

Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with Community Participation in Nepal

(September 2010 – August 2012)

Funded by: Asia Pacific Forestry Network (APFNet)

Fund: USD 500,000

Executed by:

Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)

Supervised by:

Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC)

June 2011

Context and Background

- Community Forestry Program in Nepal is a very successful program
- Some communities have established themselves as examples in good governance and enterprise development
- Many areas still need to be improved.
 - Sustainable forest management/biodiversity conservation
 - Good governance
 - Livelihood improvement
- About 31% people are under poverty line most of whom are forest dependent .

Rationale

- Greenery increased but weak governance structure threatens sustainability
- Sufficient financial resources but underutilized
- Unable to generate sufficient employment through proper utilization of forest resources
- Increasing internal migration in the recent years which can be controlled through local employment generation and green jobs.

Goal and Objectives of the Project

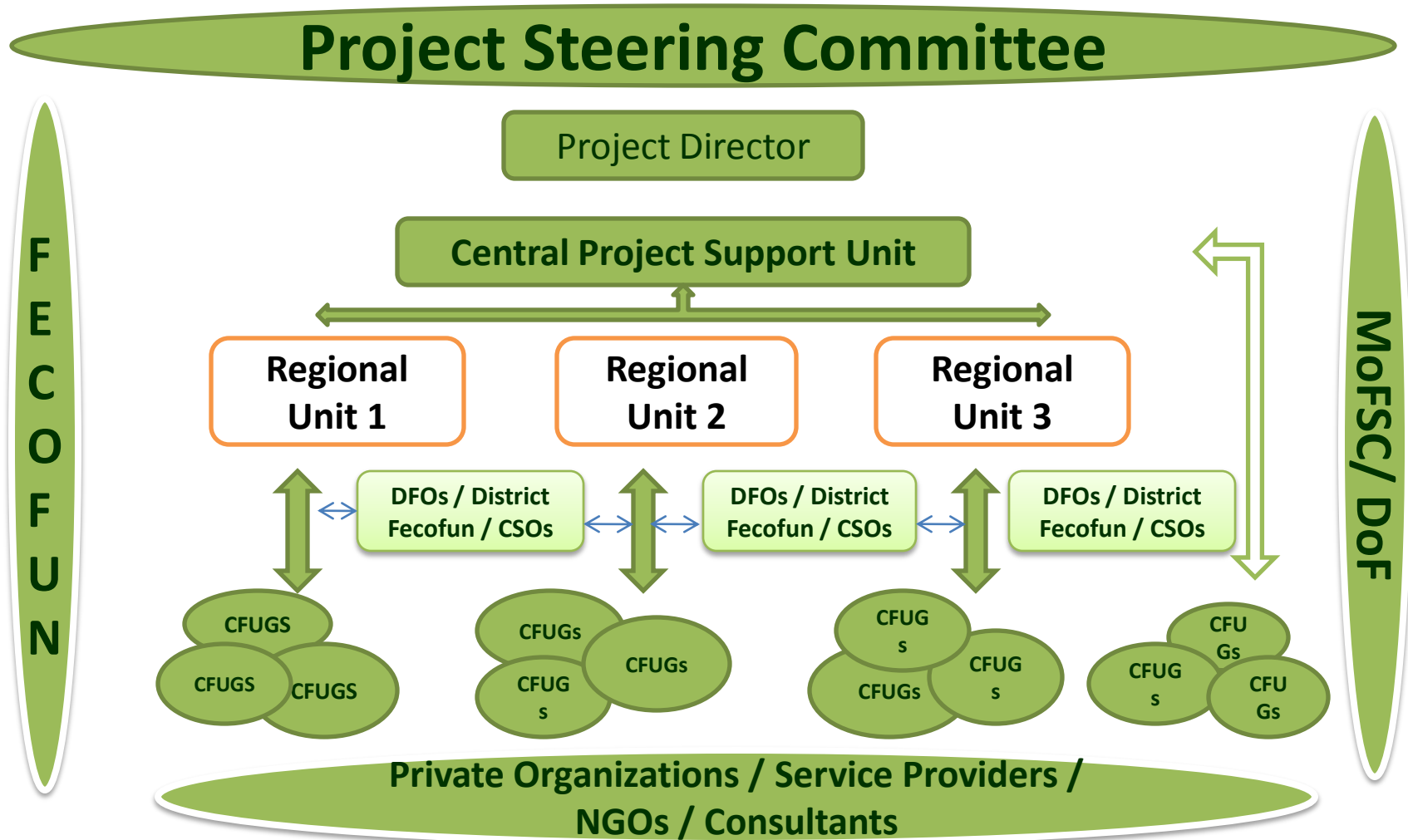
Overall goal : To promote participatory forest management to improve the livelihood of forest dependent poor people.

