

# Science-Policy-Stakeholders Interaction in Climate Change Adaptation for Coastal Bangladesh

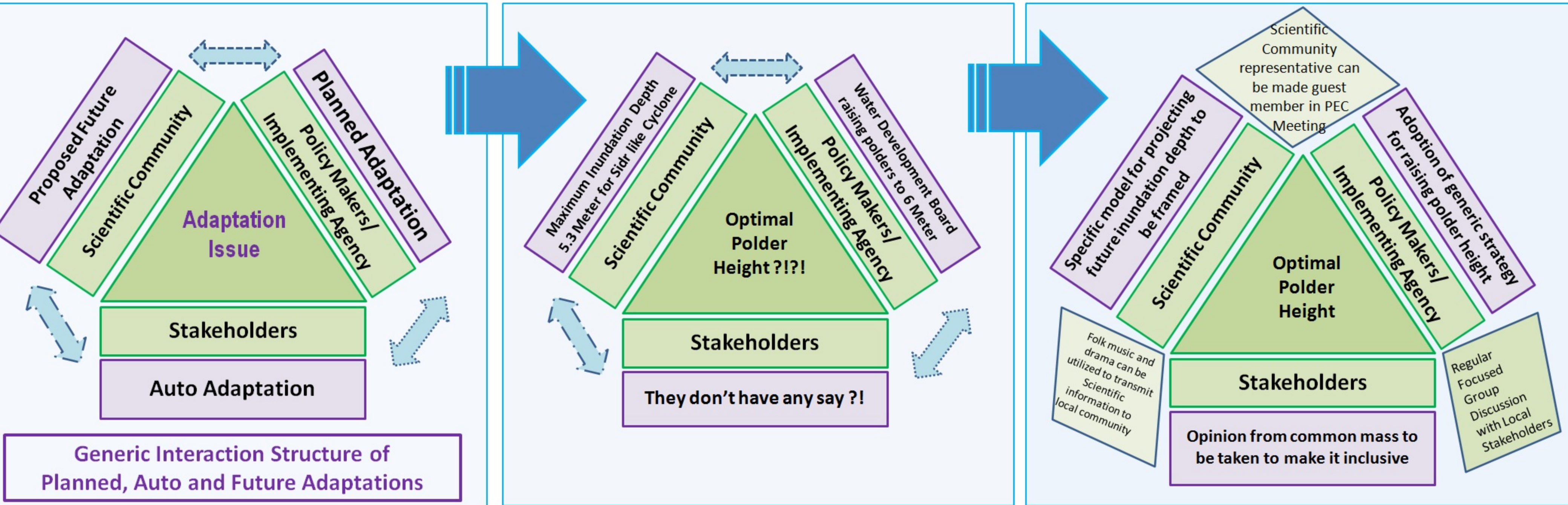
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**Abstract:** Government of Bangladesh has taken various policy measures to address climate change adaptation for Coastal Bangladesh. Many of the policy documents like Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) have been evolved through wider consultation process among the grass-root level stakeholders, representatives of scientific community and representatives from local and central governments. However, there is dearth of formal institution mechanism to ensure interfacing among policy people, scientific community and stakeholders in decision making process for climate change adaptation in Bangladesh.. As a result many climate-change related adaptation policies and development project interventions are being approved without technical opinion from the scientific community. Although some technical advices are adopted or incorporated into the policy documents through intellectual contributions of the expert consultants but there is no compulsion for reflecting the scientific communities’ views through institutional set-up. There are even weaker interactions between the scientific community and grass-root level beneficiaries and between policy making/implementing agencies and project stakeholders. To ensure wider and deeper interaction among the parties the character of present day interaction mechanisms and institutional arrangements need to be understood and depicted to mend the flaws within those systems.

**Objective:** The principal focus of this study is to identify the existing institutional arrangements for facilitating interactions among the parties (PP, SC and SH) for climate change related autonomous, planned and proposed future adaptations.



## Discussion:

- Each adaptation issue has been shown as a tripartite interaction among (i) Stakeholders, (ii) Scientific Community and (iii) Policy Planners, depicted by three sides of a triangle having combinations of three pair of interactions. For example “raising polder height” issue has (i) Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh Water Development Board etc. as Policy Planners, (ii) IWFM, IWM, CEGIS, BMD as scientific community and (iii) community residing within or adjacent to polders, NGOs, CSOs etc. are stakeholders for the issue. A close and cooperative interaction among them will help determining the optimized polder height.
- Smaller rectangular shapes fitted inside the three sides of triangle are shown as the institutional gaps between the parties. There is no formal institutional set-up for interaction among local community and implementing agency BWDB. Even if consultation is taken place, there is no obligation for BWDB to reflect them into the implementation phase. So, a detail obligatory mechanism need to be framed to reflect people’s opinion. Inclusion of representatives from Scientific Community into Policy Planning needs to be formalized.
- In the bigger diagram of the bottom figure depicts the interaction among different climate change adaptation issues and the parallelogram /rectangular shapes represent the proposed mechanism to fill up the present institutional gaps, such as creation of Delta Commission for an integrated delta wise development approach.
- Climate change adaptation issues have inter-linkages among themselves. Therefore, there are needs for inter-issue coordination.

