

Inventory survey

Geographical Regions and Challenges:

1. North West: Drought-prone with arsenic contamination risk.
2. North Central: Barind Tract, facing drought, arsenic contamination, and surface water depletion.
3. North East: Prone to flash floods from Indian boundary flows.
4. Eastern Hills: High rainfall, challenges with soil erosion, and landslides.
5. Central: Urban and industrial growth with issues of water pollution, waterlogging, and drainage congestion.
6. South East Coastal: Vulnerable to cyclones, storm surges, salinity intrusion, and coastal erosion.
7. South West Coastal: Coastal regions face challenges of cyclones, storm surges, salinity intrusion, and water-logging due to polderization.
8. Rivers and Estuaries: Major rivers and estuaries face issues of erosion, sediment transport, flooding, and navigation.

Biodiversity:

Positioned as a transitional zone within the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot. Dhaka University's 1982 wildlife checklist documented 19 amphibian species, 124 reptiles, 578 birds, and 119 mammals, totalling 840 species (excluding fishes and invertebrates) (Khan, 1982; Hossain 2001; Nishat et al. 2002). The updated 2015 checklist reported an increase to 64 amphibian species, 174 reptiles, 711 birds, and 133 mammal species, totalling 1082 species. The Red Listing process in 2015 produced a broader consensus list, totalling 1,619 species.

Red List Breakdown (2015):

The Red List includes 138 mammals, 566 birds, 167 reptiles, 49 amphibians, 253 freshwater fishes, 141 crustaceans, and 305 butterfly species (IUCN, 2015). A considerable number of invertebrates expected in Bangladesh, including 31 regionally extinct species, as well as estuarine and marine fishes, are left unaccounted for.

Changes Over Time:

The biodiversity count increased significantly from 1982 to 2015, reflecting a growing understanding of the country's diverse wildlife.

Extinct Species:

Extinct species like rhinos, buffalo, gaur, banteng, and several birds and reptiles are excluded from the counts.

Forests:

Forest Allocation Aspiration: 20% geographical area to forest and tree cover (Altrell et al. 2007).

Forest Depletion:

Except for the Sundarbans, natural forests, including the Mixed-evergreen or Hill Forest, Mangrove Forest, Sal Forest, and Bamboo Forest, faced severe depletion.

Forest Categories:

Total Forest Area: 12,050 km² of mainland and coastal/estuarine forests.

Unclassed State Forest:

Another type of forest managed by the forest department is known as unclassified state forest (Altrell et al. 2007).

Decline Over Time:

Since the 1870s, Bangladesh's forested regions have experienced a decline. Total forest land now constitutes less than 16%, equivalent to 2.33 million hectares. The most recent update in 2021 reveals a further decrease to 14.47% of the land area, equivalent to 1.8834 million hectares.

Forest and Tree Resources Zones:

Five major zones: Sundarbans, Coastal forests, Hill forests, Sal forests, and Village forests (including Trees outside Forests - TOF).

