


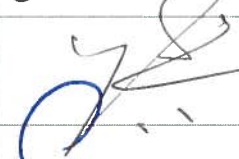
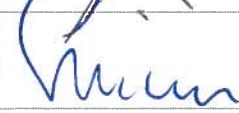
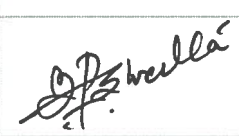

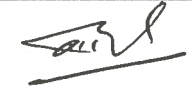



## Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> Project Board Meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

|                         |  |                  |  |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| <b>Project Name:</b>    | Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) in Mountain Ecosystems in Nepal |                  |  |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b> | 30-Mar-15  | <b>Time:</b>     | 11:00-1:00 pm  |
| <b>Chair:</b>           | Mr. Gauri Shankar Timala<br><i>National Project Director</i>     | <b>Location:</b> | EbA Hall, Forestry Complex,<br>Babarmahal, Kathmandu |

| Attendees                 |  |  |   |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| Name                      | Title  | Organization                                     | Signature   |
| Mr. Gauri Shankar Timala  | Deputy Director General /<br>National Project Director | DoF/EbA  |    |
| Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze      | Deputy Country Director                                | UNDP   |    |
| Dr. Akhileshwar Lal Karna | Regional Director                                      | Western Regional Forest<br>Directorate           |    |
| Mr. Vijaya Prasad Singh   | Assistant Country Director                             | UNDP   |   |
| Mr. Dirk Steffes-enn      | First Secretary  | German Embassy                                   |  |
| Mr. Mozaharul Alam        | Regional Climate Change<br>Coordinator                 | UNEP Regional Office for<br>Asia and the Pacific |   |
| Mr. Bishnu P. Shrestha    | Assistant Planning Officer                             | MoFSC  |  |
| Mr. Ram Hari Pantha       | Undersecretary (Tech.)                                 | MoSTE  |  |
| Mr. Basu Dev Kafle        | Senior Agricultural<br>Economist                       | MoA  |  |
| Mr. Rajendra Khanal       | Program Coordinator                                    | IUCN   |  |
| Mr. Vijay Prasad Kesari   | Environment Programme<br>Analyst                       | UNDP   |  |

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| Ms. Anu Adhikari     | Program Officer                                  | IUCN  |  |
| Mr. Pragyajan Y. Rai | Interim Project Coordinator                      | EbA PMU                                       |  |
| Mr. Jaeyoon Park     | Associate Programme Officer                      | UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific |   |
| Ms. Bhawani Shrestha | Research Associate                               | EbA PMU                                       |  |
| Mr. Hari N. Kurmi    | Finance and Admin Associate                      | EbA PMU                                       |  |
| Ms. Nawang Sherpa    | Communication And Knowledge Management Assistant | EbA PMU                                       |  |
| Ms. Rebecca Gurung   | Field Support Associate                          | EbA Field Office                              |   |

| Meeting Agenda                                       |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Topic  | Presented by:               |
| 1. Present 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Progress of 2015  | Interim Project Coordinator |
| 2. Present 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter work plan of 2015 | Interim Project Coordinator |
| 3. AOB   |                             |
| 4. Closing   |                             |









**Discussion/ Decision and Action**

**Topic ( Discussion)**

**Agenda 1: Review of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter progress of 2015**

The meeting commenced with the welcome remarks from Mr. Gauri Shankar Timala, National Project Director in which he welcomed everyone. Then, he requested Mr. Pragyajan Yalamber Rai, Interim Project Coordinator to present the progress of the first quarter and work plan of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2015.

Mr. Rai started the presentation highlighting on the major decision points of last PEB meeting and presented activities that were undertaken in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter by all the three partners. He presented the major progress of all three partners i.e. UNEP, UNDP, IUCN and the progress of CBDP.

Mr. Rai then highlighted the activities deviated from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and reasons for such deviation. Some of the deviation included recruitment of a Senior Policy Advisor, formation of Technical Committee at the MoFSC, publications of siltation dam study, concept note for the Global Meeting in Peru and methodology finalization of cost benefit analysis and finalization of VIA training modules. All these activities have been proposed for the second quarter. However, in regards to the formation of a technical committee, Mr. Rai elaborated that initial discussions with the MoFSC has started and will take momentum once the policy advisor joins the team.

