



Proceedings of the National workshop on REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Strategy Development in Bhutan 26th - 27th April 2012, Thimphu



Organized by: Watershed Management Division, Department of Forest and Park Services Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

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Preface and Acknowledgement

The Watershed Management Division of the Department of Forest and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF), organized a two-day workshop on REDD+ strategy development from 26-27th April, 2012 at NRDCL Conference hall, Thimphu. The main objective of the workshop was to bring all the stakeholders together and provide opportunity for the participants to familiarize themselves with the concept of the REDD+ mechanism and educate them on the process of REDD+ strategy development. The expected outcome of the workshop was to make the participants understand the concepts of the REDD+ mechanism, UN-REDD Programme and discussion on the institutional arrangement and the outline of a National REDD+ strategy development.

The Minister of Finance, Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, graced the opening session of the workshop along with senior government officials from relevant organizations, representative from the UN system, SNV, and guests from different agencies including National NGOs and private sectors. The Director General, Department of Forests and Park Services made the welcome address extending his warmest welcome to Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, Minister of Finance who kindly graced as chief guest for the opening ceremony, all distinguished guests and valued participants who have spared their valuable time to attend the opening session of the seminar.

There were presentations from National as well as from International organizations such as UN-REDD+ Programme secretariat Bangkok, FAO, Rome and SNV expert. The technical sessions consisted of presentations, discussions and group work which were summarized and reported. The findings from the group work were expected to contribute for the development of a National REDD+ Strategy for Bhutan.

We would like to extend our special thanks to the chief guest, Hon'ble Minister, Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, MoF, Hon'ble Minister, Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho, MoAF, Hon'ble Secretary, MoAF and Mr. Karma Dukpa, Director General, DoFPS, for their invaluable support in conducting this workshop.

We thank all the Resource Persons/facilitators, Mr. Timothy Boyle, Regional Coordinator, UNDP/UN-REDD Programme, Mr. Thomas Enters, Regional coordinator, UNEP/UN-REDD Programme, Mr. Steven Swan Sr. Adviser of SNV REDD programme in Vietnam and Mr. Joel Scriven, Forestry Officer, FAO/UN-REDD Programme for their enthusiastic response and support. Above all, our sincere thanks are also to the participants for their active participation.

Finally, we are also grateful to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for sponsoring the workshop.

The Organizers

List of Abbreviations

BDS Benefit Distribution System

CFO Chief Forest Officer
COP Conference of Parties

DoFPS Department of Forests and Park Services

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization FPIC Free Prior Informed Consent

LEDP Lower Emission Developing Planning
MOAF Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
NCCC National Climate Change Committee
NEC National Environment Commission
NEPA National Environment Protection Act

NFI National Forest Inventory
NGO Non Government Organization

NRDCL Natural Resource Development Corporation

PES Payment for Environment Services

REDD Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

SNV Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers

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TWG Technical Working Group

UNFCCC United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNDP United Nation Development Programme
UNEP United Nation Environment Programme

WMD Watershed Management Division

1. Introduction

The Watershed Management Division of the Department of Forest and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF), organized a two-day workshop on REDD+ strategy development from 26-27th April, 2012 at NRDCL Conference hall, Thimphu. The Minister of Ministry of Finance, H.E Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, graced the workshop along with Secretary, National Environment Commission, Senior government officials, representatives from the UN system, SNV and guests from different organizations including National NGOs and private sectors. The second REDD+ workshop focused on the development of a national REDD+ strategy/action plan was aimed at enhancing the technical competencies of stakeholders and it was facilitated by resource persons, Mr. Timothy Boyle, Regional Coordinator, UNDP/UN-REDD Programme, Mr. Thomas Enters, Regional coordinator, UNEP/UN-REDD Programme, Mr. Steven Swan Sr. Adviser of SNV REDD programme in Vietnam and Mr. Joel Scriven, Forestry Officer, FAO/UN-REDD Programme.

The workshop began with the traditional marchang ceremony to mark its significance. More than 60 participants representing different agencies, Government organizations, Non-governmental organizations private sectors and developing partners attended the opening sessions and more than 40 participants attended the technical sessions for the two days. The Director General, Department of Forests and Park Services made the welcome address extending his warmest welcome to Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, Minister of Finance who kindly acceded as chief guest for the opening ceremony, all distinguished guests and valued participants. Addressing the gathering, the Director General expressed his concerns about the impact of climate change at the local level in Bhutan. Bhutan is not spared from the effects of global warming like glacial outburst and flash floods causing adverse impacts on socio-economic life of many people. However, he is optimistic that the REDD+ would come through as an alternative funding mechanism not only for the activities that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, but also for delivering significant social and environmental benefits, for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in the existing forests.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Guest, His Excellency Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu thanked the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, and particularly the Watershed Management Division (WMD), for organizing the workshop on REDD+ which is timely and appropriate. He said that it is a good chance for our country to explore the benefits of the REDD+ mechanism for forgoing so many developmental activities while preserving and conserving our pristine forests. The Honorable Lyonpo also explained the overall situation of Bhutan with regard to forest conditions, and the success of sustainable management, environment and biodiversity as a result of strong

government support and favorable policies. He cited the example of support of the constitution requiring the maintenance of 60% forest cover for all times to come. He also expressed his deepest appreciation to the UN for supporting the readiness program and encouraged the participants to use the opportunity to interact with the experts in order to learn to derive benefits from the good environment surrounding us in the future.

Mr. Tashi Samdrup, REDD+ Focal officer from WMD introduced the workshop by presenting the overview and agenda for the next two days. It was followed by a presentation on introduction to REDD+, the importance, opportunity and challenges of REDD+ for Bhutan and the current status of REDD+ program in Bhutan by Mr. Chado Tshering, Chief Forest officer, WMD. Mr. Chado's presentation highlighted the international Policy and concept of REDD+, why REDD+ is important for Bhutan and REDD+ in the international UN climate change negotiations (history and future) and REDD+ options and opportunities for Bhutan. The last presentation for the opening session was again by REDD+ focal officer, Mr. Tashi Samdrup on the institutionalization of the REDD+ mechanism including the formation of a National REDD+ Advisory committee and technical working group and their mandates.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Tsering Gyeltshen, Dy. Chief Researcht Officer, thanking the Honorable Chief Guest and all the other guests for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend the opening session of the workshop.

