

CAPaBLE Programme Final Report



Project Reference Number: CBA2018-08SY-Lopez-Casero

Strengthening inter-sectoral coordination and governance for the effective implementation of Nepal's NDCs based on a voluntary national Quality-of-Governance Standard for Forest Sector Activities and Programmes

The following collaborators worked on this project:

1. Federico Lopez-Casero, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan
2. Binaya Raj Shivakoti, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan,
3. Tek Maraseni, University of Southern Queensland, Australia,
4. Krishna Pokharel, Bhudha Batika Agroforestry Center, Kapilbastu, Nepal

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Final Report submitted to APN

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OVERVIEW OF PROJECT WORK AND OUTCOMES

1. Project Information

Project Duration	:	1 year
Funding Awarded	:	USD 41,000
Key organisations involved	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan • University of Southern Queensland, Australia • Bhudha Batika Agroforestry Center, Kapilbastu, Nepal • Ministry of Forest and Environment, Nepal Government • Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)

2. Project Summary

The proposed project aimed to strengthen forest sector governance and inter-sectoral coordination for effective implementation of REDD+ and other forest sector programmes included in Nepal's NDCs. Following the advice received from key government and civil society experts, the project designed and piloted a capacity development programme engaging forest administration staff and other key stakeholders in selected districts of Nepal. It developed training modules for participatory governance assessments to comply with the requirements under its REDD+ social and environmental Safeguards Information System and for intersectoral coordination to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities through effective forest management in line with Nepal's NDC commitments. The final training modules will be delivered to the government and relevant stakeholders for future capacity building programmes under REDD+ and other forest sector based climate change programmes included in Nepal's NDCs.

Keywords: Capacity building, Community Forest User's Group, Governance, NDC, Nepal, REDD+, ,

3. Activities Undertaken

The main activities undertaken include:

- Conducted Training Needs Assessment in five out of seven provinces in Nepal
- Conducted trial assessment for the forest sector NDCs implementation at community forestry level;
- Organised national consultation workshop for developing training module on establishing effective governance framework at the local level for implementing Nepal's forest sector nationally determined contributions
- Developed draft training module "IMPLEMENTING NEPAL'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs) IN THE FOREST SECTOR: Building Capacities on Sustainable Forest Management and Governance for Synergistic Mitigation-Adaptation Actions at the Community Level"

4. Key facts/figures

Key achievements of the project include:

- Over 100 individuals (professionals, government staffs, community forestry members) trained on forest sector governance and co-development of the training module
- One draft training module developed.

5. Potential for further work

The training module, which has been developed after rigorous consultations in four training needs assessment workshops and one national-level workshop, seeks to support active and meaningful participation for community forestry members towards implication of Nepal's NDCs. The module coverage on sustainable forest management, synergistic mitigation-adaptation, and quality of governance offers a comprehensive reference for building capacities towards mainstreaming community forestry involvement in forest-related climate actions such as REDD+, ecosystem based adaptation etc. The potential future activities are as follows:

1. Revise and updating the training module in close collaboration with concerned stakeholders in Nepal
2. Take initiatives for the adoption of the training module by the Ministry of Forest and Environment with whom the project proponents collaborated closely during the implementation
3. Expand the scope of the training module and initiate trials in other countries in Asia where community forestry are under implementation or evolving

6. Publications

1. Draft Training Module [IMPLEMENTING NEPAL'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs) IN THE FOREST SECTOR: Building Capacities on Sustainable Forest Management and Governance for Synergistic Mitigation-Adaptation Actions at the Community Level]
2. Draft APN Science Bulletin

7. Pull quote

"The technical needs assessment (TNA) workshop helped us to clarify the content of NDCs including how community forestry can play an important role towards implementing the climate actions." Participants from Community Forestry in Province 1

"We are now better informed about the preparations needed to tap available opportunities as well as minimise risks by integrating climate actions in the community forestry governance regime." Participants from the TNA workshops in Province 5

"The proposed training module developed in this project through bottom-up consultations will have practical utility and can certainly help the government to upscale forest sector NDCs across the community forestry in Nepal." Participants from the National Workshop

8. Acknowledgements

On behalf of the project team, IGES would like to thank the Ministry of Forest and Environment of Nepal as well as the provincial governments, in particular the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, from Province 1, Gandaki Province (former Province 4), Province 5 and Province 7 for their support to organise the provincial and national workshops and participation of their staff, respectively. The authors express their special appreciation to the representatives of the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) and members of community forestry groups who provided their invaluable inputs during the project implementation. We appreciate the Asia Pacific Network (APN) for their generous financial support under the APN CAPaBLE programme for this project (CBA2018-08SY-Lopez-Casero), and for their consideration to extend the project duration due to changes in the project schedule and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Special thanks go to Ramesh Dhakal whose coordination and logistic assistance greatly supported the successful organisation of the events..

