DoF and CEGIS. Zoom meetings were also held with FAO staff, and experts connected with the project and were unable to meet in Bangladesh as well as located abroad.

66. In terms of gender analysis, an assessment was made of the project's contribution to the objectives set forth in the FAO Policy on Gender Equality. As a reference for evaluating the work done with local communities, the MTR team used the FAO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Manual. Along with the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, this document served as reference material in terms of FAO's approach and process for consensus building with the local community who are the project beneficiaries.

67. In order to fulfil the objectives of meeting the reporting needs and achieve the requested outputs, a participatory evaluation method was used based on the theory of Change (See Fig. ToC). After applying them, each of the resulting findings were retrieved and analysed, thereby triangulating the background information in order to obtain a reliable basis for explaining the assessment of the different aspects of the project.

68. The reporting of MTR was done based on 6 criteria and 7 related questions and sub questions. Each of them were answered based on description, analysis and measurement, as per the programme design, management structure, processes driven and mid-term results of the intervention. A list of the evaluation questions and criteria used are given below:

69. Furthermore, with the aim of ensuring a comprehensive analysis, sub-questions were developed, which, in association with indicators, assessment criteria, collection methods and information sources, shaped the matrix of this evaluation, which guided the collection of data.

70. The MTR was conducted from November 2021 to March 2022 which included 21 days of field work, during which time field mission was conducted to 1. Sardarpur village, Santiganj Upazila, Sunamganj District, 2. Nayagao village, Jagannathganj Upazila, Sunamganj District, 3. Noyagram village, Juri Upazila, Moulavibazar District in Sylhet Division of North East Haor region, and 4. Khalishakhali village, Kachua Upazila, Bagerhat District, 5. Kismatmalipatan village, Kachua Upazila, Bagerhat District, 6. Mogra village 7. Raghunathpur village and 8. Srighat village in Bagerhat District and 9. Kailashganj village, Dacope Upazila, Khulna District, 10. Sholgatia village, Dumuria Upazila, Khulna District. Key informants included beneficiaries who are constituted into Community Based Organizations, members of Upazila Coordination Committees, field based fisheries and project officials (Annexure). Around 200 members of the CBOs were met with who participated in the MTR during the group meetings with 8 CBOs belonging to 10 villages and 2 UCCs. Majority of the participants were women from the CBOs. All the necessary information from representative sample villages and informants, quantitative and qualitative data mainly on the status quo of the project, implementation issues if any, progress and their opinion, perceptions on the way forward given the delay in implementing the project activities were sourced both individually and in groups for preparing this report.

71. Different methods namely interviews, focus group discussions, review of reports published and ocular in-situ observations were applied. Based on the information that each of the key stakeholder could provide and the same were cross checked when found necessary or for additional clarity.

Team roles and responsibilities

72. The MTR was conducted by an international and a national MTR specialist. The international MTR specialist was responsible for coordinating the MTR team's contribution and had the ultimate responsibility for ensuring the delivery of the MTR report. The MTR team undertook all the activities required for fulfilling the MTR, right from preparing the Inception Report, conducting all interviews both face to face and virtual with key stakeholders, collection of primary and secondary data, preparing the MTR report based on the preliminary findings, and based on the feedback

received, finalizing the MTR report. The international consultant has extensive experience in climate resilient agriculture and fisheries and climate resilient livelihoods, and also has wide experience in evaluating large scale international projects, including GEF projects. The national consultant has long experience in fisheries and aquaculture and in implementing several national and international projects and in reviewing and evaluation GEF projects.

73. The MTR team conducted the MTR in close and ongoing discussion with the FAO MTR manager in Bangladesh and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit (FAO GEF CU) MTR focal point.

1.5. Limitations

74. During the course of the Mid Term Review certain limitations affected the collection and analysis of background data relating to project progress. These are isolated factors which did not compromise the work or quality of the investigation. The limitations are as follows:

75. Time: Though the timeline was agreed during the inception phase, it became tight due to the sudden spurt of COVID situation in Bangladesh during January 2022. However, there was especially limited time for field visits and for interviews to be conducted and questionnaires to be administered with the CBOs as the distance to the project sites could not be covered as planned. A lengthier field mission would have given time to visit additional sites and yielded additional information and better quality in the reflection with key informants.

76. Proximity: The field sites being far and wide could not be completed within the time planned and also given tidal fluctuations the field trips had to be modified.

77. The MTR findings are based partly on the views expressed by the interviewees who are responsible for implementing and executing the project activities, hence could be potentially biased in their responses. Various measures were adopted to reduce the respondents' biases by including those who do not have a direct responsibility for implementation of all project activities, and asking for respondents' rationale for their judgements and using project documents and reports that were prepared to verify or validate responses of the respondents. Community were consulted both individually and in groups.

78. During the MTR, it was clear that the original time schedule could not be kept. Sending of letters on meetings for the MTR to the executing partners and other stakeholders who were planned to be interviewed took longer than anticipated. The MTR team and the national consultant also made phone calls to stakeholders to confirm the scheduled meetings both face to face and virtual. Few meetings had to be rescheduled given the busy schedule of the interviewees.

79. COVID 19: The national consultant could not join the field mission as he became COVID positive on the penultimate day of starting the mission. Though a replacement was very quickly arranged by appointing his colleague the background discussion held for more than two months with the national expert could not be used during the field visit. This was a major limitation in conducting the field missions and the interviews with stakeholders during the field mission. At the end of the

field mission the international expert became COVID positive due to which a few planned interviews at Dhaka could not be conducted.

80. Despite the limitations faced as described above, the MTR team tried to ensure maximum data collection and triangulation with the help of the documents review, interviews with FAO, DoF, staff and consultants and several partner organizations.

2. Project background and context

81. Due to its geographical location and spatial ecosystems diversities, Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts. As, two-thirds of the country is less than 5.0 m above sea level, and the majority of the natural ecosystems are wetlands, Bangladesh is one of the most flood prone countries in the world. Besides the landscape and ecosystem characteristics, other factors that exacerbate vulnerability include high population density; high levels of poverty, especially among rural and landless communities. Around 53% of the population in rural communities are classified as poor and the huge disparities between men and women, has resulted into women having less access to resources, health care, education and economic participation. Additionally there is also overreliance of many livelihoods on climate-sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture and fisheries.

82. The fisheries and aquaculture represents an important sector in Bangladesh for its contribution to poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, and export earnings. The sector contributes about 4% of national GDP, 60% of animal protein, 2% of national exports and engages over 17.5 million people1. The sector's potential to contribute to the national economy, food and nutrition security, poverty reduction and other SDGs is higher, but the number of challenges it faces, including climate change, derail its' growth. Fisheries and aquaculture dependent communities at the local level are continuously affected by climate change induced shocks namely increasing temperature, droughts, erratic rainfall, floods, cyclones, sea level rise, salinity intrusion, etc. This has resulted in loss of income, livelihoods and nutrition of local communities and are unable to overcome the impacts due to high poverty levels and limited access to knowledge and information about adaptation options.

83. Development of adaptation technologies and upscaling of proven adaptation best practices specific to geographical areas, restoration of fisheries eco-system, optimizing the use of water bodies for fish production, and generation of climate information for disaster risk management are some of the actions that may be enhanced.

84. Also required are capacities for understanding, planning, management and implementation of climate change programs by the government institutions, officials and stakeholders. The current capacity of the DoF and other relevant government agencies and private sector to integrate climate resilience into policies, programmes and projects need to be strengthened. Along with personnel and institutional capacities, existing fisheries related policy, strategies and acts have to be mainstreamed with climate change.

85. To contribute to addressing the threats of climate change to the fisheries and aquaculture sector, the Community Based Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh project has selected two vulnerable areas for intervention. These areas are identified in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on Climate Change that was adopted in 2005 and updated in 2009, and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) that

[1] Fish Week Compendium (DoF 2014)

was adopted in 2009. The two Project areas include the south-west coastal area, which is increasingly affected by rising sea levels, salt-water intrusion and storm surges, and the north-east haor wetland area that is increasingly affected by flash floods, erratic rainfall and drought.

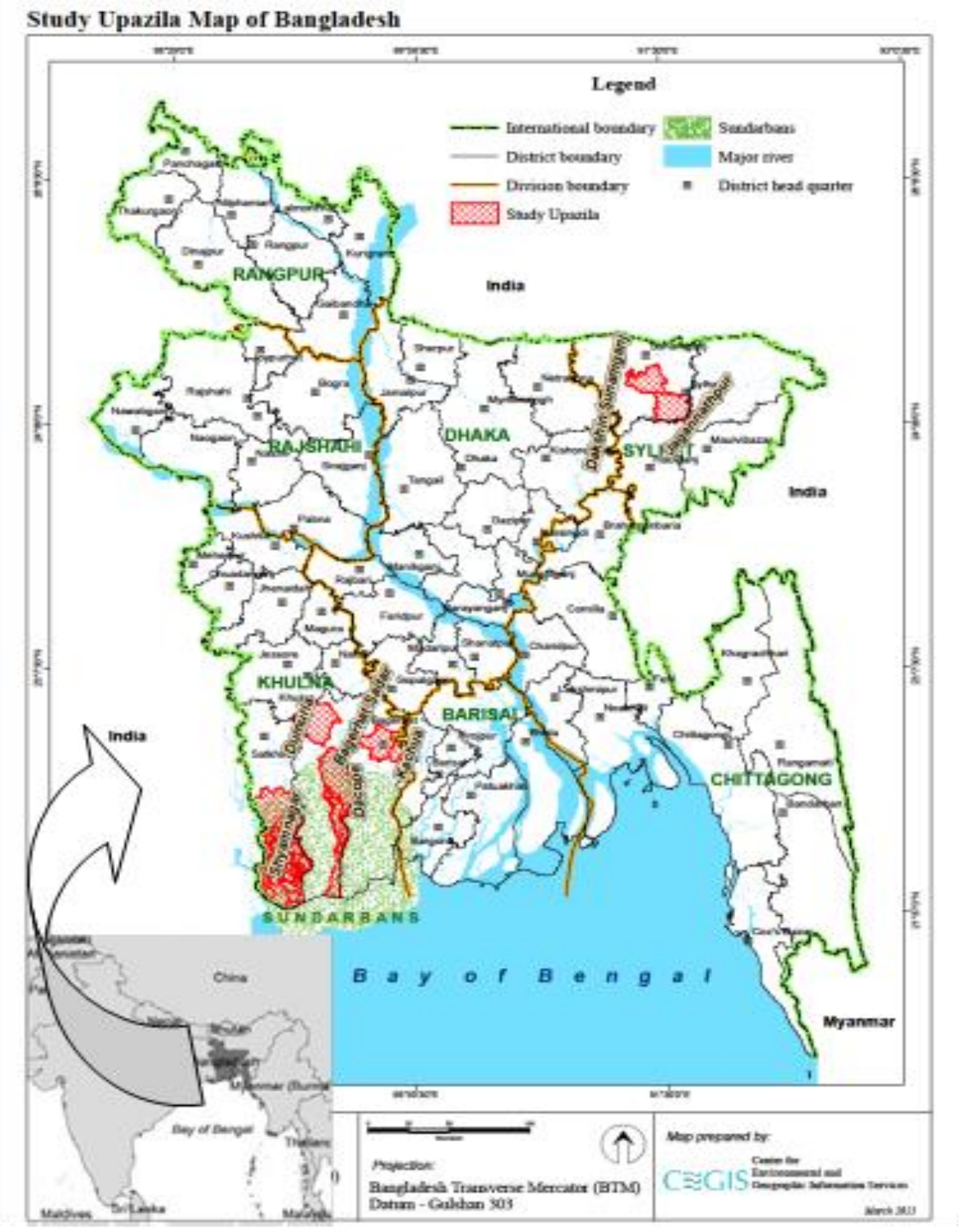

Figure 1: Map of Project Intervention Areas

Project Area includes nine Upazilas namely 1. South Sunamgonj, 2. Jagannathpur, 3. Juri and 4 Nasirnagar in the North East Hoar region and 5. Dumuria, 6. Dacope, 7. Bgherhat Sadar, 8. Kachua and 9. Shyamnagar in the South East Coastal region.

Box 2. Haor, and Beel in the North Eastern region of Bangladesh

Haor

A haor is a bowl- or saucer-shaped lower wetland ecosystem that looks like inland sea during monsoon, is mostly located in north-eastern six districts (Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulavibazar, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, and Netrakona) in Bangladesh. The haor basin also called as the Sylhet basin, is bounded by the hill ranges of Meghalaya (India) on the north, the hills of Tripura and Mizoram (India) on the south, and the highlands of Manipur (India) on the east. Haor is also called back swamp. The word haor is originated from of the Sanskrit word Sagar (sea).There are as many as 423 small or large haors in Bangladesh. Tangaur haor, Hakaluki haor, and Dekhar haor are the most prominent. During monsoon, the haors turn into a vast inland sea within which the villages appear as islands. Numerous rivers rising in the hills of India provide an abundant supply of water to the plains and cause extensive flooding during the monsoon up to a depth of about 6 m.

The haor region hosts a rich natural biodiversity of freshwater fish species (including many threatened species), aquatic birds including Ring-tailed Fishing Eagle, aquatic plants that survive inundation, freshwater swamp forests and is very productive in fish production. Therefore, timely flood is considered as a blessing for this region that enhances fish production and renews the land with nutrients for next season's crop. However, due to climate change frequency of early flash flood has increased, resulting in inundation of boro rice before harvest.

Beel

Small permanent water bodies within the haors are called beels, which occupy the lowest part of the depressions. A beel is usually a deep depression along a river where water remains permanently throughout the year. Beels are lake-like static water bodies, which are seen in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna floodplains all over Bangladesh In this floodplain, water remains for 7-8 months. Most of the inhabitants of the haor are engaged in fishing during the monsoon. During the dry season, most of the water drains out leaving one or more shallow beels which become mostly overgrown with aquatic vegetation or completely dry out by the end of dry season exposing rich alluvial soil extensively cultivated for rice. During dry season, most of the lands are cultivated with boro rice (HYV). In monsoon, beels of the Sylhet Basin merge together and reappear like a haor (sea) again.

This region is highly vulnerable to flash floods caused by the combination of local convection-driven rainfall and run-off from India during the pre-monsoon season, the timing of which can have severely negative impacts on the boro rice harvest. The region is considered to be highly vulnerable to climate change impacts due to its unique physical setting and hydrology. It is a region which is generally considered to have lagged behind the overall progress of national development in Bangladesh in terms of various key indicators of social and economic development.

Box 3. Sundarbans mangroves in the South-Western Bangladesh

Sundarbans is the dominant and largest mangrove forest in the South-Western part of Bangladesh. It is the largest single halophytic tropical mangrove forest of the world shared by Bangladesh (60%) and India (40%). Sundarbans is a UNESCO world heritage site that has been providing a wide array of fisheries activities for forest dependent communities and subsistence of large number of coastal people. Overfishing, particularly collection of *Penaeus monodon* post-larvae from mangrove channels and near-shore waters, due to increasing demand from shrimp farming, and over-exploitation of fish, plant and wildlife species are exerting increasing amount of stresses on the viability of this delicate ecosystem. Aquatic systems of this forest host a rich productivity of fisheries and are a breeding and nursery ground for many freshwater, brackish and marine fish and shrimp species. Sundarbans waters are home for some unique aquatic life forms like saltwater crocodile, Ganges river dolphin and Irrawaddy dolphin.

Together with anthropogenic drivers, climate change is further stressing both the forest and the aquatic lives. This aqua-terrestrial forest-cum-estuary is in continued threat from climatic stresses like sea level rise and salinity intrusion. This will not only hamper biodiversity and natural productivity of the Sundarbans but will also challenge livelihoods of a huge population living in and around the Sundarbans.

86. In response to the above described situation and taking advantage of the financing opportunity available from GEF-5, FAO supported in developing and implementing the project under review. The project is designed to provide income generating opportunities, reducing rural poverty, conserving natural resources by addressing climate change issues faced by poor and small holders of the north east hoar region and south west coastal region thus contributing to the achievement of Global Environmental Benefits. The proposed mid- and long-term solutions offered by the project arise from it top-down logic, arranged into 4 components, 4 outcomes and 12 related outputs. Through the implementation of these outputs, a specific objective is expected to be achieved to contribute to the accomplishment of a global environmental objective and a development objective. The intervention logic is explained in Figure 2.

87. To do the above, the project design rightly considered that joint actions would raise the likelihood of success and impact of the initiative, besides promoting dialogues and participatory approaches at the outset, encouraged cross sectoral coordination with public and non-public institutions, which are participating in the process of implementation as given below:

a) Executing partners and co-executing partners:

FAO: The main UN agency responsible for supervision and provision of technical guidance during the project implementation

b) Counterpart institutions:

88. Department of Fisheries under Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) is the lead Government agency of the project and other institutions include Department of Environment, Department of

Agricultural Extension, Disaster Management Department, Bangladesh Forest Department, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh Meteorological Department and Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services.

3. Theory of change

89. A theory of change (ToC) was not proposed in the ProDoc. Therefore, a ToC was reconstructed based on project objectives, outcomes, outputs and indicators as described in the ProDoc. In addition, the following table, modified from the result framework table (Appendix-1), was also used to develop ToC.

Table 1. Project objectives, outcomes, outputs and indicators used for constructing the ToC

Project Development Objective	Building climate change (CC) adaptive capacity of vulnerable fisheries and aquaculture communities in Bangladesh
Project Objective:	To build climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable fisheries and aquaculture communities in Bangladesh. Specifically, the project will (i) improve relevant national policies and strategies to facilitate climate resilient fisheries sector and development at all levels; (ii) institutionalize climate change induced disaster risk management (DRM) in local development plans and programmes, thus improving local climate change related governance; (iii) strengthen communities adaptive capacity, through adoption of climate resilient fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood technologies; and (vi)Promote results based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations.
Component 1:	Climate resilient fisheries sector through relevant national capacity development
Outcome 1:	Improved relevant national policies and strategies to facilitate climate resilient fisheries sector and development at all levels.
Outputs:	1.1: Climate induced risks and vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors at national level with special focus on gender and climate sensitive areas assessed 1.2: Recommendation to strengthen fishery national policies and strategies by incorporating climate smart fisheries and aquaculture adaptation to climate change formulated. 1.3 Capacity of DoF, BFRI and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture management and development strengthened.
Component 2:	Strengthening knowledge and awareness of fisheries and aquaculture dependent communities facing the adverse impacts of climate change

Outcome 2:	Local community organizations have institutionalized disaster risk management (DRM) in their local development plans and programmes, thus improving local climate change related governance.
Outputs:	2.1: Community perceptions, risks and vulnerability of fisheries, aquaculture, and livelihoods to the adverse impacts of climate change including knowledge gaps of men and women with participation of relevant stakeholders and DoF field officials at project sites assessed 2.2: Communities' awareness and capacity to understand, assess, plan and implement fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood adaptations to climate change risks enhanced.
Component 3:	Enhancing local adaptive capacity to support climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture management and alternative livelihoods in the face of climate change
Outcome 3:	Communities with strengthened adaptive capacity, maximize their incomes and access to nutrition through adoption of CC resilient fisheries and aquaculture technologies and management systems in targeted areas.
Outputs:	3.1: Site specific climate resilient and gender differentiated fisheries and aquaculture technologies (e.g. fisheries information platform, innovative aquaculture systems, brood banks and satellite hatcheries, salt tolerant fish strains etc.) for the target communities developed and adopted. 3.2: Community-led and gender differentiated dissemination systems (e.g. pilot farms or Farmer Field Schools) of adaptation technologies developed and adopted. 3.3: Innovative local environmental monitoring and information tools for the communities to obtain and exchange information to improve resiliency and increase production in the fisheries and aquaculture systems developed and implemented. 3.4: Manuals on climate resilient and gender differentiated fisheries, aquaculture and livelihoods technologies developed and adopted by the communities, DoF and other relevant GO and NGO entities.
Component 4:	Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, monitoring and evaluation
Outcome 4:	Project implementation through results-based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated.
Outputs:	4.1: Lessons learned and best practices from the use of different climate change resilient fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood technologies or

	approaches to the relevant stakeholders and a wider audience documented and communicated. 4.2: Project monitoring system providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets developed. 4.3: Mid-term and final evaluation conducted.

