

# **GFP National Workshop on Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation**

**3-4 February 2011**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**



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**Satdobato, Lalitpur, Nepal**

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# GFP NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNICATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## Background

Growing Forest Partnership (GFP) has been developing pilot processes in five countries (Ghana, Guatemala, Mozambique, Liberia and Nepal; the latter two countries joined GFP in 2010), since its inception in 2009. GFP has been designed to facilitate local and international partnerships and investment to support stakeholders in their efforts to improve forest based livelihoods and ecosystem services. In Nepal, GFP initiatives began from mid 2010 to facilitate dialogue in forest sector policy processes and communicate outcomes with wider audiences.

Nepal's forest sector is facing unprecedented transitions on several fronts, and the drivers for such change exist both within and outside the forest sector. The popular demand for a new structure of the state is now being debated in the Constituent Assembly, with profound implications for forest governance and management. The long history of community movement is also taking new turns, with around eighteen thousand organized community groups active in forest management. Community based forest management is moving towards capturing the emerging market opportunities, but is facing policy and regulatory hurdles and has suffered from the lack of critical support services. With an optimistic understanding of the current transition, a civil society consortium comprising of ForestAction<sup>1</sup>, Nepal Forester's Association (NFA), FECOFUN and Asmita Nepal has initiated a catalytic multi-stakeholder forest policy dialogue partnering with Growing Forest Partnership (GFP). The key objective of this initiative is to bring forest sector stakeholders to a common table, identify the key issues on policy process and agree on some acceptable framework for negotiating policy decisions towards productive, equitable and sustainable forest management.

In order to draw comparative lessons from the GFP, cross country exchange and harmonizing the monitoring, evaluation and communication processes is important. In this context, ForestAction along with other consortium partners (Asmita, FECOFUN and NFA) in collaboration with International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) organized GFP national workshop on communication, monitoring

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<sup>1</sup> **ForestAction Nepal** is a learning-oriented not-for-profit and politically non-aligned self-governed professional civil society organization working in the field of forestry, environment and livelihoods in Nepal. Since its inception in 2000, ForestAction has been engaged in policy advocacy through action research, policy analysis and networking. It conducts evidence-based research and links it to the policy/academic interface for effective and wider implementation/dissemination of the grounded lessons. For further information please visit [www.forestaction.org](http://www.forestaction.org).

and evaluation on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 (**schedule attached in Annex 1**) at Summit Hotel, Lalitpur.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the workshop were:

- Gaining an overview of GFP initiatives and its progress in Nepal;
- Familiarizing the in-country stakeholders with GFP monitoring and evaluation process;
- Developing shared understanding of GFP communication strategy in the light of GFP country program; and
- Reviewing the GFP Nepal program of 2010 and preparing action plan for 2011.

## **Participants**

The program was attended by professionals from various civil society organizations, researchers, and activists (**participant list attached in Annex 2**).

## **Program Details**

The program kicked off with a welcome and introduction of workshop by Mr. Dil Bahadur Khatri from ForestAction. He briefly narrated the purpose of the program followed by quick introduction of the participants. This brief introductory session was followed by the session on an overview of GFP.

## **Overview of GFP and its presence in Nepal**

The first session was on overview of GFP global initiative and its presence in Nepal. **Ms. Grazia Piras** from IIED presented on the overview of GFP (**see Annex 4 for presentation**). She highlighted the principles and objectives of GFP along with lessons from different GFP member countries. Despite success of GFP initiative in a limited time frame, it was learnt that there were challenges ahead i.e. limited time available, and flexible and sustainable funding. Though Nepal is the youngest of all the participating countries in the GFP, Ms Grazia commended the work accomplished by the country team both in terms of pace of the programme and its effectiveness.

The GFP overview presentation was followed by presentation by **Mr. Ramesh Sunam** from ForestAction Nepal. He presented on GFP program of 2010 in Nepal (**see Annex 5 for presentation**) entitled “Catalyzing Forest Sector Restructuring in Nepal through Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues.” During his presentation, it was learnt that most of the planned activities were completed with many of them directly contributing to forest sector restructuring process.

The major activities under GFP program in Nepal included; conducting diagnostic studies, holding multi-stakeholder dialogues, and engagement with the mass media. The participants were enlightened on the outcomes, learning and the policy issues associated with the initiative. The plenary followed by the presentation discussed on the following points.