Mr. Mozaharul Alam, from UNEP queried on the concept paper to be presented in Peru. Answering to his query, Mr. Vijay Singh from UNDP, clarified that the concept note will be on the way forward and replication of EbA learnings to other site. Likewise, Mr. Ram Hari Pantha from MoSTE questioned for the conceptual clarity of grey-green measure to which Mr. Rai responded that the word was recommended and seen appropriate than 'bioengineering' as per the suggestion put forward by the global team during the global meeting held in Nepal.

Mr. Timala requested clarity on the 102% expenditure reported by UNDP to which Mr. Rai responded that the expenditure was a result of delayed fund disbursement during the fourth quarter of 2014 that resulted in disbursement of many fourth quarter grants in first quarter of 2015.

**Action (including time line to complete the recommended action)/ Decision**

- PEB approved the progress of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- Recruitment of Policy Advisor by April 2015
  - Publish summary report of siltation dam study
  - Prepare concept paper for Peru Sharing and Learning workshop
  - Finalize methodology of cost benefit analysis

**Responsible Person for action**

PMU  
PMU  
PMU  
PMU

1 (Rai, Singh, Alam, Pantha, MoSTE, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, CBDP)

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| <p>Ms. Sophie Kemkhazde, from UNDP highlighted the importance of monitoring activities undertaken by UNDP field office to the project and clarified the purpose of monitoring by the UNDP.</p>  | <p>PEB approved second quarter plan of 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>finalizing Eba Monitoring and Evaluation Framework including Indicators for Nepal</li> <li>Finalizing training manual to conduct capacity development training.</li> <li>Eba planning in remaining 10 watershed</li> <li>Realistic plan on capacity development</li> <li>Finalizing the list of participation for capacity development program for UNEP</li> </ul>   | <p>UNEP</p>   |
| <p><b>Agenda 2: Present proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter work plan of 2015</b></p> <p>After presenting the progress of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, Mr. Rai presented the plan of the second quarter of all three partners UNEP, UNDP and IUCN along with the plan of CBDP. In the second quarter, UNEP will be finalizing Eba Monitoring and Evaluation Framework including Indicators for Nepal and Training Manual incorporating suggestions and also continuing working on the preparation of Eba planning in the remaining 10 Sub-watershed of PMER. He also presented the plan of UNDP which included research studies (TU-CDES), field implementation, capacity enhancement, conservation education, policy support and producing knowledge products. As per the plan shared, UNDP will be completing the field activities by May 2015. Similarly, IUCN will be continuing the programs on ecosystem restoration, water conservation, livestock husbandry and knowledge management. Likewise, CBDP work plan entailed plantation, bioengineering and joint monitoring.</p> <p>Finally, Mr. Rai presented the proposed budget of second quarter and concluded the presentation by showing the example of one of the Eba activities implemented in the field. In the picture, he presented the area planted with pine species which has in turn made the soil acidic and also reduces soil moisture. In order to maintain ecosystem services, multiple use species such as Paiyu, Amriso, Lapsi and Tejpat were planted in open rangeland along with compound wall to control open grazing. These species provide better ecosystem services to local as such planted species provide fodder, timber, during blooming season nesting ground for bees and also with potential economic benefits from Amriso, Lapsi and Tejpat. Though such Eba interventions, barren and eroded land are now being restored to forest that provides better ecosystem services, which however cannot be showcased within the time frame of the project.</p> | <p>In this regard, Mr. Timala questioned on the linkage of Eba concept to this plantation. Clarifying the query, Mr. Rai expressed that having such diverse species provides ecosystem services along with financial benefits to locals in a land that was once only used for grazing purpose and grass that locals paid only NRs 500 annually to collect. Hence, plantation of multiple-use tree species in time can provide better economic benefits to the locals and especially to the two schools that share the benefit from any revenue generated from the plot.</p> | <p>UNEP/IUCN/ UNDP</p> <p>PMU</p> <p>UNDP field</p> |

