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PARTNERSHIP FOR LAND USE SCIENCE (FOREST-PLUS) PROGRAM

Report

Workshop on Emerging Issues in REDD+

July 3, 2013

Bengaluru, Karnataka

AUGUST 2013

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Tetra Tech ARD Contacts: Irshad Khan, Chief of Party
(Irshad.khan@forestplus.org; 011-47277701)
Gina Green, Senior Technical Advisor/Manager
(gina.green@tetrattech.com)
Lucas Wolf, Project Manager
(lucas.wolf@tetrattech.com)

Tetra Tech ARD
P.O. Box 1397
Burlington, VT 05402
Tel: 802-658-3890

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APCCF	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
DCF	Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest-PLUS	Partnership for Land Use Science
GIS	Geographic Information System
HoFF	Head of Forest Force
IISc	Indian Institute of Science
KFD	Karnataka Forest Department
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
MSU	Michigan State University
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PCCF	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

REPORT

INTRODUCTION TO FOREST-PLUS PROGRAM

The **Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-PLUS) Technical Assistance Program** is a five-year **USAID**-funded program to reduce emissions and enhance carbon sequestration through India's forests by taking REDD+ actions to scale. Working in close collaboration with MoEF and State Forest Departments, the Forest-PLUS Program will assist in developing and deploying scientific tools and methods for improved ecosystem management and carbon sequestration, forest carbon inventory and reference baselines; designing modalities/ programs for providing better incentives to forest dependent communities for promoting REDD+ activities; and enhancing human and institutional capacity.

BACKGROUND OF THE WORKSHOP

REDD+ is an evolving concept at the international level and several issues are presently under debate and discussion at both the international and national level. Given this evolving process, communication is more important than ever to instill transparency within the development of REDD+ related decisions and policies. It is important that the concerns of forest dwelling, forest fringe communities and other stakeholders are adequately addressed. There is also a need to channel information flows to the public and private sectors, donor and NGOs regarding REDD+, specifically its environmental, social, economic benefits. This dialogue is of critical importance as REDD+ and the prospect of a future carbon market, provokes many emotions – fear, opportunism and confusion. As part of this task, a workshop on **Emerging issues in REDD+** was organized on **July 3,2013** in **collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India** at Bengaluru.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

1. facilitate dialogue and raise awareness about REDD+ issues among key stakeholders
2. share the current international and national thinking on REDD+ and related issues and seek feedback
3. solicit inputs for the proposed/planned national REDD+ strategy/architecture

PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORKSHOP

The participants of the workshop included representatives from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, NGOs, Academic institutions, Media and the Forest-PLUS team including experts from InsPIRE Network for Environment, Iora Ecological Solutions (IORA) and representatives from USAID/India. Refer Annexure 2 for the list of participants, as documented in the registration sheet.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

Based on an agenda (Annexure 1) the proceedings of the workshop were carried out. The workshop featured an inaugural session followed by two technical sessions.

Inaugural session

Mr. Irshad A Khan, Chief of Party, Forest-PLUS Program, presented the welcome address and highlighted the state of climate change and its impacts on various sectors. He also spoke on the international negotiations on climate change with a focus on mitigation measures. He emphasized the role of forests in mitigating climate change. The basic explanation on REDD+, its strategies, need for community participation, gender concerns, capacity building and scientific approaches were highlighted.

Mr. Varghese Paul, Senior Forestry Advisor, USAID, briefly explained the Forest PLUS Program. In September 2010, Partnership Agreement on Sustainable Forests and Climate Adaptation signed between Government of India and the United States of America gave rise to Five-year technical assistance program (Forest-PLUS) nested under this partnership agreement. With the objective of developing improved tools, methods and approaches developed and deployed for taking REDD+ actions to scale, Forest-PLUS will work closely with MoEF, State Forest Departments and communities to support REDD+ activities.

Mr. Deepak Sarmah, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Karnataka Forest Department, shared his views on traditional forestry including deforestation, degradation, afforestation, conservation and sustainable management of forests. He emphasized on the need of addressing the issues of global warming, climate change, carbon sequestration. He called for comprehensive action to address the issues of degradation and deforestation. He also spoke on the biodiversity of Karnataka, the issues in forestry management including license and land tenures. He expressed his happiness that Shimoga has been selected as one of the landscape for the Forest-PLUS Program implementation and the department is looking forward to enhancing their capacities at all levels towards better management of forest resources.

