

REDD+ and Bhutan- *Current status*



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Presentation Outline

- ❑ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ❑ REDD+ definition, objectives, opportunities
- ❑ Why pursue REDD+ in Bhutan?
- ❑ Challenges to reap the benefits of REDD+
- ❑ Status of REDD+ in Bhutan
- ❑ Over view of Progress
- ❑ Next Step/Work Plan
- ❑ Institutional Arrangement

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

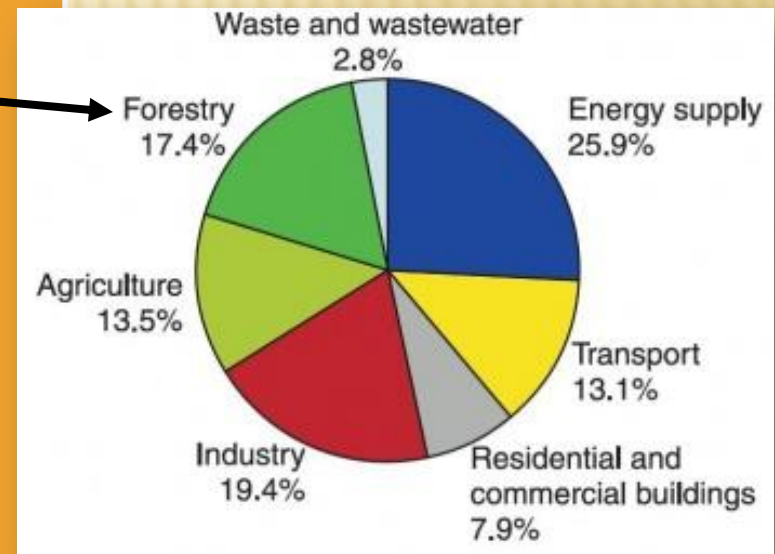
- ❑ An international Convention for countries to discuss climate change
- ❑ Objective (Article 2): The ultimate objective of this Convention is the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system
- ❑ Countries meet once a year to design mechanisms and agreements to limit human emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- ❑ Countries agreed to report the sources and levels of emissions 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



REDD+: what does it mean?

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 (gigatonnes) C per year were released by land-use activities.
- ❑ 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;

REDD+ Opportunities

A well designed REDD+ programme can provide opportunities to enhance the livelihoods of local communities

- ❑ Increased attention to social safeguards
- ❑ Effective participation of IP and LC through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- ❑ Improved community-based forest management

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 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.

Objective of REDD+ Programme in Bhutan

In the context of Bhutan Climate Change Initiative

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

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 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

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

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 strengthening/capacity building

Phase III: Payment for Performance

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



PHASES OF REDD+

REDD+ PHASES

Phase I

- Readiness
- Capacity building
- Design of nationally-appropriate REDD+ activities

Phase II

- Implementation of sub-national demonstration activities

Phase III

- Positive incentives for verified performance

Choice of REDD+ activities will depend on **specific drivers** of deforestation

Demonstration activities must be “**results-based**” – they have to result in positive outcomes

The mitigation performance of REDD+ has to be **measured** and **reported** by the country, and **verified** by the UNFCCC Secretariat

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS (PHYSICAL)

- ✘ National Level REDD+ consultation workshops
- ✘ District level REDD+ awareness workshop
- ✘ REDD+ Technical working
Group institutionalized.
- ✘ Capacity Building- Staff trained in Carbon
estimation and benefit Sharing



NEXT STEP

Hiring of National Consultant for;

