



# **FCPF-Capacity Building on REDD+ for Civil Society Organizations and Local Communities in East Asia and the Pacific Region (P153588; FCPF Grant No. TA0A5386)**

## **Progress Report**

Project Period: August 2017 – June 2020  
Reporting Period: September 2019 – March 2020

### **Submitted to:**

**Haddy J. Sey**

Task Team Leader; Sr. Social Development Specialist  
Social, Urban, Rural & Resilience (SURR) Global Practice  
The World Bank Group

### **Submitted by:**

**Bhishma P. Subedi, Ph. D.**

Executive Director  
ANSAB Nepal  
Bhimsengola Marg, Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal

**March 31, 2020**

## Introduction

This progress report presents the major activities and achievements of the FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for CSOs and Local Communities in East Asia and Pacific Region Project (P153588) financed by the World Bank through Small Recipient Executed Trust Fund (RETF) grant. ANSAB, as a regional intermediary of the World Bank, has been implementing the Capacity Building Program (CBP) Phase II/FCPF Readiness Fund for the southern civil society (CSOs) and local communities (LCs) in East Asia and Pacific region. The beneficiaries of the project through regional activities are CSOs and LCs in 11 FCPF countries, namely Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Of them, four FCPF countries, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Vietnam, were eligible for in-country level capacity building activities through sub-projects. However, only Vietnam and Fiji were able to prepare the eligible proposals for implementing country level capacity building activities.

The project development objective (PDO) is to strengthen: (i) the knowledge of targeted southern CSOs and LCs on REDD+ Readiness at the national level and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level. Specifically, the project aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- a. National level capacity building activities on REDD+ undertaken by CSOs and LCs in FCPF countries in East Asia and Pacific have resulted to strengthened communities and effective engagement with governments at local and national levels;
- b. Knowledge products on REDD+ have been developed and disseminated, and knowledge-sharing activities undertaken and shared with CSOs, LCs, governments and other stakeholders in East Asia and Pacific.

The project is being implemented from August 2017 to June 2020, with a no-cost extension from the World Bank in December 2019. During this reporting period (September 2019 to March 2020), ANSAB compiled the outcomes of the sub-project level activities being implemented in Fiji and Vietnam for their contribution to capacity building and awareness raising on REDD+ at national level, documented lessons learnt and best practices on REDD+ at Asia Pacific regional level, and shared the key gaps, challenges and areas of action for successful of implementation of REDD+ programs in regional and global dialogues for indigenous peoples, LCs and CSOs, among others. The narrative on the project achievements and activities, progress towards achieving the project development objectives, and a plan for the remaining period are presented in the following sections.

## Activities and Achievements

### Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

#### a) Implementation of country-level activities

Three organizations, namely Center for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) - Vietnam, PanNature (Center for People and Nature Reconciliation) - Vietnam, and Grace Trifam Ministry (GTM) - Fiji, have been implementing country level activities. A brief narrative of the country level cumulative outputs and associated activities are presented below:

#### **Sub-project 1: Empowering CSOs and LCs to effectively participate in the implementation of Vietnam's Emission Reduction Programme (ER-P).**

Implemented by SRD – Vietnam, the sub-project aims to empower CSOs and LCs so that they will be able to effectively participate in the implementation of Vietnam’s ER-P. The capacity building activities implemented by the sub-project has benefitted communities in the North Central Coast (NCC) region of the country and CSOs which are members of the VNGO-FLEGT and REDD+ networks in the six NCC provinces by setting up a new Forest Conversion Independent Monitoring (FCIM) framework and network in advance of implementation, scheduled for 2019-2024 in the Vietnam ERP. This project has also demonstrated that CSOs and LCs, equipped with the right skills and tools could be efficient and helpful to assist the government in forest change monitoring and control.