- There is a need for a strong mechanism for reflecting the voices of grassroots to national policy process. Since political parties are the important actors in forest sector policy process, they need to be educated and consulted to ensure their contribution in national policy processes.
- The existing community forestry related policies and practices are focused on timber based management, ignoring ecosystem services. Therefore, forest management priorities and practices also consider landscape approaches to ecosystem management focusing on generation of wide range of ecosystem services including watershed services, biodiversity, natural landscape and carbon among others.
- Research findings and other documents are generally published in English, which will not be read and comprehended by all the actors, therefore it needs to be translated and published in Nepali as well.

### **Monitoring and evaluation strategies**

The second session of the workshop was about GFP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). Grazia Piras gave an overview presentation (**see Annex 6 for presentation**) covering the key aspects like definition and types of M&E, experiences of GFP program M&E in other GFP countries, and different indicators for M&E. Every GFP member country has been working hard to enhance their activities; however, countries receiving more funds and who started their work earlier are doing better. The Nepal team was appreciated for its successful accomplishment of its planned activities in a limited time. Because GFP adopts a bottom-up approach; it is up to the country team to decide on the programme priorities.

After the presentation by Grazia, **Ms. Anupama Mahat** from Nepal-Swiss Community Forestry Project (NSCFP) presented the knowledge management system within NSCFP (**see Annex 7 for presentation**). She highlighted the qualities of a good monitoring system. There are mainly three categories of knowledge management systems in NSCFP; monitoring system in general, information management and information sharing and dissemination. She also shared the methodologies that NSCFP uses in monitoring their project activities. Analysis carried out using key indicators was presented graphically.

Finally, the learning of NSCFP through years of effort in monitoring and evaluation of the programs implemented and challenges and opportunities for their future endeavors were underscored. Mr Biswas Rana from Livelihoods and Forestry Program (LFP) also shared the experience of LFP on monitoring and evaluation. The presentations and sharing was followed by a plenary discussion which covered the following key points.

- The flow of information in a project related activity is linear, where the information delivered to the donor is not reversed to the grassroots level.
- The project implemented by the donors sometimes comes out to be ineffective, since most of the donor agencies invest their resources and time only for extractive monitoring.

- Case studies have proved to be an effective way of communicating since the language in the case studies are same as what the locals speak, thus making it easier for them to comprehend.
- Monitoring of activities is not possible without the involvement of the community forest user group, thus, their role in monitoring should be ensured.
- Monitoring and evaluation is better in those districts where there is donor support. Viable and cost effective ways of M&E can help those districts without significant donor support.
- Civil Society Organizations like FECOFUN who have been closely working with the communities should be involved to coordinate with them in M&E.

### **Communication strategies**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February, **Ms. Grazia** delivered a presentation on communication with particular reference to GFP communication strategy (**see annex 8 for presentation**). Her presentation covered the definitions and elements of communication, identification of communication objectives and various approaches of communication strategy. Stressing on the importance of strategy, different communication methods were illustrated during the presentation. A good communication strategy keeps everybody on the same page; therefore, it becomes easier to proceed with future programs. Also, role of different organizations in terms of mediating different activities with various stakeholders varies depending on the country. For instance, some civil society organizations play a key mediating role in some countries, whereas communities have been carrying out the same job in others. The presentation was followed by a plenary discussion which revolved around the following points.

- Since communication is important to ensure the proper implementation of any activity, the consortium members need to communicate with each other on their progress and experiences.
- Knowing what you are communicating and who you are communicating to becomes very important to have an effective outcome of the communication activity.

During this session, **Ms. Nitu Kafle** from Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF) shared the communication strategy and approaches of GFP as a global network (**see Annex 9 for presentation**). In her presentation, she focused on the communication strategies adopted to foster partnership from local to global stakeholders and vice versa. The presentation enlightened the participants on the history and background of GACF. Insights from the GACF communication strategies are important and would be useful for others as well. The presentation concluded by foregrounding the achievements, learning and challenges of GACF.

## **GFP Nepal 2011 Action Plan**

The final session of the workshop focused on GFP Nepal action plan for 2011. The discussion was based on the experiences of consortium members while executing GFP activities. The discussion revolved around the following issues:

- What are the key lessons and achievements of GFP in Nepal?
- How can GFP move ahead in the coming days?
- What could be the specific activities of GFP Nepal program for 2011?

The plenary discussion was moderated by Dr Naya Sharma Paudel. Reflecting upon the findings and lessons of GFP 2010 activities in Nepal, it was realized that there was still a significant gap in forest sector policy processes. The policy process has serious short falls in terms of deliberation among the stakeholders and reflection of interest of those who are likely to be affected from the policy. Therefore, there is still huge space to engage with policy makers. The following are some action points suggested for GFP 2011 activities.