The technical sessions consisted of presentations, discussions and group work which are summarized and reported. The first day consisted of presentations from different speakers. For the second day the participants were broken up into four groups and were assigned to work on relevant topics. The findings from the group work are expected to contribute for the development of a National REDD+ Strategy for Bhutan. The discussions for the second day were focused on issues pertaining to institutional arrangements, monitoring and MRV, benefit distribution systems and the strategy development processes.

2 Workshop objectives:

Recognizing the growing needs for REDD+ in Bhutan and the need for a National REDD+ Strategy, WMD organized a National level REDD+ workshop with the following specific objectives:

- To bring all the stakeholders together and provide opportunity for the participants to familiarize themselves with the concept of the REDD+ mechanism and educate them on the process of REDD+ strategy development;
- To institutionalize the REDD+ Advisory committee and Technical working group and finalize their mandates;

• To share and identify the processes for the development of a National REDD+ Strategy.

2.1 Expected outcome of the Workshop

- Participants/stakeholders understand the concepts of the REDD+ mechanism and the UN-REDD Programme;
- REDD+ working group formalized (institutional arrangement);
- Outline of National REDD+ Strategy Developed;
- Timeline established for REDD+ Strategy development

3. Summary of Presentations and discussions

Presentations	Summary of presentations and discussions	
What is REDD+ (including UNFCCC guidance on REDD+) Why REDD+ in Bhutan-Opportunities and Challenges for Bhutan. Current status of REDD+ in Bhutan (What has been done so far) By: Chado Tshering, CFO, Watershed Management Division	REDD+ refers to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and deals with the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries REDD+ was not included under the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol but has more recently emerged as a prominent climate mitigation mechanism for developing countries. There is now tentative agreement on the mechanism, including provisions for the participation of High Forest cover-Low Deforestation (HFLD) countries to introduce positive incentives for the sustainable management and conservation of forest carbon stocks. However, there is currently a lack of clarity on funding for the REDD+.	
	 Why pursue REDD+ in Bhutan (Opportunities) 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 (Gross National Happiness (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); Government's commitment to follow a path of carbon 	

neutral development (Bhutan's statement at COP 15). The enabling political, social and environmental conditions are in line with the conservation, SFM and carbon stock enhancement activities under REDD+. Bhutan is therefore in a favorable situation to implement REDD+ activities, policies and measures and be rewarded through incentives. These incentives could support capacity building, improving the knowledge base, and SFM.

Challenges to pursuing REDD+ in Bhutan

To enable the REDD+ mechanism to be effectively implemented, a considerable amount of effort and investment has to be made in several areas:

- ☐ General REDD+ awareness is weak:
- Building the knowledge base (science);
- ☐ Forestry data and information gap (NFI); Improving the understanding of carbon stocks and increment rates (from default values to data from national inventories and site specific measurements);
- ☐ Building technical capacity/Additional human resources;
- ☐ Institutional strengthening and integration;
- ☐ Financial resources.

Mr. Chado Tshering also presented the current status of REDD+ in Bhutan. He informed that the WMD with the support of SNV conducted a feasibility study on REDD+ in Bhutan in 2010, and based on the recommendations from the feasibility study the Division is in the process of forming a Technical working group. This Technical working group will provide guidance for the development of the REDD+ readiness processes.

UN- REDD Programme-Latest Development (What has been done so far for the development of REDD+ scheme in the UN-REDD participating countries) By: Thomas Enters, Regional Coordinator- UNREDD Programme (UNEP), Bangkok

Mr. Thomas Enters, Regional Coordinator (UNEP) UN-REDD Programme, Bangkok, presented the latest developments in the UN-REDD Programme, including what has been done to support REDD+-readiness in participating UN-REDD Programme countries. He explained about the REDD+ Conceptual framework and told the floor that REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme are two different entities. It was mentioned that while REDD+ is linked with UNFCCC, UN-REDD is supporting the countries to get ready for REDD+ implementation through capacity building. Participants from the floor raised queries regarding the starting point of reducing carbon emissions from the forestry sector. The resource person replied that first a reference emission level has to be established and it may take about 2-3 years. It was explained that baseline emissions can be estimated by analyzing historical emissions and the national circumstances. The resource person also mentioned that 20 years Landsat data is available for free for historical forest cover change data.

One of the stakeholders also asked about the cost benefit analysis of REDD+ to which the response was that the cost benefit analysis is important to be done at different locations but should be done selecting one activity at a time. Once the systems for REDD+ are implemented, expense has to be covered which is a fixed cost. Moreover it was mentioned that the benefits of REDD+ are both in the environmental and social realms. Environment benefits include climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, soil nutrient cycling, water regulation and social benefits like poverty reduction.

There was also a query as to how much WMD has to struggle to be ready for REDD+ (cost benefit) since DoFPS has been struggling for several years even to do NFI. To this it was mentioned that WMD will struggle, but it will be helped by many agencies in the process. The National Forestry Inventory, coordinated by Forest Resource Management Division (FRMD), is one such activity that will help WMD in its readiness process. The facilitators recommended that the system which will be developed should be transparent and drive towards increasing capacity. There was also a query as to how supportive the UN-REDD Programme is in the region. The resource person said that the UN-REDD Programme has gained lot of experiences in the region and this would help Bhutan in reducing the cost in it's REDD readiness process.

One participant raised a query as to whether REDD+ capacity assessment and development is confined to government only or if there is a role that the private sector and individual local consultants can play in enhancing the capacity of local people. In response, the resource person said that REDD+ also aims to contribute to poverty reduction, to which the private sector could have an opportunity to invest. In the answer to the query related to the role of consultants, Mr. Thomas stated an example in the Philippines where the main driver was the private sector (NGO) and the important role they play in the REDD+ mechanism and also mentioned that in Vietnam, the sub technical working groups are NGOs who discuss issues related to the establishment of an effective REDD+ compliant Benefit Distribution System (BDS).

Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+ By: Mr. Joel Scriven, Forestry Officer, UN-REDD Programme, FAO, Rome The second presentation was by Mr. Joel Scriven, Forestry Officer, UN-REDD Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, about the monitoring and measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) functions of the National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+. In his presentation he mentioned that Brazil is the first country to have reached Phase 2 of REDD+ and the country presented their monitoring system in 2007 at the Bali UNFCCC conference. He also informed the floor that measurement is the key and likely to

be the hardest part to implement of the MRV system, and would require lot of collaborations. It was also mentioned that it is important to set up clear roles and responsibilities of different agencies in advance. After the presentation on the National Forest Monitoring System by Joel Scriven, the queries from the floor were with regard to accounting the increment of carbon stocks for Bhutan to derive the benefits of REDD+. To this, the resource person explained that Bhutan should (once the mechanism is operation) write to UNFCCC Secretariat indicating the year when the forest reference level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL) will be considered. The representative from FRMD (Forest resources Management Division) informed the floor that they have the Landsat image of the whole country (Bhutan), and land cover change from 1990 to 2010. This would be beneficial for REDD+ readiness and suggested that WMD and FRMD should collaborate in this field. However, some participants mentioned that Landsat data in Bhutan is currently managed by National Land Commission (NLC) and this product does not help as NLC is mainly focused on cadastral mapping. The workshop was also informed by the National Environment Commission (NEC) participant that Thailand has proposed to support Bhutan with their GISTDA products.

Participations asked about the frequency of monitoring and who will make the payment. The resource person said that, once the REDD+ mechanism is fully operational, the MRV cycle should aim to be completed every four years. As for the cost it will depend on capacity gaps assessment, but it was mentioned that UN will pull together resources and try to convene donors for support. The first step is to know the thorough capacity development by knowing the gaps.

National REDD+ strategies & Programmes: SNV priority interventions and experiences By: Steven Swan- Sr. REDD+ Advisor, Vietnam

The last presentation was by Mr. Steven Swan, REDD+ Senior Advisor, SNV on National REDD+ strategies and Programs and SNV priority interventions and experiences. He explained about the six key intervention areas, and shared his experiences from Vietnam and the benefit distribution system in REDD+ program.

There was a query if it is required for a country to have LEDP (Lower Emission Development Planning). To this, the response was no, as it would add one more layer in the planning process. Another query was: how difficult would it be in planning process or how REDD+ can be mainstreamed in the planning process since REDD+ will not be stand alone and would have to be integrated in national inventory Plan. The response was that Bhutan will take about 3-4 years for mainstreaming. Right now it is in designing model for REDD+ approach. Some participants asked if there is link between millennium development goals and REDD+. To this Mr. Swan said that though there is a link, it is not explicit. He said it will addresses MDG goal 1 i.e. poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. He stated one

example in Cambodia making good process on MDG except MDG 7, so if they do well in REDD+, MDG 7 can be waived off, therefore it's indirectly related to MDG. There was also in depth deliberation on the safeguards. About the International safeguards, the resource person mentioned that the safeguards sort of cover all the issues, viz. Social, Environmental and Economic issues. In this connection, some participants asked what will be the safeguards, if REDD+ displaces other economic activities. To this, the resource person mentioned that whole idea of the REDD+ is to displace other activities that do not make economic sense. REDD+ activities will definitely not replace a goldmine. Before closing the day one the facilitators presented the task for each group for the 2nd Day of the workshop. The Participants were broken down into groups based on their choice of interest. Each group had been assigned with a facilitator and the concerned facilitators presented the ideas and concept of the group work.

DAY 2: 27th April, 2012

On the second day the participants were divided into four groups. The following were given to the groups for discussion:

- 1. Management of REDD+ readiness process- How to ensure inclusive and effective engagement by the stakeholders
- 2. Preparation of the National REDD+ strategy (Content and process)
- 3. Monitoring and MRV: Institutions and data
- 4. Safeguards (How to ensure social and environmental safeguards in implementing REDD+)

Each group (I-IV) presented their findings to the participants. The Honorable Director General of Department of Forest and Park Services facilitated the discussion.

4. Summary of Group Work

4.1 Group 1: Management of REDD+ readiness process- How to ensure inclusive and effective engagement by the stakeholders

The group one presented on the institutional arrangements and suggested that the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) existing within the National Environment Commission (NEC) to also act as the National Advisory Committee for REDD+ with some modifications in mandates. One recommendation was that the Chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG) should be part of NCCC. TWG was suggested to be upgraded with Head of the Department of DoFPS as the Chair instead of WMD chief and CFO, WMD as the Secretary. The other recommendations of the group were that the mandates of the TWG should be revised and role of WMD in the REDD+ readiness process should be formulated. The group also felt that WMD should have additional resources to move REDD+ forward. To this, some participants suggested that WMD should prioritize the activities and move forward with or without additional resources. The floor also felt the need to set up sub-TWGs to develop the strategy and move forward. One recommendation made by the floor was to create a REDD+ section within WMD.

There was also debate on the omission of SAARC Director in the TWG as proposed since the person may not be Bhutanese all the time, but some participants felt that as long as he/she contributes, it should not matter whether he/she is a national or not.

The floor also suggested the formation of open forum where experts can be invited to participate. On the proposal to include representatives from some agencies, some participants felt that it may not be good to extend the membership just for the sake of representing an agency as it may not function well, rather it would be better to invite the representatives when required. There was also a suggestion to link up with UNDP's solution exchange forum.

4.2 Group 2: Preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy (Content and process)

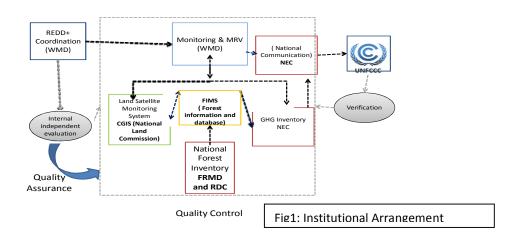
The second group proposed the contents of the National REDD+ Strategy. From the proposed contents, the floor felt that most of the things may be in place and it should be possible to package it together through "write shop" spanning one or two weeks. On this, some participants suggested that having sub-groups would help package the things together and may not need to have write shop. But some other participants suggested undertaking stock taking that may bring clarity as to whether sub-groups would be needed or not.

The floor also suggested the need to have a chapter on integrating REDD+ in existing plans and programs and some write up on the rationale and objectives of REDD+. The

floor also suggested that the rationale and objectives be addressed in the "domestic context" of the ToC. Some participants felt that the time line proposed was quite long, but it was mentioned that it may not be long as activities could go on parallel.