TECHNICAL REPORT

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1. Introduction

The forest sector has an important role in the achievement of the commitments expressed in the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by the Government of Nepal. Enhancing local and subnational governance capabilities, especially community forestry, and inter-sectoral coordination in order to comply with the requirements of Nepal's NDCs is necessary. Realising such a need, this CAPaBLE project was implemented to design a capacity development programme in consultation with the government and key civil society experts. The project has engaged stakeholders in designing and providing input to a training module, including for trial field assessments. A Pilot Quality-of-Governance Standard, which was developed in a multi-stakeholder process as part of action research conducted by the proponent and collaborators and released in 2016, provided a methodological example for stakeholder engagement. The standard covers the elements of governance quality required for the implementation of REDD+ and other forest sector programmes included in Nepal's NDCs, such as the Environment-Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) Framework, and identified existing capacity building needs. In order to address these needs, the training module is developed in consultation with the government and key civil society experts representing the diverse stakeholders of the forest sector in Nepal. Particular effort has gone into ensuring diversity of gender, ethnicity and economic status in interest representation, using a cumulative model of identifying which interests are under-represented and actively ensuring their involvement. Stakeholders from forest administration, relevant line agencies, and groups representing women and diverse ethnic groups involved in community forestry with distinct socio-economic features and management participated in the training workshops and field assessments in selected provinces. Participants were trained in undertaking participatory governance assessments of community forest management and NDC related forest sector programmes.

The project has been highly relevant to the APN Action Agenda, particularly APN's goal of enhancing local capabilities to participate in global sustainability and support science-based decision-making. The project contributes to strengthening the governance and institutional dimensions of global change, while providing synergistic mitigation-adaptation options and considering implications for sustainable development. These are key cross-cutting topics of APN's Research Pathways under the areas of "Resources Utilisation and Pathways for Sustainable Development", Climate Change and Climate Variability" and "Ecosystems and Biodiversity" respectively. The project addressed these topics in a comprehensive and consistent manner, based on multi-stage capacity needs assessment to ensure an integrated planning and management of the key elements in Nepal's forest sector NDCs (sustainable forest management, mitigation, adaptation, and governance).

1.1 Concise literature review:

Forests, as multifunctional ecosystems, can play an important role in adaptation and building resilience through various ecosystem services and non-carbon benefits. The Paris Agreement recognises the contribution made by forests to mitigation and adaptation as an integral part of sustainable forest management (UNFCCC 2015). Forests are key to climate change mitigation because of their dual role as sources and sinks for carbon emissions. Deforestation and forest degradation (D&FD) is one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at

the global scale. Meanwhile, forests could be a cost effective mitigation solution due to the natural ability to store carbon (i.e., reservoir of GHG). The agreement therefore stresses synergistic actions resulting in mitigation and adaptation benefits.

Forestry is a strategic sector for addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments of Nepal's NDCs. Over 44% of the country's total 4.71 million hectares area is covered by forests and other wooded land (MOFE 2019). Nepal's NDCs thus included forest management as one of the focus areas under the country's Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy. The NDCs emphasise developing "mitigation-friendly forest management systems" and enhancing carbon sequestration through sustainable management of forests, and programmes reducing carbon emissions from forest areas, as well as adaptation-friendly community-based forest and climate resilient watershed management. Nepal will maintain 40% of the total area of the country under forest cover. Through sustainable forest management and improved forest governance, Nepal will increase forest productivity and products while emphasizing the enhancement of carbon sequestration and forest carbon storage. Nepal will pilot a sub-national project on REDD+ to reduce about 14 million tons of CO₂e by 2020 by addressing the drivers of D&FD.

