

*Please fill in the form in the grey spaces, by following the instructions in italic.*

<b>Requesting country:</b>	Nepal
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<b>Request title:</b>	Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal
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**Contact information:**

*{Please fill in the table below with the requested information. The request proponent is the organization that the request originates from, if different from the National Designated Entity (NDE).}*

	<b>National Designated Entity</b>	<b>Request Applicant</b>
Contact person:	Mr. Ram Hari Pantha	Dr. Suroj Pokhrel Joint Secretary & Coordinator, Inter-Ministerial Core Committee, Agroforestry Policy, Ministry of Agricultural Development
Position:	Under-Secretary and Head-Climate Change Section	
Organization:	Ministry of Population and Environment	
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**Technology Needs Assessment (TNA):**

*{Select one of the three boxes below:}*

*The requesting country has conducted a TNA in October, 2015 (please insert date of TNA completion) March, 2015 ( Please see attached Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry)*

*The requesting country is currently conducting a TNA*

*The requesting country has never conducted a TNA*

*{If the requesting country has completed a TNA, please indicate what climate technology priority this request directly relates to. Please indicate reference in TNA/TAP/Project Ideas.}*

Through a consultation workshop held in March, 2015, more than hundred stakeholders discussed various roles of agroforestry, including its role in assuring environmental security for the country. It was identified that absence of a National Agroforestry Policy of Nepal is hindering realizing the full potential of agroforestry. Therefore, the stakeholders unanimously recommended develop such a policy which will immensely help both the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

**CTCN Request Incubator Programme:**

*{Please indicate if this request was developed with support from the Request Incubator Programme:}*

- Yes  
 No

**Geographical focus:**

*{Select below the most relevant geographical level for this request:}*

- Community-based  
 Sub-national  
 National  
 Multi-country

*{If the request is related to the sub-national or multi-country level, please indicate here the areas concerned (provinces, states, countries, regions, etc.)}*

**Theme:**

*{Select below the most relevant theme(s) for this request:}*

- Adaptation to climate change  
 Mitigation to climate change  
 Combination of adaptation and mitigation to climate change

**Sectors:**

*{Please indicate here the main sectors related to the request. e.g. energy, industry, transport, waste, agriculture/fisheries, forestry, water, ecosystem/biodiversity, coastal zones, health, education, infrastructure/human settlement, tourism, businesses, early warning/disaster reduction, institutional design and mandates, cross-sectorial} **Agriculture and Forestry***

**Problem statement** (*up to one page*):

*{Please describe here the difficulties and specific gaps of the country in relation to climate change, for which the country is seeking support from the CTCN. Please only provide information directly relevant to this request, and that justifies the need for CTCN technical assistance.}*

Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, water-induced disasters, and hydro-meteorological extreme events such as droughts, storms, floods, inundation, landslides, debris flow, soil erosion, siltation and avalanches. Based on National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) 2010, out of 75 districts, 29 districts are highly vulnerable to landslides, 22 districts to drought, 12 districts to GLOFs, and 9 districts to flooding. An average of 0.06 °C increase in temperature per year is recorded during 1975 – 2005; and mean rainfall has significantly decreased on an average of 3.7 mm (-3.2%) per month per decade. Various climate change scenarios indicate a mean annual temperatures increase of 1.3 to 3.8°C by the 2060, and 1.8 to 5.8°C by 2090. Annual rainfall is projected to reduce across the country by 10 to 20%.

Impact of climate change in Nepal is very visible in terms of impacts on snow and glaciers that are directly linked with Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Till 2010, the number of glacier lakes increased by 11%. These have impacted the frequency of extreme weather events, such as landslides, floods and droughts resulting in the loss of human lives as well as high social and economic costs. An Economic Impact Assessment of Climate Change conducted during 2013 in agriculture, hydropower and water-induced disasters projected economic costs of climate change to 2-3% of the GDP/year by mid-century. In addition, the expected adverse effects on tree cover through natural and social forest and on agricultural landscapes will significantly hamper the carbon sequestration enhancing the impact of climate change.

Nepal emphasizes in mitigating adverse impacts of climate change and in adopting adaptation measures; and prioritizes the development of mitigation-friendly forest management systems. More than 25,000 community-based forest management groups across the country are directly engaged in managing about 30% of the country's total forest area. Considering climate change mitigation and resilience as one of the major strategic pillars, the Forestry Sector Strategy (2016-2025) aims to enhance Nepal's forest carbon stock by at least 5% by 2025 as compared to 2015 level, and targets to put in place forest carbon trade and payment mechanisms while mainstream community driven ecosystem-based adaptation by 2025. Besides targeting forests to achieve these, a systematic focus on agroforestry will facilitate achieving the goal.