Mr. R. Sridharan, Principal Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment & Ecology, Government of Karnataka briefed on the efforts to be taken towards reduction in deforestation and degradation, with local involvement as a prime focus for achieving long-term sustainability. He explained the need for an interface on the application of social sciences in forestry sector with the local communities ensuring incremental contribution in terms of knowledge and capacity building.

Mr. Subhash Chandra, DIG (Forest Policy), MoEF, presented the status of climate change and REDD+ scenario in India. He explained the need for coordinated action between various stakeholders including State Forest Department, community members and CBOs towards achieving better forest management.

Dr. V. Dakshinamurthy, Communications Specialist, Forest-PLUS Program proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.

Technical session 1

In the first technical session one, the background of Climate Change debates, Kyoto Protocol and Clean Development Mechanisms was presented by Mr. Soumitri Das, Forestry Specialist, USAID

Mr. Varghese Paul explained the evolution of REDD+. In his presentation Mr. Varghese reported deforestation accounts for 18% of the GHG emissions which is greater than combined emissions from road, rail and ship transportation plus electricity/heat from commercial building. He raised his concern over the increasing rate of global deforestation. He briefed about the concept of REDD and REDD+ and its components. He raised his Concerns regarding inclusion of avoided deforestation in CDM. He highlighted to paragraph 1(b)(iii)] of Bali Action Plan(COP 13) which was later on changed in COP14 in Poznan, REDD became REDD+ in which besides Reducing emission from deforestation and degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks were also integrated.

Mr. Subhash Chandra, DIG (Forest Policy) MoEF, highlighted India's approach to REDD+ and the strategy and initiatives needed for benefitting from REDD+. He explained the co-benefits of REDD+, and its scope with a focus on the tribal dependency on the forest resources. He stated that India's approach to REDD+ is based on benefitting from its pro-conservation and pro-poor policies and potential of incentives to be passed on local communities involved in protection, conservation and management of forests. REDD+ programme for India could facilitate capture of more than one billion ton of additional Carbon di oxide over the next three decades and obtain financial incentives as Carbon services under REDD+. Thus India favors REDD+ as a comprehensive and holistic approach for mitigation in the forestry sector.

Mr. Vinay Luthra, Additional PCCF, Karnataka State Forest Department made a presentation on the scope and readiness of the state of Karnataka for REDD+. Presenting a "possible" convergence scenario through the State Forest Policy and its readiness for REDD+, a case for focusing on co-benefits was underlined. He stated the biggest challenge lay in matching the global concerns of carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation with the local community addressing the issues of forest dependence for NTFPs, livelihood, poverty alleviation and cultural aspects. With over 5000 VFCs formed in the State and registered under the Karnataka Forest Act, the REDD+ Cell will oversee the project preparation & implementation by JFMCs/VFCs. Further there is a well-established sharing arrangement between the VFCs and Karnataka Forest Department.

Dr. R.D. Jakati, Forestry and Natural Resources Management Technical Advisor, Forest-PLUS Program, presented REDD+ in the context of ecosystem management. With the five REDD+ components of Deforestation, Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management/ Sustainable Management of Forests, Carbon Conservation and Enhancement; and Biodiversity Conservation, he highlighted the challenges of achieving ecosystem management in the realm. The strategies of working with local people were highlighted.

Mr. Jagmohan Sharma, Research Scholar at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), presented the real challenges for the Adaptation to Climate Change in the realm of forestry. He highlighted how climate change could affect the forest range, forest type distribution, Net Primary Productivity, biodiversity and the forest based ecosystem services.

Mr. Swapan Mehra, CEO, Iora Ecological Solutions, explained the underlying techniques of Forest Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) methodologies. He presented the tools of Inventory Measurement in the context of Geophysical and Biophysical landscapes. He further explained the National Forest Inventory methodology: stratification of physiographic zoning, Gridding and Data Collection. He also explained the national level Carbon stock of forests giving values of different Carbon pools based on the data collected under the new biomass study carried out by FSI.