90. The ProDoc did not describe all the tools, technologies and impact generating activities to be used to achieve project objectives. The MTR team has 'extracted' them from the ProDoc so that they become 'visible' accelerating 'actions'. In addition, short and long-term impacts were identified against project outputs, useful as drivers for achieving immediate and long-term goals. A number of 'lenses' were identified to addresses inter-disciplinary and cross-cutting issues.

Causal Pathway

91. The ProDoc divided the project into four components. Component-1 is aimed at improving relevant national policies and strategies to facilitate climate resilient fisheries sector and development at all levels. This component is devised to develop comprehensive fisheries and aquaculture adaptation programs with clear incorporation of CC issues in fisheries policies, strategies and action plans and make them operational. It is expected that policy reform processes, in support of climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture, continue to receive government support at the highest level. Component-2 is aimed at working with local community organizations to institutionalize disaster risk management (DRM) in their local development plans and programs, thus improving local CC related governance. It is expected that activities under component-2 would allow the communities to better understand emerging CC implications and integrate DRM and Early Warning System (EWS) in their farming and livelihood plans and programs. Successes of activities under this component require participation from local governments and local communities, including women. Component-3 is aimed at empowering communities with strengthened adaptive capacity, maximized incomes and access to nutrition through adoption of CC resilient fisheries and aquaculture technologies and management systems in targeted areas. Successes of component-3 activities require incentives for local communities to adopt adaptation technologies through improvement in incomes and/or improved food security and nutrition. Component-4 is set to execute project implementation through result-based-management and application of project findings and lessons-learned in future operations facilitated. It is expected that DoF and other stakeholders support M&E processes, and are committed to continuous learning and exchange of knowledge on adaptation technologies.

92. Each project component has an outcome and a number of outputs. In the ToC, the four major outcomes and outputs were used without any change.

93. The MTR team has identified a number of tools, technologies and impact-generating activities described in the outputs and are used for construction of the ToC. It is expected that these tools and activities, identified against each output, will help devise appropriate methods for this MTR.

94. As mentioned earlier, there are four major outcomes against each of the four components in the ProDoc. In addition to these major outcomes, the ProDoc was consulted to find out a number of outcome indicators and (short-term) impacts against the tools, technologies and activities performed under each output. Identifying outcome indicators and impacts against defined outputs are important, because considering the current status of the project the MTR team will have to explore envisioned successes and how the programme goals, objectives, outcomes and outputs are better aligned and logically sequenced.

95. A 'long-term impact' section is added to the ToC, although a project in the mid-way does not have visible long-term impacts yet. However, the MTR team has identified that creating long-term impacts in the project locations and at national level are inherent 'capacity development' objective of this project. Although the 'long-term impacts' section will not necessarily be used for MTR, the team considered to making it 'visible' so that it might serve as 'guiding goal' for both the MTR team and project implementation team (during the rest of the project period).

96. The MTR team has identified a number of cross-cutting issues within the project that are inherent in some or all of the project components. These cross-cutting themes are set in the 'lenses' in the ToC. Setting these 'lenses' will remind the team of their presence in most/all components and so that they are addressed properly through the MTR process.

97. The project ToC developed by the MTR team not only guided the MTR process, but also would be helpful for the project team as a 'tracking and guiding' reference throughout project period. It would be worth noting here that the project is responsible for performing the activities mentioned in the project, and achieving the outputs and outcomes. While short-term and long-term impacts are dependent upon project activities and achieved outcomes and results, the MTR will assess the likelihood that these results would be realized.

98. For outcome-1, it is assumed that the policy reform processes in support of climate resilient F&A continue to receive government support at the highest level; for outcome-2, it is assumed that local governments and local communities, including women, are willing to participate; for outcome-3, it is assumed that local communities have incentives to adopt adaptation technologies through improvement in incomes and/or improved food security and nutrition; and for outcome-4, it is assumed that DoF and other stakeholders support M&E processes, and are committed to continuous learning and exchange of knowledge on adaptation technologies. The Diagram below (Figure 2), reconstructed as a theory-of-change (ToC) graphic provides an overview of the project objectives, outcomes, and outputs as presented in the narrative text of the ProDoc and the Results Framework in Annex I of the ProDoc. This ToC is used as the basis for the Mid-Term Review. Project tools, technologies and impact-generating activities were obtained from the project output descriptions. Likewise, outcomes and impacts were extracted from

descriptions of ProDoc sections. 'Lenses' are important issues of the project that cross-cut one-another.

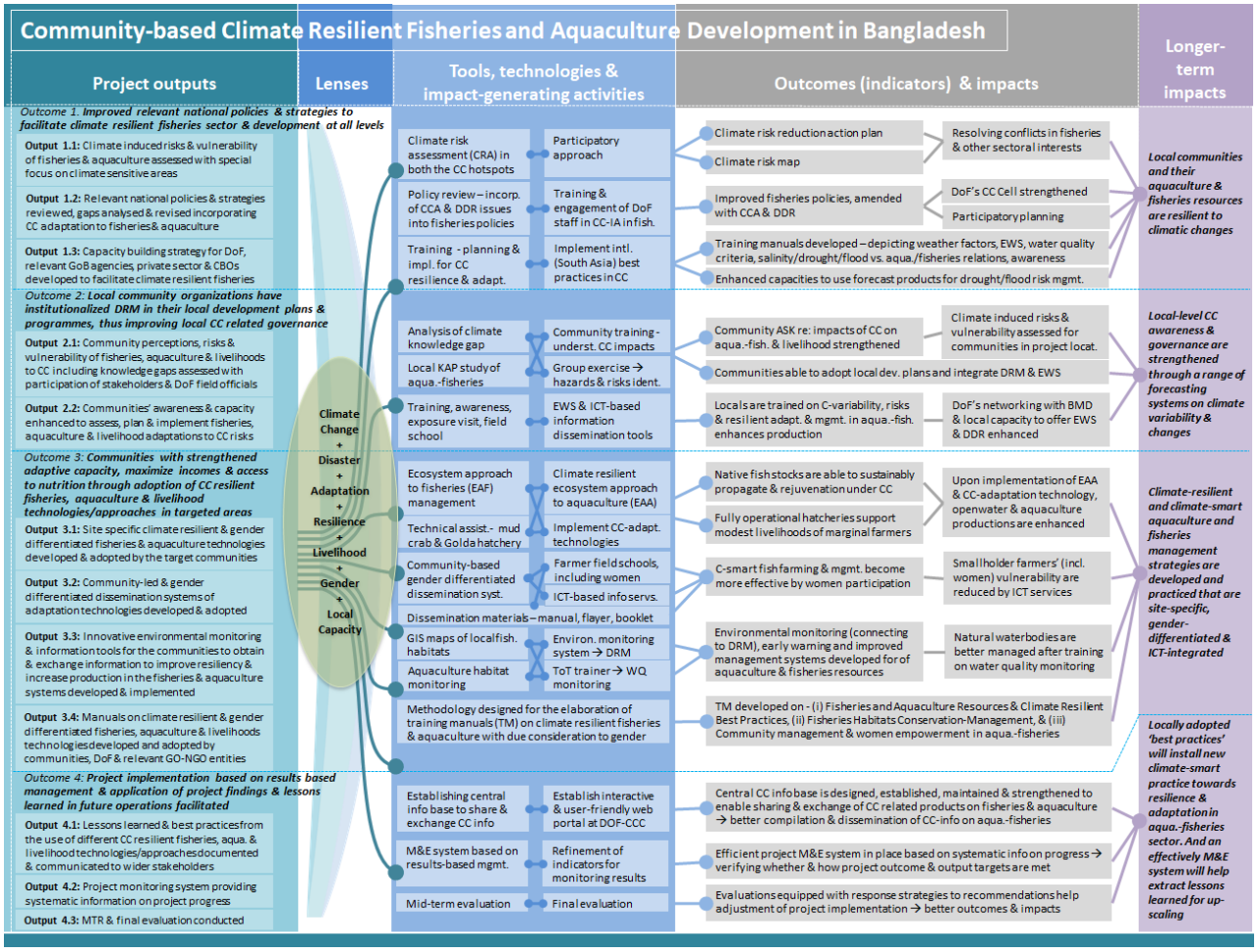

Figure 2: Project outputs, lenses tools, activities, outcomes and impacts in the reconstructed ToC

4. Key findings and MTR questions

4.1. Relevance

MTR question 1- Relevance:

Is the project relevant to the country, beneficiaries and donors? To what extent are project objectives relevant and suited to the priorities, policies and strategies of the executing and implementing agencies, donors, stakeholders and target groups?

Finding 1. The project is completely in line with national priorities and donor strategic priorities (GEF 5 focal area strategies,) and with the FAO Strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The relevance and importance of the project have been confirmed in interviews with the executing agencies.

Finding 2. The project activities designed are highly important for Bangladesh and are complementary with other interventions in the country. The project is highly relevant as the concept of climate change particularly the fisheries and aquaculture is new to Bangladesh and the relevance has not changed since formulation of the project.

99. The Bangladesh Country Investment Plan (CIP) that was endorsed in June 2010 as a living document emphasizes the development of sustainable responses to climate change impacts which through this project design is well attempted. The CIP comprises a "Country Investment Plan for Fisheries Resources Development (2010-2015)" that sets out three priority areas: i) improved management of inland and marine fisheries resources, ii) increased productivity for small-scale inland aquaculture and iii) coastal shrimp and freshwater prawn culture. The project interventions cut across all these three CIP priorities of the national fisheries sector development plan. The project is also in line with the CIP Progarmme-1 that focuses on "integrated research and extension to develop and propagate sustainable responses to climate change that emphasizes increased food productivity and increased resilience/adaptation to climate change including application of resilient farming systems".

100. The Seventh five-year plan (SFYP) of Bangladesh (2016-2020) recognized the impacts of climate change as a new threat to development and sets out some targeted activities to tackle climate change impacts. The SFYP explicitly mentioned that as benchmark experience in adaptation in the fisheries sector at country level is very limited, and targeted to conduct studies to generate relevant knowledge to launch climate smart fisheries sector development programmes. It recognizes the knowledge gap in mitigating climate change impacts. One of the appropriate actions suggested is to give special priority to anticipated Climate Change Impacts on all relevant matters, and adjust policies and plans which is being attempted at Component 1.

101. The Eighth five-year plan (EFYP) of Bangladesh (2020-2025), which have been set out in conformity with the Bangladesh perspective plan 2041 (PP2041) and the Bangladesh Delta Plan (BDP2100), has given due attention to fisheries production and biodiversity in the two project

locations in SW and NE. However, there are a number of new areas of attention in the EFYP (compared to the SFYP) some of which might be considered by the project for the rest of the project period to align with the plan. These are - establish and maintain fish and wetland sanctuaries with complete ban on fishing in these eco-sensitive areas of the haor and Sundarbans region, sustainable and community-based floodplain aquaculture in combination with maintaining sanctuaries, conservation of natural fish breeding, spawning, nursery and grow-out areas, development and implementation of fish conservation strategies, revision of fish acts and aligning them with SDG targets, implementation of NRCC (National River Conservation Commission) recommendations to conserve aquatic biodiversity, insurance schemes for fishers and farmers and management rights of waterbodies to be delegated to CBOs.

102. The project is also well aligned with the goals of: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction-II (NSAPR) - strategic goal 14 of the policy matrix-3 to increase productivity of the inland aquaculture and strategic goal 15 and 16 of policy matrix-3 to increase productivity of inland capture fishery and raising the incomes of poor fishers; Sixth Five Year Plan(2011–2015) and Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020) - to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty by developing relevant strategies, policies and institutions; National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2004; National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2011-2021 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project is also well aligned with the Government strategies. For instance the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) promotes use of climate information and climate adaptation of fisheries sector; the Mujib Climate Plan seek to enhance climate resilience of all economic sectors and the Eighth 5 Year Development plan has highlighted fisheries as one of the main pillars of economic development.

103. The LDCF financed project is aligned with the main development strategies and rural development programmes of Bangladesh. United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Bangladesh was updated for the period 2017–2021. The project is well aligned with Outcome 2.2.2. Sustainable and Resilient Environment, which attempts to balance ecological, environmental and sustainable imperatives, including the threat posed by climate change to populations vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. It is also adequately aligned with the FAOs country Planning document. Strategies to achieve these results focus on: system strengthening and capacity development, while supporting community-based approaches, better coordination of UN programmes and those of other development partners to mainstream environmental issues.

104. The Project is in alignment with the "Revised Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF October 20102. This concept corresponds to the results-based management focal area framework objectives 1 - CCA Objective 1: Reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level, CCA Objective 2: Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level and to CCA Objective 3: Promote transfer and adoption of adaptation technology.

[2] (GEF/LDCF.SCCF.9/4/Rev.1).

105. As water resources are ranked as the most vulnerable in terms of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity in Bangladesh National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) 2009, according to MTRs assessment, by implementing the activities under its four components and sub-components, the project will be contributing to realizing the objectives of national plans for climate change adaptation in the two vulnerable intervention areas identified by the NAPA, 2009 and the BCCSAP, 2009. The Project builds on experiences and lessons learned from other development projects on fisheries and aquaculture in these two priority areas on how to enhance resilience and reduce the vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture. The MTR recommends to consult with NAP 2022s Draft on Fisheries and Aquaculture "Adaptation Priorities for Combating Adversities of Climate Change".

106. Hence, as per the assessment of MTR all the activities planned and implemented under this project is likely to support sustainable growth in fish and shrimp production with other aquatic resources both for domestic consumption and exports, and management of inland fisheries resources through community participation (community-based approach - CbA) and ecosystem-based approach - EbA) leading to equitable distribution of the benefits generated, for optimal economic and social growth.

4.2. Effectiveness

MTR question 2 – Effectiveness

To what extent the project has delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives at the mid-term point?

Finding 3. The outputs and outcomes of the project could be achieved only to a small extent at the mid-term point. The main reasons are delayed approval of TAPP which was approved only in September 2020, without which the executing agencies could not start the project activities at the field level, which they were to coordinate with an LOA. The appointment of a full time PD from MoFL happened only in October 2020. Further lock down due to the COVID 19 pandemic created situation slowed down the implementation of project activities. However, as the COVID situation is easing up and as indicated below if the pace of the project implementation is increased the project is moderately likely to achieve its objectives.

Finding 4. Important activities achieved are revision of national policy on fisheries, capacity building tools particularly the training manual on climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture has been developed and used. CBOs have been selected and piloting activities have been identified. Work is progressing on EWS through BWDB, however it has to be initiated through an LOA which has to be quickly done between FAO and BWDB. CRVA is progressing well which is being done by CEGIS.

Finding 5. At the time of MTR 40% of the CBOs have been formed in the two project locations, the NE – Haor region and SW – Coastal region. MTR assessed that the CBOs composition reflects diversity and gender inclusiveness. MTR observed that the CBO members are well aware and informed about the project. Some activities under different outputs have been started, performed partly or on-going. These are as follows: climate risk vulnerability assessment (CRVA) of fisheries & aquaculture (F&A) sub-sectors

at national level assessed with special focus on gender and climate sensitive areas (output 1.1); relevant national policies and strategies are being reviewed and gaps analysed for incorporating climate smart F&A adaptation to CC needs (output 1.2); community training for building their understanding of CC impacts and vulnerabilities to F&A including their livelihoods (output 2.2);and some inputs (fish feed, cash to support) for fish culture are being provided to CBO members but although most of the site specific activities for climate resilient and gender differentiated F&A technologies development are yet to start. (output 3.1.).

In addition to CRVA of F&A sector, CEGIS is working for application of CC information for developing climate resilience action plans (CRAPs) and suggestions for collaborative early warning system (EWS) to strengthen DRM in the SW and NE of Bangladesh. Under this output (1.1), report on methodological framework has already been submitted by CEGIS and the national CRVA report will be submitted by March 2022. Considering the progress of works by CEGIS, it is expected that they will be able to submit detailed CRVA reports of all the 9 Upazilas and review reports on gaps and designs of EWS (incorporate with ICT and environmental monitoring) by June 2022 and final report by September 2022. This was assured by CEGIS during virtual meeting. Under output 1.2, a draft report on 'Review of Fisheries Policy and Strategy' has been submitted to the project in October 2021. This report attempted to review the current 'National Fisheries Policy 1998' and 'National Fisheries Strategy 2006' from the climate change and gender lens. Nevertheless MTR assessed that many activities planned during the period under this MTR are yet to be implemented. Although the MTR team did not find any shortcoming in the logic of the project, it is too early to make an assessment on the likelihood impact on the outcome of the project, due to delay in the implementation of the activities. Nevertheless it is recommended that the pace on the implementation of activities at ground level should be increased with better coordination between DoF and FAO and by appointing Field Facilitators to catalyse the activity implementation.

107. Important activities achieved until MTR are review of national fisheries policy (1996) from the perspectives of climate change and gender mainstreaming, capacity building tools particularly the training manual on climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture has been developed and used. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been selected and piloting activities have been identified. Work is progressing on developing Early Warning System (EWS) in consultation with DOF and BWDB. However it has to be initiated through an LOA which has to be quickly done. Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) undertaken in collaboration with CEGIS is progressing.

108. As described above the project has achieved and made progress at output level though partially under all outputs. Given the circumstances the project faced, the project has achieved the targets to a moderately satisfactory extent. The MTR also noted that the management has tried to make use of the time available during COVID by developing the Training Manual, initiated and started the work on CRVAs with CEGIS and conducted virtual trainings.

109. Work on other activities could start to a smaller extent particularly on identification of pilot activities and constitution of CBOs and training and capacity building under Outcome 2 with the appointment of field coordinators, gender expert, communication expert and training coordinator.

110. The MTR which focused on the activities that were completed so far as given in the below Table , realizes that the project to a large extent has undertaken all the preparatory activities on awareness generation, trainings on climate change impacts and capacity building to undertake climate resilient activities. Constitution of CBOs and the pilot activities to be undertaken by each CBO depending on the location and interest of the CBOs suggests the inbuilt sustainability of these activities under Outcome.