Accomplished activities by this project are: (i) a 3-day training of trainers for 31 CSO representatives on ERP, the potential roles that CSOs can play, and the preconditions required for them to bridge the capacity gaps in order to fulfil their roles. These trainers subsequently capacitated 299 LC beneficiaries in 6 NCC provinces on ERP; (ii) one national and 8 provincial dialogues with decision makers on Forest Conversion Independent Monitoring (FCIM) to mobilize CSOs to benefit from genuine consultation on ER-P implementation; and (iii) development of a FCIM framework and establishing an independent monitoring network to deliver on forest conversion priorities in the ERP. A FCIM Framework has been developed (both in English and Vietnamese languages) within the framework of the ERP in the six NCC provinces of Vietnam in participation of national level key stakeholders including CSOs and LCs from national and 6 NCC provinces, research institutions and international NGOs. Through review of the existing forest change monitoring tools, Terra-I technology that tracks satellite images every 16 days to identify change in forest was selected. A training manual on Terra-I was developed and two training workshops on Terra-I for 79 participants were organized. As a result, the participants developed knowledge and skills necessary to monitor forest changes, report on forest changes, and update the data on forest management information system. In the process, 2 site validations were undertaken and 2 communes maps were produced.

The total direct beneficiaries of the project are 485, of which about 192 (39.6%) are women. About 1,700 people are indirect beneficiaries, of which about 42% are women.

The total budget contribution from the project is US \$114,963; out of which 80 percent (US \$92,117) has been disbursed, and SRD has expended US \$87,890 till the reporting period.

**Sub-project 2: Promoting Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) through strengthening capacity and participation of Vietnamese CSOs and local communities in REDD+ process in Vietnam.**

Implemented by PanNature - Vietnam, the overall objective of the sub-project is to provide a range of benefits to local communities and strengthen their participation in forest governance by adopting the ACMA approach in one REDD+ site, Huong Nguyen Commune in Thua Thien Hue province, one of the six REDD+ provinces in Vietnam. The project has carried out field level activities to capacitate local communities and the subnational and national level activities with the government and CSOs to create enabling environment. This project has also demonstrated efficient community-based forest change monitoring by building on the local level community institutions (such as local forest protection teams and forest management units) and capacitating

them on utilizing modern mobile technologies that could be integrated to the larger government system.

The specific outputs generated by the project and their associated activities include:

- i) Strengthened enabling conditions for REDD+ readiness through a) identification of national level ACMA initiatives, framework and process in consultation with CSOs, and national FCPF/ER-P; b) institutional and context analysis of REDD+ readiness capacity building needs in consultation with leaders of management agencies (namely Hue Forest Protection Department, A Luoi District People Committee, Huong Nguyen Commune People Committee), village leaders, forest owners and local communities in in Huong Nguyen commune; c) capacity needs assessment for CSOs in 6 provinces with the development of three training modules (environmental safeguards, sustainable forest management and FPIC, forest governance monitoring) and set of awareness and training materials for grass root CSOs/CBOs and researchers on REDD+ readiness; and e) training workshops that provided basic and advanced knowledge on REDD+/FCPF for civil societies, universities, institutes for effective and efficient management of REDD+ process and promote the role of CSOs on adaptive collaboration forest management and safeguarding local communities' rights & livelihoods.
- ii) Community level engagement on ACMA development with priority strategy REDD+ issues through a) identification of priority consultation framework for community, local authority, and forest owner on the implementation of ACMA through feasibility assessment and organization of a national level consultation workshop ; b) organizing and facilitating three community training courses on REDD+ that enhanced beneficiaries' capacity on REDD+ readiness and ACMA framework; c) organizing and strengthening 23 village forest protection teams on community based forest/carbon monitoring with provision of 23 smart phones, organization of two training courses on recording data and hotspots in mobile application, and establishing system with Hue Forest Protection Development Fund for official receiving and organization of the data; d) organizing and facilitating a consultation workshop with provincial and district staff on the ACMA framework that helped to build a common vision and enhance collaboration toward sustainable landscape governance in Huong Nguyen commune; e) organizing a national workshop to create a dialogue among national and sub-national policy makers on landscape governance and ACMA framework and generate policy recommendations; and f) preparation of policy recommendations on the ACMA/REDD+.
- iii) Promotion of participatory forest governance monitoring (PFGM) system linking local practices to national REDD+ through a) contribution to the development of a CSO-led FCIM/PFGM framework; and b) development of indicators and tools for FCIM/PFGM and test at provincial agencies, A Luoi district, Huong Nguyen commune, local commune and forest owners, with collaboration of CSOs incl. Voice for Mekong Forest project.

