Proceedings of the Workshop

Regional Stakeholder Consultation and

Capacity Building Workshop on

National REDD+ Strategy
&
Safeguards Information System

20 December 2017

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248 006 (INDIA)

ICIMOD
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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महानिदेशक
भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
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(An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Organisation)

Foreword

Reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) along with conservation and sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock, collectively referred to as 'REDD+' has been introduced as a climate change mitigation option under UNFCCC. UNFCCC has agreed on methodological guidance for the implementation of REDD+, various countries has initiated REDD+ projects. Green Climate Fund established by the UNFCCC is now open to finance REDD+ projects provided they meet the laid down criteria for REDD+. One of the essential requirements is that the countries should have a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan in place. Hence, for obtaining the benefits of REDD+ finance, India needs to develop its national REDD+ strategy or action plan.

REDD+ preparedness at national level requires a national strategy or action plan, a national forest reference level, a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system and a system for providing information on REDD+ safeguards. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has assigned the task of looking into the technical aspects of REDD+ to ICFRE.

ICFRE is proactive in the field of forests and climate change and is contributing significantly to climate change issues relevant in the forestry at national and international level. The 'REDD+ Himalaya project' in collaboration with ICIMOD has been initiated in North-eastern states of Mizoram with one of its prime objectives of building REDD+ capacity and developing REDD+ strategy at national level. Under the REDD+ Himalaya project, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) of ICFRE has organized one day Regional Stakeholder Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop on National REDD+ Strategy and Safeguards Information System at Guwahati (Assam) on 20 December 2017. The workshop has also sensitized the forest officers, local communities and other stakeholders of the North-Eastern states on REDD+ related issues.

I am hopeful that the deliberations and recommendations of the workshop will contribute towards finalizing the documents on National REDD+ Strategy and Safeguards Information System for India. I appreciate the efforts put by the officers and staff of Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat and Biodiversity and Climate Change Division of ICFRE in organising the event and bringing out the proceedings.

Date: 11/01/2018

(Dr. Suresh Gairola)

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Abbreviation Used

CAMPA	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICFRE	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PESA	Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RFRI	Rain Forest Research Institute
SFDs	State Forest Departments
SIS	Safeguard Information System
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Chang

1. Introduction:

Reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) was introduced in UNFCCC negotiations as a potential approach for climate change mitigation. Later on with the inclusion of conservation and sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, REDD is referred to as REDD+. REDD+ is primarily a climate change mitigation effort. However, deforestation and forest degradation are accompanied by the loss of numerous vital ecosystem services which provide a variety of income possibilities, material welfare, livelihoods, security, resilience, social wellbeing. Ecosystem services provided by forest, and their continuous supply, are becoming increasingly important in the context of adaptation to climate change. REDD+ programme and actions if implemented properly, has a potential to contribute towards mitigation and adaptation to climate change and at the same time providing financial incentives to the participating communities. In Paris (Conference of Parties, 21), the parties recognized role of forests as carbon sink for mitigation of climate change. Article 5 of Paris Agreement encourages all Parties, developed and developing countries, to take action to conserve and enhance emissions sinks and reservoirs, including forests. It also encourages countries to "take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments" REDD+ activities.

The road map of actions needed for the REDD+ implementation in India includes development of National REDD+ strategy and action plans, capacity building programmes, development of reference emission levels/ reference levels, and monitoring, reporting and verification systems, and safeguard information system. A regional stakeholder consultation and capacity building workshop on National REDD+ Strategy was organized on 20 December 2017 at National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) North Eastern Regional Centre, Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati (Assam) by Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) – a regional institute of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) under REDD+ Himalayas Project. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the REDD+ issues including National Strategy and Safeguard Information System with the stakeholders of the North-Eastern states for their inputs and suggestions on the draft documents. The workshop also served as a capacity building on various aspects of REDD+ for the stakeholders of North-Eastern states as well. Schedule of the workshop is placed at Annexure-1. The workshop was attended by stakeholders from the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The list of the participants is placed at Annexure-2.

2. Inaugural Session:

Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Assistant Director General (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE welcomed all the participants for participation in the workshop and gave a brief introduction about the workshop and highlighted the role of stakeholders in formulation of National REDD+ Strategy and Safeguard Information Systems.

Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, Director, Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat in his welcome address and highlighted the various issues such as shifting cultivation, invasion by invasive alien species, forest fire and developmental activities etc. responsible for deforestation and forest degradation in the north-eastern states of the country. He stated that the issues of deforestation and forest degradation can be addressed with the active participation and support of State Forest Departments and local communities. Further he also highlighted that North-Eastern states of the country can play an important role in providing their inputs for formulating the National REDD+ Strategy as two REDD+ pilot projects viz. Mawphlang REDD+ project in Meghalaya and REDD+ Himalayas Project in Mizoram are being implemented with the active participation of the local communities. He also requested all the participants to share their experience and give their inputs for preparation of National REDD+ Strategy document.

Mr. N.K. Vasu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Assam in his address stated that

climate change is a complex issue and described in many international fora such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change etc. He cited an example of climate change impact on changing ecological nature of the river Brahmaputra and this river may be an open nature laboratory for studying the climate change related issues. He also stated that ICFRE is executing important All India Coordinated Projects on important species and themes and Network Projects on various aspects of forests since last many years. Expertises in all the fields of forestry research are available with ICFRE and its institutes, and expertise of ICFRE could also be utilised for implementation of REDD+ activities. He suggested that cumulative efforts of all the stakeholders are needed for implementation of REDD+ activities in the field. He also suggested that regular interactions should also be required for providing necessary inputs for finalization of National REDD+ Strategy and discussing the other issues of forestry research. Further, he also appealed that Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat should be developed as a Centre of Excellence for Forests and Climate Change Research in North-Eastern states of the country.

Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE in his inaugural remarks highlighted the importance of REDD+ implementation and dependency of the local communities on the forest resources for their livelihoods in the country. He also stated that climate change is taking place since last so many decades but now it has been scientifically proved that climate change is real and industrialization is mainly responsible for it. Scientific research is regularly advancing and various models have also been developed for projecting the future impact of climate change on forest and other ecosystems. The impact of climate change could be addressed well through understanding the phenomenon of climate change in a better way. He also flagged the issue of deforestation and forest degradation in different parts of the globe. He stated that deforestation is alarming in some developing countries, which need to be reduced for climate change mitigation. Forest degradation is more serious issue and forest resources are under degradation due to various anthropogenic causes. India is one of the top ten countries where forest cover is increasing; however, forest density is changing from dense to open. Scientific management of forest is required to solve the issue of deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. Scientifically, forest and tree cover can be increased through following working plans prescriptions and silviculture practices. In India, forests are in concurrent list and state governments are the custodians of the forests and managing the forest resources. In some states, forests are owned by van panchayats, by local community and by individual. Community can play an important role in sustainable management of forests at district level/ state level/ national level. India is a timber deficient country and we are importing timber and pulp for meeting our domestic demands from other countries. Local community could also play an important role in increasing the tree cover

outside the forests as this has also been proved by the some states in achieving the assigned targets under Social Forestry Scheme. There is need to increase the tree cover outside the forests which would be helpful in mitigating the climate change and also fulfill the demand of timber and pulp. We have strong legal and policy frameworks which are helpful in forest conservation. Forest productivity could be increased by adopting better sustainable forest management practices, good governance systems, better land management practices and better R&D works of forestry research organizations. Further, he flagged an issue of safeguard information system which is important for implementation of REDD+ programme. He stated that forest resources could not be managed without the participation of local communities. He also stated that India has submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target for emissions reduction intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level in which forestry sector has to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. India could become a role model for developing countries for meeting out the NDC target as the concept of REDD+ has also been given by India. He stated the need for formulating a National REDD+ Strategy and also requested the participants to give their inputs and suggestions for preparation of National REDD+ Strategy document.

3. Technical Session I:

National REDD+ Strategy and Safeguard Information System

Chairperson: Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE

Co-Chairperson: Mr. N.K. Vasu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Assam

Rapporteur: Dr. R. S. Rawat, Scientist-D, ICFRE

Presentations: Following five presentations were made in this session:

1. Overview of REDD+ concepts, REDD+ Stocktaking and issues for India by Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Assistant Director General (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE
2. Community REDD+ Pilot Project in Umket Raid, Meghalaya by Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (CC, R&T), Meghalaya
3. Khasi Hills REDD+ Project by Mr. Tambor Lingdoh, Project Director, Khasi Hills REDD+ Project, Meghalaya
4. Draft National REDD+ Strategy by Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Assistant Director General (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE
5. Developing REDD+ Safeguards: A Safeguard Information System by Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Assistant Director General (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE

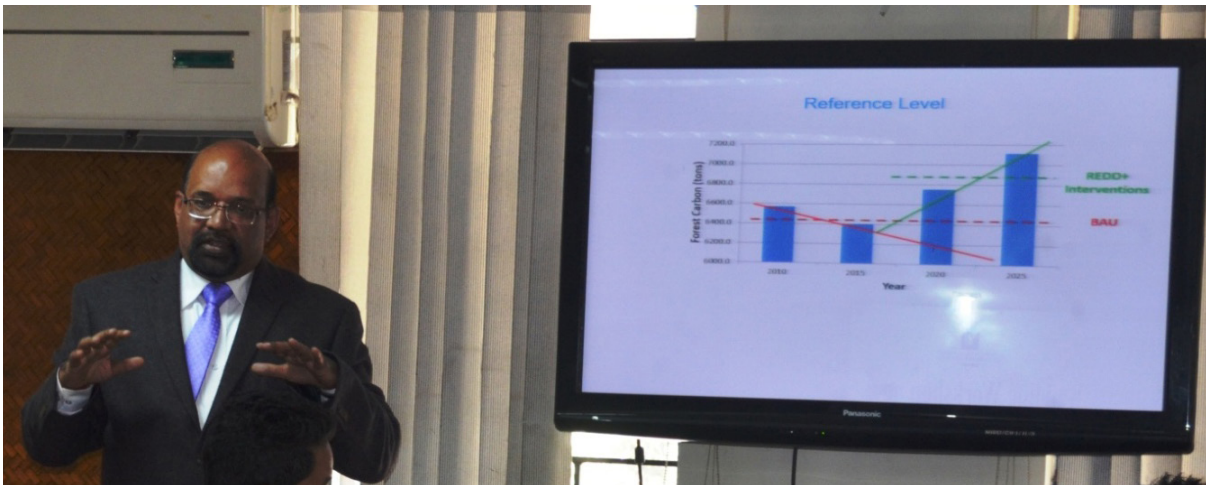
Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Assistant Director General (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE gave a presentation on 'Overview of REDD+ concepts, REDD+ stocktaking and issues for India' and detail of the presentation is placed at Annexure – 3. He highlighted the development of the concept of REDD+ under United Nations climate change negotiation and various phases required for implementation of REDD+. He also discussed the requirement of National Strategy or Action Plan, Forest Reference Emission Level / Forest Reference Level at national and sub-national level, National Forest Monitoring System and Safeguard Information System for implementation of REDD+ in India.

Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE stated that formulation of National REDD+ Strategy and development of safeguard information system are important for initiating REDD+ in India. We need to develop all the four essential components (National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan, National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Level/ Forest Emission Reference Level and Safeguard Information System) of REDD+ to mobilize the finance. He also emphasized the need for implementation of small REDD+ projects in different parts of the country and stated that ICFRE should facilitate the state forest departments and local communities in getting the funds as well as formulation of local and regional level of small REDD+ projects, and also circulate necessary guidelines for preparation of small REDD+ projects to the stakeholders.

Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya stated that many countries have developed their own domestic framework for REDD+ such as Thailand. Funds for developing small REDD+ projects could be tapped from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds of the corporate sectors. He informed that recently, China has launched the biggest carbon market of the world. He also stated, India has the country definition of forest (15% tree crown cover, 0.5 ha. Land area and 2 meter tree height) with respect to CDM forestry project and we are adopting the forest definition (all lands more than one hectare in area with a tree canopy of more than 10%) for REDD+ pilot project as given by Forest Survey of India for India State of Forest Report.

It has been decided during the discussion that India should frame country definition of forest for REDD+ project and ICFRE should taken up this issue to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya made a presentation on Community REDD+ Pilot Project in Umket Raid, Meghalaya. He gave the detail overview of Raid Umket REDD+ Project of Meghalaya and detail of the presentation is placed at Annexure – 4.



