Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
Carbon Fund

Emission Reductions Program Idea Note (ER-PIN)

Country: Republic of Fiji

ER Program Name: Reducing emissions and enhancing livelihoods in Fiji

Date of Submission or Revision: 04 April 2016

Guidelines:

1. The FCPF Carbon Fund will deliver Emission Reductions (ERs) from activities that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve forests, promote the sustainable management of forests, and enhance forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) to the Carbon Fund Participants.

2. A REDD Country Participant interested in proposing an ER Program to the Carbon Fund should refer to the selection criteria included in the Carbon Fund Issues Note available on the FCPF website (www.forestcarbonpartnership.org) and to further guidance that may be communicated by the FCPF Facility Management Team (FMT) over time.

3. ER Programs shall come from FCPF REDD Country Participants that have signed their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, using this ER Program Idea Note ('ER-PIN') template.

4. The completed ER-PIN should ideally not exceed 40 pages in length (including maps, data tables, etc.). If additional information is required, the FCPF FMT will request it.

5. Please submit the completed ER-PIN to: 1) the World Bank Country Director for your country; and 2) the FCPF FMT (fcpfsecretariat@worldbank.org).

6. As per Resolution CFM/4/2012/1 the Carbon Fund Participants' decision whether to include the ER-PIN in the pipeline will be based on the following criteria:

    i. **Progress towards Readiness:** The Emission Reductions Program (ER Program) must be located in a REDD Country Participant that has signed a Readiness Preparation grant agreement (or the equivalent) with a Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund, and that has prepared a reasonable and credible timeline to submit a Readiness Package to the Participants Committee;

    ii. **Political commitment:** The REDD Country Participant demonstrates a high-level and cross-sectoral political commitment to the ER Program, and to implementing REDD+;

    iii. **Methodological Framework:** The ER Program must be consistent with the emerging Methodological Framework, including the PC's guiding principles on the methodological framework;

    iv. **Scale:** The ER Program will be implemented either at the national level or at a significant sub-national scale, and generate a large volume of Emission Reductions;

    v. **Technical soundness:** All the sections of the ER-PIN template are adequately addressed;

    vi. **Non-carbon benefits:** The ER Program will generate substantial non-carbon benefits; and

    vii. **Diversity and learning value:** The ER Program contains innovative features, such that its inclusion in the portfolio would add diversity and generate learning value for the Carbon Fund.

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1. ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPOSED ER PROGRAM

1.1 Entity responsible for the management of the proposed ER Program
Please provide the contact information for the institution and individual responsible for proposing and coordinating the proposed ER Program.

Name of managing entity	Fiji Forestry Department, Ministry of Fisheries and Forests
Type and description of organization	The Fiji Forestry Department is a Government Institution of the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests. The Forestry Department is the national focal agency for REDD+ and is the lead implementing agency for the national REDD+ programme.
Main contact person	Mr Eliki Senivasa
Title	Acting Conservator of Forests; National REDD+ Foal Point
Address	Level 3, Takayawa Building, Toorak, Suva
Telephone	+679-3301 611; +679-3318 692
Email	eliki.senivasa@gmail.com
Website	http://fiji-reddplus.org/

1.2 List of existing partner agencies and organizations involved in the proposed ER Program
Please list existing partner agencies and organizations involved in the development of the proposed ER Program or that have executive functions in financing, implementing, coordinating and controlling activities that are part of the proposed ER Program. Add rows as necessary.

Name of partner	Contact name, telephone and email	Core capacity and role in the proposed ER Program
University of the South Pacific – Institute of Applied Sciences	Mr Marika Tuiwawa	Member of the REDD+ Steering Committee – Safeguards working group. Provide expertise in ensuring biodiversity safeguards are respected especially for the large scale reforestation projects
Conservation International	Mr Isaac Rounds	Expertise in ensuring biodiversity and inventory
Nature Fiji – Mareqeti Viti	Ms Nunia Thomas	Only local environmental NGO in Fiji
ReForest Fiji	Mr Warren Rance	Manager of EU/SPC ReForest Project
SPC – Land Resources Division	Mr Sairusi Bulai	Technical support to the Forestry Department
SPC – Geoscience Division	Dr Wolf Forstreuter	Monitoring technical support
Ministry for iTaukei Affairs	Ms Elisapeci Tamanisau	Lead agency for FPIC
iTaukei land Trust Board	Mr Solomoni Nata	Legal custodians of iTaukei Land
Ministry of Agriculture – Land Resources and Planning Division	Mr Solomoni Nagaunavou	Land use planning
Climate Change Division	Mr Manasa Katonivualiku	National coordination of climate change mitigation efforts and accounting; international representation (UNFCCC);
Land owner representative for Emalu REDD+ Pilot Site	Mr Ilaitia Leitabu	Elected community leader on REDD+ pilot implementation
Tropic Woods Ltd.	Mr George Vuki, General Manager	Pine plantation company, afforestation and plantation management experience
Fiji Pine Trust	Mr Tevita Evo	Land owner trust for administrating commercial benefits and representing land owners on

		national level
Fiji Hardwood Ltd.	Mr Iosefo Rasiga	Mahogany plantation company, afforestation and plantation management experience
Fiji Mahogany Trust	Ratu Tomasi Kubuabola	Land owner trust for administrating commercial benefits and representing land owners on national level
GIZ	Ms Christine Fung	Pilot implementation, ERP development
Fiji National University	Mr Amena Tuisawau	Education, awareness
Forestry Department	Mr Eliki Senivasa	National REDD+ Focal Point
Management Services Division	Mr Noa Vakacegu	Remote sensing, mapping, licensing
Silviculture Research Division	Mr Ponijese Bulai	Research on emission factors, degradation, sustainable forest management impacts
Extension Service Division	Mr Pita Rokobiau	Reforestation implementation in communities
Forestry Training Division	Mr Manasa Luvunakoro	Training on FFCHOP, SFM, etc.

2. AUTHORIZATION BY THE NATIONAL REDD+ FOCAL POINT

Please provide the contact information for the institution and individual who serve as the national REDD+ Focal Point and endorses the proposed ER Program, or with whom discussions are underway

Name of entity	Ministry of Fisheries and Forests
Main contact person	Mr Eliki Senivasa
Title	Acting Conservator of Forests / National REDD+ Focal Point
Address	Level 3, Takayawa Building, Toorak Road, Suva
Telephone	+679-3301 611; +679-3318 692
Email	eliki.senivasa@gmail.com
Website	http://fiji-reddplus.org/

2.1 Endorsement of the proposed ER Program by the national government

Please provide the written approval for the proposed ER Program by the REDD Country Participant's authorized representative (to be attached to this ER-PIN). Please explain if the national procedures for the endorsement of the Program by the national government REDD+ focal point and/or other relevant government agencies have been finalized or are still likely to change, and how this might affect the status of the attached written approval. ER Program must be located in a REDD Country Participant that has signed a Readiness Preparation grant agreement (or the equivalent) with a Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund, and that has prepared a reasonable and credible timeline to submit a Readiness Package to the Participants Committee

The Fiji Forestry Department is the Fiji National REDD+ Focal point and is submitting Fiji's Emissions Reduction Program Idea Note (ER-PIN). This submission is carried out with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Focal Point to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

This emissions reduction program is part of the Government supported national REDD+ programme. The multi-sectoral National REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC) endorsed the development of an emissions reduction program and will continue to be the official body to guide its further development and implementation. The RSC is the official approving body for REDD+ activities in the country and include key sector agencies.

The drafting of the early idea note for the ER program was carried out by the technical working group (TWG) of the RSC. The TWG will continue to inform the RSC about the progress on the document and involve all members in the review cycles.

A letter endorsing the plans for a national ER Programme is attached separately to the submission, the original will be handed over to the FCPF secretariat at the Carbon Fund meeting in October 2015. A cabinet information paper will be submitted to inform Government Ministers of the idea note.

2.2 Political commitment
Please describe the political commitment to the ER Program, including the level of support within the government and whether a cross-sectoral commitment exists to the ER Program and to REDD+ in general.

International commitment
Fiji is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has been playing an active role in the negotiations, chairing the AOSIS, G-77 groups and is currently the Chair of the UNFCCC SBI. Although Fiji is a relatively small forested country, it has actively participated in REDD+ negotiations, as a member of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations, as it has political commitment to provide optimal benefits to its local forest resource owners.

Fiji is also a signatory to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) (1985/2006). The Agreement aims, *inter alia*, to strengthen the capacity of members to improve forest law enforcement and governance, and address illegal logging and related trade in tropical timber[1].

National commitment
Political commitment for REDD+ and for the emissions reduction program is indicated in the National REDD+ Policy, the National Climate Change Policy, the National Forest Policy and the recently launched (June 2015) Green Growth Framework for Fiji, the national framework for sustainable development in Fiji.

In Fiji's Second National Communications to the UNFCCC Secretariat (July 2014), the importance of implementing REDD+ for the country is raised several times in the context of not only reducing emissions, but also its role in biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and improvement of Fiji's greenhouse gas Inventory.

Following the cabinet endorsement of the National REDD+ Policy in December 2010 and its subsequent launching in early 2011, the Government of Fiji in 2012 began allocating F$300,000 for REDD+ readiness activities. In his 2012 national budget address, the Hon. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimara said: "*…the [Forestry] Department will commence implementation of the Reducing Emissions From Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus Policy"—or REDD—to ensure that Fiji starts participating in the appropriate Carbon Financing mechanism under REDD+ before December 2015. $300,000 is provided for this purpose."*

This allocation has continued to date and its national priority is reflected in the national budget statements (ref: http://www.finance.gov.fj/s/government-budget.html). For 2015, the Government made the following commitments (figures are in Fijian Dollars):

> 7.45 Government is providing $0.3 million for the restoration of degraded native forest species. This will involve seed production, improvement in nursery facilities, field planting, training & awareness and monitoring.
>
> 7.46 Government is also allocating $0.3 million for the REDD plus programme next year. Apart from this, a new allocation of $0.3 million is provided for the Ecosystem Rehabilitation programme. The Colo-i-Suva Forest Park will also be upgraded with a budget of $0.15 million next year.
>
> 7.47 Government is encouraging value addition in the forestry sector. An increased allocation of $0.55 million is budgeted to subsidise the purchase of value-adding machines in maritime areas. This programme aims to empower local communities to process timber for construction of homes, church and community halls.
>
> (Republic of Fiji Economic and Fiscal Update: Supplement to the 2015 Budget Address, November 2014; pp 66 -67)

The above is evidence of Government's commitment to not only REDD+ implementation but to overall sustainable management of its forests and resources. Despite the size of the country and the limited

[1] MacFarquhar, C. and Goodman, L., 2015. Demonstrating 'Respect' for the UNFCCC REDD+ Safeguards: The Importance of Community-Collected Information. Oxford: Global Canopy Programme

international funding support it receives[2] Fiji has proven determined to forge ahead with REDD+ preparations. The FCPF readiness grant signed in May 2015 is the first substantial funding received.

The political commitment for REDD+ implementation largely stems from the recognition that the program will provide an array of benefits to local communities. This commitment is also evidenced from the recent support from Government (The Ministry of Fisheries and Forests) to pay lease money to the landowners of the National REDD+ Pilot site whilst readiness activities are on progress.

Sectoral commitment

The most significant proof of commitment for REDD+ in the country is the support from the multi-sectoral National REDD+ steering committee. Since its official establishment in 2012, member agencies have been active and committed to the implementation of REDD+ readiness activities. REDD+ related activities have been incorporated into annual corporate plans and work plans of ministries, departments, and other organizations. This incorporation formalizes the REDD+ activities and ensures institutional support. The implementation of readiness and pilot site activities has taken place through inter-agency and multi-sectoral partnership and collaboration. The strong support by the various agencies in implementing pilot site activities is geared towards not only the flow of carbon funds but also the recognition that REDD+ will bring in an array of non-carbon benefits for the improved livelihoods of local communities.

3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND RATIONALE FOR THE ER PROGRAM

3.1 Brief summary of major achievements of readiness activities in country thus far

Please briefly provide an update on REDD+ readiness activities, using the component categories of the R-PP as a guide. If public information is available on this progress, please refer to this information and provide a link.

A significant achievement towards REDD+ readiness for Fiji is the effective integration of REDD+ related activities and strategies into national and sectoral policies and plans. Most of these have been a result of the intervention of the REDD+ Steering Committee members. Some examples of national readiness progress with regards to supporting national policy and legal frameworks include:

a. The identification of a **national land use plan** as a priority strategy for Fiji (Fiji Green Growth Framework, 2014). The development of a national and sub-national land use plans will serve to not only ensure forest areas are protected but will also ensure holistic development whereby social and environmental integrity is respected.

b. The current development of a national **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) approach** led by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Annual Corporate Plan 2014). The FPIC approach developed with Ministry of iTaukei Affairs will serve to strengthen the current consultation and endorsement process with the iTaukei. Lessons and experiences from the Emalu pilot site will inform this approach given that the FPIC principles are applied in the establishment and implementation of the site. It is anticipated that the national FPIC guideline will be in place once the ER programme rolls out.

c. The analysis of **forest carbon rights** in Fiji (report here) in 2012. Consultations on the recommendations arising from the analysis took place in 2013 and 2014. A cabinet information paper was submitted for political support on the official identification of forest carbon rights in Fiji and this was in recognised. The legal identification of forest carbon rights provides the platform for good governance in carbon payments (especially important given the customary land ownership) and benefit distribution sharing.

d. The **National iTaukei Resource Owners Committee** (NTROC) was established in 2014 with assistance from GIZ and the Fiji REDD+ project. This committee is the first officially recognized iTaukei resource owner group in Fiji. The tasks and responsibilities of NTROC include ensuring social, cultural and environmental safeguards are respected during REDD+ implementation. The NTROC will play an

[2] From 2009 - 2013, the Government of Germany has been the sole funding agency for REDD+ readiness in Fiji and this has been through Pacific Regional programmes rather than bilateral arrangements. In 2014 UNREDD provided focussed technical support through training on GIS and RS applications.

important role in the implementation of REDD+ activities in Fiji's as communication conduits between the programme, landowners, and local decision-making bodies. Furthermore, the committee will support the mobilization of local community groups for the monitoring of REDD+ activities on the ground to ensure social, cultural, and environmental interests are respected. Opening speech from last meeting here.

e. The drafting of a **national biodiversity monitoring framework** began in 2013 and currently in progress as findings and data from various sites around Fiji, including the Emalu Pilot Site, are collated and analysed. The monitoring framework details indicator species to monitor the condition of various forest ecosystems and parameters (e.g. water quality, vegetation condition, etc.). The framework will be part of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and would be applied to monitor biodiversity status of the planned Fiji REDD+ activities like the afforestation and reforestation of grasslands and degraded areas, the application of sustainable logging practices.

f. The drafting of a national **participatory land use planning guideline** (led by the Ministry of Agriculture) was initiated in 2008 and picked up again in 2014. This guideline will incorporate FPIC principles whereby landowner land users will actively participate in the planning of their land resources. The land use planning guideline requires the consideration of all sectors including climate change adaptation planning to reduce the vulnerability of local communities. To ensure sustainable development, participatory land use planning will be the underlying strategy for the implementation of REDD+ activities in Fiji.

g. The review of the **National Code of Harvesting Practice** in 2013 where the application of reduced impact logging was strengthened. Reduced Impact Logging is recognized as a strategy to decrease degradation of logged forests. The Forestry Department is currently working towards putting in place regulations to ensure its enforcement to promote sustainable management and good governance.

h. In 2014 a study on the complementarities and synergies between forest certification and REDD+ was carried out. This provides for useful information on how REDD+ safeguards and monitoring requirements can be streamlined.

Most of the activities and initiatives mentioned above were funded / supported by the Government of Fiji and GIZ

The following table summarizes the status of readiness activities as detailed in the R-PP.

Table 1: Status of REDD+ readiness in Fiji, 11 September 2015

Status	Reference
Component 1: Institutional Strengthening for REDD+	
1. Establishment of the REDD+ Unit is in progress – a. 4 staff funded by the Government Fiji in place (Project Officer, Fiji REDD+ Capital Project Coordinator, Executive Officer – Finance, Driver) b. 1 REDD+ Adviser contracted; 1 Technical Officer+ 1 IKM Officer to be recruited by October 2015	FCPF progress report
2. Consultations on the establishment of the REDD+ divisional working groups took place in 2013 and 2014. These divisional working groups are the bodies that will directly oversee REDD+ activities implemented in the divisions. The group reports to the national REDD+ steering committee. The TOR divisional working groups have been drafted and to be finalized with the invited members in November 2015. The formalisation of the working groups is expected by end of 2015 3. The capacity building of the REDD+ steering committee members has been ongoing since 2010. This includes participation in sectoral, national, and international events, study tours, field visits, tailored trainings, etc. Workshops on the various readiness activities defined in the R-PP were also conducted during preparations for the FCPF readiness proposal and the signing of the finance agreement. 4. Capacity building of the National REDD+ Steering Committee and the Divisional Working	SC meeting minutes

	Status	Reference
	Groups will be ongoing and become more detailed / specific as the readiness process progresses. This will ensure that the bodies make well-informed decisions and advise.	
5.	Following the launch of the National REDD+ Policy in 2011, key partner Ministries integrated REDD+ related activities in sector work plans. As the years progressed this involvement strengthened. Examples - the Ministry of Agriculture includes REDD+ in their awareness programmes, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs prioritizing REDD+ understanding for the iTaukei. However, this needs to be further strengthened and in 2015 and 2016 the readiness activities will focus on intensive awareness-raising and joint planning with other ministries to strengthen partnerships and collaboration.	FCPF progress report
6.	Training of trainers has been ongoing since 2012. These target both technical and social skills. Examples include biomass measurement and calculation, GIS/RS forest monitoring, socio-economic assessments, participatory appraisal tools, land use planning, community facilitation skills, etc. A training plan for the readiness programme will be drafted in the 4th Quarter of 2015.	
7.	A framework of the consultation and participation plan has been drafted. A multi-stakeholder workshop will be conducted in late 2015 for the development of the C & P plan	
8.	Fiji has been investing a lot on outreach materials. This will continue with information becoming more specialized to allow stakeholders to be informed of the various readiness activities progress.	
Component 2: Development of a REDD+ strategy		
1.	A preliminary study on drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation was carried out in 2013 and 2014. The more intensive analysis will be conducted in 2016. The contacting preparations are expected to begin in 2015	Procurement plan
2.	The SESA consultancy will begin in 2016. Assessment of expressions of interest from consultancy firms is now underway. However, it should be noted that some elements of the SESA have been drafted such as the consultation and participation plan and the biodiversity monitoring framework. These drafts however still need firming up and this will be carried out in late 2015 – 2016, irrespective of the SESA timelines.	Procurement plan
3.	Stakeholder consultations workshops have been carried out on the identification of a REDD+ Benefits Sharing Mechanism (BSM). The BSM will be further defined as part of the analytical study and SESA in 2016 and tested thereafter.	
4.	Grievance redress structures are in place for Fiji iTaukei communities and non-iTaukei communities and stakeholder consultations have been conducted on how this contributes to REDD+ readiness. However, the SESA will examine these structures in detail. This will be carried out in 2016 and awareness and testing will follow.	
Component 3: Establishment of a monitoring system for REDD+		
1.	A preliminary assessment for the development of RL/FREL for Fiji was carried out in 2012. Recommendations from this assessment will be referred to in the TOR for the upcoming RL/REL consultancy anticipated for 2016	Report here
2.	A study on forest stratification using high resolution imagery was carried out in 2014. In addition, workshops have been carried out with relevant partners to define feasible forest stratification approaches. This work will continue in 2015 and finalized under the RL/FREL assessment consultancy planned for 2016.	Report here
3.	Capacity building of the Forestry Department in forest/land cover change mapping has been ongoing with support from the Geoscience Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, GIZ, and USP. This capacity building will be strengthened during the RL/FREL and MRV consultancies where the contracted experts will be required to train local officers in the various methodologies, technologies and analytical tools. This will	

Status	Reference
take place in 2016 -217. The capacity building aims to upskill the national officers an experts to capably carry out MRV and national forest monitoring.	
4. The pilot site activities have also provided valuable guidance on the development of national methodologies and monitoring systems. These include:	
a. The extensive biodiversity survey carried out in the pilot site of Emalu resulted in international exposure when the pilot site biodiversity surveys were showcased in the international publication: A sourcebook – Biodiversity Monitoring for REDD+. This was a significant achievement as the survey team were made up entirely of local experts from different sectors and agencies, including local villagers, and this carried out on limited funding support. The biodiversity survey will help inform the national biodiversity monitoring framework current being drafted. The skills of the local experts will also be continually enhanced to ensure their knowledge and skills remain relevant with the various developments on REDD+ requirements.	(Source book publication here) Emalu survey report here
b. The methodology for biomass calculation and stratification of Fiji grassland areas has been drafted. Given that grasslands will be the priority target area under this program, such development is necessary and assessment work carried out in 2 sites (the Emalu pilot site and the Conservation International Nakauvadra site) provide data relevant for Fiji grasslands. The methodology will be finalised as part of the RL/FREL analysis.	Draft report here
c. Analyses on the impacts of different logging intensities on forest biomass were carried out in the Nakavu research site from 2014 -2015. Follow up research is expected to be conducted in 2015 – 2016 with support from GIZ and the Forestry Department.	Reports here
5. The consultancy package for the development of the National Forest Monitoring System encapsulates the RL/REL analysis and the MRV development and partly the SIS establishment the REOI will go out by end of September 2015 and contracting this is anticipated in 2016	Procurement plan

3.2 Current status of the Readiness Package and estimated date of submission to the FCPF Participants Committee
(including the REL/FRL, REDD+ Strategy, national REDD+ monitoring system and ESMF).

The Readiness Grant was signed in May 2015. The time plan is still valid, the submission of the Readiness Package is due in 2019. However, Fiji is able to finalize the R-Package by 2018 (see section 4.2).

3.3 Consistency with national REDD+ strategy and other relevant policies
Please describe:
a) How the planned and ongoing activities in the proposed ER Program relate to the variety of proposed interventions in the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy.
b) How the proposed ER Program is strategically relevant for the development and/or implementation of the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy (including policies, national management framework and legislation).
c) How the activities in the proposed ER Program are consistent with national laws and development priorities.

