

Final Report



Grassroots Capacity Building Program for REDD+ in the Asia-Pacific Region

August 2010-October 2013

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Final Report: Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in the Asia-Pacific Region Phase II (August 2010-October 2013), Funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	v
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Project coordination and Implementation arrangements.....	1
2. Achievements and impacts of the project for each output	2
2.1 Output One: Development of REDD+ training package.....	2
2.1.1 Achievements.....	2
2.1.1.1 <i>REDD+ training manual for national and grassroots facilitators</i>	2
2.1.1.2 <i>Training material on FPIC in REDD+ context</i>	3
2.1.1.2.1 Guidebook on FPIC in REDD+	3
2.1.1.2.2 FPIC in REDD+ training manual	3
2.1.1.2.3 Training manual on equity in climate change	4
2.1.1.3 <i>Question and answer booklets</i>	4
2.1.1.3.1 Climate Change, Forests and You	4
2.1.1.3.2 Gender in REDD+.....	4
2.1.1.3.3 Free, prior and informed consent in REDD+	4
2.1.1.4 <i>Other training materials and tools</i>	4
2.1.1.5 <i>Development of training materials on new and emerging issues of REDD+</i>	5
2.1.1.5.1 Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development.....	6
2.1.1.5.2 Mainstreaming concept of FPIC in REDD+ capacity development	6
2.1.1.5.3 Conflict in REDD+ case study.....	6
2.1.1.6 <i>Post UNFCCC COP Synthesis</i>	7
2.1.2 Outcomes	7
2.2 Output Two: REDD+ training and capacity development activities.....	8
2.2.1 Achievements.....	8
2.2.1.1 <i>National level REDD+ training and capacity development programs</i>	9
2.2.1.2 <i>Sub-national training and capacity development programs</i>	9
2.2.1.3 <i>Community level training and awareness-raising programs</i>	10
2.2.2 Outcomes	11
2.3 Output Three: Synthesis of feedback from capacity development delivery	12
2.3.1 Achievements.....	12
2.3.1.1 <i>Setting up a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system</i>	13
2.3.1.2 <i>Development and refinement of capacity development materials</i>	13
2.3.1.3 <i>Reflection and sharing workshops</i>	14
2.3.1.4 <i>Mid-term and end-term review of the project</i>	14
2.4 Output Four: Dissemination and communication	14
2.4.1 Achievements.....	14
2.4.1.1 <i>Dissemination of project's publications</i>	15
2.4.1.2 <i>Dissemination of project's experiences and lessons learned</i>	15
2.4.1.3 <i>Grassroots Project webpage</i>	16
3. Assessment of management of internal and external risks to the project	16
4. Explanation for deviations from the initial project plan.....	17
5. Summary of main lessons learned	17
5.1 Managing expectations of local communities	18
5.2 Strengthening social and environmental safeguards	18

5.3	Retention of knowledge.....	18
5.4	Appropriate combination of partnerships	19
6.	Sustainability of the project.....	19
6.1	Project partnerships.....	19
6.2	REDD+ capacity development material	20
6.3	Cascading approach of capacity development	20
7.	Brief summary of the expenditure (final year of the project)	20

Abbreviations

CDNA	Capacity Development Needs Assessment
CFET	Centre for Forestry Education and Training (Indonesia)
CFUG	Community Forestry User Group (Nepal)
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam)
DoF	Department of Forestry (Lao PDR)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users (Nepal)
FFI	Flora and Fauna International
FKKM	Forum Komunikasi Kehutanan Masyarakat (Indonesia)
FORDA	Forestry Research and Development Agency (Indonesia)
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
HIMAWANTI	The Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (Nepal)
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LATIN	Lembaga Alam Tropika (Indonesia)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (Nepal)
NAFES	National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services (Lao PDR)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NUoL	National University of Laos (Lao PDR)
PADETC	Participatory Development and Training Centre (Lao PDR)
Q&A	Question and Answer
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
VFI	Village Focus International
VDC	Village Development Committee
WREA	Water Resource and Environment Agency (Lao PDR)
WWF	World Wide Fund
YAKOBI	Yayasan Komunitas Belajar (Indonesia)

Executive Summary

This is the final report of the “Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+” project in the Asia-Pacific region. The report highlights key achievements and impacts of the project, implemented in four countries—Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam between August 2010 and July 2013 in partnership with a total of 18 organizations. The project has four outputs: i) developing a REDD+ training package for grassroots stakeholders; ii) delivering REDD+ training and capacity development programs; iii) synthesizing feedback and lessons learned; and iv) widely disseminating the project’s experiences, including lessons learned, in the project countries and beyond.

During the three years of its implementation, the Grassroots Project produced 12 major publications as parts of the REDD+ training and capacity development package for grassroots stakeholders. These included facilitators’ training manuals on REDD+, Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+, and a number of awareness-raising materials, such as handbooks, posters, fliers etc. in English and in the national languages of the project countries.

The project exceeded its target of creating a cadre of at least 10 national level facilitators in each country by training more than 600 participants through a total of 19 national level training events, with 37% women participants, as against a target of 20%. Similarly at sub-national level, as against a target of at least 50 government officials trained in each country, thus a total of 200 stakeholders, the project built the capacity of more than 2,300 stakeholders including more than 500 local government officials through 113 different types of events. With regards to a target of at least 30 percent women participants, the project reached to more than 35 percent women participants. At the grassroots level, the project organized nearly 580 awareness-raising events, reaching more than 31,000 stakeholders, as against a target of at least 15 forest user groups in each country, which may roughly work out around 3,000 to 3,500 stakeholders.

REDD+ training programs conducted to national level stakeholders in the project countries for building their capacity for raising awareness on REDD+ at the grassroots level were well received by the participants—-independent evaluations at national and sub-national level in Nepal and Lao PDR suggested that 85 percent and 80 percent of the respondents, respectively, reported using REDD+ knowledge in their own work in various ways. At the grassroots level, despite varying capacities to understand and grasp new information, these evaluations reported an overall positive feedback from the participants. The independent end-term review of the project conducted in June 2013 reported that national and sub-national participants gained “*new and cutting-edge knowledge*” on an emerging topic, and enhanced their reputation and credibility as NGOs or individual trainers and facilitators; they have also benefitted from on-the-job training in planning, implementing and conducting awareness-raising programs. In particular, the cascade approach of Training of Trainers (ToT) proved effective, as it helped to reach out to a large number of stakeholders and facilitated a knowledge-sharing process within project countries by engaging trainers from different levels to deliver grassroots level awareness-raising on REDD+ and climate change. At the grassroots level, local people have taken additional initiatives conserve the

forests to and reduce carbon emission by finding efficient alternatives to cooking energy, regulating grazing practices, and undertaking afforestation and reforestation activities.

The project received positive responses on various training products, both from its focal countries, and different parts of the world. This is reflected in the number of downloads (more than 4,000) of all the publications, published both in English and national languages, and the wide dissemination of the printed copies (nearly 30,000 of different publications) during the project period. Further, the strategic outreach and communication of the project's experiences and lessons also helped in contributing to REDD+ debates in the project countries and beyond.

Simplifying the REDD+ language for the benefit of grassroots stakeholders and managing their expectations; meeting the growing demand for capacity development on REDD+; and scaling up the impacts of capacity development programs through partnerships, networking and knowledge-sharing, remained key challenges. The continued uncertainty of REDD+ at the international level also posed external risks to the project, particularly when dealing with grassroots communities who depend on the forest resources for their daily livelihood when changes in the forest management are likely to impact them.

The results reported above are supported by the independent end-term review of the project, which concludes that *“Looking at the Grassroots Project’s achievements in regards of the goal stated in the log frame, it can be said that this project has successfully reached its targets defined by the indicators stated. Considering the available resources, it can be stated, that the Grassroots Project has used those resources wisely and efficiently”*.

The Grassroots project is now in its third phase, with inclusion of Myanmar as fifth project country. Phase III of the project initiated since January 2013 will scale up the achievements of Phase II, and further strengthen the proven approaches of REDD+ capacity development by expanding partnership, cascading model of capacity development, continuous updating of materials and translations into national languages, linking REDD+ capacity development to national initiatives and focusing on social and environmental safeguards of REDD+, particularly in relation to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming.

