

## **Consultation and Dialogue of Indigenous Peoples on Forest Related Policies and Strategies**

**Consultation and Dialogue of Indigenous Peoples  
on Forest Related Policies and Strategies  
National Workshop Report**

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**Published by**

Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities

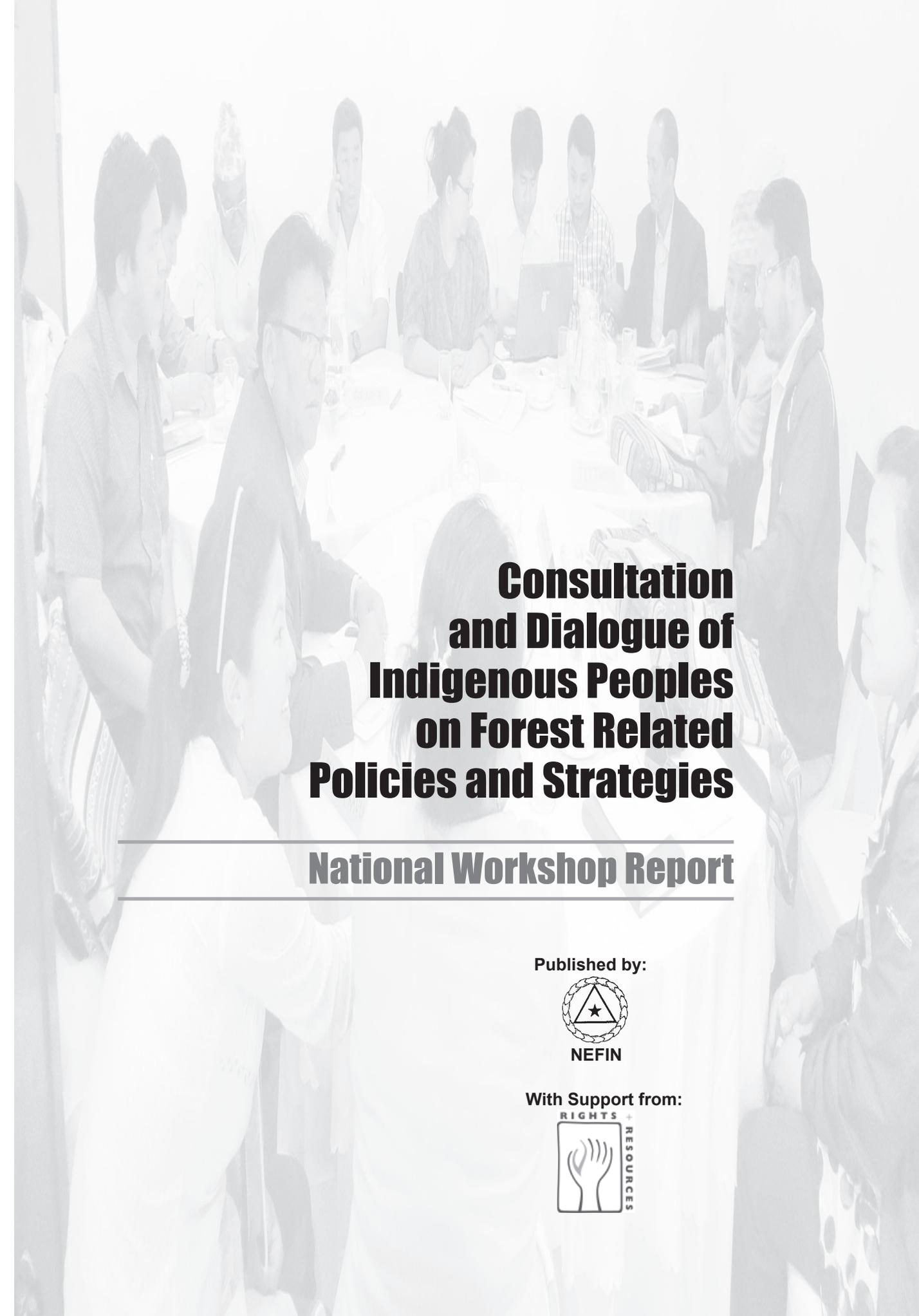
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## **National Workshop Report**

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Published by:



NEFIN

With Support from:



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## Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACOFUN	Association of Collaborative Forest Users' Nepal
CBD	Convention of Biodiversity
CBMIS	Community Based Monitoring and Information System
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CFUGs	Community Forests User Groups
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCC	District Coordination Council
D&D	Drivers of Deforestation
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Officer
ERP	Emission Reduction Project
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
FONIJ	Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Journalists
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FSS	Forestry Sector Strategy
GACF	Global Alliance of Community Forestry
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GoN	Government of Nepal
ICEM	International Centre for Environmental Management
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IPOs	Indigenous Peoples Organizations
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
IUCN	International Union Conservation for Conservation of Nature
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Action
LBSAP	Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
LCs	Local Communities
MPFS	Master Plan on Forestry Sector
MoFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MRV	Measuring, Reporting and Verification
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NBSIP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Implementation Plan
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NGO's	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIWF	National Indigenous Women's Federation
NPC	National Planning Commission
NTFPs	Non- Timber Forest Products
NSFNC	National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation Formulation Project
PES	Payment of Ecosystem Services
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRIA	Prestige, Reputation, Identity and Access
PSC	Project Steering Committee
REDD	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RL/REL	Reference Level/Reference Emission Level
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SchEMS	School of Environmental Science and Management
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SMF	sustainable management of forests
UNCCC	United Nations Climate Change Conference
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People
USAID	US Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## Executive Summary

A three-day workshop initiated at the Hotel Annapurna on April 16<sup>th</sup> was to draft a strategy and a firm positioning paper based on forest related strategies particularly, in the ongoing process of developing Forestry Sector Strategy, National REDD Strategy of Nepal, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation in relationship with the Indigenous Peoples of Nepal. By presenting sector specialists in their respective fields to the IPs, they openly discussed the strategies and opened the floor for collecting feedbacks to be addressed while finalizing those policies/strategies that have direct and indirect impact on the IPs in Nepal.

The IPs share a connection with the forest that links them directly to their livelihoods and culture. By involving the IPs, the goal of the workshop was not only to understand the status of the many forest related policies/strategies currently being reviewed and formulated, but also to necessitate the Government of Nepal (GoN) to undertake effective measures to ensure and safeguard IPs rights in those forest related policies and strategies.

Representing the Government of Nepal were specialists from each sector who presented in detail about the development of strategic forest guidelines. Various methodologies and the history behind their framework were presented alongside the results that incurred. Also in discussion were the involvement and violation of the IPs regarding the destruction of forests. By lobbying for their rights, they were urged to

be involved in issues the GoN would otherwise not advocate. The push to actively pursue participation in such causes was urged to be taken beyond the national level and reach out to an international platform.

Four different groups were facilitated and an open discussion between the IPs and several other participants who were involved commenced. This was followed up by position papers prepared, reviewed, addressed and disseminated to all active members within representation of IPs' respective communities, GoN, INGOs, media and other relevant persons and organizations.

Finally, the workshop concluded with final remarks made by both IP activists and representatives of the GoN. Having been most affected by climate change and the close correlation that the IPs share with the forest was to be highlighted as valuable concerns and counsel that should not be neglected as they had in the past. The general consensus from both sides was that any framework of strategy and policies created by the GoN should involve the IPs due to their intrinsic relation between forest preservation and their fight for identity and rights.

This report covers detail presentations on forest related strategies and subsequent discussion under Part I. Part II contains group work for the preparation and presentation of IPs position on forest related strategies. Finally, Part III includes formal declaration of the IPs position paper on forest related strategies and its submission to relevant Ministries.

## Introduction

Like all the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the world, IPs in Nepal too share a common bond with their land, forests and its many natural resources. For the IPs in Nepal, their invariable connection with land and forests has more to do with their very identity and rights – epitomizing the essential features of their culture, heritage, livelihoods, topography and their whole survival- than with a mere political anxiety over controlling the resources and land. Because of their special relationship with the land, many indigenous peoples in Nepal have been advocating and fighting for the rights of IPs, both at the community and at the national levels. Like many governments in the world, traditional tenure systems, customary practices, right to ownership of resources and benefits related to forests and land are not recognized by the GoN, leaving indigenous peoples without formal rights to their territories. This violates the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples' Rights (UNDRIP) as well as International Labor Organisation (ILO) Convention 169 – both of which are signed by Nepal, placing a clear obligation on the GoN to legally recognize, distinguish and effectively protect indigenous peoples' territories and natural resources.

With these issues in context, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), an umbrella organization of 56 Indigenous nationalities in Nepal, has been continuously fighting to ensure social, cultural, linguistic, and economic rights of the Indigenous peoples since its establishment in 1991. NEFIN has been working on Climate Change Program in partnership with TEBTEBBA, IWGIA and AIPP and is continuously advocating and

lobbying with relevant Government Agencies and other stakeholders for its full and effective participation in the decision making process, particularly to ensure the rights of IPs while developing the national REDD strategy. Since the GoN has already started developing other relevant strategies on forest, biodiversity and conservation, it is extremely crucial for the IPs to be engaged in the process and provide pertinent timely feedbacks. The time was fitting for NEFIN to organize a national level consultation workshop regarding IPs stance on other forest, biodiversity and conservation strategies that the GoN is currently reviewing. Hence, with the generous support from Rights and Resources Initiatives (RRI), a three day consultation and dialogue of Indigenous Peoples on forest related strategies program was conducted. This program was jointly organized by RRI and NEFIN Climate Change Partnership Program.

### Objectives of the program

The objectives of the program, shared in detail by Pasang Dolma Sherpa, National Coordinator, NEFIN Climate Change Partnership Program, were as follows:

- 1) To conduct an interaction and consultation session between the IPs and the strategy makers in related forest strategies,
- 2) To identify and prepare position of the IPs in the strategy and to provide IPs recommendations in forest related strategies and policies,
- 3) To widely disseminate the position of IPs regarding forest related policies and strategies through mass media.

The program took place in Hotel Annapurna in Kathmandu from April 16–18, 2014 and was attended by 156 participants (Annex 2) from IPOs, Government, NGOs/INGOs, and other relevant stakeholders. The three day program mainly highlighted the following themes

- Day-1 Consultation and discussion on forest related strategies – forest, biodiversity, conservation, and REDD+
- Day-2 Preparation of IPs position paper in forest related strategies
- Day-3 Submission and dissemination of IPs Position paper in forest related strategies to the relevant Ministries

### Opening Statement

In the opening statement, Mr. Nagendra Kumar Kumal, Chairperson, NEFIN, stated that the federation had been working in contemporary issues and rights of the IPs and has organized many programs accordingly. The current 3-day program was one among it. The program was important, as the IPs had been very close to the nature and its resources. He expressed his

gratitude to everyone helping the federation in achieving its objective and also focused the need and importance of the consultation of IPs in the forest related strategies and policies. Finally, he reminded that their movement was for identity-based rights, identity for equality, and equality for a strong, sustainable development.

The inauguration speech was followed by a short introductory session, where everyone disclosed their name, place and designation.

### Presentation, consultation and discussion session on forest related strategies

Dr. Pasang Sherpa and Mr. Khim Ghale moderated the presentation sessions. Dr. Sherpa mentioned about the review of Master Plan on Forestry Sector (MPFS) and the ongoing process of 10-year forestry strategy of the GoN. The three-day program was conducted to have a discussion on the strategies between the strategy formulators and IPOs. He also mentioned that the GoN was reviewing the long term MPFS and considering various other factors as basis while formulating a ten-year forestry sector strategy.

## Overview of Forest related Policies and Strategies in Nepal

The session introduced the IPs with forest related policies and strategies, thereby consulting them in their relevant issues to draft a solid position paper. The major forest related strategies were divided into four categories and presented by related sector specialists from the GoN. The review of the expired strategies, framework of a new strategy and its target were highlighted. The participants were provided with full space to have an open discussion on the strategies. IPs expressed their special concerns and actively participated in the consultation program to safeguard their rights. Forests related strategies and policies are critical to them as their existence is interlinked with the natural resources.

Dr. Keshav Kanel and Dr. Dhruva Acharya jointly presented the details on the forest sector strategy. Dr. Kanel, a forest specialist in the development of Master Plan on Forestry Sector (MPFS), presented one half of the

strategy, relating to its background, bases, major findings, framework and the development process. The MPFS started in 1988 and expired by 2011, with a life span of more than 20 years. At present, a team led by Dr. Kanel, consists of sector specialists such as Dr. Dhruva Acharya, Dr. Binod Bhatta, and Ms. Madhu Ghimire. The importance of including every sector and satisfying the stakeholders involved is essential in the strategy formulation process that would otherwise remain a basic report of the consultants.

Dr. Acharya, a consultant specialist on Forestry Sector Strategy (FSS), presented the remaining part of the strategy. Highlighting the theory of change and explaining how the strategy was transformed into a broad framework with the help of active participation of stakeholders and by introducing the concepts like Public Private Partnership (PPP) for forest management, sustainable bio-diversity, environmental

conservation, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and poverty reduction. He stated that generally, developed countries prefer a simple framework policy, whereas underdeveloped nations are prone to complex and long strategy parameters, therefore their objective is to combine the strategic guidelines in a simple but medium volume. The major milestones of these policies are a six fold increase in the employment generation, a ten fold increase in timber production, and a significant 17% increase in community based forestry.

Ms. Nirmala Singh Bhandari, Gender Focal Person and assistant forest officer, REDD Forestry and Climate Change Cell, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), presented the National REDD Strategy in Nepal. Officials from Regional and District based Government Line Agencies, representatives from the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal, other civil society organizations, representatives from different international and national NGOs, various donors and independent REDD+ experts provided inputs to the draft strategy during the Regional Level Consultation Workshops held in Pokhara, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj and a central level stakeholder consultation workshop in Kathmandu. The Framework was developed with collaboration

and technical support from World Wildlife Fund/Hariyo Ban Program, funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) are the important tools used during the implementation of REDD+ mechanism in Nepal.

Mr. Braj Kishor Yadav, Joint Secretary - focal person of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), MoFSC, presented the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan draft (2014-2020). The draft was prepared to review the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) 2002 and National Biodiversity Strategy and Implementation Plan (NBSIP) 2006. The present strategy and action plan draft is at the recommendation phase. It is expected to be complete by June 2014.

Finally, Dr. Yam Malla, Country representative of IUCN, Nepal presented the National nature conservation strategy which covered the topics like background, methodology, process used and to be used, present status of the project, etc. The concept of National Adaptation Program Action (NAPA), Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) and other bio-diversity policies were also highlighted. The emphases on these guidelines are essential to all citizens of Nepal and furthermore provided a pedestal for IPs to engage in present policies.

## MPFS Review and Forestry Sector Strategy Development

Dr. Keshav Kanel, Consultant Team Leader on Forestry Sector Strategy (FSS) and Dr. Dhruva Acharya, Consultant on FSS

### Background

Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS 1989) was prepared during 1986-1988 and approved by the GoN in 1989. MPFS provides a 25-year policy and planning framework in forestry in Nepal.

The long-term objectives of the forestry sector according to MPFS are 1) to meet the people's basic needs for forest products on a sustained basis, 2) to conserve ecosystems and genetic resources, 3) to protect land against degradation and other effects of ecological imbalance, and 4) to contribute to local and national economic growth.

### Review and key findings of MPFS (12+2) programs

MPFS has laid out 6 primary programs for forestry sector, putting greater emphasis on community and private forestry' development program. After reviewing the main components of the program which included 1) Management of national forests and enrichment planting of degraded forests, both as Community forests and as establishment and management of community forests in open and degraded areas; 2) Distribution of free or subsidized seedlings to encourage the establishment of private tree farms; and 3) Promotion of the use of fuel -efficient stoves by supporting their development, production and distribution, the following Key findings were built in.

