

Vision:

Empowered local people are effectively and equitably engaged in the sustainable management of forested landscapes

Mission:

To enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia and the Pacific region.

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests

RECOFTC holds a unique and important place in the world of forestry. It is the only international not-for-profit organization that specializes in capacity development for community forestry and devolved forest management. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernment organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people, and research and educational institutions throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With over 28 years of international experience and a dynamic approach to capacity development – involving research and analysis, demonstration sites, and training products – RECOFTC delivers innovative solutions for people and forests.

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Final Report: Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia (January 2013-June 2016), Funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)

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For further information, contact:

Dr. Chandra Shekhar Silori

Manager, Program Coordination and Operations
(PROCO) Unit

RECOFTC – The Center for People and the Forests

P.O. Box 1111, Kasetsart Post Office

Bangkok 10903, Thailand

Tel: 66-2-940-5700

Fax: 66-2-5614880

Email: chandra.silori@recoftc.org

Website: <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Grassroots-Capacity-Building-for-REDD-/>

Abbreviations

ARKN-FCC	ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network – Forests and Climate Change
ASFCC	ASEAN Social Forestry Network for Climate Change
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASFN	ASEAN Social Forestry Network
CDNA	Capacity Development Needs Assessment
CF	Community Forestry
CFET	Centre for Forestry Education and Training (Indonesia)
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users (Nepal)
FoW	Friends of Wildlife (Myanmar)
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GREEN Mekong	Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Network in the Mekong
HIMAWANTI	The Himalayan Grassroots Women’s Natural Resource Management Association (Nepal)
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
Lao PDR	Lao People’s Democratic Republic
LATIN	Lembaga Alam Tropika (Indonesia)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSFP	Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Program (Nepal)
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
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
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
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
USAID	United States Agency for International Aid

Template for report and accounts for organisations under the Climate and Forest Initiative funding scheme for civil society

2013-2015

Final report for the whole agreement period (2013-2015) should include results on a higher level in the results chain (see figure below). The final report should give a description of outcomes in terms of effects on target groups, and explain how these outcomes are expected to contribute to the intended impact. In cases where outcome cannot be documented by the end of the agreement period, substantial evidence of outputs should be presented with an explanation on how these will lead to the desired outcome and when. Deadline for submitting the final report is 1 June 2016, electronically to postmottak@norad.no.

1. General Project Information

- 1.1 **Name of recipient organisation:** Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), also known as RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, Bangkok, Thailand
- 1.2 **Reporting year:** January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016
- 1.3 **Agreement Number:** RAS-2769 QZA-12/0871 Agreement2013-2015
- 1.4 **Name of project:** Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia
- 1.5 **Country and/ or region:** Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam
- 1.6 **Financial support to the project from Norad (Total for three years):** NOK 15.07 million
- 1.7 **Thematic area:** Analysis, concept and methodology development that contribute to planning and implementation of REDD+

2. Project's progress for previous calendar year: (January 2013-June 2016)

2.1 Project's target group(s) and baseline for the target group at the start of the project

Grassroots stakeholders are the main target group of this project. They include forest dependent households, local communities and indigenous peoples, community based organizations, community forest user groups, local forest managers, government, and forestry officials, NGOs, civil society groups and local journalists. Specific measures are also taken in the project design to include women, youth, children and other ethnic minority groups in REDD+ capacity development programs.

At the start of the project, following is the baseline status with regards to the REDD+ knowledge among the target groups in the project countries:

- i) **Low level of knowledge on climate change and REDD+:** In general grassroots stakeholders' knowledge and awareness on climate change and REDD+ is typically very low across Asia. This assessment is based on REDD+ Capacity Development Needs Assessment (CDNA) conducted in the previous two phases of the project. Such a low level of knowledge makes it very difficult for

these stakeholders to participate effectively in local and national REDD+ planning and policymaking, and also leave them vulnerable to manipulation by project proponents.

- ii) **Lack of accessible information on climate change and REDD+ for grassroots stakeholders:** The CDNA also reported that in all the project countries, accessible and contextualized information on REDD+ and climate change is seriously lacking. Such a situation makes it difficult to convey the key message of REDD+ to local stakeholders in a way that they can comprehend and thus be prepared to contribute to REDD+ process. The previous two phases of the Grassroots project have made substantial contribution in this direction, but demand for simple and locally relevant information to support grassroots capacity building on REDD+ continues to grow.
- iii) **Little representation of grassroots aspirations and concerns in REDD+ planning processes:** Grassroots stakeholders and civil society groups currently have limited capacity to communicate their aspirations and concerns to national governments in a coordinated and strategic manner. In general, the communication of local level concerns has remained limited to reactive or ad-hoc responses and lacked coordinated and targeted approaches to influencing REDD+ policy and planning processes.
- iv) **Limited opportunities for REDD+ field practitioners to share their experiences:** Field practitioners and grassroots stakeholders have very limited opportunities to share their experiences and concerns. Through a series of regional reflection workshops during previous two phase, the Grassroots project has provided a platform to partner organizations and other key stakeholders to share their experiences, but there is still a great opportunity to strengthen information exchange and networking between national organizations in order to learn from one another and thus improve the effectiveness of REDD+ capacity building across the region.

2.2 Project's desired impact

Phase III of the Grassroots project builds on previous two phases and aims to bring following changes in its target stakeholders:

- i) **Knowledge on climate change and REDD+ among grassroots stakeholders is enhanced:** The Grassroots project seeks to address the knowledge gaps and lack of awareness among grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+ by delivering awareness raising and capacity development with emphasis on REDD+ social safeguards.
- ii) **Grassroots stakeholders have improved access to information on climate change and REDD+:** In order to improve access to information on climate change and REDD+, the Grassroots project aims to use various formats of information sharing, including development of easy-to-read materials, non-written information formats (e.g. radio), use of culturally appropriate formats (e.g. street theatre, puppet shows, songs), and interactive and participatory approaches to awareness raising (e.g., grassroots level consultations, policy dialogues, community to community interaction).
- iii) **Aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders are conveyed to national REDD+ policy and planning processes:** The project will improve, both national and sub-national government policymakers' awareness on grassroots stakeholders' concerns in regards to REDD+. This will be done by improving the communication and facilitation skills of grassroots stakeholders and civil society to communicate their concerns to governments in a coordinated and strategic manner.
- iv) **Regional networking between REDD+ capacity building organizations is strengthened:** A focused effort will be made to improve the level of information sharing and networking between national organizations working on REDD+ capacity development in project countries through existing formal and informal networks so that lessons learnt can be readily and systematically shared between these organizations.

2.3 Is the project still relevant for the desired impact

Global discourse on REDD+ evolved rapidly during past few years and finally a global framework on REDD+ is adopted in Paris Agreement (UNFCCC 2015)¹, as part of new climate change regime, although it retains its voluntary nature and will not be imposed on any country. However, despite these developments at the global level, fact remains that the knowledge on REDD+ is still limited to national and sub-national level stakeholders, while its reach to the grassroots level has been very sporadic. Therefore to ensure that REDD+ project succeed on the ground, understanding among grassroots stakeholders and their capacity to analyse related risks, challenges and opportunities are important – a need that has been repeatedly highlighted in climate change and REDD+ discourse at all levels, including in the Paris agreement that is ratified by 118 countries globally. The Agreement has given significant prominence to forestry sector (RECOFTC and FAO 2016)² with Article 5 of the Agreement, explicitly referring to REDD+ (UNFCCC 2015)³. Article 11 of the Agreement further stresses upon the need of country driven capacity building including at national, sub-national and local levels. The Agreement has also proposed to setup a Committee on Capacity Building, which is intended to strengthen the consistency and quality of capacity building efforts around the world.

Considering global level discourse and decisions on REDD+, the Grassroots capacity development on REDD+ remains relevant ever before primarily to ensure that grassroots stakeholders are aware of fundamental concept of REDD+ mechanism, its operational requirements, potential role challenges and opportunities for local communities to participate in its implementation, and also to facilitate full and effective participation of these stakeholders for REDD+ actions.

2.4 Main Outcome(s)

2.4.1 Project Outcomes and Outputs

The Grassroots project aims that *“Grassroots stakeholders in Asia are enabled to actively contribute to the REDD+ planning and policy process by effectively participating and communicating their perspective to policy makers, and are well positioned to take advantage of potential benefits from REDD+ for local socio-economic development”*

The above stated aim of the project was achieved through two main outcomes and a set of five outputs, as listed below:

Outcome 1: Policy makers and other key stakeholders are aware of concerns and aspiration of grassroots stakeholders with regards to REDD+ and climate change and in the context of sustainable forest management in the project countries.

This outcome is achieved by following three outputs:

OUTPUT 1: A set of country specific training package targeted at grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+ and associated social safeguards in the context of sustainable forest management, is tested and published.

OUTPUT 2: Project implementing partners and other key stakeholders are able to effectively raise awareness and knowledge among grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+ and associated social safeguards in the context of sustainable forest management.

OUTPUT 3: Grassroots stakeholders have achieved a greater understanding of the concept of climate change and REDD+ and associated social safeguards in the context of sustainable forest management.

¹ https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf

² RECOFTC and FAO (2016). Forests and climate change after Paris: An Asia Pacific perspective. Available at: www.fao.org/3/a-bo601e.pdf

³ Ibid

Outcome 2: Grassroots stakeholders use new knowledge on REDD+ and associated social safeguards and adapt it in the context of sustainable forest management in the project countries.

Outcome 2 is achieved through following two outputs.

OUTPUT 4: Grassroots stakeholders and their representatives present their concerns and issues to REDD+ policy makers and other stakeholders.

OUTPUT 5: Project lessons and experiences contribute to the ongoing REDD+ readiness processes and discourses within and beyond the target countries.

2.4.2 Report on Outcomes

This is final report of the project, and therefore describes the results of the project for each outcome with detailed information on output level. The results presented below focus on changes against baseline scenario and impacts of project for each outcome, and supported by evidences and examples from the field.

Outcome 1: Policy makers and other key stakeholders are aware of concerns and aspiration of grassroots stakeholders with regards to REDD+ and climate change and in the context of sustainable forest management in the project countries

2.4.2.1 Changes achieved with reference to the baseline

Baseline Scenario: Baseline scenario for Outcome 1 was generated at the beginning of the project by conducting capacity development needs assessment (CDNA) in all five project countries. The results of CDNA revealed that grassroots stakeholders had almost negligent to very low level of understanding on climate change and REDD+. It was also reported that stakeholders had low level of awareness on national and international discourse on these topics. Furthermore, it was also reported that despite nearly a decade long discourse on REDD+ at global level, the fact remained that suitable communication and knowledge products for grassroots stakeholders on REDD+ and climate change capacity development and awareness building were either not available in national and local languages, or not accessible to grassroots stakeholders. Lastly, wherever some fundamental understanding of REDD+ and climate change due to efforts by many organizations, including RECOFTC in the project countries (RECOFTC 2011)⁴, grassroots stakeholders' understanding on social safeguards in forestry sector in general and REDD+ in particular was minimal.

With this baseline scenario, Outcome 1 was achieved through following three outputs:

- a) Develop a set of country specific training package targeted at grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+ and associated social safeguards in the context of sustainable forest management (Output 1)
- b) Project implementing partners and other key stakeholder are able to effectively raise the awareness and knowledge among grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+ and associated safeguards in the context of sustainable forest management (Output 2); and
- c) Grassroots stakeholders have achieved a greater understanding of the concept of climate change and REDD+ and associated social safeguards in the context of sustainable forest management.

Achievements, changes and evidences of changes through these outputs are described below:

Change 1: Access to REDD+ capacity development products/materials is enhanced among for grassroots stakeholders in project countries through the development of country specific training

⁴ RECOFTC 2011. REDD+ in Asia-Pacific: Are capacity building services meeting country needs. Policy brief.

package on climate change and REDD+ for grassroots stakeholders

Change indicators:

- REDD+ Capacity Building Needs Assessments accomplished in Myanmar and updated in other four countries
- Training manuals and other capacity building products on climate change and REDD+ are developed & published in English and project country languages
- Refresher and test trainings organized in the project countries to test the updated training materials and products

Key Achievements: The project developed a range of capacity development material on climate change and REDD+ and contextualized them for developing grassroots stakeholders' capacity in the target countries. Such capacity development materials were developed and contextualized based on the CDNA conducted in Myanmar, and updated in other four countries.

Capacity development material and products included training manuals on REDD+ and related safeguards measures for national and sub-national level trainers, guidebooks and glossary handbooks to support trainers, and question and answer booklets, posters, calendars, radio episodes and short videos for grassroots awareness building.

Before finalizing the capacity development materials refresher and test training programs were organized, as reported under Output 2 below.

The project also used culturally suitable tools, such as street plays, drama, puppet shows etc. to convey the key message about the concept of REDD+ and climate change in a simple yet effective manner.

Progress against targets: With regards to achievements against the target, the project produced more materials than originally targeted. Most of key publications were published and disseminated through grassroots facilitators' networks in each country. It is however important to report here that Lao, Viet Nam and Myanmar versions of REDD+ manual are currently being updated and finalized, and will be published soon. Table below summarises a list of materials, products and tools developed and used by the project. A detailed checklist of capacity development products is presented in Annex 1.