Climate actions in the forest sector are expected to contribute to and complement mitigation (emission reduction and carbon sinks), conservation, livelihood support, and building resilience and adaptive capacity while minimising the risks and vulnerability. This fact has been well acknowledged by concerned parties as well as major declarations (such as the Paris Agreement, New York Declaration on Forests, Global Forest Goals and Targets under the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, etc). In the NDCs, equal emphasis is also given to building climate resilient watersheds in mountainous eco-regions, sustainably conserving watershed and biodiversity, making community-based forests and watershed management climate adaptation-friendly, and designing and implementing community adaptation plans of action (CAPAs) based on multiple benefits both from forests as well as other ecosystems.

Poor governance has been a main driver of deforestation and forest degradation in Nepal. The failure of state controlled forest policies led to the introduction of community-based forest management in the late 1970s (Dhungana, Poudel, and Bhandari 2018). Nepal's first NDCs stress the key role of the "more than 25,000 community-based forest management groups [...] directly engaged in managing about 30% of the country's total forest area" (GoN/MoPE 2016). However, without addressing governance issues the forest sector will not effectively contribute to Nepal's NDCs. Improving governance requires a systematic approach that identifies areas to be addressed, devises and implements suitable responses, monitors results, and continuously adapts and learns. To operationalise this concept, governance quality can be assessed through a generic hierarchical framework of principles, criteria and indicators (López-Casero, Cadman, and Maraseni 2016). The UNFCCC recognised the importance of good forest governance by adopting in 2010 social and environmental safeguards on REDD+, which include "transparent and effective national forest governance structures" (Decision 1/CP.16 Appendix I, 2(b)). Nepal's NDCs involve the forest sector in synergy with others, including to "pilot a subnational project on REDD+ to reduce about 14 million tons of CO₂eq by 2020" and "strengthen implementation of Environment-Friendly Local Governance Framework (EFLG)" (GoN/MoPE 2016).

1.2 Objectives of the Project:

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen forest governance and inter-sectoral coordination for effective implementation of REDD+ and other forest sector programmes included in Nepal's NDCs commitments by enhancing local and subnational capabilities. This ensures compliance with the requirements for addressing and respecting the REDD+ social and environmental safeguards including "transparent and effective national forest governance structures", and for reporting on these under Nepal's national Safeguards Information System. It also contributes to setting the rules for accountable and equitable benefit distribution of results based REDD+ payments, and to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes included in Nepal's NDCs, such as the EFLG Framework.

The specific objectives were:

- 1) Design a training programme based on the Pilot Quality-of-Governance Standard for Forest Sector Activities and Programmes at the Community Forest level and its compliance mechanism for the implementation of forest sector NDCs;
- 2) Pilot the draft training modules and participatory governance assessments with identified target trainee groups (gender and ethnicity diverse representatives of subnational and local forest administration, community forestry and civil society);
- 3) Deliver a fully revised Version 1.2 of the Standard including finalised training modules to the government and other key stakeholders for future capacity development programmes on NDCs.

1.3 Capacity Development and Awareness Raising Outcomes:

The project contributed to science-policy interfacing envisaged in the APN's Fourth Strategic Plan (FSP) 2015-2020 as capacity building drew on the key action research findings and outputs agreed upon by the forest sector stakeholders in earlier stages. During the design of the activities, focus was given to training of early-career district-level forest office staff, representatives of the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), the umbrella organisation of Nepal's over 25,000 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), and members of the CFUGs where the participatory governance assessments trials were conducted. In line with APN's FSP, individual-level training has contributed to behaviour change in key stakeholder organisations and networks, which are responsible for the implementation of Nepal's NDCs on the ground.

The training module will be made available to existing stakeholders for long-term implementation of NDCs related activities such as sustainable forest management (SFM), mitigation (REDD+), adaptation, and improving governance quality.

2. Methodology

The project intended to develop the capacity of relevant stakeholders in community forestry, including the forest administration, forest user groups and their umbrella organisation in participatory governance assessments and intersectoral coordination. It employed both a field-tested engagement methodology and a comprehensive and systematic assessment method based on a Standard that incorporates the elements of governance quality for community forestry that the stakeholders themselves identified in earlier stages. The engagement methodology of the project ensured that all major stakeholder groups, including women and marginalised communities, have the opportunity to use the Standard, available in the Nepalese

language, to assess the management of any given community forest. The assessment method employed context-specific verifiers, means of verification and verification methods, which the engaged representatives of all relevant stakeholders identified under a generic framework of principles, criteria and indicators (PC&I) of quality of governance.