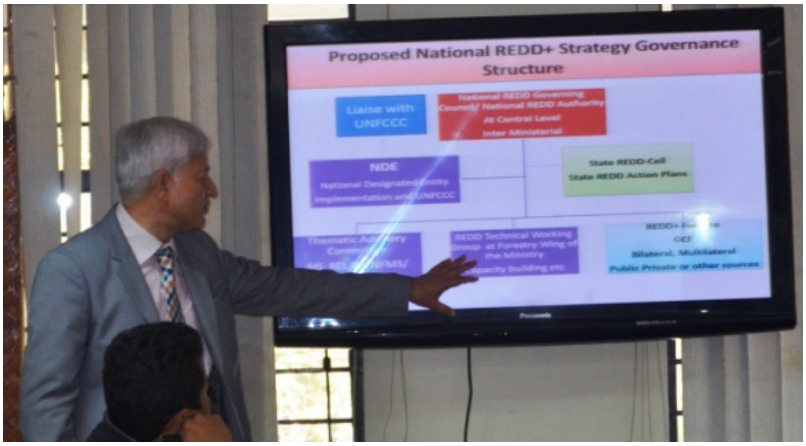
Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE wondered to know that how the mind setup of local community has been changed towards the switching of shifting cultivation in Khasi hills of Meghalaya? Dr. Subhash Ashutosh replied that Head man of village council has taken the lead role in changing the mind set of local community towards the switching off shifting cultivation up to project period. Monitory and non-monitory benefits also provided to local community for changing their mind set towards the shifting cultivation.

Mr. K. Kire, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mizoram has pointed out that whether REDD+ can reduce the shifting cultivation? Dr. Subhash Ashutosh has replied that performance based payment system to the community for generating ecosystem services can reduce the shifting cultivation. Awareness generation and monitory benefits from the implementation of REDD+ project could change the mindset of the local communities. He also informed that externally aided projects are required for formulation of REDD+ projects as lot of funds and technical supports are needed for developing a REDD+ project. He also requested that provision of community oriented REDD+ project may also be made under the National REDD+ Strategy document.

Mr. Tambor Lingdoh, Project Director, Khasi Hills REDD+ Project, Meghalaya shared the experience of Khasi Hills REDD+ project registered under Plan Vivo. He stated that the project is located in the Umiam Sub-Watershed of Meghalaya which boats the highest recorded rainfall in the world, however, this area is experiencing increased dry season due to accelerated forest loss. This REDD+ project is not only reducing the emission from deforestation but also supporting sustainable management of forests, afforestation and reforestation, and revival of sacred grooves and community forests. The project has been certified by the Plan Vivo. The project has built the capacity of 62 villages and equal gender participation (50-50%) has been done for implementation of the project. The project has been approved by the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council with the support from the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, State Forest Department of Meghalaya and Climate Change Division of Meghalaya as a potential climate adaptation strategy for replication throughout the hills of the North-Eastern states of the country. One of the main objectives of this project is to mobilize the people especially young children by educating them about the importance of forest conservation through awareness programme and field exposure. Awareness regarding climate change and forest restoration is raised through the activities of a network of community facilitators and extension workers from the 62 participating villages. The project aims to improve the livelihood of the local communities through identification of suitable income generation activities, micro-enterprises and organize training on their development, marketing and value addition. The activities undertaken by them are most primary activities such as farming, livestock rearing, grocery shop, tea stall and home based nurseries. The presentation shared by Mr. Lingdoh on Khasi Hills REDD+ Project is placed at Annexure – 5.

Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE stressed that the role of volunteers in forest conservation should be encouraged and their capacity should also be built on REDD+ issues. It is required to provide technical, financial and managerial supports to the local community for forest conservation efforts. He also emphasized the availability of funds under CAPMA, and about 10% of the funds are likely to be utilised by the central government for forestry research and development. He also pointed out that state forest departments are unable to tap the CSR funds from big industrial group and corporate sector and there is need to develop strategies at regional and national level for tapping the CSR funds for forest conservation purposes. We should be proactive in tapping the CSR funds for forest conservation purposes.

Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Assistant Director General (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE made a presentation on 'Draft National REDD+ Strategy'. This draft document on National Strategy on REDD+ has been prepared by ICFRE. He requested all participants to kindly give their inputs/ feedback/ suggestions on the draft. Detail presentation is placed at Annexure – 6.



Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE has suggested the following changes in the draft of national Strategy and same should be clearly mentioned in the strategy document:

- Objective of the REDD+ strategy needed reframing as the concept of REDD+ is a climate change mitigation option by forests, therefore, forests should be focused only and not other natural resource and environment.
- The scope of the strategy should be mentioned in the beginning.
- Some mechanism apart from the joint forest management could be developed in REDD+ strategy so that community can get some incentive.
- Convergence of existing schemes is required for implementation of REDD+ at state level.
- Identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategies to address the drivers.
- Land tenure and role of the stakeholders need to be mentioned.
- Better nomenclature for national and state level REDD+ Cell should be proposed.
- Some better mechanism for funding and convergence could be suggested for making Green India Mission more effective.
- Mechanism should be included in the strategy for making National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board (NAEB) more effective.
- Types of country specific strategy need to be follow for implementation of Phase I of REDD+.
- The Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, gives special powers to the *Gram Sabhas* in scheduled areas especially for the management of natural resources. PESA should also be mentioned in the strategy document. Most of the North eastern states (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram) where autonomous councils exist are not covered by PESA, as these states have their own Autonomous councils for governance.
- Tree felling regulation may also be mentioned in the strategy document.
- Role of volunteers and NGOs should be highlighted as they are working as an interface/ catalyst/ bridge between the community and national/ international organizations.
- Participation of industries/ corporate sector in afforestation programme through their CSR or other instruments
- Participation of forest based industries in afforesation programme should be highlighted separately.
- Improvement in the forest productivity/ rotation of various forestry species need to be highlighted.
- Research component for developing improved clones and varieties of forestry species and their up-scaling in the field that has potential for enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- Availability of quality planting materials of improved clones and varieties for plantation in the field for REDD+ implementation.
- Strategy for incorporating agroforestry and bamboo under REDD+.

- Formation of backward linkages for REDD+.
- Development of species specific/ forest types specific/ region specific allometric equations for biomass estimation.
- Establishment of National Green Funds at State and National levels.
- A separate section for implementation of REDD+ in the north-eastern states as North-east states are rich in biodiversity and it is one of the 18 biodiversity hot spots of the world. India State of Forest Report 2015 of Forest Survey of India stated that North-eastern states have 1,71,964 sq km of total forest cover which is 65.59% of its geographical area. India State of Forest Report also stated that 628 sq. km of forest cover of this region has been decreased from the previous assessment of 2013. Dependency of the local communities on forest resources is more in north-eastern parts as compared to other parts of the country.

Dr. Gairola, informed that once the draft strategy document is finalized same will be web hosted on ICFRE web site for public comments and due care will be given to all the comments/ suggestions for incorporation in the strategy document.

Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya pointed out that tree outside the forest could be qualified for REDD+ but it need a scale, and scale of 500 ha can be considered for this purpose. He also suggested that national level forestry institution can be accredited as a national validator of verifier for REDD+ projects.

Dr. K. Kire, Additional principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mizoram stated that adequate opportunity for livelihoods may be given to the local community of north-eastern states as jhuming is predominant and land tenure system is totally different in differ states of north-eastern states. He also informed that 60% of population in Mizoram is dependent on agriculture and only having 7% terrace farming.

Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Assistant Director General (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE made another presentation on 'REDD+ Safeguards: Safeguard Information System' and detail of the presentation is placed at Annexure – 7.

Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE pointed out the followings:

- Empowerment of the communities should also be highlighted in Safeguard Information System document.
- If present legal and policy frameworks are not good enough than some changes could be suggested.
- Committees proposed under draft document of Safeguard Information System (SIS) are neither feasible and nor will contribute for REDD+ safeguards due to their high engagements in state related matters so it is required to re-work on the proposed committees.
- Participation of NGOs could also be done in SIS.

Further, he informed that once the document on SIS is finalized same will be web hosted on ICFRE web site for public comments and due care will be given to all the comments/ suggestions for incorporation in the SIS document.

4. Technical Session II:

In this session following issues were discussed:

- **Preparedness of SFDs in REDD+ implementation and capacity building in North-Eastern States**
- **Constituting a REDD+ Working Group and REDD+ Cell for North-Eastern States**

Chairperson: Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (CC, R&T), Meghalaya

Co- Chairperson: Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, Director, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam)

Rapporteur: Dr. R. S. Rawat, Scientist-D, ICFRE

A REDD+ Working Group and REDD+ Cells for North-Eastern States are to be formed under ICIMOD funded REDD+ project for initiation of REDD+ activities in the region. It has been decided that Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) could be identified as a nodal institution/ regional focal point for REDD+ in North-Eastern states. Capacity building of the existing scientists and staff can be done on REDD+. RFRI should conduct the some regular training programme on REDD+ for the community and other stakeholders of north-eastern states. RFRI may prepare the road map for capacity building and other information such as REDD+ knowledge sharing platform/ products.

Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya stressed that such type of regular meetings/ workshops on other issues of forestry such as biodiversity conservation etc. should be organized in different places of north-east on rotation basis.

Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE in his concluding remarks thanked all the speakers and participants for their excellent presentations, participation and thoughtful interactions. Some good suggestions on conservation of the forest resources, livelihood issues, involvement of local volunteers in forest management and climate change issues etc. have been given by the participants and all the suggestions have been noted by the committee. It has been agreed that RFRI will be the focal point for REDD+ for North-Eastern states, and a group of 2 or 3 scientists will be identified and their capacity will be built on REDD+ and other climate change issues. This group of scientists will be responsible for providing further necessary technical guidance and know-how for implementation of REDD+ activities and addressing other climate change related issues in the field. Necessary deadline has to be fixed for finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy and Safeguard Information System documents. He also stated that local community of East Khasi hills of Meghalaya is doing an excellent job in implementing REDD+ pilot project and participation of local community of Meghalaya in REDD+ project is not only the role model for the North-Eastern parts of the country but for the whole country. This model could be replicated in other parts of the country. Director General, ICFRE also thanked to the Director, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj- North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati for providing necessary logistics for organizing this stakeholder consultation and capacity building workshop. DG, ICFRE has also mentioned that a regional research seminar with all the stakeholders of north-eastern states will be organized at Guwahati for discussing various issues of forestry research.

Mr. Rajiv Kalita, Scientist-E, RFRI, Jorhat proposed the vote of thanks.

5. Recommendations of the Workshop:

Following recommendations were made during the workshop:

- India need to frame country definition of forest for REDD+ project and this issue should taken up by ICFRE to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India by ICFRE.
- ICFRE should facilitate the State Forest Departments and local communities in getting the funds as

well as formulating REDD+ projects at regional/ local level, and also circulate necessary guidelines for preparation of REDD+ projects to the stakeholders.

- Provision of community oriented REDD+ project should also include in draft of National REDD+ Strategy document
- Role of volunteers in forest conservation should be encouraged and their capacity should also be built on REDD+ issues.
- Strategies at regional and national level for tapping the corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for forest conservation purposes need to be evolved.
- Participation of industries and corporate sectors in afforestation programme through CSR or other instruments.
- Objective of the National REDD+ Strategy needed reframing as the concept of REDD+ is focused on climate change mitigation through forests. Therefore, focus be made only on forest resources and not on the other natural resource and environment, and scope of the strategy should be mentioned in the first.
- Guidelines for convergence of existing Government schemes for implementation of REDD+ at state level need to be developed.
- Identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategies to address the drivers needs to be mentioned in National REDD+ Strategy.
- Land tenure and role of the stakeholders need to be addressed.
- Better nomenclature for the proposed national and state level REDD+ Cell need to be proposed.
- Some better mechanism for funding and convergence need to be suggested for making Green India Mission more effective.
- Mechanism need to be included in the strategy for making Green India Mission and National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board (NAEB) more effective
- The Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 need to be mentioned in the strategy document.
- Tree felling regulation may also be mentioned in the strategy document.
- Role of volunteers and NGOs should be highlighted as they are working as an interface/ catalyst/ bridge between the community and national/ international organizations.
- Research component for developing improved clones and varieties of potential forestry species to address enhancement of forest carbon stocks and their up-scaling in the field.
- Availability of quality planting materials of improved clones and varieties for plantation in the field for REDD+ implementation.
- Strategies for incorporation of agroforestry and bamboo under REDD+.
- Development of species specific/ forest types specific allometric equations for biomass estimation.
- Establishment of National Green Funds at National and State levels.
- A separate section for implementation of REDD+ in the north-eastern states need to be incorporated in the REDD+ Strategy.
- Empowerment of the communities should also be highlighted in the strategy.
- Reframing of the proposed committees under draft document of Safeguard Information System (SIS) is needed.
- Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) should be identified as a nodal institution/ regional focal point for REDD+ in North-Eastern states for initiation of REDD+ activities in north-eastern states.
- Road map for capacity building and other information such as REDD+ knowledge sharing platform/ products for north-eastern states should be prepared by Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam).

