

RESOURCE MATERIAL* **ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, FOREST AND REDD**

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Project Country: NEPAL

Nestled between India and Autonomous Region of China, Nepal is home to the world's highest peak, Mt. Everest, which grazes along the Himalayan mountain ranges. While eight of the highest peaks are seated in Nepal, some of its regions are low-lying, which would define the extreme climate variation of the country. Nepal is comprised these geographical regions: the Terai region (humid tropical), Siwaliks (moist sub-tropical), the mountain region, which is divided into the middle mountain (temperate) and the high mountain (cool to sub-alpine), and the High Himalayas (alpine to arctic). In just a distance of 200 kilometers, the variation from a tropical climate to an arctic climate is felt. One of the few densely populated countries, Nepal has a population of approximately 23 million (2001 Census). The concentration of this population are higher in rural areas and the economy is very much dependent on agriculture.

The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities listed 54 Indigenous Peoples groups in the country. Most of the indigenous nationalities are in the Terai and Himalayan regions. Indigenous population comprise 36.31% of the total population.

Climate Change

According to OECD, in their study on Development and Climate Change in Nepal, the analysis of recent climatic trends reveals a significant warming trend in recent decades which has been even more pronounced at higher altitudes.¹ Warming trends have already had significant impacts in the Nepal Himalayas- most significantly in terms of glacier retreat and significant increases in the size and volume of glacial lakes, making them more prone to Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding (GLOF). Continued glacier retreat can also reduce dry season flows fed by glacier melt, while there is moderate confidence across climate models that the monsoon might intensify under climate change. This contributes to enhanced variability of river flows.²

CURRENT FOREST SITUATION AND MANAGEMENT

Out of Nepal's total land area, only 25.4%, that is about 3,636,000 hectares, is forest. 99.9% of which is identified as public forest. In a country profile by Mongabay, 349,000 ha is

1 Shardul Agrawala, et. al., *Development and Climate Change in Nepal: Focus on Water Resources and Hydropower*: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. 2003. Available from: www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/55/21055658.pdf; Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

2 Ibid

primary forest, 384,000 ha is modified natural, 2,850 ha is semi-natural and 53,000 ha is production forest.³

Although the forest just comprise about a quarter of its land area, Nepal showcases a diversity of life forms. Nepal is home to 6,973 species of flora and 1,240 species of fauna. 4.5% of the flora species, while 2.9% of fauna species are endemic to this country.⁴

Some agencies and organizations have also done an inventory of forest resources.

Table 1: Periodic Inventory of Forest Resources⁵

Year	Agency/Organization	Findings
1953-1967	Forest Resources Survey Office of the Government of Nepal (now, Department of Forest Research and Survey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey was based on photographs taken from 1953-1967, complemented by strip photographs covering 10% of the surveyed area total forest area in 1964 was estimated to be 6.4 million hectares survey did not cover the high Himalayan region and there were considerable gaps in the coverage of the hill region, results give only a rough estimate of the country's forested area
1978-1979	Land Resources Mapping Project (joint venture between the Government of Nepal and Kenting Earth Sciences Limited of Ottawa, Canada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey was based on aerial photography shown in 1978-1979, supplemented by extensive field checking and sampling. Total area covered by forests and shrubs as 6.3 m ha, including 4.0 m ha in the mountains, 1.7 m ha in the Siwaliks, and 0.6 m ha in the Terai
1964-1965 and 1978-1979	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat of the Government of Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total area under forest and shrubs as 6.5 m ha, including 3.9 m ha in the hills and mountains, 1.7 m ha in the Siwaliks and 0.8 m ha in the Terai estimates were based on photographs
1987-1998	Department of Forest Research and Survey of the Government of Nepal (with support from the Government of Finland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial photographs for the Central and Eastern regions were taken in 1992 and the rest of the country in 1996 survey used different methods for different areas

3 *Nepal Country Profile*. Available from: <http://rainforests.mongabay.com/20nepal.htm> Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

