

Approach to developing REDD+ environmental safeguards in Bhutan

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Why pursue REDD+ in Bhutan

- ❑ Large areas under forest cover (more than 72% of the land area under forest)
- ❑ Low rate of deforestation and degradation
- ❑ Consistent political and societal commitment to environmental preservation (GNH development philosophy, Constitutional requirement, National Forest Policy)
- ❑ More than 50% of the land area under Protected Areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, reserves and biological corridors)
- ❑ RGOB's commitment to follow a path of carbon neutral development (Bhutan's statement at COP 15)

(The enabling political, social and environmental conditions in line with the REDD+ focus on conservation, SFM and carbon stock enhancement positions Bhutan in a favorable situation to pursue REDD+ and be rewarded through incentives. These incentives could support capacity building, improving knowledge base, SFM and forest management performance.)

REDD+ Where We are, And

UNFCCC Decisions on REDD+

Phase II: Implementation of PAMs

- Policies and measures (PAMs) proposed in Phase I
- Sub-national investments, piloting, demonstration activities; monitoring

Emission reduction schemes for REDD+ (market-based, fund-based)

2012

2014

2016

2020

Phase I: National REDD+ Strategy Development

- Organization/Stakeholder consultations
- Developing National REDD+ Strategy
- Institutional capacity strengthening

Phase III: Payment for Performance

- Measurement, Reporting, Verification of emission reductions and carbon sequestration

Objectives of Workshop on National Approaches to Safeguards, October 2012

Raise awareness on REDD+, REDD+ environmental safeguards, multiple benefits

Carry out preliminary work on developing a national approach to safeguards



Experiences from the Workshop

- ❑ Identifying REDD+ interventions
- ❑ Identifying risks and benefits from these interventions using the UN-REDD Environmental Principles
- ❑ Understanding which safeguard policies might address the risks and benefits from REDD+ using the UN-REDD Benefits and Risks Tool (BeRT)

REDD+ Interventions in Bhutan discussed in the Workshop

- ❑ Electrification of rural areas to reduce emissions from degradation
- ❑ Plantations on barren land to enhance forest carbon stocks
- ❑ National park zonation to conserve forest carbon stocks
- ❑ Capacity building of field staff to manage the forest both inside and outside forest management units (FMUs) for sustainable forest management

Key Risks and Benefits from REDD+ in Bhutan

□ Potential key **risks** identified were

- Restricted access to forest resources by forest dwelling communities
- Increased human/wildlife conflict
- Reduced development opportunities

□ Potential key **benefits** identified were

- Increased watershed protection for hydropower generation
- Contribution to Bhutan's constitutional mandate to protect 60% of her forests
- Increased aesthetic and recreation value of the Bhutanese landscape

PROGRAMMES, POLICIES, LAWS AND REGULATIONS IDENTIFIED BY BERT WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO ADDRESS RISKS AND BENEFITS FROM REDD+

Cancun safeguard text	Bhutan safeguard policy	Relevance to Cancun
<p>[REDD+ should]... Para 1 (d) ... take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems; ... when undertaking [REDD+] ... Para 2 (e) [REDD+ is]instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services</p>	<p>Initial Environmental Examination, Environmental act.</p>	<p>Helps to identify which non-forest land can be planted on without adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>
	<p>Hydropower Policy of Bhutan 2008</p>	<p>Promotes integrated water shed/catchment management inclusive of forest and non-forest ecosystems</p>

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Cancun safeguard text	Bhutan safeguard policy	Relevance to Cancun
<p>When undertaking [REDD+] the following ... should be promoted and supported ... (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;</p>	<p>Rural electrification by 2013 Programme</p>	<p>Reduces degradation from fuelwood collection, by addressing the driver of degradation this Programme increases the permanence of the climate benefits</p>

Lessons Learned

- ❑ Input from people working on the ground essential
- ❑ Lengthy process, if BeRT was shortened and simplified this would be helpful
- ❑ A pre-workshop or consultant to identify relevant policies, laws and regulations in advance of the exercise makes the process smoother

Next Step

- Disseminate results in workshop report
- Workshop outcome to be incorporated for REDD+ strategy document
- Complete work on environmental safeguards
- Initiate work on social safeguards

THANK YOU

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