Contributing to the implementation of REDD+ Strategy
The proposed "reducing emissions and enhancing livelihoods" program will support the implementation of major strategic action identified in the draft strategy options (refer to R-PP section 2b.2). The livelihoods of local communities are closely tied to their land and natural resources. The strategy options reflect the broadness of impact achieved with interventions in land use.

The activities proposed in the ERP will contribute significantly to the planned impacts and activities outlined in the readiness strategy. The outcome and setup of the Fiji REDD+ Mechanism will gain a higher quality through the ERP experiences

Table 2: ER program implementation of REDD+ Strategies

Driver/ Ref. Activity	Strategy Options	Activity proposed in the ER program
Agriculture	• Develop a national land use plan • Review police and legislations that encourage unsustainable clearing of forests for agriculture • Rehabilitate degraded sites and grasslands, for agriculture development to avoid farmer encroachment into forests • Promote sustainable farming approaches and technologies – Agroforestry and multi-cropping systems that promote the inclusion of trees in farming – Intensive farming to make optimal use of small areas of land – Diversify on cash crops • Support value-adding of forest produce and create niche markets for forest communities to access high-end markets (e.g.hotels) • Introduce, promote and invest in alternative livelihoods (aside from cash crops) • Establish and train local landcare and forestcare groups to facilitate sustainable land use in forest areas	1.Field activities carried out under Fiji's ER program will be part of a broader land use plan (developed at sub-national level) to ensure holistic and sustainable development **2. Afforestation and rehabilitation of grassland areas (locally known as *talasiga):*** the afforestation of degraded grasslands into productive forest and agroforestry sites. The replanting of the grasslands serve to provide new areas for food production (agroforestry systems) and income (commercial tree production) 3. **Non-carbon income**: the ER program will ensure local communities are supported with value-adding opportunities of non-timber forest products and agriculture and low impact income-generating ventures (like bee-keeping). This serves to reduce pressure on the forest and will be part of the Government support. 4. **Implementation of local land use plans**: The ER program will implement local land use plans that will have been developed in the targeted project sites. The readiness process will already promote the development of land use plans in this project sites where land and forest resources have been exploited or under threat from exploitation 5. **Strengthen local structures**: the readiness phase will establish local-level land care and forest care groups who serve to monitor land and forest use activities. These land care and forest care groups will be utilized in the ER program for on the ground monitoring and reporting of activities that include adherence to the guiding land use plan 6**. Protection of significant biodiversity sites**: The ER program will specifically target for protection areas identified as having high biological diversity. The Fiji Protected Areas Committee has mapped out a network of protected areas but these are currently not legally protected. The readiness process will support the legal protection of these sites and the ER program will monitor this protection status. 7. **Promoting sustainable forest management**: The ER program will strengthen the adherence to the
Large-scale forest conversion by local communities	• Develop local land use plans with communities and relevant supporting agencies to promote sustainable forest management • Conduct educational programmes through the Provincial Offices and Divisional Offices • Promote eco-tourism in feasible forest areas • Conduct biodiversity assessment of these sites and inform and educate local communities • Implement Fiji's NBSAP and proposed protected area network • Ecosystem valuation • Promote value adding technologies for forest products	
Forest fires	• Review legislation • Law enforcement • Local community awareness and education programmes • Active community involvement in enforcement and patrolling (fire wardens)	
Unsustainable timber harvesting	• Enforce the national harvesting code of practice • Afforestation/Reforestation programmes to increase timber supply • Promote reduced impact logging	

Driver/ Ref. Activity	Strategy Options	Activity proposed in the ER program
	• Improved Law Enforcement of SFM • Replant abandoned plantation sites • Education/Awareness for small-scale timber operators • Promote the utilisation of lesser known commercial timber species	national code of harvesting practice. Government has already started a programme to inform and train the industry on the code of harvesting and plans are underway to develop regulations for the enforcement of the code. Fiji was one of the first countries in Asia-Pacific to develop a code of logging practice and this has been recently reviewed to strengthen reduced impact logging requirements.

The strategy is informed by experiences out of the national REDD+ policy process so far, experiences from decades of work in natural resources management in the Forestry Department, related ministries (especially iTaukei), landowners, CSOs, NGOs and other stakeholders, from international exchange, and from the ongoing demonstration activities. Information from projects to reduce carbon emissions from the forest sector is relayed back to the national REDD+ Steering Committee.

The strategy then prioritizes accordingly in order to identify knowledge and capacity gaps and their impact on the readiness process. Resources are made available to activities which help bringing the national readiness forward and improving the setup of emission reduction activities.

Part of the strategy is a carbon financing framework, outlining the structures for governance of the funds and the search for potential sources. The Carbon Fund membership would greatly enhance Fiji's opportunities for securing funding for effectively reduced emissions under the proposed ER program. The opportunities for exchange of experiences and ideas on the platform will be a great help for refining the details of the ER program.

There is a draft strategy implementation plan which details the various actions to be taken and supporting structures to be in place for the implementation of the strategy.

The planning for REDD+ in Fiji has been based on local knowledge, international requirements and experiences and ideas from the implementation of resource management projects in the past or in other countries. There will be a lot of effort dedicated to harmonizing the work in government and in the network, mainstreaming sustainable resource use in all sectors and society, and operationalizing the framework assumptions. The REDD+ SC plays a crucial role in promoting necessary passages in sector policies and legislation, which already led for example to integration of REDD+ in the annual plan of the iTaukei Affairs Ministry or the REDD+ Lease as a legal form of commercial land use registration.

Demonstration activities make valuable contributions to the practicality of a national plan. The national emission reduction program will be rolled out in order to achieve the objectives of REDD+, but it has a pilot character as well. The ERP has two functions that make it relevant for the emerging REDD+ Strategy. First, it is the operationalization of the preparation and planning process, the reason for the readiness phase. Secondly, it will show the success and shortcomings of the REDD+ Strategy and inform the further revision and optimization of the mechanism in Fiji. The ERP is planned to be expanding with each monitoring period, promoting the development of REDD+ in all eligible areas. The improvements of elements of the REDD+ Strategy through lessons learnt from ERP will increase the quality of project applications and carbon projects, and will reduce the preparation time and cost for each of the projects.

The progress and success of the ERP will lead to increased attention and awareness for the connection of resource management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic development and overall quality of life in Fiji. That understanding will expedite the mainstreaming of REDD+ into other sector policies and regulations, further improving the quality of resource management and socio-economic development in Fiji.

The Green Growth Framework for Fiji (2014)

The ERP will respond to the principles of the Green Growth Framework given its broad cross-cutting nature and its emphasis on promoting sustainable livelihoods of local communities and "green" economic development. Given the Green Growth Framework is the roadmap for sustainable development in Fiji, these contributions will eventually be articulated in the National Development Plans.

Table 3: Alignment of the proposed emissions reduction program with the Green Growth Framework

Principles of the Green Growth Framework	Examples of contributions from proposed ERP
1. Reducing carbon footprints at all levels	All activities will be consciously planned to minimize emissions. Most reforestation activities will involve manual labour with minimal use of machines and fueled equipment. Livelihood projects and local timber processing will promote local production and produce to reduce reliance on goods that travel great distance
2. Improving resource productivity (including by doing more with less)	Downstream processing and value adding of both timber and non-timber products will be promoted in the ERP
3. Developing a new integrated approach, with all stakeholders collectively working together for the common good. The cross-cutting nature of issues relating to sustainable development requires harmony and synergy in the development strategies	An integrated and multi-sectoral approach underpins the implementation of the proposed ERP
4. Strengthening socio-cultural education of responsible environmental stewardship and civic responsibility	Extensive awareness programmes and application of social and environmental safeguards and good governance will be an integral part of the proposed ERP
5. Increasing the adoption of comprehensive risk management practices	The proposed ERP will be planned to minimize negative impacts and risks. This includes fire management plans and vulnerability and hazard risk mapping
6. Increasing the adoption of environment auditing on past and planned developments in order to support initiatives that not only provide economic benefits but also improve the environmental situation	The readiness process will put in place the monitoring framework for environmental and social safeguards and this will be applied during the implementation of the proposed ERP
7. Enhancing structural reforms for fair competition and efficiency	Good governance instruments will be put in place during the readiness phase and this will be further enhanced during implementation
8. Providing incentives for investment which support the efficient use of natural resources	Public-Private sector Partnerships will be promoted to support the ER efforts. This can include CSR investments in reforestation and conservation projects and promoting cottage industries emerging from local community livelihood projects (attached to the ERP)

The Green Growth Framework for Fiji identifies REDD+ as a contributor to sustainable natural resource management. The Fiji's Emissions Reduction Program - "reducing emissions and enhancing livelihoods" will not only serve this purpose but will also support the socio-economic development of local communities.

National priority on increasing resilience against the impacts of climate change and natural disasters

The Fiji National Climate Change Policy recognizes forestry as a key sector which can contribute both to climate change mitigation and adaptation, delivering cross-sectoral benefits. The policy states:

> "mitigation measures focused on maintaining forest carbon stocks and increasing sequestration of carbon through forest conservation, reforestation, afforestation and enrichment planting will also contribute to biodiversity conservation, improved watershed management, improved food security and improved waterway conditions; conservation and sustainable management of mangroves will protect a large carbon sink and reservoir, while providing physical foreshore protection, marine breeding grounds, and healthy coral reef systems."
>
> -page 8 Republic of Fiji National Climate Change Policy

In Fiji, the projected increased frequency of extreme rainfall days is of serious consequence to the country given the significant economic and social loss suffered by the country from past major flooding events. Of all the natural disasters affecting Fiji, flooding causes the most damage. Major floods in Fiji tend to be associated with severe weather events, such as tropical depressions and cyclones that bring high intensity rainfall. The projected increase in the intensity of cyclones in the region will heighten Fiji's vulnerability to extreme flooding.

Fiji's ERP will play an important role in buffering local communities and the country's economy against losses arising from natural disasters, climatic variability and extreme events. The extensive reforestation and sustainable forest management activities will enhance ecosystem services to mitigate flooding, provide shelter to both humans and animals (most communities flee to the forests when their houses are blown or washed away and wild birds and animals seek refuge in forests during cyclones), provide wild foods (when food crops are damaged), and provide immediate income through the sale of salvaged and standing timber.

The expected change in temperature and weather patterns will affect Fiji's ecosystem, crop production, human and animal health, water security, soil fertility, and other factors influenced by temperature and seasons. The ERP will factor in these projected changes in the tree planting plans and management regimes. Trees species will be selected based on its resiliency to cope with projected extreme events and on its various uses (for commercial, food source, traditional etc.). The ERP livelihoods component will promote appropriate crop varieties' that can cope with the changing climate conditions.

Fiji Climate Projections

- There is high confidence that the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events will increase.
- There is very high confidence that annual mean temperatures and extremely high daily temperatures will continue to rise.
- There is very high confidence that the temperature of extremely hot days and the temperature of extremely cool days will increase.
- While relatively warm and cool years and decades will still occur due to natural variability, there is projected to be more warm years and decades on average in a warmer climate.
- Satellite data indicate sea level has risen in Fiji by about 6 mm per year since 1993. There is very high confidence that mean sea level will continue to rise over the course of the 21st century
- In the Fiji region, projections tend to show a decrease in the frequency of tropical cyclones by the late 21st century and an increase in the proportion of the more intense storms (medium confidence).

(http://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/)

The ER program will have a far-reaching role in strengthening community and ecological resilience given Fiji's relatively small island landscape where interconnectivity of ecosystems and between rural and urban areas is very close.

The World Bank recognized that the current focus on disaster relief, rather than on long-term disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Pacific, counteracts resilience-building efforts. The ERP will provide pro-active measures for both disaster risk reduction and climate change.

Overall, Fiji's ERP will activities provide dual benefits - mitigation and adaptation - to the people of Fiji. The Government will support the implementation of adaptation and livelihoods activities to communities involved the ERP to ensure holistic development.

The Fiji National Forest Policy

The National Forest Policy (ref: here) recognizes the opportunities in carbon financing to support the sustainable management of forests, forest conservation, and reforestation and afforestation and urges the sector to capitalize on this. The ERP is such an opportunity. In addition, the third policy objective states - "increased engagement by landowners and communities in sustainable forest management and an equitable distribution of benefits from forest products and processes including ensured protection of intellectual property rights." This engagement of local communities and equitable distribution of benefits are principles entrenched in the ERP as these reflect the guiding principles of the Fiji National REDD+ Policy.

Recently, Fiji's forestry sector priorities have included biomass production of co-generation.

4. ER PROGRAM LOCATION AND LIFETIME

4.1 Scale and location of the proposed ER Program

Please present a description and map of the proposed ER Program location and surrounding areas, and its physiographic significance in relation to the country. Indicate location and boundaries of the proposed ER Program area, e.g., administrative jurisdiction(s).

The proposed ER Program area for Fiji will comprise of the islands of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni. With 1,045,309 ha of forest area on 1,685,742 ha of land, the program covers 90 % of the total land mass and 94 % of the forest cover in Fiji. REDD+ activities will be implemented on sub-national scale, usually as community projects which are supported and administered by government and partners on a larger congregative level. For example the government funding for reforestation of grasslands targets communities with its support. The data on the activities in different communities is collected under the umbrella program Reforestation Development Fund. With progressing government support, the size of implementation area will increase within the ERP boundary. Activities with a high carbon emission reduction potential are being selected, i.e. afforestation / reforestation mainly on unutilized grasslands and avoided forest degradation through logging and unplanned use (see chapter 5.3).

The carbon impact particularly in afforestation / reforestation projects is very high. Besides income from carbon funding, the structure of the forest production sector benefits. The future timber demand can be met with a better supply from planted and managed forest areas than from native forests. Equally important is that Fiji will be enabled to invest more into projects that have a lower carbon impact but higher social and environmental impacts, and which need more time to unfold. The various government programs supporting development of value chains, diversification of markets for forest products, or utilization of forest byproducts can be intensified with the additional financial freedom and slower progression of undesired intervention. This facilitates the sustainable management.

Besides increasing the carbon stock in Fiji, existing forests and their ecosystem functions are being enhanced and protected. The overall improvement of forest management increases the resilience and adaptive capacity of the people who live off that resource. The described impacts will benefit the smaller islands of Fiji through transfer of knowledge and capacities. In the national REDD+ readiness phase, these communities are included and will receive support according to their needs.

The maps below show the ERP area of Viti Levu (Figure 1), Vanua Levu and Taveuni (both Figure 2). The native forest is green (dark: 40-100 % forest cover; light: 10 – 40 % forest cover). Plantation forests are displayed in orange (dark: mahogany; light: pine), while coconut plantations are brown. Mangroves appear in pink and so-called protection forest is red. Protection forest is defined as native and plantation forest area with a slope ≥ 30 degrees. It does not carry any official status of protection except the good practice guidelines of the revised Fiji Forests Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP). Planned measures for improvement include the transformation of the FFHCOP into regulation and the installment of a Protected Areas Network in all of Fiji. Non-forest area (grey) mainly consists of grass and shrub lands, but also includes settlements and infrastructure. In 2016, this information will be updated through the development and implementation of the national forest monitoring system. The selection of priority project areas has been and continues to be based on REDD+ eligibility, carbon impact, biodiversity and livelihoods impact, and the interest of the owners and users in joining the program.

Priority areas would for example be grassland for afforestation, highly degraded native forests for enhancement and combating invasive species and fire regime, or native forests bordering infrastructure, degraded forests and grasslands for sustainable management and protection. More detailed information is given in section 5.3.

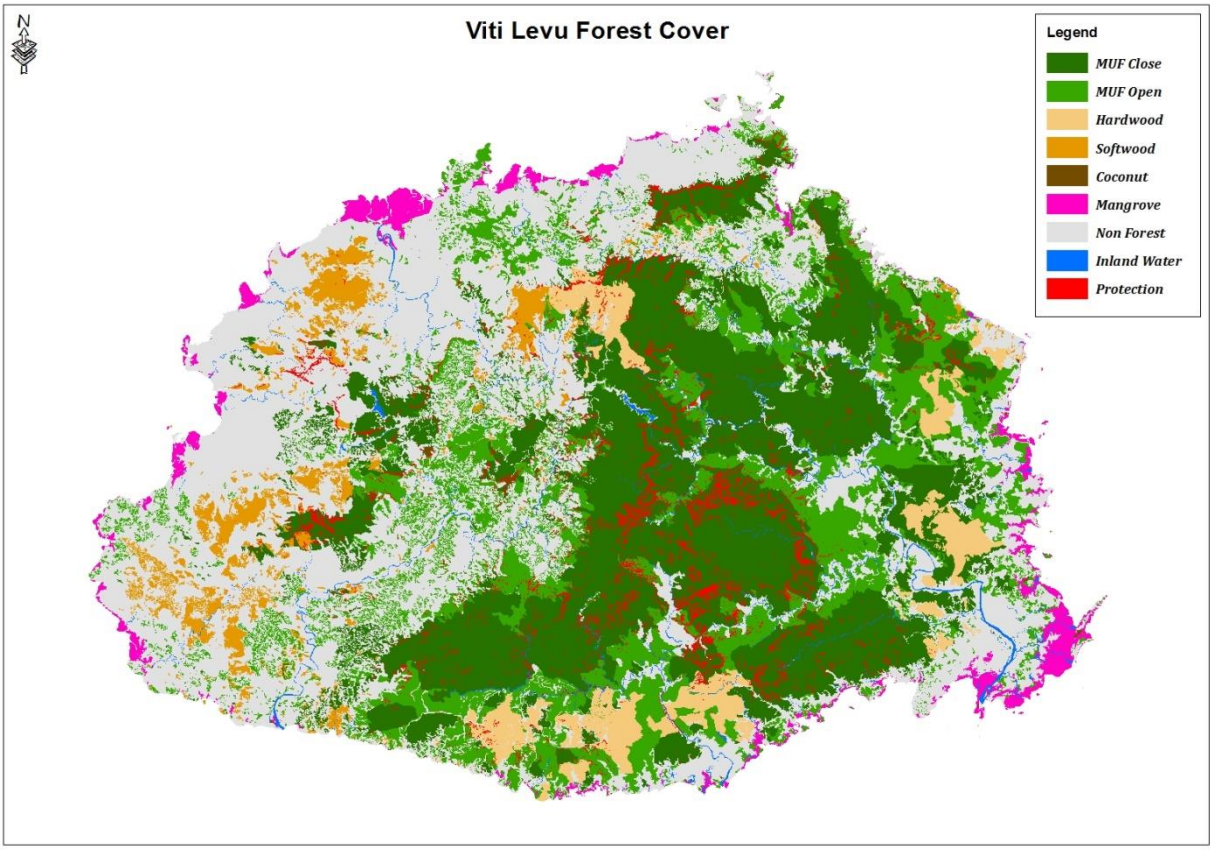

Figure 1: Forest cover map of Viti Levu.

In a second step, the stratification and information will be displayed more detailed after implementing the national forest monitoring system.

The forest cover is more fractured in Vanua Levu than on Viti Levu and coconut, as well as sugar plantations play a more significant role. Coconut timber is increasingly used for furniture and reduces the demand for native forest

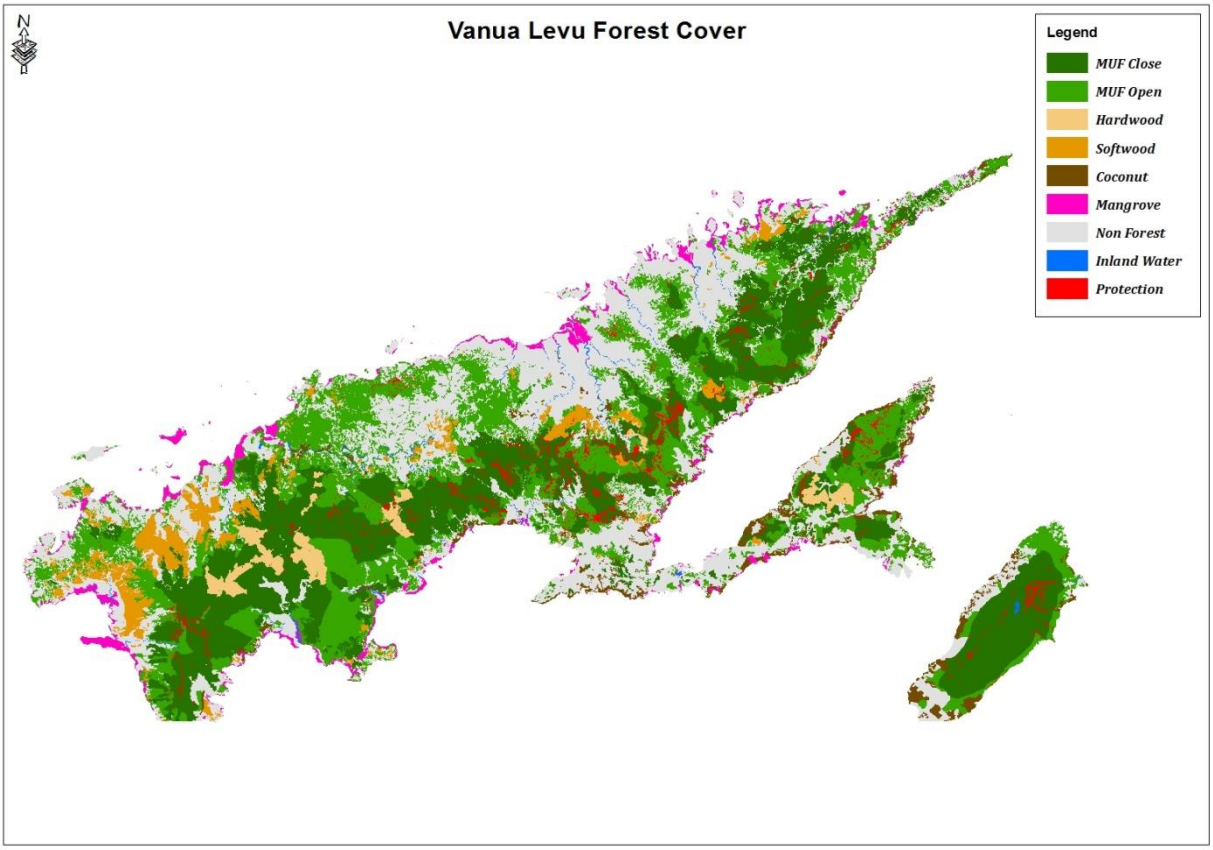

Figure 2: Forest cover map of Vanua Levu and Taveuni (South-East)

4.2 Expected lifetime of the proposed ER Program
Please describe over how many months/years the proposed ER Program will be prepared; and implemented (including expected start date of the proposed ER Program).

