

## **Summary note of the one-day workshop on**

### ***Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Support for Institutional Strengthening of the NEA for Environmental and Social Risk Management***

On Thursday April 11, 2019 a workshop was held at the World Bank to introduce the new two-year program. The workshop was comprised of opening and group work sessions.

#### **1. Opening session overview**

The opening session was attended by NEA's senior management, project managers, relevant Department representatives, Environmental and Social Studies Department (ESSD) and other key stakeholders. Senior officials of the NEA and the World Bank spoke on various issues related to E&S in the opening session. Excerpts:

- Mr Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of the NEA, opened the workshop and highlighted E&S issues in hydropower project and spoke of the NEA's commitment to the program.
- Mr Sumar Kumar Dhungel, Director Managing Director (DMD) for the Generation Directorate, discussed issues currently faced in NEA E&S management including the challenges related to law and order, and geopolitical intervention.
- Mr Bajra Bhushan Chaudhary, DMD for the Transmission Line Directorate, spoke on the challenges around land acquisition and forest clearance.
- Mr Bigyan Pradhan, Acting Country Manager for World Bank Nepal, noted the World Bank's priority on E&S safeguards in relation to its new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).
- Xiaoping Wang, World Bank Energy Lead for Nepal, presented an overview of World Bank's Energy portfolio and outlined the current E&S related technical assistance initiatives in Nepal.
- Caroline Sage, World Bank Senior Social Development Specialist, presented an overview of the institutional strengthening program.
- Karin Shephardson, World Bank Lead Environmental Specialist, presented the ESF institutional assessment and capacity building approach that would be applied in the program.

#### **2. Group work session overview**

The group work session, attended by NEA's ESSD, E&S field staff and representatives from relevant government officials discussed the key obstacles in E&S risk management, and the institutional structure and capacity of the NEA. In the group break-out sessions, groups identified key issues through the six-step process defined in the institutional capacity assessment toolkit developed by the World Bank. Key issues raised were the EIA/IEE process, the lengthy forest clearance process, complexities regarding land acquisition, stakeholder engagement, and grievance redress mechanisms.

#### **3. Next steps**

Over the next three months, a detailed desk-review of the regulatory framework for E&S risk management, task-based mapping will be undertaken, and interviews will be held with key stakeholders, including NEA senior management, ESSD staff, relevant Ministry officials, and other stakeholders. The core working group will produce a first draft institutional assessment report, which will include initial findings and recommendations and will be presented to NEA staff in workshop, to be held in mid 2019.