1. Introduction

The Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ project in Asia-Pacific (hereinafter called as the Grassroots Project) was first initiated in August 2009. The first phase of the project for one year was a preparatory phase, covering three project countries—Indonesia, Lao PDR and Nepal. Phase II of the project was initiated in August 2010 in four countries, including Vietnam, and continued until October 2013 (including three months of no cost extension). This is the final report of Phase II of the project, summarizing key achievements and impacts of the four outputs of the project.

1.1 Project coordination and Implementation arrangements

The Grassroots Project maintained a strong focus on integrating multiple stakeholders for effective implementation and coordination of project activities. The project's implementing partners were selected based on a few basic criteria, such as, organizations having a mandate of training and capacity development, experience of working at the grassroots level, ability to represent different interest groups such as women, indigenous peoples and religious groups through participatory approaches to natural resource management, and experience of advocating and mobilizing appropriate policy changes. Based on these criteria, the project included a combination of governmental and non-governmental organizations in all countries. Such an approach of engaging with a combination of government and non-government organizations right from the beginning was driven by a conscious effort to ensure sustainability of the interventions beyond the project period. Following this approach, and also considering the in-country contexts, the Grassroots Project worked with a total of 18 partner organizations in the four project countries, as summarized in Table 1. While some of these partnerships continued throughout the project, other partnerships were linked to specific time-bound activities. Wherever possible, the project made efforts to establish and maintain links with the climate change working group/taskforce of each national government, and with UN-REDD (in Indonesia and Vietnam), in order for all relevant parties to remain updated and to align project activities with other ongoing initiatives on REDD+.

Table 1: Summary of partner organizations in the project countries

Country	No. of partner government agencies	No. of NGO/CSO partners	Total partner organizations
Indonesia	1	3	4
Lao PDR	3	2	5
Nepal	1	3	4
Vietnam	4	1	5
Total	9	9	18

A detailed list of partner organizations is presented in Annex 1 of the report.

2. Achievements and impacts of the project for each output

Following is a description of the key achievements and impacts under each of the four outputs in the Grassroots Project.

2.1 Output One: Development of REDD+ training package

Output statement: A training package designed for REDD+ introduction and implementation, targeted at grassroots forest sector stakeholders is developed, and continually revised and adapted to fit country-specific conditions and the evolving structure of REDD+.

2.1.1 Achievements

The Grassroots Project developed a set of training packages targeted at grassroots stakeholders, addressing the basic concept and evolution of REDD+, the link between forest and climate change, and associated social and environmental safeguards of REDD+. Various materials, including a full REDD+ training package, have been prepared in the national language of each project country, in addition to English.

The REDD+ training materials and products were developed based on a Capacity Development Needs Assessment (CDNA) for REDD+ conducted in each of the four project countries. REDD+ training gaps and needs that were identified through CDNAs formed the basis of developing country specific training packages.

A complete list of training products and materials developed by the project is presented in Annex 2. The following sections provide a brief overview of each material, along with a few examples of outcomes in the form of use of such material, in the project countries and beyond.

2.1.1.1 REDD+ training manual for national and grassroots facilitators

The Grassroots Project developed the REDD+ training manual in English and in the national languages of three project countries — Bahasa Indonesia, Lao and Nepali. In Vietnam, the country team is currently in the process of drafting the Vietnamese version of the REDD+ manual by contextualizing the English version and using other available materials, published by other stakeholders working on REDD+ in the country. This delay has been caused mainly due to staff turnover in the project in between coupled with a challenge to finding a right mix of experts to draft REDD+ facilitators manual.

The manual development process in each of these countries followed a multi-stakeholder process. For example, in Nepal, two REDD+ training manuals were developed—one for national level facilitators and another for the community level facilitators. A total of seven organizations contributed in this process, which was coordinated by the National-level REDD Forestry and Climate Change Cell (REDD Cell) of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC). Similarly in Lao PDR, the Faculty of Forestry of the National University of Lao PDR (NUOL) led the development of the REDD+ manual, while key experts from the

Department of Forestry (DoF) provided their critical comments and suggestions to finalize the manual. In Indonesia, the Center for Forestry Education and Training (CFET) under the Ministry of Forestry contributed in the development of the Bahasa Indonesia version of REDD+ training manual. In all these cases, the manual development process included testing and subsequent revisions, before they were finalized for the various training programs in the project countries. In Nepal, the REDD+ manual and poster revision process was supported by other national level development agencies working on REDD+, providing part of the financial support and creating ownership, and later on using these materials for REDD+ capacity development in their respective projects. Similarly in Indonesia, CFET has used the manual in numerous trainings through its regional training centers. The English and three language versions of the REDD+ manuals are available for download on the website at <http://bit.ly/1fxPrdc>.

It is important to highlight here that one of the key challenges faced during the process of translation and contextualization of REDD+ training materials in different country context was related with finding adequate vocabulary in national languages for various technical terms used in climate change and REDD+. Lack of adequate vocabulary and achieving a consensus on particular translation took substantial time, particularly in Lao PDR and Vietnam.

2.1.1.2 Training material on FPIC in REDD+ context

The Grassroots Project took the lead on REDD+ capacity development in the region on social and environmental safeguards of REDD+ and developing relevant training materials on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in REDD+. These included:

2.1.1.2.1 Guidebook on FPIC in REDD+

A guidebook on FPIC in REDD+: Principles and approaches for policy and project development was published by the Grassroots Project in 2011 in partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Indonesia. Since its first publication in English, the guidebook has been translated into all four languages of the project countries—Bahasa Indonesia, Lao, Nepali and Vietnamese. All translations of the guidebook and the English version are available for download at <http://bit.ly/1ik785w>

2.1.1.2.2 FPIC in REDD+ training manual

A training manual on “*Putting Free, Prior and Informed Consent into Practice in REDD+ Initiatives*” was developed in partnership with Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and RECOFTC in February 2012, in English. This manual was translated into Nepali and Vietnamese languages, and there are plans to translate it into Lao and Bahasa Indonesia. All versions of the manual have been tested and a number of trainings on FPIC in REDD+ have already been conducted. The manual is available for download at <http://bit.ly/1o9DLFr>

2.1.1.2.3 Training manual on equity in climate change

The Grassroots Project in partnership with another regional project of RECOFTC—namely the Grassroots Equity Enhanced Network in Mekong (GREEN Mekong) program funded by USAID—has produced a training manual on *Improving Grassroots Equity in Forest and Climate Change Contexts* for grassroots facilitators. The manual has already been tested through a regional level training program and is currently being finalized.

2.1.1.3 Question and answer booklets

Realizing the need to simplify the concept of REDD+, climate change and related social and environmental safeguards, particularly for the benefit of the grassroots facilitators, the project has published three question and answer (Q&A) booklets, as described below:

2.1.1.3.1 Climate Change, Forests and You

This Q&A booklet focuses on the basic concept of climate change, the link between forests and climate change, the concept of REDD+, and the role of local communities in REDD+. The booklet consists of a set of nine basic questions and answers concerning these topics and nearly 6,500 copies of the booklet have been distributed widely, in all four national languages, as well as English. The booklet is available for download at <http://bit.ly/RS0sku>.

2.1.1.3.2 Gender in REDD+

This Q&A booklet consists of ten basic questions and answers that explain the concept of gender, gender mainstreaming, its importance with regards to REDD+ from an international and national perspective, and associated capacity development needs. A total of 2,000 copies of this publication have been published in English and there are plans to translate this into national languages of five project countries in Phase III of the project. The booklet is available for download at <http://bit.ly/1kvzKd>.

2.1.1.3.3 Free, prior and informed consent in REDD+

This Q&A booklet answers ten questions on a range of issues, including the basic concept and building blocks of FPIC and its importance in the forest sector; in addition to the international, national and legal framework, role of local people in applying FPIC in REDD+, and associated key challenges at grassroots level. The English version of the booklet is available for download at <http://bit.ly/1kRw9EB>, and there are plans to translate this into national languages of five project countries in Phase III of the project.