Some participants felt that deforestation and forest degradation (D&D) may not be important with regard to Bhutan, however it was informed that at COP 16 at Cancun clearly spelt the need to identify the drivers of D&D and as such it may be important to consider them. It was also pointed out that D&D are viewed from the negative angle only and it would be important to consider from GNH perspective as positive drivers to protect and conserve forest. This may be addressed in the policy and legal framework.

4.3 Group 3: Monitoring and MRV: Institutions and data



The third group presented on Monitoring and MRV in the context of institutional arrangements for the National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+ (Fig 1). One of the important recommendations from the group was to address the gap both in technical and human resources. It was indicated that UN-REDD may also have some support in building capacity to fill gaps. In relation to development of allometric equations, the floor asked if the equations developed in India could be used as Bhutan is surrounded by India. On this, some participants pointed out those equations from India (from Forest Research Institute) were used before and it can be done again. It was also informed that there are many equations of our own at FAO office.

4.3 Group 4: Safeguards (How to ensure social and environmental safeguards in implementing REDD+)

Group 4 mainly looked at existing policy frameworks to learn what things are in place to address safeguards. Some participants expressed concerns over the group leaving out D&D and mentioned that it might lead to leakage. The one degradation we might have to look at is the firewood collection which though minimal is quite significant in taking out carbon out of forests. As such, it was suggested not to rule out anything even though D&D are not quite as significant at this point time because of the good policies our farsighted leaders formulated in the past.

The workshop felt the need to conduct an exercise to look at the risks of implementing REDD+ in Bhutan socially and environmentally. In addition, it was echoed in the workshop that it is important to make REDD+ not to look like a forest project in order to bring in more partners. In this view, the workshop had a concern with non presence of significant participation from other sectors.

All in all, the workshop generated lots of discussions and covered all aspects of the REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme. Lots of questions were asked on monitoring and MRV, safeguards, forest reference levels and, more importantly, on the capacity development and the support Bhutan would get in the process of readiness. Answers were provided but not so definite on the funds available for support. The group works were done in good spirits and the discussions have come up with good recommendations that will carry REDD+ forward.

4.4 Echoes from the Workshop

- 1 The workshop recognized and acknowledged that REDD+ goes far beyond the public and forestry sector into other sectors of the economy.
- 2 Awareness on REDD+ is relatively weak and needs to be strengthened through learning, consultative meetings and others identified, or yet to be identified, means and media so that REDD+ education and awareness is adequately taken across to the government and the general public.
- 3 Cost-benefit analysis:
 - Costs of creating readiness for, and operationalizing, REDD+, may outweigh the benefits generated by REDD+. Therefore, a cost-benefit analysis of REDD+ at the country-level may be critical before embarking on the full implementation of the REDD+ mechanism. These costs and benefits will need to be examined from social, financial and environmental perspectives over the short-, medium- and long-term.

- The costs of getting ready are perceived to be quite high, while there are no benefits, yet. This is where financial and technical support from the international community needs to be ensured.
- Benefits need not be limited to what comes directly from implementing REDD+. Depending on the design, additional benefits are expected to accrue, especially in the form improved forest monitoring, sustainable management and the continued provision of environmental services.

4 Private sector engagement:

- REDD+ will impact the private sector, for instance companies dependent on logging or horticultural plantations. So, private sector engagement will be critical. However, there is limited experience globally of private sector involvement in REDD+.
- Private sector, specifically research and consulting firms, will also have a role in terms of providing research and consulting services. If such a role is envisaged, then national REDD+ strategies should consider including capacity development for consultants.
- 5 Low-emission development planning (LEDP) for REDD+:
 - There is already a strong LEDP context for REDD+. The country has internationally pledged to remain a carbon-neutral economy. The new Economic Development Policy, introduced in 2010, is aimed at creating a green and self-reliant economy. The government has already started formulating a strategy and action plan for low-carbon and climate-resilient development. Environment, climate change and poverty mainstreaming guidelines have been developed for formulating the Eleventh Five-Year Plan and are being disseminated through training workshops.

6 Environmental and social safeguards:

- The social safeguards include economic aspects such as local livelihoods. Also, REDD+ is not to replace economic activities that are more profitable, not only from a financial but also economic perspective.
- Annex 1 (of the 2010 Cancun Agreements) related to safeguards (refer 2.a) include the promotion and support for actions that complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant conventions and agreements. This fundamentally implies a broad range of safeguards for REDD+. Countries can go beyond the safeguards agreed upon.
- 7 Bhutan is in a favorable position to undertake REDD+ as the basic requirements for REDD+ implementation are in place:
 - Relevant policies, regulations, strategies, plans and programs (NEPA, NFP, and FNCA) are in place.

- Formal arrangements among various institutions across the government to share and use data, facilities and expertise have already been initiated.
- 8 The workshop identified considerable gaps in capacities to implement the REDD+ mechanism. Gap analysis of existing capacities for REDD+ for Bhutan needs to be carried out through a capacity needs assessment including:
 - Satellite monitoring and remote sensing;
 - Forest inventory and data management;
 - GHG inventory / reporting to the UNFCCC;
 - Capacities in environmental and social safeguards;
 - Monitoring and MRV for REDD+;
 - Governance.
- 9 Preparation for REDD+ readiness and implementation of the REDD+ activities requires adequate financing and technical support to ensure stakeholder engagement, preparation of National REDD+ Strategy, and implementation of the REDD+ activities and developing it as a national program. Adequate finance and technical support is required in a phased manner and may be sought through
 - UN-REDD Programme;
 - World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility;
 - Green Climate Fund:
 - PIF;
 - Other multilateral agencies;
 - Bilateral donors;
 - RGOB.
- 10 The Group work on Day 2 focused on four areas viz., Management of the REDD+ readiness process; Preparation of the content and process of the National REDD+ Strategy; Monitoring and MRV: Institutions and Data; Social and Environmental Safeguards.

The workshop endorsed the proposals (with changes made as discussed in the plenary) from the group works and WMD will work towards the implementation of these proposals.

