

### Project Fact Sheet

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Assessment of Forest Carbon Potential of the Riverine Forests at the Khata Corridor and Lamahi-Mahadevpuri Complex of Nepal</b>
<b>Project Period</b>	<b>March to July 2009</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>WWF</b>
<b>Project Background</b>	<p>Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is an emerging issue today nevertheless it has significant role in mitigating ongoing climate change. REDD policy has given a new hope and opportunity for developing countries to access forest carbon revenue. Estimation of forest carbon is pre-requisite to benefit from REDD. In this context, a pilot project was carried out jointly by WI and WWF Nepal Program to assess forest carbon potential of riverine forests at the Khata Corridor and Lamahi-Mahadevpuri Complex in Terai region of Nepal. The study was expected to be evidence base for formulation of REDD policy in Nepal ensuring equitable access of forest dependant communities to forest carbon revenue for the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural integrity of the region.</p>
<b>Projective Objective</b>	<p>The objectives of the study were to assess carbon sequestration potentials, permanency, leakage and risks from the riverine forest of the Khata corridor and Lamahi – Mahadevpuri complex which are potential corridor for flagship species like Tiger. The initiative was designed to establish baseline for the early action pilot project through enhanced knowledge and scientific basis on forest carbon.</p> <p>Specific objectives were to develop forest carbon accounting methodology; capacity building of local communities; estimation of baseline carbon stock; deforestation trend analysis; conduct social survey; and assess climate, community and biodiversity benefits.</p>
<b>Activities/Components</b>	<p>The study incorporated development and sharing of methodologies at various forums, development of Local Resource Persons (LRPs), land cover change analysis using Landsat images, forest carbon inventory, laboratory analysis of soil, litter and shrub samples and sharing of findings with stakeholders. The study also involved socio-economic survey and stakeholders consultations in order to propose equitable benefit sharing mechanism and legal framework for carbon financing.</p>
<b>Accomplishments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A methodology for forest carbon accounting has been developed, tested and shared among the stakeholders.</li> <li>• 25 local resource persons have been developed to conduct forest carbon inventory</li> <li>• Baseline carbon stock of the project area has been established</li> <li>• A study report on baseline scenario and climate, community and bio-diversity components of the study has been prepared.</li> </ul>