

ADB Supports Advancing Bangladesh's Climate Action through BCDP Knowledge Conference 2026



The Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership (BCDP) Knowledge Conference 2026 brought together more than 500 participants from government, development partners, private sector, academia, and civil society.

Organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with support from Asian Development Bank (ADB), the two-day conference focuses on translating national climate priorities into investment-ready projects and stronger partnerships.

There were specific sessions on plans like NAP and NDC along with sectoral sessions on transport, energy, housing and urban services, water resources, agriculture, adaptive social protection. Sessions on climate resilience and low carbon development, and readiness to investment made the conference discussions holistic.

A Call for Immediate Implementation ot the Plans

The conference emphasized implementing the NAP and NDC 3.0 with activity-level costing to give partners transparent visibility into intervention requirements. Participants further advocated for expanded nature-based solutions, insurance mechanisms, alignment with Global Goal on Adaptation indicators, decentralized financing, and joint tracking of contributions by different stakeholders.



"***Development decisions taken today will shape our vulnerability for decades to come. Every major investment should therefore consider the climate conditions under which it will operate.***"
— **Abdul Awal Mintoo**, MP, Minister, MoEFCC

A Story of Resilience, Not Only Vulnerability

The conference pressed for faster delivery. The discussants urged partners to track every project monthly and highlighted river restoration and mangrove plantation.

"***Let's accelerate our decision-making process. Otherwise, year after year we are running and we are unable to improve the situation.***"
— Shaikh Faridul Islam, MP, State Minister, MoEFCC



ADB Commits Further Support

ADB reaffirmed additional resources from the Climate Investment Fund to continue its technical assistance to BCDP upto 2028. ADB officials also mentioned US$250 million for coastal towns climate resilience project and US$200 million for power transmission and renewable energy project. Conference insights will inform ADB's 2028–2032 Country Partnership Strategy.



"***Climate ambition must be matched by climate investment. The true measure of success will not be the discussions in this conference, but the actions and investments that follow.***"
— **Satya Srinivash Lolla**, Executive Director, ADB

A Call for Programmatic Investment

ADB argued for landscape-level, programmatic investment over stand-alone projects, and for business models that can be replicated, such as rooftop solar supported by reliable tariff collection. It was stressed that scarce public money should be used to unlock private capital through guarantees and blended finance. Moreover, ADB reaffirmed continued support to BCDP.

"***Our investment, at the end of the day, needs to protect the people, strengthen their competitiveness and, more importantly, accelerate the low-carbon transformation.***"
— Qingfeng Zhang, Country Director, ADB



A Delta Under Pressure: Experts Chart the Path to Resilience and Low-Carbon Growth

"Bangladesh occupies just 7% of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin yet drains nearly 93% of its waters," noted keynote speaker Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Former Member, Independent Technical Advisory Panel, Green Climate Fund, during the session on Pathways to Resilience and Low-Carbon Growth. Warning that embankments built for 1-in-20-year floods are increasingly strained by extreme events, he urged incentive-driven low-carbon development alongside knowledge-based adaptation.



Bangladesh Emphasizes on Turning Plans into Investments

The Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership (BCDP) Knowledge Conference 2026 opened with a message: the country's climate strategies are sound, and the priority now is delivery. Organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with the support from Asian Development Bank, the conference launched the BCDP portal. Inaugurating it, Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo, MP, said frameworks must become "coordinated programmes, well-prepared projects, appropriate financing and measurable outcomes," and set six priorities spanning implementation, project quality, finance, community participation, knowledge and accountability.

COP-31 Priorities

Dr. Fahmida Khanom, Acting Secretary, MoEFCC, stated that climate and biodiversity priorities are integrated across all ministerial budgets, highlighting adaptation finance, biodiversity, and a just transition as Bangladesh's COP-31 priorities.





"***The story of Bangladesh is of resilience and innovation. To sustain our progress, we need fair, grant-based climate finance, local ownership, and transparency***."
— Dr. Saimum Parvez, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office

Implementation of NAP Needs More Investment

Three years after its endorsement, the National Adaptation Plan (2023–2050) remains Bangladesh's cornerstone framework for climate resilience. Comprising 113 projects – including 90 high-priority actions – its implementation demands US$230 billion through 2050. While government budgets cover roughly 41% of needs and private capital just 5%, inadequate tracking systems continue to obscure actual spending.