Annexure-1

Schedule of Regional Stakeholder Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop on National REDD+ Strategy

20 December 2017

Venue: National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati 781022, Assam (INDIA)

TIME	TOPIC	RESOURCE PERSON
10.15 – 10.30 A.M.	Registration	
10.30 – 11.00 A.M.	• Welcome and Introduction to workshop by Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, ADG, ICFRE • Introductory remarks by Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat • Address by Mr. N.K. Vasu PCCF (WL), Assam • Address by Dr. Suresh Gairola, Director General, ICFRE	
11.00 – 11.30 A.M.	High Tea and Group Photo	
11.30 –11.50 A.M.	Overview of REDD+ concepts, REDD+ Stocktaking and issues for India	Mr. V.R.S. Rawat ADG (BCC), ICFRE
11.50 -12.05 P.M.	Community REDD+ Pilot Project in Umket Raid, Meghalaya	Dr. Subhash Ashutosh PCCF, Meghalaya
12.05-12.20 P.M.	Khasi Hills REDD+ Project	Mr. Tambor Lingdoh, Project Director, Khasi Hills REDD+ Project, Meghalaya
12.20- 1.20 PM	Draft National REDD+ Strategy	Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, ADG (BCC), ICFRE
1.20 – 02.15 P.M.	Lunch Break	
02.15– 3.00 P.M.	Developing REDD+ Safeguards: A Safeguard Information System	Mr. V.R.S. Rawat ADG (BCC), ICFRE
03.00– 3.15 P.M.	Tea Break	
3.15-4.15 P.M.	(i) Preparedness of SFDs in REDD+ implementation and capacity building in North Eastern States (ii) Constituting a REDD+ Working Group and REDD+ Cell for North-Eastern States	
4.15-4.25 P.M.	Wrap up and Draft Recommendations	
4.25-4.30 P.M.	Vote of thanks	

Annexure-2

List of Participants

S. No.	Name of the Participants and contact details	S. No.	Name of the Participants and contact details
1	Dr. S. C. Gairola, IFS Director General ICFRE, Dehradun dg_icfre@icfre.org	2	Shri N. K. Vasu, IFS PCCF (WL & CWLW) Aranya Bhawan, Guwahati (Assam) vasuifs@gmail.com, 9588865429
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31	Mr. Niran Gogoi President, Garu paban JFMC Athkhel, Gelaky, Sivsagar-785696 garupabanjfmc2001@gmail.com, 7896927548	32	Ms. Esterlyne G. Kharjana Socio Economic Specialist Khasi Hills, REDD+ Project Mawphlang East Khasi Hills-793121 esterkharjana@gmail.com, 8794190384

Presentation on Overview of REDD+ concepts, REDD+ Stocktaking and issues for India

Regional Stakeholders REDD+ Strategy meet Guwahati 20 Dec 2017

Overview of REDD+ concepts, REDD+ Stocktaking and issues for India

V.R.S. RAWAT
ADG (BCC)
Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE
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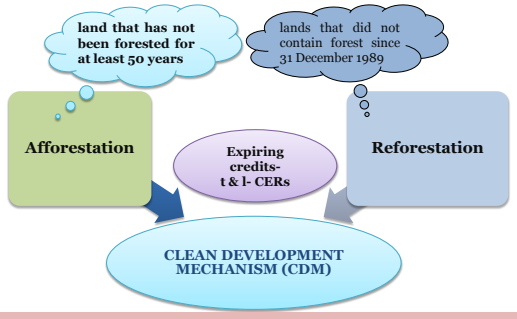
UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol have made Carbon a tradable commodity

Eligible forestry activities under Kyoto Protocol



Incentivising natural Forests for climate change mitigation not included

REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Background of Negotiations

Deforestation causes 25% of greenhouse gas emissions says FAO
Rhett A. Butler, mongabay.com
December 9, 2005

Yesterday the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) offered to provide forestry data and technical assistance to countries looking to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through the reduction of forest loss.

Active Agenda Item with COP and SBSTA (REDD) since 2005

- Avoided Deforestation
- Compensated Reduction
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries (REDD)

Compensated Conservation?

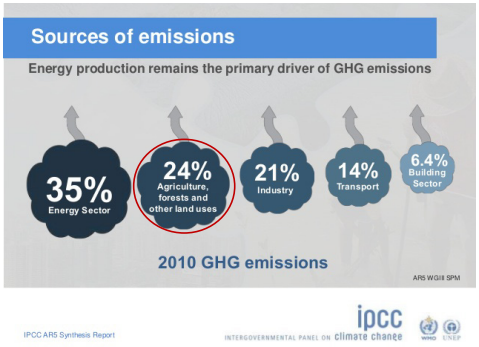
The Agenda of REDD

- Avoided Deforestation was discussed in the side events of UNFCCC in COP 9 (2003)
- Agenda Item on "Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: Approaches to stimulate action" first presented in COP 11 Montreal (2005) in response to request of Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica

IPCC 4th Assessment Report (2007)

Share of different sectors in total anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2004 in terms of CO_2 equivalent

Energy Supply	25.9%
Industry	19.4%
Forestry	17.4%
Agriculture	13.5%
Transport	13.1%
Residential and Commercial building	07.9%
Waste and Wastewater:	02.8%



Agriculture and land-use change, mainly deforestation of tropical forests, contribute greatly to anthropogenic GHG emissions and are expected to remain important during the 21st century.

Annual GHG emissions (mainly CH_4 and N_2O) from agricultural production in 2000 – 2010 were estimated at 5.0 – 5.8 $GtCO_2eq$ / yr, comprising about 10 – 12 % of global anthropogenic emissions.

Annual GHG flux from land use and land-use change activities accounted for approximately 4.3 – 5.5 $GtCO_2eq$ / yr, or about 9 – 11 % of total anthropogenic GHG emissions.

The total contribution of the AFOLU sector to anthropogenic emissions is therefore around one quarter of total emissions.

"Compensated Reduction"

Financial incentives to developing countries

for

reducing present annual deforestation rate and stabilizing it in future

Indian Negotiating Stand:

Montreal to Bali

And Beyond

2 March 2007

ENGLISH/FRENCH/SPANISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Twenty-sixth session
Bonn, 7–18 May 2007

Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries

2.2 Proposed Policy Approach and Incentives

Proposed concept of Compensated Reduction favours the countries with high deforestation rates, with the quantum of compensation likely to be proportionate to the reduction effected in current rate of deforestation.

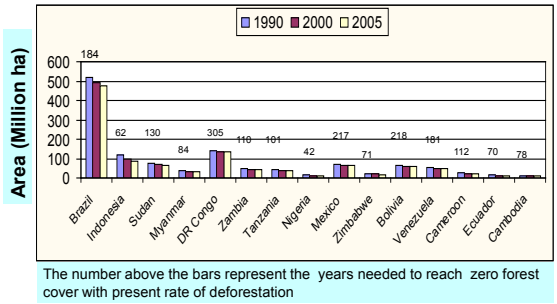
India, therefore, as deliberated in COP 12 at Nairobi, proposes a new potential policy approach based on socio-political commitment and technological capabilities of the country. India proposes that the countries like India that have implemented strong conservation measures and regulations be suitably compensated. The proposed mechanism of "Compensated Conservation" is intended to compensate the countries for maintaining and increasing their forests as carbon pools as a result of conservation and increase/improvement in forest cover backed by verifiable monitoring systems. The conservation in India and other countries has been achieved, and is being sustained at huge costs on account of revenue loss from harvests and non-conversion to other more profitable land uses.

Forested Nations can be divided into two groups

- Nations with decreasing Forest Cover
- Nations with increasing Forest Cover

Nations with decreasing Forest Cover

(Top 15 Non Annex 1 Countries with Highest Deforestation rate)

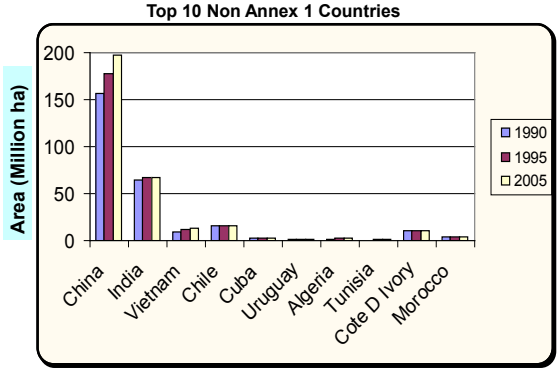


The number above the bars represent the years needed to reach zero forest cover with present rate of deforestation

Source: FRA 2005 (FAO 2005)

Nations: Increasing Forest Cover

Top 10 Non Annex 1 Countries



Source: FRA 2005 (FAO, 2005)

COP 13: December 2007

Bali Action Plan: "*...Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries...*"

[Para 1b (iii) of BAP] (Decision 1/CP.13)

Bali and after

Main issues under discussion

Indian Submission to UNFCCC
(21 March 2008)

Salient Features

- Policy approach
  A Comprehensive REDD Mechanism
  (Must include all approaches)
  - Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Increase in Forest Cover (for Carbon added)
  - Reducing Deforestation (for Carbon saved)
- Incentives
  - Incremental Carbon stocks
  - Baseline Carbon stocks
- Common Methodology based on remote sensing and minimum ground verification

Indian Viewpoint on REDD

Comprehensive REDD

Carbon Saved and Carbon Added

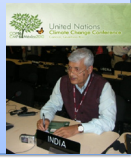
- Reducing Deforestation & Degradation
- Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests, Increase in Forest Cover (A&R)

Indian submission incorporates above and seeks incentives on incremental and Baseline stocks

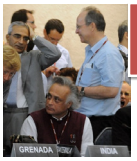
REDD+: a slow progress under UNFCCC

2010 — 2015

- Copenhagen
- Cancun
- Durban
- Doha
- Warsaw
- Lima
- Paris



Cancun Forestry decisions



Decision 1/CP.16 Scope of REDD plus finally agreed by parties (Cancun Agreements)

(a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;

(b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;

(c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;

(d) Sustainable management of forest;

(e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

Key Elements of REDD+ and UNFCCC Decisions
(Cancun Agreements Para 71)

Cancun forestry decisions....

REDD plus activities to be implemented in three phases:

1. beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building,
2. followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities,
3. and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified (MRVable).

Roadmap for REDD+ in India

- Phase 1 – National Strategy and Action Plan Development (MoEF&CC)
- Phase 2 – Readiness and Initial Action

Overlapping

- Phase 3 – Countrywide Implementation

COP 19 of UNFCCC Warsaw 11-22 Nov 2013

13 member Indian delegation headed by MEF Smt J. Natarajan

Negotiators at COP19 in Warsaw agreed seven decisions relating to REDD – the "Warsaw Framework for REDD Plus"

Warsaw Framework for REDD Plus

1. Results-based finance for the full implementation of activities in Decision 1/CP.16, Paragraph 70 (REDD+)
2. Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements

Methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+

1. National forest monitoring systems
2. Measuring Reporting and Verification (MRV) of REDD + activities
3. Technical assessment of Reference Emission levels/ Reference Levels submitted by Parties
4. Timing and frequency of submission of summary of information on how Safeguards are addressed and respected
5. Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

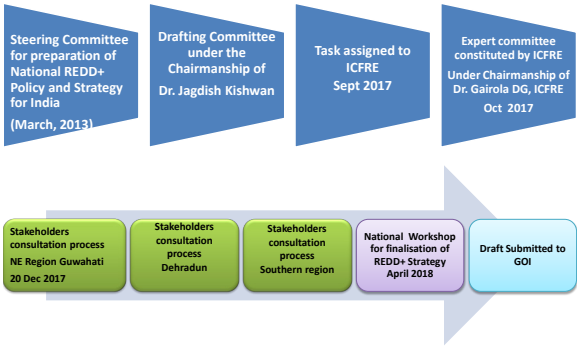
Forests under Paris Agreements

Article 5 of the PA

1. Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases …, including forests.
2. Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;

and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches.

National REDD+ Strategy Development Process



Where are we in terms of REDD+ implementation at national level?

