



# Workshop Report

## Information Sharing and Capacity Building Workshop



### Forests and Climate Change in Nepal

June 21, 2011

Himalaya Hotel, Kathmandu

#### Background and rationale

The Asia-Pacific region is rich in diversity. This applies to the range of ecosystems and forest types present, the governance systems and accompanying assortment of legal and regulatory instruments in place, the land-use systems employed and the wide range of cultures and traditional practices existing within the region. Climate change puts forest ecosystems and forest dependent people at increased risk. In addition, the region as a whole has the potential to contribute to mitigating global climate change or, conversely, to accelerate deforestation and forest degradation, thus deepening the global threat.

Forests in Nepal supply a range of goods crucial to rural livelihoods and furnish essential ecosystem services. Deforestation, currently at approximately 1.7 %, and forest degradation undercut the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the country. Nepal is faced with the need to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as a means of contributing to the attainment of national development goals, as well as of achieving effective climate change adaptation and mitigation. Forest policies, laws, governance arrangements, institutional arrangements and forest management practices may have to be adjusted to take into consideration adaptation and mitigation needs.

Identifying and assessing the challenges and opportunities for forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation in Nepal and how these may be addressed are fundamental steps for the development of climate change strategies and programmes. The input of a wide range of stakeholders in this process is essential.

The Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation, Nepal and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations organized a 1-day workshop to share information about current initiatives and to discuss the needs, priorities and challenges in Nepal related to forests and climate change (Annex I).

#### Purpose of the workshop

The workshop allowed participants to:

- Take stock of national efforts on climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Share experiences from relevant activities
- Identify the most urgent needs and priorities for national action on forests and climate change adaptation and areas where international support and regional cooperation would be valuable.

#### Participants

The workshop was attended by representatives from the Department of Forests, the Ministry of Environment, local and international NGOs and donor organizations active in Nepal (Annex II).

## **Results of plenary discussions**

The workshop was opened by Mr. Gopaul Kumar Shrestha, DG Department of Forests Nepal and Ms. Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative to Nepal who both recalled the current planning processes that the forestry sector was undertaking and the importance of considering climate change in these processes. They acknowledged the role of community and leasehold forestry in national climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts and the importance of consultations with these groups for successful implementation of climate change plans.

The four presentations that followed the opening, reviewed the status of forests in international climate change negotiations, presented the priorities in Nepal's NAPA relevant to forests and proposals for implementation of these, identified sustainable forest management options for climate change mitigation actions and reviewed the benefits and challenges of Nepal's REDD+ initiatives under the FCPF programme.

Nepal has recently developed a climate change policy and forestry falls within the domain of natural resources management.

Participants felt that while some consultations had been done the public debate on climate change and REDD+ was severely limited. This is in large part due to the fact that journalists are not knowledgeable enough to prepare articles on the subjects and as a result not only was public debate limited it was not always well informed.

Participants also expressed a need to have more fora for information exchange and debate to facilitate capacity building especially on issues related to community forests and REDD+.

It was felt that too much focus was placed on technical issues (e.g. MRV) and not enough focus placed on the drivers of deforestation e.g. governance, poverty, land tenure. As a result MRV had become "technically heavy", which made it more challenging for Nepal to engage in any future REDD+ scheme under the UNFCCC. There was a general view that Nepal had been successful in reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation without external REDD+ incentives. The question was posed whether the benefits of engaging in REDD+ schemes would outweigh the costs.

## **Results of group discussions**

In the afternoon session, participants were divided into 2 groups to discuss questions related to climate change and community forest management, leasehold forestry and areas for improvement to ensure cohesive policy development in the framework of the long term forest sector planning process.

Participants were of the view that community based forest management contributed to both climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. Specifically,

Mitigation - Forest conservation, plantations, strengthened protection systems, forest fire management, grazing control, 'active' forest management (e.g. the practice of silviculture) and the promotion of renewable energy e.g. bio-gas.

Adaptation - Establishing plantations of indigenous species, protection of water sources, species substitution, agro-forestry (with cash crops) and the diversification of livelihood options for economic empowerment.

Participants highlighted several challenges which limited the ability of CBFM to undertake climate change adaptation and mitigation actions and recommended that

these should be addressed in the long term forest sector planning process. The main challenges highlighted were: financial and legal support, rural and economic development and empowerment, establishment of a benefit sharing mechanism, governance, capacity building (specific to climate change), transfer of technologies, coordination and collaboration (e.g. with other sectors which have an impact on forests). They also highlighted the need to create an enabling environment for both policy development and implementation.

In Nepal, climate change policy decisions are dealt with by the Ministry of Environment, however implementation of the climate change actions are the responsibility of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. This makes it difficult to ensure a cohesive national approach to climate change. Participants discussed this issue and made several recommendations on how policy could be best linked to the field and how best forestry could be linked with climate change and other sectors.

The main recommendations were:

- Institutional reform and capacity building on climate change adaptation and mitigation provided;
- Amendments made to Acts, laws and by-laws to incorporate climate change;
- Climate change issues should be integrated into national planning process;
- Land use policy developed and adopted to address deforestation and forest degradation;
- Political commitment to ensure rule of law;
- Transparency of all stakeholders e.g. government, NGOs and INGOs
- Multistakeholder involvement in planning and monitoring (forest sector coalition committees [FSCC] and district forest coalition committees [DFCC])
- Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators responsive to climate change issues developed;
- Carbon stock inventory included in forest management planning process;
- Climate resilience promoted;
- Monitoring system must be put in place to ensure compliance and to measure progress towards sustainable forest management
- Integrating (avoided) deforestation and degradation with [loss of] livelihoods
- Private sector investment and civil society's involvement in forest development/conservation must be promoted.
- Equitable benefit sharing mechanisms (from carbon trade including investments) must be established.

## **Conclusions**

Participants exhibited a high awareness of climate change issues and the status of climate change discussions and related planning process in Nepal. They identified national priorities and areas for potential technical assistance and improvement. FAO and the Department of Forests will carefully consider the recommendations made at the workshop with a view to developing joint activities.

## ANNEX I THE AGENDA

### Forests and Climate Change in Nepal Information Exchange and Capacity Building Workshop

Himalaya Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal

21 June 2011

#### Agenda

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- 08:30 – 09:00 Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:30 Welcome remarks,  
*Mr. Gopal Kumar Shrestha, Director General, Department of Forests*
- Opening remarks,  
*Ms. Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative, Nepal*
- Presentation of the objectives of the workshop,  
*Simmone Rose, FAO*
- 09:30 – 10:30 Forests and Climate Change –global and regional overview  
*Susan Braatz & Jeremy Broadhead, FAO*
- Forest and climate change in the context of Nepal's NAPA  
*Mr. Batu Upretty, Chief, Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Environment*
- Coffee break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 Scope of sustainable management of forests in Nepal's climate change context  
*Mr. Resham Bahadur Dangi, Deputy Director General, Department of Forests*
- Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation – Perspective from Nepal  
*Forest Action Nepal*
- Discussion
- Lunch break**
- 13:30 – 14:00 Introduction to group discussions, *FAO HQ*
- 14:00 – 16:00 Group discussions (*Coffee break incl.*)
- 16:00 – 17:00 Working group results presentation
- 17:00 – 17:30 Final remarks
- *Mr. Gopal Kumar Shrestha, Director General, Department of Forests*
- *Susan Braatz, Senior Officer, FAO, Rome*



## ANNEX II THE PARTICIPANTS LIST

### PARTICIPANTS LIST

S. No.	Name and position	Organization	Contact	Signature
1.	Ms. Bui Thi Lan	FAO Representative FAO Representation, Nepal		
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46. Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Yadav      *FAO/TA-LFLP*      *Yadav.forester@gmail.com*      *Del.*

# ANNEX III THE PRESENTATIONS

## FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN NEPAL

### Information exchange and capacity building workshop

21 June 2011  
Himalaya Hotel  
Kathmandu



### Background

- Forests supply a range of goods & services crucial to rural livelihoods
- Deforestation and forest degradation undercut the socio-economic and environmental sustainability
- For effective climate change adaptation and mitigation, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation must be addressed.
- Forest policies, laws, governance arrangements, institutional arrangements and forest management practices may have to be adjusted to take into consideration adaptation and mitigation needs.

### Objectives of workshop

- Take stock of national efforts on climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Identify the most urgent needs and priorities for national action on forests and climate change adaptation
- Identify areas where international support and regional cooperation would be valuable.

### Expected outcomes

- General awareness about climate change enhanced amongst participants
- National priorities identified
- Areas for potential FAO technical assistance identified



# Climate Change and Forests: International Perspective

Workshop on Forests and Climate Change  
Kathmandu, 21 June 2011

Susan Braatz  
FAO



## Outline of presentation

1. International agreements and current negotiations under UNFCCC
2. Importance of forests in UNFCCC
3. Key decisions related to forests
4. Adaptation and mitigation options in forestry



## International Agreements

UNFCCC (1994): international commitment to:

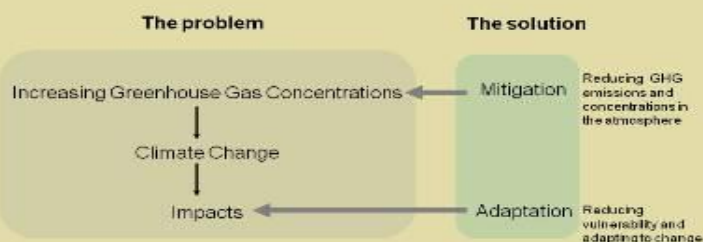
- Reduce human disruption of the global climate system
- Take action to adapt to climate change
- Developed countries provide financial and technical support to developing countries
- Countries monitor and report to UNFCCC

Kyoto Protocol (2005): legally-binding

- Commitments by industrialized countries and countries in economic transition to reduce GHG emissions by set amounts in the first commitment period (2008-2012)
- Mechanisms set up related to carbon trading (CDM, JI, ET)



## Adaptation vs. mitigation



## Key developments to date

- Carbon markets have developed quickly, but the majority involves energy projects and are concentrated in a few countries.
- Other financing sources have been developed to assist developing countries with adaptation, mitigation and reporting.
- Least developed countries have developed National Adaptation Programmes of Action
- Countries have developed national strategies and institutional structures for climate change.
- Countries have begun to assess needs for changes in sectoral strategies to accommodate climate change.
- Forests have emerged as a key mitigation option; raising political visibility. LULUCF and REDD+.



## Current Negotiations

### Political realities

- Both industrialized and developing countries need to take significant mitigation action.
- Significant financial transfers are needed to support mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.
- Adaptation financing should be separate from development funding and national budgets.
- Technology transfer is critical.
- International financial instruments and carbon markets need to work effectively and equitably.
- Forests are an essential element in a negotiated agreement on UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.



## Current negotiations

The crux of the issue:

Will developed countries make legally binding commitments to decrease GHG emissions?

Will the level of (technical and financial) support to developing countries be sufficient to catalyze sufficient mitigation and adaptation action, and will developing country mitigation actions be binding and measured?



## Forests role in mitigation

Reduce carbon loss	Increase carbon stocks	Carbon substitution and storage in products
<b>Reducing deforestation</b> - Conserving forests - Addressing the drivers of deforestation	<b>Afforestation and reforestation</b> - From non-forest to forests	<b>Wood energy for fossil fuels</b>  Increased carbon storage in wood products  Substitute wood for more energy intensive material
<b>Reducing forest degradation</b> - Sustainable management of (existing) forests	<b>Restoration</b> - From degraded forests to fully carbon stocked forests	Building material etc.
<b>Forest management</b>		





## Status of Negotiations

### Cancun Agreements (COP16, Dec 2010)

- Established the Green Climate Fund
- Established Technology Mechanism
- Established Cancun Adaptation Framework
- Decision on REDD+

### Meetings in Bonn (June 2011)

- Progress in arrangements to operationalize bodies created in Cancun
- Future of Kyoto Protocol in doubt



## REDD +

Decision on REDD+ adopted in Cancun (2010)

Agreed: scope, principles, safeguards

Agreed: elements for country action

Agreed: phased approach

Undecided: financing modality(ies)

Continued work needed on methodological issues (MRV, mitigation potential, means of establishing reference levels)

**MAJOR STEP, BUT A REDD+ INSTRUMENT IS NOT YET OPERATIONAL AND MUCH STILL TO BE DECIDED.**

**UN-REDD, FCPF, ETC. SUPPORT EARLY ACTION AND DEMONSTRATION.**



## REDD+ Implementation

- National strategy or action plan
- National (or subnational) forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level
- National (or subnational) forest monitoring system
- System for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected



## Climate change impacts

### Impacts on forests and forest-dependent people

- Increased damage from extreme events (storms, floods, drought)
- Increased damage from pests, diseases & wildfires
- Shifts in species' ranges and ecological processes
- Changes in forest productivity & ecosystem services → impacts on livelihoods

### Indirect impacts

- Human population shifts
- Increased land pressure
- Changes in demand for various forest products



## Forestry adaptation

### Forest management interventions

- improve resilience through "best practices"
- adapt management plans and practices to increase resilience, reduce risks and adapt to changes
- in-situ and ex-situ genetic conservation

### Measures to decrease vulnerabilities of forest-dependent people

- reinforce coping strategies
- diversification of rural incomes
- "rights based approach" to mitigation and adaptation measures
- strengthen institutional frameworks



## KEY POINTS

- Climate change has raised the political profile of forests
- Mitigation and adaptation are linked in the forestry sector
- REDD+ and adaptation financing and capacity building offer potentially crucial support for SFM
- Equitable distribution of benefits and sound governance arrangements are essential to the success of both REDD+ and adaptation measures
- Adjusting forest policy framework and forest practices will be necessary and ensuring coherence with national climate change strategies







# Forestry and climate change in Asia and the Pacific

FAO capacity building workshop on forests and climate change

Kathmandu, 21 June 2011

Jeremy Broadhead  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
[Jeremy.Broadhead@fao.org](mailto:Jeremy.Broadhead@fao.org)



## Presentation structure



- Status and trends in forests and forestry
- What's driving change in forestry?
- What changes in climate are expected?
- Climate change and forestry
- Regional initiatives
- Practical measures



## Primary forests comprise...



14% OF NEPAL'S FORESTS

19% OF ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS

34% OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS



## Other natural forests...



84% OF NEPAL'S FORESTS

65% OF ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS

60% OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS



## Planted forests...



1% OF NEPAL'S FORESTS

16% OF ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS

7% OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS



## Forest area changes: 1990 - 2010



## What's driving change in forestry?



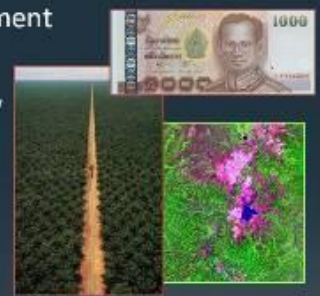
What happens to forests and forestry is determined to a large extent by what happens outside the forestry sector and by larger societal changes



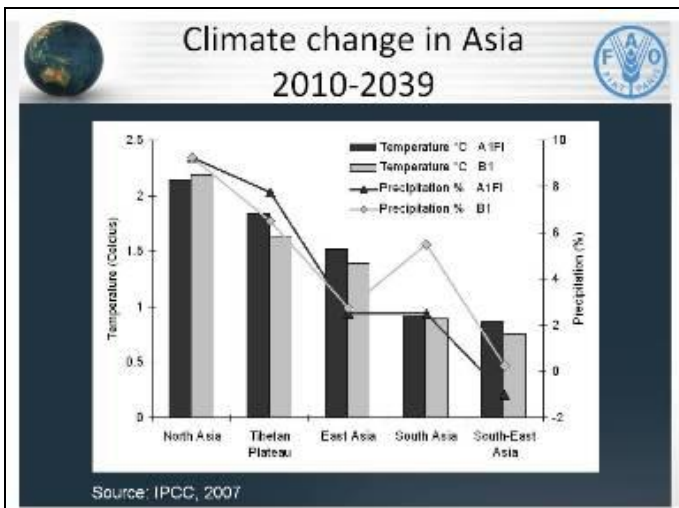
## Drivers in Asia-Pacific forestry



- Population growth (10% increase 2010-2020)
- Greater urbanization (41 → 47%)
- Infrastructure development
- Agricultural expansion
- Science and technology
- Governance
- Poverty
- Investment







### Climate change impacts on forests in Asia

- Increased incidence of:
  - fire,
  - forest dieback,
  - pests, pathogens,
  - invasive species, and
  - landslides.
- Impacts on:
  - tree physiology and phenology,
  - forest growth, and
  - biodiversity.

### Climate change in Asia

- Increase in extreme weather events including heat waves and intense precipitation;
- Seasonal shifts in rainfall patterns.
- Freshwater availability in South, East and SE Asia is projected to decrease;
- Health impacts associated with floods and droughts.

Source: IPCC, 2007

### Climate change impacts on forests in Asia

- Climate change is projected to compound pressures on natural resources and the environment associated with rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and economic development.

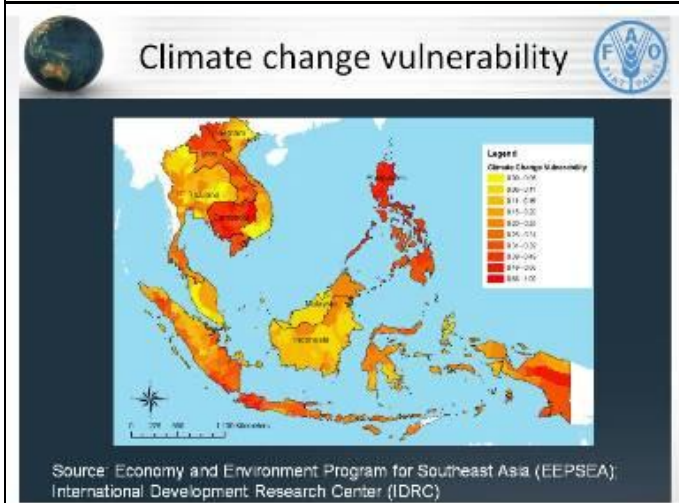
### Climate change in Asia

- Sea level rise of 32cm by 2050;
- Increase in tropical cyclone intensity, coastal disasters and flooding;
- Greater storm-surge heights due to stronger winds;

Source: IPCC, 2007

### Climate change mitigation and forests

- Increase forest area, reduce deforestation, etc.
- Uptake of compliance (CDM) and non-compliance (e.g. VCS) mechanisms has been limited in Asia;
- There is great hope for REDD although theoretically more complicated:
  - Issues with leakage, permanence, monitoring, benefit sharing, opportunity and implementation costs, etc.



### Climate change adaption measures in forestry

Diverse and healthy ecosystems are likely to be more resilience;

- Monitor forest health - invasives and pests and diseases;
- Fire management;
- Ensure contiguousness of forest areas to allow species migration;
- Plant mixed species and species with new climate;
- Reduce logging damage to help maintain ecosystem resilience and prevent drying;
- Identify at-risk forest habitats;
- Zone of areas of high landslide risk and maintain forest cover.



## Mitigation, adaptation, forests and forestry



- Without adaptation, mitigation measures may fail. Without mitigation, adaptation will be more difficult:
  - it will be necessary to increase resilience of forests and trees to climate change through adaptation measures.
  - If temperature rises by 3°C, forests may become net sources of GHGs.



## Progress in forest management



- SFM has been at the centre of forest policy for >10 years;
- Many countries are still in the primary stage of forest development;
- Forests are often not actively managed.



## Climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific



- Most countries have National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs);
- CIFOR Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA -Indonesia, Philippines, SE Asia). 2004-2009;
- FAO-UNEP climate change adaptation workshop (August 2011);
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform (AIT-UNEP);
- Field based initiatives are in their infancy.



## REDD+ in the Asia-Pacific



- 12 countries involved in UN-REDD plus others joining;
- FCPF supports 7 countries;
- 14 countries in all (5 overlapping) out of ~28 developing countries in the region;
- Many sub-national projects and voluntary carbon schemes.
- National REDD task forces formed;
- Discussion between forestry and environment agencies.



## Technical support for SFM



- Criteria and indicators for forest management
- Codes of practice for forest harvesting
- Guidelines on fire management
- Guidelines on planted forests
- Best practices on FLEG
- Good forest health practices







# Forests an Climate Change in the Context of NAPA

## FAO Capacity Building Workshop


Hotel Himalaya  
21 June 2011, Tuesday

Batu Krishna Uprety  
Joint-Secretary (Technical) and Chief  
Climate Change Management Division, MoE  
LEG Member (UNFCCC)

### Vulnerability assessment through:



Stocktaking



Transect Exercise



Group discussions




Consultations

GIS Mapping

## NAPA - Genesis

- Article 4.9 of the Convention - The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situation of the LDCs in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology
- In 2001, COP 7 adopted a package of decisions on the specific needs of the LDCs.
  - ✓ a separate work programme for LDCs
  - ✓ an LDC Fund
  - ✓ guidelines for NAPA preparation
  - ✓ LDC Expert Group
- 45 NAPAs prepared by December 2010
- LDCF - Around USD 400 million by May 2011

## Transect Exercise and consultations



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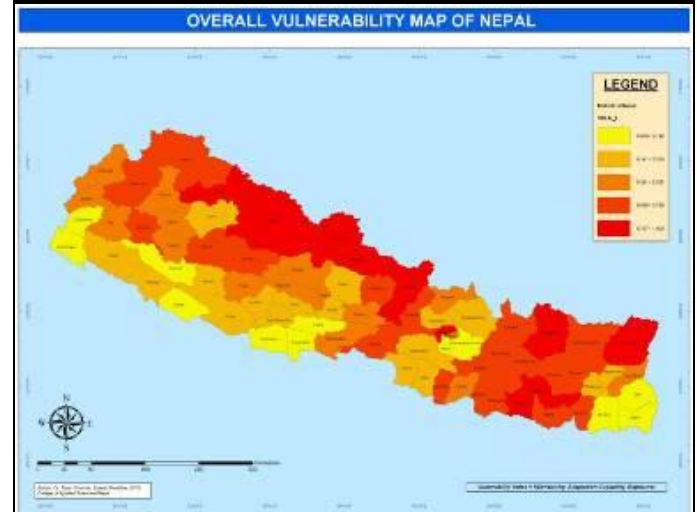
## Nepal's NAPA - Broad Objectives

NAPA

Mainstreaming Climate Change Agenda into National Development

- Poverty reduction
- Livelihoods improvement/diversification
- Building resilience



## Approach to NAPA Preparation

**Institutional Structure**

- Ministry of Forest
- Project Steering Board
- Project Working Team

**Revisional Strategy**

- Developing the NAPA and identifying the priorities, a total of 10-15 revisional cycles (2001-2005), modernized to include both the long and the short term (2005-2010)
- Revisional Strategy
- Annual revisional strategy
- Climate Change Update
- Annual Revisional Strategy
- Final update in the revisional cycle
- Final NAPA

**Process**

- Desk-based, desktop and stock taking
- Check and verify assessment
- Ratification consultation with stakeholders
- Federal level consultation with stakeholders
- Coordination with experts and specialist organizations
- Field verification and public perception collection through Transect Approach Exercise through Project Working Team by 1000 members
- NAPA drafting
- Adaptation options prioritization
- Consultation with stakeholders (a range of sectors)
- Final NAPA document
- Adaptation project implementation

Final NAPA document

Adaptation project implementation

## Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)

TWG	Coordinating Organisation	Involved Organisations (GOs, I/WGOs, Academia, Civil Society)	Wider Reference Group Participation
Forests and Biodiversity	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation	10	34
Agriculture and Food Security	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	18	47
Climate Induced Disaster	Ministry of Home Affairs	15	30
Public Health	Ministry of Health and Population	12	20
Water Resources and Energy	Ministry of Energy	9	38
Urban Settlement and Infrastructure	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction	9	33



## TWG: Forests and Biodiversity - primary list

- Agro-forestry in communal and private land
- Climate awareness and capacity building of stakeholders
- Collection and maintenance of biodiversity database
- Community forest fire management
- Control of alien and invasive species
- Forest pathogen control in terai forests
- Integrated Churia management with focus on water
- Integrated forest management with focus on water
- Landscape level management
- Management of high altitude herbs and NTFP
- Payment of environmental Services
- Research and Development in relation climate issues
- Wetland biodiversity conservation
- Wildlife management in relation to climate stress

## TWG: Forests and Biodiversity

### Prioritised Programmes by TWG

- Conservation of medicinal plants and NTFP in high altitude of Mid and Far West
- Integrated watershed management in Churia to ensure ecosystem and community resilience on climate change
- Integrated wetland management in Terai
- Community-based forest fire management in Mid Hills

## NAPA Prioritized Integrated Projects

1. Increasing community based adaptation through integrated management of agriculture, water, forests and biodiversity
2. Building Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable Communities Through Climate Resilient Agricultural Development
3. Community Based Disaster Management for Facilitating Climate Adaptation
4. GLOF Monitoring and Disaster Risk Reduction
5. Forest and Ecosystem Management for Supporting Climate Led Adaptation Innovations
6. Adapting to Climate Challenges in Public Health
7. Ecosystem Management for Climate Adaptation
8. Empowering Vulnerable Communities through Sustainable Management of Water Resource and Clean Energy Supply
9. Promoting Climate Smart Urban Settlement

## NAPA Nepal Milestones/Progress

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • Proposal sent to GEF IA                          | January 2007      |
| • Proposal approved by GEF                         | January 2008      |
| • Project Signed                                   | November 2008     |
| • Inception workshop                               | May 2009          |
| • Induction Workshop                               | October 2009      |
| • Transect appraisal Exercise for VA               | November 2009     |
| • Synthesis Workshop                               | February 2010     |
| • Project prioritization and first draft of NAPA   | May 2010          |
| • National and regional consultation on draft NAPA | June-July 2010    |
| • Final NAPA                                       | August 2010       |
| • NAPA approved by the Government of Nepal         | 28 September 2010 |
| • NAPA launching                                   | 4 November 2010   |
| • Publication and regional workshops               | January 2011      |
| • End of the Project                               | March 2011        |
| • Proposals for project implementation             | on-going          |

**Functional time for NAPA preparation - 16 months**

## NAPA Implementation

- Funding within and outside the Convention Regime
- LDCF and SCCF - voluntary contributions
- \$ 10m/LDC available (**equitable access principle**)
- LDCF could be accessed **only** through GEF IAs
- Nepal has designated UNEP to function as GEFIA for NAPA profiles 5 & 7 (EBA)
- Bilateral - DFID/EU - Pound 13.5m (DFID - 7.5m, and EU - 6m) with focus on profile 1 (community-based adaptation)
- UNEP/UNDP/IUCN - EBA Project - Euro 10m (Nepal, Peru and Uganda)
- USAID Hariyo Ban Program - US\$ 11.9m for climate adaptation

## EBA on the Ground

### Global EBA Programme

- Nepal is included in the 4-years pilot phase of UNEP/UNDP/ IUCN launched EBA programme, announced in Cancun COP16 in December 2010 and supported by the Government of Germany
- **Objective:** To reduce the vulnerability to CC impacts by promoting EBA options with the following key components:
  - ✓ Development of methodologies and tools for EBA decision-making
  - ✓ Application of methodologies and tools at the national level
  - ✓ Implementation of EBA activities at the mountain ecosystem level; and
  - ✓ Formulation of national policies including building the economic case for EBA
- **Elaboration of project activities under process**

## EBA on the Ground: LDC Fund

- PIF for LDCF – UNEP functions as GEFIA - USD 5mn
  - Project: **Catalysing ecosystem-based adaptation for resilient ecosystems and rural livelihoods in degraded forests and rangelands of Nepal**
  - **Objectives:** To increase the resilience of Nepalese communities to climate change through restoration of degraded ecosystems
- Project components**
- ✓ Local and national institutional EBA capacity development
  - ✓ Policy, strategy and legislative strengthening
  - ✓ Demonstration measures that reduce vulnerability and restore natural capital
  - Current state - GEF review completed and asked GEFIA to respond on review results



## Scope of Sustainable Management of Forests with reference to Climate change context in Nepal.



Resham Bhadur Dangi  
DDG, DoF  
23rd May, 2011

### Key questions for the discussion

- To what extent and speed the climate-led hazards will modify the current management objective - i.e. sustainable supply of forest products ?
- Whether maximum supply of both- forest products and carbon sequestration - would be possible in a changing climate scenario?
- To what extent the global carbon market will alter the decision criteria for harvesting or silviculture treatment in forests?

### Climate change mitigation and adaptation

- ▶ Future impacts of climate change on forests and other natural resources are uncertain,
- ▶ There are two broad climate-change management strategies: adaptation and mitigation (IPCC 2007)
- ▶ Adaptation implies approaches taken to adjust, prepare, and accommodate new conditions created by changing climates;
- ▶ Mitigation strategies include actions taken to reduce and reverse human influences on the climate system, primarily by reducing greenhouse gas levels

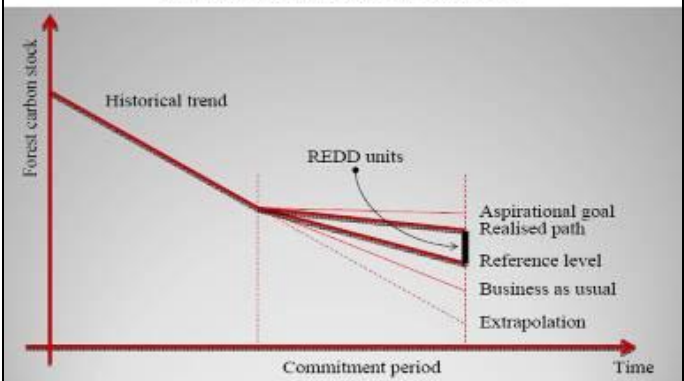
### COP 16 . The Cancun Agreement

Para 70: Encourages developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities, as deemed appropriate by each Party and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- Sustainable management of forests;**
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

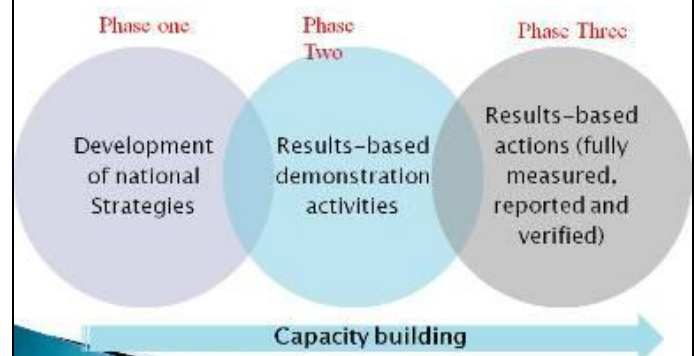
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### Reference Emission level

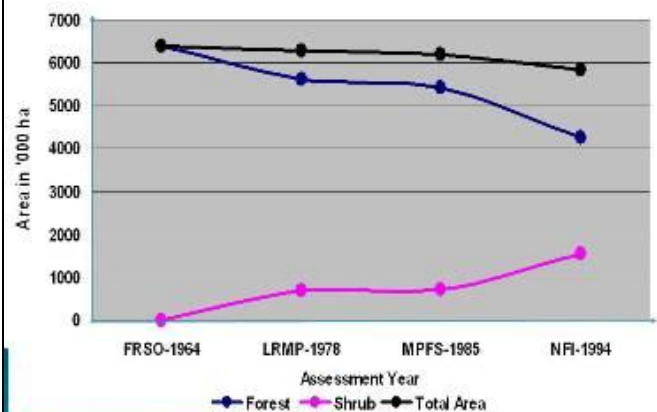


Source: Elements from REDD-OAR. Presentation by Cyril Loisel during expert meeting on methodological relating to reference emission levels and reference levels. Bonn, 23-24 March 2009.

### Implementation approach (Para 73)



### Forest Land use change trend in Nepal



### Local perception on climate change?

- ▶ Mr Khim Bdr Chhetri from Samundra Danda Pari CFIn Syanja District states " ..Draught period is prolonged so water sources have dried out. Water stress have impacted farm production. Wealthy people have capacity to cope it but poor households like me do not have such capacity due to limited resources. I believe if this forest is better protected and managed it will provide us more forage, wood products, medicinal herbs and water flow that would help to secure our livelihoods. If we can not protect this forest then a poor household like me will have to leave this place in search of better living"

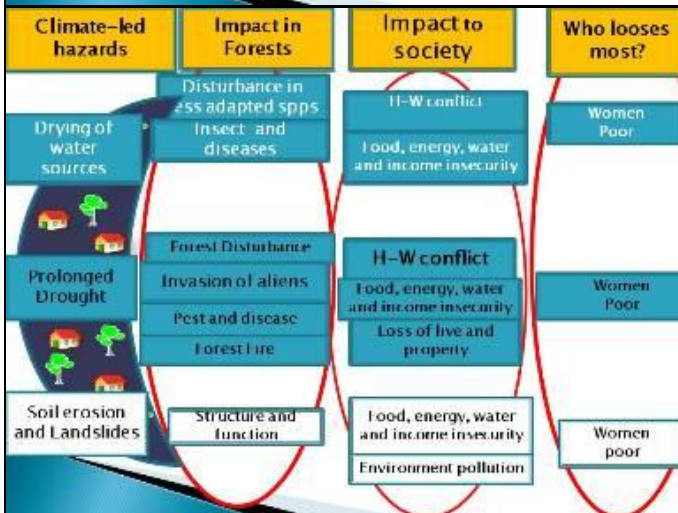
(Date: 4th August, 2010; RD from WRDF held meeting with local CFUG to discuss on CAPS fund provided by LFP/DfID)



## Local perception on role of forests?

- ▶ Kul Pd Gnewali a local teacher by profession and now Joint secretary in Srunga CF, Gulmi says "In past, there was no CF user group or committee to protect and manage this forest. But we voluntarily contributed to protect this forests because we have been fetching drinking water from the water source located inside this forest. If we do not protect it, our village will suffer further in future for drinking water. Therefore, we are motivated to take care of this forest to conserve water sources and it will also help to preserve our temple which is located on the hilltops of this forest."

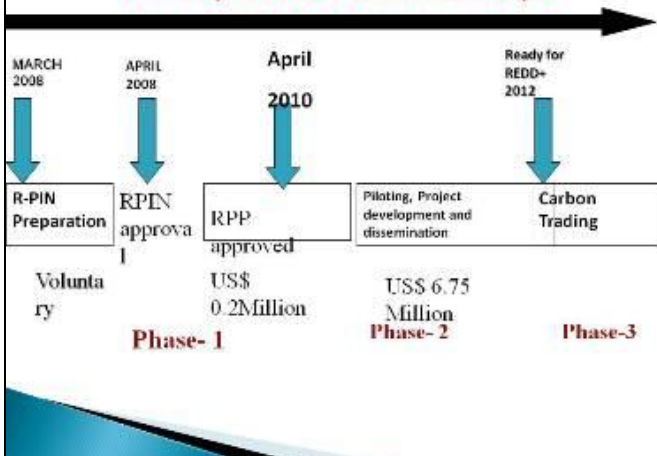
(Date: 29 Aug 2010, Field visit from the WRDF)



## Management Strategy to address climate change

- ▶ Mitigate climate change by reducing GHG emission and improving carbon removal potential of forests;
- ▶ Adapt climate change by improving resilient capacity of forest ecosystem by maintaining forest composition and structure;

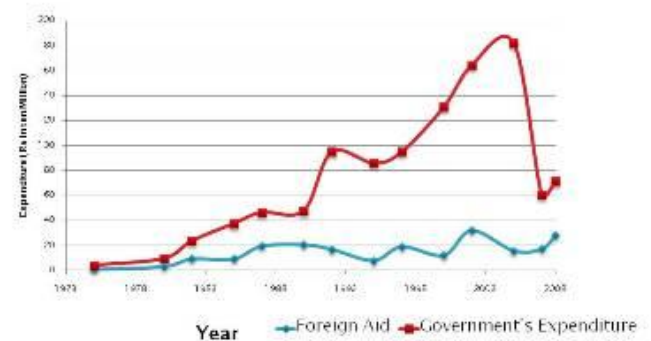
## Road map for REDD+ readiness in Nepal



## On Going REDD -Plus Piloting Initiatives in Nepal

REDD Initiatives	Supporting Organization	Physiographic region	Forest types
REDD plus piloting	Norway (ICIMOD/ANSAB/ FECOFUN)	Mid-Hills (3 Watersheds)	CF
Grassroots Capacity Building in REDD+	Norway (RECOFTC and FECOFUN)	Teral and Mid-hills (16 Districts)	CF
Reducing Poverty through REDD: early action	WWF/WINROCK International	Teral and inner Teral (14 Districts)	CF/BZ/SMF
Climate Change and REDD	DFID (LFP)	Mid-Hill (12 Districts) Teral (3 Districts)	CF
Climate Change and REDD	SDC (NSCFP)	Mid-hills (4 Districts)	CF

Government's and Foreign Aid Expenditure in Forestry Sector, 1975-2008

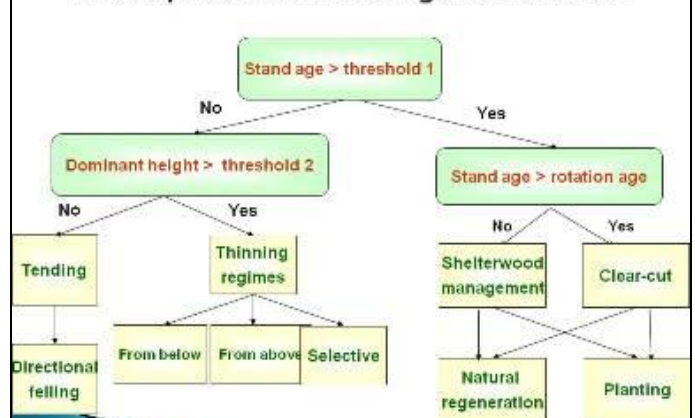


Source: MoI, 2009

## Options moving Ahead

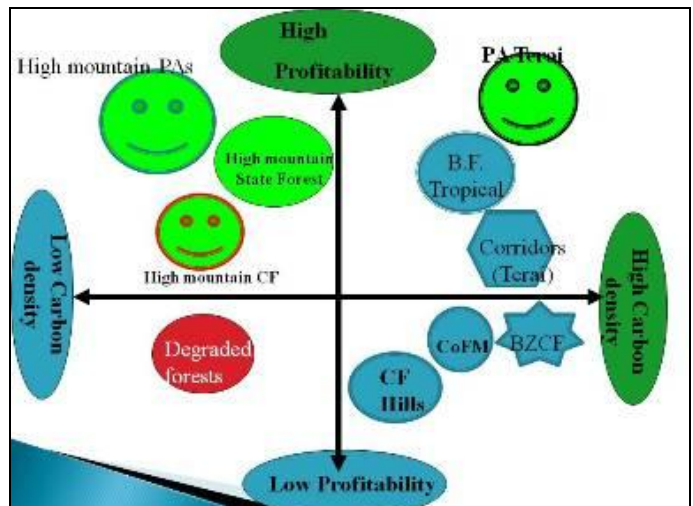
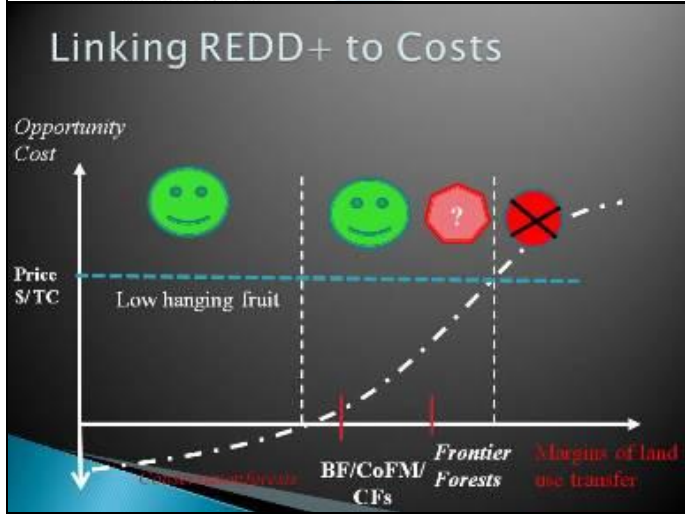
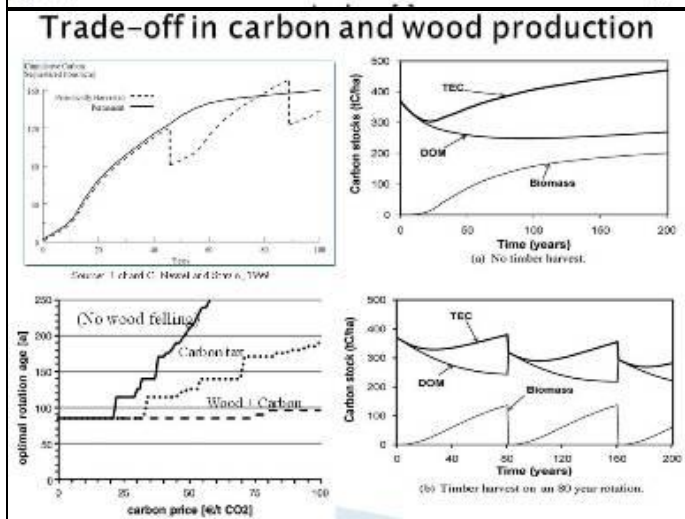
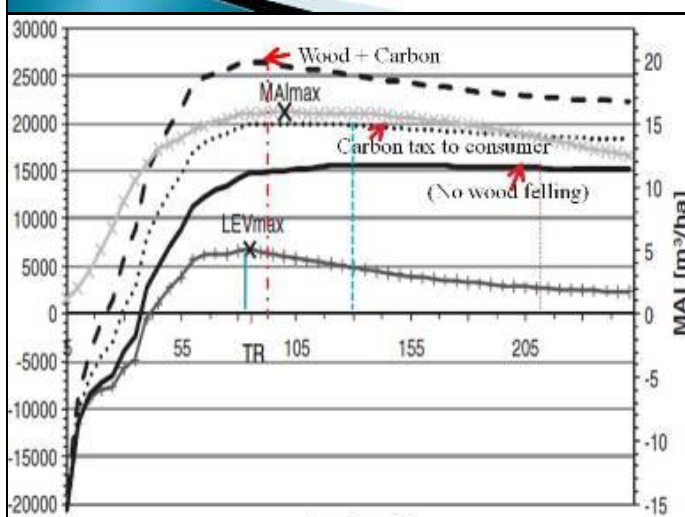
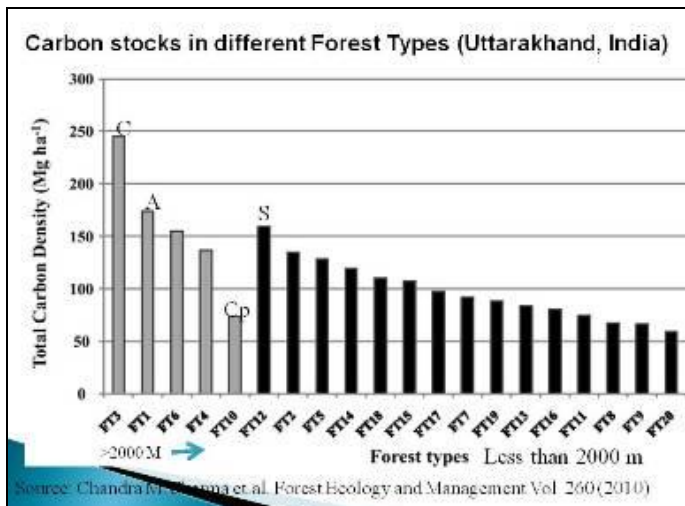


