



It is our pleasure to present this special issue of *Journal of Forest and Livelihood* (JFL) on much discussed contemporary theme related to climate change and forestry - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, including Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD+). As a financing mechanism to forest management in the tropical developing countries, REDD+, an initiative under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is expected in contributing to combat global climate change by reducing emissions and sinking atmospheric greenhouse gas. As a party in the UNFCCC, Nepal has been engaged in REDD+ readiness processes through a number of initiatives including policy formulation, research, capacity building and awareness raising during the last five years and has gained significant lessons and experience. However, those lessons are yet to be documented, analyzed, synthesized and shared with wider audiences.

This issue of JFL brings diverse issues, lessons and insights gained from the field experience and therefore contributes to ongoing debate on REDD+ in Nepal and beyond by informing academicians, policy makers and practitioners. This issue has two different sets of articles; the first set - comprising of five articles - brings the analysis and synthesis of the lessons from grassroots interventions and information on REDD+ related concepts. The first article, in this set, by Luintel *et al.* emphasizes the importance and strategies of capacity building of grassroots stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of REDD+. Likewise, Paudyal *et al.* argue that internal good governance of community forest user groups is crucial in ensuring the sustainability of REDD+ in the context of community forestry. While the article by Silori *et al.* discusses the REDD+ safeguard mechanisms developed so far and the issues related to their practical implications, Karky *et al.* emphasize the need to provide sufficient additional economic incentives to forest managing communities through REDD+ mechanism in ensuring effective forest management. The final article in this set by Manandhar highlights the need and maps out the methodology to carry out measurement, reporting and verification of emission reduction.

The second set - comprising of five articles - brings opinions and perspectives of researchers, policy makers, practitioners and activists drawing insights and reflections based on their experience. The article by Paudel and Karki summarizes the perceptions of different actors, representing different institutions, on REDD+ and allied issues. Likewise, Joshi *et al.* present the way co-benefits could be generated from the REDD+ projects in the context of community forestry while Bluffstone in his article discusses the need for better analysis of economic aspect of REDD+ from a community managed forestry perspective. Likewise, Gritten *et al.* argue the potential of REDD+ in addressing the issues related to forest based conflicts. The last article by Sherpa and Rai advocates for the application of free, prior and informed consent of local communities, particularly indigenous peoples on REDD+ in Nepal.

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