5. Follow up Action

- Create REDD+ Section within the fiscal year 2012-2013
- Seek administrative approval and an executive order for formation of a Technical working Group
- Steer and manage the REDD+ readiness process
- Link (e.g. provide information, respond to issues raised) between TWG and stakeholders
- Increase communication between relevant stakeholders and raise awareness on REDD+
- Plan, coordinate and support capacity development of REDD+ and PES at National, local government and at community level
- Coordinate strategy development
- Prepare Terms of reference and engage specialists (e.g. REDD+ consultants)
- Draft budgets, monitor finances and provide financial reports
- Set up REDD+ Stakeholder Forum (see Solution Exchange) and organize consultations
- Prioritize REDD+ readiness and capacity building activities and seek additional resources, as necessary
- Design and field testing benefit distribution systems (BDS) and participatory forest monitoring (PFM) models on non-carbon PES to inform national REDD+ strategy development

6. Annexes:

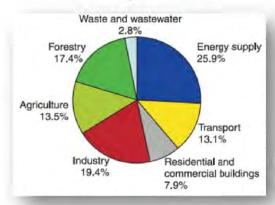
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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- □ An international Convention for countries to discuss climate change
- Objective (Article 2): The ultimate objective of this Convention is the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system
- Countries meet once a year to <u>design mechanisms and</u> <u>agreements</u> to limit human emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Countries agreed to <u>report the</u>
 <u>sources and levels of emissions</u>
 from their countries, e.g. the levels
 of emissions from their energy
 sectors, transport sectors, etc.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- ☐ The UNFCCC recognized the contribution of emissions from the forestry sector in developing countries to climate change
- Research showed that reducing emissions from the forest sector was an opportunity to reduce emissions and increase removals cost-effectively
- ☐ This led to the discussion of REDD+ as climate change mechanism



Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries; and includes the following activities

- ☐ Reducing emissions from deforestation
- □ Reducing emissions from forest degradation
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks
- ☐ Sustainable management of forests
- ☐ Enhancement of forest carbon stock

5 activities are eligible under the REDD+ program, and any country can be implement any of the five activities, and not necessarily all at a time

REDD+ Goal REDD+ is developed first and foremost as a climate mitigation option

- ☐ In the 1990s, 0.5-2.7 Gt C per year were released by land-use activities while 6.4+/-0.4 Gt C per year were emitted from combustion of fossil fuels.
- An estimated 7-13 million ha of forests are cleared each year releasing about 1.5 Gt C (5.5 Gt CO2) into the atmosphere
- 2-3 million ha of tropical forests are degraded each year due to unsustainable forest management
- REDD+ offers opportunities for landscape and ecosystem restoration

REDD+ Opportunities

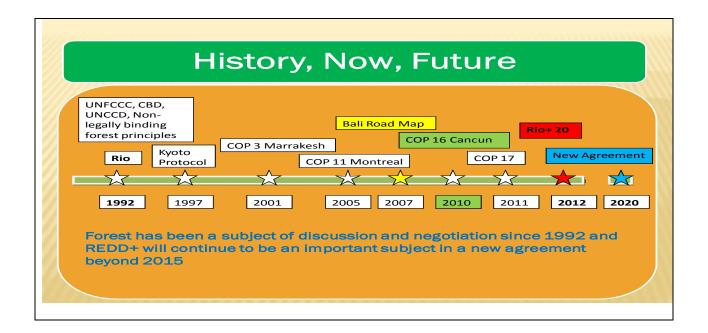
A well designed REDD+ programme provides opportunity to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services

- ☐ Forests are home to more than half the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity
- ☐ High potential of improving in-situ conservation of biodiversity by protecting forest habitats; allowing forest ecosystems to adapt to CC

REDD+ Opportunities

A well designed REDD+ programme can enable positive conditions for sustainable forest management (SFM)

- ☐ Improved multi-stakeholder consultation
- ☐ Improved forest policy reform (governance, land tenure, stewardship)
- ☐ Improved measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) systems



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

Challenges in pursuing REDD+ in Bhutan

To enable REDD+ mechanism to be effectively operational considerable amount of effort and investment has to be made in several areas

- ☐ General REDD+ awareness is
- ☐ Building the Knowledge base (science)
- □ Forestry data and information gap (NFI); Improving the understanding of carbon stocks and increment rates (from default

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.

- values to data from national inventories and site specific measurements)
- □ Building technical capacity/Additional human resources
- Institutional strengthening and integration
- ☐ Financial resources

