

INDIA@COP21



Getting ready for 2020 REDD: What are Himalayan countries doing?

ICFRE – ICIMOD joint side event at COP21 in Paris

Date : Tuesday, 8 December 2015

Venue : India Pavilion at COP21,
Le Bourget, Paris, France

Time : 15:00–17:00

Organizers

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)



ICIMOD



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KEY SPEAKERS

Dr Horst Freiberg

Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature, Conservation, and Nuclear
Safety, Germany

Dr Ashwani Kumar

DG, ICFRE

Dr Bhaskar Singh Karky

Resource Economist
ICIMOD

Dr T.P. Singh

Assistant Director General, Biodiversity
and Climate Change
ICFRE, India

Dr Parag M. Dhakate

Nodal Officer REDD-plus project, Uttara-
khand Forest Department, India

Dr Tim Christophersen

Senior Programme Officer, Forests and
Climate Change
UNEP, UN-REDD

Dr G.S. Goraya

DDG, ICFRE, India

Mr Lobzang Dorji

Chief of Forest Resources Management
Division, Department of Forests and Park
Services, Bhutan

Dr Thuang Naing Oo

Director, Forest Research Institute
Forest Department, Myanmar

Mr Man Bahadur Khadka

Joint Secretary, Chief, REDD
Implementation Centre, Nepal

ABOUT THE EVENT

REDD+ remains a critical instrument under the UNFCCC that provides financial incentive to developing countries for mitigating greenhouse gas through interventions in the forestry sector while providing adaptation co-benefits.

In run up to the COP21, all the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) countries are preparing strategies for implementing REDD+ and are simultaneously developing relevant capacities at different levels so that REDD+ can be implemented effectively and efficiently with minimal adverse impacts.

Countries have made progress in designing MRV packages, better understanding the REDD+ architecture within the framework of existing policies, legislation, and regulations and have identified safeguard approaches that are essential. Some countries are already testing pilot REDD+ interventions.

This side event will feature representatives of Hindu Kush Himalayan countries who will present and share their experiences and progress towards the readiness phase. Specifically, the presenters will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What achievements and evidence illustrate how each country has been preparing for REDD+ policy in order to stimulate performance-based forest management?
- What measures have been taken to address social inclusion, environmental safeguards, biodiversity protection, and good governance in national REDD+ strategies?
- What can be collectively done at the regional level to highlight the attractiveness of REDD+ outside of the tropics?



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

S. No.	Topic:	Speaker	Time (min)
1	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr Horst Freiberg, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature, Conservation, and Nuclear Safety	10
2	Importance of REDD+ for Indian Himalayas and Role of ICFRE	Dr Ashwani Kumar, DG ICFRE	15
3	ICIMOD Trans-boundary programme on REDD+ in Himalayas	Dr Bhaskar Singh Karky, ICIMOD	15
4	REDD+ Pilot initiatives in the Indian Himalayas	Dr T.P. Singh, Assistant Director General, ICFRE	15
5	Strengthening community forestry institutions (Van Panchayat) in Uttarakhand Himalayas through the REDD Plus Project initiative	Dr Parag M. Dhakate, Nodal Officer REDD-plus project, Uttarakhand Forest Department	15
6	Panel discussion: Issues and Challenges of implementing REDD+ in the Himalayan Countries	Panelists: 1. UN-REDD: Tim Christophersen (Chair) 2. India: Dr G.S. Goraya, ICFRE 3. Bhutan: Mr Lobjang Dorji, Bhutan Forest Department 4. Myanmar: Dr Thaung Naing Oo, Director Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw 5. Nepal: Mr Man Badhur Khadka, Joint Secretary, Chief of REDD Implementation Centre/MoFSC	45
7	Way forward and Vote of Thanks	Dr T.P. Singh, ICFRE	05

REDD+ INITIATIVES IN INDIA

- REDD+ project activities are just starting in India. Projects like Uttarakhand REDD+ pilot aims to develop ideal pilot demonstration projects of REDD-plus actions in the selected cluster of Van Panchayats and Joint Forest Management (JFM) areas of Uttarakhand covering an area of about 45,000 hectares involving local communities.
- Forest Plus by USAID will strengthen India's capacity to develop systems for forest carbon measurement and monitoring, as well as conduct greenhouse gas inventories. The project is being implemented in four states — Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh — and will help to improve tools and capacity for land-use planning while reducing deforestation and ensuring the rights and engagement of local and indigenous communities.

- Umiyam Sub-Watershed REDD+ Project, Meghalaya is another pilot project in the East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya being run jointly by Community Forestry International (CFI) and the Mawphlang community (Meghalaya) is registered under Plan Vivo. The groups have been working together in the Umiyam basin watershed region under REDD+ Project in East Khasi Hills in District of Meghalaya.
- ICIMOD-ICFRE-GIZ-Transboundary REDD+ project are taking serious steps to engage in REDD+ programs where a large population is dependent on forest resources, but many Himalayan nations do not yet have the capacity to address international standards required for REDD+. Least Developing Countries (LDCs), like Nepal and Bhutan, can learn from each other by sharing best practices. India and Myanmar, have different experiences and expertise worth sharing at the regional level. The overall goal of this project, supported by BMUB Germany through International Climate Initiative is to build the capacity of the REDD focal points in the four countries namely India, Nepal Bhutan and Myanmar to develop & implement National REDD-plus Strategy through conservation & sustainable use of natural sinks.
- This proposed side event will help in developing a guiding framework for implementing REDD+ in the Himalayan region and will provide a platform to share experiences form other countries in the HKH region.



ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



ICFRE

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is an autonomous organisation or governmental agency under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Headquartered in Dehradun, its functions are to conduct forestry research; transfer the technologies developed to the states of India and other user agencies; and to impart forestry education. The council has 9 research institutes and 4 advanced centres to cater to the research needs of different bio-geographical regions. These are located at Dehradun, Shimla, Ranchi, Jorhat, Jabalpur, Jodhpur, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Allahabad, Chhindwara, Aizawl, Hyderabad and Agartala.



ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the

Hindu Kush Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalization and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues.



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