



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 Sikkim under REDD+ Himalaya Project

Dated: 25-26 June 2019 & 28 June 2019

Venue: Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok (Sikkim)

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. Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) a regional institute of ICFRE in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Sikkim State Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management had organized a two days Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on 25-26 June 2019 and Expert Consultation Meeting on 28 June 2019 at Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok (Sikkim) for preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan for the state of Sikkim under REDD+ Himalaya Project.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop, Mr. M.L. Srivastava IFS, Principal Secretary cum Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Sikkim said that climate change is one of the global threats and has adverse impacts on all the sectors so strengthening of all the Government departments, science & technology institutions, academia, panchayati raj institutions, community based organizations and civil society organizations etc. is needed for tackling the climate change issue through mitigation and adaptation. All the departments and organizations of Sikkim should take active participation in stakeholder consultation for preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan. He also said that numerous science based studies on climate change had already been undertaken in Sikkim and therefore while

developing the State REDD+ Action Plan for Sikkim, the findings and recommendations of these studies must be taken into cognizance.

Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Policy and Knowledge Management Consultant, ICFRE 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 'it is time to view the forestry sector from a climate lens, and preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan and its implementation could provide carbon and non-carbon benefits. He informed 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. Dhurbjyoti Das, Scientist, Rain Forest Research institute, Jorhat (Assam) conducted the opening session of the workshop.

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.

All the participants 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 Sikkim 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 Sikkim during the stakeholder consultation process.

Following the two days Stakeholders Consultation Workshop, an Expert Consultation Meeting was organized on 28 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 Sikkim.

Dr. Bhaskar Karky, Coordinator, REDD+ Initiative, ICIMOD said that during the stakeholders consultation processes, developmental activities was identified as a main driver of deforestation, forest fire and invasive alien plant species as main drivers for forest degradation whereas weak implementation of silvicultural practices was identified as a barrier for enhancement of forest carbon stocks for the state of Sikkim. 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 Sikkim.

Sh. B.M.S. Rathore, Chief Policy Advisor, ICIMOD said that REDD+ is one of the climate change mitigation option and this mechanism could address the issue of land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change. Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, Director, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat said that ICFRE has played significant role in implementation of various activities in the state of Mizoram including preparation of State REDD+ Action Plan under REDD+ Himalaya Project.

Sh. M.L. Srivastava, Principal Secretary-cum-Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Sikkim stated that carbon foot prints of all the State Government Departments had already

been done by following the standard protocols and numbers of programmes are ongoing in the state and synergies among all the programmes is needed.



About 39 participants from Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management, Sikkim State Biodiversity Board, WWF, GB Pant National Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development – Sikkim Unit, ICIMOD, ICFRE Hqs. and RFRI 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 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 (IKI). He said that ICFRE and ICIMOD would draft the State REDD+ Action Plan for the state of Sikkim and same would be discussed and finalized through organizing few more consultation with Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management and all other line departments and other stakeholders of Sikkim. Once the draft would be finalized, same shall be submitted to the Government of Sikkim for their endorsement and further implementation.



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