



ICIMOD

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für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

On behalf of:  
  
Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety  
of the Federal Republic of Germany



## **Stakeholders Consultation Workshop and Expert Consultation Meeting for Preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan for the State of Himachal Pradesh under REDD+ Himalaya Project**

**Dated:** 18-19 June 2019 & 21 June 2019

**Venue:** Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and role of conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks are collectively known as REDD+. REDD+ intends to give financial incentives to the developing countries for reducing deforestation and forest degradation, promoting forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Paris Agreement on climate change also reiterated its support to promote REDD+ activities in developing countries for climate change mitigation.

REDD+ implementation requires a lot of preparedness at domestic level. Countries willing to seek financial incentives for implementation of REDD+ activities need to develop a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) had prepared National REDD+ Strategy for India in 2018 which was approved by the Government of India and further submitted to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As per National REDD+ Strategy, states need to prepare a State REDD+ Action Plan for implementation of National REDD+ Strategy at states level.

ICFRE in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and GIZ are implementing BMU (Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany) under International Climate Initiative (IKI) sponsored REDD+ Himalaya Project. Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) a regional institute of ICFRE in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has organized a two days Stakeholders Consultation Workshop 18-19 June 2019 and Expert Consultation Meeting on 21 June 2019 for preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan for the state of Himachal Pradesh at HFRI, Shimla in consultation with state level stakeholders.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Group Coordinator (Research), HFRI welcomed all the participants and introduced the purpose of organization of the stakeholder consultation workshop for preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan. He also thanked ICFRE and ICIMOD for giving the opportunity to HFRI for organizing this workshop under GIZ & BMU sponsored REDD+ Himalaya Project.

Dr. R.S. Rawat, Scientist In-charge, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division of ICFRE Hqs. said that ICFRE on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India had developed National REDD+ Strategy. He gave an overview of the activities done under REDD+ Himalaya Project by ICFRE in collaboration with ICIMOD had already developed State REDD+ Action Plans for the States of Mizoram and Uttarakhand and now ICFRE is in the process

of developing State REDD+ Action Plans for the states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. He also thanked BMU, GIZ and ICIMOD for extending the REDD+ Himalaya Project up to 2020 under International Climate Initiative.

Dr. Savita, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Government of Himachal Pradesh said in her inaugural speech that forest sector can play an important role in climate change mitigation through carbon capture and storage. She said that more than 28% of the geographical area of Himachal Pradesh is under forest and tree cover; and India's forests are net sink of carbon dioxide. As per the National Forest policy, 1988 one-third of the total geographical area of the country should be under forest and tree cover. She also highlighted that India's has committed to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq through additional forest and tree cover by 2030 as a NDC target for forestry sector under Paris Agreement. She also told that REDD+ mechanism can provide carbon benefits for climate change mitigation and non-carbon benefits for the participating communities. State REDD+ Action Plan will be guiding document for conservation of forests, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. She thanked ICFRE and ICIMOD for selecting Himachal Pradesh for preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan.



Speaking at the inaugural session of the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop, Mr. S.P. Negi, Director In-charge, HFRI said that climate change is one of the global threats and has adverse impacts on all the sectors of economy as well as environment. He also said that Himalayan forests will be more vulnerable of climate change and forests are one of the cheapest climate change mitigation option in the developing countries.

Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Policy and Knowledge Management Consultant, ICFRE delivered a presentation on introduction to REDD+ and implementation framework at national and international level and he also highlighted the role of REDD+ in climate change mitigation and how the Government of India was successful in the UNFCCC negotiations to include forest conservation in REDD+.

Dr. Bhaskar Singh Karky, Coordinator, REDD+ Initiative, ICIMOD said that ICFRE has successfully implemented REDD+ Himalaya project in the state of Mizoram. He briefed about the process of preparing State REDD+ Action Plan and methodology for developing sub-national action plan was developed by ICIMOD and ICFRE.

Dr. R.S. Rawat, Scientist In-charge, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division of ICFRE Hqs. gave an overview of the activities done under REDD+ Himalaya Project by ICFRE. He said that ICFRE in collaboration with ICIMOD had already developed State REDD+ Action Plans for the States of

Mizoram and Uttarakhand and now ICFRE is in the process of developing State REDD+ Action Plans for the states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

Dr. Bhaskar Karky, Coordinator, REDD+ Initiative, ICIMOD delivered a presentation on an overview of State REDD+ Action Plan design process. Mr. Nabin Bhattarai, Research Associate, ICIMOD delivered a presentation on preparatory spatial analysis and data collection: Preliminary analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and stakeholder analysis.