1. National strategy or Action Plan: Only draft stage for last two years (last draft Jun 2017)
2. Safeguard Information System (SIS) (last draft Apr 2017)
3. Reference Level (REL/RL):

FSI developed, not yet finalised by MoEF&CC
Last presentation before DGF was on 20th Jun 2017

4. National Forest Monitoring system:

needs to be prepared in accordance with UNFCCC guidelines (task assigned to FSI)

Initiation of REDD plus Pilot projects in India

Umiam Sub-Watershed REDD+ Project, Meghalaya
Community Forestry International (CFI) and the Mawphlang community working together since 2005 to preserve a 17000 Hectare area in the Umiam basin watershed region

Forest plus by USAID: Worked on Pilot projects in following parts of the country:

- Shimoga (Karnataka)
- Harda Dist Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh)
- East Sikkim (Sikkim)
- Chamba/Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)

Uttarakhand REDD Plus pilot project (UK Forest Department)

REDD+ Himalaya (with ICIMOD) focusing on capacity building in NE Region, project activity in Mizoram

1. A national strategy or action plan

1. Brazil
2. DRC
3. Ecuador
4. Chile
5. Indonesia
6. Tanzania
7. Malaysia
8. Mexico
9. Viet Nam
10. Costa Rica
11. Peru
12. Fiji
13. The Philippines

2. Countries that submitted a proposed forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level

1. Brazil
2. Cambodia
3. Chile
4. Colombia
5. Congo
6. Costa Rica
7. Côte d'Ivoire
8. Ecuador
9. Ethiopia
10. Ghana
11. Guyana
12. Honduras
13. Indonesia
14. Madagascar
15. Malaysia
16. Mexico
17. Nepal
18. Papua New
19. Guinea
20. Paraguay
21. Peru
22. Sri Lanka
23. Uganda
24. United Republic of Tanzania
25. Viet Nam
26. Zambia

3. Countries that submitted a summary of information on safeguards

1. Brazil
2. Ecuador
3. Malaysia
4. Democratic Republic of Congo

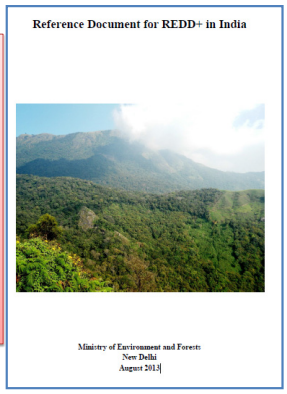
Issues for initiating REDD-plus in India

- Develop a National strategy or action plan for REDD plus implementation and capacity building
- Developing safeguards Information system
- Developing Reference Emission Levels/Reference Level for REDD plus
- Developing a transparent national system of MRV
- Pilot/ Demonstration Projects on REDD plus
- Capacity Building programmes
- Quantification of REDD plus benefit and sharing mechanism with REDD+ Communities
- Finance for REDD Plus actions

MoEF & CC
Has prepared a REDD+ reference Document for India (2013)

Draft Doc is web hosted for comments

Climate Change Div.
MOEF&CC



Thanks

This was a presentation from ICFRE
www.icfre.gov.in

For further detail pl Contact:
rawatvrs@icfre.org

Presentation on Community REDD+ Pilot Project in Umket Raid, Meghalaya

Community REDD+ Pilot Project in Umket Raid, Meghalaya

Dr Subhash Ashutosh
PCCF (CC, R&T)
Meghalaya

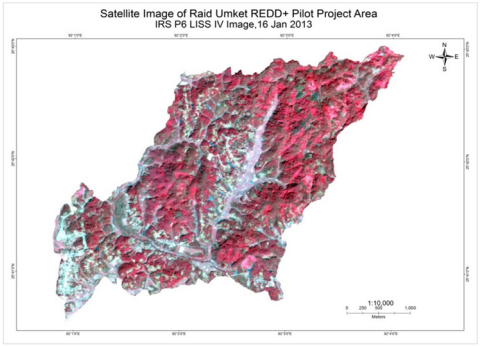
20th December/17

Community REDD+ Pilot Project in Umket Raid

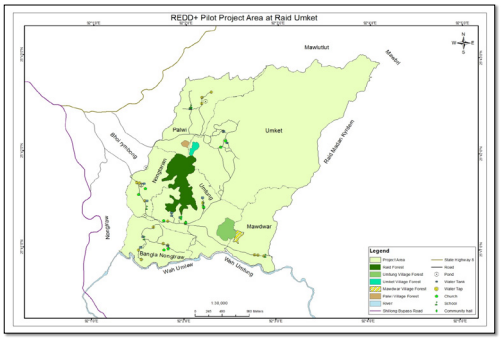
Salient Features

- initiated with the objective of developing capacity in the SFD and community
- Basic premise - every community is a candidate unit for REDD+ project – universal application
- Performance linked financial Incentive in the form of carbon credits to be paid from the Project
- Determination of carbon credits by assessing net increase in forest carbon following IPCC framework of forest carbon accounting
- Integrated approach of sustainable natural resource management and livelihood promotion
- Project Design Document (PDD) based on scientific methodologies involving use of remote sensing and GIS based resource assessment and participatory rural appraisal (PRA)
- Funding from the State Government under TFC
- initiated and steered by the Forest Department, PDD developed by the SFD

Raid Umket

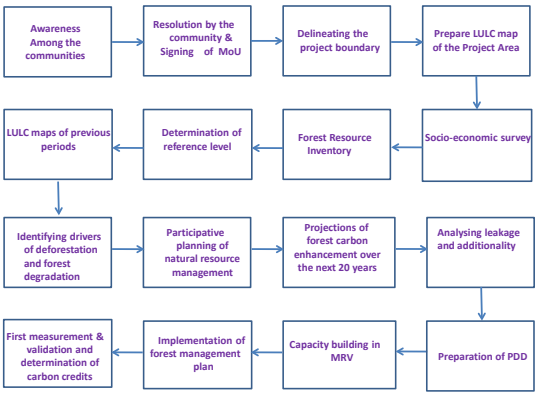


Map Showing Community Forests



Steps

- creating awareness about REDD+ in the community
- resolution, signing of MoU between SFD & the community
- creating a project boundary
- preparation of Land Use Land Cover map of the village – baseline
- LULC maps of previous periods
- determination of reference level
- forest resource Inventory
- forest carbon assessment
- socio-economic survey
- identifying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- participative planning of natural resource management
  - addressing livelihood issues
  - addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
  - identifying actions under improved forest management
- projections of forest carbon enhancement over the next 20 years
- analysing leakage and additionality
- preparation of PDD
- implementation of forest management plan
- capacity building in MRV
- first measurement and validation



Land Use & Land Cover in Raid Umket

LULC	Area (in ha)	% of Total GA
Forest	816	65.90
Agriculture	187	15.12
Village Settlement	166	13.39
School, Community Centres, Roads, Market	10	0.81
Water bodies	4	0.32
Vacant and Wasteland	55	4.46
Total	**1238**	**100.00**

- Forest Area (Community Owned)

Village and Community Forest	Area (in ha)
Raid (community) Forest	39.6
Umtung Village Forest	10.4
Umket Village Forest	2.6
Mawdwar Village Forest-	2.2
Palwi Village Forest-	1.5
Total Area	56.3

- Area of Private Forest - 759.7 Ha

- Topography (Elevation) of Forest

Elevation Range (in m)	Distribution (%)
860 – 900	34
901 – 940	50
Above 940	16

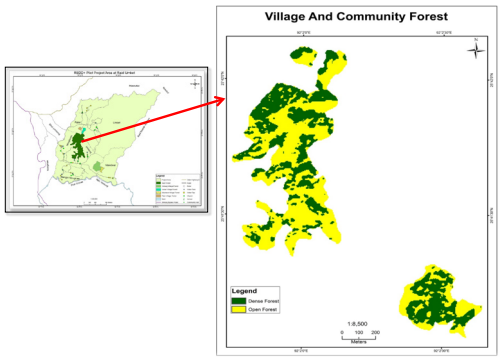
- Forest Cover of Raid Umket

DESCRIPTION	Area (ha)	Area %
DENSE FOREST 40-70% Above	160.71	12.98
OPEN FOREST 10-40%	466.64	37.70
SCRUB <10%	188.40	15.22
NON-FOREST	422.16	34.10
Total	**1237.91**	**100.00**

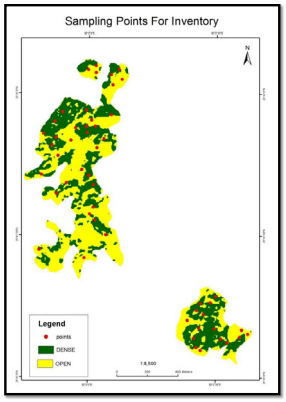
Approach for Forest Carbon Assessment

- using stratified random sampling - forest inventory design for forest growing stock assessment
- selection of carbon pools
  - above ground biomass
  - below ground biomass
- using forest type specific biomass expansion factors (BEF) for assessing other components of above ground biomass
- Forest Type specific root-shoot ratio for below ground biomass
- using tree growth equations, Von Montel formula and expert knowledge for making projections for growth of biomass and forest carbon in selected pools for 20 years

Community and village forest maps



Forest Carbon Assessment



Stratification based on Remote sensing data :
Dense Forest
Open Forest

Total Sampling plots – 51
(Using GIS software ERDAS and ArcGIS)
20 plots in Dense Forest
31plots in Open Forest

Data Collection
Plot Size : 0.1 Ha each
GBH : 30cm and above were recorded

Data Analysis
Using MS Excel software
Volume Equations for Forests of Assam and Meghalaya (FSI)

Inventory Field Work

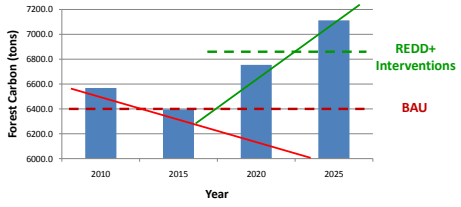
Forest Carbon

Strata	Forest Carbon Stock (ton/ha)	2010			2015			2020		
		Area (ha)	Forest Carbon (ton)	Annual Increment in Carbon	Area (ha)	Forest Carbon (ton)	Annual Increment in Carbon	Area (ha)	Forest Carbon (ton)	Annual Increment in Carbon
Dense Forest	154.39	26.6	4107	164.3	24.2	3736	149.4	29.2	4508	180.3
Open Forest	82.91	29.7	2462	98.5	32.1	2661	106.5	27.1	2247	89.9
		56.3	6569	262.8	56.3	6398	255.9		6755	270.2

C = [V ● D ● BEF$_2$] ● (1 + R) ● CF ..... *(Equation 3.2.3 Good practices guidance LULUCF)*

Where,
V = merchantable volume, m^3ha^-1
D = basic wood density, tonnes d.m. m^-3 merchantable volume
BEF2 = biomass expansion factor for conversion of merchantable volume to aboveground tree biomass, dimensionless
R = root-to-shoot ratio, dimensionless
CF = carbon fraction of dry matter (default = 0.5), tonnes C (tonne d.m.)^-1

Reference Level



Summary of Forest Carbon Inventory

Table: First inventory 2015

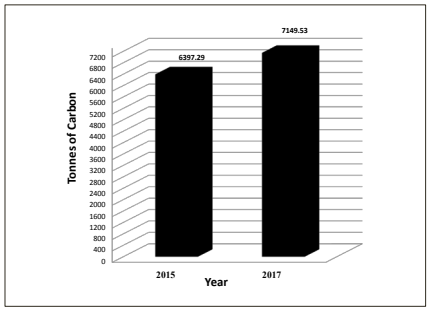
Forest	Area (Ha)	No. of plots	Growing stock per Ha	Total Growing Stock	Wood Density (t/m3)	Biomass Merchantable Wood (t)	BEF Value	Above ground Biomass (t)	Below Ground Biomass {ABG*0.15} (t)	Total Biomass (t)	Carbon {Total Biomass*CF ; CF=0.46} (tC)
Dense	24.24	26	131.66	3191.34	0.65	2080.75	3.40	7074.56	1061.18	8135.74	**3742.44**
Open	32.02	18	70.70	2263.90	0.65	1476.06	3.40	5018.62	752.79	5771.41	**2654.85**
Total	56.26	44	202.36	5455.24							**6397.29**

Table: Second inventory 2017

Forest	Area (Ha)	No. of plots	Growing stock per Ha	Total Growing Stock	Wood Density (t/m3)	Biomass Merchantable Wood (t)	BEF Value	Above ground Biomass (t)	Below Ground Biomass {ABG*0.15} (t)	Total Biomass (t)	Carbon {Total Biomass*CF ; CF=0.46} (tC)
Dense	24.24	23	124.09	3008.02	0.65	1961.23	3.40	6668.19	1000.23	7668.42	**3527.47**
Open	32.02	26	96.46	3088.69	0.65	2013.82	3.40	6847.00	1027.05	7874.05	**3622.06**
Total	56.26	49	220.55	6096.71							**7149.53**

