



Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
Local Government Division
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

6.5 Guidelines for Environmental Conservancy

Project Coordination Office (PCO)
City Governance Project (CGP)

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1. Introduction

Rapid urbanization accelerated by industry led economic growth has been taking place in Bangladesh. Potential of economic growth in urban areas is worthy of notice. There are 335 Local Government Institutions which cover 8% of total geographical area of Bangladesh and 30% of total population, while accounting for 60% of total national growth. On the other hand, the negative impact of dramatic change in urban areas is observed. The negative impacts are because the functions of municipalities and city corporations prescribed in Local Government (Pourashava) Act 2009 and Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009, which are very relevant to the demand of city dwellers and urban development, are not implemented in an appropriate manner. In order to improve the public services provided by urban local governments, several urban development projects are being or were implemented by Local Government Divisions (LGD) and local government and engineering departments (LGED) with financial assistance of different development partners and government's own funds. Based on the experiences gained through implemented projects, effective activities for improvement of urban governance have been formulated as a program that has been well accepted. The urban governance improvement programs have been implemented to ensure good governance of those urban local government institutions namely Paurashava for equal, social harmony and planned development. Initiating urban governance improvement, LGD and LGED with financial support of JICA commenced a project named City Government Project (CGP) in 5 City Corporations.

2. Justifications

Environmental Pollution is a major problem in all CCs. Environmental issues have become a major concern due to impact on public health and development of Bangladesh. CC, taking due concern of environmental degradation, needs to take actions to prevent environmental pollution and for safety of citizens.

Our environment is degrading by rapid development of infrastructure projects and others. This is the time to choose the path whereby degradation of the environment is minimized and at the same time the process of development can continue by giving emphasis on choice of technology, internal and external economics of production and extent of environmental impact and its mitigation. CCs need to ensure that development proceeds with due regard to the environment. Environment Assessments (EAs) cover the interactions between different environmental aspects and how they are likely to change as the result of proposed project interventions. The process is not necessarily intended to preserve the environment unchanged, rather to protect (and where necessary conserve) its essential features whilst allowing sustainable development to proceed.

3. Relevant Issues of ICGIAP

3.1 Task

Environmental degradation is critical issue in urban area. Though there are regulations on environment conservation, application of Environmental Conservation Act is uncertain. In order to make situation of urban environment predictable, this activity makes sure environment regulations are implemented.

Task 1: CC assign Officer(s) in Charge of environmental conservation

Task 2: CC complies with act and rules in its infrastructure development

Task 3: CC identifies environmentally vulnerable areas and activities against Environmental Conservation Act within the jurisdiction of CC

Task 4: CC takes action to stop the illegal activities which are not in compliance with Environmental Conservation Act

3.2 Action by

Responsible environmental officer(s) and engineer(s)
CEO

3.3 Time Schedule

Cooperation with DOE office is expected

Task 1: by mid of 1st year

Task 2: by end of 2nd year

Task 3: by end of 3rd year

Task 4: by end of 4th year

3.4 Indicators

1st Stage:

- CC assigns Officer(s) in Charge of environment
- CC observes act and rules in its infrastructure development

2nd Stage:

- CC takes any action to stop and solve illegal actions and situations

4. Objectives

The primary objective is to protect the overall environment of city areas.

- To promote enforcing the rules and regulations of environmental conservancy
- To safeguard the physical, biological and socio economic environments during project preparation, implementation and operation
- To reduce pollution on different environmental sectors
- To reduce illegal activities against environment and apply mitigation measures

5. Environmental Issues

5.1 Environmental Clearance for Infrastructure Development Projects

Environmental Clearance certificate is required for all infrastructure development projects. For the purpose of issuance of Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), the projects, in consideration of their site and impact on the environment, are classified into the following four categories:

- a) Green;
- b) Orange – A;
- c) Orange – B; and
- d) Red.

All the categories require Environmental Clearance certificate from Department of Environment (DOE). Site clearance certificate must be obtained first for the category Orange A, Orange B and RED. After the site clearance, ECC is issued upon application on construction phase.

5.2 Activities against Environment

The key issues of degradation of the environment and the activities of relevant organizations, stakeholders, industrial units etc. are as follows

- Unauthorized disposal of industrial waste to any open land
- Untreated sewage disposal to any stream (canals, lakes, drain, etc.)
- Deforestation

- Pollution of air, water, sound and odors by exceeding the standards of Environmental conservation rules.

6. Relevant organizations, Stakeholders and their role

6.1 City Corporation

City Corporation needs to play a vital role to protect and upgrade the environment of city level which are described in the following aspects

- Following necessary procedure according to Environmental Conservation Rules for its infrastructure development projects.
- Identifying the impacts and proper implementation of mitigation measures by environmental assessment (EIA, IEE) of each project if necessary.
- Listing of on-site activities related to pollution and degradation of environment.
- Listing of industrial units/organizations which are responsible for pollution by illegal activities.

6.2 WLCC

- Identify the illegal activities and problems at ward level
- Collect the information and problems reported by the Citizens
- Compile and report all the problems to Environmental officer
- Discuss regarding environmental problems in meetings

7. Necessary Tasks and Procedures

7.1 CC assigns Officer(s) in Charge of environmental conservation

- An officer from the engineering department needs to be assigned as the environmental officer (Mayor assigns)
- The environmental officer undertakes the responsibilities of all environmental aspects and close coordination with DoE regarding CCs development projects etc.

7.2 CC Complies with act and rules in its infrastructure development

The environmental officer will be responsible for closely coordinating with department of environment and will take necessary steps to get environmental clearance for CCs development projects as per Environmental Conservation Act such as:

- Application for Environmental Clearance
- Environmental Assessments
- Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures
- Ensuring Monitoring and Environmental safety in design, construction and operational stage

7.3 CC Identifies environmental problems that disturb lives of CC's Citizens

- List environmental problems based on reports and claims from WLCC and other citizens.
- Environmental officer and WLCC will discuss about the problems in meetings
- Identify the major problems on priority basis

7.4 CC takes action to stop the illegal activities that disturb lives of CC's Citizens

- The environmental officer develops an Action Plan consisting of activities by organizations, industries and stakeholders and as well as remedies/legal actions.

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