

Annual Progress Report



Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia

January - December 2014

RAS-2769 QZA-12/0871 Agreement 2013-2015

Submitted by

Regional Community Forestry Training Center
for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), Bangkok

June 2015

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.

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Second Year Progress Report: Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia (January-December 2014), Funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)

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For further information, contact:

Dr. Chandra Shekhar Silori or Ms. Kanchana Wiset

Programme Coordination and Cooperation 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 or kanchana.wiset@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
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

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:** 2014
- 1.3 **Agreement Number:** RAS-2769 QZA-12/0871 Agreement 2013-2015
- 1.4 **Name of project:** Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia
- 1.5 **Country and/ or region:** Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam
- 1.6 **Financial support to the project from Norad for last calendar year (2014):** NOK 7,152,934 (including 2014 allocation of NOK 5,833,000 and carry forward balance of NOK 1,319,930 from 2013 allocation).
- 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-December 2014)

2.1 Feedback on products/services (outputs) and end effect on target groups (outcomes)

The Grassroots project has a total of five outputs, as listed below, and a set of 15 activities.

Output 1: A set of training packages is designed and contextualized for REDD+ capacity building, targeted at grassroots stakeholders, and continually adapted to fit country-specific conditions and the evolving structure of REDD+, including social safeguards

Output 2: Training programs are delivered for in-country project implementing partners, and national and sub-national level training facilitators and other key stakeholders on how to effectively raise grassroots stakeholder awareness and knowledge on climate change

Output 3: REDD+ training and capacity building programs for grassroots stakeholders are delivered, focusing on REDD+ social issues

Output 4: Grassroots stakeholders' aspirations and concerns with respect to climate change and REDD+ are documented, synthesised and presented for wider dissemination

Output 5: Project results and findings, including the aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders are communicated widely within and beyond the target countries, contributing to the ongoing REDD+ discourses and readiness processes

The above listed outputs of the project contribute to achieving following two outcomes:

Outcome 1: Grassroots stakeholders have achieved a greater understanding of the concept of climate change and REDD+ with a focus on social safeguards and ongoing REDD+ developments at a

national and international level enabling them to respond to future needs of REDD+ capacity building in their countries – to be achieved through Output 1 to 3.

Outcome 2: Grassroots stakeholders and their representatives have greater capacity and skills to communicate their aspirations and concerns related to REDD+ to policymakers and other key stakeholders – to be achieved through Output 4 and 5.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 Relevance of the project for the desired impact

The Grassroots project is relevant for the stated impact, mainly because REDD+ is still evolving and relevant knowledge has still remained limited to national and sub-national level stakeholders. Therefore to ensure the success of REDD+ projects, the climate change and REDD+ knowledge among grassroots stakeholders and capacity of their representatives from national to local level to communicate concerns and aspirations of grassroots communities is important – a need that has been repeatedly highlighted in climate change and REDD+ discourse at all levels. Grassroots capacity development on climate change REDD+ is also important to ensure *“full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities for REDD+ actions”* (Clause D of the Cancun Agreement), by informing them and raising their awareness on the basics of climate change and REDD+.

2.5 Project's impact and outcome

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 will be achieved through two main outcomes:

Outcome 1: Grassroots stakeholders have achieved a greater understanding of the concept of climate change and REDD+ with a focus on social safeguards and ongoing REDD+ developments at a national and international level enabling them to respond to future needs of REDD+ capacity building in their countries

Outcome 2: Grassroots stakeholders and their representatives have greater capacity and skills to communicate their aspirations and concerns related to REDD+ to policymakers and other key stakeholders.

2.6 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 (SFM), particularly in view of the global level uncertainty surrounding REDD+ and the consequently to manage

expectations and fatigue among grassroots communities. Therefore, the project has continued to follow its objectives and plans in its second year of implementation and has not deviated from its original plans. The implementation of the project activities has remained on track, except some delays in Indonesia due to time taken to recruit new project officer and therefore a delay in coordination with the partner organizations. However with new project officer on board, the project activities are on track and going on as per the plan.

b) Give a short risk assessment

Despite prolonged global discussions, a number of national and sub-national level pilot projects and a range of capacity development initiatives and research inputs, implementation of REDD+ is still uncertain, leading to the risks of unrealistic expectations among grassroots stakeholders. Such prolonged debates and indecisive nature of REDD+ also have implications on and associated risks with regards to the sustained interests of stakeholders in learning about it and applying the learning on the ground for better resource management. Any further delay in achieving a concrete climate change agreement at the international level will accelerate the already crept in fatigue and frustration among the stakeholders.

Secondly at implementation level, frequent turnover of staff in the project countries, particularly those from the partner organizations, poses challenges with regards to maintaining a momentum in the project implementation, and also in terms of maintaining high standards of project delivery.

2.7 Results

2.7.1 Achievements of the project for each output

Output 1: A set of training packages are designed and contextualized for REDD+ capacity building, targeted at grassroots stakeholders, and continually adapted to fit country-specific conditions and the evolving structure of REDD+, including social safeguards

2.7.1.1 REDD+ capacity development products

Under output 1 the key focus in 2014 was to develop and contextualize REDD+ capacity development material, particularly to support REDD+ safeguards capacity development. Below is a snap shot of the progress under this output, while a detailed checklist of various capacity development products is presented in Annex 1.

