



Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report Template

v. 2019



FCPF Readiness Fund: REDD+ Country Participant Annual Progress Report

About this document

This template is for use by Readiness Fund (RF) REDD+ Country Participants to report their annual progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general, and on FCPF-supported activities in particular. The data provided through these reports represents a central information source for measuring progress against the FCPF's expected results and performance indicators, as articulated within the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

Report preparation

Reports cover progress through 30th June of each year.

When preparing the report, RF REDD+ Country Participants should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD+ (component 6 of the R-PP) and should consult members of the national REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated, with any divergent views recorded as appropriate. Detailed, indicator-by-indicator definitions and reporting guidance are provided within the FCPF M&E Framework (<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-0>).

Reporting schedule

Completed reports should be submitted to the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) by **15th July** every year.

SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities and achievements delivered within your country during the last year?
 - Activities - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
 - Achievements - For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalised, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed
 - Please be as specific as possible, e.g. name, date and number of participants in consultation events (sex disaggregated, if available), name of policy being drafted, institutions involved in policy drafting

The report describes Nepal's progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general and on FCPF-supported activities in particular during the reporting period i.e. July 2018 to June 2019. The activities that were achieved in the reporting period included those directly financed by WB/FCPF (e.g. ERPD' FIP IP dissemination and dissemination of Gender study outcome), funded by FCPF through REDD Implementation Centre (regular activities included in the annual programs of REDD IC), co-funded by the Government of Nepal (some of the activities in the annual programs of REDD IC). Major activities delivered in this reporting period are:

1. Preparation of Sustainable Forest Management Plans

REDD IC has started updating CF management plans incorporating sustainable harvesting, emissions reduction, carbon enhancement and safeguard related provisions. These provisions were either lacked or not detailed in the CF management plans that were prepared in the past. This was one of the activities planned for this reporting year using REDD+ readiness additional funding. This activity can be also considered as the kick-off of the proposed ER program interventions. A total of 15 CF management plans in the ER Program area were updated incorporating provisions of sustainable harvesting and enhancement of carbon stock. Series of focus group discussions, users' assemblies and participatory mapping of forest stands were done during the process of updating management plans. Draft of the updated plans are being reviewed by concerned forest officers and forest users. The plans will be approved by the respective community forestry user groups (CFUGs) followed by the endorsement by the respective Divisional Forest Office. Then the plans will be implemented by the CFUGs. The total forest area has been divided into compartments in each of the CF, where the detail plan of actions, such as stem mapping, regeneration felling, cleaning, tending and other silvicultural operations are described. The plans will be implemented from the coming fiscal year (July 2019-July 2020) onward.

2. Advanced Draft "Benefit Sharing Plan" Preparation

The main objectives of the ER program in the TAL are to address key drivers and expanding sustainable management of forests and to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing of carbon and non-carbon benefits as well as to increase livelihood opportunities for poor and forest-dependent communities. Criterion 30 of FCPF Methodological Framework requires that the Benefit Sharing Plan will elaborate on the benefit-sharing arrangements for the monetary and non-monetary benefits, building on the description in the ER Program Document, and taking into account the importance of managing expectations among potential Beneficiaries. In addition, Criterion from 30 to 33 of the Methodological Framework discuss about benefit-sharing plan, while Criterion 34 and 35 discuss on non-carbon benefits. As Nepal intends to enter into ERPA within 2019 and therefore it needs at least an advanced draft Benefit Sharing Plan publicly. As per the commitment REDD Implementation Centre has developed Advanced Benefit Sharing Plan preparation doing various group discussion at the local level regarding how benefit will be shared. Also, national level workshop was also conducted to share and seek feedback from the relevant stakeholders.