The project trialed the training module and participatory governance assessments in four out of seven provinces of Nepal, namely Provinces number 1, 4, 5, and 7. Provinces 1 and 7 cover the eastern and western extremes of Nepal and Provinces 4 and 6 the more centrally located western areas. The training needs assessment workshops were close to the provincial capitals, Biratnagar (Province 1), Butwal (Province 5), Pokhara (Province 4) and Dhangadi (Province 7). Furthermore, trial assessments, which were a part of each capacity development workshop, took place with selected community forest user groups (CFUGs) of nearby districts. The participants of the workshops came from different districts in each province, comprising plain, hill and mountain areas in order to be representative of the various governance structures and practices within the same community forestry regime. The capacity development programme involved about 100 trainees in total from different sectors.

Trainees included forestry staff from provincial and district offices, District Development Office (DDO) staff, Irrigation Department, FECOFUN district representatives, and CFUG members. Gender balance and ethnic background were fully taken into account in the invitation process.

2.1 Outline of activities conducted:

- a. **Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Workshop:** As part of the capacity building, this project organised TNA workshops to identify the capacity gaps at the community level for the implementation of the NDCs commitments related to the forest sector. At each workshop, the TNA identified the relevance of the forest sector for Nepal's NDCs (climate change mitigation and adaptation) at the local level, in order to understand related capacities needed for implementing Nepal's forest sector NDCs. Subsequently, each workshop provided training on how community forestry regime can apply and assess sustainable forest management, mitigation-adaptation outcomes and quality of governance. Presentations from government staff (from the provincial government and district levels), experts, and project team provided a background on initial action for NDC implementation in the context of forest sector policies, programmes, plans and actions. It was followed by group exercises to identify general issues of forest management such as roles and responsibilities of government agencies, CFUGs, and stakeholders, challenges of forest management (including drivers of deforestation) and how the different sectors coordinate for overcoming these challenges. Group interaction allowed for a systematic assessment of the existing monitoring and reporting system, required resources (technical, financial and human), and support for NDC implementation in the forest sector, including monitoring and assessment, and required institutional coordination (vertical and horizontal) for NDC implementation. Discussions and exercises were held among homogenous groups (such as among district forest officers, CFUGs, provincial staffs etc.) or mixed groups to identify common as well as specific issues and capacity gaps. In each workshop, a trial participatory governance assessment engaging target trainees (gender and ethnicity diverse representatives of subnational and local forest administration, community forestry and civil society) was

conducted, which greatly helped to design the main output of the project, the draft training module.

Three workshops were organised (3-4 April 2019, Tilottama, Rupandehi, Province 5; 16-18 June 2019: Ilam ward 7, Ilam, province 1; 19-21 June 2019, Biratnagar, Province 1; 29 July – 1 August, Dhangadi, Sudurpacchim Province (former Province 7), in addition to consultation in Province 4 on the sideline of the National Workshop). Agenda and related information are included in the appendix.

- b. **National Workshop entitled “Developing Training Module on Establishing Effective Governance Framework at the Local Level for Implementing Nepal’s Forest Sector Nationally Determined Contributions”:** The national workshop was organised in Pokhara, Province 4, on 24 and 25 of January 2020. The objectives of the workshop were to review of capacity development needs for implementing Nepal’s Forest Sector NDCs at different levels, discuss the content of the training module on “Establishing Effective Governance Framework at the Local Level for Implementing Nepal’s Forest Sector Nationally Determined Contributions”, and finalise the basic structure, scope and content of the module through intensive and constructive discussion. The main participants of the workshop were from the federal government (mainly the relevant division/department from the Ministry of Forest and Environment such as REDD+ Coordination Center, Climate Change Division, Forest Department) FECOFUN, and senior staff from Provinces 4, 5 and 7 (already transferred to the federal government at the time of the workshop). The agenda and related information are included in the appendix.