### A. Management and Utilization of Forest Resources and Conservation of Biodiversity

- Participatory approaches have proved to be highly effective for ensuring local commitment, local benefits and local awareness of plans and processes.
- Improved growing stock (particularly in community forests).
- A critical factor for the success of Community Forests is that Community Forests User Groups (CFUGs) and other forest user groups can operate as autonomous, independent and self-governing entities.
- A large part of the government-managed forest estate lacks effective forest management and stakeholder participation.
- Poaching and illegal trade in forest products continues to be a critical issue.
- Successes in biodiversity conservation can have adverse impacts (e.g. human wildlife conflict)
- Balance of natural resource conservation with the needs of development is required.

### B. Policy and Legal Framework

- The policy framework must be backed up by supportive legislation.
- Policy process is critical.
- Other sector policies and laws affect the forestry sector.
- Various government orders, directives and regulations are inconsistent with forest policy and laws.
- Implications of the Local Self

Governance Act (1999) need to be considered.

- The application of Environmental Regulations for the forestry sector needs to be reviewed.

### **C. Forestry Sector Institutions**

- A constraint for most programs is a lack of specialty staff.
- The strongly protection-orientation and command and control attitude of MFSC administration has not shifted significantly.
- Government forestry institutions are characterized by weak management and outdated HR systems.
- Forestry sector institutions are becoming increasingly diverse.
- MoFSC staffs are overburdened with administrative tasks.
- The sector lacks sufficient political engagement and support.

### **D. Forestry Sector's Contribution to Economic Development**

- Over-regulation and fiscal policy are constraints.
- Sufficient supplies of raw materials are not being generated from government-managed forests.
- There is a need for a stable regulatory environment to attract investment.
- Sources of finance for small-scale forest-based industries are inadequate.

- Commercial leasehold forestry didn't make progress and had wrong orientation.

### **E. Addressing Poverty and Social Exclusion**

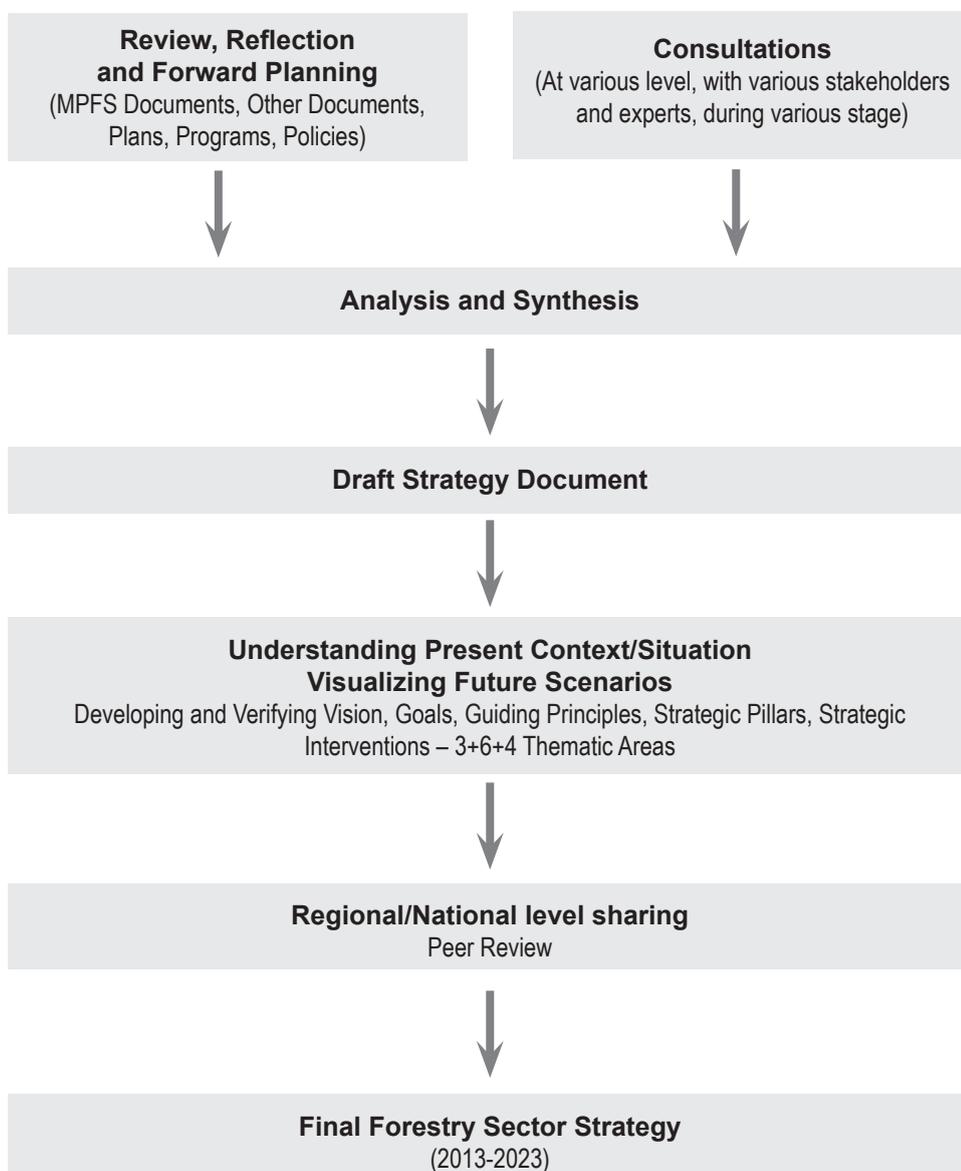
- The sector provides good opportunities for addressing poverty and social exclusion.
- There is still an imbalance in roles, responsibilities and powers.
- Governance is the key to addressing issues around poverty and social exclusion.
- Supportive regulations based on field-based learning can contribute to poverty reduction, gender and social inclusion.

### **F. Response to Climate Change Agenda**

- The forestry sector is critical to Nepal's climate change agenda.
- Strategic climate change processes need to be integral to Nepal's forestry sector strategy.
- REDD+ is fully compatible with forestry sector goals.
- Local forest groups provide a strong institutional base for community-based adaptation planning and implementation
- Climate Change is already affecting Nepal's forests

## Forestry Sector Strategy Development Process

### Strategy Development Process



## **Consultations for Forestry Sector Strategy**

- Inception workshops and sharing meeting
- Participation in workshops and meetings of different agencies (NEFIN, ACOFUN, GESI Strategy team, and GACF, etc)
- Wider consultations at users level, district, regional and central level (by FECOFUN and GESI team)
- Consultation workshops with various stakeholders (Frontline Staff, Representatives from Civil Society and Academic Institutions, Mid-level Professionals, Representatives from Public and Private Enterprises, Policy Level Officials)

## **Forestry Sector Strategy**

Dr. Dhruva Acharya, Member of the current forest strategy development team

The strategy is developed with a vision to identify the potentials of forest ecosystems and watersheds and to fully optimize them for the inhabitant's prosperity. Likewise, the primary goal of the strategy is to sustainably manage the forest ecosystems and watersheds at a landscape level to increase income, generate employment and form an inclusive system through a decentralized, and capable governed forestry sector.

## **Key Features of Forestry Sector Strategy (FSS)**

### **1. The nature of forestry sector strategy**

This strategy is different from that of MPFS in terms of its content and structure. MPFS covered the long-term prospects with a broad line framework, however the FSS is a shorter document and does not encompass all the policies. The MoFSC has established a separate forest entity to finance sustainable forest management. It is flexible enough to cope with uncertainties and focuses on increasing forest products and services, value addition, and job creation. The strategy also focuses to enhance capacity building, research management, supervision, impact assessment, and a productive operational environment.

## **2. Management of Forest Resources**

The strategy would develop a forest land-use strategy and identify the most appropriate management modality for each patch of forest. All the forest areas under different management modalities would be brought under the remit of a single management plan. The forests would also be managed promoting an intensive sustainable management and harvesting of forests in good condition. Likewise, strengthening of regulatory environment will be considered to enable residual national forests to be managed under lease or PPP.

## **3. Forestry sector contribution to economic development**

To contribute the economy of the nation, more emphasis will be given on harnessing the potentials of forest ecosystem and commercialization of forest products. Special focus would be given on creating sustainable jobs, cash incomes and legitimate forest based enterprises that will benefit poor people and disadvantaged groups. Similarly, the promotion of private sector would be done to identify viable investment opportunities, sources of finance and provision of a stimulating and supportive enabling environment for investment and growth in the forestry sector.

## **4. Forest biodiversity and environmental conservation**

To conserve the forest biodiversity and environment, review of legal and policy framework in the post conflict political discourse of democratic society, inclusive governance and the state restructuring are a must. It is necessary to develop a holistic approach of managing human wildlife conflict. There should be diversification of new tourists areas in order to stop the pressure of visitors at particular places. Integration of soil and watershed conservation actions into the strategies and plans of other sectors and utilization of climate change adaptation funds for their implementation could prove beneficial in preserving the forest diversity and environmental conservation.

## **5. Gender equality and Social inclusion and poverty reduction (GESI)**

The issues of GESI are newly emerging concepts. Its importance is noticed and included

in every strategic framework. This strategy supports local forest user groups in governance and targeted actions to address the needs of the poor and socially disadvantaged members. It gives special attention on enhancing the capacity, competency, equitable access to resources and benefits, for the leadership of women, Dalit, indigenous, and marginalized groups. Strengthening of necessary legal provisions have been done to ensure the legal autonomy of local forestry groups to address gender, social inclusion and poverty reduction.

## 6. Forestry sector response to climate change

Nepal's REDD+ strategy is harmonized into the framework of FSS. Similarly, the use of local forest groups as implementers of local climate change adaptation plans and actions have been promoted. The building of climate resilient actions into management plans for forests under all management modalities have been practiced.

## 7. Forestry sector governance and administration

It is necessary to transform the MoFSC institutions so that:

- The capacity and potential of non-government and private sector is utilized properly.
- The administrative burden on government staff is reduced.
- Bureaucracy is minimized.
- Communication, management skills, and leadership capacity is developed in MoFSC, thus ensuring the positive image and performance of the forestry sector.

The Human Resource Development strategy should be revisited and implemented accordingly. It is also necessary to improve the gender and social balance within MoFSC institutions in accordance with GESI strategy.

### Strategic actions related to indigenous peoples and local communities

- Empower, enable and safeguard user groups' tenure security to access, manage, harvest, use, and sale of forest goods and services in a sustainable manner.
- Develop and revise operational guidelines of each category of community based forestry in consultation with relevant stakeholders based on adaptive learning.
- Develop/improve/design community friendly regulatory and financial incentive mechanisms/packages to optimize economic benefits and environmental services of community based forestry at each landscape level.
- Recognize community based forest management as a complement to REDD+ in reducing deforestation and degradation, and to enhancing forest and biodiversity.
- Develop payment mechanism for the production of other environmental services such as watershed and biodiversity conservation from community based forestry.
- Recognize the traditional and customary use rights of specific groups, and the specific needs of vulnerable groups (such as minority Janajati<sup>1</sup> group of people who depend on forests such as Chepang, Rautes and Kusundas, Dalit, landless people, disaster victims, disabled and so on) and make provisions with defined rights and duties.
- Ensure proportional inclusion and representation of economically poor and socially marginalized group of people based on gender, caste, ethnicity, origin and remoteness at all levels of leadership and decision making processes.
- Recognize community based forest management as a complement to REDD+ in reducing deforestation and degradation, and to enhancing forest and biodiversity.
- Develop payment mechanism for the production of other environmental services such as watershed and biodiversity conservation from community based forestry.
- Recognize the traditional and customary use rights of specific groups, and the specific needs of vulnerable groups (such as minority Janajati group of people who depend on forests such as Chepang, Rautes and Kusundas, Dalit<sup>2</sup>, landless people, disaster victims, disabled and

1. Janajati group of Nepal refers to Indigenous Peoples of Nepal

2. Chepang, Rautes and Kusundas are all different and disadvantaged indigenous groups whereas Dalits are socially disadvantaged group of Nepal

so on) and make provisions with defined rights and duties.

- Ensure proportional inclusion and representation of economically poor and socially marginalized groups of people based on gender, caste, ethnicity, origin and remoteness at all levels of leadership and decision making processes.

### **Major Milestones of the Forestry Sector Strategy (FSS):**

- Six fold increase in the employment generation in the forestry sector (from 200,000 person years to 1.2 million person years).
- Ten fold increase in the current production of timber for commercial purpose (from 120,000 cubic meter per annum to 1.2 million)
- Increase the percentage of forest handover to community based forestry in aggregation from 33% to 50%.
- Triple the supply of processed NTFPs and MAPs

### **Monitoring and evaluation type**

There will be a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the development of the strategy. The outcome level indicators will be identified with milestones. Similarly, there is provision for an independent mid-term evaluation of FSS

### **Reflections from discussion<sup>3</sup> on forest sector strategy**

IPs' issues are related to basic human rights and therefore mandatory to be considered by the

state. The FPIC at the local level are essential and thus a targeted group that should be addressed specifically. In the present context, a strategy or policy ignoring the issues of IPs won't be accepted. The representation of the IPs should be on a proportional basis. There must be an inclusive participation in all the decision making process. Hence the consultations with the IPOs in the relevant issues are significant. GoN has accepted this fact and followed a proportional, inclusive and federal structural system. It has made special provisions for proportional representation through empowerment building and quota reservation techniques.

The GoN is committed to implement the strategies as per the national and international obligations. It cannot neglect the issues of local communities as well as IPs while making forest related policies and strategies. However, the procedure of making random acts without analyzing future prospects should be stopped. A strong bargaining capacity is necessary to make developed countries compensate for disturbing the ecological balance and leaving negative climate change impacts globally.

3. In depth question answer discussion session was held after each presentation (detail in annex 3)

## National REDD Strategy of Nepal

Ms. Nirmala Singh Bhandari, Gender Focal Person and assistant forest officer, , REDD Forestry Climate Change Cell, MoFSC

### Background and Basis of Framework Development

The focus on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+), has rapidly moved from a global approach to a more national and local framework. More than 40 countries are presently engaged in REDD+ readiness preparation through studies, institutional reforms, capacity development, dialogues and consultations. A key milestone in the readiness preparation process is the formulation of a national REDD+ strategy.

The national REDD+ strategy defines how participant countries plan to reduce emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation increase forest carbon stocks, and leverage carbon credits paid through global financial markets. The strategy provides the opportunity to develop policies and modalities for institutions, governance mechanisms, and implementation to achieve both REDD+ and domestic development objectives. This helps to outline how countries can address domestic issues underpinning development, such as allocation of resources, poverty, slow economic growth, and poor governance. The strategy also provides a set of actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance forest carbon stocks from other REDD+ activities.

While there is no standard guideline for the development of a national REDD+ strategy, a review of the literature reveals the importance of evaluating and analyzing the following elements: i) drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and the underlying causes; ii) available range of strategy options to address these drivers; and iii) policies, institutions, and governance mechanisms that can be reformed, coordinated and synergized to effectively address the drivers while linking these efforts to meeting national development objectives. The national REDD+ strategy also needs to support the policy and institutional frameworks for the establishment and operationalization of systems and modalities deemed crucial for REDD+ strategy implementation. The key elements integral to the national REDD+ strategy include: forest reference level/reference emissions level (RL/REL); monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system; financing mechanism; assessing and addressing social and environmental safeguards; clarification of forest tenure and carbon rights; and ensuring equity in benefit sharing mechanisms.

Nepal submitted a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in 2010, and is fully engaged in the REDD+ readiness process. FCPF published a readiness progress factsheet of March 2012 for Nepal. Key areas in which work is progressing in Nepal include: strategic analysis, carbon ownership, development of a reference emissions level (REL), and development of an MRV system. Each of these on-going efforts aims to contribute to the development of Nepal's national REDD+

strategy. The development of this framework structure also represents a critical element of the readiness preparation process. The framework structure is being pursued under the five-year project funded by USAID titled “HARIYO BAN PROGRAM”, which is being implemented by WWF Nepal and a consortium of partners.

In this report, the consolidated framework structure of Nepal’s national REDD+ strategy and the elaborated framework structure is described. The elaborated framework structure attempts to clarify the intent of the national REDD+ strategy, explain the basic requirements derived from a literature review, and further build upon the elements planned or documented in the R-PP. The draft framework structure was presented in regional consultation meetings in Pokhara, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj. After each consultation meeting, improvements in the document were made based on the outcomes of the regional consultations. In addition, a refined framework structure was presented in the national level consultation in Kathmandu, which also provided valuable input.