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| <p>Adding to this, Mr. Alam highlighted two major benefits of this initiative which is directly related to ecosystem. First, the newly planted species which are also being guarded by the compound wall will improve greenery and help reduce erosion. Secondly, with better land conditions, it will also enhance the capacity to restore water and support the recharge of watershed. Further, Mr. Rai added that large gully erosion was observed prior to the intervention which is now decreasing with bamboo check dam treatment applied in the region and the risk of soil erosion will reduce from the area once the trees grow. In its effort to raise awareness, IUCN has been conducting radio programs targeting the locals in the region to which Mr. Mozaharul Alam from UNEP, proposed to promote using radio to communicate the concept of EbA with the locals of project site since radios are still one of the most effective ways of communicating with the locals. He added that the EbA concept is still evolving so we need to reach out to the locals to clarify the concept but urged the importance of looking into the message broadcasted in the radio to ensure consistency in message delivered and to make it easier for the locals to grasp the knowledge. In the same context, Mr. Timala added that it is important to first evaluate the effectiveness of using radio as a communication tool. He further added that the message to be delivered on radio has to be linked to the capacity development initiatives which are proposed for the coming quarters. Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze from UNDP also supported the idea that radio can prove to be an effective communication tool. However, it might be tricky when it comes to delivering the message since the concept of EbA is quite complex to comprehend. It is hence important to simplify message as much as possible. Mr. Rai then notified that EbA has used radio as a communication medium in 2013 and had partnership with 3 radio stations. However, he stated that it is challenging since people these days are more receptive to visual interpretation than listening to radios. So in this regard, EbA has targeted the youth groups as these groups are more receptive and can prove effective to convey message to the community via them. However, Ms. Kemkhadze stated that such efforts must also include women groups and user groups and not just be limited to youths.</p> <p>On regards to budget, Mr. Timala requested all partners to present the status of their project budget for the remaining project period to ensure clear indication of amounts being spent specific activities. In this regard, Mr. Kesari from UNDP presented the fact that UNDP has around USD 630,000 for the year 2015 and budget has been spent as planned for the first quarter. The remaining budget for the coming three quarter stands at around USD 490,000. From this amount, majority will be spent on grants and field level interventions in the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. The field level interventions are expected to be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter and if not, a few portions will be spent during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Besides, a considerable amount of budget will be spent on knowledge generation. In the same context, Ms. Anu Adhikari stated that IUCN has around USD 150,000 for the year 2015 and for the second quarter, they have a budget of</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring visit by UNDP field office Bharatpur</li> <li>Policy support to mainstream EbA</li> <li>Presenting the overall remaining budget from next PEB</li> <li>Share table that highlights scaling up of EbA and donors interested in funding it and identify gaps</li> <li>Share UNEP budget for the remaining quarters</li> </ul> | <p>office-<br/>Bharatpur</p> <p>PMU</p> <p>PMU</p> <p>UNEP/IUCN/<br/>UNDP</p> <p>PMU</p> <p>UNEP</p> |
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USD 50,000. IUCN have already contracted two relevant partners for project implementation and has already released the first installment. Similarly, Mr. Alam stated that UNEP has a budget of around USD 150,000 for the year 2015. Of which, majority of the budget will be spent on capacity development. Since additional activities related to capacity development on integrating EbA into planning processes have been identified which were not planned earlier, their budget needs to be revisited.

Mr. Alam highlighted the need to work on the capacity development plan derived from partners meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and the interaction meeting held with high level government officials on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015. He also highlighted on the additional activities requiring to deliver the capacity development plans. IUCN in this regard needs to revisit their budget since couple of capacity development initiatives have been identified to be conducted by IUCN. Also, the presented capacity development plan appears to be too ambitious for the remaining term of the project since the project finishes its term in December 2015. He suggested that it is important for all the partners to come up with feasible plan related to capacity development. UNEP, however, will be able to deliver its planned capacity development initiatives given time and budget. UNEP is responsible for: Updating training manual (focused on VIA tools and methodology) and delivering two district-level capacity development training and one national level which consist of reviewing planning steps and identifying entry points for EbA. In this same context, he requested PMU to carry out the necessary coordination to conduct capacity development plans.

Mr. Timala suggested not to have more than 20-25 participants in one training group so as to ensure good quality of the training. Mr. Alam mentioned that it will be sorted out once PMU confirms the number of participants for each of the capacity development plan to be conducted.

Dr. Akhileshwar Lal Karnal, Regional Director of Western Region Forest Directorate expressed the request put forward by local partners and Panchase protected forest council members for an exposure visit as an experiential learning. To which, Mr. Alam clarified that in Asian Region there are no countries showcasing successful EbA approaches in mountains and advised to look for a potential exposure visit within the country. Mr. Timala added his view saying it might be interesting to compare EbA approaches with successful CBA approaches and further advocate for EbA approaches. In this regard, Mr. Vijaya Singh from UNDP stated that since Nepal possess good examples for CBA and their limited scope in other countries showcasing good EbA approaches, an exposure visit within the country can be organized for our local partners. In the same context, Mr. Ram Hari Pantha from MoSTE stated that they have recently successfully organized CBA workshop and a group of MoSTE officials will be visiting Bangladesh to learn



*Ravi*

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| <p>more on CBA. The ministry is willing to share the learnings of CBA based on their visit and knowledge attained so far with the PEB team. Similarly, Mr. Basu Dev Kafle, from Ministry of Agriculture Development stated that agriculture and livestock also have a direct link with the ecosystem. Hence, it is important to have planning officers or any other officials of DLSO and DADO in the capacity development initiatives. In this regard, Mr. Alam proposed to have such trainings close to the sites which will make it easier to demonstrate the practical part of initiatives.</p> <p>Mr. Dirk Steffes-enn, from German Embassy and representative of BMUB stated that BMUB is interested to know if there are other donors who are interested in scaling up the project. He also enquired whether the partners see major gaps that still would need to be served. He requested PMU to provide a brief table on those two issues. On regards to the questions on do we need to conduct the Final Term Evaluation in full scale, Mr. Steffes-enn replied that he will check with the concerned person and get back to PMU through email.</p> <p>For the conceptual clarity, Mr. Rajendra Khanal from IUCN proposed to give a presentation on the difference between CBA and Eba in the coming PEB meeting. He further added that the CBA approach has people at its center while the Eba has ecosystem at its center so it will be interesting to reflect upon these two differing concepts.</p> <p>On the proposal to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter plan by Mr. Timala, Ms. Kemkhadze responded that the PEB approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter plan except a comprehensive capacity building plan which is to be submitted as a 2-3 pager concept note. The requirement of End Term Review will be approved by the PEB members through email correspondence once scenario will be cleared by the concerned.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Closing:</b></p> <p>In his closing remark, Mr. Rajendra Khanal mentioned the need of undertaking lots of activities at community level. He added that the community is aware but it's not enough and there are still gaps on concepts of Eba and Vulnerability Impact assessment (VIA). He further added the importance of this project in terms of learning as other there are many projects on Eba under development. He also shared the possible species that can be planted in the open area as shown in the last slide of the presentation. He proposed the team to produce tangible paper for Peru focusing on the learnings of the project. Furthermore, he highlighted on the importance of involvement of local institutions and students in Eba project and emphasized on the importance of main phase of Eba.</p>  | <p>• Preparing a concept note on the expected outcomes of capacity development activities.</p> <p>• Establishing the resource center at Panchase Protection Forest Council and at PMU</p> |

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*(Handwritten signature: Basu Dev Kafle)*

*(Handwritten signature: Dirk Steffes-enn)*

*(Handwritten signature: Mr. Alam)*

*(Handwritten signature: Mr. Rajendra Khanal)*

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*(Handwritten signature: Mr. Dirk Steffes-enn)*

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Mr. Alam mentioned the necessity of considering three things in his closing remark; First, the learnings generated during our project needs to be well documented. Second, delivery of the activities in the remaining nine months must be focused and requested partners to pick up some of the promising activities from the ground to be presented in Peru and third, the committee needs to be formed to advocate EbA at a higher level and its institutionalization.

Mr. Dirk mentioned the presentation as a comprehensive one and also stated that the German Embassy is happy with the result. He informed the team that he will communicate with the team regarding the project continuation along with the final evaluation of the project.

In the concluding remark, Ms. Kemkhadze appreciated the good financial delivery by the project. She further added the realistic plan for the capacity development activities is necessary but with limited time, there is a need for conceptual clarity and requested UNEP to prepare a concept note on the expected outcome of the intervention. Furthermore, she added that policy dialogue with the line ministries is very important for policy implication and for the visibility to ensure the project being scaled up. Further, Ms. Kemkhadze added the necessity of moving three partners together to achieve the overall project goal. Finally she mentioned that the project has a good physical visibility and thanked everyone for their hard work.

In the concluding, Mr. Timala highlighted two major things: First, he requested the urgent need for building the institutional capacity of the Government to sustain the EbA knowledge. In this regard, he requested Mr. Alam to ensure that capacity enhancement of government institutions so that the government institutions can take the EbA knowledge forward. Secondly, he highlighted the need to document the knowledge generated in Panchase and suggested the establishment of an EbA resource center at the Panchase Protected Forest Council as well as at the Regional Director's Office in Pokhara. In closing, he extended his appreciating to the representative from MoSTE for the offer to sharing the knowledge on CbA, Regional Director for monitoring EbA activities, welcomed the two new members of EbA Project and formally concluded the PEB meeting expressing his gratitude to all the members for their active participation.

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