4 Ibid

5 The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation submission to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Programme Idea Note for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). April 2008. Available From: www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/.../Nepal_TAP_Consolidated.pdf Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landsat Thematic Mapper satellite images taken in November-December 1990 and 1991 were used to map the forest cover of 14 Terai and inner-Terai districts • forest cover for another 10 Terai and inner-Terai districts was obtained from aerial photo interpretation supplemented by field checking • the forest cover for the rest of the 51 hill districts was analyzed by interpreting a systematic grid of air photo points
	MFSC/DoF (with SNV, WWF, DFID and SDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest cover change analysis of the 20 Terai districts using two sets of satellite images (Landsat image data from 1991-2001) • study showed that the annual rate of deforestation in the Terai was 0.08% compared with 1.3% during the previous decade

In 1984, the Land Resource Mapping Project (LRMP) assessed the distribution of forest in Nepal and in 1999, the National Forest Inventory (NFI) showed that Nepal had a forest area of 5.8 million hectares, which comprise 40% of the forest cover. From this 5.8 million, hectares area, 4.2 million hectares is forest and the remaining 1.6 million hectares is shrub land. Based on the LRMP data in 1984, and the NFI data in 1997, a comparison shows a 24% decrease of forest cover in a period of 15 years. While the shrub land increased about 126% in the same period.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its Global Resource Assessment in 2005 showed a large decrease of Nepal's forest. From 4.82 million hectares in 1990, it has decreased to 3.64 million hectares in 2005. It was also estimated that 400,000 hectares was lost due to fires in the year 2000. This given area however, does not include forest degradation caused by grazing and encroachment.

Meanwhile, the deforestation rate reported by Mongabay from 2000-2005 shows:

	Hectares	Rate
Annual change in forest cover	52,000	1.4%
Total forest loss since 1990	1,181,000	24.5%

From LRMP and NFI's study in the years 1984 to 1997, the 24% decrease of forest cover increased to 28.9% (1990-2005) based on the data presented by Mongabay.

Drivers of Deforestation

From Nepal's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Plan Idea Note submission, the country identified that, "the intensity of degradation is high in national forests compared to

other forest management modes. Evidence strongly suggests that once the forest management regime is transferred to the local communities, the degradation and deforestation is substantially reduced in that forest. However, it is also argued that the community forests have improved only at the cost of adjacent national forests in several places".⁶ The tenurial system of Nepal is considered as one of the prominent causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the country. In the regions of Terai and Siwaliks, deforestation is caused by resettlement programs, illegal clearing of forests, and timber smuggling across the border. It was also indicated in the R-PIN that deforestation and forest degradation is highest in the Terai region. An estimated 80,000 hectares of forest in Terai are being converted to agriculture and settlement areas. But there has not been a study of forest encroachment in the mountains.

An identified strong factor in Nepal's deforestation is the lack of clarity in the tenurial system. Some policies from Nepal's past have also been identified as a factor in deforestation. Policies such as the Private Forest Nationalization Act of 1957 and the Forest Act of 1961⁷ were criticized as wrong moves by the people. Although these policies were aimed to protect, manage, and utilize forests, it turned out to have caused deforestation in Nepal.

Private Forest Nationalization Act 1957

Private land was not surveyed when forests were nationalized. Detailed cadastral surveys of Nepal started only in 1960, with the formulation of the Land Act. Nationalization of forests in 1957 and subsequent survey and registration of private land in 1960 provided further inducement to convert forests into agriculture land.⁸

Forest Act of 1961

The Forest Act of 1961 allowed HMG foresters to issue permits to harvest trees even for subsistence needs. For example, forest degradation in Salyan district reached its peak during 1968-78. "The policing and other controlling tasks of the forest staff in terms of law enforcement aggravated the deforestation in Salyan district" (Hertog 1995). However, deforestation also accelerated in the lower plain region or the Terai due to the eradication of malaria in the 1950s and its subsequent settlement by the hill people.⁹