## **Guiding Features of Nepal's REDD+ Strategy**

### **Introduction**

The section defines and conceptualizes the key aspects fundamental to Nepal’s national REDD+ strategy, and the basis for its development and implementation. It projects a vision of 10-15 year period to improve the forest ecosystems and make successful efforts in climate change mitigation, improved socio-economic status of forest dependent people, and demonstrate enhanced capacities of local forest managers. It also relates to enhance human and technological capacities, including effective and efficient institutional and governance structures and mechanisms.

### **Guiding Principles**

The national REDD+ strategy will need to capture Nepal’s specific geo-political, ecological, environmental and socio-economic realities. This will need to align with the overall sustainable development priorities of the country. The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) currently being implemented has

adopted basic underlying principles that are reflected in the points below. These and other relevant points agreed to throughout the course of the formulation of the REDD+ strategy are proposed to be included as guiding principles.

- 1) National REDD+ strategy remains fully in line with the overall development strategy of Nepal to meet the dual objective of sustainable management of forests (SMF) and poverty alleviation.
- 2) Follows effective participatory and consultative process.
- 3) Fully values and captures the benefits of Nepal’s diverse forest ecosystems in the context of REDD+.
- 4) Recognizes that forest ecosystems play a vital role in adaptation to climate change and the possible climate change mitigation through REDD+.
- 5) Ensures multi-stakeholder involvement in all aspects of REDD+, utilizes relevant stakeholder capacity and contributes to further capacity enhancement in the context of REDD+.
- 6) Ensures social, environmental and economic safeguards in the process of implementing REDD+.
- 7) Ensures equity in benefit sharing by clarifying the issues related to land tenure, forest use rights and carbon ownership rights.
- 8) Establishes mechanisms for effective coordination at local, sub-national and national levels among the relevant beneficiaries and sectors, and at the international level with development partners and financing agencies/institutions.
- 9) Ensures that double counting of carbon credits is avoided.
- 10) Develops appropriate national forest information and monitoring system.

### **Implementation Approach**

The implementation of a national REDD+ strategy aims to eliminate the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, boost forest restoration and conservation measures,

and promote sustainable management of forests to enhance forest carbon stock. This will require improving existing policies and implementing innovative measures within the forestry sector and related sectors. Because Nepal has successfully implemented different community based and collaborative forest management modalities, a multi-level multi-stakeholder approach for REDD+ actions and a multi-sectoral approach for innovating and implementing policy measures will be instrumental.

### **REDD+ Strategy Preparation**

This strategy is prepared through various levels of assessment on closely related elements of REDD+. This assessment is on the basis of complete analysis on recent historical land use trends, relevant land tenure, associated governance issues, and existing governance structures and mechanisms.

#### **A detailed procedure for participation in programs**

Meaningful participation of all stakeholders at all levels is integral to inclusive and democratic governance. Women and socially and economically marginalized people are often illiterate and hesitant to express their concerns and perspectives even when given the opportunity to participate. Participation will be promoted in the following ways:

1. Implementing REDD+ interventions and actions, and monitoring the progress
2. Executing and monitoring the revenue disbursement
3. Monitoring emissions and removals
4. Execution and monitoring of financial transactions

In order to ensure women, socially and economically marginalized people, indigenous people, and forest dependent groups actively participate, and for the economically elite to make room for these groups to participate, it is crucial that minimum basic norms and procedures are available and strictly observed by all parties. Such an arrangement has to have an element of positive discrimination to ensure inclusiveness in participation is guaranteed. The proposed legal arrangement (act or regulation) needs to have a section on participation that

clarifies the meaning in the context of REDD+ and which sets detailed procedures to ensure proportionate and equitable participation.

Given the involvement of various stakeholders with varied interests at different levels in REDD+, conflicts are likely at different stages of REDD+ activity implementation. Such conflicts will need to be mediated, mitigated and resolved at an early stage. For this purpose, there needs to be an appropriate institutional mechanism embedded in the institutions and systems at all levels. It will also require standard procedure to tackle the conflict. Such a procedure will need to be framed, consulted and finalized to be included in the act/law or regulations.

### **Group Work Outcomes**

- 1) Stakeholders for benefit sharing at different levels should be:
  - At central/federal government level: Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
  - At regional/provincial level: Regional/provincial level government
  - At local and user level: DFO, DDC, VDC and the users/managers of forests
- 2) Benefit sharing mechanism
  - Those directly involved, e.g., indigenous peoples and CFUGs, should get direct monetary or non-monetary benefits
  - Rights holders and stakeholders should be properly defined. Rights holders should get 70% of the benefit whereas the stakeholders should get 30%.
- 3) The minimum procedural norm should follow a multi-stakeholder approach that is government led.

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Development of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for Nepal's REDD+ Strategy

### **Introduction**

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is

evolving as a means to reduce forest sector carbon emissions through forest management and forest governance improvements in forestry and related sectors. The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is assisting Nepal with financial and technical support to develop and apply strategies to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Nepal is one of the countries participating in the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Fund and is currently implementing the REDD+ Readiness Programme. As a part of this process, a consultancy consortium has been engaged to undertake a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of the REDD+ Strategy and develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The consortium members are the International Centre for Environmental Management (ICEM), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the School of Environmental Science and Management (SchEMS), affiliated to Pokhara University.

## **Consultations and Stakeholder Participation**

Consultations to gather views on REDD+ Strategy Options and perspectives on issues in forestry, and also to identify available data and sources, were undertaken at two levels: national and district – engaging with key relevant government ministries and agencies, private sector bodies, NGOs and civil society organizations and community-based organizations (including those representing marginalized and disadvantaged groups).

## **Potential Environmental and Social Impacts of Implementing the Strategic Options**

The table below respectively summarizes the key environmental and social impacts likely to arise through initiatives, actions and projects to implement the 14 strategic options. These will all be cumulative effects. But these represent the primary effects. There will also be secondary, tertiary and additional impacts that form a complex impact web and which compound the cumulative impacts furthermore.

## Summary of environmental impacts of implementing the strategic options for REDD+

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<p><b>Improved Rights and Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved rights &amp; access to land / forests</li> <li>• Increased supply of, access to, &amp; value of forest products</li> <li>• Improved benefit-sharing</li> <li>• Improved market access / surplus products for markets</li> <li>• Better access to forest products / NTFP</li> </ul> <p><b>Improved Livelihood and Poverty Reduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved health</li> <li>• Poverty reduction</li> <li>• Investment in alternative livelihoods</li> <li>• Improved livelihoods, income, economic opportunities, enterprise development</li> <li>• Increased employment</li> <li>• Potential for cooperatives</li> <li>• Improved food security</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Inclusion and Gender Empowerment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment</li> <li>• Increased voice for women / powerless</li> <li>• Social inclusion (gender balance)</li> <li>• Reduced workload/drudgery (women)</li> <li>• Gender friendly technology introduced</li> <li>• Reduced social gaps</li> </ul> <p><b>Increased Participation, Knowledge and Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain/strengthened cultural norms/ services</li> <li>• Increased knowledge / capacity for forest management</li> <li>• Increased use of local, indigenous/ &amp; traditional knowledge &amp; practices</li> <li>• Increased participation / ownership</li> <li>• Environmental &amp; social awareness</li> <li>• Strengthened local organizations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Exclusion and Displacement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusion of landless, poor &amp; marginalized, evicted, loss of land/ property</li> <li>• Social exclusion</li> <li>• Exclusion/devaluation of women</li> <li>• Exclusion/elimination of cultural / spiritual values &amp; traditional practices</li> <li>• Ignoring/displacing traditional/ indigenous knowledge</li> <li>• Small farmers &amp; local enterprises out-competed, displaced</li> </ul> <p><b>Leading to Inequity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequity in benefit-sharing (loss of)</li> <li>• Elite capture (of resources, benefits, access, etc.)</li> <li>• Inequitable/loss of access to forest resources/products</li> <li>• Increased costs (transaction, labour, time)</li> <li>• Land grabbing</li> </ul> <p><b>Loss of Livelihood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced food production</li> <li>• Loss of/ limited access to, employment</li> <li>• Loss of livelihoods, income, economic opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Loss of Authority/Autonomy and Induced Risk and Dependency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of user/traditional rights, or access to forest products &amp; resources</li> <li>• Health risks</li> <li>• Lack of awareness / information</li> <li>• Not accessible to poor, marginalized (cant afford)</li> <li>• Dependence on external inputs</li> <li>• Monopolies setting prices (e.g. timber)</li> <li>• Token participation</li> <li>• Politicization of community decisions</li> </ul>

<p><b>Enhanced Accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced corruption / bribery</li> <li>• Reduced conflict</li> <li>• Reduced illegal activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Conflict and Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence against women</li> <li>• Conflict</li> <li>• Human-wildlife conflict</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improved Rights and Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved rights &amp; access to land / forests</li> <li>• Increased supply of , access to, &amp; value of forest products</li> <li>• Improved benefit-sharing</li> <li>• Improved market access / surplus products for markets</li> <li>• Better access to forest products / NTFP</li> </ul> <p><b>Improved Livelihood and Poverty Reduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved health</li> <li>• Poverty reduction</li> <li>• Investment in alternative livelihoods</li> <li>• Improved livelihoods, income, economic opportunities, enterprise development</li> <li>• Increased employment</li> <li>• Potential for cooperatives</li> <li>• Improved food security</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Inclusion and Gender Empowerment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment</li> <li>• Increased voice for women / powerless</li> <li>• Social inclusion (gender balance)</li> <li>• Reduced workload/drudgery (women)</li> <li>• Gender friendly technology introduced</li> <li>• Reduced social gaps</li> </ul> <p><b>Increased Participation, Knowledge and Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain/strengthened cultural norms/ services</li> <li>• Increased knowledge / capacity for forest management</li> <li>• Increased use of local, indigenous/ &amp; traditional knowledge &amp; practices</li> <li>• Increased participation / ownership</li> <li>• Environmental &amp; social awareness</li> <li>• Strengthened local organizations</li> </ul> <p><b>Enhanced Accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced corruption / bribery</li> <li>• Reduced conflict</li> <li>• Reduced illegal activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Exclusion and Displacement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusion of landless, poor &amp; marginalized eviction, loss of land/ property</li> <li>• Social exclusion</li> <li>• Exclusion/devaluation of women</li> <li>• Exclusion/elimination of cultural / spiritual values &amp; traditional practices</li> <li>• Ignoring/displacing traditional/ indigenous knowledge</li> <li>• Small farmers &amp; local enterprises out-competed, displaced</li> </ul> <p><b>Leading to Inequity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequity in benefit-sharing (loss of)</li> <li>• Elite capture (of resources, benefits, access, etc.)</li> <li>• Inequitable/loss of access to forest resources/products</li> <li>• Increased costs (transaction, labour, time)</li> <li>• Land grabbing</li> </ul> <p><b>Loss of Livelihood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced food production</li> <li>• Loss of/ limited access to, employment</li> <li>• Loss of livelihoods, income, economic opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Loss of Authority/Autonomy and Induced Risk and Dependency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of user/traditional rights, or access to forest products &amp; resources</li> <li>• Health risks</li> <li>• Lack of awareness / information</li> <li>• Not accessible to poor, marginalized (can't afford)</li> <li>• Dependence on external inputs</li> <li>• Monopolies setting prices (e.g. timber)</li> <li>• Token participation</li> <li>• Politicization of community decisions</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Conflict and Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence against women</li> <li>• Human-wildlife conflict</li> </ul>

## Conclusions derived from the implementation of strategy

### General

It is inconceivable that a REDD+ strategy on its own can bring about the changes in governance and social behavior that will be necessary to guarantee that activities and projects are carried out as planned. REDD+ will need to be integrated with a much broader legislative and policy reform, general awareness-raising strategies, attitude changes and strengthened institutional capacities. Overall the REDD+ approach has been positive, although there are pros and cons regarding environmental and social implications. Perverse negative environmental and social feedbacks are likely if REDD+ options are not implemented effectively, efficiently and equitably.

### Environmental

With a REDD+ strategy in place, it is assumed that there will be equitable access to forest resources (including disadvantaged groups) – but a side effect is that such increased access may lead to further forest degradation, exacerbated even more by increased population pressure. Practices such as silviculture, plantation of trees and compensatory plantation prioritize social and economical benefits over the ecological benefits. Only those species are promoted which have a higher social, economic or medicinal value, as well as fast growing multipurpose species. As a result, such management practices could result in a decline in forest diversity. Tourism is seen as a sustainable mechanism to finance the management of protected areas. However, some protected areas have been criticized for prioritizing tourism over biodiversity conservation (e.g. Annapurna Conservation Area, Chitwan National Park, Sagarmatha National Park). Therefore, it is important to strike a balance between biodiversity conservation

and tourism where the latter is promoted in protected areas.

Climate change will undoubtedly have an impact on forests. General models predict higher temperatures in the lower altitudes and drier conditions throughout the country. This will have an impact on the distribution, composition and productivity of forests over time. But models are very general and no precise predictions regarding this can be made in this SESA. It is estimated that Nepalese forests are lost at a rate of 2% annually, highlighting that forests are not a renewable resource. A few well-intended objectives such as the promotion of efficient fuel wood usage might further aggravate forest loss. Whilst a well-meaning objective, the promotion of efficient use of fuelwood might further aggravate forest loss. Furthermore, alternate energy sources – hydropower and biogas - also result in various levels of deforestation.

### Social

Forestry remains closely associated with the livelihoods of the majority of people; and forestry and agriculture are intimately linked. REDD+ options aim to provide equitable benefit-sharing which genuinely reaches all eligible community households. If this is implemented effectively and equitably, it will eliminate a range of conflicts that currently exists between classes (haves and have-nots), ethnic groups, men and women, close and distant users, etc. The adoption of REDD+ international standards for participation, inclusion and informed decisions will enhance the empowerment of local communities, particularly women, IPs, Dalits and other forest dependent poor and marginalized groups – and this will help to alleviate the negative impacts they frequently endure from being excluded. Furthermore, the

establishment and strengthening of (gender-sensitive) mechanisms to address grievances will ensure an increased voice for the powerless in general, and for women in particular. Women, poor, IPs, Dalits and marginalized people are generally landless having only usufruct rights to land and forests. When carbon rights and benefits-sharing are tied to land and forest ownership; it can result in the exclusion of these groups, limiting their access to forests and benefits. Hence, alternative mechanisms of providing carbon rights and benefit-sharing are needed so that these groups benefit from the REDD+ programme and do not lose their usufruct rights to land and forests.

To address the possibility of gender discrimination against women and social exclusion of IPs, Dalits, poor and other marginalized groups, the application of the Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy should be mandatory in REDD+ programs. GESI training should be required for personnel at all levels, from policy-making to programme formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Furthermore,

GESI orientation should devolve to the community level to eliminate social conflicts that could arise when implementing REDD+.

### **Reflections from discussions on National REDD+ Strategy of Nepal**

There has been a drastic change in Nepal since the submission of the concept of REDD+ in 2010. Most of the emerging issues have not been addressed yet. It is necessary indeed to include the multi-stakeholders in the strategies. Misuse of funds should be corrected and the budget-fund distribution model should be transparent. Women from indigenous communities should be given more priority than the vulnerable and marginalized groups. An easy access to Information Communication Technology (ICT) is a must in order to safeguard the right to information. The project bidding process and brokerage contracts should be made transparent. There must be FPIC from the related communities on relevant issues before formulating policies or strategies.

## National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Mr. Braj Kishor Yadav, Joint Secretary, MoFSC,

### Introduction

The national biodiversity strategy reflects the country's vision for biodiversity and the broad policies and institutional measures that the country will take to fulfill the objectives of the Convention, while the action plan comprises the concrete actions to be taken to achieve the strategy. In Nepal, biodiversity is closely linked to the livelihoods and economic well being of millions of rural people who directly depend on natural resources for meeting their daily subsistence needs and cash income. The subject touches upon many aspects, including agricultural productivity, food security, human health and nutrition, indigenous knowledge, gender equality, culture, climate, water resources and aesthetic value to the society. The country's biodiversity is also an important source of revenue to the government.