2.1.1.4 Other training materials and tools

In addition to the above, the project has developed several outreach and awareness-raising materials, such as posters and flyers; and used a number of culturally appropriate tools, such as street plays, songs, puppet shows, radio programs, etc., as listed below:

- A set of five posters on REDD+ and climate change in Nepali and Lao languages were produced and updated in each country. More than 12,000 copies of the posters were distributed among grassroots stakeholders during awareness-raising events.
- Besides posters, in both the countries, nearly 10,000 calendars, with key messages about REDD+ and climate change, were printed and distributed among the participants during grassroots awareness-raising events. In Vietnam and Indonesia, similar relevant materials produced by other organizations were already available; hence these materials were used, instead of producing new ones.
- In Nepal, an information booklet on REDD+ and climate change was published in Nepali, following a multi-stakeholder process during the drafting process. This 48-page booklet titled *Climate Change, REDD+ and Our Role* received a positive response and was used by local facilitators extensively. It is available for download at <http://bit.ly/1ikc8qT>.
- In Indonesia, traditional awareness-raising tools such as the female recital *kubros*, which engages women preachers, and Javanese puppet show, locally known as *wayang*, were used to reach a large number of grassroots stakeholders, including religious leaders, teachers, and students.
- Street plays in Nepal and puppet shows in Lao PDR were effectively used for raising awareness among grassroots stakeholders, including school students and youth.
- In Nepal, the Grassroots Project produced a series of 12 radio episodes in Nepali and aired them through the local network of radio stations in the project area, to raise awareness among the grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+.
- In Laos and Vietnam, the Grassroots Project published a glossary of climate change and REDD+ terminologies in the local language, for the benefit of grassroots facilitators. The development of this booklet took substantial time, as it was extremely challenging to translate various concepts and words used in climate change and REDD+ into national language that do not possess adequate vocabulary
- The Laos REDD+ Glossary Booklet can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/1rr9rDo>
- The Vietnamese *REDD+ Glossary Booklet* can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/1iwQdYl>

2.1.1.5 Development of training materials on new and emerging issues of REDD+

The Grassroots Project kept track of the rapidly evolving process of REDD+ at the international level, and has put substantial efforts in modifying and simplifying information and messages, and communicating them to grassroots stakeholders in the project countries. One of the key focuses of developing training materials was on building capacity on REDD+ safeguards in response to the Cancun Agreement during the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 16 in 2011, which had a strong focus on promoting REDD+ safeguards. Following are key relevant training materials and training and capacity development programs undertaken by the project:

2.1.1.5.1 Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development

In order to streamline and systematize gender integration in REDD+ capacity development, the Grassroots Project grounded its approach by developing a gender strategy paper. This guiding document included a framework that outlines the objectives of and approaches for gender responsive REDD+ training and capacity development, which can be contextualized for different countries, partnership mechanisms in the project countries and monitoring and evaluation methods for reporting on gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development.

A training session for project team members was organized for gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development in March 2012. Learning from this training was then followed up by country coordinators by initiating partnerships with key organizations in the project countries who are engaged in gender mainstreaming in natural resource management or by encouraging existing partners to mainstream gender through various training programs (see Box 1). These initiatives were then supported by developing a simple Q&A booklet on gender in REDD+, as referred to above.

Box 1: Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ training and capacity development at grassroots level

“It was encouraging to note the active participation and contribution of women in the discussions during REDD+ training. Earlier, most of the women used to remain silent spectators in group meetings, but during the training program, we found them [to be] active and sharing their experiences of local level changes, such as disappearance of some grass species, sightings of new species of birds and [the] appearance of invasive species of plants, etc.” – *Ms. Durga Pandey, District FECOFUN member and community level facilitator, Nepal*

The Grassroots Project has addressed [the] importance of gender mainstreaming to a good extent, making efforts to integrate women into awareness-building events and training courses on all levels. Women have reported that this is important for them as it gives them a better position in their family and society because they can participate in the discussion (Statement from a village community in Lao PDR) – *End-Term Review report of the Grassroots Project*

2.1.1.5.2 Mainstreaming concept of FPIC in REDD+ capacity development

Besides developing the training material on FPIC in REDD+, as mentioned above, the project has rolled out a number of training programs in the project countries and at the regional level, to introduce the concept of FPIC in the context of REDD+. RECOFTC has also created a dedicated webpage (<http://www.recoftc.org/site/fpic>) for uploading and sharing relevant materials, and the latest developments on FPIC in REDD+.

2.1.1.5.3 Conflict in REDD+ case study

The Grassroots Project, with support from RECOFTC core-funds, has contributed to the development of a methodological framework for conducting case studies on the potential impacts of REDD+ implementation on local communities, particularly in the context of conflict management and prevention in Nepal and Vietnam. The rationale for such case studies was based on the fact that REDD+ initiatives have the potential to impact the

security and livelihoods of many forest-dependent people in the region. Moreover, while there are existing case studies on REDD+'s impacts on biodiversity, poverty alleviation, and livelihoods, none have examined the relationship between REDD+ and conflict management.

2.1.1.6 Post UNFCCC COP Synthesis

For the past four years, RECOFTC, in partnership with FAO has been producing a post UNFCCC COP synthesis of implications for people and forests in Asia-Pacific based on reviews of the outcomes of the conference by leading experts from the region. The series has been singled out by an independent FAO review as an outstanding publication. The Grassroots Project partly supported a similar regional expert workshop on the Durban COP outcomes in February 2012, and translated the English version of the synthesis into Nepali and Lao languages, while Bahasa Indonesia and Vietnamese versions were supported from funds provided by FAO.

2.1.2 Outcomes

In order to assess the impacts of the publications produced by the Grassroots Project, the project teams maintained the records of all its publications, including the number of copies printed and distributed and number of downloaded from the project webpage. Besides, the project teams also collected feedback from the users on the usefulness of various publications from the project countries and beyond. Some of the responses have been summarized in Box 2 below, and the record of the number of downloads is presented later in sub-section 2.4.1.1, under Output 4.

Besides feedback presented in the Box 2 below, various training products and materials produced by the Grassroots Project have also been used by other REDD+ project implementers in the region, such as World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Lao PDR for their Carbon and Biodiversity (CarBi) project, and Community Carbon Pools Program of Flora and Fauna International (FFI), implemented in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam, as well as various other RECOFTC initiatives across the region.

Box 2: Response on the usefulness of REDD+ training materials

REDD+ training manual for community facilitators

"When preparing [for] the training, our team came across your website and the REDD+ ToT Manual for Community level facilitators in Nepal. Very useful manual! Would it be possible to engage you somehow to our training?" - *Katri Kallio Koski, Programme Analyst (UNDP, Energy & Environment), Zambia*

Climate change, forests, and you Q&A booklet:

"Providing answers to each question is a laudable effort, especially because the guidance has been produced in five languages, i.e. besides English, Bahasa Indonesia, Lao, Nepali and Vietnamese." RECOFTC has "taken steps in the right direction" - *Go-REDD+ online newsletter (Issue 5) of UN-REDD: Conveying REDD+ at the local level*

“We really appreciated being able to build upon some of the RECOFTC Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ training material and distributing the REDD+ Q&A brochure in the Lao Language. It was highly appreciated by the Laos participants.” - *Peter Stephen, Forest Management and Climate Change Advisor, LEAF Program*

Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+

“I follow RECOFTC news and I want to congratulate you for the document *A training manual: Putting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into Practice in REDD+ Initiatives*, it’s really interesting and useful”- *Pilar Valbuena, Área de Cooperación Internacional. Gestión del Conocimiento, Valladolid, España*

“The survey conveys that the materials used during the various trainings are regarded as helpful and supportive for better understanding. Widely used and popular seems to be the leaflet “*Climate Change, Forests and You*” which is available in English and all four languages of the project countries. The high popularity is due to the very short compact and simple way of how climate change and REDD+ are explained in this publication” - *Independent End-Term review of the Grassroots Project*

2.2 Output Two: REDD+ training and capacity development activities

Output statement: Grassroots forest stakeholders’ awareness of REDD+ is raised through training programs (on the relevance of REDD+, implications for livelihoods and rural development, local people’s roles and potential benefits).

