

# **Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Point Support Program in Nepal**

## *A Summary Report 2014*



Programs Conducted

By

**International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD)**

**Ministry of Finance, Singha Durbar**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

## **Introduction**

International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), office of GEF Operation Focal Point conducted various activities in 2014 under GEF Operational Focal Point Support Program. According to the agreed Grant Agreement for support to GEF Operational Focal Point of Nepal dated January 29, 2014, the following activities have been completed.

- 1. Consultative Meeting with CSO*
- 2. Workshops to Identify Synergies Cross-Focal Areas*
- 3. Regular Presentation of GEF Projects in the Relevant Government Ministries*
- 4. Organization of Meetings to Foster Country Level Coordination*
- 5. Access to and Translation of GEF Documents into Local Language*
- 6. Create a Reference Library of Relevant Information and Publications on the GEF*

### **1. Consultative Meeting with CSO**

A day long National Workshop to Identify the Role of Nepalese Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in GEF was held on Hotel Soaltee Crown Plaza, Tahachal, Kathmandu on December 22, 2014. The participants of the program were representatives from Civil Society Organizations, Community Service Organizations, Government Ministries, I/NGOs, Environmental



**GEF Operational Focal Point Mr. Marasini Addressing the Workshop Program**

Organizations, Academicians, Researchers, Private Companies and Representatives from GEF Agencies.

The major objectives of the workshop were (i) to analyze the role of Nepalese CSOs in GEF , (ii) to explain the GEF program scenario and funding in Nepal, and (ii) to share the experience of CSOs on GEF/Small Grants Programs (SGPs).

Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Joint Secretary/Chief of IECCD and GEF Operational Focal Point for Nepal, addressing the workshop highlighted the role of operational focal point and also mentioned about the importance of collaborative effort with CSOs. Mr. Vijaya Prasad Singh, Assistant Country Director of

UNDP Nepal gave initial remarks and Dr. Arjun Karki from RRN Nepal shared his experiences of working with GEF through GEF-CSO network.



**Participants in the Consultative Meeting with CSO**

In the Workshop, Mr. Bhuban Karki, Undersecretary IECCD presented about the GEF program scenarios in Nepal. Similarly, Mr. Gopal Raj Serchan, Country Coordinator, SGP Nepal from UNDP presented about partnership with CSOs experience from GEF- Small Grant Program (SGP), Mr. Jeevan Thapa from YONSED Nepal presented about Smriti Brichhya and Ms. Bishnu Thakali, WEPCO Nepal presented about community based initiation in solid waste management: experience from community based organization. The participants raised questions

about the presentations and the respective presenters answered the queries. Dr. Damaru Ballabha Paudel, GEF desk officer facilitated the program.

## **2. Workshops to Identify Synergies Cross-Focal Areas**

A day long Global Environment Facility (GEF) Stakeholders' National Workshop to Identify Synergies of Cross-Focal Areas was held in The Everest Hotel, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, on 19 December 2014. The participants in the program were representatives from Government Ministries, I/NGOs, Environmental Organizations, Academicians, Researchers, and GEF Agencies' Officials in Nepal.

The objectives of the workshop were (i) to present the cross-focal areas covered in GEF-6 program, (ii) to explain the overall GEF funding in Nepal, and (ii) to disseminate the success stories of GEF/SGP program in Nepal.



There were three technical sessions in the workshop. In the

### **A Scenario of the Stakeholders Workshop to Identify Synergies of Cross-Focal Areas**

first technical session, Mr. Bhuban Karki, Under Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of Nepal delivered his presentation on, “GEF Funding in Nepal.” He introduced GEF funds and the mobilization of the funds on conventions such as Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD), Stockholm Convention for POPs, and Minamata Convention on Mercury. He mentioned GEF in total has provided 13.5 billion US dollar and leveraged 65 billion dollar in co-financing since its inception in 1991. He presented the GEF-6 STAR allocation to Nepal, the amount is of \$8.9 million to invest in three focal areas: Climate Change, Bio-Diversity and Land Degradation of GEF-programs.

The second technical session included the presentation from Santosh Mani Nepal, WWF, in the topic, “Identifying Cross Focal Areas to Foster GEF Program.” He discussed GEF 2020 strategies; the strategies are envisioned to foster better outcome in six core focal areas of GEF program. The strategies oversee to work on the drivers of environmental degradation, act on integrated solution to environmental issues and include multi-stakeholders for developing resilience and adaptation in combating global challenges.

The third technical session was a presentation by Vivek Sharma from GEF/SGP to share the experience of UNDP/GEF/SGP program in Nepal. He shared the multi-sectoral coverage of core focal areas in GEF/SGP programs, and the success stories of SGP projects in Nepal.