Agroforestry is a system to manage natural resource which integrates trees and shrubs on farmlands and on rural landscapes to enhance productivity, profitability and diversity by delivering multiple benefits for people and ecosystem. The demand for agroforestry products and ecosystem services is increasing due to rapid economic growth, industrialization, increase in population, and its potential to satisfy these demands sustainably. Integrated cultivation of agriculture crops and trees provides resilience to climate change, saves natural forests by ensuring sustained supply of raw-material to timber and wood-based Industries, increases the availability of fuel for rural population; improves the food and nutritional security; reduces the impacts of crop failure; and generate employment to rural population. Thus, resolving the policy

and regulatory challenges; and promotion of agroforestry is expected to greatly help Nepal adapting to climate change. Climate Change Policy of Nepal (2011) advocates prioritizing and implementing climate-friendly natural resources management programs on the sustainable management including on agroforestry that will address the impacts of climate change.

In order to harness the full potential of agroforestry improvements to the policy and regulatory framework such as reversing restrictive regulations about felling, transport, and marketing of agroforestry species; regulating production and distribution of quality planting material, and creating finance and insurance instruments etc. are urgently required. Agroforestry has the potential to produce significant amount of timber and wood to reduce the indiscriminate harvesting of natural forests. However, restrictions on felling and marketing of the timber producing species discourage farmers to grow these trees on their farms. It is worth mentioning that 64% of indigenously produced timber in India is harvested through agroforestry which hugely supports forest conservation, and carbon sequestration. Accelerated adoption of agroforestry is usually restricted because the sector is extremely fragmented and the potential of agroforestry is always shadowed by its thin spread among several departments of different ministries.

In Nepal, the farm production system is characterized by subsistence farming. A majority of the farming communities have landholdings of less than 0.5 ha. Due to increases in population and division of wealth among the family members, the farm size is getting even smaller. Small landholders have to produce a maximum per unit area to ensure availability of sufficient food throughout the year. This is only possible by intensive crop-tree-livestock production using the multi-storied agroforestry systems which will also help mitigation and adaptation to climate change. It is estimated that about 90 % of the farmers in the mountains (267,510), 75% in the hills (1,186,066), and about 40% (583, 514) in the Terai practice some sort of agroforestry. However, they are challenged by non-friendly regulatory regimen and poor access to modern knowledge and quality inputs. Thus, promotion of agroforestry practices through a national policy is expected to instantly help about 2 million small holders to be more resilient to climate change and to extreme events. With wider adoption of agroforestry, the policy will be instrumental to encourage more than 65.6% population who are engaged in agriculture (SINA, 2014) of the country to support climate change mitigation and adoption.

With a formal release of the National Agroforestry Policy (2014) by the President of India, the country became the first in Asia to approve and implement an agroforestry policy. A successful implementation of the policy has significantly contributed to improve the overall mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the food and nutritional security (Ministry of Agriculture of India, DAC, 2014). A National Agroforestry Mission to promote agroforestry is in offing with an estimated budget of US\$ 250 million. Finance Commissions has for the first time recognized the critical role of forests and tree cover outside forests (agroforestry) in providing vital products and environmental services leading to climate change adaptability and huge ecological benefits. This has led the Finance Commission to provide an annual forestfinance incentive of about \$ 9 billion for improving and enhancing overall tree cover (forest and agroforestry) in India (Sharma, 2015).

The potential of agroforestry and the need to formulate a national agroforestry policy has been discussed through a national consultation workshop held in Kathmandu during 27-28<sup>th</sup> March,

2015. Among others, the workshop was attended by the Minister, Secretary, and Joint Secretaries of both the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD); and from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MOFSC). The “Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry” released at the end of the workshop by the Minister of Agriculture Development, strongly recommended formulation of a national agroforestry policy for Nepal. Following which the involved Ministries have established a seven member Core Committee to oversee the formulation of the Nepal Agroforestry Policy. This committee needs help and support from CTCN to deliver on the expected output.

**Past and ongoing efforts** (*up to half a page*):

*{Please describe here past and on-going processes, projects and initiatives implemented in the country to tackle the difficulties and gaps explained above. Explain why CTCN technical assistance is needed to complement these efforts, and how the assistance can link or build on this previous work.}*

Forests and trees are identified as extremely important to promote both the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (2016), Forestry Policy (2015), Forestry Sector Strategy (2015), Agriculture Development Strategy (2015), Climate Change Policy of Nepal (2011), and the Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan (1993), all emphasize on following:

- Balanced economic development and environmental conservation
- Climate resilient socio-economic development,
- Enhancing Nepal's forest carbon stock by at least 5% by 2025 as compared to 2015 level,
- Plant trees in at least 10% of the current open/barren land,
- Increase greenery through tree plantation and management of gardens and parks,
- Widen carbon storage through sustainable forest management and reduce carbon emissions,
- The Government has announced a forest decade for 2014-2023, with a theme: 'One house one tree, one village one forest and one town several parks.