3. Re-measurement of permanent sample plots in Middle Mountain, High Mountain and High Himal regions for National Forest Monitoring

The then Department of Forest Research and Survey implemented Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) Nepal Project (2010–2014). The project was designed to carry out national-level forest resource assessment, with an overall objective of providing comprehensive and up-to-date national-level forest resource information to support forest policy formulation, forestry sector decision-making and international reporting. Regular national forest monitoring is best conducted with sufficiently accurate and scientifically defensible estimates of forest attributes. Two clusters were made for smooth functioning of the work where Cluster 1 was in Middle Mountain; (180 plots starting from the eastern part of Nepal) and Cluster 2 was made on High Mountain and High Himal region (120 plots starting from the eastern part of Nepal). This activity was developed for the re-measurement of permanent sample plots in Middle Mountain, High Mountain and High Himal Physiographic regions for National Forest Monitoring System as the re-measurement of sample plot on Terai was already completed on last year. Hence, altogether 300 sample plots were re-measured and quality assessment was also conducted with the help of Forest Research and Training Centre.

4. Preparation of Land Use Plans of Municipalities in and around the Emission Reduction Program Area

Nepal's ER-PD has proposed to "improve integrated land use planning to reduce forest conversion associated with infrastructure development" as one of the seven ER program interventions. The preparation of effective land use plans and their implementation in rural municipalities of the ER program area was critical for achieving the target of reducing deforestation and forest degradation due to the lack of land use plans in the ER program districts. This year, 10 land use plans of selected municipals were prepared with the robust discussion from concerned municipalities and relevant stakeholders about the need of land use planning and its importance in overall development. A concept for undertaking integrated spatial land use planning for sustainable development in municipalities was also developed. Ten municipalities had been selected based on demand from concerned municipalities, need for watershed management, pressure on natural resources, settlement pattern, rapid rate of migration and demographic growth by separating two clusters. Cluster 1 for Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan (Kailali), LamkiChuha municipality (Kailali), Barbardia municipality (Bardia), Kohalpur municipality (Banke), Tulsipur sub-metropolitan (Dang) and cluster two for Jeetpur Simara sub-metropolitan (Bara), Nijgadh municipality (Bara), Chandrapur municipality (Rautahat), Hariwan municipality (Sarahi), Parsagadhi municipality (Parsa).

5. Capacity Building of different REDD related stakeholder

Under the second phase of REDD+ readiness, REDD IC supported for capacity building of REDD+ focal persons from stakeholders including government institutions, sections and CSOs, NGOs, private sectors and community-based organizations that have been involved in Nepal's REDD+ process. The major objective was to capacitate the 'REDD+ focal persons' from different stakeholders including government institutions and CBOs, CSOs and NGOs that have been involved in the REDD+ process of Nepal. Various stakeholders were capacitated regarding REDD+, FIP, DGM, Gender and Social Inclusion. For example three ToT events for REDD focal person, One event for Capacity development of IPs leaders at national level, eight training events on Gender integration in REDD+, eleven capacity development training for government officials at different levels were conducted capacitating more than 2000 personal.

6. Revision of operational plan of Buffer Zone community forest and Leasehold Forest

The concept of Buffer Zone management (BZ) in Protected Areas (PA) in Nepal was initiated in 1993 following the successful implementation of the Community Forestry Program intended to manage forest resources outside the PAs. One of the major objectives to bring the concept of buffer zone management to Nepal was to develop a partnership between the park and the local people to conservation with the sustainable use of forest resources. Buffer zone forests are considered an additional habitat for wild animals that is viewed from the point of wildlife conservation aspect in which the programs are directed towards the conservation of wildlife while gradually supporting the local people to meet their daily basic needs of fuel wood, fodder, grasses and other forest resources. Hence, to strengthen the capacity of users group by doing robust discussion while preparing community and leasehold forests operation plan will help the users to know about activities that should be incorporated to implement REDD+ activities in future. Therefore 20 leasehold forest operation plans of Parsa district and Mawanpur Districts were revised for the effective implementation of plans. Similarly 50 buffer zone community forest operational plans were also revised on Chitwan, Banke and Bardiya National Parks. Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation also provided technical inputs to those management plans.