Number of training products produced	12
Type of training products	Guidebook, Q&A booklet, case study, poster, radio episodes, short videos
No. of printed publication produced	12,500
Name of languages publications brought out	Bahasa Indonesia, English, Lao, Myanmar, Nepali, Vietnamese

Output 2: Training programs are delivered for in-country project implementing partners, national and sub-national level training facilitators, and other key stakeholders on how to effectively raise grassroots stakeholder awareness and knowledge on climate change

Continuing with its successful approach of cascade training programs, during 2014, the project delivered a series of training and capacity development programs at different levels, from grassroots up to national level in five project countries. Below is a snapshot about the achievements of capacity development programs at national and sub-national level, followed by a brief description, while the progress related with grassroots level capacity development programs is presented under Output 3.

Total number of capacity development events organized	22
Total number of participants	577
Total number of women participants	239
Total number of person days used for training programs	1,723

2.7.1.2 Capacity development programs at national and sub-national levels

In 2014, the capacity development on REDD+ social safeguards and relevant issues was achieved through a variety of 21 different events, including training of trainers (ToT) on climate change, REDD+ and SFM, training programs on REDD+ safeguards, including gender mainstreaming, equity and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in REDD+, refresher training programs and dedicated training programs to build facilitation skills of the stakeholders. Such capacity development events were customized in order to respond to the needs of the participants, as identified by the project implementing partners during national level planning workshops and consultations in the project countries. Thus, through a total of 7 national and 14 at sub-national level events (Figure 1) helped in developing the capacity of a total of 577 stakeholders, including 338 males and 239 females (Figure 2). The participants to the training programs represented a range of institutions, including government departments, partner organizations, CSOs, forestry vocational schools, local institutions, farmer groups, community forestry practitioners and women groups.

Figure 1: Total number of capacity development events delivered during 2014

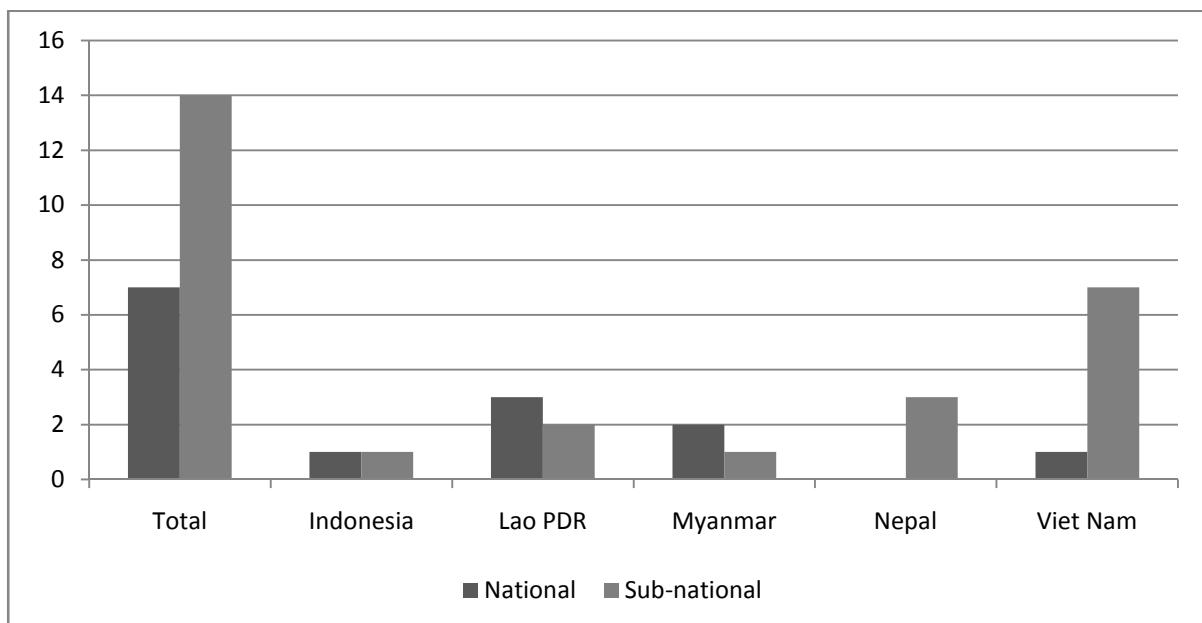
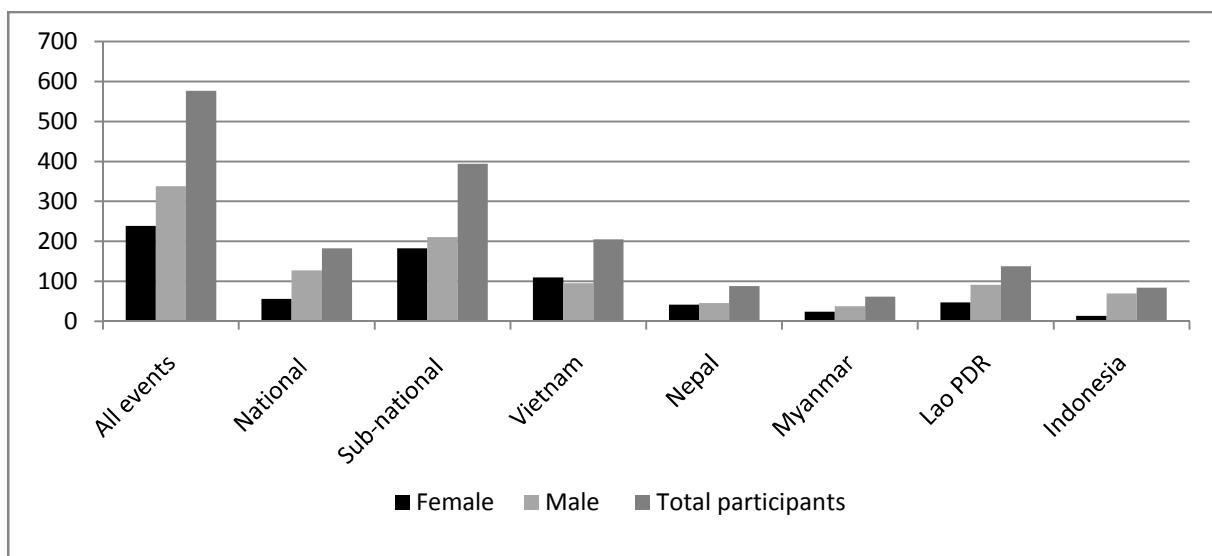