1. Since time and money is limited, communication has to go through media having a wider coverage and alternative resource tapping through the consortium will be necessary.
2. As the current policy process has paid little attention to the knowledge generated from research and analysis, rigorous research is required to legitimize the claim.
3. The concept of a public forum on forest (Ban Chautari) was conceived where the policy actors will discuss on key policy issues and come up with viable policy options.
4. Through the public forum (Ban Chautari), voice of diverse actors including local communities will be pushed forward. However, there is a need for further discussion within the GFP consortium on the architecture and working of the forum.
5. Overall, GFP support can be instrumental in institutionalizing the multi-stakeholder policy platform like Ban Chautari. Since GFP will not persist for long, we need to look for sustainable ways of managing the initiative.

## **Workshop closing**

**Dr Naya Sharma Paudel**, Executive Co-ordinator of ForestAction Nepal summarized the points and thanked the participants and **Mr. Devesh Tripathi** of Nepal Foresters' Association gave his concluding remarks and closed the workshop.

## **Acknowledgement**

We sincerely thank all the participants for their active participation and contribution during the workshop. We are indebted towards Dr. Naya Sharma Paudel for his support in designing and mediating the workshop. We would like to express our gratitude to GFP for financially supporting the workshop and would also like to express our special thanks to Ms. Grazia Piras and Ms. Elaine Morrison of IIED for devoting their valuable time and presenting at the workshop. Special thanks goes to Ms. Anju Khand, Mr. Lalit Thapa and Mr. Arjun Gyanwali for logistic support.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: Workshop schedule

<b>Thursday, 3rd February, 2011</b>			
	<b>Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Key items</b>
9.00-9.20	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction of participants</b>	ForestAction	Welcome Introduction of all participants Workshop objectives
9.20-10.00	<b>Brief overview of GFP and its presence in Nepal</b>	IIED	GFP principles and objectives (IIED)
10.00-11.00	<b>Sharing of ongoing GFP projects in Nepal</b>	ForestAction GACF	Brief presentation on ongoing GFP projects followed by plenary discussion
11.00-11.15	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11.15-12.30	<b>Basic notions of monitoring and evaluation</b>	IIED	This session will illustrate, through a set of examples, the importance of having an ad hoc monitoring and evaluation framework to successfully implement programs and projects
12.30-13.30	<b>LUNCH</b>		
13.30-14.45	<b>Examples of M&amp;E from Nepal</b>	ForestAction	This session will have two presentations to illustrate a case of monitoring and evaluation followed by plenary discussion for reflection.
14.45– 15.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
15.00-17.00	<b>Basic notions of communication and elements of a communication strategy</b>	IIED	This session will include theoretical and practical exercises on how to craft a communication strategy and how to tailor messages according to different audiences
<b>Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2011</b>			
9.00-10.15	<b>Group exercise</b>	IIED	Identification of key audiences for GFP Nepal
10.15-11.15	<b>Examples of communication projects and strategies from Nepal</b>	ForestAction	This session will have a presentation on communication strategies employed by GACF



11.15 – 11.30	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11.30-12.30	<b>GFP Nepal, workplan 2011</b>		Review of GFP 2010 achievements, and exercise on 2011 workplan based on the outcome of consortium meeting held on 20 Jan, 2011.
12.30 – 13.30	<b>Lunch Break and Session Closing</b>		

## Annex 2: List of Participants

S.N	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Contact Number
1	Anv Adhikari	IUCN	anv.adhikari@iucn.org	9841857893
2	Sudarshan Khanal	ANSAB	sudarshankhanal@ansab.org	9849502859
3	Binod Pokharel	FECOFUN	fecofun.mahottari@yahoo.com	9844030802
4	Bhim Prakash Khadka	FECOFUN		9857820564
5	Thakur Bhandari	FECOFUN	thakurb01@yahoo.com	9841516209
6	Rama Ale Magar	HIMAWANTI	alemagar_rama@yahoo.com	9841340801
7	Devesh M Tripathi	NFA	deveshmanitripathi@yahoo.com	014220401
8	Kumud Shrestha	NFA	kumudshrestha2000@yahoo.com	9841220144
9	Bharati Pathak	FECOFUN	bharatipathak_2006@yahoo.com	9851113829
10	Elaine Morrison	IIED	elaine.morrison@iied.org	+442073882117
11	Grazia Piras	IIED	grazia.piras@iied.org	+442073882117
12	Dilli Ghimire	MACEUM	dilli@maceum.org.np	9841506488
13	Rahul Karki	Forest Action	rahul.karki@gmail.com	9841227332
14	Ghan Shyam Pandey	GACF	Pandeygs2002@yahoo.com	9851002110
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16	Shanti Bidari	Asmita Nepal	shanti_bidari@yahoo.com	9845028074

