



Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Secretary, Economic Relations Division on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and Ms Rosanne Marchesich, FAO Representative a.i. in Bangladesh signing the Agreement

Signing of Project Document on “Strengthening the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Capacities of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and its Agencies”

31 October 2013, ERD Conference Room

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and Food and Agriculture of the United Nations in Bangladesh (FAO) signed an agreement on Thursday, 31 October 2013 on a new project, “**Strengthening the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Capacities of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and its Agencies**”. This is funded by the contribution of USD 4.5 million grant from USAID for three years (1st September 2013 – 31st August 2016).

Mr Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Secretary, Economic Relations Division on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and Ms. Rosanne Marchesich, FAO Representative a.i. in

Bangladesh signed the Agreement. Representatives from MoEF, ERD, USAID and FAO were present during the event.

Bangladesh faces many environmental and forestry challenges. These include increases in the frequency and severity of extreme climatic events, increased scarcity of natural resources, and degradation of the natural environment. Effective investments in environment and forestry sectors are needed in order to address these challenges. For this, investment operations to attain desired impact and capacities for designing and managing environment and forestry programmes in Bangladesh need strengthening.

In this context, the project “Strengthening the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Capacities of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its Agencies” was developed following the comprehensive “Situation Analysis and Capacity Need Assessment of the Ministry and its Agencies” (2012), and the subsequent recommendations by meetings with the MoEF in June and October 2012, and by the Local Consultative Group on Environment and Climate Change (LCG-CCE) in September 2012.

A joint meeting at the MoEF between GoB and DP (March 2013) highlighted the priority need of having a GoB-DP framework for climate change coordination in the country and led to this project proposal with an initial focus on developing a **Country Investment Plan (CIP)** for Environment, Forestry and the Climate Change (EFCC) sectors, and sustainable capacity development of the MoEF and its agencies.

The main **Goal** of the project (which is the project’s key **Outcomes**) is to strengthen human and organizational capacity in the country to deliver more effective, coordinated, sustainable and country-driven investment programs in environmental protection, sustainable forest management and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The project also aims at addressing the crosscutting role of gender, and at promoting inclusive participation from the private sector and the civil society.

These Outcomes are expected to be achieved through the delivery of three major **Outputs**, namely:

Output 1: Development, adoption, implementation and monitoring of Country Investment Plan (CIP) for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Sectors.

Output 2: Improved functional and organizational capacity of the MoEF to efficiently address emerging national and global environmental, forestry and climate change issues.

Output 3: Enhanced technical capacities and know-how of the MoEF and its agencies.

The project will contribute positively to improved environmental management, forestry, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will offer, among others, a number of short, medium and long term local and overseas training, modern training curriculum development for the relevant agencies, and development of training, research and HRD master plans.

With the Support of