After presentations, the participants raised various questions which were answered by the respective presentators.

### **3. Regular Presentation of GEF Projects in the Relevant Government Ministries**

Under this heading we conducted three workshops in the thematic issues climate change, bio-diversity and land degradation and POPs chemicals.

### i) **GEF Workshop on Climate Change**

GEF Workshop on Climate Change was conducted on November 28, 2014 in presence of the representatives of different ministries of Government of Nepal and GEF stakeholders. The major objectives of the workshop were to familiarize and summarize the operational experiences of climate change related projects in Nepal; present and discuss on the climate change issues for future plans and development; and recommend concrete suggestions through discussion and



**A Scenario of Climate Change Workshop Floor**

dialogues among GEF stakeholders for meaningful involvement of GEF in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Former Minister for Environment Mr. Ganesh Shah also attended the workshop. The representatives

from different ministries, GEF agencies, academicians and practitioners were present in the workshop.

The workshop had three presentations and general discussion session. After the presentations there was extensive group discussion that came up with issues related to the areas of the workshop and further recommended for making GEF activities more meaningful in Nepal. Mr. Bhuban Karki, IECCD Undersecretary, presented about the overall GEF scenario and GEF Funding in Nepal, Mr. Vijay Prasad Singh, Assistant Country Director of UNDP Nepal presented on GEF funded projects on Climate Change supporting to mitigate global environmental



problems and sustainable development. The final presentation was done by Mr. Suyesh Prajapati, team leader of Min Energy Pvt. Ltd on “Forest waste to Energy: Bridging the Gap between Industrial Energy Demand & NTFP chars supply” which is a GEF project. He presented the brief of his project introducing brick industry and coal as the energy source. He mentioned that the main objective of the project was to make charcoal as an alternative fuel to replace coal.

The discussions were held on the given presentations and then Former Minister for Environment Mr. Ganesh Shah added some points regarding GEF and funding access, priorities to food security and enhancement of personal and institutional efficiency.

## ii) GEF Workshop on Bio-diversity

GEF Workshop on Biodiversity was conducted on November 30, 2014. The major objectives of the workshop were to familiarize and summarize the operational experiences of biodiversity projects in Nepal; present



**A Glimpse of the Workshop on Bio-diversity**

and discuss on the biodiversity issues and recommend concrete suggestions through discussion and dialogues among GEF stakeholders for meaningful involvement of GEF in biodiversity

conservation. The participants in the program were representatives from different ministries of Government of Nepal, I/NGOs, Development Partners, environment organizations, academicians and researchers.

Mr. Bhuban Karki, IECCD Undersecretary, presented on "GEF Programs in Nepal". He mentioned about the GEF funding and the allocation of GEF STAR and other funds. Mrs. Anupa Rimal Lamichhane from UNDP Nepal presented on "Support in accessing Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Biodiversity project". In her presentation she focused more on the project and activities/works and experiences of Biodiversity projects in Nepal. Mr. Dhurba Gautam from AID- Nepal presented on "Jagadishpur Wetlands Conservation Initiatives, Kapilvastu, Nepal". He explained the overall activities and achievements of the project and concentrated on general and project specific matters/issues of biodiversity.

The workshop was followed by Q&A session. The participants raised many questions and the presenters answered the queries. Mr. Bhuban Karki delivered wrap up remarks thanking all the participants.

### **iii) GEF Workshop on Land Degradation and POPs Chemicals**

A day Global Environment Facility Stakeholders' National Workshop on Land Degradation and Chemicals was held in the meeting hall of Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal on 4 December 2014. The participants in the program were representatives from different I/NGOs



development partners, environment organizations, academicians, researchers, government officers, and GEF agencies in Nepal.

The program started with the registration of the participants, followed by chairing of chairperson and introduction of the participants.



**The Participants of the Workshop on Land Degradation and POPs Chemicals**

The technical session was divided into three parts. In the first technical session, Mr. Bhuwan Karki, Under Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of Nepal delivered his presentation on, GEF Funding in Nepal. He explained the core areas of GEF funding to the sectors of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, ozone layer depletion, sustainable forest management/REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), and persistent pollution. Nepal, the member country of GEF received funds from Least Developed Countries Trust Fund (LDCF) and The Adaptation Trust Fund (ADF). He mentioned about the GEF-6 STAR allocation to Nepal, which is of \$ 8.9 million.