Table 2. List of activities completed and ongoing and the likelihood of achieving the outcomes as observed and reviewed by MTR Team

Results chain	Indicators	Progress to date	Percentage achieved	Likelihood of achieving the outcomes
Outcome 1: Improved relevant national policies and strategies and capacity to facilitate climate resilient fisheries sector and development at all levels.	National policy and strategies for fisheries and aquaculture sector strengthened.	The draft review report on national fisheries policy and fisheries strategy – on mainstreaming of CC and gender shared with DoF.	80 %	Highly Likely
	Capacities to address climate change in the fisheries and aquaculture sector strengthened.	Capacity needs assessment underway- zero draft expected in May 2022	40%	
	National assessment of climate vulnerability and CC risks to fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors.	National assessment almost finalised	80%	
	Training manual on Climate forecast application, DRM, CC mitigation & adaptation and EWS in fisheries & aquaculture for local communities.	Working draft finalised	80%	
	Number of stakeholder groups trained (DOF) on CC resilient fisheries and aquaculture.	DoF staff trained in CC & F&A resilience and adaptation	40%	
	Foreign training on CC &CC best practices, mud-crab hatchery management	Being planned now	-	
Outcome 2: Local community organizations have	Risk and vulnerability assessments conducted and updated at project sites (additional to national level).	Assessment is ongoing	20%	Moderately Likely

institutionalized disaster risk management (DRM) in their local development plans and programmes, thus improving local CC related governance.	Number of fishers and fish farmer's communities with DRM and EWS mechanisms in place in SW and NE climate sensitive areas.	Review of EWS is ongoing. Development of Flood advisories in F&A planned for April	10%	
Outcome 3: Communities with strengthened adaptive capacity, maximize their incomes and access to nutrition through adoption of CC resilient fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood technologies / approaches in targeted areas.	Number of communities trained on climatic variability and climate change risks to F&A	1075 household trained	25%	Moderately Likely
	CC community management plans	Next step after CRVA analysis in selected Upazila	-	
	Number of communities adopting climate smart technologies, disaggregated by gender.	45 CBOs out of 100 selected. 25 CBOs to start piloting in April	-	
	Feasibility report of mud crab (Scylla serrata) hatchery efficiency improvement.	Practical and on job training on going at DoF hatchery	80%	
	Community led gender differentiated dissemination systems (Farmers Field Schools on fisheries and aquaculture and pilot farms established)	Linked to start of pilot activities – whose sites will turn into FFS	-	
	Integration of environmental monitoring into EWS	Linked to start of pilot activities – where farmers will participate in environmental monitoring	-	
	Manual development on Women Empowerment in Fisheries and Aquaculture	Process of development underway	-	
	Manual development on F&A best practices	Draft modules developed	60%	
Outcome 4:	Project database	Under development	-	

Project implementation based on results based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated.				Moderately Likely
	Webinars and workshop to share lessons	Many undertaken and ongoing	-	
	Mid-term & final evaluation reports.	Ongoing	90%	

111. The project has made sound progress under the Project Outcomes as described: Under Outcome 1, review of the existing National Fisheries Policy (1998) and National Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (2006) was undertaken to identify the gaps and provide suggestions on how to mainstream climate change issues and gender aspects. The preliminary review has been presented and discussed among FAO and DoF. The Government is expecting further support from FAO on reviewing the National Fisheries Policy. Though it is not within the scope of the project the MTR recommends that DoF may submit a request to FAO to develop a TCP to undertake this policy revision which will support the sustainability of project outcomes. The Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) at national level is ongoing, which is being undertaken by the Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in close collaboration with the DoF. The assessment among others will guide the development of community management plans and also review of and strengthening of existing community Early Warning Systems (EWS) to incorporate fisheries and aquaculture aspects. As per the MTR assessment the report will be completed by July 2022.

112. Under Outcome 1, as Fisheries and Aquaculture policies are old, the draft review report on National policy on fisheries is submitted by the project to DoF for feedback and clearance. MTR rates this as a good progress and achievement. Capacity needs assessment tools were developed to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture sector in facing climate change risks to these sectors. MTR rates this as moderate achievement. Draft of the Training manual on Climate forecast application, DRM, CC mitigation and adaptation and EWS in fisheries and aquaculture for local communities developed. MTR rates this as good progress.

113. Under Outcome 2 Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment of fisheries and aquaculture sector is ongoing and discussions with CEGIS indicate that the CRVA assessment is likely to be completed by September 2022. As the CRVAs are the basis for developing Community Climate Resilient Development Plans it is recommended to ensure the timely completion of CRVAs. Review of EWS is ongoing and the LOA between FAO and BWDB is finalized and completed to meet the

deadlines. MTR observes that the LOA could have already been done and recommends an immediate action on this.

114. Under Outcome 3 MTR assessed that nearly 1045 households have been selected as beneficiaries for adoption of climate resilient practices in fisheries and aquaculture sector. Although it was observed that CBOs have been selected for the same, piloting of activities are yet to start. These activities are very essential, as according to the review of reports there is limited knowledge, awareness and availability of potential technologies and approaches in this sector. MTR recommends that piloting of activities should be initiated immediately to complete the project activities by the proposed extended project period. MTR reviewed the Training manual on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture that includes climate change impacts, risks, vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk management, application of climate forecast, environmental monitoring and early warning, resilience plan, policy framework and institutional arrangement and considers it as a good achievement. During the discussions MTR observed that this training manual has been used in trainings and also revising the same by including the feedback community traditional knowledge of people of Juri village on flood seasons.

115. The project in collaboration with DoF has developed tools for Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) which will address the DoF and other partners, and the community members in climate change adaptation and mitigation programming, planning and implementation. The CNA activity is ongoing and the report is likely to be completed by May 2022. This is a good achievement. Under this same Outcome 1 ,a working training manual on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture including an overview of climate change impact, risk, vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk management, application of climate forecast, environmental monitoring and early warning, resilience plan, policy framework and institutional arrangement has been developed in consultation with DoF and other stakeholders. The MTR assessment is these tools are likely to enhance the awareness of the community and other stakeholders particularly the field level officials of DoF in implementing the project activities with better clarity on CC concepts. MTR also observes that the enhanced understanding of stakeholders on CC concepts will ensure sustainability of project interventions and outcomes.

116. The interviewees particularly the FAO staff informed that this working manual which is being refined including the community knowledge on climate change is being used for training Government officials and community members. So far the project has trained 60 Government officials and 1045 households in climate change impact on fisheries, adaptation options and disaster risk management.

117. Under Outcome 2 the project has achieved the following outputs which are linked to the outputs under Outcome 1 on Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment of Fisheries and Aquaculture sector, which however are at lower tier level i.e. more detailed and participatory and at community level. As per the discussions with FAO, DoF, CEGIS and BWDB the existing EWS system will be enhanced to meet the requirements of project sites and the project beneficiaries of North East

Haor region and South West Coastal region. The required LoAs have to be signed between FAO and BWDB including the time frame to cover two seasons as required for the study.

118. The MTR assessed that appropriate pilot interventions are selected for different project sites which are being implemented by respective CBO selected for the intervention. This has endorsement of the UCC which ensures the sustainability of the piloting activity. Under this Outcome 3 the project is working with 43 CBOs of 25 members each. During the field visit the MTR assessed that preparatory work has been completed for starting a few pilot activities by the Project.

Key factors influencing results

119. A number of administrative delays (e.g., delayed TAPP approval, late appointment of PD) were identified to be some of the primary reasons preventing project activities to start timely. Although project implementation officially started on 10 March 2019 (after signing of agreement by ERD), the TAPP (that guides implementation of the project from government side) was approved in September 2020 and a PD was appointed in October 2020, resulting in 19 months of delay in starting effective project implementation and influencing the accomplishment of results in time.

120. As indicated already in the report, COVID 19 pandemic has been one of the most important factors that have affected most of the activities of the project on the ground. Strict lockdown conditions and travel restrictions during the pandemic hampered start of many of the project activities at ground level.

121. Insufficient administrative support, with regard to number and time of staff delegated to the project, from the government (DoF-MoFL) has been identified as another factor influencing results. The MoFL appointed PD is only on part-time; however, given the volume of work this project requires a full-time PD and a DPD for effective implantation of project activities in collaboration with FAO.

Likelihood of impacts

122. To date, a few works have been done under different outputs of the project. However, based on the constructed theory of change (ToC) and project activities performed/executed so far, the MTR team assesses that the project will make substantive impacts towards community-based climate resilient F&A development in the two project locations. The constructed ToC has identified a number of tools and impact generating activities against outputs. Proper execution and application of these activities/tools are expected to give outcomes and produce a number of short- and long-term impacts. Successes of these 'tools-activities-impacts' of the interlinked components are dependent upon a number of drivers like – harmonization between organizations, coordinated actions, modifications/inclusions/exclusions of project components according to fit with current needs, etc. Getting sufficient time for performing impactful actions is also one of the important drivers.

4.3 Efficiency

MTR question 3 – Efficiency:

To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? Has management been able to adapt to any changes and conditions and improve the efficiency of project implementation?

Finding 6. The project is well behind schedule and it is not possible to implement all the project activities satisfactorily by the project end date of March 2023. Due to the COVID lockdowns and delayed approval of TAPP and delayed appointment of PD only a few activities described already were implemented. Currently the implementation of project activities has been intensified as there are no lockdown restrictions and all the staff are on board and can move to field without much restrictions.

*Finding*7. As few activities have been implemented and partial outputs have been achieved, with no outcomes having been achieved, it is difficult to assess cost effectiveness.

123. As mentioned above under 4.2 – Efficiency, only partial outputs and outcomes have been achieved, and only some activities have been implemented. The main reason attributed for non-achievements of activities as planned is the COVID 19 pandemic created situation; and the associated movement restrictions due to lockdowns in the country which prohibited the field work. And also the delay in internal governmental approval of the Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP). The executive bodies particularly the DoF could not proceed with implementation of activities that the DoF was expected to coordinate until the TAPP could be approved. There was delay in appointing the Project Director from MoFL side.

124. Additionally it was mentioned by interviewees that staff of ministries and departments had to work from home and it was difficult to organize physical meetings. As a result of this, the project went well behind the timeline, and hence, the outputs and outcomes cannot be achieved by the project end date March 2023.

125. However, the management has tried to avert the delayed project implementation by undertaking activities namely Development of Training Manual, Started work on CRVAs with CEGIS and Virtual trainings that could be conducted despite the lockdown.

126. At present the TAPP is in place and further LOAs have also been developed and the PD is also on board, however not contributing full time to the project. All the project staff are on board, though recruited at different times which will help to achieve the outputs and outcomes. As a few activities have been implemented, and only partial outputs under Components 1 and 2 and no outcomes have been achieved, it is difficult to assess the cost-effectiveness. However, as the piloting villages are far and wide frequent visits to monitor and provide necessary technical support may escalate costs though project staff are placed nearby to the field villages.

127. The project activities are in alignment with FAO and DoF regular on-going work like livelihood enhancement activities namely developing fish sanctuaries and therefore the project is building upon the existing institutions and agreements. Like the DoF already has an agreement with BWDB on EWS but the scope is limited, which this project is increasing through additional data collection points for effective EWS. Nevertheless, it is too early to say how far these synergies will help to increase the project efficiency and effectiveness.

4.4. Sustainability

MTR question 4 – Sustainability:

To what extent are there financial, institutional and governance, and social and or environmental risks to sustain project results in the long term?

Finding 8. As project activities have started very recently, it is difficult at this point to assess all sustainability aspects for the MTR report. However the MTR is in agreement with the chapter described in ProDoc on Sustainability of Results which includes social, environmental, financial and economic sustainability and sustainability of capacities developed and modalities for innovation, replication and scaling up of project activities.

Finding 9. The Environmental sustainability as per the ProDoc is ensured through positive impacts of the introduced adaptation technologies and approaches on a wide range of ecosystem services at demonstration areas, and in the long term on larger areas through upscaling of best practices, which it is too early to say as several piloting activities are being grounded.

Finding 10. The MTR assessed that the financial sustainability is ensured through mainstreaming best practices into sectoral policies related to fisheries and aquaculture, environment and DRR, and integration of adaptation priorities and frameworks into sector budgets.

Finding 11. With regard to institutional sustainability, that were already established like CBOs and UCCs. The MTR observed and as expressed by interviewees the executing partners particularly the DoF staff need technical support from FAO as the concepts of climate change and climate resilience in F&A are new to them. Expectedly, the capacity development trainings organized for the government agencies and other stakeholders will enhance the capacities of these organizations towards climate responsive F&A operations beyond the project tenure. In this regard the MTR recommends that the trainings planned including the overseas training should be completed within 2022. Staff of DoF and FAO and other institutions met with indicated that there is a need for sustaining and using the capacity built and the institutional mechanisms established under this project even after the project ends. This can be achieved by developing a well-defined exit plan by the project where DoF should play a central role. It should also be noted that departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability due to regular changes in staff, and other priorities in their work. As described already the MTR recommends that process documentation is undertaken to support replicability of project interventions.

128. The MTR looked at financial, social, institutional, governance and environmental sustainability. As there is considerable delay in starting the project and implementing the activities and thus far only few activities and partial outputs have been achieved the above issues are yet to receive the serious attention of the project, which the MTR recommends that there is a need for close monitoring during the rest of the project period.

129. The MTR has observed and assessed that the financial sustainability is ensured through mainstreaming best practices into sectoral policies related to fisheries and aquaculture, environment and DRR, and integration of adaptation priorities and frameworks into sector budgets. At the local level, adaptation technologies will be promoted that give local fishermen and fish-farmers and aquaculture communities financial and economic incentives to adopt them, i.e. adaptation technologies are expected to generate economic benefits to the communities in the short as well as in the longer term in order to be considered sustainable.

130. The social sustainability was described in the ProDoc wherein at initial stages wide range of discussions were held with all stakeholders including the community. A participatory approach is also planned to be used during project implementation which promotes, stakeholder ownership and sustainability of project interventions beyond the project life.

131. As few project activities have been implemented till the MTR time, the MTR team cannot fully assess the social risks to sustainability, which includes the government agency, institutional and other stakeholder ownership, awareness and support provided to project execution. It is clear from the field assessment that though the CBOs are clear about the project activities, a few CBOs are not aware of the Farmer Field Schools. However, all the stakeholders met with and interviewed both in groups and individually including FAO and DoF staff stated that the project activities are very relevant and important as the climate change and climate resilience aspects are new concepts being tried under this project in Bangladesh. As the project is gaining momentum and piloting of activities have started, MTR recommends that FAO need to ensure that the supervision and consultation mechanisms are fully operational, so that all the stakeholders are adequately involved in the project implementation.

132. The MTR also assessed the risks identified in the ProDoc. The MTR did not find any major socio-political risks that would influence the sustainability. However, ProDoc mentioned no social risks, and as the project has implemented few activities, the MTR team is unable to assess the socio-political risks to sustainability. Under institutional and governance risks interviewees indicated that the stakeholders need technical and coordination support to implement the activities and their capacity needs to be increased. If these are met with and the built up capacity is sustained, the institutional sustainability will be increased.

133. The ProDoc identifies a number of piloting activities which are likely to have significant scale up potential provided that the project outcomes are achieved. However, it is too early to assess the changes in behaviour and practice that the project has supported or brought in to catalyse, as partial outputs are achieved. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Innovation, Replication and Scaling up in which replication aspects are described. MTR recommends that an exit strategy is

developed at least three months before the project end which will include responsibilities and financial provisions to support the replication of successfully piloted activities.

134. The CBOs formed and piloting activities to be undertaken have a great potential to sustain beyond the project period. However, the success depends on – intensity of extension-dissemination actions (for piloting activities) and on the willingness of DoF to support CBOs after the project ends.

135. Government of Bangladesh through its Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CMDP-II), has taken up initiative to establish a Climate Change Cell (CCC) at DoF. However, formation of a cell in the DoF does not guarantee outcomes in the long run unless such structure is recognized in the strategy and receives continuous support. Therefore, the MTR team recommends that the project takes 'CCC strengthening' as one of the key activities for rest of the project period.

136. However, the sustainability also depends on whether the proposed piloting activities of the project are climate resilient or counterproductive. The MTR assessed the project piloting activities as given in the Table 7 in ProDoc whether these are climate resilient or counterproductive and the MTRs observations and recommendations are given in the below Table.

Table 4. Piloting Activities of the Project whether climate resilient or counter-productive (source: Table-7 in the ProDoc)

Piloting Activity	Nos. of groups	Possible areas	Remarks	Climate-resilient (C-Res) or Counter-productive (C-Pro)
Depth flexible Cage fish culture	5	Kachua, Shyamnagar, South Sunamganj, Jagannathpur, Nasirnagar	Depth flexible *Cage* (easily adapted to different water depths and flooding) *fish culture* (with salinity tolerant seabass, mugil, mullets, nona tengra, etc. or with mono-sex tilapia and major carps) at best stocking density, combination and ratio and management regimes – ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) management. This can be tried both by the fishers of open water capture fishery and the shrimp/prawn/white fish aquaculturists. BFRI and some private entrepreneurs (viz. the Dakatia river cage culture, Chandpur and the Meghna/ Dhawleshwari river cage culture in Araihazar, Narayanganj and in hilly creeks of Rangamati), are successfully operating cage cultures. MTR recommends that best practices from there can easily be piloted during May-November period.	**[C-Res]**
Pen fish culture	6	Dumuria-Dacope (1), Bagerhat sadar-Kachua (1), Shyamnagar, South Sunamganj, Jagannathpur and Nasirnagar	*Pen fish culture* (with salinity tolerant seabass, mugil, mullets, nona tengra, etc. in the SW or major carps and SISs in the NE; at best stocking density, combination and ratio and management regimes) in sheltered river, khal, oxbow after developing risk maps to decide on the proper location of the pens (to make them more resilient) – an ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) management. This can be tried both by the fishers of open water capture fishery and the shrimp/prawn/white fish aquaculturists.	[**C-Pro**] Might become counterproductive with respect to aquatic biodiversity. In the beginning of a pen culture in a sheltered corner of water (which is usually deeper part of the waterbody), wild entry of

			BFRI and some private entrepreneurs have successfully demonstrated pen culture in borrow pits in Chandpur Irrigation Project and in hilly creeks of Rangamati; BFRI has tested the technology.	fish is allowed. Since it is the deeper part of the waterbody, fishes of different life stages already use this part as a refuge. After the end of pen culture period, all the fish in the pen (big to small) are harvested. This will have negative impacts on biodiversity.
Kua fish culture	5	South Sunamganj (2), Jagannathpur (2) and Nasirnagar (1)	*Kua fish culture* (with major carps and SISs at best stocking density, combination and ratio and management regimes) in selected haors/beels – EAA management. Both the fishers of open water capture fishery and the shrimp/prawn/white fish aquaculturists can try this. Kua fish culture is traditionally practiced in haor regions, needs little improvement. Best practices and lessons learned from there can easily be piloted in the flooded haors during May-November period.	Be carefully done, so that it does not hamper local biodiversity
Pond fish culture	8	Dumuria, Dacope, Bagerhat sadar, Kachua, Shyamnagar, South Sunamganj,	*Polyculture of white fish* in deeper, more CC resilient ponds (greater buffer to temperature changes and to flooding, also using best stocking density, combination and ratio and management regimes) by small-scale fish farmers having suitable water areas.	**[C-Res]**