7. Agro forestry Program in Terai Districts

The main source of income and means of livelihoods for the people in the Emission Reduction (ER) program area are agriculture, animal husbandry, employment and remittance. Livelihoods and forests are inextricably linked in the Terai. ER program districts cover very productive agricultural land and thousands of farmers are engaged in agriculture but are dependent on national forests (including community forests and collaborative forests) for various forestry products. The main objective of this assignment was to prepare a profile and develop a roadmap for agro forestry program to upscale them in ERPD districts. Looking at the great potential of large-scale agro forestry through which farmers can grow suitable tree species along with agricultural products. Thousands of farmers will be benefited from this activity, which will also help achieving the ER targets of the ER-PD as well as other non-carbon benefits including the food security in the area. Two separate clusters were made for effective implementation of the project, where Cluster 1 represented Bara, Parsa, Rautahat Districts whereas Cluster 2 was on Rupandehi, Kapilbastu and Nawalparasi Districts.

8. Community Forest Operational Plan Revision

About 1.6 million households or 35 percent of the population of Nepal is involved in the community forestry management program. To date 22,266 Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs) have been formed. Major expected outcomes/impacts of the Community Forestry Program are: restoration of degraded forest land, enhancement of biodiversity, increase in supply of forests products, empowerment of women, poor and disadvantage groups, promotion of income generation and community development activities; improvement of local people's livelihood, promotion of democratic process and good governance in local communities, contribution in climate change mitigation through reduction in forest based emission, climate change adaption and help in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking this as consideration, 1500 hundred backlog operational plans were revised and updated with the consultation with CFUGs and concerned Division Forest Offices in 29 districts which are located within (Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur) and beyond(remaining other districts) the ER Program Area. The revision of CFOPs in the districts beyond ER program area was desirable for two reasons--1) Contribute to implementing National REDD+ Strategy at national level, and 2) Control displacement/leakage of emission beyond ER Program Area.

9. REDD Desk Establishment in provincial level

Under the federal system of Nepal, there are seven provinces where division forest office, forest directorate and ministry of industry, tourism, forest and environment are under the provincial jurisdiction. For effective communication and functioning of REDD related activities in the next year, seven REDD Desk Unit was established in all provinces. This will help to internalize the REDD related policies, legal and institutional mechanisms as well as to internalize Safeguard standards in the annual program by building the capacity of the employees for the proper implementation of REDD programs. Focal person from every province have been appointed by the forest directorate which will be helpful in co-ordination and collaboration for many information sharing and dissemination. This unit will work as a pool between REDD Implementation Centre and Provincial government in REDD implementation and data sharing mechanism.

10. South-South Learning Exchange Visit

As per the approved workplan, the visit was conducted in many REDD+ active countries to share and learn new and creative ideas implemented by the host country. Visit was carried out to Kenya, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand in order to know the progress made by those countries in terms of REDD+. 27 cross cutting government officials from different departments and ministry such as Ministry of Forests and Environment, Ministry of Finance, Forest Research and Training Centre learnt about REDD+ progress and activities implemented by those countries.

11. Information Dissemination on REDD+

Various extension method was applied to disseminate the information on REDD+, needs and progress made by REDD Implementation Centre to various stakeholder agencies, research groups, and provincial government including division forest office. Information was also shared with different indigenous group and other marginalized group who has direct linkage with REDD+ activities. Brochures, Mass-Media method, TV programmes, trainings, calendar, Glossary on REDD+ etc were applied for the effective dissemination of the work.

2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the last year?

- For example, lack of engagement from key stakeholders, political barriers, limited funding

1. Coordination problem with the new federal system procedures

The work responsibilities and mechanism of local, provincial and central government have been shaping into clear pathway and various institutional mechanisms are being developed. Due to initial stage of institutional establishment, coordination among federal, provincial and local institutions requires different procedures from Ministry of Forests and Environment which is more time consuming.

