

## REDD Multi-stakeholder Forum Interaction Workshop, June 18, 2013

### Background

The REDD-Forestry and Climate Change Cell under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation is the lead institution to undertake REDD readiness activities in Nepal. The REDD readiness activities for Nepal are guided by the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). The activities outlined by the R-PP are in turn implemented by incorporating them into the annual programs of the REDD Cell. The REDD Cell organizes interaction programs with the REDD Multi-stakeholder Forum to share knowledge on REDD progress as part of its annual program. The forum includes representatives from the private sector, civil society, media, government organizations, community based organizations and all stakeholders interested in Climate change and the REDD process. The forum increases the access to information and enhances the roles of the stakeholders in the decision making process.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the interaction workshop were:

- To inform relevant stakeholders about the on-going activities under REDD+ readiness phase in Nepal especially about the present status in REDD readiness, the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the R-PP and the National REDD Strategy Development
- To inform and update about the carbon fund working modality of the World Bank and the ER-PIN development
- To share information regarding the development of sub-national pilot project in TAL area
- To introduce the consulting firm Camco, Advisory Services Kenya Limited, Kenya that has been selected to carry out the study "Development of Reference Emission Level (REL) for Nepal" to the REDD Stakeholders
- To learn about views on R-PP implementation progress from Donor's, the REDD CSO Alliance and other important REDD Stakeholders ( HIMAWANTI,NEFIN,DANAR,DNF)

### Presentations

The main presentations in the interaction workshop were as follows:

SN	Topic	Presenter
1	REDD Readiness Progress Update	Mr. Resham Dangi, Chief,REDD Cell
2	Update on Mid Term Review	Mr. Narendra Chand,REDD Cell
3	Updates on REDD Strategy Development	Mr. Keshav Khanal, WWF-Hariyo Ban Programme
4	Updates on the Development of Reference Level	Mr. Stephen Mutimba, Camco , Kenya
5	ER-PIN Submission to FCPF	Mr. Rajesh Koirala, The World Bank
6	Development of Reference level at sub-national level (TAL)	Mr. Ugan Manandhar, WWF Nepal
7	Donor's view on Progress on REDD Readiness and way forward	FRA Project-MSFP-Dharam Uprety Hariyo Ban/USAID-Netra Sharma

8	World Bank/FCPF REDD Readiness Grant-Issues at Midterm	Mr. Bill Magrath, World Bank
9	Views on Progress on REDD Readiness and their contribution for way forward	Ms. Apsara Chapagain, Chairperson of FECOFUN and REDD CSO Alliance
10	Views on Progress on REDD Readiness and their contribution for way forward	NEFIN-Ms. Pasang Dolma Sherpa DNF-Mr. Gajodhar Sunar HIMAWANTI-Ms. Rama Ale magar DANAR-Mr. Bishnu Nepali

## Issues and Discussions

### Comments received to the presentation on MTR

- The MTR should reflect the voice of the IPs, local communities and grass root level actors through more multi-stakeholder consultations.
- A different forum should be called for discussing the MTR especially about the process and method (such as the traffic light system) used in carrying it out.
- Progress in the MTR as per the traffic light system seems to be medium (mostly yellow); if there is possibility of changing it to green (high progress), then it should be done by incorporating the activities for REDD plus done by other organizations.
- The MSFP has also done a MTR and has submitted it to REDD Cell.
- The IPs have a high concern regarding the drivers of D and D. Identification of D and D should hamper the livelihood of the IPs. The MTR should include IPs in consultation at least as key informants.
- The MTR should reflect the activities for REDD readiness carried out by other organizations involved with REDD in Nepal. However, gaps in sharing of information regarding REDD plus with the GoN has been observed. All the concerned organizations should make it a point to share their progress in REDD readiness with the GoN.
- Transition to REDD implementation might divert the attention of the major stakeholders of REDD away from the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. So this phase should be shortened as far as possible and proceed onto the sub-national project.
- Many of the REDD institutions are symbolic only; there is need for them to be active.
- Change in color in the progress sheet in the MTR is only possible when the organizations officially report to the REDD Cell about their progress and REDD activities.
- The overall process should be socially inclusive.
- The District Forest Coordination Committee should be made a multi-stakeholder and inclusive body.

### Comments received on the REDD Strategy Development

- The tentative timeline for the project should be given.
- Critical Analysis of earlier documents and studies done in drivers of D and D and other REDD relevant studies need to be looked into.
- All the documents should be prepared in Nepali language.

- How is the information regarding the formulation of the forest sector strategies (REDD, Forest, Biodiversity and Low Carbon) going to be disseminated to the grassroots level people in all districts.
- The REDD Strategy framework preparation and consultations has not been inclusive as it has not involved Dalits.

#### **Comments received for the presentation by Camco, Kenya**

- The Camco team should look into the methodology used by the second national communication report to the UNFCCC by Nepal.
- The legal definition of forest provided by the forest act needs to be respected and honored in designing the REL.

