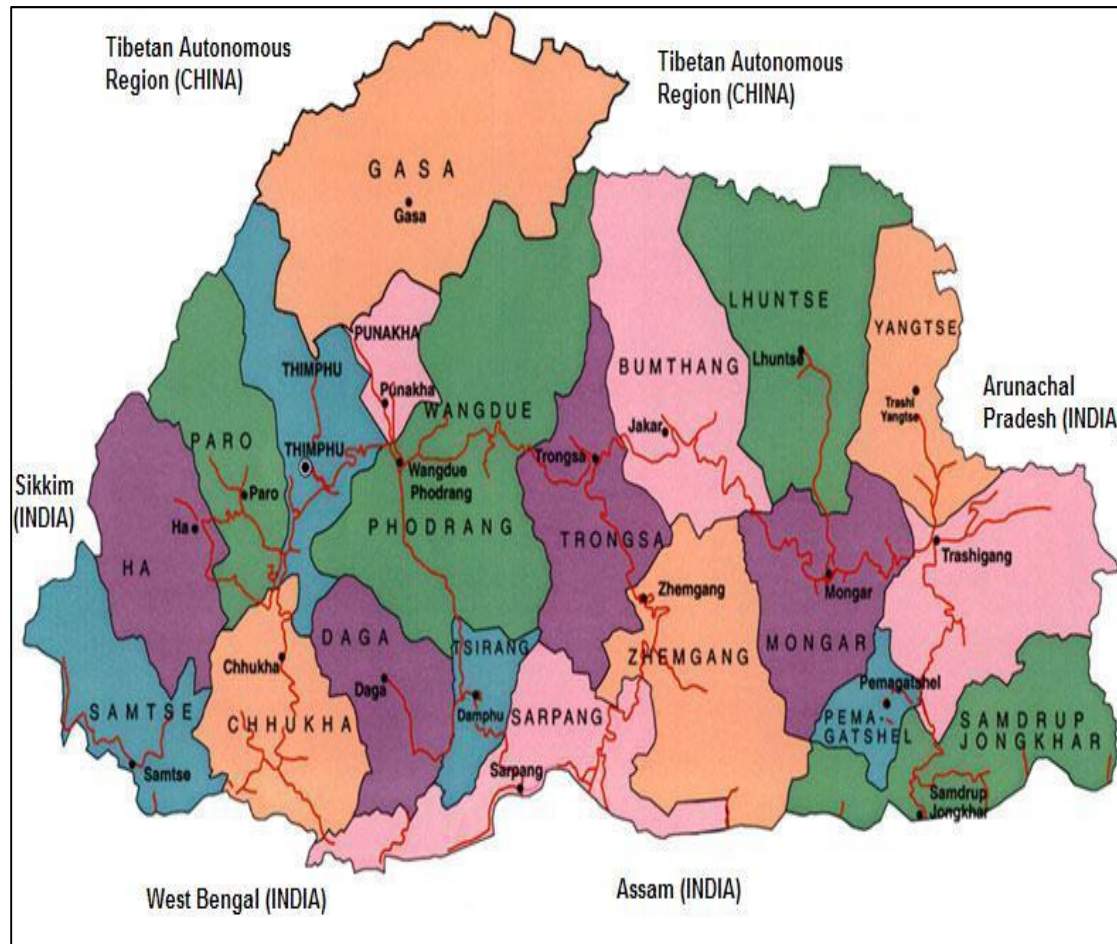


Country Presentation BHUTAN

**Tsering Gyeltshen, Dy. Chief Research Officer
Watershed Division, Department of Forests and Park Services
Karma C.Nyedrup, CBD Focal Point
National Environment Commission**

**Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity building
workshop on REDD-plus, Singapore,
15-18 March 2011**

Country Description - Bhutan

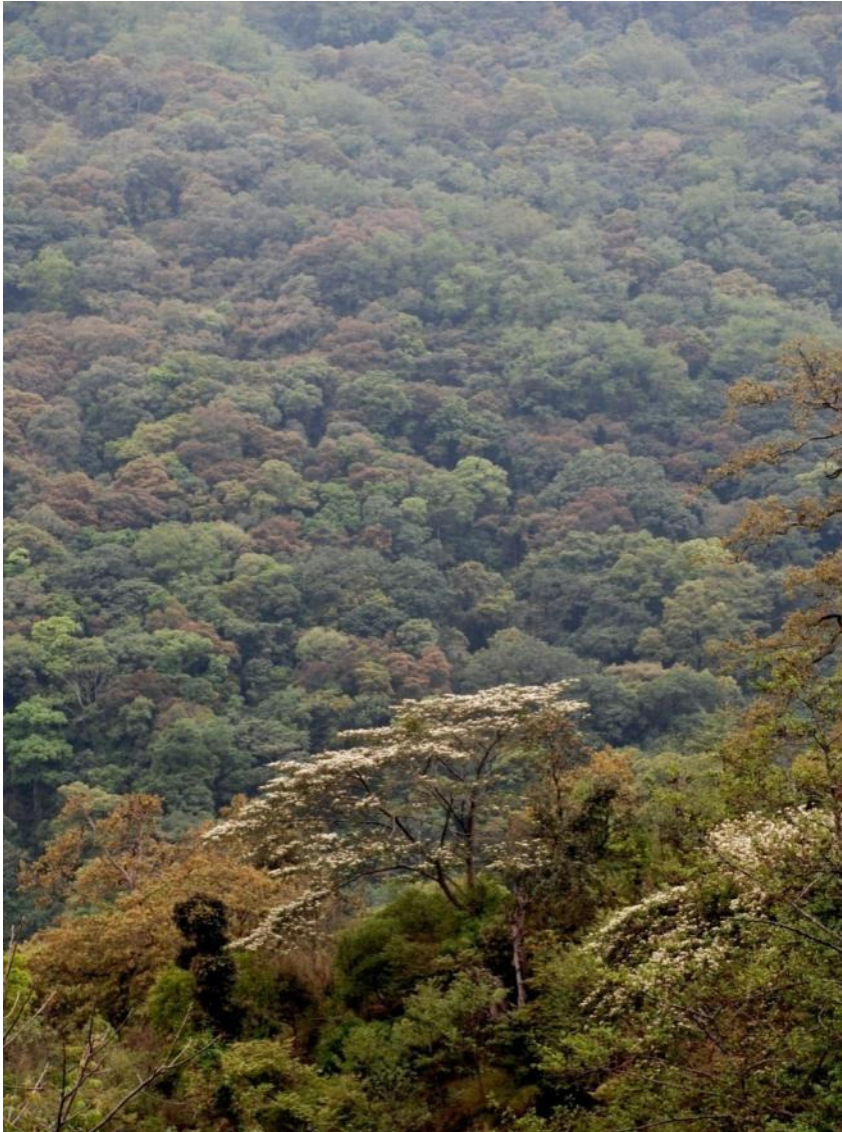


Total Area: 38,394 km²

Governance: **Democratic
Constitutional Monarchy**

Population: **Approx.
700000.00**

Forests and Protected Areas



- Forest cover: **72 .5 percent** of the total area.
- Protected Area System: **51.32%**
- Arable land: **7.8%**
- Constitution mandates – **maintenance of 60% forest cover at all time**

Bhutan and Forests

<i>Forest types</i>	<i>Area (ha)</i>	<i>As % of forest area</i>	<i>As % of total land area</i>
Fir	345,300	11.9	8.6
Mixed conifer	486,800	16.8	12.1
Blue pine	128,600	4.4	3.2
Chir pine	100,900	3.5	2.5
Broadleaf + conifer	135,800	4.7	3.4
Broadleaf	1,374,900	47.3	34.3
Forest plantation	6,400	0.2	0.2
Scrub forest	325,800	11.2	8.1
Total	2,904,500	100.0	72.5

Bhutan and Forests

- Bhutan- Unique Position
 - **Developing Country with High Forest Cover**
 - **History of Limited Deforestation and Forest Degradation**
 - **8 Major Forest Types**
 - **Long Societal/Religious and Governmental Commitment to environmental preservation**
 - **One of the pillars of the Guiding Developmental Philosophy-GNH**



Bhutan and Forests

Unique

- More than 50 % of the Area under protected area networks-Forests within the PAs- Legal Status
- 10 PAs
- Strongly focusing on Participatory Community based resource management- CFs moving at great pace



Asia Pacific Regional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop on REDD + in Developing Countries, including Biodiversity Safeguards.

Bhutan and REDD +

- Institutional Arrangement in place- Watershed Management Division- Focal Office for climate related issues for Ministry of Agriculture and Forests-Focal for REDD +
- Focal Office for PES =REDD
- NEC- Focal office for UNFCCC and national communications on GHG emission



Asia Pacific Regional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop on REDD + in Developing Countries, including Biodiversity Safeguards.

Bhutan and REDD +

- Legal Conducive Environment-Country with long-term policies and approaches
 - 60% of Forest Cover for all times to come-
CONSTITUTION of BHUTAN-a commitment unique in the world and setting an absolutely enabling environment to initiate REDD+ in Bhutan
 - Article 5 of the Constitution-“*Every Bhutanese is a trustee of the Kingdom’s natural resources and environment*”.
 - It is further directed to secure sustainable development while promoting economic and social development-National Draft Forest Policy

Bhutan and REDD +

- Legal Conducive
 - The FNCA, 2005 recognizes the traditional and customary rights of the local people to use forests and thereby respects their legitimate access to forest resources
 - Community Forestry Guidelines, NTFP Guidelines, National Plantation Strategy

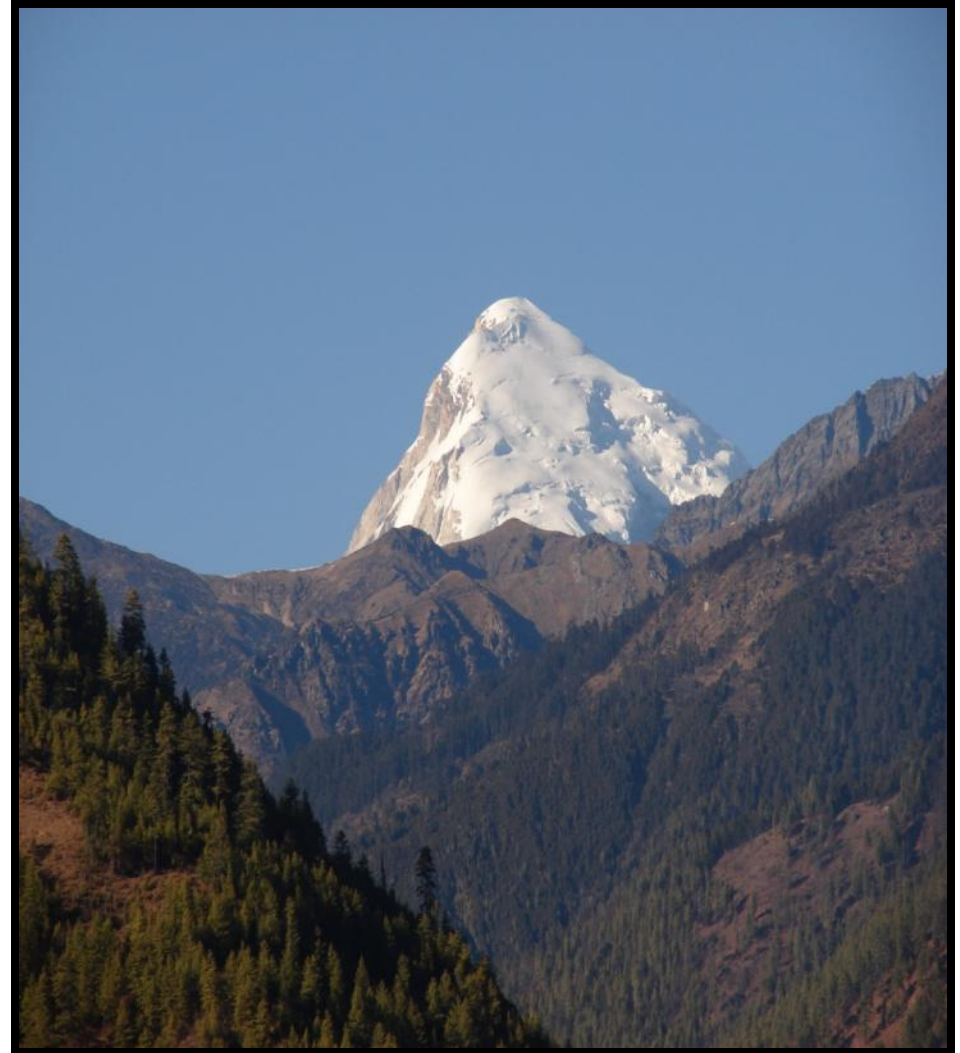


Bhutan and REDD +

- Political Commitment: RGoB Bhutan's commitment to be Carbon Neutral during the COP 15-Copenhagen, December, 2009
- “...pledging that for all times to come, Bhutan will remain carbon neutral and that we will continue to follow and be guided by a strong sense of conservation ethics. That we will not produce GHG in excess of what we can sequester but that we will also serve as a carbon sequestration tank for the world in general. And that we would like to be rewarded for this.”

Bhutan and REDD +

- Following COP 15, Bhutan became member of UN REDD Program as Observer Status in April 2010
- Starting of REDD +: June, 2010- Two days Seminar- Introduction of REDD + & Awareness(WMD/SNV)
- REDD Feasibility Study was recommended
- Instead REDD+ Scoping Study Conducted in Dec -2010 (WMD/SNV) Bhutan
- Study-Shows Feasible-with proper preparation & design



Bhutan and REDD +

- Estimation Carbon Stock-in the Forest of Bhutan
- FRA 2000, 2005 and 2010-compiled by FRDD for FAO (extrapolation from the previous year data)
- Carbon Stock calculated using Global default values=6.3 million tones of carbon in 2010 FRA
- Annual GHG Emissions= 1.5 million tones of Carbon against the sequestration amount of 6.3 million tones, net minus 4.7 million tones(Draft GHG Inventory Report, 2000)

REDD + and Issues

- Present data not even to Tier One Category
- Default Global Values used-FRA and ICIMOD study 2009
- Permanence???
- Leakage???
- Additionality??
- Governance???



REDD + and Issues

- Policies to Practice
- No National REDD Strategy
- New Concept in Bhutan
- Lack of Human Resources and Technical Capacity
- The present knowledge base on forest cover, forest degradation, carbon stock and carbon fluxes lacking





**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



National experience with biodiversity safeguards

Level of political support

–Highest level of Political will and support

Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan:

Article 5.2(a) The Royal Government shall Protect, conserve and improve the pristine environment and safeguard the biodiversity of the country.

Article 5.3 The Government shall ensure that, in order to conserve the country's natural resources and to prevent degradation of the ecosystem, a minimum of sixty percent of Bhutan's total land shall be maintained under forest cover for all the time.

Capacity on biodiversity safeguards

- Lack of capacity at all levels

Capacity Needs: -Information generation
-biodiversity risk assessment
-biodiversity safeguard
planning and
mainstreaming.

National Obstacles: lack of capacity and resources

Way Forward

- Towards REDD Readiness:
- Creating Technical Working Group and Policy Committee
- Start with Preparation of National REDD Strategy, Policies and Guidelines
- Options for learning-by-doing: Smaller scale projects-Start with the Protected Areas, CFs, FMUs-Testing institutional arrangements etc



Way Forward

- Probably use the experiences from PES Pilot sites as REDD and PES same
- Capacity Building on managing REDD + issues-MRV
- Building Forest Science Base-NFI with Rapid and focused research to establish for certain forest types, CF, Pas, FMUs-Nested approach without immediate need for whole country
- Carbon Measurement from Global Default data to Site Specific forest type data
- Advance from Not even Tier One to more accurate data –Tier one , two or three

Way Forward

- REDD Plus should act as Catalyst for building capacity and enhancing forest ecosystem knowledge base to far more advanced level, with multiple benefits for many users and applications
- Linking with and learning from regional experiences through SAARC are thought to be strategic and critical to gain relevant exposure and raise our technical confidence.
- Learn from / engage in SAARC or regional REDD+ pilots (CF/WWF/NFI etc.)

Thank you



For further information: Contact

Watershed Management Division, Department
of Forests & Park Services, Ministry of
Agriculture and Forests

www.moa.gov.bt