

An Assessment of Potentialities of Community Forest Under REDD plus Mechanism

(A case study from Piple CFUG Katharjor 8 Ramechhap District
Nepal)

A Thesis

Submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
award of the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development

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RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the project thesis entitled “**An Assessment of Potentialities of Community Forest Under REDD plus Mechanism**, (A case study from Piple CFUG Katharjor 8 Ramechhap District Nepal)has been completed by Pasang Tamang under my supervision in the partial fulfillment of requirements for the master of Arts in Rural Development.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that the project entitled “**An Assessment of Potentialities of Community Forest Under REDD plus Mechanism**, (A case study from Piple CFUG Katharjor 8 Ramechhap District Nepal) Written and submitted by Pasang Tamang has been examined. It has been declared successful for partial fulfillment of the academic requirements towards the completion of master of Arts in Rural Development has been evaluated and accepted.

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ABSTRACT

A study entitled “Potentialities of Community Forestry under Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD plus) Mechanism” was carried out in Pile CFUG, Kathjor-8, Ramechhap district of Nepal with a view to review policy framework relevant to REDD initiative in Nepal. Similarly, it aimed at assessing the potentiality of REDD in Nepal in terms of biophysical, community forest governance and institutional capacity and existing CF management practices. Different PRA tools like household interview, CFUC meeting, and focus group discussion, review of CFUG constitution & operational Plan, minutes and records were used for primary data collection. Secondary data were collected through reviewing various policies, strategy, guidelines and published & unpublished literatures.

The study explicitly shows that CF Policy was previously focused on dealing with local forest dynamics in Nepal but now gradually adapted to international and global demand including climate change. While assessing the bio-physical condition of CF, it illustrates that forest condition has been increased because of community forest management system. Demand status of forest products of local communities is reported larger than supply capacity of CF. The involvement of indigenous people, women and Dalit in decision making in CFUG has been satisfactorily increasing which would be instrumental in enhancing REDD mechanism in Nepal. Benefit sharing mechanism in CFUGs has been guided by the norms developed in group constitution. Earmarking group fund in forest conservation and pro-poor activities may enhance to generate co-benefits of REDD initiatives such as livelihood improvement, improving governance and poverty reduction. Studied CFUG follows CF management practices as indicated in Forest Operational Plan. In this way, community forest has demonstrated good practice of sustainable management forest which is one of the key elements under REDD Plus.

A further in-depth study is highly suggested how Nepal’s CF policy and management system adhere to REDD initiative generating mutual climate and community benefits. Before initiation of REDD in Nepal, clarification of carbon ownership particularly in

soil carbon should be done. Concrete guideline and mechanism is proposed to establish ensuring equitable benefit sharing to the communities among the users of diverse economic, social and cultural background for diverse management regimes in Nepal. Finally, it is suggested to develop a concrete system on utilizing the REDD fund so as to generate co-benefits from REDD initiative in Nepal.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A/R	Afforestation and Reforestation
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CFM	Community Forest Management
CFUC	Community Forest Users Committee
DFO	District Forest Office
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal
FOP	Forest Operation Plan
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GHG	Green House Gas
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPs	Indigenous People
KP	Kyoto Protocol
MPFS	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous People
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

NSCFP	Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
R-PIN	Readiness Project Idea Note
RPP	Readiness proposal
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on Rights to Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WBR	Well Being Ranking

