# *Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)*

***for***

# Fiji

***Date of submission or revision:*** *22 January, 2014*

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility **(FCPF)**

# General Information

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## R-PP Development Team

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| Mr Solomoni Nata | iTaukei Land Trust Board |
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## Summary of the R-PP

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| Dates of R-PP preparation (beginning to submission): | December 2012- July 2013 |
| Expected duration of R-PP implementation (month/year to month/year): | January 2014-2017 |
| Total budget estimate: | USD5.015mil |
| Anticipated sources of funding: | FCPF: USD 3.8 million<br>National government contribution: USD627,000<br>GIZ: USD588,000 |
| Expected government signer of R-PP grant request (name, title, affiliation): | Mr Amena Yauvoli<br>Permanent Secretary<br>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation<br>(National climate change focal point) |
| Expected key results from the R-PP implementation process: | **Outcome 1)**<br>• Strengthening of the National Readiness Management Arrangements<br>• Capacity Building and Linkages between institutions and with stakeholders strengthened<br>• Optimised outreach and consultation<br>• Maximization of REDD+ communication with all stakeholders and increased participation<br>• Centralised feedback and grievance redress mechanism<br><br>**Outcome 2)**<br>• Development and continued refinement of the REDD+ Strategy over the R-PP Implementation Phase<br>• Legislative review and mapping of key drivers and causes of emissions in the LULUCF sector<br>• Identification of REDD+ options and selection of appropriate REDD strategies for different localities<br>• Design and implement a framework for the successful introduction and embedding of the REDD+ strategy, including the safeguarding and consideration of the Safeguards<br>• Implementation of the SESA Framework<br><br>**Outcome 3)**<br>• Determination of Fiji's REL/RL based on several studies<br>• Capacity building in all aspects associated with or required for the determination of the REL/RL<br><br>**Outcome 4)**<br>• Establishment of a National Forest Monitoring System including National MRV<br>• Capacity building in all aspects associated with or required for the determination of the REL/RL |

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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| **ACCPIR** | Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region |
| **BSM** | Benefits Sharing Mechanism |
| **CBD** | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| **CBMP** | Community-based Management Programs |
| **C&P** | Consultation and Participation |
| **CCA** | Climate Change Adaptation |
| **CCCPIR** | Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme |
| **CI** | Conservation International |
| **$CO_2$** | Carbon dioxide |
| **COP** | Conference of Parties |
| **CROP** | Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific |
| **CTTT** | Carbon Trading Technical Team |
| **DOE** | Department of Environment |
| **DRM** | Disaster Risk Management |
| **DSS** | Decision Support System |
| **EIA** | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| **EMA** | Environmental Management Act |
| **ESMF** | Environmental and Social Management Framework |
| **EU** | European Union |
| **FAO** | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| **FD** | Forestry Department |
| **FPIC** | Free, Prior and Informed Consent |
| **GIZ** | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German International Development Agency) |
| **ILO** | International Labor Organisation of the United Nations |
| **IPCC** | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| **IUCN** | The International Union on the Conservation of Nature |
| **JNAP** | Joint National Action Plan (for CCA and DRM) |
| **KBA** | Key Biodiversity Area |
| **LULUCF** | Land use, Land-use change and Forestry |
| **MESCAL** | Mangrove EcoSystems for Climate Change Adaptation & Livelihoods |
| **MFAIC** | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation |
| **MOFF** | Ministry of Fisheries and Forests |
| **MRD** | Minerals Resources Department |
| **MRV** | Measuring, Reporting and Verification |
| **NBSAP** | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |

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|---|---|
| **NCCAS** | National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy |
| **NCCCC** | National Climate Change Coordinating Committee |
| **NGO** | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| **NEC** | National Environment Council |
| **PSP** | Permanent Sample Plot |
| **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 |
| **RL/REL** | Reference Level/ Reference Emission Level |
| **RTL** | Register of iTaukei Lands |
| **SBSTA** | Subsidiary Body for Scientific Technological Advise (for the UNFCCC) |
| **SC** | Fiji REDD+ National Steering Committee |
| **SEEDS** | Sustainable Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy |
| **SESA** | Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment |
| **SFM** | Sustainable Forest Management |
| **SOPAC** | Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (of SPC) |
| **SPC** | Secretariat of the Pacific Community |
| **TLAT** | iTaukei Lands Appeal Tribunal |
| **TLC** | iTaukei Land Commission |
| **TLFC** | iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission |
| **TLTB** | iTaukei Lands Trust Board |
| **TNC** | The Nature Conservancy |
| **ToR** | Terms of Reference |
| **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 |
| **USP** | The University of the South Pacific |
| **USP-PACESD** | USP Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development |

## Glossary of indigenous terms

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|---|---|
| iTaukei | *iTaukei* refers to indigenous Fijians who are registered in the *vola ni kawa bula* (register of all indigenous Fijians showing their genealogy) . In 2010, it was decreed that *iTaukei* will replace “Fijian” and “Indigenous Fiji” and “Native”. |
| Matanitu | A traditional Fijian confederation of Vanua |
| Mataqali | Fijian kin group (clan level), officially a subdivision of a yavusa and designated as the landowning unit. |

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|---|---|
| Roko Tui | Heads of the iTaukei Provincial Councils. There are 14 Provincial Councils in Fiji |
| Soqosoqo Vakamarama | Established in 1924, this nongovernmental organisation focuses on uplifting the lives of all iTaukei women above the age of 16 in the 14 provinces; promising women's equal participation in decision-making; empowering women economically and socially; preserving and promoting indigenous heritage, culture and tradition including language, song, dance and handicraft |
| Vanua | A traditional Fijian political unit, usually consisting of a few villages under a single chief, usually with a distinctive language and culture |
| Tikina | Subdivision of a "yasana" (iTaukei administration) – akin to district level |
| Tokatoka | Subdivision of a mataqali, the basic landworking unit, often comprising a group of several brothers living the same village in separate households |
| Vola ni Kawa Bula | The register of births, deaths and genealogy records of all iTaukei |
| Yasana | Province of iTaukei administration |
| Yavusa | The largest kinship group consisting of people descended from a single vu – an ancestor god. |

## Land Tenure types in Fiji:

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| iTaukei Land | Land above high-water mark, not being freehold nor owned by the State in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act. It comprises approximately 83% of the total landmass in Fiji. |
| Reserve Land | ITaukei land set aside and proclaimed as such under the provisions of the ITaukei Land Trust Act. Reserve Land cannot be leased. De-reservation can occur provided there is 'good cause' and with the consent of the landowners. |
| Freehold Land | Land owned privately and exclusively by the title holder who may dispose of it in any manner he wishes. |
| State Land | State Land comprises of:<br>– Schedule A, held by the State in trust for indigenous landowners.<br>– Schedule B held by the State in trust for indigenous landowners<br>– State Freehold,<br>– State foreshore<br>– State Land without Title. |

## Executive Summary

***Please provide a one- to three-page summary of the R-PP in the space below, including:*** *your assessment of the current situation, overarching goals of R-PP preparation, your proposed activities and expected results of each component, schematic of the expected readiness process, and the total funding requested and timing.*

The Fiji National Forest Policy emphasizes the application of sustainable forest management principles and improving the livelihoods of rural forest owners. Fiji recognizes REDD+ as an instrument to achieve these goals. REDD+ will play an important role in Fiji's development path, as forests hold an important place in the country's culture, history, environment and economy.

Fiji has far advanced in its national REDD+ readiness process since the first multi-stakeholder national REDD+ consultations in 2009. The country endorsed the Fiji REDD+ Policy in 2010, which contributes to the national forestry sector goal: 'Sustainable management of Fiji's forests to maintain their natural potential and to achieve greater social, economic and environmental benefits for current and future generations'. The REDD+ Policy emphasizes safeguards to protect and respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples, to ensure the active participation of resource owners, the consideration of gender issues in all phases of decision-making and the protection of natural forest and their ecosystem services.

Fiji recently began preliminary consultations on the preparation of its national REDD+ strategy. In 2012 Fiji requested to join the FPCF as an observer and has since been actively developing the required documentation for becoming an FPCF REDD+ Country Participant. The activities and work plan outlined in this Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) support and build upon on-going REDD+ activities and seek to further valorize the achievements to date. In preparing an R-PP, Fiji hopes to further recognize and institutionalize numerous advancements, such as stakeholder consultation guidelines for developing REDD+ projects in communally-owned forests. Fiji can serve as an example to other countries in the Pacific region and throughout the world and gain international recognition for its progress so far and moving forward. Moreover, participating in the FCPF REDD+ Readiness process will allow Fiji to learn from other countries who are implementing R-PPs and developing REDD+ strategies.

Fiji has a forest cover of almost 1.1 million hectares, covering about 56% of the total land mass. Almost 90% of the land is communally owned by customary groups or *mataqali*. Current understanding is that forest clearance is largely attributed to agriculture while forest degradation occurs during forest exploitation for timber. Fiji recognises REDD+ as an important opportunity to contribute towards global climate change mitigation while strengthening the socio-economic situation of its forest resource owners and protect and restore its forest ecosystems. The SPC/GIZ Regional Programme Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region and the SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries" supports Fiji in its application for the REDD+ Readiness Fund.

Fiji has a national REDD+ policy as well as a multi-sectoral Steering Committee, which holds regular meetings. A few REDD+ pilot projects are underway and the establishment of a national MRV system is also making headway. As laid out in detail in this R-PP, Fiji's request for Readiness will mainly cover the analytical work and consultation process required to develop and validate the country's REDD+ strategy. Although much knowledge already exists, there is a need to gain a better understanding of the direct drivers, actors and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation throughout the Fijian islands in order to develop and select the strategic options to address these drivers. These options must be assessed against the range of social and environmental safeguards that Fiji has outlined in its REDD+ policy as well as those of international financing partners.

**Component 1** lays out the multitude of actors with a stake in the REDD+ process, especially those whose lives and livelihoods may be affected by the implementation of the REDD+ strategy. When analyzing the drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation, different actors emerge. If new, more sustainable land-use patterns are to be introduced or existing programs reinforced, it is important to know who the stakeholders are, inform them of REDD+ and consult with them so that their collective interests are reflected in the REDD+ strategy. In addition, a complaint and grievance resolution procedure will need to be in place to resolve issues arising between different stakeholders in a fair and transparent manner.

**Component 2** answers questions such as: “What is the current land cover?” “How has that changed in recent years or decades?” and “What net emissions and removals are associated with those land cover changes?” Drivers and underlying causes of forest loss and degradation may include policies and legislation regarding forest management, land use development and trade. Lacking law enforcement, population growth and ineffective extension services may also contribute indirectly to forest loss and degradation. The REDD+ activities to address these drivers are identified and detailed in sub-component 2b where the REDD+ strategy options are described. These strategy options also consist of “+” activities that include sustainable forest management, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. This component also details the way in which the proposed REDD+ activities will be implemented on the ground and how the finances will flow from the national level to resource users. A number of tools are offered to assist with these processes, including cost/benefit analyses of different land uses and a strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA).

**Component 3** proposes how the Reference Emission Level or Reference Level (REL/RL) can be determined, which is the level of net emissions and removals resulting from the land cover changes as it occurred during a certain (reference) period in the past, and which can possibly be extended into the future on the basis of projections of different development scenarios and taking into account national circumstances.

**Component 4** describes the proposed design of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), which will be put in place together with the measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) system. This will allow for regular and systematic quantification and monitoring of net emissions and removals associated with the different REDD+ activities. Sub-component 4b reports on safeguards as they have been formulated and agreed under the UNFCCC, including information related to multiple benefits, other impacts and governance.

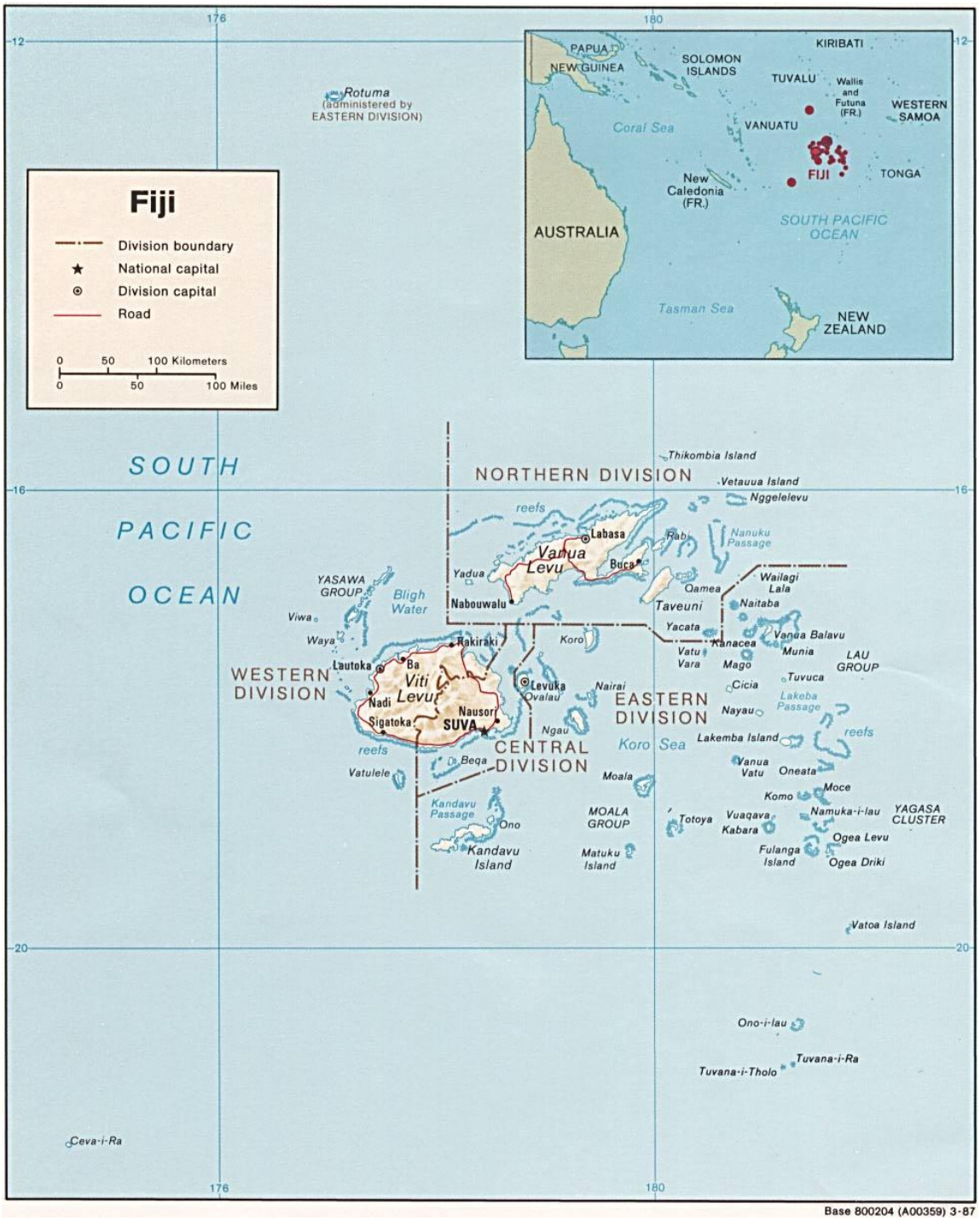
**Component 5** details the full budget and schedule, outlining which financial partners are requested to assist with the respective components. Finally, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework, described in **Component 6**, will facilitate the efficient management of the resources and assist with keeping track of the progress being made.

In order to ensure the R-PP builds upon existing efforts, it is important to highlight Fiji’s phased approach to its current national REDD+ program:

1. The **first phase** aims to put in place policy and institutional frameworks for the implementation of REDD+ and addressing capacity needs for the establishment of a national MRV (measuring, reporting and verification) system.
2. The **second phase** involves the development of a national REDD+ strategy, the establishment of pilot sites and strengthening MRV capacities (towards Tier 2 and 3 level reporting).
3. The **third phase** will be the implementation of the strategy, participation in a REDD+ carbon financing mechanism, and the establishment of an operational MRV and IPCC reporting system.

Fiji is currently in phase 2 of its national REDD+ program and R-PP development and implementation supports the achievement of the targets set out in this phase, working towards successfully achieving the 3$^{rd}$ phase.

*Figure 1: Map of Fiji*



# Component 1: Organize and Consult

## 1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements

**Standard 1a the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**National Readiness Management Arrangements:**

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD-plus, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies in addition to the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD-plus readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process.

### 1a.1 The National REDD+ Steering Committee

Fiji recognized the importance of setting up a transparent and multi-stakeholder governance structure for REDD+ at the national level early on in the REDD+ process.[1] In September 2009, more than forty stakeholders from different sectors and agencies participated in a national REDD+ scoping consultation workshop. The workshop served to inform participants of REDD+ and allow participants to provide feedback and comments on REDD+ policy issues for Fiji, The workshop included a stakeholder analysis (described in Component 1b) where members for a national REDD+ Steering Committee (SC) were identified. After a series of stakeholder meetings, the national REDD+ steering committee was formally established in May 2011.

According to the SC's Terms of Reference (TOR), the overarching function of the Fiji National REDD+ Steering Committee is to "*coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ programme*" (see Annex 1a for SC TOR). The TOR describes the channels of communication and modalities for moving forward if consensus is not achieved amongst the members. The SC 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 SC has both governing and advisory functions.

#### *Steering Committee Composition*

In consultation with the relevant stakeholders, a submission on the establishment of a national REDD+ Steering Committee with a proposed list of member agencies was submitted to the Fiji Forestry Board for approval. The Forestry Board is the decision-making body for all forestry sector issues in Fiji. In May 2011 the Forestry Board approved the establishment of the committee and the nominated members coming from various government ministries, non-governmental organisations, private sector, resource owner groups, academic institutions and regional organisations. On 27 June 2011, the Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee held their first "official" meeting. The Deputy Conservator Forests serves as chairperson and the National REDD+ Project 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.

1 Weaver, S., Herold, M., Payton, I. Fiji REDD Policy Scoping Report. Pacific-German Regional Programme Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region. September 2009. Available at http://www.spc.int/lrd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=211&Itemid=48&limitstart=20

The REDD+ Steering Committee 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 REDD+ Steering Committee meetings are able to make decisions on behalf of their Departments and organisations. In the case of non-governmental organizations, the interest group representatives listed below are expected to assist in designing and implementing the consultation and participation plan further described in Component 1c. Of the current 18 members, 7 are female. 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[2] 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.

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

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

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.

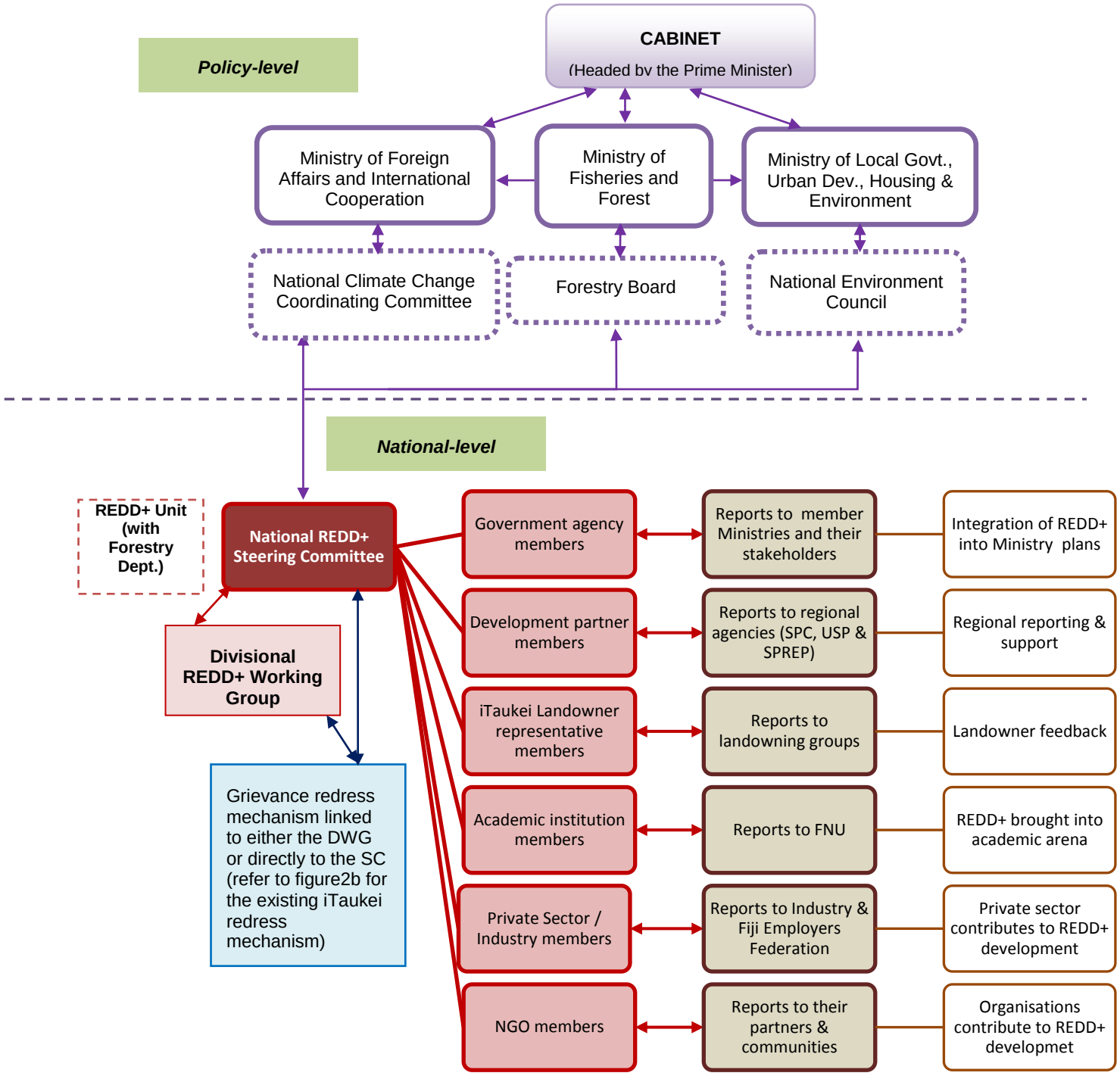
14. **The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)** is the regional intergovernmental organisation providing technical and policy support in the area of forestry other and land use sectors. It hosts the SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project and the SPC/GIZ Coping with climate change in the Pacific Island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

15. **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.

16. **The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** provides technical and policy support for entire REDD+ Readiness process.

The institutional arrangement of the REDD+ SC's is depicted in *Figure 1a* below.

*Figure 1a: Institutional Arrangements of the National REDD+ Steering Committee – Policy and National level*



***Role of Steering Committee***

The National REDD+ Steering Committee performs the following specific functions:

a. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ Strategy and associated action plans (see component 2b for details related to the REDD+ strategy included its action plan)

b. Facilitate inter-sectoral and inter-agency support in the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ Strategy and action plans

c. Ensure alignment with international and regional developments in forest governance integrity, and international REDD technical and policy developments

d. Serve as an advisory technical body on both national and project level REDD+ issues, including advising local community groups

e. Assess REDD+ project proposals and make recommendations to the Conservator of Forests and the Director of Environment on the feasibility of these proposals

f. Promote and support awareness-raising on REDD+ issues

g. Provide advice and support to Fiji delegates participating at international negotiations relating to REDD+. Such international meetings include those on UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), UNFF (United Nations Forum on Forests), UNCCD (United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification) and UNCSICH (United Nations Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage).

h. Ensuring the safeguards identified under policy statement 5.1 (Fiji REDD+ Policy, 2011) are considered.

i. Support the development of (or strengthening of existing) grievance mechanisms to ensure that all grievances arising from REDD+-related actions are dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.

***Reporting***

The SC reports to the following bodies in each of their meetings: the Forestry Board, the National Environment Council, and the National Climate Change Coordinating Committee. The SC also submits an annual progress report to the following key stakeholders, and other interested stakeholders, before the end of the fourth quarter:

- The national focal points of the UNFCCC, the CBD, the UNCCD
- the Permanent Secretary of Fisheries and Forests
- the General Manager of TLTB
- the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
- the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
- the Chairman of Fiji Sawmillers Association
- the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture
- the Permanent Secretary of Provincial Development and National Disaster Management
- the representative of the NGO network

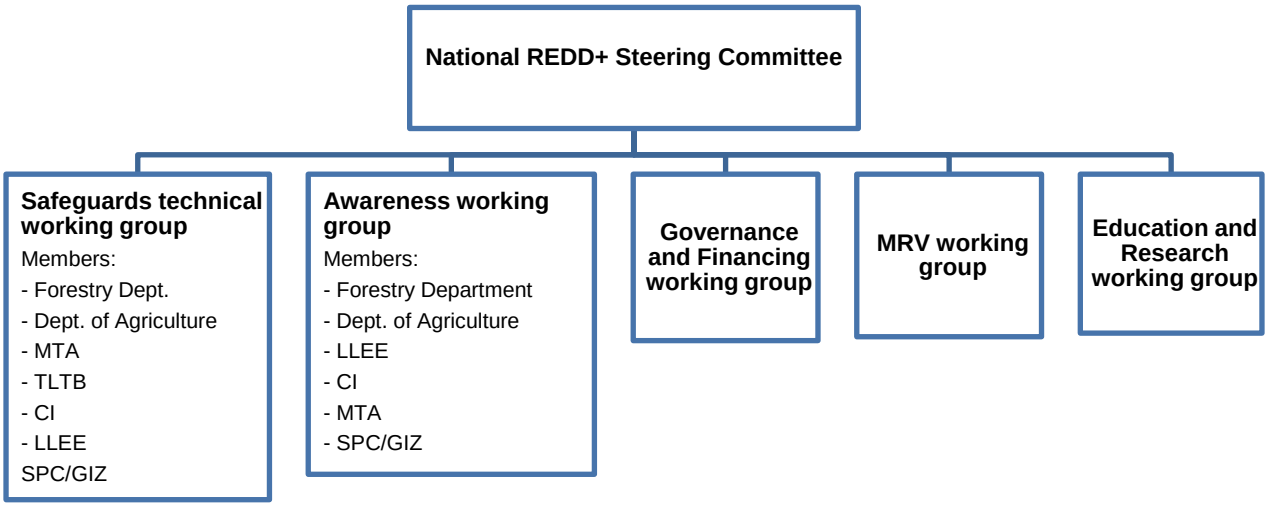
The monitoring of the performance of the SC is done by the Forestry Board on an annual basis.

At least 75% of the SC members must be present in order for the meeting to proceed. In order to ensure all members remain up to date on the advancements of REDD+ and the decisions taken, the minutes of meetings are sent out to all members, regardless whether they attended the meeting or not.

***The Technical Working Groups***

The SC establishes Technical Sub-Committees or working groups as required, including (if and where necessary) an executive group responsible for undertaking certain tasks associated with the implementation of the national REDD+ Programme. A "Safeguards Working Group" is currently developing national REDD+ safeguard criteria and indicators, which will be important for managing SESA and ESMF development in the future. The Safeguards Working Group has been created early on in part due to the importance of indigenous people's rights in Fiji. Fiji supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and has ratified the International Labor Organisation's (ILO) Convention 169 and thus is striving to implement principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for REDD+ planning and activities. Another technical working group is the "Awareness Working Group". This group (made up of communication and extension officers from government and NGOs) is assigned the task of guiding the development of appropriate awareness and informational materials. More Technical Working Groups or Sub-Committees will be formed during R-PP implementation, as shown in the budget of this sub-component.

*Figure 1b: The Fiji REDD+ working groups*




The members of the working group are members of the SC and/or officers nominated by SC members to contribute on behalf of their agencies. These groups work will at the national level but will also consult closely with divisional partners. Their main role is to support the on-the-ground implementation of readiness activities. Whilst the various working group members are experts in their fields of work (e.g. on iTaukei issues, GIS/RS, community facilitation, etc.) there is a need to strengthen their understanding on the requirements for REDD+ readiness and implementation. Workshops on the Cancun decisions and other policy and MRV requirements have been conducted but additional knowledge and skills relating to specific REDD+ issues is still needed to ensure the working groups undertake their tasks capably. This training will need to be ongoing to be up to date with the developments in REDD+. This training need is incorporated in the workplan of the various components of this proposal. Examples include Table 1a on the capacity building for various institutions to absorb REDD+ activities, Table1b on the training of officers for community awareness raising on REDD+; Table 2c on the training for addressing grievances; Table 2d on capacity building on SESA and Table 3 includes capacity building on the development of REL/RL and MRV framework.

## 1a.2 Government ownership of REDD+

The development of supporting national policy frameworks is an important component of REDD+ Readiness. The Fiji National REDD+ Policy, the first such policy for the Pacific region, was endorsed by the Fiji Cabinet on Tuesday 07 December 2010. The policy was a result of almost 18 months of stakeholder awareness-raising, consultations and capacity development.

The Steering Committee members actively contribute to the REDD+ readiness process. Since its establishment, the members contribute personnel and facility support from their various departments. For example, personnel expertise and transportation as part of the REDD+ consultation and awareness teams in the FD are provided by the concerned member agencies at their own expense. REDD+ is included in the Annual Corporate Plans of Ministry of Fisheries and Forest, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.

In the 2012 National Budget Address "Empowered Fijians and a Modern Economy," the Government of Fiji announced the provision of $300,000 to the Forestry Department for the purpose of implementing the REDD+ policy. The REDD+ project is a capital project outside of the budget for normal FD operations. The project's objective is to support Fiji's participation in REDD+ and receive forest carbon finance in the future.

The 2012 Budget Address highlighted the importance of its natural resource sectors for the country's economic development. For 2012, the allocation for the Ministry of Primary Industries will increase by approximately $15 million. Support to the forestry sector is expected to increase the sector's contribution to GDP, specifically through value-adding timber processing, especially for mahogany, and replanting of valuable species such as teak. Private sector investment in the land use sector will also be encouraged through zero-rated fiscal and tax incentives.

Funding for the REDD+ Project continued in 2103 with the provision of another F$300,000. The project titled "Strengthening 'REDD+ Readiness:' Implementing Safeguards and MRV within Fiji's Forest-Owning Communities" implemented through the Forestry Department, with the involvement of the SC member agencies. The project seeks "to strengthen the safeguards and MRV components of REDD+ and to set up a system within the Fiji REDD+ national framework that tailors the international requirement for REDD+ in such a way that maximizes economic, social and environmental benefits for Fiji, and use these benefits as pillars for national sustainable development."[3] The specific objectives of the project include the following:

a) Strengthen elements of good governance within REDD+ activity areas;

b) Ensure effective landowner participation that follows FPIC guidelines;

c) Integrates REDD+ into Sustainable Forest Management;

d) Builds internal technical capacity for MRV that integrates and strengthens the current forest resource management system.

It has been a requirement for all international consultants working on REDD+ in Fiji to work with national counterparts during their assignments. Training and/or seminar is often conducted to inform/teach the national stakeholders on the exercise undertaken. For example, the data analysis for the carbon stock assessment was carried out in a training environment in which the hired consultant had to analyze the data with the forestry officers, teaching them at the same time (instead of him taking the data to analyze in his or her country). Albeit this requirement for incorporating national experts for all REDD+ activities to date, significant room for improvement remains in terms of technical capacity and understanding of evolving REDD+ international policy negotiations.

The expertise and social capital required to implement REDD+ in the country needs further reinforcement. This is due in part to the fact that the Steering Committee has been working on an entirely voluntary basis and the time spent in SC meetings and on REDD+ is limited. During R-PP consultations, the SC proposed remuneration for their efforts in the future. This would be more of a symbolic gesture, such as the stipends

[3] Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Forestry Department. "Strengthening REDD+ Readiness: Implementing Safeguards and MEV within Fiji's Forest-Owning Communities." Phase 1 (Ver. 1.1-20.01.12). Project management Document January 2012. (page 3).

rewarded to the members of the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Committee and the Forestry Board. This also gives rise to the fact that despite the impressive and continuing commitment of the SC members, a more established entity needs to be created in order to properly implement all the activities outlined in this R-PP. Given the significant increase in quantity and quality of activities proposed during R-PP implementation, the creation of a group of experts dedicated solely to REDD+ is proposed, i.e. the REDD+ Unit described below.

## 1a.3 Work Plan for Institutional Strengthening

The successful implementation of REDD+ will require the involvement multi-disciplinary stakeholders' institutions at the national and sub-national level. Systematic capacity building of personnel and strengthening of institutional capacity will be needed. Coordination structures will also need to be strengthened to ensure a holistic and cost-efficient approach. This will help to streamline REDD+ objectives in a multi-sectoral fashion.

As the analytical work surrounding drivers and strategy options evolves, there is a strong likelihood that the various entities involved with REDD+ will be expanded. The Department of Agriculture, National Planning Office, iTaukei Affairs Board (Statutory Authority), iTaukei Lands Trust Board (Statutory Authority) are some national entities that will have the added responsibility of informing and guiding their target stakeholders and the general public on REDD+ issues and development.

### *i) The National REDD+ Steering Committee*

There is a need to further build the capacity of Steering Committee during R-PP implementation. Given the responsibility the SC has in informing providing advice and guidance to their stakeholders, it is essential that they have a good understanding of the REDD+ processes both domestically and internationally.