Ms. Sudha Padmanabha, Senior CDM Specialist, Fair Climate Network presented on the status of carbon markets explaining the Certified Emission Reduction (CER), Emission Reduction Units (ERU), Verified Emissions Reductions (VER) and Removal Units (RMU). the compliance market and voluntary markets were also discussed.

Technical session 2

In the post-lunch, technical session two, there was a panel discussion and open interaction amongst the participants. Dr. Sushil Saigal, Institutional Development & Governance Advisor, Forest-PLUS Program presented a comprehensive overview of the REDD+ opportunities and challenges in the Indian context. He explained the emissions from different sectors and emphasized on the plus part of REDD+, explaining the idea of compensated conservation. He further highlighted that there should be greater emphasis on forest services such as watershed protection that are critical for India's water and food security. With the need for greater support for forest-dependent communities, he advocated for strengthening of JFM Committees and capacity building of Gram Panchayats.

Prof. N. H. Ravindranath, IISc, a pioneer in the field of Forestry Research in the context of Climate Change, Dr. Kinsuk Mitra, InsPIRE Network for Environment, a practitioner in the field of Climate

Change Policy Projects and Dr. D. Suryakumari, Centre for People's Forestry were the panelists who discussed on emerging issues in REDD+. Prof. Ravindranath discussed the current scenario in India in terms of the current impact of climate change on forests, the changing production of the NTFP and impact on the locals. He further elucidated on the challenges and opportunities of REDD+ in India. With about 25% of the mitigation options within Forestry, he explained how forestry sector can be the means to combatting Global Climate Change.

Dr. Suryakumari presented the community perspective of the REDD+. Drawing on the bottom-up approach it was advocated that there should be community's involvement in representative bodies like REDD+ Cells and Community Forestry Management cells. She explained the importance of community participation not as followers of a policy, but also as equal partners represented in the decision-making and in policy making.

Dr. Kinsuk Mitra, presented the methodological issues highlighting the stake of community in REDD and REDD+ elements. He emphasized on the need of the hour, in forming a bond between different elements of REDD+ in the Indian context to see the real success. He also pointed out the challenges and the scope for implementation of REDD+ in India.

Mr. Irshad A Khan, Chief of Party, Forest-PLUS Program, facilitated the open question and answer session, which gave an opportunity for all the participants to express their views and concerns. There were request from participants for intensive training and capacity building programs on MRV and REDD+. Many of the participants expressed their heartfelt thanks for the Forest-PLUS program intervention and they have high hopes in building up their intellectual and institutional capacities. Mr. Soumitri Das, Forestry Specialist, USAID/India proposed the vote of thanks.

OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP

- The workshop created a platform towards facilitating dialogues at state level, establishing communication between the Government and the stakeholders on climate change and REDD+ issues.
- The workshop gave the participants a very detailed insight into the status of REDD+ and related issues from the national and international perspectives which will be of great help to build REDD+ initiatives in the state.
- Broader understanding on carbon centric forest management and increase in the level of awareness on climate change and REDD+ related issues
- Participation of more than 90 members across the southern states, including the PCCF from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, APCCF from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh along with an array of officers from Karnataka Forest Department, Academic institutions, Research organizations, NGOs, Corporates and Media.
- In general, participants appreciated the workshop as an effective means of building the knowledge gap and awareness on REDD+ and also remarked that the presentations were excellent.

ANNEXURE 1: AGENDA



Forest-PLUS

Partnership for Land Use Science

State-level Workshop

on

Emerging issues in REDD+

Date : July 3, 2013

Venue: Le Meridien, Bengaluru

Time : 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Agenda

Time	Topic/Speaker
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Welcome Address Mr. Irshad A Khan, Chief of Party, Forest-PLUS Program
9:45 am – 9:55 am	Forest-PLUS Program Mr. Varghese Paul, Senior Forestry Advisor, USAID/India
9:55 am – 10:05 am	REDD+ Readiness Mr. Subhash Chandra, DIG (Forest Policy), MoEF
10:05 am – 10:20 am	Keynote Address Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka
10:20am – 10:35 am	Inaugural Address Mr. R. Sridharan, Principal Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment & Ecology, Government of Karnataka
10:35 am – 10:40 am	Vote of Thanks Dr. V. Dakshinamurthy, Communications Specialist, Forest-PLUS Program
10:40 am – 11:00 am	Tea/Coffee Break