2.2.1 Achievements

The Grassroots Project rolled out a number of REDD+ training and capacity development programs and awareness-raising events in the project countries, following a cascading approach. This approach included Training of Trainers (ToT) programs at national and sub-national level and awareness-raising at community level, led by the trainers from national and sub-national level. The objective of such an approach was to create a cadre of in-country trainers, who can take forward the REDD+ capacity development agenda, and thus sustain the initiative beyond the project period. Through this approach, the project also encouraged participants to document the concerns and issues of the grassroots stakeholders and cascade the messages up to policy makers, and thus, contribute to REDD+ readiness processes in the project countries. The targeting approach to select the training participants was defined in close consultations with the partner organizations. In general, in all countries, the training participants consisted a mix of government and non-government organizations, primarily working in forestry and natural resource management sector. Secondly, as far as possible, the competence and professional mandate of the participant was also an important criterion. Particularly for national and sub-national level ToTs, those participants with a prior experience of training and capacity building and extension activities, and also those having policy and planning background were preferred.

Following is the summary of key achievements under this output.

2.2.1.1 National level REDD+ training and capacity development programs

The Grassroots Project organized a variety of REDD+ training and capacity development programs, including ToT programs for multi-stakeholders, national level expert workshops, training programs for journalists and women stakeholders, national level knowledge sharing workshops (covering topics such as the outcomes from UNFCCC COPs, concept of FPIC in the context of REDD+). In addition, national level public awareness events were conducted on special days; for example, national level awareness on women’s role in forestry in Nepal on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

Altogether, a total of 19 national level REDD+ training and capacity development events were successfully organized in all the four project countries, including one training event each for journalists in Nepal and Lao PDR, while in other two countries, Grassroots project supported selected journalists to a regional level training program organized by RECOFTC under its another regional project, ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN). The duration of national level learning events ranged from 1 to 5 days. Thus in terms of total training days, the project delivered training for a total of 73 days. These learning events were attended by a total of 627 participants, which translated into more than 2,200 person days of learning in all four countries during three years of the Grassroots project. The achievements summarized in Table 2 below are significantly higher than the initial targets of at least 10 national level facilitators trained in each country, with the capacity to plan and deliver grassroots level capacity development programs.

With regards to gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development, the project managed to ensure participation of nearly 37 percent women across all the training events, which is again higher than the set target of at least 20percent women participants in all the national level training programs.

Table 2: REDD+ capacity development events at national level

Country	Number of events per year (total no. of training days)			Number of total participants by year (no. of women participants)		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Indonesia	1 (4)	1 (5)	1 (4)	26 (8)	16 (3)	42 (22)
Lao PDR	1 (4)	2 (7)	1 (1)	38 (6)	50 (10)	45 (25)
Nepal	2 (10)	3 (8)	2 (10)	61 (18)	150 (50)	62 (34)
Vietnam	3 (12)	-	2 (10)	69 (22)	-	68 (35)
Total	7 (28)	6 (20)	6 (25)	194 (54)	216 (63)	217 (116)

2.2.1.2 Sub-national training and capacity development programs

At the sub-national level (province and district (in the case of Nepal)), a total of 102 different types of REDD+ training and capacity development events were organized in the four project countries. The type of events included ToTs, issue based consultations, refresher training programs on new and emerging issues such as FPIC and gender mainstreaming in REDD+, and training and action plan development workshops. Through

these events, the Grassroots Project reached out to nearly 2,300 stakeholders, which included provincial and district level government staff (521) and representatives from local NGO, CSO, CBO, women organizations, and print and electronic media. More than 800 of the total participants were women (35%) as summarized in Table 3 below. Similar to national level achievements, at sub-national level, compared to a target of at least 200 local level government officials, project trained more than 500 government staff (56 in Indonesia, 50 in Lao PDR, 300 in Nepal and 115 in Vietnam).

Table 3: REDD+ capacity development events at sub-national level

Country	Number of events per year			Number of total participants by year <i>(no. of women participants)</i>		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Indonesia	-	2	6	-	40 (20)	145 (24)
Lao PDR	-	3	1	-	50 (10)	23 (5)
Nepal	18	49	5	395 (106)	1,117 (443)	135 (54)
Vietnam	-	12	6		254 (87)	141 (60)
Total	18	66	18	395 (106)	1,461 (560)	444 (143)

2.2.1.3 Community level training and awareness-raising programs

At the grassroots level (district, commune and village), the project organized a large number of awareness-raising events, ranging from one-day to three-days, depending upon the country context and availability of the grassroots stakeholders. During awareness-raising events, grassroots facilitators used a number of different tools, including knowledge sharing events, street plays, puppet shows, games etc. The project reached more than 31,000 individual stakeholders through nearly 600 events in four countries. Nearly 40 percent of these participants were women. As summarized in Table 4, a large number of these events were organized in Nepal, mainly due to the vast network of the partner organizations at the grassroots level, such as FECOFUN and HIMAWANTI, enabling them to reach out to more than 22,000 stakeholders. Similar to national and sub-national level targets, at the grassroots level, at least 15 forest user groups or villages in each project country have gained new knowledge on REDD+ mechanism, with at least 30 percent outreach to women stakeholders, which also exceeds the set targets.

Table 4: REDD+ awareness-raising events at grassroots level

Country	Number of events per year			Number of total participants by year <i>(no. of women participants)</i>		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Indonesia	-	9	9	-	1,650 (1 530)	1,598 (289)
Lao PDR	-	12	15	-	3,770 (775)	1,452 (633)
Nepal	247	273	-	10,573 (4,460)	11,500 (4 615)	-
Vietnam	-	4	28	-	350 (120)	854 (241)
Total	247	298	52	10,573 (4,460)	17,270(7,040)	3,904(1,163)

2.2.2 Outcomes

In order to assess the outcomes of the training and capacity development programs, the project conducted monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the effectiveness of training programs at different levels. Besides conducting mid-term and end-term reviews, the project conducted 'Level 3' evaluations of its training activities in Nepal and Lao PDR, using Kirkpatrick's model of monitoring and evaluation (refer to section 2.3.1.1 below for detail). In the other two countries, M&E was combined with the end-term review that was conducted in June 2013. The 'Level 3' evaluation mainly focuses on assessing knowledge-retention, its application on the ground by the participants, and behavioral change among them. Following are some of the key findings of the evaluations (also refer to Box 3):

'Level 3' evaluation results in Nepal and Lao revealed that 85 percent and 80 percent, respectively, of the respondents from national and sub-national training programs reported using REDD+ knowledge in their work places in various ways. These included:

- participation and contribution in discussions on REDD+ and climate change at national and sub-national level
- serving as resource persons in REDD+ and climate change training programs
- contributing to forest management planning processes at local level
- developing relevant proposals

In Lao PDR, 64 percent of the respondents indicated that they were engaged in different REDD+ related activities at sub-national level (district and below). The evaluation report concluded that the targeting approach, tools and techniques used to transfer knowledge were effective and in line with the project's overall objectives.

At community forestry users' level, despite varying degrees of understanding and capacity to grasp new information, the evaluation reported an overall positive feedback from the respondents, with some examples of application of knowledge on the ground. Some examples include local level initiatives such as, reducing and regulating tree cutting in community forest, initiating new plantations, reducing fuel wood consumption and exploring other energy-efficient devices, fire management in forest areas, and inclusion of women and children in sharing of new knowledge.

Box 3: Feedback on the importance and usefulness of REDD+ training programs

"RECOFTC's grassroots capacity development for REDD+ training has been instrumental for me to establish myself as a resource person in the field of climate change and REDD+ in the country. After attending the national level ToT, I have conducted several trainings on climate change and REDD+ in different parts of the country." – *Bhola Khatiwoda, Chairperson of Community Forestry Supporters' Network (COFSUN), Nepal*

"No one knew about REDD+ before the grassroots training program, but now we try to seize opportunities to strengthen the knowledge and skills of our staff on this subject" – *Mr. Oun Sarnsaly, Water Resources and Environment Agency (WREA), Government of Lao PDR*

"From the training program we realized the potential benefits from REDD+. Therefore, we planted the barren land of Bhaglapur, Kopuwa VDC of Dang. Some portion of the land was previously encroached, which is now removed by CFUG, and planted with trees to maintain it as forest land."
– *Kallu Tharu, Chairperson of Bageshwori CFUG, Kapilvastu District, Nepal*

"As a journalist, before attending the REDD+ training, my focus was to cover mostly the political news, but now I am also interested to report on forestry issues" – *Kamal Panthi, reporter of national daily Kantipur, Bardiya District, Nepal*

More trees have been planted and less illegal cutting occurs now, since more people are aware of climate change issues. Women still discuss about climate change, while they walk to forest (outside of the preacher's meetings) – *A group of women's preachers from Andorejo village, East Java, Indonesia*

"I thank RECOFTC for providing support to YAKOBI through the Grassroots Project. YAKOBI as an emerging local NGO in Berau in East Kalimantan became known and have learned from the Grassroots project. Starting from one ToT program in Bogor in March 2012, we engaged with new network nationally and locally as we work with different implementing partners. I believe that institutionally, this project has helped us in many ways—improving our understanding on climate change and REDD+, improving our institutional capacity and learning about compiling good reports on delivery of various activities." – *Mr. Gilang Ramadhan, Program Director, Yayasan Komunitas Belajar Indonesia (YAKOBI) or Indonesia Learning Community Foundation*

"The Grassroots Project has quite efficiently implemented many trainings and awareness-building events. These trainings had impacts on multiple levels. First, the partner organizations who have been trained to facilitate more trainings have benefited in a large extent from the Grassroots Project. They have gained new cutting edge knowledge on an emerging topic, they have gained reputation and trust as NGO, they have benefitted from on the job training in planning, implementing and conducting awareness-raising programs" – *Excerpts from the report on independent end-term review of the Grassroots Project*

2.3 Output Three: Synthesis of feedback from capacity development delivery

Output statement: Synthesis of feedback and information received from the capacity development delivery and other internal and external processes to improve and refine capacity development tools/materials/resources.

2.3.1 Achievements

In order to improve and refine REDD+ capacity development tools and materials and ultimately the project delivery, national and regional project teams undertook a number of initiatives. These included: monitoring of outreach and absorption of the various training products produced by the project; collecting feedback from the training facilitators and the participants on the usefulness and application of new knowledge on climate change and REDD+; and efforts made by the project team and partner organizations in disseminating

key lessons and project experiences to the wider audiences, both within and beyond project countries. A summary of key achievements under this output is presented below.

2.3.1.1 *Setting up a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system*

The Grassroots Project set up an M&E system to record the outreach of its training products and materials, and to collect the feedback from the training participants and synthesize it in order to improve delivery of the training programs. For monitoring the dissemination of training materials and products, the project team maintained records of the printed copies of various training products, their dissemination and the number of web downloads.

For collecting feedback from the training participants and impacts, the project team conducted M&E of the training programs at different levels, based on the Kirkpatrick model of training evaluation. This included M&E at different levels:

- ‘Level 0’ - to gauge participants’ knowledge of the subject before the training program;
- ‘Level 1’- Reaction - assessing the reaction and feedback from training participants on a daily basis, using mood-meters and recording feedback in a pre-designed questionnaires;
- ‘Level 2’- Learning - to what extent the participants improved their knowledge and skills as a result of the training after completing of training program, this is assessed using a pre-designed questionnaire; and
- ‘Level 3’ – Behavior - recording behavioral changes and application of knowledge by the participants using semi-structured questionnaire interviews with randomly selected participants¹.

The data collected through such evaluations included both qualitative and quantitative data, which was organized using Microsoft Excel. While some of the results of such analysis are already presented in section 2.2.2 above, a few more are presented in section 2.4.1 below. Besides these different levels of monitoring, the project also documented a couple of ‘Stories of Change’ from the field to showcase the impact of REDD+ training programs on the ground. Such a short inspiring story of a women facilitator from Nepal is presented in Annex 3.

2.3.1.2 *Development and refinement of capacity development materials*

As discussed under Output One, the project succeeded in developing an elaborate REDD+ training package. This was possible due to effective collaboration with experts and a range of multi-stakeholders in each project country at different levels. In order to enhance and constantly update REDD+ training materials, particularly in response to the dynamic REDD+ discourse at international level, the Grassroots Project teams regularly collected feedback on the usefulness and relevance of the training materials from training participants and

¹ There is a fourth level in the Kirkpatrick evaluation model that evaluates results – i.e. What are the tangible results of the learning process in terms of reduced cost, improved quality, increased production, efficiency, etc.

training facilitators. Such feedback was collected through focused group discussions with the training facilitators and subject experts at different levels.

In general, the project received positive responses on the usefulness and application of these materials, as presented in Box 2 above. However, one of the most pressing needs highlighted by participants and facilitators alike was concerned with the simplification of the various training products, not only in terms of the language, but also in terms of the content. The translation of training materials into national languages, the development of Q&A booklets and REDD+ glossary handbooks, and producing revised versions of the training manual (in Nepal), posters (in Lao PDR and Nepal) and flyers are examples of responding to such needs.

Besides these materials, the project also responded to the latest discourses on REDD+ as they emerged by developing training products on topics such as FPIC in REDD+, equity in forest based climate change mitigation and gender in REDD+.

2.3.1.3 Reflection and sharing workshops

In order to synthesize feedback and information received from the capacity development delivery and other internal and external processes, the Grassroots Project organized three regional level annual reflection and information sharing workshops (in 2011, 2012, and 2013) with country coordinators, partner organizations and other key stakeholders. Besides sharing the progress and reflecting upon the experiences and lessons learned from the project, these events were also used as an opportunity to develop the capacity of the project team and partner organizations on different topics of REDD+. The feedback collected during these workshops was incorporated in drafting the action plans for the following year in each project country.

2.3.1.4 Mid-term and end-term review of the project

The Grassroots Project successfully organized independent mid-term and end-term reviews of the project. The reports of the reviews, the summary of key findings, the response and the plan for the next steps, based on the key findings and recommendations, were all approved by Norad.

2.4 Output Four: Dissemination and communication

Output statement: Project results and findings are communicated widely within and beyond the target countries, contributing to the ongoing REDD+ discourses and readiness processes.

2.4.1 Achievements

The Grassroots Project used a wide variety of communication tools and dissemination approaches to communicate the project's experiences and lessons learned to a wider audience within and beyond project countries. The communication approach of the project was guided by its communication strategy paper. Beyond the training and awareness raising

program, other key initiatives included the development and maintenance of a webpage for the project, producing a number of publications in both hard and soft copy as listed earlier, and attending several local, national, regional and international events by the project team members and other RECOFTC staff at which information on the project and its materials were disseminated.

2.4.1.1 Dissemination of project's publications

Between August 2010 and October 2013, the Grassroots Project produced a range of training products on REDD+ and climate change and distributed them widely. Nearly 35,000 copies of various publications were printed in English and the project country languages (Annex 2). A large number of them have already been distributed through various events, besides more than 4,000 download from project web page. The most popular training products are listed in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Number of copies distributed, and downloaded of key publications of the Grassroots Project on REDD+ capacity development (August 2010- October 2013)

Sl. No.	Name of publication	No. of copies printed	No. of copies distributed	No. of downloads
1.	Guidebook on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in REDD+	5,000	3,025	1,068
2.	Training manual on Putting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into Practice in REDD+ Initiatives	1,830	1,345	941
3.	Q&A booklet on Climate Change, Forests, and You	8,640	7,553	849
4.	Training manual on REDD+ for National and Sub-national-level Facilitators	3,510	2,010	479
5.	Training manual on REDD+ for Community-level Facilitators	510	510	373
6.	Gender and REDD+ Q&A booklet	2,000	224	-

2.4.1.2 Dissemination of project's experiences and lessons learned

During the entire period of the project, the regional and national project teams attended a total of 33 events (about 11 events per year), where they shared the experiences of the project, and delivered and facilitated training programs organized by other organizations. A complete list of key international and regional events attended by the project team members is appended in Annex 4. Besides attending various national and international events, the project team also published articles based on the project's experiences and lessons learned in peer reviewed journals and edited volumes. In addition, the project team

members also published seven blogs on various topics of REDD+, ranging from gender mainstreaming to bridging rural-urban cross generational divide with regards to discussing climate change, forests and REDD+. A list of articles and blogs is presented in Annex 5.

2.4.1.3 Grassroots Project webpage

The Grassroots Project has a dedicated webpage including a project landing page and four country pages (<http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Grassroots-Capacity-Building-for-REDD-/>). These are regularly updated with the progress of the project. The project also uses blogs to communicate project experiences and progress.

3. Assessment of management of internal and external risks to the project

During its implementation, the Grassroots Project faced a few risks and challenges, both in terms of project administration and coordination, and in terms of communicating the content for REDD+ capacity development at grassroots level. These challenges are briefly described below, along with the approaches adopted by the project management to address these risks and challenges.

- With regards to the project administration and coordination, the capacity of the partner organizations in certain countries proved a major challenge. In some cases, particularly in Lao PDR and Vietnam, limited capacity and number of possible partner organizations caused delays midway during the implementation of project activities. In other cases, inadequate reporting from the partner organizations demanded additional time from the country coordinators.
- The regional and national level project teams addressed these challenges by providing additional time and capacity development support to partner organizations. The reporting challenge was addressed by providing guidance and reporting templates to the partner organizations at the time of finalizing the partnership contract, encouraging partners to submit reports on time and also building their capacity for reporting. An example is evident in the statement from Mr. Gilang Ramadhan, Program Director of YAKOBI (see Box 3).
- In addition, annual regional reflection workshops and a coordination workshop were used to address the gaps in capacity among partner organizations. These workshops included dedicated sessions on project planning, including budgeting, M&E, documentation of stories of change and effective communication. These will be useful additional unintended results of the project for many partner organizations and their staff.
- The partnership with government organizations has advantages as well as challenges. On one hand it adds substantial value to the project, particularly to ensure effective coordination, sustainability and ownership of the project interventions, and integration of lessons into national processes; on the other hand

these partnerships can also be the cause of several challenges. Due to different working styles, pace, priorities and varying cultural contexts, the project experienced a few delays in Indonesia and Vietnam. In such cases, the project speeded up the implementation process by establishing partnership with NGOs and CSOs, to ensure that project targets were achieved.

- Among other internal challenges, the project faced in between delays due to prolonged sickness of project staff, long leave for pregnancy of female staff, and related turnover. Also, few challenges were also posed due to internal organizational restructuring and related management changes owing to transition into new strategic phase and back-stopping staff changes. However, these were dealt with through (relatively) efficient and supportive internal management systems within RECOFTC that minimized disruption.
- The external risks to the project implementation were mainly due to few key factors associated with REDD+, such as its rapid emergence at global level, coupled with complex technical language, it's limited practical application in project countries and its future uncertainty. All these factors in some way or the other contributed to raising and muting expectations among the grassroots communities during the project's implementation.
- To address these challenges, the project took a '*no regrets*' approach in its training and capacity development delivery. Delivery of REDD+ capacity development within the framework of sustainable forest management (SFM) was key to this approach. One of the benefits of this approach was that, even in the event that REDD+ is not approved and implemented by international bodies as a financing mechanism, local communities continue to benefit from SFM practices and understand how these can better contribute to reducing emissions from forestry activities. This approach was further supported by using simple and culturally appropriate tools effectively to send out correct and balanced message on REDD+, and engaging with key stakeholders such as government officials, policy makers, local journalists, and religious leaders to ensure as many commentators as possible sent out the same realistic messages.

4. Explanation for deviations from the initial project plan

Besides a few delays in project delivery in Vietnam and Indonesia in the initial phase of the project, there has not been any major deviation from the project plan throughout the project's lifetime. The delays were addressed by expanding project partnerships in these countries, and eventually the project achieved more than the set targets, as mentioned earlier.

5. Summary of main lessons learned

A number of lessons were learned during the implementation of the Grassroots Project, as summarized below:

5.1 Managing expectations of local communities

As mentioned in section three above, managing the local communities' expectations from carbon trade remained a major challenge in REDD+ in general, and particularly in projects like the Grassroots Project, which interacts directly with forest dependent communities, who will be directly affected by any changes in the forest management at local levels. Therefore, to manage expectations, the project was careful to share the correct and most valid information on REDD+ with the local communities, particularly in relation to possible financing and benefit-sharing mechanisms. The development of simpler versions of the training products and materials can address this concern to some extent, although at the same time it is important to explain that there still remain many unanswered questions at both international and national levels. Secondly, it is equally important that REDD+ knowledge sharing materials and tools are contextualized to the local situation and cultural settings, and supported by appropriate examples from the local context, so that participants can relate the REDD+ knowledge to their own experiences and surroundings.

5.2 Strengthening social and environmental safeguards

Given the greater focus on the social and environmental safeguards of REDD+ in the international discourse, the demand from stakeholders to build their skills and enhance their knowledge on REDD+ safeguards, such as FPIC, gender mainstreaming, social equity, benefit sharing and their rights over forest resources have increased. Consequently, the need for capacity development on these aspects is expected to grow further even as the focus on landscape approaches and SFM in the context of REDD+ increases. Moreover, in view of REDD+ uncertainty at the international level, the options to use forest resources sustainably and different tradeoffs and course of action need to be kept open for grassroots stakeholders. The Grassroots project has addressed some of these growing demands with a great success by developing appropriate training materials (see section 2.1) and rolling out relevant training programs in the field, yet a lot is still need to be done. As noted above, the training materials have received very positive feedback from a wide set of stakeholders from the project countries and beyond.

With regards to mainstreaming gender into training and capacity development activities, it is always important to consider local socio-cultural settings, norms and values, and individual interests while setting practical targets with respect to the meaningful participation of women in training and capacity development programs. Moreover, the process of gender mainstreaming in many cases has a cultural context, and therefore, one needs to be patience and practical in terms of achieving results.

5.3 Retention of knowledge

One of the key observations from the end-term review of the project was about the retention of knowledge among the grassroots stakeholders. The end-term review observed that, particularly at the village and commune level, one time training and awareness-raising events are not enough, especially for new topics such as REDD+. Thus recurring refresher

training programs are necessary to incrementally increase the knowledge-retention and its application by the local communities.

5.4 Appropriate combination of partnerships

As mentioned earlier, it is an advantage to work together with government organizations since it improves the prospects of sustainability of the project intervention. However, in order to bring in civil society perspectives, concerns of the grassroots stakeholders, and innovative approaches to training programs, it is equally important to work with CSO and NGO partner organizations. Based on the project experience it has been observed that NGOs and CSOs in general have extra reach by having additional human and other resources, and thus are equipped with updated and quality information, have experience of working on cross sectoral issues and are better informed about grassroots realities due to their direct linkages with local stakeholders as compared with government officials. All these factors bring in a new dimension to the project designing and implementation approach, improving chances of its success and sustainability.

6. Sustainability of the project

The Grassroots Project mainstreamed a number of methods and approaches at various stages of planning and implementation to ensure the sustainability of the project. Based on experiences, the following are key factors that have contributed greatly to enhance the sustainability potential of the Grassroots project:

6.1 Project partnerships

As mentioned above, the Grassroots Project has worked with a range of partners, including government agencies, and non-government and civil society organizations. Partnering with government agencies, such as with the Center for Forestry Education and Training (CFET) in Indonesia, a training institute of the Ministry of Forestry, with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Vietnam, and with the REDD Cell of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) in Nepal, have all helped in mainstreaming REDD+ knowledge and capacity development processes within these organizations—all of which are mandated to continue REDD+ development in their countries. Therefore, this has enhanced the potential of sustaining REDD+ knowledge-sharing processes in the future through these organizations. Furthermore, a combination of working with multi-stakeholders and non-government organizations has enabled the Grassroots Project to network successfully with most forest stakeholders in the project countries. Among the non-government sector partners, most of the organizations have training and capacity development as one of their central mandates. Thus, through a wide network of partner organizations, the project has attained a widespread acceptance within government as well as non-governmental and civil society organizations at all levels. Finally, grassroots stakeholders themselves now have REDD+ knowledge and are beginning to use it both in practical aspects of local forest management and in policy interactions.