Table 1: List of training products developed by the grassroots project

Type of materials/tools	Number of copies	Language
Training Manuals		
• REDD+ training manual	1,500	Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Vietnamese, Laos and Myanmar
• FPIC training manual	1,830	English, Nepali and Vietnamese
• Grassroots equity training manual	500	English
Guidebooks		
• FPIC guidebooks	3,000	English, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Vietnamese, Laos and Myanmar
• Religious script guidebook on climate change and sustainable forest management	150	Bahasa Indonesia
Handbooks/ Booklets		
• Climate change, Forests, and You	11,140	English, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Vietnamese, Laos and Myanmar

• Gender in REDD+	6,800	English, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Vietnamese, Lao and Myanmar
• FPIC in REDD+	4,500	English, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Vietnamese, Laos, Myanmar
• Equity in REDD+	2,000	English, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Vietnamese, Laos and Myanmar
• REDD+ glossary book	1,000	Vietnamese and Laos
• Forests and climate change after Durban	4,220	English, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Vietnamese and Laos
• REDD+ social and environmental safeguards	500	Nepali
Posters		
• Climate change, Forests and REDD+ (in context of SFM)	2,200	English, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, and Laos
• Mainstreaming gender in SFM	100	Laos
Calendar		
• Climate change, Forests and REDD+ (in context of SFM)	2,250	Nepali, and Laos
Radio Episodes		
• Climate change, Forests and REDD+ (in context of SFM)	10	Vietnamese
Puppet shows	--	Bahasa Indonesia and Laos
Street Plays and drama	--	Nepali and Myanmar

Evidences of change: REDD+ capacity development materials produced by the Grassroots project have proved very useful by a range of stakeholders. National versions of REDD+ training manual are developed through a participatory approach in the project countries. For example, in Nepal, REDD+ manual development was coordinated by REDD+ implementation Cell of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and supported by a range of other key stakeholders, in Myanmar, UN-REDD Program and RECOFTC are currently finalizing the manual, in Indonesia, Center for Forestry Education and Training of the Ministry of Environment and Forests collaborated with RECOFTC to develop Bahasa Indonesia version, and in Lao PDR, Department of Forests have provided its expert inputs to finalise the manual. The project has received positive feedback from the users of these manuals. Besides, a range of other simple communication products such as question answer booklets, posters and calendars were also very popular among grassroots stakeholders and other project implementers in target countries (see box 1).

Box 1: Feedback on REDD+ capacity development material produced by the project

We really appreciate being able to build upon some of the Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ training material, and distributing the REDD+ Q&A leaflet in the Lao language. It was highly appreciated by the Lao participants - *Peter Stephen Forest Management and Climate Change Advisor to USAID funded Lowering Emission in Asia's Forest (LEAF) Program*

Change 2: Enhanced capacities on climate change and REDD+ are effectively used by the partner organizations and other key stakeholders to effectively raise the awareness and knowledge among grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+

Change indicators:

- i) At least one Training of Trainers (ToT) programs completed in four countries, except Nepal

- ii) At least one refresher training programs completed in all five countries
- iii) At least one regional training program on FPIC in REDD+ organized for country coordinators and partner organization
- iv) At least one training program for local journalist completed in four countries, except Nepal
- v) Records of number of participants in all the training programs, disaggregated by gender
- vi) No. of articles/news items in the media written by the trained journalists on climate change and REDD+ in project countries

Key Achievements: During its life time, the project targeted capacity development at two levels: (i) at national and sub-national level for partner organizations, trainers and other key stakeholders; and (ii) at grassroots level for the members of community leaders, religious groups, local NGOs, officials from local forest department, teachers, students, women group and local journalists. While training programs, including refresher training programs, at national and sub-national level generally ranged from 4 to 5 days, at grassroots level, such events ranged from one day (awareness building) to two days (training programs).

In order to effectively use limited resources and also to form informal networks of trained stakeholders, the project used cascade approach for capacity development (Annex 2). Starting with Training of Trainers (ToT) at national level, selected trainers were engaged in sub-national level training delivery, and from a group of sub-national level trainers, selected ones helped organizing grassroots level training and awareness building in each country. To further facilitate the cascade approach, the project organized regular refresher programs for trainers, training programs to build facilitation skills of the trainers and organized customized training programs in order to respond to the needs of the participants in different country contexts.

Focus of the capacity development programs largely remained on building a sound understanding on the fundamental concept of climate change and REDD+, refreshing and updating the stakeholders with global discourse on REDD+ and climate change on a regular basis, and social safeguards of REDD+, such as concept and importance of gender mainstreaming, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), social equity and participatory approaches in REDD+.

Key achievements of capacity development at different levels are described below:

Training of trainers program: Following cascade down approach of capacity development, the project organized a total of 59 training of trainers events at national (20) and sub-national (39) level (4 ToT, 5 refresher training, 1 regional training on FPIC, and 4 journalist training) (change indicator i to iv), and reached out to a total of 1,331 stakeholders (43% women) (Figure 1 and 2) (Change indicator v). The trained journalist published a total of 17 articles in local newspaper and reported key issues and concerns of grassroots communities related to climate change and REDD+ (change indicator v; for detail refer to sub-section under outcome 2 – engaging with local media).

Progress against targets: The project has set a target of at least 14 capacity development events altogether at national and sub-national levels in five project countries (Change indicator i to iv above). Thus as against a total of at least 14 events, project managed to organize a total of 59 events, far exceeding its original target. This was because of growing demand of REDD+ capacity development from various stakeholders in the project countries, and therefore, managing financial resources in such a way that the project could meet such demand. Besides rigorous monitoring, the project developed partnership at various levels, from grassroots upto national level and also encouraged partner organizations to contribute to organize such events with minimal support from the project budget to cover costs, such as fee for resources persons, training venues etc., thus, helping to exceed the targets.

Figure 1: Total number of capacity development events delivered during 2016

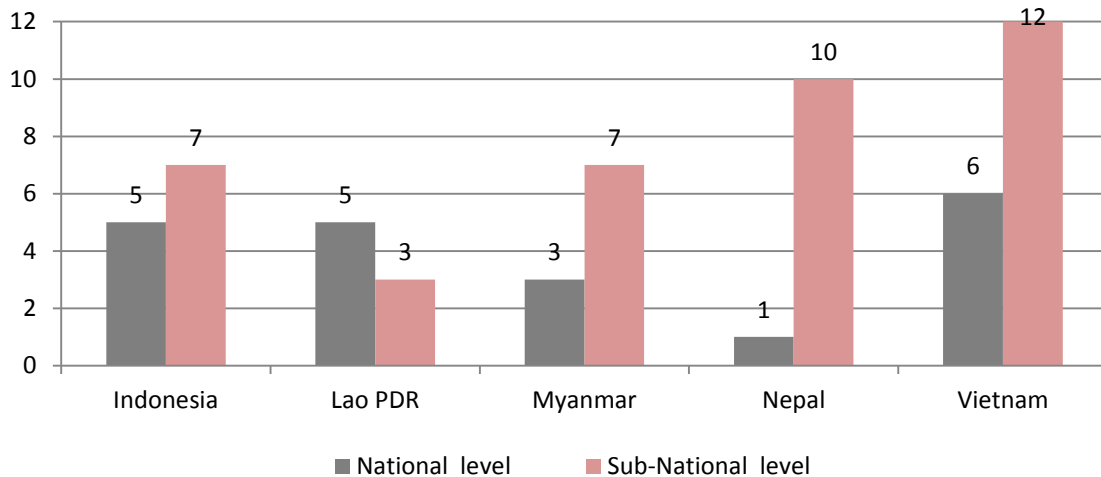
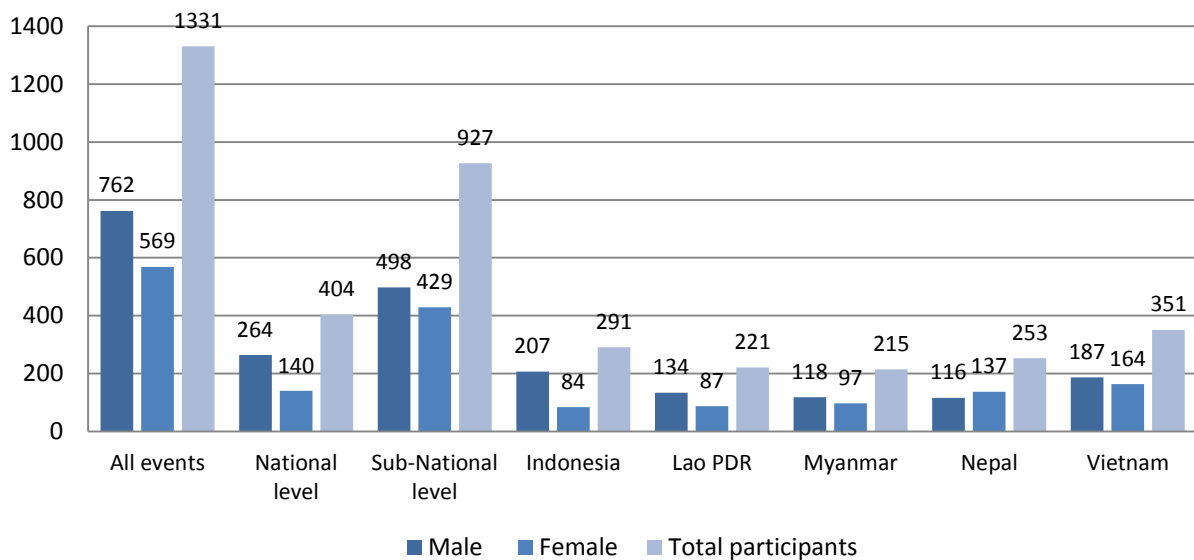


Figure 2: Number of participants attending various capacity development programs



Change 3: Grassroots stakeholders have achieved a greater understanding of the concept of climate change and REDD+ and associated social safeguards

Change indicators:

- i) At least 50 awareness raising events organized at grassroots level in total in all five countries
- ii) At least 1000-1500 participants, reached through awareness raising programs and other similar events in all five project countries, disaggregated by gender
- iii) At least 50% of participants have improved knowledge and skills on climate change and REDD+
- iv) At least 1-2 stories of change are recorded from each project country, reflecting behavioural change among the training participants and making use of improved knowledge for promoting and practicing sustainable forest management

Key Achievements: At grassroots level the project organized a total of 141 events altogether in five project countries. These training programs were supported and lead by a network of nearly 20

partner organizations in five countries. Table 1 below provides a summary of country wise number of events and participants attending grassroots level capacity development events. As noted below, Myanmar reported maximum number of capacity development events, primarily because in other countries, the project has already delivered a series of similar events in previous phase, while Myanmar was added only in the current phase III of the project, and therefore had comparatively a greater attention to focus at the grassroots level.

Table 1: REDD+ Capacity development activities at grassroots level

Country	No. of events	No. of participants			Total no. of person days
		Male	Female	Total	
Indonesia	35	270	526	795	805
Lao PDR	16	408	354	762	800
Myanmar	78	2,777	1,714	4,491	5,542
Viet Nam	32	358	546	904	1,348
TOTAL	161	3,813	3,140	6,952	8,495

Progress against targets: Similar to national and sub-national level target for capacity development events, the number of capacity development events at grassroots level also far exceeded the original target. Against a target of at least 50 grassroots level events altogether in five project countries, project delivered a total of 160 events (Change indicator i), including exclusive training programs targeted for gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development (Indicator 1). These training events were attended by a total of nearly 7,000 participants, much higher than the target of 1,500 participants (Indicator ii).

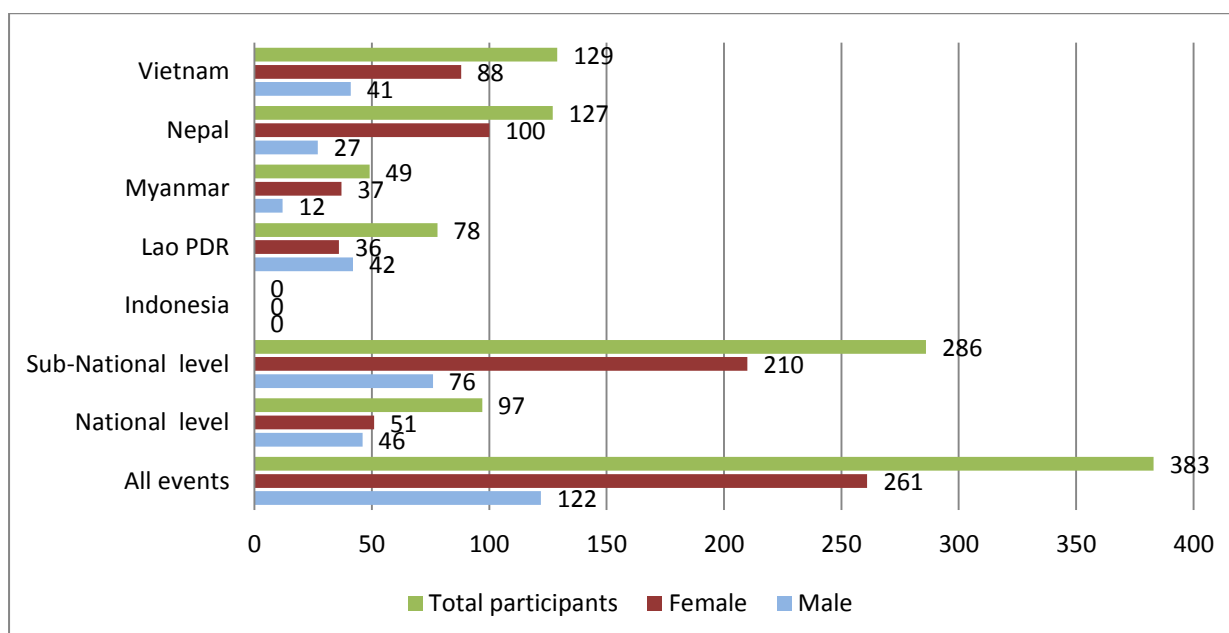
At grassroots level in particular, the project reported high demand for capacity development from the partner organizations and other key stakeholders. In order to respond to such increasing demand, the project put in place a rigorous financial monitoring mechanism, encouraged partners to contribute and replicate the awareness raising events with minimal support from the project.

Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development: Building on the basic concept of climate change and REDD+, the project graduated to the next level to develop participants' understanding on REDD+ safeguards measures. Besides delivering targeted training programs on FPIC and Equity in climate change and REDD+, special attention was paid to develop participants' capacity on gender mainstreaming in climate change, REDD+ and SFM at national, sub-national and grassroots levels.