	Technical session 1
11:00 am – 11:10 am	Climate Change and Forestry Mr. Soumitri Das, Forestry Specialist, USAID/India
11:10 am – 11:20 am	Evolution of REDD + Mr. Varghese Paul, Senior Forestry Advisor, USAID/India
11:20 am – 11:40 am	REDD+ and India : Strategy and Initiatives Mr. Subhash Chandra, DIG (Forest Policy), MoEF
11:40 am – 12:00 pm	REDD+ Opportunities for the State Forest Department: Mr. Vinay Luthra, APCCF, Karnataka State Forest Department
12:00 pm – 12:20 pm	Ecosystem Management and REDD+ Dr. R.D. Jakati, Forestry and Natural Resources Management Technical Advisor, Forest-PLUS Program
12:20 pm – 12:40 pm	Forest Adaptations Mr. Jagmohan Sharma, Research Scholar, IISc
12:40 pm – 1:00 pm	Forest Carbon MRV Mr. Swapan Mehra, CEO, Iora Ecological Solutions
1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Carbon Markets Ms. Sudha Padmanabha, Sr. CDM Specialist, Fair Climate Network
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch
	Technical session 2
2:00 pm – 3.30 pm	Opportunities and Challenges in REDD+ Setting the theme by Dr. Sushil Saigal, Institutional Development & Governance Advisor, Forest-PLUS Program Panel Discussion Prof. N. H. Ravindranath, Indian Institute of Science Dr. Kinsuk Mitra, InsPIRE Network for Environment Dr. D. Suryakumari, Centre for People’s Forestry

3.30 pm – 4.15 pm	Open House discussions Mr. Irshad A Khan, Chief of Party, Forest-PLUS Program
4.00 pm – 4.15 pm	Vote of thanks Mr. Soumitri Das, Forestry Specialist, USAID/India

ANNEXURE 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. NO	Name & Designation	Organization & Address
1.	B S S Reddy , PCCF (HOFF)	Karnataka Forest Department
2.	Mohd. Aatish Khan	Inspire Network for Environment
3.	K.H Vinay Kumar	Director(Research) EMPRI Bangalore
4.	K.V Mallikarjun	Karnataka Forest Department
5.	Sudha Padmanabha	Climate Network
6.	G V Rangarao	CCF, Hassan, KFD
7.	R. Ravishankar	DCF, Sagar. KFD
8.	Smita Bijjur	CCF, Shimoga, KFD
9.	Amritha	Volunteer
10.	Veerabaswant Reddy	TERI
11.	Rahul Hiremath	TERI
12.	Dr. C. Narayana	Mysore Paper Mills
13.	Dr. Surya Kumari, Director	Centre for Peoples Forestry, Hyderabad
14.	N.B Manjunath ACF	Karnataka Forest Department
15.	Mohan Shankar	24*7 news world
16.	Vinay Luthra, APCCF	Karnataka Forest Department
17.	Brijesh Kumar, CCF	BBMP
18.	Dr. R.Vasu Deva	College of Forestry Sirsi
19.	Srinivasalu , CF (PF&P)	Karnataka Forest Department
20.	N.D Tiwari, Director	Outreach India HBR Bangalore
21.	R.K Chopra	WCPM
22.	Anil Savur Secretary, KPA	Karnataka Planter Association
23.	S.N Malavali, DCF	Karnataka Forest Department
24.	Prabhash Chandra Ray, CCF	Karnataka Forest Department
25.	Dr. B.K Mohammed	Mysore paper Mills
26.	M.L Kulkarni	Phalada Agro. Research Foundation P Ltd