Figure 2: Number of participants attending various capacity development programs



It is important to mention here that during 2014 the project has far exceeded its targets in terms of number of events at national and sub-national level. As against a total of 8 events planned during the second year (4 national level ToT and 4 sub-national refresher training), the project organized a total of 21 events. This was possible due to a careful and rigorous financial planning and management and strict monitoring of allocated resources to the in-country partner organizations, ensuring efficient use of allocated funds and thereby allowing replication of capacity development events in the project countries.

Secondly, in order to enhance the sustainability potential and ensure effective use of resources, the project coordinated with other regional projects of RECOFTC, such as GREEN Mekong and ASFCC and built synergies for developing capacity development material and also delivering various capacity development events. For example training products on equity in climate change was developed jointly by the REDD+ Grassroots project and GREEN Mekong program, besides engaging target stakeholders of these projects in each other's capacity development events in Lao PDR. In addition, the project also built synergies with other projects such as Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Program (MFSP) in Nepal and ASFCC in Myanmar and Indonesia, and UN-REDD in Viet Nam.

2.7.1.3 Gender mainstreaming in national and sub-national level capacity development programs

The project gave special emphasis on to develop knowledge and understanding of women stakeholders on climate change, REDD+ and SFM. Besides organizing dedicated training programs for gender mainstreaming, in-country partner organizations were guided to encourage the active participation of women in various training programs. Thus, of the total 22 training programs, five events were exclusively organized for developing participants' capacity to promote gender mainstreaming in climate change, REDD+ and SFM. Of these, two national level events were organized in Myanmar, including a three days ToT and an expert workshop, one national level training in Lao PDR, and two provincial level trainings in Viet Nam. As a result, the project exceeded its target of at least 30% women participants in the training programs, by achieving 41% women participants in all its training programs (Figure 2).

2.7.1.4 Participants' feedback

The project organized monitoring and evaluations (M&E) of the training programs at different stages, using Kirkpatrick's evaluation methodology¹. Using this methodology, project collected participants' feedback at three levels: Level 1 – during the training program (daily feedback); Level 2 – immediately after training program (to record change in knowledge); and Level 3 – after 6-12 months of the training program (to record behavioural change and application of training knowledge). The daily feedback from the participants was useful to incorporate the suggestions and subsequently to improve the training delivery. Level 2 evaluation reported an overall positive feedback from the participants. In general, more than 80% of the participants reported improvement in their knowledge about climate change, REDD+ and SFM after the training programs and rated their satisfaction level from high to very high. The results of Level 3 monitoring were gathered through an independent mid-term review of the project organized in each country. Examples of some such observations are reported by the evaluators and summarised in the box 1 below and later in Section 3.

Box 1: Application of training knowledge by the participants

Nepal: The REDD cell focal person Dr. Narendra Chand appreciated the performance of the grassroots level facilitators', trained under the REDD+ Grassroots project in delivering capacity development programs at community level.

Viet Nam: In Ca Mau province, national facilitator reported that the training course and material provided was very helpful for him become a confident resource person. Using his skills and knowledge related with FPIC, he has advised an environmental project on the importance of consultations with local communities before

¹ <http://www.kirkpatrickpartners.com/OurPhilosophy/TheKirkpatrickModel/tabid/302/Default.aspx>

implementing.

Lao PDR: 40% of participants from national and subnational ToT programs on CC and REDD+ social safeguards claimed that they made use of such knowledge by explaining REDD+ to other colleagues and provided constructive comments about REDD+ whenever he/she attends the internal meetings"

Indonesia: Mr. Yandi Bachli, BDK Makassar shared "I am pleased with the training methods. Simulations with large plastic bags provided an example of greenhouse gas effect. It is a rare experience so I also tried to implement such training methods when we conveyed similar training to forestry extension officers and national park staff".

Myanmar: An independent mid-term review reported that staff of Friends of Wildlife (FoW), a partner organization, had opportunities to be actively involved and gain a lot of experiences and technical knowledge from this project. In addition, the FoW staff has applied the knowledge in CF programs in other projects being implemented in Gwa township, Rakhine state and Mahamyaing and Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuaries in Sagaing region by sharing climate change and REDD+ knowledge to forest user groups.