Elements of the programme are already being prepared or implemented. Fiji has brought reforms on the way that will help improving the sustainability of the forest resources:

- The forest decree is currently being revised to legally comply with the new forest policy from 2007. New elements of the decree will incorporate legal provision for enforcement of the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP), REDD+, sustainable value-chains, privatization of Fiji Pine Ltd. and Fiji Hardwood Ltd. and other measures to create sustainability, as documented in the policy;
- A harvesting regulation was developed. By its endorsement, the Code of Harvesting Practice (FFHCOP) will be legally established and enhance the options for forest protection and sustainable utilization;
- Fiji is working on a national land use mapping. The land use mapping report for the Emalu pilot site will be published in October 2015 and serve as a blueprint for land use mapping processes in the future project communities;
- FPIC guidelines are being drafted and were already implemented in Emalu. The draft will enter a national consultation process in order to not only address REDD+, but to be valid for all sectors in Fiji;
- Through the multi-stakeholder steering committee on national level, REDD+ has gained a mainstream status in the different sectors in Fiji which have become sensitive to the issue. Elements that support the REDD+ implementation are integrated into work plans;

- Government funds directed at sustainable land use practices increase every year.

The R-Package for Fiji is planned to be finalized by mid-2019. With the national commitment that has manifested itself over the past 6 years, it is Fiji's aim to produce the R-Package ahead of the time schedule. Realistically, the target for submission is the first FCPF PC meeting of 2018.

The development of the Emission Reductions Programme Document can be completed by the end of 2017. Emission reductions from the initial projects will be ready for verification in mid-2018. This means that the ERP is ready before the readiness implementation will be completed. Therefore, the document will be updated when necessary, the last update being due shortly before final submission. That final submission will occur at the next Carbon Fund meeting taking place after the endorsement of the R-Package (2018). The development of the ERP alongside with the R-PP implementation will be beneficial to the quality of the submission, as the two processes will interact. Particularly the early development of ground activities / projects in relation to the readiness implementation time frame will allow working experiences and lessons learnt to improve the framework setting process, while the framework will be able to take account of and address the challenges and needs of the ground implementation of REDD+ activities.

Allowing a time period of up to 12 months until the ERP agreement can receive its final signatures, Fiji is planning for performance-based finance from the Carbon Fund beginning in the last quarter of 2019 and ending in the last quarter of 2024, a total programme duration of 5 years.

As mentioned, the ERP document will be ready before endorsement of the R-Package by the Readiness Fund Participants Committee. This offers the opportunity to engage even earlier with the selection and agreement negotiation process than currently provided for in the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework. In case this would be subject to revision by the Carbon Fund Participants, Fiji would be able to extend the total duration by advancing the starting point to a date less than a year after R-Package endorsement.

Table 4 below shows the preparation work schedule for the ERP. Some of the activities will be undertaken in the frame of R-PP implementation. The activities undertaken directly for the ERP will benefit from experiences made in the national readiness process, e.g. on FPIC, resource inventory or land use mapping in ongoing pilot sites.

Table 4: Time line for ERP implementation.

	2015	2016				2017				2018				R-PP / ERP activity
Activity	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
National information campaign launch for REDD+	X													R-PP
National forest emission drivers mapping finalized			X											R-PP
Project communities identified (based on existing forest cover and PAN maps, revised by 2017)			X											R-PP / ERP
Consultation with the selected communities following FPIC (including governance setup and safeguards)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	ERP
Valuation / marketing strategy for non-carbon benefits developed				X										R-PP
National Forest Monitoring						X								R-PP

System established													
Land use mapping in selected communities implemented							X						ERP
Resource inventory in selected communities concluded								X					ERP
Strategy options selected									X				ERP
Reference Emission Level established										X			ERP
Carbon emission reductions verified												X	ERP

The activities in Table 4 will be repeated over time with other communities. The first emission reductions are expected to be verified by end-2018. Government, NGO, CSO, donor and private sector engagement in field projects will intensify over time. The tasks then split up into two tracks. One track is the continuous MRV for the ongoing projects. The second track is the development of new projects by the aforementioned partners and integration into the ERP framework. The benefit for project developers is that initial emission reduction payments will be covered by the Carbon Fund. The Carbon Fund programme duration gives Fiji the time to find appropriate funding sources for the period after CF funding ends. If eventually (possibly 2023, 2024) more emission reductions are being produced than funding is committed, the National Carbon Registry will prepare to make new funding resources available to all activities under the ERP.

5. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES AND INTERVENTIONS PLANNED UNDER THE PROPOSED ER PROGRAM

5.1 Analysis of drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and conservation or enhancement trends.

Please present an analysis of the drivers, underlying causes and agents of deforestation and forest degradation. Also describe any policies and trends that could contribute to conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks. Please distinguish between both the drivers and trends within the boundaries of the proposed ER Program, and any drivers or trends that occur outside the boundaries but are affecting land use, land cover and carbon stocks within the proposed ER Program area. Draw on the analysis produced for your country's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and/or Readiness Package (R-Package).

The major activities for an ERP will be afforestation/reforestation in grasslands and degraded forests as well as the implementation of sustainable management in native forests. This is in line with the priorities for the national REDD+ mechanism. The overall threats to the native forest in Fiji are known and documented in the R-PP. A systematic mapping of drivers will be done in 2016. Fiji has already undertaken steps towards a framework for potential activities to combat these drivers. The Code of Harvesting Practice has been revised and is planned to become a regulation. Awareness and training for forestry officers, land owners, private sector and NGOs is planned under the R-PP to enable a proper enforcement of this regulation. Apart from that, the Forestry Department received funds from the National Capital Programme to begin a reforestation campaign. This campaign reaches out to different types of rehabilitation areas, such as former sugar cane farms, forest plantations that were not reforested after harvest, or grasslands. The potential for carbon sequestration in Fiji is very high.

The examples in Table 5 display the range of the current projects on improving land management. The projects are set in mostly unlogged forest areas or in grasslands and highly degraded forests. The biggest threats, as also identified for the R-PP, are agricultural practices and uncontrolled fires. Though there are two projects that create an alternative to conventional logging, this is less typical for the unlogged native forests and more of an issue in logged over forests that is already accessible to the loggers. These contribute valuable experiences and knowledge to the diverse implementation of REDD+ under the ERP, as well as R-PP.

Table 5: Examples of ongoing projects and the different drivers of past or potential forest carbon loss.

Project location	Start year	Land cover type	Activities	Main drivers of forest carbon loss
Emalu	2011	Native forest, unlogged	IFM (logged – protected)	Small-scale commercial agriculture (slash'n'burn), potentially logging
Nakavu	1992	Native forest, unlogged	IFM (improved logging)	Conventional logging
Vunivia	2012	Native forest and grasslands	IFM (logged – protected) and enhancement	Small-scale commercial agriculture (slash'n'burn), potentially logging
Drawa	2011	Native forest, unlogged	IFM (logged – protected)	Conventional logging
Nakauvadra	2010	Grassland / degraded forest	Reforestation	Conventional logging, grassland fires
Western Viti Levu	2014	Grassland / degraded forest	Reforestation	Grassland fires

5.2 Assessment of the major barriers to REDD+

Please describe the major barriers that are currently preventing the drivers from being addressed, and/or preventing conservation and carbon stock enhancement from occurring.

Barriers are diverse and can sometimes only be discovered during implementation. Fiji is conducting demonstration activities to learn about these barriers and organize ways to overcome them.

The major challenges for REDD+ can be split in two categories: the implementation framework and the ground work. Both can be better described as challenges rather than barriers since there are a lot of positive signals from politics as well as society for being in favor of more sustainable resource management, but the understanding for the holistic approach needed for its realization must be promoted. Through the involvement of immediate and distant stakeholders from a variety of sectors and over a long time, these challenges can be addressed and solved. Breaking down barriers would require more substantial change in comparison to solving challenges.

Regarding the implementation framework, the major challenge is the coordination of the legal framework. A first analysis of the legal framework for REDD+ has been conducted and will be followed by a more in-depth analysis. This will enable Fiji to improve the coherence of the legal framework, draft necessary changes and supplementations and get them through the endorsement process. Through the REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC), a multi-sectoral platform is in place and functional, which ensures comprehensive collaboration amongst the different sectors.

In the link between the framework and implementation level, the biggest challenge for Fiji is the amount of available resources. While the signing of the Readiness Grant will aid Fiji significantly to progress towards readiness, the human capacity is very low. In a small island state, it is not realistic to expect having enough trained staff in position that are well-equipped to deal with all pressing issues. Mainstreaming sustainable resource management into other sectors is an effort that has to be absorbed by the existing structures and therefore needs through planning. The increase in work load for REDD+ implementation and national coordination is mitigated by government through the establishment of a REDD+ Unit. For the project implementation on the ground, the extensions officers of different ministries will have to be trained and enabled to work with communities to implement REDD+. It is planned to progress the national emission reductions programme as quickly as possible, but the pace of rolling it out will also be determined by the effectiveness of the

existing implementation and support structures. This will move forward smoother with growing on-the-ground experiences. Interested communities will in future also be able to approach those that have already registered a REDD+ lease for information on how to join the mechanism.

Coming to the ground work, the major challenge here is the land tenure system. Fijian law requires the consensus of all land owning clan members for a lease on any commercial activity on communally owned land. This applies to 85 % of the land in Fiji. The process of reaching all registered members of a clan – including members who have migrated -, updating those registers and organizing meetings to allow everyone to have the complete information on the topic in question is time and resource consuming. Nonetheless, this process will be a standard part of FPIC in all communities that will want to join the ERP. Fiji has a national land owner registry in place which is being maintained and updated. After the FPIC process and the registration of a REDD+ lease, the permanence for the REDD+ project is guaranteed.

Developing skilled personnel to implement REDD+ is not only a necessity for the government agencies, but also for NGOs, CSOs and not the least the private sector, whose engagement and support is imperative. In particular for the logging and timber processing industries, it is not only about understanding REDD+ and sustainable logging practices as in the FFHCOP. Just as important is the exploration of new production techniques and tools that allow for lower wastage on one hand and for alternative utilization of such waste on the other. The forestry department, academia and some private entities are working together on investigating areas like bioenergy from logging waste, sawing waste, and wood chips. Species that have not appeared to have any commercial value are being tested for processing techniques that improve their properties. Rather new products are for example coconut timber furniture and veneer or wood chips from African Tulip, an invasive species that has been left untouched to date. On international level, Fiji is advocating for an improvement in the field of technology and knowledge transfer to increase the efficiency of forest resource utilization, which will lead to a decrease in logging pressure on the natural forests and protect, amongst other benefits, the high carbon stocks. This strategy will alleviate the danger of leakage when sustainable forest management measures reduce the timber availability on the market.

5.3 Description and justification of planned and ongoing activities under the proposed ER Program
Please describe the proposed activities and policy interventions under the proposed ER Program, including those related to governance, and justify how these activities will address the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and/or support carbon stock enhancement trends, to help overcome the barriers identified above (i.e., how will the ER Program contribute to reversing current less sustainable resource use and/or policy patterns?)

The policy interventions happen on the level of implementation framework development, which is covered by the national readiness preparation through the REDD+ Steering Committee and the stakeholders. It is designed to take up the lessons learnt from the ground work in order to improve the national framework. This includes the regulations and guidelines for benefit distribution systems, reference level development, monitoring work, FPIC process, etc.

The Emission Reduction Programme will intervene on the level of ground work described in 5.2. It focuses on the activities that lead to verified emission reductions and on solving challenges that expectedly arise during implementation, feeding the lessons learnt back to the national policy process to pave the road for more efficient future implementation work. Project specific documentation will include the results of the FPIC process, including agreed community members, local process governance (benefit distribution, roles and responsibilities, etc.), project activities, targets, detailed mapping and land use planning, and everything else that has to be decided by the land owners.

The ERP is open for a variety of activities in order to enable broad participation and include as much of the Fijian land mass as eligible. This is made necessary by the small total available area of this small island state. Three activities will cover the majority of emission reduction potential:

1. Afforestation of grasslands

Fiji has vast grassland areas that have developed centuries ago and are being maintained by fire. The fire regime is anthropogenic and results from different activities and, ultimately, negligence. Grasslands are burned for hunting practices to chase wild pigs out of cover and hunt them at the exit points. People also burn the grassland for soil maintenance, avoiding tilling and keeping the land open for possible extensions of agricultural area.

Open grassland fires are usually uncontrolled and become a danger to villages, agricultural lands and plantation forests. The government of Fiji is implementing a programme to afforest and reforest suitable areas, while at the same time creating awareness on land management without utilizing fire. In the medium and long term, this will make a large contribution to resilience towards natural disasters, the improvement of soils and arability of land, watershed management, and sustainability of timber supplies. In short: to security of rural livelihoods.

Fire management in grasslands and establishment of plantations will impact the carbon balance in two ways: the carbon sequestration on current grasslands will increase, while the easy availability of timber in those areas contributes to the protection and expansion of forest areas, and to conservation of biodiversity.

Essential for reaching ambitious targets is the partnership with the private sector, which can establish more plantation areas in collaboration with communities, change the management regime on the sites, increase the use of native species in the mix, and maintain and enhance buffer zones of native forest.

The forestry department in partnership with private sector players and landowners is planning to establish about 77,400 ha plantations in Fiji over the next 15 years. Targeted areas are spread over Viti Levu and Vanua Levu as shown on the map in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Confirmed active and planned reforestation sites in Fiji. The diamond marks the capital, Suva.

The planned reforestation efforts for the time until 2029 are summarized in Table 6, followed by a summary of the individual initiatives.

Table 6: Planned species and hectares of afforestation by private sector between 2015 and 2030

Initiative	RDF	RFP	FFF	SFIL	WCC	WSL	PRF	Total
Yr	Species							
	Mixed	Mixed	Teak	Mixed	Smac	Mixed	Mixed	
2015	150	1000	340		50	60		1600
2016	400	2000	200	600	75	85	500	3860
2017	800	2500	200	1200	75	85	500	5360
2018	1000	2500	200	1500	75	85	500	5860
2019	1000		200	3000	75	85	500	4860
2020	1000		200	4200	75	85	500	6060
2021	1000		200	4500	75	85	1000	6860
2022	1000		200	5000	75	85	1000	7360
2023	1000		200	5000	75	85	1000	7360
2024	1000		200	5000	75	85	1000	7360
2025	1000		200	5000			1000	7200
2026	1000		200	5000			1000	7200
2027	1000		200				1000	2200
2028	1000		200				1000	2200
2029	1000		60				1000	2060
Total	**13350**	**8000**	**3000**	**40000**	**725**	**825**	**11500**	**77400**

Smac = abbreviation for mahogany (Swietania macrophylla).

Reforestation Development Fund (RDF) – The Forestry Department funds afforestation of grasslands and reforestation in degraded forests, supplying advice, training, seedlings, and monitoring services to communities. 300,000 FJD annually plus FD staff and the established network of nurseries are available for this activity, additional donor funds are being implemented in cooperation with FD. FD plans to raise the target annually. Experiences from the 1980s show that 5,000 ha / yr were possible. In this table, the estimate stays conservative.

Reforest Fiji Project (RFP) – EU-funded project managed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to establish mixed species plantations in highly degraded former sugar plantation areas in Drasa, Malolo and Koronubu (see figure x in section 4.1). Target is to establish 8000 ha in 4 years.

Future Forest of Fiji (FFF) – A company in Fiji that has currently established 340 ha of Teak plantation in Mataso, Ra. FFF targets a final estate of 3000 ha grown on 25 year rotation with 200 ha annual planting in the next 15 years.

Sustainable Forest Industries (SFI) – Establishment of 40,000 ha plantations of mixed species on both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. SFI is currently working to secure a 20,000 ha lease in lower Navosa. Additional areas targeted included other 'idle' grassland near FFF estate in Ra, Southwest Bua, and northeast Macuata.

Bari-Savu – Webster Construction Company (WCC) is working with DFO/N to establish 500 ha on freehold land near Dawara in Wailevu West for and on behalf of a philanthropic absentee landowner, and mobilise landowners to plant another 250 ha on their native land. Lines have already been cut through 43 ha of area to be planted this year.

Waiqele Sawmill Limited (WSL) – WSL is working with communities around Macuata to establish 825 ha plantations in Seaqaqa area. WSL will lease and plant 700 ha of teak and pine, while Tui Macuata (the Chief of the Macuata clans) will organize and mobilize landowners to plant 125 ha of the same species in their own account.

Pacific Reforestation (Fiji) Ltd. (PRF) – PRF is a company founded to invest into reforestation of degraded grasslands for carbon sequestration, beginning operations in Ra Province, Upper Ba and Upper Sigatoka River catchments on Viti Levu. They will establish leases with the land owners for 50 yrs and under the condition that the site is to be maintained in forested condition for subsequent 50 years, only allowing for harvesting of non-wood forest products and small amounts of timber such as sandalwood and for local building purposes. Mix of native and exotic species, initially establishing 500 ha per year, moving to around 1000 ha per year.

2. Avoiding forest degradation through improved forest management and protection

The government of Fiji aims at increasing the total protected forest area in the country, in particular the threatened primary forests. REDD+ is instrumental for this objective, since the REDD+ conservation lease is currently the strongest binding conservation agreement in Fijian regulation.

Additionally, the government has the right to declare protected forests. This is used rarely to preserve ecosystem functions of high national importance, since it is not a participative development with the land owners and lacks the economic incentive of REDD+.

The FFHCOP and subsequently the new harvesting regulation prohibit logging activities on slopes ≥ 30 degrees. The enforcement is currently weak due to the shortage of trained staff. FD has begun to train forest wardens, employing members of communities in all provinces to improve on that.

Following the endorsement of the Fiji Forest Policy and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Fiji has undertaken steps to formalize the status of forest protection in future by installing a national Protected Areas Network (PAN). The map below (Figure 7) shows the planned priority terrestrial protected areas along with marine managed protected areas. Under the readiness preparation, the legal status of the PAN will be advanced, while REDD+ ground implementation will contribute to the enforcement of that status. The implementation of the PAN in threatened forests will form part of the ERP.

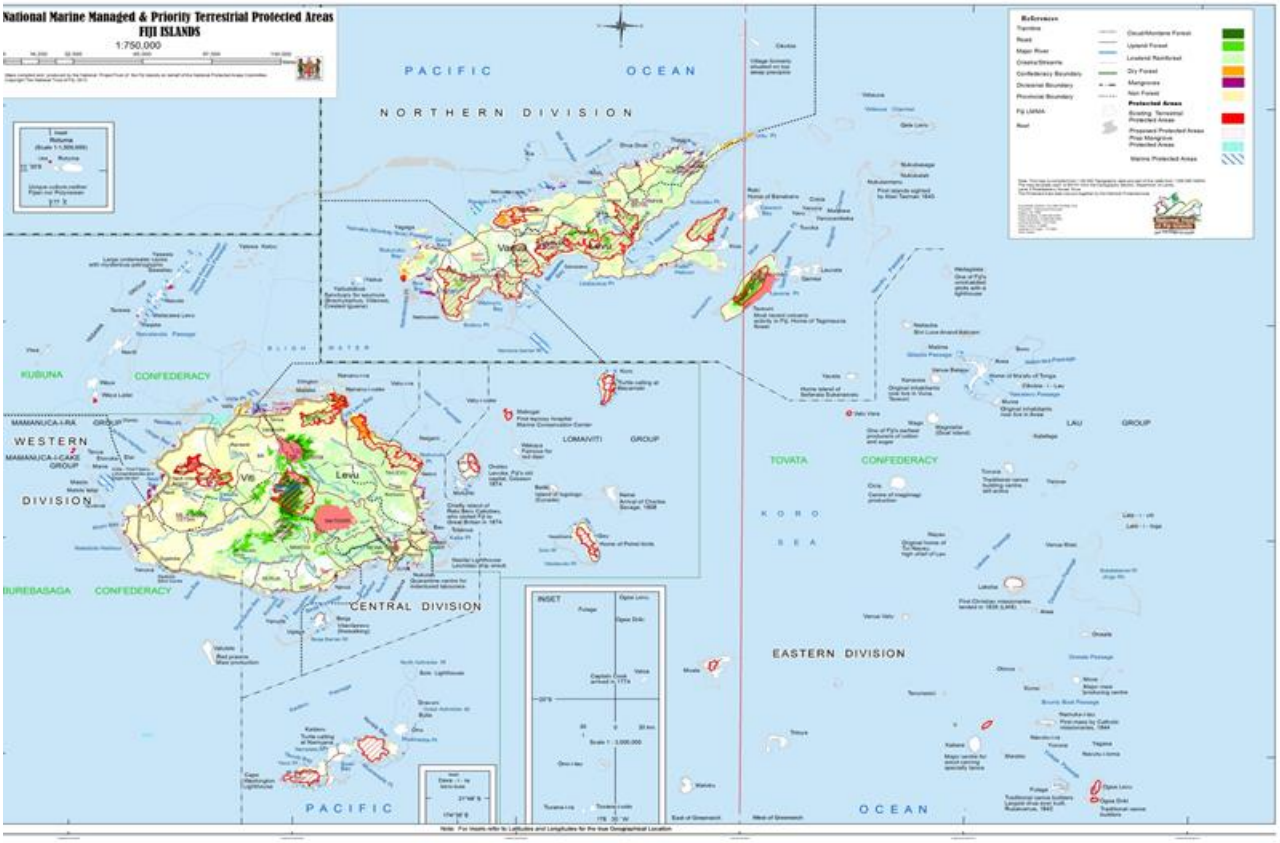

Figure 4: Planned protected area network for Fiji.

The current pilot site of Emalu has been established in order to walk through a full project implementing land use planning, afforestation / reforestation, sustainable management and conservation of primary forest with the land owning communities. It will be ready to verify avoided carbon emissions in a community approach with high non-carbon benefits for the people, and as such serve as a methodological blueprint for establishing an increasing number of such projects under the ERP umbrella.

In the course of the readiness preparation, priority areas for forest conservation will be identified. The land owners of such high priority areas will be approached by the government and its partners for informational meetings on the potential for REDD+ projects, in case of existing interest followed by trainings on REDD+ and entry into the FPIC process.