*1a.3(i) Build up the knowledge and understanding of the SC so they can make informed decisions and provide advice to their various organizations on REDD+ issues*

| MILESTONES | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 1. Quarterly REDD+ Steering committee meetings and seminars on specific thematic issues carried out | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 2. All the member agencies of the SC visit pilot sites as a group and hold consultations with local communities | x | | x | | x | | x | |
| 3. Selected SC members participate in international climate change meetings relevant for REDD+ | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 4. REDD+ readiness activities are integrated in the plans and communication procedures of their SC member agencies | | x | | | | | | |
| 5. Fiji REDD+ readiness experiences are presented by SC member agencies in national, regional and international meetings of their sectors (not only climate change) | | x | | x | | x | | x |
| 6. Selected SC members visit other REDD+ countries for peer-to-peer exchanges | | | x | | x | | x | |

The capacity of the steering committee member agencies to absorb additional responsibilities to manage, coordinate, and facilitate the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ programme will need to be assessed. This capacity assessment process will also define how REDD+ activities can be effectively and efficiently mainstreamed into the plans of implementing/responsible sectors and agencies.

| *1a.3(ii) Develop a capacity development plan to guide the inclusion of REDD+ activities in relevant national institutions, sector policies and workplans (mainstreaming)* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MILESTONES** | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | |
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 1. Institutional review of the existing capacities of SC member agencies to carry out their assigned responsibilities for REDD+ readiness completed | | x | | | | | | |
| 2. The capacities necessary for the various responsible agencies to carry out new and additional tasks brought about by REDD+ will be identified. | | | x | | | | | |
| 3. Consultations on the REDD+ capacity development plan completed | | | x | | | | | |
| 4. REDD+ capacity development plan endorsed, translated and distributed | | | | x | | | | |
| 5. The implementation of the capacity development plan commences | | | | x | | | | |

### *ii) The Fiji REDD+ Unit*

Given the fact that SC members have limited time and energy, funding for R-PP implementation will be used in part to create the Fiji REDD+ Unit, which will have a technical adviser (with some management functions), two technical experts, one communications officer and an administration assistant dedicated solely to REDD+ during R-PP implementation. The senior technical officer and technical experts will help to add value not only to REDD+ at the national level, but will also be able to provide technical support to on-going or up-coming REDD+ projects, especially in the design of project methodologies. In the future, the government will need to up-scale the support provided both at the national level as well as to individual REDD+ projects in order to assist in streamlining the methodologies to fit into the national systems. The technical adviser and one technical officer will sit in the Forestry Department and one officer (with GIS and remote sensing expertise) will be in SOPAC. These technical experts will be responsible for coordinating and following up on the analytical work undertaken during the implementation of Component 2's work plan. These experts will also be responsible for REL/RL development and supporting the implementation of the MRV system described in Components 3 and 4, including capacity development for employees of government, private sector and civil society that are involved in the work process.

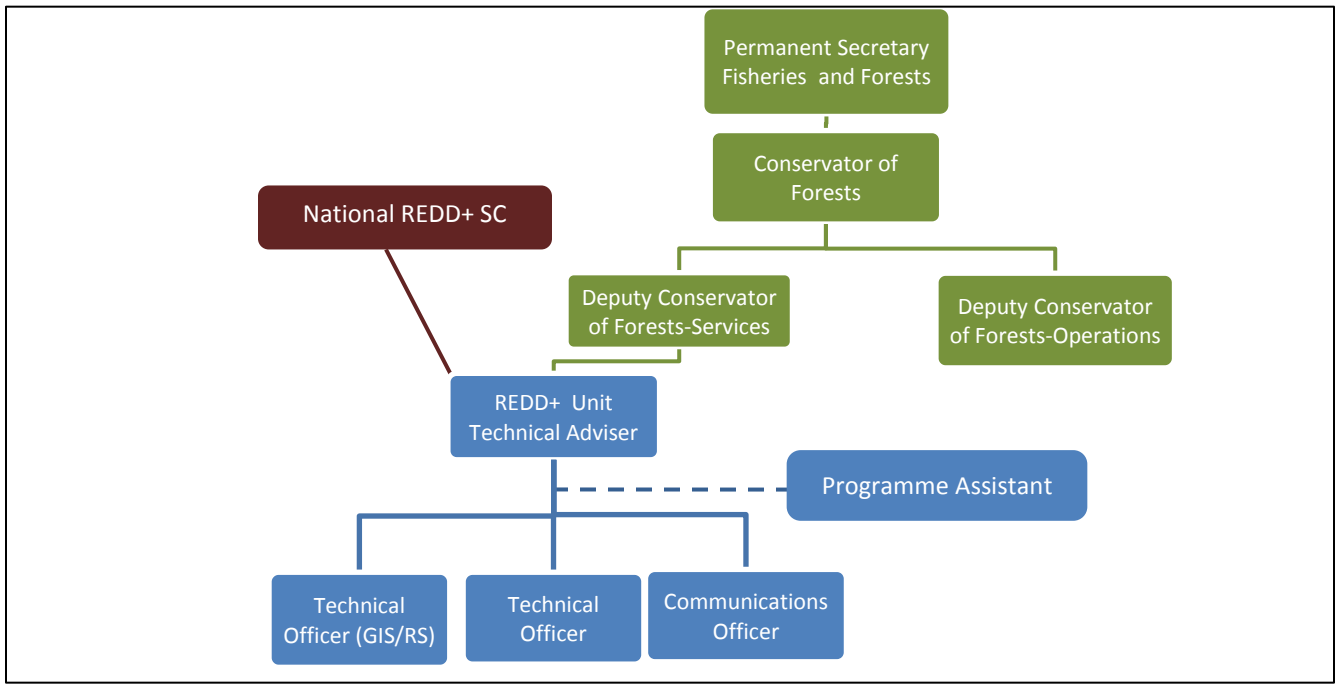
The REDD+ Unit will also include a Communication Officer, who will coordinate the extensive consultations required for R-PP implementation and the development of the REDD+ strategy. The Communication Officer's role will be to ensure the results of the consultations are properly documented and the procedures for how these consultations influence REDD+ strategy development are followed.

The REDD+ Unit will report directly to the Deputy Conservator of Forests – Services (DCFS). The DCFS will have overall supervisory functions of the unit.

The Forestry Department will be further reinforced with a budget to cover the additional office and administration costs of this REDD+ Unit as well as a secretary working solely for the REDD+ Unit and R-PP implementation. The Fiji Forestry Department is also planning to expand its technical field teams to meet the field measurement demands under this REDD readiness phase.

| *1a.3(iii) Establish a REDD+ Unit with adequate resources to support the RPP implementation* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MILESTONES** | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | |
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 1. The REDD+ Unit is established with 1 technical adviser, 2 technical officers, 1 communication officer and 1 administration assistant on board | | x Dec | | | | | | |
| 2. Work programme and budget for the operations of the REDD+ Unit office is developed and endorsed by the REDD+ Steering Committee | | | x Feb | | | | | |

*Figure 1c: The Fiji REDD+ unit institutional*




***iii) The Divisional REDD+ working groups***

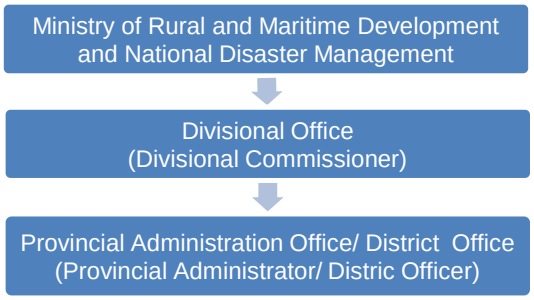
As time goes on, the management of REDD+ in Fiji will become increasingly decentralized. Sub-national governance arrangements include the establishment of Divisional REDD+ working groups (refer to figure 1b), two of which have already been created to oversee pilot sites. These working groups will support R-PP implementation in the Division and each of the Provinces belonging to the Division.

The Divisional REDD+ working groups are the mechanism through which the views from a broad set of REDD+ stakeholder will be incorporated into the activities and decisions at the national level and will play a central role during the implementation of the Consultation and Participation Plan outlined in sub-component 1c. A REDD+ District level working group can also be established if it is necessary to have more on the ground coverage for Districts with higher REDD+ relevancy.

In Fiji, sub-national level governmental and administrative activities are undertaken through four distinct systems:

a. *The government administration*: the country is divided into four Divisions: Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western. Within these divisions are 14 Provinces and 17 Districts. Divisional Commissioners, Provincial Administrators and District Officers head the divisions, provinces and districts respectively. Their main function is to supervise and coordinate all governmental services and development activities in their area of responsibility. These offices come under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management.

*Figure 1d: The Divisional Administration*




b. *The municipal administration*: The major urban centers proclaimed as a City or Town under the Local Government Act (Cap. 125) are administered by councils elected by the eligible population residing within proclaimed boundaries. Special Administrators (formerly mayors) head the town/city councils. The municipal government comes under the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and the Environment has overall responsibility over municipal government.

c. *Rural local authorities*: All areas outside the jurisdiction of proclaimed cities, towns and Fijian villages come under the purview of the rural local authorities, which are public health authorities constituted under the Public Health Act (Cap. 111). Their primary responsibility is to control public health, building construction and other matters governed by The Public Health Act. The Central Board of Health, constituted by the Minister for Health, maintains overall coordination of the activities of the rural local authorities.

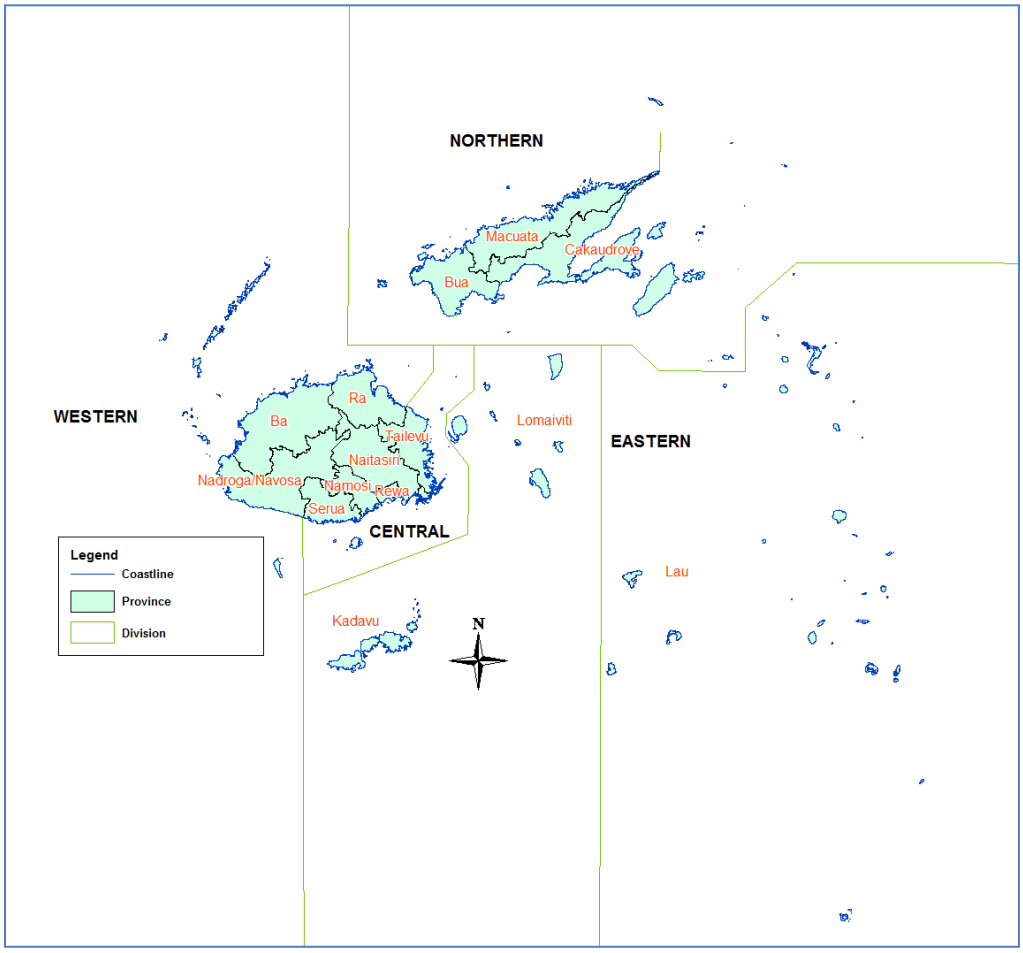
d. *The iTaukei administration:* The iTaukei Affairs Board, constituted under the iTaukei Affairs Act (Cap. 120) governs all matters concerning the administration of iTaukei affairs, including iTaukei custom services. A province (*Yasana*) is made up of a group of sub-units called *Tikina* (akin to district level). The *Tikina* comprises of several villages. The *Tikina* and *Yasana* boundaries were drawn up during the colonial era, largely for administrative purposes. However, most of these clusters are based on traditional socio-political ties.

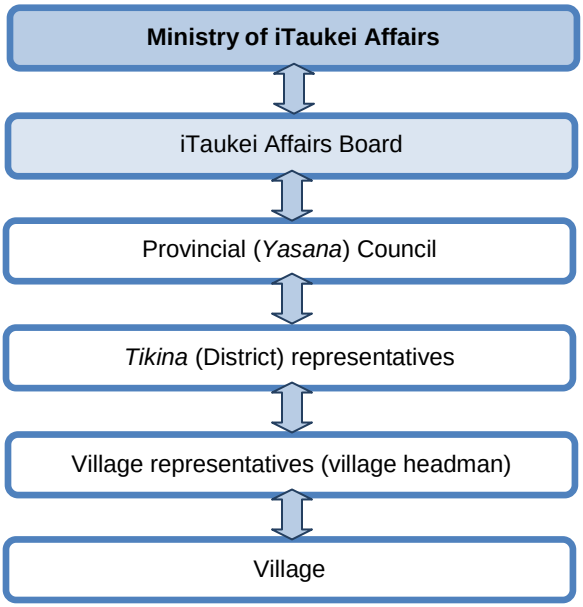
Fiji has fourteen iTaukei provinces and Rotuma. Each of the 14 provinces are governed by a Provincial Council headed by a *Roko Tui*. The functions of the Provincial Councils are: "to promote the health, welfare and good government of iTaukei residents in the province and to carry out such other duties and functions which the Minister or the iTaukei Affairs Board may see fit to delegate to such council". The iTaukei Affairs Board approves the appointment of the Roko Tui and approves all rates and by-laws applied by the Provincial Councils.

*Table 1: Divisions and Provinces of Fiji*

| | ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Central** | **Eastern** | **Western** | **Northern** |
| **PROVINCE** | Naitasiri | Kadavu | Ba | Bua |
| | Namosi | Lau | Nadroga / Navosa | Cakaudrove |
| | Rewa | Lomaiviti | Ra | Macuata |
| | Serua | Rotuma | | |
| | Tailevu | | | |

*Figure 1e: The iTaukei administration*

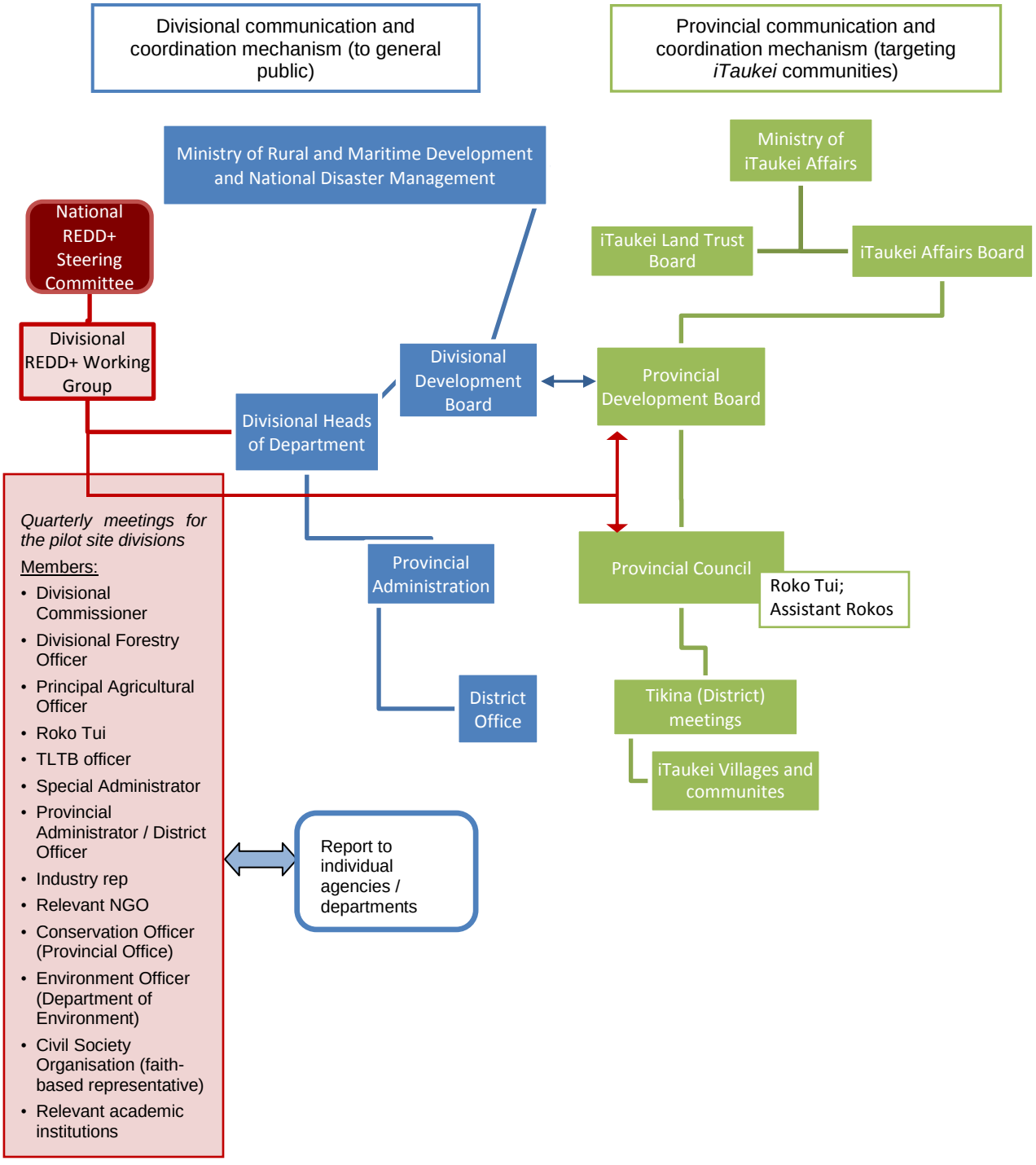


As shown above, the administrative structures a) – c) serve all ethnic groups and the wider public. The iTaukei administration (iTaukei Affairs Board and the Provincial Councils) serves the iTaukei people exclusively.

To target the various levels of community, divisional REDD+ working groups will be established. Membership will include the Divisional Commissioner, the Divisional Forestry Officer, the Principal Agriculture Officer, TLTB, the Roko Tui, the Conservation Officer of the Provincial Council, the Provincial Administrators, the District Officer of the REDD+ site, the Environment officer of the Department of Environment, a representative from the private sector, non-governmental organisation, civil society organisation representative (representing faith-based groups) and any relevant academic institution. Each of these members will report to their individual agencies at the divisional, provincial and district levels. The Divisional REDD+ working groups will also report to the Provincial Council and the Divisional Development Board

*Figure 1f: Institutional Arrangements of the National REDD+ Steering Committee to Divisional & Provincial level*



| *1a.3(iv) Build up the knowledge and understanding of the REDD+ divisional working group (DWG) so they can make informed decisions and provide advice to their various organizations on REDD+ issues* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MILESTONES** | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | |
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 1. A formal communication and reporting structure between the National and Divisional bodies is established | x | | | | | | | |
| 2. REDD+ DWG are established in the Divisions with REDD+ pilot site and projects | x | | x | | | | | |
| 3. REDD+ DWG meetings and seminars on a specific thematic issue are held | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 4. The DWG members visit pilot sites in their division and hold consultations with local communities | | x | | x | | x | | x |
| 5. A training workshop on REDD+ readiness requirements including governance and safeguards is carried out for the DWG | | x | | x | | x | | |
| 6. Planning and reporting of REDD+ readiness activities are integrated in the divisional plans of the member DWG agencies | | x | | x | | x | | x |
| 7. Fiji REDD+ readiness experiences are presented by DWG member agencies in Provincial , Divisional and National meetings | | x | | x | | x | | x |
| 8. Relevant DWG members visit other REDD+ pilots in the country and/or in the region | | | | x | | x | | x |

### *iv) Mainstreaming REDD+ into national institutions and policy*

Fiji's *People's charter for change, peace and progress* (2008) outlines the country's fundamental values and principles. Fiji's National Climate Change Policy, endorsed in 2012, serves as an implementing tool for the objectives and strategies outlined in the *People's charter*. This charter serves as the umbrella framework for national development and the *Roadmap for democracy and sustainable socio-economic development 2009-2014* further defines the implementation framework for the Charter. Within this national framework, the National Climate Change Policy has three objectives:

- Environmental protection, sustainable management and utilization of natural resources;
- Strengthening institutional capacity for environmental management; and
- Strengthening food security.

The REDD+ policy has been integrated into ongoing policy and stakeholder discussions on economic development, land use and forestry and national climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and action plans. Forestry has been recognized 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*

Moreover, Fiji recognizes that healthy forest ecosystems increase the resilience of forest communities through the provision of various ecosystem services and food security.[4] The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) for the land-based sector is in preparation and is expected to be focused on the forestry, water, and agriculture and livestock sectors, as well as terrestrial ecosystems. It will lay out an

[4] IPCC Assessment Report 2007a

approach to identify and implement efficient and effective activities to manage the existing and anticipated consequences of climate change. Fiji is in the process of developing a Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM)'. The JNAP for CCA and DRM and the NCCAS will support the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy. The JNAP for CCA and DRM and the NCCAS will further support the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and will need to be formulated taking into account the national REDD+ policy and evolving REDD+ strategy.

Agriculture is also a key sector that is expected to be adversely affected by climate change but can also make significant contributions to climate change mitigation. In Fiji, practices that increase carbon sequestration and reduce emissions include the use of fuel-efficient farming equipment farming practices that maintain or increase forest cover (agroforestry); minimal soil tillage and soil cover to prevent the release of carbon in soil; reducing the use of fertilizers that can be converted and released as greenhouse gases; and intensification of small scale commercial and subsistence agricultural activities to optimize production. The policy also highlights that by increasing agricultural efficiency, these improved methods can also minimize forest clearance for agriculture.

The National Environment Strategy 1992 sets out the framework on Sustainable Development which Fiji is implementing in the various sectors to achieve environmental protection. Following the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1993, Fiji has committed much effort to raising the awareness level on matters related to climate change. In 1997, the National Climate Change Country Team (NCCCT) was established with representatives from a range of government agencies, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. The team was established primarily to facilitate the development of the 2005 Fiji Initial National Communication (INC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The NCCCT was revived in 2010, and in 2013 was reformed to the National Climate Change Coordinating Committee (NCCCC). The NCCCC serves as the body to coordinate climate change activities and projects of different government agencies. The NCCCC also provides direction and guidance to the Climate Change Unit on the implementation of the climate change policy.

The Climate Change Unit is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy. The Unit was established in the Department of Environment[5] in 2009 and in November 2011, the Unit was moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) to come under the Division of Political and Treaties. The designated national focal point for the UNFCCC was also moved to the Permanent Secretary of MFAIC. The relocation of the Climate Change Unit was a strategic move to strengthen political and national support for climate change activities in Fiji.

In 2008, and in response to growing opportunities in the area of international carbon trading, Cabinet approved the formation of the National Carbon Trading Technical Team (NCTTT) to advise and work closely with the Director of the Department of Environment (DoE) in establishing carbon trading projects as part of voluntary and compulsory carbon trading markets. The MFAIC is now responsible for the NCTTT and in 2012 formulated the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) policy guideline.

Fiji is finalising its National Energy Policy for submission to cabinet in November 2013. One of the policy priorities is to "maintain a comprehensive assessment of Fiji's renewable energy resources, including hydro, wind, solar, biomass and geothermal resources." Over 50% of Fiji's electricity is generated from hydropower (the highest in the region) with plans for expansion, especially for rural electrification. This has implications on forest cover and will be considered in the overall REDD+ preparation. It is encouraging to note that the draft Energy Policy also prioritizes investigations into geothermal energy resources to reduce the reliance on hydro power and petroleum imports and encourages biomass enterprises to feed into the national electricity grid.

Given the range of on-going policy reform, sector and national strategy development, a full review and detailed analysis will need to be undertaken in order to strategically integrate REDD+ objectives into these policies and strategies. This work is described in more detail in sub-component 2a, where it is also budgeted.

[5] of the Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment

| Table 1a: Summary of National Readiness Management Arrangements Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands US$)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Steering Committee | General Committee Meetings | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| | Field Excursions | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| | Travel to international meetings | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | **32** |
| | Regional Travel: "Peer-to-Peer exchanges" | | 12 | 12 | 12 | **36** |
| | Steering Committee Working Groups (Specific Thematic WG Meetings) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| Fiji REDD+ Unit | 1 Manager/Adviser and 2 Technical Officers | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | **680** |
| | Communication Officer | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | **60** |
| | Office/Administration Costs | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | **32** |
| | Adminstration Assistant (based in Forestry) | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| Divisional REDD+ working group | Meetings | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | **8** |
| | Training of members | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| | Travel and field excursions | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| Mainstreaming REDD+ into national institutions, policies and programs | Capacity assessment of institutions involved in REDD+, i.e. institutions represented in SC | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Develop and validate capacity building plan | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Implement capacity building activities and trainings at national institutional level | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 | **50** |
| Total | | **288** | **280** | **270** | **270** | **1,108** |
| Domestic Government | | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | **140** |
| **FCPF** | | 188 | 188 | 230 | 230 | **836** |
| **GIZ** | | 60 | 52 | 10 | 10 | **132** |

# 1b. Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups

**Standard 1b the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups:**

The R-PP presents evidence of the government having undertaken an exercise to identify key stakeholders for REDD-plus, and commenced a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for key relevant stakeholders. The campaign's major objective is to establish an early dialogue on the REDD-plus concept and R-PP development process that sets the stage for the later consultation process during the implementation of the R-PP work plan. This effort needs to reach out, to the extent feasible at this stage, to networks and representatives of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers and forest dependent communities, both at the national and sub-national level. The R-PP contains evidence that a reasonably broad range of key stakeholders has been identified, voices of vulnerable groups are beginning to be heard, and that a reasonable amount of time and effort has been invested to raise general awareness of the basic concepts and process of REDD-plus including the SESA.

## 1b.1 National Multi-stakeholder Workshops

Fiji's first national REDD workshop took place in 2009, funded by SPC/GTZ Pacific-German Regional Program on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (ACCPIR)[6] in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the main national counterparts: the Fiji Forestry Department and the Fiji Department of Environment. This 5-day multi-stakeholder workshop involved over 50 stakeholders from different ministries, resource owners, national and international NGO, private sector and Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies. Workshop participants were trained in strategic and technical aspects of REDD+ and informed of REDD+ policy issues.

One of the main outcomes of this consultation was the drafting of a National REDD+ Policy. The Fiji National REDD+ Policy was developed through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation process. It is a first for the region and the process carried out in Fiji has been hailed as an exemplar for other Pacific countries preparing for REDD-readiness. The development of the REDD+ Policy is part of the Fiji REDD-Readiness program. On 7 December 2010 the Fiji Cabinet endorsed the Fiji National REDD+ Policy. This policy includes language regarding stakeholder engagement and communication on REDD+, training, research, governance and safeguards guidance.

Throughout the development of the REDD+ policy, trust has been built between forestry sector stakeholders, developed over many years of close collaboration when developing related policies, legislations and plans. The open discussions between stakeholders from the early stages facilitated consensus building and saw stakeholders successfully agreeing on the policy framework required for REDD+ to be implemented in Fiji.

Fiji has developed a number of policy documents that not only represent the high level of political commitment to REDD+, but also the widespread involvement of key stakeholders in the REDD+ process. The drafting and validation process for such documents includes rigorous multi-stakeholder participation that has been a continuous feedback loop of learning-by-doing. The presence of a multitude of stakeholders representing different interests helps to pay heed to the multitude of often sensitive issues surrounding REDD+ in Fiji, which include social needs, cultural values, indigenous rights, transparency and good governance, and institutional capacity.

[6] Now called the SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme

## 1b.2 Stakeholder analysis

A stakeholder analysis was carried out early on in Fiji's REDD+ process, during the scoping work that preceded REDD+ policy development. A national planning workshop took place in May 2009, during which a policy stream breakout group focused its attention on the role of different stakeholders in a national REDD+ program. This generated a detailed list of relevant stakeholder groups and also the assignment of recommended roles for each of these groups. In summary, the workshop participants were in agreement that the national REDD+ program needed to be operated in an inclusive manner with particular regard to transparent and effective communications and decisions across different sectors of government. The workshop participants were also in agreement that a national REDD+ program needed to fully engage resource owners and involve them in decision-making processes. It was noted that this would require a communication and education plan as well as awareness-raising activities throughout the REDD+ process.

When new actors or REDD-relevant developments arise, these are taken into account in the REDD+ process through various avenues, e.g. the steering committee holds special meetings where these actors are invited to attend. See Annex 1b for the detailed table outlining the identified stakeholders along with their roles.

Another key result of the May 2009 workshop was the recognition of the need for a national multi-stakeholder governance structure, which led to the creation of the Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee (described in detail in Component 1a).

## 1b.3 Information Sharing and Awareness-Raising

### *Regional Communication*

Leading up and following the endorsement of the Pacific Islands Regional Policy Framework for REDD+, a significant amount of awareness-raising has taken place at the regional level. This is supported by the SPC/GIZ regional project 'Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries' with funding from the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Environment Ministry. Under the above-mentioned SPC/GIZ regional project, a webpage dedicated to REDD+ in Fiji has been created. Numerous documents and reports, including documentation from Fiji's REDD+ pilot sites, can be downloaded from this website. The Pacific Climate Change Portal (www.pacificclimatechange.net) was recently launched at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. This portal also has a page dedicated to Fiji, where information regarding both adaptation and mitigation can be accessed.

The Fiji REDD+ development process has been presented in various regional meetings (like the Regional Heads of Forestry and Agriculture meetings) as a case study for the Pacific. South-south exchanges are also organized by SPC/GIZ. In early June 2013, a UN-REDD+ study tour team from the Solomon Islands visited Fiji to learn from the Fiji REDD+ process. REDD+ development in Fiji was also presented to journalists as part of a REDD+ training workshop during the Pacific regional media meeting in Deuba, Fiji in 2012.

### *National Communication*

At the national level, the REDD+ policy highlights the need for an effective communication and awareness strategy capable of ensuring an efficient, effective and transparent flow of information:

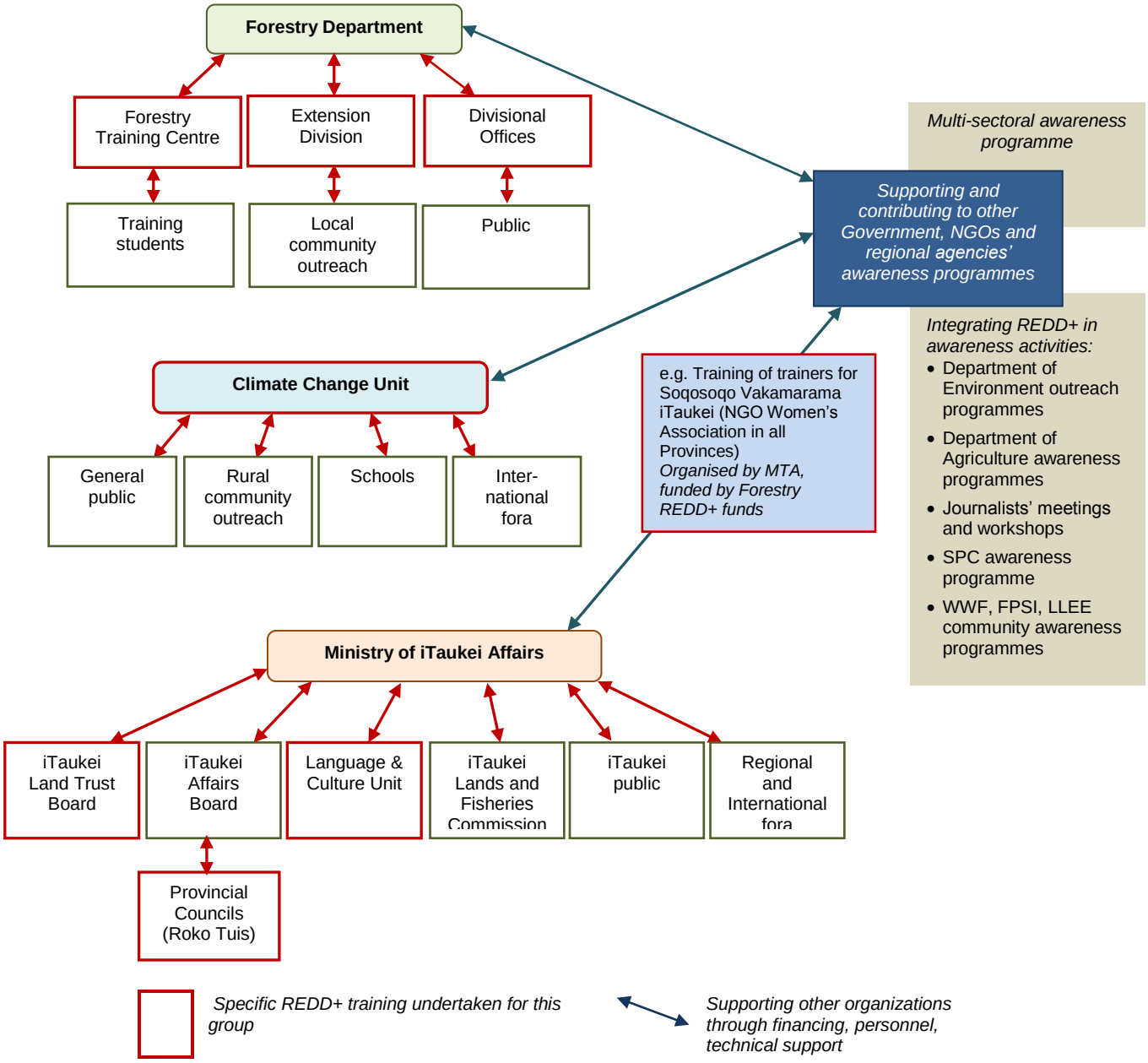
a) among people at the national level (government, industry, non-governmental organisations), local communities, landowners and other stakeholders;

b) between and within government departments and statutory bodies;

c) among national and international bodies and forums to enable more effective international policy and technical engagement.

REDD+ awareness programmes are currently being mainstreamed into various Ministry awareness programmes and communication processes. Examples for the Forestry Department and Climate Change Unit are depicted in Figure 1c below.