Considering the role and importance of community based forest regeneration and maintenance, and the potential and value of increasing the tree cover employing agroforestry both the MOAD and MFSC are putting extra efforts to increase the tree cover in agricultural landscapes, degraded lands, on the sides of road and canals, and on community lands.

MOAD has established an Agroforestry Focal Point in the Ministry and a unit under Department of Agriculture to work on agroforestry, and has designated an Under Secretary as Focal Person for Agroforestry. Ministry has made a budget allocation in its 2015-2016 policy budgets to vitalize the work on Agroforestry policy. Similarly, MOFSC has 15 % budget allocation to support agroforestry activities through production and distribution of tree saplings. Based on Kathmandu Declaration (2015), both the Ministries have established a seven member Inter-ministerial Committee to oversee and coordinate the formulation of the National Agroforestry Policy of Nepal. The committee needs help and support from CTCN to deliver on the expected output.

**Assistance requested** (up to one page):

*{Please describe here the scope and nature of the technical assistance requested from the CTCN and how this could help address the problem stated above and add value vis-à-vis the past and on-going efforts. Please note that CTCN facilitates technical assistance and is not a project financing mechanism.}*

Nepal looks forward to receive assistance from CTCN to identify an organization with experience of working on development and coordination of National Agroforestry Policy in South Asia region; and to facilitate the involvement of the identified organization with the Inter-Ministerial Committee of MOAD and MOFSC during the period of policy development and its approval by the Government.

**Expected benefits**(up to half a page):

*{Please outline here the medium and long-term impacts that will result from the CTCN technical assistance, including how the assistance will contribute to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change.}*

Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, water-induced disasters, and hydro-meteorological extreme events such as droughts, storms, floods, inundation, landslides, debris flow, soil erosion, siltation and avalanches. Based on National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) 2010, out of 75 districts, 29 districts are highly vulnerable to landslides, 22 districts to drought, 12 districts to GLOFs, and 9 districts to flooding. Nepal emphasizes in mitigating adverse impacts of climate change and in adopting adaptation measures; and prioritizes the development of mitigation-friendly forest management systems. Climate Change Policy of Nepal (2011) advocates prioritizing and implementing climate-friendly natural resources management programs including agroforestry that will mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The policy will also provide an effective way to comprehensively use agroforestry to mitigate the climate change as in absence of any guideline or policy, currently agroforestry is much fragmented. A policy in place and its effective implementation will result in to improved capacity of policy makers, researchers, extension workers, first and the end users; accelerated increase in tree-cover leading to high carbon sequestration; and protection to already degrading forests through provision of forests products without damaging the forests. Considering that more than 2 million smallholders already involved in agroforestry (more will adapt after policy intervention), the expected benefits are very large and effective.

**Post-technical assistance plans** (up to half a page):

*{Please describe here how the results of the CTCN technical assistance will be concretely used by the applicant and national stakeholders, to pursue their efforts of resolving the problems stated above after the completion of the CTCN intervention (list specific follow-up actions that will be undertaken).}*

Once the National Agroforestry Policy is developed and approved by the Cabinet, Council of Ministers (Acts by Parliament), both MOAD and MOFSC will take necessary steps to implement the policy with national, regional, and international partners. Implementation of the policy will help both in mitigation and adaption to climate change.

**Key stakeholders:**

*{Please list in the table below the main stakeholders who will be involved in the implementation of the requested CTCN technical assistance, and what their role will be in supporting the assistance (for example, government agencies and ministries, academic institutions and universities, private sector, community organizations, civil society, etc.). Please indicate what organization(s) will be the main/lead counterpart(s) of CTCN experts at national level, in addition to the NDE.}*

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Role to support the implementation of the assistance</b>
<i>Add as many lines as needed</i>	
<i>Ministry of Agriculture Development</i>	<i>Overseeing the policy development and its approval by the Cabinet or Parliament of the country</i>
<i>Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation</i>	<i>Overseeing the policy development and its approval by the Cabinet or Parliament of the country</i>
<i>Various Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, Community Based Organizations</i>	<i>Participation and contribution to policy development</i>