6.2 REDD+ capacity development material

As mentioned earlier, in most cases, the process of developing REDD+ training materials involved government agencies and key organizations mandated with training and capacity development in the forest sector. Contributions by such organizations in this process has significantly enhanced the endorsement, ownership and acceptability of the training materials, and thus improved the wider distribution and use of the material through their own organizations and networks, further expanding the REDD+ knowledge-building and sharing process (Box 4).

Box 4: Effectiveness of REDD+ training material developed through the Grassroots Project

“The training material that has been developed [under the Grassroots Project] enjoys widespread popularity among most of the grassroots stakeholder[s]. The end-term review survey conveys that materials used during the various trainings are regarded as helpful and supportive for better understanding [of climate change and REDD+]. The different materials used on different levels of ToTs seem to be adequate. From the side of the government organizations as well as other development agencies and international NGOs, the training manuals are highly regarded and used far beyond this project” – *Excerpts from independent end-term review report of the Grassroots Project*

6.3 Cascading approach of capacity development

The Grassroots Project used a cascading approach for REDD+ capacity development with support from in-country partner organizations. The cascading approach has proven to be highly effective as it has been accepted by the partner organizations and helped in contextualizing and knowledge sharing processes across different levels of the stakeholder (Box 5). Through this approach, the Grassroots Project has been able to create a cadre of REDD+ trained resource persons in each project country from national to grassroots level, who have the capacity to independently deliver REDD+ and related training programs in the future. These trained resource persons and their respective organizations will help in sustaining the approach and knowledge introduced through the Grassroots Project.

Box 5: Importance of cascading approach of REDD+ capacity development

“The cascading approach seems to be the new trend for implementing projects, [which] successfully involves multiple stakeholders in capacity development. This approach is now being reproduced by other organizations as it seems to work well.” – *FECOFUN Focal person for REDD+ in Nepal, as reported to independent end-term review of the Grassroots Project*

7. Brief summary of the expenditure (final year of the project)

A brief summary of the expenditure of the final year (2012-2013) of the project phase is presented in Annex 6, while a detailed statement of account is attached as Annex 7 in this report.

Annex 1: Detailed list of partner organizations

Indonesia – In Indonesia, the Grassroots Project has worked with a total of four partner organizations, as listed below:

Partner organization	Type and location of the project activities
Center for Forestry Education Training (CFET), Ministry of Forestry	CFET has been engaged in national and sub-national level training programs in West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan and South Sulawesi
Yayasan Komunitas Belajar Indonesia (YAKOBI)	YAKOBI a partner of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Berau District REDD+ pilot program has also been project partner for grassroots capacity development in district of Berau
Lembaga, Alam Tropika Indonesia (LATIN)	LATIN has been working with the Grassroots Project for REDD+ capacity development among grassroots communities in and around Meru Betiri National Park. LATIN has also been working with Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA) of the Ministry of Forestry, Government of Indonesia
Forum Komunikasi Kehutanan Masyarakat (FKKM)	FKKM, a community forestry network in Indonesia has partnered with the Grassroots Project, particularly to mainstream REDD+ into community forest areas in West Nusa Tenggara, West Java, and South Sulawesi

Lao PDR – In Lao PDR the project has partnered with a total of five organizations, as summarized below:

Partner organization	Type and location of the project activities
Department of Forests (DoF)	National level trainings, material review and advisory support
Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos (NUoL)	National and sub-national level ToT programs
National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services (NAFES)	Provincial, district and commune level training programs in Xieng Khaung, Xayabouly, Lungprabang and Houphan provinces
Village Focus International (VFI)	Ten villages in two districts, Laongam and Taoi in Saravan province in Southern Lao PDR
Participatory Development and Training Centre (PADETC)	Students and youth awareness program in eight provinces – Xieng Khaung, Xayabouly, Lungprabang, Vientiane capital, Bolikhamxay Champasak, Saravan and Sekong.

Nepal – In Nepal the Grassroots project is working with three partner organizations in 18 project districts, as summarized below:

Partner organization	Type and location of the project activities
Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	National, sub-national and grassroots level training programs in 16 districts – Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Bhaktapur, Kavre, Sindhupalchwok, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilbastu, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dadaldhura
Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI)	Gender focused training and capacity development programs in two districts – Sarlahi and Makawanpur
Forest Action	Documentation of key achievements and lessons learned
National REDD Cell, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation	Supporting REDD+ manual development and revision process

Vietnam – In Vietnam, the project has four key partner organizations in four provinces, and one key partner working at national level, as summarized below:

Partner organization	Type and location of the project activities
The Forestry Sub-Department of Bac Kan and Ha Tinh provinces	Provincial, district and commune level training and capacity development activities in Bac Kan and Ha Tinh provinces
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ca Mau province	Provincial, district and commune level training and capacity development programs in Ca Mau province
The Agriculture Extension Centre of Lam Dong province	Provincial, district and commune level training and capacity development programs in Lam Dong province
Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM)	Development of FPIC in REDD+ material and training programs at national level

Annex 2: List of publications produced by the Grassroots project

Sl. No.	Name of publication	No. of copies printed in different languages*					Total
		E	BI	L	N	V	
1	REDD+ training manual for national and sub-national level facilitators	10	500	-	3,000	-	3,510
2	REDD+ training manual for grassroots facilitators	10	-	-	500	-	510
3	Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+: Principles and Approaches for Policy and Project Development	2,000	1,500	500	500	500	5,000
4	Putting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into Practice in REDD+ Initiatives	1,000	-	-	500	330	1,830
5	A synthesis booklet on Forests and Climate Change after Durban	-	-	500	500	-	1,000
6	Q&A booklet on Climate Change, Forests, and You	3,000	1,020	1,600	1,000	2,020	8,640
7	Climate Change, REDD+ and Our role	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
8	Grassroots awareness raising posters	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	2,000
9	Q&A booklet on Gender in REDD+ for Grassroots Facilitators	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
10	Special issue of Forests and Livelihoods journal on REDD+	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
11	Is Nepal getting ready for REDD+?	300	-	-	-	-	300
12	Case study synthesis booklet on impacts of climate change at local level in Nepal	300	-	-	-	-	300
13	REDD+, Governance, and Community Forestry Booklet	2,200	-	-	-	-	2,200
14	REDD+ Glossary handbook	-	-	500	-	500	1,000
15	Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia – Project brochure	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	5,500

* - E: English, BI- Bahasa Indonesia, L- Lao, N- Nepali, V- Vietnamese; Few publications, such as FPIC Guidebooks, Training Manual and REDD+ training manual have been translated in other languages, such as Hindi, Bangla, Spanish and Myanmar languages

Annex 3: Success story of Ms. Sajana Acharya, Nepal

Ms. Sajana Acharya, 22 years old from Asamjuli village in Kavrepalanchowk district in Nepal, is currently pursuing her master degree in management, besides being engaged in producing television shows for a local television channel, *Araniko* Television. Ms. Sajana is a member of the FECOFUN district chapter of Kavrepalanchowk district. Ms. Sajana proudly shared her interesting story of how she entered into community forest (CF) management from her earlier dream of becoming a staff nurse.



After completing my School Leaving Certificate in 2006, I moved from my village to Banepa, a nearby town for a bridging course to pursue a further degree in nursing science. It was then, when I first came in contact with the district level general assembly meeting of the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). My uncle encouraged me to participate in the assembly to fulfill the requirement of women representation from my village, which was mandatory. Thus at an age of 15 years, I became a member of the FECOFUN district chapter of Kavrepalanchowk. At that age I did not know much about the CF and its activities so, I started discussing and learning about the CF from senior members of my village. Later I received a number of opportunities to participate in various trainings on CF, helping me to understand the concept better and to also build my capacity as an active member of CF user group. In due course, I quit my dreams of becoming a staff nurse and switched to the management faculty for further study. Since then, I have been working as a member of the FECOFUN district chapter for the last seven years.