3. Results & Discussion

1. **TNA and trial workshops:** The workshops were effective in familiarising stakeholders at the sub-national and local level about the content and scope of NDCs, as these stakeholders had limited exposure to the climate change policy development occurring at the national and international level, such as NDCs, REDD+ etc. While the overall focus of this project was on governance, it became clear during the trial assessment and discussion that community forestry needs to incorporate new elements related to sustainable forest management and climate actions. In that context the major existing capacity gaps identified by the project are:
 - a. CFUGs lack technical manpower for the forest management and necessary instruments such as GPS and computers. For that purpose CFUGs need training programmes and exposure visits.
 - b. The CFUGs’ executive members need training on how to prepare minutes, proposals, records of income and expenditures. Language barriers are also an issue in the multicultural setting of many areas of Nepal.
 - c. Adaptation measures needed for the conservation of local water (ponds, springs, etc.) for human use and for wildlife.
 - d. Adoption of agroforestry for higher productivity and resilience in forestry and agriculture.
 - e. Coordination with local agencies, district forest offices and provincial forest offices.
 - f. Need for technical, policy, legal and financial support from each Provincial

Government.

The identified actions/requirements are:

- g. Local level: Include governance related activities in the CFUG Action Plan, incorporating relevant policies on carbon, agroforestry, watershed management, eco-tourism, and biodiversity conservation, capacity building on forest management for an effective and inclusive leadership. Procure instruments for forest management and carbon measurement, self-monitoring/evaluation of the progress of implementation, and coordination with relevant local agencies and groups (municipalities/wards, women groups, indigenous groups, saving groups, drinking water groups, irrigation groups, agriculture groups etc). Set a boundary (at least 10000 ha of forest area or watershed from one or more CFUGs) for carbon trading.
- h. District level: Build capacity to support evaluation of the implementation by CFUGs, provide instruments and technical support for the forest management and carbon measurement, and provide training programs and awareness raising activities, and budget allocation.
- i. Provincial level: Add a carbon measurement component in the CFUGs directives, support monitoring and evaluation, provide training programmes and awareness, and provide financial support

2. **National Workshop and Development of Training Manual**: The national workshop was useful in understanding the knowledge gaps between national and sub-national levels. It also allowed for sharing lessons and providing feedback to the national level. It was found that for the effective implementation of forest sector NDCs, the current management approach under community forestry needs to undergo fundamental reforms. For that purpose, it was found that the integration of four pillars (sustainable forest management, mitigation, adaptation, and governance) is required. This finding became the basis for the development of the draft training module [IMPLEMENTING NEPAL'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs) IN THE FOREST SECTOR: Building Capacities on Sustainable Forest Management and Governance for Synergistic Mitigation-Adaptation Actions at the Community Level]. Discussions at the workshop mainly concentrated on clarifying the content and scope of the module. It was noted that the government has already issued policy directives, strategies, acts, directives and guidelines on all major pillars but that guidance, which incorporates all dimensions in one place, is still missing and that the training mode could address this need. However, there was also consensus on the importance of balancing the content so that it is neither too heavy on technical content nor too general in nature. The module should be such that it provides a clear direction for future capacity building by using available references (technical guidelines, policy and strategies, acts and directives). For instance, it may not be necessary for the community to understand all the detailed steps and processes for carbon accounting; rather, a solid understanding on the processes and kinds of activities that they could do by themselves is required. Thus the focus was on how to enable communities to establish a planning and implementation process that incorporates all four pillars. Following these suggestions, participants agreed on the outline of the module shown in **Figure 1**.