*Figure 1g: REDD+ awareness activities currently carried out by Forestry Department, Climate Change Unit and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs*



More than twenty national-level REDD+ stakeholder consultations, awareness-raising workshops and seminars have taken place in Fiji. Please see Annex 1b for a full list of consultation and outreach activities, including the stakeholder participants and subjects discussed. The development of this R-PP included numerous workshops, one day of collaborative work activity planning with the steering committee and four days of broader stakeholder consultation workshops.

The Fiji REDD+ website was launched on 26 October 2013. The website is linked to social media tools such as twitter and facebook. We invite all readers to join the REDD+ Fiji group and stay updated on the latest REDD+ activities throughout the country. The website URL is: http://fiji-reddplus.org

REDD+ issues and news are already disseminated through in other agency newsletters (like TLTB, MTA, CCU) and through the Ministry of Information channels, This will continue to be strengthened by feeding relevant REDD+ news and information through other sector newsletters and other media. A Fiji REDD+ quarterly newsletter is currently under development.

***Local Communication***

Information sharing at the community level is very important for the future success of REDD+, especially due to the current understanding that many drivers are associated with small-scale subsistence land-use activities. Reaching out to local landowners takes place by integrating climate change and REDD+ concepts into on-going government outreach programs. Extensive REDD+ awareness programmes have been undertaken for the national REDD+ pilot site of Emalu and for the villages and landowning clans in the vicinity of the pilot site. Village/community awareness programme are carried out by a multi-sector team which includes Forestry Department, Agriculture Department (Land Use Section), trained landowners, Provincial Office, SPC and GIZ. Regular feedback and information sharing on the progress of REDD+ is also undertaken with the pilot site landowners (example here).

Divisional level awareness programmes targeting key REDD+ stakeholders have also been conducted. In June 2013 an agriculture stakeholder workshop to address forest clearance for agriculture was conducted at the Province of the Emalu REDD+ pilot site. This was attended by the Roko Tui, the Provincial Administrator, the District Officer, Agriculture officers, farmers and landowners (link to article here)

Information sharing with local communities also takes place through non-governmental avenues, such as through NGOs or civil society groups. For example, Live and Learn's REDD+ project in Drawa on Vanua Levu Island includes community education activities regarding the value of forests and the ability of forests to provide important yet non-tangible benefits and ecosystem services other than the potential monetary value of forests that can result from logging activities. Conservation International has been active with their community awareness programme for their project site in Ra. NatureFiji-MareqetiViti is an active local conservation NGO, which has been involved in the national REDD+ process through participation in the REDD+ strategy workshops. NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, has been assisting the Fiji Department of Forests in the communication of the Fiji Forest Policy, capacity building on the valuation of forest based ecosystem services, awareness on the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice and consultations on the establishment of permanent forest estates.

***iTaukei Glossary of Climate Change Terms***

In 2011, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and MFAIC recognized the need to standardise the way information regarding climate change and REDD+ was being developed and translated for indigenous Fijian communities. Certain climate change terms and words were translated differently by different agencies In 2011, the Ministries took the initiative to develop the iTaukei Glossary of Climate Change Terms. This brought together over 40 stakeholders, from language and culture specialists to educators and technical experts, to develop a climate change glossary in the Fijian language. The glossary contains 50 of the most used climate change terms. In the glossary's preface, the Permanent Secretary for iTaukei Affairs,

Savenaca Kaunisela, said the publication is a milestone because resource owners can take an active role in reducing the devastating effects of global warming and climate change.

## 1b.4 Communication Materials

As explained above, communication on REDD+ in Fiji has taken various avenues, through regional, national and local programs and initiatives. There are regular radio talk-back shows, REDD+ booths and information centers are set up during national events, REDD+ panel discussion are held in both national and regional events. Fiji's Forestry Department, with support from the SPC/GIZ has developed a variety of brochures and posters explaining climate change and REDD+ in simple terms and using images of Fiji's forests. All materials have been translated to the iTaukei language. These have been broadly distributed and help raise awareness during and before and after stakeholder meetings.

*Figure 1h: Example REDD+ Brochure*


## 1b.5 Education and Training

### *National agencies*

A main component of awareness-raising for REDD+ is achieved by educating administrative officials and extension officers about climate change and REDD+ so that they can in turn inform the broader population of Fiji, especially when descending into rural areas to speak with local forest communities. Integrating REDD+ into the routine work of government officers has been identified as a core objective of R-PP

implementation, which will in part be achieved through the development of a REDD+ manual for these officers.

The Department of Forestry, TLTB, and the Climate Change Unit has received training on REDD+ which allows them to better integrate elements of REDD+ into the outreach and awareness-raising components of their annual corporate plans (refer to figure 1b). The Forestry extension officers have been raising awareness on REDD+ in their usual community awareness programmes. They have received training on how to communicate REDD+ with the goal of standardizing the messages and communication materials being distributed at the decentralized level. When they go into the provinces to share information regarding their on-going programs, they simultaneously inform communities about REDD+. The officers of the Management Service Division (of the Forestry Department) have undergone training on carrying out forest carbon assessments, GIS and on awareness-raising skills.

***Academic agencies***

REDD+ is in the course syllabus for postgraduate diploma in climate change offered through USP PACE SD and guest lectures on REDD+ are carried out at the Fiji Forestry Training Centre and the Fiji National University.

***Local communities***

The Fiji REDD+ programme supports the capacity building of local communities so they can be actively involved in and directly benefit from REDD readiness activities. For all the surveys conducted in the Emalu REDD+ pilot site, local resource owners and neighbouring landowners were trained and employed as field assistants. The field assistants were trained to assist in the carbon inventory field work, in tree spotting, in assisting with biodiversity sampling, land use mapping, GPS handling and in field observations. These local communities are also very skilled field guides and a source of knowledge for traditional information. Selected Emalu youths were also trained in PRA skills in order to support participatory socio-economic surveys. These youths were valuable as part of the socio-economic survey team given they speak the local dialect and are familiar with the local community dynamics. The development of local experts will continue and work towards the establishment of a local resource pool where these community experts can be used in other sites.

*The Roko Tui (Head of the Provincial Council)*

Regarding outreach to iTaukei land owners and resource users, the *Roko Tui* of the iTaukei Affairs board are the administrators for iTaukei villages. The formal and correct communication channel to the iTaukei villages is through the Provincial Council Office. Therefore, the Rokos need to be well informed on all issues that affect the iTaukei communities.

In December 2012, more than 40 Roko Tuis (Rokos in short), assistant Rokos, and officers from the iTaukei Affairs Board participated in a 2-day Climate Change and Forests awareness and training workshop. This workshop served to better equip them with knowledge on climate change and REDD+ to share with the local communities. Resource persons came from the Forestry Department, the Language Unit of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Conservation International, Live and Learn Environmental Education, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the SPC/GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR) Programme.

*Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei*

A training for the Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei (iTaukei NGO women's group established in all the Provinces) was carried out in October 2013 to especially target iTaukei women. Under the iTaukei land tenure system, registered females hold the same landowning rights as their fellow registered males but

they are often left out of consultations as most women marry out of their villages and reside in other district and provinces, away from their village of birth (where they hold landowning rights).

**The Drawa Model Area for SFM (1994 – 2008)**

In 1994, the Government of Fiji through the Forestry Department,selected the Drawa block as a model site for the implementation of sustainable management prescriptions of native forests in Fiji. Over the next 14 years, the landowners of Drawa were actively involved in the development of their sustainable forest management plan for their natural forests. Extensive training was carried out to ensure the forest owners were equipped with the knowledge and skills to implement.

A multi-disciplinary national SFM steering committee, made up of members from government, NGOs and the private sector, provided the necessary political and technical support to the Drawa project.

Over the years, the Drawa Model area was also referred to as a model for "community-based natural resource management. Though the Project's focus was on sustainable forest management other sector demands, such as agriculture, community development, and food security were seen as high priority to the resource owners. This could be seen as a natural development given that sustainable management forces a holistic approach. A needs and wants analysis carried out with the landowners identified improving food security through crop diversification and cultivation methods as a priority.

The integrated and inter-sectoral participatory approach used in Drawa promoted the active participation of resource owners and also equipped resource persons with skills to on participatory approaches. A major outcome achieved in the participatory planning process was the knowledge gained by landowners to make informed decisions on the use of their land. Technical information like land use capabilities, tree inventory data, soil types, botanical surveys were presented in a simple yet comprehensive format and with cultural social issues considered, landowners identified suitable and sufficient land to be reserved for their future agricultural and other non-timber activities and land for sustainable harvesting.

### *Participation in international climate negotiations*

Fiji emphasizes the participation of REDD+ national stakeholders in international climate change meetings and other relevant international/ regional forums in order to be informed and also contribute to international and regional REDD+ development. A significant result of Fiji's REDD+ program is the engagement of Forestry officials in international climate change negotiations and international policy and technical discussions on REDD+. The increasing prominence of REDD+ in the international agenda and its growing interest nationally saw the Fiji Forestry Department being part of the country delegation to international meetings like the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) COP meetings, and SBSTA. This provides international exposure of Fiji in the REDD+ arena as well as keeping Fiji REDD+ official up to date on international requirements and standards.

## 1b.6 Lessons from other consultation processes

Fiji has strong legal frameworks ensuring landowners rights and interests are protected. The forest policy has its foundations in sustainable forest management, which includes clauses protecting indigenous land and cultural rights. All policy and legislation development regarding forests and climate change, i.e. National Forest Policy, the Forestry Act, the National Climate Change Policy, and especially the REDD+ Policy has followed participatory multi-stakeholder consultations and this is now continuing during the on-going development of the REDD+ Strategy.

It is a legal requirement in Fiji to undertake a consultation process that is validated by the Cabinet in the drafting of national policies. Numerous policy processes in Fiji, including those dealing specifically with climate change and forests, provide important lessons for national consultation that R-PP development and implementation will take into account.

The National Climate Change Policy demonstrates how Fiji has balanced local and national priorities into one policy while the forest policy demonstrates the country's ability to successfully involve all sectors affecting forests, including mining and infrastructure development..

***National Climate Change Policy (endorsed January 2012)***

The development of Fiji's National Climate Change Policy began in April 2010. A climate change policy taskforce made up of members from various sectors and agencies (government, development partners, NGOs, civil society groups) was formed to work on the drafting of the policy document. Extensive divisional and national consultations were undertaken where the climate change policy taskforce was tasked with incorporating and assembling information and comments into a logical policy structure. The taskforce met several times over the course of seven months to draft the policy. Regular consultations with the national climate change country team (now changed to national climate change coordinating committee) were carried out for each ensuing draft till finalisation.

***National Forest Policy (endorsed November 2007)***

An exemplary case for the R-PP is the forest policy, which took 3 years of consultations to develop, including the involvement of multiple sector departments and agencies. The process for drafting the forest policy included stakeholder meetings and workshops, where working groups were formed to cover different sections of the policy. The working groups then always provided feedback to the wider stakeholder fora, presenting on the priority policy areas for their thematic group. The resulting draft then guided further discussions and workshops. Numerous drafts were also circulated to stakeholders for input. Then the process was taken down to a divisional level to include landowners using the traditional Vanua system as part of the consultation process.

***Rural land use policy (endorsed June 2005)***

The development of the Rural Land Use Policy, which included national, divisional and community consultations and multi-stakeholder participation, was a process that took almost 4 years. As a precursor to the policy, a review of rural land use in Fiji was undertaken. The resulting review report serves as an accompaniment to the Rural Land Use Policy. This policy seeks better utilisation of existing landscapes and allocates responsibilities to various government agencies and organisations for its implementation. An important lesson learned from this process was the need to clarify at what scale rural land use planning should be implemented as well as the role of the various actors involved at the different levels. It also highlights the need for a holistic approach where a rural land use plan can only work within a national planning framework. The development of this policy also brought to fore the importance of secure land tenure.

## 1b.7 Issues arising out of REDD+ consultations to date

Experience with REDD+ consultations to date have shown that many questions arise from land owners as they learn about REDD+. Some of the most pressing issues include: Who owns the carbon? Will the land be leased? How soon will they receive payment and how often? How much and how will this be distributed? Will they still have access to their forests? This also demonstrates the interests of landowners and rural populations, which are being taken into account in the development of the REDD+ strategy. In the meantime, these questions are dealt with cautiously as the REDD+ strategy is still in development and many questions cannot be entirely answered until the strategy is completed.

During consultations, the growing competition between various land uses became clear. In the Emalu pilot site, small-scale agriculture by subsistence farmers proved to be the most important driver. Alternative livelihoods will need to be provided in order for REDD+ investments to be effective. Younger generations

may have starkly different expectations for what these alternative livelihoods should be in comparison to their elders. It also became clear that competition between land uses must also be solved at the national level though multi-sectoral land-use planning.

Landowners are often scattered geographically, some living overseas. The representative of a landowning unit or *mataqali*[7] may be living in the urban area without regular interaction with the villages. It is therefore essential that consultation procedures ensure that all mataqali members are kept informed and participate in decision-making. The current practice has the REDD+ carrying out direct consultation with all the registered landowners, with the landowner representative present. The landowner representative may represent the clan in divisional and national meetings and events but decisions are made only through consulting with all mataqali members. This ensures that all the landowners, even if they are widely scattered, are involved in decisions regarding their forests.

Most female mataqali members are overlooked in consultations and discussions because they do not reside in the village and are considered belonging to their husband's family. However, female mataqali members retain landowning rights till death and some even register their children to their mataqali (instead of the customary registration with the father's mataqali). The Emalu pilot site mataqali is made up of almost 80% women. The first consultation carried out had only the male members attending as they thought the women did not need to be involved. However, after explaining that the women hold the same legal and traditional rights, the male members ensured that their female relatives participated in the mataqali meetings. The Fiji REDD+ program requires that all mataqali members are involved all decision-making process and an attendance register and documentation of every meeting should be produced.

Any outstanding land disputes may also be exacerbated through REDD+, as disputes increase as the value of land and its forest carbon is recognized. Various claims of land ownership arise from disputed land registration. Moreover, land owners are often no longer living on the land they own and may have become disconnected from the every-day challenges faced by farmers and rural villages. This discrepancy needs to be accounted for in a way that respects all parties. Another case is where the landowners are not living on or utilizing their forest but the land is used by other clans or groups as agreed through customary arrangements (these can date back many generations). These informal (traditional) agreements are hard to break due to the cultural and kinship ties linked to it. Consultations with these groups will require a sensitive approach so as not to instigate conflict between the parties.

The next sub-component (1c) deals with the issue of consultation and participation of stakeholders towards the future, which is tied in with the 'lessons learned' in this phase of the work. Therefore, it is important to take the above-mentioned issues into account when carrying out the Consultation and Participation Plan described further below.

### *Challenges*

Given Fiji is an archipelago comprised of over 330 islands spread over a large area of ocean, the cost of engaging in intensive education programs and subsequently conducting consultations is quite high. Moving forward, key forest communities, i.e. those engaged in pilot project sites, will play a central role in representing the interests of rural forest communities throughout the country. However, Fijian islands are diverse and stakeholder needs and interests vary, so a wide range of regular consultations will need to occur in order to take these differences into account.

Getting full consensus from all landowning members will also be a challenge given that the members may be residing all over the country and even overseas. Furthermore, most female members reside away from the village and are often caught up with their own family obligations and responsibilities. These demands are considered in the consultation plan.

[7] Mataqali are traditional iTaukei social units and are most often the recognized customary land owning group in Fiji.

## 1b.8 Work Plan

Moving forward, there are a number of activities that can further improve the information sharing and dialogue with stakeholders, which will further support effective stakeholder engagement during the implementation of the Consultation and Participation Plan.

### *i) Engaging gender and vulnerable groups*

The vulnerable groups in Fiji who must be given special consideration in the context of REDD+ include women, isolated coastal communities, villages in remote rural areas, forest-dependent communities, mangrove dwellers and rural youths. Furthermore, the iTaukei tenure arrangement has women having equal land rights as their fellow male mataqali members. However, as most women are married out of the village, efforts will need to be made to ensure their participation in REDD+ decision-making processes. A study is proposed in order to analyse more closely how best to engage these groups during the consultations and whether special measures must be taken into account in order to better address the needs of these groups.

*1b.8(i) Develop guidelines for carrying out gender/vulnerable group analysis for REDD+ communities*

| MILESTONES | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| An assessment of existing gender/vulnerable group analysis approaches and appropriateness for REDD+ communities in Fiji completed | | x | | | | | | |
| A draft guideline on “gender analyses/vulnerable group of REDD+ communities” is developed | | | x | | | | | |
| The draft guideline for “gender/vulnerable group analysis for REDD+ communities in Fiji” is piloted in pilot sites | | | | x | | | | |
| The “gender vulnerable group analysis for REDD+ in Fiji” is finalized, endorsed, translated, published and disseminated | | | | | x | | | |

### *ii) Developing a communication strategy*

A communication strategy for REDD+ will be developed in order to document what has happened already and identify the most successful communication tools. Please see Annex 1b for a table that shows the results of the scoping work done prior to the REDD+ policy development. An important component of communication in Fiji is the translation of awareness materials into iTaukei and Hindi. The iTaukei glossary of climate change terms has been successful in standardizing translations and a Hindi glossary will be developed this year. In order to ensure communication with non-English speakers continues during R-PP implementation, a budget line has been dedicated specifically to translation.

*1b.8(ii) Develop a communication strategy to support effective and efficient communication of REDD+ through all institutional hierarchies, across all sectors and agencies and with extensive community outreach*

| MILESTONES | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| A communications expert contracted to support the development of the communication strategy on REDD+ | | x Nov | | | | | | |
| REDD+ communication strategy drafted through broad stakeholder consultations | | | x Mar | | | | | |
| REDD+ communication strategy finalized and endorsed | | | | x | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Apr | | | | |
| Awareness materials in the iTaukei language and Hindi produced | | x | | x | | x | | x |

### *iii) Continued education and awareness raising in communities*

During consultations for the development of the R-PP, stakeholders highlighted the need for continued education and awareness-raising regarding REDD+ at the community level. As explained above, the Roko Tui, TLTB estate officers, Provincial Administrators, NGOs, as well as all extension officers play an important role in reaching out to communities because they are considered the direct link to these communities. During R-PP implementation, the Rokos will be continuously trained and educated on REDD+ related issues so that they can act as trainers and inform communities and the broader population about REDD+. There is also a budget allocated specifically to community education in order to provide the additional resources these Rokos and extension officers will need for the purposes of R-PP implementation. A SC Technical Working Group will be created for education, which will be in charge of identifying the range of educational capacity building needed for successful implementation of REDD+ at the national level, suitable educational delivery agencies, and potential resourcing for such educational delivery. This Working Group will also identify training needs of different stakeholders, training delivery agencies (including in-country capacity, outsourcing, and training capacity building), training costs, potential sources of additional funding, and synergies with other related training programs.

A manual will be developed so that Rokos, government officers, community facilitators and other organizations can refer to this manual as a field guide when reaching out to communities. This will allow officers and resource persons to answer questions regarding REDD+ in a standardized way when communicating with local stakeholders. Common questions and answers regarding REDD+ will be included. The budget also allows for this manual to be updated half way through R-PP implementation in order to account for any potential changes or further developments in REDD+.

*1b.8(iii) Ensure that REDD+ information and advice imparted by sector agencies and community facilitators is accurate, coherent and consistent*

| MILESTONES | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| A resource pool of skilled community facilitators/trainers (Rokos, extension officers TLTB, Forestry, and Agriculture, NGOs, faith-based organizations etc.) for REDD+ awareness-raising and education is established | | | x | | | | | |
| A Fiji REDD+ guidebook is drafted (with contributions from community facilitators and government extension and field officers) and trialed in the field | | | x | | | | | |
| Fiji REDD+ guide book finalized, published, translated and disseminated | | | x | | | | | |

### *iv) Research*

The Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS) of the University of the South Pacific (USP) has been extensively involved in REDD+, participating in national planning workshops as well as conducting important research on the REDD+ pilot sites. USP has provided expert biodiversity assessments of the Emalu pilot site, which not only helps in identifying the important biodiversity co-benefits of REDD+, but also advances the biodiversity protection strategies and action plans at the national level. The research team is made up of national experts and graduate students, building the national and regional capacity for understanding the Pacific islands' complex and unique ecosystem structure. Moving forward, these biodiversity assessments will be up-scaled, throughout Fiji. Fiji's REDD+ program includes a research component in order for the important research findings regarding REDD+ to be published in international journals and shared with a larger scientific and academic community. Research also helps to identify data, information, and knowledge gaps for the successful implementation of the Fiji REDD+ Programme. All research data and

analysed information will contribute to National Forest Monitoring System database, managed by the Management Services Division of the Forestry Department.

The Forestry Department Nakavu Research site and Drawa model area provides useful information on SFM prescriptions. The Emalu and REDD+ pilot sites are current the sites for testing forest carbon stock measurement methodologies and forest stratification applications. Fiji is aiming to achieve tier 2 to tier 3 level reporting. For this to be reached extensive research to obtain country specific carbon values and tree/forest carbon allometry will need to be undertaken.

The SPC Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees aims to assist Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to conserve the region's genetic resources, and to provide access to the diversity they need, when they need it. Conservation is the core business of the centre.

*1b.8(iii) Produce latest research data and information to guide REDD+ implementation*

| **MILESTONES** | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Biodiversity indicators developed for national monitoring | | x | | | | | | |
| Protocols on data ownership, sharing and communication established | | x | | | | | | |
| Research findings and reports discussed with land owners and local communities and published | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| REDD+ research findings and reports translated to easy understandable language and disseminated | | x | | x | | x | | x |
| National defaults for forest carbon measurement determined | | | x | | | | | |
| Seminar held on REDD+ research in Fiji | | x | | x | | x | | x |

| Table 1b: Summary of Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Development of guidelines for gender and vulnerable groups analysis for REDD+ | Guideline Development | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Translation, Publication and Dissemination | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | **60** |
| Communication Strategy | Consultancy for development of communication strategy | 15 | 10 | | | **25** |
| | Translation and publication of materials into iTaukei and Hindi | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | **50** |
| | Dissemination and Awareness through various media forms | 20 | 15 | 15 | 15 | **65** |
| Community Awareness-raising and education | Training of trainers for*Rokos, TLTB, Ext Officers, NGOs* | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | **48** |
| | Community education programmes | 20 | 20 | 15 | 15 | **70** |
| | REDD+ guidebook for officers | 15 | 15 | | | **30** |
| REDD+ Research Programme | Support for USP and Forestry Department to carry out and publish biodiversity assessment and research | 20 | 25 | 20 | 20 | **85** |
| **Total** | | **152** | **127** | **87** | **87** | **453** |
| Domestic Government | | 47 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **77** |
| FCPF | | 20 | 52 | 62 | 62 | **196** |
| GIZ | | 85 | 65 | 15 | 15 | **180** |

# 1c. Consultation and Participation Process

**Standard 1c the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**Consultation and Participation Process:**

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP; (v) and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.

## 1c.1 Consultation and Participation Plan development

Extensive participatory multi-stakeholder consultations and seminars have been conducted since 2009. Following the endorsement of the REDD+ Policy, the consultation process for the development of the REDD+ strategy began, as outlined in its 3-staged approach to REDD+. These included focused workshop sessions on subjects like forest carbon rights, addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, benefit distribution sharing, FPIC guidelines and training workshops on the technical monitoring components. These consultations followed the guidelines on consultations that are described in the Fiji REDD+ Policy and the other documents. Moving forward, there needs to be further analysis and documentation of all consultations to date and the issues that have been discussed and/or raised by the stakeholder groups, including an indication how possible concerns have been addressed and taken into consideration in the design and formulation of the REDD+ strategy options.

The Consultation and Participation Plan below will help to institutionalize this required documentation and analysis process moving forward, in order to ensure that the outcomes of each consultation is maximized and the information generated is captured in a standard and transparent way. This will help stakeholders to clearly see how their inputs influence the further development of Fiji's REDD+ strategy, thus providing further encouragement for remaining involved in REDD+ into the future. Given REDD+ implementation in Fiji and access to performance-based payments may take years to materialize, it is important that stakeholders perceive the value of their continued participation in REDD+ activities.

In December 2012 the first drafting of the R-PP started. The R-PP drafting process intensified in May and June 2013 and this included a special steering committee meeting to work draft the budget and workplan and a series of national stakeholder consultation meetings to further develop specific components of the draft RPP.

On June 18th, a full day broad stakeholder workshop was dedicated to Component 1 of the R-PP, during which the Consultation and Participation (C&P) Plan as presented below was collectively developed. This C&P Plan was shared with the Steering Committee in its entirety on July 18th, when stakeholders held a final discussion on whether any changes were required before submission to the FCPF. The C&P Plan is therefore considered validated and properly addressed the issues raised by stakeholders.

## 1c.2 Context: Forest-based communities as key stakeholder

Due to the large percentage of customary land ownership in Fiji (almost 90%of the total land area), forest carbon financing must ensure that the interests and rights of resource owners are fully considered. Clarification over forest carbon property rights must be provided. A guideline for the implementation of REDD+ projects (described in sub-component 2c) will serve as a template both at national and sub-

national level and promote the accountability and transparency of REDD+ projects. This guideline will include strict consultation requirements.

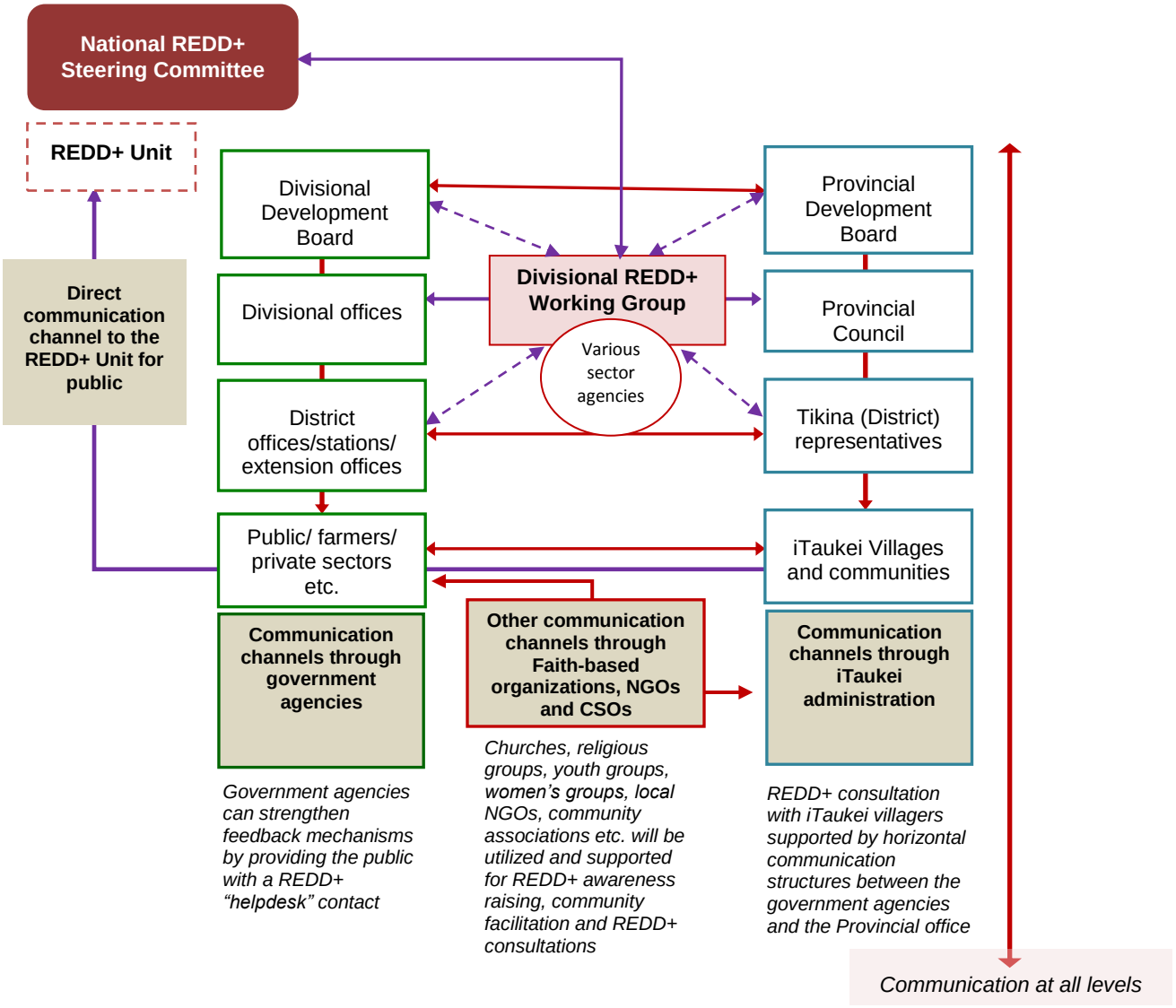
Traditional Fijian society is based on communal principles derived from village life. The villagers share the obligations and rewards of community life and are still led by a hereditary chief. They work together in the preparation of feasts and in the making of gifts for presentation on various occasions, and they all help in communal activities such as the building of homes and maintenance of pathways and shared agricultural lands. This serves to act as a caretaking system that allows no-one to go hungry or uncared for and provides a communal sense of identity and belonging.

However, these cultural norms can also be restrictive for the individual and serve to hamper entrepreneurial spirit and competition in the marketplace. The introduction of carbon quantification and selling of carbon credits must be dealt with very carefully when approaching these communities. Significant time and effort has gone into the development of the Consultation and Participation Plan, but the Plan is in no way considered final. It must be continuously adapted according to the experiences in the field. Improvements to the consultation and participation approaches should be made regularly, depending on the needs and understanding of those being consulted. Amongst the key safeguards identified in the REDD+ policy, Fiji will strive to:

- ensure all REDD+ initiatives and projects protect and respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples (as stated in UNDRIP and UNCSICH and other international instruments);
- provide for the full and effective participation of indigenous people and other relevant stakeholders;
- equitably distribute REDD+ benefits to rights owners;
- consider gender issues in all phases of decision-making and implementation; seek to enhance other social and environmental benefits; and
- ensure these initiatives and projects complement and are consistent with the objectives of the Fiji Sustainable Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) and relevant international conventions and agreements.

Given the centrality of iTaukei landowners as well as those living on iTaukei lands to REDD+ in Fiji, the C&P Plan is in part based upon iTaukei Administrations and institutions. Each Province is governed by a provincial council that is headed by the Roko Tui. The 14 iTaukei Provinces align administrative programs to the Government Administrative Division. A sub-unit of the Province is the tikina or district. The most basic administrative unit in modern Fijian community is the village (koro), led by a village headman. The Figure illustrates how the iTaukei Administration fits in with the Government Administrations.

*Figure 1i: National REDD+ communication structures in Divisions and Provinces*



## 1c.3 Consultation and Participation Plan

This plan builds upon the experience with consultations on REDD+ to date as well as other Government consultation processes, including those of the iTaukei institutions. The goal of the 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 would help to minimize 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. REDD+ priorities must be integrated to the best extent possible into the regular stakeholder consultations taking place in Fiji.

The consultation and participation plan has been designed following the FCPF and UN-REDD Joint Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness and is structured according to those guidelines and the eight practical steps provided in the latest version of the R-PP template.

***Phase 1: Definition of the desired outcomes of the consultation (2013)***

The desired outcomes of the consultation differ per stakeholder group (see sub-Component 1b for the list of stakeholder groups) but in general, good consultation increases benefits from REDD+ activities, promotes local and national ownership, reduces the risk of failure and is therefore a sound investment to garner support for future REDD+ implementation. Generally speaking, it is desired that stakeholder consultation and participation becomes a constant and integral part of the REDD+ planning and implementation phase.

Regarding land owners, the objective is to achieve consensus for REDD+ activities following the FPIC principles (see FPIC guidelines below). A fundamental requirement of FPIC is the need to fully inform and educate stakeholders on REDD+ and transparently communicate how REDD+ will affect current livelihoods and secure future needs. As the FPIC process must begin as early as possible, a significant amount of information sharing has already taken place (see Component 1b). The objective for consultations with landowners includes identifying and highlighting the link between REDD+ and certain traditional practices of land owners, receiving input for the development of the REDD+ strategy. Local stakeholders can be an important source of knowledge, information, and labor for the implementation of REDD+ activities, including participatory mapping, impact assessment and inventory work.

Other stakeholders, such as NGOs and government agencies, are also important sources of knowledge. The stakeholder consultation process provides an opportunity to identify how each stakeholder can contribute to the REDD+ activities, their motivation for doing so and how to ensure support for the initiatives. The goal is to involve these stakeholders depending on their expertise, e.g. involve conservation NGOs or USP to provide expertise on biodiversity impacts and the Fiji Museum (with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs) in identifying culturally significant sites.

Another desired outcome is the reinforcement of grievance redress mechanisms in order to adapt them to the requirements of REDD+. It will be important to consult on this in order to ensure these are designed in line with priorities of local people and their traditional customs. Discussions are currently underway on the development of a REDD+ lease that will include obligations of the involved parties.

***Phase 2: Identification of the stakeholders and the issues to consult on (2013)***

The stakeholder assessment is described in sub-component 1b. However, a more critical assessment of who is representing these stakeholder groups will be required during C&P. During the 2009 REDD+ Scoping Workshop, participants pointed out the responsibility among resource owner representatives to ensure that they are indeed representing the best interests of resource owners in a transparent manner. This will require all stakeholder representatives to mobilize their own communication networks in order to generate a mandate from the bottom up, and also to distribute information from the top down. The on-going communication activities described in the previous sub-component 1b will help to achieve this.

Featured prominently in national-level discussions on REDD+ so far is the need to put in place structures to ensure equitable benefits accrue to indigenous forest resource owners. In addition, the need to put in place regulatory frameworks and REDD+ guidelines to ensure transparency and good governance of REDD+ projects has been stressed. Stakeholders recognize the need to further develop their capacities to better understand the different facets of REDD+ ranging from technical requirements needed to carry out carbon stock assessments to the international policy processes involving REDD+. These issues will be taken on-board in the drafting of the REDD+ strategy and support of relevant agencies to develop technical capacities of non-governmental organizations to implement REDD+ projects.