## Wood production Management Model



Source: Adopted from Petra Lasch and et.al., 2004





- ### Take home message
- Develop policies to facilitate carbon management as well as implement Climate change adaptive forest management plans to improve production potentiality and resilience capacity;
  - How is it possible?**
  - Use multiple criteria to develop AFMP- overlay biodiversity hotspots, watershed condition, food insecurity, poverty pockets – to prioritize forests that have high economic and social value;
  - Manipulate forest structure (stand density, spacing, fire loads) to reduce risk of forest disturbance from climate change ;
  - Implement planned harvesting, regeneration, stand-tending etc to make fire smart landscape to reduce loss from forest fire ;
  - Plan thinning and sanitation cuts to increase stand vigor and to reduce disease and pest outbreak risk from CC/CV;
  - Identify draught-tolerant genotypes and facilitate movement of species through healthy corridors in landscape level;
  - Promote indigenous species in A/R and regulate traditional pastures to discourage colonization of alien species;
  - Manipulate rotation cycle to alter under storey forest structure to encourage better adapted trees and reduce vulnerability;



# Prospects of REDD+ in Nepal

FAO + DoF Capacity Building Workshop  
Himalaya Hotel, Kathmandu  
21 June 2011



ForestAction

Naya Sharma Paudel

## The crisis narrative



## Who is responsible ?



## Focus on land use practice

## Forest-farm interface and multi-purpose forestry

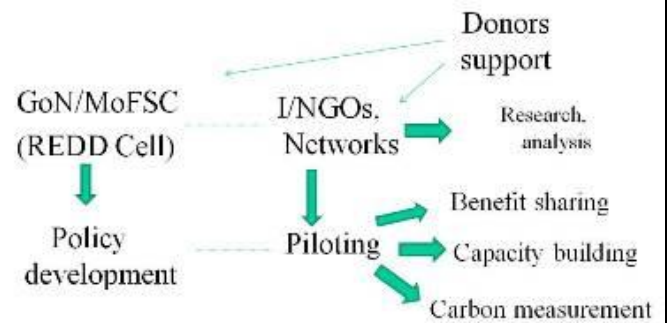


But how much non-carbon services are valued under REDD?

## Many assumptions on REDD are flawed

1	REDD is not cheap	Beyond opportunity costs (transaction cost, implementation costs and institutional cost)
2	It is not a permanent solution	Carbon trading could not be a long term financial source for REDD
3	Cash alone does not solve it	Cash incentive alone are too weak to stop deforestation
4	Our capacity does not match with MRV requirements	Complexities with MRV methodologies
5	Carbon value chain and our position in the ladder	Flooding of carbon credits
6	Tough technical conditions	Additionality, non permanence and leakage

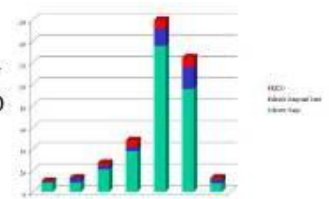
## Where are we?



## Almost absent in public discourse

(newspaper articles as an indicator)

Climate change is the dominant agenda, followed by its link with forest. But REDD is only a minor agenda



## Why so few?

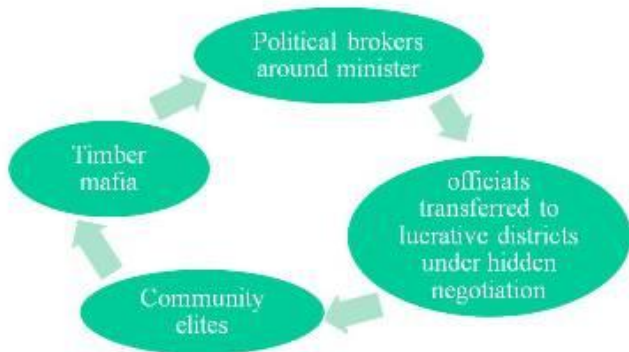
- Little exposure of media people on the issue
- Govt/other agencies economise in releasing information
- Political news dominates, REDD hardly gets priority



## Critiques of RPP

Provisions	Critiques
High dependency, illegal, unsustainable harvesting, forest fire, encroachment, overgrazing, infrastructure development, Resettlement, invasive species	Very thin, biased analysis of the drivers of D&D, hide many underlying causes
Government agencies, INGOs, Donors	Left out: landless, NTFP collectors, forest dependent poor, timber enterprises
Focus on Carbon assessment and MRV	Inadequate analysis of governance, lack required policy, legal, institutional reform
Commitment to increase law enforcement	No measures to clarify and strengthen tenure rights, FPIC
Only procedural rights	No substantive rights
Takes a rather developmental approach	No concrete proposals to address land conflicts

## Forest elites nexus: distortions of devolutionary power



## How does REDD optimism match with state of forest governance?



## Forest conflicts and REDD

Is our RPP informed of these conflicts?

Law enforcement alone is not the answer

About 10% IIII – landless

Almost 50% IIII – <0.5 ha

60% IIII functionally landless



## Mitigation focus – whose priorities?

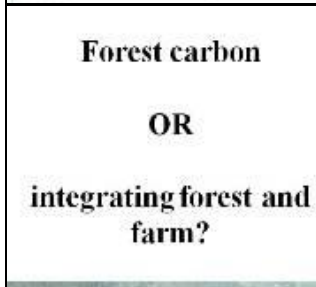
- 40% land to be kept as forest
- New protected areas
- More protected forests
- CF Ops -maximizing carbon
- Restrictions on resource use



## Forest carbon

OR

## integrating forest and farm?



## Celebrity campaign: what a comfort?



## REDD and communities: Formidable challenges

• **Differential costs and benefits** (Class, ethnicity, gender, spatial)

• **Capacities and scale** (lack proven experiences of managing large tracts of forests)

• **Transaction costs** (increased technical requirements may substantially increase transaction costs)



## M-SH process: tools of legitimising?

- Inequality in deliberative competency
- M-SH process as a peripheral process
- Strategic manipulation by the authorities
- Representation, accountability, legitimacy



## Implications/new directions

- Take a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to REDD+ (Carbon as co-benefit)
- Take bold decisions in reforming forest governance
- Embrace wider SH engagement and increase the quality of deliberative process
- Adaptive management with critical research and learning

