

# INTERNSHIP REPORT

Prepared By  
**Md. Tahseen Ahmed**



# Contributions to Policy Development, Youth Engagement, and Climate Resilience under the CAP-RES Project

A report prepared for the partial fulfillment of the requirements of the six-month (July-December 2024) internship under the Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience (CAP-RES) Project

## Submitted by

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Internship Timeline: 1st July 2024 to 31st December 2024

## Under the Supervision of

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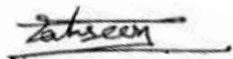


## Declaration

I, Md. Tahseen Ahmed, hereby affirm that the internship report titled "Contributions to Policy Development, Youth Engagement, and Climate Resilience under the CAP-RES Project" was completed solely by me following the conclusion of my six-month internship at ICCCAD, IUB, for the CAP-RES project.

I further affirm that this report was prepared exclusively to fulfill the requirements of this internship and for no other purpose. The report may not be utilized in any manner that could be detrimental to ICCCAD, IUB, or the CAP-RES project.

Regards,



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Md. Tahseen Ahmed  
Research Intern

## Acknowledgment

I sincerely thank ICCCAD for the opportunity to intern under the CAP-RES project, which allowed me to develop skills in policy development, youth engagement, field research, and capacity building.

I am grateful to my supervisor, Juel Mahmud (Project Manager, CAP-RES), and co-supervisor, Maria Aktar (Assistant Project Manager, CAP-RES), for their guidance and support throughout my internship. Special thanks to Sumaiya Binte Selim (Focal, Youth Team, CAP-RES) for her mentorship in policy brief development, youth engagement, and event coordination, which played a key role in my professional growth.

I appreciate the support of Savio Rousseau Rozario (Focal, LLA Team, CAP-RES) and Rawnak Jahan Khan Ranon (Research Officer, LLA Team, CAP-RES) during the fieldwork in Tahirpur, Sunamganj, as well as Habibur Rahman (Research Officer, CB Team, CAP-RES) for his guidance in developing training modules for the LLA-LnD short course.

A special thanks to Gausia Islam Keya (Research Associate, Management Team, CAP-RES) for her continuous support and encouragement throughout my internship. I also appreciate the collaboration of my fellow in-person research interns, Chaity and Shahal, whose support made this experience even more meaningful.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to the entire CAP-RES team and colleagues for their cooperation and shared learning. This internship has been a valuable experience, and I look forward to applying these learnings in my role as a Youth Fellow Assistant at ICCCAD.

## Executive Summary

This report summarizes my experience as a Research Intern at ICCCAD under the CAP-RES project (July – December 2024), where I worked across multiple teams, gaining hands-on experience in field research, policy brief development, training module creation, event coordination, and project reporting. I conducted fieldwork in Tahirpur, Sunamganj (August 26–31, 2024) to assess climate-induced disruptions to education, contributed to policy briefs on youth engagement in climate resilience, and assisted in developing LLA-LnD training modules. Additionally, I participated in the CAP-RES Residential Retreat at Novem Eco Resort (September 2–5, 2024) and the LLA-LnD Short Course in Gazipur (September 30 – October 3, 2024), co-authoring reports and contributing to session documentation. The internship allowed me to develop skills in Excel, Canva, event management, Likert scale evaluation, and policy research, culminating in my first policy brief. Despite challenges in balancing multiple responsibilities, I strengthened my project management, research, and analytical skills. Following this experience, I transitioned into the role of Youth Fellow Assistant in the Youth Team at ICCCAD, where I continue to work on policy research, youth engagement, and climate adaptation advocacy, reinforcing my long-term commitment to climate governance and evidence-based policymaking.

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## Introduction

My journey in climate research and policy began with my initial experience at ICCCAD when I worked as a Regional Associate (Khulna) for the Climate Resilience Collective (CRC), Youth Climate Lab, and ICCCAD from September 2020 to December 2021. During this time, I contributed to research on climate migration and urban resilience, co-authoring the CRC Bay of Bengal: Climate Finance Letter for COP26 and publishing my article "Driven Away by Storm" in the Climate Tribune in June 2021. This experience introduced me to governance challenges and adaptation strategies, reinforcing my interest in policy-driven climate action.

In July 2024, I returned to ICCCAD as a Research Intern under the CAP-RES project, eager to build on my previous experience in a more structured research and policy-focused setting. Following a competitive selection process, I worked with all four teams within CAP-RES, gaining hands-on experience in field research, capacity-building, policy brief development, and project coordination. I conducted field surveys in Tahirpur, Sunamganj, gathering data on disaster risk reduction and community resilience in the Haor region as part of the "From Risk to Resilience" research project. Additionally, I contributed to training module development with the Capacity Building Team, developed policy briefs with the Youth Team, and supported project coordination and documentation with the Management Team.

