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| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMEBDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARYDate: 4th April 2013 | UNDP_Logo-Blue w TaglineBlue-ENG.png |
| NameAki Kono, UN-REDD/UNDP GEF EBD  |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**Bangkok – Kathmandu –Bangkok  | **List of Annexes**: n/a |
| Inclusive Travel Dates: | **Key counterpart(s) in each location:** |
| 31 July – 02 August  |  | Location: Kathmandu, Nepal * Mr. Resham Danghi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation - REDD Cell
* Mr. Naya Sharma Paudel, Mr. Dil B Khatri (Forest Action) and their support researchers
* Mr. Nagendra (President), Mr. Dandu Sherpa, Mr. Pasang Dolma Sherpa, Mr. Tunga Rai, and the Board members of NEFIN
* UNDP CO focal point was not present due to her medical condition.
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| **Purpose/Objectives of Mission**The objective of this short mission was to oversee the progress of the Targeted Support to Nepal.  |
| **Context**UNDP/UN-REDD has been providing Targeted Support to the national REDD+ readiness process in Nepal, which has been primarily assisted by FCPF since 2010, in order to contribute to two specific objectives identified by the REDD Cell and key stakeholders for this support: 1. Increased effectiveness of the National REDD+ Strategy in addressing drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation; and
2. Increased understanding by the Government of Nepal of potential options for effective, equitable and transparent management of REDD+ finance.

The Targeted Support will deliver two study reports, indicating practical entry points and options for achieving these objectives by the end of October this year. These entry points and options will feed into the development of Nepal’s National REDD+ Strategy and an ERPIN for the Carbon Fund under FCPF, which are expected to be completed by December this year. |
| **Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**July 31st* Arrived in Kathmandu at 1pm, and had an internal meeting with the Forest Action at the UNDP CO.

August 1st* Meeting with the REDD Cell and Forest Action to exchange updates on the progress of the overall readiness process and Targeted Support, and to discuss and agree on a specific timeline of events and deliverables to ensure successful contribution of the TS outputs to the country’s strategy development process.
* Technical discussions on study details with the Forest Action.

August 2nd * Meeting with the NEFIN to be introduced to NEFIN’s work and to update them on the progress of the TS studies and solicit their feedback.

**Progress of the two TS funded studies and delivery timeline*** The Forest Action has just delivered the output linked to the second payment (due July 31st), which has already been cleared for payment.
* The work seems to be now on track to meet the final deadline of the 31st of October.
* Draft reports will be delivered by the end of August, and local consolations to gather feedback from local stakeholders on the report findings will take place during September. The national workshop to validate the reports will held at the beginning of October, and comments and recommendations from that workshop will be incorporated into the final reports by the end of October.

**Progress of the National REDD+ Readiness Process in Nepal*** With the overall support of FCPF, the REDD Cell has engaged foreign consulting firms to begun preparing RELs/RLs and MRV methodologies, and over the next few months, various stakeholder consultations are expected to take place. A SESA process will also start soon.
* At the district level, the WWF-USA is developing a project under a jurisdictional approach, which is supported at the national level by FCPF.
* A person from FMT (originally from Nepal) has been seconded to sit in the REDD Cell office to help with the preparation of an ERPIN, and according to this person, a registry will be set up to manage REDD+ projects across the country in order to implement a jurisdictional approach.
* If the upcoming election results support a stronger shift toward federalism, this will have significant bearings on how REDD+ finance and MRV processes should be designed and handled particularly with regard to the role of district governments.

**Contribution to the national REDD+ strategy development** * The current delay in the development of Nepal’s national REDD+ strategy (as well as the ERPIN - the REDD Cell will request an extension from FCPF till December) has kept the window for the TS outputs to contribute to these strategic policy documents.
* The date for the national validation meeting for the TS study reports is now proposed for the 4th of October, and the meeting will be chaired by the REDD Cell.
* These two studies should present a range of options and entry points for the national REDD+ strategy development process to consider although, for example, there are already some internal discussions on REDD+ finance management options to support the implementation of the Carbon Fund. The REDD Cell however recognizes that a stakeholder dialogue to consider all possible options will be necessary, and the report will contribute to this.
* How to prioritize drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation and identifying how such priority drivers and causes will shift over time due to national circumstances in order address and keep the focus on key drivers (based on impacts and extent) was discussed extensively with the REDD Cell, and the TS study will introduce a logical and constructive approach to the prioritization process as this requires to deal with varying stakeholder interests and conflicts.
* The studies will also point to linkages between REDD+ finance management and addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to emphasize the importance of a feedback process between these two elements.
* Scenarios based on varying scales of REDD+ finance to be managed by the government and how such scenarios would have bearings on the structure and stakeholder engagement process will be introduced by the report.

**Meeting with NEFIN** * Met by the president, vice president, climate change unit and board members of NEFIN.
* NEFIN represents 56 of 59 government recognized IP groups in Nepal and work closely with 12,000 affiliate organizations in, among others, legal support, human rights advocacy and media.
* Also present was the Nepal Federation of Women (NFW), which is one of the NEFIN affiliates and currently representing 36 IP groups.
* In 2008, the national constitution once recognized the formal representation by IPs, but the real progress was hampered by highly politicized representation.
* NEFIN’s primary objective is to hold the Government of Nepal accountable for full implementation of its obligation under ILO 169 and UNDRIP.
* One of the main challenges faced by NEFIN is the unsatisfactory level of IP representation in the national REDD+ readiness process – although they are part of the REDD+ CSO Alliance, their identity and agenda are inherently different from those of CSOs. Therefore, they do not consider any consultations through the Alliance appropriate for IP issues.
* The same is said about the National REDD+ Working Group and Technical Review Committee – they feel that although NEFIN is a member of the both bodies, their voices are not heard as IP issues are not specially treated in decision-making.
* They demand the UN Organizations to implement the ILO 169 and UNDRIP to lead the Government of Nepal by example (it later was clarified that only ratified/signatory/supporting member states can implement them, while UN Organization can only promote and support the implementation of such obligations by the member states)
* Regarding the Targeted Support, the NEFIN is generally happy that the Forest Action was engaged through a transparent and competitive bidding process, and they feel the scope of work is appropriate, and they would like to be closely consulted throughout the process.
* They are also happy that the TS has engaged a local and likeminded organization like the Forest Action instead of an international consultant/firm as such a trend has increasingly been seen through the FCPF process in the country.
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| Follow up actions:* UNDP CO to provide as and when necessary logistical and financial support through the TS budget to ensure full and effective consultations at the local and national level.
* Date of a national validation meeting for the final products is set for October 4th.
* Forest Action to continue coordinating and consulting with NEFIN and other key civil society organizations and community associations.
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