

Terms of Reference
For
Project Evaluation
REDD for reducing poverty in Nepal
Phase I and II

Background

REDD phase I (2009-2010) and REDD phase II project (2011-2013) are projects supported by Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) Finland through WWF Finland and is focused on the reduction of emission from deforestation and forest degradation. The project is implemented in Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) sites. TAL and SHL is a joint landscape level programme managed by DNPWC/DoF-MFSC and WWF Nepal.

The landscape level programme promotes landscape level biodiversity conservation through critical corridor and habitat restoration, species conservation and monitoring, working with local communities on development of alternative livelihoods and poverty reduction; supporting government agencies to strengthen law enforcement, especially related with wildlife trade; and promoting environmental awareness amongst communities and policy makers on conservation within the broad framework and vision of the TAL and SHL.

Government of Nepal (GoN) submitted Readiness Preparedness Proposal to Forest Carbon Partnership Facility – World Bank and this outlines the need for capacity building and greater awareness across all sectors in Nepal. The project focuses to support GoN in setting up REDD plus readiness mechanism in Nepal. The 'Readiness mechanism' includes the activities related to technical assistance and capacity building for REDD plus in a country. Estimation of national natural forest carbon stocks and sources of forest emissions, scenarios for emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and designing national monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems for REDD-plus are key components of the project.

Realizing the vital role of forests in national economic development, the REDD phase I project 2009-2010 was a preparatory project that exclusively focused on initiating forest carbon inventory in Terai Arc Landscape (TAL). Based on the carbon inventory, analysis on the carbon sequestration potential

of the forests was estimated and prediction of possible benefits from selling carbon credits was developed. The objective was to analyze how local communities who are the stewards of forests could benefit from forest protection and sustainable management.

A forest carbon inventory using ground measurements and the help from local resource persons was planned for the first time in Nepal at a landscape level. The 1st phase of the REDD project therefore provided a platform to pilot and test this kind of approach, including carbon measurements also inside protected areas.

Based on the lessons learnt from the first phase, the 2nd phase of the REDD project is aiming at addressing the technicalities of REDD plus, establishing baselines based on national interests, and enhancing the capacity of government and civil society organizations (CSOs) on REDD issues as well as sensitizing stakeholders from relevant institutions and organizations on climate change, forests and REDD themes. The project aims to assist communities and Government of Nepal in developing systems and policies as well as strategies for functional, transparent and equitable and REDD+ mechanism in Nepal.

Geographical coverage of the project

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) stretches along the lowland Nepal-India border and encompasses more than 11 Protected Areas and forest corridors. They are home to some of the last remaining populations of endangered species such as Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris*), One-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and Asian Elephants (*Elephas maximus*). The project covers TAL site in Nepal only.

The Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) is a transboundary conservation area spreading across Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling of India and Bhutan. Of the total 39,021 sq. Kms, about 73.5% falls in Nepal. SHL inhabits endangered species such as snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), Red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*), Blue Sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) etc and several of the bird species. The project covers SHL site in Nepal only.

Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will analyze the success of the project by reflecting on the objectives and results of the project, originally set in the project logframe and document.

Goal and objectives of the project

Goal: “By 2015, a functional, transparent and equitable benefit sharing mechanism based on REDD Plus is in place to effectively contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, conserving biodiversity and improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people of Nepal”

Objectives: By 2013,

1. Improved readiness through establishment of accurate and comprehensive forest carbon database to implement sub-national REDD Plus mechanism in SHL and TAL of Nepal, and to eventually enter global forest carbon markets
2. Enhanced capacity of the government, civil society and the local communities to develop, implement and coordinate a functional and equitable REDD Plus mechanism in Nepal
3. Increased awareness among government, academia, civil society, media and community members on the importance of Nepal’s forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation and their value in biodiversity conservation as well as in contributing to improved rural livelihoods

The results targeted by this project as per log frame are:

- Suitable methodology on forest carbon inventory developed in REDD phase I is further developed and tested, eventually standardized for TAL and SHL

- Baseline data inventory on forest carbon stock from 1.5 million ha forest in TAL and 1 million ha forest in SHL is completed and a database for forest monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) is established
- Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Government, civil society and communities have improved knowledge and technical skills to act as implementing parties in REDD plus readiness activities including benefit sharing to the communities
- Increased information and experience sharing between WWF Nepal and the government, Civil Society Organisations, academia and the communities of Nepal and international fora to enable the best practices of the project to be shared and effectively used for the development of global REDD+ mechanism
- Increased understanding among government, academia, civil society, media and community members of the roles of forest as carbon sinks and storages as well as the roles of biodiversity and forest conservation in climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Increased capacity of youth, students and other stakeholders in Nepal on REDD

WWF Evaluation

The working group of this project from WWF Finland and WWF Nepal will provide oversight throughout the evaluation. In addition, this group will be responsible for:

1. Provide relevant documents to the final evaluation
2. Support the field visit, stakeholder meetings, internal meetings as required
3. Overall responsibility and accountability for the final evaluation

Evaluation Purpose

The final evaluation is part of third year work plan in “REDD For Reducing Poverty in Nepal Project” both Phase I and II. WWF Nepal program will appoint an external evaluation team to evaluate the overall success of the project. The purpose of this evaluation is to find

- The provision of information to make an informed judgement about the past of the project intervention
- Collect lesson learned and recommend for future action

Evaluation Criteria

The project will be evaluated based on the standard criteria by “Evaluation Guideline- Past and Future” MFA Finland (2007). The criteria evaluation as per this guideline and extracted from the guideline is provided below,

i. Relevance

Relevance concerns whether the results, purpose and overall objectives of the intervention are in line with the needs and aspirations of the beneficiaries, and with the policy environment of the intervention. It also analyses the design of our project.