A number of issues for consultation have been identified already in the past couple of years in the outreach and consultation efforts that have been undertaken. Stakeholder groups have priorities other than REDD+, and these priorities must be considered in order to engage them in the REDD+ process. For instance, at household level families will be concerned with income and the labor intensity of engagement in REDD+ activities, whilst environmental NGOs may be more concerned with impacts on biodiversity of REDD+ activity types.

Steps 2 and 3 in the FCPF and UN-REDD guidelines have been combined as the issues to consult upon depend on the stakeholder being consulted. Each stakeholder group will have concerns about the design or implementation of the activity and will want reassurance, through the consultation and outreach process that these concerns are appreciated and that efforts are made to address them. Table 1 below lists the various stakeholder groups, together with some of the priority issues that can be anticipated. Table 1 also includes the methods of consultation or engagement, bearing in mind that for instance, not all government agencies or local communities will have the same priority issues. For each specific situation input has to be invited from the local stakeholder groups in the design and implementation phase. In addition, consultation processes are also important instruments to get stakeholder groups to take ownership of the REDD+ activities and to take away any possible resistance towards the intended initiatives. For each stakeholder/group the level of influence over the success of the REDD+ activity needs to be determined in order to decide the appropriate engagement strategy for each stakeholder/group

*Table 2: Fiji REDD+ Stakeholder groups, priority issues and engagement tools*[8]

| STAKEHOLDERS | PRIORITY ISSUES | ENGAGEMENT TOOLS |
|---|---|---|
| **Local communities** | • Income generating opportunities (financial return)<br>• Forest boundary delineation<br>• Land use allocation and use rights<br>• Training and capacity building (to participate in the project)<br>• Benefit sharing mechanisms<br>• Forest access (traditional use); firewood supply<br>• Access to clean water<br>• Health & Sanitation<br>• Education<br>• Infrastructure & energy<br>• Finance literacy and setting up of trust fund<br>• Regular awareness and visits<br>• Lack of arable land<br>• FPIC – wide and inclusive consultations | • Hold regular participatory consultations and community workshops<br>• Utilize Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools<br>• Communicate via mass media especially via local (iTaukei and Hindi) radio stations<br>• Involve landowner reps in working groups<br>• Organise for resource owners to visit to pilot sites and REDD+ communities<br>• Include landowners in national meetings and events<br>• Put in place regular community awareness programme involving the Rokos, asssistant Rokos, the provincial conservation officer and extension officers of he various sectors |

[8] Amended after FAO (2012) - and tailored to the Fiji situation - from RAP publication 2012/16: “Community guidelines for accessing forestry voluntary carbon markets”

| STAKEHOLDERS | PRIORITY ISSUES | ENGAGEMENT TOOLS |
|---|---|---|
| | • Roles of different stakeholders<br>• Expectations from local community – their role<br>• To be informed of experiences from other REDD+ projects | • Conduct community school visits/awareness<br>• Support and utilize the Yaubula Committee[9] |
| **Private sector / Industry** | • Employment opportunities<br>• Income generation – profit margin<br>• Specific skills and knowledge sharing<br>• Sustainability of venture<br>• Granting of logging licence<br>• Access to forest<br>• Training on viability of REDD+<br>• Carbon rights | • Include private sector in REDD+ consultations and relevant working groups<br>• Conduct thematic REDD+ workshops and seminars to private sector groups<br>• REDD+ team to participate in trade fairs (Expo, showcase)<br>• REDD+ to be an agenda in private sector conferences<br>• Identify potential "Corporate Social Responsibility" opportunities with the private sector and most especially tourism sector<br>• Establish communication line through line Ministries of industry statutory bodies (FHCL, FPL, Fiji sawmillers association)<br>• Provide regular feedback to the Chamber of Commerce |
| **Non-governmental organizations / Civil society organisations** | • Project design consultation<br>• Land use allocation and use rights<br>• Training and capacity building of NGO, local community and government counterparts<br>• Alignment of activities to NBSAP (conservation NGOs) and other national policies and plans<br>• Funding support to implement activities<br>• Accuracy of information relayed<br>• Synergies with REDD+ programme<br>• Regular involvement and partnership<br>• Involved in M&E<br>• Information sharing<br>• FPIC<br>• Ensuring livelihood of community<br>• Sustainability of project at the site<br>• Data gathering<br>• Gender issues considered | • Conduct focus group meetings and workshops<br>• Invite/support participation of NGOs in REDD+ related conferences, workshops and trainings<br>• Involve NGOs in working groups, stakeholder consultations, and in the development of community guidelines and procedures<br>• Organise site visits for NGO groups<br>• Encourage regular information and data sharing and lessons learned between NGO community projects and REDD+ projects<br>• Collaborate with line Ministries to coordinate activities with NGOs<br>• Facilitate agreements & MoUs with NGOs for the implementation of REDD+ activities<br>• Involve NGOs in National priority programmes |

[9] The iTaukei Yaubula Committee is a committee with the Provincial Council that serves to provide support for the implementation of natural resource management activities

| STAKEHOLDERS | PRIORITY ISSUES | ENGAGEMENT TOOLS |
|---|---|---|
| **Government agencies** | • Consultation on the design of the REDD+ activity<br>• Contribution to economy and GDP<br>• Employment opportunities<br>• Mapping<br>• Forest boundary delineation<br>• Land use allocation and carbon rights<br>• Training and capacity building<br>• Sustainability of programme – long term funding<br>• Alignment with RDSSED (Roadmap for democracy to sustainable socio-economic development, 2010 – 2014)<br>• Coordination with other sectors<br>• Synergy with government and private sectors<br>• Landowner benefits<br>• Benefits to country/government<br>• Meeting international obligations (e.g multi-lateral environment agreements)<br>• REDD+ programme to be apolitical<br>• Compliance with national legislations and regulations<br>• Cost-sharing between Ministries<br>• Benefit distribution<br>• Awareness and training in Departments<br>• Relevance of REDD+ in Ministry's core business and ACP<br>• Reference level for Fiji's carbon accounting | • Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops<br>• Develop promotional/informational material relevant for each government sector<br>• Have different government agencies as members of expert working groups and further develop in this regard<br>• Align REDD+ activities closely with the RDSSED<br>• Member of the National REDD+ Steering Committee and the Divisional REDD+ Working Groups<br>• Link to national executive boards like FB, NEC, NCCCC, iTAB, iTLTB<br>• Support and utilize the iTaukei ni Yaubula Committee<br>• Include REDD+ activities in the Ministries annual corporate plans (ACP) and provide direct budget allocation to Ministry for implementation<br>• Develop communication strategy between Ministries<br>• Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes<br>• Train government officers on various REDD+ related areas from policy level to technical to community facilitation<br>• Support Fiji climate change negotiating team on REDD+ issues<br>• Establish a multi-agency REDD+ awareness team<br>• Develop close links with the Ministry of Information for the coverage of REDD+ events and dissemination of information to all government agencies |
| **Academic institutions** | • GIS facility<br>• Training and capacity building<br>• Specific skills and knowledge sharing<br>• Education - scholarship<br>• Research - field assessments, studies<br>• Information gathering and sharing<br>• Funding and equipment<br>• Baseline work<br>• Contribution to courses and curriculum | • Organise focus group meetings and workshops<br>• Support academic research on REDD+ related fields<br>• Invite academics to present in REDD+ conferences – national and international<br>• Involve academics in in working groups<br>• Co-organise technical trainings and workshops<br>• Regularly deliver presentations on REDD+ development in lectures and events<br>• Utilise Fiji REDD+ website to post papers and reports of interest to academics<br>• Encourage student attachments and |

| STAKEHOLDERS | PRIORITY ISSUES | ENGAGEMENT TOOLS |
|---|---|---|
| | | student exchange programmes<br>• Encourage scholars to take up research and studies in REDD+ pilot sites<br>• Encourage University –to – University agreements and partnerships<br>• Engage academic institutions for local consultancies and literature review<br>• Involve academic institutions as resource persons in awareness and training programme |

***Phase 3: Consultations required for R-PP Components (2013 - 2014)***

Consultations will be required during the realization of many of the activities planned for Component 2. It is important to incorporate the views of local stakeholders into analytical work at the earliest stage possible. Field visits and ground-truthing will be required during the assessment of the drivers. Assessing drivers includes both technical remote-sensing approaches but also the collection of socioeconomic, environmental and cultural data associated with the drivers. Once the drivers study has been completed, this will need to be validated by stakeholders, which is another point at which various degrees of consultations will be required. Moreover, stakeholders will need to be consulted in order to collect the data relevant for Component 2. For example, biodiversity experts from USP and conservation-based NGOs and cultural heritage experts from Fiji Museum and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs will need to be consulted.

At the next stage, consultations will be required for a comprehensive and inclusive development of the strategy options to address the drivers identified and accepted. The development of the REDD+ strategy is the core of the C&P plan. During the development and assessment of strategy options (sub-component 2b), it will be important to conduct local consultations in order to better understand how REDD+ activities can build upon traditional and sustainable agricultural practices, as well as how farmers think REDD+ may impact food and water security.

These consultations will also serve as the cornerstone for the SESA. More detailed descriptions of the issues that require consultation is in sub-component 2d. Here it should be noted that the implementation of the C&P plan is the main means through which the SESA will be carried out. During the consultations, stakeholders will be asked to give their understanding of the most important social and environmental risks associated with the different REDD+ strategy options and these will inform the results of the SESA. It is important to streamline these processes so that the consultations and communication with stakeholders is consistent and straight-forward. However, many will not fully understand REDD+ and may not have a clear opinion about the risks, SESA cannot only be built on consultations. The SESA will triangulate findings from the C&P with other sources of information (secondary data, consultation of third parties involved in community work, analysis of initiatives that are similar to REDD in the way they affect local communities) with the findings of the consultations.

Stakeholders involved with the development and implementation of the technical components of the R-PP (3 and 4) include amongst others SOPAC, FD and USP. A significant amount of training and consultation has already taken place amongst these stakeholders and this will need to continue during R-PP implementation. The C&P plan is also a tool for evaluating the progress of R-PP implementation, which will help to carry out the monitoring and evaluation detailed in Component 6.

*a) Definition of the terms of consultation*

- Landowners need to be educated about REDD+ in an objective way. Community facilitators need to recognize that they are coming in with a perspective that is biased towards REDD+.

The goal is to inform and educate landowners enough so that their decision for whether or not to participate in REDD+ is a fully informed decision.

- The Provincial Office and TLTB should be involved in all stages of consultations with *iTaukei* landowners
- It may be difficult to speak directly with all land owners, representatives of different stakeholder groups will need to be consulted. It is important to ensure that these representatives truly represent the interests of those on whose behalf they are speaking. Gender concerns will be specifically addressed in this regard.
- Consult with communities in the vicinity of the project site
- Traditional protocols and etiquette will be respected at all times. This includes the proper use of language, dress code, following formal communication channels via the Provincial Council, and a timely request for a consultation before any discussions take place.
- Vernacular language will be used and where necessary, REDD+ will be explained using images, illustrations, and presentations.
- Explanations will strive to be simple yet comprehensive and accurate and build upon any previous community consultations in order not to be repetitive.
- All information shared will be standardized through the development of field guides or manuals (budgeted under Component 1b), so that the same messages are being shared with all.
- The consultation process will be continuously improved, integrating the feedback as the C&P plan is carried out. If certain things are not explained clearly enough, then explanations will need to be improved for the next time.
- Local facilitators who know the people and area will be used at all times in order for them to conduct the consultations in the most appropriate and respectful manner. If outsiders are present during the consultations, then they will act more as observers without an active role.
- Verification of mataqali members before consultations
- Monitoring and evaluation plan for each consultation to assess the effectiveness of the consultation(for other stakeholders develop from engagement tools)
- All consultations and documentation should be reported to the REDD+ SC secretariat

***Phase 4: Selection of consultation and outreach approaches (2013 – 2014)***

In order to reach all relevant stakeholders, a variety of outreach channels will need to be used. Consultation materials depend on the audience that is being reached out to. Knowledge of local dynamics and social capital is critical prior to initiating consultations in order to ensure that the proper outreach methods are being employed. As the outreach channels differ significantly, it will be important to coordinate the different consultation methods and ensure that there are streamlined in how the information is shared but also in how the information received is taken up and fed into the R-PP implementation process. The following highlights the main types of consultations that will be conducted, which is not necessarily restricted to these:

Provincial Councils: Each of Fiji's fourteen Provinces has a Provincial Office, headed by a Roko Tui and supported by an assistant Roko and a Provincial conservation officer. The Rokos coordinate the Provincial Councils, which bring together landowner representatives (Tikina), government officials, forestry and agriculture officers, relevant NGOs, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and TLTB. Women are represented in these councils by the head of the women's group (*soqosoqo vakamarama*) and regulations state that at least one person under age thirty will attend meetings to represent the youth on these councils.

A trained REDD+ resource team will be facilitators going to these Provincial Councils or other fora to share the message about REDD+ and collect feedback. Agriculture, and TLTB officers will also be trained in a

similar way, enabling these extension officers to conduct consultations on REDD+ as well. This may be expanded to include other sector entities and officers in the future, depending on the outcome of the analytical work undertaken in Component 2.

Including other administrators or government agencies will be imperative in order to reach the non-iTaukei Fijians, who are not represented in the above-mentioned Provincial Councils. The majority of non-iTaukei rural Fijians are lease holders or farmers and therefore have regular contact with the extension service officers in their respective Districts. The resources and knowledge capacity of the extension services will be reinforced in order for the consultations to be carried out effectively.

Some cross-cutting outreach methods and conduits include:

- Advisory Councils (for non-iTaukei ethnic groups)
- Town/City Council programmes, events, carnivals
- District Offices: Under the Ministry of Provincial Development
- Schools and education curriculum
- Media/Journalists– use of TV, newspapers, radio (translated into vernacular languages); media workshops
- Fiji REDD+ website and REDD+ facebook
- Stakeholder websites
- Churches and other faith-based organisations
- Local women & youth groups
- Governmental exhibitions, awareness programmes,road shows, and linking to celebrations of international events (e.g. World Food Day, World Water Day)
- Lease holders associations / cane growers association, dairy cooperative,
- Informal Communication channels: Getting information across to landowners takes time and in the end may be best achieved through the traditional ways of informal get- together sessions

***Phase 5: Ensuring that stakeholders have sufficient capacity to engage fully and effectively in consultations (2010 – 2017)***

During the development of this C&P plan, it was emphasized that REDD+ related issues should be integrated into Fiji's education system, as climate change adaptation materials already are. Explanations for some of the simple concepts of climate change and the role of forests in both climate change adaptation and mitigation can be included in school curricula. Stakeholders acknowledge REDD+ is a technically and politically complex mechanism, and the education and training is an on-going challenge. Significant efforts in education and awareness-raising have been made throughout the process with the goal of allowing stakeholders to contribute to the discussions. As REDD+ was a new issue in Fiji, a capacity building process was also carried out alongside consultations. This included training workshops and seminars on REDD+ and information sharing through electronic networking and group meetings. A summary table of the educational activities is in Annex 1b.

When conducting consultations with land owners, there is a need to create links to concepts that are meaningful for them and that REDD+ is explained in a holistic way, not simply in terms of the carbon capacity of trees. For example, REDD+ needs to relate food security, land access security, the role of forest resources in improving resilience to climate change.

***Phase 6: Conduct the consultation (2014)***

REDD+ consultations need to be integrated into existing or ongoing structures, which include Provincial Offices and Councils, Rokos, Forestry, TLTB and Agriculture extension services as described above. In the short term, these consultations will be conducted on the seven islands that currently have forest inventories. These seven islands cover roughly 85% of the land area in Fiji and are the islands holding the majority of forests.

Specific activities that will be undertaken for each (series of) consultation/s include:

- "Training of trainers"; for those who will conduct the actual consultations – one particular consultation may need to be repeated various times for instance on various islands or with multiple communities. This also includes the development of manuals for trainers;
- Development of consultation and information materials (training modules, flyers, handouts, etc.) in addition to those already developed under component 1b;
- Engaging co-consulting agencies: for instance, if multiple government agencies need to be represented at a certain consultation event, or NGOs need to make presentations, etc.

***Phase 7: Analyze and disseminate results (2014 - 2015)***

Records of consultations and reports on the outcomes of consultations and how these have been addressed in the relevant R-PP work must be kept in a central location. A central database in the Forestry Department will be created in order to ensure the proper documentation of all the consultations. The Communication Officer explained in more detail in sub-component 1a will play a key role in this documentation process. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or a simple manual for what and how to document will be created in order to ensure all consultations are documented in the same way. Moreover, this will ensure that any other person will be able to easily understand how to continue documentation, which is especially important for future changes in staff. Data and information management capacity will need to be strengthened in order to ensure that records are systematically catalogued and archived given the anticipated high influx of information as Fiji progresses with its REDD+ preparations.

Stakeholders must feel safe to express their concerns and wishes and therefore, procedures for the disclosure of information must be drawn up, made known, and be adhered to at all times. The SOPs that will be developed under this sub-component regarding the disclosure of information will be consistent with the FCPF guidelines issued for this topic.

In terms of analysis, this will happen at many different stages: during the consultations as the facilitators weed out or identify the most important information, this will then be discussed with other facilitators and stakeholders. The facilitator will write a report with the main results of the consultations which will be documented. In the Steering Committee, a Working Group will be created in order to address the results of the consultations and present these again on a regular basis to the entire Steering Committee. Decisions will be made about the results of the consultations regularly and as necessary and efforts will be made to integrate these results into the national REDD+ process.

As described in the previous sub-component, there are many on-going information sharing campaigns at the regional, national and local levels, such as the creation of the iTaukei Glossary of Climate Change Terms. Depending on the consultation, the results will be disseminated in the various existing media platforms. A variety of newsletters already include regular articles about REDD+ and the advancements at the regional and local levels. If isolated stakeholders do not have regular access to these channels, special arrangements will be made in order to deliver the results to them in an appropriate manner.

***Phase 8: Feedback (2016)***

Once the consultation on a particular subject is completed it is important to close the loop by providing feedback and information to those consulted how their input and possible concerns have been taken into consideration and how that has affected the programming of any REDD+ activity. This feedback loop is of

paramount important for the transparency of the process, as well as the trust and the general relationship between all the players.

### 1c.4 Development of FPIC Guidelines

The Emalu REDD+ pilot site has been developed for the purpose of testing different elements of REDD+ and engaging local communities in early dialogues. The local communities have also been engaged in numerous consultations in order to ensure the REDD+ activities are co-developed in a participatory manner. The pilot site is also an area where the concept of free, prior, informed consent (FPIC) for REDD+ has been tested in order to adapt FPIC guidelines to the context of REDD+ in Fiji. Moving forward, the Forestry Department plans to document the lessons learned from this pilot site and develop guidelines that can be used for REDD+ at the national level in other REDD+ projects and initiatives. It is also hoped that these guidelines will serve as an example for other sectors and development programs for Fiji and become up-scaled and institutionalized in the interest of protecting the rights of iTaukei and other communities whose living environments may be affected by REDD+ or other developments.

*Table 3: Summary of actions for component 1c*

| Phase | Main actions |
|---|---|
| **Phase 1: Definition of the desired outcomes of the consultation (2009 - 2013)** | • Carry out an assessment of existing consultation approaches and redress mechanisms<br>• Identify targeted stakeholders and desired impacts for the consultations |
| **Phase 2: Identification of the stakeholders and the issues to consult on (2009 - 2013)** | • Consult with the various stakeholders on their expectations and requirements<br>• Identify key REDD+ issues and concerns of each stakeholder group and develop a plan on how these will be addressed<br>• Involve stakeholders in the design and implementation phase of the REDD+ Policy and RPP<br>• Assess each stakeholder/group's level of influence over the success of the REDD+ activity |
| **Phase 3: Consultations required for R-PP Components (2013)** | • Undertake participatory consultation workshops with relevant stakeholders to identify appropriate consultation / redress instruments for REDD+ |
| **Phase 4: Selection of consultation and outreach approaches (2013 – 2014)** | • Identify Fiji institutions with effective outreach to stakeholders and local communities<br>• Determine most appropriate participatory consultation tools and approaches for targeted stakeholders and audiences and adapt to suit the target group. Tailor approach to suit different target groups e.g. iTaukei resource owners in villages have different issues from Fijians of Indian descent living on leased farmland<br>• Strengthen the capacity of institutions that will be involved in consultations. This will include trainings and workshops, provision of informational materials and direct link to REDD+ support unit<br>• Develop skills of multi-disciplinary REDD+ resource teams and other suitable agencies and groups (like FCOSS faith-based organisations) to use selected approaches and tools effectively (training of trainers). These tools and approaches include PRA tools, website management, publication development, community facilitation, translation skills etc. (also mentioned in component 1b)<br>• Draft an FPIC guideline for Fiji to guide consultation and consensus processes with local communities |
| **Phase 5: Ensuring that stakeholders have sufficient capacity to** | • Develop appropriate informational and awareness materials for different target group utlising various media |

| Phase | Main actions |
|---|---|
| **engage fully and effectively in consultations (2013 – 2014)** | • Support outreach centres to disseminate information effectively, especially to remote communities<br>• Ensure regular communication with all the Divisional Commissioners, Roko Tuis and Faith based organisations<br>• Conduct REDD+ training workshops and seminars tailored specifically for target groups (covering international, national processes and local issues).<br>The awareness workshops to rural communities will be undertaken as part of the national REDD+ awareness programme. Trained groups and community facilitators (like the Rokos and faith-based organisations) will be supported to conduct community awareness workshops<br>• Use mainstream media (TV, newspapers, radio) to regularly inform the public of REDD+ activities in Fiji<br>• Establish REDD+ information centre (within the REDD+ Unit) for the public to contact for information and guidance<br>• Utilise Fiji REDD+ Website and Fiji REDD+ Facebook to encourage communication on REDD+ |
| **Phase 6: Conduct the consultation (2014)** | • Create SOPs to standardize documentation of consultation outcomes and to ensure disclosure of information will be consistent with the FCPF guidelines<br>• Mobilise a trained multi-disciplinary resource team to travel to all the Divisions, including outer islands to conduct consultations.<br>• For every consultation programme, conduct educational workshops prior to consultations on the R-PP<br>• Ensure all gender groups are represented in consultation workshops<br>• Identify with stakeholders viable responses to the issues and concerns raised in the course of the consultations<br>• Use the draft FPIC guideline as a means to assess performance of the consultations and to improve on the draft guideline |
| **Phase 7: Analyze and disseminate results (2014 - 2015)** | • Establish a central database in the Forestry Department to store all information and data from consultations.<br>• Strengthen institutional capacity for efficient and effective information knowledge management.<br>• Document, analyse and report on the main issues arising from the consultations and the responses proposed.<br>• Select a working group of the REDD+ SC to develop an action plan on the responses to the issues and concerns.<br>• Consult on the action plan with multi- stakeholder group at national level to develop final draft.<br>• REDD SC working group to analyse the consultation process and use findings to improve draft FPIC guideline. To be presented to wider stakeholder group for consultations |
| **Phase 8: Feedback (2016)** | • Conduct workshops in all Divisions and Districts to present on the results of the consultations and present on the proposed action plans<br>• Verify outcomes and finalise actions by inputting considerations into the implementation plan and national REDD+ process<br>• Present on draft FPIC to Divisional Offices and Provincial Councils for feedback |

| Table 1c: Summary of Consultation and Participation Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Phase 4: Development of appropriate consultation and outreach approaches | Assessment of effectiveness of participatory consultation tools and approaches used in Fiji | 15 | | | | 15 |
| | Identification and further development of appropriate partcipatory consultation ools and approaches | 10 | | | | 10 |
| | Training of resource persons agencies in applying the partcipatory tools | 10 | | | | 10 |
| Phase 5: Develop and strengthen the capacity of REDD+ stakeholders to engage fully and effectively in consultations | Support outreach centres to disseminate information especially to remote communities | 6 | 5 | | | 11 |
| | Conduct REDD+ training w orkshops and seminars tailored specifically for target groups (biodiversity, carbon rights, | 12 | | | | 12 |
| | Establish a REDD+ information centre (w ithin the REDD+ Unit) for the public to contact for information and guidance | | 10 | | | 10 |
| Phase 6: Conduct the consultation (2014) | Travel to islands | 12 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 57 |
| | Conduct community consultations using the selected tools | 15 | | | | 15 |
| Phase 7: Analyze and disseminate results (2014 - 2015) | Establish a central database in the Forestry Department to store all information and data from consultations | 15 | 10 | 10 | | 35 |
| | Strengthen institutional capacity for efficient and effective information know ledge management | 15 | | | | 15 |
| | Document, analyse and report on the consultations and the responses proposed | | 10 | | | 10 |
| | Documentation and development of SOPs for the management of data generated | | 15 | 4 | | 19 |
| | Develop an action plan responding to consultation and participation issues | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Phase 8: Feedback (2016) | Conduct w orkshops in all Divisions and Districts to discuss the results of the consultation approaches and tools and present on the proposed action plans | | 10 | | 8 | 18 |
| | Input action plan into overall REDD+ the implementation plan | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guideline | Analyse the consultation process and use findings to improve draft FPIC guideline. | 5 | 5 | | | 10 |
| | Development of guideline through stakeholder consultation (including Divisional Offices and Provincial Councils) | 10 | 10 | | | 20 |
| | Validate guideline at national level | | 10 | | | 10 |
| | Translate, Publish and Disseminate | | 10 | 10 | | 20 |
| **Total** | | **125** | **120** | **44** | **18** | **307** |
| **Government** | | 40 | 15 | | 0 | **55** |
| **FCPF** | | 69 | 90 | 34 | 18 | **211** |
| **GIZ** | | 16 | 15 | 10 | | **41** |

# Component 2: Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

## 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

**Standard 2a the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance:**

A completed assessment is presented that: identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues and shortcomings; documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD-plus; and sets the stage for development of a national REDD-plus strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.

### 2a.1 Background

Fiji consists of over 300 islands, of which 100 are inhabited. The cluster of islands lies just inside the Southern Tropical belt near the 180$^{th}$ meridian. The two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu comprise 1.58 million hectares out of the total land area of 1.83 million hectares.[10] The two main islands, and a few smaller islands, have mountainous interiors covered with dense natural forest resources. Landform towards coastal lands is marked by easterly and westerly watersheds with very steep interior rivers and creeks, giving way to undulating slopes and river lowlands, and coastal mangroves.

The climatic and rainfall pattern is associated with strong prevailing south-easterly trade winds, bringing strong wet seasons (rainfall of 2,500-3,800 mm) to eastern parts of most islands, but rainfall as low as 1,600 mm in western lowlands and leeward sides of the islands. Associated with this landform and rainfall pattern are the indigenous tropical forests on most eastern parts of the islands and mainly open dryland forests and grassland on the leeward side on the islands.

### 2a.2 Forests in Fiji

The pre-independence government recognized, in the early 1950s, the importance of afforestation of grassland areas and reforestation of logged-over forests to ensure a replacement wood supply, because native forest harvesting was considered to be unsustainable. Though native forests have provided the predominant wood supply for the last half century, it was clear that the level of output could not be sustained in the coming decades.

The Forestry Department (FD) embarked on an intensive research and plantation program in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The FD, on top of its administrative responsibilities to manage the native forests, was also tasked with the establishment of softwood plantations on grassland areas and hardwood plantations on logged-over native forests.

Nowadays, Fiji's forest resources can be grouped into two main classes. First, the native forests of mainly indigenous species; and second, the man-made forests of exotic softwood and hardwood plantations. An inventory of the indigenous, or native, forest resource was completed in 1995. These indigenous forests cover 858,000 ha, representing 47.5% of Fiji's total land area. About 8 percent of Fiji's land area is covered in pine and hardwood plantations. Softwood plantations, mainly of pine (*Pinus caribaea*), representing ca.

[10] Leslie, A. & Tuinivanua, O. Fiji Forestry Outlook Study. Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study II: Working Paper No. APFSOS II/WP/2009/20. FAO, Bangkok, 2010.

5.5 percent (93,524 ha) of the land area, have been established on the leeward and grasslands areas and there is great potential for further plantation expansion. Hardwood plantations of mainly mahogany (*Swietania macrophylla*), representing 2.9 percent of the land area, have been established on logged over rainforests, mainly on the eastern and central parts of the larger islands.

*Table 4: Extent of forest and other wooded lands in Fiji, 1991-2007*

| | 1991 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|
| Closed forest | 704,856 ha | 556,385 ha |
| Open forest | 152,665 ha | 342,845 ha |
| Pine plantations | 49,620 ha | 93,524 ha |
| Hardwood plantations | 39,220 ha | 60,448 ha |
| Coconut plantations | 34,560 ha | 27,137 ha |
| Non-forest | | 629,835 ha |
| Inland water | | 19,208 ha |
| **Total land area:** | **946,361 ha (excl. coconut plantations)** | **1,729,000 ha** |

Source: FAO FRA, 2010

***Forest Definition for REDD+***

The "forest" definition currently used in the national REDD+ dialogue and the formulation of the national REDD+ policy is that of the FAO. It is the same definition as used for the FRA, i.e. "land spanning more than 0,5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ." Note that this definition does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. The FAO "forest" definition is at the moment considered practical and relevant to use for Fiji, but this definition may undergo revision after the stratification exercise (see component 4). The TWG on MRV is in charge of organizing a participative review with all relevant stakeholders.

***Mangroves***

Around 3 percent of Fiji's forests are mangroves[11] and these will be included in REDD+. Loss of mangroves is a serious issue in Fiji. In the past it has been difficult to include it in inventory work as it is forest in the sea, with the responsibilities for forest and sea resorting with different departments or ministries (e.g. Town and Country Planning, Forestry and Lands Department).

***Economic Role of the Forestry Sector***

Fiji's is one of the more developed Pacific island economies. Although the sugar industry and a growing tourist industry are now the major sources of foreign exchange, Fiji's economy relies heavily on primary industries and Fiji has a large subsistence sector. Natural resource extraction includes timber, fish, gold, copper, offshore oil potential and hydropower, all sectors that impact forests. The forest sector is an integral part of the economic sector of Fiji. Export earnings from forest products rank third,[12] behind the agricultural sectors, which continue to be overtaken by other sectors as has occurred over recent years.

[11] Lagataki, Samuela, Moorhead, Anne. "Chapter 1: Fiji" in Forests of the Pacific Islands: Foundation for a sustainable future. (edited by Anne Moorhead) Secretariat of the Pacific Community 2012.

[12] The estimated ranking of the forestry sector in its contribution to the economy fluctuates between 3rd and 5th.

The forestry sector currently contributes 2.5 percent of GDP and some $50 million in foreign exchange annually; forest products are now the fifth most important export commodity.[13] Earnings from this sector in foreign exchange were expected to increase by approximately $100 million by the year 2000 as plantation hardwood processing commenced, generating more than 4000 rural jobs.

Post-independence governments have pushed for economic reform and restructuring. Corporatization of the pine industry into a state-owned enterprise was followed by that of the mahogany industry. The industrial capacity of the forestry sector is currently being developed in an effort to decrease Fiji's dependence on primary commodities and increase its competitiveness in domestic, regional and international markets. Moving forward, it is possible that the operations arm of the Forestry Department will be privatized in order to coordinate the activities of the timber sector more effectively and efficiently.

The timber industries have free access to regional and international markets. This has allowed the private sector to effectively compete for some niche markets. However, processing companies without forest plantations, and concessionaires, are facing difficulties in maintaining consistent quality and reliability of their raw material supply. Wood supplies from native forests fluctuate, but are generally declining; hence, in the medium term, most wood supplies will come from plantation forests and will be restricted to the pine and mahogany processing companies. Community plantations and private woodlots are available for other local processing companies including some supplies from native forests. Log pricing from native forests varies significantly and is loosely controlled by government and landowning institutions.

The planned government capital investment in the pine industry should broaden the forestry sector's production and socio-economic contribution to the national economy. Despite landownership problems affecting the mahogany industry and the absence of significant government investment, the industry could soon develop a competitive advantage inherent in its mahogany products. Over the last five years, in addition to continuing the replanting of pine and hardwoods, the sector has also focused on processing, marketing and the export of forest products. Fiji's mahogany plantings, which amount to approximately 50,000 ha in area (38,850 ha in eastern Viti Levu, 11,000 ha in the Northern Division), are recognized as possibly the most valuable in the world. Other hardwood plantings comprise 11,000 ha.

A significant and growing amount of timber serves local market demand, which stems for the most part from native forests, and some pine. Production of this timber is hard to quantify as many domestic sector timber activities fall outside of a legal framework and remain unregulated.

## 2a.3 Land Ownership Arrangements

Over 1.52 million hectares (or 83 percent)[14] of the land is communally owned through traditional Fijian communal landowning units called *mataqali*, whilst the remainder is private and/or state-owned land. A significant development in the Fijian land tenure system was the establishment of the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB). The TLTB was set up in 1940 to act on behalf of landowning *mataqali* to secure, protect and manage land ownership rights and facilitate commercial transaction for its use. The TLTB is the legal custodian and representative of all native land in Fiji. Fiji courts have yet to recognize the *mataqali* as an independent land-owning legal entity. This has been a frustrating obstacle for *mataqali* seeking court redress on unfavorable land negotiations and unfair land use compensations, made by on their behalf by TLTB.[15]

[13] Leslie, A. & Tuinivanua, O. Fiji Forestry Outlook Study. Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study II: Working Paper No. APFSOS II/WP/2009/20. FAO, Bankok, 2010.

[14] Estimates on land owned by iTaukei land range and can reach up to 88%

[15] Fung, Christine. "History of Land Tenure in Fiji: An Overview." Annex 2 in Profile of the Drawa Model Area: Appraisal for a community managed forest area in Fiji. May 2005. SPC/GIZ Pacific German Regional Forestry Project.

***Land registry***

Lands under this customary land tenure system work on the principle of communal ownership. Land parcels that have already been topographically surveyed are charted on iTaukei Land Commission (TLC) maps, and registered in the Register of iTaukei Lands (RTL) (Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, 2010) or the *Vola ni Kawa Bula*. Under this system, communal land owners are registered, with no individual titles being issued. Ownership of land is therefore vested in the *mataqali* or tribal group.