Interest has already been articulated by communities to enter into that process. The mapping of REDD+ potential and the selection of eligible communities will begin in 2016, in parallel to the large driver analysis and resource mapping through R-PP implementation.

3. Reducing deforestation and forest degradation through improved forest management and enhancement planting

Fiji's forest cover has been increasing between 1991 and 2010 by 0.3 % annually (see section 8). Yet there is justified concern for the state of Fiji's forests and the carbon emissions.

Degraded areas are increasingly invaded by non-native species, especially African Tulip (*Spathodea c.*), which increases forest cover at the cost of native forest. The native forest degradation is therefore higher than measured, because the forest cover is mostly measured via remote sensing, which doesn't distinguish between

species. Through the establishment of such species in degraded forests, they also start spreading into closed native forest. The government is starting projects to explore the utilization of some invasive species as a mean to control the spread. Another tool for control is the enhancement of highly degraded forest areas with native or non-invasive species.

The government of Fiji is steering towards more sustainable forest management. On policy level, the new forest policy, the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP) and draft legislation on plantation forestry and a harvesting regulation have been developed. The Forestry Training Center is reaching out to all stakeholders with awareness, information and training in order to put the new framework into practice. Through the readiness implementation, Fiji has more resources to do so.

National land use planning guidelines are being developed and currently implemented, This will help to reduce the unplanned utilization of forests. Because of the land tenure, government is reaching out to the land owners who play a crucial role in understanding the issues and monitoring the utilization processes in their forests.

The Nakavu Natural Forest Management Pilot Project (NNFMPP) was established in 1990 by the Fiji-German Forestry Project and the project ended in early 1994. The main objective of the NFMPP was to develop sustainable forest management prescriptions for communally owned indigenous forests. This involved the application of various levels of controlled and selective logging to stimulate the growth and natural regeneration of remaining trees to provide a sustainable timber yield, while at the same time not radically altering the composition and structure of the natural forest. In addition, non-timber forest products are promoted as sustainable economic products. The results from the NNFMPP have been essential in the revision of the 1990 Forest Code of Logging which included diameter limit tables initially developed from the Nakavu research site. Forestry officers, land owners and logging operators have undergone training in the implementation of sustainable logging operations.

In 1994, at the end of the NNFMPP, the Forestry Department took over Nakavu as a research site to continue the monitoring and analysis of forest dynamics in the different logging intensity coupes. Research is still ongoing and recently, measurements of biomass changes and calculation of emissions in the differently logged areas were carried out. This data provides for valuable information for the calculation of emissions from forest degradation.

The national reforestation programme with all its components and growing partnerships aims at replanting within highly degraded areas of native forests and on grasslands, either with native species or with teak and mahogany. The forests will be managed as permanent forest estates, increasing the permanent carbon stock in Fiji's forests. The local NGO Nature Fiji – Mareqeti Viti receives funding by FD for supporting communities in the implementation of sustainable management of forest principles. That is part of the Permanent Forest Estate Programme, aiming to change the prevalent unplanned management regime to a more sustainable management nationwide.

5.4 Risk/benefit analysis of the planned actions and interventions under the ER Program
Please explain the choice and prioritization of the planned actions and interventions under the ER Program identified in 5.3 taking into account the implementation risks of the activities and their potential benefits, both in terms of emission reductions and other non-carbon benefits.

Table 7: Mitigation strategy for identified risks of the three major planned REDD+ activities

The rating ranges from 1 = low risk, 2 = medium risk, to 3 = high risk

Risks	Intervention activities			Risk rating
	Reforestation	Forest conservation	Sustainable management of forests / enhancement	
Land owners unwilling to participate or withdrawing participation at later stage	n/a	Interest in participation has been signaled from various communities. Particularly community members living outside the project area might push for quick and easy money through utilization. The FPIC process addresses the alternatives, the REDD+ conservation lease guarantees the permanence of the activity	The change in land management in an SMF regime has low impact on community land management, which takes the lead in its land use planning process. Logging operators have to be trained and adhere to the FFHCOP, monitored by Forestry Department and land owners. The lease agreement and logging license are strong legal instruments for enforcement.	2 esp. in early phase
Land owner capacity to agree on stakeholders, area boundaries, benefit distribution system, etc.	The FPIC process is taking time and needs to result in consent from all stakeholders. Facilitation by local and national government should lead to mutual agreements on all issues. There will likely be potential projects where this doesn't happen though. Conflicts arising after signing the lease can jeopardize the performance. In combination, a proper FPIC process documentation and the lease agreement are the main instruments for conflict free implementation			2
Grassland fires encroaching on programme areas	Open fires in grasslands threaten plantations. Forest ecosystem are resistant to fires. The reforestation areas will be planned accordingly, including buffer zones, fire management plans and targeted awareness programmes around the project area. This is complemented by the national awareness campaign on reducing fire in agricultural practice	n/a	n/a	2 esp. in early phase

	and open grasslands.			
Natural disasters to impact carbon stocks	Between January and May is cyclone season in Fiji. The outer island regions are affected more regularly than the main land. Heavy storms only occur every ten years in average. Therefore the risk of a storm event impacting the project areas exists. The potential damage will be higher in plantation forests than in native forests and decreases towards the primary forests. Projects will be obligated to keep buffer credits for reinsurance purposes (this also relates to the risks above). The exact amount will be calculated on case basis. Projects that include reforestation and enhancement planting activities will be assessed prior to inception according to their risk mitigation measures (i.e. site and soil mapping, species composition, disturbance regime, impact on surrounding areas).			1
Risks associated with land and resource rights	Fiji has a very strong legal framework protecting the land rights of the iTaukei people. Laws require that landowners are involved in decision-making and that a majority consensus is reached before approval of leases or development is given. The FPIC process currently being established will serve to strengthen this consultation and decision-making process. However, informal arrangements exist where landowning clans provide outside clans or families with land (right to access land and/or inhabit). Some of these arrangements have existed for generations and though are informal and not legal, are traditionally recognized as binding. The consultation and participation process will include these land users and the consultation process will be sensitive to these traditional relationships and arrangements to ensure conflicts are avoided and the non-landowning land users also benefit. Traditional structures existing in all villages will be the platform for discussing these sensitive issues which are rooted in old traditional ties. Another potential risk is the dispute over land boundaries. Whilst the land boundaries of all landowning units in Fiji are well defined and recorded, disputes still arise when: a. The official boundary/ map do not agree with the traditionally known boundary. This is usually only detected when the landowning clans sight the official maps. Landowning boundaries follow landforms and topography and when a registered boundary does not follow this, this is often a case of incorrect surveying. The concerned landowners report this to the iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission for assessment and re-surveying. All concerned landowning units are involved in this process. b. A landowning unit has become extinct (all registered members have passed away) and there are one claimants to this land. Traditionally this extinct land reverts to the Yavusa (tribe) of that landowing clan or is held in trust by the TLTB. However, there are instances when other landowning clans lay claim to this land on the grounds of kinship or past traditional agreements. This is resolved through the arbitration system of the iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission where all iTaukei land disputes are taken. Other risks relating to iTaukei land resources include: c. Lease agreements can be long-term (usually 30 to 99 years), therefore land use decisions and lease agreements have intergenerational impacts, which are likely to be adverse in circumstances where legislation and rules remain unclear, or consultation on lease arrangements has been insufficient. This calls for clear lease arrangements and ongoing consultations and awareness on these arrangements to ensure that upcoming generations are kept informed and also have a platform to voice concerns d. Gender equity implications may be present since many Fijian women are married out of their home village and do			2

not get to participate in matters concerning their clan, that usually takes place in the village. Special requirements will be put in place to ensure women's participation in consultation activities and decision-making processes. Lessons on the consultation process from the Emalu Pilot will be useful here as more than 60% of the Emalu landowning unit are women, most living in other parts of the country.

Experience from the Emalu pilot site highlighted the need to involve the entire community / village, and not only the concerned landowning clans, in the consultation and decision-making process and also provide benefits to the entire community through livelihoods development programs for the following reasons:

1. The communal lifestyle in iTaukei Villages ties all clans together and separating or isolating only the concerned landowning clans can lead to mistrust, conflict and jealousy. Traditional structures will be used and the iTaukei Affairs Board will be involved in all in all consultation processes.
2. All village members or neighboring villages are in some way involved with each other's land either by way of land use (arrangements where you can use another clan's land), accessibility (you need to go through another clan's land to access yours), or kinship (a household is using land that belong to their mother's family and therefore is not legally theirs)
3. Should a forest area of a clan is committed for conservation, they will fall back on land either belonging to another clan or to the tribe for their farming needs. Traditional/informal arrangements may not be sufficient to provide security to all parties and a written agreement on the terms of land use and any benefit sharing will need to be drawn up to prevent future conflicts.

The Government of Fiji will provide this necessary additional support, not directly part of the ER program, to enhance the livelihoods of the villagers and local communities who may not be landowners of the project sites but whose participation is necessary for the success of the program.

Non-iTaukei landowners and land users include freehold landowners and leaseholders. Leases include agriculture leases, commercial leases and mining leases and timber licenses. The consultation and participation process will ensure that all these stakeholders are aware and involved in all consultation processes for all REDD+ activities given that they affect forest and land use activities in some form. Awareness-raising and education is an emphasis for these groups. There exist agriculture leases in forest areas that can pose as risks to REDD+ implementation. Legislative framework and a land use planning process will ensure that these leases do not contribute to business as usual emissions. For example, conditions for an agriculture lease will include the promotion of agroforestry systems (rather than extensive mono-cropping) and sustainable land management technologies are applied (like soil erosion mitigation measures). In addition, at the end of the lease, leaseholders are required to leave the land in an improved state. Most of these requirements are already in law but enforcement and monitoring has been weak. In the REDD+ Strategy, monitoring efforts for such requirements will be strengthened through increased resources and capacity building for officers and local community monitoring groups. The Forestry Department is training (and will be paying) community forest wardens to monitor logging activities, forest conservation sites, forest fires and other activities in their forests. The REDD+ Divisional Working groups and the NTROC will be supported to establish local land care groups – for all land tenure types (iTaukei and non-iTaukei land, leased and non-leased) to monitor land use activities and ensure sustainable land management.

Risk of sustainability of the national forest monitoring system	In terms of ensuring sustainability, Fiji is already in the process of institutionalizing forest monitoring systems for REDD+. Forest biomass measurements are being included in the national forest inventory operating procedures. National permanent sample plots are being strategically placed to capture the various forest and land use changes and include the measurement of biodiversity indicators. Current Forestry Department operations measure these permanent sample plots every 2 years. The budget for these operations is a fixed cost for the Government of Fiji. Recently the Forestry Department and the Ministry of Agriculture have been working with SPC to map forest and land use change and the REDD+ technical working group has been facilitating the development of the biodiversity monitoring framework. It is vital to bring together all the institutions involved in the mapping and monitoring of land resources to ensure consistency in definitions and data collection. Most of the risk relating to the sustainability of the forest monitoring system is associated with the level of dependency for agreement (in terms of measurement procedures) and relevant data provision from other sector agencies. Strong efforts will be taken to involve these agencies in all aspects of the monitoring component. The technical working group of the REDD+ Steering Committee will provide the necessary support to bring together all the various agencies who can contribute to this. Such a holistic monitoring system will contribute to national reporting requirements under the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD. The multi-sectoral structure to contribute to a robust monitoring system will be better defined during the MRV consultancy that will be carried out in 2016. The consultancy will also finalize the various standard operating procedures (SOPs) for Fiji's MRV system where required training will be carried out simultaneously. Another risk to the sustainability of the forest monitoring system is the availability of human resources and skilled officers to manage and maintain the monitoring system. The MRV consultancy will also develop a training plan, extending beyond the ER-program phase, to ensure capacities of the officers are maintained and current. There are also plans to include these trainings into the formal forestry courses at diploma and degree level to generate skilled and qualified local human resources. The committed institutional support provided by the Government of Fiji contributes to ensuring sustainability of the monitoring system. The operating procedures and MRV requirements will be given legal support as requirements under the revised Forest Decree. Fiji Government will eventually absorb the Fiji REDD+ Unit (currently partly funded through FCPF readiness grant) and make it into a fully-fledged Government Unit.	2

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6. STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION SHARING, CONSULTATION, AND PARTICIPATION

6.1 Stakeholder engagement to date on the proposed ER Program
Please describe how key stakeholder groups have been involved in designing the proposed ER Program, and summarize issues raised by stakeholders, how these issues have been addressed in the ER Program to date, and potential next steps to address them.

REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC)

The National REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC) members were involved in all steps of the drafting of the ER PIN. The overarching function of the Fiji National REDD+ Steering Committee is to "*coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ programme*". The RSC serves to ensure that the multi-sector REDD+ agenda is implemented and that the safeguards identified under Fiji's REDD+ Policy are complied with. The RSC has both governing and advisory functions.

The Deputy Conservator Forests serves as chairperson of the committee and the Secretariat is composed of the Fiji REDD+ Project (hosted in the Forestry Department) and the SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme.

The RSC is a multi-stakeholder committee comprised of representatives from the key stakeholder groups identified as being relevant for REDD+. In order for SC activities to feed into overarching national climate change mitigation management arrangements, the different agencies and structures are responsible for incorporating REDD+ activities into their organizational planning and budget and thus ensuring REDD+ activities are supported through the different sectoral agencies. It was agreed that it is important that members who attend the RSC meetings are able to make decisions on behalf of their Departments and organisations. The committee meets every quarter with provisions to hold special/extraordinary meetings in between when necessary. The member agencies and organizations along with their respective roles are listed below:

1. **The Forestry Department (FD)** is the lead agency and national REDD+ focal point. The FD, under the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, is the lead agency for REDD+ in Fiji and in charge of overall REDD+ coordination and implementation. The Conservator of Forests approves all REDD+ Project proposals and activities after consulting with the SC. The Forestry Department is currently implementing the "Strengthening REDD+ Readiness Project," which includes a Fiji REDD+ Project Coordinator (see Annex 1a for TOR).

2. **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC)** is the national focal point for UNFCCC and lead negotiator in international climate change meetings. The MFAIC supports the Forestry Department in lobbying for Fiji's REDD+ agenda in international meetings, provides international policy support and helps establish relationships and networks with other countries. Both the FD and MFAIC are engaged with REDD+ financing and technical development partners.

3. **The Ministry of iTaukei[3] Affairs** is responsible for developing and promoting policies to ensure good governance and welfare of the *iTaukei*. This Ministry strives to ensure that the rights and interests of the iTaukei are safeguarded in the REDD+ process.

4. **The iTaukei Land Trust Board** are the custodians of iTaukei land in the country. Almost 90% of land in Fiji is customary owned. The Board provides guidance on the use of iTaukei land and represents the interests of iTaukei landowners on land dealings.

5. **The Department of Environment** is the national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This is the lead agency in ensuring biodiversity is protected and monitored at the national level.

6. **The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources** looks after State land including mangroves. This Department hosts the Land Bank where landowners can "deposit" their land to be invested by the Department on their behalf. The Ministry provides guidance on the use of State land and on land deposited in the Land Bank. The Ministry is also responsible for regulating the exploration and development of Fiji's mineral, petroleum and other related non-living resources of the country.

[3] *iTaukei* refers to indigenous Fijian. The term *iTaukei* replaces the previously used terms "indigenous" and "native".

7. **The Department of Agriculture** is the lead agency for the agricultural sector and is the national focal point for UNCCD. The department guides the development and implementation of agriculture policies and incentives to support REDD+ strategies. Given that agriculture is the main cause for deforestation in Fiji, the department plays an important role in addressing this issue.

8. **The Ministry of Provincial Development** is responsible for administering government activities at the Provincial level. The Provincial Administrators are close to the ground and will support the coordination and monitoring of REDD+ pilot site activities.

9. **Representatives of non-governmental organisations** carrying out REDD+ activities contribute to the development of national-scale M&E, provide inputs into guidelines on safeguards, ensure compliance of national procedures, contribute to exchange of experiences and lessons learned, facilitate community engagement, ensure good governance and transparency and represent the interests of various social groups. The NGOs in the committee are Conservation International and Live and Learn Environmental Education.

10. **Private forestry sector (timber industry)** plays an important role in reducing forest degradation and in the implementation of the Fiji Harvesting Code of Practice.

11. **Fiji Pine Limited** is a public enterprise and one of the largest plantation industries in Fiji. The company will support and identify opportunities for REDD+ activities pertaining to plantations.

12. **Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited** owns majority of the mahogany plantations in Fiji. The company will support and identify opportunities for REDD+ activities pertaining to plantations.

13. **REDD+ iTaukei resource owner representatives** ensure that landowner rights and interests are addressed as most of Fiji's forests are owned by indigenous communities.

14. **The Department of Women** looks after women's interests and is the responsible agency for the National Gender Policy

15. **The Ministry of Finance** joined the committee following the awarding of the FCPF readiness grant to Fiji. Provides advice on the climate financing

16. **The Ministry of Youth and Sports** ensures the representation of youth interests. Coordinates a country's largest network of youth groups – from rural and urban areas

17. **The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)** is the regional intergovernmental organisation providing technical and policy support in the area of forestry other and land use sectors. It hosts the SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project and the SPC/GIZ Coping with climate change in the Pacific Island Region programme, SPC will also host a regional REDD+ information portal and facilitate regional south-south cooperation.

18. **The University of the South Pacific (USP)** is a regional University. The Institute of Applied Sciences of USP provides technical, research and policy support in the area of biodiversity assessments and monitoring.

19. **The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)** provides technical and policy support for entire REDD+ Readiness process.

The RSC has sub-working groups which focus on specific thematic areas. These include – The safeguards working group, the awareness-raising working group; the governance and finance working group; the MRV working group (or the technical working group); and the education and research working group

The multi-sectoral RSC endorsed the development of the emissions reduction program and will continue to be the official body to guide its further development and implementation.

The drafting of the early idea note for the ER program was carried out by the technical working group (TWG) of the RSC. This group comprises of officers from the Forestry Department, the Ministry of Agriculture – Land Resource & Planning Unit; The University of the South Pacific, Conservation International, and GIZ. The team met four times in April and May to put together the presentation of the early idea submission and which was presented to the RSC for endorsement before the presentation in Paris in May. The RSC approved the early idea

presentation and to the proposed ER program despite the fact that readiness preparations were still underway. Once Fiji was approved by FCPF to commence with the development of the ER-PIN, the RSC members were informed via email and drafting with the technical working group began. A local consultant was engaged to prepare the first draft and this was progressed by the technical working group. The draft of the ER-PIN was presented in the RSC meeting in July. Given that the components of this ER-PIN are based on the extensive and intensive consultations carried out during R-PP development, stakeholders are well familiar with the strategies undertaken for the proposed ER program. The technical components included inputs from the Management Services Division of the Forestry Department, Conservation International and the University of the South Pacific. The social and environmental components were reviewed by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Conservation International, the University of the South Pacific, and GIZ.

The REDD+ Secretariat will be responsible for informing the RSC about the progress on the document.

The National iTaukei Resource Owner's Committee (NTROC)

The formal establishment of the National iTaukei Resource Owner's Committee (NTROC) in 2014 provides a very important platform and conduit to reach and work with local resource owners through a systematic process. The Committee compromises of resource owner representatives from each of Fiji's 14 provinces. The Committee was established to:

a. promote the capacity development of the iTaukei to make informed decisions on the sustainable management of their natural sources.
b. ensure the participation of the iTaukei in decision-making processes that affect their resources; and
c. support efforts to increase the resilience of the local iTaukei communities against the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

The various aspects of REDD+ including the components of the readiness process has been presented and discussed with the NTROC. Their role in the implementation and monitoring of REDD+ activities (which are reflected in this document) were also discussed and the need for capacity building and regular consultations in this area was emphasized by the group.

Even though the interests of non-iTaukei groups are not represented by a single entity, other government agencies (Ministry of Regional Development, Department of Women) and NGOs in the RSC currently provide this input. Efforts are underway to strengthen this by identifying an appropriate representative agency who an ably fulfill this role. At Divisional level number of representatives will be invited to be part of the REDD+ Divisional Working Groups.

6.2 Planned outreach and consultation process
Please describe how relevant stakeholder groups will participate in further design and implementation of the proposed ER Program and how free, prior and informed consultation leading to broad community support for the ER Program and key associated features, including the benefit-sharing arrangement, will be ensured.

A Communication Officer will be in place by end of 2015 to coordinate the extensive consultations required for REDD+ Readiness and the development of the REDD+ strategy and also support consultations for the further development of the ER Programme. The key tasks for this officer include: (i) ensure effective delivery of the consultation and participation plan; (ii) develop and implement the communication strategy/plan and outreach, which are culturally appropriate to fit the target audience; (iii) ensure the results of the consultations are properly documented and effectively disseminated to the relevant stakeholders using the right channel/medium of communication; and (iv) ensure the procedures for how these consultations influence REDD+ strategy development are followed

The participation of relevant stakeholders in the further design and implementation of the proposed ER Program will be guided by the consultation and participation (C&P) plan that was drafted in 2013. The plan will be finalized by late 2015 to early 2016. The C & P plan was designed following the FCPF and UN-REDD Joint Guidelines on

Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ readiness and is structured according to those guidelines. In addition, the FPIC principles are incorporated in the approach.

A strategy of the Fiji C&P Plan is to integrate REDD+ consultation and participation objectives into existing outreach structures, systems and norms as opposed to launching an isolated REDD+ consultation campaign. This minimizes the costs of consultations while ensuring that REDD+ is being communicated in a way that is understood by the diversity of stakeholders that will be consulted. Furthermore, this will help to ensure that stakeholder participation is not a one-time discussion, but instead an on-going process.

The integration of the C & P into existing outreach and consultation structures will require the support of the different agencies and sectors. This support is guaranteed by the multi-sectoral and inter-agency RSC. The RSC members will mobilize their agencies and organizations to support outreach for further consultation and development of the ER program. Currently, REDD+ awareness programs are already being integrated into various agency awareness programs and communication processes. The consultations on the development and implementation of the ER Program will utilize all member agencies of the RSC to reach out to the various stakeholders (government, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, faith-based groups, youth groups, etc.) and various sectors to ensure a thorough consultation process for the ER program. The principles defined in the C&P plan and FPIC will be followed.

