



In the global REDD debate, many concerns have been expressed by developing countries, in particular concerns about the rights of indigenous people and communities

dependent on forests and the impact of REDD programmes on such groups. The overwhelming need of communities and people in the forest is to ensure that they are involved in a positive and mutually beneficial way in the management of these resources, since this is one of the very few effective means of controlling deforestation and forest degradation over very large areas. To reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, it is essential to promote solutions involving local people in the sustainable management of forests; and at the same time to link incentive mechanisms with livelihood options. This demonstration project will augment the capacities of local forest users for carrying out forest inventories; monitoring carbon flux; establishing equitable and transparent REDD mechanisms for sharing revenue; and understanding and actively participating in the overall REDD process.

Demonstration project sites

The project is currently active in three watersheds within the mid-hills of Nepal; namely, Charnawati in Dolakha district, Ludikhola in Gorkha district, and Kayarkhola in Chitwan district. The entire project covers about 10,266 hectares of forest area. A 'Project Management Unit' (PMU) has been established in Kathmandu (on the premises of the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources [ANSAB]) to coordinate and manage the project. In each of the three watersheds, there is a 'REDD Network Office' to coordinate REDD activities with different groups of forest users within the watershed.

Implementation arrangements

Developing a REDD payment mechanism is a new area of work and requires the involvement of government and civil society organisations working in collaboration and cooperation

with each other. ICIMOD – with ANSAB and Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) – is involved in this process. ICIMOD's primary role is to coordinate the overall project and provide technical guidance to ANSAB and FECOFUN. ANSAB is responsible for building the capacity of FECOFUN in REDD activities such as carrying out community-based carbon inventories.

Similarly, FECOFUN's role in the project includes facilitating community forest user groups by mobilising local resource persons (LRPs); facilitating the formation of a watershed-level REDD Network; providing support to development of the framework for the Forest Carbon Trust Fund; and dealing with policy issues arising from development of the REDD Payment Mechanism.

The Faculty of Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation (ITC) and the University of Twente will work together with ICIMOD to develop a carbon stock verification methodology using remote sensing and to provide advice essential for establishing an institutional mechanism for REDD, respectively.



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REDD in Nepal through Community Forest Management





Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in Nepal through community forest management

Introduction

Climate change is occurring at an alarming rate as a result of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Currently, deforestation accounts for approximately 18-25% of global greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions can be curbed effectively and efficiently by avoiding deforestation and forest degradation through improving the management regimes of existing forests.

Since the UN Climate Conference of Parties – COP 13 – held in Bali in 2007, a policy mechanism proposed by that conference entitled 'Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries' (REDD) has been under consideration by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The REDD mechanism establishes a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering economic incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forest lands. At UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009, the REDD policy



mechanism was expanded to REDD+, going beyond the emphasis on deforestation and forest degradation to recognise the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. The REDD+ proposal, which is currently being discussed at the UNFCCC, allows for a wider range of forest-related activities than the previous proposal, and provides opportunities for approaches such as community forestry, joint forest management, social forestry, and collaborative forestry to derive benefit from international efforts to mitigate climate change.



UNFCCC COP 15 has recognised the need to enhance removal of greenhouse gas emissions by the forests and the crucial role of REDD. There is a consensus about the need to provide positive incentives to such actions through the immediate establishment of a mechanism, including REDD+, to enable mobilisation of financial resources from developed countries. Such a mechanism calls for increases in current funding as well as new and additional funding that is constant and adequate so that mitigation activities are enabled and well supported; and this of course includes substantial financing of efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) to facilitate implementation of the UNFCCC.

Whereas, at the global level, REDD and REDD+ activities are viewed from the perspective of a cost-effective mitigation approach, at local level such activities are regarded as an ecosystem-based adaptive measure by populations that depend on forest resources for their livelihoods. Recognising this link is crucial for ensuring that international measures to promote mitigation of the impacts of climate change meet the needs of mountain communities and local forest resource users in terms of adapting to the rapidly changing environment of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region.

Project background

The main goal of this pilot project is to demonstrate a national governance and payment system for emission reduction through sustainable forest management which benefits local communities in general, and indigenous people in particular.

To achieve this goal, the pilot project will strengthen the capacity of civil society actors in Nepal to ensure their active engagement in planning and preparation of national strategies related to REDD by using the experiences and knowledge gained from three pilot demonstration sites in Nepal. The project will facilitate the establishment of a Forest Carbon Trust Fund that will be sustainable, equitable, and creditable in the long term for community forest users.