At national and sub-national level, of the total 59 capacity development events, 14 events (24%) were exclusively organized for developing participants' capacity to better understand about gender mainstreaming in climate change, REDD+ and SFM. Of these 14 events, 5 were organized for national level stakeholders and the rest 9 events were organized for sub-national level stakeholders (Figure 3).

Similarly, at grassroots level, as presented in table 1 above, of the total 6,952 trained participants through 161 events, 3,140 (45%) were women participants. In order to further strengthen gender mainstreaming at grassroots level, of a total of 161 events, 20 events were exclusively organized for women dominant groups. Such 20 events were attended by a total of nearly 600 participants, of which 406 (68%) were women. It is further to report here that these 20 events were lead by the trainers from mixed group training programs. For example in Indonesia, a total of six women majority training programs were organized in village Biduk-Biduk in Berau, East Kalimantan and for villagers around Meru Betiri National Park, Jember, East Java. These events were lead by sub-national level and grassroots trainers who attended previous training programs under the project. Similarly in Lao PDR, trained participants from the Women Advancement Committee and the Lao Women Union under the Department of Forests lead the training program, while in Viet Nam local women union members were at the forefront of delivering gender mainstreaming training programs.

Figure 3: Number of events and participants for gender capacity development program



Progress against targets for gender mainstreaming: With regards to gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development, the project had set a target of at least five training programs in each country, totaling 25 events, targeting to raise awareness among women stakeholders on climate change and REDD+, and at least 30% of the trained participants are women. Against these targeted, with regards to number of events, the project organized a total of 34 events, including 20 at grassroots level and 14 at national and sub-national levels. In terms of the percentage of women participants, the project reached to a total of 43% women participants at national and sub-national level, and 45% at grassroots level against an overall target of 30% women participants.

Evidences of enhanced knowledge on REDD+ and its use by the participants

Through regular monitoring of training programs and independent evaluations of training programs, using Kirkpatrick’s methodology, the project assessed the impacts of training programs in terms of: i) enhancement of the knowledge of participants on climate change and REDD+; and ii) behavioural change and application of knowledge by the participants. The results of the concurrent monitoring and pre and post assessment of training programs on knowledge enhancement and retention of training knowledge reported variation across project countries.

For example, in Indonesia and Viet Nam where a number of bilateral and multilateral projects of REDD+ are under implementation, and in Nepal which has a strong foundation of community forestry, the percentage of grassroots training participants retaining knowledge on climate change and REDD+ ranged between 60 and 80 percent (change indicator iii). On the other hand, in countries like Lao PDR and Myanmar knowledge retention ranged from 30 to 60 percent. Besides comparatively fewer REDD+ projects, low rates of literacy coupled with the diversity of ethnic groups with different languages and customs, were identified as key challenges for the retention of climate change and REDD+ knowledge in these countries. Further, an independent mid-term review, focusing on behavioural change and application of knowledge revealed encouraging response from training alumni. Some of such examples are briefly reported in a box 2 below, as quoted by the trained participants. Besides these example, the project has documented more than 10 stories of change from grassroots level (change indicator iv), as described later in Section 3 of this report.

Box 2: Examples of enhanced capacity and application of knowledge by individuals and organizations

I was shy and did not like standing in front of people but I built up my confidence and started communicating well as the resource persons after returning from the ToT. I was fully involved in this campaign for ten local training events - **Ms. Puja B.K, local level facilitator, trained by HIMAWANTI Nepal.**

For me, the project gave me change to develop my capacity not only as a trainer but also in developing a series of training program related to REDD+: **Ms. Kusdamayanti, Senior Trainer from CFET, Indonesia**

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.**

Through the Grassroots project, capacity of WCS core team has improved significantly. Earlier, WCS field staff were familiar mostly with education programs related to biodiversity conservation, but with support from Norad funded RECOFTC's Grassroots project, the field staff of WCS have significantly improved their facilitation and community mobilization skills. They now feel more confident in delivering community level training programs on climate change and REDD+ by themselves in their project areas in Naga hill region - **U Saw Htun, Deputy Country Program Director, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Myanmar Country Program, Grassroots project partner in northern Myanmar.**

Since the last trainings of RECOFTC, we have been told about how and why we should protect our forest with clear examples. Based on what facilitator delivered to us, we shared the content of REDD+ with our villagers in the thematic meetings or as part of our women group regular meetings. Furthermore, we established Village Forest Patrol Group with 36 members in 2013. This year our Patrol group welcomed 21 new members. In our last group review meeting, all of our 57 members families reported and verified with full compliance of government' laws and regulation on forest protection. We even discovered and support government to appeal 19 cases of deforestation activities - **Ms. Tran Thi Le, chairman of Women Union, Gung Re commune in Lam Dong province.**

The cascading approach seems to be the new trend for implementing projects, successfully involving the multiple stakeholders in capacity building at different levels. This approach is now being reproduced by other organizations as it seems to work effectively - **FECOFUN, focal person for REDD+, Nepal**

Outcome 2: *Grassroots stakeholders use new knowledge on REDD+ and associated social safeguards and adapt it in the context of sustainable forest management in the project countries*

Baseline scenario: Despite a rapid development of global discourse on REDD+, the aspirations and concerns of the grassroots stakeholders were not adequately and effectively represented in such discourse. Besides poor understanding of grassroots stakeholders on REDD+ and climate change as mentioned under Outcome 1, grassroots stakeholders and their representatives lacked communication and advocacy skill that is needed to convey their concerns and issues to policy makers and stakeholders convincingly, ensuring that they are taken on board while discussing national level REDD+ policy processes. Further, it was also reported that in order to bring grassroots concerns and issues to the attention of wider stakeholders beyond national level, in order to influence global discourse, grassroots stakeholders did not have many opportunities to channel their concerns and issues to these stakeholders.

Considering these challenges, the Outcome 2 of the project focused on to:

- a) Provide platform to grassroots stakeholders and policy makers to discuss and document aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders' on climate change and REDD+
- b) Disseminate grassroots stakeholders' aspirations and concerns, including project's lessons widely within and beyond project countries, in order to contribute to REDD+ discourses and readiness processes.

Changes and impacts achieved on these two areas are described below:

Change 4: Grassroots stakeholders and their representatives present their concerns and issues to REDD+ policy makers and other stakeholders

Change indicators:

- i) At least 4-5 meetings attended/participated by the grassroots stakeholders and their representatives to present their concerns and aspirations to policy makers and other stakeholders in each country during the course of the project
- ii) Various documents reflecting the concerns and issues of the grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+, including synthesis report, discussion papers, policy briefs, meeting minutes, and monthly reports brought out and disseminated in each country and beyond
- iii) Synthesis reports are produced from each annual reflection workshop and disseminated widely within project countries and beyond

Key achievements: To facilitate the process of sharing aspiration and concerns of grassroots stakeholders on REDD+ and climate change, the project organized a series of participatory consultation meetings, involving range of stakeholders, including grassroots communities and their representatives, policy makers at local level, academicians, local journalists, religious leaders, farmers, local parliamentarians, CSOs, community leaders, community forestry practitioners, teachers and women. The consultation processes followed a cascade up approach, starting from grassroots level up to the national level to document the aspirations and concerns and bring them to the notice of policy makers at sub-national, national and regional levels through various sharing and networking events.

A total of 127 consultation and sharing events were organized by the project. Of these, nearly half (62) were conducted in Nepal, where REDD+ knowledge building process had already been well established through previous phases of the project, and therefore the project team could organize such events rather quickly and with efficient use of resources. Through such participatory events, the project reached to more than 6,000 stakeholders, including policy makers, many of who had attended REDD+ capacity building programs under the grassroots project.

Figure 4: Number of consultation events organized in the project countries, at each level

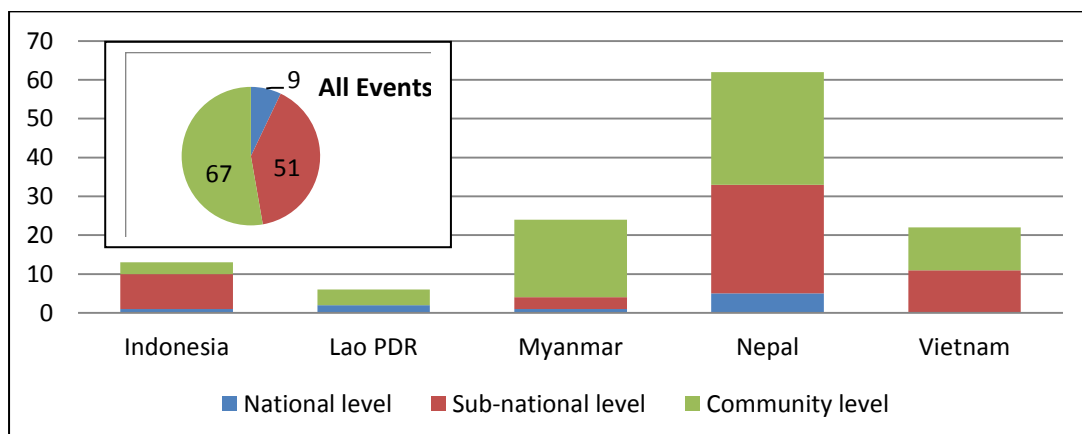
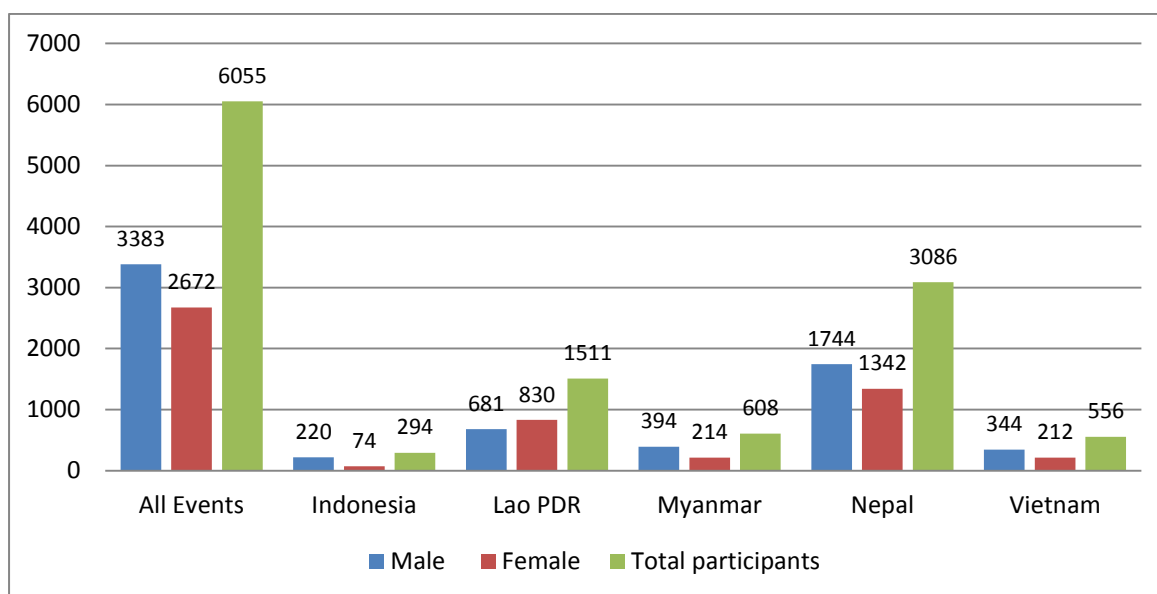


Figure 5: Total number of grassroots stakeholders attending to the consultation events



Results of such consultations are summarised below, highlighting the key concerns and issues documented from such events. Most of the issues listed below are common to all countries, while few of them were specific to a particular country. These issues also were shared widely at different forum, including at Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2015, organized by FAO in Philippines (change indicator ii).

- **Complexity of REDD+ language:** The concept of REDD+ still remains an abstract primarily for grassroots communities due to its complex and technical language. Further, unclear and conflicting messages of REDD+ can raise expectations or exacerbate misunderstandings among the stakeholders.
- **Respect for local knowledge:** Due to the fact that REDD+ knowledge is still limited to a few select experts, grassroots stakeholders raised the concerns that adequate efforts have not been directed towards recognizing and using traditional knowledge in REDD+ design and policy processes.
- **Unclear land tenure and rights:** Concerns abound that REDD+ will serve as a catalyst for the escalation of conflicts, especially between communities and government, if the land-use rights of local communities are not clarified and safeguarded.
- **Transparency in REDD+ benefit sharing:** Another challenge raised by grassroots stakeholders is related with lack of understanding on benefit sharing from REDD+, arising from poor information sharing processes among local groups and further complicated by a lack of clear tenure rights in almost all the focal countries of the project.
- **Alternative livelihoods:** Concerns are also raised that REDD+ may come along with a series of restrictions for forest user groups in order to secure and enhance forest carbon stocks. REDD+ planning therefore needs to put in place alternative livelihoods mechanisms to compensate for potential loss of forest based livelihoods.
- **Sustainability of REDD+:** Apprehensions about the sustainability of REDD+ were also raised, mainly due to the fact that many consider REDD+ a top down and 'imported' mechanism. Secondly, due to the complexity of REDD+, it is always challenging to get a buy-in from grassroots stakeholders, who are expected to drive the mechanism at local level.

Progress against targets for documenting and disseminating aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders: In order to document aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders on REDD+,

the project had set a number of targets: organizing at least two multi-stakeholder consultations per country, thus a total of 10 such events were to be organized. Secondly, annual refresher and reflection workshops were to be organized in each country, totaling 15 such events, and finally, grassroots stakeholders aspirations and concerns are synthesized for dissemination to REDD+ policy makers through various events. With regards to the achievements, against a total of 25 multi-stakeholder consultations and sharing workshop, project organized a series of more than 125 events, 5 times of the target (change indicator i). With regards to the synthesis and dissemination of aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders, the summary provided above in the report indicates the accomplishment of the target (change indicator iii). Moreover, to further disseminate these concerns and issues of grassroots stakeholders widely, with an objective to raise the voices of grassroots stakeholders, the project implemented a series of interventions, as described below.