It is anticipated that by 1st Quarter 2016 - the C&P plan will be in place, REDD+ outreach activities will be integrated into RSC member agency outreach work plans, and the national FPIC guideline will be endorsed. These structures will guide the development and implementation of the ER-Program. However, the development of the ER-program can already proceed with existing drafted guidelines. The drafting of the FPIC involved wide awareness-raising on the principles of FPIC to stakeholders including the NTROC. The FPIC approach was used in the National REDD+ pilot site Emalu where useful and important on-the-ground experiences and lessons will be fed into the national approach, along with experiences from other parts of the country.

Information sharing with local communities also takes place through non-governmental avenues, such as through NGOs or civil society groups. The NGO RSC members – NatureFiji/MareqetiViti; Conservation International and Live & Learn Environmental Education have strong community outreach capacities and they will be involved in communicating and consulting with local communities in the sites.

The NTROC has also committed to work with neighboring communities (regardless of ethnicity) to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources. The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and iTaukei Affairs Board as members of the NTROC is represented in the RSC and will facilitate the mobilization of NTROC with regards to the development and implementation of the REDD+ program.

The member agencies from regional organisations – SPC and USP, will provide the regional link and support to the development of the ER program. This includes the provision of technical expertise to firm up on the MRV and RL/REL components and linkages to relevant regional projects implemented in Fiji (like the EU/SPC Reforest Fiji Project) and other relevant regional networks.

There also exists various modes of media for information dissemination, The Fiji REDD+ website was launched on 26 October 2013 http://fiji-reddplus.org and REDD+ issues and news are currently disseminated through other agency newsletters (like TLTB, MTA, CCD) and through the Government Ministry of Information channels, This outreach will be strengthened by expanding to other sector outreach programs, collaborating with other NGO and CSO networks and utilizing other forms of media. A Fiji REDD+ quarterly newsletter is currently under development.

7. OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

7.1 Institutional arrangements
Please describe the governance arrangements anticipated or in place to manage the proposed ER Program (committee, task force), and the institutional arrangements among ER Program stakeholders (i.e., who participates in this ER Program, and how, including the roles of civil society organizations and forest dependent communities).

The ERP implementation oversight will rest with the National REDD+ Steering Committee. A technical working group (TWG) has been formed by the members and reports back to the committee meetings. Members are the Departments of Forestry, Agriculture, iTaukei Affairs, land owner representatives, the University of the South Pacific, private sector and the NGOs Conservation International and Mareqeti Viti are part of it. The REDD+ Unit will manage the implementation of the ERP.

Project implementation and steering on local level will be managed by the land owners and users, with support from national and district level governments in form of awareness and training, planning, decision making, setting up structures and guidance through the process. Current initiatives already use different models for management and benefit distribution: community trust fund, cooperative or investor models (investments in infrastructure and plantation forestry).

7.2 Linking institutional arrangements to national REDD+ implementation framework
Please describe how the institutional arrangements for the proposed ER Program fit within the national REDD+ implementation framework.

Demonstration activities are an integral part of the readiness process through which the practicality of planned interventions is tested. The feedback provided helps to make the process efficient and effective and to recognize problems before the REDD+ mechanism is finalized.

The ultimate goal of most demonstration activities is to create carbon emission reductions and to be rolled out nationwide. That result would be the ERP. Rather than showing how the proposed ERP fits into the institutional arrangements, it has to be shown which parts of the existing structure cover the ERP already. National steering of the ERP will occur in one of the TWG of the Steering Committee.

Through aforementioned national mapping exercises as well as community initiatives, high potential sites for emission reduction activities will be identified and investigated further. Those areas found eligible will undergo a FPIC process in which land owners and users as well as stakeholders will be identified, informed and enabled to take free decisions on implementing emission reduction activities. Further planning for practical implementation will be accompanied by processes to develop the local governance and benefit distribution structure, demarcation of the project area and establishment of a REDD+ lease. The rights holders to the carbon identified in the lease will be registered with the national carbon registry (to be developed under R-PP implementation). The progress on site will be supported as well as monitored by the Forestry Department and the REDD+ Steering Committee. Collected data (forest and carbon data, safeguards, biodiversity, etc.) will enter the national forest monitoring system (NFMS). The other way around, the Forestry Dept. provides support with the carbon accounting methodology, inventory trainings, data analysis and reporting. The national carbon registry provides the link between producer and buyer on the carbon market.

7.3 Capacity of the agencies and organizations involved in implementing the proposed ER Program
Please discuss how the partner agencies and organizations identified in section 4.1 have the capacity (both technical and financial) to implement the proposed ER Program

Table 8: Overview of division of responsibilities in ERP implementation and respective capacities

	Agency	Responsibilities	Capacities
1	Forestry Dept (FD)	Lead role in national readiness process	FD has chaired the readiness process since its inception in 2009 and proven its capability. The Readiness Grant by FCPF supports FD in setting up a dedicated REDD+ Unit to intensify the work. Since 2012, government spends 300,000 FJD annually for REDD+, not including the working hours.
		On-the-ground implementation of carbon emission reduction activities	Through the Readiness Grant, training capacities for FD staff are increased. The extension service of FD will be enabled to effectively support the FPIC process, liaison with other agencies and planning and implementation of the ERP on the ground
		Other activities	FD runs complementary programmes that contribute to the national sustainable forest management regime and facilitate for REDD+. Annual budget in brackets (FJD): 1. Reforestation Development Fund (500,000) 2. Subsidy programme for the use of logging residues and biomass for firewood (500,000) 3. Pine resin tapping programme (400,000) 4. Value-chain development: vocational training and support for furniture production in Lakeba (300,000). Incentive to manage the pine forests on the remote island and decrease transport.
2	Dept of Agriculture (DoA)	On-the-ground implementation of carbon emission reduction activities	DoA is part of the Steering Committee (RSC). Its extension services will benefit from training and systematic planning of sustainable land use activities as well. A lot of the success of the ERP depends on increasing the sustainability of agricultural activities.
3	Ministry for iTaukei Affairs	Lead role in FPIC implementation	Ministry has been involved in all REDD+ developments since 2009.
4	Land owners / communities	Implementation of activities and change of land use patterns; monitoring and feedback	Awareness, information, training and enablement for communities play a major role for the national R-PP implementation. Pilot projects show that land owners have a good basic understanding of nature, resulting in good understanding of environmental issues. This will be fostered through readiness and ERP.
5	iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB)	TLTB issues lease agreements and controls the proper implementation of FPIC	The REDD+ conservation lease is ready. As member of the RSC, TLTB has engaged in the process from 2009 on and dedicates staff to the issue. Legal custodian of iTaukei land.
6	Secretariat of	Fiji and SPC have a	The project staff is well equipped to support the national

	the Pacific Community (SPC)	longstanding history of cooperation in the forestry sector. Current funding: EU / Reforest Fiji; Germany / Regional REDD+ support, incl. Nakavu project; UN-REDD / Regional MRV support;	readiness process as well as implementing projects on the ground that will contribute to the national carbon accounting. Through the projects, SPC trains stakeholders on different levels for various elements of REDD+.
7	Conservation International	Experience with A/R programme and forest conservation in Fiji	CI (SC member) has organized and maintained a project on afforestation / reforestation for Fiji Water Ltd. as part of their CSR strategy, as well as managing a project on forest conservation. Lessons learnt will support the REDD+ implementation, particularly MRV. The staff is qualified in GIS application.
8	Mareqeti Viti – Nature Fiji (MV)	MV has experience in ground implementation of projects in Fiji, community planning processes and awareness, as well as in forest management.	MV (SC member) has implemented pilot projects for the government project on permanent forest estate and will be available for further cooperation. Funding for further project implementation is not yet secured.
9	Private sector (Fiji Pine Ltd, Tropic Woods Ltd., etc.)	Plantation management to be improved, area increased. Key role in fire management, biomass energy and nursery training	Companies are interested in REDD+ process and contribute to relevant issues. Participation in SC accordingly.

7.4 Next steps to finalize the proposed ER Program implementation design
(REL/FRL, ER Program monitoring system, financing, governance, etc.). Provide a rough timeline for these steps.

The ER-PIN provides information on the structure of the planned emission reductions programme, giving rough estimates for emission reduction potential, timelines and finance. The detailed planning is going to be done in the development of the ERP document. Therefore this list of steps is a tentative working document and will undergo changes in the upcoming planning process.

The concrete design of the programme depends on results from the national readiness implementation. At the same time, work on the ground is being advanced in the interest of communities that can't be on hold for long. The timetable below shows the necessary steps on national and local levels that have to be combined for the ERP implementation design. The table is related to the timetable in section 4.2 of this document.

Table 9: Steps in finalizing the proposed ER program implementation design.

		2015	2016				2017				2018		
		IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III
1	National information campaign launched	N											
2	National forest emission driver maps finalized			N									
3	Project communities identified			L									
4	Consultation with the selected communities following FPIC (including governance setup and safeguards)			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	
5	Valuation / marketing strategy for non-carbon benefits				N								
6	National Forest Monitoring System established						N						
7	Data repository for ERP activities established						N						
8	Resource inventory and land use planning in selected communities concluded								L				
9	REDD+ lease agreements signed									L			
10	Reporting and verification of carbon emissions												N

"N" = national activity; "L" = local activity (project level).

1. A national campaign for REDD+ awareness and information on how to participate will be launched at the end of 2015. This campaign is seeking to generate broad support for REDD+ and individual interest by communities to come forward and demand further in-depth information on their potential for participation. This is a prerequisite for government intervention. Community requests have already been received in the past and registered for the coming identification process.
2. The drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation analysis will be done for the national readiness process in the first quarter of 2016. This comprehensive assessment will contribute to the identification of priority areas and interventions and provide assistance to determining community activities.
3. It is expected that more communities will come forward to join REDD+ in Fiji after the launching of the awareness campaign. A priority selection will be done, based on government capacities for support,

community interest and eligibility for REDD+ (mapping, site visit, establishment of threat to forest carbon stock or potential for emission removals).

4. After selection of communities, a consultation process following FPIC guidelines will be rolled out to determine the governance of the REDD+ involvement (safeguards and monitoring, governance within the community, BSM, etc.). The FPIC guidelines for Fiji are already being drafted after successful implementation of FPIC consultations in the pilot site of Emalu.
5. A marketing strategy for goods and services from healthy forest ecosystems will be drafted, promoting the value of sustainable management of forests. Government will emphasize those benefits in the promotion of REDD+ activities, as it is expected that they will be higher than potential carbon benefits. Communities have to understand the full set of benefits from REDD+ in order to design an appropriate benefit sharing mechanism (BSM).
6. The development of a national forest monitoring system, including reference level development, will begin in the second quarter of 2016. Within this activity, crucial elements for the implementation of the ERP will be developed, such as a database management system, guidelines and methodologies for MRV and standard operating procedures (SOP). These will inform the community monitoring.
7. The database management system (DBMS) will be functional at the latest immediately at the beginning of data collection. Sub-national data will be collected in accordance with the requirements of the DBMS, the data will be entered into the system.
8. After taking informed decisions on going ahead with REDD+, communities conduct a resource inventory following national project guidelines and develop a land use plan for the whole community land, not only for the REDD+ activity. The methodology will be informed by the experiences in Emalu, the Nature Fiji – Marqeti Viti projects and others.
9. The documentation of the process to that point will be compiled for the REDD+ lease agreement, which certifies government endorsement of the project.
10. Reporting and verification of the emission reductions will be organized by FD, the communities receive training for data collection and monitoring of the activities on the ground.

7.5 Financing plan (in US$ million)

Please describe the financial arrangements of the proposed ER program including potential sources of funding. This should include both near-term start-up cost and long-term financing. If the proposed ER program builds on existing projects or programs that are financed through donors or multilateral development banks, provide details of these projects or programs, including their financing timeframe. Use the table in Annex I to provide a summary of the preliminary financial plan

Investment costs

There is a political and financial commitment to ensure that adequate support is provided to support the implementation of the ER program and support to the local communities involved in the ER program. Funding is provided through the national budget and covers also projects that are not specifically for REDD+, but will nevertheless contribute to the ERP.

The ER Programme will be steered by existing structures. The REDD+ Steering Committee and its members have gained valuable experience in the work in the Emalu pilot site and contribute to the national readiness process as well as the future ERP. The coordination of the ERP lies with the Department of Forestry, in the REDD+ Unit. The staff is funded by FD and complemented by contracted specialists under the R-PP. The project officer and project assistant, who are part of the REDD+ Unit, have been instrumental in Emalu and will help compiling the necessary teams for implementing activities in other areas. FD budgets 300,000 FJD annually for REDD+.

Aside from supporting activities directly relating to the ER program, Government will be providing support to complementary initiatives to ensure well-rounded and sustainable development for local communities implementing the ER program. Such initiatives would include training on alternative livelihoods (aside from agriculture production), increased value-adding of products, women-focussed training to enhance income generation, improvement of village sanitation, support for crop diversification etc. An integrated and multi-sectoral approach will be taken to support such development initiatives.

In figures, FD spends 500,000 FJD annually for the Reforestation Development Fund (RDF). The afforestation / reforestation efforts with communities mentioned in the activities (5.3) are funded under the RDF. In 2015, 10 communities have been supported with afforestation activities. The annual amount of 400,000 FJD to support the development of resin tapping in pine forests is also an incentive to avoid emissions, since the pine trees will not be cut down.

Through the readiness support from World Bank, a lot of work will be done on national level that also serves the preparation of the ERP (MRV / RL methodologies, training, DBMS development, etc.). The earmarked amount of 650,000 USD for the preparation of the ERP Document will support the clarification of implementation structures, analyse capacities and gaps, and contribute to a policy framework for ERP implementation.

The European Union is funding the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) with 7 Million Euro to implement a project on rehabilitation of sugar cane areas, afforestation / reforestation and fire prevention (2013 – 2018).

A ridge-to-reef project, funded with 7.4 Million USD by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will be implemented in Fiji by UNDP, with several components on sustainable management of forests.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) has been a long standing partner from the inception of REDD+ in the country and provides contributions to the ERP, for example funding necessary research, FPIC, studies, or workshops, as well as the work in Emalu and Nakavu. The technical contributions to the implementation work will progress the ERP framework significantly.

Many elements of the ERP preparation and implementation touch on services that are being provided by government already. The demand from clients (land owners) will increase through the awareness work under the R-PP.

For clarification: the Readiness fund by FCPF cannot be used for the ERP. Fiji separates strictly between national readiness preparation, which in many ways helps advancing the ERP, and the actual work on the ERP.

Operational cost and funding

The Carbon Fund contribution to the ERP as performance-based payment will secure the first years of funding for purchase of verified carbon emission reductions by the communities between 2019 and 2024. As incentive, Fiji emphasizes the additional value generated from sustainable resource utilization, seeing carbon funding as lucrative top-up of that income. Nonetheless, the prospect of direct payments will be a major motivation for the communities to engage in REDD+. Being transformed into the national REDD+ mechanism, Fiji expects to fund post-ERPA emission reductions through a hybrid structure. FD is applying for accreditation under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and will also apply for funding to other funds that might be available. Further, interest by developed countries has been indicated for bilateral funding of carbon projects and purchasing verified emission reductions or removals. Besides global trust funds and bilateral / private funding, Fiji is open for the market approach. This only makes sense if the global community is able to come to a significant global emission reduction target.

The national registry will be responsible for pooling all available funding sources and bring demand and supply together. The incentives through carbon funding will not be very high for many of the communities in Fiji, which is why in the implementation a great emphasis is put on the co-benefits. Those should make the overall package attractive for Fijian communities.

A more comprehensive finance plan will be provided in the ERPD.

8. REFERENCE LEVEL AND EXPECTED EMISSION REDUCTIONS

8.1 Approach for establishing the Reference Emission Level (REL) and/or Forest Reference Level (FRL)

Please briefly describe how the REL/FRL for the proposed ER Program has been or will be established. Describe how the approach for establishing the REL/FRL is consistent with UNFCCC guidance available to date and with the emerging Methodological Framework of the FCPF Carbon Fund, and with the (emerging) national REL/FRL (or with the national approach for establishing the REL/FRL).

Fiji has a low deforestation rate, but the data is inconsistent and needs strengthening with modern methods. In the 2010 Global Forest Resource Assessment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO FRA), Fiji forecasted a forest area increase between 1991 and 2010 of 6.4 % (0.3 % annually), based on the results from the national forest inventories 1991 and 2007. At the same time, closed forest area with > 40 % canopy cover was predicted to decrease by 19.5 %, overcompensated through increases of open forest and plantation areas. A canopy cover of 10 % is already classified as forest land, and it can be assumed that this large scale forest degradation is a major source of carbon emissions from the forestry sector.

The development of a national RL is planned for 2016 as part of the R-PP implementation. The background data for the preliminary analysis in this document is inconsistent. Inventory methodologies and parameter have been changed at every survey, land tenure status changes played a role (e.g. expiring agricultural or development leases that might not have been implemented have been reclassified as native forest), and the available satellite images are from different sensors with varying resolution and strong cloud coverage, especially above the forest areas. The reporting to FAO compensated loss of native forests with the establishment of plantation forests. The trend is clear, however: degradation is continuing, deforestation of native forests ongoing, and plantations, as well as afforestation / reforestation are increasing. Short-comings as described above will be tackled by the establishment of a national forest monitoring system and the development of a national reference level. For the construction of a preliminary reference level for the ERP, the prevalent deforestation from agricultural clearings will be taken into account.

Research and analytical work has been carried out as a prerequisite for more accurate assessments, and will continue with the target of developing reliable default values for Fijian forest characteristics. This includes gathering information on emission factors and activity data and sharing this between the responsible departments in government. Research will be carried out to define national default values for grades of forest degradation in relation to visible disturbances (settlements, roads, agriculture), emission factors of different agricultural and other land use forms, soil carbon content (particularly in mangroves) and other elements. The supply with satellite images in the Pacific (very high resolution and cloud-free / patched) has improved enormously in the past years and will enable more accurate reference level development.

The most recent forest cover map for Fiji has been produced in 2007. Forestry Department is currently trialing the OpenForis programme (Collect Earth) to produce a new forest classification map and assess the potential of the software. This will contribute to the RL development, for which a concrete work plan will be defined by the REDD+ Unit (experts to be recruited), the RSC, and future consultants in 2016.

The period covered by the RL depends on the availability of data. The most recent national forest inventory was done in 2006 / 2007, remote sensing data is available for 1990s (SPOT) as well as the 2000s (LandSAT 7), supplemented with other data that was collected locally or irregularly by other sensors. Since 2012, Fiji receives good satellite coverage, particularly by Digital Globe (WorldView 2 / 3). Google Earth provides a good overview of available data and cloud coverage.

Fiji is targeting to construct its baseline for the time periods 1991 – 2000 and 2000 – 2007, and modeling future projections with input from government policies and development plans. The data collected between 2008 and 2017 will contribute to verify the most reliable future projection scenario.

Since the ERP will cover about 95 % of Fiji's forest areas, the national RL-process will produce relevant data for the ERP. Due to the sub-national approach to implementation of the R-PP, it is necessary to create RLs for each activity. The methodologies for national RL development will be adapted as little as possible to suit those projects. The capacities built and information collected on national level will help make local RL development easier, quicker and cheaper. For example the national default values for emission factors can be applied in the projects. On the other hand, the work in the projects will inform the national RL and increase the accuracy. Already existing pilot projects inform the RL development for the ERP and on national level.

For the different proposed activities, it is necessary to develop suitable reference level approaches that can be combined to one RL at the end. That means, there will be sub-RL for the expected changes of non-forest to forest land (mainly afforestation of grasslands), for future degradation of native forests (to support forest protection activities) and for future degradation through licensed logging operations (to support the activity of implementing sustainable management of forests).

The ERP RL and its background data will be stored in the national database management system under the REDD+ registry.

8.2 Expected REL/FRL for the ER Program
Please provide an estimate of the REL/FRL for the proposed ER Program area. Even a very preliminary estimate would be helpful.

The following RL assumptions are very preliminary, based on existing estimates in reports available on request which have been produced between 2011 and 2015. It serves as a basis for the calculations of potential emission reductions from forestry in section 12 of the ER-PIN.

1. Reference level for afforestation of grasslands

Assumptions:

a. Grassland surveys in Fiji (Emalu, Nakauvadra) have determined a carbon content of ca. 20 tC / ha. This is the maximum carbon stock, while most grassland areas experience regular or irregular burning. The frequency is different for different areas and ranges from once every few years to twice per year. As realistic estimate and derived from carbon accounting methodologies for plantation forests, a permanent average stock of 15 tC / ha is assumed, equal to 57 tCO_2e. The report for Emalu will be published online in third quarter of 2015.

b. Without a REDD+ intervention, only purely commercial plantations would be established, a mix of permanent multi-species plantations with partly commercial value would not be considered.

c. Most of the new plantations would not be planned without the premise of payment for environmental services or REDD+. The plantations will have mixed species structures and a permanent forest management regime. Eligibility is given;

d. Replanting would not occur after harvest (as is practice to date).

e. The grassland area would not change for other land use.

Baseline scenario: stable grassland cover, no incentives for establishment of small-scale or permanent plantations and for reforestation after harvest; frequent burning of natural regeneration. Commercial plantation establishment would disregard native species mixtures.

2. Reference level for protection of threatened native forests

Native forests are threatened by infrastructure development (including access roads), small-scale farming (subsistence and commercial), and local timber demand (within land owning communities). This reference level is based on findings and projections from the Emalu pilot site (2012 – ongoing) and surveys conducted in the past (e.g. Nakavu 1990 – ongoing, Drawa 2000 - ongoing) and on local experience. Reliable statistics are not yet available, as well as data and proxies that would allow for modeling forest degradation in Fiji.