The government had prepared and implemented Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) in 2002 and Nepal Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan (NBSIP) in 2006. Useful experience and lessons have been learnt from their implementation. Moreover, substantial changes have taken place in the socio-political and environmental contexts of the country over the last decade. Several themes and issues (e.g. climate change, gender and social inclusion) have gained prominence after 2002. In view of these changes, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation has prepared this revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) with technical support of the Kathmandu Forestry College, and funding

support of the Global Environment Facility made available to the Ministry through United Nations Environment Programme.

The NBSAP is a guiding framework for management of Nepal's biodiversity. It is prepared to meet the national needs for managing biodiversity on a sustainable basis for the benefit of the present and future generations and also to fulfill the country's international obligations. It has a long-term (i.e. 35 years) vision, and includes medium-term (15 years) strategic goals, and short-term (up to 2020) priorities for actions and plans.

### Structure of NBSAP

The NBSAP contains seven chapters, including: (i) introduction, (ii) the national context, (iii) threats to biodiversity in Nepal, (iv) efforts to manage biodiversity and key outcomes, (v) strategy for management of biodiversity, (vi) arrangements for implementation of the strategy, and (vii) framework for local biodiversity strategy and action plan. The description and analysis of past efforts and achievements, and formulation of strategies and actions are focused around six thematic areas and sectors: (a) protected areas, (b) forests outside protected areas, (c) rangelands, (d) wetlands, (e) agriculture, and (f) mountains. Cross-cutting themes, such as livelihoods, governance, gender and social inclusion, and climate change impacts and adaptations have been dealt with separately.

The strategic goals, specific strategies and priority actions have been clustered into the six themes and prioritized by taking into account the links between them and by reference

to key biodiversity issues and threats. The relation of each of the strategic goals with the CBD's 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets included in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 has been explicitly mentioned, which will make monitoring of the progress easier. The strategies also attempt to address the Millennium Development Goal of ensuring environmental sustainability. The arrangement for implementation of the strategy highlights the key aspects of institutional, capacity, technology, communication and extension, monitoring and reporting, and funding that are required for successful implementation of the NBSAP.

### **The National Context**

Nepal has tremendous geographic diversity that ranges from alluvial plains in the tropical lowlands to very rugged and permanently snow and ice covered Himalayan Mountains. The country can be divided into five major physiographic landscapes extending from east to west, namely the High Himal, High Mountains, Middle Mountains, Siwalik and Terai. The climate varies from alpine cold semi-desert type in the trans-Himalayan zone to tropical humid type in the Terai lowlands. The climate is predominantly influenced by three major factors namely the altitudinal variations, monsoon, and westerly disturbances. Four major Himalayan river systems, namely Koshi, Gandaki, Karnali and Mahakali, drain 73 percent of the country.

Forests, together with shrub lands, covered 39.6 percent of the country's land area in 1994. Agriculture and grasslands covered 21 percent and 12 percent, respectively. There are regional variations in terms of changes in forest conditions. The commercially and biologically valuable forests in the Terai lowlands and adjoining Siwalik Hills suffered from high rates of deforestation and degradation over the last four decades. More recent estimates, however, indicate a decreasing rate of forest loss in those regions (and Nepal). Forests in the Middle Mountains are, in general, better managed and in many places forest cover increased in recent years due mainly to the community forestry programme.

The diverse climatic and topographic conditions in the country have favored for maximum diversity of agricultural crops, their wild relatives, and animal species. Over 550 crop species are

identified as having food value, and around half of those species are believed to be currently under cultivation. The country's horticulture diversity includes 400 species and subspecies of horticultural crops, including 45 species of seasonal fruits. An estimated 200 species of vegetables, including 11 different local varieties of potatoes, are grown in the country. A total of 342 plants and 160 species of wild plants and animals have been reported as being endemic to the country. Of the 342 endemic plant species, 14 belong to tree and bamboo groups. The richness of endemic species increases steadily from low to high elevations. The high altitude rangelands are especially important from the perspective of endemism. Many species of plants and animals are threatened. This includes 55 species of wild mammals and 18 species of trees found in the mountains. Birds are among the most threatened group of fauna.

Nine species of plants, 55 mammals, 149 birds, and 64 herpes, two fauna are included in the IUCN Red List. Similarly, 154 species of plants, 52 mammals, 108 birds and 19 reptiles and three insects have been listed in the CITES Appendices. Several species of plants and animals, including 27 mammals, 9 birds, 14 angiosperms, and 4 gymnosperms have been declared as protected species by the government.

### **Efforts to Manage Biodiversity and Key Outcomes**

Government of Nepal, together with its development partners and local communities, made substantial efforts to conserve and sustainably use the country's biodiversity during the last decade. Some of the efforts and associated achievements relate to implementation of the strategies recommended by the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (2002) and Nepal Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan (2006), while many other achievements were made without reference to the Strategy or Implementation Plan.

Various enabling plans, policies and legislations have been developed and implemented to facilitate sustainable economic growth and further enhance participation of local communities in the management of biodiversity and natural resources. All the national development plans developed and

implemented since 2002 have some provisions related to biodiversity. Biodiversity has its place also in the Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007), which recognizes the right of every person to live in a clean environment as a fundamental right, and asks the government to make special arrangements for the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from it. The Constitution also obliges the state to pursue a policy aimed at identifying and protecting traditional knowledge, skills and practices. Policies and legislations relating to community based forest and protected area management have been effective in bringing success in the management of forest and protected areas. Moreover, a number of other sectoral policies have been formulated in recent past. The Herbs and Non-Timber Forest Products Policy (2006), Agro biodiversity Policy (2007), Tourism Policy (2009), Rangeland Policy (2012), Wetlands Policy (2012), and National Seed Vision (2013-2025) are examples. The Plant Protection Act (2007) can be taken as an important step towards controlling introduction of invasive alien plant species.

One of the major gaps in existing laws relates to sustainable utilization of biological resources and equitable sharing of the benefits accrued from conservation of genetic resources. The Genetic Resources (access, use and sharing of benefits) Bill and National Intellectual Property Policy, which were drafted in 2008 and 2012, respectively, still await approval. Lack of strategy to activate and capacitate local bodies (DDCs, VDCs, municipalities) for biodiversity management is another major gap. Lack of required legislation has also affected effective implementation of a number of multilateral environmental agreements concerning biodiversity conservation in which Nepal is a Party.

On the institutional front, establishment of high level committees, such as Climate Change Council and National Tiger Committee are some of the noteworthy recent efforts of the government. Initiatives taken to strengthen cooperation with China and India were some other good efforts aimed at curbing poaching and illegal trade of wildlife parts. Inadequate human, financial and technical capacities and excessive political pressure have negatively affected functioning of the government forestry institutions. Poor inter-agency coordination

and cooperation, and inadequate education, awareness and participation of the general public are some of the major gaps.

Community based forest management programmes, including community forestry, leasehold forestry, and collaborative forestry were substantially expanded during the last decade. The three programs combined cover over 30 percent of the national forest area at present. Those efforts helped abate loss and degradation of forests and even reversed the trend in many areas, particularly the Middle Mountains. The improvement in forest condition under community management is believed to have positively contributed to biodiversity. The medium of community forest user groups is also helping in inculcating spirit of democracy among the people, and has helped bring gender balance and social justice to some extent. Eight natural forests with high biodiversity value have been declared as protected forests since 2002. Implementation of the landscape management and Rastrapati (i.e. President) Chure Conservation Programme, reclamation and reforestation of encroached forestland, and initiatives to implementing REDD+ and PES are some other efforts of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation towards management of forests and forest biodiversity outside protected area.

The government has recognized the importance of dealing with the impacts of climate change that cross-cut several sectors and themes, including biodiversity. Development of National Adaptation Programme of Action and REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal in 2010, and Climate Change Policy in 2011 are some of the key strategic efforts of the government towards mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. A high level Climate Change Council chaired by the Prime Minister has been formed in 2009 to provide overall guidance in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Similarly, a multi-stakeholder Climate Change Initiatives Coordination Committee has been formed for coordinating climate change activities. Setting up of a REDD Cell at the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation; promotion of a clean and renewable energy for low carbon emissions, and piloting REDD+ are some other efforts made in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Poor understanding of impacts of climate change on species and

ecosystems, weak assessment and learning loop, inadequate capacity, weak forestry sector governance, lengthy administrative process in implementation of Clean Development Mechanism are some major gaps in effective implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

The following are some of the key lessons learned from management of biodiversity in Nepal: (a) meaningful participation of local communities in the management of natural resources is a key to ensuring success and sustainability of programme interventions, (b) landscape approaches could be more appropriate for addressing multiple drivers of biodiversity loss, (c) cooperation and collaboration among relevant agencies (government, I/NGOs, local communities) is crucial to achieve success in biodiversity conservation, (d) regional cooperation can be helpful to curb a trans boundary trade of wildlife parts and strengthening ecological security in trans boundary regions, (e) enabling policy is necessary to achieve the intended outcome and appropriate legislation is necessary in order to translate the policy pronouncements into practice, and (f) positive incentive measures, which promote conservation-friendly behaviors, are necessary to encourage local people in biodiversity conservation.

### **Strategy for Management of Biodiversity**

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is prepared with a long-term vision of prosperous Nepal where biological and cultural treasures are well protected, ecological systems are sound and well-functioning, local and indigenous peoples' legitimate rights over resources are ensured and livelihoods are enhanced and sustained. The overall goal is to significantly enhance the integrity of Nepal's ecological systems by 2025, thereby contributing to enhanced local livelihoods, human rights and sustainable development of the country. This is to be achieved through implementation of a number of sector specific and cross-sectoral strategies and priority actions. Eight principles underpin the strategy and 15 broad strategic approaches have been recommended to facilitate implementation of the strategy. The lessons learned from implementation of the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (2002) and Nepal

Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan (2006) provided the necessary context for formulating the new strategies and priorities for actions.

The specific strategies and associated actions are grouped into the six biodiversity themes and a number of cross-cutting subjects. The strategies for managing forest biodiversity aim at reducing or managing human pressures on natural resources, reducing climatic threats to ecosystems, species and their habitats, and addressing economic and social concerns of local and indigenous communities through targeted programs and enabling policy and legislative environment. Reducing the rate of loss and degradation of forest habitats, improving biological connectivity and species composition, enhancing knowledge and understanding about forests, promoting conservation of species and genetic diversities, enhancement of forest-based livelihoods are some of the specific focuses.

The strategies for management of rangeland biodiversity emphasize on improving knowledge understanding of rangeland ecology and biodiversity; development and implementation of integrated rangeland management plans and programs for improving conservation of rangeland biodiversity and enhancing the herders' livelihoods. The strategies for wetland biodiversity focus on effective conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources, and addressing the legislative gap and administrative ambiguities.

Improving and expanding the existing community based conservation and use of agricultural genetic resources; strengthening the national ex situ conservation programme; enhancing communication, education and public awareness; and promotion of indigenous traditional knowledge, skills and practices for conservation and use of agro biodiversity are some of the strategies for management of agro biodiversity.

Strategies for managing mountain biodiversity include: generating and strengthening knowledge on the ecology of mountain ecosystems; promoting alternative livelihoods opportunities; enhancing environmental governance to drive green economy; promoting public-private partnerships and regional cooperation; and

consolidating diverse funding mechanisms for biodiversity management, climate change, and sustainable development.

Some of the cross-sectoral strategies included in the report include: (i) designing and implementation of an integrated landscape management strategy that focuses on local, community-led actions to solve resource management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change challenges, (ii) enhancement of national capacity for biodiversity research, (iii) integration of biodiversity values into national and local policies, strategies plans and programs, (iv) educating society and business the importance of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, (v) promotion of transparency, accountability and multi-stakeholder approach at different levels, (vi) promoting synergies among biodiversity related international conventions, (vii) ensuring effective learning from the monitoring and evaluation processes and using the learning in decision making, and (viii) strengthening implementation mechanisms. Development of knowledge base to broaden temporal and spatial perspectives and possible risks of climate change on biodiversity; incorporation of climate change adaptation measures in the design and implementation of biodiversity management programs; implementation of REDD+ and PES and promotion of non-conventional energy sources, where feasible are some of the strategies for mitigation and adaption to the effects of climate change on biodiversity.

### **Arrangements for Implementation of the Strategy**

The arrangements for implementation of the strategy are focused on the institutional, capacity, technology, communication and extension, monitoring and evaluation, and funding aspects. The institutional arrangement plan has presented mechanisms for coordination and monitoring of biodiversity related plans, programs and activities at the national, district and local levels. The capacity enhancement plan has identified the strengths, gaps or constraints in capacity and recommended the needs for actions to enhance national capacity for improved management of biodiversity. The monitoring and evaluation plan includes a monitoring and evaluation mechanism and framework, and the plan for funding has identified cost categories and possible financing

mechanisms for successful implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The framework for Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) is to serve as a guide while preparing detailed and specific LBSAP by the VDCs and municipalities across the country for their own use. The framework outlines the process to be followed in development of the LBSAP; recommends specific strategies and actions for effective management of biodiversity at the local (VDC/municipality) level; and outlines monitoring and funding mechanisms.

### **Reflections from discussion on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**

While addressing the emerging issues, it is necessary to include the cultural issues, norms and values of the IPs too. The issues of IPs seem to be neglected in the action plan. They possess an inherent knowledge on the management of biodiversity. As such, there should be special provisions to protect their intellectual rights. Though the strategy primarily deals with bio diversity management, cultural issues of the IPs cannot be undermined. Their precious contribution in nature conservation and biodiversity management must be acknowledged and mentioned in the strategy.

IPs have deep association with the forests and natural resources in the form of social, economic and spiritual aspect. But unfortunately, adverse strategies of GoN, has endangered their survival. They have been deprived from enjoying tenure rights. Many forests and grazing lands have been registered in the name of industrialists and businessmen. The issues and identity of IPs is distinct from that of local communities, and hence they should not be linked with any local groups or NGOs/INGOs. They have a separate federation advocating their issues.

The mafia problems, criminalization of politics and politicization of crime are most often protected under the political influence. It poses a major threat and challenge in the effective implementation of the strategy. Such types of challenges and problems should be faced and tackled co-operatively. The program indicators should be more standard, scientific and effective.

## National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation

Dr. Yam Malla, Country representative of IUCN, Nepal.

### Background Information

In the 1980s, Nepal was among the pioneering countries to formulate a National Conservation Strategy. The 1988 National Conservation Strategy, developed by National Planning Commission (NPC) with technical cooperation of IUCN was well received in the country and recognized internationally among the scientific community and development practitioners. Nepal has then participated and is signatory to a number of international conferences and agreements including the United Nations Convention on Environment and Development, The Ramsar Convention, The UN Millennium Development Goals and ratified the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The objective of this framework was to cope up with the changed scenario in Nepal and to update the National Conservation Strategy (NCS), 1988. The updated strategy would also address new socio-economic and environmental challenges in Nepal. Along with issues like climate change and rapid urbanization, the country is also facing food, water and energy scarcity.

This is an umbrella strategic framework (not strategy), providing directions and guidance for mainstreaming nature conservation in development plans and programs. Therefore it

is prepared to add value to the existing sectoral strategies and neutralize inconsistencies and controversies in sectoral strategies. Designed as a people centric framework, it will adopt a multi stakeholder, inclusive and participatory approach from all geographic regions, thereby achieving efficiency through avoidance of duplication of efforts.

The project is scheduled to be formulated in this fiscal year and going to be implemented in the coming fiscal year for a 9 month period (Jan-Sep 2014).

### Methodology/Process Used/ To Be Used

- Initial discussion about updating the NCS (1988)
- National consultation workshop
- Unanimous support for a need to update the NCS (1988) - develop an umbrella strategic framework (not strategy)
- Project Steering Committee (PSC) - Reps of GOs, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs & research/ education Institutes. NPC Member Sec. (chair)
- NEFIN, FECOFUN and NGO Federation reps in the committee
- Approach - consultative, participatory & inclusive – all levels
- IUCN for TA (as in the 1980s); development partners' support
- Language to be used – Nepali and English
- Reviews of the NCS (1988) and other relevant strategies

## Present Status of the Project

The proposal was initially approved by NPC, taking the consent of MoFSC. There was a tripartite agreement between NPC, Swiss Government and IUCN for composing strategic framework in order to set standards and guidelines to be used for integrating nature conservation in Nepal's all national development strategies and programs."