From Targets to Delivery: NDC 3.0 Faces the Investment Test

Achieving NDC 3.0's target of cutting 84.97 million tonnes of emissions by 2035 requires shifting from policy design to capital investment. Panelists stressed prioritized, rigorously costed projects, seamless inter-ministerial alignment, predictable funding, and expenditure-based tracking. The discussants mentioned that, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement indicates carbon markets, and a just transition plan to make climate ambitions bankable and actionable.

Despite a 25% increase, the FY2026–27 climate budget of roughly Tk 51,000 crore (US$4 billion) falls short of requirements, underscoring the need for a medium-term roadmap and stronger domestic revenues. Panelists emphasized data-modeling and local-planning deficits, while pointing to key prospects in risk financing and project preparatory facilities.

From Policy Ambition to Bankable Action: BCDP Knowledge Conference Sets Architecture for Climate Resilience



The BCDP Knowledge Conference 2026 marked a defining milestone in Bangladesh's climate architecture, steering national strategy from policy declarations to structured capital mobilization and project delivery. Across high-level plenaries, the conference addressed the delta's critical imperatives - operationalizing the US$230 billion NAP (2023-2050) and achieving NDC 3.0's target of reducing 84.97 million tones of emissions by 2035.

Proceedings emphasized that fulfilling these commitments requires replacing fragmented initiatives with programmatic, landscape-level investments. As underscored during the session '***Climate Project Pipeline: From Readiness to Investment***,' closing Bangladesh's steep climate finance gap hinges on overcoming the acute deficit of investment-ready proposals. With impending LDC graduation narrowing traditional grant windows, financiers fund rigorously designed proposals rather than vulnerability in isolation. Transforming national priorities into investment projects requires meeting three core criteria: strategic policy alignment, technical and safeguard feasibility grounded in credible climate science, and verified financial viability.

To institutionalize this shift, panellists urged establishing a dedicated Climate Project Preparation Facility (PPF), integrating sector-specific screening checklists into the Planning Commission's Annual Development Programme (ADP), and accelerating Cabinet approval of the National Carbon Market Framework. Anchored by the BCDP, this coordinated approach ensures that public funds, multilateral co-financing, and private investment align to safeguard frontline communities and accelerate low-carbon growth.

Key Recommendations:

- **Establish a Unified Pipeline of Investment Projects:** Consolidate fragmented concepts into a single, prioritized national climate pipeline aligned with the NAP and NDC 3.0, backed by a dedicated PPF and streamlined ADP fast-track mechanisms to guarantee early design feasibility, safeguards, and investment readiness.
- **Anchor Proposals in Credible Climate Data and Innovative Financing:** Structure all funding proposals around verified scientific rationales, quantifiable emission or adaptation metrics, and bankable models - leveraging Paris Agreement Article 6 carbon market, blended finance, and multilateral co-financing to attract private and international finance.

Low-Carbon Growth and Development

Bangladesh's low-carbon transition demands decisive, concerted action: scaling electric mobility and resilient public transit, accelerating renewable energy and carbon-market finance, and embedding climate resilience into building standards. Affordable green finance, housing retrofits, coordinated municipal services, and community participation remain vital.

"***Do not build for today's climate alone. Build for the climate of the future***."
— Ahammad Sohel Monzoor, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW)



Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Climate risk, rather than scarcity alone, now defines Bangladesh's water future. Experts urged adaptive basin-wide management, nature-based solutions, real-time data integration, transboundary cooperation, life-cycle infrastructure financing, and women-led community governance. Moving forward, key priorities center on developing bankable projects, streamlining climate finance access, and forging sustained partnerships across agriculture, fisheries, livestock, and social protection.



"***Meeting climate challenges demands collective effort, both to mitigate its causes and to build climate-adaptive solutions.***"
— Forhad Hossain Azad, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)

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