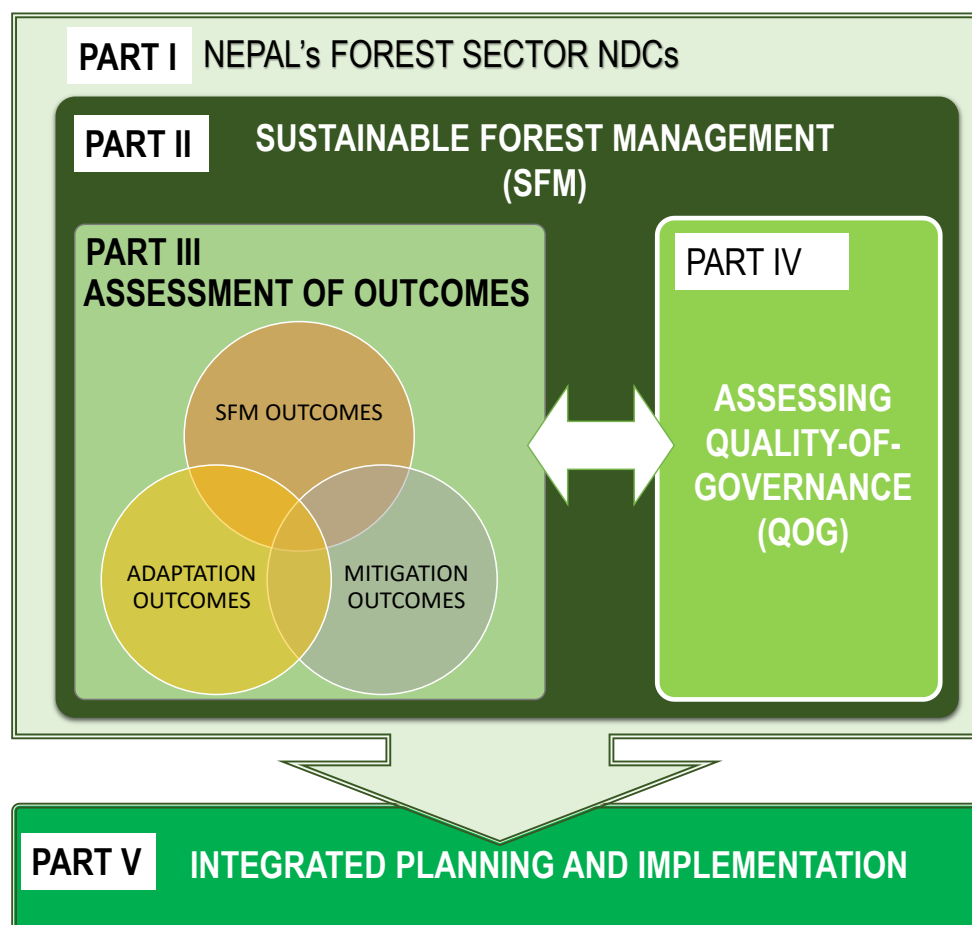


Figure 1 Outline of the training module developed under this project

- a. PART I sets the background information on forest sector NDCs, including national and international level policies and negotiations regarding the contribution of the forest sector to climate change and the impacts of climate change on the forest sector. It outlines the scope of the forest sector in Nepal's NDCs.
- b. PART II introduces sustainable forest management (SFM) as a means to achieve NDCs. It introduces the concept of SFM as relevant to the case of Nepal and the necessity of SFM to address the climate change challenges and successful implementation of NDCs.
- c. PART III deals with monitoring and assessing outcomes of SFM, focusing on mitigation and adaptation implications towards achieving NDCs. It aims to familiarise the users concerning preparedness and actions that they could undertake at the community level for the assessment without going into many of the technical details. This part will help community to identify the resources and supports (technical, financial, capacity) needed to implement climate actions in a synergistic manner._
- d. PART IV introduces the quality of governance, which is critical for the successful integration of climate actions in SFM and subsequently ensure the effective implementation of SFM at the community level.
- e. PART V outlines key steps for consolidating the outcomes from earlier parts (I to IV) towards an integrated planning and implementation. The outcomes from this section will form a basis for the community to kick-start integration of

activities to ensure meaningful contribution towards implementation of Nepal's forest sector NDC commitments.

3. Conclusion

This APN CAPaBLE project made a key step toward mainstreaming forest-related climate actions stipulated in Nepal's NDCs. Particularly for the stakeholders working in Nepal's forest sector, it provided a valuable opportunity to understand the scope of national NDCs and their respective contributions. The TNA workshops, trial assessments and national workshop were effective in bringing up issues related to sustainable forest management and forest-related climate actions at community, district, provincial, and national level. The identified required capacity building activities based on co-learning for forest related NDCs are the first of their kind in Nepal, as most of the conventional discussion around NDCs rarely targets stakeholders at the sub-national and local level. In that sense, this project has helped to bridge an implementation gap between policy at the national level and actions on the ground, which is one of the key reasons behind poor implementation and slow progress of climate actions in many countries. The focus of this project on building capacities for planning, implementation, and monitoring and assessment was meant to enable effective communication and recognition of local level action and needs at the national and sub-national level as well as with other non-government actors (international organisations, private sector etc.). At the same time, the national level can greatly benefit from an economy of scale by being able to update the latest policy priorities and programmes, upgrading ambitions on NDC implementation, as well as gathering local level contributions toward reporting progress on NDCs to the international level (such as UNFCCC).