After completing my internship in December 2024, I transitioned into a more engaged role within the Youth Team at ICCCAD. This internship was a defining experience that expanded my skills in climate governance, research, and stakeholder engagement. It allowed me to bridge policy, research, and locally-led climate action, reinforcing my commitment to the field. Looking back, I see this internship as an important milestone in my journey toward contributing meaningfully to climate resilience efforts.

## About the Organization

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) is a leading research and capacity-building institution in Bangladesh that focuses on climate change adaptation, policy engagement, and community resilience. Established in 2009, ICCCAD was founded through a collaboration between the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in the UK, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), and the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). The center is housed within IUB's campus in Dhaka, where it continues to operate as a key institution for climate research and training.\

ICCCAD's mission is to acquire and disseminate knowledge on climate change adaptation, particularly in the Global South. By conducting policy-driven research, capacity-building programs, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, the organization ensures that climate-vulnerable communities can implement locally-led adaptation strategies and contribute to global climate dialogues. It also plays a crucial role in training government officials, researchers, youth, and practitioners, equipping them with the expertise needed to address climate risks effectively.

## About the CAP-RES Project

The Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience (CAP-RES) Project is a key initiative of ICCCAD aimed at enhancing climate resilience through research, training, and policy advocacy. The project was launched in January 2023 and is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) with a total budget of 12 million SEK (120 million BDT).

CAP-RES focuses on:

- Generating research-based evidence to support policies on Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) and Loss and Damage (LnD).



- Building the capacity of multiple stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, youth, and community leaders, through training modules, workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms.
- Bridging grassroots climate action with national and international climate governance.
- Empowering youth and marginalized communities by involving them in decision-making processes and leadership roles in climate adaptation.

ICCCAD implements the CAP-RES project in collaboration with IUB, which provides office space and institutional support for its activities. Through this initiative, ICCCAD is actively contributing to climate governance, disaster risk reduction, and community-based adaptation, ensuring that climate policies are informed by the realities of affected communities.

### Internship Objectives & Expectations

When I applied for the Research Intern position at ICCCAD under the CAP-RES project, my goal was to gain hands-on experience in climate governance, research, and policy engagement. While I had prior experience in climate-related research and advocacy, I wanted to strengthen my research skills, work directly with experts, and contribute to policy discussions in a structured setting.

The internship was designed to equip young professionals with practical experience in climate resilience, loss and damage (LnD), and locally-led adaptation (LLA). My objectives aligned well with ICCCAD's approach, which focused on:

- Building research capacity by working on climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience-building.
- Developing project management skills through exposure to training modules, stakeholder engagement, and field research.
- Bridging research with practice by participating in fieldwork, knowledge-sharing events, and policy discussions.

I also aimed to enhance my ability to translate research into action, which I did through policy brief development, capacity-building initiatives, and fieldwork in Sunamganj. This internship was an opportunity to apply my academic learning in a professional space, refine my writing and analytical skills, and develop a deeper understanding of how locally-led adaptation and policy advocacy intersect.

Looking back, these objectives were not just goals on paper. They became real, hands-on experiences that challenged me to think critically, collaborate effectively, and contribute meaningfully to climate action.

## Key Responsibilities & Contributions

Throughout my six-month internship at ICCCAD under the CAP-RES project (July – December 2024), I worked across all four teams: Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) Team, Capacity Building (CB) Team, Youth Team, and Management Team, gaining experience in field research, policy brief development, training module creation, event reporting, and project coordination. Below is a chronological breakdown of my key responsibilities and contributions.

### 1. Fieldwork in Tahirpur, Sunamganj (August 26–31, 2024)

**Field Lead:** Rawnak Jahan Khan Ranon (Research Officer, LLA Team, CAP-RES)

**Research Supervision:** Savio Rousseau Rozario (Focal, LLA Team, CAP-RES)

- Conducted field surveys and interviews with students, teachers, and community stakeholders to assess the impact of climate-induced disasters on education and livelihoods in the Haor region.
- Documented the effects of flash floods and afal (wind-driven waves) on rural schools and infrastructure.
- Gathered insights into community-led adaptation strategies, such as elevated schools and floating education models, to inform ICCCAD's research and advocacy efforts.

Findings from this fieldwork were later compiled into my on-going newspaper article, "Adrift in the Waves: Sunamganj's Haor Region Faces Unique Climate Challenges."