#### **Comments received on the ER-PIN Development**

- What is the difference between the sub-national approach and previous piloting approaches?
- WB is not the only organization that can provide with the carbon fund; there are other organizations are well willing to involve in ER-PIN.
- The REDD CSO Alliance wants to discuss the ER-PIN development process before proceeding onto the actual write-up.
- The REDD stakeholders should be given timely information on the various consultants that are hired for different study purposes, only then can stakeholders can provide their inputs.
- There is need for discussions into the non-carbon mechanism and benefits.
- Moving ahead with the ER-PIN will take us ahead only in process but the capacity building process will still be behind.
- What is the possibility for Nepal to be selected for the carbon fund of the World Bank?
- The SB meetings have been suspended this year; so should we be following the UNFCCC negotiations done or should we also look at other options such as FCPF piloting?
- LDCs should be kept in separate category as preferential countries; evaluation mechanisms should be favorable for them.
- UNFCCC has not defined the result-based payment as of yet; does the WB have a definition for it?
- What is the tenure arrangement in ER-PIN? How will FPIC be obtained from the concerned stakeholders?

#### **Comments received in the presentation by WWF, Nepal**

- Which documents support the proposal to use 1999 base year for REL?

#### **Issues raised by the REDD Stakeholders in their presentations**

- REDD governance and institutional structures should be re-structured to accommodate the upcoming issues of inclusion.
- REDD strategy should be made as a supplementary strategy to the forest strategy.

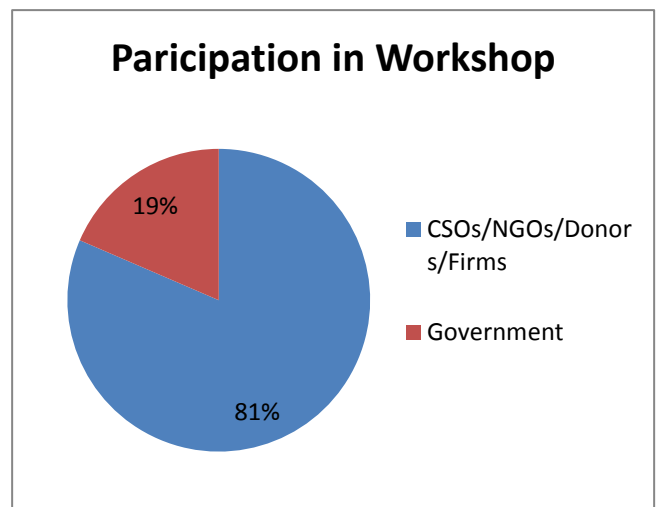
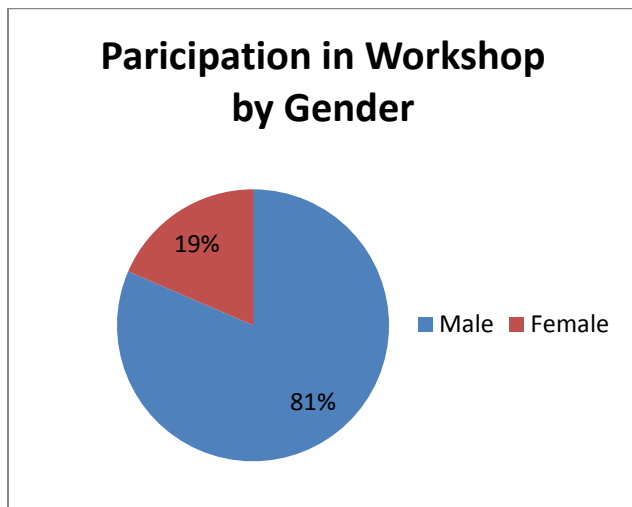
- The technical advancement in REDD activities should go parallel to the social aspects (safeguards, capacity building and awareness).
- Representation of Dalits in REDD TWGs and the RWG is necessary.

**Final Remarks from the REDD Cell Chief**

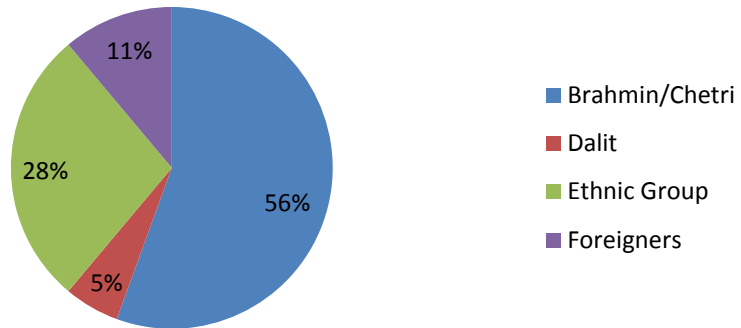
The chief of REDD Cell thanked all the participants for their active participation in the workshop and expressed the view that similar participation will be available for the REDD Strategy Formulation process. He emphasized the fact the REDD process of Nepal should not only focus on economic benefits but should also target in increasing the co-benefits as biodiversity conservation, adaptation and livelihood improvement of local communities. Sustainable forest management practices should be enhanced so that user groups can benefit from forest resources extraction as well as conservation. He also informed that the reports of the technical studies have been uploaded in the website. However as they are highly technical for everyone to understand, policy briefs will be prepared in English and translated into for the technical world. He was also of the view that preparing full documents in Nepali is not the solution; sometimes the Nepali words are even more difficult to understand when translated.

**Composition of the Participants in the Workshop:**

A total of 54 people participated in the workshop (Refer to the list of participants attached). Of the total participants, 19 % were female and 81 % were males. Likewise, there was 19% representation from government offices and the rest (81%) were from the various Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, Donors and Consulting Firms.



## Participation in Workshop in terms of Ethnicity



### Glimpses of the Workshop



Photo 1: A section of the Workshop



Photo 2: Ms.PD Sherpa,NEFIN,expressing her views on REDD