

Concept Note

Clean Coast, Resilient Communities: A Sustainable Waste Management Initiative for Bangladesh's Coastal and Riverine Zones

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1. Background and Context

Bangladesh's coastal and riverine regions—such as Bhashanchar, Lakshmipur, Barishal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Sirajganj, and Jamalpur—are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. These areas are increasingly facing not just rising sea levels and displacement, but also growing waste mismanagement, especially due to:

- Influx of climate refugees (e.g., in Bhashanchar)
- Increased plastic use in vulnerable shelters and food distribution
- Lack of municipal services in char and haor areas
- Polluted rivers and coastal zones degrading biodiversity and fisheries

The Kachua Dalima Association (KDA), with a strong grassroots presence and experience in community development, aims to address this neglected environmental issue by promoting integrated, community-based waste management solutions in these sensitive zones.

2. Goal and Objectives

Overall Goal:

To enhance environmental sustainability, public health, and resilience by establishing climate-smart waste management systems in coastal and climate-vulnerable areas of Bangladesh.

Specific Objectives:

1. Promote community awareness and behavioral change on proper waste segregation and disposal.
2. Establish low-cost, eco-friendly waste collection and recycling systems in target communities.
3. Engage youth, women, and local leaders in green jobs through waste-to-resource initiatives (e.g., composting, plastic recycling).
4. Advocate for inclusion of waste management in local disaster preparedness and climate adaptation plans.

3. Proposed Interventions

Area	Key Activities
Community Mobilization	Household-level awareness campaigns, school workshops, street drama, IEC material distribution
Infrastructure	Set up waste segregation bins, compost pits, community collection points
Innovation	Piloting biodegradable packaging, plastic-to-brick training, mobile waste collection rickshaws
Livelihoods	Training and employing women/youth in waste sorting, upcycling, compost marketing
Policy & Advocacy	Partner with local government for policy support and integration into Union/Municipal plans

4. Target Locations

Coastal areas: Bhashanchar (Noakhali), Lakshmipur, Barishal, Patuakhali, Bhola
Riverine/flood-prone: Sirajganj, Jamalpur

Each site will be tailored based on vulnerability, population density, and existing waste burden.

5. Expected Outcomes

- 25,000+ people educated on waste segregation and environmental health
- 10–15 community-managed waste collection systems established
- 100+ women and youth engaged in waste-based livelihood activities
- Plastic waste reduced by up to 40% in pilot areas
- Model replicated in other climate-affected areas through KDA's networks

6. Partnership and Stakeholders

- Local Governments: Union Parishads, Municipalities, Refugee Camps Authority (in Bhashanchar)
- Development Partners: UNDP, BRAC, PKSF, GIZ, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation, NGO Forum
- Private Sector: Recycling firms, packaging producers, green entrepreneurs
- Donors: Climate Bridge Fund (CBF), WPHF, FCDO, EU, DFAT, IDB

7. Sustainability Approach

- Revenue from compost and recycled goods to support O&M costs
- Youth cooperatives to manage waste collection as social enterprises
- Policy engagement for government uptake and budget allocation

8. Budget Estimate

BDT 25,000,000 (~USD 225,000)

(For 3 years across 5 districts; includes staffing, infrastructure, training, IEC, monitoring)

9. Conclusion

Proper waste management is not a luxury but a necessity in climate-vulnerable regions. Through this initiative, Kachua Dalima Association (KDA) seeks to bridge the gap between climate adaptation, livelihoods, and public health, setting a model for eco-resilient communities in Bangladesh.