Other identified drivers of deforestation in Nepal's R-PIN also includes the conversion of forests and grasslands to agricultural and resettlement lands. These conversions were identified in the areas of Terai and Siwaliks. Illegal clearings for agricultural expansions and illicit felling of timber smuggled across borders were also reported accordingly. In Nepal's R-PIN, an estimated 80,000 hectares was identified as the area being converted to agricultural and resettlement area in Terai. However, there has not been a study of forest encroachment in the

6 Ibid

7 Kashev Kanel. *Policy Reform and Local Participation in Forestry: A Case Study from Nepal*. Available from: <http://srdis.ciesin.columbia.edu/cases/nepal-008.html>. Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

8 Ibid

9 Ibid

area.¹⁰

In the R-PIN, the lack of Land Use Plan is identified as a driver of deforestation. How does this contribute to deforestation? What would be the implication of this insufficiency of Land Use Plan in the REDD plan?

Are the drivers of deforestation attributed to IPs? Or to whom?

There is no reliable estimate of Carbon Dioxide emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Nepal. The National communication Report (2004) estimates 22,895 Gg emissions from the land-use sector. 18,547 Gg comes from forest and grass land conversion and 4,948 Gg comes from the soil (1994-1995 data).¹¹

There have been several sub-national studies done on forest cover change in Eastern Nepal. A study using sample plot data taken over a four-year period (1994-1998) showed a 51% increase in stem number and 29% increase in basal area for the most degraded forests once they are handed over to community control.¹²

Does this have to do with Indigenous People's traditional resource management?

Another study, based on forest inventory data from forest management operational plans for two consecutive periods, used five major indicators related to forest condition including:

1. change in basal area per ha
2. change in biodiversity index
3. change in forest structure
4. change of forest composition within CF
5. contribution to carbon sequestration

This study found that the basal area had increased remarkably from 60m²/ha to 156.7

10 The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation submission to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Programme Idea Note for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). April 2008. Available From: www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/.../Nepal_TAP_Consolidated.pdf Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

11 Ibid

12 Ibid

m²/ha over a 7 year period (equivalent to an increase of 13.8 m²/ha per year) although it was based on a small data set.¹³ Other factors include:

- expansion of agricultural land
- extraction of firewood for cooking and domestic heating
- forage gathering for livestock and forest grazing
- inadequate management of public forests
- restrictive forest management regulations
- lack of land use plan
- forest fire

Policies

Among the Government of Nepal's move to address the cause-effect aspects of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, poverty alleviation and restoration of the environment, the following policies are included: (1) Master Plan for the forestry sector (MPFS 1998), (2) Forest Act 1993, (3) The Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP 1995), (4) The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) and (5) 3 Year Interim Plan (2007-2010).

These policies on sustainable management of natural resources are said to have emphasis on forest resources.¹⁴

There are lots of policies and programmes that the Government of Nepal and stakeholders have developed to combat deforestation. These policies and programs are implemented with the government, civil society, professional groups, international actors and market players. Nepal has also ratified and complied with international conventions and covenants in relation to environment, forestry and biodiversity.

This has led to Nepal's National Conservation Strategy in 1987 and Nepal Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. There was also a move to mainstream environmental issues in political discourse and processes. As a result, an inter-party parliamentary committees on forests and natural resources was formed. In 2005, the agenda for environmental governance has been included in Nepal's state processes. There are also thematic task-forces by the Ministry and its departments. Aside from this, there are lobbying groups such as Nepal Forest Policy Learning Group, Community

Are there more or other policies in relation to Forests, IPs and Land? Cite more policies relevant to the analysis of REDD and Indigenous Peoples

Are there IPs or IP Organizations involved in the implementation of programs or policies by the government?

13 Ibid

14 Ibid

Forestry interaction and Learning Group, and Nepal Forest Carbon Action Group.¹⁵

On Forest

These are the policies in relation to forests that are in place at the national and other levels.