Output 3: Training and capacity building programs delivered for grassroots stakeholders, focusing on climate change and REDD+ social issues

At grassroots level, the capacity development activities were delivered through training programs and a series of awareness raising events, as described below.

2.7.1.5 Capacity development at grassroots level

Continuing with cascade model of capacity development, the project extended climate change, REDD+ and SFM training programs to the grassroots level, by engaging trained facilitators from sub-national levels and the partner organizations in four project countries, except Nepal, where the project has already reached to thousands of the stakeholders through similar events in the past. For grassroots level capacity development, the project organized two types of events - training programs, generally for two days in each location, and awareness building programs, generally for one day in each location. The participants to such capacity development events included members of community leaders, religious groups, local NGOs, officials from local forest department, teachers, students, women group volunteers and local journalists.

As against a target of at least five training and awareness building programs in each of the four countries, totalling a target of 20 events in 2014, the project organized a total of 54 events. As presented in table 1 below, it is important to highlight that while the targets of minimum number of events were far exceeded in Myanmar and Vietnam with 24 capacity development events each, Indonesia and Lao PDR were a bit behind their targets. This was mainly because of delays in coordination with partner organizations (Indonesia), and slow response from few partners in submitting their annual action plans (Lao PDR). However, despite these challenges, the project reached to a total of 3,122 stakeholders for their capacity enhancement, and contributed a total of 4,475 person days in delivering capacity development events.

Table 1: REDD+ Capacity development activities at grassroots level

Country	No. of events	No. of participants			Total no. of person days
		Total	Male	Female	
Indonesia	2	141	8	133	857
Lao PDR	4	274	130	144	482
Myanmar	24	2,033	1,211	822	1,788
Viet Nam	24	674	304	370	1,348
TOTAL	54	3,122	1,653	1,469	4,475

2.7.1.6 Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development at grassroots level

Similar to national and sub-national level, gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development was a key focus at grassroots level as well. As against a target of around 30% women participants, the project was able to reach 1,469 women, which is about 47% of the total grassroots stakeholders

reached through training and awareness building events. Besides encouraging women’s participation in mixed training and awareness building programs, all women training programs were also organized in the project countries. For example in Indonesia, out of two grassroots level events, one was organized for 20 women volunteers from five villages in Biduk-Biduk, Berau, East Kalimantan. These trained volunteers then conducted awareness raising events to community members within their villages. Using such a cascade mode of capacity development, a total of 115 participants were reached in all five villages, including 110 women participants.

2.7.1.7 Use of innovative tools in capacity development at grassroots level

The project used a variety of innovative tools to develop grassroots stakeholders’ capacity. Besides using street plays, drama, puppet shows and story-telling, the project engaged with the religious leaders, particularly in Indonesia and Myanmar to raise awareness among grassroots stakeholders. Engaging religious leaders proved effective, as they are well respected in the society and local people listen to them attentively. In Nepal and Myanmar, information display and exhibitions were other effective tools to reach out to large number of grassroots stakeholders in a cost effective manner, while in Lao PDR, trained youth used wisdom box tool (see box 2 below) to document and discuss the challenges associated with decreasing forest cover within their communities through participatory learning methods.

Box 2: Wisdom box tool for participatory learning

Wisdom box tool uses five key steps – (i) developing skills and capacity of youths to coordinate with local communities, (ii) observe and study topical issues associated with grassroots communities livelihoods and their interaction with natural resources (iii) collate field data collected through community surveys and participatory observation exercises on the topical issues (iv) participatory analysis of the information together with local community members, and (v) keep a record of collected information for future action plan and reference.

2.7.1.8 Feedback from grassroots stakeholders

The feedback from various training and awareness building activities showed that the participants were better aware of the link between forests and climate change. For many grassroots stakeholders, it was the first time they had such opportunity to access new knowledge, and therefore demonstrated a strong interest in learning about SFM practices and technical aspects of natural resource management. On the other hand in Lao PDR, trained students made use of new knowledge by developing 15 short stories compiled in a comic book aimed for supporting further awareness building among school students. Two of such stories were selected for publishing and distribution through libraries of the target schools of PADETC. In box 3 below, there are few examples documented, based on an independent mid-term review of the project, indicating how grassroots stakeholders are making use of new knowledge.

Box 3: Examples of use of knowledge by the participants

Nepal: Voluntary plantations initiated by CFUG members in Kavre, Nuwakot, Kathmandu and Dadeldhura in private as well as public lands. CFUG in Banke have used bamboo plantation to develop live hedge around check dam to control soil erosion. Knowledge sharing by grassroots stakeholders with their peers has been reported frequently.

Indonesia: Ms. Nurlaela, a community facilitator from Berua and Ms. Katemi fro Jember have shared the knowledge on climate change and REDD+ with their family members and peers and encouraged them to do tree planting.

Myanmar: Some of the villagers from 6-Mile village in Yateshe township have decided to reduce the cutting of big trees for making charcoal and collect fallen branches and twigs for using them as fuelwood. Participants of a focus group discussion from Layshe township while showing eagerness to learn about climate change and REDD+, raised their concern about unclear land tenures and lack of technical know-how about technical management of forest and agriculture resources.

Lao PDR: REDD+ is new to me. I gained knowledge and skill in doing presentation and sharing ideas. I also had experiences in learning and communicating with others and working with the villagers. I think this training is

useful because the contents such as climate change and REDD+ is related to the curriculum that I study at the faculty - Ms. Soulinthone Ladhavan, a first year student of Faculty of Environment, National University of Laos.