The community survey map for Fiji could not yet be overlayed with the planned PAN or the forest cover map. However, assumptions for affected forest area can be made from that information:

a. The average land ownership for Mataqalis in Fiji is 149 ha. 325 communities own more than 1,000 ha (max.: 9,000 ha);
b. Large and small land ownership is evenly distributed over Fiji's land cover categories;
c. The forest area in the PAN will comprise ca. 350,000 ha. Major forest class in the PAN is closed native forest;
d. Subsequently, there are around 2,350 Mataqalis comprising the landowner group, impacting the forests of the PAN;

The following assumptions form the baseline land use scenario:

a. Average forest clearing capacity (agriculture) per 149 ha of community land: 1 ha / year in a fracturing pattern, with a maximum of 6.7 ha / community (communities owning 1,000 ha and above). This number is purely based on experience and will be revised in 2016;

b. The resulting deforestation is permanent, agricultural carbon sequestration is set similar to grassland (peak stock: 70 tCO_2). Because of regular harvest, average permanent stock is determined at 35 tCO_2;

c. From 1991 to 2007, 6,800 ha of forest annually changed from closed to open forest. Logging licenses cover 1,250 ha annually (see 3rd baseline). Hence, 5,550 ha of degradation occur through subsistence activities;

d. Average forest degradation capacity (logging) per 149 ha of community land: 1 ha / year at 30 m^3 extraction rate. The maximum is 6.7 ha (communities owning 1,000 ha and above);

e. Regrowth per year: 8 m^3 (not taking into account ground vegetation like grasses and shrubs which will vanish again once the canopy closes);

f. Forest biomass stock / ha: 125 m^3 as determined in the first forest carbon assessment undertaken in 2011. This assessment is conservative since the survey did not differentiate between different grades of forest degradation;

g. After the experiences in Emalu (7,000 ha forest area), an increasing number of communities will join REDD+ activities. The priority will be on larger forest areas. The overall emissions from subsistence logging per year are displayed in Table 10. Table 11 shows the expected emissions from deforestation / permanent degradation for agriculture.

Table 10: Overall emissions expected in native forests and planned protection areas in Fiji.

	year	Potential annual degradation from logging (ha)	Annual volume extraction (m3)	Annual regrowth rate / ha (m3)	Carbon emissions from degradation through logging (tCO2e)
ERPA-Period	2019	5,500	166,500	8	152,763.8
	2020	5,500	166,500	8	152,756.4
	2021	5,500	166,500	8	152,756.4
	2022	5,500	166,500	8	152,756.4
	2023	5,500	166,500	8	152,756.4
	2024	5,500	166,500	8	152,756.4

Table 11: Expected carbon emissions per year from deforestation for subsistence agriculture.

	year	Potential annual deforestation from agriculture (ha)	Carbon emissions from deforestation for subsistence agriculture (tCO2e)
ERPA period	2019	2,350	269,515.63
	2020	2,350	194,051.25
	2021	2,350	194,051.25
	2022	2,350	194,051.25
	2023	2,350	194,051.25
	2024	2,350	194,051.25

Without a REDD+ project, there would be **346,807.66 tCO_2** of emissions annually from deforestation and forest degradation in native forests.

3. Reference level for emission savings from implementation of sustainable logging practices

Forest degradation data is not available in Fiji. A study has combined logging records from native forests as a proxy with data on felling damage, timber waste and logging infrastructure. Assumptions are as follows:

a. The extraction rate under conventional logging is 50 m^3 ha^{-1}, which corresponds to a 2nd rotation conventional logging as demonstrated in the Nakavu SFM/REDD+ pilot site;
b. Conventional logging as exercised in Fiji produces on average 13% more emissions than SFM at the same extraction rate;
c. The logging emission factor that corresponds to conventional logging at the above-mentioned extraction rate is 1.1 tons C m^{-3};
d. The annual timber production from natural forests in Fiji is 62,500 m3, which corresponds to the average annual log production (official figures) from 2004-2013
e. The carbon stock of the converted forest corresponds to the national average in natural forests of 67 tons C ha-1
f. The carbon stock of natural forest regrowth disregards shrubs as non-permanent vegetation and enters into the calculation with 8 m^3 / ha / yr.

For simplicity, the baseline scenario does not consider a growth of the timber industry. Logging causes emissions of approximately **252,000 tCO_2** per year.

9. FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM

9.1 Description of approach and capacity for measurement and reporting on ERs
Please describe the proposed approach for monitoring and reporting the emission reductions attributable to the proposed ER Program, including the capacity of the proposed ER Program entities to implement this approach.

The monitoring system will have to be designed in the ERP Document development phase. In this section, an outline for design is described to understand how the responsibilities will be distributed and to assess the existing capacities and gaps. Fiji will collect data via field inventory and remote sensing data analysis. The main carbon pools measured in the field will be aboveground biomass (ABG - wood, litter, deadwood). Belowground biomass (BGB) and soil carbon will be derived from default values. The data from the national soil mapping campaign 1971 will be utilized for this. Mangroves are the exception, soil carbon will be determined due to its significance in case of deforestation / degradation.

9.1.1 Monitoring design framework

Project monitoring

Current projects will significantly contribute to the monitoring methodology for the future sub-national activities under the ERP. To date, the monitoring frameworks of existing activities differ due to their objectives, which range from livelihoods improvement to carbon accounting and different grades in between. The monitoring methodologies will be harmonized: a national monitoring methodology will be developed and adapted to sub-national scope. The methodologies might differ due to the activities they are designed for, but it must be ensured that the collected data is compatible with the national database management system. Data collection on the field forms must be the same as for the national monitoring system.

The monitoring requirements will be documented in the national REDD+ project guidelines. Significant experience was gained in the implementation of the Emalu pilot project. The SESA process will recommend how to integrate social parameters into the monitoring system. Under the NBSAP and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), Fiji is already drafting guidelines for biodiversity monitoring. Those guidelines will be integrated into the REDD+ monitoring system as well.

It has proven practical and feasible in Emalu to place the responsibility for the monitoring in the field with the landowning communities. Training, guidance and supervision will be provided by the forestry department (FD) and partners until the community members are well trained. It is planned that in future not only members of the forestry department, but also experienced community members support other communities in their monitoring efforts and build capacities. This way, the national capacity increases and a larger number of new projects can be implemented over time.

The forestry department also provides GIS support to sub-national monitoring exercises. Maps of the forest cover, strata, distribution of sample plots, and the quality control will be done at the Management Services Division (MSD) of FD. The satellite data for Fiji will be acquired on national level for the REDD+ mechanism and can be shared with the projects. Vice versa, MSD receives the field data and can use it for validation of the satellite data. External project developers that might support projects would have to pay a fee for these services.

Programme monitoring

Fiji is going to establish a national wall-to-wall monitoring system, up scaling the current PSP (Permanent Sample Plots). The projects under the ERP will establish their own monitoring and forward the data to national level, where the two data sets are combined. Fiji will be able to report on national level, knowing in which areas the business as usual scenario was turned into a successful emission reduction activity.

The sample plots of the national forest inventory (NFI) will be planned as much as possible to coincide with sample plots of the ERP, without increasing the bias of the sample plot distribution. This can reduce the costs of a quality control system for the ERP (5-10 % of plots to be revisited). ERP reporting will most likely be based on a smaller number of sample plots than provided by the sub-national activities. This way, not 5 – 10 % of all plots have to be revisited, but only 5 – 10 % of the number of plots needed for the confidence interval for each stratum.

Analysis

The data analysis will be done on national level. In the development of its REDD+ mechanism, Fiji will investigate which software is most suitable to aid in analyzing the collected data, respecting the need to be able to attribute the data to communities. MSD will be responsible for the data analysis.

Reporting

There will be 3 levels of reporting. Firstly, Fiji has to report to the international community under the UNFCCC. The ERP report is representing most of the Fijian forest area and therefore almost identical with the reporting area. It is crucial that the software used for the report compilation is able to satisfy the needs of UNFCCC as well as the needs of the ERP / Carbon Fund.

So secondly, the ERP data will be reported to the FCPF Carbon Fund. Since the Carbon Fund is only temporary and the ERP is planned for long term, eventually being absorbed by the national REDD+ mechanism, it is of utmost importance that the reporting to both foray is comparable.

Thirdly, the reporting system has to be able to report on each sub-national activity. This ensures the fair and equitable distribution of performance-based payments to the benefiters.

9.1.2 Capacity gaps

Responsibilities and capacities have been described in section 7.3. The major gap is presently the lack of guidance for project implementation, as well as the need for training of extension services. Additionally the government departments have limited staff, naturally a loophole for implementation. It is expected that the progress in implementation of the national REDD+ readiness as well as the ERP produces more trained human resources in government, NGOs, civil society and in the communities to enable quicker advancements in implementation. The FPIC process will prove a greater bottleneck than the establishment of the monitoring system, since it requires more time. The implementation guidelines (standard operating procedures – SOP) will be drafted mostly in 2016 and reviewed regularly in future to adapt to changes in implementation.

9.2 Describe how the proposed ER Program monitoring system is consistent with the (emerging) national REDD+ monitoring system

The monitoring of the ERP will follow the national MRV methodology, adapted to the needs of project monitoring. The carbon pools measured, stratification, technological applications, and other key components will be adopted from the NFMS. Scope, as described above, will mainly be (i) reforestation / afforestation, (ii) avoided degradation (sustainable logging) and (iii) avoided deforestation and forest degradation through forest conservation. For project implementation, detailed Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) will be developed. The

project data will inform the NFMS and increase the level of detail of analysis and mapping of the resources and the REDD+ activities. With every additional project area under the ERP, the carbon emission reporting on national level will improve in accuracy.

The monitoring will be organized by the project proponent (usually the communities, but third-party engagement is welcome). The forestry department will assist new projects with the setup of the monitoring system, training, equipment, data collection and storage. With progressing implementation, community representatives will be involved in the trainings for new project communities. The data will be stored in the national data management system for REDD+, the analysis and reporting will be done on national level. Projects whose proponents are not opting to be part of the national ERP will not be part of the ERP baseline or receive support from national level. Yet, the projects will have to follow national guidelines on all elements (RL, MRV, safeguards, etc.) and will have to be approved by the RSC.

The monitoring will eventually be carried out by the communities. The role of the forestry department will be quality control and assurance, the data analysis, reporting and organizing the third-party verification. Through the ERP, the national monitoring report on REDD+ will be based on a larger sampling area than required for national level monitoring. There are great benefits though for the monitoring of biodiversity (for REDD+, CBD and national conservation efforts), for resource management (land use and timber harvesting plans, national green development framework), for the ownership of the REDD+ mechanism by the Fijian people and for environmental awareness in general in Fijian society.

The NFMS is planned to be established by 2017. The data collection begins before ERP starts and can be used to verify the baseline scenario.

9.3 Describe how the proposed ER Program monitoring system is consistent with UNFCCC guidance available to date and with the emerging Methodological Framework of the FCPF Carbon Fund.

The methodologies for sub-national level REDD+ in Fiji will be informed by the UNFCCC guidance and the Verified Carbon Standard, as well as by the national MRV system which will be designed according to IPCC 2003 / 2006 guidelines. For the ERP, methodologies will be developed / adapted from existing methodologies in the initial implementation phase and then used for all future project-level activities. The forestry department and the SC will control the project documents and the implementation in the field, as well as organize the third-party verification.

The project monitoring will feed into the national data analysis and reporting structure, for which a uniform way of collecting and storing the data is essential. Project activities will only be accepted under the ERP accounting if the data is reliable and reproducible. A thorough ERP will simplify the transition to a national REDD+ mechanism later on.

9.4 Describe any potential role of Indigenous Peoples or local communities in the design or implementation of the proposed ER Program monitoring system.

Given the land tenure system in Fiji, the participation of the iTaukei in the design and implementation of the proposed ER program monitoring system is implicit. The iTaukei interests are well represented in the REDD+ Steering Committee.

With support from the REDD+ Secretariat RSC members will facilitate the consultation processes with iTaukei communities, non iTaukei landowners and land users and other stakeholders to design a monitoring system that is effective and feasible. In addition, other REDD+ projects and private sectors will be involved in this process to ensure widespread and common monitoring when it comes to implementation, including the utilization of trained local community monitoring groups in their projects.

The iTaukei community will play an active role in the monitoring of on-the ground activities of the ER program on iTaukei land. Whilst the ESMF (developed through wide consultations during the SESA) will define the safeguard monitoring role of the local communities, the MRV consultancy will identify their participation in the

implementation and monitoring of the activities. To this end a capacity development plan that defines the interventions needed to provide the local communities with the necessary skills and knowledge for them to participate and monitor activities will be developed and implemented. The NTROC will play a crucial role in facilitating the implementation of this plan and coordinating the monitoring of its implementation for the iTaukei communities. They will be supported the extension services of the various government agencies in the Province. The REDD+ related monitoring tasks will be integrated in the work plans of their various extension and field officers. A training plan will be developed in early 2016 to specifically target these government officers and training on the various aspects of REDD+ will begin in 2016.

The capacity development plan for monitoring the ER-program will also include the non-iTaukei communities and these communities will be supported with their monitoring role by the Divisional Working Group.

9.5 Describe if and how the proposed ER Program monitoring system would include information on multiple benefits like biodiversity conservation or enhanced rural livelihoods, governance indicators, etc.

The ER program monitoring system will be the National Forest Monitoring System which includes the monitoring of biodiversity and social safeguards. A baseline assessment, as part of the land use planning process, will be a requirement for all the sites. This assessment will provide the baseline indictors to be monitored in the course of the program. The land use planning guideline (to be finalized by early 2016) will ensure the determination of social, cultural and local governance baseline this information following a participatory assessment process. Lessons from the Emalu pilot site and other projects will serve to provide guidance on the approach for undertaking a participatory socio-economic baseline assessment to ensure a well-informed process and to support the enhancement of decision-making capacities of the local communities.

Whilst most of the activities are at sub-national level, the focal indicator species to monitor the biodiversity status of the various landscapes will be already identified in the biodiversity monitoring plan, to be in place by mid-2016. Biodiversity monitoring will be incorporated in monitoring procedure of the permanent sample plots, strategically placed in the sites.

As part of the Emalu pilot site activities, a multi-sectoral resource team was trained on carrying out baseline assessments, including socio-economic surveys using participatory tools. This resource team will be expanded and utilized for the assessment of the various sites under the ER program and support subsequent monitoring. Selected villagers and local community members will also be trained to be part of this resource team including for the biodiversity survey and monitoring teams.

All monitoring data and information will be fed into the national forest monitoring system to which the safeguards information system will be linked. Both systems should be in place by end of 2017.

National level monitoring includes monitoring of the benefit sharing mechanism and overall land use change. The monitoring of the entire program will be overseen by the RSC.

10. DISPLACEMENT

10.1 Activities to address risks of reversal of greenhouse gas benefits

Please describe major risks of anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic reversals of greenhouse gas benefits (from e.g., fire, agriculture expansion into forest, changes in commodity prices).Also describe any activities or design features in the proposed ER Program that are incorporated to minimize and/or mitigate the anthropogenic risks or reversals, and how these activities are consistent with the design features of the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy to address risks of reversal.

As described in sections 3 & 4, the ERP will be made up of individual activities run by communities on their own land. Each joining community will enter a REDD+ lease agreement. Lease agreements are monitored by the iTaukei Land Trust Board, for breaches there are penalties.

The thorough FPIC process and the REDD+ lease registration process with every community that decides to join the ERP affords a participative and exhaustive discourse within a community. The decision for a REDD+ project

will not be taken lightly. The decision for implementation of REDD+ on their land will root deeply within those communities.

For unforeseen events, the ERP will create a reinsurance buffer that can be broken down to each individual community. The amount will be determined in Project Document development and depend on the risk environment of each participating community.

11. REVERSALS

11.1 Description of the potential risks of both domestic and international displacement of emissions (leakage)
Please describe the potential risks of both domestic and international displacement of emissions from the proposed ER Program activities. Then also describe how the proposed ER Program activities will minimize the risk of domestic displacement and international displacement (if applicable), via the design of the proposed ER Program and the ER Program activities and the selection of locations. For sub-national programs, pay special attention to identifying domestic risks of displacement of emissions, the proposed ER Program activities to mitigate these risks, which otherwise would contribute to fewer net emission reductions generated by the proposed ER Program, and how these activities are consistent with the design features of the (emerging) national REDD+ strategy to address risks of displacement.

The timber and timber product exports of Fiji are relatively low in volume. The majority of the export products derive from plantations. Displacement effects cannot be expected.

Timber for the local market is produced in forest plantations as well as native forests. The operations in native forests have been unsustainable in the past. New regulations as part of REDD+ readiness obligate logging operators to harvest in a more sustainable way. The government is planning to promote long-term logging leases rather than the currently available annual licenses, which will increase the ownership by the operator in the regeneration of harvested forest areas. The timber supplies will not decrease through the improvement of forest management.

Fire wood and construction timber for subsistence is currently being harvested by the communities themselves in an unplanned manner. The implementation of REDD+ activities under the ERP or the national REDD+ mechanism will not restrict the timber use, but help to manage the resource in a more sustainable manner by developing land use plans, supporting small-scale plantations around the communities and conducting training in low-damage timber harvesting techniques.

The reporting area comprises 95 % of Fiji's forest area and implementation is steered by national institutions. Displacement within Fiji would therefore be represented in the reporting.

12. EXPECTED EMISSION REDUCTIONS

12.1 Expected Emission Reductions (ERs)

Table 12 displays a rough conservative estimate of potential carbon emission reductions and sequestration through the ERP. It also shows the expected emission reductions / removals before and after the commitment period by the FCPF Carbon Fund (CF), to provide an understanding on the long-term planning for the Fijian REDD+ mechanism. The assumptions made for the different activities differ in parts from each other, due to the heterogeneous data collected in Fiji over the past two decades. In the ERPD, a joint set of assumptions will be determined for the calculation of a detailed reference level.

Table 12: Estimated emission reductions during ERPA period 2019 - 2024 (yellow boxes), including buffers.

Estimated CO_2 emissions savings and removals

	year	Accumulated reforested area (ha)	Annual carbon sequestration (tCO_2e)	Annual logging area under SFM regime (ha)	Annual carbon emission savings from sustainable logging (tCO_2e)	Annual area under forest protection (ha)	Annual carbon emission savings from forest protection (tCO_2e)
Pre-ERPA period	2015	1,600.0	11,744.0	100.0	13,237.8	7,000	952.82
	2016	5,460.0	40,076.4	100.0	13,237.8	7,000	688.49
	2017	10,820.0	79,418.8	500.0	66,189.2	15,000	6,884.92
	2018	16,680.0	122,431.2	1,000.0	132,378.4	45,000	20,654.76
ERPA	2019	21,540.0	158,103.6	1,250.0	165,473.0	80,000	55,173.15
	2020	27,600.0	202,584.0	1,250.0	165,473.0	120,000	82,759.73
	2021	34,460.0	252,936.4	1,250.0	165,473.0	200,000	137,932.89
	2022	41,820.0	306,958.8	1,250.0	165,473.0	240,000	165,519.46
	2023	49,180.0	360,981.2	1,250.0	165,473.0	320,000	220,692.62
	2024	56,540.0	415,003.6	1,250.0	165,473.0	352,500	243,106.71
	Total ERPA		**1,696,567.6**		**992,838.0**		**905,184.56**
Post-ERPA period	2025	63,740.0	467,851.6	1,250.0	165,473.0	352,500	243,106.71
	2026	70,940.0	520,699.6	1,250.0	165,473.0	352,500	243,106.71
	2027	73,140.0	536,847.6	1,250.0	165,473.0	352,500	243,106.71
	2028	75,340.0	552,995.6	1,250.0	165,473.0	352,500	243,106.71
	2029	77,400.0	568,116.0	1,250.0	165,473.0	352,500	243,106.71
	2030	77,400.0	568,116.0	1,250.0	165,473.0	352,500	243,106.71

Total ERPA	**Buffer:**	15%		20%		20%	
	Carbon credits		**1,442,082.46**		**794,270.40**		**724,147.65**
	Total:	**2,960,500.51**					

The pre- and post-ERPA periods show the commitment of Fiji to long-term implementation of REDD+

While the Carbon Fund can provide an invaluable contribution to a successful start into REDD+, Fiji is looking forward and will systematically explore secure funding options that carry the ERP through the time after the

ERPA. In the program document development phase, more detailed data will have to be generated for analysis to come to well informed realistic targets. The following short notes explain the calculation background, more detailed information can be given upon request.

Afforestation / reforestation:

The calculation was done for the committed areas only (see section 5.3). The applied values for annual increment of mahogany, teak, pine and an average for mixed stands were taken from studies that were conducted in Fiji. That also applies to the values for wood density (see table 9). The values represent the lower end of ranges given in the literature. For simplicity, pine values were disregarded, an annual increment of 8 m^3 was applied to all species.

Table 13: Values for annual increment and wood density used in calculations as determined in Fiji.

	mixed stands	pine	teak	mahogany
annual vol increment (m^3 / ha)	**8**	**15**	**8**	**8**
density (kg / m^3)	**550**	**500**	**650**	**590**

Rotation times are as well factored in with a simplified method: the increment was divided by 2 to represent the projected permanent stock on the land over a fictive rotation cycle, also for non-commercial reforestation projects. More precise factors will have to be used in the development of the programme document. It is expected that the reforestation programme in Fiji will eventually include more area than indicated to date. The carbon emissions from potentially converted grassland is factored in with 57 tCO_2e per ha, not yet considering the added storage capacity through soil improvement by a forest ecosystem in the mid-term.

Improved forest management through application of SFM:

An assessment done in Fiji suggests a reduction in carbon emissions through more sustainable logging practices by 13 % due to less collateral felling damage and less intensive infrastructure (report). Efficient implementation of the Fiji Forestry Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP) would lead to logging of less intensity, allowing longer regeneration phases. The harvested volume is lower than in conventional logging. This reduction in timber production will be compensated by the increase in commercial timber plantations, which already supply 95 % of the export market. The FFHCOP is the major policy instrument for ensuring more sustainable logging interventions in Fiji's forests.

The changes through application of the FFHCOP, improved land use planning with communities to reduce unregulated timber extraction, and management of permanent forest estates will reduce the carbon emissions that occur from infrastructure (reusing logging roads, rehabilitate soil, strategic planning of log landings, etc.), felling damage to the left over trees, and avoiding waste.

Commercial log production in Fiji currently causes carbon emissions of 252,000 tCO_2e per year, from timber production of 62,500 m^3 from 1,250 ha of logging area, an average of 50 m^3 / ha. The reduction of waste, felling damage and infrastructure by 13 % would result in annual emission reductions of 32,760 tCO_2e. The lower logging intensity leads to more than 50 % log volume reduction. The annual emission reduction potential is 165,473 tCO_2e. Logging operations following the FFHCOP would lead to a volume extraction of ca. 21 m^3. The avoided degradation per hectare therefore amounts to 29 m^3 plus the reduction of collateral felling damages and wastage by 13 %. The report states that "from a REDD+ perspective, currently the most realistic scenario for Fiji's natural forests is conventional logging to SFM. The shift is shown to potentially avoid emissions of 38-108 t CO_2 per ha."