**Alignment with national priorities (up to half a page):**

*{Please demonstrate here that the technical assistance requested is consistent with documented national priorities (examples of relevant national priorities include: national development plans, poverty reduction plans, technology needs assessments (TNAs), LEDS, NAMAs, TAPs, NAPs, sectorial strategies and plans, etc.). For each document mentioned, please indicate where the priorities specifically relevant to this request can be found (chapter, page number, etc.).}*

- *Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) 2016 (page 2,3,5,8,9)*
- *Forestry Policy, 2015 (9,11)*
- *Forestry Sector Strategy, 2015 (page-7, 12, 17, 29, 51,54,57)*
- *Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry,2015( page 3)*
- *Agroforestry New Delhi Action Plan,2015(page-4)*
- *Agriculture Development Strategy, 2015( page-26,49,107)*
- *Nepal Status Paper, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20)*  
*National Planning Commission, Nepal, 2012 (page 35)*
- *The Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan (1993)*

**Development of the request** (up to half a page):

*{Please explain here how the request was developed at the national level and the process used by the NDE to approve the request before submitting it (who initiated the process, who were the stakeholders involved and what were their roles, and describe any consultations or other meetings that took place to develop and select this request, etc.)}*

*The request is based on a number of meetings held between the senior policy makers of MOAD and MOFSC, and ICRAF; the National Consultation Workshop held during March, 2015, leading to issuance of Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry jointly by the MOAD and MOFSC; and consultations of MOAD and MOFSC held with the NDE.*

**Expected timeframe:**

*{Please propose here a duration period for the assistance requested.} Two years*

**Background documents:**

*{Please list here relevant documents that will help the CTCN understand the context of the request and national priorities. For each document, provide weblinks if available, to attach to the submission form while submitting the request. Please note that all documents listed/provided should be mentioned in this request in the relevant question(s), and that their linkages with the request should be clearly indicated.}*

- *Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) 2016 (page 2,3,5,8,9)*
- *Forestry Policy, 2015 (9,11)*
- *Forestry Sector Strategy, 2015 (page-7, 12, 17, 29, 51,54,57)*
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- *The Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan (1993)*

**Monitoring and impact of the assistance:**

*{Read carefully and tick the boxes below.}*

By signing this request, I affirm that processes are in place in the country to monitor and evaluate the assistance provided by the CTCN. I understand that these processes will be explicitly identified in the Response Plan in collaboration with the CTC, and that they will be used in the country to monitor the implementation of the CTCN assistance.

I understand that, after the completion of the requested assistance, I shall support CTCN efforts to measure the success and effects of the support provided, including its short, medium and long-term impacts in the country.

**Signature:**

NDE name: **Mr. Ram Hari Pantha, Under-Secretary and Head-Climate Change Section**

Date:

Signature:

**THE COMPLETED FORM SHALL BE SENT TO THE [CTCN@UNEP.ORG](mailto:CTCN@UNEP.ORG)**

*Need help? The CTCN team is available to answer questions and guide you through the process of submitting a request. The CTCN team welcomes suggestions to improve this form.*

*>>> Contact the CTCN team at [ctcn@unep.org](mailto:ctcn@unep.org)*



### Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry

A consultation workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD), Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) of the Government of Nepal, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB) at Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal from 26-28 March 2015 on "Present Status and Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Nepal".

Participants realize that Nepal needs strengthening agroforestry research and development (R&D) and its application in the areas of classification and documentation of agroforestry practices for various agro-ecological zones, developing new and fine tuning of existing good practices and scaling up of promising agroforestry technologies for enhancing trees, shrubs, crops, livestock and fisheries production and productivity. These areas together with capacity strengthening would contribute to the socio-economic development and food, nutritional, energy and environmental security of the country.

Participants recognize the indigenous practices and traditional knowledge, existing policies and initiatives on agroforestry from various government, non-government, farmers' organizations and private sector. In order to have a more focused and coordinated strategy and approach to promote agroforestry among various actors and stakeholders, participants agree to develop a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal. It is expected that the policy will encourage the easing of regulatory constraints and will facilitate the development of feed and fodder resources, income generation, food, nutritional and energy security, germplasm conservation and production of quality planting material, arresting of land degradation and restoration of soil health, and the development of appropriate agroforestry models for different agro-ecological zones. Furthermore, the policy will contribute to the environmental security. Appreciating the development of the National Agroforestry Policy of India and ICRAF's contributions to it, securing assistance from the international agencies, such as ICRAF, and the Indian experience could be useful to this initiative.

We further agree to let this document be known as "Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry".

The "Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry" is released on 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2015 at Kathmandu, Nepal by Honorable Hari Prasad Parajuli, Minister of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal.

  
Mr. Sharad Chandra Paudel, Secretary,  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation

  
Dr. Shyam Kishor Shah, Secretary,  
Ministry of Agricultural Development