Enhancement of Forest Carbon in two years - 752.24tC

Forest Carbon increment in two Years

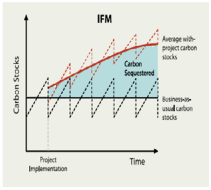


Additional Increment in Forest Carbon: Projection

Forest Management Intervention	Estimated Forest Carbon Enhancement per annum (tonnes/year)
Natural Growth under SFM	117
Reduced fuel wood collection	98
Fire Protection	72
Tree Plantation- improved stocking	57
Bamboo Plantation	79
ANR	44
Total	**467**

Forest Management Interventions

- Management prior to Project
  - jhum practice was prevalent
  - unsustainable collection of firewood
  - frequent forest fires
  - unauthorised cutting of trees for charcoal making
  - no planting activity
  - incidents of illegal felling
- Forest Management under the project
  - improving stocking of forest by planting in blank areas
  - assisted natural regeneration
  - fire protection – fire lines, fire watchers
  - prevention of unauthorized removal of trees
  - eradication of invasive species
  - bamboo plantation
  - community nursery as social enterprise
  - smokeless chulhas



Management of Community Forests

- removal of timber for bonafide household use only as per management plan
- under the supervision and control of management committee
- only 33 % of sustainable yield of timber to be harvested under approved Working Scheme
- Benefit Sharing
  - 30 % community fund
  - 40% sharing with the community members
  - 30% payment towards compensation of time to the community members for different
- Management Committee (MC)
  - 2 members from each village, one male and one female
  - Sordar – chairman
  - treasurer to be elected from the management committee
  - MC to meet at least once in amonth
  - GBM once a year

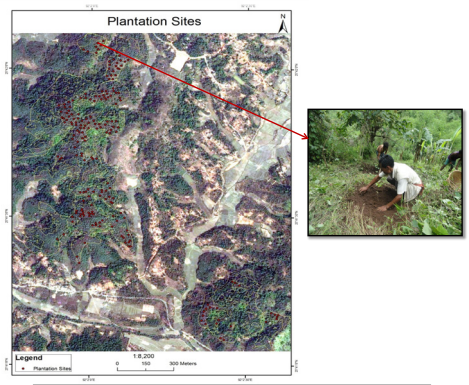
Management of Private Forests under Community REDD+ Project

- willingness of owner in writing
- MoU with the MC
  - 10% of the net income from the timber to be shared with the MC
  - 50% of the forest carbon benefit to be shared with the MC
  - forests to be managed as per the approved management plan/working scheme
  - cost of forest management to be borne by the owner except patrolling and fire control

Tree Planting

- In both Community and Village Forests
- Identified 8.8 ha blank area using Google Earth and ArcGIS
- 200 square/rectangular plots were delineated – 320 sq m
- Families adopted the units for plantation and maintenance
- 50 trees were planted in each plot
- The spacing between the tree saplings was 2m x 3m
- Incentives were provided to those families undertaking such activities
- Survival of the seedlings are monitored at 6 months interval
- survival rate of the species within each plot is taken into account and the participating families are then paid according to their performance

Sl No	Tree species	Numbers
1	Indigenous tree species	4000
2	Fast growing species	2000
3	Fruit trees	1000
4	Bamboo	3000



Map Showing Plantation Sites in Community and Village Forests

Financial Projection*

Cost

Items	Cost (INR)
Initial Cost	
Awareness & Mobilisation	20000
Creation of Nursery	125000
Survey & Mapping	30000
Inventory	60000
Socio economic survey	40000
Micro Planning & PDD Preparation	30000
Training	30000
Verification & Monitoring	40000
Others	25000
Total	**400000**
Annual Cost	
Creation of Plantation	80000
Maintenance of Plantation	120000
Fire Protection	40000
Nursery Maintenance	20000
Running Expenses of MC	20000
General Management of Forests	20000
Total	**300000**

Benefit

Stream of Revenue	Quantity	Rate (INR)	Total (INR)
Forest Carbon	300 ton	700	210000
Timber	25 cum	14000	350000
Bamboo	10 tons	3000	30000
Seedlings	20000 nos	6	120000
Ecotourism	2000 nos	10	20000
Total			**730000**

*Community of 5 villages , 50 ha forest area

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Fire Protection

Fire Line

Creation of Fire lines has been undertaken with regards

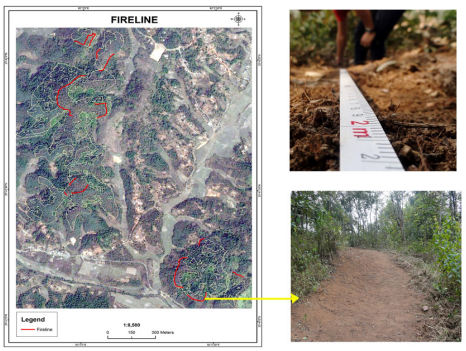
- past incidences of fire occurrence (PRA)
- biophysical factors.
- fire lines have been drawn using GIS to ensure maximum protection of forests

Fire Watchers

- three fire watchers have been appointed by the Raid Umket for the fire sensitive months i.e. from Jan to April
- Fire Watchers are responsible for
  - patrolling the fire sensitive areas
  - creating awareness among the villagers on forest fires
  - controlling/extinguishing forest fires with the help of villagers

Sl. No.	Forests	Fire line Width (m)	Fire line Length (m)
1	Palwi	2	285
2	Umket	2	241
3	Umtung	2	536
4	Mawdwar	2	77
5	Law Raid (Community Forest)	2	898
	Total		2037

Fire Line Map



Two signboards in local dialect were installed in each village under Raid Umket

- One that shows general information regarding the Pilot Project
- Another one mentioning 'do's and don'ts' In protecting forests and biodiversity
- All Signboards were installed in the vicinity of the Protected forests

Dependence on Forests

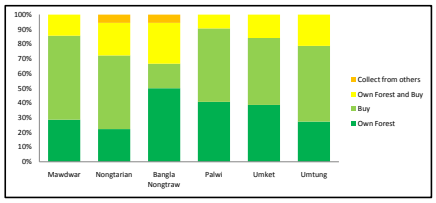
- Firewood Requirement

Village	Population*	Average Quantity per houses per year (m^3)
Mawdwar	73	7.85
Nongtarian	245	12.39
Bangla Nongtraw	206	8.32
Palwi	385	7.84
Umket	875	7.56
Umtung	326	9.87

**as per houses surveyed*

Timber requirement

- Timber usage is found to be low, with only 43% reporting to be using timber
- Timber is mostly obtained for construction and maintenance purposes (Houses frame, windows, doors and shed)
- Durability: 3-4 years



Fodder requirement

- Fodder for livestock mostly consists of Corn, rice and vegetables or a combination of any of them
  - It is estimated that 5-7 adult chickens would require 3kgs of fodder per day.
  - A young piglet would require 2kgs of husk and vegetables per day.

Bamboo requirement

- Bamboo is the only NTFP used-collected or bought
  - 70% of the households repor
  - Bamboo has a multi-function to construct houses and shed and to provide support for cr

Survival Percentage Dec 2017

- Overall survival Percentage – 83.23%
  - Tree species survival (%) - 89.81%
  - Bamboo survival (%) - 67.87%

Community nursery

Availability of sapling	30000
Tree Species	*Chukrasia tabularis, Tectona grandis, Pinus kesiya, Michelia spp., Litchi sinensis, Cinnamomum spp., Exbucklandia spp.*

*Under JFMC

Introduction of Smokeless Chulhas to Reduce Fuel Wood Consumption

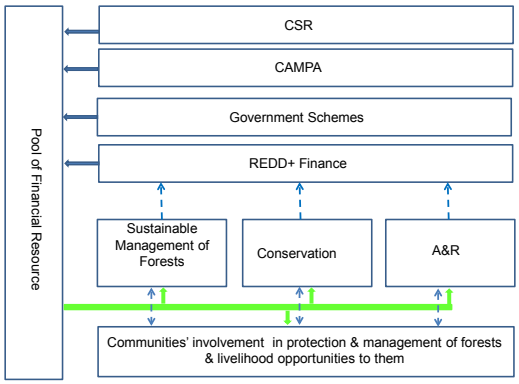
- over 99% of the rural community of the project area are dependent solely on firewood as a source of fuel
- located in an area where conventional sources of energy are limited, fire wood consumption per household in the area is high
- Resource Person from the State Council of Science Technology and Environment has imparted training to selected Villagers from the Raid, who are now master trainers for propagation of smokeless chulhas in the villages
- introduction of Smokeless Chulhas can go a long way in reducing the fuel wood usage
- the advantages of Improved Chulha include -
  - lesser amount of fuel wood
  - increase in heat potential
  - less smoke and organic matter emission inside the house
  - prevention from health hazard
  - less blackening of utensils

- average usage of firewood prior to introduction of improved smokeless chulhas was 10.87 Kg/household (4-5 individuals) /day
- 30 improved smokeless chulhas were constructed in Raid Umket by the Master Trainers
- Firewood consumption has decreased considerably with the introduction of this chulhas
- It has been recorded that the average firewood usage with the improved chulha is 5.5Kg/household/day

Other Interventions

- Smokeless Chullahs
- Livelihood and enterprise promotion
  - Apiculture
  - Multipurpose reservoir
  - Sericulture
  - Eco tourism
  - Community nursery

Domestic REDD+ Finance Framework



Concluding Points

- Community REDD+ projects should be seen as integrated approach for sustainable community forest management, NRM and livelihood promotion activities
- build capacity in the SFDs
- reduce transaction costs
- domestically funded REDD+ - CAMPA, CSR, Finance Commission awards
- Price of CERs should be rationalised according to National circumstances – opportunity cost ; labour, prevailing price of timber and other forest produce
- convergence with the Government Programmes/Schemes – NAP, GIM, MNREGA
- simplification of methodologies
- Special provision of community REDD+ projects may be considered in the National REDD+ strategy

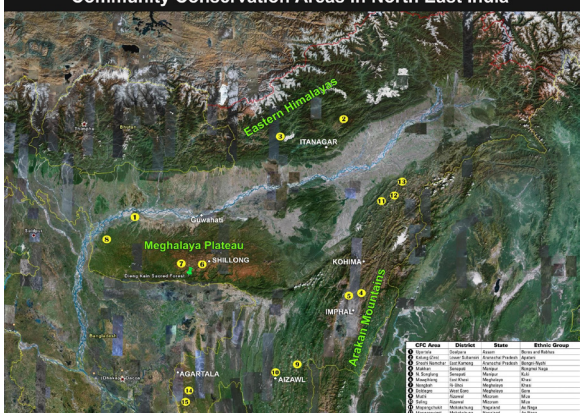
thanks

Presentation on Khasi Hills REDD+ Project

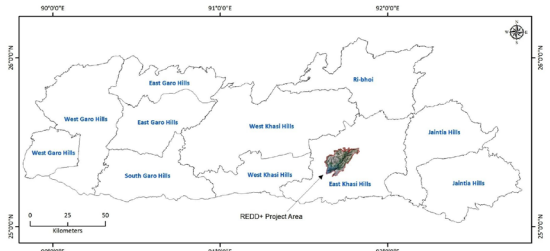
KHASI HILLS REDD+ PROJECT

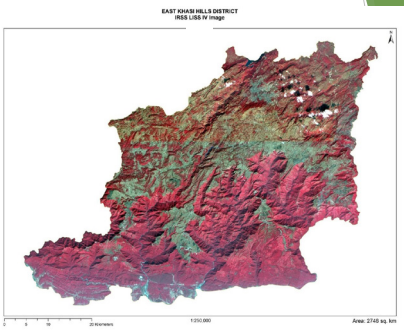
Presented By:
Tambor Lyngdoh
Project Director
KHASI HILLS REDD+ PROJECT
Mob: 9863082456
Email:tamborlyngdoh70@gmail.com