*During a survey with the parents of Primary School going children in Sunamganj*

## 2. CAP-RES Residential Retreat at Novem Eco Resort, Sreemangal (September 2–5, 2024)

**Co-ordinated by:** Gausia Islam Keya (Research Associate, CAP-RES)

**Supervised by:** Maria Aktar (Assistant Project Manager, CAP-RES)

- Participated in CAP-RES project progress reviews, engaging in discussions on strategy, achievements, and challenges.
- Took part in interactive sessions, improving my understanding of multi-actor collaboration in climate resilience.

- Authored the Novem Residential Retreat Report under the supervision of Maria Aktar, documenting key discussions and reflections from the retreat.
- Research Intern Shahedul Islam assisted in digitizing the participant list to ensure accurate documentation.



*Group photo of with the attendees of the CAP-RES residential retreat*

### 3. LLA-LnD Short Course in Gazipur, Dhaka (September 30 – October 3, 2024)

**Supervised by:** Savio Rousseau Rozario (Focal, LLA Team, CAP-RES)

- Attended an intensive training program on Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) and Loss & Damage (LnD).
- Assisted in session documentation and note-taking, ensuring key insights were recorded for ICCCAD's training materials.
- Contributed to case study discussions, analyzing real-world adaptation practices.
- Co-authored the Short Course Report under the supervision of Savio Rousseau Rozario, summarizing the discussions and key learnings from the training.



*Group photo of with the participants and the facilitators of the LLA-LnD Short Course*

#### 4. Training Module Development for LLA-LnD Nexus (October - December 2024)

**Supervised by:** Habibur Rahman (Research Officer, CB Team)

- Worked closely with the Capacity Building (CB) Team to develop training modules for future LLA-LnD training programs.
- Attempted online research on best practices in Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) and Loss and Damage (LnD).
- Assisted in structuring learning materials, case studies, and interactive exercises for training participants.

## 5. MJF-UN Women, ICCAD Event on Gender-Responsive Climate Action (August 27, 2024)

**Supervised by:** Sumaiya Binte Selim (Focal, Youth Team, CAP-RES)

- Attended the Gender-Responsive Climate Action event, organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), UN Women, and ICCAD.
- Participated in discussions on gender-inclusive climate policies, focusing on women's leadership in climate adaptation and resilience.
- Engaged with experts and policymakers on barriers to women's participation in climate governance and potential solutions.
- Currently working on a policy brief in collaboration with UN Women and MJF, integrating key takeaways from the event into policy recommendations.



*The event was attended by Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser for Environment, Forest and Climate Change to the Interim Government of Bangladesh*

## 6. Youth Engagement and Event Reporting (October – December 2024)

**Supervised by:** Sumaiya Binte Selim (Focal, Youth Team, CAP-RES)

- Attended and authored the event report for the Resonating Youth Voices for Climate Resilience 2024 (October 17, 2024), which included:
  - Youth-led Policy Dialogue focusing on youth leadership in climate governance and grassroots climate action.
  - Award Ceremony recognizing youth contributions to climate resilience initiatives.
- Engaged in discussions on youth leadership in climate governance and the role of grassroots climate action.



*Group photo of with the attendees of the Resonating Youth Voices for Climate Resilience 2024*

## 7. Policy Brief Development with the Youth Team (October – December 2024)

**Supervised by:** Sumaiya Binte Selim (Focal, Youth Team, CAP-RES)

- Contributed to the development of policy briefs focusing on youth engagement in climate resilience and adaptation.
- Conducted literature reviews on COP29 outcomes and grassroots recommendations.
- Drafted sections of a policy brief evaluating the alignment of COP29 commitments with youth priorities, particularly in areas of climate finance, just transition, and adaptation policies.

This work was initiated following discussions at the Resonating Youth Voices for Climate Resilience 2024 event on October 17, 2024.



*A moment from the policy dialogue event at the Six Seasons Hotel on October 17, 2024, that triggered the policy development initiatives*



## 8. Project Coordination and Reporting (July – December 2024)


**Supervised by:** Maria Aktar (Assistant Project Manager, CAP-RES)

- Assisted in documenting project activities, maintaining records, and reporting on CAP-RES progress.
- Reviewed research outputs and supported discussions on project planning and execution.
- Provided logistical support for workshops, training programs, and youth events to ensure smooth execution.
- Reviewed research work from previous CAP-RES project grantees, collected follow-up reports and created concise presentations on their findings.