The Forest Act of 1993

This act and its regulations (1995) revoked the Forest Act of 1961. The new forest act is more detailed, in terms of the rights to land and the biomass on it. Forests (outside the national parks and reserves) are classified legally into two broad types: private and national forests. If both the land and the trees on it belong to a private entity, it is known as a private forest. However, if the land belongs to the state, but the management rights of the biomass (on it) are assigned to an organized body including state herself, then such a forest is known as national forest.¹⁶

The Community Forestry Management

In lower middle hills, there is significantly lower degradation because of Community Forestry Program. A decentralization of control of forest management was done in Nepal through the Community Forestry Policy. Forests are managed by the users through organized groups called the Community Forest User Group (CFUG), and non-users are prevented to extract from the forest. The CFUGs have proven to effectively protect and manage their forests. Some success stories have been proven in the areas of Dang Valley in Rapti zone.

In Ambapur, Ghorahi, women have formed a Community Forest User Group (CFUG) to manage 1.7 hectares (ha) of degraded forest. They have constructed a water tank to store and regulate drinking water, and a user group meeting hall to discuss forest and fund utilization and management.

In BanjhiPur of Pyuthan, women users led by Mrs Netra Devi Budhathoki have restored the ecological niche in the surrounding area. They have devised an innovative way to regulate the use of the new forest and aggressively safeguard it against rule infractions. In nearby villages of Takura and Pokhari Pata, women CFUGs are creating a fund to provide credit to members.

The women of Sejuwal Takura, Salyan led by Mrs Bakuli Kuwar,

15 Ibid

16 Kashev Kanel. *Policy Reform and Local Participation in Forestry: A Case Study from Nepal*. Available from: <http://srdis.ciesin.columbia.edu/cases/nepal-008.html>. Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

have been managing 35 hectares of community forest for the last three years. They have even sown Sal seeds in their forest because Sal leaves were not easily available nearby for making plates needed for festivals and religious ceremonies.

In Bagh Mare, Dang, forest users have generated thousands of rupees by selling dead, dying, and diseased (3D) trees from about 300 hectare of forest. They support a high school and plan to establish a saw-mill to add value to their surplus timber.¹⁷

*Note: These cases were lifted in verbatim from the footnote

What is the extent of IP involvement in these projects?

Lessons from this program has been continuously feeding the policy making process. Although communities have this management program, the security on land tenure is limited as the government still has the power on decision-making over forest-resources. The CFGU was developed from the idea bring to the forest users the management of the forests and limit the intervention of the local government to coordination and monitoring only. This move was followed by the Forest Regulation of 1995.

How important is the Community Forest Management Program by the Government to Indigenous Peoples? Is this based on IPs' traditional forest management? What are the differences and /or similarities?

Is the Community Forestry Management Program the only reason of lower degradation? Are there no contributions from IPs?

17 Ibid

Table 2: Some policies in place at the national and other levels¹⁸

The Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS 1988)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first comprehensive policy document emphasizing participation and rights of local people in different regimes of forest governance
The Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP 1995)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipulates strategies for effective interaction among agriculture, livestock and forestry for enhancing livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management
Local Self Governance Act (1999)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes linkages between local government and local communities in the management of forest areas in line with the principles of decentralization and local self-governance
Forestry Sector Policy (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redefines the roles and power of key stakeholders of Terai forests- mainly local communities, central government and local government
PRSP (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances the potential of the forestry sector in poverty alleviation and providing environmental services
Herbs and NTFP Development policy (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of non-timber resources including commercialization
National Biodiversity Strategy (2002) and Nepal Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of biodiversity and promotion of environmental services
The 3-year Interim Plan (2007-2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipulates transitional strategies for relief, reconstruction and reintegration in the post conflict situation. It specifically recognizes the role of forestry in contributing to forest based economic growth, social development, good governance, and environmental services including low carbon development

18 The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation submission to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Programme Idea Note for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). April 2008. Available From: www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/.../Nepal_TAP_Consolidated.pdf Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

The Community Forestry Guidelines

The Nepal Forestry has prepared this guideline particularly for stakeholders who are involved in community forest development. This would also guide the forming of community forest user groups. The guide also contains the preparation, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of forest operational plans.¹⁹

National Environmental Action Plan

The identification of program areas and action plans for support is contained in this document. This particular document identifies programs for the environment as contained in Nepal's National Environment Policy.²⁰

Local Self Governance Act of 1999

The Act contains provisions on village development by the local bodies such as the respective municipal governments and the District Development Committees. The regulation of functions, duties and powers of the District Development Committees are contained in the Section 189 of the said Act. This section also includes provisions on wage and the abolition of child labor.²¹

Are there more policies relevant to IPs and REDD? How are these policies affecting IPs in relation to REDD?

On Indigenous Peoples

Apart from Nepal's ratification of ILO convention 169 and being a signatory of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, there are some laws concerning indigenous peoples.

The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) is the first periodic plan that has a specific section on indigenous peoples.²² This specific section was contained under the social security sector of the

19 *Community Forest Guideline*. Available from: <http://www.forestrynepal.org/publications/policy-papers/4342>
Date Accessed: September 29, 2009

20 *National Environment and Health Action Plan: Environment Strategy*. Available from: http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/National_Environment_&_Health_Action_Plan_envstrategy.pdf; Date Accessed: September 29, 2009

21 *Local Self-Governance Act- Nepal*. Available from: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/gems/eeo/law/nepal/act6.htm> Date Accessed: September 29, 2009

22 Harka Gurung. *Sectoral Reports on Sustainable Development Agenda for Nepal; role of Indigenous Peoples in Sustainable Development*. Available from: http://nipforum.org/harkag_sdan_paper.pdf. Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

ninth plan. The development program objectives for indigenous peoples are: to eradicate imbalance, to uplift cultural status, to enhance capability of indigenous peoples and to involve indigenous peoples in nation building.²³ The plan equates indigenous peoples (adivasi) with ethnic groups (janajati).²⁴ On the plan's implementation and strategy, five points each were identified for policy and programmatic aspects. The Program section is again divided into three components. The first component is institutional arrangement, which suggests a National Council for Indigenous Peoples to organize indigenous peoples committees in 75 districts. The component on human resource development has an emphasis on education. The last component dwells on socio-economic development, wherein there is a stress in using traditional skills as an income generating activity. A grant will also be allotted for the development of indigenous peoples.

The *Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan*, otherwise known as the Tenth plan was based largely on the Millennium Development Goals. One of its key features is the recognition of the role of local bodies, community organizations and NGOs in development and reflects the government's commitment to decentralization and devolution. It also showcases laws on Human Rights and Good Governance. In the plan's poverty profile, it has included indigenous peoples in its population. Including the IP population was crucial because it means including the indigenous peoples in the poverty reduction strategy plan.

Was the inclusion of IP Population in the poverty reduction strategy plan beneficial to IPs? Is this also relevant in their engagement to REDD? How?

Section 2 of the Foundation for the Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act of 2002 (NFDIN) recognizes the collective nature of indigenous peoples and defines them as groups with distinct mother tongues, traditions, customs, identities, social structures, and with their own oral or written histories.²⁵

Indigenous peoples have a right to participate in state structures, which presumably includes the Constituent Assembly, on the basis of the principle of proportional representation. This was contained in *Article 21 of the Interim Constitution*.

The 2007 *Elections Law* provides that indigenous peoples and oppressed communities jointly will be allocated 37 percent of the 335 delegates chosen in the proportional representation category.²⁶

23 Ibid

24 Ibid

25 Lawyers' Association for the Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples. *Exclusion of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives from the Making of Nepal's New Constitution: A Request for Consideration under the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's Urgent Action and Early Warning Procedures*. Available from: http://www.forestpeoples.org/documents/asia_pacific/nepal_cerd_urgent_action_feb09_eng.pdf. Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

26 Ibid

Article 35- Rights to Land and Natural Resources- “in mobilizing heritage and natural resource priority should be given to local communities”

How do IPs ensure their right to land when the government still controls decision making over forest resources?

Article 154 of Interim Constitution of Nepal 2063 states an agreement between the government and various IP organizations, including the NFDIN on the establishment of a State Restructure Commission and a Commission for Indigenous Peoples.

How could these policies on IPs be useful in pushing for the involvement of IPs in the REDD process?

THE REDD FRAMEWORK

At the start of REDD talks in 2007, the Government of Nepal (GoN) responded quickly to opportunities such as the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) as one of the preparatory activities for REDD. The current REDD initiative aims to establish an enabling framework for promoting transparent, accountable and equitable service delivery in carbon business.

The emphasis between the FCPF is clearly on capacity building across a host of stakeholders on institutional, technical and operational aspects to institutionalize good governance and carbon trading in forestry.²⁷ From 2007-2008, the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (a Government agency) has been actively participating in REDD-related talks locally and internationally. As of February 2009, GoN has been preparing a plan wherein the outlined strategies and actions to be taken for REDD and all other projects which has concerns on carbon trading that may take effect in 2012.

Aside from the FCPF, are there other funding for REDD? What are these?

NEPAL has submitted their Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) and was already

27 Rajan Kotru . “*Nepal's National REDD Framework: How to Start?*” *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*. Vol. 8 (1) February 2009

sanctioned the World Bank under the FCPF. There are four major challenges in implementing the REDD strategies in Nepal: a.) policy and institutional aspects, b.) financial instruments, c.) capacity development, and d.) equity and inclusiveness.²⁸

As the REDD talks arise in Nepal, there are some emerging suggestions with regards to the country's perspectives in the REDD negotiation

Nepal's perspectives in the International REDD Negotiation²⁹

1. Link Carbon with Livelihoods of the poor and socially excluded
 - Benefits from carbon financing need to be targeted at socially excluded groups through an effective social mobilization process that empowers them and raises their awareness and capacity to engage in decision-making processes that can deliver them benefits
2. Address drivers of deforestation
 - Deforestation and forest degradation is a direct result of poor sector governance and should not be misunderstood as a solely financial or technical problem
3. Reward communities
 - Any future REDD should prioritize channeling funds from industrialized countries to reward, upscale and promote community based and participatory forest management in developing countries
4. Provide fund as compensation
 - The fund should not be just a payment for the amount of carbon offsets created; it should be a part of the responsibility of the industrialized countries towards the poor and forest dependent people who have conserved the forests
5. Link with adaptation
 - Any REDD financing should also include an amount needed to help the local people to cope with risks and vulnerabilities induced by global warming for which they have little contributions
6. Ensure equity between developing nations
 - REDD should not privilege high forest and high deforestation countries; funding priority should be based on both the urgency of human problem as well as the extent of carbon offsets realized
7. Use participatory processes
 - Local people and civil society organizations should be fully informed and be provided opportunity to participate in these processes. Locally based intermediaries should be capacitated and provided opportunities to

28 Ibid

29 Hemant R Ojha. et.al. *Making REDD Functional in Nepal: Action Points for Capitalizing Opportunities and Addressing Challenges* (Draft Discussion Paper). Available From: www.forestrynepal.org/publications/article/4043; Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

- implement local level REDD processes
8. Apply multiple crediting levels
 - REDD schemes should not be limited to national level; sub-national innovations in forest conservation should be rewarded. At national and sub-national level, REDD should be implemented by multi-stakeholder groups and committees in a transparent and participatory manner
 9. Go beyond the market
 - REDD should not be relegated completely to the principle of market that undermines value of other environmental services of forests and sources of local livelihoods among others. Nepal should advocate for a package funding that includes poverty reduction, forest conservation and adaptation

How are these perspectives addressed at the National level?

Were there activities initiated by the government for REDD? If so, what are these?

On Nepal's R-PIN submission, the proposed REDD strategy will be linked to the current Interim Plan of Nepal, which runs from 2008-2011. The six components of the Plan and possible linkages with REDD are:

- Relief, reconstruction and reintegration- no direct links to REDD
- Employment-oriented, pro-poor and broad-based economic growth- REDD can promote additional employment and economic opportunities
- Good-governance and effective service delivery- REDD strategies will be linked to the processes of good forest sector governance initiatives (accountability, transparency, efficiency, etc.)
- Physical infrastructure and community development- REDD initiatives can generate additional financing for local level community development
- Human and Social development- REDD strategy can enhance human capital
- Inclusive development process and targeted programmes for poverty reduction- REDD strategy can create additional funds for community based poverty reduction initiatives.³⁰

30 The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation submission to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Programme Idea Note for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). April 2008. Available From: www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/.../Nepal_TAP_Consolidated.pdf Date Accessed: September 18, 2009

What are IPs participation on the REDD strategy?

Note: Bulleted Items were lifted in verbatim from the R-PIN

Although there has not been some technical assistance for REDD, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST), which is in-charge of climate change related issues, have already done some initiatives such as the submission to the First Initial National Communication report to UNFCCC. MoEST has also been nominated as the Designated National Authority (DNA) to screen and approve carbon credit projects.

REDD and Indigenous Peoples

Of a national average of 31% people living below poverty line, more than 72% are forest dwellers. Most of these are indigenous minority communities. The forests these people use have the most potential for targeted REDD activities.³¹ The GoN has provided recognition to many forest dependent communities in the form of Community Forest users Groups (CFUG), Leasehold Forest Users Group (LFUG) and Buffer Zone Community Forest Users Groups (BZCFUG). More than 14,500 CFUGs have been formed and are managing nearly 1.24 m ha of forest (about 25% of the total land area of the country). Similarly, more than 950 LFGUs have been formed and are managing 3,700 ha of forest land.³²

On the management through the CFUGs, etc. How will this change if REDD comes in?

In the R-PIN, “the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation will invite representatives from indigenous peoples organizations to participate in REDD process. In the R-PIN, a consultation with indigenous peoples through the formation, review and amendment of management plans with the local government and forest department supported by rights-based approach was identified”.³³

Since the start of REDD talks in Nepal, Were there any consultations with IPs on REDD specifically? How many times have IPs been called to participate in consultation? Are IPs represented widely in these consultations?

31 Ibid

32 Ibid

33 Ibid

The monitoring of REDD activities as contained in the R-PIN would be through the Government agencies. The NFI will take charge on the inventory of forests, the DOF will be in- charged of ensuring the control of carbon leakages and the successful implementation of REDD. An establishment of a separate cell to monitor carbon stocks will be added to the DFRS's regular monitoring system.³⁴

“REDD strategy has to pay special attention to empowering excluded groups, addressing discriminatory practices in society and tackling weaknesses in state structures so that opportunities from global carbon-sequestration business can reach the poorest sections of society”- How can IPs ensure benefit sharing?

Are IPs going to be part of just the consultation? How about monitoring? What could IPs do in monitoring? How can they be involved?

In the six components of the Plan, with its link to REDD, it was written that, “Good-governance and effective service delivery plan, REDD strategies will be linked to the processes of good forest sector governance initiatives (accountability, transparency, efficiency, etc.)”. How will Indigenous Peoples ensure transparency?

*Note: All sentences in quotation were copied in verbatim from its references

34 Ibid

Bibliography:

1. Agrawala, Shardul, et. al., *Development and Climate Change in Nepal: Focus on Water Resources and Hydropower*. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. 2003. Available From: www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/55/21055658.pdf; Date Accessed: September 18, 2009
2. *Community Forest Guideline*. Available from: <http://www.forestrynepal.org/publications/policy-papers/4342>; Date Accessed: September 29, 2009
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BASELINE INFORMATION REPORT³⁵

Project Country: NEPAL

REDD related situation:

From 2007-2008, the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (a Government agency) has been actively participating in REDD-related talks locally and internationally and has actually submitted its Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN). It outlined four major challenges in implementing the REDD strategies such as: a.) policy and institutional aspects, b.) financial instruments, c.) capacity development, and d.) equity and inclusiveness³⁶ as the forests the IPs³⁷ use and cultivate have the most potential for targeted REDD activities.³⁸

The tenurial system of Nepal is considered as one of the prominent causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the country. In the regions of Terai and Siwaliks, deforestation is caused by resettlement programs, illegal clearing of forests, and timber smuggling across the border.

On Nepal's R-PIN submission, the proposed REDD strategy will be linked to the current Interim Plan of Nepal, which runs from 2008-2011. The six components of the Plan and possible linkages with REDD are 1) relief, reconstruction and reintegration- no direct links to REDD, 2) Employment-oriented, pro-poor and broad-based economic growth- REDD can promote additional employment and economic opportunities, 3) Good-governance and effective service delivery- REDD strategies will be linked to the processes of good forest sector governance initiatives (accountability, transparency, efficiency, etc.), 4) Physical infrastructure and community development- REDD initiatives can generate additional financing for local level community development, 5) Human and Social development- REDD strategy can enhance human capital and, 6) Inclusive development process and targeted programmes for poverty reduction- REDD strategy can create additional funds for community based poverty reduction initiatives.³⁹

Although there has not been some technical assistance for REDD, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST), which is in-charge of climate change related issues, have already done some initiatives such as the submission to the First Initial National Communication report to UNFCCC. A scoping in a national multi-stakeholder REDD forum was done with the I/NGO and WWF. It has been proposed that technical consulting could be, inter alia, provided by ICIMOD which has been conducting action research projects in partnership with NTNC and

35 Tebtebba, *Ensuring the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples' in global and national REDD processes* (Project Proposal, GLO-4248 GLO 09/750 Contract 2009)

36 Ibid

37 The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities listed 54 Indigenous Peoples groups in the country or 36.31% of the total population.

38 The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation submission to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Programme Idea Note for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). April 2008

39 The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation submission to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Programme Idea Note for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). April 2008

local community groups for the last few years to address methodological issues related to REDD.⁴⁰

Nepal has already signed a participant agreement with the FCPF and it received its grant request for its R-PIN. There are also in country discussions being held between the World Bank and the government and other stakeholders for the development of the R-Plan or Readiness Project Plan (RPP).

Organization and Expertise:

Tebtebba will continue working in partnership with the *Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities* (NEFIN) and the *Nepal Indigenous Women's Network*. (NIWN) for the REDD project. NEFIN is an autonomous and politically non-partisan, national level common organization in Nepal. It was formed with the goal of documenting, preserving and promoting cultures, languages, religion, customs, traditions of the Indigenous Nationalities of Nepal and to assist them in developing and obtaining equal rights and development with identity. The NIWN is a member of the Asia Indigenous Women's Network and it is a national network of indigenous women's organizations and individuals in Nepal.

NEFIN is one of the civil society organizations which part of the National Working Group on REDD/CC mechanism which the national government formed along with representatives of the government agencies on forests and environment and the donor agencies. The national working group is responsible in the preparation and submission for approval of R-PIN in April 2008 with the commitment of the World Bank fund for the preparation of R-PLAN. As indicated in the terms of reference on R-Plan for the development of REDD/CC mechanism, the position of NEFIN, representing the indigenous peoples in Nepal, is the recognition of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) on Development of Policy, and the International Labor Organization (ILO) 169 including free prior informed consent, participation in the decision making bodies, benefit sharing, active role of indigenous people in the design, implementation and access to the resources. Raising the present level of awareness on REDD/CC mechanism shall be done in close coordination between the local and national level organizations and agencies, since there is a recognized gap between NEFIN and local indigenous organizations and communities in the flow of information on climate change impacts on livelihoods, health conditions, traditional knowledge, culture and education.

Tebtebba conducted two meetings already with the NEFIN Project Coordinator on Climate Change and Forests. This is Nima Lama Yolmo, the Foreign Affairs officer of NEFIN. He was present in the Chiang Mai Coordination meeting and at the Bonn 3 meeting⁴¹ where we had a meeting with the rest of the partners. His email address is nima.lama@gmail.com.

40 Ibid

41 During the Bonn 3 Session of the UNFCCC, we brought together 20 indigenous representatives to take part in the session. This was from Aug. 10-14, 2009. However, we brought them earlier as we did a training-orientation on UNFCCC on the 13th. Our partners for the project stayed on for another day, 15th Aug. because we had a coordination meeting with them on the NORAD project. The persons present were Nima Lama (NEFIN), Dennis Mairena (CADPI) and Joseph Ole Simel (MPIDO).