		Jagannathpur and Nasirnagar	Collaboration will be sought with other agencies (base line co-funding) for excavation work to maintain needed water depth.	
Bagda SI culture	6	Dacope (2), Bagerhat Sadar, Kachua and Shyamnagar (2)	*Bagda* monoculture (semi-intensive) 2 crops/yr., and *mud crab fattening* (an innovative salinity resistant combination, also using best stocking density and management regime) in separate ponds within the bagda gher/ cages/ plastic pots or in sheltered areas of rivers/khals (15-20 days cycle for each crop) in suitable high saline regime areas. This is also a type of EAA management. This can be tried both by the fishers of open water capture fishery and the shrimp/ prawn/ white fish aquaculturists. Collaboration will be sought with other agencies (base line co-funding) for excavation work to maintain needed water depth.	Crab fattening is **C-Pro** since mud/mangrove crabs for fattening are harvested from Sundarbans/ surrounding waters. It might be allowed only if mud crab hatchery and nursery are established (making it C- Res) and crabs are not over-sourced from natural waters.
			In some cases mixed SI culture of *bagda-golda-tilapia-pangas* would be tried in the same *gher* in the pilot areas.	
			In other cases alternate *bagda-golda-tilapia, mugils, seabass, nona tengra, pershe, etc.** SI culture (high salinity time, winter) and *Integrated* (salt tolerant or Locally Improved Variety or as per DAE) *and concurrent paddy-cum-FW prawn+ white fish* farming (in monsoon FW time) would be tried in the same *gher*.	
Bagda + Rice -Fish culture	5	Dacope, Bagerhat sadar, Kachua and Shyamnagar (2)	Alternate *bagda-golda-tilapia, mugils, seabass, nona tengra, pershe, etc.*Semi-intensive (SI) monoculture (high salinity time, winter) and *Integrated* (slat tolerant or Locally Improved Variety or as per DAE) *and concurrent paddy-cum-FW prawn+ white fish*	**C-Res**

			farming (in monsoon FW time) in the same *gher* – ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA)management. Collaboration will be sought with other agencies (base line co-funding) for excavation work to maintain needed water depth.	
Golda + Rice Fish culture	6	Dumuria, Bagerhat Sadar, Kachua, South Sunamganj, Jagannathpur and Nasirnagar	Alternate rice in winter and Integrated and concurrent integrated paddy-cum-FW prawn+ white fish farming (in monsoon) in the same field –EAA management. Collaboration will be sought with other agencies (base line co-funding) for excavation work to maintain needed water depth.	**C-Res**
Mud crab fattening alone	2	Dacope, Shyamnagar	Mangrove crabs, a wide range salinity adapted species, fetch a good price per kilo, and a strong export market exists. It can be done profitably with small amounts of space and also has the potential to work well for women. This is also a type of EAA management. At present mud crabs are collected directly from Sundarbans and shrimp farms, and there is huge demand for crablets to stock crab fattening farms. The dependence on collection of larvae from the wild is, however, unsustainable in the long term. Hatchery establishment is essential. Collaboration will be sought with other agencies (base line co-funding) for excavation work to maintain needed water depth.	**C-Pro**
			In some cases concurrent *mud crab fattening* with *mugils, seabass, nona tengra, pershe, etc.* (high salinity time, winter) and alternate mixed culture of *tilapia, pangas, mugils, seabass, nona tengra, pershe* (in monsoon) in the same *gher* for increasing farm income.	

Fish Sanctuary	6	Bagerhat sadar - Kachua (1). Shyamnagar (1), South Sunamganj (1), Jagannathpur (1), Nasirnagar (1) and Agdar beel of Hakaluki haor (DoE managed fish sanctuary), Juri	Establishment of Fish sanctuary and habitat restoration with macrophyte plantation to protect fish stocks in reproductive season under variable water levels –ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) management. Collaboration will be sought with other agencies (base line co-funding) for excavation work to maintain needed water depth, linking river and khals for enhancing water exchange facilities and for reestablishment/ reopening of fish migration and dispersal routes so far lost/degraded. Collaboration will be developed with IFADs CALIP/HILIP project (base line co-funding) for excavation of haor linking river and khal (important/ dead sections) in the NE area for reestablishment/ reopening of fish migration and dispersal routes so far lost/ degraded. Similar collaboration in the SW area will be sought. Reopening of fish migration and dispersal routes would augment fish yield in the haors.	**C-Res**
Habitat restoration	Same 6 groups			**C-Res**
Open water fish stocking	6	Bagerhat sadar - Kachua (1). Shyamnagar (1), South Sunamganj (1), Jagannathpur (1), Nasirnagar (1) and Agdar beel of Hakaluki haor (DoE managed fish sanctuary), Juri	Open water fish stocking of small indigenous species (SIS) to allow alternative and improved fisheries under variable climatic conditions would be done through beel nursery management in those fish sanctuaries to improve the depleted fish stocks, as SIS would establish and breed in the next year –EAF management. Open water supplemental stocking of SISs (e.g. shar punti – *Puntius sarana*, Bata – *Labeo bata*, Ghonia – *L. gonia*, Meni – *Nandus nandus*, Foli – *Notopterus notopterus*, Chirka baim – *Mastacembelas armatus*, koi – *Anabas testudineus*, magur – *Clarias batrachus*, Shing – *Heteropneustes fossilis*, snakeheads,	**C-Res** (should avoid releasing exotic species)
Beel nursery management	Same 6 groups			**C-Res** (should avoid exotic species)

			etc.) along with major carps (rohu, katla, mrigel, kalibaush, etc.) through *beel nursery management system* would be piloted for rejuvenation of the depleted mother fish stocks. For this purpose 1-2 Fish Seed Multiplication Farms (FSMFs) of the DoF in the NE and the SW areas would be selected, minor renovation completed and functioning condition improved. Broods of SISs and mono-sex tilapia will be procured from the nearby areas, artificially bred there. Produced fingerlings will be transported in small trucks with steel tanks and aeration and stocked in the selected beel areas. Modalities and details will be elaborated later. Broods of other native SISs and larger species (Kholisha, Taki, Shoil, Gozar, Baila, Tengara, Aeir, Chital, etc.) will also be procured live and stocked live in the selected areas just before the 1st onset of monsoon, to allow them to breed in the open water. This would ensure quality fish seed both for aquaculture and open water stocking. These SISs would act as mother stock and breed in the next year and help rejuvenating the depleted stocks.	
Improve hatchery and Brood Banking	4	Dumuria-Dacope (1), Bagerhat-Kachua-Shyamnagar (1), South Sunamganj-Jagannathpur (1) and Nasirnagar (1)	Establishment of fish brood bank of major carps, golda, mono-sex tilapia, nona-tengra, pershe in suitable public/ private hatcheries for supporting enhanced aquaculture production. For this purpose minor renovation, functioning condition need to be improved, broods of major carps, golda, mono-sex tilapia, nona-tengra, pershe, and if possible, shar puti, bata, ghonia, nandus, koi, shing, magur and mono-sex tilapia will be procured from the nearby FSMSs, artificial breeding done there and fingerlings produced, transported in small trucks with steel tanks and	**C-Res**

			aeration, stocked in the fish sanctuaries. Modalities and details will be elaborated later on. Broods of other native SIS and larger species (Kholisha, Taki, Shoil, Gozar, Baila, Tengara, Aeir, Chital, etc.) will be procured live and stocked live in the selected sanctuaries just before 1st onset of monsoon, so that those can breed in the sanctuary. This would ensure quality fish seed both for aquaculture and open water stocking. The NIS/SIS would act as mother stock and breed in the next year and help rejuvenating the haors.	
Duck rearing	3	South Sunamgonj, Jagannathpur and Nasirnagar	To further increase the adaptive capacity of the said communities at intervention sites, additional livelihoods– including duck rearing or Nets and traps making will be developed and demonstrated. Through these diversified approaches dependency of the communities on fisheries and aquaculture will be reduced, thereby promoting conservation of the fishery ecosystems. These additional livelihood options were identified during the PPG phase through workshops and consultations with a wide range of national and local government officials and the community. *Nets, Traps making or Duckery* (as alternative and diversified livelihood options) in sheltered river, khal, oxbow. *Nets, Traps making or Duckery* (with local DLS assistance) would be tried only in cases where cage/Pen fish culture seems difficult. This can be tried both by the fishers of open water capture fishery and the prawn/white fish aquaculturists.	DOF has objections to duck rearing as an intervention. This came out during MTR team's meeting with the DG – DoF. However, MTR team does not find any problem with duck rearing since in the huge waterbody of Haor, it will not turn into a "duck- cum- fish culture".
Net making	8	Dumuria (1),Dacope (1), Bagerhat Sadar (1), Kachua (1), Shyamnagar (1), South Sunamgonj (1), Jagannathpur (1) and Nasirnagar (1)		[**C-Pro**] Net and trap making training in two natural aquatic biodiversity hotspots might enhance harvesting of undersized fish (these are fish breeding

				and nursery grounds too) and result in overfishing. However, if the nets/traps are maintained (e.g. mesh sizes) in a way to allow escape gap for juveniles, then net/trap making trainings can be carried out.
Technical support for feasibility study for a mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) hatchery establishment.		Munshiganj area of Shyamnagar Upazila.	Provide technical/technological support (field a short term International Consultant) to BFRI or FD project supported by GiZ or WorldFish/CREL Project for feasibility study, designing and producing an operational manual for a mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) hatchery establishment.	**C-Res**
Technical support for proper functioning of all existing govt. and private Golda hatcheries and make them fully operational and efficient.		Khulna-Bagerhat-Satkhira area	Provide technical support (field a short term International Consultant) for proper functioning of all existing govt. and private Golda hatcheries in the SW to make them fully operational and efficient. This would meet the demand of golda juveniles and boost golda production in the area.	**C-Res**
Organize fish/prawn seed dealer,		Dumuria, Dacope, Bagerhat, Kachua	Organize/ mobilize authorized prawn/shrimp PL and fish fry/fingerling dealer, and establishment of PL/fingerling markets	**C-Res**

establishment of fish/prawn seed market and ensure testing of PLs through PCR to get WSSV-free PLs.		and Shyamnagar area	in Bagerhat and Dacope and ensure testing of PLs through PCR to get WSSV-free PLs.	

137. The pilot activities designed generally have the potential for upscaling and replication. However, sustainability of such pilot activities should be ensured through discussions and agreements made between FAO, the executing partner and relevant stakeholders in this case the community and CBOs on the modalities of responsibilities of upscaling and replication and ownership after the project comes to an end. Interviewees expressed that the executing partners particularly the DoF staff need technical support from FAO as this climate change and climate resilience concept is new to them and for that the capacity development training are important for the government agencies and other stakeholder. Staff of DoF and FAO and other institutions met with indicated that there is a need for sustaining and using the capacity built and the institutional mechanisms established under this project even after the project ends. The UCC officials indicated that trainings and awareness programmes on climate change impacts and climate risks should be taught to them during the probationary period of their service by Government of Bangladesh, so that they can handle disaster mitigation actions efficiently. This should be considered and discussed in the PSC to recommend to the Government for appropriate action. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability due to regular transfers and other priorities of their work.

138. At ground level UCC role is more in ensuring sustainability of developed institutions and interventions of the project / piloted activities. The UCC informed that replication of successfully piloted activities will be taken care by the UCC. At present UCC is supporting by resolving any disputes or issues that arise at field level in identifying the beneficiaries and same support will be extended during piloting of the activities as all departments connected with fisheries and rural development are represented in the UCC. However, representation of Forest department should be ensured in the UCCs in Khulna region, as the presence of FD in the UCC Particularly in Dacope and Shyam Nagar will address certain issues related to mangrove resources being used by the beneficiaries of the project.

139. Long-term results depend upon the sustainability of project results and the institutions established under the project particularly at the field level and beneficiary level. There is a need for process documentation of piloting activities so that there will be institutional memory and the successive DoF staff or Upazila Coordination Committee can use it as a guide to continue the ongoing activities and replicate the same beyond the project tenure. It is therefore recommended that an exit strategy as given under Component 4 are prepared in time which should include factors pertaining to institutional and financial sustainability. This strategy should include roles and responsibilities of various partners involved, their expectations, responsibilities and ownership beyond the project tenure.

4.5. Factors affecting performance

Main question 5 – Factors affecting performance:

What are the main factors affecting the project in reaching its results, and how are they affecting the project's performance?

Project design and readiness:

Finding 12. The ProDoc was well designed and all the relevant stakeholders are adequately considered and included. The results framework (ProDoc appendix-1) and results-based work plan (ProDoc appendix-2) are clear, detailed and logical. Apart from output 1.1 and 1.2 under component-1, other components of the project have not yet started properly. The project is ready with the revised logframe and timeline as developed during the project inception workshop where the stakeholders of the project has contributed in this revision. Nevertheless, this framework may now be evaluated and redesigned upon discussions and agreements between FAO, DOF and other stakeholders. This can be helpful in bringing forward a few activities and pushing backward certain activities as per the current situation. This should also include revising the budget to meet the expenses during the extended period.

Quality of project execution and management arrangements:

Finding 13. The MTR assessed progress of project execution and its modality, including performances of project management and executing partner organizations involved with the project. Due to delayed TAPP approval and delayed PD appointment, an effective start of the project was delayed. And it was the peak of COVID-19 when the project kicked-off. As a result project execution, project management, engagement of different counterparts and stakeholders have not been fully functional. As a result, the extent of project execution and project management could not be assessed completely.

Nevertheless, even amidst COVID-19, project planning, inception workshop, appointment of project staff, experts and consultants have happened (around 80% of total staff) for a good number of activities. LoA between FAO-DOF and DOF-CEGIS have been signed and significant progresses have been made for component-1 assigned under these LOAs. The MTR team was notified that a third LOA will be signed soon with BWDB to work on Flash Flood Early Warning System (FFEWS) in F&A. During field visit (January 2022), the MTR team has observed good progresses with regard to 'preparation for action' at field level for e.g. CBO formation, site selection for piloting the activities. The MTR team has observed coordination gaps between FAO & DOF staff, which are also impacting results. This is mostly due to the delay in receiving securing clearance in time. There were reports on delayed fund release and 'more-than-expected' time required for approval of documents by government entities involved with the project. It is expected that converting the PD to full time and appointment of a DPD by MoFL will help speed-up project activities.

Project oversight , Implementation role by FAO and the GEF Agency

Finding 14. The FAO as specialized agency has provided all the necessary support and has provided oversight and necessary technical, administrative and operational backstopping wherever required right from project identification, formulation, approval and start-up and execution of the project. Particularly regarding oversight provided by FAO in project execution. This was assessed by MTR as the activities done so far through LOAs between FAO and DOF and with CEGIS the work are progressing well and oversight by these agencies appeared satisfactory. Additionally FAO project team was assessed and found to have provided required supervision, guidance and backstopping for a number of activities that have made significant progresses, a few of them are CRVA of F&A at national level assessed with special focus on gender and climate sensitive areas, revision of national fisheries policies incorporating adaptation to CC and developing training manual on climate forecast application, DRM, CC-mitigation & adaptation and EWS in F&A.

Financial Management and co-financing:

Finding 15. A summary of expense report per budget line and component was provided to the MTR team. As a few activities have been implemented, the expense on field and project activities is low and only expense spent are for professional salaries, national and international consultants. No co-finance of executing partners has been reported. This is due to the fact that all co-financing is in kind and expired before the commencement of the project. . As per the MTR assessment the budget utilization that is expenditure against initial approved component wise budget is moderately satisfactory.

Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement:

Finding 16. All the relevant stakeholders were identified at project design, including vulnerable groups. The stakeholders have been properly defined at the project design level which is still valid; an elaborated stakeholder analysis was prepared. Stakeholders interviewed are aware of the project and showed high commitment to the project and its results. Though PSC is functioning, meetings are to be conducted as per the schedule.

Communication, visibility, knowledge management and knowledge products:

Finding 17. Awareness raising activities through workshops have been conducted. A few knowledge products and communication material during the COVID were developed and distributed. As the project is gaining momentum communication and awareness material including a brochure on project should be developed. During the MTR field visit the noting pads provided by the project contained information on project in Bengali, which is a good step. However, it is too early assess the attitudes and behavioural change in the stakeholders and its influence on the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Finding 18 .The M&E at project design was of an adequate level. The ProDoc contains an M&E plan, indicating type of M&E Activity, Responsible Parties, Time Frame and budget. Reporting to GEF is done through the PIRs. The MTR team looked into the indicators, means of verification and data collection methods which are found to be adequate and valid. In fact these have been discussed during the inception workshop and validated. However, as very few activities were undertaken, the M&E activities were at a limited level. Given that the project has implemented limited activities, the M&E plan could not be fully implemented. As the piloting of activities have been started at field level, M&E specialist

who is recruited recently is expected to finalize the M&E framework and development of database. And all the gender mainstreaming activities will be considered during monitoring.

Preparation and readiness

140. The ProDoc was overall well designed but there was no TOC developed at ProDoc stage. The ToC constructed is given here in the MTR which is based on the outputs and outcomes as well as with narrative text, shows the causal logic between different elements and pathways. As detailed already in this report, all the relevant stakeholders were adequately considered at Project design. The Results Matrix which was revised at Project Inception workshop is overall clear and logical.

141. It is clear that there have been delays in starting the project activities, which are in part due to lengthy approval process of the TAPP and as well as COVID 19. Hence after a long delay the project has gained momentum after the lockdown period and the executing partners should implement the activities with clear coordination. Given that the PD was appointed very lately and the Senior Technical Advisor position was also on contractual basis in the beginning and whose appointment coincided with COVID situation the project executing arrangements were not fully operational till PIR 2021. Therefore, the level and performance of project management and executing partners could not be assessed properly. The MTR recommends that as discussed during the meeting with Director General, DoF, the Director General DoF, has agreed to consider the appointment of a Deputy Project Director as described in the ProDoc. FAO should ensure that the DPD is appointed to support effective implementation of project activities as agreed to by the DG, DoF.

142. FAO staff and the consultants have worked and are working hard in the field under the complicated and unprecedented situation due to COVID 19. Currently the project activities are being implemented and all the relevant experts (Community Management Expert, Climate Change and Risk Management Specialist, Capacity Building and Training Expert, Gender and Socio-economic Inclusion Analyst, M&E Specialist) are on board and working. Under these circumstances, the MTR highly recommends that in order to satisfactorily achieve the project results, it will be necessary to extend the project time frame so that the planned activities can be implemented, and the desired outputs and outcomes can be achieved.

Project oversight by FAO as the GEF Agency and national partners

143. Given the fact that limited activities could be implemented that too in a field based project like this, it was difficult to assess project oversight by PSC, PTF and IPC. Nevertheless, the activities done so far through LOAs between FAO and DOF and with CEGIS, it was assessed that the work is progressing well and oversight by these committees appeared satisfactory.

144. FAO being a specialised agency in the subject matter has provided more than satisfactory supervision, guidance and the required technical backstopping for the activities on policy review, EWS, CRVA for establishing climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture development in

Bangladesh which is new to Bangladesh and highly required given that Bangladesh is a climate vulnerable country.

145. As mentioned in the ProDoc the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Project Implementation Committee (PIC) and Project Management and Technical Support Unit (PMTSU) are constituted and MTR assessed that these are functional. Up till January 2022, PIC had one meeting but PSC had one meeting. PMSTU has been functioning actively. Project Taskforce (PTF) is active compared to other committees and starting from April 2021, PTF has had five meetings so far. MTR observed PTF meeting minutes are reflective of providing guidance towards implementation of different project components. MTR recommends that the meetings of these monitoring and guidance committees should be conducted as per schedule.