Engaging with local media: In order to raise the awareness on the aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders, the project engaged with a range of communication channels in different ways. For example in Indonesia, the project organized citizen journalist training for grassroots facilitators, introducing a web-based system of Tempo SMS for information sharing and providing basic reporting skills for acquiring reliable information and to send concise but informative SMS texts. This was very effective, as participants became more aware of their roles in sharing environmental issues in their areas and also knew about accessing different media to do so.

In Nepal, the project launched a media fellowship program in selected districts to engage with local media persons to support REDD+ awareness building and communicate aspiration and concerns of grassroots stakeholders to wider stakeholders. As a result, media fellows published a total of 17 articles, including nine in national and eight in district level daily newspapers.

Similarly in Myanmar and Vietnam training programs were conducted for local media representatives on REDD+ and climate change for raising their awareness and encouraging them to bring grassroots aspirations and concerns to the public domain (change indicator ii).

Change 5: Project lessons and experiences contribute to the ongoing REDD+ readiness processes and discourses within and beyond the target countries

Change indicator:

- i) Records of number of hits on project web-page, disaggregated by the project countries and beyond
- ii) Records of number of downloads and requests received for materials and products developed by the grassroots project in different languages
- iii) Records of number of subscriptions for quarterly e-newsletter of the project
- iv) Records of number of workshops, seminars, expert discussions and exchange meetings attended by the project team members at national and international level
- v) Mid-term and final reviews are conducted

Key achievements: To disseminate the lessons and experiences from, the project organized a range of various activities and made use of various communication forum at different levels, as described below:

National level learning event: In all the countries, the project built an informal network of trained facilitators and encouraged them to exchange experiences and share updates on REDD+ through organizing the learning events. Focus and format of such learning events varied from country to country, depending upon the needs of trained stakeholders and gaps to be fulfilled. A total of 13 such events were organized in all five project countries.

Quarterly E-newsletter: In order to communicate the progress of the project to the wider audiences and also promote cross learning among national project teams, the project produced a

quarterly newsletter on a regular basis. During the project period a total of 10 issues of the newsletter were distributed electronically through national, regional and global network of RECOFTC (change indicator iii).

Project webpage: The project webpage⁵ is regularly updated to disseminate the project’s progress, experiences and achievements. During project’s life time, the project webpage recorded a total of more than 15,200 hits (Change indicator i).

Regional and National Reflection Workshop: To further promote cross learning among country project teams and also updating them with latest development on climate change and REDD+ at the global level, the project organized annual reflection workshops, both at regional and national levels. Such reflection workshops were attended by the project implementing partners, national project coordinator, representatives of national REDD+ agencies and other key stakeholders. At a national level, besides sharing the progress and lessons learned, and sharing the concerns of grassroots stakeholders, such reflection workshop were also used to gather inputs from multi-stakeholders to draft annual action plan for the following year. The number of reflection events organized from 2013 – 2016 are listed in the table below (change indicator iv).

Table 2: Number of reflection and knowledge sharing workshop organized by the project

Country	No. of event	Male	Female	Total participants
Indonesia	6	102	33	135
Lao PDR	1	25	21	46
Myanmar	2	38	13	51
Nepal	4	50	13	63
Vietnam	9	145	67	212
Regional	3	57	52	109
Total	25	417	199	616

Use of regional and international platforms: During its life time, the project team members and training alumni used various regional and international events to share the lessons learned and experiences from the project. A list of such events is presented in Annex 3. Besides such events, the project also maintained a regular update with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok sharing the project’s progress with them on a regular basis. In Myanmar, the then Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Myanmar also had an opportunity to travel to project sites in northern Myanmar and witness the grassroots level consultation meeting.

Blog: The project also published a blog⁶ on different topics related with REDD+ and challenges for grassroots stakeholders.

Publications: Besides producing the REDD+ capacity development material, as discussed earlier, the project also synthesized a range of lessons learned and disseminated them through various communication products, such as case studies, policy briefs, lessons learned, discussion papers and stories of change. A list of such publications is appended in Annex 1.

Evidences of change: Enhanced capacities of grassroots stakeholders at individual and organizational level have lead to some concrete changes (See box 3 below as an example from Myanmar – change indicator v). Some of such examples are presented in the section 3 later, while a brief of few others are described here. Enhancing REDD+ knowledge to a wider section of people in most economical yet effective way was identified as one of the challenges in Nepal. To address this, the partner organizations, used innovative way by organizing *information fair* on REDD+ and climate change.

⁵<http://www.recoftc.org/project/grassroots-capacity-building-redd>

⁶<http://www.recoftc.org/project/grassroots-capacity-building-redd/basic-page/grassroots-redd-blogs>

Such info fair proved very effective in raising awareness among masses in a short period of time. In Indonesia, in Meru Betiri National Park in East Java, the local level consultations revealed lack of collaboration among local authorities of the national park as one of the challenges. To address this, a district level multistakeholder working group on climate change and REDD+ was formulated to facilitate the coordination mechanism between national park authorities and district government officials. At individual level, there are success stories which have documented the enhanced capacities of selected grassroots stakeholders who have represented their communities at regional and international forum to convey the aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders to international community (See Section 3 for more details).

Box 3: Excerpts from mid-term independent review of the Grassroots project in Myanmar

In the past, it has been difficult to communicate the aspirations and concerns of the grassroots to national governments in a coordinated and strategic manner due to limited capacity and lack of awareness on REDD+. Planning processes and communication among the stakeholders at different levels was also lacking. Hence, the grassroots project has made considerable efforts on increasing awareness and improving knowledge on linkages between climate change and forest degradation and deforestation, understanding basic concept of REDD+, and facilitating the communication of grassroots perspective to policy makers. The visited communities from Yeteshe township are much interested in CF application and community members informally formed forest user groups with some interested villagers in 3 out of 5 surveyed villages (i.e. Gone Min Kwin, 6 miles and 8 miles). A deputy range forest officer, who attended a sub-national level ToT program, also shared about information he heard that some farmers in Teinkaling village tracts started reducing taungya cutting this year by approximately 30% since they become much aware on the importance of forests for their day to day livelihoods.

2.4.3 Progress against indicators given by Norad

Besides reporting the progress and changes against the outputs and outcomes of the project, as defined in the proposal document, the project also assessed its achievements and changes against a list of indicators suggested by Norad in February 2014. From a menu of 11 indicators proposed by Norad, the project identified four indicators, listed below.

- i) Models adopted/piloted and practices changed
- ii) Adoption of REDD+ safeguards (UNFCC Cancun Safeguards)
- iii) Changes in policy and plans for land use in targeted landscape
- iv) Contribution to international consensus on REDD+

A summary of the progress against above listed indicators has been presented in Annex 4.

2.4.4 Sustainability of outcomes

During the course of implementation, the project has taken a number of measures to ensure the sustainability of REDD+ capacity development. Working through a range of partners in the country was one of the fundamental and important steps in this direction. Within this approach, the project made a conscious efforts to align the project activities with national and local level forest department and REDD+ working groups by sharing the project's progress and achievements in such meetings. Further, partnering with CFET in Indonesia, with provincial forestry and agriculture departments in Viet Nam, with Forest Department in Myanmar and Lao PDR, and with REDD+ implementation Cell in Nepal were initiatives taken in this direction right from the beginning.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the REDD+ capacities built, the project team and partner organizations in each country also shared their commitment and plans in taking forward the project experiences beyond its period. A quick check list of some of such proposed measures is listed below, while a little more detailed plan is presented in Annex 5.

- Continue to build cooperation with local governments and with other CSOs to replicate the capacity development model of the project – in fact in few countries, such as Nepal and Myanmar, REDD+ capacity development models have already been replicated by other projects and organizations.
- Develop synergies with other ongoing projects of the partner organizations to expand community training and awareness raising programs in their target areas
- Continue to share the voices and grassroots concerns to all stakeholders and through their networks
- Strengthen coordination among the informal networks of trained grassroots facilitators and encourage climate change and REDD+ knowledge sharing process among them
- Promote climate change and sustainable forest management at the community level which support to local livelihoods development
- Create enabling environment for trained facilitators to play and have increasing roles at national and sub-national levels and to be self-sustaining in mobilizing REDD+ knowledge

2.5 Are there any internal and/or external factors that have affected the project in any significant way?

a) Specify deviations from plans

The focus of the REDD+ Grassroots project has remained on to take a comprehensive approach to REDD+ capacity development within a purview of sustainable forest management, particularly in view of comprehensive role for REDD+ and the consequently to manage expectations from REDD+ among grassroots communities. Therefore, the project has continued to follow its objectives and plans throughout its implementation and did not deviate from its original plans. The implementation of the project activities has remained on track largely throughout its life time. However, due to 2015 earthquake in Nepal, the project implementation was delayed, and therefore the project was granted an extension of six months, until June 2016. This is the reason, why the final report of the project is being submitted in December 2016.

b) Give a short risk assessment

After prolonged global discussions, it was indeed encouraging to see that REDD+ framework was finally adopted in the Paris Agreement, and it became part of global agreement on reducing climate change impacts. This is certainly an important milestone in the global discourse on REDD+ and moving it forward with some concrete objectives. Further the Paris Agreement gives a strong political signal that implementation and financing for REDD+ is part of new climate change regime, yet REDD+ is not a binding commitment. Such developments mean more focus on capacity development in order to effectively implement REDD+ on the ground.

However, on the ground implementation of REDD+ is challenged by the uncertainty of land tenure, and therefore related issues such as benefit sharing from REDD+ project, governance of REDD+ mechanism, and meeting the objectives of joint mitigation and adaptation. Some of such risks have already been highlighted by the grassroots stakeholders, as shared earlier, and if they are not addressed in the REDD+ institutional and policy frameworks adequately backed up by safeguards measures in the project countries, it may pose a serious challenge to the success of

REDD+ projects on the ground.

2.6 Cross-cutting concerns

The contribution of the Grassroots project to following cross cutting concerns is presented below:

2.6.1 Reduced corruption

Through its capacity building activities, the REDD+ Grassroots project has been able to generate a greater level of awareness on REDD+ within the grassroots stakeholder community. In particular a substantial focus on capacity development on REDD+ safeguards, including on FPIC is expected to contribute to increased scrutiny and attention paid to REDD+ agreements and developments which may affect grassroots communities. Thus, building grassroots awareness on REDD+ and related safeguards measures is expected to make it more difficult to REDD+ proponents to engage in corruption or illegal practices. This is further strengthened by a focus on capacity building on additional safeguards measures, discussed below.

2.6.2 Gender equality

As presented earlier, the REDD+ Grassroots project has put substantial efforts in encouraging active participation of women in REDD+ capacity development activities by extending climate change and REDD+ information and knowledge access to them. A number of strategies were adopted by the project to enhance active participation of women stakeholders in REDD+ capacity development programs. As described earlier, such initiatives included, national level expert workshops, women dominated training programs and closely working with national and sub-national level women unions, such as in Lao PDR and Viet Nam and key partner organizations, such as HIMAWANTI in Nepal.

As a result, on an average, in all the training programs delivered during last one year, the project was able to bring in more than 40% women in various training programs. For many women, particularly at grassroots level, it was first time they received such opportunity to learn about climate change and REDD+, and therefore showed a great enthusiasm and active participation during training programs. These efforts have started yielding positive results, as described under Section 3 later. A couple of examples described in Section 3, indicate that besides enhancing knowledge accessibility, the project has been able to promote the recognition of gender mainstreaming in community forestry, and encourage active participation of women in decision making, as shared in an example from Viet Nam.

2.6.3 Respect for human rights

Training programs on FPIC in REDD+ delivered at various levels in the project countries, as mentioned earlier, are in addition aimed to ensure that REDD+ implementation in target countries adheres to human rights principles. Moreover, sharing and updating REDD+ information to the grassroots stakeholders, particularly on FPIC, gender mainstreaming and equity in REDD+, and conveying their concerns and issues to the policy makers, also support their right to information, and thus put them in a stronger position to assert their rights during interaction and negotiations with REDD+ proponents and policymakers.

2.7 Lessons learned

The project learned a number of lessons (Silori et al 2016)⁷. Some of these are listed above gathered through grassroots level consultations, while few more are elaborated in greater detail below.

⁷ Silori, CS, Wiset, K, Poudyal, BH, and Vu, T. 2016. Grassroots facilitators as agents of change for promoting sustainable forest management: lessons learned from REDD+ capacity development in Asia. *Unasylva*, Vol. 246; 45-52.

Needs for REDD+ capacity development continues to grow

- While the establishment of a cadre of local level facilitators is proven to be effective to expand and sustain capacity development interventions beyond the temporal and spatial limits of the project, it has also been learned that due to the complex nature of REDD+, repeated capacity development is needed, particularly at the grassroots level. This is necessary to ensure that local stakeholders keep up to date with broader developments, and thereby enhance their knowledge and make use of it in local level forest management activities.
- Further, the enhanced competencies of the partner organizations and a range of capacity development and communication products developed under the project can be easily up-scaled and sustained with minimum inputs for a widespread capacity development, the need for which continues to evolve alongside global debate on and scope of REDD+.
- Moreover, keeping in mind the key concerns and issues brought up by grassroots stakeholders, in particular related to tenure access, forest-based livelihoods and poor capacity of grassroots stakeholders, there is a need for continued support to enhance and upscale capacity development efforts at grassroots level in the project countries.
- However, to make capacity development effective and result oriented at the grassroots level, one must consider the ethnic diversity, level of literacy, and also a well defined approach for selection of training participants. Mainstreaming these factors in training design help in achieving greater knowledge retention after the training program and application of such knowledge for local level forest management interventions.