The total direct beneficiaries of the project are 452, of which about 215 (47.5%) are women.

The total budget contribution from the project is US \$109,756; of which, 80 percent (US \$87,805) has been disbursed to-date, and PanNature has expended US \$90,401.

**Sub-project 3: Building Capacity for Fiji's CSOs and LCs to Actively Participate in the Fiji National REDD+ Readiness Programme.**

Implemented by GTM – Fiji, this sub-project aims to strengthen the capacity of Fijian CSOs and other LCs so that they will be able to contribute to ERPD strategic issues and provide recommendations to the national REDD+ Strategy. This project has capacitated local communities in ten provinces with active engagement of women resulting to their increased understanding on REDD+, sustainable forest management, and effective participation in the national REDD+ program. This project has also demonstrated that the established institutions such as the faith based organizations and their forums that have large outreach, could effectively serve for the conveyance of REDD+ message to the community people and have potential to contribute to the national REDD+ program.

Accomplished activities include i) a pre-evaluation of CSOs and LCs' awareness of REDD+, ii) training of trainers for CSOs and LCs in the West, North and Central/Eastern Divisions, who would onward train the grassroot communities in the project sites, iii) organization of local communities and orientation training to grassroot people in 14 local communities of ten provinces, iv) meeting with national REDD+ CSO platform, v) organization of two divisional REDD+ and environmental stewardship dialogue fora for faith leaders, and vi) development of a discussion paper on existing ERPD strategic issues combined with specific recommendations from the CSOs and LCs fora.

Capacity building activities have been carried out in 14 local communities of ten provinces: Tikina Tokaimalo of Ra Province; Tikina Dawasamu of Tailevu North Province; Tikina Nabobuco of Naitasiri Province; Tikina Naqarawai of Namosi Province; Tikina Qaliyalatina, Tikina Nacula and Mamanuca/Yasawa groups of Ba Province; Gau Island and Lovoni in Lomaiviti Province ; Tikina Nakasaleka of Kadavu Province; Tikina Lakeba of Lau Province; Tikina Wailevu East and Rabi/Kioa of Cakaudrove Province; and Tikina Lekutu of Bua Province. The capacity building activities involved use of traditional/indigenous approach, such as “talanoa<sup>1</sup>” session and the “Queen Esther<sup>2</sup>” approach, and traditional/indigenous terminology meaning ecological restoration such as “Vakabulavanua” equating with REDD+.

Furthermore, GTM used the established faith-based forums to convey the REDD+ message to the community people, and also to explore the potential of the faith-based organizations to contribute to Fiji's REDD+ program. It partnered with the Fiji Council of Churches and Inter Faith Search Fiji, and organized the first ever divisional REDD+ and environmental stewardship dialogue forum for faith leaders in Fiji in June 2019. This brought together over 15 leaders of different religions solidifying faith-based partnership in safeguarding Fiji's rainforests and ecological environment. Realizing the need and importance of making aware the interfaith based organizational leaders on national REDD+ program, the Ministry of Forest partnered with GTM to organize another divisional faith-based leaders dialogue on REDD+ and environment stewardship that involved participation of the permanent secretary, interfaith based organization leaders and REDD+ officials. Working closely with the government of Fiji, GTM established good relationship and they were funded a learning mission to Nepal from 6 to 10 May 2019 by

---

<sup>1</sup> Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling.

<sup>2</sup> This approach promotes participation of women in training and capacity building activities at community level, as the male members of the household serve them in the household chores in order to provide the female members more time to participate in public event.

the Ministry of Forest. The mission included participation of two GTM directors and two participants representing government and REDD+ practitioner. During the mission, the team visited forest areas in Dolakha region where REDD+ program was piloted, and also met with ANSAB and few stakeholders to learn Nepal's experience on REDD+ and CSO participation, that could be useful in Fijian context for increased CSO role and participation in national REDD+ program.

Till the reporting period, 981 individuals have directly benefitted from the project activities, of which about 80% are women.

The sub-project is funded by a US \$75,000 contribution from the project. Of which, 80 percent (US \$60,000) has been disbursed to-date, whereas GTM has expended US \$61,118.

#### **b) Extension of the contracts with the sub-projects**

SRD and PanNature completed their activities with some of the committed funds unexpended. GTM had also some funds remaining, moreover, they had carried out few sub-project activities after the formal contract period and reported some expenses even after the contract deadline. It was because of their limited experience in project implementation and reporting. We had a series of meeting with the sub-project teams and the TTL regarding the possible use of the remaining funds, and possibility of extension of deadline of the sub-projects. After a thorough review of the balance of sub-projects and a discussion with the sub-project teams on its use through additional activities which would support the sub-projects' objectives, the sub-projects prepared their plans. ANSAB shared these plans with the TTL and Operations Specialist for their review, feedback and consent. After a thorough review of the proposed activities in consultation with the World Bank, ANSAB has extended the contracts with SRD and PanNature to April 30, 2020 and with GTM to April 15, 2020.

### **Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned**

#### **a) Documentation of lessons learnt**

ANSAB carried out a research study in order to document and share the lessons learnt for the REDD+ capacity building of CSOs and LCs in the East Asia-Pacific Region. The study covered the lessons learnt and best practices during the implementation of projects in the region, with a particular focus on the three sub-projects being implemented in Fiji and Vietnam at the national level. More specifically, it covered the i) review of ongoing national REDD+ initiatives and activities in the East Asia and Pacific region; ii) review of the ongoing in-country activities, with special reference to the participation of CSOs and LCs, and their outcomes in close collaboration with three sub-project teams in Vietnam and Fiji; iii) analysis of the in-country activities, outcomes, and key results based on results framework and key lessons of the sub-projects, including examples of best practices and success stories; and iv) analysis of key results of in-country activities and documentation of gender impacts as a consequence of the implementation of the project.

The study adopted a mixed-method approach which involved: (1) analysis and review of past project's and three sub-projects' reports, and relevant literature originating from South East Asia,

South Asia, and the Pacific regions; (2) a questionnaire survey - from the gaps and issues identified in these reviews, a questionnaire for all 11 FCPF countries and three sub-projects were developed and administered/discussed at a regional level workshop held in Kathmandu from 5-7 August 2019; and (3) review of presentations of all workshop participants, including the three sub-project representatives, and where necessary discussion with the participants.

Dr. Tek Maraseni of the University of Southern Queensland, who was selected as a researcher (consultant) in mid-June 2019 based on the standard procurement process of the World Bank, was engaged for conducting the study. The researcher submitted the first draft of the report in the beginning of September 2019. The report was reviewed by ANSAB program staff and the World Bank with few inputs to the researcher. After incorporation of the inputs, the researcher submitted the final report in the end of September 2019. The document was finalized by ANSAB and uploaded in the project website (<http://redd.ansab.org.np/>). It was also shared through a list serve of CSOs, which was compiled by ANSAB with support from the World Bank during the inception phase of the project.

**b) Regional dialogue for forest-dependent indigenous peoples (IPs), other forest dwellers and southern civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia-Pacific**

ANSAB jointly with Tebtebba, the recipient of the *FCPF capacity building on REDD+ for forest-dependent indigenous Peoples in East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia region Project*, organized a regional dialogue for forest-dependent indigenous peoples (IPs), other forest dwellers and southern civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia-Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand from September 16-20, 2019. The regional dialogue, which was funded directly by the World Bank, included the “regional workshop on increasing women’s capacities and roles in REDD+ related programs and processes in the Asia Pacific region” - a 2-day discussion on gender-related gaps and actions on September 16-17, 2019, and the “regional dialogue for forest-dependent indigenous peoples, other forest dwellers and southern CSOs in the Asia-Pacific region” - a 3-day discussion on lessons learned, gaps and recommendations on future actions on September 18-20, 2019. A total of 63 representatives, 31 women and 32 men, of indigenous people organizations and networks, CSOs, women’s organizations and governments from the FCPF countries, and the World Bank participated in the regional dialogue. As this activity was directly funded by the World Bank, not funded by the project, these numbers are not counted in the results framework below.

