

Summary Report on GEF OFP Support Program in Nepal (October 2012-November 2013)

For a period of October 2012 - November 2013, various GEF related activities were conducted by International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), office of GEF Operation Focal Point, under GEF Operation Focal Point Support Program. All the agreed activities have been completed under the support program.

The major activities completed as per the agreement are:

1. Preparation of GEF Nepal Website
2. Establishment of Small Resource Center at IECCD
3. GEF Workshop on Bio-diversity
4. GEF Workshop on Land Degradation and POPs and Chemicals
5. GEF National Stakeholders' Review Workshop
6. Formation of GEF Multistakeholders' Committee
7. A field Visit to Makawanpur District to observe UNDP GEF SGP funded projects

1. Preparation of GEF Nepal Website



GEF Nepal Website

The GEF Nepal website was launched by Finance Secretary Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi on August 8, 2012. The website will be helpful for disseminating information and knowledge on GEF projects and activities in Nepal. GEF related general ideas and all the GEF related activities in Nepal i.e its project and funding, areas of work, trust funds, GEF agencies etc can be seen in the website. The website will be regularly updated by uploading significant GEF related activities in Nepal

which will definitely work as a common effective medium to interact as well as share knowledge and skill on diverse

thematic areas of GEF projects. The GEF Nepal website is available in the following link:
<http://www.gefnepal.gov.np/>

2. Establishment of Small Resource Center at IECCD

A small resource center has been established at IECCD so as to make the availability of GEF related books and information. But the center lacks books because of unavailability of fund.

3. GEF Workshop on Bio-diversity

GEF Workshop on Biodiversity was conducted on August 8, 2013. The major objectives of the workshop were to familiarize and summarize the operational experiences of biodiversity projects in Nepal; present and discuss on the biodiversity issues for future plans and development; and recommend concrete suggestions through discussion and dialogues among GEF stakeholders for meaningful involvement of GEF in biodiversity conservation.

Finance Secretary Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi, IECCD Joint Secretary Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, IECCD Under Secretary Mr. Bhuban Karki, the representatives from different ministries and GEF implementing agencies were present in the workshop. There were three presentation and discussion sessions in the workshop including the launch GEF Nepal Website. Mr. Bhuban



The Participants of the Workshop

Karki, IECCD Undersecretary, presented on "GEF Program in Nepal", Mr. Sajal Sthapit from LIBIRD presented on "Integrating traditional crop genetic diversity into technology: using a biodiversity portfolio approach to buffer against unpredictable environmental change in the Nepal Himalayas", and Mr. Khadananda Sharma from BCN presented on "Conserving the Vanishing Vultures in Nepal". The workshop witnessed the

lively discussion session in which the participants commented on the presentations and different

operational issues and involvement of GEF in Nepal. The workshop even came up with certain recommendations.

4. GEF Workshop on Land Degradation and POPs and Chemicals:



The Participants of the Workshop

"GEF Workshop on Land Degradation and POPs and Chemicals" was organized by IECCD, Ministry of Finance, on August 26, 2013. The workshop basically concentrated on issues related to land degradation and POPs and chemicals and recommended suggestions to address those issues. The workshop had four presentations in which Mr. Bhuban Karki, Under Secretary and GEF Focal Point, IECCD, presented on general GEF Financing mechanism; Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director, CEPHED, focused on issues of POPs and Chemicals; Mr. Santosh Mani Nepal, Director,

WWF Nepal, focused on the general scenario of land degradation in Nepal; and Mr. Khop Narayan Shah, Executive Director, MDI Nepal, focused on successful effort of shifting land cultivation in Nepal. After the presentations there was extensive group discussion that came up with issues related to the areas of the workshop and suggested further recommendation for making GEF portfolio more meaningful in the context of Nepal. Some of the issues discussed included: desertification and or land degradation are not getting sufficient resource despite the fact that Nepal needs to focus on these program areas; private sector and NGOs are more involved where government's involvement is negligible to address the problem of land degradation; most of the resource is not chanelized through country system; GEF Implementing Agencies have their own system and modalities that makes the support more complex; research and development have become the neglected areas; and there is very less awareness generating activities with regard to the effects of POPs and land degradation, among others. The workshop was attended by GEF stakeholders actively involved in GEF financed activities in Nepal, especially relevant government officials and representatives from GEF implementing agencies in Nepal.

5. GEF National Stakeholders' Review Workshop:



The Participants of the Workshop

"GEF National Stakeholders' Review Workshop" was organized on September 26, 2013. The workshop basically concentrated on issues that were discussed in the previous workshops along with four presentations and experience sharing session. Finance Secretary Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi, IECCD Joint Secretary Mr. Madhu Kumar

Marasin and UNDP ACD Mr. Vijay Prasad Singh delivered their remarks before the presentations, experience sharing and group discussion. The workshop had four presentations and two experience sharing sessions including general discussion session. After the presentations there was extensive group discussion that came up with issues related to the areas of the workshop and suggested further recommendation for making GEF portfolio more meaningful in the context of Nepal. Mr. Bhuban Karki, IECCD Undersecretary, presented on "GEF Funding in Nepal", Mr. Vijay Keshari from UNDP Nepal presented on "Lesson Learnt from GEF Program Implementation by UNDP Nepal", Mr. Vivek Dhar Sharma from UNDP/GEF/SGP presented on "UNDP GEF Small Grant Programme in Nepal, an Update", and Mr. Ugan Manandhar from WWF Nepal presented on "UNFCCC: Climate Change Negotiation". Similarly, there were experience sharing session regarding two UNDP/GEF/SGP projects that were related to Matribhumi improved cook-stove and improved charcoal kiln for Blacksmiths.

6. Formation of GEF Multi-stakeholders' Committee:

With a view to facilitate the GEF related operations in Nepal, a Multistakeholders' Committee under the Chairmanship of IECCD Joint Secretary (GEF Operation Focal Point) has been formed. The committee comprises 8 members from different ministries and key GEF implementing agencies in Nepal. The committee had an important field visit and interaction with locals in the Makawanpur District where some of the UNDP GEF SGP projects are located. Besides this the committee members held important interaction during different workshops under OFP Support Program.

7. A field Visit to Makawanpur District to observe UNDP GEF SGP funded projects:



The Visit Team

On November 29 and 30, 2013, the team member comprising the members of GEF Multistakeholders' Committee or their alternatives had a two day observation visit and interaction with locals on UNDP GEF SGP funded projects in Makawanpur. The team observed CARP-SIS Fishery Programmes around Masine Khola, agro-forestry programmes, and MDI Upland Research Farm in Chuwarpakha. The team had a very good impression of the project sites and had the feeling that UNDP GEF SGP projects are really successful despite the fact that they are operated with

less fund compared to other projects. The local people around project sites were very thankful to

the operation of such activities that have really enhanced their living standard. The visit was productive in the sense that the project sites gave a clear message of improving livelihood of local people in other geographical areas of same nature if such activities could be replicated in those areas. In a nutshell, initiatives of MDI-Nepal was praise worthy and to be well recognized by the whole nation.

The full reports of each activity under OFP Support Program in Nepal can be viewed at GEF Nepal website: <http://www.gefnepal.gov.np/>