Output 4: Grassroots stakeholders’ aspirations and concerns with respect to climate change and REDD+ are documented, synthesised and presented for wider dissemination

In order to document grassroots stakeholders’ aspirations and concerns and share them with policy makers and other key stakeholders, the project organized a set of different activities (Table 2). These included grassroots level consultation workshops and issue-based discussions, expert workshop and sharing workshops and attended by multi-stakeholders, including local forest department officials, local parliamentarians, CSOs, community leaders, farmers, community forestry practitioners, women and teachers. The aspirations and concerns documented through consultation workshops, issue-based discussion and expert workshops were then shared with policy makers at sub-national, national and regional level through sharing workshops. In subsequent stages of the project, the results of such participatory and consultative workshops will be synthesized to bring out communication products and shared with policy makers and other key stakeholders widely.

Table 2: Set of various events organized to document and share grassroots concerns and issues

Type of event	No. of event					Total
	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Nepal	Viet Nam	
Grassroots consultation workshops	4	4	1	-	3	12
Issue-based discussions	-	-	-	4	-	4
Expert workshop	-	1	1	-	-	2
Sharing workshops		1	1	3		5
TOTAL	4	6	3	7	3	23

2.7.1.9 Grassroots aspirations and concerns

Below is a short synthesis of key aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders gathered through various events as listed above. Most of the issues listed below are common to all countries, while few of them were specific to a particular country.

Climate change impacts: In almost all the countries, grassroots stakeholders recalled and narrated the impacts of the climate change in the form of longer dry spells, lack of water, flooding, low productivity of crops and spread of diseases.

Poor capacity: The issue of poor capacity among the stakeholders with regards to addressing the climate change impacts and in particular adapting to climate change using forest resources was raised strongly. Since climate change and REDD+ are new and complex topics, it was reiterated by the stakeholders that repeated training programs should be conducted in order to enhance the potential of uptake of the knowledge and distillation of such a knowledge needs to be done to simplify it enough for make grassroots stakeholders understand it easily. In Nepal the stakeholders stressed on the need of developing capacity of local level political leaders on climate change and REDD+ related issues in order to equip them to contribute in policies development process more effectively.

Lack of effective participation: In most of the consultations workshops, a lack of effective participation of all concerned stakeholders in planning and decision making process was strongly raised by the participants. It was highlighted that most of REDD+ consultation process so far has remain limited to national level stakeholders, and adequate efforts to organize coordinated consultations as part of REDD+ readiness process at the grassroots level have been missing in most of the countries.

Drivers of deforestation: At a local level the stakeholders listed a number of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and illegal logging was highlighted prominently by the stakeholders in Meru

Betiri National Park in Indonesia, and by the grassroots stakeholders in 6-mile village in Yeteshe Township in Myanmar. Further, in Myanmar and Lao PDR, while stakeholders raised shifting cultivation as one of the key drivers of deforestation at the local level, there were divided opinions, particularly in view of the limited opportunities for alternative livelihoods, coupled by a lack of capacity among local stakeholders to explore such opportunities.

Lack of coordination among line agencies: Lack of coordination among various line agencies, in particular related with land management, such as forest, agriculture, and water resources, was highlighted as other major challenge. The stakeholders raised their concerns to the fact that capacity development efforts may not yield the desired benefits, if the line agencies continue to do business as usual and fail to build synergies to address the challenges of climate change. Formation of local level multi-stakeholder working groups, as initiated in Meru Betiri National park after consultation workshop, was suggested as one of many ways to build synergies between different line agencies.

Forest based livelihoods: Due to rapid rates of deforestation and forest degradation, forest dependent stakeholders raised their concerns about limited opportunities for forest based livelihoods. In many instances, forest users linked this concern with their limited capacity and ability to link with market to enhance the income generation potential from forest products. Therefore stakeholders strongly advocated for considering forest-based local subsistence needs and livelihoods in REDD+ policy and implementation, supported by local level forest-based enterprise development to improve community livelihoods and thus build resilience. Moreover, since REDD+ finance will not immediately be sufficient, stakeholders emphasised the need of strong policy signals from government to support sustainable forest use - harvest, processing and marketing of timber and NTFPs, and further support from international community in conceptualizing and realizing incentive systems for non-carbon benefits associated with forest landscapes (ie. biodiversity, adaptation, ecosystem services, improved governance, capacities built, etc).

Tenure and access rights: In all the project countries, the participants' raised their concerns about ignorance of safeguards of grassroots stakeholders, in particular the tenure rights, consideration of gender mainstreaming and rights to FPIC. The situation is more complex due to either non-existing tenure/access rights for local communities, or unclear, contradictory legal frameworks. Furthermore, a large section of the grassroots stakeholders, including local level forest officials, are unaware of various rights, and therefore are not always in a position to confidently advocate for their rights. Such a combination of a lack of tenure access and poor knowledge on tenure and access rights have direct bearing on benefit sharing in REDD+, and therefore stakeholders opined that besides more efforts needed to directed towards raising awareness among grassroots communities about their land tenure and access rights, there are urgent requirements for reform and rationalization of policies.