Work is underway to digitize this system and simultaneously update it in order to establish a National Land Register which will contain "information about land ownership, right of possession or any other rights recorded, geographic position, areas and value."[16] All information concerning a land parcel will be linked and accessible through a single databank or Register, which will also make it easier for TLTB to manage leases and benefits distribution.[17] This registry and its implication for REDD+ is further described in sub-component 2c.

***Forest ownership***

In terms of forest ownership, industrial plantations of exotic softwoods and hardwoods are grown on leased land, whilst community plantations are being established on communal land, without the need for communal binding agreements. The following table shows the tenure arrangements for forested land.

*Table 5: Forest Cover across various land tenure systems*

| LAND TENURE | FOREST (Hectares) | | Total Forest Area | %Total Area of Forest |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Closed Forest[18] | Open Forest[19] | | |
| **iTaukei Land** | 528,100 | 326,268 | 854,368 | 89.94% |
| **State Land** | 27,737 | 12,756 | 40,493 | 4.26% |
| **Private Freehold Land** | 31,958 | 23,172 | 55,130 | 5.80% |
| | **587,795** | **362,196** | **949,991** | |

*Source: FAO 2010 Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010- Fiji Country Report*

Note that ownership of trees does not always coincide with ownership of land on which they are growing. In the case of mahogany and pine plantations, the companies leased the plantation land. They own the trees while indigenous/tribal owners retain ownership of the land. The Government owns a 90 percent share in the mahogany plantations and over 98 percent in the pine plantations, the rest is owned by indigenous landowners.

[16] See Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources website at: http://www.lands.gov.fj/index.php/projects/national-land-register accessed 17/10/12.

[17] Ibid.

[18] Closed Forest: Natural forest with State cover by trees and / or ferns 40-100% and ground coverage by, palm and / or bamboo over 20%

[19] Open Forest: Natural forest with State cover by trees and / or ferns 10-40% and ground coverage by, palm and / or bamboo 50-80%

### *Legislation surrounding iTaukei Lands*

As the majority of land in Fiji is iTaukei land, held under customary title by indigenous Fijians (iTaukei), an understanding of the legislative provisions dealing with ownership, use and control of iTaukei land is essential to planning and implementing REDD+ initiatives in Fiji. This is especially important for REDD+ as this includes land covered by both native and plantation forests. The iTaukei Lands Act recognizes and maintains communal ownership of iTaukei lands, and defines 'iTaukei owners' as 'the *mataqali* or other division or subdivision of the iTauke is having the customary right to occupy and use any iTaukei lands'. This statutory recognition of traditional communal ownership of iTaukei lands provides a legal basis for community level decision-making about the use and conservation of natural resources on iTaukei land.

The iTaueki Lands Act provides for the continued occupation and use of 'iTaukei lands' by indigenous Fijians. 'iTaukei land' is land which is neither Crown land nor land subject to freehold title. Section 3 of the Act provides that:

> iTaukei lands shall be held by iTaukei Fijians according to iTaukei custom as evidenced by usage and tradition. Subject to the provisions [of the iTaukei Lands Act] such lands may be cultivated, allotted and dealt with by iTaukei Fijians as amongst themselves according to their iTaukei customs and subject to any regulations made by the iTaukei Affairs Board, and in the event of any dispute arising for legal decision in which the question of the tenure of land amongst iTaukei Fijians is relevant all courts of law shall decide such disputes according to such regulations or iTaukei custom and usage which shall be ascertained as a matter of fact by the examination of witnesses capable of throwing light thereupon. [20]

Communal decisions about land use – for example, prohibiting the felling of trees in a particular area – are binding on both members of the *mataqali* and third parties, provided that such decisions are made according to custom. However, it is important to note that the TLTB may grant leases and licenses over iTaukei land, and that these leases and licenses take precedence over community land use decisions.

Under the iTaukei Land Trust Act, all iTaukei land in Fiji is controlled by the TLTB, and administered for the benefit of the iTaukei owners. iTaukei land must not be sold, granted or transferred, except to the Crown, and must not be transferred, charged or encumbered without the consent of the Board. Any legal instrument which seeks to transfer, charge or encumber any iTaukei land without the consent of the Board shall be null and void.

### *Lease Arrangements for iTaukei Lands*

Ownership of iTaukei lands is not transferable through land sales, but user rights can be transferred via land leases. iTaukei landowners may lease land for specific land uses under specified conditions and specified periods of time, through the agency of the TLTB. The TLTB may grant leases or licenses over portions of iTaukei land, provided that the Board is satisfied that the land is not being beneficially occupied by the Fijian owners, and is not likely to be required by the owners for their use, maintenance or support during the term of the lease or license. Leases and licenses over iTaukei land are made in the name of the TLTB, and executed under the seal of the Board. Leases over iTaukei land must be recorded in the 'Register of iTaukei Leases'. Licenses over iTaukei land must be recorded in the 'Register of Licenses in respect of iTaukei Land'.

iTaukei land may be leased for such purposes, and subject to such terms, conditions and covenants as the Board deems proper, subject to the iTaukei Land Trust (Leases and Licenses) Regulation. The regulations set out (a) standard conditions applying to all leases on iTaukei land, and (b) conditions applying to leases for particular purposes (for example, residential, agricultural, gardening, grazing and quarrying purposes).

In a number of cases, the standard conditions contained in the regulations support positive conservation outcomes. For example:

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[20] ITaukei Lands Act, Cap 134, s.3.

- 'the lessee shall not fell trees or clear or burn off bush or cultivate any land within a distance of twenty-four feet from the bank of a river or stream' (agricultural leases).
- 'the lessee shall apply such measures to check soil erosion as may be required by the lessor in writing' (agricultural leases, grazing leases).
- 'the lessee shall not remove or dispose of by sale or otherwise any forest produce growing upon the demised land without the written consent of the lessor' (all leases).

The Board may also enter into leases for non-specified 'special purposes', subject to such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate. This power has been used by the Board to enter into leases for conservation purposes, which is an option for REDD+ further described in sub-component 2c.

The Board may issue licenses over iTaukei land, granting rights to use the land for such purposes and subject to such terms, conditions and covenants as the Board deems appropriate. The granting of licenses to take forest products is regulated by the Forest Decree 1992. The regulations and conditions on leasing and licenses do, in a number of cases support positive conservation outcomes such as not felling trees within 24 feet from the bank of a river or applying soil erosion checks as may be required, but they do not mandate any specific conservation or reforestation practices.[21]

Much of the softwood and hardwood plantations are grown on iTaukei leased land. iTaukei production forests under concessions and plantations of softwood and hardwood are effectively secure until the lease periods expire, when they either revert to landowners or the leases are extended. In the past, conflicts surrounding iTaukei leased lands have arisen, with long-term forestry leases often challenged by customary landowners. Vagueness in leasing procedures and in the wording of agreements often opens the door for legal challenges. Moreover, landowners may reject continuation of leases, which has proven to be a constraint to industrial investment. Land tenure arrangements, therefore, may be perceived by the private sector as an impediment to forestry sector development.

The advantages of the customary tenure system for the iTaukei is that it has firstly, prevented outright land sales and land speculation, and thus has ensured that iTaukei have not become a landless people in their own land. Secondly, it has helped the iTaukei to maintain their land-based customs and traditions, which are based fundamentally on the maintenance of family and kinship ties, and ultimately on basic principles of sharing and caring within the family and community. Although customary landowning clans in rural and interior Fiji have significant land available for development, competition for land is expected in increase in the future, as foreign investors are increasingly interested in Fiji's natural resource sectors, such as mining and hydropower. Competitive land use, which is common in agricultural and urban peripheries, is therefore expanding to the interior or rural areas.[22]

The TLTB have expressed the need for a TLTB REDD+ Policy and a REDD+ lease to formalize carbon ownership arrangements for REDD+ projects undertaken on iTaukei Land. A carbon rights analysis study for Fiji provides a breakdown of carbon rights and carbon ownership for different land tenure arrangements in Fiji. A stakeholder consultation workshop will be carried to discuss the best options for Fiji before a submission on the proposed arrangements will be made to cabinet. The Fiji Forest Carbon Rights Report can be found here.

## 2a.4 Dominant Land Use Patterns

In 2006, Fiji's population was estimated to be approximately 853,400. The ethnic Fijian population was approximately 55 percent, Indians at 37 percent and the remainder comprising other races. Approximately 54 percent of the population lived in rural areas. The annual rate of population growth is a reasonably high at 1 percent and hence the Fiji population will be approximately 1 million by 2020.

[21] Trenorden, Christine. REDD-plus and Forest Carbon Rights in Fiji: background legal analysis. SPC 2013

[22] Leslie, A. & Tuinivanua, O. Fiji Forestry Outlook Study. Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study II: Working Paper No. APFSOS II/WP/2009/20. FAO, Bankok, 2010.

Traditionally shifting cultivation has been quite common near villages in the rainforests throughout the main islands. Increasing accessibility of most parts of the main islands has gradually changed the shifting cultivation subsistence pattern to semi-commercial and commercial agriculture or cash cropping. The gradual conversion of forest lands to alternative land uses in agriculture is expected to continue. It is becoming increasingly common on the forest frontier that large tracts of forest areas are cleared to establish agricultural cash crops (commonly kava and taro).

Livelihoods in rural areas have been traditionally influenced by native forest utilization, especially timber harvesting, over the last four decades under a system of forest concessions and long-term licensed forests. The intensity of native forest harvesting has declined gradually as large-scale harvesting operations began in the pine plantations from the late-1980s, and from hardwood plantations in early 2000. Native forests are considered highly degraded and significant reforestation and forest enhancement activities would be required in order to make forestry profitable on native forests.

## 2a.5 Policies and Legislation

The list of laws and policies that are relevant to REDD+ is quite long. This section gives an overview of the legislation that is most relevant, focusing specifically on key legislative provisions on forestry, land use and conservation. It is important to note that Fiji does not currently have any statutory mechanisms which require conservation, reforestation or sustainable land use management plans to be carried out on iTaukei land.

### *Environment Management Act (2005)*

This Act establishes a National Environment Council which is responsible to oversee the formulation and approval of National Report and National Environment Strategy. It has a broad role of facilitating discussion of environmental issues and overseeing the implementation of International and Regional Treaties. The Act also establishes a framework for the establishment of certain environmental reports and plans i.e. the National State of the Environment Report, a National Environment Strategy, a Natural Resource Inventory and National Resource Management Plan.

The NEC which acts as the governing Council oversees the implementation of strategies outlined in Reports and policies. It sets out directions for environmental impact assessment of proposed developments for 'approving authorities', certain waste management and pollution control measures including a permit system. The Act establishes three specific Units namely the Environment Management Unit, Resources Management Unit and Waste Disposal and Pollution Control Unit. An Inspectorate Division is also established and has a critical role to play in relation to compliance inspection and environment management during capital project development phases. It provides the Department with the power to issue improvement and prohibition notices. It establishes certain pollution and other offences as well as Environmental Tribunal for the hearing of appeals under the Act.

### *Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002)*

This Act implements CITES to which Fiji is a signatory. The Act establishes an Authority and Council to implement the Act, as well as a permit scheme, provisions relating to transport and shipment of species and enforcement provisions. The Act ensures that there are strict observances of rules and regulations established to protect trade of endangered and protected species.

### *Forest Decree*

The Forest Act of 1953 and in force at Fiji's independence in 1970, was replaced by the Forest Decree in 1992. The previous Forest Act established a number of different classified areas −reserved forests, nature reserves, protected forests and silvicultural areas− which could be created by Ministerial declaration over land held under different forms of land tenure. For each classified area certain forestry activities were

forbidden. But in each case licenses could be issued authorizing those activities. Further provisions on licenses were set out in the Forest Regulations of 1955 and subsequent amendments. The Forest Decree does not mention carbon as a forest product and none of its provisions regulates the selling of verified emissions reductions originating from forests.

The 1992 Forest Decree sets up a Forestry Board, whose main task is to advise on preparation of the National Forestry Plan. The felling of timber extraction of forest produce and clearing of land is prohibited with respect to different categories of land unless authorized by the Conservator of Forests, usually by way of a license. Certain consents are required before a license is issued, depending on the land category. In the case of iTaukei land, for example, the prior consent of the TLTB is required. Before a timber license is issued, a logging plan prepared by the applicant must be approved by the licensing officer, specifying various matters (e.g., annual allowable cut, roads layout, reforestation requirements). Certain customary rights are preserved over iTaukei land.

The Forest Decree aims to regulate the extraction of timber, the taking of non-timber forest products, establishing a licensing regime and providing for the establishment of forest reserves. It does not prohibit or restrict the exercise of the following rights on iTaukei land, provided the land has not been declared to be a forest reserve:

- 'the exercise of any rights established by iTaukei custom to hunt, fish, or collect fruits and vegetables growing wild'; or
- 'the cutting or removal by any iTaukei in accordance with iTaukei custom of forest produce which may be necessary for the permanent abode of himself and his family, for the construction of temporary huts on any land lawfully occupied by him, for the upkeep of any his fishing stakes and landing places, for the construction and upkeep of any work for the common benefit of the iTaukei inhabitants of his village or for firewood to be consumed for domestic purposes'.

### *Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice*

This Code of Practice (2010) provides a national approach to sustainable forest management. It provides practical guidance to forestry officers, landowners, contractors and industry partners on how forestry harvesting must be conducted so as to achieve best practice and minimize adverse impacts. There is a long-standing ban on round-log exports and a push for secondary and tertiary timber processing to remain in-country. This Code was recently revised to include Reduced Impact Logging provisions.

### *Forest Policy*

The Government of Fiji recognizes the potential of the forestry sector to provide rural employment, income and economic development, to promote rural stability, to improve rural living standards and to act as a major source of foreign exchange. The Ministry of Fisheries and Forests (MoFF) has responsibility for most aspects of the forestry sector in Fiji, although TLTB is also an important stakeholder within Government, in view of their responsibilities related to the administration of iTaukei land.

The mandate of the Ministry is to ensure that forest resources are managed sustainably and developed for the optimal benefit of all stakeholders. To achieve this, the core roles and responsibilities of MoFF are: research and development; provision of extension services and training; forest law enforcement, monitoring and surveillance; and the provision of supporting infrastructure (where economically viable).

The overall aim of government intervention in the sector is to create and provide wherever possible the social and economic environment in which the private sector can flourish and develop forest resources. The intervention policy and strategy of the Ministry relates mainly to private sector investment. More active and direct intervention (e.g. in commercial activities) is only carried out in order to stimulate investment by the private sector and to provide a sound foundation on which the private sector can build. This includes affirmative action programs that are necessary to encourage the direct participation of indigenous Fijians and Rotumans in the development of the sector.

In November 2007, the government of Fiji released the Fiji Forest Policy Statement. The policy statement recognizes the need to encourage the direct involvement of resource owners and communities in sustainable forest management. In the policy statement, the Forestry Department undertakes:

• to work with resource owners and other stakeholders to establish a system of conservation areas;

• to assist resource owners to manage these conservation areas consistent with local needs;

• to work with the Department of Environment and non-government organizations to deliver environmental awareness programs for resource owners and resource users; and

• to assist interested resource owners to protect forests with significant conservation values.

***Rural Land Use Policy***

The Rural Land Use Policy for Fiji (2005) has a target of achieving sustainable utilization of resources and the preservation of a healthy environment. Milestones to be achieved include:

- Land-use planning regulates forest areas (natural forests and plantations) and protects them against uncontrolled conversion;
- Indigenous forests will be protected and managed for biodiversity conservation and production values by adopting Sustainable Forest Management principles;
- Protection of the environment and management of water, land, forestry and other natural resources in an ecologically sustainable manner;
- Area of afforested land increases by 20 percent; there are large land areas available, with potential for afforestation and reforestation.

***Land Conservation and Improvement Act***

The Land Conservation and Improvement Act establishes a Land Conservation Board whose functions are to exercise general supervision over land and water resources, recommend conservation legislature, and to make conservation orders. Conservation orders may be issued where it is deemed expedient for the conservation or improvements of land or water resources. This may include prohibiting or restricting the control of grazing, clearing of land, cultivation of crops of the lighting of fires. The Act has been revised to the Land and Water Conservation Decree and is currently undergoing legal vetting.

***Fiji Tourism Master Plan***

This provides the strategies that will guide business operators, government agencies and clients in the development and maintenance of quality standards that will assist the Industry to stay competitive while addressing sustainable development issues. For example, Fiji's hotel sector has an Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Program.

***Fiji National Transport Sector Plan***

This addresses environmental issues in the provision of regulatory and policy frameworks in the land transport system. The approach taken has been driven by the need to reduce emissions from vehicles while ensuring safety and security regulations are met.

***Mining Legislation***

The mining industry in Fiji is controlled by the provisions of the Mining Act of 1978. Revisions to the enabling Regulations were made in 1985, and the Minerals Resources Department (MRD) has prepared further revisions to the Regulations as well as the revised Mining Decree, which includes the Environmental Impact Assessment provisions outlined in the EMA.

Fiji's mineral resources are owned by the State. Government has formulated regulatory mechanism to ensure mineral development is carried out in an environmentally sensitive and socially acceptable way. Companies engaged in mining are encouraged to develop participatory approaches to involve local residents such as in the form of small business opportunities or social infrastructure development. It is important to note that the mining sector currently overrides all other sectors in its mandate, which may pose problems for forest protection.

***Regional REDD+ Policy Framework***

Fiji's REDD+ Policy falls within this framework, which explains that due to the vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries, climate change policy development is a high priority. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) elaborated a regional policy framework for REDD+ in 2012. This document provides the following guiding principles for developing REDD+ in individual Pacific Island countries:

- Accommodate the interests of each country to ensure benefits for both smaller and the larger countries.
- Acknowledge that the global REDD+ sector includes a potential future UNFCCC instrument, and current and future REDD+ mechanisms outside the UNFCCC.
- Support a "no regrets" approach to REDD+ that keeps options open to engage with possible future global instruments currently in development whilst taking advantage of mechanisms currently available.
- Ensure that any Pacific Island regional REDD+ initiatives are compatible with existing regional and national policies, programs and frameworks for action.
- Contribute to poverty alleviation and enhance livelihoods of Pacific Island communities.

## 2a.5 Drivers of Deforestation

The drivers of change that most affect forests and forestry can be categorized as either 'direct drivers' (where the effects are immediate); or 'indirect drivers', which impact forests by catalyzing a chain of events. Often, it is the indirect drivers that have the most far-reaching impacts of forests but these are more difficult to quantify. Although there is general consensus that the current rates of deforestation and degradation are modest compared to that in some neighboring Pacific nations, Fiji has experienced significant forest loss and forest degradation in the past. Some past programs that directly or indirectly addressed drivers, including their successes, challenges and lessons learned, is included in Annex 2a.

The FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook 2020 includes a chapter that provides an overview of the main drivers of change likely to affect Pacific forests and forestry through to 2020. This chapter concludes the drivers of change for Pacific forests and forestry can be categorized into six groups (see Annex 2a for the more detailed outcome of this study):

- Demographic changes;
- Economic changes;
- Changes in societies' perceptions and demands;
- Environmental changes;
- Technological and scientific advances; and
- Political and institutional evolution.

The following table outlines the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and degradation and is the collective result of a series of Steering Committee meetings and stakeholder workshops (a summary of all meetings and workshops is available in detail in sub-component 1b). Some of the key drivers, such as agriculture and forestry are described in more detail below the table.

*Table 6: Drivers of Deforestation*

| **Drivers of Deforestation** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Past (1990-2000)** | **Current (2000-2015)** | **Future (2015-2030)** | **Responsibility** | **Carbon impact** | **Corresponding IPCC key category** |
| **Underlying driver: Economic development** | | | | | |
| **Direct Driver:**<br>• Agriculture (subsistence & commercial)<br>• Past- Ginger era | Commercialization of Taro and yaqona, ginger, horticulture , with government push for more exports and import substitutions | Trend will increase with current incentives for agriculture (scholarships for agriculture, funds for farming) | Land owners / lease holders | Large source | LC – land converted to crop land |
| • Forest conversion for pasture lands and grazing | ongoing | Expected to continue with current incentives for dairy farming | Land owners / lease holders | Large source | LG – Land converted to grass land |
| • Mining | Mining (bauxite) | Expected to increase due to international demand for mineral | Mining companies | Small source | LO – Land converted to other land |
| • Tourism - coastal forest reclamation for infrastructure and recreational activities (Denarua, Yasawas, Mamanucas) | Increasing in extent (mangrove areas, Naisoso, Natadola) | Trend of tourism infrastructure expansion will continue (Maritime islands, Lau) | Tourism development | Medium source | LO – Land converted to other land |
| • Energy Production Hydro Dams for Electricity, e.g. Monasavu dam, and for Water supply, e.g. Vaturu dam | Vaturu/ Wainikasou | Future plans for Vaturu/ Wainikasou dam for water and energy both<br>Increasing demand for renewable energy (more dams , biofuels-deforestation)<br>Water dams for Waidina (Sovi basin) and Navua River | Energy policy | Small to medium source | LO – Land converted to other land |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Underlying driver: Population growth** | | | | | |
| Direct Driver:<br>Forest conversion for formal & informal settlements, (relocation of villages | Ongoing trend and continues to increase, e.g. Waila city development, new housing schemes along coasts and new infrastructure | Continue to increase in all type of housing development, (up class housing, gated communities / settlements, Maui beach resort, *tourism), James Town development – mangrove area | Urban development / communities, illegal squatters | Medium source | LS – Land converted to settlement |
| **Underlying driver: Governance** | | | | | |
| Direct Driver:<br>Poorly planned Infrastructure development | On-going | increasing | | | |
| **Underlying driver: Lack of law enforcement** | | | | | |
| Direct driver:<br>Human-induced forest fires for hunting | On-going | continued | Farmers, arsonists for hunting or accidental | Medium source | LC – Land converted to crop land<br>LG – Land converted to grass land |
| **Underlying driver: Environmental circumstances, geographic location** | | | | | |
| Direct driver:<br>Natural Disasters, e.g. cyclones, hurricanes and floods | On-going | continued | Resistance and resilience of ecosystems lower due to human management | Negligible | FF – Forest land remaining forest land |

### *Forest Degradation*

Forest degradation is difficult to quantify as the loss of carbon stocks can only be detected in a cost efficient manner for large areas of land by fieldwork / ground-based inventories. However, Fiji has made important first steps in establishing permanent sample plots (PSP) that provide for a detailed analysis of degradation dynamics and progress is being made to quantify degradation through forest inventories and improved satellite imagery. Categorizing drivers into deforestation and degradation is not always possible; some drivers of deforestation listed above may also cause degradation in some cases and complete forest conversion in others. The IPCC key category for forest degrading activities is by default FF – Forest land remaining forest land.

*Table 7: Drivers of Forest Degradation*

| Past (1990-2000) | Current (2000-2015) | Future (2015-2030) | Responsibility | Carbon impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Commercial/ conventional logging | Ongoing | More access roads – increase logging<br>Logging trend may also decrease in natural forests considering the shift from logging to conservation with incentives | Logging companies / Department of Forestry; market demand | Small – medium source |
| Firewood collection<br>Continuous harvesting of mangroves in given area for firewood<br>Collection of non-timber forest products | Increasing fuel wood collection for forests Escalating mangrove harvesting (firewood & construction) | Potentially decreasing as energy infrastructure is being developed | Energy policy, Department of Energy, communities | Small source (high impact on mangroves) |
| Invasive species (weeds, pests & disease)<br>Succession of invasive species , African tulips,<br>(domesticated cattle & pigs on free run) | Increasing | Increasing | Farmers, Departments Forestry, Agriculture, Lifestock, Biosecurity | Small source |
| Fire – cause forest degradation at edge of the forests (influenced by climate change) | Potentially decreasing as traditional livelihoods decline with urbanization | | Farmers, communities | Small source, mostly impacting plantations |

### *Agriculture*

Subsistence farming is the main livelihood for the many Fijians as roughly half of the population lives in rural areas. Shifting cultivation is widely practiced as farmers move to new land after two to three cropping sequences. The planting cycle generally involves vegetables, dalo or cassava followed by a fallow period. Farmers may also own dairy cows, cattle, poultry and pigs to provide an alternative source of income and diet to their families. Fishing, including in rivers and creeks, also provides communities with a source of food and income. Lacking capacities and technology results in the need to regularly expand to new agricultural areas as soils quickly become infertile. Market access also determines where smallholders will plant. Low volume/high value crops is what will be planted when market access is restricted and such crops often require extensive cultivation areas, i.e. yaqona.

Land tenure in Fiji is mostly communal ownership. Given the small portion of state (7% is Crown Land) and freehold land (10%) and the need for land to engage in agricultural production, iTaukei land, which is inalienable, was opened up for agricultural expansion through leasing arrangements. Such land were leased out to tenants under the provision of the 1880 iTaukei Land Ordinance, then through the TLTB and the iTaukei Land Trust Act of 1940, and later under the Agricultural Land Ordinance of 1966 and the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA) of 1976.[23]

Subsistence farming occurs predominantly from the mid-slopes to higher terrain while commercial agricultural production (sugarcane belt) generally sweeps the coastal foreshore to the lower slopes. Most of this sugarcane area is not cultivated by the iTaukei landowners themselves but leased to tenant farmers planting sugar either on a semi-commercial or commercial scale. The majority of this population is Indo-Fijian who live on their leased land. Sugar plantations caused deforestation up until the 1990s, but are no longer considered a threat to the forest.

Fiji's development policy includes strategies to increase agricultural exports. The government policy to reduce dependence on imported food and to achieve its objective to close the economic gap between urban and rural people, led to a series of major loan and grant funded projects to increase production in rice, beef, dairy and feed grains.[24] The EU has provided significant support through such agriculture programs, especially in the sugar industry. Due to changes in consumer preferences, the opening of new markets, e.g. Australia, and Fiji's improved ability to meet export quality standards, there have been significant shifts recently in the types of crops that are planted, and unfortunately in many cases is putting more pressure on the forests.

### *Forestry*

Despite the existence of a Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (2010) that describes minimum standards for harvesting operations, including soil and water conservation and post harvesting measures, over-cutting and unsound logging practices result in forest degradation and considerable damage to soils, waterways and remaining forests. There is a lack of monitoring and enforcement of the Code due to inadequate training and availability of resources in the FD and other law enforcement agencies. Rehabilitation measures are rarely applied, and silvicultural treatment of logged-over forests is widely unknown.

### *Traditional forest use*

Non-timber harvesting remains largely unregulated. Alongside sawn timber for the domestic market, forests are also a source of fuelwood for communities living in or around forests. Fuelwood is sourced from the fringes of forest near villages while construction timber is often harvested from pine woodlots. Charcoal continues to be used throughout the islands and is often made from mangroves. However, charcoal production from mangroves is not considered as immediate of a threat as infrastructure development, e.g. for tourism along the coast. One tradition that causes significant forest damage is the burning of forests for pig hunting and easy land clearance. The burning of small areas on the edge of the forest often burn out of control.

### *Poorly planned infrastructure development and lack of national land use plan*

In general, there is a lack of coordination between the government agencies. The Mineral Resources Department has the Mining Act (powerful legislation) that allows them to tender prospective areas for mining, which is often done in isolation. Agriculture planning also takes place in isolation. Planned forest

[23] Naidu.V.; and Reddy. M. 2002. ALTA and Expiring Land Leases. Fijian farmers' perception of their future. Ford Foundation. Center of Development Studies. School of Social and Economic Development. University of the South Pacific (USP) and Pacific Migration Research Network (PacMRN).

[24] Foraete, HM. 2001. Food Security strategies for the Republic of Fiji. CGPRT Centre, Working Paper 55, May 2001.

conservation areas are being mapped out by DoF, which includes biodiversity criteria, but timber concessions currently overlap with this biodiversity priority map.

***Legal and policy analysis***

Assessing whether and how policies and laws provide positive or perverse incentives that drive the unsustainable use of forest and forest land is fundamental for understanding the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. A legal and policy analysis is currently being conducted by the SPC/GIZ regional REDD+ project and will be published in the beginning of 2014 on the Fiji REDD+ website. Legislation concerning different sectors, including land leases, mining, forestry, agriculture, gender, enforcement powers, etc. is being reviewed and checked for compatibility. It will be followed up by detailed proposals for necessary legislative changes in the different sectors. The issue of long-term land tenure security to ensure leaseholders invest more responsibly on the leased land will also need t obe investigated in the context of national REDD+ implementation.

A legal expert is assessing the legal preparedness of Fiji for REDD+. Given the wide range of laws relevant for REDD+ (see Annex 2a for preliminary list) and the cross-sectoral and multi-jurisdictional approach required by REDD+, this legal analysis comprehensively assesses how REDD+ would fit into the national context. The analysis will also outline the legal arrangements required for REDD+ implementation to be feasible, which overlaps with the work required for sub-component 2c. A list of risks and recommendations to mitigate these will be provided. Land tenure and resource rights, including traditional land use of Fijian people, are taken into account and the study builds upon existing work on forest carbon rights.

The policy and strategy review recognizes that REDD+ does not operate in isolation but instead must be embedded within the country's development strategy. REDD+ must not be perceived to be working against Fiji's desire to develop but instead how REDD+ will help Fiji to achieve its development goals, and if possible, in a more sustainable manner. For example, Fiji's rural development policy is currently centered around increasing agricultural production, which has profound impacts on forests.

As a number of sectoral policies and plans are currently under review, this study should list these (if possible) and provide suggestions for how these policies can integrate REDD+ objectives. The review should refer to the economic, social, political and institutional context of REDD+ as outlined in this sub-component.

The interconnectedness of all these issues implies that all governmental divisions, organisations and ministries, land owners and resource users, NGOs and civil society groups, private sector entities that operate in Fiji, and development partners (such as for instance the SPC, JICA and GIZ) will be affected by a national REDD+ process and therefore, need to be involved somehow in the design of the final institutional and organizational arrangements.

## 2a.6 Work Plan

***i) Assessing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and Opportunity Cost Assessment***

Although numerous localized analyses have been conducted in the context of the REDD+ pilot sites and projects, no systematic nation-wide assessment of the drivers of land-use change and causes has been done to date. The first step is to develop a robust methodology for assessing drivers that meets international standards while remaining cost effective and feasible given the available data and technical capacity of Fiji. This drivers assessment will build upon SOPAC's (Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, SPC) study of the historic land-use trends based on Landsat imagery. This assessment included forest area change and resulting forest carbon stock changes between 1991 to 2001 and 2001 to 2007 as the information related to land use and land-use change is an integral part of the compilation of a Reference Emissions Level described in Component 3. This process has not been completed yet, and needs to be facilitated as this historical forest cover change assessment is the basis upon which the drivers will be assessed. Ground truthing will be required, but again the methods developed for ground truthing must remain modest in order to be feasible financially and up-scaled to the country level. Given the high cost of travel between islands, the cost of this assessment will necessarily be high, which has

been accounted for in the budget of this sub-component. The drivers analysis will also provide preliminary ideas for the collective potential of forest enhancement activities to offset the impacts of the drivers identified, which will be more fully explored in the assessment of strategy options in sub-component 2b.

Drivers will not only be assessed in terms of forest area and forest carbon emissions, but also in terms of economic importance, which gives clues to the inertia underlying different drivers. Understanding the opportunity costs associated with different land uses reveals the economic importance associated with the activities causing deforestation and/or forest degradation. Opportunity costs are not necessarily what payments will be distributed to resource users in order to incentivize them to switch to another land use, nor do opportunity costs represent the full costs of REDD+ (as it is increasingly coming to light that transaction, institutional and implementation costs significantly override opportunity costs). However, an opportunity cost analysis is an important step to identify the most important drivers and will be conducted early on in the R-PP implementation process, also because it is important for building the strategy options through which these drivers will be addressed.

Preliminary work has been done in Fiji to understand the opportunity cost of different land uses causing deforestation. This has been calculated in combination with carbon emissions in order to quantify the economic returns from land use change per tonne of $CO_2$ equivalent emitted as a result of the change, which gives an indication of the carbon price necessary to change the incentive structure. Table 6 below shows the results of an analysis that used data from Fiji Department of Agriculture for estimates of average economic returns from agriculture and forestry activity data based on an FAO study of the Fiji forest industry.

The results provide some indication of the likely carbon prices required to discourage land conversion in each of the scenarios. Carbon prices will need to be highest to discourage the conversion of low-density forest to agriculture, as is occurring in some parts of Fiji (the island of Taveuni for example). Currently, returns from growing taro and kava are relatively high per hectare. Discouraging the conversion of virgin forest to high density forest would require higher carbon prices (or other accompanying income sources) than those required to discourage the conversion of high density forest to low density forest. There is relatively little virgin forest remaining in Fiji. The indicative figures presented below suggest that current voluntary market carbon prices would be sufficient to discourage resource owners from converting high density forests to low density forests, but are currently not high enough to discourage clear felling for agricultural purposes. The GIZ based in Suva is currently up-scaling this preliminary work and any opportunity cost assessment undertaken during R-PP implementation should be a continuation of this existing work. This assessment should also take into account the planned work on ecosystem valuation (budgeted in sub-component 2b) in order to account for the non-economic benefits such as ecosystem services that forests provide.

*Table 8: Opportunity Cost Assessment of Land Use Changes in Fiji*

| Original land use | Conversion to: | Annual average returns from conversion/ha (FJD) | Change in carbon/ ha (tonnes) | Implied US$t $CO_2$ (FJD$t $CO_2$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Low-density forest | Taro | 11403[56] | 138.1 | 40.53 (82.57) |
| Low-density forest | Kava | 8936[57] | 138.1 | 31.76 (64.71) |
| Virgin forest | High density forest | 1624 | 50 | 15.95 (32.48) |
| High density forest | Low density forest | 541 | 100 | 2.66 (5.41) |

*Source: Fiji Department of Agriculture, Whiteman (2005), Bond et al. (2008)*[25]

[25] Lal, P. N. and Holland, P. (2011). Integrating economics into resource and environmental management: some recent experiences in the Pacific. Chapter 11: Redd-based carbon financing for fijian forests (Author: Marita Manley) Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and Suva, Fiji: SOPAC. vi + 136.