The regional dialogue was structured around regional summaries prepared by ANSAB and Tebtebba of their respective REDD+ capacity building program in the Asia Pacific region, including summaries of gender activities implemented to-date. During the dialogue, the participants a) shared the results and lessons learned from the grassroots level in building the capacity of forest-dependent IPs, other forest dwellers and southern CSOs engaged in REDD+ strategies and programs; (b) discussed challenges faced in mainstreaming gender in the program based on lessons learned from gender specific activities implemented, and came up with an agreement on key reasons for the low participation of women in REDD+ related decision making and needed actions; and (c) agreed on a set of recommendations on further REDD+-related capacity needs support.

**c) Global dialogue of the indigenous peoples, local communities and southern civil society organizations**

The *global dialogue of the indigenous peoples, local communities and southern civil society organizations* was organized by FCPF in Washington DC from November 7 to 9, 2019. During the dialogue, Dr. Bishma Subedi, ANSAB's Executive Director, presented the impacts on national REDD+ readiness process of the FCPF capacity building program for CSOs and LCs in Asia Pacific. After sharing some of the specific impact stories, Dr. Subedi highlighted the key gaps, challenges and areas of action that need to be undertaken for the successful implementation of REDD+ programs, especially during the emission reduction phase. ANSAB also provided the knowledge products developed by the project, moderated group works to identify lessons and best practices relevant to REDD+ implementation, and contributed to the discussion and prioritization exercise for setting the direction for further support to indigenous peoples, local communities and southern civil society organizations to engage in FCPF REDD+ Programs beyond 2020.

**d) Maintenance of REDD+ webpage**

The REDD+ website, hosted within ANSAB's organizational website, has been regularly updated with relevant information and documents. With the change of the ANSAB's organizational website to [www.ansab.org.np](http://www.ansab.org.np), the REDD+ website has been redirected to [www.redd.ansab.org.np](http://www.redd.ansab.org.np). Now the previous REDD+ website ([www.ansab.org/redd](http://www.ansab.org/redd)) redirects to this new site.

The website has been updated with the latest update from the three sub-project and documents produced from the project and sub-projects. Latest project progress reports and knowledge products are uploaded to the site.

**Component 3: Management, M&E and Reporting**

**a) Monitoring of the country level project activities**

Monitoring of the project has been done against the planned activities and the indicators mentioned in the result framework. Regular monitoring has been done through email correspondence and other virtual platforms, namely skype and messenger with the country level sub-projects.

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, most of the governments globally have issued travel restrictions and imposed lockdown and other restrictions to maintain social and physical distancing and prevent possible outbreaks. Due to this situation, most of ANSAB staff are working from home. There was a planned monitoring mission to Vietnam that couldn't be organized, and ANSAB carried out communication with the two sub-projects remotely through email and other virtual communication platforms to review their progress and processes of implementation of the sub-projects. With the pandemic, the country level sub-projects have also faced similar challenges, especially in organizing the mass meeting/workshop programs. Realizing this, we have already made further contract amendment with SRD with the knowledge dissemination activities in place of the workshop program. PanNature, on the other hand has completed most activities besides an exchange visit and a workshop, and are waiting for lifting

up the social distance order from their government. GTM staff are also locked in different islands of Fiji and they are trying hard to compile reports – technical and financial.

