ANSAB's Experiences on REDD+ and related activities

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Regional Intermediaries Workshop

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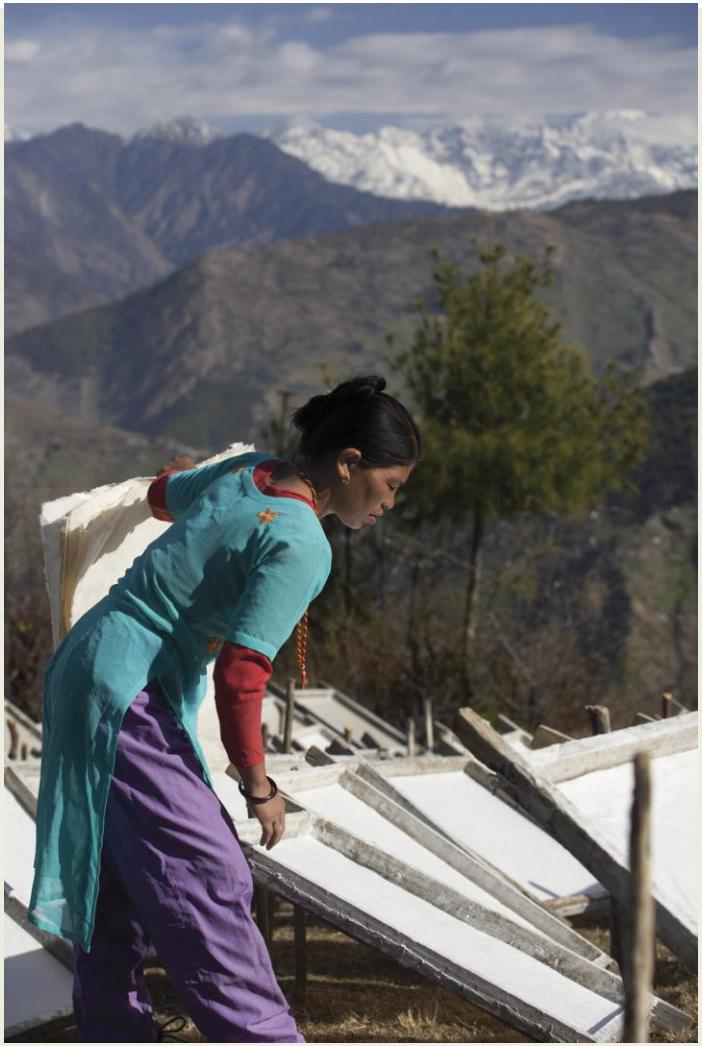
Rich Biodiversity and Prosperous Communities

- Civil Society Organization, governed by an International Board, established in 1992
- Works in South Asia & headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal
- Vision: Rich biodiversity & prosperous communities
- Mission: Generate & implement community-based, enterprise-oriented solutions



Experience & Outcomes

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ANSAB pioneered:

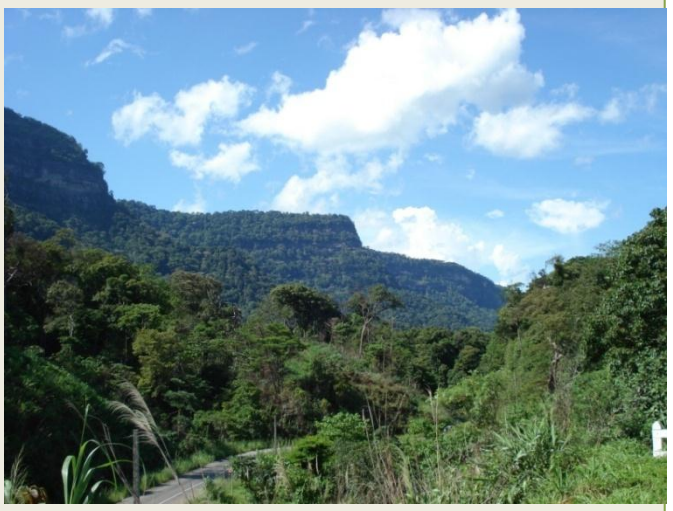
- an enterprise oriented, community-based ecosystem management and value-chain development approach
- that balances ecological sustainability, social justice and equity, and economic efficiency

Economic and Social Outcomes

- Increased individual and group incomes
- Improved distribution of benefits
- Equity across stakeholders
- Mobilization of group funds in addressing poverty and community development
- Village development work

Conservation Outcomes

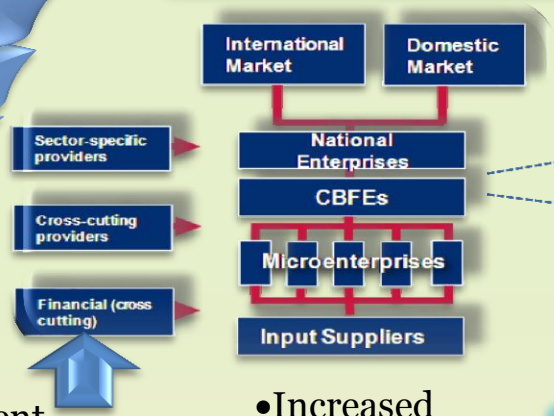
- Increased area under stewardship and active management
- More communities making management plan addressing the threats and conservation concerns
- Communities are adopting conservation practices
- Improved condition of forest and meadows
- Knowledge in sustainable harvesting practices getting improved



Program Design Framework

Policy
Technology
BDS Market
Finance

Natural Product Value Chain



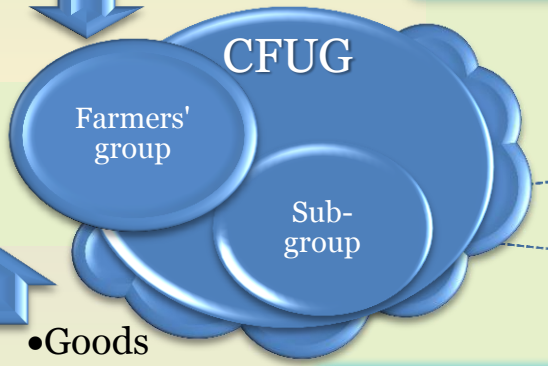
Integration of local communities into reliable value chain

Networked/ Balanced governance

- Investment
- Sustainable supply of raw material

- Increased incentive

Local Communities



Increased income and employment

Organized & capable enterprise oriented community groups with access to natural resources

- Sustainable management
- Conservation
- BD monitoring

- Goods
- Benefits
- Services

Ecosystem

Improved management system

Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services

Methods and Interventions

- Empowering & capacity building of communities
- Creating economic incentives and providing tools for sustainable management of ecosystems
- Designing and implementing economic interventions with inclusive growth strategy
- Facilitating broad level interventions for enabling environment

REDD+ related activities

- Support in conceptualizing and designing REDD + strategies to government and other stakeholders
- Development of awareness raising and training materials for communities and other stakeholders
- Capacity building in technical aspects, institutional arrangement, governance and payment mechanism
- Design and pilot testing of REDD+ project
- Research, case analysis, scoping, technical advice and support to various national and international organizations

Example:

REDD+ pilot project: Design and setting up of a governance and payment system for Nepal's Community Forest Management under REDD +

REDD+ Project Sites

Watershed area 27,790 ha

Leakage area 440 ha

Community forest area 10,265 ha

Ecosystem Services to sell

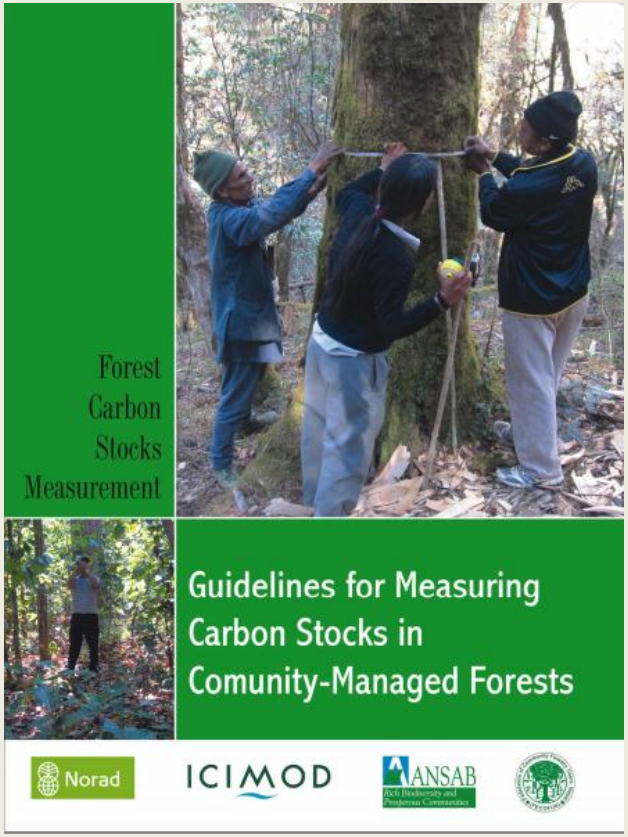
- Carbon under REDD+
- From community managed forests
- Managed for a diversified portfolio of forest products and ecosystem services

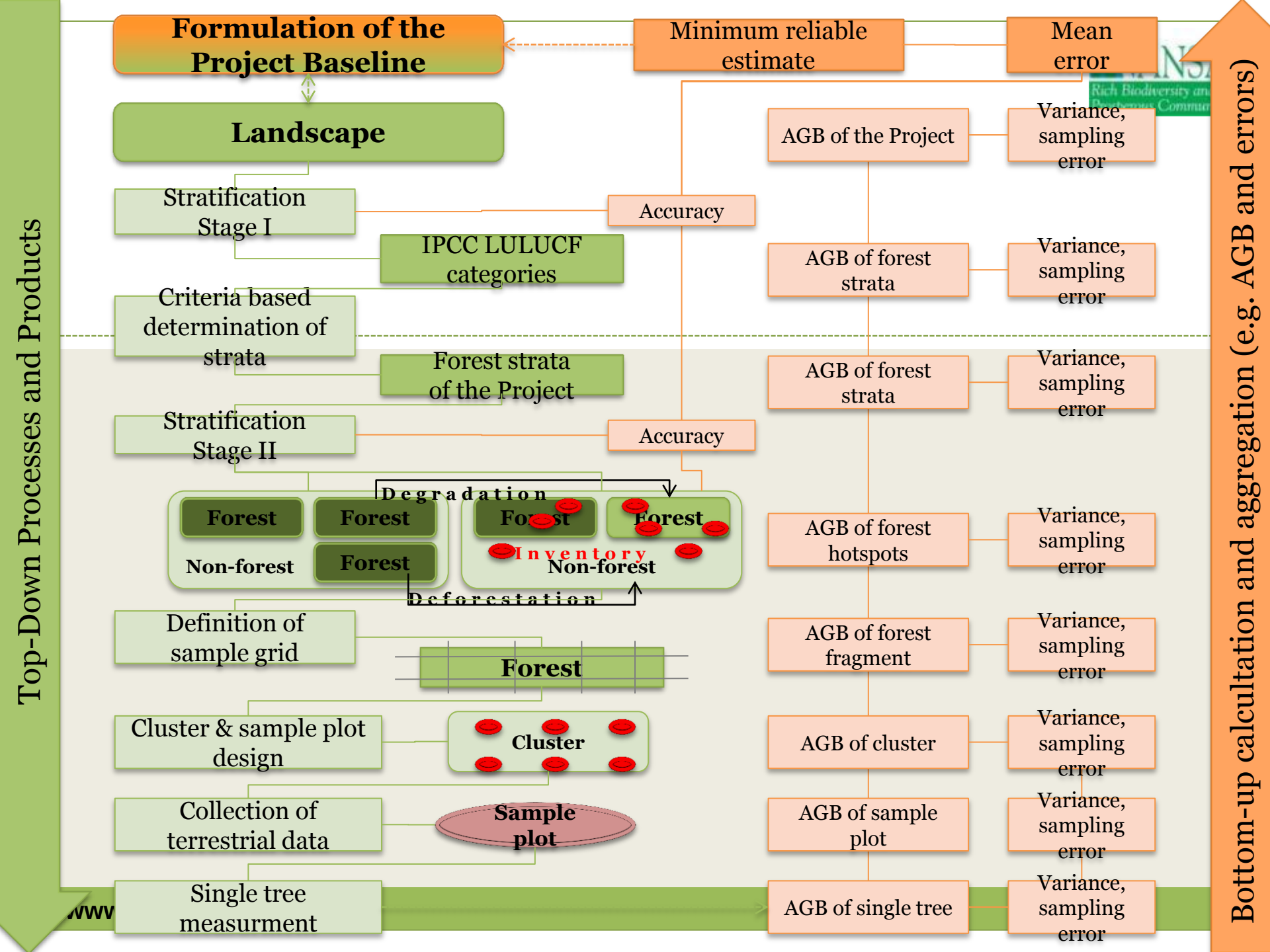
Measurement Approach

- Building on growing stock monitoring to carbon monitoring
- Standardized methodology through consultative basis - stock difference methods – (meeting IPCC)
- Combination of RS/GIS and ground based methodology
- Bundling of community forests
- Active community participation

Forest Carbon Stock Measurement

- Boundary delineation, stratification of the forests in the project area and leakage belt
- Pilot inventory, variance calculation & sampling for permanent plots
- Plot distribution on the map
- Planning and preparation of field measurement
- Plot navigation using GPS, permanent plot layout and carry out inventory (trees, saplings, herbs, grasses and leaf litters, below ground biomass and soil organic carbon)
- Data analysis for biomass stock and carbon estimation
- Leakage analysis




Formulation of the Project Baseline
Minimum reliable estimate
Mean error
Landscape
AGB of the Project
Variance, sampling error
Stratification Stage I
Accuracy
IPCC LULUCF categories
AGB of forest strata
Variance, sampling error
Criteria based determination of strata
Forest strata of the Project
AGB of forest strata
Variance, sampling error
Stratification Stage II
Accuracy
Degradation
Forest
Forest
Forest
Forest
Non-forest
Forest
Inventory
Non-forest
Deforestation
AGB of forest hotspots
Variance, sampling error
Definition of sample grid
Forest
AGB of forest fragment
Variance, sampling error
Cluster & sample plot design
Cluster
AGB of cluster
Variance, sampling error
Collection of terrestrial data
Sample plot
AGB of sample plot
Variance, sampling error
Single tree measurment
AGB of single tree
Variance, sampling error
Top-Down Processes and Products
Bottom-up calcultation and aggregation (e.g. AGB and errors)

Participatory Carbon Inventory

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Activities to enhance value

Improved Forest Management & Protection

- Revision of community forest management plans and incorporation of REDD provisions
- Building capacity of communities for improved forest management and good governance
- Training communities on forest fire prevention measures and applying the measures, such as creating firebreaks, periodic removal of dry litters from forests and rapid response mechanism in case of forest fire
- Patrolling forest areas by forest guards and promoting social fencing

Activities …

Assisted Natural Regeneration

- Recruiting seedlings and allowing dominant terminal shoots of individual saplings to grow
- Regulating free grazing and promote stall-feeding
- Removal of invasive species and weeds
- Controlling forest fire

Activities …

Afforestation and Reforestation

- Re-planting of indigenous tree species in denuded areas and other potential areas in CFs
- Growing bamboos and other fast growing species like alder (*Alnus nepalensis*) to avoid deforestation and degradation of natural forests