The implementation of the FFHCOP (training, enforcement) and the economic compensation from plantations require time, therefore the table above has a progressive increase of annual emission savings, following a realistic time plan. Currently, reduced impact logging is being carried out in one project area only. Within the next 2 years, extensive training of forestry extension officers and logging operators will be carried out. From 2019 onwards, all logging operations are expected to be adhering to the FFHCOP.

A potential increase of logging area with SFM regime has not yet been factored into this estimate and will be considered in project document development. The effect would not be negative on primary forest, since a large area of degraded secondary forest has the potential to be managed under SFM.

Avoided deforestation and forest degradation through conservation of primary forests:

The planned Protected Area Network (PAN) is targeting an area of more than 350,000 ha to be declared protected area on Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni. The protection of forests on slopes ≥ 30 degrees will be improved. With the assumptions made in section 8.2 for a baseline, Fiji will focus on larger forest areas at first to enforce protected areas there. That means that the reductions of degradation and deforestation in native forests begin in communities that cause more degradation in average. When more communities join the ERP, the average land area per community will reduce, and so will the average emission reduction. For this emission reduction scenario, the assumption is as follows:

a. 2,350 communities live on the 350,000 ha of protected area;
b. With the intervention through the ERP, the model of Emalu will be applied in communities with large forest area (above 1,000 ha) at first. The logging capacity is 6.7 ha / community above 1,000 ha land area and 1 ha per 149 ha of community land in smaller communities. Logging rate is 30 m^3 per ha. This equals the amount of reduction of forest degradation;
c. The deforestation follows the same principal: Communities have the capacity to deforest an average of 1 ha / 149 ha of community land / year. The limit is 6.7 ha of deforestation, with full loss of forest biomass (125 m^3 / ha);
d. In protected areas, deforestation and degradation come to a halt;
e. Currently, Emalu is the only community implementing such an activity. By the time when the ERPA will be launched in 2019, at least 100 communities on ca. 80,000 ha of land shall be part of the programme. By 2024, all estimated 2,350 mataqalis in PAN areas will be performing forest protection.

12.2 Volume proposed for the FCPF Carbon Fund
Please explain the portion of the expected ERs that would be offered to the Carbon Fund, and if other carbon finance providers or buyers have been identified to date, the portions of the expected ERs that would be offered to them.

The Republic of Fiji will give a more precise estimate in the project description. Current offers are estimates only. The current estimate for carbon credits to be offered to the Carbon Fund is **2,960,500.51 tCO_2e from 2019 to 2024.**

To date, Fiji does not have other financial resources secured. The National Carbon Registry will have the responsibility of pooling sources of finance for the carbon projects.

13. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ER PROGRAM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (SESA) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ESMF)[4]

13.1 Progress on SESA/ESMF

Please describe the country's progress in the implementation of SESA and the development of the ESMF, and their contribution or relationship to the proposed ER Program.

As part of the readiness activities, the Government of Fiji will undertake a SESA to be conducted in parallel with the consultations on the REDD+ strategy options. The key component of the SESA exercise is the formulation of an ESMF to address environmental and social issues anticipated to arise from the implementation of REDD+ strategy and actions. In addition, land tenure /governance assessment, as well as land use ecosystem valuation will be conducted as part of readiness. It is expected that these studies will help inform the status of rights relating to and security of land tenure. It is anticipated that these studies will be carried out in 2016 and the ESMF endorsed by early 2017.

However, Fiji already has environmental and social safeguard mechanisms in place that ensure all actions respect environmental integrity and the social and cultural needs of indigenous people and Fijians of other ethnicities. Currently Fiji Government is in the process of formalizing it first REDD+ lease to secure the pilot site. This lease will set the precedence for other REDD+ leases to follow.

In 2014, the Fiji REDD+ Project and GIZ supported the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs with the establishment of the National iTauke Resource Owner's Committee. The Committee TOR tasks the members to ensure safeguards are complied with during the implementation of not only REDD+ projects, but all projects concerning their land and marine resources. In addition, the Committee is being made aware and will be further trained on the FPIC process so they can monitor its implementation.

Fiji has a well-established EIA system and the government is fully aware of the urgent need to address the issues of biodiversity loss and sustainable forest management. The current development of the biodiversity monitoring framework serves to ensure that activities will not compromise the biodiversity status of the site and also will be the tool to measure and monitor the impact of REDD+ activities on the biodiversity. Given that this will be a national monitoring framework, this requirement (to monitor biodiversity) will be applied to all REDD+ activities and strategy options regardless of funding source. The Forestry Department, in partnership with the Department of Environment, will be the monitoring body for this.

Fiji has a well-developed legal and regulatory framework, especially for land management and indigenous land rights. For the past few years Fiji has been working on defining forest carbon rights for the various forms of land tenureship in the country (ref: Carbon rights report). Consultations on security of land tenure, allocation of revenue benefits to land owners /land users and penalties for non-performance have been ongoing since 2011 and will be further defined and endorsed during the SESA in 2016.

Fiji has robust environmental and social policies, laws and regulations. Furthermore there are existing legal and regulatory frameworks relating to forest and other sectors that provide good basis for the governance in relation to REDD+. A study on the legal framework for REDD+ in Fiji provides good background in this legal frameworks and areas for strengthening (report here). The RSC safeguards working group (SWG) has done considerable work on assessing social and environmental impacts/risks associated with REDD+. This Working Group will work closely with the National REDD+ SC and the SESA Consultants to mainstream social and environmental issues in all the analytic work, combined with consultations required for the various activities funded under readiness. The SESA working group would also help the REDD+ Unit to mainstream gender issues into the readiness process.

[4] The SESA is the assessment process to be used in FCPF REDD+ countries during R-PP implementation and REDD+ readiness preparation. The ESMF is an output of SESA that provides a framework to examine the issues and impacts associated with projects, activities, and/or policies/regulations that may occur in the future in connection with the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy but that are not known at the present time.

13.2 Incorporation of SESA outputs and/or outcomes into the proposed ER Program
Based on the progress outlined in 7.1, please describe how the proposed ER Program is expected to make use of the outputs and/or outcomes of the SESA process. Provide an analysis of the ways in which activities planned under the proposed ER Program will rely on the measures and procedures included or to be included in the ESMF. Are there likely to be any gaps or issues regarding the compliance of the proposed ER Program activities with applicable safeguard standards, including the UNFCCC safeguards?

It is anticipated that SESA will go hand-in-hand with ER-program development. So far, national communications, national mechanisms and other REDD+ readiness processes have been defined for the SESA process to embark on an exchange of information and dialogue with the key groups and concerned stakeholders. Awareness building, capacity building, information sharing, and communication are taking place with a view to securing future consultations and ensuring the informed participation of all involved stakeholders from the outset. As the SESA takes place, standards are being reviewed and will be adjusted iteratively so that the strategy will lead to high social and environmental efficiency, cultural respect and adherence to international biodiversity protocols and carbon financing management and policy procedures.

Although no on-the-ground REDD+ pilot projects will be financed under the Readiness Preparation Grant, the Government of Fiji and GIZ are supporting pilot site activities that are informing FPIC processes and social safeguards and grievance redress mechanisms. In addition, extensive biodiversity assessments and monitoring procedures carried out in the Emalu pilot site are already providing solid data and directions on biodiversity safeguards and social safeguards monitoring. As the pilot site activities include forest conservation and reforestation and afforestation activities, these information are quite comprehensive and will be relevant for ER activities in these areas.

Fiji's proposed ER programs would involve reforestation, afforestation, plantation forest, and agricultural production and it is recognized that environmental issues such as the possible introduction of alien invasive tree species, possible increased use of pesticides and potential massive conversion of degraded natural forest into mono crop plantation forest (e.g. Caribbean Pine or Mahogany) would arise. However, safeguard measures are already either in place or will be put in place to ensure that this is prevented. Such measures include the requirement to follow endorsed national guidelines and methodologies that forces a holistic form of planning and implementation to ensure that environmental, social and economic needs are well balanced. The currently drafted national land use planning guideline will for example require that the identification of tree species for afforestation and reforestation programs consider biodiversity and ecosystem enhancement and community livelihoods.

It is also recognized that infrastructure such as access road could also have localized environmental impacts, such as sedimentation of waterways and minor vegetation loss. To minimize such impacts, road plans as defined in the Code of Harvesting Practice will be enforced through regulations that will be developed in 2016. In addition, comprehensive environmental assessment to ensure fragile and biodiversity rich ecosystems are protected from such disturbance.

As more than 80% of land in Fiji owned is by iTaukei landowning groups, there is the potential social risk of overlooking other ethnic groups in consultations and implementation. The representation and involvement of these groups is recognized as crucial given they are also substantial land users and hold agriculture land leases over large tracts of land. Whilst the concerns for these groups can be represented by the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Lands at the National REDD+ Steering Committee, a more effective representation would be at the Divisional Working Groups where more focused groups (like farmer associations) can be included. REDD+ policies involving agricultural land use may affect Indo-Fijian as most agricultural areas (primarily sugarcane) are operated by Fijians of Indian descent under long-term lease agreements. The establishment of the Divisional Working Groups is currently underway with initial consultations already taking place from 2013.

The SESA and ESMF will define how the REDD+ strategy options will address potential environmental risks and impacts and identify key safeguard instruments to be used. As part of the SESA policy, laws and regulation review, the following Acts and policies will be reviewed:

1. Fiji's Environment Management Act of 2005 (EMA) established the National Environment Council and provides legal basis for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of proposed development projects. Under this Act, the DoE shall maintain an Environmental Impact Assessment Unit which is responsible for administrating EIAs. The EMA also empowers the DoE to monitor the implementation of environmental laws under the jurisdiction of other government ministries such as those found in the Forest Decree and the Mining Act. In 2007, Fiji passed the Environment Management Regulation which governs the current EIA process. There is adequate capability within DoE on the management of the EIA process and expertise are locally available in terms of the conduct and review of EIAs (e.g., Academic Professors/Researchers in the University of South Pacific).

2. Fiji has three laws which protect the environment and biodiversity: the EMA (2005), the Endangered and Protected Species Act of 2002 (EPSA), and the Land Conservation and Improvement Act (1985). The EMA requires the Conservator of Forest (as an approving authority) to direct that an EIA process be carried out for logging operations that are likely to cause significant environmental damage or that could jeopardize the continued existence of endangered species or their habitats or harm mangrove conservation areas. The EPSA on the other hand enacts the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to which Fiji is a signatory.

3. The iTaukei Land Trust Act allows the TLTB to enter conservation lease agreements on behalf of the *mataqali*. The Forest Decree (1992) allows the Minister to declare a nature reserve if there is consent from the *mataqali*, which transfers the management rights of the land to the Conservator of Forests. However, provisions are made for customary access rights to hunt, fish and harvest of non-timber traditional forest products. These provisions are also stipulated in the **REDD+ Lease**.

13.3 Feedback and grievance redress mechanisms
Please describe the mechanism(s) that are or will be put in place to resolve any disputes regarding the proposed ER Program.

A clearly defined grievance redress mechanism will be part of the country's REDD+ management framework and needs to be available to stakeholders early in the R-PP implementation phase, in order to be ready to handle any request for feedback or complaint that stakeholders may have about Readiness activities. Such a mechanism will enhance the responsiveness during the REDD+ Readiness and implementation phases towards concerns of stakeholders. The activities for the establishment of the REDD+ grievance mechanism will be undertaken as a priority in the early stages of R-PP implementation.

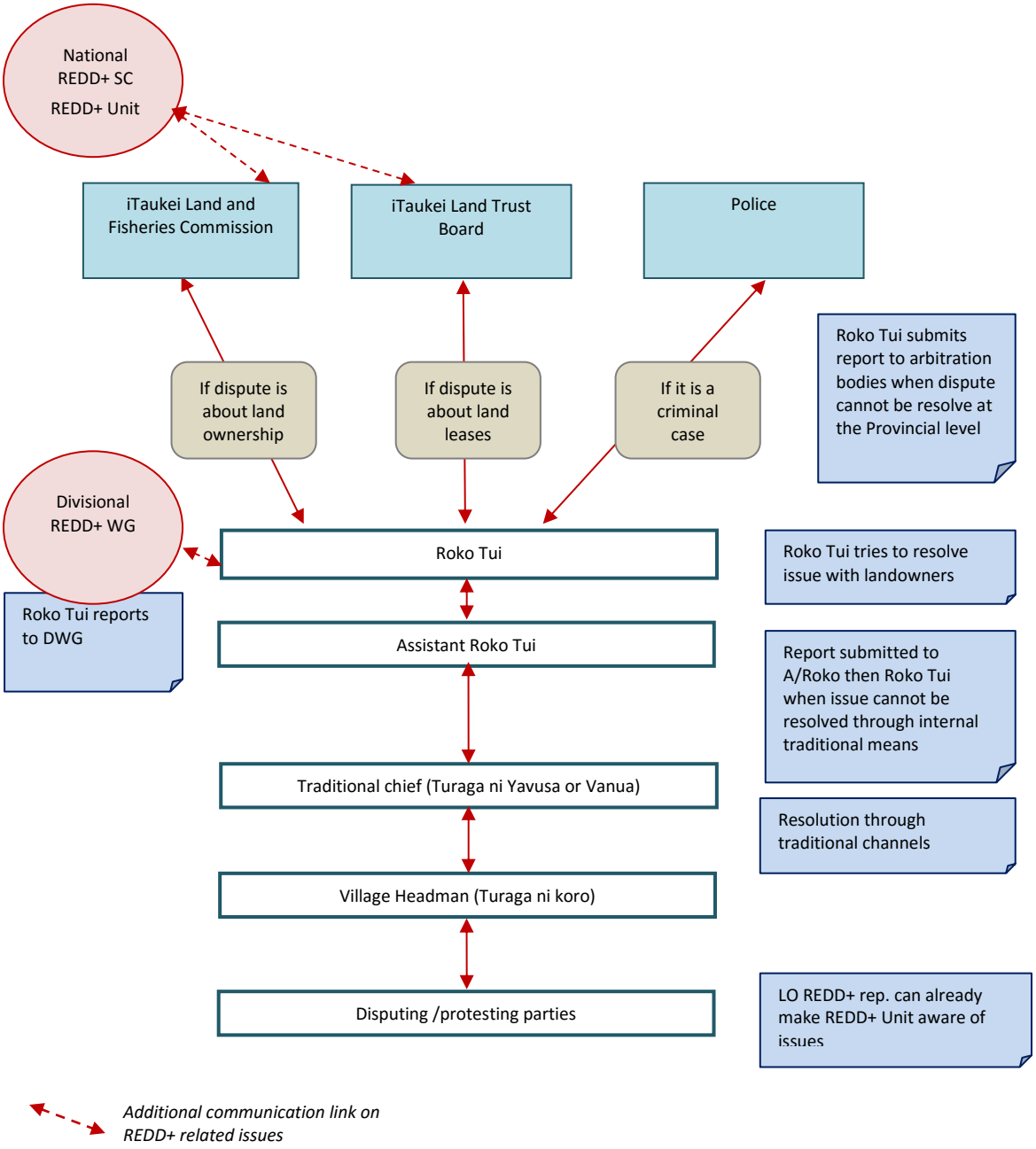
Given the thematic overlap between REDD+ and current land management arrangements, the grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ draws from experiences made in existing mechanisms at the national level. Prominent examples include the iTaukei Land and Fisheries Commission (TLFC). All grievances regarding iTaukei (customary) land are resolved through this institution.

The iTaukei Lands Appeal Tribunal's (TLAT) role is stipulated in the iTaukei Lands [Amendment] (Appeals Tribunal) Act 1998. The TLAT makes rulings over appeal cases that challenge the decisions of the TLFC that affect iTaukei land ownership, boundary; fishing right ownership and customary chiefly titles. The TLAT ruling is non-appealable. The TLAT memberships consist of a Chairperson and two others appointed by the Minister for iTaukei Affairs. The iTaukei Land and Fisheries Commission (TLFC) is a statutory body governed under the iTaukei Lands Act Cap 133 and Section 14 of the Fisheries Act Cap 158.

The TLFC is charged with resolving registered disputed iTaukei land and fishing grounds as well as disputed chiefly titles. The TLFC also adjudicates on disputes of lands, customary fishing grounds and traditional leadership titles. It is also the custodian of various registers kept at TLFC which are the maintained and updated from time to time. These registers facilitate the resolution of disputes relating to customary titles, land boundary and land ownership.

Dispute resolution approaches will need to vary, depending on the type of issue and the stakeholder. This will allow for flexible responses to specific grievances. The need for special provisions for particular target groups will be assessed; e.g. for youth or women. The suitability of these existing grievance mechanisms for REDD+ will be more fully assessed during the SESA and experiences and lessons from all parts of Fiji will be compiled.

Figure 5: Existing grievance redress mechanism for iTaukei disputes



The Communication Officer in the REDD+ Unit will support the uptake, documentation and reaction to grievances with the consultation and participation process. Some actions that have been identified for the strengthening of the existing redress mechanism include:

- Development of standard grievance form and training of the village headman in recording and reporting grievances at all stages of intervention
- Development of standard grievance form and training for forestry officers for recording grievances relating to forestry activities under their authority

- Explore appropriateness of engaging village committees in recording and reporting grievances to the village.

A draft Carbon Financing guidelines have been produced, which will be expanded to become more general guidelines for REDD+ implementation. The RSC plays a central role in coordinating the drafting and validation of these guidelines.

Whilst the formal grievance procedures for iTaukei land disputes are well established, further analysis on addressing grievances of other ethnic groups will be carried out. Current arrangements are through the government arbitration process. The most logical and efficient structure would be to link this arrangement to the Divisional Working Group, that are made up largely of senior divisional administrators and other non-governmental and civil society groups. Clear methodologies for inclusive consultation, the integration of stakeholder input, effective and transparent grievance redress and a suitable benefits sharing model relevant to all stakeholders will be clearly defined in the SESA process.

14. LAND AND RESOURCE TENURE

14.1 Rights to territories and land, and mitigation benefits
Please describe the land use and land tenure context of the proposed ER Program, and if and how rights to territories and land and mitigation benefits from REDD+ are reflected in traditional practices and codified in legal and/or regulatory frameworks.

Approximately 63% of the population of Fiji is indigenous, known as iTaukei. More than 80 percent of the total land area[5] is owned by iTaukei under communal ownership arrangements through traditional landowning groups called *mataqali*. The landowning rights of the iTaukei are protected under law whereby all iTaukei land cannot be alienated. However, iTaukei landowners can lease their land (following strict approval procedures) and a benefits sharing mechanism to distribute rental payments equally amongst *mataqali* is in place (female and male *mataqali* members are considered equal under this arrangement).

Fijian law requires majority consensus of land owning clan members for a lease on any commercial activity on communally owned land. The process of reaching all registered members of a clan – including members who have migrated - updating those registers and organizing meetings to allow everyone to have the complete information on the topic in question is time and resource consuming. Nonetheless, this process will be a standard part of FPIC in all communities. The advantage is that there is a national land owner registry in existence which is being maintained and updated. After the FPIC process and the registration of a REDD+ lease, the permanence for the REDD+ project can be guaranteed but the consultation/FPIC process will need to be ongoing to ensure landowners are regularly updated and upcoming generations are aware of the developments.

Table 14: Land tenure statistics in Fiji

Land tenure		Areas in Hectares	% of total land area	
			% of iTaukei land[35]	% of total land area[36]
iTaukei land	iTaukei land (bare)	277,150*	18%	15.8%
	iTaukei timber concessions	270,759*	17%	14.9%
	iTaukei leases	456,628*	29%	25.5%
	iTaukei reserves	566,908*	36%	31.6%
iTaukei land total		1,571,445	87.9%	
State land		69,934	3.91%	
Private Freehold land		141,872	7.94%	
Rotuma land		4,478	0.25%	
Total		1,787,730	100%	

Source: iTaukei Lands Trust Board 2011 *these figures are approximate only[37]

[5] Estimates range from 83 to 88 percent.

Landownership and land boundary will be clearly defined and formally agreed on with all concerned parties before the commencement of any ER activity. Land lease arrangements are often cited as a key constraint to sustainable agricultural land use. For example, many individual farmers on short to medium term leases (mostly Fijians of Indian descent and Fijians of Chinese descent) are not willing to invest in long-term measures to improve economic viability of their farm land through soil conservation measures, planting tree crops, or agro forestry on short seven-year rotations due to temporary nature of land lease agreements and insecurity of land tenure. Legal instruments to protect against such exploitation of land resources will be assessed. REDD+ consultations and Strategy Options will be all-encompassing to consider the interests of Fijians of all ethnic groups.

Although female and male landowning members share equal land rights, dialogue around land tenure tends to be male-dominated, and further analysis on the socio-cultural factors influencing women's marginalized from decision-making on land use and management and lease agreements under the SESA is required. Fiji has a National Gender Policy and Government has recently scaled up efforts to mainstream gender across government programs (news article). The SESA process will also take into consideration that men and women's knowledge of and management strategies for forests are directly related to their use and dependence on forest resources. Consequently, SESA will also include a robust gender analysis effort focusing on the role of women in decision-making about land use, resource management and benefit sharing arrangements. However, the approaches and procedures currently developed (FPIC, land use planning guidelines, etc.) all demand the presence of all members of the landowning group (consultation does not proceed of members, including women, are absent) and other members of the community to be present in consultation, planning and implementation processes.

15. BENEFIT SHARING

15.1 Description of envisioned benefit-sharing arrangement for the proposed ER Program.
Please describe the benefit-sharing arrangements that are envisioned to be used for this proposed ER Program.

Whilst Fiji currently does not have legislation specifically on benefit-sharing for REDD+ activities, there are some experience and existing structure that it could draw from. The iTaukei Land Trust Board system for distributing benefits to landowners for leasing iTaukei land and through the payment of timber royalties can be referred to (ref: Lisa Ogle report).

The REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism (BSM) will be designed to yield sufficient and fair incentives for all the stakeholders involved. The BSM is closely linked to the decisions regarding forest carbon entitlements, even though the compensation issued through the BSM may not be directly linked to the quantity of carbon benefits derived from a particular piece of land.

Significant financial management training will be needed at various levels, i.e. national and community level to order to build capacity to deal with financial incentives. Additional monetary income can have a positive impact only if managed properly. These training will take place in 2016 and will provide broad benefits as the more immediate income will be derived from other government-support livelihood initiatives and not carbon.