Sustainable forest management: In all the countries, the stakeholders realised that SFM should be used as a fundamental framework to implement REDD+, which should be adequately supported by implementing various safeguards measures. Promoting community forestry, restoration of degraded lands, and recognizing indigenous knowledge and incorporating it into REDD+ planning and implementation were suggested as few of the key recommendations to support SFM approach to REDD+.

Output 5: Project results and findings, including the aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders are communicated widely within and beyond the target countries, contributing to the ongoing REDD+ discourses and readiness processes

The Grassroots project teams at regional and national level implemented a number of initiatives to establish communication channel and share project's results and experience and aspirations and concerns of grassroots stakeholders within and beyond project countries. A summary of such initiatives is presented below:

2.7.1.10 Establishing communication channels

Following are key initiatives taken by the project to establish communication channels to disseminate project's experiences and findings, including key concerns and issues of grassroots stakeholders.

Engaging with local media: The project launched a media fellowship program in selected districts in Nepal to engage with local media persons to support REDD+ awareness building and communicate aspiration and concerns of grassroots stakeholders to wider stakeholders. A total of five media persons were selected and coached by Forest Action throughout three months of fellowship period to investigate the grassroots level challenges, including safeguards issues of REDD+ and report it through national and local dailies. As a result, media fellows published a total of 17 articles, including nine in national and eight in district level daily newspapers². Two articles in national daily were published in English, while rest were in Nepali. The project also organized a training program for national level journalists in Viet Nam, and similar event is planned for 2015 in Indonesia.

National level learning event: Nepal took lead in organizing four national level learning events in collaboration with in-country project implementing partners and brought together trained facilitators from the project areas. Besides cross learning opportunities, such learning events help setting up a network of local level facilitators and enhance sustainability potential of the project. Two of the four leaning events exclusively focused on facilitating knowledge exchange and networking among women facilitators and thus empower them further with new knowledge on climate change and REDD+.

Quarterly E-newsletter: The project has produced quarterly newsletters³ in order to share and disseminate the project experiences and publications to wider audiences. During 2014, the project published a total of three issues of the newsletter and distributed through national, regional and global network of RECOFTC.

Project webpage: The project webpage⁴ is regularly updated to disseminate the project's progress, experiences and achievements. During 2014, the project webpage recorded a total of more than 4,400 hits.

Blog: Regional coordinator also published a blog⁵, focusing on challenges associated with effective safeguard information systems for REDD+ in ASEAN countries.

2.7.1.11 Disseminating project's experiences and lessons learned

International level: The REDD+ Grassroots project participated in the 20th Conference of Parties (COP20) of UNFCCC in Lima and contributed in a side event focusing on "Approaches to equity in forest governance: Lessons for safeguard development", jointly organized by RECOFTC and IIED. Project coordinator presented experiences and challenges of REDD+ safeguards capacity development at the grassroots level in the Asia-Pacific region in a panel discussion⁶. The REDD+ Grassroots project also shared its experiences on gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development in an exhibition and contributed in a panel discussion in gender pavilion at the Global Landscape Forum in COP20⁷. The project also used this international forum to share its communication and capacity development materials.

Regional level: During 2014, the REDD+ Grassroots project coordinator participated in a regional capacity building workshop on REDD+ social Safeguards Information System (SIS), jointly organized

² www.recoftc.org/project/grassroots-capacity-building-redd/news-and-features/media-fellowship-articles

³ <http://www.recoftc.org/project/grassroots-capacity-building-redd/static-landing/redd-grassroots-newsletters>

⁴ <http://www.recoftc.org/project/grassroots-capacity-building-redd>

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

⁶ <http://www.recoftc.org/events/recoftc-cop20> or <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop20/enbots/3dec.html#event5>

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/recoftc>

by RECOFTC and partly supported by the REDD+ Grassroots project, ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) and ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network – Forests and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC) in September 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The project coordinator highlighted the challenges associated with REDD+ safeguards capacity development and associated monitoring of SIS.

The project also organized annual reflection workshops to share its results and findings, 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 sharing lessons learned, such reflection workshop were also used to gather inputs from multi-stakeholder to draft action plan for the following year. The regional reflection workshop for 2014 was organized in Myanmar in January 2015, where partner organizations from all five countries and other key stakeholders were brought together and provided with an opportunity to share their achievements, experiences and lessons learned during past one year. Such a four days workshop was also combined with a field visit to Yateshe Township, one of the project areas in Myanmar.

2.7.2 Report on project outcomes

To report on the outcome level achievements, the project has selected following four indicators from the list of menu of indicators shared by Norad in February 2014, as listed below.

For reporting the progress on Outcome 1, achieved through Output 1 to 3, the indicators include:

- i) Models adopted/piloted and practices changed
- ii) Adoption of REDD+ safeguards (UNFCCC Cancun Safeguards)

For reporting the progress on Outcome 2, achieved through Outputs 4 and 5, the indicators include:

- iii) Changes in policy and plans for land use in targeted landscape
- iv) Contribution to international consensus on REDD+

The progress against each indicator is summarized in the tables below:

2.7.2.1 Models adopted/piloted and practices changed

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	
Cascade approach of capacity development for REDD+	Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam	National	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cascade model resulted in delivering training to nearly 600 people at national and sub-national level awareness raising among to nearly 4,500 grassroots stakeholders during 2014 • 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 <i>Haryo Ban</i> program, funded by USAID in Nepal
Engaging with religious leaders and women preachers	Indonesia and Myanmar		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 (see Section 3 below) and Berau district in east Kalimantan.