***ii) Forest Governance Assessment***

The work plan for this sub-component includes a forest governance analysis, which will build upon the legal and policy assessment described above. This governance appraisal will analyze inter alia the way in which policies and laws are made, revised and implemented, detailing the processes underlying forest and land management in Fiji. A core component of this assessment will be the coordination of policy process between sectors, ministries and departments. The assessment will also analyze the capacity and effectiveness of institutions and stakeholders to implement and enforce the laws and policies, building upon the capacity assessment carried out under the work plan of Component 1a. This assessment should capitalize on previous experiences in policy and program implementation, focusing on key barriers and enforcement challenges.

Although this assessment is very linked to the previously described legal and policy analyses, a separate forest governance assessment will add value to R-PP implementation because it will provide an overview of all factors influencing how decisions are made regarding forest and land use as well as provide a basis against which forest governance can be continuously assessed during R-PP and eventual REDD+ implementation. This will help in monitoring the 'non-tangible' indicators other than forest carbon and forest cover and provide insights for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and building the safeguards information system (SIS) described in sub-components 2d and 4b. A participatory forest governance assessment tool such as that proposed by PROFOR (2011) or WRI (2009) will guide this assessment, which will allow for stakeholder validation throughout the process. This will be led by a specialist who has facilitated forest governance assessments in other countries, but who also has a good understanding of the Fijian context in order to adapt the tool to the needs of the country, which is especially important given Fiji's unique historical and political context. The results of the forest governance assessment will provide concrete suggestions for the strategy options in sub-component 2b as well as offer ideas for how safeguards and forest governance can be monitored throughout R-PP implementation (providing information for sub-component 4b). During R-PP development, Fijian stakeholders highlighted their high regard for such an assessment, affirming that it should be a priority of the R-PP's work plan and that lessons learned from other countries in the international REDD+ process in this regard is welcomed.

| Table 2a: Summary of Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance Activities and Budget (Follow-up Activities Needed) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Estimated Cost (in thousands) | | | | |
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| National-scale study of drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and underlying causes | Legal Analysis | 20 | | | | 20 |
| | Policy and strategy analysis | 20 | | | | 20 |
| | Report on challenges and obstacles for addressing deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji | 50 | 80 | | | 130 |
| | Opportunity Cost Assessment | | 50 | | | 50 |
| | Forest Governance Assessment | | 50 | | | 50 |
| **Total** | | **90** | **180** | **0** | **0** | **270** |
| Government | | | | | | |
| FCPF | | **50** | **180** | **0** | **0** | **230** |
| GIZ | | 40 | | | | **40** |

# 2b. REDD-plus Strategy Options

**Standard 2b the R-PP text needs to meet for this component: REDD-plus strategy Options**

The R-PP should include: an alignment of the proposed REDD-plus strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies, and a summary of the emerging REDD-plus strategy to the extent known presently, and/or of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD-plus strategy options. This summary should state: how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues and risks; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD-plus strategy; and a plan of how to assess the risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits. The assessments included in the R-PP eventually should result in an elaboration of a fuller, more complete and adequately vetted REDD-plus strategy over time.

## 2b.1 Introduction

Since the Cabinet endorsed the REDD+ policy in December 2010, Fiji has made important steps towards the development of its REDD+ strategy. Fiji is in the second phase of its national REDD+ program, which includes the establishment of pilot sites and strengthening technical Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) capacities as well as the development of a national REDD+ strategy. Several rounds of stakeholder consultations on the development of the Fiji REDD+ strategy have already taken place.[26] However, it is important to note that Fiji's national REDD+ strategy to date is much broader than the strategy options proposed in this R-PP. The REDD+ strategy under the national REDD+ programme outlines what Fiji must accomplish in order to participate in an international REDD+ performance-based financial mechanism in the future. The 30 activities identified so far in Fiji's national REDD+ program strategy include technical developments and MRV requirements, which form part of the REDD+ Readiness that may in part be financed by the FCPF. The first action identified in Fiji's national REDD+ program strategy is to identify the financing options available for REDD+ implementation, which includes the development of this R-PP.

The proposed strategic options and required actions for implementing REDD+ outlined in this sub-component should build upon the progress made thus far in the development of Fiji's REDD+ strategy, but must directly address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, at least to the extent to which they are currently understood. As mentioned in sub-component 2a, a comprehensive assessment of the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji is proposed as part of the analytical work during R-PP implementation, and future work on strategy development must build upon the results of this drivers analysis. It is important that the REDD+ strategy directly addresses the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation or proposes concrete ways in which Fiji can implement the eligible "+" activities under REDD+ as the ultimate goal of REDD+ is to attribute emissions reductions to the implementation of the REDD+ strategy.

***Current REDD+ pilot site experiences***

Current experiences from the Emalu pilot site (which began in 2011) indicate the need to provide landowners with upfront benefits while readiness work is undertaken on the site. In 2011 some of the mataqlai members were expressing the need to log a portion o their forest to help meet immediate cash needs such as school fees. The array of surveys that took place in 2012 and 2013 saw the mataqali members being contracted as field assistants. These included the landowners who were residing away

[26] http://www.carbonpartnership.co.nz/publicationDocs/Fiji%20REDD+StratWorkReport_Nov10_lowRes.pdf

from the site. The wages received from this work and from other sources related to the work (like hiring of horses to transport field equipment) helped assuage this cash need. In addition, the "good performers" are selected to be part of the pool of resource persons to be used in other field work survey.

Findings from the 2012 biodiversity survey revealed Emalu to be one of the most biologically diverse and largely intact forests in Fiji. This has generated a sense of pride amongst the mataqali members and those living in the vicinity, reflecting the importance of having a more informed local community. The regular consultations and feedback seminar to the landowners and villagers is very important as it provides a sense of security to the landowners that work is progressing (or sometimes not). These sessions also serve as a platform for the landowners to voice their concerns and issues regarding the REDD+ pilot site.

A field land use mapping in early 2103 showed a progression of agriculture clearance towards the pilot (in some case already inside the pilot site). This agriculture clearance is largely from other mataqali living around the pilot site where the mataqali are provided access and user rights to Emalu forest through traditional agreements (*vakavanua*) made 3 to 4 generations back. It is important to identify these informal land tenure arrangements given that they are very difficult to rescind given the strong social ties attached to them. In Emalu, special consultations and awareness-raising will be undertaken with these mataqali with Emalu landowners and agriculture extension officers included in the resource team. There are plans to support these mataqali with the application of sustainable farming practices and other community development support identified from the socio-economic surveys. This threat from agriculture clearance seems to be more pervasive than the logging threat. Agriculture officers recognise the need for improved agricultural systems (like intensive cropping) to reduce forest clearance but admit to be in a dilemma with sector policies pushing for more crop production.

## 2b.2 Strategy Options

The following table outlines the main potential strategy options that address the identified drivers outlined in sub-component 2a. These options are described in more detail below the table. This list is necessarily broad and these potential activities will be more fully assessed and prioritized during R-PP implementation; certain strategic options will also be removed if not considered viable. While the strategy options are discussed individually for the sake of clarity, they are often interrelated, overlapping and often reinforcing. Fiji's REDD+ strategy will need to identify the most appropriate combination of these options in order to be comprehensive but also feasible.

The strategy options result from a broad stakeholder workshop organized exclusively for the purpose of R-PP development. During this workshop, the idea of drivers was explained and participants were not only asked to identify what they thought were the drivers most relevant for Fiji, but also to propose ideas for how best to address clearance and forest degradation. The table below provides a summary that groups the options considered most desirable and feasible.

*Table 9: Strategy Options Addressing Drivers*

| Driver/Reference Activity | Strategy Options | Co-Benefits of Strategy Option |
|---|---|---|
| **Agriculture** | • Develop a national land use plan<br>• Review police and legislations that encourage unsustainable clearing of forests for agriculture<br>• Rehabilitate degraded sites and grasslands, for agriculture development to avoid farmer encroachment into forests<br>• Raise awareness on and enforcement the Land Use Capability Classification System<br>• Promote sustainable farming approaches and | • Overall sustainable management of natural resources<br>• More income generating opportunities for farmers<br>• Higher crop and income diversification leads to increased resilience against climate change impacts and natural disasters |

| Driver/Reference Activity | Strategy Options | Co-Benefits of Strategy Option |
|---|---|---|
| | technologies<br>– Agroforestry and multi-cropping systems that promote the inclusion of trees in farming<br>– Intensive farming to make optimal use of small areas of land<br>– Diversify on cash crops<br>• Support value-adding of forest produce and create niche markets for forest communities to access high-end markets (e.g.hotels)<br>• Introduce, promote and invest in alternative livelihoods (aside from cash crops)<br>• Establish and train local landcare and forestcare groups to facilitate sustainable land use in forest areas | • Increased appreciation of economic value of forests<br>• Local communities are skilled in various SLM technologies |
| **Large-scale forest conversion by local communities** | • Develop local land use plans with communities and relevant supporting agencies to promote sustainable forest management<br>• Conduct educational programmes through the Provincial Offices and Divisional Offices<br>• Promote eco-tourism in feasible forest areas<br>• Conduct biodiversity assessment of these sites and inform and educate local communities<br>• Implement Fiji's NBSAP and proposed protected area network<br>• Ecosystem valuation<br>• Promote value adding technologies for forest products | • Biodiversity conservation<br>• Better understanding of value of standing forests<br>• Broader income generating base |
| **Mining** | • National land use planning where ecological and social values of forests are considered against mining impacts<br>• Review legislation to ensure more thorough ecological and social consultations and assessments are carried out<br>• Enforce EIA and HIA | • Decrease in pollution and adverse health impacts caused by mining<br>• Protection of forest ecosystem services |
| **Infrastructure development** | • Integrated land use planning to also include socio-economic and ecosystem impact assessments<br>• Sustainable Infrastructure Development<br>• Proposed infrastructure planning and development to be captured in the national land use plan | • Conservation of mangroves and ecosystems<br>• More sustainable development of the local population<br>• A more intact environment will Increase resiliency of infrastructure and local communities against climate change impacts and natural disasters |
| **Forest fires** | • Review legislation<br>• Law enforcement<br>• Local community awareness and education programmes<br>• Active community involvement in enforcement and patrolling (fire wardens) | • Local communities have an increased awareness and appreciation on the value of forests |

| Driver/Reference Activity | Strategy Options | Co-Benefits of Strategy Option |
|---|---|---|
| **Unsustainable timber harvesting** | • Enforce the national harversting code of practice<br>• Afforestation/Reforestation programmes to increase timber supply<br>• Promote reduced impact logging<br>• Improved Law Enforcement of SFM<br>• Replant abandoned plantation sites<br>• Education/Awareness for small-scale timber operators<br>• Promote the utilisation of lesser known commercial timber species | • Biodiversity conservation<br>• Economic diversification<br>• Improved capacity and education for small-scale timber operators<br>• Added value to standing forests |

It was acknowledged that most of the actions and strategies have been discussed over the years but lacked implementation. Regular community REDD+ awareness and educational programmes so that land-users and landowners are aware of the importance of sustainable land use and their responsibilities in this regard is lacking. Awareness-raising should include explanations of the non-financial benefits that forests provide, such as biological diversity, cultural and heritage values and resilience against increasing climate change impacts.

### *Agriculture Extension Services*

Agriculture in Fiji is dominated by small farms, but many are growing in size as certain cash crops are becoming increasingly valuable for export markets. There are a large number of farms below 1 ha in size, used purely for subsistence, and a very small number of farms over 100 ha, which are predominantly grazing and forestry. Excluding these extreme groups, more than half of the total number of farms are less than five hectares and about a fifth could be described as medium sized or larger. Commercialization and diversification of agriculture must provide viable options for the large number of smallholders, linked to industry growth and employment generated primarily by commercial farms and agribusiness. Fiji farmers have traditionally performed well in a regulated environment, e.g. sugar industry, and performing not so well in growing newer diversified crops, which requires independent managerial skills. This ability needs to be nurtured and example

es such as Tutu Training Center provide a model that can be replicated.

### *Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) emphasizes the conservation and sustainable management of Fiji's natural forests as the single most important means of conserving the vast majority of Fiji's endemic fauna and flora. It proposes detailed measures to address forest biodiversity conservation while meeting local needs. At present, there is no effective protection of forests from biodiversity loss at the national level. According to the Fiji Forest Policy Statement released in November 2007, the government of Fiji establishes a new policy framework for the management of Fiji's forests. It envisions 'a permanent forest cover, including a protected forest area network'. It highlights the serious threats to forest biodiversity in Fiji, and states that 'the system of protected forest areas needs review, being insufficient in size and too scattered to provide for effective conservation'. The statement proposes the establishment and management of a 'protected area system for the conservation of representative sites of Fiji's indigenous forest types with their typical flora and fauna.' A map of the National Marine Managed & Priority Terrestrial Protected Areas for Fiji Islands is included in Annex 2b. The implementation of this Strategy and Action Plan would need to be accompanied by a reinforcement of law enforcement measures, as currently there are documented incidences of logging in protected forests. REDD+ could help to effectively implement this protected area network, including the integration of this strategy into other sector plans.

***Sustainable Infrastructure Development***

Good quality infrastructure (e.g. roads, jetties and wharfs, airfields telecommunications, electricity and water supply) is the necessary condition for successful marketing of Fiji's products and services, especially tourism. The building of roads in rural areas will also help with crop diversification, as certain low volume/high value crops are the only viable option in areas with poor market access. Investment in such infrastructure may offer alternative livelihood options in areas where unsustainable land use is currently the main economic activity. Conversely, enterprise development will be seriously constrained, or not occur at all if key infrastructure is absent, regardless of what other measures are taken. Fiji's roads and ports are undergoing major upgrading, and this must be accompanied by sound planning and strategic impact assessments. Infrastructure development also needs to take into account the growing tourism industry, integrating concepts of ecotourism in the tourism development strategy.

***Community-based forestry activities***

The Drawa model area was a community-based SFM project engaging local communities to manage their forests responsibly and sustainably. The project promoted community monitoring of law enforcement. Law enforcement at the community level, such as what happens with fisheries wardens whereby communities can report non-compliance with the law, is being considered. Forest Care Groups is another concept that has come out of REDD+ strategy development meetings, which is a similar concept to Landcare groups. Reforestation and forest enrichment is also important in order to add value to the community-owned forest land and protect its conservation into the future. According to the mineral extraction laws, communities are not compensated for what is taken from below ground, but are compensated for what is above ground. So if they plant trees, they will be compensated if these are destroyed through mining.

Regarding forest fire management for traditional hunting, fire wardens have proven successful in Conservation International's (CI) reforestation project along the Nakauvadra Ridge, which simultaneously raises awareness of the negative ecological impacts of fires. In order to add value to the forest stands, CI has planted local family/totems that are planted along the fire breaks, also plant fruit trees so that they will be less likely to burn those trees.

***Continued and strengthened sustainable forest management***

This can be achieved through improved law enforcement by reinforcing the capacity of law enforcement officials and institutions responsible for compliance monitoring. In the context of the forest sector, the Department of Environment is responsible for reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), the FD is responsible for overseeing the proper implementation of the law and the National Forest Harvesting Code of Practice. Forest communities can also play a role in enforcing law compliance as explained above. The implementation SFM can also be strengthened by conducting research regarding the state of the forests in Fiji and the impacts of different forest management practices. The Nakavu research site and the former Drawa SFM model area has important findings that can be implemented into law, such as minimum cutting diameters of different species or maximum extraction volumes per species in native forests. Besides strengthening law enforcement agencies and stakeholders, awareness-raising regarding the harvesting code and associated regulations will also be necessary, especially amongst small-scale timber operators serving domestic markets.

At the national level, FD needs capacity reinforcement to better affect its regulatory mandate, so that forest areas that have an interesting amount of timber volume are identified and appropriate harvesting plans drawn up to ensure minimum degradation. Currently, it is up to individual forestry companies to identify the areas that can potentially be exploited for timber. There would need to be a national forest management plan. SFM can also be achieved by encouraging the establishment of timber plantations to take pressure off of indigenous forests. However, the communities living in indigenous forests would need to be compensated for the income that they would be forfeiting from selling of their forests' timber.

Forest Certification as been promoted in Fiji for the last two decades. The requirements for certification will see forest harvesting adopting reduced impact logging and a more social and environmentally conscious forest industry. The Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited has certification with the Forest Stewardship Council while Fiji Pine has indicated strong interest to go in this direction.

### *Agroforestry*

Agroforestry provides Fiji with an opportunity to allow small-scale agriculture to become climate smart. Agroforestry is a cropping system that protects carbon pools whilst providing food security and other co-benefits like protection of biodiversity. Promotion of agroforestry practices provides significant potential to meet the various needs of local communities and traditional agroforestry practices will need to be promoted.

### *Land Use planning*

There is a clear distinction between the actual land use and the potential land uses that are determined in accordance to land classification and fertility maps produced by the Ministry of Agriculture. There is no legislation that ensures land is used specifically in accordance to its land use classification and potential. The government initiated a programme of direct investment in agricultural development through the 1970s and 80s, which has impacted land use change and forest cover in many areas of Fiji. Fiji currently lacks a land use planning policy, which should be a first step in moving forward in this area. At the local level, land use planning needs to involve communities, i.e. through participatory land use planning approaches. This helps to ensure that communities then implement the plans that they co-develop and has already been employed in REDD+ pilot sites such as in Emalu.

### *Forest Conservation*

The few pristine forests left in Fiji are identified as biodiversity hotspots and given the increasing demand on these forest resources, forest conservation and sustainable management are very viable activities. Experience to date shows that the "+" activities of REDD+ are highly preferred local communities. The Emalu pilot site is a forest conservation[27] that aims to protect the biodiversity and ecosystem services, and has the full and active participation of the *mataqali* (clan) members and their relatives who use the forests.

Mangroves are often identified as a priority area for conservation. REDD+ could use its media influence and political strength to bring attention to the high risk of continued loss of mangroves. Currently, mangroves are destroyed by infrastructure development but also on a smaller scale for local charcoal production and firewood. Strategic options for fighting mangrove loss include national infrastructure planning and replanting but replanting efforts are often unsuccessful and it is therefore important to safeguard the remaining mangroves against future developments. As they are part of coastal areas, mangroves are state-owned. The Ministry of Land and Mineral Resources, with support from the IUCN MESCAL Project, is revising and updating the national mangrove management plan. Given the limited experience with REDD+ in Small Island countries, Fiji provides a promising case for catalyzing the inclusion of these marine forest ecosystems, which play an increasingly critical role in the context of climate change.

[27] See also http://www.spc.int/lrd/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1087:fiji-landowners-define-redd-actions-for project-site&catid=35&Itemid=19

***Carbon stock enhancement activities***

These activities include enrichment planting or assisted recovery of heavily degraded forests, afforestation, and reforestation. Given the large areas of degraded forest and non-forest areas in Fiji, carbon stock enhancement activities seem to be a promising option for REDD+ in Fiji.

At the national level, the Forestry Department's 1 million tree planting programme in 2011 was part of the "International Year of Forests" celebration. Degraded watersheds and community plots were targeted. This also showed how pressure on native species can be reduced through the promotion of plantation forests. Promising examples exist, such as the pine softwood plantations, which provide ground cover to a large area of degraded soils. The enrichment mahogany plantings in the wet zone combined with the pine plantations might have minimized the need to harvest the remaining natural forest, but the interest in logging indigenous forest is still high.

The enrichment of native forests, which are considered highly degraded would allow for these forests to become more profitable and thus hold more value when weighed against alternative land uses such as forest conversion for agriculture. In establishing plantations, improved forest management practices, such as trimming and pruning will be necessary to ensure that quality timber is derived in the future. This is a long-term investment, important for ensuring benefits from the forest for future generations.

## 2.b.3 Work Plan

Once the full drivers assessment described in sub-component 2a becomes available, a study identifying and detailing the strategy options to address these drivers will need to be carried out. Following this study, a number of follow-up or parallel studies will take place in order to further elaborate and prioritize the REDD+ identified strategy options.

In addition, many studies have already been carried out to identify the causes for lack of implementation of policies and plans that aims at reducing deforestation and forest degradation. The lack of implementation of the National Harvesting Code of Practice for instance is attributed to the fact that there are no regulations to legally enforce it with associated penalties. In addition, the industry claims to be largely ignorant of the code and do not have trained foresters and operators who understand the requirements. The Forestry Department on the other hand puts this down to the lack of resources and officers to regularly and effectively monitor the field operations of the loggers. Such obstacles and challenges will be identified to ensure that effective and relevant strategy options are developed.

***i) Identifying, evaluating and choosing options***

The five eligible REDD+ activity types together are in theory the options to choose from, but deciding which activity to implement where, how and when is a more complicated process. In addition, each of the activity types can be implemented in many different ways. For instance, the sustainable management of forest can be taken up by logging companies having timber harvesting licenses for a given amount of time, whilst communities may want to derive an additional income from their own landholdings periodically. However, both qualify as the REDD+ eligible activity of the sustainable management of forest.

From a national perspective interests may also differ, depending on the objective that is being pursued. Some actors may be more interested in emission reduction while others prioritize retention of water storage capacity, conservation of biodiversity, improving local livelihoods, accessing international funding to protect/conserve natural resources, avoiding risk of flooding, erosion, etc.

A REDD+ Activity Matrix will be designed as a tool for strategic decision-making tool related to REDD+ implementation. The REDD+ Activity Matrix will prioritise REDD+ activity types in relation to carbon benefits, ease of implementation, co-benefits, and safeguards. This may take the form of a so-called Decision Support System (DSS) for ecosystem management. Such systems analyse economic, social and environmental trade-offs of alternative land allocation and management scenarios, based on locally-derived information and the results of the studies in sub-components 2a and b. Promising examples of

the use of these systems include on-going work in the seven's EU-funded Framework Programme but also initiatives are being financed by AUS-AID, and implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Indonesia.

The result of this DSS exercise will be the connection of the various options to their different geographic localities (i.e. REDD+ Activity Map) and the scheduling of activities, prioritising the most urgent REDD+ activities based on criteria agreed with all relevant stakeholders in a participatory manner. The prioritisation/scheduling is determined on the balancing of trade-offs, cost-benefit analyses, and outputs in terms of emission reductions and social and environmental co-benefits. The ranking of those aspects, resulting in the prioritization will be done with all key stakeholders that are involved or affected by the REDD+ activity in the area.

The final choice must dovetail with other developmental objectives of Fiji, as well as be able to co-exist as a minimum but ideally generate synergies with other sectoral policies, such as those in the area of Trade, Agriculture, Development, and others; mainstreaming REDD+ across sectors. Therefore, the policy and strategy analysis explained in sub-component 2a provides an overview of the status quo and should take place before REDD+ strategy option development. Thereafter, the integration of the selected strategy options will need to be integrated into these policies and strategies, which will require a strong technical capacity of coordination and multi-sector dialogue to ensure that all sectors take ownership of the final choices and that the outcome can be integrated in the planning of policies and interventions in other sectoral programs. This capacity needs to be assessed carefully and an inter- and intra-departmental taskforce will be established through the creation of a Working Group in the SC.

The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will run parallel to the activities carried out in this sub-component. The SESA will further assess the impacts of the different strategy options, especially with regards to their relevance of the different safeguards identified for REDD+ in Fiji.[28] The risks of the different options need to be fully assessed. A preliminary risk assessment of different strategy options is shown in the table below.

*Table 10: Preliminary Risk Assessment of identified Strategy Options*

| Strategy Option | Risk | Significance: Low, Medium, High |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Agriculture**<br>• Develop a national land use plan | • Lack of commitment from the all the involved agencies<br>• Weak enforcement on the groundf | High |
| • Review police and legislations that promote unsustainable forest clearance for agriculture | • Lack of commitment from responsible sectors<br>• Economic needs take priority | High |
| • Promote sustainable farming approaches and technologies | • Weak institutional capacity for implementation<br>• Technology not accepted by farmers<br>• Poor market demand & availability for crops<br>• Lack of appropriate planting materials | High |
| • Support value-adding of forest produce and create niche markets for forest communities to access high-end markets (e.g.hotels) | • Disconnect between community (producer) and the markets.<br>• Lack of consistency in supply and meeting demand<br>• Weak govt mechanisms to strengthen connection between local communities and markets | High |

[28] See Chapter 5.1 of Fiji's REDD+ Policy for the relevant safeguards.

| Strategy Option | Risk | Significance: Low, Medium, High |
|---|---|---|
| • Rehabilitate degraded sites and grasslands, for agriculture development to avoid farmer encroachment into forests<br>• Raise awareness on and enforcement the Land Use Capability Classification System | • Lack of harmonization of inter-sectoral policies (FD, Agri, DOEnv)<br>• No enforcement<br>• Lack of personnel for training and awareness | High |
| **2. Eco-tourism in forested areas** | • Lack of tourist ,<br>• Accessibility (remoteness)<br>• Loss of interest of communities &<br>• Clashing of traditional and business cultures<br>• Poor business management<br>• Social and gender issues | Medium |
| **3. Implementation of Fiji's NBSAP and implementation of proposed protected area network** | • Poor management by responsible agency<br>• Poor financial management and disbursement of funds to implementing agencies<br>• Lack of capacity (trained personnel)<br>• Sourcing funds through DOE/ lack of formal structure (formalize the protected areas network) | High |
| **4. SFM and Forest Enhancement Activities:**<br>• Forest management by local communities | • Lack of legal protection ,<br>• Illegal logging<br>• Encroachment<br>• Unsustainable subsistence utilisation of forest products<br>• Un-informed new village arrivals / need for regular awareness (high villager turnover)<br>• Traditional agreements (on land utilization by other groups) existing that conflict with project<br>• Conflicting advice from other sectors e.g. agricultural extension promoting crop production | Medium |
| • Afforestation/ Reforestation programmes | • Fire<br>• Free roaming animals ,<br>• Pest and diseases (Weeds, Invasive Alien Spp)<br>• Extreme weather conditions (e.g. prolonged droughts, high rainfall)<br>• Conflicting plans from other sectors e.g. factory, etc.<br>• Contamination of genetic pool (bringing in exotic species)<br>• Introduction of incorrect species during inappropriate succession phase of forest growth | High |
| • Reduced Impact Logging<br>• Improved Law Enforcement of SFM | • Lack of enforcement of Fiji Code of Harvesting Practice<br>• Lack of capacity and resources for enforcement,<br>• Unsecure lease<br>• Lack of long term capacity for landowners to develop and manage the plantations | High<br>High |

| Strategy Option | Risk | Significance: Low, Medium, High |
|---|---|---|
| • Expand Tree plantations | • Selection of ideal tree species (market demands, resilient , fast growing etc) | Medium |
| **5. Sustainable Infrastructure Development** | • National economic drive for development (tourism etc)<br>• Weak inter-sectoral decision making and planning<br>• Non compliance of processes (EIA, etc) | Medium |
| **6. National land use planning** | • Lack of inter-sectoral collaboration<br>• Lack of legislation | High |

*Source: R-PP Stakeholder Workshop, 20 June 2013*

### *ii) Cost benefits analysis*

Generally speaking, the most important co-benefit of REDD+ in Fiji is the increased resilience to climate change, as the small island country will increasingly need to prioritize climate change adaptation over mitigation. Other potential co-benefits of the different strategy options include biodiversity conservation, environmental services protection, decreased vulnerability to natural disasters, and water and food security. Forest carbon is valued because of its role in climate change mitigation, but forests still provide the same benefits that they always did, before the emergence of forest carbon quantification. It is important to recognize these benefits as they are often much more important to local communities than the potential economic benefits of forest carbon projects.[29]

Through an ecosystem valuation of forests, Fiji hopes to generate a better understanding of the economic importance of forests beyond their value for timber. Assessing the benefits provided by standing and healthy forests in a credible way can help to implement REDD+ activities and demonstrate to certain key actors that REDD+ is in their best interest.

*2b.3 Develop strategy options to address drivers of deforestation forest degradation in Fiji*

| MILESTONES | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 1. Strategy options to address drivers drafted with stakeholders (based on repot from 2a) | | | x | | | | | |
| 2. Strategy options for REDD+ validated and endorsed | | | x | | | | | |
| 3. REDD+ activity map produced | | | | X | | | | |
| 4. REDD+ resource map produced | | | | X | | | | |
| 5. Ecosystem valuation of potential REDD+ sites undertaken | | | | | x | | | |
| 6. Cost/Benefit Analysis of REDD+ strategy options produced | | | | | x | | | |
| 7. Tools for prioritizing and choosing strategic options developed and endorsed | | | | | | x | | |

[29] Vickers et al. "Community guidelines for accessing forestry voluntary carbon markets" FAO RAP publication 2012/16: Bangkok.

Note: Since Fiji is not participating in UN-REDD, it has used the normal budget table format rather than the requested format in the R-PP template.

**Table 2b: Summary of REDD-plus Strategy Activities and Budget**

| Main Activity | Sub-Activity | Estimated Cost (in thousands) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Total |
| Develop Strategy Options to address drivers | Study | 10 | 10 | | | **20** |
| | Stakeholder Validation | | 10 | | | **10** |
| Develop tools for prioritizing and choosing strategic options | REDD+ Activity Matrix | 5 | 10 | | | **15** |
| | REDD+ Resource Map | 10 | 10 | | | **20** |
| | Stakeholder consultation for validation of prioritized activities | | 15 | 10 | | **25** |
| Cost/Benefit Analysis of strategy options | Ecosystem valuation | | 50 | 20 | | **70** |
| | REDD+ | | | 20 | | **20** |
| **Total** | | **25** | **105** | **50** | **0** | **180** |
| Government | | 15 | 20 | 0 | | **35** |
| **FCPF** | | | 65 | 50 | 0 | **115** |
| GIZ | | 10 | 20 | 0 | | **30** |

# 2c. REDD-plus Implementation Framework

**Standard 2c the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**REDD-plus implementation framework:**

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.

## 2c.1 Hybrid Approach

Fiji has chosen to take a 'hybrid' model for REDD+ implementation, which include payments flowing at the national, programmatic, and project-scale as specified in the National REDD+ Policy. REDD+ implementation in Fiji will potentially include both market (carbon trading) and fund-based (non-trading) financing sources as part of the international suite of forest carbon financing for REDD+. For this reason, and particularly because an international REDD+ carbon market (i.e. carbon trading) instrument may take many years to become available under the UNFCCC, it was decided to broaden the scope of Fiji REDD+ from 'Carbon Trading' objectives to general 'Carbon Financing' goals. The REDD+ Policy provides a framework to facilitate access to all available financing instruments for REDD+ from both market and fund-based sources.

For REDD+ activities that take an area-based approach,[30] forests on the smaller outer islands would be eligible for REDD+ through bundling of more than one project area. For some islands, it may simply not be feasible in terms of transaction costs to set-up any REDD+ activities. A national of sub-national scale approach where more than one area is combined can support this bundling. However, Fiji is also considering an activity-based approach which implies a national program that would support forest and resource users to invest in more sustainable land and forest use.

The design of this hybrid approach needs to be developed in much more detail, specifically with how it fits into the financing of REDD+ implementation. Arguably, however, the development of this implementation framework and associated analyses should be postponed until the strategy options are agreed upon. Once the strategy options that will be employed become available, the following aspects will be more fully assessed:

1. The interaction between different scales of the 'hybrid approach' (national, sub-national and project scale implementation activities);

2. The interaction of the different financing options and scales (e.g. voluntary and compliance carbon markets);

3. Financing and distribution at different scales.

[30] See http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/sres/land_use/index.php?idp=6 for more information regarding the difference between these approaches.

## 2c.2 Institutional arrangements and regulatory framework

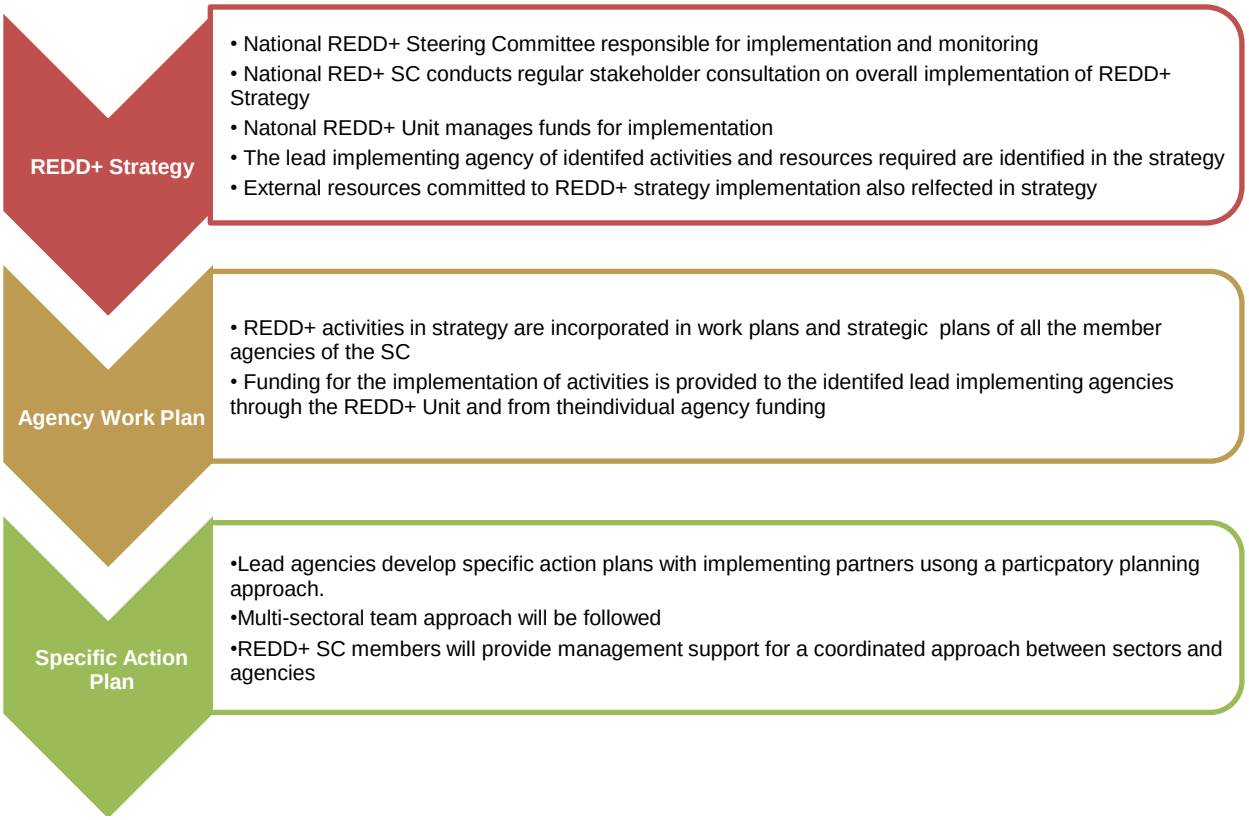
Fiji will establish a REDD+ governance structure that will:

- Provide a transparent mandate for REDD+ program activities that, includes all relevant participating stakeholders (including resource owner representatives) in the decision structure
- Provide a transparent link between the funding source and the activities on the ground (financial discipline)
- Ensure compatibility with other national environment and development priorities
- Supporting a transparent communication strategy
- Ensuring effective strategic linkages between policy and technical components, landowners and the private sector

The Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee provides guidance and advice on the REDD+ activities and projects. All REDD+ project documents are screened by the committee to ensure that resource owner's rights are considered and correct procedures are adhered to.