Managing grassroots stakeholders expectations from REDD+

- Considering the large amount of information available in the public domain, including in the media, some of which may not be verified or may be subject to different interpretations, expectations among grassroots communities could escalate. It is therefore necessary to filter the information in order to clearly communicate the scope and goals of REDD+ to a wide audience through awareness-raising and capacity-building.
- At the same time, the growing need for specialized knowledge and technical skills, especially related to the participatory assessment of carbon storage and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of REDD+ implementation, and safeguards measures and information, system risks disempowering local forest stakeholders, who have adeptly managed forests for decades, in favour of the outside expertise required by REDD+.

Sustainability of REDD+ capacity development needs integrated and adaptive approach

- Considering the ever expanding debate on and scope of REDD+, it is now clear that implementation of REDD+ needs a holistic approach to ensure its sustainability framed within a broader SFM approach. In view of this, the clearer the linkages between climate change and REDD+ with SFM, community development and local livelihoods of the grassroots stakeholders, the better would be the support for them in preparing climate friendly development packages.
- Moreover, while it is true that REDD+ requires the development of new elements, as explained above, most of the policies and measures required for REDD+ are not substantively different from those developed over many years in the context of SFM. It is therefore important to build on existing experiences of participatory models of forest

management and on local people's knowledge for an effective implementation of REDD+, thereby also responding to the Cancun Safeguards, and ultimately ensuring its sustainability.

- The institutionalized process adopted for REDD+ capacity development in the project countries has contributed to build legitimacy, credibility, effectiveness, and efficiency (through synergy), primarily because the design and delivery of the capacity development programs in each country used collaborative learning processes among a wide range of stakeholders, and is firmly based on relating to the competency of target stakeholders, as described above.
- However, it is also learned that there is no 'one size fits all' formula for capacity development interventions including partnership and collaboration; they could and should always be target- driven, addressing specific needs and conditions of stakeholders and reflecting their sustainable development strategies, priorities and initiatives.

3. Case/Success story

During its life time, the project has documented a number of success stories. These have been compiled by RECOFTC over the last few years in the form of stories of change (RECOFTC 2014⁸, 2016⁹).

3.1 Enhancing Capacity of Grassroots Organizations for REDD+

- **HEADLINE:** Grassroots organizations emerge as REDD+ capacity development service providers
- **INTRODUCTION:** With a record loss of 3.7 million hectares of forests annually¹⁰ and dependence of nearly 450 million people on natural resources for their livelihoods¹¹, a number of countries in Asia-Pacific region are recognized as highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Lack of capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and poor representation of these communities in relevant policy processes, further enhance their vulnerability.
- **WHY: *Poor capacity of grassroots stakeholders for REDD+ make them vulnerable to manipulation by REDD+ project proponents:*** While the global debate on climate change and REDD+ has advanced rapidly in the recent years, the aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders, including women, indigenous peoples and other marginal communities, have remained largely unrecognized in such debates. This is because of low level of knowledge, coupled with a lack of accessible information on climate change and REDD+ to grassroots stakeholders, making it difficult for them to comprehend complex technical language of REDD+ and participate effectively in local and national REDD+ planning and policy making. Further, due to limited capacity, grassroots stakeholders and their representative are not able to communicate their aspirations and concerns to national governments in a coordinated and strategic manner, resulting into exclusion of their viewpoints from REDD+ design and policy processes.
- **WHAT:** The goal of the project therefore is that *'Grassroots stakeholders in Asia are enabled to effectively contribute to the REDD+ planning and policy process, communicate their perspective to policy makers, and thus are well positioned to potentially benefit from REDD+ for local socio-economic development'*. The project that was implemented in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam, built its theory of change on the fact that climate change and REDD+ are relatively new subjects and the understanding of these topics has remained limited to a few select stakeholders. For the grassroots stakeholders, who are the ones likely to be affected the most by climate change, did not have many opportunities to learn about these issues and therefore their view point remained excluded from global discourse on climate change and REDD+. In order to ensure that these stakeholders play an active and contribute effectively in mainstream discourse on climate change and REDD+, their capacities need to be enhanced. The project therefore aimed to: i) develop capacity needs assessment based simplified REDD+ knowledge products and enhance access of grassroots stakeholders to these products; ii) strengthen capacities of a gender balanced cadre of local organizations and resource persons at

⁸ RECOFTC 2014. Stories of Change 2008-2013. <http://www.recoftc.org/reports/stories-change-2008-2013-and-annual-report-2012-2013>

⁹ RECOFTC 2016: Stories of change (2009-2016). <http://www.recoftc.org/project/grassroots-capacity-building-redd/reports/stories-change-2009-2016>

¹⁰ FAO. 2010. Forest and climate change in the Asia-Pacific region. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1759e/i1759e00.pdf>

¹¹ FAO-RAP. 2010. *Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study II*. Bangkok.

national, sub-national and grassroots levels; iii) improve capacities and opportunities for grassroots stakeholders and organizations to effectively communicate their aspirations and concerns to policy makers and other stakeholders at local, national and international levels.

- **HOW MUCH:** The Project has a total budget of NOK 15.07 million (1.8 million USD), and is fully supported by Norad. Duration of the project was three and a half years (January 2013 to June 2016).
- **RESULTS:** The main content of the result example/case: Key results achieved by the project are described below:

As mentioned earlier, the project has been implemented with support from about 20 partner organizations, including national level non-government organizations, Civil Society Organizations, grassroots level community based organizations, universities, and forest department at central level and their subsidiary units at provincial and district level. Many of these organizations, particularly the community based organizations, were the ones who had first time been engaged in REDD+ capacity development through the grassroots project. Therefore the first step that was employed in the project through cascade approach (Anex 1), was to build the capacity of such organizations, so that they in turn can take lead in developing capacity of grassroots stakeholders for REDD+ in their respective regions and also bring the voices of grassroots stakeholders up to the national level policy makers. In this result section, example of three such organizations are being presented below:

HIMAWANTI, Nepal: The Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association in Nepal (<http://www.nhimawanti.org.np/>) has played an important role in promoting gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development in Nepal. The Grassroots project established partnership with HIMAWANTI in Phase II of the project in 2012 and continued until the end of Phase III (current phase). HIMAWANTI played an instrumental role in strengthening gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development in Nepal. Partnership with HIMAWANTI focused on empowering women's knowledge on climate change and REDD+ in four districts of Nepal – Sarlahi, Makwanpur, Nuwakot, and Lalitpur. After attending a number of training of trainers program organized by the project in Nepal, capacity of HIMAWANTI trainers was enhanced to deliver REDD+ capacity development in four districts, with backup support from the grassroots project's national coordinator in Nepal and other key partner, FECOFUN. Following such a cascade approach, HIMAWANTI trainers delivered a series of REDD+ capacity development programs. The enhanced capacity of HIMAWANTI was also recognized by the policy makers and key decision makers involved in developing REDD+ strategic plan for Nepal, and therefore HIMAWANTI is now member of REDD+ working group, to strengthen gender mainstreaming in REDD+ development process. At present HIMAWANTI is one of the leading organizations in Nepal that is engaged in championing women's rights in climate change and REDD+. Below are a couple of anecdotal responses from HIMAWANTI and grassroots stakeholders trained by HIMAWANTI, as evidence of project's results.

Through partnership under the grassroots project, HIMAWANTI benefited a lot, as the project helped us to enrich our institutional capacity on REDD+ and climate change and empowered knowledge of our facilitators - Ms. Rama Paudel, a Grassroots Facilitator of HIMAWANTI in Sarlahi, Nepal.

Friends of Wildlife, Myanmar: Friends of Wildlife (FoW), a non-government organization, has primarily been working on wildlife conservation, and more recently on community forestry development and climate change issues. The experience of FoW on climate change and REDD+ prior to partnering with the Grassroots project had been minimal. FoW teamed up with the grassroots project in early 2014, and continued until the end of the current phase. FoW was in charge of the REDD+ capacity development of grassroots stakeholders in Yateshe township in Bago division of Myanmar. Partnership with the grassroots project not only provided an opportunity for FoW to

develop capacity of its own staff on climate change and REDD+, but also helped them better meet their organization's mission overall. Recalling FoW's prior experience of working with local communities for restoring wildlife habitat, using community forestry approach, the head of the organization candidly admitted that the response from the communities was discouraging; the community could not grasp the concept of community forestry and, as a result, they were not interested in establishing a CF. In 2012, FoW therefore attended a community forestry training program of RECOFTC, and subsequently partnered with RECOFTC for implementing the grassroots project in 2014. With its partnership with RECOFTC, the head of FoW elaborated that FoW staff after learning from RECOFTC training and partnership with the grassroots project in Yateshe township, have been able to apply in CF programs in its other projects being implemented in Gwa township, Rakhine state and Mahamyaing Wildlife Sanctuary and Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region by sharing climate change and REDD+ knowledge to forest user groups. Due to these efforts, the community they had been working with for last few years, have now taken further steps in setting up community forest in Rakhine state – *now a group of 30 households have joined force and discussed the Community Forestry Instruction issued by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF). They have even submitted a CF application to the Forestry Department with a concept that integrates a carbon reduction scheme and climate change, as a result of learning from the grassroots project.* This is an evidence that awareness raising and enhanced capacity of the grassroots stakeholders through the project has influenced people's perspective and attitudes as well as empowered them to take charge of their community's resources and management (RECOFTC 2016)¹².

“Since that first training with RECOFTC, we have developed a strong group of trainers and facilitators within our organization who not only can deliver trainings for the grassroots communities but also organize activities with the communities - U Myint Aung, the President of Friends of Wildlife.

Yayasan Komunitas Belajar Indonesia (YAKOBI): YAKOBI, also translates as Foundation for Learning Community of Indonesia, is a relatively new organization, setup by young college graduates, primarily to educate villagers across the Berau district in East Kalimantan on changing climate conditions and develop confidence to speak up for their own interests so that over time they could manage their own challenges without too much dependence on external support. Having few common interests between YAKOBI and the grassroots project with regards to capacity development, and providing a platform to grassroots communities to share their aspirations and concerns, the grassroots project started partnership with YAKOBI in 2012 to develop grassroots stakeholders' capacity for REDD+ in District Berau in East Kalimantan. Being a new organization, it lacked skills to implement their mission, and therefore the members of the organizations were looking for opportunities to develop their capacity first before they start working to develop the capacity of local villagers. A training of trainers program provided by the grassroots project in Bogor, Indonesia in 2012 provided an opportunity for YAKOBI's head to learn about climate change, REDD+ and also improve facilitation skills and participatory approaches. Subsequently other members of the organization also got opportunities to attend more training programs from the project and thus helped them to implement the project effectively. The organization approaches its capacity development by developing four atypical types of leaders as education facilitator: tribal leader, government supported women group, local religious leaders, and teachers. Using this approach, YAKOBI made a significant contribution in REDD+ capacity development in district Berau. One of the

¹² IBID

most effective approaches that YAKOBI applied is to engage with religious leaders and develop a guidebook for religious leaders to further support capacity development work at local level.

The materials about climate change were usually very technical and packed with scientific jargon, which could not easily be understood by our grassroots audiences. RECOFTC guided the YAKOBI team in simplifying materials and lesson plans and translating them into the local language. Through this partnership with RECOFTC, YAKOBI has also learned and benefited institutionally, to grow as a professional organization. Our capacity building and project administration skills have improved significantly, primarily because of the rigorous monitoring process put in place by partnership contract. This has opened up ways for us to engage with other organizations in the future too – Mr. Gilang Ramadhan, Director, YAKOBI

- **LESSONS LEARNED:** The strategic partnership with government and non-government partners, and closely aligning project activities with ongoing REDD+ capacity development initiatives by government and other stakeholders helped significantly in achieving the project's targets. Country program offices of RECOFTC in all five project countries helped in smooth coordination with partner organizations and at the same time closely monitored project deliverables and ensured efficient use of financial resources. Among risks, a devastating earthquake in Nepal delayed implementation of the project, while in some other countries partner organizations needed additional support to monitor and report the progress, and therefore causing few delays. One of the key lessons learned from the project is that due to the complexity of climate change and REDD+ topics, grassroots stakeholders need continuous support to empower them and integrate their voices into policy processes and safeguard their interests.

3.2 Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development

- **HEADLINE:** Grassroots women champion the causes of climate change mitigation
- **INTRODUCTION:** Women constitute 70% of the total 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty all over the world¹³, and have relatively higher dependence on natural resources for subsistence and livelihood. Due to discriminatory socio-cultural practices, higher incidences of poverty among women, limited access to basic rights, and poor capacity to voice their concerns and aspirations, women are more likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate variations and climate change induced natural disasters (RECOFTC 2013¹⁴, Silori and Wiset, 2015¹⁵).
- **WHY:** The international development community has acknowledged that gender is a key dimension for effective implementation of REDD+. This is substantiated by the fact that women and men have specific roles, rights and responsibilities in forest management, and as such, gender differentiated needs, uses and knowledge of the forest are critical inputs to design policy and programmatic intervention for long-term sustainability of REDD+. Therefore, to ensure that national REDD+ systems and programmes are inclusive and resilient, attention must be paid to

¹³ United Nations Development Programme. (1995). Human development report 1995. New York: OUP

¹⁴ RECOFTC 2013. Gender in REDD+: A handbook for grassroots facilitators

¹⁵ Silori C. and Wiset K. 2015. Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development. In L. Aguilar, M. Granat, and C. Owren (Authors), *Roots for the future: the landscape and way forward on gender and climate change*. (pp. 452-455) Washington, DC: IUCN & GGCA.

the specific roles, requirements and contribution of women and men at every stage of REDD+ policy and program development¹⁶.

