



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation

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Date : 15 November 2017

The Forest Investment Program Sub Committee
The Climate Investment Fund
The World Bank, Washington, D.C.

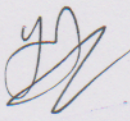
Sub: Submission of Nepal's Forest Investment Plan (FIP-IP) for endorsement

Dear FIP Sub-Committee,

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I am submitting herewith Nepal's proposed Forest Investment Program-Implementation Plan (FIP-IP) entitled '**Investing in Forests for Prosperity at a Time of Transformation**' for presentation and endorsement in the next FIP Sub-Committee meeting to be held in December, 2017. This is the revised version of the plan following the comments by expert reviewers on the previous draft that was submitted to FIP Sub-Committee on October 25, 2017. Comments by expert reviewers and responses of REDD Implementation Centre (Nepal) are compiled as Annex 5 to this revised plan.

In May 2015, the FIP Sub-Committee approved the request from the Government of Nepal to participate in the FIP and allocated USD 24 million to co-finance activities that initiate transformational changes in the forest and forest-relevant sectors. In addition, USD 4.5 million were allocated for the FIP Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Nepal's expression of interest indicated that FIP had potential to contribute significantly to addressing the challenges and opportunities of Nepal's forest sector. The REDD Implementation Center (REDD IC) in the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation was identified as the Focal Point for FIP.

On May 5, 2017, the Sub-Committee approved an extension for submitting Nepal's Investment Plan to the Sub-Committee for endorsement at its meeting in December 2017.


Secretary



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The Plan has been prepared through a highly consultative process consistent with the FIP Operational Guidelines. In addition to two national level stakeholder consultations, more than 70 focus group discussions and expert/stakeholder interviews were carried out across the country. The consultation and drafting process was advised and monitored by an inter-ministerial steering committee chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. Hon. Minister of State for Forests and Soil Conservation, Ms Kamala Devi Sharma, chaired the final national level validation workshop for the draft Plan on October 9, 2017.

The Government of Nepal sees the FIP-IP as a long-term opportunity that will substantially contribute to transformational change in the country's forestry and associated sectors. As Nepal is currently undergoing political change towards a federal governance structure, FIP-IP will be instrumental in transforming the forestry sector in a way that addresses the needs of people, forests and climate together under this new federal structure.

I would like to thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this Plan. I will be happy to present the plan and clarify any points at the FIP-Sub Committee meeting in December, 2017.

Sincerely,

Secretary

YubakDhoj G.C., PhD

Secretary

cc: Mr Takuya Kamata, Nepal Country Manager, the World Bank
Ms Andrea Kutter, Nepal Task Team Leader, the World Bank