The preparatory work of the project has almost been completed. NPC and IUCN jointly organized a consultation workshop among the government, non-government, civil society, private sector and development partners to help review the strengths, achievements and gaps, challenges and opportunities for a better conservation strategy. Likewise consultation programs were organized on the issues of GESI, IPs and LCs (Local Communities) at national, sub-national and local levels.

## Engagement of IPs and LCs

NSFNC has prioritized the issues of social, cultural and IPs sectors. It has organised consultations with the expertise and representatives of each sector in its national, sub national and local levels. It realizes the fact that without their consultations, a project cannot be implemented successfully. Hence considering their importance, NSFNC has provisioned to include a representative of NEFIN in the Project Steering Committee. Similarly, its team members also consist of a national consultant having knowledge and expertise on IPs & LCs' issues and challenges. NFSNC believes in an inclusive and participatory teamwork system for a better outcome.

## Contents Relating to IPs and LC

NSFNC has prepared a checklist of questions dealing with the concerns of IPs and LCs such as customary rights and local laws, knowledge and systems of the locals and IPs on managing, using and governing natural resources, compliance with international documents like ILO 169 and others such as the national and constitutional policies and institutional provisions for recognising and protecting their usage. Special importance has been given for protecting Intellectual property rights of the

indigenous knowledge, taking Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC) in decision-making process and practicing Access and Sharing of the Benefits (ABS) arising from uses of the genetic resources in and around the natural resources areas managed and protected by IPs and LCs.

## Strategic Actions Relating to IPs and LCs

NSFNC has made a conscious and deliberate effort to consider the agendas of IPs and LCs in nature conservation plans and programs. It has provisioned to include their representatives in the team member and steering committee. The literature of IPs and LCs are reviewed on the basis of checklist questions, with the review of strategies. Following provisions has been made in the framework document:

- Assessing access & use rights of IP&LC to natural resources
- Recognition of local/ indigenous knowledge of natural resources & their management systems
- Promotion and protection of local/ indigenous knowledge, including the intellectual property rights (law, rules, guidelines etc.)
- Capacity building (awareness raising, training, communication etc.)

## Concluding Notes

- NPC, the Lead Institution is very conscious of the need for consultative, participatory and inclusive approach for developing strategic framework, such as;
- It is reflected in the approach NPC has taken right from the beginning – i.e. engaging NEFIN rep in the Project Steering Committee, including national expert on IP&LC issues/ agendas in the national study team
- The development partners, especially the Swiss government is very keen to ensure the ownership of the document by national government and by major stakeholders.

## **Reflections from the discussion on National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation Formulation Project (NSFNC)**

The strategy should comply with the standards and provisions as per the International documents like ILO 169, UNCCC, etc. Though nature conservation may not seem effective in many contexts, still it is a matter of concern as resources are slowly becoming scarce. The document papers on the related strategies should be simplified and presented in a clear, concise language. If possible, the technical terms should be supported with practical examples. There should be a detail study or research to explore new tourism areas with possibility. Diversification of tourism areas and protection of both tangible and intangible forms of cultural heritages should be preserved.

At the present stage of post conflict, the issue of conservation with social justice is emerging. The IPs' issues too, should be recognized and identified under it. Moreover, the strategy should accept the concept of conservation and development with social justice, and conservation with self determined development.

It is essential to bring out the final conclusion on the basis of relevant acts, regulations, policies, and monitoring and evaluation mechanism, including consultations in the framework. FPIC should be carried out at all levels through extensive consultations and dialogues, right from the background stage. To make the strategy really strong and effective, revision of legal provisions, conflict management and development of compensation policies, are essential.

### **Continuation of next steps**

With the end of the four presentations and discussions, the next step of the consultation program was to draft the position papers on the above mentioned four strategies which was the most important part of the program. There was a planned open platform for road discussions and dialogues among the group divisions on several related strategies. Similarly, the final position papers were to be submitted to the GoN representative in the third part. This will mark a significant step forward as the entire national and international media plan to cover the news. In addition, a formal declaration on forest related strategies by the NEFIN Secretariat was to be followed.

## Preparation of IPs position paper in forest related strategies

### Introduction

The program started with the reflection of activities in part one by the group representatives, namely Yashoda Rai, Kirat Rai Yayakha and Kiran Sunuwar, Ex DCC Chair. Further commitments were expressed to transform the group discussion into a solid position paper.

Though the IPs were not involved in forest destruction, they became the main victim of the past government policies and strategies on forest related sectors. The present discussion was to revise the past strategies and to actively participate in every state level activity to lobby and advocate the GoN on issues of IPs. IPs must also raise voice in the international conventions

and declarations to ensure their basic rights. Various forum and alliances are being formed at the moment. IPs' issues are considered there with great concern. Similarly, foreign investors are being attracted towards the hydropower project in Nepal. Some international companies had already expressed their interests to invest. Thus, IPs should be more cautious to protect their rights in such type of projects.

### Group division

Ms. Pasang Dolma Sherpa, National Co-ordinator of NEFIN REDD+ Climate Change PROJECT, gave a small briefing about the thematic discussion to be conducted and divided the participants into four groups as mentioned below:

#### Group 1: Discussion on Forest Sector Strategy

Facilitator : Mr. Khim Ghale  
 Participants : Dambar Tembe, Ang Kaji Sherpa, Kumar Thapa, Premdhwoj Thapa, Roshani Meche, Chapati Budhathoki, Jitendra Chepang, Badri Kuswady, Naresh Tamrakar, Kedar Dhimal.

#### Group 2: Discussion on National REDD Strategy

Facilitator : Mr. Tunga Bhadra Rai  
 Participants : Danda Gurung, Dal Bahadur Gharti Magar, Ram Avatar Mandal, Kishore Angdembe, Buddha Gharti Bhujel, Dhan Bahadur Hayu, Amit Meche.

#### Group 3: Discussion on National Biodiversity Strategy

Facilitator : Ms. Sarah Subba  
 Participants : Mohan Singh Lama, Kiran Sunuwar, Dandu Dhokpya Sherpa, Kiran Baram, Yashoda Rai, Resham Tamu, Kumar Tamang, Mahendra Thapamagar.

#### **Group 4: Discussion on National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation Formulation**

Facilitator : Dr. Pasang Sherpa

Participants : Sher Bahadur Bhujel, Buddha Lama, Dhyani Uraun, Jyoti Danuwar, Gokul Buda, Tirtha Surel, Chandra Baram, Nabin Nachhiring, Norbhu Ghale, Nima Lama, Tashi Shyangbo, Lakpa Norbu, Sakuntala Lapcha.

The group discussion was concluded successfully. All the participants discussed and interacted actively on the given topic under the guidance of their respective facilitators. After an extensive group work, they prepared related position papers that addressed all the members voice within.

#### **Group 1 Presentation: Recommendation of IPs on National Forestry Sector Strategy**

The recommendation paper of group one was presented by Bishnu Singak Limbu. It consisted of 10 point recommendations on the topic of the IPs contribution, their ownership rights, forest management, benefit sharing, private sector participation and so on. After the presentation, the recommendation papers were corrected on the spot through feedbacks and suggestions of other group participants like Sonam Yakha (to include the land reform act, 2021), Shanti Jirel (to include safeguard policy and reduce the repetition of points), Norbhu Ghale Dolpo (language correction and use of IPOs instead of IPs), Tunga Bhadra Rai (to clear the concept of private sector participation), Kiran Baram (to include the third gender issues and compensation policy), Kiran Sunuwar and (to term the recommendations as position papers and remove the concept of private sector participation).

#### **Group 2 Presentation: 17 point position paper of NEFIN on the policy related with Assurance of IPs' Rights in National REDD process**

The 17 point position paper was presented by Mr. Phurba Lama. Topics like guaranteeing the implementation of international and national strategy, assurance of FPIC, concept of REDD+, recognition of traditional ownership and rights of the IPs, etc. were addressed. There was an immediate correction through the feedbacks and suggestions given by Buddha Lama (to add protection and conservation in

point five along with consumption of land and resources), Kiran Sunuwar (to add assurance of self determination with FPIC), Dandu Sherpa (to address the issue of hydro project investment in order to ascertain the rights of IPs, add FPIC alliance mechanism).

#### **Group 3 Presentation: Position Paper of IPs on National Bio diversity Strategy**

The position paper was presented by Mr. Kiran Baram. It raised the issues of recognition and contribution of IPs in bio diversity conservation, their ownership and rights, benefit sharing, etc. It was corrected on the spot, considering the suggestions given by Norbhu Ghale (to add significant representation in place of participation and IPOs in place of IPs), Tunga Bhadra Rai (was general and not up to date, appeared identical to other strategies, did not address intellectual rights and the protocol of NAPA and LAPA).

#### **Group 4 Presentation: Position paper of IPs on the National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation Formulation**

The resolution paper was presented by Mr. Vishnu Thokar. He explained the topics like contribution and recognition of IPs, their ownership, management of natural resources, benefit sharing, role of private sector, etc. in a short and simple language. Some points were immediately corrected after a short discussion and debate.

#### **Final Outcome**

Finally, the compiled form of NEFIN position paper on all four strategies was prepared and handed over to Mr. Nagendra Kumar Kumal, NEFIN President. He read it thoroughly and gave some suggestions such as making it shorter and compiling it into a single document, and addressing the issues of GESI only in relevant points.

## **Indigenous Peoples' Position Paper on the upcoming Forest Sector Strategy, National REDD Strategy, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and National Strategic Framework on Nature Conservation**

Recalling that the indigenous peoples (IPs) are the sons and daughters of the soil, and

Reminding that the forest policies and legal provisions have confiscated the land, forest and natural resources of the indigenous peoples, and

Realizing that the indigenous peoples shall be affected most with the negative impacts of climate change, and

Considering that the National forest related strategies proposed for the mitigation of impacts of climate change is to affect the indigenous peoples, and

Recognizing that the distinct knowledge, skills and customary practices of the indigenous peoples have significant contributions in the conservation of biodiversity, and

Determining that indigenous peoples and nature are inter-dependent;

Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) presents its positions on Forest Strategy, National REDD+ Strategy, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Strategic Framework on Nature Conservation below:

### **Recognition of Contribution**

- As the indigenous peoples and indigenous women had been distinctly conserving, promoting, managing, controlling and using the forests centuries before the introduction of forest-related legal provisions, their distinctive contribution should be legally recognized

## **IPs' Position on Forest Sector Strategy**

### **Ownership**

- Forests and forest resources owned, controlled, conserved and used since ages by the indigenous peoples have been confiscated with the introductions of Private Forest Nationalization Act- 1957, Resettlement Company Act- 2021, Land Reform Act, 1964, Jhoda Act- 1972, National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act- 1973, Pastureland Privatization Act- 1975, Forest Act- 1993 and Forest Regulation 1995. Hence, the indigenous peoples' right of ownership, control,

conservation and use of forest and forest resources should be re-established by formulating necessary law.

### **Management**

- Forest management system, aided by the indigenous peoples' and indigenous women's' cultural, religious, social, economic, and spiritual aspects and customary practices should be given legal recognition and promotion.
- Legal provision should be introduced to ensure the complete proportional and inclusive participation in the local and

central committees of the consumers' group and Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN).

- Community Forest Users' Groups, while formulating their constitutions, policies, rules, and action-plans should recognize the indigenous peoples' age-long traditional practices related to the forest conservation and management.
- On part of the indigenous peoples, evicted from the protected forest areas, provision of representing indigenous peoples in the Community Forest Users' Group should be ensured. The provision of '3Km-off-settlement' from the protected forest as existing in the prevalent legal system should be revoked.

### **Benefit Sharing**

- Provisions should be made in such a way that the benefits from the forests and forest resources owned, controlled, and managed by the indigenous peoples belongs to them.
- As indigenous peoples are dependent to forests and forest resources, they should be allowed to continue with their age-long cultural, social, economical, religious, and spiritual practices along with the use of medicinal plants and ways of their livelihoods.
- Rational sharing of every benefit obtained from forests and forest resources should be ensured in between the community and local indigenous peoples.

### **Participation of Private Sector**

- Historical forests and forest areas owned, controlled, used, and managed by the indigenous peoples should, no way, be privatized.

### **Participation, Consultation and FPIC**

- Provisions should be made to ensure an institutional and complete proportional and inclusive participation of indigenous peoples and indigenous women in process of formulating and implementing

the policies, acts, laws, regulations, action plans. They should be also ensured to involve in the monitoring and assessment process both in the local and national level procedures and mechanism. Principles of the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), ILO Convention- 169 and Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) should be adopted while bringing these legal provisions into practice.

### **Gender Equity and Social Inclusion**

- Provisions should be made to ensure the especial representation of indigenous women, youths, differently able persons, third-genders, minorities, and sidelined indigenous peoples in every forest management mechanism and process.

### **Forest Promotion and Plantation**

- While promoting forest and launching afforestation programs, priority should be given to the plants and trees that share relations to the economic, social, cultural, religious and spiritual values of the indigenous peoples.
- In pretext of economic development, the plants, and trees with the social, cultural, economic, religious and spiritual values should not be fallen down.
- Responsibility of managing and planting the biodiversity-friendly original species of plants should be given to the indigenous peoples of the concerned locality.

### **Issue of Federalism**

- Indigenous peoples' rights regarding the ownership, access and control over the forests and forest resources should, constitutionally, be ensured before the country is divided into federal states

### **Rights to Land**

- Provisions should be made in a way so that indigenous peoples get rights to continue with the lands they have been using and controlling.

## IPs' Position on National REDD Strategy

- While formulating REDD+ policies and strategies, indigenous peoples' rights to environmental and social safeguard policy should be brought into practice as enshrined in government-ratified ILO C-169, government-signed United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 16) or Cancún Safeguards.
- REDD+ activities should be prepared and implemented only after the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the indigenous peoples. The inclusive participation of women and youths from indigenous peoples should be ensured in process of FPIC.
- Since the concept of REDD+ is related to lands and forests, indigenous peoples' rights to control and access over the ancestral lands, forests and natural resources should be entirely established.
- Since the indigenous peoples are in collective ownership, use and control of their ancestral lands and natural resources, the upcoming strategies should recognize their age-long traditional practices. Indigenous peoples modes of livelihood should not be considered the cause of deforestation.
- The customary laws and practices on lands and natural resources exercised by the indigenous peoples should be implemented with clear recognition.
- Since the indigenous peoples have the prerogatives to enjoy lands, forests and natural resources of their areas, they should even get the rights to forest-carbon.
- Recognizing indigenous peoples' traditional skills, knowledge and customary laws as contributing factors to the sustainable conservation and management of the forests, the REDD+ process should establish rights to continue with these indigenous tools.
- Since the indigenous peoples' fundamentals of occupation, religion, culture, religious faith, intellectual property, expertise and herdiatry have inter-relations with the forests, lands and various means of natural resources, the REDD+ strategy should pay them back by recognizing the contributions made by these factors.
- Information related to every tyre of REDD+ activities and decisions should be disseminated to the indigenous peoples in their plain mother tongues and mediums down to the local level.
- Reasonable distribution of benefits obtained from the REDD+ should be ensured. Recognizing the economic, social, cultural and spiritual aspects and their contributions in forest conservation, indigenous peoples should be given with the non-carbon benefits as well.
- As provisioned by the Cancún Safeguards, full and effective involvement of indigenous peoples organizations should be ensured in the local, regional and the national level REDD process, administrative system and organizational mechanism. Special provisions should be made for inclusive participation of the women, youths and sidelined communities belonging to the indigenous peoples.
- Including other financial mechanism, indigeneous peoples' full and effective involvement and access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) should be ensured. Special provisions should be introduced for the inclusive participation of women, youths and excluded communities belonging to the indigenous peoples.
- In regard to the REDD+ Process, necessary amendments should be made over the financial and other provisions for the capacity enhancement of the indigenous peoples.
- Full and institutional representation of indigeneous peoples should be ensured while formulating the Social and Environmental Strategy Assesment (SESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Special provisions should be brought out for the inclusive participation of the women, youths and excluded communities belonging to the indigenous peoples.
- Community-based Monitoring and Measuring, Reporting and Verification

(MRV) system should be introduced by ensuring full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the M & MRV process of REDD+ project and its activities.