- **WHAT:** One of the key focuses of the grassroots project was to strengthen capacity of target stakeholders on REDD+ safeguards measures, with greater focus on gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development in five project countries - Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam. The theory of change for gender mainstreaming was largely driven by the fact that in order to develop equal opportunity for women to contribute actively in REDD+ development and implementation, and benefit from it, the capacity of women has to be enhanced at par with their male counterparts. To achieve this, the project organized: (i) gender disaggregated capacity development needs assessment; (ii) synthesis and simplification of technical knowledge on REDD+ in order to enhance its access to grassroots women through national-language posters, flyers, booklets, video and radio programs; (iii) use of simple and culturally appropriate gender-sensitive participatory tools, such as puppet shows, drama, street plays and recital *Kubro* - the religious readings in Indonesia, particularly to accommodate illiterate women in capacity development activities; (iv) establishing a cadre of local women resource persons and gender champions; and (v) organizing participatory consultations with informed women stakeholders to document concerns and issues of grassroots women on REDD+, and providing platforms to voice their concerns and issues to policy makers and other stakeholders at different levels.
- **HOW MUCH:** The Project has a total budget of NOK 15.07 million (1.8 million USD), and is fully supported by Norad. Duration of the project was three and a half years (January 2013 to June 2016).
- **RESULTS:** The main content of the result example/case: Key results achieved by the project are described below:
 - **Developing a cadre of local gender champions:** With an encouraging response from women participants, leading to have more than 40% women participants in various capacity development programs for REDD+, a number of grassroots women and networks emerged as local gender champions. These are now proactively engaged in REDD+ capacity development and have contributed to policy processes on REDD+ at local, national and international levels. For example, HIMAWANTI in Nepal is nominated members of national working group for REDD+, giving them an opportunity to raise concerns of grassroots women on REDD+ with policy makers. In addition, many of the trained women are now recognized as local resource persons and engaged by other projects in the project focal countries for REDD+ capacity development (Sex box 3 below).

Box 3: Stories of gender champions

Ms. Theya Chaw from Myanmar as International Spokeperson of forest dependent communities

Ms. Theya Chaw from Layshee township in northern Myanmar, along with 30 other participants attended a sub-national level training program on REDD+ organized by the grassroots project in partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society in 2013. This was her first opportunity to know about the role of forests in climate change mitigation and learn about REDD+ mechanism. This

¹⁶ UN-REDD Programme. 2011. The business case for mainstreaming gender in REDD+. Available at: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/Low_Res_Bus_Case_Mainstreaming%20Gender_REDD+.pdf

was followed by a series of community level training programs, in her township, providing her more opportunities to build her knowledge and also her confidence to emerge as local level facilitator. Using cascade approach in the grassroots project. Ms. Chaw finally got an opportunity to lead a community level training programs and proving her facilitation skills and REDD+ knowledge. Recognizing her skills and enhanced knowledge, the group of local level facilitators nominated her to attend pre-World Forestry Congress meeting in Bangkok, followed by another nomination to represent local stakeholders in XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban in September 2015 and delivering a speech to share the concerns and aspirations of local stakeholders on REDD+ to international audiences.

Ms. Yuliatin: A preacher and change maker from Indonesia

Ms. Yuliatin is a preacher living near Meru Beriti National Park in East Java in Indonesia. She had never been invited to any training until got an opportunity from the one training organized by the REDD+ Grassroots project. She was selected as the one representative of Islamic women preachers from her village to participating in the training on climate change and SFM in September 2011. From the training, she learned basic concept of climate change and how does it affect to local livelihoods. Furthermore, she has got to know more about an importance of forests reducing the impacts of climate change. She came back to her village and has communicated and spread this knowledge to wider community members – starting from her family, women preachers in her village and other members in the village. Inspired by this, the women preachers arranged their own first training by inviting 35 women in the villages to learn together. Learning from the challenges to build a better understanding among participants group, in a follow up training, Ms. Yuliatin developed a new strategy by planning and co-organizing with a religious leader of the village and invited a facilitator from LATIN, one of the partners of the REDD+ Grassroots project, to support her group in the training. Such a networking not only yielded better training results, but also added to her confidence, leading to a regular sharing and training for a few stakeholder groups in her village. Despite some social challenges and a misperception from some community members, Ms. Yuliatin has continued to expand the network of women preachers and has been working continuously to promoting SFM to address climate change challenges in their own locality. She later on also attended Asia Pacific Forestry Week organized by FAO in 2016 in Philippines and shared her experiences as local level facilitators and gender champion.

A woman participating in training is so uncommon in our village – people just are not used to it. But my belief is this – when you keep something smelly, it will smell bad. But if you keep something good, it will always be good. I am doing something good for my forest and my people. They will understand this eventually. I am not worried about what people think. My father always told me – don't be afraid to fight for something right - Yuliatin quoted

- **Advocate for sustainable forest management:** The REDD+ capacity development program built on participatory approaches and local knowledge of women helped in changing the attitude and building confidence among grassroots women. With enhanced capacity, grassroots women took a range of initiatives to sustainably manage the forests for REDD+. A story of a group of trained women members of Gung Re commune in Lam Dong province in Viet Nam is a prime example of how they have been able to make use of new knowledge on climate change and REDD+ (See Box 4 below).

Box 4: Collective action of women union to stop deforestation in Vietnam

Members of women union in Lang Cu village in Gung Re commune, after attending REDD+ and SFM training program in Lam Dong Province appreciated the importance of knowledge received from the training program and decided to apply it in their own locality. About 40 members of the women union took an initiative to play an active role in forest management and protection of Lang Cu village and established a “Women in Forest Management and Protection” group in 2013. The group has now a total of 57 members and works as a watchdog and plays a very important role in forest protection the community forest area. The strategy adopted by the group includes reducing and monitoring tree cutting and initiating new plantations with full compliance to government’s laws and regulations on forest protection. To execute the strategy, each group member is given a responsibility of disseminating knowledge about climate change, REDD+ and SFM to at least three households in the village and convinces them not to deforest. The efforts of the women union members started yielding positive results, and as we report the progress of the project, it was reported that 6-10 households of the village, who were earlier involved in deforestation, have stopped it.

“Since the last trainings of RECOFTC, we have been told about how and why we should protect our forest with clear lectures and examples. Based on what facilitator delivered to us, we shared the content of REDD+ with our villagers in the thematic meetings or as part of our women regular meetings agenda. We even discovered and support government to appeal 19 cases of deforestation activities” - Ms. Tran Thi Le, Chairperson of Women Union.

- **Lessons Learned:** For gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development, one of the key challenges was to find an appropriate partner organization in the project countries (Silori and Wiset, 2015¹⁷). Further, because gender is a socio-cultural construct in certain societies, rigid social norms prevent greater participation of women in training programs at a local level, as demonstrated by the story of Ms. Yuliatin in Indonesia. This required, at times, additional allocation of budget and family consent to accommodate company in distant travel, posing physical and psychological pressure on women. In order to sustain the initiatives on enhanced recognition of gender aspects in REDD+ discussion and capacity development of grassroots women for climate change policies, efforts of the project should be replicated at a broader level. In addition, there is a need to translate acknowledgement by global development community regarding role of women in REDD+ into action through appropriate policy directions and institutional level interventions for a greater participation of women in decision processes and tangible actions.
- **PARTNERS:** The project is working with a total of 20 partner organizations, as listed below.

Country	Partner organization
Indonesia	● Center for Forestry Education Training, Ministry of Forestry

¹⁷Silori C. and Wiset K. 2015. Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development. In L. Aguilar, M. Granat, and C. Owren (Authors), *Roots for the future: the landscape and way forward on gender and climate change*. (pp. 452-455) Washington, DC: IUCN & GGCA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yayasan Komunitas Belajar Indonesia (YAKOBI) ● Lembaga, Alam Tropika Indonesia (LATIN) ● Forum Komunikasi Kehutanan Masyarakat (FKKM)
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry ● Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos ● Participatory Development and Training Centre
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forest ● Wildlife Conservation Society ● Friends of Wildlife ● Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal ● Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association ● Forest Action ● National REDD Cell, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Forestry Sub-Department of Bac Kan province ● The Forestry Sub-Department of Ha Tinh province ● Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ca Mau province ● The Agriculture Extension Centre of Lam Dong province ● Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas

- **GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:** The project is being implemented in following locations in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam

Country	Project implementation location (District/Province)
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● East and West Kalimantan, East and West Java, South Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Luang Prabang, Houhphanh and Saravan Provinces
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Layshe and Kantee Townships in Khantee District in Sagaing Region ● Yateshe Township, Taungoo District, Bago Division ● Bogalay and Phyarpon Townships, Phyarpon District, Arrewady Region
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terai Region: Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Surkhet, Banke, Bardia, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, Sarlahi and Makwanpur Districts ● Mid-hills (Central Nepal): Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalchowk and Bhaktapur dsitriacts ● Eastern Nepal: Ilam, Jhapa, Morang Districts
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bac Kan, Ca Mau, Lam Dong and Ha Tinh Provinces

- 3.1 **PHOTO:** Please attach a representative photo that can be used on Norad's website. Please send it in JPEG, in the format 16:9: 1200px x 675px or 4:3: 1200px x 900px. It is also important that you have the rights to the photo (i.e. that it is not downloaded from the internet), and that you include the name of the photographer.

4. Project's accounts for last year:

4.1 The accounts must relate to the approved budget for the year in question. All deviations (positive and/ or negative) must be clearly shown and explained.

Below is a summary of expenditure against available funds (in NOK) for the final year of the project covering a period of 18 months (January 2015 – June 2016). The summary of expenditure against outputs can be found in the table 4 and the country wise expenditure can be seen through the table 5. While a detailed audited account of expenses is presented in Annex 7. It is to explain here that there is a slight variation between carry forward budget from 2014 and auditor's report 2014, mainly because of the use of different currencies to calculate Administrative overheads (7% of actual expenditures). In auditor's report, we calculate overheads base on actual expenditures in Thai baht and then converted total expenditures (overheads included) to Norwegian Krone (NOK) currency. While in the original budget file, total expenditure is converted into to Norwegian Krone (NOK) before calculating overheads.

Table 4: The summary of expenditure against outputs (January 2015 – June 2016)

Budget Line	Carry forward funds from 2014	Funds allocation for 2015	Total funds available (revision) for 2015	Total Expenditure	Balance
	NOK	NOK	NOK	NOK	NOK
Project Coordinator Salary	150,595.14	375,005.86	525,601.00	525,532.18	68.82
Project Officer Salary	117,473.16	292,526.84	410,000.00	410,054.66	(54.66)
Project Assistant Salary	60,455.70	150,544.30	211,000.00	210,904.17	95.83
National Coordinator Salary	808,079.00	1,040,912.00	1,848,991.00	1,845,447.78	3,543.22
Project Management cost	0.00	370,284.00	370,284.00	393,842.90	(23,558.90)
Subtotal - Human resource and project management cost	1,136,603.00	2,229,273.00	3,365,876.00	3,385,781.70	(19,905.70)
Training material development cost, including regional	525,098.00	16,446.00	541,544.00	540,188.43	1,355.57
Monitoring and evaluation -OP1	4,692.00	90,181.00	94,873.00	93,337.57	1,535.43
Subtotal - Output 1: Training Package Development	529,790.00	106,627.00	636,417.00	633,526.00	2,891.00
Training of trainers program for partner organizations,	77,423.00	376,214.00	453,637.00	448,810.37	4,826.63
Monitoring and evaluation -OP2	113,500.00	83,279.00	196,779.00	193,030.62	3,748.38
Subtotal - Output 2: Training of Trainers Program	190,923.00	459,493.00	650,416.00	641,840.99	8,575.01
Training and awareness program for grassroots stakeholders	42,294.00	445,747.00	488,041.00	493,865.77	(5,824.77)

Budget Line	Carry forward funds from 2014	Funds allocation for 2015	Total funds available (revision) for 2015	Total Expenditure	Balance
	NOK	NOK	NOK	NOK	NOK
Training and awareness program for women stakeholders	62,752.00	258,721.00	321,473.00	311,290.21	10,182.79
Monitoring and evaluation - OP3	2,741.00	75,860.00	78,601.00	79,808.02	(1,207.02)
Subtotal - Output 3: Grassroots Training Program	107,787.00	780,328.00	888,115.00	884,963.99	3,151.01
Documentation of aspirations and concerns of grassroots	11,933.00	408,000.00	419,933.00	422,268.33	(2,335.33)
National refresher cum reflection workshop	148,968.00	317,613.00	466,581.00	462,145.39	4,435.61
Subtotal - Output 4: Documentation of grassroots aspirations and concerns	160,901.00	725,613.00	886,514.00	884,413.71	2,100.29
Establishing communication channels	157,225.00	254,136.00	411,361.00	413,785.81	(2,424.81)
Dissemination of project experiences & lessons learned	25,606.00	250,000.00	275,606.00	277,259.86	(1,653.86)
Regional reflection workshop	204,537.00	423,396.00	627,933.00	620,685.88	7,247.12
Mid-term and final review of the project		222,544.00	222,544.00	222,249.25	294.75
Subtotal - Output 5: Dissemination and Networking	387,368.00	1,150,076.00	1,537,444.00	1,533,980.80	3,463.20
Administrative overheads @7%	175,936.00	381,599.00	557,535.00	559,078.26	(1,543.26)
Subtotal	175,936.00	381,599.00	557,535.00	559,078.26	(1,543.26)
Grand Total	2,689,308.00	5,833,009.00	8,522,317.00	8,523,585.45	(1,268.45)

Table 5: The summary of location wise expenditure (January 2015 – June 2016)