The second technical session was the presentation from Dr. Shalu Adhikari, from WWF Nepal. She presented on the topic Sustainable Land Management in the Chure Range, Nepal. She stressed on the fact that Chure range is one of the fragile region of Nepal extending throughout

the belt of East to West. The problems of human encroachment, deforestation, overgrazing and intensive agriculture in various sections of Chure range are reducing the sustainability of Chure range. She explained WWF project on Chure region is anticipated to conserve the deteriorating condition of Chure.

The third technical session was a presentation on health care waste management by Mahesh Nakarmi, director of Health Care Foundation Nepal. He showcased the compelling need for safely disposing health care wastes in all hospitals and health care institutions. He focused on sorting and collecting health wastes in specific protected buckets, using autoclave technology, recycling usable wastes and to generate energy from organic wastes generated in hospitals.

#### **4. Organization of Meetings to Foster Country Level Coordination**

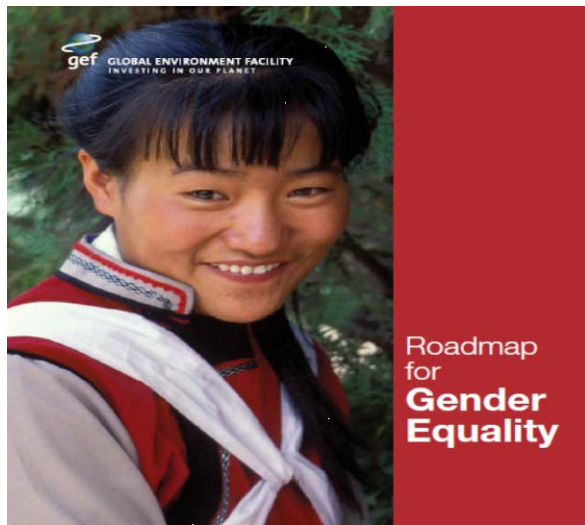
To facilitate the GEF country activities in Nepal, a Multistakeholders' Committee under the Chairmanship of IECCD Joint Secretary (GEF Operation Focal Point) is working for better coordinated efforts on GEF programs. The Meeting of this committee was held on 27 October, 2014 to decide how to accomplish the GEF operational focal point support programs in 2014. In this meeting the committee decided to conduct the workshops and programs related to GEF in November and December with the participation of different ministries, GEF agencies, I/NGOs, academicians and other stakeholders.

Similarly, to foster the country level coordination within government ministries, a meeting was held in the ministry of finance with the chairmanship of the Operational Focal Point and Joint Secretary/Chief of IECCD Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini in December. Joint Secretaries from Ministry of Agricultural Development and Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation and

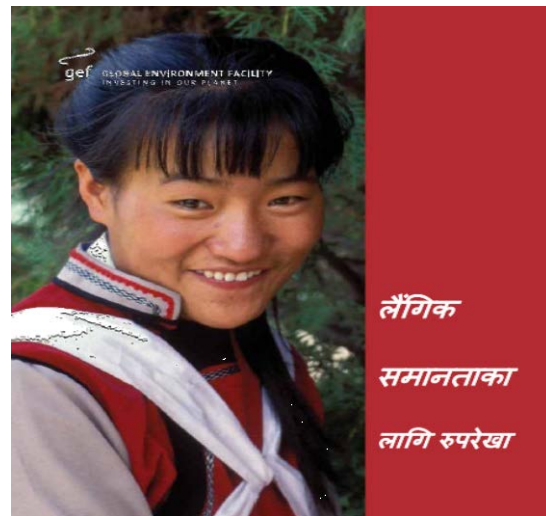
Divisional Engineer from Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment were the representative of the respective ministries. The aim of this meeting was to discuss about the GEF STAR-6 proposals submitted in the ministry of finance, prioritize them and decide which projects to recommend for GEF STAR-6 allocation.

Instead of these activities, the GEF desk and office of the operational focal point conducted various coordination activities within the government ministries and with different stakeholders in 2014.

## 5. Access to and Translation of GEF Documents into Local Language



English Version



Translated into Nepali

*Roadmap for Gender Equality* published by GEF in May 2014 and available in GEF website (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/publist>) is translated into Nepali language (लैंगिक समानताका लागि रूपरेखा) and distributed to the related ministries and other GEF agencies in Nepal. The translated

document is also available in GEF Nepal website in the following link:  
<http://www.gefnepal.gov.np/>

## 6. Create a Reference Library of Relevant Information and Publications on the GEF



In 2013, a small resource center was established at IECCD so as to make the availability of Environment related books and information.

But the center was lacking resources because

### A Reference Library and Resource Center in IECCD

of unavailability of fund. In 2014, the resource center is equipped with many Books, Journals and Periodical etc. related to environment, economy, governance and other similar issues.

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