Nepal's Submission

General Overview on Co-benefits of REDD+ implementation

Introduction

Recalling the discussions in relation to 37th SBSTA in Doha that did not reach a decision, Nepal would like to put forth a general overview with initial ideas in the context of co-benefits to bring about further qualitative discussions in the up-coming 38th SBSTA negotiations.

Welcoming the decision 2/CP18 Para 34 that recognizes the need to improve the coordination of support for the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, and to provide adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties for implementation of those activities and noting para 29 (b) of the work-program on result based finance Nepal would like to put forth initial ideas on co-benefits.

Based on our current understanding, the term "co-benefits" refers to non-carbon benefits, associated with the implementation of REDD+ activities, both realised and appreciated by concerned stakeholders. In this context and based on existing knowledge, Nepal offers the following views on issues of co-benefits resulting from implementation of the REDD+ activities.

Co-benefits of implementing REDD+ activities The non-carbon benefits as co-benefits of implementing REDD+ activities are of utmost importance and substantial for many developing nations. Large proportions of their populations are poor, have limited livelihood options, depend on forest resources from the fragile mountain. In many countries these people also have traditional use rights based on their national circumstances.

Nepal recognises the following co-benefits from implementing REDD+ activities based on existing National experiences and knowledge.

A. **Enhancement of local livelihoods**: Through improved management of different types of forests and forest resources, REDD+ activities can contribute to generating employment opportunities in forest based industry, provide food and nutrients from forests, enhance quality of water and provide wood fuel for meeting energy requirements.
B. **Increase in the value of biodiversity**: Implementing REDD+ activities will contribute substantially to conserving biodiversity and wildlife habitat. This translates to increased local and national income, from, *inter alia*, wild flora and fauna.
C. **Better ecosystem services to people and environment**: As the state of forests improves, the resulting ecosystem goods and services such as provisioning, regulation, cultural and supporting functions will benefit the people and environment.
D. **More resilient ecosystems for climate change adaptation**: With effective and efficient management of forests, the local environment and associated ecosystems will be less vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change. Ecosystem based adaptation measures can provide sufficiently resilient ecosystems that will mitigate climate change impact on people and

ecosystems.

E. **Improved governance, institutional setup and policies for natural resource management at local to national levels**: Effective implementation of REDD+ activities requires a compliance process that is transparent and promotes participatory decision making method as well as equitable benefit sharing mechanisms at various levels which can contribute to improved forest governance.

F. **Contributions to MEAs**: Implementing REDD+ activities will also contribute towards meeting the objectives and targets of many international conventions and agreements such as the Aichi targets and other provisions of CBD, Ramsar, CITES, UNCCD.

The table below lists the possible, but not limited to, following co-benefits, their indicators and means of verification. The importance and scale of co-benefits may vary depending on local circumstances.

Table: List of co-benefits of REDD+ activities, their indicators and means of verification.

Co-benefits	Indicators	Means of verification
A. Livelihoods improvement	1. Employment (forest and biodiversity based) 2. Food and nutrient supplement 3. Water availability 4. Wood energy	1. Records of forest related enterprises 2. Survey/study reports 3. Water discharge data from concerned authorities 4. Consumption record of wood fuel at government agencies
B. Increased biodiversity value	1. Reduced loss of habitat 2. increased number of species 3. increased income from bio-prospecting	1. Reports of biodiversity monitoring (at ecosystem and landscape levels); 2. Census report of flagship species 3. Records of forest based enterprises
C. Enhanced ecosystem resilience for climate change adaptation	1. Reduced vulnerability from fire, flood, landslides, and siltation	1. Disaster database, records of environmental refugees
D. Improved governance, institutions and policies	1. Transparent and participatory decision making 2. Equitable benefit sharing	1. Public hearing and public auditing 2. distribution mechanism
E. Contribution to MEAs	1. Aichi targets of and other provisions of CBD, Ramsar, CITES, UNCCD	1. National reports

Views on issues related to co-benefits resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities

The issues related to co-benefits, in the context of and in the view of Nepal's experience, may be grouped under following categories:

1. **Technologies and methods**: For realising the co-benefits of implementing REDD+ activities the co-benefits need to be measured, evaluated and monitored. Most developing countries currently do not have appropriate technologies for this. Nepal requires free and easy access to technology related to remote sensing and renewable energy. Methodologies, formats, tools and guidelines for economic valuation of ecosystem services, periodic assessments and monitoring will be required and adapted to national and local contexts.
2. **Capacity development**: The current capacity of institutions and officials/individuals in the country will require significant improvement for making effective use of technologies and methodologies mentioned above.
3. **Financing**: The LDCs believe that funding sources and mechanisms are of utmost importance for incentivising co-benefits such that REDD+ activities become effective and sustainable in the long run. As fund, market and price of carbon in the international market remain unclear and unpredictable, the addition of co-benefits may further increase the complexity of an already complex REDD+ funding mechanism. Nepal strongly feels that additional funding, from multiple sources, in addition to carbon payments, will be required for incentivising co-benefits.
4. **Time line**: The implementation of REDD+ remains uncertain with continuing delay and added complexity over time. There is a growing sense of fatigue, frustration and scepticism over the intention and seriousness of REDD+. Quick implementation of REDD+ activities is required to retain the enthusiasm, interest and momentum of REDD+.

Nepal believes that these initial ideas will further help in the discussion in the 38th SBSTA .

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