### Challenges Faced

Throughout my internship, I encountered several challenges that required adaptability and problem-solving. Managing multiple responsibilities across different teams, engaging in fieldwork, and contributing to research and policy development often demanded quick learning and efficient time management. Conducting fieldwork in Tahirpur, Sunamganj (August 26–31, 2024) was challenging due to difficult terrain, unpredictable weather, and accessibility issues. Engaging with local stakeholders, students, and teachers required patience and clear communication, especially when discussing education disruptions caused by climate disasters.

The CAP-RES Residential Retreat at Novem Eco Resort, Sreemangal (September 2–5, 2024) required quickly understanding project progress, climate policy discussions, and strategic priorities. Writing the Novem Residential Retreat Report was demanding, as summarizing discussions while ensuring accuracy required strong documentation and coordination.



Participating in the LLA-LnD Short Course in Gazipur (September 30 – October 3, 2024) also posed challenges. The sessions covered Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) and Loss & Damage (LnD), which involved complex policy discussions. Balancing session documentation with active participation required focus, and co-authoring the Short Course Report involved summarizing detailed discussions into a structured format.

Developing policy briefs with the Youth Team (October – December 2024) was another challenge, particularly in aligning grassroots recommendations with COP29 outcomes. Ensuring clarity while incorporating multiple perspectives required thorough research and structured writing.


Project coordination tasks, such as reviewing research work from previous CAP-RES grantees, organizing follow-up reports, and creating concise presentations, were time-intensive. Managing large amounts of data while ensuring accuracy required an organized approach.

Despite these challenges, I improved my time management, adaptability, research, and project coordination skills, gaining valuable experience in climate governance, locally-led adaptation, and policy advocacy.

## Key Learnings and Takeaways

During my internship at ICCCAD under the CAP-RES project (July – December 2024), I gained practical experience in research, policy development, event coordination, and capacity-building initiatives. Working across multiple teams exposed me to different aspects of climate governance, locally-led adaptation (LLA), and project management, helping me develop both technical and soft skills.

One of my key learnings was data evaluation using the Likert scale, which I applied during my fieldwork in Tahirpur, Sunamganj (August 26–31, 2024). This experience improved my ability to conduct structured assessments and analyze stakeholder responses, a valuable skill for research and evaluation processes.



I also enhanced my technical proficiency in Excel, learning how to organize and analyze project data effectively. Additionally, I worked extensively with Canva, improving my ability to design visually appealing materials for presentations and reports.

Event management was another major learning experience. From coordinating logistics to documenting discussions, I gained hands-on experience in organizing and reporting on climate-focused events, including the CAP-RES Residential Retreat at Novem Eco Resort, Sreemangal (September 2-5, 2024) and the Resonating Youth Voices for Climate Resilience 2024 (October 17, 2024). Managing these events required strong organizational skills and adaptability, which I developed over time.

One of my most significant achievements was developing my first policy brief as part of my work with the Youth Team (October - December 2024). This experience strengthened my ability to conduct policy analysis, synthesize research findings, and draft structured policy recommendations, aligning global climate discussions (such as COP29 outcomes) with grassroots perspectives.

Overall, this internship provided me with a diverse skill set, ranging from research and policy development to event coordination and technical skills, all of which will contribute to my future work in climate resilience, adaptation, and governance.

### **Future Plans**

Building on my experience from this internship, I have transitioned into my new role as a Youth Fellow Assistant in the Youth Team at ICCCAD. In this position, I aim to expand my work in policy research, youth engagement, and climate adaptation advocacy under the supervision of Sumaiya Binte Selim.

I plan to continue contributing to climate policy discussions, research initiatives, and grassroots-driven adaptation efforts while further developing my expertise in climate governance, locally-led adaptation, and youth-focused climate resilience strategies.

This role provides an opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge gained during my internship while taking on new challenges and responsibilities in research, advocacy, and policy development.



*My induction portrait as Youth Fellow Assistant at ICCCAD, embarking on a journey of youth-led climate action and policy advocacy*

## Conclusion

My internship at ICCCAD under the CAP-RES project (July – December 2024) was a transformative experience that strengthened my ability to adapt, multitask, and engage with diverse stakeholders in the field of climate resilience and governance.

Working across multiple teams challenged me to develop skills in policy brief writing, field research, training module development, and event coordination, providing a well-rounded understanding of climate adaptation strategies. One of the most rewarding aspects was developing my first policy brief, contributing to youth-focused climate governance discussions, and engaging in capacity-building initiatives.

This internship has reinforced my commitment to evidence-based policymaking and climate advocacy. As I move forward in my new role, I look forward to applying these skills and deepening my contributions to climate resilience, adaptation, and youth-led initiatives.