NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) FOR INCLUSIVE RIVER BASIN GOVERNANCE: LEARNING FROM THE GBM BASIN

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GBM BASIN & CHALLENGES

The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) river basin is shared by Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal.

- 630 million inhabitants – one of the largest and most populated basins of Asia
- Biologically diverse, but ecosystems degrading & impacted by climate change

Challenges: Riverbank erosion, decreasing agricultural productivity, rainwater run-off & frequent droughts in semi-arid areas, threatened food & water security

NBS AND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

FOUR STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION

- **Capacity building and regional networking on technical aspects of NbS.** Ensure constructive engagement of CSOs and communities in its design and implementation;

- **Collaborative planning during NbS project design.** Grassroots advocacy platforms, such as river consultations (Nodi Boithoks) with local villagers. Discuss local societal challenges and how to address these; Emphasis on Women engagement

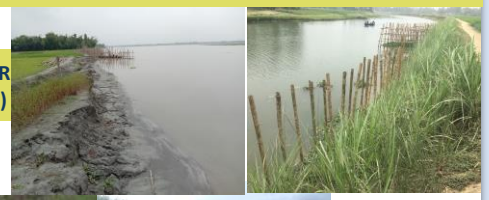
- **Create institutional spaces for linking communities with the formal governance processes.** Watershed Management Committees (WMCs) with representatives from local government institutions, as well as farmers, women and other marginalised groups

- **Generate economic benefits through creation of livelihoods** is important in building community ownership. Creation of Women SHGs and support them with income generating activities

CASE STUDIES (BEFORE & AFTER)

Bamboo-grass based embankments to control river bank erosion (low-cost & natural dredging)

JINJIRAM RIVER (BANGLADESH)



BANARA RIVER (NEPAL)

Integrated Watershed Management for water security and poverty reduction
Datia Watershed (India)

DATIA WATERSHED (INDIA)

For details, read the report, **Nature-based Solutions in the Ganges Brahmaputra Meghna (GBM) river basin: Case studies and lessons**, published by IUCN 2021