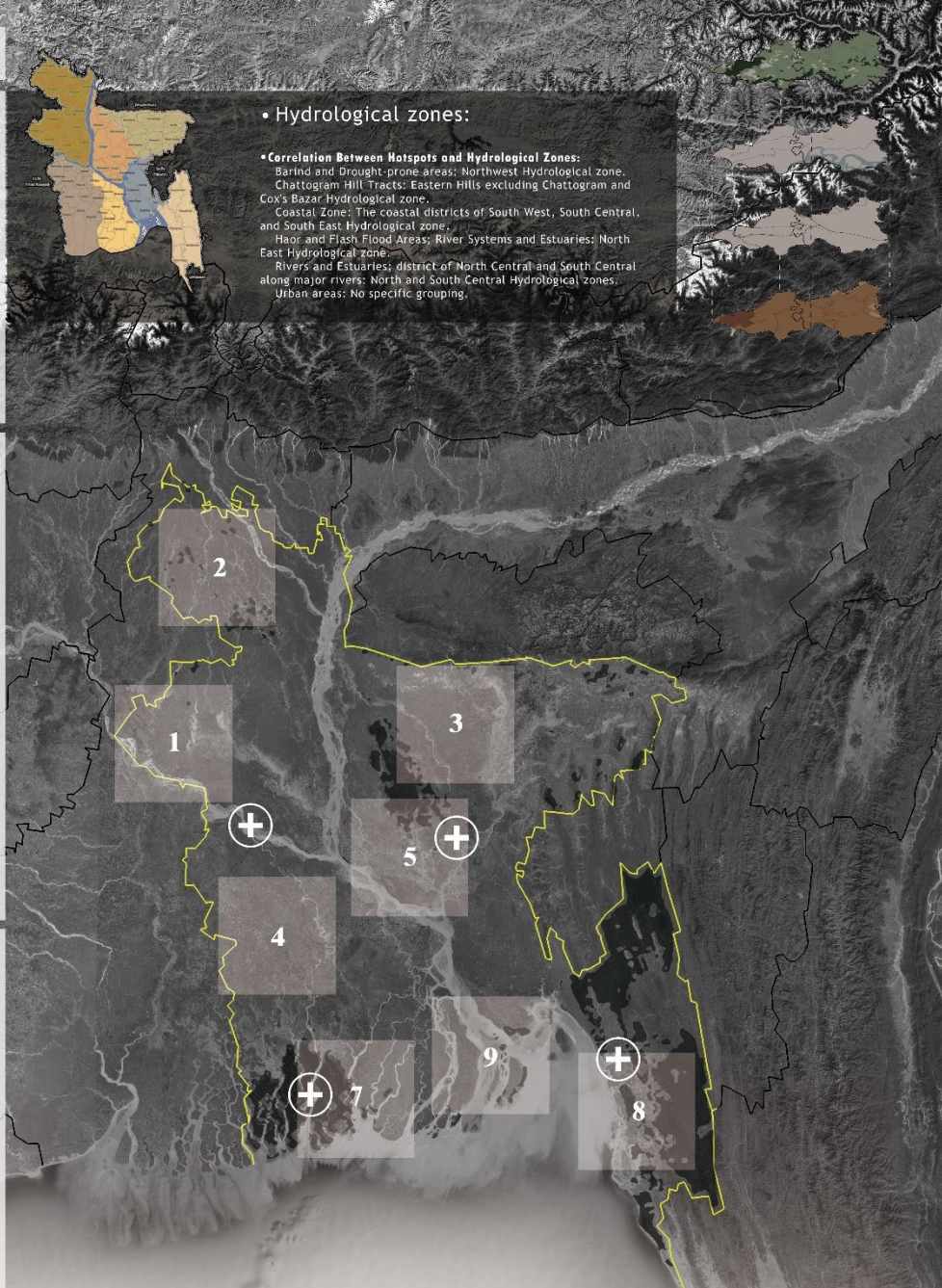
Village Forests and Trees Outside Forests (TOF):

Village forests include trees in rural homesteads. TOF is cultivated along roadsides, canals, embankments, and fallow land. Social forestry programs and strip plantations are crucial, fulfilling 80% of timber and fuelwood demand (Barua and Kumar, 2015).

Hydrological zones:

Correlation Between Hotspots and Hydrological Zones:

- Barind and Drought-prone areas: Northwest Hydrological zone.
- Chattogram Hill Tracts: Eastern Hills excluding Chattogram and Cox's Bazar Hydrological zone.
- Coastal Zones: The coastal districts of South West, South Central, and South East Hydrological zone.
- Haor and Flash Flood Areas: River Systems and Estuaries: North East Hydrological zone.
- Rivers and Estuaries: district of North Central and South Central along major rivers: North and South Central Hydrological zones.
- Urban areas: No specific grouping.



TOTAL FOREST AREA: 12,050km²

4,360km²

5,510km²

340km²

1,840km²

Sundarbans Mangrove Forest:

Located in Satkhira, Khulna, and Bagerhat Districts. Encompasses 6,000 km² (4,000 km² land, 2,000 km² water). Rich biodiversity with 334 floral and 269 faunal species.