**b) Procurement**

The project has procured forest carbon measurement tools (6 GPSs, 6 laser rangefinders, 6 diameter tapes), soil measurement tools (2 soil pH meters, and 2 nutrient testers) and 2 laptops during the reporting period. It also republished the forest carbon measurement guidelines, that was prepared by ANSAB and has been regularly consulted by government agencies, researchers, CSOs and forest user groups for forest carbon measurement at community level. Procurement of these equipment and the republication of the guidelines were done in order to strengthen the technical capacity of the organization to measure forest carbon. ANSAB has been following the systematic tracking of the project’s procurement activities through the World Bank STEP system.

**c) Safeguard management**

**Environmental and social safeguards.** ANSAB has been in communication with the sub-project recipients periodically in order to ensure that the sub-projects do not cause any negative environmental and social impacts. With the implementation of the sub-projects, there are no negative environmental and social impacts.

**Grievance redress.** We have not received any compliant, suggestions, feedbacks and grievances during the reporting period.

**Disbursement:** As of 26 March 2020, the total disbursement of the project is 87% of the total project budget.

**Progress toward achieving the PDO**

The progress has been measured toward achieving the Project Development Objective (PDO) as measured by the five indicators in the results framework. The results framework with the indicators and the current status on each indicator is presented in Annex.

The project has achieved the PDO. The current results of all indicators, namely beneficiary feedback on increased knowledge (Indicator 1), new national knowledge products (Indicator 2), number of regional knowledge products (Indicator 3) and number of meetings between CSOs and national decision makers (Indicator 4) and direct project beneficiaries (Indicator 5) have exceeded their respective targets. The detail achievement is presented in Annex 1. The level of direct participation of women beneficiaries is also above the target. With the extension of the sub-projects, the number of direct beneficiaries is expected to increase slightly further.

**Plan for the remaining period**

Table 1 presents the planned activities for the remaining period.

**Table 1: Planned activities for the remaining period**

Activities	Year 2019		
	April	May	June

<b>Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising</b>			
Establish regular communication with CSOs and receive progress reports			
Implement country level activities including CSOs/LC interaction with national decision makers			
<b>Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned</b>			
Collect, review and upload relevant documents in REDD+ webpage			
<b>Component 3: Management, M&amp;E and Reporting</b>			
Submit external audit for Year 2			
Submit completion report			

## Annex 1: Results Framework with the indicators and the progress on indicators

Results Indicators	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Cumulative Target Values	Status- as of March 2020	Details on results to-date
1. Beneficiary feedback: Share of target beneficiaries with knowledge score of 3 or more on REDD+ and related issues	%	0	80	92	SRD 89; PanNature 90; GTM 96
2. National knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages	No.	0	4	7	SRD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desk review report on forest change monitoring mechanisms</li> <li>Forest Conversion Independent Monitoring Framework/tools (In English and Vietnamese languages)</li> <li>Operational guidebook on using Terra-I to monitor forest change (In English and Vietnamese languages)</li> </ul> PanNature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community poster on REDD+</li> <li>Policy recommendations on ACMA</li> <li>PGFM Guideline</li> <li>Training Manual</li> </ul>
3. Regional knowledge exchange products disseminated	No.	0	5	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparatory workshop</li> <li>2 Regional workshops</li> <li>REDD+ webpage</li> <li>Documentation of lessons learnt</li> <li>Video Documentary (5 min and 20 minutes)</li> </ul>

4. Meetings held between civil society and LC representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities	No.	0	4	4	4 meetings between the organizations and the REDD+ focal points (1 each for SRD and GTM, and 2 for PanNature) (In addition, SRD held 8 meetings at provincial level)
5. Direct project beneficiaries Of which female	No.	0	800	1,988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparatory Workshop: 7 total, 3 females</li> <li>• Regional Workshop I: 17 total, 6 females</li> <li>• Regional Workshop II: 46 total, 15 females</li> <li>• SRD: 485 total, 192 females</li> <li>• PanNature: 452 total, 215 females</li> <li>• GTM: 981 total, 785 females</li> </ul>
	%	0	40	61.16% (1,216)	