Existing institutional arrangements will be used where possible and strengthened where necessary. The institutional setup to manage REDD+ activities at the national level will be a firm part of the overall institutional framework as explained in Component 1a.

*Figure 2a: Overall structure for implementation of the REDD+ Strategy*



***Forest Carbon Rights***

> "REDD+ implementation can take place on government-owned land, freehold land, and/or customary land. Performance-based payments for REDD+ will be dependent upon clear delineation of land tenure, carbon tenure arrangements, as well as effective, equitable, and transparent benefit-sharing arrangements for REDD+ implementation activities."
>
> *- Paragraph 4.6.3 of the Pacific Island Regional Policy Framework for REDD+*[31]

Clarifying the legal ownership of carbon in the forest is important for Fiji when preparing to engage with REDD+. A forest carbon right is the legal right of a person or group in relation to forest over which the person or group has control or owns, to exploit the economic benefits of the carbon stored and sequestered in the forest. Nearly 88% of the land in Fiji is owned by indigenous (iTaukei) landowning groups and approximately 90% of iTaukei land is forested. Much of this land is registered in the Register of iTaukei Lands with boundaries recorded (even if not all have been formally surveyed), with members of the landowning group recorded in the Vola ni Kawa Bula.

Under the legal system prevailing in Fiji, the landowner owns the forest on his land, whether it is in his possession or leased and in consequence, would own forest carbon rights in relation to that forest. In the case of forest planted with the consent of the landowner (plantations), ownership of the trees resides in the lessee during the term of the lease, but unless negotiated as part of the lease agreement, the lessee cannot assume to have the benefit of the forest carbon rights.[32]

Fiji has to make a policy decision on the way ahead for carbon rights to proceed with the REDD+ policy. The choices are between the various options for ownership of carbon rights.

1) One option is for the State to assume ownership of forest carbon rights and to legislate to reserve ownership of the rights, in the same way as the rights in minerals in land is reserved to the State. However this could result in Fiji being in contravention of its international obligations in relation to indigenous landowners, and is unlikely to be essential for participation by the State in international carbon finance transactions that require a national level counterparty.

2) A second option is for a landowner (who by law owns the carbon rights in his forest) to benefit from them by engaging directly in a relationship for a REDD+ project on his land. This could be achieved through a legislative system that provides for the creation of an ecosystem restoration licence as a prelude to engaging in a REDD+ project. The licence conditions would be enforced by the State. Carbon credits or verified emission reductions would be sold to a buyer under an emission reductions purchase agreement. A landowner could engage in a REDD+ project by leasing the land to a REDD+ developer (through TLTB or the Land Bank) who would obtain the ecosystem restoration licence and engage a service provider to carry out the REDD+ project including fulfilling the terms of the licence. A specific illustration of this option, modelled on the forest concession licence and having regard to the likely need to aggregate parcels of land for carbon credits to be of sufficient volume to attract an emissions reduction purchaser is the following: a group of landowners would form an incorporated landowning entity, which leases the lands (through TLTB or the Land Bank), obtains an ecosystem restoration licence and contracts with another person (e.g., an NGO) to manage the provision of services (the service provider) to fulfil the purpose and conditions of the ecosystem restoration licence. The service provider would be bound to employ and train members of the landowning units that comprise the landowning entity where it includes iTaukei landholders. The landowning entity would sell the verified emission reductions to a purchaser for value.

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[31] The Pacific Islands Regional Policy Framework for REDD+ was prepared with support from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and GIZ, and was adopted by the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services at its Fifth Regional Meeting in Nadi, Fiji, 24-27 September 2012.

[32] Trenorden, Christine. REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Fiji: Background Legal Analysis." SPC/GIZ Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries," November 2012.

3) A third option is to create a separate forest carbon property right, so as to enable separation of the forest carbon rights from the land and facilitate their ownership and consequent trading, by third parties (other than the landowner). This has the disadvantage of requiring the establishment of a system or registering and recording forest carbon rights, to avoid fraudulent activity.

The forest ecosystem licence and lease model in option 2.) offers the greatest certainty and benefit for all parties, and although it would necessarily require some legislative change, particularly to address competing interests in the land, it would be consistent with Fiji's international obligations, be easily understood by all landowners and relatively simple to apply without the need for differentiated application between landowners in the different categories of land tenure.

Adoption of any of the options will require legislative change to implement the approach and provide safeguards for purchasers of either carbon rights or carbon credits, and the forest carbon rights owners. There is merit in adopting the simplest and most easily understood approach, with clear rights and duties set out in legislation, to avoid costly legal fees. Fiji has yet to make this political choice before engaging in REDD+.

Preliminary experience from CI's project suggests that leasing may not always be the option desired by communities, as they may be hesitant to sign off rights to their land. CI's project developers entered into voluntary agreements with the communities involved in their project and this has been a positive development so far. Currently, CI is in discussion with TLTB in order to gain official recognition of the project.

## 2c.3 Pilot Sites

In order to move the national REDD+ program forward, REDD+ pilot sites are being established with the goal of demonstrating how REDD+ can be implemented at the national level. These projects also help to gain a better understanding for how to involve land owners in the development of REDD+ strategies. Initial consultations were done with both landowners and relevant government stakeholders in the pilot area. This was to ensure that everyone was aware of the REDD+ program and the establishment of its pilot sites. In addition, a consultation workshop was held in Suva in order for the Emalu mataqali members and various stakeholders to discuss the implementation of REDD+ requirements in Emalu.

Emalu[33] is the first pilot site, located on Viti Levu and covers an area of 7,347 hectares, which includes lowland, upland and cloud forests. A series of surveys have been undertaken in order to create a baseline against which REDD+ activities will be assessed. The different surveys included Forest Carbon Assessment Survey (conducted by the Department of Forestry, Drawa Landowners Technical Team, Emalu field assistants and SPC), Biodiversity Survey (conducted by the University of the South Pacific, Local Experts, and local field assistants), Land use survey (conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, German Agency for International Development, Cooperation, Emalu landowners), Socio-Economic Survey (conducted by the Department of Forestry, German Agency for International Development, Cooperation, Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs. pilot site landowner youths,and Department of Culture and Heritage) and the Cultural Mapping Survey (conducted by the Department of Culture and Heritage and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs). All these surveys have been completed and their data and report are currently being analyzed and finalized.

More pilots are being explored and developed, including on other islands. Selection criteria for the pilot site have been presented, explained and validated by the SC. These include 'obligatory' and 'desired' criteria. Obligatory criteria refer to requirements needed for a REDD+ project to be eligible. These criteria were based on existing international standards and requirements (VCS and UNFCCC) and from local requirements. Sites with high biodiversity and of cultural importance were emphasized in the selection

[33] The land belonging to the Mataqali Emalu of Yavusa Emalu in the Province of Navosa is the pilot site for the Fiji National REDD+ program.

criteria for REDD+ sites. These criteria can be up-scaled to the national scale during REDD+ implementation.

## 2c.4 Experience with REDD+ Projects

Independent REDD+ projects will need to be endorsed by the Conservator of Forests. Currently, two pilot projects could be considered REDD+ projects. One is Conservation International's Nakauvadra Community Based Reforestation Project, which is currently undergoing validation from the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards. The project is funded through the support of Fiji Water. Located on the northern tip of Viti Levu in the Province of Ra, the project is comprised of 1,135 ha of reforestation plots along the Southern and Northern slopes of the Nakauvadra Range, a 11,387 ha forest refuge that has been designated as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and is earmarked as a priority site in Fiji's proposed protected area network. Indeed, reforesting that area would provide a biodiversity corridor that spans the majority of Viti Levu, Fiji's largest island. The project's main objective is to develop a multiple benefit, community based reforestation project that:

- Reforests an area of 1,135 ha which results in the sequestration of at least 280,000 tCO2 over the 30 year project lifespan, validated and verified to the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCBS);
- Increases forest cover around the Nakauvadra Range to expand critical habitat for endangered and endemic species living there, and enhances forest connectivity with other adjacent forest blocks;
- Enables local landowners to benefit from job creation, increased revenue, and the enhancement of livelihoods in both the short and long term.

Live & Learn also has a REDD+ project, which is community-based and takes a participatory and adaptive 'action research' approach to build capacity of forest-dependent local and indigenous people in governance, planning and financial management of REDD+ projects. The site is in Drawa, which was established as a national model site for SFM from the late1990s to 2008. The area is considered lucrative for industrial logging and therefore the business as usual scenario against which REDD+ activities are based is timber extraction. The Research for Aspiration and Perception (RAPS) model was employed at the beginning of the project in order to ensure that its design was in line with the collective development goals of the community. Benefit sharing is at the heart of the project and therefore significant time and resources has been invested in building financial management capacity in preparation for REDD+.

## 2c.5 Additionality and Leakage

Another risk that will need to be accounted for during R-PP implementation is the Additionality of REDD+ activities or the ability of Fiji to prove that the activities implemented through REDD+ would not have happened otherwise. There are a number of on-going projects and programs related to REDD+ in Fiji and it is important to ensure that REDD+ is additional to and builds upon these existing projects and programs. As described below, Fiji is active in the CDM market and it is therefore theoretically possible that afforestation/reforestation projects may be developed in Fiji under the CDM. However, the REDD+ Steering Committee has members of the Climate Change Unit who will be able to ensure that projects are not double counted. Some examples of other climate change-related projects include:

- MESCAL – mangrove ecosystem adaptation to Livelihood and CC
- CTI – strengthening coastal management and adaptation to CC
- GEF – PAS on Biodiversity and Protected Forests
- Second National Communication(SNC)

- Climate Change and Health Adaptation (new, MOH)
- Community adaptation to CC (Land Use Planning, WWF, LLEE)
- Community Adaptation Project on Freshwater accessibility
- Solar Street Light initiative
- Nadi River Catchment Rehabilitation: FAO/UNCCD
- CI Nakauvadra reforestion project
- NatureFiji-MareqetiViti sago palm conservation

## 2c.6 Experience with Clean Development Mechanism

Fiji has been participating in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol since 2008. REDD+ should build upon the experiences learned in CDM. The Carbon Trading Technical Team (CTTT) in the MFAIC has developed a registry for the purposes of CDM. Usually the registry is under the UNFCCC, but Fiji has its own separate registry and employs both. Three CDM projects are currently registered and this experience should be valorised for the purposes of REDD+. If a similar registry is developed for REDD+, the personnel responsible for the CDM registry should conduct training for the institution in which this REDD+ registry would be housed, i.e. FD or TLTB. Currently, the CI's reforestation project is registered under the CDM registry in the Climate Change Unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but this may change in the future as the future REDD+ registry (described below) is developed.

## 2c.7 Work Plan

### *Registry*

If Fiji decides to develop a special lease for REDD+ activities and projects, a separate registry for these leases would most likely need to be developed. This registry could simultaneously take the form of a National REDD+ Resource Database that includes maps of different activity locations and their corresponding land tenure arrangements. Biodiversity and socio-economic indicators could be integrated into this database, which would be of significant use to the safeguards and co-benefits monitoring described in sub-component 4b. This National REDD+ Resources Database and the resource map of potential REDD+ sites and appropriate activities described in sub-component 2b will help ensure reductions in forest-related emissions are not offset by increases in emissions in other areas or in other carbon pools. Third-party verification of the information entered into this registry could be undertaken by DOE, the NEC or Fiji's Auditor General. The Auditor General often sub-contracts third-party firms and in the case of REDD+, it would be relevant to have a non-governmental institution that is also involved in human rights such as Transparency International.

### *Benefit Sharing Mechanism*

The benefit sharing mechanism (BSM) must 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.

The work plan in sub-component 2b identifies a series of studies that are critical for prioritising and successfully implementing REDD+ activities. Depending on the land ownership, the land users or actors, the type of REDD+ activity to be implemented, the changes in comparison to the business as usual

scenario in terms of having access to good, services, income, employment etc., a fair compensation scheme can be designed.

Note that under a national approach, clarification of carbon rights is not a pre-condition for benefit-sharing, as a benefit-sharing scheme incorporate a variety of forms, such as returning benefits to those who are actively engaged in land management or directing incentives to forest carbon emission reduction activities that the government wishes to encourage. This is subject to the qualification that where the national approach incorporates a project-based approach which directly generates carbon credits, the value of some of those credits must be returned to landowners as otherwise it would constitute a 'taking' of property. In Fiji, the manner in which the ownership of forest carbon rights will be linked to benefit-sharing, [34] and in what form will the benefits will be distributed, will be determined under Fiji's REDD+ guidelines described below.

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 co-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.

Under a national scale (and hybrid 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 could then 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 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. Such systems of strategic redistribution lie at the core of international climate policy under the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' that see developed countries bearing most of the costs of global carbon emissions reductions (including emissions reductions in developing countries).

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 (by default and as of right) carbon property rights to landowners, who are then able to sell carbon units to the government as a means of gaining performance-based direct payments. A national body could issue carbon units on the basis of project-based carbon accounting (as would occur in a pilot project), on the understanding that the government would buy those carbon units at the current international carbon price for this grade and vintage of carbon.

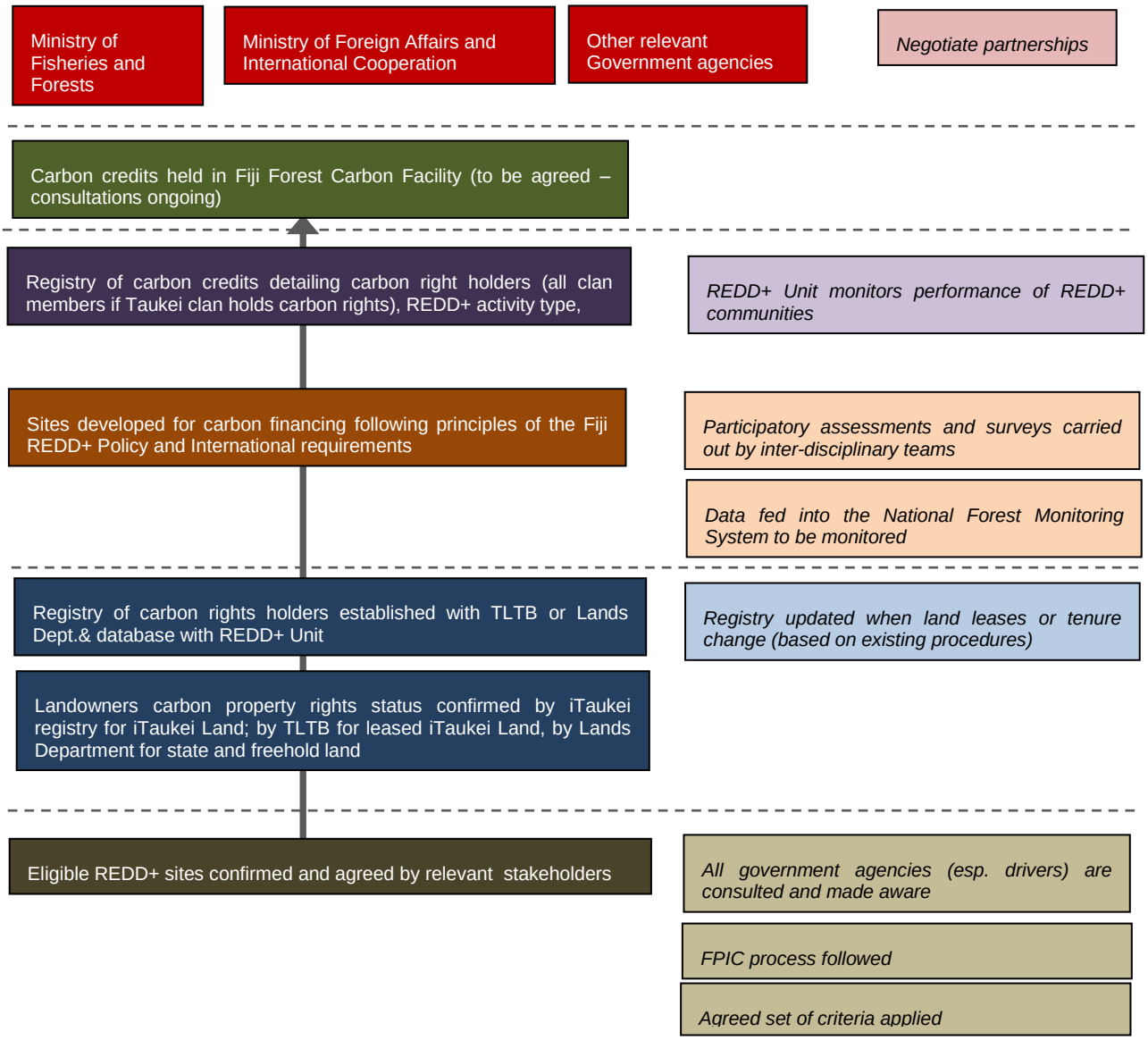
The price the government would pay for these units could be based on the price that the government gains from selling national carbon units at a national scale as part of aggregated transactions with intergovernmental or other international carbon trading or fund funding partners.

Under a hybrid model for national REDD+ carbon financing a government programme could operate in parallel to a purely project-based instrument that operated independently of government. Here

[34] Trenorden, Christine. REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Fiji: Background Legal Analysis." SPC/GIZ Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries," November 2012.

landowners might have the option to sign up with a national programme or instead manage their carbon credit transactions independently of government directly in an international REDD+ carbon market.

A proposed structure on the process for managing emission reduction units is given below.



Under a project-based model, and using the contemporary situation as an example, landowners could develop their REDD+ carbon project and sell their carbon units directly in the international voluntary carbon market. Such landowners would be ineligible for selling their carbon units to the government. Through time, however, such landowners could decide to opt into a government scheme.

Under both models, carbon property rights could be assigned to landowners, but the government reserves the right to assume ownership of carbon units that it purchases from landowners should the opportunity arise to develop a national scale instrument.

***Capacity building for law enforcement***

In order to successfully implement REDD+, capacity building for effective law enforcement will be of critical importance. At the regional level and on the outer islands, some basic capacity will need to be present to connect those communities and land users on the ground and in the field with the capital and the central organization of the REDD+ programs. At the end of the day it is those stakeholders that actually implement or monitor REDD+ activities, which then entitles Fiji to international financial resources that compensate for the emission reductions it achieves. Community-serving organizations will therefore be involved in the awareness raising, consultations and the transfer of knowledge, techniques and technologies. Given the plan to integrate REDD+ objectives into on-going policy and legislative reforms, it will be important to simultaneously ensure that these reforms are thereafter properly implemented.

***REDD+ Guidelines***

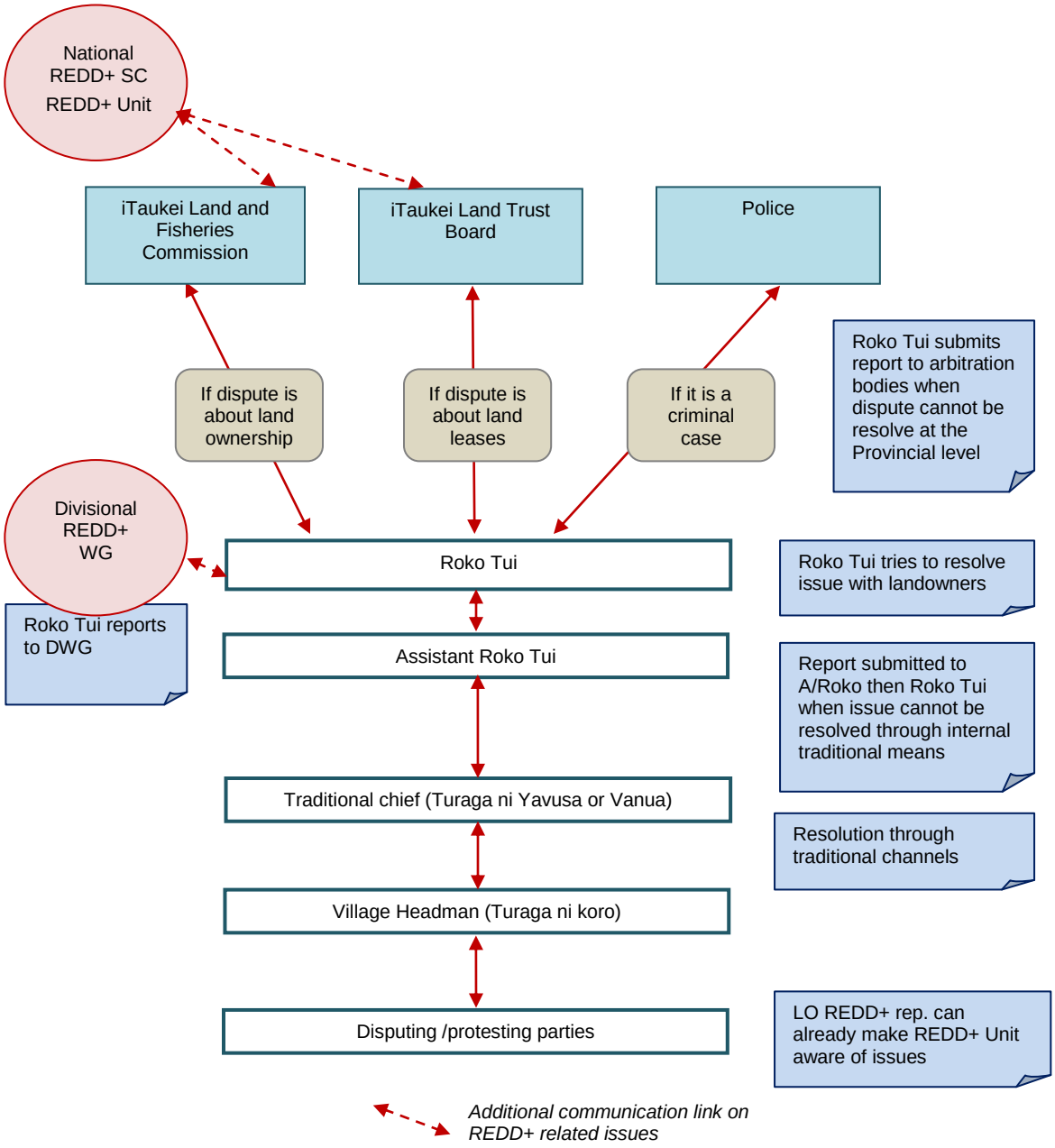
Preliminary work has been carried out for the development of REDD+ carbon financing guidelines. These guidelines have developed to become broader all-encompassing guidelines for REDD+ in Fiji and therefore remain under revision. The goal of these guidelines is to support implementation of REDD+ safeguards referred to in the REDD+ Policy regarding forest carbon financing (including carbon trading). Due to the large percentage of customary landownership in Fiji (almost 90%), a carbon financing guideline will ensure that the interests and rights of resource owners are fully considered. It will also provide clarification over forest carbon property rights and promote the accountability and transparency of REDD+ projects. The guideline will serve as a template for the implementation of REDD+ both at national and sub-national level.

***REDD+ grievance redress mechanism***

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+ can benefit 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. With regards to land leases, the iTaukei Lands Trust Board manages any disputes.

*Figure 2b: Existing grievance redress mechanism for iTaukei disputes*




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 need to be more fully assessed, which may only be possible once the REDD+ implementation framework (sub-component 2c) becomes more clearly defined. The documentation process for grievances will also need to be developed during R-PP implementation and the institution undertaking this documentation must be identified. The TLTB may be well-placed to institutionalize the grievance mechanism if REDD+ implementation in Fiji takes the shape of a REDD+ lease arrangement. However, the Communication Officer in the FD's REDD+ Unit is another option in order to integrate the uptake, documentation and reaction to grievances with the consultation and participation process. The grievance redress mechanism will be part of the National REDD+ Guidelines document.

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.

The REDD+ Steering Committee will be responsible for preparing a set of National REDD+ Guidelines on REDD+ readiness and implementation. A draft Carbon Financing guidelines have been produced, which will be expanded to become more general guidelines for REDD+ implementation. The SC plays a central role in coordinating the drafting and validation of these guidelines. The role of these guidelines for future REDD+ implementation is further described in sub-component 2c and their finalization and validation is included in that sub-component's budget.

| **Comp. 2c: Implementation mile stones** | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | |
| | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 - 12 |
| Strategic Financial Plan for national REDD+ implementation | | | x | | | | | |
| Benefit sharing mechanism developed | | | x | | | | | |
| Feedback and grievance redress mechanism functional | | | x | | | | | |
| Blueprint for REDD+ implementation phase and hybrid accounting | | | | | | | | x |

| Table 2c: Summary of REDD-plus Implementation Framework Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Develop a REDD+ Implementation plan | Design REDD+ financial flow framework | | 30 | | | **30** |
| | Integrate financial flow framework into registry | | | 10 | | **10** |
| Benefits sharing mechanism | Design | 15 | 5 | | | **20** |
| | Implementation | | | 25 | | **25** |
| Process for legislative change for carbon rights | Legal Review, which includes stakeholder consultations | 5 | 5 | 5 | | **15** |
| | | 10 | 5 | | | **15** |
| Strengthening of policies and legislations | Implement policy reform | | 10 | 10 | 10 | **30** |
| | Law enforcement | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| Grievance redress mechanism | Training of stakeholders on adressing grievances and conflicts duiring REDD+ preparation | 10 | 10 | | | **20** |
| | Identify existing redress structures and institions and strengthen for REDD+ grievance redress | 5 | 5 | | | **10** |
| | Develop grievance guideline including grievance recording form for local villages and communites | 15 | 10 | | | **25** |
| | Train Village headman and other officers in recording and adressing grievances | 15 | 10 | 5 | 5 | **35** |
| Finalization of REDD+ Guidelines | | 20 | | | | **20** |
| **Total** | | **105** | **100** | **65** | **25** | **295** |
| Government | | 30 | 25 | - | - | **55** |
| FCPF | | **55** | **75** | **65** | **25** | **220** |
| GIZ | | 20 | | | | **20** |

# 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation

**Standard 2d the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**Social and environmental impacts during readiness preparation and REDD-plus implementation:**

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country's readiness preparation efforts. For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, and for preparing the ESMF.

## 2d.1 Introduction

In order to integrate social and environmental considerations into the REDD+ policy-making process, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will be carried out. The SESA will assess the potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the proposed REDD+ strategy and is the basis upon which the future Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed. The forest governance assessment proposed in Component 2a should help in carrying out the SESA and the SESA should seek to inform the Safeguard Information System (SIS) built under Component 4b. All SESA documents will be made publicly available and go through extensive rounds of broad consultation.

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) can be defined as "a range of analytical and participatory approaches that aim to integrate environmental and social considerations into policies, plans and programs and evaluate the inter linkages with economic, political, and institutional considerations". SESA typically makes use of a variety of tools, rather than following a single, fixed, prescriptive approach.

The ESMF aims at minimizing or eliminating negative impacts or – if inevitable – duly compensating their negative consequences, while elaborating on means of creating benefits for people and the environment during REDD+ implementation. The ESMF is an instrument to map impacts, manage them in an informed manner, and avoid the most unwanted impacts; it provides a framework to address the key environmental and social issues associated with the implementation of Fiji's preferred REDD+ strategy. The SESA is a one-time assessment while the Safeguards Information System (SIS) developed under the work plan and budget outlined in Component 4b will inform the ESMF on a continuous basis.

### *Integrating SESA throughout R-PP Components*

The development of the SESA will be done in tandem with the evaluation of the strategic options described in Component 2b. The SESA will assess the different REDD+ strategy options in an iterative and participatory way. This will be accomplished through a national policy dialogue that includes Fijians who represent the daily needs of subsistence land users at the local level. The SESA should value iTaukei principles and traditional authority.

The SESA will provide a cumulative assessment of the potential impacts of REDD+, according to the different strategy options. The identification of negative impacts and formulation of adequate mitigation measures will be integrated in the preparation of other components of the R-PP, as a means of ensuring that the World Bank Safeguards are incorporated from the onset to avoid, limit and/or mitigate harm to people and the environment, and strive to achieve benefits instead. The SESA protocols have to comply with the World Bank safeguard policies as laid out in the FCPF's Common Approach.

Planning for the SESA is an on-going process that is accompanying the R-PP development and its elements can be found throughout the R-PP document, i.e. Component 1a describes how an Technical Working Group will be created for coordinating arrangements for the SESA and Component 1c describes how the consultation process for the SESA is integrated into the Consultation and Participation Plan.

***SESA Objectives and proposed Workplan***

The aim of SESA is to assess the likely positive and negative impacts of Fiji's REDD+ strategy options (Component 2b) and implementation framework (Component 2c). The specific purpose of the SESA is to identify opportunities that:

- Enable an understanding of the operating environment for REDD+ programs, including stakeholder analysis and the socio-environmental dimensions of the forestry sector in Fiji;
- Screen and assess possible social impacts and issues related to REDD+ programs in Fiji according the different strategy options outlined in Component 2b;
- Identify criteria for risk management;
- Develop a multi-stakeholder engagement approach to address these impacts that will be part of the C&P Plan;
- Propose methods and measures to mitigate environmental and socioeconomic risks during REDD+ strategy implementation; and
- Provide leads to improve development activities and the state of the environment through REDD+ as well as any associated measures adopted to counter climate change.

As described below, it is suggested that a team of consultants and local specialists be hired in order to carry out the SESA. This team will more fully develop the work plan for the SESA; the following is provided as guidance:

**Phase 1: SESA Assessment**

- Prioritize drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (resulting from Component 2a studies) by defining the key social and environmental issues related to them.
- Assess proposed REDD+ strategy options (Component 2c) in relation to the previously defined priorities, including regulatory, institutional or capacity gaps related to strategy options.
- Assess environmental and social risks and potential positive and negative impacts associated with strategy options.
- Refine strategy options and/or generate new strategy options.
- Benefit/costs analyses, including an evaluation of how these costs and benefits are distributed/allocated
- Risk assessment of proposed REDD+ strategy options.

The outcome of abovementioned assessments will lead to the development of mitigation, risk management and capacity building measures, which will be needed for the execution of Phase 2. All assessments will consider the World Bank safeguard policies. The assessments will be conducted by national consultants where necessary, with the support of international consultants, in collaboration with relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions.

**Phase 2: ESMF Development**

The outcomes of phase 1 will lead to the implementation of the results of SESA through the formulation of the ESMF. The following activities will be considered:

- On-going capacity and institutional strengthening of existing institutions and systems.
- Development of ToRs for preparing ESMF.
- Adjustment and strengthening of regulatory frameworks.
- Formulation of environmental and social management framework (EMSF) consistent with World Bank safeguard policies.

Abovementioned activities will be conducted through intensive consultation and participation of all relevant organizations and institutions, in a manner that is sensitive to iTaukei culture.

A preliminary timeline and milestones of the SESA can be outlined as follows:

- Launching (June 2014) – wide awareness on the SESA objectives, components and underlying principals. This will include an event to with media coverage. • Scoping (June 2014-June 2015) – includes a comprehensive assessment of capacities of existing institutions to manage key environmental, social and vulnerability issues. This will help guide training and capacity building for the local SESA / EIA / ESMF team.
- Assessment (July 2015- December 2016) – a team of local and international experts will carry out the SESA as described Phase 1 above. SESA report produced by December 2016
- Preparation of ESMF (January 2017- December 2018) – as described in Phase 2 above. The ESMF will be piloted in three selected Provinces

## 2d.2 SESA Terms of Reference

Before the ToRs for the SESA can be created, an Technical Sub-Committee that deals specifically with the SESA must be created in the SC. This Committee will be responsible for SESA oversight and coordination. Thereafter, detailed ToR for the SESA will be drafted as a priority during R-PP implementation. The SESA will inform the design of the activities proposed in the strategy options described in Component 2b. Therefore, the SESA must begin as soon as possible in order to provide guidance to stakeholders as the REDD+ strategy options are being evaluated and refined.

The ToRs should consider the possibility of having a consultancy team developed specifically for the purpose of the SESA and ESMF. They should highlight a preference for local and regional consultants. Encouraging this would be a good way for the process to obtain greater ownership by Government whilst closing capacity gaps. The consultant team hired to conduct the SESA will work closely with the REDD+ National Coordinator, the Safeguards Committee and the Consultation described in Components 1a-c.

The ToRs must explain how the SESA will be adopted to the specific context of Fiji, building upon relevant experiences or knowledge regarding strategic impact assessments in the country and most importantly, be formulated through a consultative/participatory stakeholder process, for which time did not allow prior to R-PP submission. The SESA ToRs will include national safeguard policies that apply to REDD+ as well as identify the key social and environmental issues associated with the drivers (which remain to be fully assessed as explained in Component 2a). The SESA workplan will include an analysis of the institutional arrangements for coordinating the integration of environmental and social issues in REDD+ readiness.

## 2d.3 Impact Assessments in Fiji

Fiji's Environment Management Act of 2005 establishes a National Environment Council which is responsible for overseeing the formulation and approval of the National Environment Strategy in Fiji. It has a broad role of facilitating discussion of environmental issues and overseeing the implementation of international and regional treaties. The Act also sets out directions for environmental impact assessments of proposed developments for 'approving authorities.' According to this Act, the Department of Environment has an Environmental Impact Assessment Unit which is responsible for administrating impact assessments. In 2007, Fiji passed the Environment Management Regulation (EIA Process).