2.7.2.2 Adoption of REDD+ safeguards (UNFCCC Cancun Safeguards)

To report on the adoption of REDD+ safeguards, of the total seven safeguards listed in UNFCCC Cancun Agreement, the REDD+ Grassroots project has directly contributed to two safeguards measures, as summarized in the following table.

Safeguard category	Change	Your organisation and/or partner(s)' contribution
Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressive change in knowledge level among project stakeholders with regards to the importance of FPIC, gender mainstreaming and equity in REDD+ Initiatives taken by forestry user groups to advocate for rights to FPIC in local level forest management interventions, as reported from Nepal 	RECOFTC with support from partner organizations delivered training programs on REDD+ safeguards, such as FPIC, gender mainstreaming and equity in REDD+, which in turn contributed in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater advocacy by partner organizations and other key stakeholders for social inclusion and gender equity in REDD+ policy and planning process Formation of local level working group in Meru Betiri National Park to coordinate the climate change and REDD+ activities at district level Significant shift in attitude among local level forest users and the managers towards the importance of forests in addressing climate change challenges 	The project adopted multi-pronged strategy to enhance the participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular women, ethnic groups, and indigenous people. This was achieved by partnering with the organizations which have similar mandate, organizing dedicated training programs to build facilitation skills to promote participatory approaches, all women capacity development programs and simplifying the REDD+ language for the benefit of grassroots stakeholders. Active participation of women stakeholders (>40%) and other marginal groups in REDD+ capacity development

2.7.2.3 Changes in policy and plans for land use in targeted landscape

Due to its main focus on capacity development for REDD+, it is very challenging to report on changes in policies and plans brought about by the REDD+ training and capacity development activities through this project during project duration. However, the project has made substantial efforts to inform and influence policy makers at different levels about key concerns and issues of grassroots stakeholders. Some preliminary changes reported from the field are listed below:

- 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
- Formation of a multi-stakeholder group at district level in Meru Betiri National Park in Jember in east Java to streamline and coordinate various ongoing initiatives on REDD+ and climate change is another example and a first step towards influencing local level policies and implementation plans related with REDD+.
- In Nepal, project implementing partners, FECOFUN and HIMAWANTI, due to their enhanced capacities after working with the grassroots project for last few years, are nominated as members of national level working groups for REDD+. Both these organizations have made use of this opportunity to voice the concerns and issues of grassroots stakeholders related with climate change and REDD+ in the country.

- Gung Re commune in Lam Dong province established a women only forest management and protection group after attending gender mainstreaming training. The Group works as a watchdog that plays a very important role in forest protection the community forest, as they not only take part in reducing and monitoring tree cutting (which sometimes is done by their husbands or sons), but have also initiated new plantations to restore degraded areas.
- 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)*”.

2.7.2.4 Contribution to international consensus on REDD+

During last one year, a number of initiatives have been taken by the project that were aimed to align the activities of the REDD+ Grassroots project with ongoing interventions and debates on REDD+ at national, regional and global levels, as listed below.

- **At a national level**, the REDD+ project has partnered and collaborated closely with national level REDD+ agencies, such as National REDD+ Agencies, REDD+ working groups, and respective Departments of Forest. For example REDD+ capacity development materials has been jointly developed with experts from REDD+ office in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Nepal; national level expert workshops on REDD+ safeguards and gender mainstreaming in REDD+ has been conducted jointly with Forest Departments in Lao PDR and Myanmar respectively, REDD+ training curriculum has been mainstreamed by Centre for Forestry Education and Training (CFET) – a national level training center of Ministry of Forestry and Environment in Indonesia.
- In Myanmar the national project team has worked closely with REDD+ working group during different stages of developing REDD+ roadmap by facilitating consultation workshops at regional level in Sagain and Bago divisions, and helped Forest Department to share social and environmental safeguards of REDD+ to ethnic groups and other relevant stakeholders. Also, the project has produced training material on FPIC in Myanmar language, which is being used by REDD+ working group to deliver training to forest department staff.
- All these collaborative initiatives with government agencies in the project countries result into the endorsement of project’s approach, various training products and the resource persons trained under the project, ultimately leading to achieve a consensus on REDD+ at a national level.
- **At regional and global level**, as mentioned under the achievements of Output 5, the project team members have used various opportunities to share and uptake the project’s experiences and key achievements at regional and global level, and thus contributed in the global debate on REDD+.
- Based on regional training program on REDD+ SIS, held in Jakarta, as mentioned under section 2.7.2.3 above, RECOFTC submitted its response to draft SBSTA 41 call for guidance on REDD+ SIS. Building on its experience on community forestry, RECOFTC with support from the REDD+ Grassroots project advocated for using CF and community-based forest landscape management as an existing framework for REDD+ SIS design, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

2.7.2.5 Sustainability of outcomes

The Grassroots project has included a number of initiatives to ensure the sustainability of its outcomes. Firstly, integration of project materials and methodologies into broader REDD+ readiness processes in project countries, using multi-stakeholder approach will extend the outcomes of the project beyond its lifetime. Secondly, the cascading down approach of training delivery is highly cost-efficient and one which can continue to grow and expand using national resources and a cadre of trained resource persons in each country. Thirdly, the partnership of the grassroots project, which includes a mix of government, NGOs and grassroots organizations, is aimed at mainstreaming climate change and REDD+ knowledge into these agencies, and thus contributing to sustain project outcomes in a long run.