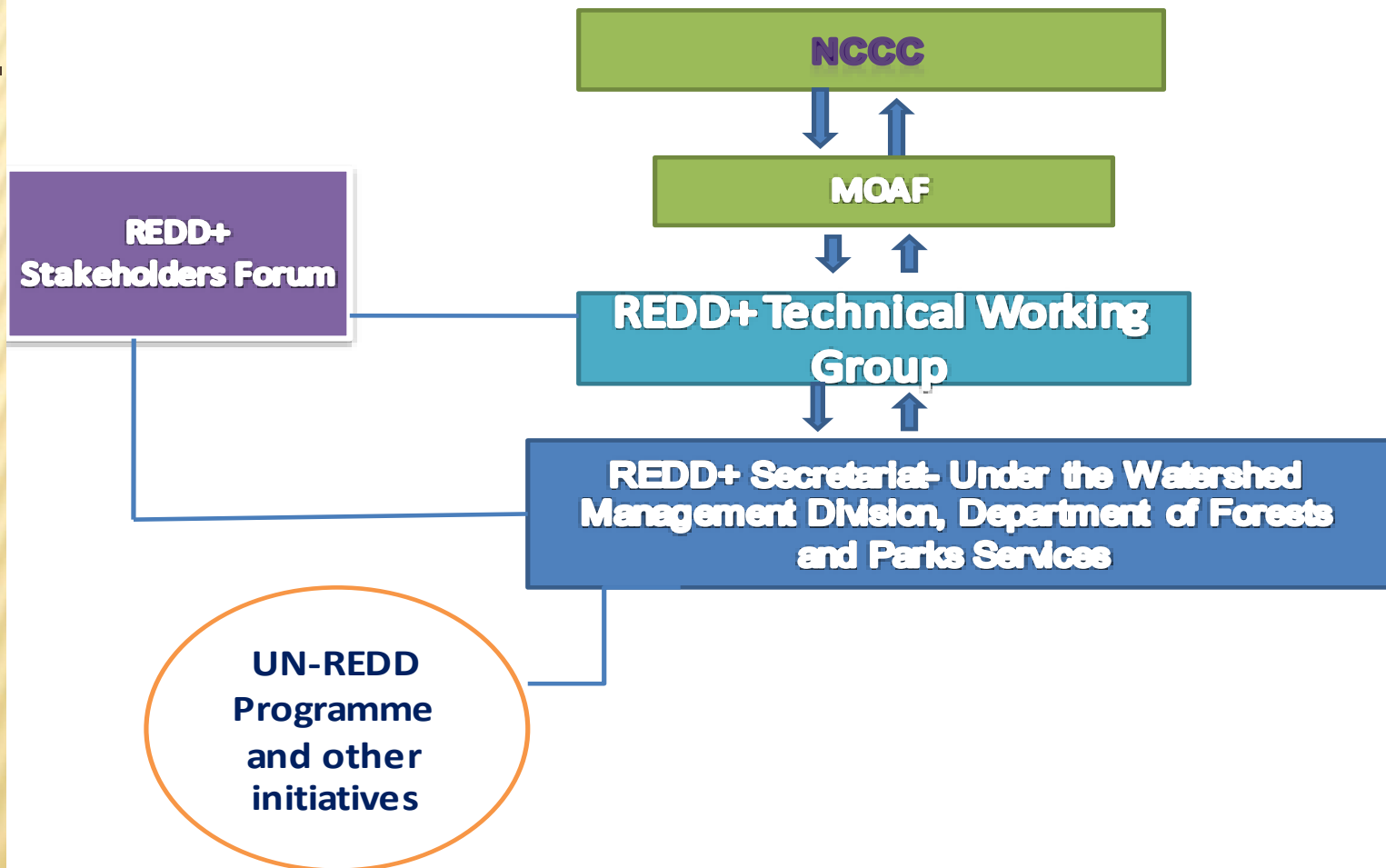
- To Facilitate/Develop National REDD+ strategy
- Forestry inventory database management and MRV worksop - FAO
- Advocacy on REDD+ scheme