2. Frequent transfer of employee of REDD Implementation Centre

The REDD IC team was changed on this fiscal year as some were promoted and some had been transferred to other departments. This took a longer time for capacitating the new employees about various processes involved in REDD+. Moreover the restructuring process also affected in the program implementation and coordination in the field.

3. Work Load in REDD IC

REDD IC as a focal point to FCPF, UN-REDD and FIP, had significant extent of responsibilities for managing a number of tasks such as the implementation of REDD+ readiness project, prepare documents for ERPA, FIP investment plan preparation and DGM consultations. It would be better if further work on FIP could be handled by the Ministry itself (considering the extent of this program beyond emission reduction program area and REDD+) instead of REDD IC.

4. Time Taking procedures to select consulting firms.

The dual procurement process (Government of Nepal and World Bank) is time taking as different process has to be followed to hire a consultant. Usually it takes more than two months to evaluate and hire the consultant. Moreover developing ToR and its frequent revision and getting NoL from WB demands more time which slows down the work speed.

3. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver, and achievements anticipated during the next year?

- For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

1	Review & finalization of Advanced Draft Benefit sharing plan
2	Safeguard Information System Design Operationalize
3	REDD+ TOT for Gender & Safeguard Focal Person & related stakeholders
4	Establishment of National Carbon Registry Mechanism
5	Land Use Plan preparation of Local Government
6	Preparation of Sustainable Forest Management Plan
7	Economic Analysis of Emission Reduction Programme Document
8	Study on Carbon Emission from Forest Fire
9	Study on Carbon Emission from Grazing
10	Study on Emission estimation from Illegal Timber Harvest
11	Biodiversity Monitoring Training for REDD+
12	Mapping potential sites for Afforestation & Reforestation for ERPD Districts
13	Updating National Forest Database Information System
14	Allometric Equation Preparation for 16 species
15	Preparation of Divisional Forest Management Plan
16	Assessment of Timber Market in ERPD Districts
17	Emission Reduction Reversal Management Mechanism
18	Capacity Building on MRV/FRL, Climate change
19	National Workshop on Gender Integration in REDD+
20	Gender Conception Capacity Enhancement Programme for REDD Related Stakeholders
21	Study of the Ecological Impact of Forest Fire in Sal Forest
22	Study of the Impact of Silvicultural Operation in SFM

SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS










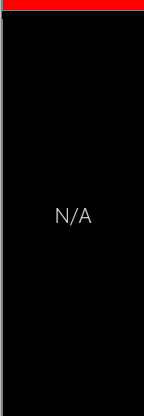











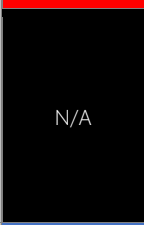

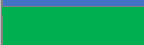


4. Please provide your own assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components:

(Indicator OV.1.B: Number of FCPF supported countries that have in place a National REDD+ Strategy, FREL/FRL, NFMS and SIS; Output 1.3 indicators)

Progress rating key:

Complete	The sub-component has been completed
Significant progress	Significant progress
Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
Further development required	Further development required
Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation		
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Complete	The institutional arrangement at provincial and local level government is in initial phase. Establishment of REDD desk in all the province
	Significant progress	
	X	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	   	forest directorate has been completed. So, this year the National REDD+ management arrangements have been shaping well.
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	   X   	Consultation, participation and outreach programs have been progressing well. Various stakeholders were capacitated regarding REDD+, FIP, DGM, Gender and Social Inclusion. For example three ToT event for REDD focal person, One event for Capacity development of IPs leaders at national level, eight training events on Gender integration in REDD+, eleven capacity development training for government officials at different levels were conducted capacitating more than 2000 personal. Various REDD+ related resource materials such as REDD+ strategy, training manuals, glossary, documentaries (audio visual) were published and disseminated this year.
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation		
Sub-component 2: REDD+ Strategy	  X    	REDD+ Strategy is approved, published, disseminated and in the implementation phase.
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	 X     	Assessment of land use, land use change, drivers, policies and governance for the purpose of REDD+ Strategy preparation (inputs for the strategy) has been formally completed. The REDD+ Strategy has already been completed and endorsed by the government. Preparation of land-use plans for ten municipalities have been completed this year in the ER Program districts.
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	 X   	The REDD+ Strategy has been endorsed by the government with the provision of 12 strategies and 70 strategic options. The strategy was also published and disseminated.