REDD+ Where We are, And

UNFCCC Policy Decisions on REDD+

Phase II: Implementation of PAMs

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

2011

2014

2016

2020

Phase I: National REDD+ Strategy Development

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

Phase III: Payment for Performance

Emission reduction

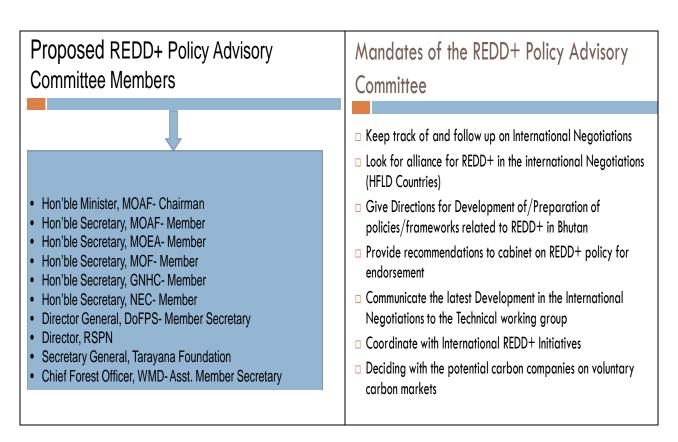
schemes for REDD+ (market-based, fund-

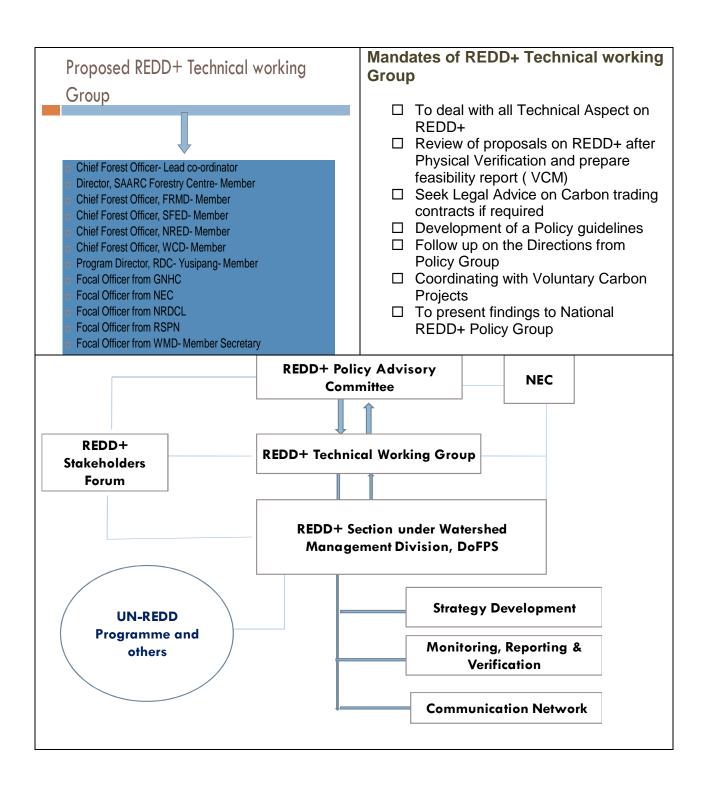
based, hybrid)

 Measurement, Reporting, Verification of emission reductions and carbon sequestration

Annex II: Institutional Arrangement for REDD+ working Group by Tashi Samdrup, Focal Officer for REDD+, WMD, DOFPS

Objectives: To guide the REDD+ Proposed REDD+ working body readiness process To develop a National REDD+ strategy/Formulate a □ National REDD+ Advisory Committee **REDD+ Policy** □ National REDD+ Technical Working Group Piloting and implementation of the REDD+ Policy Advisory Committee REDD+ scheme in Bhutan Watershed Management **REDD+ Technical Working** Division- Focal Point for REDD+ Committee



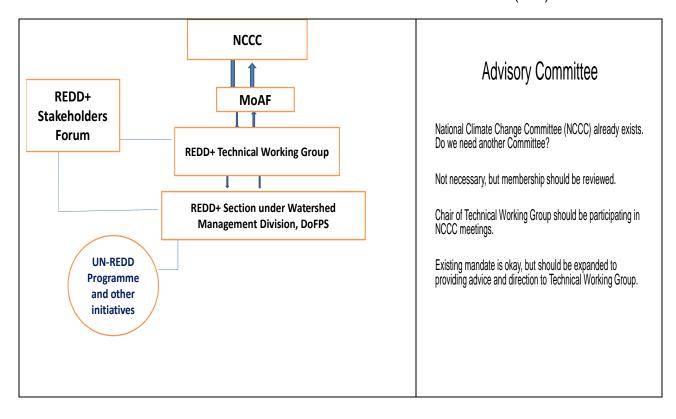


Group Presentations

Annex IIII: Management of REDD+ readiness process- How to ensure inclusive and effective engagement by the stakeholders Group Members:

- 1. Ugyen P. Norbu, Pvt consultancy
- 2. Norbu Wangchuck, GNHC
- 3. Chado Tshering, WMD
- 4. Tashi Samdrup, WMD
- 5. Jamyang Phuntshok, WMD

- **6.** Ugyen Tshering, Thimphu Dzongkhag
- **7.** Tashi Wangchuck, Punakha Dzongkhag
- 8. Naryan Pradhan, NRDCL
- 9. Thomas Enters (Phd)- Facilitators



Technical Working Group composition

Needed.

Raise profile of Chairperson, Head of DoFPS suggested Member Secretary: Chief of WMD Additional members: Forest specialist of FRMD

Forest specialist of FRMD Local government representatives BTF representative RUB representative

Remove SAARC Director Select specific members, especially technical officers Potentially, consider sub-technical working groups at a later stage

Technical Working Group mandate

- •Provide technical input to the strategy development
- •Analyze options for various REDD+ components (e.g. benefit sharing, safeguards, MRV system etc.)
- •Inform NCCC (through MoAF) on technical issues and respond to recommendations made by the NCCC
- Development of policy guidelines
- •Screen REDD+ project proposals
- Support and guide the work of WMD

Technical Working Group procedures

- Inform Ministry and endorsed within one month (including invitation of members)
- Meeting frequency: at least quarterly (more often depending on needs) and organized by WMD
- Background document circulated at least one week before a meeting by WMD
- Secretariat (i.e. WMD) prepares minutes within one week and circulates widely
- 75% members need to be present to make decisions
- Rotating venues suggested
- Allocate budget

Role of WMD in REDD+ readiness process

- Create REDD+ Section
- Steer and manage the REDD+ readiness process
- Link (e.g. provide information, respond to issues raised) between TWG and stakeholders
- Responsible for communication and raising awareness on REDD+
- Plan, coordinate and support capacity development
- Coordinate strategy development
- Prepare ToR and engage specialists (e.g. consultants)
- Coordinate fund raising
- Draft budgets, monitor finances and provide financial reports
- Set up REDD+ Stakeholder Forum (see Solution Exchange) and organize consultations
- Prioritize REDD+ and seek additional resources, if necessary

Annex III: Preparation of the National REDD+ strategy (Content and process) Group Members:

- 1. Dr. D.B. Dhittal (Group Leader)
- 2. Mr. M.R. Moktan
- 3. Mr. Jigme T. Wangyal
- 4. Mr. Choki Gyaltshen
- 5. Mr. Kado Dukpa

- 6. Mr. Kinga Norbu
- 7. Mr. Rik
- 8. Ms. Kuenzang Om
- 9. Mr. Timothy Boyle (Facilitator)

MAJOR DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION IN BHUTAN

OBJECTIVES OF REDD+ PROGRAM IN

Major drivers of deforestation

- Infrastructure development
- Agriculture
- Forest fire
- Landslide

Major drivers of forest degradation

- Forest fire
- Grazing
- Timber extraction
- Fuel wood collection
- Climate change
- Pests and diseases
- Landslide

BHUTAN

In the context of Bhutan Climate Change Initiative

- To reduce emissions from, and enhance carbon stocks of Bhutan's Forest
- 2. To increase multiple benefits from forest through sustainable forest management
- To ensure that the full value of forest is recognized by all stakeholders

NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY -BHUTAN PROPOSAL

- Introduction
- Global Context (UNFCCC, etc.)
- Domestic Context (especially drivers of D&D)
- Legal/Policy Framework (including land, carbon rights, etc.) (Broad frame work, identification of gaps, analysis)
- Risk and benefit analysis
- Stakeholder Analysis

NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY - BHUTAN PROPOSAL

- Strategy Development Process (and process for revision)
- Definition of forest (National Forest Definition consistent with UNFCCC Definition)
- Reference Emission Levels and Reference Levels (Required measures to fill the information gaps – international assistance may be required for fund, expertise, etc.)
- Policies and Measures to Implement REDD+ (Recommendations and action areas and how to address the gaps) -Timeline for implementation of REDD+ programs could be shown as annexure
- Monitoring and MRV
- Management of National REDD+ Revenue (REDD+ Revenue should not be viewed in isolation and it has to be integrated e.g. PES, Ecotourism and others)

Benefit Distribution
Safeguards
 Institutional arrangement for REDD+
program
Human resource capacity and institutional
development
Communications and awareness raising

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE

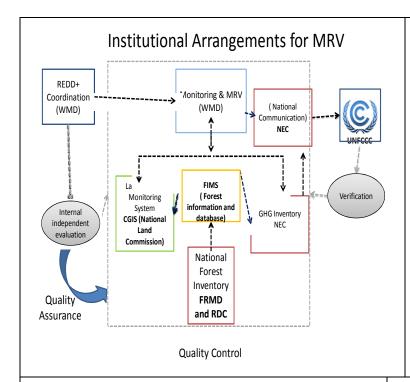
- Continue or enhance awareness raising especially for other stakeholders besides MoAF (1 – 2 months)
- Formation of technical working group representing relevant stakeholders (1 − 2 months)
- Technical working group may have sub-groups working on separate topics co-opting expertise from different relevant stakeholders (1 – 2 months)
- WMD develops a consultation action plan (1 − 2 months)
- The technical working group produce zero draft (4 months)
- WMD implements the consultation action plans (4 months)
- WMD reports back to the technical working group
- The technical working group produce first draft and present to the advisory committee (2 months)
- Based on the feedback of the Advisory Committee, the technical working group incorporates changes and submit the second draft (1 month)
- Approval accorded by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Forest

Annex IV: Monitoring and MRV: Institution and data Group Members;

- 1. Purna B.Chhetri, RDC Yusipang
- 2. Om Katel, CNR
- 3. Sigyel Delma, SFED

- 4. Kunzang Choden, CoRRB
- 5. Arun Rai, FRMD
- 6. Kelly T.Dorji, TD, Thimphu

- 7. Sonam Dagay, NEC
- 8. Thinlay Wangdi, UWICE, Bumthang
- 9. Jigme Tenzin, WMD
- 10. Joel Scriven, FAO- Facilitator



Gaps: Satellite and remote sensing

- Weak technical capacity (data processing, analysing and storing, expertise, personnels)
- Lack of softwares (ARCGIS latest version, ERDAS)
- Lack of data server (high capabilities for storing, processing etc)
- How to use remote sensing in REDD monitoring and MRV
- How to develop monitoring system?

Gap: Forest inventory

- Lack of biomass Allometric equations
- Lack of financial resources to implement NFI
- Lack of laboratory facilities and equipments to measure carbon
- Lack of HR in data processing, analysing etc
- Lack of trainning in IPCC methods

Gaps: GHG inventory/reporting to the UNFCCC

- · Lack of country specific emission factors
- Lack of systematic data flow for GHG(s)
- Reliability of data sources (no std)
- Inadequate data

Annex V: Safeguards (How to ensure social and environmental safeguards in implementing REDD+)

Members

- 1. BB Chhetri
- 2. Sonam Choden
- 3. Tshering Gyeltshen
- 4. Pema namgyal

- 5. Shacha Dorji
- 6. Megnath Basnet
- 7. Thinlay Wangchuk
- 8. Steven Swan- Facilitator

Existing policies

- 1. Economic Policy of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2009: identifies a broad range of economic growth opportunities based on "Brand Bhutan" as a Unique Selling Point (USP) and recognizes the success of the country's environment conservation as one of the main drivers for developing the "Brand Bhutan" theme for which it calls for protection of biodiversity, genetic resources and promotion of indigenous knowledge. The salient features of the economic policy that relates to forest management include:
- 2. Water Policy, 2002: recognizes that sustained flow of water of good quality depends on the integrity of the watershed. It emphasizes on water resources management within river basins and aquifers, including both upstream and downstream water users. It calls for an integrated approach for effective management of water resources and provides directive to protect of all forms of water resources. The policy seeks sound watershed management through extensive soil conservation, watershed area treatment, conservation of forests and increasing the forest area to reduce the incidence and intensity of floods.
- 3. The Land Act of Bhutan 2007: is an important legal document that has major implications for forest management. It clarifies that trees, either naturally grown or planted, in registered land shall belong to the landowner. The Act provides for the leasing of GRF land for various economic and other activities. All tsamdro (grazing) and sokshing (the rights to use forest land for collection of leaf litter) rights shall revert to GRF land and converted to leasehold uses. The leasehold shall be provided to individuals or communities owning livestock, with preference being given to previous rights holders in the case of tsamdro areas in rural areas and to individuals or communities, with preference given to previous rights holders or those who have agricultural land in the case of sokshing. However, land categorised as sokshing where there are no trees shall not be leased. The management of sokshing and tsamdro shall be carried out in accordance with a management plans.
- 4. National Environment Protection Act, 2007 (NEPA): outlays principles and legal framework that has implications on forest governance and management. It requires a person taking natural resources from the environment or deriving economic benefits to ensure sustainable use and management of those resources and their ecology. Likewise a person polluting the environment or causing ecological harm is responsible for the costs of containment, avoidance, abatement, medical compensation, mitigation, remediation and restoration. A person using or extracting natural resources shall be liable to pay for ecosystem/environmental services.
- 5. Environment Assessment Act, 2000: requires that the Royal Government shall ensure that environmental concerns are fully taken into account when formulating, renewing, modifying and implementing any policy, plan or program and that issuance of an environmental clearance shall be prerequisite to the issuance of a development consent. Projects that do not require development consent may commence only after receiving environmental clearance.
- 6. The Biodiversity Act of Bhutan, 2009: provides for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. It aims to realize additional

value of biological resources by developing new products and compounds through regulation of access and equitable sharing of benefits arising thereof.

7. Forest & Nature Conservation Act 1995

Existing practices

REDD+ Activities	Risks of doing REDD+	Existing practices	Gaps & Weaknesses
Conservation of forest carbon stocks (priority	Human wildlife conflicts	ICDP (planning)	M & E
1) – protected areas		Buffer zone	Lack of information &
management	Restriction on	concept planning &	Coordination between
	customary rights	implementation	stakeholders
Sustainable	Poor	Consultative	M & E
management of forest	regeneration	planning &	
(FMUs, CFs, Pvt Forest, Industrial	Froe greating in	implementation	Lack of data
forest) – scientific	Free grazing in forests	Code of practices	Coordination between
forest mangt	(localized)	Odde of practices	stakeholders
Enhancement of forest	Free grazing in	National Forest	M & E
carbon stocks	forests	Plantation	Planning
	(localized)	strategies	
enrichments)			
			= '

Safeguard information system

- Strengthening the existing M & E of social and environmental systems and knowledge management (summary & detailed reports)
 by strengthening institutional capacity in M & E through ToT
- ii) Improvement of Forest Info Management System (FIMS) through appointing dedicated qualified IT personnel for management & maintenance of info
- iii) Integration of REDD+, including social environmental safeguards, info into ICS (MoAF) system for dissemination to national & international communities

REDD+ readiness

- i) The National REDD+ Strategy of Bhutan should have clear statements on social & environmental safeguards
- ii) Mandates of the 2 tier Committees should also have clear responsibilities on social & environmental safeguards
- iii) To include social & environmental safeguards into REDD+ stakeholders' engagement mechanisms and processes (e.g., FPIC)
- iv) The Working Group should review existing international multilateral safeguards frameworks
- v) The working group should review possible economic instruments for promoting social and environmental performance from REDD +

Opening	SI No.	Name	Agency	Email Address
Sessions	1	Hon'ble Minister	Ministry of Finance	
		Hon'ble Director	Department of Forest and Park	
	2	General	Services	
	3	Director	BAFRA	
	4	Director	Department of Forests &Park Services	
	5	Executive Director	Royal Society for Nature Protection	
	6	Country Director	SNV	
	7	Director	CORRB	
	8	Country Director	UNDP	
	9	Offtg. Director	DAMC	
	10	Director	Bhutan Trust Fund	
Technical Sessions	11	Timothy Boyle	Regional Coordinator- UN REDD Program, Bangkok	Timothy.boyle@undp.org
	12	Thomas Enters	Regional Coordinator (UNEP), Bangkok	Thomas.enters@unep.oprg
	13	Jamyang Phuntshok	WMD	
	14	Nagphel	Chukha Forestry Sector	
	15	Joel Scriven	FAO	Joel.scriven@fao.org
	16	Chado Tshering	WMD	chado_tshering@yahoo.co m
	17	Kunzang Choden	CORRB	kunzangmoaf@gmail.com
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	31	Purna B. Chhetri	RDC- Yusipang	
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	66	Pema Dema	WMD	om
				dema_karma23@yahoo.co
	67	Karma Dema	WMD	<u>m</u>
	68	Kencho Lendup	WMD	

REDD+ Workshop (26th – 27th April 2012) Venue: NRDCL Conference Hall, Thimphu

Day I

Time	Program/Activity	Posponsible
Time	Program/Activity	Responsible
0.00		Official/presenter
8:00 – 8:45	Registration of Participants	Kinley Dem, Pema Dema and Karma Dema
8:45 - 9:00	Arrival of Chief Guest	Hon'ble Minister, Lyonpo Wangdi
		Norbu, Ministry of Finance
9:00 - 9:10	Marchang Ceremony	Director General- DoFPS
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome address	Director General, DoFPS
10:15 – 10:30	Opening remarks by Chief Guest	Hon'ble Minister, Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, Ministry of Finance
10:30 – 10:40	Introduction to the Workshop	Tashi Samdrup, REDD+ Focal Officer, WMD, DoFPS
10:40 – 11:10	What is REDD+ (Including UNFCC policy on REDD+) Why REDD+ in Bhutan- Opportunities and Challenges for Bhutan Current status of REDD+ program in Bhutan (What has been done so far)	Chado Tshering, Chief Forest Officer, WMD, DoFPS
11:10 – 11:30	Presentation on the Institutionalisation of REDD+ working mechanism. (Formation of National REDD+ Advisory committee and Technical working Group and their mandates)	Tashi Samdrup, REDD+ Focal Officer, WMD, DoFPS
11:30 – 11:35	Vote of Thanks	Tshering Gyeltshen, DCFO, WMD, DoFPS
11:35 - 12:00	Tea Break	
	Technical Session	
12:00 – 1:00	UN- REDD Programme-Latest Development (What has been done so far for the development of REDD+ scheme in the UN-REDD participating countries)	Timothy Boyle and Thomas Enters- Regional Coordinator- UN- REDD Programme, Bangkok
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch break	
2:00 – 2:45	Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+	Joel Scriven, Forestry Officer (REDD+) UN-REDD Programme, Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome
2:45 – 3:30	National REDD+ strategies & Programmes: SNV	Steven Swan (REDD+ Senior Advisor,
	priority interventions and experiences	SNV- Vietnam)
3:30 - 4:00	Tea Break	
4:00 - 5:00	General over view on REDD+ strategy Development. Formation of group for group work	Timothy Boyle and Thomas Enters- Regional Coordinator- UN- REDD Programme, Bangkok

Day II

Time	Program/ Activity	Responsible Official
8:30 – 9:00	Registration of Participants	Kinley Dem and Karma Dema
9:00 – 9:30	Presentation of the day's programme and introduction to group work)	Timothy Boyle and Thomas Enters- Regional Coordinator- UN- REDD Programme, Bangkok
9:30 – 1:00	Group Work (Tea will be served during the group work)	Tashi Samdrup and Jigme Tenzin, WMD, DoFPS
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch Break	
2:00 – 3:30	Group Work Presentation- Group wise Discussion	Group presenters Timothy Boyle and Thomas Enters - Regional Coordinator- UN-REDD Programme, Bangkok
3:30 - 4:00	Tea Break	
4:00 – 4:30	Workshop recommendation and Follow-up action	Chado Tshering, Chief Forest Officer, WMD
4:30 – 4:45	Concluding remarks	Director General, DoFPS
6:30	Closing Dinner	All workshop Participants