About my first training on REDD+—I attended a seven days Training of Trainers program in 2009 that was jointly organized by RECOFTC and FECOFUN under the Grassroots Project in Bhaktapur district. Since my first training in 2009, I have received four more trainings on REDD+, and already delivered 32 trainings on REDD+ and climate change at the grassroots level.

About my experience regarding delivering training programs—I approach my training session very systematically. I always try to make it a point to first assess the level of understanding of participants through an informal discussion with them, and then tailor my session based on such an assessment. I am aware of the limitations of grassroots participants in their understanding of climate change and REDD+, and therefore I start with building a fundamental understanding among the participants about the difference between weather and climate, before we move on to discuss the concept of climate change. While discussing the impacts of climate change, I build on the examples from the observations of the participants in their surroundings and then link them with global discussions on climate change. These discussions I then follow up by emphasizing the role local communities can play in addressing climate change threats. Forest protection plays an important role here, and that is where I introduce the concept of carbon sequestration by the forests and their role in mitigating impacts through a REDD+ mechanism. Such a systematic and step by step approach of explaining the meaning of REDD+, I can confidently share that local communities—those who participated in the training program—have developed a basic

understanding of REDD+, and are aware of the multiple benefits of protecting forests. Having developed a basic understanding, I now feel that it is time now to graduate to the next level in terms of capacity development among local stakeholders, and technical aspects of REDD+ such as methods of carbon measurement, carbon trading, benefit sharing mechanisms, etc. need to be added in capacity development in order to fully prepare communities to benefit from REDD+ in future.

I also keep myself updated about REDD+ discourse at the international level particularly related with uncertainty associated with REDD+. In order to address the uncertainty aspect of REDD+, we must take a route of Sustainable Forest Management [SFM]. I strongly believe that through this approach, irrespective of REDD+ becomes a reality or not, people will still be able to benefit by having sustained supply of forest products, getting employment in forest management activities such as silvicultural practices, regeneration and fire protection activities and the collection of a variety of non-timber forest products. REDD+ will be an additional bonus for local communities.

Finally, I am happy to share that I have been receiving support from various subject experts, and I am very impressed with the commitment and simple approach of knowledge sharing adopted by the Grassroots Project. This encourages me to keep learning more about REDD+ and also sharing this knowledge with others. Knowledge sharing processes need to continue, and therefore, regular knowledge exchange events between and among the key stakeholders and REDD+ facilitators needs to be organized in order to update new knowledge on REDD+. Climate change and REDD+ knowledge need not be limited to a few individuals and experts, but should be widespread.

Annex 4: List of various key events attended to share the Grassroots Project's experiences

Sl. No.	Forum/Place	Name of event	Date	Contribution
1	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Forests and Climate Change after Cancun: An Asia Pacific Perspective	21-Feb-11	Participated, supported and contributed
2	Singapore	Asia Pacific Regional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop on REDD+, contributed to subgroup: Combined safeguards	15-18 March 2011	Presented a session on REDD+ safeguards, based on Grassroots Project experience
3	Bangkok, Thailand	Second regional expert workshop focusing on REDD+, governance, and community forestry	13-Jun-11	Facilitated the workshop
4	East Anglia University, London, UK	A debate on "Does REDD+ make Forestry more Just"	18-21 July 2011	Contributed as a panel member
5	Bangkok, Thailand	2nd Regional Community Forestry Forum	8-9 Aug 2011	Presented a paper and photo panel on lessons learned in REDD+ capacity development
6	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Workshop "Revising the forestry legal framework to enable effective REDD+ implementation in Lao PDR"	23-Aug-11	Participated in the discussion
7	Subic Bay, Philippines	Expert Workshop on Maximizing Co-benefits of REDD+: Inputs to REDD+ Safeguards.	26-30 Sept 2011	Presented a paper on REDD+ safeguards and facilitated a working group session on FPIC in REDD+ and facilitated
8	Oslo, Norway	Oslo REDD Exchange	23-24 Oct 2011	Participated
9	Beijing, China	Asia-Pacific Forestry Week	7-11 Nov 2011	Shared experience of REDD+ training programs for barefoot reporters and local radio programs from Nepal organized under the Grassroots Project
10	Durban, South Africa	UNFCCC COP 17 and its various side events	Nov - Dec 2011	Organized a booth on Forest Day and shared Grassroots Project publication and experiences
11	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	National Inception Workshop on REDD+	Feb 12-14, 2012	Participated as an expert and shared the work of the Grassroots Project on FPIC in REDD+
12	Manila,	Regional Expert Workshop	Feb 20-22, 2012	Participated in the discussion

Sl. No.	Forum/Place	Name of event	Date	Contribution
	Philippines	on Durban COP		and contributed in the synthesis report
13	Kathmandu, Nepal	Workshop on sharing lessons on REDD+ in South Asia	July 2012	Participated and shared Grassroots Project experiences
14	Siem Reap, Cambodia	Policy Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Lower Mekong region	12-13 July 2012	Attended the policy dialogues and shared project's work on gender mainstreaming
15	Hyderabad, India	CBD COP in Hyderabad	9-19 Oct 2012	Presented a paper on the status of REDD+ in South East Asia, during a side event
16	Doha, Qatar	UNFCCC COP 18 and its various side events	Dec-12	Participated and Networked
17	Yezin, Myanmar	Training program on climate change mitigation and adaptation	Feb 23-March 1, 2013	Delivered training sessions
18	Oslo, Norway	Oslo REDD Exchange, 2013	29-30 October 2013	Presented results of Grassroots Project in the result bar session

Annex 5: List of research and synthesis articles and blogs produced by the Grassroots Project team

Silori, C. S., Luintel, H., Frick, S., and Paudyal, B., 2013. Social safeguards in REDD+: A review of existing initiatives and challenges. *Journal of Forestry and Livelihood*. Vol. 11(2): 1-13.

Luintel, H., Silori C. S., Frick, S., and Paudyal, B., 2013. Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+: Lessons from Nepal. *Journal of Forestry and Livelihood*. Vol. 11(2): 27-36.

Gritten, D., Silori, C.S, Suzuki, R., and Dhiaulhaq, A., 2013. REDD+ as a source of conflict and cooperation. *Journal of Forestry and Livelihood*, Vol. 11(2): 75-82.

Patel, T., Dhiaulhaq, A., Gritten, D., Yasmi, Y., De Bruyn, T., Paudel, N.S., Luintel, H., Khatri, D.B., Silori, C.S., and Suzuki, R., 2013. Predicting future conflicts under REDD+ implementation. *Forests*, Vol. 4: 343-363.

IUFRO World Series, 2013. Protected Areas and REDD+ in Nepal – A case study contributed to a Chapter on Governance for REDD+, forest management and biodiversity: Existing approaches and future options in Parrotta, JA, Christoph Wildburget, and Stephaine Mansourian (Editors) Understanding relationship between biodiversity, carbon, forests and People, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Vol. 31.

Upadhyay, B., Silori, C. S., and Frick, S., 2013. Incorporating gender into REDD+ capacity development – A case study of grassroots capacity development for REDD+ in Asia Pacific. *Achieving Gender Equality Through Response To Climate Change: Case Studies From Local Action To Global Policy*. Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA).

List of blogs published by the project team:

- [Bridging the Gap Between the International Arena and Local Stakeholders](#)
- [Gender Mainstreaming in COP 18 Gets a Boost](#)
- [Mangroves under Pressure: Forgotten Wetlands in the Changing Climate](#)
- [Mainstreaming Women’s Perspectives in Policies and Practice in Climate Change and REDD+](#)
- [Building Rural-Urban and Cross-generational Bridges to Discuss Climate Change, Forests, and REDD+](#)
- [REDD+ is at a crossroads – and it’s no time to get impatient](#)
- [Mainstreaming Women’s Perspectives in Policies and Practice in Climate Change and REDD+](#)



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