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	N/A	
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	Complete	
		X
	N/A	
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	Complete	
		X
	N/A	
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	Complete	
		X
	N/A	
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards		
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Complete	
		X
	N/A	
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Complete	
		X

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
		(NCBs). GRM mechanism is also not yet fully operationalize.
	N/A	

SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

5. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at livelihoods; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates livelihoods)?

(Indicator 3.2.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods)

Yes		(delete as appropriate)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

Vision, mission and objectives of the REDD+ Strategy and its strategic actions are to sustain and enhance livelihoods of forest dependent communities by strengthening both carbon and non-carbon benefits. Skills enhancement, financial support for income generating activities and establishment of value chain for non-carbon benefits are explained in the Strategy implementation plan. For example, Strategy 2, 5, 6,7 and 8 (5 out of 12 strategies) and corresponding actions directly address livelihood and local economy related issues. REDD+ Strategy and its implementation plan (draft) are available at: <http://redd.gov.np>

6. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation)?

(Indicator 3.3.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity)

Yes		(delete as appropriate)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

Both Nepal National REDD+ Strategy and Emission Reduction Program Document focus on conserving biodiversity. One of the guiding principles of the Strategy is "maintaining ecosystem integrity and optimizing the wide range of ecosystem benefits". Strategy 2 for example focuses largely on biodiversity conservation and other non-carbon benefits of forest ecosystem. Most of the strategic actions proposed in the implantation plan directly or indirectly promote biodiversity conservation. The implementation plan for initial five years estimates around 5 million US Dollars for biodiversity conservation under action 3 of the strategy 2. Both the Strategy and the implementation plan are available at: <http://redd.gov.np>

Similarly, Nepal has developed a Monitoring System for Non-Carbon Benefits and Impacts of REDD+. It highlights biodiversity conservation as one of the key aspects/co-benefits of REDD+. Approved Biodiversity Monitoring Protocol for REDD+ also puts emphasis on conservation and monitoring of biodiversity

SECTION D: FINANCE

(Please complete in US\$ ONLY)

7. Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e. fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included:
(Indicator 1.B: Amount of finance received to support the REDD+ Readiness process (disaggregated by public, private, grants, loans))

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
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EXAMPLES:

\$500,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	10/2013	Public	Grant
\$250,000	Ministry of Forestry	01/2014	Public	Grant

\$3,400,000	FCPF Additional Grant	03/2011	Public	Grant
\$5,200,000	FCPF Additional Grant	01/2017	Public	Grant
\$250,000	FIP Preparation Grant	12/2016	Public	Grant
\$345,000	UN-REDD TSP	08/2015	Public	Grant
\$600,000	Government of Nepal	03/2011	Public	Other
\$			Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

8. Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you hope to secure in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$ 24,00,000	FIP	Public	Grant / Loan
\$4,500,000	DGM	Public	Grant
\$50,000,000	GCF	Public	Grant
\$25,000,000	Community Groups	Public	Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

9. To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.B: Participant Countries' assessment of FCPF's role within and contribution to national REDD+ processes)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a central influence on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved the quality of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved national capacities to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X
The FCPF's support has helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

The FCPF has been the major source of finance for REDD+ process in Nepal.

10. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (publications, seminars, learning events, web resources), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.3.a: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We regularly access FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information					X
FCPF knowledge products are relevant to our REDD+ related information requirements					X
FCPF knowledge products are sufficient to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
The FCPF website is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

11. If appropriate, please provide any further comments or clarifications relating to your work on REDD+ Readiness during the last year: