Regional Stakeholder Consultation Workshop: Madhupur

18th February 2012

Background:

The REDD+ Readiness Roadmap for Bangladesh will serve as a living document to guide the country through the Readiness phase. In this connection several regional stakeholder consultation workshops been conducted. The Madhupur regional workshop covered the stakeholders from the Sal Forest areas of Bangladesh.

Objective:

To share and discuss national and local perspectives on the key issues facing the forest sector and potential approaches to address these issues.

Total Participants: 80 (attendance list attached)

Group formation:

Total three groups been formed consisting of

- District Council, Forest Dependent and Community Forest representatives
- Forest Department Officials
- Co-management Committee

At the outset the participants were briefly enlightened with the REDD+ idea. Afterwards the workshop facilitators in consultation with the participants extended their effort to define the meaning of deforestation and degradation so that participants feel confident to explain the root causes and the subsequent drivers within the stipulated time. The standard facilitation guide for this workshop series was used (see separate document).

The following table captures the drivers, root causes and the subsequent recommendations from the three groups as mentioned above in connection to deforestation and degradation of forest for the North West region.

REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

Summary table combining the views from all the three groups as mentioned above:

Drivers at the region	nal level for	Underlying Causes	Recommendations
Deforestation	Degradation		
Development of establishments/infrastructures	Use of forest as livelihood	Use of wood in Brick Kilns	Improvement of Logistics, Manpower training for FD
	Poverty ridden population	Inappropriate record of forest lands as per the laws of 1962s ROR	Immediate declaration of land under 4/6 section to reserve forest
Increasing demand of Agricultural land	Poor Coordination among Govt. divisions	Absence of Magistracy power of FD to evict	Proper recording of forest land and resolution of cases under consideration
Illegal settlements	Poor implementation and weaknesses of applicable laws	Inadequate logistics and manpower of Forest department	Inclusion of local community into decision making
Lack of Political will	Lack of alternative sources of livelihood	Missing alternatives of using fire wood	Prior approval of FD and CMC for building infrastructure, Brick Kilns/saw mills
Settlement of forest villagers	Illegal trade of forest resources	Unplanned development work	Awareness campaigns related to environment & inclusion in Educational Curriculum
		Lack of clarity in forest area demarcation	Demarcation of forest areas
		Lack of public/CMC participation	Legal measures against the encroachers
		Misconducts of Unscrupulous forest officers	Implementation of social forestry rules
		Forced acquisition of land	Restricting the use of woods into brick kilns
		Illegal trading of wood	Strong coordination among FD, Police and DC office

REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

Drivers at the region	onal level for	Underlying Causes	Recommendations
Deforestation	Degradation		
		Forceful acquisition of land by influential elites	Alternative sources of energy in Brick Kiln
		Increasing pressure of Eco-tourism	Alternative livelihood security for forest dependent people
		Forest land under section 4 & 6 been allocated under 1 No. khotian	Ensuring effective means of population control
		Release of land by FSO	Conservation of wild life diversity
		Cultivation of Rubber	Initiating measures to prevent forest fire
		Lack of awareness	Finalization of verdicts in connection to Forest related cases
		Conflict between Forest Department and General People	Systematic allocation of plots
		Increasing number of forest case filing	Development of improved stoves/gas connection
		Conflict between Forest Department and General People	Conservation of forest through comanagement.
		Increasing number of forest case filing	Establishing monthly allowances of Community forest workers

During the workshop apart from the participants from the forest department and NGO research organization, community forest workers along with the local tribal community representatives openly expressed their views and enthusiasm towards conservation of forests and the agenda of the session. The workshop ended up with the vote of thanks from the conservator of forests of the Central Circle zone.

Key observations:

- Both the Government and Non-Government participants agreed on the causes in a non- confrontational way
- A simple standard pictorial definition of Deforestation and Degradation reduced the time for the facilitators to bring participants on a single platform of understanding

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