Participants from Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Public Works Department, Irrigation and Public Health Department, Department of Science and Technology, University of Horticulture and Forestry, GIZ, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, ICFRE Hqs., ICIMOD, NGOs and local community members etc. actively participated in the consultation processes for preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan. During the workshop drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks were identified and prioritized for the state of Himachal Pradesh through stakeholder consultation process. Necessary intervention packages along with activities have also been identified for addressing the identified drivers and barriers enhancement of forest carbon stocks for implementation of REDD+ activities in the state of Himachal Pradesh during the stakeholder consultation process.



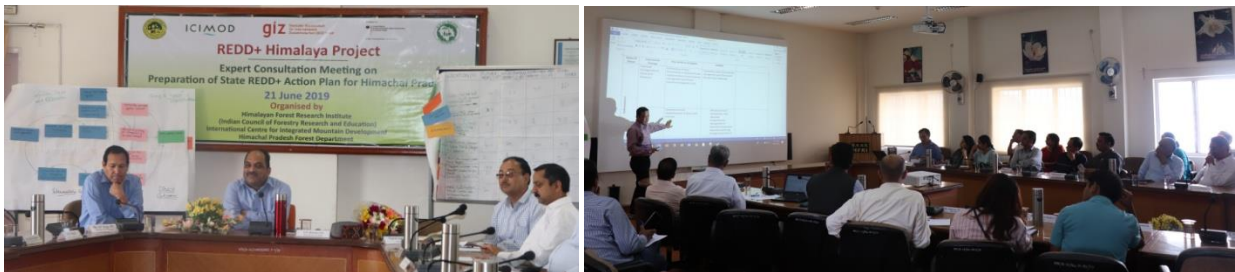
Following the two days Stakeholders Consultation Workshop, an Expert Consultation Meeting was organized on 21 June 2019 for finalization of identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and intervention packages along with for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Dr. R.S. Rawat, Scientist In-charge, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE welcomed all the participants of the Expert Consultation Meeting and said that all the participants actively participated in the two days stakeholder consultation processes and plenary sessions for identification and prioritization of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks for the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Bhaskar Karky, Coordinator, REDD+ Initiative, ICIMOD has stated that during the stakeholders consultation processes, urbanization was identified as a main driver of deforestation, forest fire

and invasive alien plant species as main drivers for forest degradation whereas Lack of suitable model for rehabilitation of degraded areas was identified as a barrier for enhancement of forest carbon stocks for the state of Himachal Pradesh. Participants identified direct and underlying causes of the prioritized drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the group exercises and prioritized necessary activities for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks relevant to deforestation, forest degradation and enhancement of forests that could be incorporated in the State REDD+ Action Plan for Himachal Pradesh.

Sh. S.D. Sharma, Dy. Director General (Research), ICFRE said that ICFRE has developed National REDD+ Strategy on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and Forest Reference Level has also been developed by Forest Survey of India. Now ICFRE is developing safeguards information system. He also stated that State REDD+ Action Plans can play significant role in implementation of National REDD+ Strategy at states level and also in achieving NDC forestry sector target under Paris Agreement, and national biodiversity targets.



About 40 participants from Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Public Works Department, Irrigation and Public Health Department, Department of Science and Technology, University of Horticulture and Forestry, GIZ, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, ICFRE Hqs., ICIMOD, NGOs and local community members etc. participated in the stakeholder consultation workshop and expert consultation meeting.

By the end of stakeholder consultation workshop and expert consultation meeting, Dr. R.S. Rawat, Scientist In-charge, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE said that ICFRE and ICIMOD would draft the State REDD+ Action Plan for the State of Himachal Pradesh and same would be discussed and finalized through organizing few more consultation with Forest Department and other line departments of Himachal Pradesh. Once the draft would be finalized, same shall be submitted to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for their endorsement and further implementation.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Group Coordinator Research, HFRI thanked all the participants on behalf of the organizers for their active participation in the stakeholder consultation processes. He also thanked ICIMOD, GIZ and BMU for providing financial support for REDD+ Himalaya Project under International Climate Initiative.

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