Community Conservation Areas in North East India

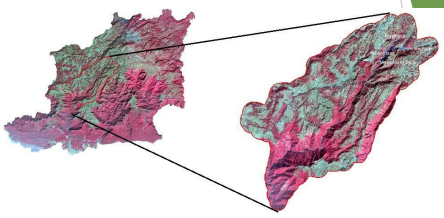


Khasi Hills REDD+ Project in Meghalaya

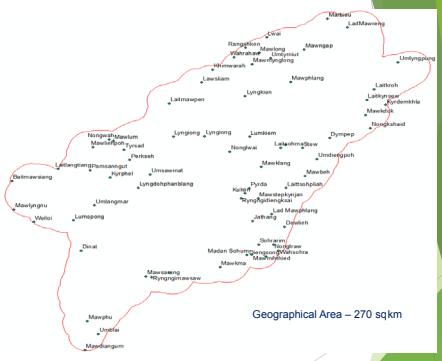




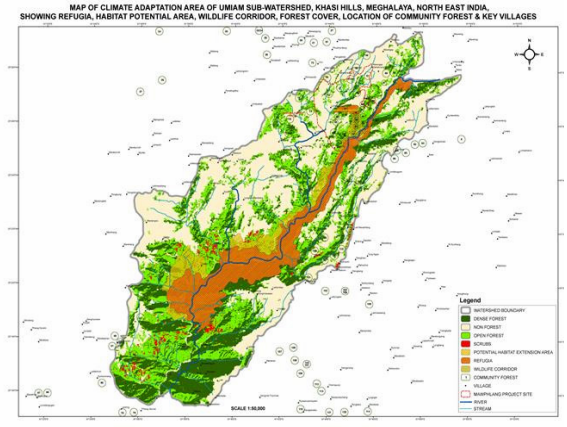
Project Area



Khasi Hills REDD+ Project Boundary



Geographical Area – 270 sq.km



Success of Wahlyngkien Pilot Project
The Genesis of Khasi Hills REDD+ Project

Project Location: East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, India

- **Project Implementer:**
- Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam, Mawphlang Welfare Society (FEDERATION)
- **Headquarter :**
- Mawphlang, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, India
- **Position:**
- First Community Based Carbon Project in India
- **Certification :**
- Plan vivo, Standard, England

Project Overview

Total Project Area + Buffer Zone = 27,139 ha. In 2010

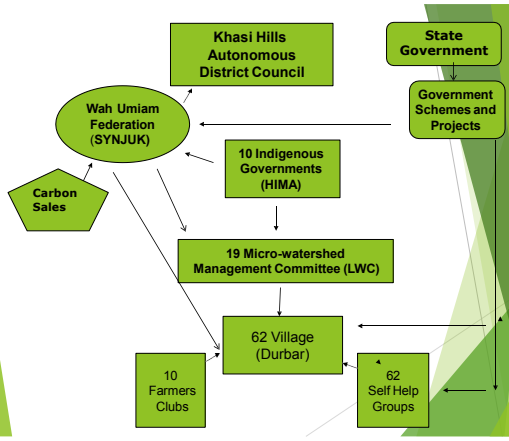
Total Forest Cover = 15,217 ha.

Dense forest = 9,270 ha

Open forest = 5,947 ha

The Net CO2 Additionality per year on account of Avoided Deforestation and Degradation and Afforestation =**25,000 - 50,000 metric Tons of CO2 per year**

Based on initial projection, an additional 318,247 tCO2 will be generated between 2010-2021.



What is REDD?

- R => **Reducing**
- E => **Emission** (From)
- D => **Deforestation** & (Forest)
- D => **Degradation**

Catchment Area of Mawphlang Dam

Intake Station of Mawphlang Dam

Meeting of Hima Heads

Photographs of a section of the Cultural Operation at Lumlaitsohphoh area taken during 2007 & 2009 showing change in vegetation (Note increase of Crown Cover)

May 2007 (N 25 26 50.7, E 91 43 59.9)
October 2009 (N 25 26 50.7, E 91 43 59.9)

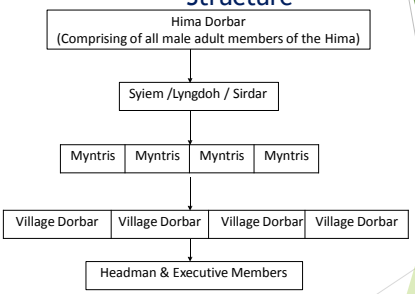
Photographs of quarrying area of the Project Site, before and after closure (Note the resultant landslides edging towards the Sacred Grove above and subsequent stabilization of landslide area)

TENURE STATUS OF COMMUNITY FOREST GROUPS

- Under the Sixth Schedule of the INDIAN Constitution, District Councils are empowered to Manage all forest not being Reserved Forests
- In Meghalaya only 10% of forests are Reserved Forests, the remainder are under community management

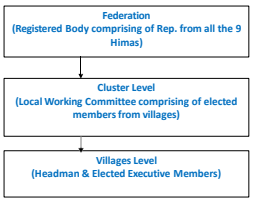
SYNJUK MEETING

Khasi Indigenous Institution Governance Structure



20

Khasi Indigenous Institution Governance Structure with New REDD+ Organizations



21

REDD+ Awareness Program Formation of LWC Cluster

VILLAGE LEVEL MEETING
Consensus arrived

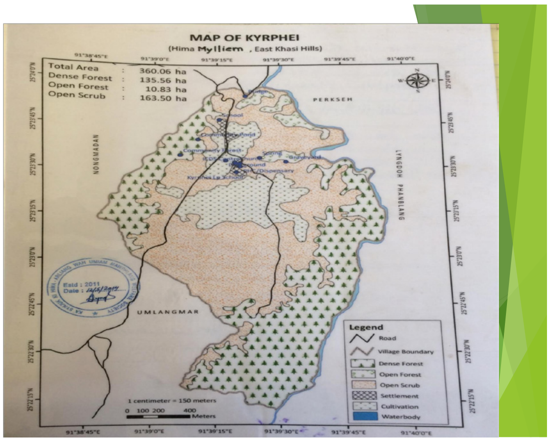
Cluster LEVEL Meeting

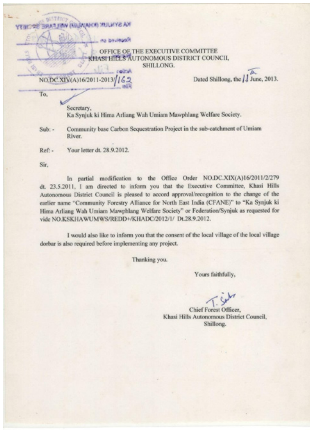
Drivers and Mitigation Measures

Main Drivers	Mitigating Measures
Forest Fires	Traditional Control Burning, fire-lines , social controls
Fuel-wood collection	Fuel efficient stoves
Quarrying	Banned or regulated
Grazing	Animal exchange & Stall feeding
Erosion & loss of biomass	Vegetative check dams & afforestation
Destruction of endangered species habitat	Rehabilitation & protection of habitats of rare orchids & amphibians

Community Facilitator Meeting

PRA Activities at Village & Cluster Level




KA SYNJUK (KHAWUM) WELFARE SOCIETY
Received on
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
KHASI HILLS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL,
SHILLONG.

NO.DC.XIV(A)16/2011-2013/162 Dated Shillong, the 11th June, 2013.

To,

Secretary,
Ka Synjuk ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society.

Sub: - Community base Carbon Sequestration Project in the sub-catchment of Umiam River.

Ref: - Your letter dt. 28.9.2012.

Sir,

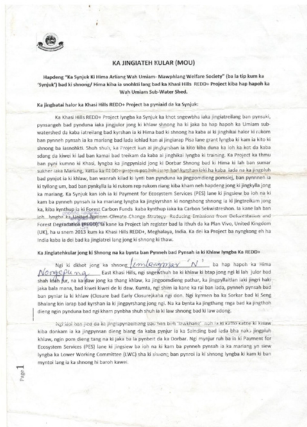
In partial modification to the Office Order NO.DC.XIX(A)16/2011/2/279 dt. 23.5.2011, I am directed to inform you that the Executive Committee, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council is pleased to accord approval/recognition to the change of the earlier name "Community Forestry Alliance for North East India (CFANE)" to "Ka Synjuk ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society" or Federation/Synjuk as requested for vide NO.KSKHAWUMWS/REDD+/KHADC/2012/1/ Dt.28.9.2012.

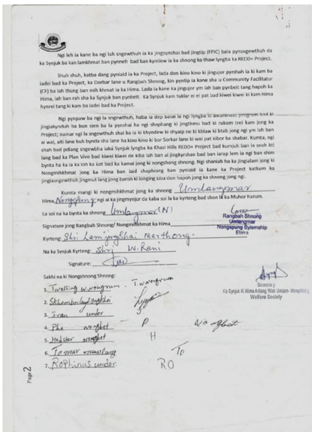
I would also like to inform you that the consent of the local village of the local village dorbar is also required before implementing any project.

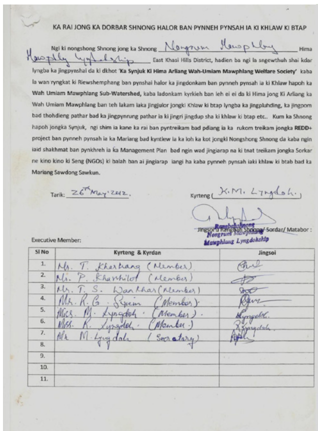
Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

T. Sohs
Chief Forest Officer,
Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council,
Shillong.


KA JINGIATEH KULAR (MOU)




KA RAI JONG KA DORBAR SHNONG HALOR BAN PYNNEH PYNSAH IA KI KHLAW KI BTAP

The main aims and objectives

- Build community capacity to implement resource planning system and mitigation activities in order to reverse deforestation and degradation in 9,270 ha. dense forest (under REDD)
- Assist communities to implement varieties of forest monitoring, protection and restoration and facilitate the regeneration of 5,947 ha. of degraded forests lands (under ANR
- Implement soil conservation measures to check soil erosion and to improve the hydrological function of the Umiam Sub-watershed through PES or carbon sales
- Enhance the economic conditions of the participating households targeting the lowest Forest depending families. Support sustainable enterprise development communities through microfinance and sustainable farming and forestry systems.
- Improve environmental services including the protection of endangered flora and fauna species found in the area through PES or carbon sales

People's ACTIVE participation

- On the success of Mawphlang Pilot Project Other Indigenous Hima are coming forward requesting for extension
- Drivers of deforestation addressed
- Mitigating measures listed, fully operating in the whole project area
- Meetings convened and consensus arrived
- Formation of SYNJUK (Federation) complete

Strategies Developed

Routine
Published/Declared

Maps distributed

Cluster Level Meetings (Or) LWC Meetings

Team Meetings

2014

2017

Youth Volunteers Orientation and Training

Female

Male

Carbon Monitoring System

- Creation of permanent plots
  10x10 m in dense forests
  20x20 m in open forests
- Measurement to be done every year. On ground
  Calculation process/ model and format designed.
- Instruments like GPS, Clinometers, DBH tape, Tape, Compassed and ribbons available
- Forest Monitoring team formed and training complete
- Photo Monitoring on each plots
- Satellite image analysis be done every five year

Validation Complete in 2013

Plot Monitoring Training

Plot Monitoring During Validation

Carbon Monitoring System

- Creation of permanent plots
  31x 31m in dense forests and open forest
  Measurement to be done every year. On ground
  Calculation process/ model and format designed.
  Formula by FSI
- Instruments like GPS, DBH tape, Tape, and ribbons available
- Forest Monitoring team formed and training complete
- Photo Monitoring on each plots
- Satellite image analysis be done every five year

Carbon Stock counted from 2 Pools

- 1. Above Ground Biomass
- 2. Below Ground Biomass

- Annual Carbon Increment:
- 1. 3.88 TCo2 (ANR)
- 2. 35.69 TCo2 Dense Forest

The Verification Team during November 2016

Five Years Verification Complete 2017


Rainforest Alliance

VERIFICATION STATEMENT

for

KA SYNJUK KI HIMA ARLIANG WAH UMIAM MAWPHLANG WELFARE SOCIETY

Mawphlang, East Khasi Hills, Shillong, Meghalaya 83121, India

VERIFICATION SCOPE

Plot Monitoring

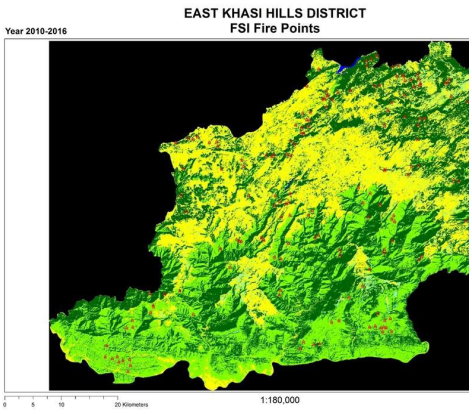
Sainding bad Pomtap

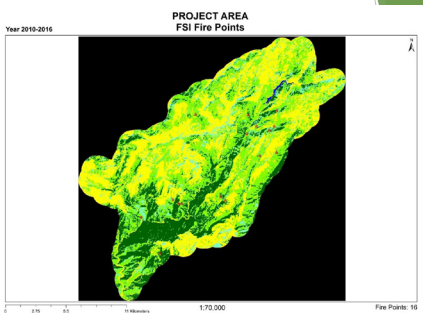
Year	Length(km)
2014-15	53
2015-16	66.51
2016-17	88.5

Fireline

Total Area Burned

Sl.no	Hima	Total Area Burned (in ha)							
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	Mawphlang	20	1.7	4	1.5	9.1	0.4	2.30	11
2	Nongiwai	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	Lyngiong	2.4	6.8	2.3	1.6	1.9	Nil	8	Nil
4	Mylliem	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	Nil	0.8	0.2	Nil
5	Pamsanngut	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Laitkroh	6	7	9	Nil	1.6	4	2	5
7	Sohra	Nil	Nil	43	14	Nil	Nil	0.41	Nil
8	Mawbeh	35	75	30	40	107	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	Nongspung	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10	Nongkhlaw	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





Community Development Grant

Rice cooker and LPG about 300 families has benefitted

SHGs FEST & MEET

2016

2017

Training on Piggery, Poultry etc.