Financial management and co-financing

146. A summary of expense report per budget line and component was provided to the MTR team. As a few activities have been implemented, the expense on field and project activities is low and only expense spent are for professional salaries, national and international consultants. This is because the project personnel were appointed for the project, who has to be retained due to the unprecedented situation. However the project has tried to develop training material and conduct virtual trainings using the COVID time. The availability of budget as on December 2021 in BTK under Component 1 is 490,787, Component 2 is 142,465, Component 3 is 2,352,017 and Component 4 is 4,917 and under Project Management is 114,208. Budget under Component 3 with Bangladesh Taka 2,352,017 may be revised and adjusted under other budget heads and also to provide for staff salary during the recommended extended period. MTR assessed that the budget heads which have been revised and needs to be approved may be reassessed if need be, to engage the required staff during the extended period, as it was informed to the MTR team that the budget available can support a no-cost -extension of one year that is up to March 2024. Additionally, to satisfactorily implement all the activities as per the revised Results Framework and the work plans, component wise budget should be revised. The full time positions may also be converted to consultancy position if possible. Last six months of the extension period may be used for smooth withdrawal of the project and for technical and financial closure of the project. This way the project staff strength can be reduced.

147. All the co-finance in kind expired before the start of the project. As provided by the project fresh co-financing budget is given in the report (Please see appendix 7 for co-finance details). MTR recommends these are included in the project as these projects are ongoing.

Table 5.Project expenditure as of 31 December 2021

Financial project status report (31 December 2021)				
Expenditure	**Estimated at design(total GEF) A**	**Actual expenditure B**	**Balance C=A-B**	**Expenditure ratio (actual/planned) C/A**
Salaries Professional	174,600	0	174,600	0
Consultants	1,469,941	1,159,489.30	310,451.7	0.8
Contracts	2,197,380	664,763.79	1,532,616.21	0.3
Locally Contracted Labour	0	2,691.21	-2,691.2	0
Travel	373,000	65,181.96	307,818.04	0.173
Training	284,500	103,126.36	181,373.6	0.36
Expendable Procurement	609,000	166,310.16	442,689.84	0.27
Non Expendable Procurement	291,000	98,133.61	192,866.4	0.33
General Operating Expenses	25,693	61,023.53	-35,330.53	2.3
TOTAL	**5,425,114**	**2,320,720**	**3,104,394**	**0.24**

Table 6. Project expenditure per component as of 31 December 2021

Financial overview per component (31 December 2021)					
Results Based Inputs	**Budget**	**Actual expenditure**	**Hard commitments**	**Total (including commitments)**	**Available Budget**
Component1	1,081,441.00	298,201.00	292,453.00	590,654.00	490,787.00
Component2	425,000.00	78,824.00	207,711.00	282,535.00	142,465.00
Component3	3,386,034.00	611,854.00	422,163.00	1,034,017.00	2,352,017.00
Component4	274,300.00	102,715.00	166,668.00	269,383.00	4,917.00
Programme Management Costs	258,339.00	106,922.00	37,209.00	144,131.00	114,208.00
TOTAL	**5,425,114**	**1,194,516**	**1,126,204**	**2,320,720**	**3,104,394**

Project Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

148. All the relevant stakeholders were identified at project design, including vulnerable groups. The stakeholders have been properly defined at the project design level which is still valid; an elaborated stakeholder analysis was presented in the ProDoc. Stakeholders interviewed are aware of the project showed high commitment to the project and its results. Though PSC is functioning, meetings are to be conducted as per the schedule.

149. MTR assessed that the project has established partnerships with CEGIS for CRVA and BWDB for EWS. These two are critical partnerships for the project as these are established institutions

providing and undertaking projects and programmes on climate and disaster related on issues.

150. Stakeholders particularly community and field staff of DoF interviewed are aware of the project and showed high commitment to the project and its' results. MTR assessed this during the meetings held with them as they were very keen in starting the piloting activities which they feel will provide better livelihoods. As the lockdown restrictions are now lifted and already the field activities are on implementation mode and staff from both FAO and DoF can undertake field visits, it is expected that communication with the stakeholders will be improved and constant. Frequency of PSC and PIC meetings are to be increased till the momentum gained is sustained and results are achieved as per or if possible before the timelines so that at the time of project withdrawal the piloted activities have achieved sustainability.

Communication, visibility, knowledge management and knowledge products

151. Awareness raising activities through workshops have been conducted. A few knowledge products and communication material were developed and distributed during the COVID period. MTR recommends that as the project is gaining momentum all the planned communication and awareness material including a brochure on project should be developed. During the field visits and community meetings the MTR team observed that noting pads (scribbling Pads) that were provided by the project to the community members during the trainings and awareness programmes contained information on project in Bengali, which is a good step on awareness generation.

152. The training manual on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture developed by the project in consultation with DoF. MTR assessed that the training manual contains information on climate change issues which was used by the project during trainings and awareness generation programmes. The project has also developed a Guideline for Community and Beneficiary Selection. MTR considers these and other tools as a knowledge products of the project. During the meetings with CBOs the MTR team observed that the CBOs felt that the awareness generation exposure visits and trainings particularly on CC and fisheries adaptation, were very useful in deciding on choosing the right piloting activity depending on the ground level situation. The MTR assessed that the project has conducted trainings covering 60 DoF officials and 791 households (409 female and 301 male community members). The project has also conducted exposure visits covering 205 farmers (87 female members and 118 male members) from 9 Upazilas (Sub districts).

Monitoring and Evaluation

153. The M&E at project design was of an adequate level. The ProDoc contains an M&E plan, indicating type of M&E Activity, Responsible Parties, Time Frame and budget. Reporting to GEF is done through the PIRs. However, as very few activities were undertaken, the M&E activities were at a limited level. Given that the project has implemented limited activities, the M&E plan could not be fully implemented. As the piloting of activities have been started at field level,

M&E specialist who is recruited recently is expected to finalize the M&E framework and development of database.

154. Reporting is done through Project Implementation Review (PIR) and Project Progress Reports (PPR). The MTR team received two PIRs; for the periods July 2019 to June 2020 and July 2020 to June 2021 in addition to the PPRs. The quality of the PPRs and PIR reports is adequate and it clearly explained that the COVID 19 created situation has severely hampered the project implementation. In the PIR 2020 the progress ratings for all the outcomes have been assessed as Moderately Unsatisfactory in the 1st PIR and Satisfactory, Moderately Satisfactory, Moderately Unsatisfactory and Unsatisfactory in the 2nd PIR.

4.6. Cross-cutting dimensions

MTR question 6 - Cross – cutting dimensions:

To what extent have gender considerations have been taken into account in project design and implementation? Have environmental and social risks been identified and are mitigation measures taken?

Gender and equity:

Finding 19. During the project design, aspects related to gender and vulnerable groups have been adequately considered, including collection of gender disaggregated data while implementing piloting activities. Though few activities have been executed, the gender aspects were considered in trainings and in the selection of CBOs. Gender expert in the project is responsible for monitoring the gender aspects closely.

Environmental Social Standards:

*Finding 20.*The ProDoc contains a chapter on Environmental and Social Risk Screening where the check list has been certified as low risk.

Gender and equity

155. Though very few activities have been implemented, CBOs formed for piloting activities have gender balanced representation. The project has well considered the gender aspects during implementation of activities particularly while forming CBOs where gender balance is ensured and in a few cases depending on the respective pilot activity. The gender draft plan developed by the project has taken into account the relevant GEF and FAO gender policies.

156. The MTR assessed that the project has addressed in a right way the gender equity and mainstreaming issues while selecting beneficiaries for piloting activities and while undertaking training and exposure visits. This is reflected in the figures in the documents verified and

assessed during the field visits. In fact MTR team observed that one CBO on net making is a women CBO and in another nearly 90 percent were women. And in general the project ensured that 40% of the selected beneficiaries are women. Project also has given priority to women headed households.

157. The ProDoc described that cross-cutting objective of gender will be addressed and all interventions will be tailored in such a way so that men and women benefit equally and in equality is not perpetuated. The ProDoc also describes gender differentiated dissemination systems involving establishing pilot backyard farms where women can use and exchange knowledge on better seed and feed to increase production. This was observed by MTR during field visits and discussions with community.

158. As per the PIR the project while implementing the project activities will potentially interact with several indigenous communities in the project sites. A limited number of indigenous people are expected to be involved in the SW coastal area (Mogh tribe) and in the NE wetland haor area (Tipra tribe). Their overall and gender aggregate percentage will be maintained in CBO formation and will require a visit for physical verification of their involvement. FPIC is also planned to be initiated when the country is at lower risk with the COVID-19 pandemic and filed activities are resumed.

Environmental and Social Risk Screening

159. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Environmental and Social Risk Screening and in Appendix 11 a & b. was where the check list has been certified as low risk and the MTR team concurs with this.

160. The MTR observed that as given in the ProDoc there are no social risks at all, rather the efficiency improvement of hatcheries, availability of quality seeds and skill development of technicians will result in livelihood enhancement of community particularly women members with increased income at household level.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

As per the findings of the project, the MTR team has drawn the following main conclusions

Conclusion 1 (Relevance) The project is strategically relevant and in line with national priorities and donor strategic priorities, existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The project was designed well and the interviewees and confirmed the continued relevance of the project and the project activities to the country.

The project is strategically relevant and is in line with the GEF strategic priorities, national policies and priorities and donor strategic priorities, existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The project is also in line with the CIP Progarmme-1 that focuses on "integrated research and extension to develop and propagate sustainable responses to climate change" that emphasizes increased food productivity and increased resilience/adaptation to climate change including application of resilient farming systems". Also the project is in line with the Eighth five-year plan (SFYP) of Bangladesh (2016-2020) which recognized the impacts of climate change as a new threat to development and sets out some targeted activities to tackle climate change impacts.

The MTR assessed if the project is in line with the GEF strategic priorities, national policies and priorities, and also with the FAO Frameworks, which were described in the ProDoc, and whether the project has complementarities and synergies with other initiatives. The MTR found the project is highly relevant and that there are certainly complementarities with the existing inventions and projects by both government and development agencies. However, many of the projects as described in the co-finance were completed and the Senior Project Advisor is working on the new projects that can replace the outdated and completed projects to have complementarities with the present project. The relevance and importance of the project have been confirmed in interviews with the executing agencies.

The MTR team assessed that the project is highly relevant to all the stakeholders and is in line with GEF, FAO and the country priorities. Interviewees confirmed the high value and relevance of this project to Bangladesh. Implementing project activities and achieving the main project results are considered as highly relevant to Bangladesh from the climate change impacts and climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture view point.

Conclusion 2 (Effectiveness): The project has attempted to make moderately satisfactory progress under the Project Components as described: Under Component 1, review of the existing National Fisheries Policy (1998) and National Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (2006) was undertaken to identify the gaps and provide suggestions on how to mainstream climate change issues and gender aspects. The preliminary review has been presented and discussed among FAO and DoF. The Government is expecting further support from FAO on revising the National Fisheries Policy in

order to have an amended Act covering all the 6 Climate Vulnerable hotspots. The Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) at national level is ongoing, which being undertaken by the Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in close collaboration with the DoF. The assessment among others will guide the development of community management plans and also review of and strengthening of existing community Early Warning Systems (EWS) to incorporate fisheries and aquaculture aspects. As per the MTR assessment the report will be completed July 2022. The project in collaboration with DoF has developed tools for a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) of the DoF and other partners, including the community in climate change adaptation and mitigation programming, planning and implementation. The CNA is ongoing and the CNA report is likely to be completed by May 2022. Under this same Component 1, A working training manual on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture including an overview of climate change impact, risk, vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk management, application of climate forecast, environmental monitoring and early warning, resilience plan, policy framework and institutional arrangement has been developed in consultation with DoF and other stakeholders. The interviewees particularly the FAO staff informed that this working manual which is being refined including the community knowledge on climate change is being used for training Government officials and community members. So far the project has trained 60 Government officials and 1045 households in climate change impact on fisheries, adaptation options and disaster risk management.

Under Component 2, the project has achieved the following outputs which are linked to the outputs under Component 1 on Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment of Fisheries and Aquaculture sector, which however are at lower tier level i.e. more detailed and participatory and at community level. As per the discussions with FAO, DoF, CEGIS and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) the existing EWS will be enhanced to meet the requirements of project sites and the project beneficiaries of North East Haor region and South West Coastal region. The required LoAs have to be signed between FAO and BWDB including the time frame to cover two seasons as required for the study.

The MTR assessed that appropriate pilot interventions are selected for different project sites which are being implemented by respective CBOs selected for the intervention. This has endorsement of the UCC which ensures the sustainability of the piloting activity. Under Component 3, the project is working with 43 CBOs of 25 members each. During the field visit the MTR assessed that preparatory work has been completed to undertake a few pilot activities by the Project. The MTR assessed that the project could not achieve the overall mid-term targets under different components except under Component 1. This is due to fact that as described above is for COVID created situation and approval of TAPP and delayed appointment of Project Director.

Conclusion 3 (Effectiveness and Efficiency): The project implementation has been to a large extent hampered by the COVID 19 lockdown. No field work could take place during the lockdown. Limited progress could be achieved at field level whereas progress has been made towards policy review, capacity needs assessment, and CRVA and process on developing EWS were started. It is therefore not possible to implement all the project activities before the current end date of March 2023.

The project has achieved only a few activities. Important activities achieved are revision of national policy on fisheries, capacity building tools particularly the training manual on climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture has been developed and used. CBOs have been selected and piloting activities have been identified. Work is progressing on EWS through BWDB, however it has to be initiated through an LOA which has to be quickly done between FAO and BWDB. CRVA progressing well which is being done by CEGIS.

Many activities planned during the period under this MTR are yet to be implemented. Although the MTR team did not find any shortcoming in the logic of the project, it is too early to make an assessment on the likelihood impact on the outcome of the project, due to delay in the implementation of the activities. Nevertheless the pace on the implementation of activities at ground level should be increased with better coordination between DoF and FAO and by appointing Field Facilitators to catalyse the activity implementation.

The main reason attributed for non-achievement of activities as planned is the COVID 19 pandemic created situation; and the associated movement restrictions due to lockdowns in the country which prohibited the field work. And also the delay in internal governmental approval of the Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP). The executive bodies particularly the DoF could not proceed with implementation of activities that the DoF was expected to coordinate until the TAPP could be approved. There was a delay in appointing the Project Director from MoFL side. At present the TAPP is in place and further LOAs have also been developed and the PD is also on board, however not contributing full time to the project. The COVID 19 situation has not subsided completely.

Conclusion 4 Sustainability: The risks to financial sustainability are considered to be low, provided that the financial mechanisms and incentive mechanisms to adopt climate change adaptation technologies as described in the ProDoc are maintained. Aspects related to institutional sustainability need to be strengthened as the implementation of pilot activities and related capacity building aspects including exposure visits within and outside the country for skill development are gaining momentum.

The MTR assessed how sustainability aspects were considered at the project design, and found that no project or programme is approved by the Government unless environmental and other sustainability issues are properly evaluated. The long-term sustainability of project interventions are promoted by adoption of a strategy that promotes the upscaling and replication of climate resilient adaptation being tested through piloting of activities through gender balanced CBOs. The capacity of the community, personnel of the DoF and key stakeholders through training and capacity building and skill development including overseas trainings ensure the sustainability of project outputs and outcomes. One of the roles of PSC is to ensure sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication.

The Environmental sustainability as per the ProDoc is ensured through positive impact of the introduced adaptation technologies and approaches on a range of ecosystem services at demonstration areas, and in the longer term on larger areas through upscaling of best practices, which it is too early to say as several piloting activities are being grounded.

The financial sustainability is ensured through mainstreaming best practices into sectoral policies related to fisheries and aquaculture, environment and DRR and integration of adaptation priorities and frameworks into sector budgets. At the local level adaptation technologies will be promoted that give local fishermen and fish-farmers and aquaculture communities financial and economic incentives to adopt them, i.e. adaptation technologies are expected to generate economic benefits to the communities in the short as well as in the longer term in order to be considered sustainable.

The pilot activities designed generally have the potential for upscaling and replication. However, sustainability of such pilot activities should be ensured through discussions and agreements made between FAO, the executing partner and relevant stakeholders in this case the community and CBOs on the modalities of responsibilities of upscaling and replication and ownership after the project comes to end. Interviewees expressed that the executing partners particularly the DoF staff need technical support from FAO as this climate change and climate resilience concept is new to them and for that the capacity development trainings are important for the government agencies and other stakeholders. Staff of DoF and FAO and other institutions met with indicated that there is a need for sustaining and using the capacity built and the institutional mechanisms established under this project even after the project ends. The UCC officials indicated that trainings and awareness programmes on climate change impacts and climate risks should be taught to them during the probationary period by Government of Bangladesh, so that they can handle disaster mitigation actions efficiently. This should be considered and discussed in the PSC to recommend to the Government for appropriate action. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability due to regular transfers and other priorities of their work.

At ground level UCC role is more in ensuring sustainability of developed institutions and interventions of the project / piloted activities. The UCC informed that replication of successfully piloted activities will be taken care by the UCC. At present UCC is supporting by resolving any disputes or issues that arise at field level in identifying the beneficiaries and same support will be extended during piloting of the activities as all departments connected with fisheries and rural development are represented in the UCC. However, representation of Forest department should be ensured in the UCCs in Khulna region, as the presence of FD in the UCC particularly in Dacope and Shyam Nagar will address certain issues related to mangrove resources being used by the beneficiaries of the project.

Long-term results depend upon the sustainability project results and the institutions established under the particularly at the field level and beneficiary level. There is a need for process documentation of piloting activities so that there will be institutional memory and the successive DoF staff or Upazila Coordination Committee can use it as a guide to continue the ongoing activities and replicate the same beyond the project tenure. It is therefore recommended that an exit strategy as given under Component 4 are prepared in time which should include factors pertaining institutional and financial

sustainability. This strategy should include roles and responsibilities of various partners involved, their expectations, responsibilities and ownership beyond the project tenure.

Conclusion 5 (progress to impact): As few activities have been implemented with partial achievement of respective outputs, it was difficult to assess many of the criteria for this MTR. The current implementation status is limited to activity level. The MTR rated the different criteria as per the factual implementation status, taking into cognizance the exceptional circumstances created due to COVID 19 pandemic (as well as the delayed approval of the TAPP and the delayed appointment of PD, and the momentum the project has gained only from July 2021.

Based on the assessment of those activities implemented so far, the MTR considers the quality of project management and execution as satisfactory. However as outputs are achieved partially and no outcomes could be achieved till now, it remains difficult to evaluate these criteria. The overall assessment of the progress is considered to be moderately satisfactory. The MTR team realised that the output and outcome level achievement could not be achieved due to COVID 19 and the delayed approval of TAPP and the delayed appointment of PD from MoFL side. The MTR team also recognizes that important progress has been made on national fisheries policy review, CRVA, development of EWS and capacity building of stakeholders, and also that the project is gaining good momentum now. Therefore, the MTR team considers and recommends that it is moderately likely that project will achieve its main targets and objectives if an extension is granted until March 2025, bearing in mind that many interviewees proposed an extension beyond 2 years, in order to implement all the planned activities to achieve the planned outcomes and to bring the project to a satisfactory conclusion with sound exit strategy paving way for sustainability of project outcomes and results.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions, the MTR has prepared the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 (Efficiency)	**The MTR recommends an extension of the project for two years up to March 2025 in order to make it possible for the project ream and the executing partners to satisfactorily achieve the project outputs and outcomes.**
Rationale for recommendation	Important activities achieved are review of national policy on fisheries, capacity building tools particularly the training manual on climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture have been developed and used. CBOs have been selected and piloting activities have been identified. Work is progressing on EWS through BWDB however it has to be initiated through an LOA which has to be quickly done between FAO and BWDB. CRVA is progressing well which is being done by CEGIS.

	Many activities planned during the period under this MTR are yet to be implemented. Although the MTR team did not find any shortcoming in the logic of the project, it is too early to make an assessment on the likelihood impact on the outcome of the project, due to delay in the implementation of the activities. Nevertheless the pace on the implementation of activities at ground level should be increased with better coordination between DoF and FAO and by appointing Field Facilitators to catalyse the activity implementation. Based on the reasons for delay the MTR team considers that the project results, and the outputs and outcomes, can be achieved only if the project is granted a no cost extension. The extension should be considered for until at least March 2025. Many interviewees and project staff suggested that the project be extended for more than two years and also there are many activities which needs additional gestation period to become sustainable beyond the project tenure. Hence, the MTR recommends an extension of two years up to March 2025.
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, Member of the PTF and FAO GEF Coordination Unit
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 2 (Factors affecting performance)	**FAO to ensure better coordination with DOF to ensure smooth implementation of project activities particularly at field level.**
Rationale for recommendation	FAO staff in Bangladesh both at field level and Hq level and consultants have been working hard in complicated and unprecedented circumstances and remote areas. However at field there is a need for better coordination support between FAO staff and DoF staff in implementing the project activities including piloting activities as per the timeline. While implementing activities jointly, sometimes FAO staff are unable to join the DoF staff in time due to the security clearance they have to secure before going to the field. This has to be sorted out. Presently the position Project Director of DoF, is an additional charge and is unable to provide full time to the project. As per the ProDoc the PD will be the lead person for the project on behalf of the Government and will be supported by Deputy Project Director. It was informed to the MTR that PD is able to provide part time support to the project and the DPD position is not sanctioned. Hence, MTR recommends that the PD may be made full time assisted by DPD as many activities at Field level are to be

	implemented by DOF through a LoA. This needs the serious attention of PD and DPD for a timely completion of project activities and to ensure their sustainability. During the discussions with DG DoF, the DG indicated to the MTR team that DPD appointment is possible. The same was discussed with BH who may follow it up with Dg, DoF. Since the beginning of the project only one PSC and one PIC meeting was conducted. In this connection, it is recommended that the PSC meets regularly as per the schedule. LOAs are signed particularly with Bangladesh Water Development Board to develop the EWS covering two seasons. The agreements made within the consultation mechanism on activities and outputs should be reflected in Monitoring and Evaluation system so that the project's performance can be tracked periodically. The Results Matrix as presented in ProDoc and updated in the Project Inception Report is overall coherent and logical. This recommendation is made to contribute to the overall improvement of the "Factors affecting performance", namely quality of project execution and management arrangements, Project oversight by FAO and National Partners, Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Partnerships and stakeholder involvement.
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, PSC, PMU, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible and as per the timeline.

Recommendation 3 (Sustainability and Exit Strategy)	**FAO to ensure that exit strategies (What will happen after the project end and beyond the project tenure) will be prepared timely, to ensure sustainability of project results.**
Rationale for recommendation	The MTR assessed how sustainability aspects were considered at the project design, and no project or programme is approved by the Government unless environmental and other sustainability issues are properly evaluated. The long-term sustainability of project interventions are promoted by adoption of a strategy that promotes the upscaling and replication of climate resilient adaptation being tested through piloting of activities through gender balanced CBOs. The capacity of the community, personnel of the DoF and key stakeholders through training and capacity building and skill development by overseas trainings ensure the sustainability of project outputs and outcomes. One of the roles of PSC is to ensure sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication.

	The Environmental sustainability as per the ProDoc is ensured through positive impacts of the introduced adaptation technologies and approaches on a range of ecosystem services at demonstration areas, and in the long term on larger areas through upscaling of best practices, which it is too early to say as several piloting activities are being grounded. The financial sustainability is ensured through mainstreaming best practices into sectoral policies related to fisheries and aquaculture, environment and DRR, and integration of adaptation priorities and frameworks into sector budgets. At the local level, adaptation technologies will be promoted that give local fishermen and fish-farmers and aquaculture communities financial and economic incentives to adopt them, i.e. adaptation technologies are expected to generate economic benefits to the communities in the short as well as in the longer term in order to be considered sustainable. The pilot activities designed generally have the potential for upscaling and replication. However, sustainability of such pilot activities should be ensured through discussions and agreements made between FAO, the executing partner and relevant stakeholders in this case the community and CBOs on the modalities of responsibilities of upscaling and replication and ownership after the project comes to end. Interviewees expressed that the executing partners particularly the DoF staff need technical support from FAO as this climate change and climate resilience concept is new to them and for that the capacity development training are important for the government agencies and other stakeholder. Staff of DoF and FAO and other institutions met with indicated that there is a need for sustaining and using the capacity built and the institutional mechanisms established under this project even after the project ends. The UCC officials indicated to the MTR that trainings and awareness programmes on climate change impacts and climate risks should be taught to them during the probationary period of their recruitment so that they can handle disaster mitigation actions efficiently. MTR recommends that the project may support with syllabus revision of Civil Services Training Academy includes CC impacts and risks. This should be considered and discussed in the PSC to recommend to the Government for appropriate action. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability due to regular transfers and other priorities of their work. At ground level UCC role is more in ensuring sustainability of developed institutions and interventions of the project / piloted activities. The UCC informed that replication of successfully piloted activities will be taken care by the UCC. At present UCC is supporting by resolving any disputes or issues that arise at field level in identifying the beneficiaries and same

	support will be extended during piloting of the activities as all departments connected with fisheries and rural development are represented in the UCC. However, representation Forest department should be ensured the UCCs in Khulna region, as the presence of FD in the UCC Particularly in Dacrope and Shyam Nagar will address certain issues related to mangrove resources being used by the beneficiaries of the project. The government has taken up initiative to establish a Climate Change Cell (CCC) at DoF. However, formation of a cell in the DoF does not guarantee outcomes in the long run unless such structure is recognized in the strategy and receives continuous support. Therefore, MTR team recommends that the project takes 'CCC strengthening' as one of the key activities for rest of the project period. Long-term results depend upon the sustainability of project results and the institutions established under the project particularly at the field level and beneficiary level. MTR recommends for process documentation of piloting activities so that there will be institutional memory and the successive DoF staff or UCC can use it as a guide to continue the ongoing activities and replicate the same beyond the project tenure. It is therefore recommended that an exit strategy as given under Component 4 are prepared in time which should include factors pertaining institutional and financial sustainability. This strategy should include roles and responsibilities of various partners involved, their expectations, responsibilities and ownership beyond the project tenure.
Responsibility	FAO, PTF, PMU, in consultation with PSC.
Proposed time frame	Start development of Exit strategy as soon as possible.

Recommendation 4 (Collaboration for Sustainability)	**The project should collaborate with a number of existing and planned F&A and CC-related Projects in Bangladesh.**
Rationale for recommendation	In the ProDoc, a number of projects operated by DoF, DoE, MoEF, IUCN, FAO, WorldFish and IFAD in the field of F&A and climate adaptation were considered as co-financing projects. However, most of these projects have either phased out or nearing completion; but part of the results of these projects or their 'sustained' components within the community have potential for collaboration. Immediately after TAPP approval, the project team has identified (in October 2020) a number of existing and planned F&A projects in Bangladesh with potential for Co-Financing. The MTR team recommends active collaboration with these projects for efficient and sustained achievement of results. In addition to the above F&A

	projects, the MTR team recommends to collaborate with 'Projection of Sea Level Rise and its Sectoral Impact' and 'Environmental Flows for the Sundarbans Ecosystem' projects operated by CEGIS and 'Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement', and 'South-West Area Integrated Water Resources Planning & Management (Phase-2)' projects operated by BWDB.
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh and DoF
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 5 (Financial management and co-financing)	**Revise budget lines to meet the expenditure during the extended period. Assess cost-effectiveness of pilot activities for replication beyond project tenure.**
Rationale for recommendation	In order to meet the expenditure during the extended period of two years it is recommended to revise the budget lines across components. This is particularly to meet the salaries of project staff. As such the expenditure overview provides some insight into the actual expenditure and expenditure ratio. Recording expenditure of piloting activities in a detailed way will provide deeper understanding on the amount of funds required for replication of successful pilot activities beyond the project tenure. These details should also be included in the exit strategy. As the project has gained momentum and it is expected that the important progress towards achieving outputs and outcomes will start emerging, it is recommended that it is the right moment to start revise the budget lines to meet the expenditure during the extended period.
Responsibility	PSC, PTF and FAO operations management
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 6 (Financial management and co-financing)	**Modify co-finance including the ongoing projects and by removing projects that are completed and no more applicable.**

Rationale for recommendation	The co-financing table shows the actual amount materialised at the time of project development. The PIR also mentions that all these projects were completed projects. A fresh set of ongoing projects with potential for co-financing was provided by the project. It is recommended that the FAO works out on including these potential ongoing projects for co-financing by replacing outdated projects. These projects could be potential sources for upscaling the replication of project activities which should be considered.
Responsibility	FAO, PTF, PMU in consultation with PSC
Proposed time frame	Within the next 6 months.

Recommendation 7 (Awareness and Communication)	**FAO to ensure that a methodological awareness raising strategy for the entire project is prepared and implemented.**
Rationale for recommendation	A few awareness raising activities have been conducted particularly on climate change impacts and EWS. Awareness levels on climate change and EWS of specific target groups that were identified in the ProDoc; poor and smallholder aquaculture and fishing dependent communities, government extension and technical staff, fisheries and aquaculture pond owners and consumers should be increased by the end of the project. For this, MTR recommends that awareness should be a continuous process and is crucial for attaining sustainable project results and for changing attitudes and behaviours of stakeholders through increased awareness and knowledge.
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh / Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 8 (Alignment with Policies and Strategies)	**FAO to ensure alignment with updated National Development Policies and Strategies**
Rationale for recommendation From the time of the project formulation, a few of the national development policies and strategies have been changed or updated by this time of MTR. For this, MTR recommends that the project consults with the most up-to-date national policies namely National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2022), Country Investment Plant for Environment, Forestry & Climate Change, 8th Five Year Plan of	

Bangladesh, Bangladesh UNDAF (2017–2021), Bangladesh UNSDCF (2021-2025), Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, NDC 2021 and Bangladesh Perspective Plan 2041.	
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, PMU and PSC
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

Recommendation 9 (Strengthening DoFs CCC initiative)	**FAO to ensure strengthening of DoF's Climate Change Cell initiative**
Rationale for recommendation A Climate Change Cell (CCC) within the premises of DoF is being established by the project. MTR team has observed that DoF staff are very much interested and enthusiastic about the CCC. However, formation of CCC at DoF HQ does not guarantee outcomes in the long run, unless such institutional structures are recognized in organizations strategies and receive continuous support. Hence MTR team recommends that the project takes "CCC strengthening" as one of the key activities for rest of the project period	
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh, DoF, MoFL, PMU and PSC
Proposed time frame	As soon as possible

6. Lessons Learned

161. As the project is gaining momentum now and there are only a few project activities have been implemented which indicates that there is limited progress towards achieving project results at this stage. The MTR did not produce many lessons learned as it is too early in the Project implementation. Nevertheless, the MTR generated the following lessons learned:

Lesson Learned 1	When a project is likely to be influenced by long (administrative / clearance) procedures, complex organizational structures, it is necessary to plan the lifetime of the project realistically and allow for longer start-up phase.
Context	The TAPP development and approval process is generally a long process that it affects the implementation of projects in Bangladesh. There are usually other administrative procedures which are long and contracting issues that need to be addressed before projects can really start to be implemented. These issues and challenges should be considered thoroughly when a project is developed. This may be taken into account while developing future projects in Bangladesh. Whenever a project is designed where it can be expected to undergo long administrative procedures during the start-up phase and clearances are likely to take longer duration, the project period should be planned much more realistically, though in this case COVID created situation also delayed the project implementation.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1. Terms of references for the MTR – Link to be provided

Appendix 2. MTR itinerary, including field missions (legends)

Field Visit Itinerary of MTR Consultants to North East Region, Sylhet and South-west Region, Khulna - From 15 Jan to 25 Jan 2022

Date & Starting Time	Movement		Activities
	From	To	
15 and 16 Jan 2022	India	Dhaka	Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli Arrival
17 Jan 2022 8:30 AM	Mymensingh	Dhaka	Dr. Kizar Ahmed Sumon Arrival
10.00 AM to 11.30 AM	Dhaka	Dhaka	Meeting with FAO colleagues over zoom
4.00 PM to 8.00 PM	Dhaka	Sylhet via evening flight	Arrival and refreshment
18 Jan 2022 10.00 to 12.00 AM	Hotel Metro, Sylhet	DoF office, Sylhet division	Meeting with DoF and FAO colleagues together
12.00 AM to 1.00 PM	DoF office, Sylhet division	DoF office, Sylhet division	Specific Meeting with DFO, UFO/SUFO
1.00 to 2.00 PM	-	DoF office, Sylhet division	Refreshment and Lunch
3.00 PM to 4.00 PM	DoF office, Sylhet division	UNO office, Santiganj upazila	Meeting with UCC committee of Santiganj upazila
4.00 PM to 5.00 PM	UNO office, Santiganj upazila	Sadarpur village	CBO of Sadarpur, Santiganj visit, open group discussion and FGD
19 Jan 2022 9.00 AM to 2.00 PM	Hotel Metro, Sylhet	Jagannathpur Upazila, Sunamganj	Arrival, CBO of Jagganathpur visit, Open group discussion and FGD
2.00 to 3.00 PM	Jagannathpur Upazila, Sunamganj	DoF office, Sylhet division	Refreshment and Lunch
3.30 PM to 5.00 PM	DoF office, Sylhet division	Hotel Metro, Sylhet	Individual meeting with FAO colleagues

20 Jan 2022 9.00 AM to 12.30 PM	Hotel Metro, Sylhet	Juri Upazila, Moulvibazar	Arrival, CBO of Juri visit, Open group discussion and FGD
12.30 to 3.00 PM	CBO of Juri	Hakaluki Haor visit	A visit to Hakaluki haor and lunch at Juri Upazila
3.00 PM to 5.30 PM	Juri Upazila	Hotel Metro, Sylhet	Arrival, refreshment and rest
21 Jan 2022 9:00 AM	Sylhet (via Dhaka-Jashore)	City Inn Hotel Khulna	Arrival, Working discussion with FAO Colleague and Rest
22 Jan 2022 9:15 AM	Khulna	Kachua DoF office, Bagerhat	Arrival and Refreshment
10:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Kachua	Kholishakhali net making Women CBO, Kholishakhali, Moghia, Kachua	Open group discussion and FGD
11:15 AM to 12:45 PM	Kholishakhali	Pond fish culture CBO, Kishmot-Malipaton, Gopalpur, Kachua	FGD and Open group discussion
12:45 PM to 3:00 PM	Kachua	Bagerhat Town	Arrival, Refreshment and Lunch
3:00 PM to 4:15 PM	Sadar office	Fish sanctuary CBO, Dijobarer Doyani, Karapara, Bagerhat Sadar	FGD and Open group discussion
4:15PM to 5:45PM	Karapara	City Inn Hotel, Khulna	Arrival and rest
23 Jan 2022 9:00 AM to 2.30 PM	City Inn Hotel Khulna	Rajbongshi Pen culture CBO, Koilashgonj, Dacope	FGD and Open group discussion
2.30 PM to 3.30 PM	Khulna	Gollamari Matshaw Farm, Khulna	Arrival, Refreshment and Lunch
3.30 PM to 5.30 PM	Khulna	Gollamari Matshaw Farm, Khulna	Meeting with DoF colleague

5.30 PM to 6.00 PM	Gollamari Matshaw Farm, Khulna	City Inn Hotel, Khulna	Arrival and rest
24 Jan 2022 8:45 AM to 11.30 AM	Khulna	Bagda-rice culture CBO, Sholgatia, Dumuria	FGD and Open group discussion
11:30 AM to 12:30 PM	Sholagatia, Dumuria	Dumuria upazila Hall Room, Khulna	Meeting with UCC members, Domuria upazila Hall Room, Domuria, Khulna
12:30 PM to 2.30 PM	Domuria	SUFO office, Domuria	Arrival, Refreshment and Lunch
2:30 PM to 4:00PM	Domuria	City Inn Hotel, Khulna	Arrival and Rest
6:00PM to 8:00 PM	Khulna	City Inn Hotel, Khulna	Meeting with FAO colleague
25 Jan 2022 7:00 AM	Khulna	Dhaka (via Jashore)	Departure
25 Jan 2022 1:30 AM	Dhaka	Hotel Bengal Blue Berry, Dhaka	Arrival
25 Jan 2022	Dhaka		Virtual meeting with CEGIS
25 Jan 2022	Dhaka		Meeting with DOF officials and DG, DoF, MoFL. Meeting with BWDB
26 Jan 2022	Dhaka		Virtual meeting with Addl. Sec., MoFL.
27 Jan 2022 to 7 Feb 2022	Dhaka		Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli stayed in hotel isolation due to COVID attack.
7 Feb 2022	Dhaka	Chennai	Departure and Arrival on the same day

Appendix 3. Stakeholders interviewed during the MTR

Sl.	Name	Position	Organization/ Location
1	Mr. Kachulu Mutisungilire	Senior Technical Coordinator/Team Leader	FAO, Dhaka
2	Ms. Begum Nurun Naher	National Operation Officer	FAO, Dhaka
3	Mr. Simon FungeSmith	Lead Technical Officer	FAORAP, Bangkok
4	Ms. Siar Susana,	Fishery and Aquaculture Officer	FAORAP, Bangkok
5	Mr. Robert Simpson	Budget Holder	FAOR, Dhaka
6	Mr. Nur Ahamed Khondaker	AFAOR (Programme)	FAO, Dhaka
7	Ms. Lianchawii Chhakchhuak	Funding Liaison Officer	FAO, Rome
8	Ms. Kulsum Umme	Climate Change and Risk Reduction Expert	FAO, Dhaka
9	Mr. Kingkar Chandra Saha	National Capacity Building and Training Expert	FAO, Dhaka
10	Ms. Zakia Naznin	Gender Expert,	FAO, Dhaka
11	Mr. Md. Abul Hasanat	National Project Coordinator	FAO, Dhaka
12	Ms. Karisha Chakma	National Operation Specialist	FAO, Dhaka
13	Mr. Md Masudur Rahman	National Community Management Expert - South West, Khulna	FAO, Dhaka
14	Mr. Sheikh Ziaul Huque	National Community Management Expert North East, Sylhet	FAO, Dhaka
15	Mr. Samir Kumar Sarker	Project Director	DoF, Dhaka
16	Mr. Towfiqul Arif	Addl. Secretary	MoFL, Dhaka

17	Mr. Md. Arifuzzaman Bhuyan,	Executive Engineer, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.	Bangladesh Water Development Board
18	Mr. Khondaker Mahbubul Haque	Director General	DoF, Dhaka
19	Mr. Md. Atiar Rahman	ADG	DoF, Dhaka
20	Mr. Md. Ataur Rahman Khan	Deputy Director	DoF, Dhaka
21	Dr. Md. Abdul Alim	DPD	DoF, SCMFP
22	Mr. Md. Mukhlesur Rahman	Senior Assistant Director	DoF, Planning Section
23	Mr. Malik Fida A Khan and his Team	Executive Director	Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
24	Mr. Bidhan Bara	Deputy Secretary	ERD, Ministry of Finance
25	Mr. Sunil Mandal	District Fisheries Officer	DoF Sunamganj
26	Mr. Md. Zahidul Islam	Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF South Sunamganj (Shantiganj), Sunamganj
27	Mr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman	Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF Jannathpur, Sunamganj
28	Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman	District Fisheries Officer	DoF Moulvibazar
29	Mr. Md. Abu Yousuf	Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF, Jori, Moulvibazar
30	Mrs. Tazmahal Begum	District Fisheries Officer	DoF, Brahmanbaria
31	Mr. Shuvra Sarker	Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria
32	Mr. Joydeb Paul	District Fisheries Officer	DoF Khulna
33	Mr. Abu Bakar Siddique	Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF Dumuria
34	Mr. Selim Sultan,	Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF Dacope

35	S.M.A. Rasel	District Fisheries Officer	DoF Bagerhat
36	Mr, Ferdous Ansaree	Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF, Sadar, Bagerhat
37	Mr. Pranab Kumar Biswas,	Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF, Kachua, Bagerhat
38	Mr. Md. Anisur Rahman	District Fisheries Officer	DoF, Satkhira
39	Mr. Tusher Mazumder	Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer	DoF, Shaymnagar, Shatkhira
40	Upazila Coordination Committee (UCC)	Members	Santiganj and Dumuria UCCs
41	CBOs from two regions	Beneficiaries	Two Regions (NE & SW)

Appendix 4. MTR matrix (review questions and sub-questions)

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
1. Strategic relevance			
Key question: To what extent are the project objectives relevant and suited to the priorities, policies and strategies of the executing and implementing agencies, donors, stakeholders and target groups?			
Sub-questions FAO: - Is the project in line with FAO's mandate and how? - Is the project responding to FAO strategies and programme of work, and how (qualitative and quantitative contributions)?	- Degree of alignment with FAO strategic documents	- Project document - PIR progress report - FAO strategy documents - Project staff	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO staff
Sub-questions GEF: - Is the project responding to GEF-5 CCA strategic priorities, and how (qualitative and quantitative contributions?)	- Degree of alignment with GEF strategic documents	- Project document - PIR progress report - GEF strategy documents - Project staff	- Desk-review of documents (GEF policies and strategies) - Interviews with FAO staff
Sub-questions countries/regions: - Is the project responding to the stated climate change concerns and needs of the countries/sub-regions/regions?	- Degree of alignment with national and (sub) regional plans, strategies, policies and agreements	- Project document - PIR progress report - National/ regional strategies and agreements	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
		- Project staff - Project partners	- Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners (key government departments)
Sub-question synergy with other initiatives: - To what extent did the project, at design and/or mobilization phase, take account of ongoing and/or planned initiatives? - To what extent did the project team make efforts to ensure that the project is complementary to other interventions, and optimize any synergies?	- Degree of potential synergies identified - Absence of duplication of efforts - Potential duplications identified at design stage - Degree of identified complementarities with other projects	- Project document - PIR progress report - Relevant document of other projects - Project staff - Project partners	- Desk-review of documents; - Interviews with FAO project team and other FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with stakeholders
2. Effectiveness – progress towards results			
Key question: To what extent did the project achieve the expected (reconstructed) outputs (and outcomes) at mid-term?			
Output level - Were outputs and milestones delivered on time and as planned according the mid-term targets? If not, what were the reasons for delay/changes? - What is the quality of these outputs? - To what extent do the outputs contribute to their planned outcomes? - How useful, relevant and appropriate do beneficiaries find the outputs (planned to be) produced by the projects?	- Concrete examples of milestones and outputs achieved (and being used by end users) - Involvement of stakeholders in the production/achievement of outputs - Coherence of project design and implementation approach	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents - Core Indicators updated at Mid-Term	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/Interviews with other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- Which factors contributed to the achievement of outputs (and/or what were the reasons outputs were not achieved)? - Would these have been achieved without the direct involvement of the GEF FAO project? Why (not)? - Is the project on track to delivering the GEF core indicator targets? - How did COVID-19 influence the project?			
Outcome level - Have any outcomes already been achieved? - Are these outcomes a result of project intervention? - Would these have been achieved without the direct involvement of FAO? Why?	- Level of achievement of specific activities and outputs - Number of exchanges with stakeholders/beneficiaries and participation in meetings and workshops - Coherence of project design and implementation approach - Number and quality of capacity building activities undertaken within the project.	- PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Project document - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/Interviews with other stakeholders
Impact/longer-term results - What is the likelihood of expected positive longer-term impacts to be realized? - To what extent have any possible negative effects/barriers been identified in the project as risks?	- Level of achievement of specific activities and outputs	- PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Project document	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- What are the barriers that may prevent progress towards and achievement of the longer-term objectives? - How successful is the project thus far in playing a catalytic role and/or promoting the scaling up or replication of project results?	- Coherence of project design and implementation approach	- Other project documents	- Interviews with/questionnaires for main executing partners - Interviews with/questionnaires for other stakeholders
3. Efficiency			
Key question: To what extent and how are cost-effectiveness and timeliness considered during project implementation? How do these factors affect project performance?			
Sub-questions: - Are any cost or time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project time frame? - Does the project make use of / build upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, etc. to increase project efficiency? How? - What factors have caused delays (if any) and have affected project execution, costs and effectiveness? How? - Has the project team shown adaptive management to changing circumstances to improve the efficiency of project implementation? - Are events leading to completion of activities/outputs sequenced efficiently?	- Number of project amendments, and budget adjustments. Revision of Results Framework. - Number of agreements with partners - Number and quality of measures to mitigate delays - Timeliness of report submission - Coherence of project design and implementation approach	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners	- Desk-review of documents, including financial reports and procurement plans - Interviews with FAO project team - Interviews with/questionnaires for main executing partners - Interviews with/questionnaires for other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- What is the role of the project's governance structure and management approach on its efficiency?	- Specific activities conducted	- Project document - Other project documents	
4. Factors affecting performance			
Project design and readiness			
- Is the project design adequate for delivering the expected outcomes within the planned time frame? - Are appropriate measures taken to either address weaknesses in the project design or respond to changes that took place between project approval, securing of the funds and project mobilisation? Which measures? - What was the nature and quality of engagement with stakeholder groups by the project team during project preparation? - What process was followed to assess the capacities of implementing partners and develop the partnership agreements? - Were initial staffing and financing arrangements sufficient to drive implementation?	- Number and quality of appropriate measures taken (if necessary) - Quality of partner agreements - Implementation approach	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners and other stakeholders
Quality of project execution and management arrangements			

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- Is project management by FAO pro-active and responding timely and adequately to any issues encountered within the project? - Are the project management arrangements in line with the arrangements defined at project design? If not, what was the reason for this change? - What have been the main challenges and successes in managing the project until now? - What is the nature of communication and collaboration with stakeholders? - How are risks identified and managed? Did this require use of problem-solving and/or project adaptation? How?	- Number of issues complicating sound project implementation solved timely (as opposed to unsolved issues) - (Amount of) evidence of adaptive management being applied - Coherence of project design and implementation approach	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Minutes of meetings - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Project oversight by FAO as the GEF Agency and national partners			
- To what extent and how do FAO and partners provide oversight, supervision and backstopping? - To what extent and how is the Project Steering Committee involved in decision making? - What is the nature of communication and collaboration with stakeholders?	- Implementation approach - Number of exchanges with stakeholders/beneficiaries	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Financial management and co-financing			

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- Is the project implemented in compliance with financial management standards and procedures? - Is the project's key financial information complete (including co-finance overview)? - Is the actual expenditure to date? - To what extent are the project expenditures in line with the corresponding approved budget? - To what extent has the planned (in-kind) co-financing activities / support been provided until mid-term? - Has any additional co-finance been leveraged? - What changes, if any, have been made to the projects' budget and why? - Have any financial management challenges been identified, and, if so, how are they being handled?	- Approval of contracting documents, project reports and financial reporting (including co-finance) - Alignment of expenditures during project implementation with approved budget	- Project document - PIR progress report - Financial progress reports - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement			
- Were all important project stakeholders properly identified at project design and duly involved in project design, implementation and decision-making? - What consultation and communication mechanisms are put in place to ensure an active stakeholder engagement and ownership? Are these effective? - What is the level of support provided to maximize collaboration and coherence between stakeholders?	- Number of stakeholders identified and actively involved in project implementation - Number of stakeholders satisfied with the stakeholder participation	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- What measures are taken to ensure inclusion and participation of all differentiated groups, including gender groups?			
Communication, visibility, knowledge management and knowledge products			
- How is learning and experience sharing communicated between project partners and interested groups? - How effective is the project in communicating key messages to stakeholders and beneficiaries? - Which (public) awareness activities have been/will be undertaken during project implementation? - To what extent do they influence attitudes or shape behaviour among project stakeholders, including local population? How? - To what extent are (existing) communication channels and networks used effectively, including meeting the differentiated needs of gendered or marginalized groups?	- Operative communication strategy - Degree of awareness of stakeholders - Number and quality of communication activities implemented	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), including M&E design, implementation and budget			
- To what extent were the monitoring plans designed to track progress against SMART indicators? - To what extent are the allocated funds adequate for monitoring purposes? - To what extent are the monitoring plans operational?	- Quality of monitoring plan - Number and quality of monitoring documents - Number and quality of reports delivered in line with reporting requirements	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- To what extent does the monitoring system/methodology facilitate the timely tracking of results and progress towards project objectives? - To what extent is the information, generated by the monitoring methodologies, used to adapt and improve project execution, achievement of outcomes and ensure sustainability? - Were the PIR reports prepared adequately and timely? - To what extent have other FAO and donor reporting requirements been fulfilled? - Does the monitoring methodology/system monitor stakeholder involvement and gender-disaggregated data?	- Number and quality of approved reports		- Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
5. Sustainability of project results			
Key question: How do socio-political, financial, institutional and environmental factors affect the probability of project outcomes being maintained and developed after the project ends?			
Sub-questions: - What is the level of ownership, interest and commitment among the main stakeholders? - What is the likelihood that the project achievements will be taken forward by the main stakeholders? - What is the likelihood that capacity development efforts continue? How will increased capacity be sustained?	- Number of follow-up activities initiated by stakeholders involved in the project - Implementation approach - Exit strategy/risk mitigation strategy	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
- To what extent are project outcomes dependent on future funding for the benefits they bring to be sustained? - What efforts are being made to secure funding for future complementary activities? - To what extent are institutional frameworks, policies, and legal and accountability frameworks in place and are they considered robust enough to support the sustainability of project outcomes? - Are there any adverse environmental factors that could hinder the achievement of project outcomes and long-term results? - What are the key risk factors that may affect the sustainability of project results? - Is an exit strategy prepared or is this planned to be done?			
6. Cross cutting issues – equity issues (e.g. gender, youth, vulnerable groups) and environmental and social safeguards (ESS)			
Equity issues (e.g. gender, youth, vulnerable groups)			
- To what extent does the project intervention adhere to FAO/GEF's policies and strategies for gender and human rights? - To what extent does project design, implementation, project structure and monitoring take into consideration: * Possible inequalities (especially gender-related) * Specific vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups (such as women, youth, children)	- Number of gender and human rights stakeholders identified and actively involved in project implementation - Number of stakeholders satisfied with the stakeholder participation realized - Evidence that sensitivity in gender has been observed in project design, implementation and monitoring of activities, including gender	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents - FAO and GEF gender and human rights policies	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
	distribution in participation in project activities and events		
Environmental and social safeguards (ESS)			
- To what extent are FAO's requirements, with respect to environmental and social safeguards, met (through the process of environmental and social screening at project approval stage, risk assessment and management) of potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with project and programme activities? Has an ESS (and ESMF/ESMP) plan been prepared? - Is the Environmental and Social Risks table as annexed to the project document monitored? - To what extent are the following activities carried out: * Review of risk ratings on a regular basis; * Monitoring of project implementation for possible safeguard issues; * Providing responses to safeguard issues.	- Frequency of review of risk ratings - Number/quality of monitoring reports that include monitoring of safeguard issues - Evidence of adequate responses to safeguard issues	- Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - ESMF or ESMP - Other project documents	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Appendix 5. List of documents consulted ("Reference list")

Community Based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/055/LDF) - Project Document.

Community Based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/055/LDF) – Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP), Government of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Project Implementation Report (PIR) July 2019/ June 2020

Project Implementation Report (PIR) July 2020/ June 2021

Training Manual on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture

Seventh Five Year Plan, FY2016 – FY 2020, Bangladesh

Eighth Five Year Plan, FY2020 – FY 2025, Bangladesh

United Nations Development Assistance Framework - UNDAF 2017-2021

National Fisheries Strategy, 2006, Bangladesh.

Minutes of the First Project Task Force Meeting, 01-04-2021

Minutes of the Second Project Task Force Meeting, 28-04-2021

Minutes of the Third Project Task Force Meeting, 01-06-2021

Minutes of the Fourth Project Task Force Meeting, 06-07-2021

Minutes of the Fifth Project Task Force Meeting, 01-08-2021

ToR for the MTR of Community-Based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/055/LDF) GEF ID 5636

Appendix 6. Result Matrix showing achievements at midterm and MTR observations

Project strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Level at first PIR (self-reported)	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Mid-Term level & assessment (colour coded red, yellow or green)	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
Outcome: 1. Strengthened stakeholder capacity and revised and updated policies and strategies to facilitate climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture management and development.	Revised national policies and strategies to facilitate climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture management and development.	Fisheries and aquaculture policies and strategies are outdated and need to be reviewed and updated to incorporate climate risk management.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Enhanced capacity and knowledge of at least 170 people including GoB and partners personnel, community leader/people (40% female), and private entrepreneurs on climate resilient inland capture fisheries and aquaculture			MS	The rating for Outcome 1 and the corresponding outputs is Moderately Satisfactory.
Strengthened stakeholder capacity to formulate and implement climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture policies, strategies, management and development plans.	Limited stakeholder capacity to formulate and implement climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture policies, strategies,	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown		Enhanced stakeholder capacity to formulate and implement climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture policies, strategies, management and development plans.				

	management and development plans.							
Output 1.1. Knowledge of climate related risks and vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors at national level with special focus on gender and climate-sensitive areas strengthened.	Assessment of climate related risks and vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture sectors at national level with a special focus on gender and climate-sensitive areas.	Limited awareness and on climate risks and vulnerabilities	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Assessment of climate related risks and vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture sectors at national level with a special focus on gender and climate-sensitive areas.	Report on Assessment of climate induced risks and vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture with due consideration to gender and with focus on climate sensitive areas targeted by the project.			
Climate risk assessment maps.		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Climate risk assessment maps.	National climate risk maps				
Output 1.2: Relevant national policies and strategies reviewed (gaps analysed) and recommendations	Review of policies and strategies incorporating fisheries and aquaculture.	Fisheries and Aquaculture policies and strategies are old, need reviewing and updating	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project	Review report of relevant fisheries policy	Review report of fishery sector policy (1) National			

to incorporating fisheries and aquaculture adaptation to CC.	adaptation to CC.	incorporating CC considerations (gender sensitive and possible adaptation actions)	work due to lockdown	Review report on fisheries strategies (inland capture and aquaculture) incorporating gender differentiated CC considerations	Fisheries Management Policy 1998			
					Review reports on inland capture fishery and aquaculture strategies (2) Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy 2006			

***Output 1.3*:** Capacity of DoF, other relevant GoB agencies, private sector and community-based organizations to plan and implement climate resilient development strengthened	Capacity needs assessment of DoF, BFRI and other related GoB agencies	Low capacity of DoF, BFRI and other related GoB agencies to facilitate climate resilient fisheries sector development.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Report on capacity needs assessment of DoF, BFRI & other related GoB agencies	Capacity need assessment (training needs assessment) report for DoF, BFRI and other related GoB agencies, private sector and community.			
	Capacity building strategy for DoF, other relevant GoB agencies and the private sector with subject areas	Lack of existing guiding framework to build institutional capacity for F&A climate resilience	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Capacity building strategy	Capacity Building Strategy			

	Number of GoB Staff trained in mud crab hatchery	Country lacks skilled personnel on Crab hatchery techniques and management.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	02 DoF & 02 BFRI personnel to be trained on mud crab hatchery techniques in Indonesia	02 DoF and 02 BFRI personnel trained on *Crab hatchery techniques* in Indonesia for 3-4 months.			
	Training manual on *Climate forecast application, DRM, CC mitigation & adaptation and EWS in fisheries &aquaculture* for local communities	No such manual exist to support capacity building	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Training manual on *Climate forecast application, DRM, CC mitigation & adaptation and EWS in F & A* for local communities	Training manual on *Climate forecast application, DRM, CC mitigation & adaptation and EWS in fisheries & aquaculture* for local communities			

	Number of stakeholder groups trained (e.g. DoF & BFRI, other partner organisations, private sector, and communities) on CC resilient fisheries and aquaculture	GOB personnel, private entrepreneurs and community lacks skill on climate change implications to fisheries sector and appropriate resilient adaptation options	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	100 DoF, BFRI and other GoB personnel to be trained on climate resilient adaptation and management approaches for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in-country	100 DoF, BFRI and other GoB personnel trained in-country.			
	Number of community leaders or lead farmers trained overseas in EAF and EAA as climate resilient management approaches		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	9 advanced community leader/people (40% female) 2 batches, each lead by 01 GoB official, trained in EAF and EAA as climate resilient management approaches	9 advanced community leader/people (40% female)			

	20 GoB (DoF & other partner organization's) personnel trained on climate resilience approaches for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in neighbouring countries.		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	20 GoB (DoF & other partner organization's) personnel trained on climate resilience approaches for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in neighbouring countries.	20 GoB (DoF & other partner organization's) personnel trained on climate resilience approaches for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in neighbouring countries.			
	14 Private entrepreneurs to be trained on climate resilient adaptation and management approaches for the F&A sector in-country.		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	14 Private entrepreneurs to be trained on climate resilient adaptation and management approaches for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in-country.	14 Private entrepreneurs trained in-country.			

