

POTENTIAL INCOME FROM REDD+ ACTIVITIES FROM NEPAL'S TERAI ARC LANDSCAPES (TAL)

Basanta Gautam

Arbonaut Ltd., Latokartanontie 7 a, 00700 Helsinki, Finland.

basanta.gautam@arbonaut.com

Nepal is one of the first countries to receive REDD+ Readiness funds from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank to conduct REDD+ Readiness activities. As a part of the readiness activities, Nepal developed Emission Reductions Programme Idea Note (ER-PIN) for 12 districts in Terai Arc Landscape (TAL). Nepal submitted its ER-PIN to the FCPF in March 2014. Nepal's ER-PIN was selected into the pipeline for result-based payment from carbon fund of the FCPF. Currently, Nepal is developing its Emission Reductions Project Document (ERPD) and is expected to be completed by the end of 2016. Aboveground forest carbon was estimated using a state of the art remote sensing technology combined with the field plots.

The analysis shows that during the 12-year period between 1999 and 2011, a total of 52,245,991 tCO₂e were emitted from the forest sector in the TAL, an average emission of 4,353,833 tCO₂e/year.

Based on the analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, five key activities and policy interventions are proposed to address those drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. These interventions are i) increasing supply, protecting and enhancing carbon stocks through sustainable management of forests (SMF), improved enforcement of laws, and maintenance of essential stewardship in protected areas, ii) expansion of biogas plants and cooking stoves, iii) integrated land use planning to reduce forest conversion while advancing needed infrastructure, iv) increasing supply by engaging the private sector to bring new forest production to degraded lands, and v) enhancing alternative livelihood opportunities to address underlying drivers. It is estimated that the emission reductions from aforementioned five REDD+ activities in TAL would result in a total of 14.0, 42.7 and 72.8 million tCO₂e during next 5, 10 and 15 years, respectively. The result-based income from these emission reductions activities would make Nepal to be eligible to receive, USD 70 million, 213.5 million and 364 million, within the next 5, 10, 15 years, respectively. In addition to the carbon benefit, the proposed Emission Reductions Program area has many non-carbon benefits as well (e.g. biodiversity, ecosystem services, culture).