Budget heads	Regional			Indonesia			Lao PDR			Myanmar		
	Total fund available	Expenditure	Balance	Total fund available	Expenditure	Balance	Total fund available	Expenditure	Balance	Total fund available	Expenditure	Balance
Project staff cost	1,146,601.00	1,146,496.86	104.14	375,546.00	375,310.14	235.86	322,087.00	319,883.49	2,203.51	371,789.00	371,695.14	93.86
Project management cost	80,000.00	83,432.88	(3,432.88)	49,020.00	51,345.15	(2,325.15)	79,533.00	87,229.81	(7,696.81)	40,979.00	43,011.74	(2,032.74)
Output 1	187,439.00	187,039.92	399.08	122,282.00	122,225.62	56.38	116,355.00	116,595.35	(240.35)	75,331.00	75,492.81	(161.81)
Output 2	33,987.00	34,557.26	(570.26)	50,287.00	49,612.14	674.86	264,402.00	257,440.13	6,961.87	118,464.00	117,511.34	952.66
Output 3	38,757.00	38,843.81	(86.81)	111,303.00	109,860.25	1,442.75	177,817.00	178,066.04	(249.04)	317,880.00	318,724.95	(844.95)
Output 4	66,374.00	61,597.96	4,776.04	290,428.00	289,868.01	559.99	79,069.00	79,237.43	(168.43)	164,997.00	164,639.47	357.53
Output 5	251,221.00	248,771.29	2,449.71	382,625.00	383,280.84	(655.84)	223,584.00	224,559.61	(975.61)	212,373.00	212,401.95	(28.95)
Total	1,804,379.00	1,800,739.99	3,639.01	1,381,491.00	1,381,502.15	(11.15)	1,262,847.00	1,263,011.86	(164.86)	1,301,813.00	1,303,477.39	(1,664.39)
Admin charges	126,307.00	126,256.89	50.11	96,704.00	96,771.95	(67.95)	88,399.00	88,918.20	(519.20)	91,127.00	91,362.96	(235.96)
Grand Total	1,930,686.00	1,926,996.88	3,689.12	1,478,195.00	1,478,274.10	(79.10)	1,351,246.00	1,351,930.06	(684.06)	1,392,940.00	1,394,840.35	(1,900.35)

Budget heads	Nepal			Vietnam			Total		
	Total fund available	Expenditure	Balance	Total fund available	Expenditure	Balance	Total fund available	Expenditure	Balance
Project staff cost	408,055.00	407,821.81	233.19	371,514.00	370,731.36	782.64	2,995,592.00	2,991,938.80	3,653.20
Project management cost	80,777.00	88,648.81	(7,871.81)	39,975.00	40,174.50	(199.50)	370,284.00	393,842.90	(23,558.90)
Output 1	64,719.00	62,439.37	2,279.63	70,291.00	69,732.93	558.07	636,417.00	633,526.00	2,891.00
Output 2	25,367.00	26,051.74	(684.74)	157,909.00	156,668.38	1,240.62	650,416.00	641,840.99	8,575.01
Output 3	109,171.00	106,194.43	2,976.57	133,187.00	133,274.51	(87.51)	888,115.00	884,963.99	3,151.01
Output 4	199,511.00	201,576.68	(2,065.68)	86,135.00	87,494.17	(1,359.17)	886,514.00	884,413.71	2,100.29
Output 5	219,008.00	215,632.80	3,375.20	248,633.00	249,334.31	(701.31)	1,537,444.00	1,533,980.80	3,463.20
Total	1,106,608.00	1,108,365.65	(1,757.65)	1,107,644.00	1,107,410.15	233.85	7,964,782.00	7,964,507.19	274.81
Admin charges	77,463.00	78,032.37	(569.37)	77,535.00	77,735.89	(200.89)	557,535.00	559,078.26	(1,543.26)
Grand Total	1,184,071.00	1,186,398.02	(2,327.02)	1,185,179.00	1,185,146.04	32.96	8,522,317.00	8,523,585.45	(1,268.45)

Summary of project expenditure for entire project period (2013-16)

Details	2013		2014		2015-16	
	In Thai Baht	In NOK	In Thai Baht	In NOK	In Thai Baht	In NOK
Fund received	17,454,232.80	3,401,210.81	30,036,725.40	5,833,000.00	24,898,345.00	5,833,000.00
Interests received			17,891.19	4,196.07	24,012.20	5,792.21
Total fund received	17,454,232.80	3,401,210.81	30,054,616.59	5,837,196.07	24,922,357.20	5,838,792.21
Funds carried forward			6,896,031.65	1,319,920.65	13,146,650.83	2,688,220.28
Total available fund per year	17,454,232.80	3,401,210.81	36,950,648.24	7,157,116.72	38,069,008.03	8,527,012.49
Expenditures						
Project Coordinator Salary	1,383,345.27	272,461.08	3,509,970.73	659,879.09	2,528,392.61	525,532.18
Project Officer Salary	554,698.53	110,059.21	999,101.03	187,522.37	1,827,564.92	410,054.66
Project Assistant Salary	807,453.54	160,208.99	781,173.11	146,181.83	941,989.59	210,904.17
National Coordinator Salary	1,255,795.37	249,165.79	3,218,909.49	606,006.26	8,286,658.07	1,845,447.78
Project Management cost	839,641.62	164,240.93	1,910,583.92	347,590.54	1,739,261.63	393,842.90
Inception and planning workshops	211,929.52	42,049.51				
Capacity Building Needs Assessment	292,233.07	59,980.05	301,748.10	58,657.42		
Training material development cost	146,166.07	29,001.21	2,126,776.91	407,843.01	2,377,220.25	540,188.43
Monitoring and evaluation -OP1			371,549.43	74,409.97	416,495.27	93,337.57
Training of trainers program for partner organizations	1,171,084.45	228,216.22	1,677,531.79	315,037.32	2,027,725.30	448,810.37
Monitoring and evaluation -OP2			304,837.11	62,001.21	851,691.73	193,030.62
Training and awareness program for grassroots stakeholders	186,591.46	38,738.87	1,307,577.66	238,037.60	2,177,924.71	493,865.77
Training and awareness program for women stakeholders	167,405.92	32,070.11	925,613.40	176,100.67	1,421,587.30	311,290.21
REDD+ and climate change training program for media			248,245.16	45,887.03		

Details	2013		2014		2015-16	
	In Thai Baht	In NOK	In Thai Baht	In NOK	In Thai Baht	In NOK
Monitoring and evaluation - OP3	13,433.79	2,573.52	478,192.94	95,598.84	364,022.27	79,808.02
Documentation of aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders	483,149.62	94,873.84	1,243,002.66	228,536.03	1,761,464.86	422,268.33
National refresher cum reflection workshop	1,171,492.40	233,464.75	733,148.15	138,784.79	2,004,451.26	462,145.39
Establishing communication channels	114,021.56	22,623.32	910,988.56	176,745.59	1,867,281.94	413,785.81
Dissemination of project experiences & lessons learned	412,357.21	80,707.47	837,931.35	140,330.94	1,207,405.93	277,259.86
Regional reflection workshop	656,678.31	126,057.55	72,997.51	15,356.19	2,777,110.56	620,685.88
Mid-term and final review			287,068.57	53,651.66	986,942.91	222,249.25
Administrative cost (7%)	690,723.44	134,797.74	1,557,049.83	294,738.08	2,489,563.45	559,078.26
Total	10,558,201.15	2,081,290.16	23,803,997.41	4,468,896.44	38,054,754.56	8,523,585.46
Balance remaining	6,896,031.65	1,319,920.65	13,146,650.83	2,688,220.28	14,253.47	3,427.03

Annex 1: Check list of publications produced from the grassroots project

List of publications	Language versions produced (No. of Copies)						Total no. of copies
	English	IND	Laos	MYN	Nepal i	VN	
Training Manuals							
• REDD+ Training Manual and reading materials	<i>(Under revision)</i>	500	<i>(Under revision)</i>	<i>(Under revision)</i>	1,000	<i>(Under revision)</i>	1,500
• Putting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into Practice in REDD+ Initiatives Training Manual	1,000				500	330	1,830
• Improving grassroots equity in forests and climate change context Training Manual	500						500
Guidebooks							
• Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+: Principles and Approaches for Policy and Project Development	500	500	500	500	500	500	3,000
• Religion script guidebook with integration of CC and SFM (Bahasa Indonesia)		150					150
Handbooks/ Booklets							
• Climate Change, Forests, and You Q & A Booklet	3,000	1,020	1,600	1000	1,500	3,020	11,140
• REDD+, Governance, and Community Forestry	2,200						2,200
• Gender in REDD+: A handbook for Grassroots Facilitators	2,000	500	1,300	1000	1,000	1,000	6,800
• Free, Prior & Informed Consent in REDD+: A handbook for grassroots facilitators	1,000	500	500	500	1,000	1,000	4,500
• Equity in climate change and REDD+: A handbook for grassroots facilitators	1,000	500	✓*		500	✓*	2,000
• REDD+ glossary book			500			500	1,000
• Is Nepal getting ready for REDD+					300		300
• Case Study on Climate Change and REDD+ in Nepal					300		300
• Social equity in community forests: Two case studies from Nepal					200		200
• Forests and climate change after Durban	2,020	500	500		500	700	4,220
• REDD+ social and environmental safeguards					500		500

List of publications	Language versions produced (No. of Copies)						Total no. of copies
	English	IND	Laos	MYN	Nepal i	VN	
• Story of change	100						100
Flyers							
• Project Brochure (Project Phase III)	2,100	500	500	500	1,000	1,000	
• Grassroots Concerns and Issues on REDD+ Flyers	100						100
Posters(In a set, 5 – 7 posters per one set)							
• CC, Forests and REDD+ (in context of SFM)	(E-version)	200	500	500	1,000		700
• Maingstreaming gender in SFM			100				100
Calendar							
• CC, Forests and REDD+ (in context of SFM)			250		2,000		2,250
Radio and Video							
• CC, Forests and REDD+ (in context of SFM)					✓		Broadcasting
Discussion paper/ Policy Brief							
• Journal of Forest and Livelihood Vol.11(2) 2013	✓						E-version only
• Discussion paper on the Grassroots Concern and Issues in Nepal							E-version only
• Synthesis paper on the Grassroots Concern and Issues in Nepal					✓		E-version only
• Project Lessons Learned in Nepal Booklet					✓		E-version only
• Policy Brief on the Grassroots Concern and Issues in Indonesia		200					200
• Synthesis Papers on Grassroots Concern and Issues in Indonesia		200					200
• Discussion paper on the Grassroots Concern and Issues in Vietnam							E-version only
• Working paper of Participatory Traning Approach in Vietnam						✓	E-version

List of publications	Language versions produced (No. of Copies)						Total no. of copies
	English	IND	Laos	MYN	Nepal i	VN	
							only
• Discussion paper on Grassroots Concern and Issues on REDD+ in Myanmar				✓			E-version only
• Discussion paper on "Social and gender equity issues in forestry and REDD+ in Myanmar"	500			✓			500
Newsletters							
• Issue 01 – Issue 10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E-version only

Annex 2: Graphical representation of cascade approach for capacity development



Annex 3: Attendance in various events to share project's experiences, achievements and lessons

Name of event	When	Project team member	Role/contribution in the event
International			
UNFOCC COP 20 (2014), Lima Peru	December 2014	Project Coordinator	Contributed in a panel discussion of a side event focusing on "Approaches to equity in forest governance: Lessons for safeguard development", jointly organized by RECOFTC and IIED ¹⁸
XIV World Forestry Congress 2015, Durban South Africa	September 2015	Project Coordinator	Presented a paper based on the project experiences ¹⁹ and contributed in a number of other panel discussions
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW), Philippines	February 2016	Indonesia Country Project Officer	Contributed in a session on Gender-inclusive communication for achieving the SDGs and also shared the project's poster on gender mainstreaming in REDD+
Oslo REDD Exchange, Oslo	June 2016	Project Coordinator	Attended
Regional			
Workshop on REDD+ social Safeguards Information System, Jakarta	September 2014	Project Coordinator	Attended and facilitated a session on REDD+ safeguards capacity development and associated monitoring of SIS
Asia Regional Workshop on Community Forest Rights and Strengthening Forest Associations	June-July 2015	Grassroots facilitators from Vietnam, Indonesia and Nepal	Shared their experiences on community forestry rights in the context of REDD+ ²⁰
The Asia and the Pacific pre-World Forestry Congress	July 2015	Grassroots facilitators from all five countries	Shared the projects experiences from the countries

¹⁸<http://www.recoftc.org/events/recoftc-cop20> or <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop20/enbots/3dec.html#event5>

¹⁹<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/2d278a25-1cba-4290-bdc8-ef789e206a9c/>

²⁰<http://www.recoftc.org/newsletter/grassroots-redd-newsletter-issue-8>

Annex 4: Summary of the progress against indicators provided by Norad in February 2014

Models adopted/piloted and practices changed: The grassroots project used some innovative models and practices to develop the capacity of grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+. These models were found very successful, and cost effective, and therefore were also replicated by other organizations in the project countries.

Name of the model and/or change in practice concerned	Country and location	Model tested and/or change in practice at what level?		Comment
		National	Regional/ local	
Competency based framework to conduct REDD+ Capacity Development Need Assessment (CDNA)	Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam	National	Regional/ International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grassroots project developed a competency based REDD+ capacity development framework in 2010, which has been continuously refined and updated. Such a framework was then used to develop an international level CDNA framework by the Alliance for Global REDD+ Capacity (AGRC), a consortium of Conservation International, IUCN, CATIE and RECOFTC.
Cascade approach for capacity development	Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cascade approach has been tested and replicated in a total of 59 REDD+ grassroots capacity development events at national and sub-national level 141 events of REDD+ awareness 	Regional and local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cascade approach is a key modality to build capacity of grassroots stakeholders (Annex 2). This approach has proved effective in bridging the flow of REDD+ knowledge from top to down and bringing grassroots voices up to policy levels. Cascade model of capacity development has been adopted by nearly 20 in-country partner organizations in five countries and also by other similar projects, such as USAID funded Haryo Ban program in Nepal, WCS in Myanmar, and CFET in Indonesia.

		raising at grassroots level		
Engaging religious leaders and women preachers for capacity development	Indonesia and Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious leaders and preachers were engaged in REDD+ awareness raising 	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Indonesia and Myanmar the project has successfully engaged with local religious leaders to raise awareness on climate change and REDD+. In Indonesia particularly, women preachers have actively and effectively played a role in awareness raising and mobilizing local women for further awareness raising in Jember in East Java and Berau district in east Kalimantan.