- Objective 1: To **enhance the capacity of the local users groups** to strengthen internal governance and sustainable management of forest with biodiversity conservation.
- Objective 2: To develop the human resources to **support the sustainable management of forest**, livelihood improvement and promotion of community based forest enterprises.
- Objective 3: To **improve the livelihood of the forest dependent poor people** through the community based forest enterprises and green jobs.
- Objective 4: **To document and disseminate the best practices** from the piloting and influence the policy to support the sustainable management of forest and promotion of community forest based enterprises.

Conceptual Framework



Implementation Modality



Major Activities

- Workshops on sustainable management of forest and good governance criteria and indicators
- Public Hearing/Public Auditing
- Participatory Governance Assessment and Reassessment
- Trainings for LRPs on good governance, SMF, forest inventory, market and cooperative development
- Feasibility study for enterprise establishment
- Establishment of enterprises and cooperatives
- Documentation of project processes, best practices and policy analysis

PROJECT PROGRESS
(SEPT 2010 – APRIL 2011)

Start-up Activities

- Office establishment
 - Central Project Support Unit (Kathmandu, FECOFUN Secretariat)
 - Regional Project Support Unit (Dadeldhura)
 - Regional Project Support Unit (Dang)
 - Regional Project Support Unit (Morang)
- Selection of Project Implementing Districts and CFUGs
- Human Resource Recruitment
 - Central Staffs
 - Regional Staffs
 - District Focal Persons
 - Local Resource Persons

Start-up Activities (contd.)

- Inception Workshop
- Project Steering Committee Formation/Meeting
- Three Regional Consultation Workshops (Dadeldhura, Dang, and Morang)
- Central level consultation workshop
- Central level orientation workshop
- Coordination meetings with key stakeholders

Progress towards Objective 1

- Entry Point Strategy Planning Workshop
- District Level Orientation Meetings
- District Level Meeting with Key Stakeholders
 - Meeting with District Forest Office, Small and Cottage Industry Officials
 - Meeting with other project personnel (LFP, MEDEP, PAF, etc.)

Progress towards Objective 1 (contd.)

- Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicator Adoption Workshop at Central Level
- Two Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicator Adoption Workshops at Regional Level (Morang and Dang)
- District Level Planning Meetings
- Collection of CFUG Forest Operational Plans and Constitutions

Progress towards Objective 2

- Training of Local Resource Persons for facilitation in Community Forestry Operational Plans and Constitution
- Participation in Regional and District Level Workshops

Progress towards Objective 3 and 4

- CFUG level exploration and identification of potential enterprises and discussion with various stakeholders
- Documentation - Activity Completion Reports, Progress Reports, Photos, Videos

Lessons Learned

- Strengthened coordination between FECOFUN and MoFSC, Department of Forest
- Enhanced coordination with District Forest Office in implementing districts
- Growing coordination with similar project personnels at various levels
- Strong interest and commitment by CFUGs for enterprise establishment
- CFUGs willing to mobilize CFUG fund to establish enterprise

Challenges

- Fluid political situation and frequent strikes and Bandhs
- High potential of enterprise establishment in hilly areas but staff movement difficult due to weak infrastructure
- Potential difficulties in marketing of products
- Renewal of CFUG FOPs

Way Forward

- Capacity building of Local Resource Persons through training and workshops
- Feasibility study of potential enterprises
- Improving governance of CFUGs through Participatory Governance Assessments and Public Hearing/Public Auditing
- Continued coordination with government entities and other key stakeholders
- Developing strong coordination with private entities for marketing of products