2.8 Cross-cutting concerns

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

2.8.1 Reduced corruption

Through its capacity building activities, the REDD+ Grassroots project has been able to generate a greater level of awareness of 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, raising grassroots awareness of 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.

2.8.2 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, all women 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.

2.8.3 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.

2.9 Lessons learned

In the second year of its implementation, the REDD+ Grassroots project has learned a few important lessons, as grouped under following key thematic areas:

Learning and capacity development tools must match with unique needs of targeted stakeholders

- For REDD+ grassroots stakeholders, a multi-pronged and multi-scale capacity development strategy that draws on the strengths of various learning methods and experience of the participants and addresses unique needs of targeted stakeholders proves to be effective. This has been proved through this project, as described under section 2.7.1.7. Simplification of complex language of climate change and REDD+ and value adding by using innovative

communication tools, which are culturally sensitive and acceptable among the target audiences are a few examples.

- In addition, engaging with religious leaders, as practiced in Indonesia and Myanmar was other innovative method to reach out to a large number of stakeholders in a most cost effective manner.
- Further, it is also learned that such innovative approaches worked well because of a systematic approach used in developing partnership in each project country from grassroots up to national level, supported by capacity development of the partner organizations.

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+ and its continuous evolution, 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.

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.
- Further since SFM cannot be considered in isolation, environmental changes and the related responses required are a key part of REDD+ capacity development, to provide appropriate opportunities for grassroots stakeholder to express their views about sustainable resource management in their own context.
- 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.

<h3>3 Case/success story: <i>Capacity enhancement of local facilitators generating the impacts at the ground beyond the project areas</i></h3>

The project has continually built and developed knowledge and skill of all facilitators in all levels in five countries since the first year of current phase. Besides some examples and anecdotal statements from the project stakeholders presented earlier in Box 1 and 3, this progress report presents few such success stories from the project countries as described below; a couple of which

are also included in RECOFTC's story of changes booklet⁸. These success stories are grouped under two thematic categories, as described below:

3.1 Enhancing knowledge accessibility and learning opportunities to women stakeholders

During past one year, the project has paid special attention to strengthen gender equality in REDD+ capacity development by enhancing accessibility of women stakeholders to climate change and REDD+ knowledge. Such an effort has yielded positive results and some inspiring success stories. A couple of them are briefed below:

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.

“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.

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

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

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.

3.2 Effective application of cascade approach and new knowledge Hom Bahadur Gurung: A confident facilitator from Nepal

Mr. Hom Bahadur Gurung is a key member of community in Chisapani, Nawalparasi district, actively campaigning for community forestry. In 2011, he attended the training on climate change mitigation and REDD+, organized by the REDD+ Grassroots project. Before attending the training, he used to share whatever new knowledge he gained from different sources with village members, but did not have good facilitation skills in order to process and share the knowledge among community members. An independent mid-term review of the project revealed that after the training from the REDD+ Grassroots project, he gained confidence and knew the various skills of facilitation, participatory methods of learning and effective delivery of training. He is equally confident on his ability to connect basic concept of climate change to community's everyday life by explaining its impact to local livelihoods and then link it with the important role of community forestry in reducing climate change. His skills and capabilities are now well recognized and he is now hired to conduct trainings in other neighbouring community forestry user groups.

“I have attended a number of trainings that have taught me many technical aspects of forestry. But the training under this project was the first and only one that connected the dots. I learned not only facts, but how those facts have impacts on the ground. And most importantly, I have learned how to teach so that the community listens.” Hom noted.

Evidences of training impacts from Myanmar: Excerpts from and independent mid-term review of the project

- *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 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.*

Annex 1: List of REDD+ capacity development materials produced during 2014 by the REDD+ Grassroots project

Topic/Title of the publication	Language	No. of copies
REDD+ capacity development material		
Training material on REDD+ concept for national and sub-national level facilitators	Myanmar	-
	Lao	-
	Vietnamese	-
Short video on links between climate change, REDD+ and sustainable forest management	Vietnamese	-
Climate Change, Forests, and You question answer booklet (reprint)	Nepali	500
Climate Change and REDD+ poster for awareness raising	Myanmar	500
Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia Project Brochure (Revised version)	Nepali	1000
	Bahasa Indonesia	500
	Lao	500
	Vietnamese	1000
Radio episodes for awareness building	Vietnamese	10
Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+		
Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+: Principles and Approaches for Policy and Project Development	Lao	500
	Myanmar	500
Free, Prior & Informed Consent in REDD+: A question and answer handbook for grassroots facilitators	English	1,000
	Nepali	1,000
	Lao	500
	Vietnamese	1,000
Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ capacity development		
Gender in REDD+: A question and answer handbook for grassroots facilitators	Nepali	1000
	Lao	500
	Myanmar	500
	Vietnamese	1000
Equity in climate change and REDD+		
Equity in climate change and REDD+: A question and answer handbook for grassroots facilitators	English	500
Social equity in community forests: Two case studies from Nepal	Nepali	500
Short video on equity in climate change	Nepali	-



RECOFTC's mission is 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 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. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people and research and educational institutes 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.

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
P.O. Box 1111
Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel (66-2) 940-5700
Fax (66-2) 561-4880
info@recoftc.org
www.recoftc.org



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