The strategic design of carbon rights are linked to both the scale of the financing instrument and the strategic design of benefit distribution systems in the REDD+ sector. This kind of strategic model for domestic carbon financing, run by the National REDD+ Programme (and guided by its multi-stakeholder governance structure in the REDD+ Steering Committee) could conceivably involve assigning carbon property rights to an aggregate of landowners or a landowning entity, who are then able to sell carbon units to the government as a means of gaining performance-based direct payments. On the other hand, the State or another leasing entity could lease the land from landowners whereby carbon rights are transferred to the leaseholder and the landowner benefits from the rental income from the lease.

15.2 Link between the envisioned benefit-sharing arrangement and the activities in the proposed ER Program.
Please explain how these benefit-sharing arrangements would support the activities identified in section 5.3 to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Identify, if possible at this stage, potential issues or constraints that may emerge in development of the ER Program that could need additional progress in order to effectively implement the benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Under a national scale forest carbon financing mechanism there is an opportunity to generate a relatively high (per hectare) volume of carbon revenues from lower cost, methodologically simpler projects (e.g. afforestation/reforestation) that generate a relatively high carbon return per unit of investment. The National REDD+ Programme may strategically redistribute a proportion of these revenues to landowners running strategically high priority projects such as converting high intensity logging to sustainable forest management. The feasibility for this will need to be assessed when the BSM is developed.

In a situation where landowners generate relatively small annual forest carbon benefits from a shift from high intensity selective logging to sustainable forest management. The annual net carbon and financial benefits might be relatively small because the difference between baseline emissions (high intensity selective logging) and project emissions (sustainable forest management) is relatively small, and the costs of project development are relatively high. However, the government may want to support this activity as a priority because of the non-carbon benefits such as community development, biodiversity conservation, water catchment protection, and the opportunity to boost the proportion of certified timber sold on international timber markets. The proposed structure for managing emission reduction units is visualized in Figure 6.

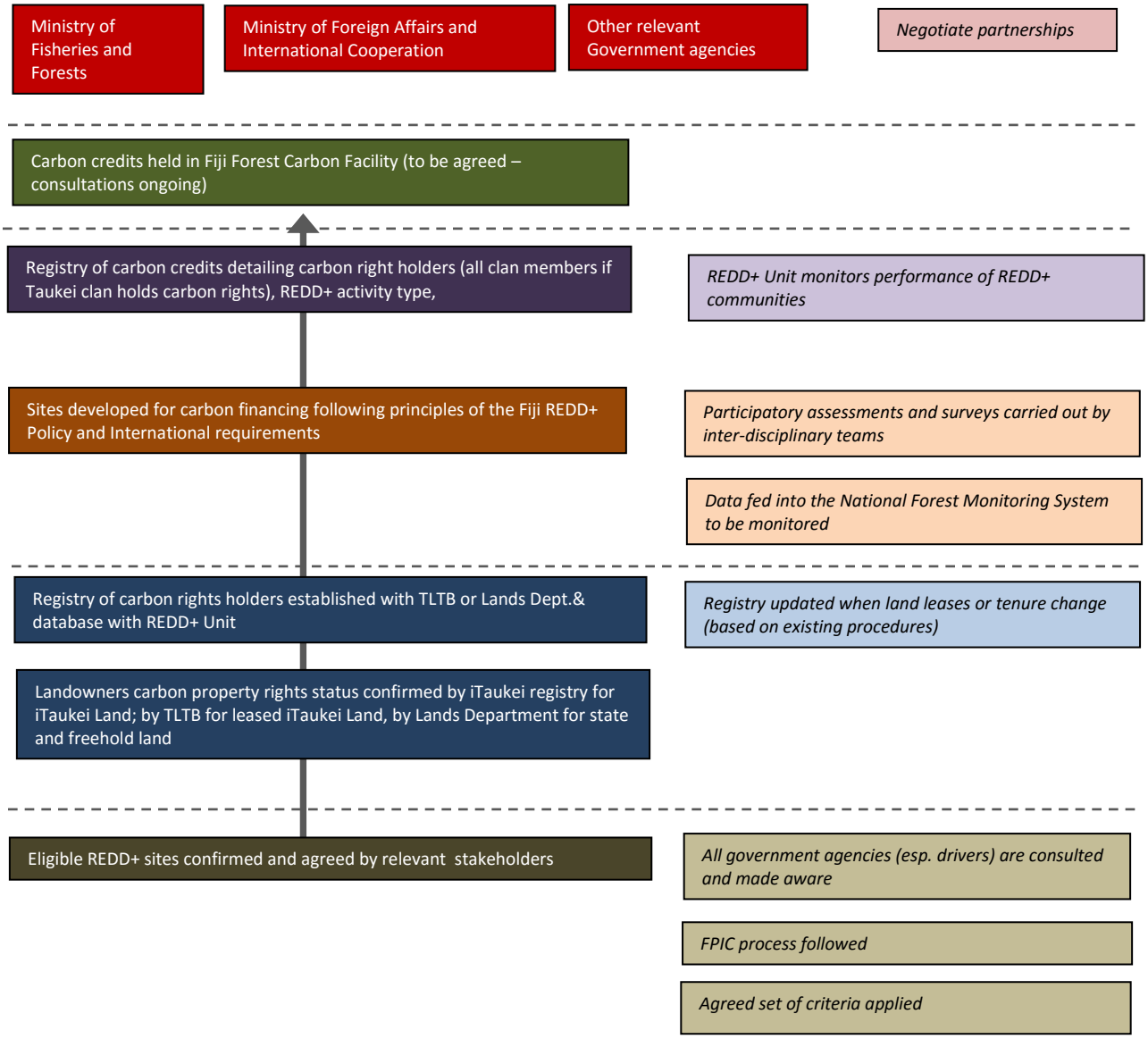


Figure 6: Proposed structure on the process for managing emission reduction units.

15.3 Progress on benefit-sharing arrangements

Describe the progress made thus far in the discussion and preparation of the benefit-sharing arrangements, and who has been participating in this process.

A carbon rights study that involved extensive stakeholder consultations was carried out in 2013 (ref: Carbon rights report). This resulted in recommended forest carbon rights arrangements for Fiji. These recommendations have been presented in several stakeholder consultation forums and are in final draft for submission to cabinet. Some conditions in the draft forest carbon rights for Fiji are defined as follow:

1. **A person or group claiming legal carbon rights must be able to show that:**

- they own or have legal control over the land
- they own or have legal control over the forest resource (to the exclusion of all other competing interests, such as forestry rights, mining rights or leasehold interests, or through having reached agreement with those who hold competing interests)

- they can maintain their control over the land and forest for the required period of time (e.g. 30-50 years, depending on the duration of the contractual or legal obligation that is undertaken) in order to demonstrate that they can manage and protect the forest resource.

2. The **holder of the carbon rights** has the right to the legal or economic benefit from carbon emission reductions and removals. This implies:

- Rights to carbon already stored in forests
- Rights to carbon that will be sequestered in the future

3. **. Where a landowner who has not leased the land to another person:**

- Ownership of stored forest carbon would not change
- Ownership would remain with whoever has lawful possession of the trees
- Retains ownership of the trees growing on the land

4**. Where a lessee who has planted trees with the informed permission of the landowner (*under a lease or by agreement/license*):**

- owns the carbon stored in the trees
- whether a lessee may benefit exclusively from the forest carbon will depend on:
  - whether the lessor was informed of the intention by the lessee to exploit the sequestered forest carbon at the time of negotiation of the lease
  - whether the exploitation of stored forest carbon is within the purpose of the lease.

5. For landowners leasing land[6] for REDD+:

- For iTaukei land - occur through the TLTB or the Land Use Unit and the lease could be to the State if it chose to be a REDD+ developer.
- For State land - the Director of Lands would grant the lease
- For freehold land - the freehold owner would grant the lease

6. Forest carbon rights for leased plantations

- Where a plantation is on leased land, the rights in the plantation trees belong to the lessee.
- If carbon rights were not in contemplation at the time of the agreement for the lease, it would be unfair to the lessor should the lessee capitalise on his possession of the land for an unforeseen purpose.
- When purpose of the use of the land is changed, the consent of the lessor is required and involves renegotiation of the lease.
- The rights to the sequestered carbon in plantation trees on leased land must be negotiated with the landowner in each case.
- If a plantation is on the plantation owner's land the landowner will also own the carbon rights in the plantation trees

7. When a landowning entity aggregates and leases land

- Landowners form an incorporated body (landowning entity) which can apply for a forest ecosystem restoration license
- Enter into leases with TLTB or the Land Bank on behalf of the landowners for the lands, which would be registered as required under current legislation
- The landowning entity would lease the lands from the landowners and may contract with a service provider to carry out or coordinate the REDD+ activities

[6] Land could be leased to a REDD+ project developer – State, a group of landowners, NGO or other person

- The entity would enter into an emission reduction purchase agreement with a buyer which would fund the necessary activities
- A means of sharing benefits among all landowners might be through the withholding of an amount by the TLTB for the payment of royalties in relation to the use of the carbon
- Land and carbon rights alienated, but to an entity in which landowners have a share
- The forest ecosystem license holder would be responsible for complying with the conditions
- The Forestry Department would be responsible for monitoring compliance with the conditions of the license.
- The buyer of carbon credits/verified emission reduction units (could be the State) would have to be confident of the ability of the State to monitor and control

8. Reconciling competing rights to land and forest - existing forest license

- Licenses remain valid during the currency of their term - unless cause has been given for them to be suspended or revoked failure to comply with the relevant law or the conditions of license are breached)
- Landowners will need to negotiate with holders of existing licenses or leases to encourage the surrender of the lease/license and can expect to have to buy out the licensee/lessee
- The licensee may voluntarily surrender any portion of the concession area it does not require, upon a month's notice to the TLTB, but this would appear to refer to a portion that is not addressed in the logging plan for the concession area
- If logging is not desirable, as would be the case for some REDD+ projects, compensation might be acceptable to the licensee, but negotiations would also have to ensue with the Conservator of Forests, given the strict requirements to actively log concessions.

9. Certificate of ownership of forest carbon rights

- It is necessary to clearly identify the owner of forest carbon rights and the land of which the forest carbon rights are part.
- The certificate of carbon ownership can only be issued where the applicant could demonstrate:
  - exclusive control of the subject land
  - exclusive control of the subject forest resource
  - absence of competing land uses (e.g. timber licenses, leases (or subleases), or mining tenements)
  - ability to maintain effective control of the land and forest for a specified period (e.g. 30 – 40 years).
- The issue of the certificate would need to consult several registers (land, leases, forestry, mining) before clearance certification is obtained
- It is proposed that the Registrar of Titles be authorized to issue certificates in respect of forest carbon rights over land, given that the Registrar keeps the Register of Titles, the Register of iTaukei Lands and the Register of iTaukei Leases.

10. REDD+ lease provisions could have the following arrangements:

- Subject of a forest ecosystem restoration license by law - statutory license would include binding conditions for restoration of the forest ecosystem and thus the development of carbon credits or emissions reductions.
- Forestry Department identifies suitable forest areas for ecosystem restoration/REDD+ activities - declared permanent forest under the *Forest Decree* and protected areas under the *Mining Act*.

- The forest carbon rights part of the leased land - lost to the landowner for the duration of the lease (but would revert to the landowner with the land at the end of the lease).
- The landowner would have rental income from the leased land
- Provision would have to be made for iTaukei rights of access and taking in accordance with custom

The RSC will embark on a final consultation on the recommended forest carbon rights conditions before finalizing for cabinet submission by the Forestry Department. This will take place from late 2015 to early 2016.

In addition, to ensure that a transparent and secure process is undertaken when registering carbon rights, the following will be legislated:

- The Conservator of Forests to approve the transfer of carbon rights after consultation with the RSC (currently stated in the draft revised Forest Decree); and
- Notation of the ownership/ transfer of carbon rights in the relevant Register and on the relevant land title

In the meantime, a REDD+ lease for Forest Conservation has been developed where the State is leasing land from the Emalu landowners. Consultations on the lease conditions were extensive and intensive, where the safeguards working group held several meetings over almost one year. The lease is being carried between the Forestry Department and the iTaukei Lands Trust Board (on behalf of the landowners).

16. NON CARBON BENEFITS

16.1 Expected social and environmental benefits

Please describe the environmental and social benefits, other than emission reductions, that the proposed ER Program is planning to achieve; and any other ways in which the ER Program would contribute to broader sustainable development.

Table 15: List of expected non-carbon benefits of the ERP and description

Non-carbon benefits	
Livelihoods	The national REDD+ programme, as well as the Emission Reduction Programme, first and foremost aim at securing and improving the livelihoods of Fiji's communities. The ERP is implementing the plans of the R-PP on a broad scale, achieving land tenure security, land use planning, improved agricultural and forestry practices to secure and diversify food security and merchantable surplus. Better infrastructure will reduce the trend of urbanization by making urban life more attractive to the young generation.
Food and resource security	The population of Fiji is growing, the environment is being affected by the increase in resource demand, land development, and climate change, all occurring within the limited geophysical boundaries of a small island state. Large scale reforestation will reduce the pressure on native forests, increase local supplies for timber and fuel wood, and rehabilitate vast grassland areas, also for future agricultural activity (agroforestry). Land use planning will enable higher yields through proper soil assessment. Communities can increase their income from selling a bigger surplus.
Land tenure security	REDD+ areas will sign a REDD+ lease to secure the status of the area. In order to set up the lease, the register of clan membership and land boundaries is updated and every member included in the FPIC process. The lease is not just a document, but a true commitment. It legitimacy to the land use plan developed by the community and security to the activities carried out on that land. It also ensures the equitable benefit distribution.
Biodiversity	The major threat for biodiversity is forest degradation and successive invasion by non-native species. The easiest solution to combat the spread of invasive species is the resistance of healthy natural ecosystems. Under the ERP, native high conservation value forests under threat are amongst the priority areas for establishing REDD+ leases. This does not only protect the forest itself, but the water sheds, river banks and the coral reefs, which can suffer from the impact of Sedimentation from rivers.
Cultural heritage	A demographic trend in Fiji is urbanization. Especially young people leave their homes and move to the urban centers. This will impact the cultural diversity in future. The ERP will offer the opportunity to raise the standard of living in rural areas through improved income and better access to markets and urban areas. The attractiveness of making a living in the rural area with a more traditional lifestyle and the comforts of modern life will aid to slow down the trend.
Learning environment for sustainable development	The broad implementation of the ERP will contribute significantly to an embedding of principles of sustainability in all aspects of life. Starting on political level, where the Steering Committee works with many different sectors on mainstreaming REDD+-related issues into policies, plans and job descriptions, down to implementation level, where management habits are being changed through the learning experience. A successful implementation of the ERP makes the whole REDD+ mechanism more viable, explainable and attractive. Sustainability involves conceptual planning and systematic working, which will increase the acceptance of other instruments as well, such as Environmental Impact Assessment or other formal processes for development projects and licensing. It will affect the attitude towards waste management, pollution or resource consumption. This way, the ERP can be a valuable contributor to the broad acceptance of the national Green Development

	Framework.
International obligations	Fiji wants to be a significant contributor to the international community and take responsibility as a leader amongst the Small Island Development States (SIDS). It has proven its ability to perform in the past with the organization of the national REDD+ readiness process, leading to a highly regarded R-PP. There is no doubt that Fiji will perform well in measuring, reporting and verifying carbon emission savings after completion of readiness. A successful ERP will strengthen Fiji's role in the international REDD+ discussions and make the voices and concerns of SIDS heard.

16.2 Diversity and learning value
Please describe the innovative features of the proposed ER Program and what learning value the proposed ER Program would bring to the FCPF Carbon Fund.

1. Fiji is one of the few small island development states in the international REDD+ community. The international discourse focuses mainly on large forest countries, assuming that small forest areas cannot produce enough forest emission reductions to serve as an incentive for implementing all REDD+ elements. The case of Fiji shows how carbon funding works as an incentive for a country to reform the way it manages and utilizes its natural resources, particularly in countries with a high endemic biodiversity. The non-carbon benefits to the citizens and the country are very high and justify the investments by the government itself and donors into readiness. Fiji adds scope and guidance from a different point of view to the international discourse on REDD+ and climate change mitigation.
2. The land tenure system in Fiji is rather unique in the REDD+ community. 85 % of the land is owned by the communities. That brings the advantage of established processes that simplify the FPIC process, guarantee broad stakeholder participation in REDD+ decision-making, provide foundations for benefit distribution systems and a grievance redress mechanism, and ensure that social safeguards are upheld. The challenge is the opposite side of the same medal: the land owners have to be convinced that sustainable forest management, conservation and reforestation are the most beneficial activities for them and their future generations. Fiji is testing the attractiveness of REDD+ as land management option in current pilot sites. The way to approach this is being refined and utilized for the roll out of the ERP. The documentation of this process will provide lessons learnt on integrating land owners into REDD+, developing refined incentive systems that are attractive as land use option, and accommodating concerns and fears to a point that makes the land owners feel comfortable with their decisions.
3. The activities on stopping forest degradation will create knowledge gain about the issues of reference levels for degradation, detection and measurement, incentives to reverse the effect, combating invasive species (particularly *Merremia sp.* and *Spathodea campanulata*), and enrichment planting with native species. Further, it will supply data on emission factors and on the effect of improved forest management on close-by primary forest management and buffer zones. The ERP will target a holistic analysis of such data in order to take early action against potential displacement of emissions.
4. The approach to REDD+ incentives in Fiji is based on the non-carbon benefits of the mechanism. The implementing agencies are emphasizing the values created through proper land management, higher agricultural yields, improvement of ecosystem functions, plantations to serve the needs of the land owners, rather than further diminishing the resources, etc. Though the national REDD+ institutions support projects in the implementation, depending on area size, the potential carbon benefits can be low. As economic alternative to non-sustainable land use, REDD+ has to be seen viable independently of carbon funding.
5. The project areas under the ERP can vary significantly in individual size, from 1,000 ha to 20,000 ha. The objective is to make this system viable through organizational support on national level and efficient implementation on the ground. The ERP will show that successful emission reductions from forestry can be achieved in countries with small land masses and land owner units, and how the national accounting can integrate the local projects.
6. Emphasis is given to REDD+ as a tool for the implementation of holistic sustainable management of forests. Fiji will be able to share its experiences on how REDD+ and SMF benefit each other in their implementation.

7. Fiji is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. While Fiji's contribution to global mitigation efforts will be low (because of low national emissions), the country and its people will have to be better prepared for extreme weather events, climatic variability and natural disasters. A healthy forest ecosystem increases the resilience by reliably providing shelter, fresh water, food, resources, and an array of other services that will help people and the overall ecosystem to cope with these stressors. The ER program will contribute towards strengthening the resiliency of the people of Fiji and its ecosystems by establishing new forests and protecting and enhancing the ecosystem services of existing ones. The focus on community livelihoods further strengthens social and economic resiliency of the local communities which feeds into the resiliency of the country's economy.

17. PROGRESS ON REGISTRIES

17.1 National registry

Please include a short description of the relationship of the proposed ER Program to national REDD+ activity management arrangements, and if the proposed ER Program will be part of any system to track REDD+ or other emissions reduction activities (e.g., a REDD+ registry).

The national REDD+ registry will be developed and established by 2017. All projects in Fiji will have to be registered there, transparently displaying the reference levels, emission reductions (planned / achieved), carbon owners / lease registration, source of finance, carbon credit buyer, etc. The projects comprising the ERP will run under the carbon registry and reports and background data will be made available through it. The registry will be linked to the international REDD+ Web Platform, modalities will have to be defined in the development process (2016).

18. LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE ER-PIN

Please include an explanation of any institutional or other acronyms used. Add rows as necessary.

Acronym	Meaning
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
A / R	Afforestation / Reforestation
BSDS	Benefit Sharing and Distribution System
BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
C	Carbon
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-based Organizations
CF	Carbon Fund
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
C&P	Communication and Participation
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DBMS	Database management system
DOA	Department of Agriculture
DOE	Department of Environment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
e	Equivalent (to carbon)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMA	Environment Management Act
EPSA	Endangered and Protected Species Act
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ER	**Emission Reductions**
ERP	Emission Reductions Program
ERPA	Emission Reductions Payment Agreement
ERPD	Emission Reductions Programme Document
ER-PIN	Emission Reductions Plan Idea Note
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FD	Forestry Department
FFF	Fiji Future Forests
FFHCOP	Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice
FJD	Fijian Dollar
FNU	Fiji National University
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGFF	Green Growth Framework for Fiji
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
ha	hectare
IFM	Improved Forest Management
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
JNAP	Joint National Action Plan (for CCA and DRM)
Kg	Kilogramm

LULUCF	Land use, Land-use change and Forestry
m^3	Cubic meter
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MOFF	Ministry of Fisheries and Forests
MRV	Measuring, Reporting and Verification
MSD	Forestry Department Management Services Division
MTA	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
MV	Nature Fiji – Mareqeti Viti
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCAS	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
NCCCC	National Climate Change Coordinating Committee
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NEC	National Environment Council
NNFMPP	Nakavu National Forest Management Pilot Project
NTROC	National iTaukei Resource Owner Committee
PAN	Protected Areas Network
PRF	Pacific Reforestation Fiji Ltd
PSP	Permanent Sample Plot
RDF	Reforestation Development Fund
RDSSED	Roadmap to democracy for sustainable socio-economic development
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation plus forest conservation, sustainable management of forests, carbon stock enhancement
REOI	Request for Expressions of Interest
RFP	Reforest Fiji Project
RL/REL/FRL	Reference Level/ Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level
RS	Remote Sensing
RSC	REDD+ Steering Committee
RTL	Register of iTaukei Lands
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific Technological Advise (for the UNFCCC)
SC	Fiji REDD+ National Steering Committee
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFI	Sustainable Forest Industries Ltd
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIDS	Small Island Development States
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SMF	Sustainable Management of Forests
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SWG	Safeguards Working Group of RSC
t	metric tons
TLFC	iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission
TLAT	iTaukei Land Appraisal Tribunal
TLTB	iTaukei Lands Trust Board
ToR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group (of RSC)
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNCSICH	United Nations Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

USD	American Dollar
USP	The University of the South Pacific
WCC	Webster Construction Group
WSL	Waiqele Sawmill Ltd