- An independent and effective feedback

and grievance re-address mechanism should be formed up by ensuring full and effective involvement and access of the indigenous peoples' organizations.

## IPs' Position on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

### Recognition of Contribution

- Considering indigenous peoples' traditional way-of-life, culture, religion and spiritual values as an integral part of biodiversity conservation, the upcoming Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan should recognize and allow to continue with their traditional way-of-life, culture, religion and spiritual values.
- Realizing the fact that traditional knowledge, skills, and values of indigenous peoples have significant role in the conservation of biodiversity, these traditional tools and values should be recognized and continued.
- As the indigenous peoples' traditional way-of-life, religious, cultural, and spiritual values have been contributing in the conservation of biodiversity, provisions should be made so that they remain distinct and unaffected.

### Ownership

- Indigenous peoples should have their ownership over the herbal plants, animals, rivers and rivulets, ponds and lakes, non-physical cultural heritages, traditional dwelling areas, and prayer-making sites related to their way-of-life.
- Since the original names of the local herbal plants and natural resources have been out of practice because of national policies, they should be renamed in the local mother tongue in the biodiversity strategy.
- Indigenous peoples' intellectual property rights (IPRs) over the goods produced with their genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and skills should be established.

### Management

- Conservation of biodiversity should be carried on the basis of traditional values,

knowledge, and skills of indigenous peoples and they should have rights to management.

- The government should ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples while forming the community and protected area-based leadership structure for the conservation of biodiversity.
- Keeping in mind the conservation of biodiversity-friendly traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples, responsibility of conserving and managing the local biodiversity should be given to the indigenous peoples of the concerned areas.

### Benefit Sharing

- The benefit sharing from local biodiversity and natural resources should be based on fair and equitable principle of justice, giving foremost priority to the indigenous peoples of the concerned areas.
- Assessing the impacts of construction and expansion of biodiversity conservation areas, justifiable compensation should be given to the indigenous peoples of the concerned areas.

### Participation of Private Sector

- Under the public private partnership (PPP) scheme, private sector participation in the biodiversity, land, water, minerals, and forest conserved and consumed since age by the indigenous peoples should be allowed only with their consent. Indigenous peoples' participation should be obligatory in such projects.

### Participation, Consultation and FPIC

- Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples should be ensured right from the making of biodiversity strategy to the making

of policy, laws, action plan, and regulation related to it.

- While formulating these policies, rights of indigenous peoples, as enshrined in the ILO- 169, UNDRIP, CBD, should be established and FPIC should be taken as provisioned by other international accords and conventions.
- Institutional participation of the indigenous peoples should be ensured in the district, regional and central level biodiversity coordinating and monitoring committees.

### **Monitoring Mechanism**

- The Strategy on Biodiversity should give full and effective recognition to the Indigenous Peoples' Community Based Monitoring Information System (CBMIS).
- Every tier of biodiversity monitoring mechanism should be comprised of the full and effective participation of the indigenous peoples' organizations including Indigenous Women organizations both at the national and community levels.

### **Legal Provision**

- Customary laws, traditional practices, and values of the indigenous peoples should

be authorized and legitimated while making laws on biodiversity conservation.

- While formulating laws on biodiversity conservation, indigenous peoples' rights, as enshrined in the ILO C- 196, UNDRIP and other international accords should be ensured.

### **Gender Equity and Social Inclusion**

- While formulating strategy, laws, bylaws, regulations, guidelines, acts and action plans, full and effective participation of differently able and indigenous women should be ensured on the basis of human index and social diversities.

### **Rights to Land**

- Indigenous peoples should have their complete ownership over the lands and land areas that they have religiously, culturally or spiritually controlled and consumed. They must have entire ownership over the biological and non-biological sources and means available in such lands.
- Indigenous peoples' rights-friendly provisions should be ensured as indicated in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

## **IPs Position On the Strategic Framework On Nature Conservation**

### **Recognition of Contribution**

- The government should recognize the distinct customary laws and practices existing in the indigenous peoples' communities, which have been contributing in the sustainable conservation and management of the natural resources.
- Through the Strategic Framework on Nature Conservation, the government should legalize the indigenous peoples' traditionally important social, economical, political, and religious institutions.
- Necessary amendment and reformation of the existing laws related to the conservation and management of natural resources should be made in line with the FPIC principle.
- Conservation of indigenous peoples' language, culture, script, traditional

knowledge and skills should be conserved, protected and promoted simultaneously with conservation and management of the natural resources.

- Original names of the indigenous peoples' ancestral homelands along with the natural, cultural, and religious heritages, named in Nepali language in pretext of Hindunization and Nepalization, should be renamed and identified in their own mother tongues.

### **ownership**

- The indigenous peoples should be ensured of access and ownership of the natural resources in their areas.
- Indigenous peoples should be ensured with the full ownership over the pasturelands, religious areas and cultural sites that they have been controlling and using since ages.

- The laws, acts and regulations related to the forest and natural resources should be immediately amended and reformed in line with the internationally important accords, conventions and declarations. Any articles contradictory to these international legal tools should be announced null and void.
- The government, while making private sector participation or public private partnership for the conservation and management of the natural resources, should give priority to the indigenous peoples of the concerned areas.

### **Management**

- Indigenous peoples' representation and participation in the Community Forest Users' Groups (CFUGs) should be ensured in line with the proportional and inclusive approach.
- Recognizing the contributions of the indigenous peoples' customary laws, traditional knowledge, skills and practices in the sustainable conservation and management of the forests and natural resources, implementation of these indigenous tools should be ensured by including them in the existing laws, acts and regulations.

### **Benefit Sharing**

- Benefit Sharing obtained from the natural resources should be based on fair and equitable principle of justice, giving foremost priority to those indigenous peoples who are sidelined and exposed to the risk of extinction.
- Sharing of benefits obtained from natural resources should be made in line to customary laws and values prevalent in the indigenous communities.
- Government budget and financial grants, donations and other forms of assistances received from the donor agencies should be proportionately distributed.
- Indigenous peoples should be given the foremost priority to enjoy the employments and other opportunities generated during the management and conservation of natural resources.

### **Participation Of Private Sector**

- While involving the private sector in the conservation and management of natural resources, the government should, compulsorily, be abided by the FPIC.

### **Participation, Consultation and FPIC**

- Full and effective participation and representation of the indigenous peoples should be ensured in every agency, level, and sector responsible for the conservation and management of the natural resources based on FPIC principles.
- Compulsory consultation, participation, and representation of the indigenous peoples' leading organizations should be ensured.

### **Legal Provision**

- Giving legal recognition to the indigenous people's customary laws and traditional practices related to the conservation of natural resources, the government should include in and implement these indigenous tools through formal law.
- The traditional institutions related to the conservation of natural resources should be given legal recognition.
- Including others policies, regulations, laws and provisions, the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act- 2029 and Forest Act- 1993 should be immediately amended and reformed in line with the internationally important accords, conventions and declarations such as ILO-169 and UNDRIP. Any articles contradictory to these international legal tools should be announced null and void.
- The government, in order to assess and immediately compensate the indigenous peoples hit by the introduction of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act- 2029, should form a mechanism comprised of their representatives.
- Indigenous peoples' traditional skills and knowledge should be legally ensured and implemented and their intellectual properties should be given patent rights. Likewise, indigenous peoples' traditional way-of-life should be continued, conserved and promoted.

## **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**

- As per the PRIA (Prestige, Reputation, Identity and Access) principle, gender equality and social inclusion must be ensured while introducing the Strategic Framework on Nature Conservation.
- As per the principle of inclusive and proportional representation, indigenous peoples' and indigenous women's representation must be ensured in the entire decision-making process related to the conservation and management of the natural resources.
- Principle of gender equality should be ensured in the issues of ownership, control and access of the natural resources.

## Dissemination of Workshop Outcome

The objective of this session was to disseminate the position paper and handover to the concerned Government Agencies of Nepal. Hosted by Mr. Dandu Dhokpya Sherpa, General Secretary of NEFIN, the program was captured by extensive media coverage to make the strategy makers accountable and transparent towards the issues of IPs. The chief guests, who included NEFIN chair and other guests, were felicitated with khadas by Ms. Kamala Thapa Magar, Gender Focal Person of NEFIN CC Partnership Program, in the seating ceremony.

Ms. Roshani Meche, Vice Chair person of NEFIN, formally welcomed the chief guests, guests and everyone present in the program. She declared the position paper as an outcome of interactions from Part 1 and Part 2. Since formulating the forest based policies and strategies without the concern of IPOs harms both the state and IPs, this program was organized to remove the communication gaps and have an open floor discussion with the IPOs and strategy makers. There should be a fluid continuity to contributory and consultative activities between the state and IPOs for relevant strategies and policies.

Ms. Pasang Dolma Sherpa, National Coordinator, NEFIN Climate Change Partnership Program, repeated the objectives of the program and thanked RRI for organizing the program in a joint collaboration. She reiterated that the program was organized to know the exact process of the forest related strategies, and provide timely feedback for developing forest related strategies, mainly in the strategy of forest, biodiversity, conservation and REDD+, that accommodate IPs issues and concerns and that ensures the traditional

customary institutions, practices, knowledge and system for sustainable livelihoods and forest management. The position paper was to be submitted after a broad interaction and discussion among the representatives of IPs and GoN. Thus the program was conducted to make the GoN realize the importance of IPs' full and effective participation and recognizing their rights in forest related strategies.

Ms. Sherpa further added that the first part was related to the presentation of four forest based related strategies, especially a 10-year ongoing review by the experienced government officials. It was conducted to introduce and simplify the complex strategies to the IPs' representatives. The second part was practical-based. An extensive group discussion was carried out to materialize the position papers. Finally, the last and the most important part dealt with the dissemination of the position papers in the presence of Government representatives, NGOs, Civil Societies, IPs activists and media representatives.

Mr. Jagat Baram, NEFIN, Treasurer, read out the IPs position paper and requested everyone to go through all the position papers which were related with the four strategies, and hence, were equally important. As the IPs was the primary target of adverse climate change effects, it was indeed essential to address their issues in forest based strategies. It was noted that related officials should seriously consider the concerns of IPs while preparing the strategy.

The guest speech began with the President of the NIWF, Shanti Jirel, who stated that the GoN, which is currently in the process of

formulating the constitution, should not neglect the issues of IPs involved. The forest related strategies and policies always have a major impact on the lifestyle of IPs. This position paper is to make the GoN realize that the IPs have a deep interrelation with nature as reflected on their lifestyle, livelihood, culture and tradition.

The President of the NIWF made comparisons to other parts of the world such as Peru, where the local IPos have actively taken part in nature conservation and protection programs. While in Nepal, even the policies related to basic rights of education, health, etc. are against the favor of IPs. The contribution of IPs has not gained full credit nor have they been recognized in the right terms, having been deprived of their basic tenure rights. The GoN should consult and take their consent before formulating any policy or strategy. She concluded that there should be meaningful participation, gender equity and an inclusive representation system. The strategies should be in accordance with the international documents like ILO C- 169 and other conventions on environmental issues.

The founder and ex-chairperson of NEFIN, Dr. Novel Kishor Rai, stated that it was nearly impossible for the GoN to include the issues of all sectors in the strategy, inclusion of even a smaller portion would be sufficient to give the IPs a positive outlook for the future. Thus, the IPs are always ready to support the state through meaningful participation.

The executive director of Rights and Resource Initiatives, Mr. Arvind Khare stressed that the Rights and Resources Initiative supports the local communities to claim first priority on the access to natural resources. Access to natural resources is an element of human rights and is not granted by any state or person because it is inherent. Without the consultation of IPs, a contract cannot be called a social cause. Hence the IPs and local communities should be consulted before the use of natural resources. Without FPIC, a state can't achieve its target of social welfare. Moreover, the natural resources will deplete geometrically. The issues surrounding the IPs are not just environmental, but social and political as well. Mr Khare said that it is important to remember that one's own rights are never ensured unless one fights for the rights of others.

Pasang Sherpa, an ex-chairperson of NEFIN, spoke out on several disparities among IPs and religious fundamentalists based on the context of Pashupatinath temple. He indicated that in a very short span, the Bagmati River has become cleaner for use. Recently, the chief secretary displayed this effort by bathing in the river along with some secretaries and officials. He further opined that if an indigenous person was a Minister, and tried building a dam at Gokarneshwor for drinking purpose, in no time, all the Hindus would revolt against this act as the Bagmati river would dry up and their cultural practices hampered. He claimed that such an act would be perceived as a collective effort in trying to preserve their culture. In the same way, the IPs' list of demands and the position papers only entail their entitlement to basic rights in order to preserve their cultures and tradition by involving FPIC in every decision making process. However, in the current situation, if the IPs were to attempt a similar stance, they would be deemed as anti-nationalists. Mr. Sherpa concluded with a request to the classes of citizens in higher social and economic positions to consider and have empathy to the plight and situation of many IPs.

The former chairperson of NEFIN, Rajkumar Lekhi focused on the issues surrounding IPs that were outside of environmental, but include social and political agendas as well. He urged that the IPs not only claim their rights and usages to natural resources but conserve and manage it too. He believes the GoN has always misunderstood and misinterpreted the issues of IPs. Besides the usage of natural resources, IPs mainly want to preserve their culture and traditions. Their existence solely depends on the existence of natural resources. However the state representatives misinterpret their demands by claiming only their rights and neglecting others. Mr. Tharu feels that the GoN is not only misinterpreting the demands of IPs towards natural resources, but also posing a threat on their natural existence. An event he recounted was that recently the GoN had signed a document without their consensus. It classifies Tharu communities as Madhesis and has provisions accordingly. The Tharus do live in the Madhes area but belong to the Mongol race whereas the Madhesis generally belong to the Aryan race. The former chairperson concluded that people seek to preserve their identity and

culture, so without repeating history, the position papers must be considered seriously and not dismissed or overlooked repetitively.

Former Caucas Chair and IP activist, Indra Bahadur Gurung stated that the GoN would accept all the proposals and not implement a single one. He expressed concern on whether it wanted to formulate a forest conservation strategy or forest destruction strategy. He stated that it was the authorities working for the forest, and not the public, that was responsible for the destruction of the forest. As not a single policy is found to be implemented by the GoN completely, there is no assurance that the IPs position paper would be considered. However, it is necessary to address the issues of IPs in the relevant strategies. Gurung believes that the IPs want ethnical harmony, unity, peace and an equitable fair society. But some people often are misinterpreted and branded as provoking social conflict issues. He states that IPs don't want conflict and violence, they just want to end the injustice.

The present chairperson of NEFIN, Mr. Nagendra Kumar Kumal affirmed that the main objective of the position papers was to convey a message that policies and law without participation, consultation and representation cannot remain stable. Without a stable rule of law, a state could never develop. IPs have seriously contemplated on this matter, and want the policies and strategies to be formulated according to this message.

Finally the position paper was submitted to Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) by the chairperson of NEFIN, Mr. Nagendra Kumar Kumal. Altogether 103 people, including all the participants involved in the preparation of the position paper and those supportive of the IPs position in forest related strategies and policies, signed the position papers.

In the concluding remarks, the secretary of MoFSC, Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi stated that there are positive and negative aspects everywhere. Similarly, every sector has some strengths and weaknesses. Recently Nepal succeeded in getting an ERPIN (Emission Reduction Project) ideal note. It became possible due to the effortless and inclusive team work. Nepal will get

around 5 to 6 million from the developed nations after 2015, for reducing the emissions from 2015-2020. Similarly, the community based resource model was implemented successfully. Though problems do keep arising on various issues, they should be accepted as a challenge and faced by all the sectors collectively with full co-operation and contribution. The problems could be solved through good governance, for which transparency, accountability and integrity are a must. Strategy in itself is not a complete form; it must be guided by a solid policy guideline. It doesn't matter whether a compilation of paper is termed as a recommendation or position paper, but its serious consideration in the strategy making process does matter a lot.

