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

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)
- Integrated Watershed Management for water security and poverty reduction 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