Concerned stakeholders

- Key Global Partners on Policy: Climate funds and actors particularly from GCF, Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) projects implementing authority and fiduciary managers (e.g. ADB, KFW) in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT), Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF), Ministry of Finance, Economic Relations Division (ERD) as National Designated Authority (NDA) for the GCF and National Implementing Entities (NIEs), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Department of Forest, Local Government and Engineering Division (LED), Department of Environment, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MoPEMR) and other national climate finance actors.

- Action areas
  - Research and Policy support: baseline survey/study/ monitoring of project for national climate finance policy and practice reforms and follow-up survey of the implementation of the projects;
  - Advocacy and communication (national and regional) to sensitize policy makers and climate finance actors to reform or improve national adaptation policies and practice;
  - Networking to develop communities of practice through strategic partnership and exchange of knowledge and cooperation;
  - Capacity development for leadership and sustainability of new actors to engage in policy advocacy and monitoring of climate change adaptation finance projects

- Applying existing tools and good practices
  - TBI will apply several tested anti-corruption tools and processes developed and successfully applied in many countries in different sectors in implementing project activities. These include: climate change adaptation finance project tracking, national online climate finance tracking and grievance reporting tools, climate governance E-learning courses, best practice and policy reports, policy briefs, project updates, press releases, blog articles and innovative video documentary, infographics and other audio-visual materials, and Advice and Information Desks (AI-Desks).

Timeline and resources

The project has been designed to run for two years, from August 2015 to December 2017. Total project fund for TBI is 185,426 which is equivalent to BDT 1,57,61,210.

Supported by:

- World Resources Institute (WRI), Heinrich Bll Foundation, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Oxfam, GIZ, UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance, World Bank, The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) states parties, UNDP (including multilateral processes for SDGs, related to Asia and the Pacific); World Resources Institute (WRI), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), GermanWatch, Adaptation Fund NGO network, U4/CMI, REDD integrity programme, Institute for Policy Integrity, International Institute for Sustainable Development (III), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Adaptation Finance Policy and Integrity (CFPI) Project

- Strong transparency, accountability and anti-corruption policies and practices adopted and implemented by climate funds, in particular the GCF and accredited implementing agencies, equitable and efficient allocation and use of public resources are ensured to achieve optimum mitigation and adaptation goals. This in turn attracts increased financial contributions to the GCF, thus increasing its ability in detecting serious climate change impacts. Institutionalisation of anti-corruption safeguards will ensure more sustainable development;

- The enforcement of policies is complimented by TIB’s monitoring work as an early warning mechanism. Anticorruption reforms and clear regulatory signals on climate change adap-

- Improved financial integrity policies, practices and their enforcement reduces loss of public resources, thereby increasing the availability of public funds to tackle climate change and drive sustainable development;

- Stakeholders and affected communities of climate financed projects are better safeguarded against potential abuses affecting their well-being, rights and livelihoods. Through increased knowledge, skills and greater organisation, citizens’ (especially local and indigenous communities’) voices will be heard and integrated into policies and programme. Complaints mechanisms will help to ensure that private and public sector commitments to sustainable development are not discouraged by corruption;

- Climate vulnerable people and future generations will suffer less physical loss and damage due to climatic impacts and less loss of personal rights and freedoms. Also, biodiversity can potentially be preserved, especially where biodiversity is big and highly threatened by deforestation and climate change.
Background

Increased transparency, accountability and integrity are pre-requisites to ensure the effectiveness of actions for adaptation and mitigation to climate change. As the volume of climate finance is most likely to increase, corruption risks remain serious in many countries. Recognising the Transparency International (TI) supported three years capacity development initiatives (from 2011 to 2013) to TI Chapters in Bangladesh, Maldives, Kenya, Peru and Mexico through its work in promoting better anticorruption policies, practices and systems in climate finance. As various governance challenges exist in climate adaptation projects, particularly in the stages of project formulation, approval, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and audit, much more work needs to be done so that climate goals are achievable, increased resources are available and benefits become calculable.

Recognising the gravity of the challenges, Climate Finance Integrity Programme (CFIP) programme of TI’s aims to ensure that corruption and conflict of interest cannot and do not undermine climate change adaptation and mitigation ambition, effective and equitable allocation of climate funds and ultimately the delivery of climate projects and their intended adaptation and mitigation targets. This outcome is pursued by focused global and national advocacy, monitoring and capacity building actions aimed at improving policy and practice for better transparency and accountability and for effective and fair responses when things go wrong. The CFIP programme of TI is funded by the German Ministry of Environment International Climate Initiative to support the programme’s key objective of development and tools and funds at global and national level through the TI Secretariat in Germany implemented by five project partners in Bangladesh, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico and Peru. TI’s CFIP project under Climate Finance Integrity Programme (CFIP) programme is designed to demonstrate its policy influencing capacity through research, advocacy and capacity building of stakeholders for ensuring transparency and accountability in policies and practice in climate finance.

The Global Context

At the global level, the project aims to focus on the governance policies and practices of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as it will be shaped throughout 2015-2017. TI Secretariat staff will provide recommendations and advocate for best practices to be adopted by the GCF Board and the Secretariat. Such policies include ethics and conflicts of interest, accountability, monitoring frameworks, accreditation, (enhanced) direct access, information disclosure, grievance and corruption compliance mechanisms, and procurement. Regarding the latter, TI-Korea is engaged in monitoring the procurement of the GCF-secretariat as well as the procurement of gifts received by GCF Board Members. In addition, TI will sustain its advocacy and monitoring of multilateral funds including the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Investment Funds, the Global Environmental Facilities (GEF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) Special Climate Change Fund, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and UN REDD to promote best practices and push for key fiduciary reforms. This work is critical and important as the funds continue to receive and spend public climate money until the GCF becomes fully functional.

The project draws on the research, assessment, learning and monitoring products TI has developed with the help of its partner TI chapters through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) funding. It further leverages TI’s other main advocacy work on sustainable development, financial integrity and financing for development, which addresses similar issues of financial accountability and transparency.

Engagement of TI’s National Chapters

At the national level, the project builds on the country-level work of TI’s national chapters in five countries: Bangladesh, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico and Peru and in three additional countries that would receive GCF project in coming years in additional national countries. TIB’s CFPI project under Climate Finance Integrity Programme (CFPI) Project with TI’s support, the key objective of which is to advocate for, and create a decisive impact.

Climate Finance Policy and Integrity (CFPI) Project

Based on TIB’s research findings, the internationally-funded Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) has undertaken several initiatives to improve the governance of climate change projects, e.g., introduction of monitoring and evaluation system, investigation of allegations of corruption and mismanagement and suspension of funding to projects where corruption and irregularities were detected. Upon TI’s request, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has started auditing of BCCTF projects. For the prioritization of projects from Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCSAP), the Government has also committed to conducting a local level vulnerability assessment which is expected to reframe the scope of approval of climate projects on the basis of local or group interests. In terms of engagement of affected people, vulnerable community, citizens, civil society and project related stakeholders; TIB made significant progress in the past years, spreading its work on climate finance governance and integrity through its Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and networks of anti-corruption volunteers.

Desired outcomes

The Paris Agreement embraces ambitious climate change adaptation and mitigation goals as policy makers are urged to negotiate outcomes based on transparency and integrity;