Socio Economic

Outsource Trainers

Poultry and poultry products

Big size eggs

Better poultry breed

Vermi compost unit and Piggery

Various Forestry Training imparted

Training on energy consumption, plot making, biodiversity count, photography, HBN and mapping.

Training on Photography

Home Based Nursery (600 saps per unit)

565 trees by schools students and 24359 trees by the communities

Monitoring Activities Carried out (in Forestry)

- Monitoring of Fuelwood Consumption
- Monitoring of Charcoal Making
- Creating and Monitoring of Fire Lines
- Monitoring of Biodiversity
- Identification of Traditional Herbal Healers
- Monitoring of LPGs, Smokeless Chulas and Electric Rice Cookers
- Monitoring of Landslides area in the Quarrying site
- Monitoring of Home Based Nursery
- Monitoring of Tree Plantation
- Monitoring Drinking water sources

Fuel Wood Monitoring

Fuel Wood Monitoring

In different House holds

Five Year Impact Survey Results Against Targets:
Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project Indicators

Type of Indicators	Survey Result		Five year target -2016 & 2021	
	2011	2016	2016	2021
SHG Member in the family	29%	NA	Increase to 35%	50%
Money invested in Bank	48%	85%	Increase to 60%	95%
HH with Improved cook stove	14%	19%	Increase to 25%	50%
HH producing charcoal	15%	5%	Decrease to 10%	5%
Forest fire in the past year	74%	29%	Decrease to 50%	10%
Fuelwood collection rules in CF	30%	89%	Increase to 50%	75%
Hunting rules in CF	69%	98%	Increase to 90%	100%
Knowledge of the Federation	10%	75%	Increase to 50%	95%
Attends CF Meetings	31%	72%	Increase to 50%	75%
Worked on CF activity	4%	12%	Increase to	25%

Biodiversity

Monitoring Activities Carried out (in Socio Economic)

- Formation & Monitoring of Farmers Clubs
- Formation & Monitoring of SHGs
- Monitoring of Fruits trees Plantation
- Monitoring on Poultry and Piggery
- Monitoring and Evaluating Micro Enterprises
- Identifying Progressive Farmers
- Identifying Entrepreneurs
- Monitoring on VKRs

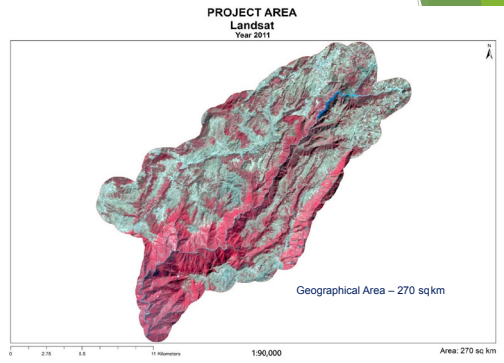
Other Activities

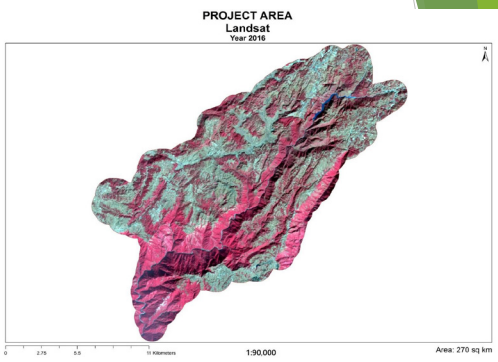
- Revival of Sacred Groves
- Identification of Eco Tourism Spots
- Sending Trainees to various training institutes
- Organised Various trainings at project area

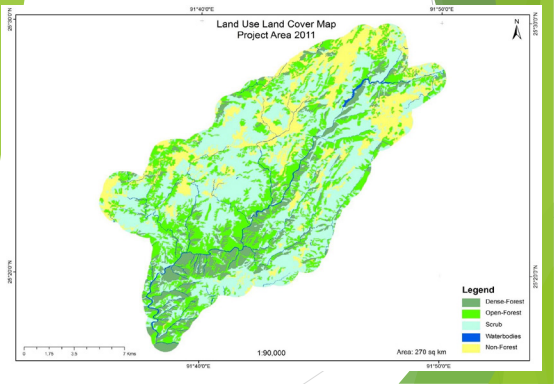
Convergence Initiatives

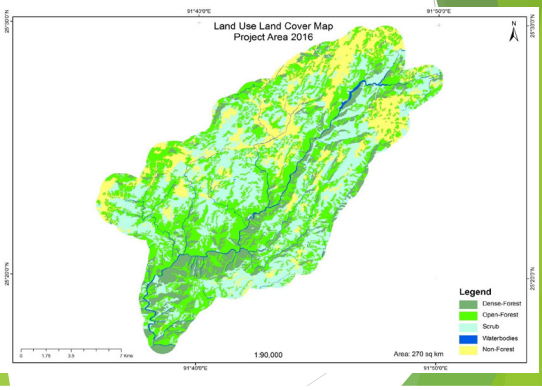
Shade Net

Peaches









2016 Offset Sales - Khasi Hills Project

Buyer	Date of sale	Volume	Value	Vintage
Zeromission	3/2/2016	6,500	$32,533	2014
Ceramica S. Agostino	6/9/2016	350	$1,750	2014
COTAP P.O. "Khasi-4"	9/1/2016	660	$5,940	2012
WeForest	7/8/2016	2,102	$12,625	2015
WeForest	11/24/2016	2,075	$12,462	2015
Associazon Sociale	11/10/2016	20	$140	2015
Zeromission	12/6/2016	8,099	$40,536	2015
Total		19,806	$105,985	

ANNEX 2: Total stock including both unsold early vintages and future vintages 2012-2021

	Tons of CO2e
2012(unsold stock)	8017
2014(unsold stock)	2839
2015(unsold stock)	15682
2016(Available for issuance)	110205
2017(Available for issuance)	40509
2018(Available for issuance)	38704
2019(Available for issuance)	37055
2020(Available for issuance)	35552
2021(Available for issuance)	34186
Project's total Emission Reduction	322749
Total Value @$5/tCO2	$1,613,745

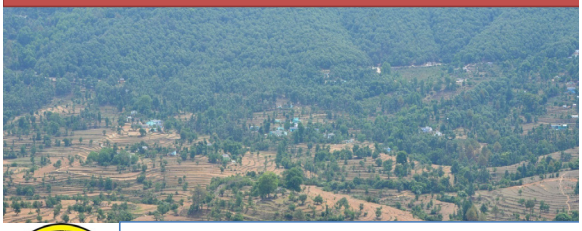
KHUBLEI

THANK YOU

Presentation on Draft National REDD+ Strategy

REDD+ Strategy Capacity building Workshop : 20 Dec 2017

Draft National REDD+ Strategy:



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Cancun Agreements, 2010
COP 16 of UNFCCC

Decision 1/CP.16 Scope of REDD plus finally agreed by parties (Cancun Agreements para 70)

(a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;

(b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;

(c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;

(d) Sustainable management of forest;

(e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

Key Elements of REDD+ and UNFCCC Decisions (Cancun Agreements Para 71)

What is required for a National REDD+ Strategy

- It is one of the elements to be developed for implementing REDD+ activities
- It is highly dependent upon national circumstances
- During the development and implementation of national strategies or action plans, countries should address, inter alia:
  - the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation,
  - land tenure issues,
  - forest governance issues, gender considerations and
  - the REDD+ Safeguards (full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia IPs and LCs)

At the same time, the COP recognized the importance and necessity of adequate and predictable financial and technology support for developing the national strategy or action plan.

Structure of the draft National REDD+ Strategy

4 Sections

Section 1. Introduction and the Context

Section 2. Legal and policy framework in India: Institutionalised support for REDD+

Section 3. The Strategy

Section 4. Implementation Framework

National REDD+ Strategy (ICFRE Draft Dec 2017)

Section 1: Introduction and the Context…

1.General: (Info on National Circumstances
2.forests and forestry in India)
3. Carbon mitigation services of India's forests
4. Concept of REDD:
5. Scope of REDD+
6. Prerequisites for REDD+

National REDD+ Strategy (ICFRE Draft Dec 2017)

Section 1: Introduction and the Context…

7. Broad elements of National REDD+ Strategy:
7.1 National Forest Reference Level (NFRL)
7.2 National Forest monitoring System (NFMS)
7.3 Safeguards and Safeguard Information System (SIS):
8. Centrality of local communities in REDD+
8.1 Dependence of local communities on forest resources and concept of JFM:

National REDD+ Strategy (ICFRE Draft Dec 2017)

Section 1: Introduction and the Context…

9. Rationale for REDD+:
10. Need for increase and improvement in forest and tree cover:
11. Addressing drivers of forest degradation and deforestation:
12. India's NDC to UNFCCC: Forestry sector commitment

Section 1

National REDD+ Strategy (ICFRE Draft Dec 2017)

Section 2: Legal and policy framework in India: Institutionalised support for REDD+

Policies, legislations Regulations at Central level facilitating REDD+

Indian Forest Act, 1927:
Wild Life Protection Act, 1972:
Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:
Forest Conservation Act, 1980:
Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981:
Environment Protection Act, 1986:
National Forest Policy, 1988:
Biological Biodiversity Act, 2002
National Environment Policy, 2006
The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006
The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
National Agroforestry Policy, 2014

Section 2

Overall objective and intent

3.1 Objective of the Strategy:

Overarching objective of India's National REDD+ Strategy (NRPS), is to facilitate implementation of REDD-plus in India in conformity with relevant decisions of UNFCCC, specifically the Cancun Agreements, "Warsaw Framework for REDD- plus", "Article 5 of the Paris Agreement", and the national legislative framework for conservation and improvement of the natural resources and the environment.

REDD+ is to be community driven,
i.e., local communities partners and stakeholders in steering the implementation of REDD+ at the grassroots level.

The strategy clearly spells out to develop mechanism for financial incentives the local communities.

Overall objective and intent

The Strategy devolves major responsibility for REDD+ activities and measurement of their performance on the State Forest Departments (SFDs)

It places high priority on capacity building of the local communities, all levels of the SFD, and staff of other line departments with a view to facilitating implementation of REDD+, and creating awareness about its benefits to the community, and sustainable management of natural resource of forests

Overall objective and intent

NRPP will give equal importance to all the ecosystem services flowing from the forests, which are traditionally harvested or enjoyed by the local communities, and will treat carbon as one such important service.

Local communities, wherever they are managing or co-managing forest or tree resources will have first right over the financial incentives accruing as a result of REDD+ performance in the country.