27.	Ramakrishna S	World Conservation Society
28.	R.K Singh	Karnataka Biodiversity Board
29.	I.V. Nagesh	Karnataka Forest Department
30.	K.V Srinivas Murthy	Mysore paper Mills
31.	G.S Kariyapa CCF	Karnataka Forest Department
32.	K.S Manjunath, DCF,	Karnataka Forest Department
33.	Mr. R. Sridharan ,Principal Secretary,	Forest Environment and Ecology.
34.	Mr. Dipak Sarmah, PCCF & HOFF	Karnataka Forest Department
35.	K.S Sugara, APCCF(HQ)	Karnataka Forest Department
36.	D.Devaraju DCF	Karnataka Forest Department
37.	R.N Laxman DCF	Karnataka Forest Department
38.	T.S Ramanath	Karnataka Forest Department
39.	Santosh R. Sutar, Programme Coordinator	CEE, Bengaluru
40.	S.N Rai	Former PCCF, Karnataka
41.	Amarnatha Shetty	Addl. PCCF (HRD), Kerala Forest Dept., Trivandrum
42.	Rohan Mishra, Director	Water Woods Lodge Resorts
43.	Dr. B.P Lakshmi Kantha	Karnataka State Remote Sensing Appl. Centre
44.	K.B Markandaiah, CCF Mysore Circle	Karnataka Forest Department
45.	Kiran Mandaw	Out reach
46.	Manoranjan Bhanja, IFS, APCCF	AndraPradesh Forest Department
47.	Gautam Dey, PCCF (HOFF)	Tamil Nadu Forest Department
48.	G.M Devangiri	University of Agriculture Sciences, College of forestry, Kodagu
49.	Kiruba Shankkar	Hosur Forest Division, Tamilnadu Forest Department
50.	Dr. Sidrameshwar Hiremath	BAIF Institute for Rural Development

51.	R. Nijagunappa	Gulbarga University
52.	Dilip Kumar Das CCF	Karnataka Forest Department
53.	Jagmohan Sharma	Karnataka Forest Department
54.	Vijayanand	T.S.S Ltd. Sirsi
55.	Faheem H, Photojournalist	Samyuktha
56.	Bishwajit Mishra	Karnataka Forest Department
57.	Saswati Mishra, CF (ICT)	Karnataka Forest Department
58.	A.G Appu Rao DCF	Karnataka Forest Department
59.	Ritu Kakkar APCCF & DG	EMPRI
60.	Roope Gowda	ICF
61.	Satish	Ayurpark Health
62.	H.R. Kumar, ACF	Karnataka Forest Department
63.	Oumkar	Vijayavani
64.	Indu K. Murthy	IISC
65.	Prakash Netalkar	Karnataka Forest Department
66.	D.S. Gaonkar	Karnataka Forest Department
67.	Punati Sridhar	Karnataka Forest Department
68.	K. Srinivas	News work
69.	Sainivaram	Fortune World
70.	Swapan Mehra	IORA Ecological Solutions
71.	S.K Sudarshan	Samudaya, Tumkur
72.	A.Mukunda Lead NGO Coordinator	Samudaya Tumkur
73.	Bhuvanendra	Volunteer, Bangalore
74.	Sudarshan Rao	Cordea
75.	<i>Jagannatha Rao R</i>	FRLHT, Bangalore
76.	Rohit B.R	Times of India
77.	Sanjay Mohan APCCF	Karnataka Forest Department
78.	C. Mune Gowda DCF	Karnataka Forest Department

79.	Livyaralu	Udayawani
80.	Narsmmurthy RFO	Karnataka Forest Department
81.	Puneet Pathak	Karnataka Forest Department
82.	R.K Srivastava	Karnataka Forest Department
83.	Ramesh.Y	PRESS
84.	Avinash	Volunteer
85.	Irshad Khan	Forest-PLUS
86.	R.D. Jakati	Forest-PLUS
87.	Sushil Saigal	Forest-PLUS
88.	Dakshimurthy	Forest-PLUS
89.	Sharda Rawat	Forest-PLUS
90.	Kinsuk Mitra	Inspire Network of Environment
91.	Meenakshi Gosain	Inspire Network of Environment
92.	Varghese Paul	USAID
93.	Soumitri Das	USAID

U.S. Agency for International Development / India

American Embassy
Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110 021

Tel: +91-11-2419-8000

Fax: +91-11-2419-8612

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