Mixed-evergreen and Evergreen Forests:

Spread across Sylhet, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, and Chittagong Hill Tracts. Approximately 4,000 km², primarily in eastern and northeastern regions.

Hill Forests:

Encompass tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests in south-eastern and eastern parts.

Shalbon or Sal Forest:

Concentrated in central and western parts (Dhaka, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Tangail). Covers 300 km², facing threats like lumber poaching, land conversion, and land grabbing.

Coastal Forests:

Comprise plantations from afforestation along the southern coastline and offshore islands.

Others

Additional categories: Homestead Forests, Countryside Forests, Village Woodlands, and Crop fields.



Coastal Zone:

Threatened by rising sea levels, cyclones, and salinity intrusion affecting agriculture and water sources.

Haor Region:

Faces regular flash floods affecting agriculture, fisheries, and livelihoods.

Barind and Drought Prone Areas:

Experiencing water scarcity and changing rainfall patterns affecting agriculture.

Charlands:

River islands with changing shapes due to erosion and sedimentation, present challenges for infrastructure and livelihoods.

Urban Areas:

Challenges related to rapid urbanization, waste management, water supply, and sanitation.

Floodplains and Rivers:

Threatened by changing flood patterns and river erosion affecting agriculture and livelihoods.

Critical Hotspots:

Six critical hotspots identified by the BDP (Bangladesh Delta Plan) require special attention.

Opportunities I

• Agriculture:

• Food Production:

Fertile soil and abundant water resources in the delta facilitate multiple cropping. Advancements in seed-fertilizer-irrigation technology contribute to intensified land cultivation. Rice production increased from 12 million tonnes in 1973 to 36.3 million tonnes in 2018.

• Achievements in Food Self-Sufficiency:

Bangladesh successfully utilizes natural advantages for food production. Despite delta and climate change risks, the country achieves food self-sufficiency. Poised for rice exports due to effective population control policies.

• Fisheries Resources:

An abundance of rivers, wetlands, and lakes presents opportunities for fisheries resources. Marine fishing, especially in the Bay of Bengal, has become a significant contributor to fisheries. Transformation in agriculture structure: decreasing crop sub-sector share, increasing fisheries share.

• Economic Adaptability and Resilience:

Value-added and employment shares of the fisheries sector are increasing. Bangladesh showcases adaptability and resilience in the face of changing economic structures.

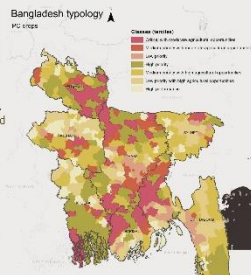
• Statistics:

Rice production increased from 12 million tonnes (1973) to 36.3 million tonnes (2018). Successful utilization of natural advantages leads to food self-sufficiency. The fisheries sector contributes significantly to value-added and employment.

• Policy Impact:

Effective population control policies contribute to the country's poised position for rice exports.

(General Economics Division, 2018; Mondal, 2010).



Opportunities II

• Renewable Energy:

Bangladesh holds significant potential for renewable energy development.

• Strategic Approach:

A comprehensive framework for advancing renewable energy initiatives in Bangladesh.

• Focus on Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels:

Growing acceptance of solar PV panels for providing electricity to rural households and small businesses.

• Off-Grid Solar Home Solutions:

The development of off-grid solar home solutions has reached international benchmarks.

• Exploration of Other Renewable Resources:

While solar power has made strides, the potential of other renewable resources is still in the exploratory stage.

Key Areas of Focus:

Institutional aspects.
Hydropower.
Exploration of tidal power.
Solar energy.
Financing.

Challenges II • Rainfall:

• Future Outlook for Bangladesh's Rainfall Pattern:

Increased variability and unpredictability are expected (General Economics Division, 2018). Projections indicate a rise in pre-monsoon and monsoon rainfall (General Economics Division, 2018). An overall annual increase is expected in most regions by 2030 (General Economics Division, 2018). By 2050, southern parts and eastern hills may experience reductions in rainfall. Higher temperature rises foresee more erratic rainfall behaviour and variations in amounts (General Economics Division, 2018).

• Sea level rise and salinity intrusion:

Prominent issues in the Bangladesh delta due to its complex geographical position. IPCC (2013) predicts sea level rise ranging from 0.2 meters to 1 meter for low to high emission scenarios in the Bay of Bengal by 2100.

• Cyclones:

Lowlying areas in coastal regions are highly vulnerable to cyclones, posing threats to lives and properties. Almost yearly occurrences of cyclones in the country's coastal region, with a severe cyclone every three years on average.

• Water Quality:

Water quality in 32 rivers is significantly deteriorating, indicating a substantial risk of environmental degradation. Contributing factors include industrialization, mechanized agriculture, urbanization, and salinization. Anticipated further degradation of surface water quality in Bangladesh.

• Waterlogging:

Significant development challenges are posed by waterlogging in both urban and rural areas.

• Urbanization and Urban Heat Island (UHI)

• Droughts:

• Drought Characteristics in Bangladesh:

Droughts are agricultural, characterised by severe moisture stress. Drought-prone agroecological zones experience dry periods from March 24 to May 21 (32 to 48 days). High temperatures (over 40°C) for 5 to 15 days during this period. Some soils with limited moisture retention are susceptible to drought.

Barind Region Irrigation Project and Its Impact:

Government initiative addressing drought in the Barind region. Successful transformation into a flourishing agricultural hub (rice, fruits, vegetables). Significant poverty alleviation in the North-West part of Bangladesh.

Changing Drought Risk Factors:

The risk of drought shifted due to reduced surface water availability (upstream river water diversion in India). Insufficient rainfall during the dry season impacts the water table.

Climate Change Threat to Barind Tract Agriculture:

The potential impact of climate change leading to further reduced rainfall in the dry season. Poses a threat to agriculture in the Barind Tract (General Economics Division, 2018).

Opportunities III

• Inland Water Transport

• Geographic Advantage:

An abundance of rivers in Bangladesh provides a significant comparative advantage.

• Interconnected Districts:

Virtually all districts are interconnected through river routes. Forms links with growth centres like Dhaka, Chattogram, and Khulna.

• Transportation Benefits:

Inland waterways offer environmentally friendly and cost-effective transportation. Benefits both passengers and cargo.

• Social Impact:

Particularly beneficial for the rural poor. A major source of employment in rural areas.

• Development Opportunities:

Emphasizing river transport could unlock substantial development opportunities. Lowers transportation costs, mitigates environmental degradation, and conserves budgetary resources.

• Employment Prospects:

Enhances employment prospects for the impoverished.

(General Economics Division, 2018; Hassan and Xueteng, 2022)

Challenges I

• Climate Change Impact in Bangladesh:

Sizable challenges in climate change adaptation (Huq, Karim, and Asaduzzam, 1999). Global surface temperature increased by 0.85 °C from 1880 to 2012 (General Economics Division, 2018). Bangladesh is vulnerable to climate change, posing threats to development (General Economics Division, 2018). Agriculture faces a 17% decline, with a potential 61% decrease in wheat output by 2050 without rapid action (General Economics Division, 2018). Soil salinity and flooding impact crop yields (General Economics Division, 2018). Forestry and ecosystems, including the Sundarbans mangrove forest, are at risk. One-meter sea level rise (SLR) could lead to economic decline (General Economics Division, 2018). Infrastructure faces an annual depletion of 0.05% in capital stock (General Economics Division, 2018). Health hazards, including water and vector-borne diseases, are projected to increase (General Economics Division, 2018).

The impact could result in a 1.1% to 2.0% annual GDP loss (General Economics Division, 2018). Implementing the Bangladesh Delta Plan could potentially accelerate the average growth rate to 8.8% of GDP (General Economics Division, 2018).

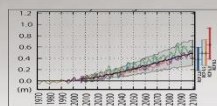


Figure 1-2 SLR Projections by different RCPs in Bay of Bengal
Source: IPCC 2013

Challenges III

• Floods:

• Challenges of Recurrent Floods in Bangladesh:

Unique geography with the convergence of Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers forming the world's largest delta.

About 70% of the country's land is less than one meter above sea level, consisting of vast flood plains and deltas.

Monsoons, especially in highlands, and tropical storms along the coast contribute to regular inundation (20-25% of the nation).

Extreme flood events, with simultaneous peaks of major rivers, can submerge 55-60% of the country.

Climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of megafloods.

Human activities like dam construction in upstream countries and unplanned urbanisation in floodplains add to the challenges (General Economics Division, 2018).

• River erosion:

• River Morphology and Erosion Rates:

High dynamism in river morphology with regular river bank erosion, especially along main riverbanks. Jamuna experiences erosion at approximately 1,770 hectares per year. Padma River erodes about 1,298 hectares per year. Lower Meghna erodes at a rate of 2,900 hectares per year. Increasing river discharge is the primary cause of erosion.

• Changing Peak Discharge Patterns:

Flow records of the Brahmaputra/Jamuna rivers show a rise in peak discharge over 50 years. Peak discharge in Jamuna occurred earlier, shifting from mid to the first week of August. Bhairab Bazar (Meghna) experiences decreasing peak discharge, delayed to the last week of September. Hardinge Bridge station on the Ganges observes increasing peak discharge, advancing about one day per decade. Escalating peak discharges of the Ganges and Brahmaputra increase the likelihood of future river erosion.

• Impact on Flood Risks:

The current trend of peak advancement may reduce the chances of simultaneous peaks in the Ganges and Brahmaputra, decreasing the risk of prolonged and catastrophic floods.

• Land Accretion and Net Erosion:

Some land accretion occurs due to river movements and sediment transport. A total of 52,313 hectares of land were accreted during 1973-2015. Despite accretion, net erosion remains highest for the Brahmaputra/Jamuna River.

• Anticipated Changes and Climate Impact:

Anticipated changes in river flow and sediment transport are influenced by the multifaceted impacts of climate change. Expected to further intensify the dynamics of these rivers (General Economics Division, 2018).

2100 vision

Issues

• **Poverty alleviation for better quality of life**
Promoting poverty alleviation and improving the quality of life by enhancing the economy and fostering sustainable economic growth

• **Optimized biodiversity to enhance human well-being.**
Maximize the critical role of biodiversity in safeguarding human well-being, security, and health.

• **Sustainable agriculture**
Implementing sustainable agriculture practices, including agroforestry, enhancing both yield productivity and environmental conservation, fostering a harmonious balance between agricultural production and ecology

• **Climate resilience to natural hazards**
Enhance the robustness and adaptability to environmental challenges, including natural hazards

• **Adaptation for high population density and heat stress**
Adaptation strategies for high population density and heat stress in urban areas, ensuring the resilience and well-being of urban communities in the face of global warming

Aims

Creating a climate-resilient Bangladesh to reduce poverty, natural risks and vulnerability due to the adverse impacts of climate change and country development, and to help fulfil the aspiration to become an eco-friendly natural-based nation.





Ecological floating island

Due to flood disasters and other issues, we have set up ecological floating islands, which to some extent have become places for gardens, farms, and people to live.



Public transportation

The complex water and land transportation network can solve road congestion caused by population issues and improve the efficiency of river transportation.



Public space

Provide more flexible leisure spaces within the city, break the sense of spatial singularity, and offer more possibilities.



Bio Infiltration Cells

Bio infiltration cells are landscape depressions that can be used to guide rainwater runoff from impermeable surfaces. Not only that, they also have the function of purifying water. Bio infiltration cells need to have sufficient and excellent leakage bases to ensure timely infiltration of accumulated water. Rainwater gardens and ecological detention tanks are typical ecological infiltration units.



Floating housing

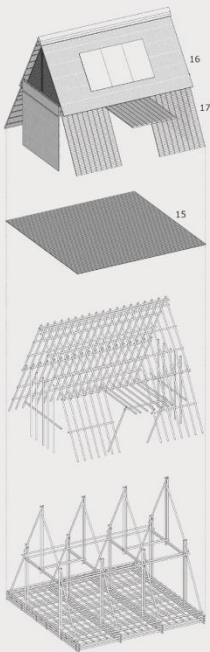
Floating house has been designed with low environmentally impactful materials and technologies that reduce its carbon footprint and lower its energy needs. It has a compact activated sludge wastewater treatment plant and when charged, the house is self-sufficient for at least seven days. It produces up to 80% of its annual energy needs.



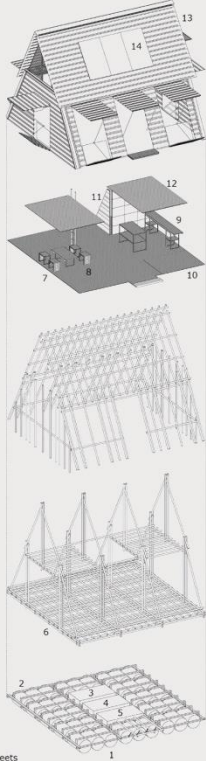
Future vision

In the future, we hope to see a Bangladesh where transportation is more convenient, industry is cleaner, energy is more sustainable, and housing is more humane. This vision includes lush greenery in the city, clear rivers, and improved housing conditions. Meanwhile, residents can enjoy better air quality and more green spaces in the community.

Floating bamboo house



Floating bamboo house 2



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. plastic drum (re-use) | 9. kitchen |
| 2. steel rectangular tube (4cmx8cm) | 10. washing area |
| 3. septic tank | 11. toilet |
| 4. filter tank | 12. second floor (study+sleep) |
| 5. water tank | 13. compressed weaved bamboo sheets |
| 6. solid core bamboo (diameter $\phi = 3-4.5cm$, 3m and 6m long) | 14. solar panel |
| 7. first floor (bamboo slats) | 15. multi-function space |
| 8. living+dining | 16. "guot" grasses |
| | 17. plastic bottles (re-use) |

DIAGRAM

HOUSING:

Bangladesh's housing problem is mainly manifested in the expansion of urban slums and overuse of land. Sustainable urban planning can be promoted through natural solutions, including increasing urban green spaces, building rooftop gardens and promoting eco-housing. The government can formulate policies to encourage environmentally friendly buildings, provide better housing conditions for poor residents, and promote sustainable development of urban renewal projects through community participation.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD:

Policy formulation and supervision: Formulate and implement strong environmental protection policies, supervise polluting enterprises, and promote sustainable development.

Investment and technological innovation: Invest in renewable energy projects, encourage technological innovation, and improve energy efficiency.

Community participation and education: Through community participation projects, we improve residents' environmental awareness and cultivate a sustainable lifestyle.

International cooperation: Seek international support and cooperation, obtain technical and financial support, and jointly address global environmental issues. In the process of implementing these natural solutions, the government, enterprises, social organizations and residents need to work together to form a synergy to jointly build a greener, cleaner and more livable Bangladesh. Through these efforts, we can better balance development and environmental protection and create better living conditions for Bangladesh's future.



Identification of an area to design in the second round of the Challenge:

We are going to describe a place below: now we are not sure...

Characteristics特征										
Region based on level of (SUBSIDY AREA)	Biodiversity	Geography	Flora & Fauna	Water	Land Cover	Ecology	Population Density	Living Temperature	Infrastructure	
Mexico	Surrogate habitats units		Wetland description	Flow of ground water freshly (freshly)						
India	Highly diverse ecosystems with a wide range of species and habitats.	Coastal ecosystems are highly productive and play a key role in providing ecosystem services. They are also important for carbon sequestration. Coastal ecosystems are also important for fisheries and tourism.	Coastal ecosystems are highly diverse and productive. They are also important for carbon sequestration, fisheries, and tourism.	Flow of ground water freshly (freshly)						
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