The main outcomes and the training module are expected to continue contributing to awareness raising and capacity building of relevant stakeholders, in particular CFUGs, to plan, implement, and monitor forest related climate actions in a synergistic and effective manner.

The main observations from the project activities and outcomes are: 1) CFUGs are willing to actively participate and contribute towards achieving national level commitments in the NDCs; 2) They require regular updates and facilitation to explain opportunities and threats (safeguards), and their roles and contribution. 3) They also need recognition of their efforts and mechanisms for benefit-sharing (such as payments from REDD+ or adequate finance to implement actions); 4) Carefully designed capacity building is necessary to address key capacity gaps to enable community based climate actions (such as planning, use of tools, negotiation and leadership skills, monitoring and assessment).

5. Future Directions

The project was executed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Forest and Environment Nepal with a view to facilitating adoption of the outputs and outcomes in the future implementation of forest-related NDCs from the national level, via the subnational and local levels, to the community level. The module coverage on sustainable forest management, synergistic mitigation-adaptation, and quality of governance offers a comprehensive reference for building capacities towards mainstreaming community forestry involvement in forest related climate actions such as REDD+ and ecosystem based adaptation. Potential future

activities are as follows;

1. Revise and update the training module in close collaboration with the concerned stakeholders in Nepal.
2. Take initiatives for the adoption of the Training Module by the Ministry of Forest and Environment (with which the project proponents collaborated closely during the implementation).
3. Expand the scope of the training module and initiate trials in other countries in Asia where community forestry are under implementation or evolving.

IGES and its partners seek to undertake follow-up research and policy advisory for the promotion of training using the developed module such as through integration into forest-related climate actions from government or non-government organisations. Efforts are necessary for increasing awareness on the arrangements and implications of the agreement and Nepal's NDCs from the national level down to the community forestry level. Dedicated climate actions by the community can only happen when they are well informed and updated about Nepal commitments to the agreement, especially, regarding the central role of the forest sector to co-achieve planned mitigation and adaptation actions. It is essential to clarify the role, responsibility and contributions of the forest sector at different levels, in particular at the community forestry level, to implement the NDCs commitments successfully. Eventually, active participation of the local communities coupled with parallel strengthening of their capacity will not only ensure effective implementation but also help in raising the ambition level of NDC implementation in a realistic manner.

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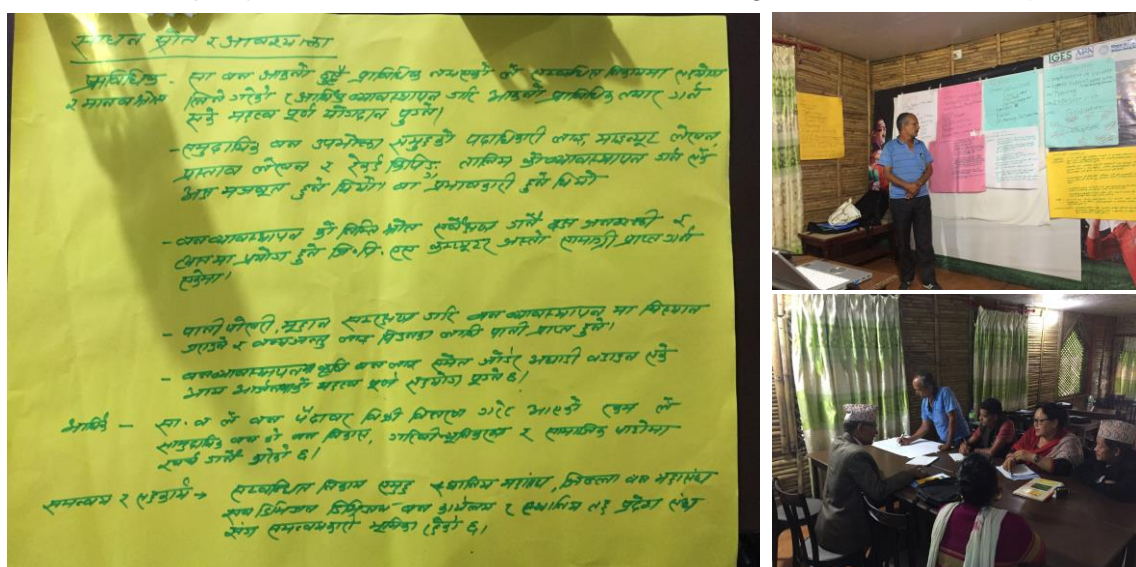
Appendix