Mr. Nagendra Kumar Kumal concluded the event with closing remarks on the movement of IPs for identity, identity for rights, rights for equality and equality for inclusion. He said that the IPs have tolerated injustice many times yet they are persistent in their movement. They will continue struggling until their last breath. Their interaction for dialogue and consultation has been going on for a long time. IPs have been protecting forests for their livelihoods and existence. Therefore, participation of IPs in every policy, program and strategy would definitely benefit and help the state to flourish by contributing the overall development of the nation and also by establishing peace and justice. Finally, acknowledgment was awarded to the guests for their participation, and to the media and civil society in making the program successful.

## **Media Coverage**

Realizing the crucial role of the media in raising awareness and disseminating information at all levels, one of the major aims of the workshop was to widely disseminate and circulate workshop outcomes through different forms of mass media (Annex 4). In total, 40 journalists attended the last day of the workshop and the outcome, specifically IPs' stand on forest related policies and strategies, was extensively covered. The media not only reported on the workshop event but largely provided specific feature articles on newspapers and online news portals, and reports on TV and radios (annex 3). Similarly, NEFIN dedicated its regular monthly newsletter of April exclusively to the

event and outcomes of the workshop for wider dissemination. The outcome of the workshop will also be shared among IPOs on 15 July, 2014 for their information and further feedback for future initiatives on behalf of IPs.

The following three forms of media was distinctly utilized to 1) validate the significance and seriousness of the IPs' clear take on forest related strategies through the 4 position papers on Forest Sector Strategy, National biodiversity strategy and action plan, National REDD strategy, and National strategic framework for nature conservation, and 2) communicate and reach wider population including IPs and other concerned stakeholders including the government agencies and civil society organizations at both community and national levels on issues relating to IPs and their rights.

### **1. Community Radio**

With almost 80% of Nepali people living in rural areas, their access to print and electronic media is very limited. Therefore, community radio is considered a vital medium to reach rural population including IPs living in remote and rural areas. NEFIN climate change program has been using community radio as a catalyst in communicating climate change and REDD and IPs issues to reach grassroots level IPs, local communities and concerned stakeholders including government agencies. For this workshop, 23 community radio weekly programs supported by NEFIN climate change

program and 6 community radios supported by Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Journalists (FONIJ) broadcasted the workshop events and outcomes. Special report on workshop event and IPs issues were also covered by other net work of radios that were broadcasted throughout the country. (Annex 4)

### **2. Television**

In order to showcase different features of the workshop and create narratives on the workshop content, 11 different local and national TV channels broadly covered workshop events and results. Interviews were conducted during and after the workshop with relevant participants including key stakeholders and staffs to establish key priority messages and themes that were broadcasted in both narrative form and in an interview form (Annex 4 for hyperlinks).

### **3. Print Media**

For a more in depth and earnest analysis of the workshop content and to support ethical journalism in writing IPs issues and concerns on their rights in forest related strategies, 12 journalists from different national and local daily and weekly newspapers were encouraged to cover different aspects of the workshop. Some of the features and articles on the papers have gone beyond reporting the content to significantly examining IPs issues at large and relating it to the outcomes of the workshop (Annex 4 hyperlink, Annex 5).

## Annex 1: Program Schedule

### Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) Climate Change Partnership Program

Consultation and Dialogue of Indigenous Peoples on Forest Related Policies and Strategies  
April 16-18, 2014 Hotel Annapurna

#### Schedule: Day I (April 16, 2014)

8:00-9:00	Breakfast and Registration
9:00-10:00	Welcome Remarks, Ms. Roshani Meche, Vice Chair, NEFIN Introduction of the participants Objective of program, Ms. Pasang Dolma Sherpa, National Coordinator, CC Partnership Program Opening remarks, Mr. Nagendra Kumar Kumal, Chairperson, NEFIN
10:00-11:45	Presentation on Forest Sector Strategy and Discussion, Dr. Keshav Kanel, Consultant, Team Leader
11:45-12:00	Tea/Coffee
12:00-13:00	Presentation on REDD strategy & discussion, Mr. Resham Dangj, Chief REDD Cell, MoFSC
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:15	Presentation on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Mr. Braj Kishor Yadav, National Focal Point CBD, MoFSC & discussion
15:15-15:30	Tea/Coffee
15:30-17:00	Presentation on conservation strategy & discussion, Dr. Yam Malla, IUCN
17:00	End of day I

**Schedule: Day II (April 17, 2014)**

8:00-9:00	Breakfast and Registration
9:00-11:00	Reflection of day I Group division for thematic discussion (4) Group work
11:00-11:15	Tea/ Coffee
11:15-13:00	Group presentation (4)
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	Compilation of recommendations
16:00-16:15	Tea/Coffee
16:15-17:00	Presentation and discussion of recommendations on forest related strategies
17:00	End of day II

**Schedule: Day III (April 18, 2014)**

9:00-9:45	Breakfast and Registration
10:00-12:00	Chairing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NEFIN Chair</li><li>• Chief Guest</li><li>• Guests</li></ul> Welcome remarks, Roshni Meche, Vice Chair, NEFIN Reflection of the program, Pasang Dolma Sherpa Submission of recommendations on "Forest Related Policies and Strategies", Nagendra Kumar Kumal, Chair, NEFIN Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RRI</li><li>• NIWF</li><li>• MoSTE</li><li>• MoFSC</li><li>• NEFDIN</li><li>• Guests</li><li>• Chief guest</li></ul>
Closing remarks, Nagendra Kumar Kumal, Chair, NEFIN	

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## Annex 3: Detail discussion on the forest related strategies

### Question answer discussion on Forest Strategy

Kiran Sunuwar, former chairperson of NEFIN District Coordination Council (DCC), Illam

From an external viewpoint, conflict is generally termed as a situation arising due to the difference between a state and community based issues. We IPs have raised and are continuously raising many substantive issues since 3-4 years. I would like to know how they are addressed in your strategy. Also, I would like to remind that IPs' issues are not artificial. They are in fact, related to the basic human rights and thus, the state is mandated to address their issues.

#### Ang Kaji Sherpa

Former General Secretary of NEFIN

At present, the policy of forest ministry differs from that of NEFIN REDD Climate Change Program. I would like to know what is their core meeting point and how are they balanced in the major strategy? Also, you discussed to include various sectors, policies and groups in it but how? NEFIN has a divisional organization structure, each dealing with specialized IPs' issue. I request to address all those IPs issues in your strategy. An imaginary or vague strategy wouldn't work. Our traditional activities like animal husbandry are diminishing. Your strategies, in the name of forest conservation, are affecting our livelihood. Thus group discussion and FPIC at the local level are essential. Even forest consumer committees, established under local forest strategy, are led by the brahmins and chhetris. There should be an inclusive forest strategy. The targeted group should be addressed specifically. The strategy must identify and address the issues of all communities. Individually, I would like to know

what provisions have been made for the Sherpa community. Any strategy or policy ignoring our issues won't be accepted by our community.

#### Baghbir Mukhiya

There is diversity in Nepal from Himal to terai. The source of river Bagmati is drying. There should be programs like timber based plantation, soil and water conservation plantation, etc. Among the IPs too, only the healthy and wealthy are included in the consultation process. It would be great if we could increase timber production upto 1.2 million. The process of youth migrating to Gulf countries like Qatar, Dubai for employment must be stopped. The representation of the IPs should be on a proportional basis. There must be an inclusive participation in all the decision making process.

#### Norbhu Ghale Dolpo

Former vice chairperson of NEFIN

In the past, customary laws and local practices used to conserve the nature more effectively and efficiently than the present conservation laws and provisions. Today, the resources are being exploited in the name of conservation, especially by the internal sources. Illegal activities are being carried out in the presence of officials. The protector himself is becoming the destructor. Today's policies do not prioritize customary laws and are also unclear. There is neither FPIC in any decision making process, nor the strategies are in accordance to the international laws like ILO 169. I can say that there is not even FPIC's F in the strategy formulation process. The locals are denied from access to information about the strategy. There is no transparency in any activity. The conservation laws are too complex and ineffective. There are no people-centric provisions. The laws have to

be revised and proportional, inclusive policies should be included. The strategy presented here only discussed about the gender and social issues, but didn't mention any specific provisions. It must be inclusive according to proportional representation of the population.

### **Prahlad Thapa**

National Planning Commission

The strategy presented here didn't mention the topics on accountability and transparency clearly. While implementing the strategy, co-ordination by the upper level is necessary. The strategy didn't mention which level will supervise and co-ordinate. Also, it is silent on the matter of accountability.

### **Sarah Subba**

NEFIN CC Partnership Program, Gender Unit  
The strategy mentioned GESI as a cross-cutting issue. It would be better to identify it as a mainstreaming issue and include it in all the levels of strategy formulation process.

### **Dr. Novel Kishor Rai**

I don't know how the working officials would have presented the strategy but I am still happy that it is explained at least by the retired officers. I am a common farmer and for me, an effective policy does matter a lot. There is nothing except the pine and eucalyptus trees at our place. Oak would be suitable here. Recently, I didn't support the movement led by the hindus to stop cremation activities in Pashupati, Aryaghat for reducing the use of woods, as we were not involved in it. We IPs use forests resources as our source of livelihood. Thus we worship them in the form of God and conserve them for our sustainability. Our lives are interrelated with forests. We are conserving forests and bio-diversity and also minimizing the effects of climate change. There is a division of roles for forester and ranger in Germany. But in Nepal, a forester is promoted as a ranger. This results in a weak supervision and ineffective policy implementation. The higher we walk from Mahakali, the colder the weather becomes. At least trees like pine should be planted there to balance the weather. We, the people of Rasuwa want herbs and vegetation like mushroom, chiraito, etc. to be grown there. For this, we lack resources, which is an essential requirement. Rather than organizing programs in the hotels, expertise should be sent to the field for direct

supervision.

### **Parsu Ram Tamang**

Fomer Chair of UN Permanent Forum on IPs  
Issues

The presentation stated that the forests users group is successful but how? It seems contradictory to the policy. It is not defined exactly. The words are not used properly. You must be careful in the selection of words. The word sustainable should have been used. Also, in the data presented, the base of the declining income is not clear. Is it on the basis of GDP or something else?

The environmental agenda has emerged internationally after the Earth Summit in 1992. Since then various policies have been formulated through conventions and treaties. It's appreciable that you have addressed them too but while identifying the target group, you should bring all of them together. You must identify the multi-stakeholders exactly and divide their role accordingly. If not so, the question of dividend sharing will remain unanswered. Issues like which sector should contribute where? and what would be the role of government and stakeholders, including the concept of building conservation areas as per the international standards and maintaining 40% forests ratio in it, should also be considered. You mentioned that the role of human force should be increased at some sector and decreased at some, which is quite contradictory. It would be better if we focused more on human rights approach to development.

### **Kiran Baram**

Gorkha

The projects conducting at each and every community level, even if it is a small one, should include broad discussions. IPs have tremendous skills and knowledge but there is not a single policy utilizing it. For instance, we have the knowledge of growing chiraito but there is no policy to utilize it. If the chiraito production were developed as an industry, our economy would have been stronger.

### **Dal Bahadur Ghartimagar**

Kailali

A distinct model should be developed for the upper and lower level community. The inequalities must be eliminated. The mountain peoples have special knowledge on the conservation of nature but the terai people

don't. Such inequalities should be addressed and incorporated in the strategy.

### **Kedar Dhimal**

Morang

It would be better if FPIC were done at the community levels. There is a spiritual relationship between the IPs and forests. Their rights should be protected as they do not harm the forests. Knowledgeable and experienced personalities like you should be specific while addressing our issues. You have not mentioned the provisions for IPs under ILO 169. The master plan has already expired in 2011. Increasing timber production was its milestone. But why are the woods so expensive? Most of the state laws, though, termed illegal, are legal for the IPs. How will you mention this in your strategy? What is the balancing point and where and how will you link it in your strategy?

### **Suresh Singh Gangai**

Morang

Your strategy does not cover the issues of eastern terai IPs. Their access to community forests should be mentioned. It should clearly mention how the local people would be included there.

### **Nagendra Kumar Kumal**

Chairperson of NEFIN

We IPs have our own culture, customs and traditions. But the state laws are neglecting our identities. Many IPs and their culture are in the state of extinction. For example, Rautes never wear clothes given by other. But now, they not only wear clothes given by other, but also bedeck themselves in modern style. The government policies are challenging our culture and traditions. Nowadays Chepangs cannot afford to give chiuri tree as dowry due to various state laws and policies. Traditional occupations as a source of livelihood are disappearing. IPs are becoming increasingly poor. The policies and strategy should be acceptable by all and should be derived from community based issues.

### **Rup Narayan Singh**

The coercive provisions, commitments and agreements of ILO 169 should be incorporated in the strategy. Though the subject of compensation and inclusion are mentioned in the strategy, it does not seem to be in the favor of terai. You have mentioned about forest

management techniques in the terai such as managing the forests around 3 km area under the leadership of REDD and with the participation of local communities. But other topics like how to include those who are residing there for years are not mentioned. The agriculture occupation is hampered in the name of forest conservation. Water resources have become scarce in front of our eyes. Who will compensate for this? The state should take a solid action and decision. The representation should be done on the basis of participation and population.

### **Pasang Dolma Sherpa**

National Coordinator, CC Partnership Program

The IPs have been conserving the natural resources in their own way in many mountainous and terai regions. They follow their own traditional and customary forests management techniques, which have been quite effective. So I would like to request not to interrupt these practices by your adverse strategic provisions.

## **Responses from the presenters**

### **Dr. Kanel**

On the topic of IPs and ILO, the GoN itself has signed the agreement, so there is no doubt in its implementation. It's not necessary to mention the same things, both in the constitution and strategy. Thus we have tried to make the strategy concise and clear. The details would later be included in the form of guideline policy. There are two things about the proportional representation: First, the IPs and second, the vulnerable among the IPs. It's good that the issues like benefit sharing, resource management and representation have been raised. Though we are Brahmins, we did not go asking for opportunities. We are representing due to our capabilities. We agree that the IPs rights should be ascertained. The tenure rights must be protected. Though the strategy did not mention the provision of proportional representation, we have been following it in practice. Finally, we will consider your queries and suggestions as the inputs of our strategy.

### **Dr. Acharya**

How detail and broad should a forest strategy be is really a challenging task. We do agree that a forest strategy must address all the issues in an equal manner. The issues of GESI will definitely be mainstreamed. Cross-cutting is just a special

provision to achieve the mainstreaming. As for the issue of proportional representation, we have maintained the best possible proportion. We can't make any changes in it. They are good enough. For further changes, the related groups should consult among themselves.

Conflict is in itself contradictory. We want to increase the timber production and make it cheaper. But on the other side, you might have heard that recently there has been an illegal trade of timber in Dadeldhura. All the trees were cut down in a large scale. As a result, the local communities and civil societies opposed against it. This made the GoN to immediately form an act against timber cutting which made the prices of wood increase. We too are against such random laws and acts that make the long-term strategy a failure.

We are trying to balance the strategy with all the international and national laws and documents. We have considered the IPs, local and community based issues as well. We will consider your valuable suggestions in the on-going strategy formulation. We have introduced collaborative forests management, community based forestry management and public use forestry management concepts for terai region. We planted pines in the naked places as a primary initiative. Now the next step is to plant trees like oak and chilaune. We have managed and conserved the forests scientifically. Yes, we planted eucalyptus in some places as they grew rapidly, which was a necessity too at that moment.

### **Dr. Binod Bhatta**

The issues of terai were raised from a long time. As we delayed to understand this, policies were formulated lately. We are learning, experimenting and progressing with time. You should possess a strong bargaining capacity for conserving the forests. We should convince the developed countries to compensate for the losses. For this, we should co-operate and work together. The leasing procedure should be simplified and its practice should be promoted in the communities.

## **Question- Answer, discussion on National REDD strategy**

### **Norbhu Ghale Dolp**

Former vice chair person of NEFIN

You mentioned that six institutions were asked to submit the proposal. Could you please tell

the names of those institutions? You also stated that multi-stakeholders would be included in the project but it has not happened in reality. Why?