Outcome 2: Climate risk management institutionalised in Upazila and local community fisheries and aquaculture development plans	Detailed CRVA at Upazila level highlighting climate hotspots and most vulnerable communities	Limited understanding knowledge on impact of CC in target Upazila and communities	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	15 local development plans integrated DRM considerations by 70 communities	1 CRVA report for 9 target Upazilas highlighting climate hotspots and most vulnerable communities		MS	The rating for Outcome 2 and the corresponding outputs is Moderately Satisfactory.
	Number of Upazila F&A plans mainstreamed with climate-resilient including DRM and EWS	Local F&A development plans do not adequately integrate CC	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown					
Output 2.1. Risks and vulnerability of fisheries, aquaculture and livelihoods to the adverse impacts of CC, including knowledge gaps, with the participation of relevant	Detailed CRVA at Upazila level highlighting climate hotspots and most vulnerable communities	Limited understanding knowledge on impact of CC in target Upazila and communities	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Risk and vulnerability assessment completed among hotspots areas or haor in 9 Upazila).	1 CRVA report for 9 target Upazilas highlighting climate hotspots areas and communities			

stakeholders in project sites assessed	70 Community participatory climate vulnerability risk assessments conducted at project sites.	Climate induced risks and vulnerability of fisheries & aquaculture subsector assessment not available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	70 community participatory CRVAs	70 community participatory CRVAs			
***Output 2.2*:** Stakeholder capacity to plan and manage CC risks and implement fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood adaptations to climate change strengthened	Number of CBOs F&A CC adaptation measures and climate resilient F&A plan. EWS for F&A management in place	Limited knowledge among communities on CC resilience in F&A	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	3000 (HHs) households (40% female) trained on climate variability and CC risks and on general climate resilient adaptation approaches and management. 2880 (HHs) households (40% female) trained on climate variability and CC risks and on general climate resilient adaptation approaches and management	5880 (HHs) households (40% female) trained on climate variability and CC risks and on general climate resilient adaptation approaches and management			

	Upazila officials trained in development of climate resilient F&A plans	Limited capacity of Upazila officials to mainstream CC in F&A plans	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	9 Upazila F&A development plans mainstreamed with CC Local authorities, DoF trained in mainstreaming CC in development plans	9 Upazila F&A development plans mainstreamed with CC			
	Community develop and adopt climate resilient plans	Highly vulnerable do not have climate resilient plans	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	30 communities' (CBOs) development plans integrate CC including DRM and EWS considerations	70 CBOs development plans integrate CC including DRM and EWS considerations			

	EWS for F&A management in place	Existing early warning systems not fully integrating F&A messages	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	EWS with F&A in place >3,000 hhlds (of 5880) utilise EWS	EWS (linked to environmental monitoring) in place			

Outcome 3: Communities adaptive capacity to adoption and implement CC resilient fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood technologies/ approaches in targeted areas strengthened.	Number of targeted groups adopting CC adaptation technologies disaggregated by gender	Adoption of climate resilient practices in the fisheries and aquaculture communities is very low due to lack of knowledge, awareness and availability of potential technologies and approaches.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	30 communities (CBOs / occupational groups) adopt climate smart technologies. All 25 farmer field schools established.	70 CBOS adopt climate smart technologies Around 15% increase in fisheries and aquaculture productivity in targeted HHs. Around 15% increase in income generation in targeted beneficiaries under existing and projected climate changes		MU	The rating for Component 3 and correspondin g outputs is Moderately Unsatisfactory as limited progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets was made due to the COVID19pan demic and the strict lockdowns. These unpreceden ted circumstanc es have been taken into consideratio n when rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermor

								e, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved. It is recommended to extend the project so that the outputs and outcomes can be achieved.

***Output 3.1*:** Community adaptive capacity and innovative aquaculture systems, brood banks and satellite hatcheries, salt tolerant fish strains etc.) developed and adopted by the targeted communities.	Number of targeted groups adopting CC adaptation technologies disaggregated by gender	Adoption of climate resilient practices in the fisheries and aquaculture communities is very low due to lack of knowledge, awareness and availability of potential technologies and approaches.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	30 communities (CBOs/occupational groups/) adopt climate smart technologies. 40 (CBOs/occupational groups/) communities adopt climate smart technologies. Site selection, community mobilization and initiate climate resilient smart technologies demonstration with communities.	70 CBOS adopt climate smart technologies Around 15% increase in fisheries and aquaculture productivity in targeted HHs. Around 15% increase in income generation in targeted beneficiaries under existing and projected climate changes			

	Mud crab and gold hatchery efficiency improvement report	Low operational productivity of existing hatcheries	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Mud crab and Golda hatcheries' efficiency improvement reports.	Mud crab and Golda hatchery improvement report			
	Operational manual on o existing golda and mud hatcheries	Lack of sufficient guidelines to improve operation efficiency	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Revised Mud crab and golda hatchery operational manual	Revised Mud crab and golda hatchery operational manual			

	Establishment of PL/fingerling markets in Bagerhat-Dacope area	PL/fingerling market is non-existent in Bagerhat-Dacope area	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Establishment of 01 PL/ fingerling market in Bagerhat-Dacope area.	PL/fingerling market established in Bagerhat-Dacope area			

Output 3.2: Community-led and gender differentiated dissemination systems of adaptation technologies developed and adopted.	Community led gender differentiated dissemination systems developed and adopted, including ICT based dissemination system for F&A in place	Some dissemination systems that could be adapted to the objectives of this project in place but inadequately addresses gender. Limited access and knowledge on fisheries and aquaculture advisory messages.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Gender differentiated ICT-based dissemination systems in place in 9 Upazila 3,000 hhlds (of 5880) utilise ICT dissemination system	Gender differentiated ICT-based dissemination systems in place ICT in place in at least 100 communities but utilised by wider target (5,000) in 9 Upazila Around 10 types of user-friendly dissemination materials produced and distributed among community and stakeholders .			The rating for Outcome 1 and the corresponding outputs is Moderately Satisfactory.

	Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) on fisheries and aquaculture and pilot farms established.		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Initiate Farmers Field School establishment. 12 Farmers Field School established	25 FFS established of which at least 75% is functional for diversification of livelihoods in 9 upazilas.			
Output 3.3: Environmental monitoring and information dissemination systems established. .	Number of Upazila with functioning environmental monitoring and information dissemination systems.	Communities are totally dependent on the DoF officials and Govt. extension agents for monitoring of environmental parameters and are not able to react to CC environmentally related emergencies.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Training of 20 DoF/community trainers on implementing local environmental monitoring systems (linked to the community EWS and DRM)				

			Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	100 CBOs (about 2500 people of which 40% women) taught/trained on implementing local environmental monitoring systems.	At least 100 communities (2,500 persons, 40% female) trained on implementing local environmental monitoring systems.			
			Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Functioning local environmental monitoring systems connected to EWS and DRM in at least 50 (70%) communities	Environmental monitoring systems (well connected to the EWS and DRM) in place in 70 (70%) of the communities.			

Output 3.4: Manuals on climate resilient & gender differentiated fisheries, aquaculture and livelihood technologies/ approaches developed & adopted by the communities, DoF and other relevant government & NGO entities.	Number of manuals developed on different topics .	Existing Manuals are scattered, needs updating and consolidation with inclusion of best fisheries and aquaculture technologies, lessons learned, conservation-management and climate forecast applications, disaster risk management and adaptation, mitigation options.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	1Training Manual produced on: *Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources and Climate Resilient Best Practices formulated and printed for use* 1 training Manuals produced/in place and distributed to beneficiaries and all stakeholders formulated and printed for use. 1 Training Manual produced on: *Fisheries Habitat Conservation-Management formulated and printed for use* 1Training Manual produced on *Community management and women empowerment in fisheries and*				

				aquaculture activities formulated and printed for use				
	Number of users of the manuals, including number of communities and government & NGO entities		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown					
Outcome 4: Project implementation based on results based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated**.**	M&E systems	Inadequate knowledge base on fisheries and aquaculture adaptation & M&E system.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Adaptive results-based M&E in place.	Adaptive results-based M&E.		MS	

***Output 4.1*:** Project results, lessons and best practices with relevant stakeholders & a wider audience shared.	Project communication and results dissemination strategy	Limited cc adaptation documents, extension materials. No website currently exists.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Project communication and results dissemination strategy	Project communication and results dissemination strategy			
	Communication and dissemination materials		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Communication and dissemination materials produced and distributed.	outreach events, newsletters, special newspaper issues, etc.			

	Project website		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Project website fully up to date with all project results.	Project Website and statistics of no. of visits. Project website functioning, with links to DoF, FAOBD and related webs.			
***Output 4.2*:** Project monitoring system providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome &output targets developed.	Baseline and targets for project indicators.		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	PIR, Annual monitoring report. System in place for annual M&E of indicators.	8 PIRs and monitoring reports (as per GEF-FAO guideline).			

	Annual project implementation review (PIR) reports submitted to GEF Secretariat.		Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown					
***Output 4.3*:** Mid-term & terminal evaluations conducted.	Mid-term & final evaluation reports.	No evaluations exist at present.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 situation did not allow initiating project work due to lockdown	Mid-project evaluation recommendations implemented. Evaluation recommendations included in lessons learned	Project's mid- and terminal evaluation Reports with recommendations and way forward.			

Appendix 7. Co-Financing table

Sources of Co-financing[5]	name of the financer	Type of Co-financing[6]	Amount conformed at CEO endorsement/approval[7]		Actual Amount materialized as of date of MTR		Actual amount metalized at mid-term or closures confirmed by the review/ evaluation team	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
			Cash	in kind	Cash	in kind		
GEF Agency	FAO	Contribution	-	4,200,000		0	0	4,200,000
Government	DoF/MoFL	Contribution	-	6,100,000		0	0	6,100,000
Government	DoE/MoEFCC	Contribution	-	250,000		0	0	250,000
Government	MoEFCC/IUCN	Contribution	-	1,300,000		0	0	1,300,000
International	World Fish	Contribution	-	2,000,000		0	0	2,000,000
International	IFAD	Contribution	-	2,500,000		0	0	2,500,000
		Total		16,350,000				16,350,000

All co-financing were in kind and expired before the commencement of the project.

Appendix 8. GEF evaluation criteria rating table and rating scheme

GEF criteria /sub criteria	Rating	Summary comments
A. Strategic relevance		
A1 Overall strategic relevance	HS	The project is strategically relevant and is in line with the national and global priorities, as well as with GEF and FAO strategic Objectives.
A1.1 Alignments with GEF and FAO strategies priorities	HS	The project is in alignment with GEF 5 focal area objectives CCA 1 to 3, and the project is formulated in alignment with the "Revised Programming Strategy on Adaptation to CC for LDCF. Also the strategic objectives of FAO specially "Make Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries more Productive and Sustainable" and the recent FAO Country Programming Frameworks for the periods 2014 – 2018 and 2019 – 2020).
A1.2 Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS	The project is also in line with the CIP Progarmme-1 that focuses on "integrated research and extension to develop and propagate sustainable responses to climate change" that emphasizes increased food productivity and increased resilience / adaptation to climate change including application of resilient farming systems". Also in line with the Eighth five-year plan (SFYP) of Bangladesh(2020-2025) which recognized the impacts of climate change as a new threat to development and sets out some targeted activities to tackle climate change impacts.
A1.3 Complementarity with existing interventions	MS	The project is strategically relevant and is in line with the GEF strategic priorities, national policies and priorities and donor strategic priorities, existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The MTR also found that there are certain complementarities and synergies with the existing inventions and projects by both government and development agencies.
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	MU	At MTR point of the project, partial outputs and no outcomes have been achieved, despite the fact that the important progress of National Policy review was undertaken. There are exceptional circumstances of COVID 19 created situation and this has been taken into cognizance when assessing the project results.
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	MS	No complete outputs have been delivered. However, important activities under outcomes 1 to 3 could be achieved.
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes and project objectives	MS	There has been progress towards achieving the first two outcomes and limited progress towards achieving on the last two outcomes. The MTR decided to rate the delivery of project results and outputs as Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Hence, progress towards individual outcomes has been rated as MS, except for outcome 1, which was rated as Satisfactory.
Outcome 1: Improved relevant national policies and strategies to facilitate climate resilient fisheries sector and development at all levels.	MS	Draft review report on National Fisheries policy and strategy on mainstreaming CC and gender shared with DoF Capacity Needs Assessment being completed Working draft of Training manual on Climate forecast application, DRM, CC mitigation & adaptation and EWS in fisheries & aquaculture for local communities finalized

Outcome 2: Local community organizations have institutionalized Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in their local development plans and programmes, thus improving local climate change related governance and resilience.	MS	Risk and vulnerability assessments conducted and being updated at project sites Participatory Community Climate risk and vulnerability assessment in selected communities Development and implementation of community management plans All the above are linked to and await the Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment
Outcome 3: Communities with strengthened adaptive capacity, maximize their incomes and access to nutrition through adoption of climate change resilient fisheries, aquaculture technologies in targeted areas.	MS	1075 households trained in Climate variability and climate change risks to Fisheries and Aquaculture 43 CBOs of 25 members each were selected to implement pilot activities in selected project sites.
Outcome 4: Project implementation based on results-based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated.	MS	Project databased is being developed Webinars and workshops were undertaken. A webinar on the Impact of COVID 19 in fish/shrimp hatcheries and options for building back better" was conducted in September 2021 as part of National Fish Week 2021. LOA between FAO and DoF on CBOs formation, capacity development of government officials and communities in climate resilience of fisher communities is ongoing. LOA between FAO and CEGIS for a "Comprehensive Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment" is ongoing.
Overall rating of progress towards achieving	MS	Despite the factors faced by the project, there has been progress in achieving the first two outcomes and limited progress on the last two outcomes. The MTR decided to rate the delivery of project results and outputs as Moderately Satisfactory (MS).

objectives/ outcomes		
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	Not rated at MTR	Many activities planned during the period under this MTR are yet to be implemented. Although the MTR team did not find any shortcoming in the logic of the project, it is too early to make an assessment on the likelihood impact on the outcome of the project.
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency[11]	MU	The project has achieved only few activities. Important activities achieved are revision of national policy on fisheries, capacity building tools particularly the training manual on climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture has been developed and used. CBOs have been selected and piloting activities have been identified. Work is progressing on EWS through BWDB however it has to be initiated through an LOA which has to be quickly done between FAO and BWDB. CRVA assessment is progressing well which is being done by CEGIS. Many activities planned during the period under this MTR are yet to be implemented. This situation made it difficult to assess the cost-effectiveness.
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	ML	Although it is too early to make any definite statements on sustainability of the project outcomes as only a few activities have been implemented, the MTR team assesses it moderately likely that there are some risks to achieving sustainability, in particular institutional and financial sustainability. However, these risks can be overcome if these are taken into serious account early during the implementation of activities and if exit strategies are prepared timely.
D1.1. Financial risks	ML	The financial sustainability is ensured through mainstreaming best practices into sectoral policies related to fisheries and aquaculture, environment and DRR, and integration of adaptation priorities and frameworks into sector budgets. Hence, there are no financial risks to sustainability.
D1.2. Socio-political risks	UA	The MTR did not find any major socio-political risks that would influence the sustainability. However, ProDoc mentioned no social risks, and as the project has implemented few activities, the MTR team is unable to assess the socio-political risks to sustainability.
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	MU	The MTR did not find any Institutional and governance risks as the project includes different institutions as stakeholders. By design these institutions may be sustaining project outcomes beyond the project tenure. Interviewees indicated that the stakeholders need technical and coordination support to implement the activities and their capacity needs to be increased. If these are met with and the built up capacity is sustained, the institutional sustainability will be increased.
D2. Catalysis and replication	ML	It is too early to assess the changes in behaviour and practice that the project has supported or brought in to catalyse, as partial outputs are achieved. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Innovation, Replication and Scaling up in which replication aspects are described. The ProDoc identifies a number of activities which will be piloted, and which have significant potential for scaling up. When the project outcomes are achieved, it will be certain that certain activities will be scaled up and replicated after the project end, provided that the responsibilities and financial aspects pertaining to scaling up are discussed and monitored timely and included in the exit strategy.
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		

E1. Project design and readiness	MS	The project was overall well designed. Nevertheless, there have been considerable delays in implementing project activities, due to delay in TAPP approval and the delay in appointing the PD. Hence, the executing agency together with FAO is implementing the field level activities at a greater pace.
E2. Quality of project implementation	MS	Few activities have been implemented. Therefore it is difficult to assess this criterion. Those activities that have been implemented, pertain to policy review, CRVA, EWS, capacity building, formation of CBOs. Nevertheless, the relative degree of project implementation is low, but gaining momentum.
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	MS	Few activities have been implemented. The support rendered by FAO for those activities that were executed was satisfactory.
E2.2 Project oversight (PSC, project working group, etc.)	MS	As few activities have been implemented, the level of oversight should be increased. Though PSC is functioning, meetings are to be conducted as per the schedule.
E3. Quality of project execution	MS	Despite the fact that few activities have been implemented, project execution including selecting right institutions to undertake the work on CRVA and EWS have been executed well
E3.1 Project execution and management (PMU and executing partner performance, administration, staffing, etc.)	MS	The project execution at field level with CBOs is gaining momentum, however better and strengthened coordination between FAO and DoF staff is required to ensure timely and sound execution of pilot activities.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	MS	The financial management followed the normal FAO procedures and a financial statement of the project was shared with the MTR in October 2021. Co-finance provided by the partners needs revisions as many of the activities mentioned in co-finance have been completed. A fresh co-financing projects that are in operation now is being work out by the project. The same may be reworked and followed.
ES. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	S	The stakeholders have been properly defined at the project design level which is still valid; an elaborated stakeholder analysis was prepared. Stakeholders interviewed are aware of the project and showed high commitment to the project and its results.
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	MS	The Communication and awareness strategy is yet to be developed. A few knowledge products and communication material during the COVID were developed and distributed. As the project is gaining momentum communication and awareness material including a brochure on project should be developed. During the MTR field visit the noting pads provided by the project contained information on project in Bengali, which is a good step.
E7. Overall quality of M&E	MS	The ProDoc describes a well-drawn M&E plan and the reporting to GEF is done through the PIRs. However, as very few activities were undertaken, the M&E activities were at a limited level.
E7.1 M&E design.	MS	The M&E at project design was of an adequate level. The ProDoc contains an M&E plan, indicating type of M&E Activity, Responsible Parties, Time Frame and budget.

E7.2 M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources)	MS	Given that the project has implemented limited activities, the M&E plan could not be fully implemented. M&E specialist who is recruited recently is expected to finalize the M&E framework and development of database.
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	MS	As per the limited activities implemented, it was difficult to assess factors affecting performance when looking at the aspects that need to be considered as per the MTR guidelines. Thus the MTR team tried to balance the assessment based on the quality of the information provided in the ProDoc and on what was actually implemented which was verified during the field visits. The facts that the project is presently taking into account the project is gaining momentum after the lockdown and TAPP approval delay were taken into consideration.
F. cross cutting concerns		
F1 Gender and other equity dimensions 12. Human rights issues	MS	The project has well considered the gender aspects during implementation of activities particularly while forming CBOs where gender balance is ensured and in a few cases depending on the respective pilot activity. There is a gender expert in the project and the policy review is also including gender concerns.
F2 Human rights issues	MS	The project is likely to consider these aspects during the implementation particularly at field level. As per the PIR the project while implementing the project activities will potentially interact with several indigenous communities in the project sites. A limited number of indigenous people are expected to be involved in the SW coastal area (Mogh tribe) and in the NE wetland haor area (Tipra tribe). Their overall and gender aggregate percentage will be maintained in CBO formation and will require a visit for physical verification of their involvement. FPIC is also planned to be initiated when the country is at lower risk with the COVID-19pandemic and filed activities are resumed. Risk is low as per the E&S Screening checklist.
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	MS	The ProDoc contains a chapter on Environmental and Social Risk Screening where the check list has been certified as low risk. The MTR concurs with this assessment.
Overall project rating	**MS**	