Is the intervention consistent with the needs and priorities of its target group and the policies of the partner country and donor agencies? Has the situation changed since the approval of the intervention (e.g. programme/project) document?

ii. Efficiency

Efficiency assessments are normally part of the planning and monitoring process. They may also be included in evaluations, especially if the evaluations cover management performance. The efficiency criterion concerns how well the various activities have transformed the available resources in to the intended outputs. It also analyses the value for money of our intervention.

Can the cost of the intervention be justified by the results?

iii. Effectiveness

Effectiveness describes how well the results achieved have furthered the attainment of the purpose of the intervention.

Has the intervention achieved its objectives or will it do so in the future?

i.v Impact

Impact concerns whether there has been a change towards the achievement of the overall objective(s) as a consequence of the attainment of the purpose of the intervention. Both intended and the unintended impacts are reviewed. The logical linkage is thoroughly assessed based upon the theory of change and assumptions. It should also capture the success factors and learning thereof.

What are the overall effects of the intervention, intended and unintended, long term and short term, positive and negative?

iv. Sustainability

In terms of a single intervention, sustainability can be described as the degree to which the benefits produced by the intervention continue after the external support has come to an end. It is a central theme in all evaluation work and relates to all the elements of the logical frame work of an international

Will the benefits produced but the intervention be maintained after the termination of external support?

v. Coherence

Coherence/complementarity measures whether and how the goals are central to country's development policy and the Finish Government's Development Policy are taken into account in the planning and implementation.

How have they affected the intervention?

Special focus will be given to the priority areas (*a democratic and accountable society that promotes human rights, an inclusive green economy that promotes employment, sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection, and human development*) and cross-cutting objectives (*gender equality, reduction of inequality and climate sustainability*) outlined as per "Finland Development Policy Programme".

Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation will cover on-going as well as completed activities, comprising desk studies, literature reviews, questionnaires, interviews, focused grouped discussion, semi-structured interviews, and field work in Terai Arc Landscape sites and SHL. The methodology will analyse the underlying assumptions of the projects. The methodology will be analysing both qualitative and quantitative aspects of the project.

The detailed methodology will be formulated by team conducting the evaluation.

Project Evaluation Period

The evaluation will cover both the phases of “REDD For Reducing Poverty in Nepal”. The project Phase I started in 2009 to 2010 and Phase II from 2011 and ends in December 2013.

Audiences

Government of Nepal, WWF Nepal and broader REDD community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Finland, WWF- Finland are the audiences for this document.

Deliverables

It is expected that the evaluation team will

- Prepare proposal suggesting the technical and financial details
- Finalise the methodology in the proposal
- Evaluate relevant sources of information through desk reviews and literature studies
- Carry out field visits and surveys
- Interact/discuss with stakeholders, community based organisation, civil society organisation
- Prepare draft report with evaluation findings and recommendations
- Receive and incorporate feedbacks from stakeholders before finalising reports
- Present the report findings to relevant stakeholder. This will be held at WWF office
- Prepare final report for the final evaluation in English/Nepali and submit it to WWF Nepal

Publication of the report shall be responsibility of WWF Nepal.

Tentative Work plan

	May		June				July		
Week	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Finalise methodology									
Stakeholder Consultation									
Desktop study									
Field visits/questionnaire surveys									
Data analysis									
Interim report submission & review									
Preparation of draft evaluation report and submission									
Workshop to present report to stakeholders and audiences in WWF office									
Submission of final evaluation report									

Timeline

The time period of the evaluation will be 9 weeks, effective from the day the contract signed.

Copy Right of the Report

WWF Nepal will hold copy right of the report and the consultant cannot publish part or full report without taking prior approval of WWF Nepal

Payment and taxes

A separate agreement will be made with the consultant for:

- Mode of payment
- Taxes
- Others

Qualification and Experience Required

The consultant could be individual or an organization and shall have following experiences:

- Experience in monitoring and evaluation, knowledge on logframe and result based monitoring
- Specialization in REDD with experience in forest/REDD technical inventory
- Specialization in livelihood with experience in socioeconomic surveys
- Knowledge about donor development policy and programme

Selection criteria for proposal

Evaluation of proposal will start with technical evaluation and then consider price for those proposals whose technical aspects are deemed acceptable.

Technical Proposal (70% marks)

- Major technical aspects of the proposal (including methodology).
- Proposed time frame and work plan
- Professional qualification and relevant experience in the area and biodiversity conservation.

Financial Proposal (30% marks)

- The lowest bid offered by technically qualified proposal will be considered as the reference.

Submission of proposals

Interested individuals, team of experts and organisations are requested to submit sealed technical and financial proposal separately in two different envelopes with subject "Project Evaluation: REDD for reducing poverty in Nepal" via post or hand-delivered at the following address no later than 24 May 2013, 17:00 hrs.

WWF Nepal

PO BoX: 7660

Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Technical Proposal Content

- Introduction (Objective of research)
- Methodology: including study design, data collection tools and techniques, sampling techniques/procedure and sample size, data analysis plan, ethical considerations
- Time frame and work plan
- Resources – roles and responsibilities of all staff and field workers, data processors, etc.
- Appendix
- Background information of Research organization/department/unit.
- Professional qualification, experience and expertise of research team
- CVs of principal investigator and other key research staff who would participate in the survey.

Financial Proposal

- Proposed budget in NPR and its breakdown with detailed work plan. Period of Consultancy to be as per the Daily Work Plan and fee of proposed expert/s to be on per day basis
- [60 days valid proposal]