### **Ang Kaji Sherpa**

Former General Secretary of NEFIN

The National REDD strategy should be defined according to the actual population of the nation. As per the latest population data, there are 51.5% female and 37.2% IPs in Nepal. They should be a part of your strategy. There should be a proportionate representation of himal, pahad and terai. Why did the organizations like ICIMOD and ICFC act as brokers for World Bank? You said that millions of dollars were spent in Chitawan, Dolakha and Gorkha. Where and how were it spent? The budget allocated for IPs should be spent for them, and not for other purpose. The budget-fund distribution model should be transparent. We don't want the models of Chitawan, Dolakha and Gorkha. The strategy has adversely affected IPs' lifestyle in the name of forests conservation. SESA only highlights the social and economic vulnerables. Why is SESA necessary in REDD+?

### **Shanti Jirel**

President, NIWF

As mentioned in the strategy, how can a fair and equitable policy be formulated? Why is it necessary? The strategy should address those peoples, whose customary laws and practices have been hampered due to the unsuitable state laws and policies. There should be specific provisions for those who have conserved the forests since a long time, rather than the vulnerable and marginalized groups. How to provide justice to the affected groups and revise the adversary policies in their favor is a matter of concern. The fourteen-point agreement done between the state and IPOs should not be considered as a solution. We want FPIC in every decision level. Among the women, dalits and IPs, women from indigenous communities should be given more priority. There should be an inclusive and equitable society.

### **Kiran Sunuwar**

Former chairperson of NEFIN DDC, Ilam

The vulnerable should have an easy access to Information Communication Technology (ICT). People in many remote areas are ignorant about the state provisions. They don't have access towards the national daily newspapers

or other communication mediums. This keeps them away from the right to information. Thus, there should be FPIC to develop information technology. Similarly FPIC is necessary before carrying out consultations, discussions and suggestions. The development and utilisation of ICT is important. Strategy should include all the related groups. Important information should be published in the daily newspapers like Kantipur, Gorkhapatra, etc. Besides publishing, people should have an easy access towards those newspapers.

## Response from the presenter

### Ms. Nirmala Singh Bhandari

In response to the question that why WB chose six organizations by publishing a bidding notice, I would like to inform that it was the process of WB. While going through the procurement process, WB found six out of 12-13 organizations fulfilling the necessary criteria as per the guidelines. They were selected through consultations with various stakeholders under Quality and Cost based analysis. The stakeholders consisted of various lawyers, intellectuals and related committee.

There has been a drastic change in Nepal since the submission of the concept of REDD in 2010. Most of the emerging issues have not been addressed. We could not revise it, but now we are committed to do so. The concept of SESA was introduced during 2012-2013 to implement REDD+ more effectively.

At present ICT is only in the central level. After the expansion of REDD+, ICT will be used in the district level too.

## Question Answer discussion on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

### Kiran Baram

While addressing the emerging issues; the cultural issues, norms and values of the IPs have not been mentioned. In the starting part, the IPs issues were mentioned but the latter part did not mention anything. Also, FECOFUN has been prioritized in place of NEFIN.

### Kiran Sunuwar

The issues of IPs were raised in section 8, Convention on Bio Diversity (CBD). Thus there should be an official representative of IPs. The

concept of community has not been developed quite satisfactorily at the local levels.

### Norbhu Ghale Dolpo

IPs issues have been neglected in the guiding factors and issues.

### Dr. Mukta Singh Lama

The contribution provided by the IPs in nature conservation should be mentioned in the strategy. The IPs have many skills and knowledge. Is there any provision to protect their intellectual rights in the strategy?

### Jitendra Chepang

The places where IPs dwell are rich in bio diversity. They have been contributing in the preservation of bio diversity due to their cultural and spiritual bond with the forests and natural resources. Unfortunately, those places are being registered in the name of big industries and businessmen. The IPs have been more affected by this. For instance, the industries established in Hetauda, Nawalparasi, etc. have affected the lifestyle of local Chepangs.

### Sarah Subba

The indicators mentioned in the strategy do not reflect gender based issues. The international Bio-diversity partnership forum indicators have been recommending those issues since years. It should be considered as a basis for effective implementation of the strategy. Nepal's indicators have addressed the issues just roughly. It should be more specific and detailed.

### Nagendra Kumar Kumal

Our issue is related for participation, which is not addressed specifically. You linked us with NGOs and INGOs. It does not represent us. We are distinct from them. Our federation is formally registered and identified as a separate entity by the GoN. Thus you should also include separate provisions for us. We should not be included in the consultation process under the name of NGOs and INGOs.

### Khim Ghale

Does the strategy discuss the roles and contributions of the IPs in bio diversity conservation? While formulating the strategy, are the issues of IPs' incorporated in it?

## Response from the presenter

### Mr. Braj Kishore Yadav

**About NEFIN membership:** Though the strategy did not mention about NEFIN specifically, it has described about NGOs and INGOs. Hence NEFIN can enter as a member through them. The groups represented by NEFIN are also addressed by the NFDIN. However if NEFIN wants a separate identity, we may consider it in the coming days.

**About cultural rights:** This strategy is about National Bio Diversity. Thus it focuses more on plants and animals species. It is not directly related to human culture. We did include cultural and language issues in the strategy but there was a controversy on who would take the leadership. As National Bio diversity Strategy (NBS) and National Bio diversity Strategy Implementation Plan (NBSIP) was approved by MoFSC, we could not get help from finance ministry and other relevant ministries to support cultural issues. The cultural issues may be considered under the Ministry of Tourism Culture and Aviation.

*to Jitendra Chepang:* We are more concerned than the IPs to include the related issues in the strategy. The mafia problems, criminalization of politics and politicization of crime are troubling us too. Such issues are protected under the political power. It's really a challenge for us. Our goal is to conserve and protect the bio-diversity, but the goal of industrialists is always profit oriented. They can cross any limits to achieve it. Solving it is a matter of concern for us too.

*to Sara Subba:* We too have realized the importance of making the indicators more standard, scientific and effective. Thus we accept your feedback as a suggestion.

*to Nagendra Kumal:* We will co-operate and contribute for your issues.

*to Khim Ghale:* We have accepted the IPs contribution in forests conservation and bio-diversity management. The strategy has clearly mentioned their contribution.

## Question Answer discussion on Conservation strategy

### Tunga Bhadra Rai

Though this is a framework, not a strategy, we welcome it as 'late is better than never'. What is the vision of the strategy in accordance to its framework? ILO 169 and FPIC should be considered in the strategy. UNFCCC and

other international documents have already stated about the participation of IPs. Hence the strategy formulated in Nepal should focus on the IPs rights and issues as well.

### Tej Tarami Magar

President, NEFIN, Kailali

There is unbalanced and unequal structure everywhere. Those who should have the lead are excluded and the one who never farmed or toiled hard, are leading. There is no proper act regarding carbon trade. This has excluded the real group from taking benefits of dividend sharing and other provisions.

### Norbhu Ghale Dolpo

The strategy sounds like it's made by the ruled, not the rulers which is good. The word IPOs should be mention in place of IPs. Also, I would like to know the full form of IUCN?

### Baghbir Mukhiya Kumal

Kumal Samaj

The document is quite difficult to understand. It sounds more technical. How can people like me understand it? How can we give our suggestions without understanding the terms? I request to explain it to the IPOs in simple and clear language. The document paper should be simplified and given to us. As the framework focuses more on the long-term plan, it's hard to understand it. We should be provided its concise form.

### Tashi Syangbo Barhagaunle

Mustang

There is no suitable policy for tourism. The strategy has not allocated any budget for it. In Mustang, tourists spend around \$6 per day. But there has been no detail study or research to explore new areas with possibility. Such places should be identified by the GoN in order to take benefit from it.

### Pasang Dolma Sherpa

There has been a negative impact in the traditional diversities of mountainous region. On the one hand, the policy of bio diversity strategy is to conserve, whereas on the other hand, it is affecting the diversity. How will these indifferences be balanced? Most of the reports show that IPs tradition and practices are eco-friendly. Why is your strategy neglecting this point? For sustainable eco-diversity, traditional practices should be protected.

**Shanti Jirel**

President, NIWF

Some cultures are tangible and some are intangible in nature. Both types of cultures should be preserved by the state. While making the conservation act for Gaurishankar Mountain, I find it difficult to explain and convince others about our issues. Our cultural practices and traditions have been underestimated. Hence I would like to recommend through this program to include both tangible and intangible cultural issues in the strategy.

**Kiran Sunuwar**

We are generally guided by two laws in Nepal-treaty based and charter based. But both the laws are against the favor of IPs.

**Dr. Braj Kishor Yadav**

What is the objective of this strategy? Strategies and policies are really beneficial for state development. For example, tourism policy not only helped to increase the number of tourists but also increased the economy of Nepal. Many local families were engaged in hospitality. However, the internal tourism and cultural practices were hampered. People forgot the value of traditional practices. Many got attracted towards modernization and lost their identities. Thus how to address the resources and cultural practices in a strategy is also important.

**Sher Bahadur Bhujel**

Dolakha

After the cabinet meeting held at Sagarmatha base camp, we thought that the locals would benefit. But the forests representatives, including some ministers, are charging taxes there. As a result there arouse a conflict between them and the locals. Violent activities have become common there. Similarly, there is a conflict between the Local Development Committee and District Development Committee in the ownership of resources.

**Buddha Gharti Bhujel**

Are the relevant IPs issues for resources and rights addressed in the strategy?

**Dr. Mukta Singh Lama**

There has always been a conflict between

conservation and development. At the present stage of post conflict, the issue of conservation with social justice is emerging. The IPs' issues too, should be recognized and identified under it. Moreover, the strategy should accept the concept of conservation and development with social justice, and conservation with self determined development. The presentation framework should bring out final conclusion on the basis of relevant acts, regulations, policies, and monitoring and evaluation mechanism, including consultations. Consultations should be carried out at all levels, right from the background stage.

**Premdhwoj Lama**

Gorkha

IPs are not included in the rights to natural resources. The rights to conservation and management of natural resources will benefit the state itself. But the laws and acts have always been against the favor of IPs. Conservation policy can be fruitful only if the past actions of the state are corrected. Without consultations and FPIC with the IPOs, no strategy can be effective. To make the strategy really strong and effective, revision of legal provisions are essential.

**Response from the presenter****Dr. Yam Malla**

All the suggestions are quite relevant and useful. Especially, Dr. Mukta Singh's concept of conservation and development is really fabulous. Bio-diversity may not seem important in many contexts, but it still is a matter of concern as the resources are exploited. For example, the water resources of Sundarijal have become scarce due to the increasing demand of water. Though logically, it is a right action, maintaining biodiversity is really a challenging task.

Right now, we don't have any answers for payment policy and compensation scheme but we are looking for it. As we are in the analytical stage at present, your positive suggestions would really prove to be a great asset and input for us.

## Annex 4: list of Media

### 1. Features and Articles on Daily Newspapers (available online)

S.N.	News paper	Writer	Hyperlink
1.	Republica Daily	Devkumar Sunuwar	<a href="http://theweek.myrepublica.com/details.php?news_id=74381">http://theweek.myrepublica.com/details.php?news_id=74381</a>
2.	Rajdhani	Roshan Shrestha	Rajdhani Dainik, Thursday 17April 2014 <a href="http://rajdhani.com.np/pdf/rajdhani/11(page%20No.%202)">http://rajdhani.com.np/pdf/rajdhani/11(page No. 2)</a>
3.	Nayapatrika	Dinu Gurung	
4.	Samachar patra	Lala Gurung	<a href="http://www.newsofnepal.com/new/category/bichar/page/12">http://www.newsofnepal.com/new/category/bichar/page/12</a>
5.	Gorkhapatra Daily	Rajesh Chamling	<a href="http://www.gorkhapatraonline.com">www.gorkhapatraonline.com</a> विचार-दृष्टिकोण/14331- जैविक विविधता रणनीति
6.	Annapurna Post Daily	Prakash Sigdel	<a href="http://www.annupurnapost.com/en/news/">www.annupurnapost.com/en/news/</a>
7.	Everest Times	Tikaram Tamang	<a href="http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.everesttimes.net%2Fpaper%2Findex.php%2F">http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.everesttimes.net%2Fpaper%2Findex.php%2F</a>

### 2. Special Report Broadcast on Television

S.N.	TV	Anchor	Hyperlink
1.	NTV	Gajurdhan Rai	<a href="http://www.ntv.org.np">www.ntv.org.np</a> 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 news coverage
2.	ABC TV	Milan Limbu	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUVwgNnA5-w&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUVwgNnA5-w&amp;feature=youtu.be</a>
3.	Sagarmatha TV	Ganeshman Gurung	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcNHADhqRV8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcNHADhqRV8</a>
4	NTV Plus		<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ4RupVGLJ4&amp;list=UU61BaUJyu7uteCku0nSE3YQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ4RupVGLJ4&amp;list=UU61BaUJyu7uteCku0nSE3YQ</a>

### 3. Event news coverage by other national TV/ daily paper/Radios

1	Kantipur Daily	<a href="http://www.ekantipur.com/np/2071/1/5/full-story/387737.html">http://www.ekantipur.com/np/2071/1/5/full-story/387737.html</a>
2	The Gorkhas Weekly	( annex 5)
3	Nagarik Daily	(annex 5)
4	Image TV	<a href="http://www.imagetv.com">www.imagetv.com</a> 16 <sup>th</sup> April news coverage
5	Sagarmatha TV	<a href="http://www.sagarmatha.tv">www.sagarmatha.tv</a> 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
6	News 24	<a href="http://www.news24nepal.tv">www.news24nepal.tv</a> 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
7	Himalaya TV	<a href="http://www.himalayatv.com">www.himalayatv.com</a> 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
8	Nepal 1	<a href="http://www.nepal1tv.net">www.nepal1tv.net</a> 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
9	Gorkha FM 93 Mhz.	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
10	Ekantipur	<a href="http://www.ekantipur.com/np/2071/1/5/full-story/387737.html">http://www.ekantipur.com/np/2071/1/5/full-story/387737.html</a>

#### 4. E Media

S.N.	Media	Hyperlink
1	E- Rajdhani	<a href="http://rajdhani.com.np">rajdhani.com.np</a> (26th April 2014 pdf file), <a href="http://www.rajdhani.com.np/pdf/files/rajdhani/22">http://www.rajdhani.com.np/pdf/files/rajdhani/22</a>
2.	NEFIN Climate Change Partnership Program	<a href="http://www.nefinclimatechange.org">www.nefinclimatechange.org</a>
3	E-Republica	<a href="http://e.myrepublica.com/component/flippingbook/book/1592-republica-09-mayl-2014/1-republica.html">http://e.myrepublica.com/component/flippingbook/book/1592-republica-09-mayl-2014/1-republica.html</a> (Page No. 05)

#### 5. Radio Coverage

S.N.	Radio Station	District/coverage
1.	Radio Tamor	Taplejung
2.	Ilam FM	Ilam
3.	Radio Manchhyem	Terathum
4.	Radio Makalu	Dhankuta
5.	B FM	Morang
6.	Solu FM	Solukhumbu
7.	Kalingchok FM	Dolkha
8.	Sindhuli gadhi FM	Sindhuli
9.	Synergy FM	Chitawan
10.	Radio Madhyebindu	Nabalparasi
11.	Radio Marsyangdi	Lamjung
12.	Radio Jagaran	Rupandehi
13.	Radio Sanibheri	Rukum
14.	Radio Simara	Bara
15.	Radio Madhyepashchim	Dang
16.	Radio Gurbaba	Bardiya
17.	Shuklafanta FM	Kanchanpur
18.	Gorkha FM Kathmandu	Kathmandu
19.	Radio Thaha	Makawanpur
20.	Radio Makawanpur	Makawanpur
21.	Radio Udayapur	Udayapur
22.	Radio Himal FM	Banke
23.	Radio Bajura	Bajura
24.	CIN Network MP3	72 districts through 270 radios
25.	Kantipur FM MP3	75 districts through 5 regional development relay stations
26.	Nepal FM Report	60 districts through 120 radios