Activities …

Reducing pressure on forest use

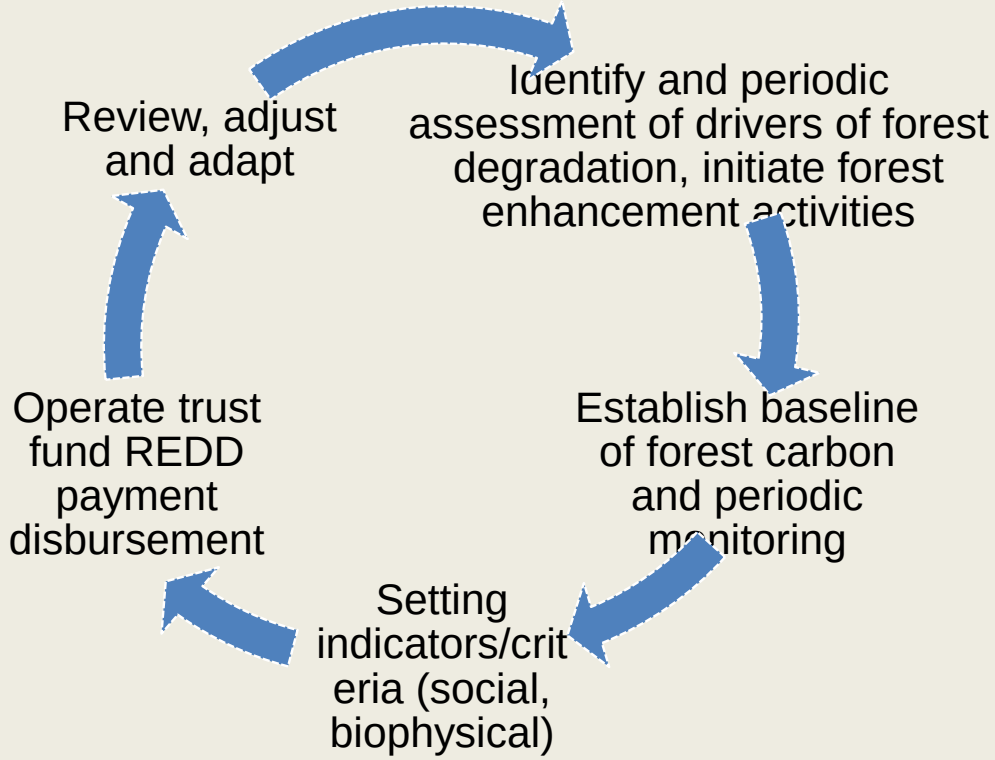
- Alternative energy promotion – biogas and improved cook stoves to reduce extraction of fuel wood from CFs
- Plantation of fast growing species (*Melia azadirachta, Bauhnia varigata etc.*) and grass and legume-based fodder in private land to meet communities' firewood and fodder demand
- Support poor and marginalized in alternative livelihoods options, such as poultry, fishery, goat keeping, piggery, handicraft making and tailoring to reduce dependency on forest resources for their livelihoods

Activities …

Funding/buyers of forest carbon

- Voluntary offset markets to regulatory markets
- Some of the companies and intermediaries are showing interest
- Various standards, certification process and emission registry services – also creating some confusion among stakeholders

Strategic interventions of linking payment and forest carbon enhancement



Standardized measurement methodologies and guidelines

Set up pilot trust fund and regulate REDD+ payment

Frame Measurement, reporting and Verification (MRV) system

Develop Project Design Document (PDD)

PES information for buyers/funders

Additionality- Alternative energy technology, plantation, fire control and grazing management

Permanence- Legal restriction on forest land conversion, usufruct rights, penalty provisions for illegal harvesters, operating by approved plan

Leakage- Monitoring biomass change in forests out of project area but relatively accessible to the REDD+ communities

Social and environmental safeguards - No negative social and environmental impacts; respecting the knowledge and rights of indigenous people and local communities; transparent forest governance with effective stakeholder's participation; REDD+ incentives for pro-poor activities; and conservation of natural forests and biodiversity

Presentation of PES information for buyers

Project Idea Note and Project Design Document following internationally accepted standards

- Baseline scenario
- Quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals
- Well defined Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system
- Social and environmental impacts
- Stakeholders' views/comments

Lessons and Way Forward

- Involving communities and bundling of CFs to monitor carbon stocks not only provided a rapid and cost-effective way of CO_2 sink and monitoring but promoted ownership of the process
- This is also a best way of transforming technical knowledge to communities
- REDD can provide additional financial income to local communities, but in a community managed forest a realistic goal would be to consider a full range of available ecosystem services

Lessons and Way Forward

- A landscape approach including other forest management regimes (Government, Leasehold, Private, Religious etc.) with a full range of ecosystem service
- Mainstreaming community carbon monitoring process and MRV at national level
- Standards and certification can be a key to ensure sustainability, environmental and social safeguards, and attract responsible buyers

Lessons and Way Forward

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- Multi-stakeholders' platform, capacity building, research and piloting are important to improve governance
- No shortcut – if long-term poverty reduction & environmental conservation goals are to achieve

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