National REDD+ Strategy (ICFRE Draft Dec 2017)

Section 3: The Strategy

3.1 Objective of the Strategy:

3.2 Definition of forest for REDD+: As adopted by FSI

3.3 Coverage of REDD+:
- **3.3.1 Forests:**
- **3.3.2 Trees outside forests (ToF):**

3.4 Future coverage:
- **3.4.1 Grasslands:**
- **3.4.2 Blue carbon:**
- **3.4.3 Phytoplankton:**

National REDD+ Strategy (ICFRE Draft Dec 2017)

Section 3: The Strategy……

3.5 Phased approach of REDD+ :
3.6 Sub-national REDD+ Approach:

3.7 Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders:
- **3.7.1 Central Government**
- **3.7.2 State Governments:**
- **3.7.3 Forest institutions:**
- **3.7.4 Civil society**
- **3.7.5 Local communities:**

National REDD+ Strategy (ICFRE Draft Dec 2017)

Section 3: The Strategy……

3.8 New Forest Working Plan Code – 2014
3.9 Infrastructure required:
3.9.1 Expansion of measuring facility and equipment:
3.10 Trained human resource:
3.11 Capacity building:
3.12 Apportioning of targets:
3.12.1 State Governments:
3.13 Performance Trading:
3.14 Finance:
- 3.14.1 Finance Commission:
- 3.14.2 CAMPA:
- 3.14.3 Green India Mission (GIM) and National Afforestation Programme (NAP):
- 3.14.5 Green Climate Fund (GCF), Bilateral, Multilateral, Public and Private

Section 3

Section 4: Implementation Framework

Conformity with UNFCCC decisions:
Conformity with national policy and legal framework
Creation of a REDD+ Governing Structure at Central Government Level
Creation of REDD+ Cells at the state Level
Centrality of local community:
Safeguards for rights of local community:
Gender equity:
First right of use with local community:
NDC commitment: Targets to states and Finance for the actions:
Flow of incentives:
Roadmap:

Section 4

Benefit sharing mechanism with States and participating communities

- REDD-plus incentives will be transmitted from the Centre to State Governments and then to lower level
- The State Government and district level authorities will plan and manage the flows further down to the local communities
- Broad guidelines for flow of incentives from the Government of India (GOI) to State Governments will be developed by the MoEF&CC

Potential role of Private sector in REDD-plus mechanism

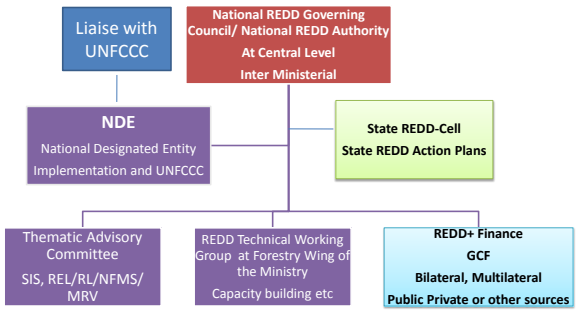
Implementation approach

REDD plus activities to be implemented in three phases:

1. beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building,
2. followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities,
3. and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified (MRVable).

Funding under UNFCCC mechanism for phased approach
GCF, UN-REDD, Bilateral, multilateral, Public, private

Proposed National REDD+ Strategy Governance Structure



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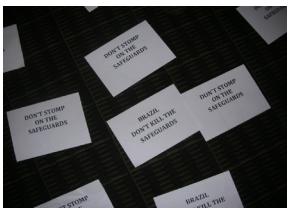

Presentation on Developing REDD+ Safeguards: A Safeguard Information System

Developing REDD+ safeguards a Safeguard Information System (SIS)

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Key Elements of REDD+ and UNFCCC Decisions (Cancun Agreements Para 71)

Cancun Agreements: REDD+ Countries to develop

A system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities, while respecting sovereignty

REDD+ countries have to respect....

The Seven (7) REDD+ Safeguards (Cancun Safeguards)

(a) Objectives of national forest programs and other relevant agreements and conventions.

(b) Transparent and effective structures of national forest governance.

(c) Respect for knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local community members.

(d) Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders.

(e) Conservation of natural forests and biological diversity
- Not used for the conversion of natural forests,
- Protect and conserve natural forests and ecosystem services,
- Improve social & environmental benefits.

(f) Actions dealing with risks of reversal

(g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.

Forestry Decisions in Durban: Safeguards

COP 17 (2011)

developing country Parties undertaking REDD+ activities, should provide a summary of information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities;

Decides that the summary of information should on Safeguards be provided periodically and be included in national communications,

Submission of safeguard Information System

Item	Actions
Timing and frequency of submission of summary of information on how Safeguards are addressed and respected (Decision 12/CP.19)	(i) Parties should provide a summary of information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ activities. (ii)The information to be provided periodically and be included in NATCOM, or communication channels agreed by the COP. (iii)Parties should start providing the summary of information in their NATCOM or other communication channel after the start of the of REDD+

What are the possible elements of an approach?

Institutions (formal and informal)
In order to ensure fair and effective design and implementation of these elements

Policies, Laws, and Regulations
Regulatory framework that defines and puts into operation the interpretation of country-specific REDD+ safeguards

Safeguards Information System
- Indicators of process, policies, and results
- Monitoring methodology
- Reporting frameworks for addressing different information needs

Mechanism for Feedback, Grievances, and Redress
Mechanism at country level to receive and address grievances related to the national safeguards approach

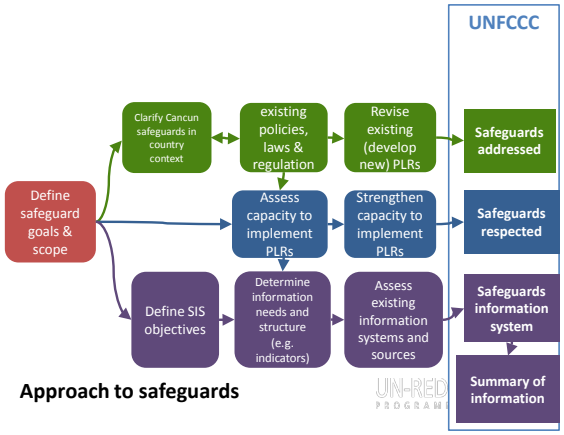
Processes and Procedures
To determine the elements, such as the consultations, access to information, strategic assessments, analysis, implementation reports, etc.

Developing Country Approach

- No fixed, linear path to meet UNFCCC requirements on safeguards
- The Cancun safeguards are a generic set safeguards aimed at supporting REDD+ implementation.
- Each country needs to develop its own approach to safeguards
- Taking into consideration:
  - Step-wise, iterative approach
  - Existing policies, laws, regulations, governance, institutions, information systems, etc.
- Consultation/participation with stakeholders throughout the process

How are these safeguards put into operation?

Through a
Country-level safeguards approach



Approach to safeguards

Current Draft on Safeguard Information system

Draft Safeguard Information System (SIS)

Section 1: Introduction

1. Background
Genesis and requirement of SIS
1.2 Cancun Agreements:
Debate and discussions on the need to address the rightful concerns of civil society and conservationists, etc. on community rights and biodiversity conservation.
1.3 Safeguards information system and other prerequisites:
1.4 Essentiality of SIS for REDD-plus implementation

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Current Addressal of Safeguards

2.1 General:
2.2 Policy and legal framework:
2.2.1 National Forest Policy (NFP), 1988:
2.2.2 Forest Conservation Act, 1980:
2.2.3 Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dweller (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:
2.2.4 Biological Diversity Act, 2002:
2.2.5 National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):
2.2.6 Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1996:
2.2.7 National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act 2010:
NGT, can possibly take cognizance and adjudicate on the complaint
2.3 Non-adequacy of existing policy and legal framework:
Except for the Forest Rights Act (FRA),
Need to analyse REDD-plus safeguards under the UNFCCC,
If needed, a dedicated mechanism for ensuring observance and adherence to Cancun Safeguards needs to be established.

Section 3: Proposed SIS

3.1 Comprehensive mechanism:
monitor, and also ensure adherence to safeguards.
It will have coverage at all levels of implementation of REDD-plus, *viz*, local, sub-state, state and national.
3.2 Committee to serve as mechanism:
A set of committees with representation of all stakeholders, local community, government departments, civil society and prominent individuals well-versed with REDD-plus at national and international levels
The safeguard committees will be constituted at all levels of implementation, including local, sub-state, state and national levels.
3.3 Four tiers of Safeguards Committee: safeguards committees will be set up at national, state, forest circle and range levels

3.4 Constitution of Safeguards Committees at different administrative levels:

3.4.1 National Level Committee: (NLC-REDD),
to monitor adherence to REDD-plus safeguards, provide policy directives and guidance to the central and state governments
Will be chaired by Special Secretary/Additional Secretary MoEFCC,
Special Secretary/Additional Secretary MoEFCC- Chairperson
Members-
IGF (FC) Four PCCFs representing different regions on rotation basis for two years
Representatives of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Ministry of Science, Technology, Space and Earth Sciences (MoSTSES), NITI Ayog
Representatives of ICFRE, FSI, IIFM, WII, IGNFA
Representatives of Research and Independent NGOs (RINGOs) or Universities such as TERI, CSE, WTI
Eminent experts (3 no)
National REDD-plus Focal Point- Member Secretary

3.4.2 State Level Committee

State Level Committee (SLC)
Chief Secretary- Chairperson
Members-
PCCF Head of Forest Force (HoFF)
Chief Wildlife Warden
Principal Secretaries of Planning, Forests, Environment, Revenue, Agriculture, Tribal Development, Panchayati Raj
State level civil society (1 no)
Eminent experts (2 no)
Nodal Officer, State REDD-plus Cell- Member Secretary

3.4.3 Forest Circle Level Committee:
Forest Circle Level Committee (FCLC) will exercise effective oversight and superintendence of adherence of safeguards at the field level. It will meet more often than the SLC to take stock of the implementation of REDD-plus and to ensure that there is no infringement of safeguards.
Coordinator-Respective Conservator of Forests (CF)/Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF)
Members-
Deputy Commissioner (s)
Divisional Forest Officers
District Panchayat Officer(s)
District Agricultural Officer(s)
District Rural Development Officer(s)
Chairpersons of JFM Committees (2 no) on rotation basis for a period of two years
Chairpersons of Eco-development Committees (2 no) on rotation basis for a period of two years

3.4.4 Range Level Committee:
will operate at the ground level to ensure that the REDD-plus safeguards are being adhered to. Most important committee as its functioning will decide the degree of fairness and transparency in the implementation of REDD-plus, and effective and actual adherence to safeguards. Will be coordinated by the Forest Range Officer.
Constitution:
Forest Range Officer- Coordinator
Members-
Tehsildar
Block Development Officer(s)
Chairpersons of JFM Committees (2 no) on rotation basis for a period of two years
Chairpersons of Eco-development Committees (2 no) on rotation basis for a period of two years
Like FCLC, RLC will also have pre, concurrent and post monitoring responsibility with respect to implementation of REDD-plus and adherence to safeguards.

Structure of Four tiers of Safeguards Committee

1. National Level Committee: (NLC-REDD)
2. State Level Committee
3. Forest Circle Level Committee
4. Range Level Committee

- Constitution, TOR, Check list for various committees to be defined

3.5 Functioning of Safeguards Committees:

The Safeguards Committees will function from the highest to the lowest implementation level
3.5.1 Submission of Report by Committees:
3.5.2 Frequency of Committee Meetings:
NLC: two meetings, preferably every six months
SLC: two six monthly meetings
FCLC: four meetings, one in each quarter
RLC: twelve meetings, one in each month

3.6 Check-list for Safeguards Committees:

- Activities are included in annual plan, and approved by competent authority
- Local community is aware about the FRA and FCA
- Local community is aware of the activities, and their impacts on their environment and livelihoods
- Local community have been communicated in writing about the benefits from the activities to them
- Suitable area has been selected for execution of the activity
- Local community has no objection to the selected site for the activity
- In case of an activity planned to be implemented on the land owned or having rights of the local community, free and prior informed consent (FPIC) of the local community has been obtained for implementation of such activity
- Species for plantation or soil conservation are selected in consultation with the local community
- Involvement of women has been ensured in planning, implementation, management and monitoring of all activities with a view to maintaining proper gender balance
- Annual plan has been shared with all line departments, and they broadly agree with its components
- Activity does not give rise to any pollution [negative environmental impact]
- If activity results in some pollution, measures are planned and included in plan to mitigate the pollution
- Grievance redressal authority is designated, and its address, phone number, and email address made available in public domain
- Mechanism detailing the process of dealing with grievances and complaintsis available and functioning
- Natural forest is not cut for the activity
- Activity does not lead to proliferation of invasives
- Biodiversity including wildlife is not impacted
- Activity will not result in hindrance to free movement of wild animals
- Activity will not result in destruction of, or damage to a site of archeological, cultural, traditional or social importance
- Signboards are erected indicating the nature of activity, its cost, source of funding, implementing agency, contractual entity, and duration of implementation, etc.
- Local people engaged on work of REDD-plus activities have bank accounts
- Payments of wages are made directly into the bank accounts of persons engaged
- Payments for purchase of materials, equipment, and services are made through cashless system (cheques/online/digital system)
- Verification certificate of quantum and completion of work are furnished
- Inspections of activity and work are carried out and inspection reports made available

Section 4: Operationalization of SIS

4.1 Constitution of Safeguards Committees:
MoEFCC shall constitute the NLC, and issue orders and instructions for constitution of SLC, FLCCs and RLCs in each State/UT.
4.2 Building on Existing Mechanism to form Safeguards Committees:
4.3 Leveraging Flow of Funds for Formulation of Safeguards Committees:
4.4 Servicing of NLC, SLC and other Committees:
NLC will be serviced by the REDD-plus Cell/National REDD+ Authority/Body/Agency of MoEFCC, and SLC by the State REDD-plus Cell.
MoEFCC and State Governments will provide adequate budgetary and staff support for efficient functioning of the NLC, SLC, FCLC and RLC

Inputs, comments/discussions

Workshop Glimpses

For further details, please contact:

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