

Suggested amendments of the Draft Bangladesh Water Act during ADB mission in June 2009 and responses by the consultant

OPEN FORUM FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

- Right of the poor people to use open water for free fishing which is their main source of Protein supply must be ensured

Reflected in section 30(2) which recognize this right as an lawful existing rights

- Authority of local people and local government institutions (LGIs) vis-à-vis the authority of national Government Institutions within the geographic boundary of the LGIs should be clarified.

Reflected in section 83(q) by providing that the Govt shall frame rules on this issue.

- The proposed Bangladesh Water Act should ensure the question of equity

Reflected in section 83(r) by providing that the Govt shall frame rules on this issue.

- Downward accountability of water service providers should be ensured

Reflected in section 83(s) by providing that the Govt shall frame rules on this issue.

- Water Rights in CHT should be adequately addressed

Reflected in section 1(2)

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- Gender perspectives and participation of women to be ensured in section 75 that deals with functions of the water user associations .

Reflected in section 75(b) and 75(h)

CHTRC(Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council)

- Special status of the CHT people for utilizing their water rights should be reflected

Reflected in section 1(2) which provides that the Water Act extends to the whole of Bangladesh except the Chittagong Hill Tracts where The Hill District Council may frame regulation on water resources of CHT in line with this Act and if the government so requires, it may apply to different areas on different dates.