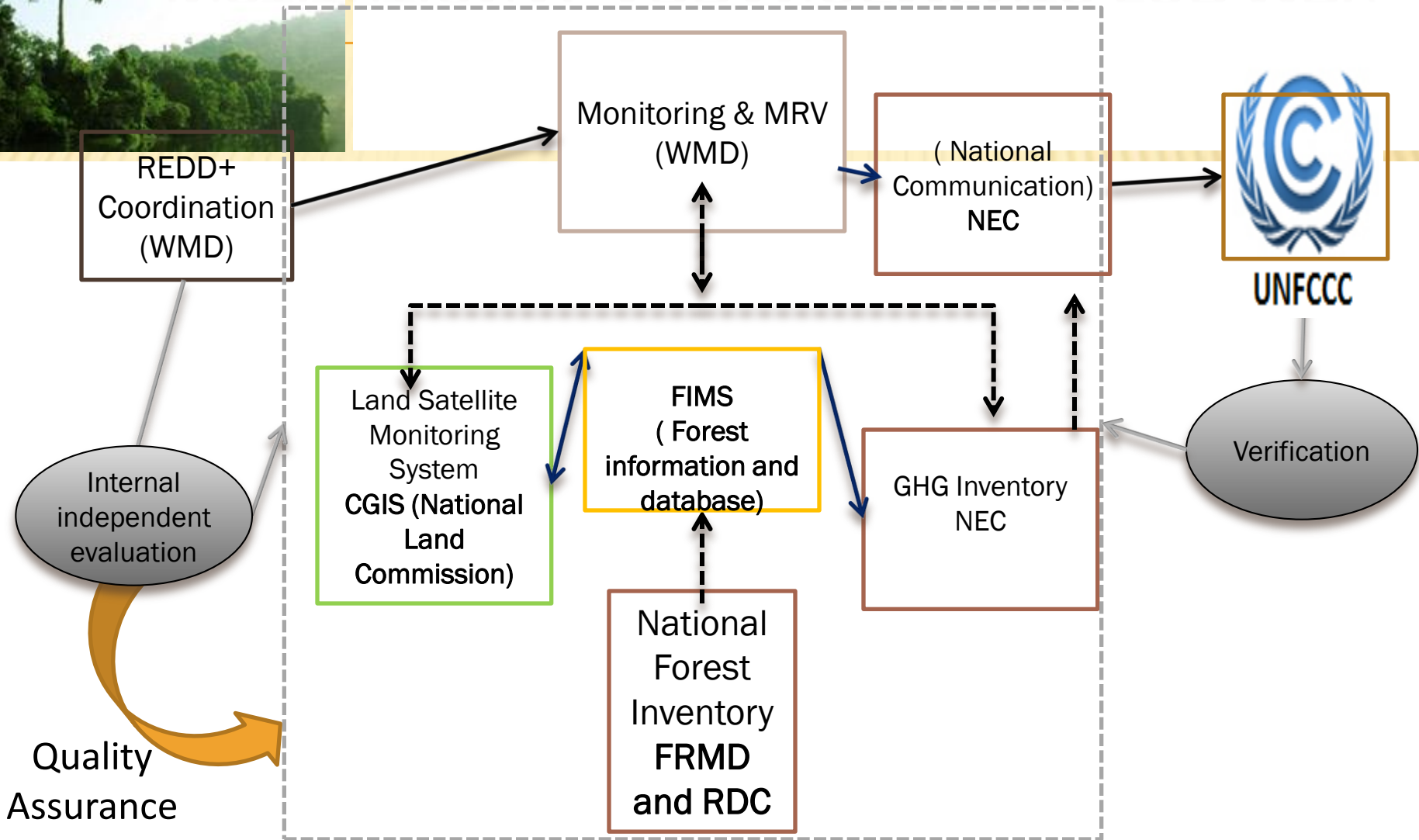
WORK PLAN: FROM OCT.2012-JUNE.2013

SLNO	Activity/Programe	Responsible Agency	Collaborator/ Agency	Remarks
1	Recruitment of REDD+ consultant	WMD	UNDP	National REDD+ consultant for 12 months
3	Training on NFI database management	WMD, FRMD,	FAO	
4	REDD+ consultation training workshop on Environmental safe guards	WMD, TWG	UNEP	Resource persons from UNEP, Bangkok and WCMC, UK
5	Workshop on International Policy and technical guidance for National Forest Monitoring system	WMD. TWG	FAO	Resource persons from FAO, Rome
6	Consultation workshop for REDD+ Strategy Development	WMD,TWG	UNDP, FAO, SNV	Final Daft on REDD+ strategy presentation and discussion

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT



INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MRV



Quality Control

FUNDING AGENCIES

✘ Current Funding Agencies



✘ Future Partners

FCPF- World Bank

SNV



THANK YOU
TASHI DELEK