1. TNA Workshop and Community Trials

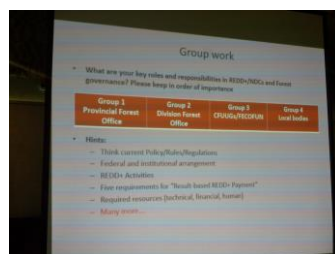
a) Province 5-Nepal (Tilottama, Rupandehi District, in 3 – 4 April 2019)



b) Province 1-Nepal (Ilam District, 16-18 June 2019; Biratnagar 19- 21 June 2019),



c) Province 7-Nepal (29 July – August 1, Dhangadi)



2. National workshop (Pokhara on 24 and 25th of January 2020)



3. Agenda used in the workshops

3.1. TNA Workshops and Trial (Same agenda used in all workshops for consistency)

Objectives:

- a) Explain the background and mechanisms of the Pilot Quality-of-Governance Standard for Forest Sector Activities and Programmes (QGS) to assess governance quality.
- b) Conduct a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) to identify the existing gaps between what subnational authorities and forest managers/users currently know about NDC, NAMA and REDD+ and what they should take into consideration for successful NDC implementation.
- c) Conduct a trial participatory governance assessment engaging target trainees (gender and ethnicity diverse representatives of subnational and local forest administration, community forestry and civil society) to develop the contents of draft training module
- d) Identify required action and steps to prepare the ground for the integrated monitoring and assessment of forest sector climate actions at the community level.

Day 1

Session 1: NDCs and the forest sector: The relevance of mitigation (REDD+) and the implications for forest management at the local level

Session 2: Developing Governance Standards for Forest Sector Activities and Programmes in Nepal and their potential contribution to Nepal's NDCs

Session 3: Responsibilities of provincial government, division forest offices, local bodies and CFUGs

Day 2

Session 4: Capacity needs assessment (Working groups)

Session 5: Voluntary Pilot Quality-of-Governance Standard for Forest Sector Programmes

Session 6: Trial assessment: Understanding the assessment process (Working groups)

Session 7: Reporting back to the plenary by working groups

Session 8: Way forward (How to establish a process to use the standard at the provincial and local level for NDCs at the province, district and local level?; What are challenges you would face?; What additional information do you would require?)

3.2. National Workshop

National Level Expert Workshop on “Developing training module on Establishing Effective Governance Framework at the Local Level for Implementing Nepal’s Forest Sector Nationally Determined Contributions”

Date: 24-25th January 2020

Location: Pokhara, Nepal

Objectives:

- 1) Review of capacity development needs for implementing Nepal’s Forest Sector NDCs;
- 2) Discuss on the content of the training module on “Establishing Effective Governance Framework at the Local Level for Implementing Nepal’s Forest Sector Nationally Determined Contributions”
- 3) Finalize outline of the draft training module

Program

TIME	AGENDA
16:00	Registration
	Opening Remarks Dr Sindhu P. Dhungana, MOFE, Government of Nepal Mr Yam Prasad Pokharel, MITFE, Gandaki Province
17:00	Welcome Remarks
	Welcome reception
8:30	Registration Welcome and program outline
9:00	Forest sector NDCs: opportunities and challenges
10:40	Introduction to sustainable forest management and its implications for carbon sequestration
11:00	Group discussion: 1) Training needs to promote sustainable forest management at the community level 2) Content for the training module
12:00	Lunch Break
13:30	Carbon accounting: current state and challenges
13:50	Group discussion: 1) Training needs for carbon accounting 2) Content for the training module
14:40	Tea/coffee Break
15:00	Strategy for a new forest sector governance at the community level: findings of consultation at provinces
15:20	Group discussion: 1) Training needs for improving governance at the community forest 2) Content for the training module
16:50	(1) incorporation of major suggestions for revision; 2) Discussion on the utility of proposed training module; 3) Finalisation of the outline and scope of the training module
17:30	Closing of the workshop