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22	Nitu Kafle	GACF	niti.kafle@gmail.com	9841825003
23	Ramesh Sunam	ForestAction	rameshsunam@gmail.com	9849657323
24	Dil Bahadur Khatri	ForestAction	khatriidb@gmail.com	9841508554
25	Birkha Bdr Shahi	FECOFUN	birkha.shahi1@gmail.com	9851124326
26	Anju Khand	ForestAction	anjukhand@hotmail.com	9841116826
27	Lalit Thapa	ForestAction		9841329323
28	Anupama Mahat	NSCFP	a_mahat@nscfp.org.np	9841647870
29	Arjun Gyanwali	ForestAction	arjunatapex@yahoo.com	9849104484
30	Naya S Paudel	ForestAction	naya@forestaction.org	9851015388

### **Annex 3: GFP in-country report format**

*This reporting format has been jointly developed by FAO, IIED and IUCN for use in each GFP country. Reports should be submitted to all three organizations on a regular basis (e.g. monthly, quarterly, twice per year, etc), as agreed upon with each country.*

**Country:**

**Time period reported on:**

**Date of report completion:**

**National Coordinator (in the country):**

**FAO GFP Facilitator:**

**IUCN GFP Facilitator:**

**IIED GFP Facilitator:** Grazia Piras

Please respond **in narrative form** to each of the following questions, leaving no questions blank. If there is limited information, simply provide existing information, or provide a very brief explanation for there being no information (example 'nothing occurred in this category of

activity during the reporting period'.) In general, please provide as complete a response as possible.

1. Summarize the most significant actions that have taken place under the GFP initiative in the country during the reporting period (e.g. meetings held and attended; efforts made to connect to national platforms like the national forest programme, REDD and FLEGT; reports written; projects initiated; and any other relevant actions carried out). Make sure to relate these actions to the objectives identified in the workplan and, if possible, state how these actions have achieved the objectives.
2. List the main communication efforts carried out during the reporting period (such as newsletters, radio spots, articles and website posts) and highlight how these activities relate to your national GFP communication strategy. Include an estimate of the number of people reached, what groups/categories of people reached and any impact these communication activities have had at the national and international levels.
3. Please describe any special efforts to include people from marginalized groups in national multi-stakeholder fora, or other meetings, workshops and events. Reflect on whether the participation of marginalized groups is changing any of the processes, outcomes or decisions made. Where possible, include numbers of marginalized people (you can list community groups and or organizations – no need to list single individuals) leading and participating in meetings and events, with particular attention to the level of participation of women.
4. Describe how GFP has enabled the creation of new partnerships and/or the strengthening of existing partnerships. Please list those partnerships and describe how they are contributing to the improvement of the livelihoods and living conditions of forest dependent people.
5. Reflect on whether GFP is influencing national forest policy. List specific examples of laws, regulations and/or policies that have changed as a result of GFP input.
6. Provide information on activities carried out during the reporting period to increase investment preparedness amongst local and national stakeholders, including trainings, awareness raising events, and any other relevant activity.
7. Describe any country knowledge exchanges related to GFP that have taken place during the reporting period and summarize the lessons learned.
8. Did you and/or GFP stakeholders participate in any international meetings, including any of 'The Forest Dialogue' (TFD) events? If so, please provide the name and dates of the meeting(s) and/or TFD event(s). Also, please describe any efforts which have been made during the reporting period to connect to the G3 or other international rights-holders groups.
9. List funding spent (or committed) for the year-to-date. Please be sure to indicate any items that were co-funded, along with the names of and amounts provided by each co-funding entity.

10. Provide details of any planned changes to the future workplan or budget implementation and the reasons for these changes. Please attach the most up-to-date in-country workplan and budget along with responses to these questions.
11. Please provide any other information relevant to GFP implementation and/or improvement of GFP within the country not previously provided. This includes: reports, meeting and project summaries, etc.

**Annex 4: Presentation on Background and Working of GFP**

Attached as separate document

**Annex 5: Presentation GFP Nepal Program: Catalyzing Forest Sector Restructuring in Nepal through Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues**

Attached as separate document

**Annex 6: Presentation on Monitoring and Evaluation**

Attached as separate document

**Annex 7: Presentation on Knowledge Management System in NSCFP**

Attached as separate document

**Annex 8: Presentation on Elements of communication strategy**

Attached as separate document

**Annex 9: Presentation on Communication Strategy of Global Alliance of Community Forestry**

Attached as separate document