Adoption of REDD+ safeguards (UNFCC Cancun Safeguards): The REDD+ Grassroots project is closely aligned to directly contribute in two categories of REDD+ safeguards – respect for knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, and the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities. Training programs on FPIC in REDD+ delivered at regional, national and sub-national level contributed in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, while an inclusive approach used to select training participants contributed in promoting full and effective participation. Through such approach project included women, ethnic and marginal groups of the community in training programs and encouraged them to voice their concerns in grassroots consultations. The gender disaggregated data presented earlier is an example of this. These efforts are then supported by developing facilitation skills of the training participants and giving them an opportunity to practice new skills, using cascade models of capacity development, as reported earlier. Project also supported the process of review and discussion on REDD+ social safeguards at national level such as organizing the national consultation workshop on safeguards in Lao PDR and organized national consultation meetings on REDD+ social safeguards principles developed in Myanmar. The project also contributed in organizing a series of consultations meeting leading upto UNFCC COP20 to build the capacity of national stakeholders and develop communication material of equity in climate change.

Safeguard category	Change	Your organisation and/or partner(s)' contribution
Transparent and effective national forest governance structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained and informed grassroots facilitators have been able to share their voices and be involved in REDD+ discourse at various levels, from grassroots up to national level (Outcome 2). There are evidences of community forestry user groups in Nepal updating their local level management plans to incorporate climate change and REDD+ issues. 	The project and its partner organizations have contributed significantly in developing the capacity of grassroots stakeholders on climate change and REDD+, empowered them with simplified knowledge products and build their skills to articulate their aspirations and concerns about climate change and REDD+ to policy makers (Outcome 1).
Respect for the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressive change in knowledge among project 	RECOFTC through REDD+ Grassroots project has been in the forefront

<p>knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities</p>	<p>stakeholders with regards to the importance of FPIC, gender mainstreaming and equity in REDD+ (Outcome 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives taken by forestry user groups to advocate for rights to FPIC in local level forest management interventions, as reported from Nepal, Indonesia and Myanmar (Outcome 1) 	<p>of developing training products on FPIC in the region, and making it available to grassroots stakeholders and local level facilitators to use and replicate (Outcome 1).</p> <p>A series of training programs on REDD+ safeguards, such as FPIC, gender mainstreaming and equity in REDD+ under the grassroots project have contributed in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (Outcome 1).</p>
<p>The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced access of grassroots stakeholders to REDD+ and climate change knowledge products (Outcome 1) • Greater advocacy by partner organizations and other key stakeholders for social inclusion and gender equity in REDD+ policy and planning process (Outcome 2) • Formation of local level working group in Meru Betiri National Park to coordinate the climate change and REDD+ activities at district level (Outcome 2) • Significant shift in attitude among local level forest users and the managers towards the importance of forests in addressing climate change challenges (Outcome 2) • Significant shift in attitude among local level forest users and the managers towards the importance of forests in addressing climate change challenges (Outcome 2) • Gung Re commune in Lam Dong province established a women only forest management and protection group after attending gender mainstreaming training (www.recoftc.org/basic- 	<p>The project adopted multi-pronged strategy to enhance the participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular women, ethnic groups, and indigenous people. Some of the key steps are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification of global discourse on REDD+ and climate change and making it available to grassroots communities (Outcome 1). The access to such knowledge was a fundamental step forward to empower them. • Dedicated training programs to build facilitation skills of partner organizations and local level facilitators to promote participatory approaches (Outcome 1) • Dedicated training programs for women stakeholders, helping to achieve more than 40% women participants in various capacity development events (Outcome 1) • Providing learning and sharing platforms to the grassroots stakeholders in regional and international events such as the World Forestry Congress, Asia Pacific Forestry Week, and UNFCCC COP (Outcome 2).

	page/stories-change-empowering-local-communities-fairer-future-all) (Outcome 2)	
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Changes in policy and plans for land use in targeted landscape: Keeping the scope of the project in mind, while it is challenging to directly attribute contribution of capacity development activities to changes in policy and plans in a short period of time, there are concrete evidences of project’s contribution to REDD+ policy discourse in the project countries. As reported earlier, the project has organized a series of consultations with informed grassroots stakeholders to document their aspirations and concerns, facilitated local level policy dialogues and published a range of communication products (Annex 1), including policy briefs and discussion papers, to effectively advocate and raise the voice of grassroots stakeholders in ongoing REDD+ discourse in the project countries.

Name of law, policy etc. and type of change (including NAMA’s ²¹)	Location/ jurisdiction	Date of change	Weblink and description
Ministry of Forestry Regulation No. 89/2014 on Hutan Desa: More rights to Hutan Desa (Community Forestry)	National - Indonesia	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECOFTC’s Indonesia Country Program (ICP) team and Grassroots project’s partners such as FKMM (Forum for Community Forestry) and LATIN are actively engaged in advocating rights for local communities, indigenous people and women. • RECOFTC-ICP participated in policy meetings organized by Ministry of Forest and Environment
Ministry of Forestry Regulation No. 88/2014 on HKM: More rights to HKM forest users	National - Indonesia	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above
Formulation of Land use policy (7 th Draft) The policy recognizes customary land tenure right and role of gender in tenure of land	National - Myanmar	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECOFTC’s Myanmar Country Program (MCP) team actively participated in multi-stakeholders discussions on formulation of landuse policy changes. • Grassroots project has organized a national level consultation meeting on gender mainstreaming in forestry and REDD+ and brought out a discussion paper to inform policy makers. <p>http://www.recoftc.org/project/grassroots-capacity-building-redd/issue-</p>

²¹ NAMA – Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions

			papers/social-and-gender-equity-issues-forestry-and-redd-myanmar
Revision of Community Forestry Instructions (1995)	National - Myanmar	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECOFTC MCP has been instrumental in formulating CF National Working Group (CFNWG) for policy dialogues. The Working Groups is accepted and fully functional • CF commercialization has been included in the new version of revised instruction • Grassroots project partners in Myanmar such as WCS and FREDA are members of CFNWG
Forest Policy 2014 (new) – New directives to increase CF up to 60% of total forested areas by 2025 CF Guidelines 2014 (amendment) – Inclusion of gender and social inclusion policy in the guidelines	National - Nepal	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots project partners, FECOFUN and HIMAWANTI are active member to advocate and contribute in Forest Policy 2014 targeted to increase CF • HIMAWANTI with enhanced capacities and organizing a series of grassroots level consultations on climate change and REDD+ has played an important role in advocating for gender and social inclusion in CF guidelines and in climate change and REDD+
Incorporating REDD+ and climate change agenda in CF management plans	Local- Nepal	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent mid-term review of the project in Nepal revealed that 44% of the interviewed members of community forestry users group have reported incorporating REDD+ and climate change agenda while amending CF constitutions and operation plans

Contribution to International Consensus on REDD+: The project took a range of initiatives to contribute to building an international consensus on REDD+, as described below:

- A policy brief was published by RECOFTC, with contribution from the REDD+ Grassroots project on “Community Forestry: A national approach to safeguard information system (SIS)”, the policy brief was presented and disseminated in the side event at COP 20, Lima, Peru. <http://www.recoftc.org/policy-briefs/community-forestry-national-approach-safeguard-information-systems-sis>
- Based on regional training program on REDD+ SIS, held in Jakarta, RECOFTC and the project submitted its response to draft SBSTA 41 call for guidance on REDD+, focusing on “Community Forestry and community-based forest landscape management: An important existing framework for safeguard information system design, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

- The project supported RECOFTC and its partners to organizing the Asia Region National Workshops on Forests, Climate Change and Equity ahead of COP 21, in Lao PDR and Vietnam. The results of discussion were produced as the analytical paper, presented and disseminated at COP 21, Paris, France <http://www.recoftc.org/reports/equity-forests-and-redd>

Contribution to National level consensus on REDD+: Similar to international level, at national level in five project countries, the project participated in a range of activities in order to contribute in national consensus on REDD+

- The REDD+ Grassroots project has aligned its capacity development activities closely with key national level agencies, such as Department of Forests, National REDD+ working groups and other multi-lateral and bilateral agencies, including UN-REDD in Viet Nam and Indonesia.
- The consortium approach to develop national level REDD+ training materials in Nepal and Myanmar, and subsequent endorsement of such material by National REDD+ Implementation Cell in Nepal and Department of Forests in Myanmar helped achieving a consensus on REDD+ at national level. Additionally, cascading up of grassroots concerns and issues to the policy makers in project countries also are directed towards bringing changes in national policies and plans, which ultimately will contribute to developing international consensus on REDD+.
- In Indonesia, REDD+ training curriculum has been mainstreamed by Centre for Forestry Education and Training (CFET) – a national level training center of Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- Contributions of the project team members and partners to REDD+ policy process development meetings and events, e.g., in Nepal, FECOFUN and HIMWANTI are members of REDD+ working group.

Annex 5: Partner organizations commitments to promote a sustainability of the project

Indonesia

- Integrating climate change and REDD+ related training sessions into CFET training curricula.
- YAKOBI will continue to build cooperation with local government and other CSOs to replicate this capacity program to the other sub districts in Berau and strengthen a network of religious leaders to further enhance the outreach of knowledge sharing.
- LATIN will expand more awareness raising programs in their target areas and support an establishment of a learning network on climate change relevant issues among the teachers and schools in those areas. They aim to promote a multi stakeholders collaboration to enforce law and regulation around the *Meru Betiri* National Park and support livelihoods development for communities.
- FKKM will continue to share the voices and grassroots concerns to all stakeholders and disseminate these concerns through their networking and communication forum.

Lao PDR

- The staff of the Women Advancement Committee and Lao Women Union members under the Department of Forestry, who were trained and formed as the facilitator team, became the focal team to mobilize knowledge on gender mainstreaming in sustainable forest management at grassroots level.
- RDA will continue a yearly youth training program and commits to adopt the knowledge topics of climate change, sustainable forest management and REDD+ into their core training themes, which include environmental education and biodiversity conservation. Environmental summer camps are planned and weekend workshops for students will continue, including intensive training programs.

Myanmar

- Coordination among a network of the trainees would be enhanced; so as to continue raising awareness on climate change, sustainable forest management and REDD+ and other relevant issues.
- Partner organizations will keep sharing knowledge on these particular issues during awareness raising activities under their existing and future projects, such as the community based natural resources management program of WCS and the community forest development programs of FoW and FREDa.
- Climate change and REDD+ posters will be translated into the two ethnic languages (Shan and Kachin) by FoW, in order to increase access of information on REDD+ to these communities.
- Sharing knowledge, especially about climate change and the roles of forests, will be encouraged and promoted at the community level and to relevant stakeholder groups including village leaders, religious groups and ethnic groups.
- Several forms of activities were proposed in the workshop to maintain a mobilization of these knowledge topics; for example, organizing environmental days regularly, delivering speeches on these issues and enhancing community forestry and forest conservation to community households.

Nepal

Key partner organizations shared commitments in the workshop and in other formal and informal meetings, as detailed below.

- REDD IC: The Joint Secretary and Chief of REDD IC agreed to replicate the approach of grassroots capacity building in to their future programs to promote REDD+ development in the country.
- FECOFUN committed to provide an enabling environment for LRPs to play increased roles at national and sub-national levels and to be self-sustaining in mobilizing the trained

knowledge. These LRPs will be engaged in the FECOFUN network for advocating community rights. FECOFUN is fully responsible for generating resources at national and sub-national levels from governmental and/or non-governmental sources. FECOFUN will keep LRPs updated on latest scenarios of climate change and REDD+ discussed at national and international organizations.

- HIMAWANTI will incorporate the experiences on grassroots capacity building for REDD+ into design and planning of capacity development programs. HIMAWANTI will also support trained LRPs in their district networks to be alert in sharing knowledge with communities and encourage LRPs to be proactive and involved in relevant work at national and sub-national levels. HIMAWANTI will focus on generating a fund for climate change and REDD+ and utilizing lessons learned from the grassroots project in the future.

Viet Nam

- At the Sub-Department of Forestry of Bac Kan, free, prior and informed consent has been applied in the planning and implementation of its activities and will continue because it helps activities gain more support from local communities. Grassroots concerns and aspirations identified were shared and are included in the provincial REDD+ action plan (PRAP) UN-REDD phase II. Local facilitators, government officials and other participants trained by the project are now working for UN-REDD phase II and other projects/ programs.
- Local key facilitators trained in Ha Tinh province are able to apply the methods and skills learned in their organizations. Some of these trained facilitators are now working for UN-REDD program phase II in the province in such positions as core members, or main collaborators of the provincial communication working group. Other people trained are also actively engaged in different activities of UN-REDD Phase II such as the development of Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP), and Site-level REDD+ Action Plan (SiRAP). They also engage in different communication activities for forest protection, training and awareness raising for communities on gender and helping UN-REDD program with mainstreaming gender issues in PRAP and SiRAP.
- In Vu Quang district, a project site in Ha Tinh province, livelihoods activities linking to forest protection, for example, beekeeping are still going on. Co-operatives for beekeeping for the purpose of income generation and forest protection at the same time have been established.
- As a result of working in grassroots capacity development with RECOFTC, Ha Tinh Center for Community Development (HCCD), a local NGO partner has already been aware and seriously considered the elements related to forest protection and gender issues in HCCD annual planning. Le Van Dinh, the Director of HCCD has become a core member of UN-REDD phase II provincial communication working group.
- The Lam Dong Agriculture Extension Center will propose several environment-friendly programs including low-carbon emission in agriculture production between 2016 and 2020. These programs will include multiple technical measures to reduce possible negative impacts of climate change. The local facilitators including trained staff from the center apply knowledge and skills learned in its extension activities, especially in technology transfer and communication.
- In Ca Mau province the trained local facilitators are playing an important role in UN-REDD Phase II in the province. The provincial grassroots project coordinator is currently the UN-

REDD program coordinator. He has been making use of his knowledge of REDD+ and skills. The local facilitators of the grassroots project are participating as core members of REDD+ provincial communication working group and core members of participatory forest governance assessment group of UN-REDD Phase II in the province. The trained people are engaged in REDD+ readiness preparation in Vietnam.