The Department of Environment is empowered under EMA (2005) to monitor the implementation of Environmental Laws under the jurisdiction of other Ministries and Departments, which include the Forest Decree and Mining Act described in Component 2a. Most Ministries and Departments have revised or started the process of amending their legislations to facilitate and ensure compliance with the EMA. Most government agencies are undergoing reforms and developing strategies contained in National Action Plans that have been formulated in their work plans. For example the Fiji National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2007) has a goal of conserving and sustainably using Fiji's terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity, and to maintain the ecological processes and systems which are the foundation of national and local development. REDD+ activities will be incorporated in the Fiji National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans to support the monitoring of biodiversity at the national scale. This will include the development of national biodiversity indicators developed from pilot sites. The Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002) implements CITES to which Fiji is a signatory. This Act outlines strict observances of rules and regulations established to protect trade of endangered and protected species. Lessons have been learned from participatory environmental impact assessments in the mining and forestry sectors and these must be fully assessed before moving forward with the SESA. The EIA process undertaken for activities that are relevant to REDD+ will provide a baseline for biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring.

## 2d.4 Potential Risks

One of the most apparent risks that must be given special attention is the potential for REDD+ to foster conflicts amongst customary land owners. Especially as the real or perceived value of land rises, conflicts regarding land ownership and land boundaries are likely to arise. Local power imbalances and the lack of participation of vulnerable groups such as women and youth, are also key risks associated with REDD+. Moreover, 65% or rural land parcels are legally occupied, but not registered or surveyed. [35] This must be fully assessed during R-PP implementation in order to ensure the proper distribution and use of REDD+ benefits to affected communities. See Table 10 for a Preliminary Risk Assessment of identified Strategy Options.

Land leasing arrangements result in insecure land tenure, which is often cited as a key constraint to sustainable agricultural land use. Few individual farmers on short-medium lease terms are 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 as short as a seven-year rotation for construction poles, firewood or for the existing woodchip export industry. As REDD+ has the potential to incite conflicts regarding land ownership as explained above, there is also the risk of land leasing disputes.

Given that the iTaukei are the major group owning land in Fiji, a significant portion of the population risks being improperly accounted for during REDD+ strategy development and implementation. All ethnic groups are allowed to hold freehold land, which is 10% of land. During R-PP implementation, a closer assessment for how to involve Indo-Fijians and other groups is required.

[35] See Cadastral Country Report – Fiji at http://www.cadastraltemplate.org/countrydata/fj.htm

Sustainably developing the land use sector must include Fiji's youth, who are increasingly migrating to urban and peri-urban centers. This lack of interest in improving one's livelihood based on agriculture results in an ever-increasing dependency on imported food with the fall of national agricultural production.

A challenge for the SESA will be to fully involve all indigenous land owners communities in the process. Community participation ensures that the priorities of REDD+ are in line with those of the primary beneficiaries: Fijian subsistence land users. Before community consultation takes place, significant awareness raising and information sharing will need to occur. Therefore, information regarding the SESA must be incorporated early on in the Early Dialogue and Information Sharing that will continue during R-PP implementation as described in Component 1b.

The consultant team developing the SESA will need to consider how the draft and final version will be publicly disseminated. Given very low literacy, an inability of stakeholders to be aware of and understand the SESA and future ESMF is a risk in itself.

***Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)***

The SESA will directly inform the design of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). This ESMF will guide the incorporation of social and environmental safeguards during the full implementation and operationalization of REDD+ and is meant to be a product of R-PP implementation. The ESMF will help minimize and mitigate any potential negative impacts of REDD+ as well as ensure its social and environmental integrity. It will also examine the risks and potential impacts associated with projects, activities, or policies/ regulations that may occur in the future as part of the implementation of the REDD+ strategy options designed during the readiness preparation phase.

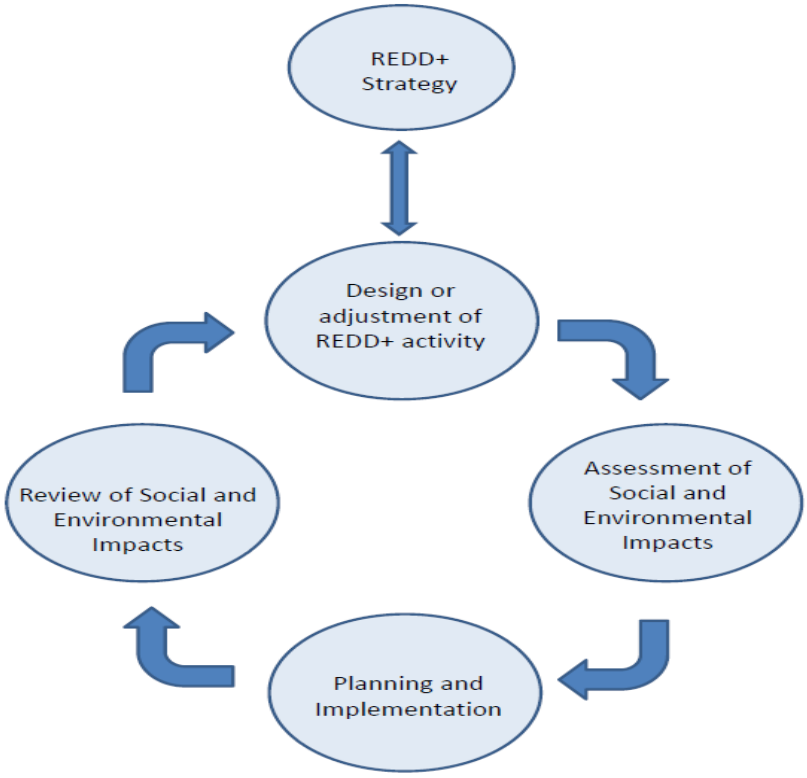
Once the SESA Summary is available, Fiji's REDD+ SC will facilitate a series of workshops that will organize the consultations required to draft the ESMF. The budget below includes the finances required for the SESA and ESMF ToRs development, the realization of the SESA and ESMF, as well as the development of FPIC requirements during the R-PP implementation process.

The ESMF is considered a 'living tool,' which means that it must include management feedback loops as depicted in the Figure below.

This feedback loop makes sure that lessons that are learned as time moves forward are resulting in a fine tuning of the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy. Safeguards will be an integral part of the ESMF, and the ESMF will contain specific sections on indigenous peoples and/or minority, disenfranchised or marginalized groups; and, issues such as eviction of land or limitations in access to goods, services, income, or employment. In addition, the ESMF will have its own stakeholder engagement procedures and dispute resolution framework.

In terms of engagement of all stakeholders, the ESMF will take the outcome of the stakeholder mapping exercise into consideration, and give specific consideration to the protection of special and/or vulnerable groups of stakeholders. An assessment will be made of the capacity required to develop, implement, and administer the ESMF and potential shortfalls will be remedied with a capacity development trajectory.

*Figure 2c: Management Feedback Loop for Social and Environmental Impacts in the ESMF*




**Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)**

Fiji has identified its willingness to follow the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for all REDD+ activities. During R-PP implementation, when the REDD+ strategy becomes more concrete and specific activities in specific areas are identified, FPIC will become a critical tool. The development of a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will assist in identifying where and when FPIC will be needed. FPIC will be considered where REDD+ related decisions and actions are likely to impact Fijian landowners and resource users, especially in ways that may potentially foster conflicts. An expert analysis regarding whether and in what cases this is necessary will be part of R-PP implementation. The following description of FPIC has been taken from Annex B of the latest R-PP template:[36]

> *This rights-based principle of FPIC applies to REDD+ discussions regarding potential changes in resource uses that could impact the livelihoods of indigenous peoples. Under these circumstances, consistent with international human rights instruments and other treaty obligations, potentially impacted peoples have the right to participate in and consent to or withhold consent from a proposed action. This principle holds that communities should have the right to withhold consent at key decision-making points occurring both prior to and during a proposed activity. FPIC applies to proposed actions (decisions, activities, projects, etc.) that have the potential to impact the lands, territories, and resources upon which indigenous peoples depend for their cultural, spiritual and physical sustenance, well-being, and survival.*

[36] *Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP),* Version 6 Working Draft, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

FPIC principals are being followed in the pilot site establishment and implementation described in sub-component 2c. Experiences are being gathered from this and adapted to the Fijian context. Ultimately the hope is to have FPIC institutionalized so all project developers follow the FPIC process. This was especially highlighted by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, which represents indigenous land owners.

## 2d.5 Capacity Building

Whenever possible, the SESA will build upon existing knowledge and institutions that currently carry out similar studies to inform strategic sectoral planning or other relevant impact assessments. Capacity building will help to maintain the integrity of the REDD+ during R-PP implementation. A capacity assessment will help to identify the specific stakeholders that are most relevant to the SESA and identify the priority areas for institutional strengthening that are needed for the realization of the SESA. This assessment will gain also information on where to focus future capacity building to support implementation of recommendations arising from the SESA, i.e. through focused personnel training or institutional strengthening.

In order for the relevant stakeholders to fully engage with the SESA team, a series of educational or training sessions must first occur. The exact nature and content of these training sessions will be determined via capacity assessment.

Training and awareness material to enable the informed engagement of local communities and various target groups in the SESA will be developed in collaboration with the Forestry Department, Ministry of Education, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Department of Environment GIZ, SPC and NGOs working on environmental education, such as Live & Learn, Conservation International, WWF, and NatureFiji.

It is worth noting that Fiji has a high literary rate of almost 99% and the current Fiji REDD+ awareness programme has been tapping into this resource of educated but unemployed youths living in villages. Selected Emalu pilot site youths for instance have undergone training to be now part of the REDD+ community trainer/facilitator resource team. The youths are part of the survey and awareness team travelling to other sites and villages. The high literacy in Fiji will be capitalized on by also having local communities contributing to the development of awareness materials that will be effective in supporting a more informed feedback process to the SESA and also the ESMF.

| Table 2d: Summary of Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Capacity Building | Comprehensive assessment of capacities of existing institutions to manage key environmental, social and vulnerability issues | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Capacity building for SESA / EIA / ESMF for government staff | | 40 | 15 | | **55** |
| SESA Summary Dissemination | Hiring of Consultant Team | | 60 | 50 | 20 | **130** |
| | Carry out SESA | | 40 | 40 | 20 | **100** |
| | Dissemination of SESA report | | | 20 | | **20** |
| ESMF ToRs Development | Stakeholder Consultations and drafting of ToRs | | | 15 | | **15** |
| | Workshops for sharing and approving the ToRs | | | 2 | | **2** |
| Formulation of SESA / ESMF | Formulation of ESMF | | | | 25 | **25** |
| | Piloting of ESMF in three selected Provinces | | | | 60 | **60** |
| **Total** | | **20** | **140** | **142** | **125** | **427** |
| Government | | | | | | |
| **FCPF** | | **20** | **140** | **142** | **125** | **427** |
| | | | | | | |

# Component 3: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

**Standard 3 the R-PP text needs to meet for this component: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level:**

Present work plan for how the reference level for deforestation, forest degradation (if desired), conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks will be developed. Include early ideas on a process for determining which approach and methods to use (e.g., forest cover change and GHG emissions based on historical trends, and/or projections into the future of historical trend data; combination of inventory and/or remote sensing, and/or GIS or modeling), major data requirements, and current capacity and capacity requirements. Assess linkages to components 2a (assessment of deforestation drivers), 2b (REDD-plus strategy activities), and 4 (monitoring system design).

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a stepwise approach may be useful. This component states what early activities are proposed.)

## 3.1 Rationale and progress to date

It has been decided by the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 17) that a Reference Emission Level (REL) or Reference Level (RL) has to be established as a benchmark to assess a countries performance in implementing a REDD+ mechanism, that is reducing emissions and increasing removals through eligibly REDD+ activities. Reference Emission Level (REL) is understood as the amount of gross emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a business as usual (BAU) scenario. A Forest Reference Level (RL) additionally includes removals through activities that increase carbon stocks. The BAU scenario allows comparison against actual future emissions or emission removals for a certain period and geographic area.

To understand the implications of REL/RL better Fiji conducted a preliminary study assessing the availability of data and information required to develop a REL/RL in 2012. The study shows that the available data and information is insufficient for the development of the REL/RL, requiring Fiji to undertake concerted efforts by a wide variety of national stakeholders, and with the support of international development partners and experts to collate and analyze the required data and information. Past conversion from forest to non-forest land has been described by SOPAC (2011). Detection of certain degrees of degradation is being developed, applicability to past remote sensing data cannot be determined yet.

Sub-component 2a gives a comprehensive overview of the present and future drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as perceived by stakeholders. An opportunity cost study presented on page 61 suggests that REDD+ might not be enough incentive to tackle conversion of low-density forest to non-forest, but that it could be a very effective instrument to avoid degradation of high density forests. Detailed studies and consequently maps are planned and will lead to a more specific breakdown and quantification of future deforestation and forest degradation.

Details on available data and capacities, as well as existing gaps are presented below, followed by the necessary steps to be undertaken to close said gaps and develop Fiji's REL and RL.

## 3.2 Methodology for developing the Forest Reference Level

Given the relative importance of forest plantations in the country and the substantial potential to enhance carbon stocks of degraded native forests Fiji will give preference to develop a Forest Reference Level.

For the development of the RL three data sets are required:

- Activity data (changes forest cover and carbon stocks related to changes in land use or management)
- Emission factors (changes in carbon stock that can be associated to certain activities, e.g. conversion from forest land to non-forest land, or pristine forest to degraded forest)
- National circumstances as reflected through data from national statistics or geographic information systems on population dynamics, economic and social development, infrastructure, terrain etc., policies and regulations

The development of RL will follow the guidance provided in the UNFCCC Decisions 12/CP.17, part II ("Modalities for forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels"); and, rules for the determination of a Forest Management Reference Level (FMRL) for Annex I countries for use under Article 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol in the 2$^{nd}$ commitment period.

Accordingly the following REDD+ RL modalities are anticipated:

***Hybrid approach***

Fiji allows for projects to be implemented and generate carbon credits for the voluntary markets, while developing a national readiness for the compliance mechanism of REDD+. Thus the RL will reflect different carbon stocks for national level and the ongoing projects, and take into account the activities from different drivers and agents of deforestation and forest degradation; factoring in underlying causes, socio-economic and physio-geographic factors influencing forest use and cover change patterns. Project based accounting of emissions and removals will be implemented, allowing learning from the experiences and incorporating the methodologies used in projects. Projects can decide if they want to trade their carbon credits on voluntary markets or deposit them in the national carbon registry (comp 2c).

Fiji is currently developing several REDD+ pilot projects on its two largest islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu (see sub-component 2c). Every project will have to be vetted by the SC and registered in the Fiji registry. The SC will ensure that the project accounting is in line with the national accounting.

***Development of activity based RL***

The sub-national RLs will be developed individually for combinations of the five eligible REDD+ activities:

- reducing emissions from deforestation;
- reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- sustainable management of forest;
- enhancement of forest carbon stocks

Activities accounted for depend on data availability and importance of a given activity within a project, or sub-region region, i.e. on the cost-benefit ratio of accounting for carbon stock changes resulting from a given activity.

For the development of RL for historic change in forest cover (i.e. forest land to non-forest land and vice versa) data for given points in time is available, incl. the current forest cover. This allows the construction of clear deforestation and afforestation/reforestation patterns and the selection of a given reference year. However, data for forest degradation or enhancement of carbon stocks data is very limited and consistent time series are not available.

***Carbon pools***

Based on data availability, carbon pools accounted for will be initially limited to above ground biomass (AGB), below ground biomass (BGB) and soil carbon. A soil mapping exercise has been conducted for Fiji in 1972, a resurvey was conducted in 1992. This mapping exercise determined the soil types and nutrition values, which can retrospectively be analyzed for carbon values.

The carbon pools litter and deadwood are already included in the inventory of the permanent sample plots and will also be measured in the future national forest monitoring system (NFMS).

Harvested wood products are reflected in official statistics, but highly inaccurate. The relevance of accounting for this carbon pool will be considered, a study carried out.

***Modeling of the RL***

The sub-national business as usual (BAU) RLs will be based on historic changes in land use and land cover, and the resultant changes in carbon stocks. The changes can include transitions between sub-categories, e.g. within the forest land class depending on data availability. Fiji will do a linear extrapolation of historical emissions/removals data.

The University of the South Pacific (USP) and DoF are working on a future projection of development of threatened species' populations. This work will not only be consulted, but the methodology can be built upon.

The BAU RLs will be further refined by factoring in all relevant national circumstances (such as existing policies and their implementation, socio-economic development, physio-geographic factors, which is listed in sub-component 2a) and assumptions about the development of these parameters to develop a country specific model. Use of parameters and modeling approach will be guided by the experts of the REDD+ unit (see section 1a), external experts and stakeholder consultations. Best international practice will be followed in the development of the model. For sub-national levels, a macroeconomic scenario will be developed.

## 3.3 Activity data

To reflect transitions between different land covers, the following main classes (IPCC GPG, 2006) will be used:

1. Forest land
2. Crop land
3. Grassland
4. Wetland
5. Settlements
6. Other land

These classes will be further subdivided according to major differences in carbon stocks, activities leading to changes in carbon stocks and emission sources. E.g. agricultural land can be subdivided into agroforestry and large scale commercial agriculture, i.e. based on differences in management. Sub-land cover/use classes will be established through consultations with relevant stakeholders.

***Forest definition***

Fiji basically uses the FAO forest definition to determine the boundary between forest and non-forest land:

- Tree crown cover ≥ 10%;
- Area of ≥ 0.5 ha;
- Comprised of trees able to reach at least 5m height in situ;
- Including all mangrove forests of any height in situ;

The "forest" definition may change to better capture any carbon stock changes. An appropriate forest stratification is currently being developed (see component 2a) and will be carried out in consultation with relevant stakeholders under supervision of the TWG for MRV.

The classification of forests in Fiji has changed a number of times in recent decades. For instance, in some inventories 'open' and 'closed' forest was distinguished, whilst in other work those categories were lumped into one category: 'forest'. As shown in section 2a, presently forest is classified into native forest and man-made forest. These classes are further broken down into open/closed forest and pine/mahogany plantations respectively. In the future strata must be defined consistently over time, and the number of different strata identified must balance the level of detail with the costs/benefit of monitoring strata boundaries and carbon stocks within them. Strata will be identified based on forest types and activities (forest management/forest use). The implementation of REDD+ activities in a given specific area may lead to different carbon stock values in areas that originally belong to the same forest strata; leading to a change into another stratum over time or a division of the original stratum.

The classification of forests by Mueller-Dombois as published in "Vegetation of the Tropical Pacific Islands"[37] was identified by stakeholders as the most appropriate basis for forest classification in Fiji. It is based on climate, topography, critical substrate variations (e.g. limestone), and human influences. An important first distinction is the dry-zone and wet-zone vegetation (see section 2a). Mueller-Dombois suggests working predominantly with wet and dry-zone forests. The forest classes introduced according to the system of Mueller-Dombois, are the following:

1. Upland rainforest (>600 masl)
2. Lowland rainforest (<600 masl)
3. Cloud forest (600 – 800 masl) (subset of upland forest)
4. Dry forest (based on precipitation)
5. Mangroves

Fiji has pine and mahogany plantation forests. These plantations will form separate classes based on species and age. Mahogany plantations are usually established under the existing natural forest canopy and thus cannot easily be distinguished from native forests. However, in cooperation with private sector managing the plantations this challenge can be overcome.

Fiji is currently working on refining the forest stratification for the future NFMS. Mainly DoF, the Applied Geosciences and Technology Division of SPC (SOPAC division), USP and the University in Wageningen are testing the potential to detect boundaries between strata and substrata via remote sensing technology and GIS mapping. The result is anticipated by the end of 2014 and will contribute greatly to the final criteria selection for strata, reflecting the currently possible performance of remote sensing in this field. In future, further refinements can be done if necessary and technically possible.

***Data availability and gaps***

To date one historic land-use change analysis has been made by SOPAC (2011). The study used three data sets (Landsat 1991, 2001 and ALOS 2007) which were visually interpreted and focused solely on land cover changes, i.e. transitions between forest land and non-forest land. The study concentrates on forest land, but does not show into which of the other 5 land cover classes forest land was converted.

[37] Springer, 1997.

The ReCover project, currently implemented by the Forest Department together with Wageningen University, Netherlands and University of Freiburg, Germany, uses different remote sensing technologies to assess land cover changes:

*Table 11: Remote sensing data used for the development of the RL*

| Sensor | System | Resolution | Coverage | Time frame |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ALOS PALSAR | SAR | 25 m | Country-wide (tbc) | 2007-2011 |
| 2. ALOS AVNIR-2 | Optical | 10 m | Country-wide | 2007/08 |
| 3. Landsat | Optical | 30 m | Country-wide | - |
| 4. MODIS 16day NDVI TS | Optical | 250 m | Country-wide | 2000-2012 |
| 5. ICESat GLAS | LiDAR | ~ 70 m | 12 Transects | 2003-2009 |
| 6. KOMPSAT, Quickbird-2, Worldview-2 | Optical | 1 – 4 m | | 2007-2011 |

Results, namely forest cover change maps and a methodology for detecting forest degradation on the island of Viti Levu, are expected later in 2014. However, it will remain to be seen if this methodology can be applied on larger scale in future.

In general and as in most other countries in the world, it is difficult to trace back and retrospectively measure the effect of forest degradation on the past carbon emissions. There is no data available on changes in forest carbon stocks in remaining forest land. Fiji will examine proxies to develop a conservative estimation as accurately as possible. This will be based on the following data sets:

- Log export records;
- Revenue records on royalties paid by the loggers to the land owners (data with iTaukei Land Trust Board and DoF);
- Overlay of mapped agricultural areas with the forest maps to show overlaps of activity;
- Taking into account the compliance level with the Harvesting Code of Practice (i.e. derived from the degree of training conducted, records of complaints lodged with TLTB and DoF, and from the forest harvesting plans, available at the Divisional Forestry Offices);

The available default values will be factored into these data sets, while Fiji will refine those values through extensive research over the coming years.

Further detailed assessments of land cover and land use change are conducted for the REDD+ pilot projects.

Fiji has reported forest area to the FAO Forest Resources Assessment in 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. A forest cover map for Fiji for the year 2002 is shown below in figure 3.a.

The spatial forest cover analysis will be combined with other data, in particular historic drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as presented in component 2a, thus refining the analysis of remote sensing data and to give an indication of forest degradation.

Further activity data is available on:

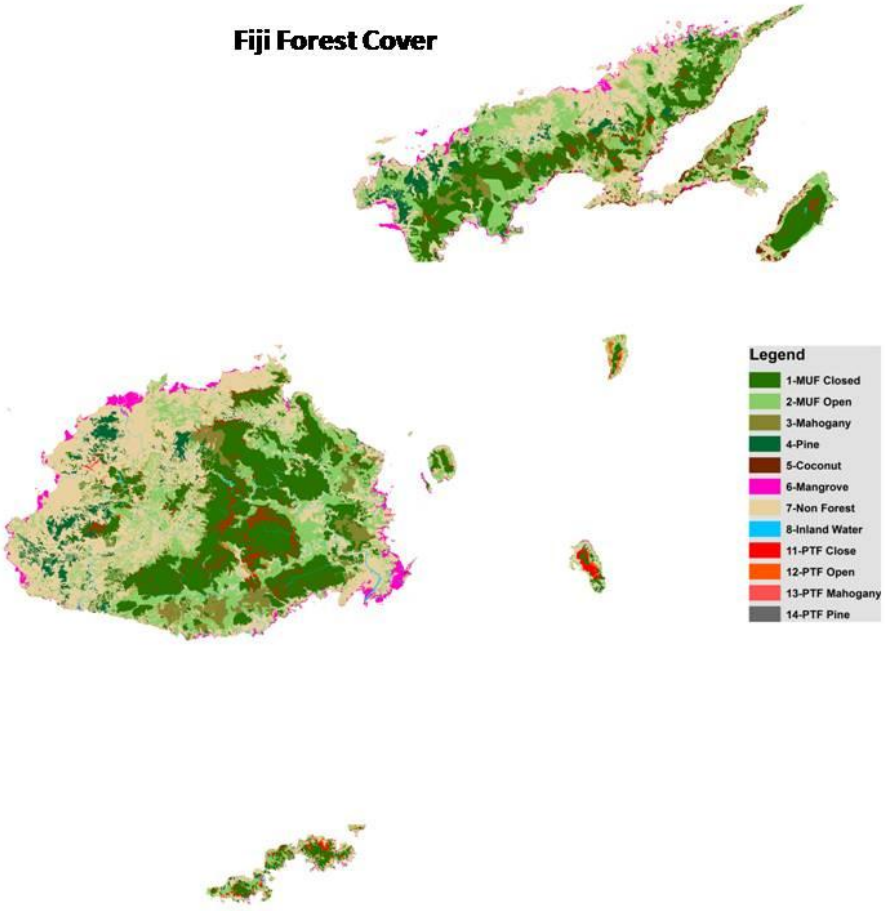
- Annual areas planted and harvested in plantation forests, age class distribution,
- Record on the log production of pine;
- Records of logged areas in native forest over the period 1991-2010;
- Herbarium specimen housed at the Suva Herbarium at USP

- Forestry Production Data 1989 – 2011; and,
- Annual License data with removals for 2010 and 2011.

- However, analysis of the above records shows that inconsistencies occur compromising the suitability of this data for the development of the RL. Furthermore, different reports on forest cover and sub-categories provide different values. These differences must be corrected during the development of the RL.

- Data related to **"force majeure"** phenomena such as cyclones, fires, droughts, floods, landslides, etc. are spread over various institutes and it remains hitherto unknown whether information is available that enables an estimate of the areas affected and the carbon stocks lost. However, the impact of force majeure is negligibly low in Fiji, so the inclusion of this information is not a high priority.

*Figure 3a. Fiji forest cover map, Department of Forestry 2002*




## 3.4 Emission factors

Emission factors are required for different land cover types (forest land, agricultural land, grassland), forest types and levels of degradation, as well as for different plantation species and age classes. Within these groups different carbon pools are of relevance; with above ground biomass and below ground biomass being the most relevant ones. The soil carbon pool is in particular important where transitions

between forest land and non-forest land occur. Litter, dead wood and harvested wood become relevant only where forest management practice and use vary a lot between sub-categories (e.g. fuel wood collection vs. exploitation for timber). Also, emission factors for the latter three are comparatively harder to establish and the gain in GHG emission accounting may not justify the additional effort.

In the long term Fiji is targeting to account for GHG emissions at the tier 3 level for the major carbon pools AGB, BGB and soil carbon according to the IPCC GPG LULUCF 2003, IPCC definitions and methodological options 2003, and IPCC AFOLU guidelines 2006[38]. However, initially global (tier 1) and regional (tier 2) default values will have to be used in combination with locally available data sets from forest inventories conducted to date (AGB). Before including the litter, deadwood and HWP pools the cost benefit of doing so will be analyzed.

The major emission sources to be accounted for are carbon dioxide ($CO_2$), methane ($CH_4$) and nitrous oxide ($N_2O$). Other sources, such as carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen oxides ($NO_x$) will be reported where applicable to be consistent with Fiji's initial national communication to the UNFCCC.

***Data availability and gaps***

Several studies have been conducted in the recent years to determine emission factors for transitions between different sub-categories of forest land. However, comparatively little is known for other land cover classes, in particular crop-land and grassland.

## 3.5 Forest land

National forest inventories are conducted by the Forestry Department. Forest inventories were conducted in 1969, 1991 and 2006. Sample plots were distributed over Fiji's seven largest islands (Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Taveuni, Kadavu, Ovalau, Gau, Koro); and using temporary sample plots. The forest inventories focused on commercial timber volume of all species identified in native forests. The design of the inventory does not permit a conclusive analysis of the development of forest biomass over time and space.

In 2010, permanent sample plots were introduced, distributed along a grid. The design foresees to establish 100 plots, of which to date 75 have been measured in indigenous forest. Table 11 shows the result of the carbon stock assessment in comparison to the 1991 inventory.

To date no local biomass equations exist for the calculation of volume and above ground biomass of natural forest. Volume was calculated using the equations from Chave et al. (2005) developed for forests in the tropics. For the biomass expansion factor (BEF) IPCC default values were used. The data basis for plantations (pine and mahogany) is more extensive with records from permanent sample plots, based upon which allometric equations for above ground biomass were developed for pine. However, it is not clear how well data and subsequently the equations reflect reality. No such equations have been developed for mahogany plantations to date; equations from Chave et al. (2005) for moist tropical forest were used.

In the framework of the FORENET project for the Pacific region above ground biomass surveys were/are conducted in 4 locations on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu to develop site specific models for wet and dry forest. It is planned to develop generic biomass allometric equations for Fiji's natural forests by 2014. A JICA project with the target to develop such allometrics ended in early 2013, results are still pending.

[38] IPCC GPG LULUCF 2003: Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
IPCC 2003: Definitions and Methodological Options to Inventory Emissions from Direct Human-induced Degradation of Forests and Devegetation of Other Vegetation Types
IPCC 2006: National Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Volume 4: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use

*Table 12: Carbon stocks in native forest in Fiji*

| | National Forest Inventory 1991 | | Permanent Sample Plots 2010-11 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | tC/ha | $tCO_2e/ha$[39] | tC/ha | $tCO_2e/ha$ |
| Mean | 47.6 | 174.5 | 67.0 | 245.7 |
| SEM | 1.4 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 16.3 |
| CI (95%) | 2.7 | 9.9 | 8.9 | 32.5 |
| Range | 2.2 – 266.4 | 8.1 – 976.9 | 2.1 – 176* | 7.7 – 645.4* |
| No. of Plots | 529 | 529 | 75 | 75 |
| *The range is given for the initial assessment based on 33 sample plots only. | | | | |
| *Landcare research, 2012 and Carbonpartnership, 2011* | | | | |

Likewise no local or regional data is available for the calculation of below ground biomass (BGB, requiring the Root-Shoot Ratio). These values can be initially established using default values given in the IPCC or other existing sources.

An extensive project has conducted soil analysis throughout Fiji in 1972. A resurvey was conducted in 1992. The output was a Fiji soil map, which can be used to determine probable carbon content retrospectively. This work will be done in a consultancy.

The first biomass and carbon inventory in mangrove forest in Fiji has been conducted in 2013 by the German funded IUCN project Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation and Livelihoods (MESCAL), in collaboration with the Department of Forestry and the University of the South Pacific. The results are still pending and will be incorporated in the accounting methodology. Given that mangroves are under serious threat by deforestation and degradation (see sub-component 2a, table 4 and 5), efforts must be made to establish above ground biomass, below ground biomass and soil carbon content for this ecosystem.

Data on the end use of Harvested timber/wood products is available from the Timber Utilization Division. However, this information is unprocessed and only available for operations delivering timber to the state-owned processing plants. Lumber going to local saw millers is not registered in the system. Therefore, decay functions for this carbon pool cannot be reliably attributed to the different product classes without further work.

While measuring deadwood and litter has been incorporated into the PSP inventory system, no data on these carbon pools is available to date.

## 3.6 Crop land and grassland

Conversion of forest land to crop land and grassland constitutes the major drivers of deforestation (see 2a). No assessment has been made on the carbon content (AGB, BGB and soil carbon) for these two land cover classes in Fiji.

However, an agricultural mapping has been done in 2012 on 1:50.000 Scale. Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are mapped where 10 agricultural classes are delineated (much more than expected) and the boundary between forest cover and agricultural land is agreed between Forestry and Agriculture. After a flooding in the rainy season of early 2012 it was possible to map all areas below ~ 15 metres elevation and

[39] One ton carbon = 44/12 tones $CO_2$ equivalent.

calculate the hectare of possible loss per agriculture class; figures required by the SPC Land Resources Division.

Currently 13 different agricultural classes are delineated besides rainforest, mangroves, pine plantation and mahogany plantation. One map sheet of the topographic map sheet series at 1:50,000 in Vanua Levu is covered with interpretation at 1:10,000 scale and five map sheets out of 16 in Viti Levu. The data received in the west of Viti Levu were recorded shortly after the flooding. For the corresponding map sheets visible flood damage on vegetation was mapped as well. This work is the basis for a carbon assessment that results in default values for those land use types.

## 3.7 Wetland

Wetland forests have not been included in the National Forest Inventory so far. Fiji plans to integrate them in future but since their expansion is low, it is not first priority

## 3.8 National circumstances

COP decision 1/CP.16 (III C Paragraph 73; UNFCCC 2010) indicates that REDD+ will be implemented in phases to allow countries to participate in the mechanism in a way that considers their national circumstances. The assessment of national circumstances could include information (UNFCCC 2003) on geographical characteristics (e.g. climate, forest area, land use, other environmental characteristics), population (e.g. growth rates and distribution), economy (e.g. energy, transport, industry, mining), education (e.g. including scientific and technical research institutions) and any other information considered relevant by the country. As there are currently no clear guidelines, each country has the freedom to assess these variables using autonomous methods.

Given the low deforestation rate over the past two decades, conservation and enhancement will initially be the main focus of REDD+ implementation for Fiji. This has been addressed in the Fiji Forest Policy in 2007 already. Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation are expected to affect urban areas of Fiji, near the coasts, and along the major riverbanks over the next decades. Under a BAU scenario, future development trends will represent an important element in the modeling work. In developing the national RL, Fiji will model the following scenarios in a stepwise approach:

- **Scenario 1** – Projection of the BAU scenario based on historic trends without REDD+.
- **Scenario 2** – Projection based on implementation of a development plan designed to realize macroeconomic targets including logging, infrastructure, agricultural expansion and other forest degrading/deforesting developments.
- **Scenario 3** – Projection based on undertaking a development plan/policies review implemented with a national REDD+ mechanism and sustainable usage/deployment of Fiji's forests.

Scenario 3 will be used as the REDD+ model in awareness campaigns. For the future modeling of deforestation and forest degradation, different approaches exist to project national circumstances. Within a direct approach, the results of a BAU based on appropriate data, approved policy scenarios, and sound modeling approaches can be directly combined with strata-specific emission factors to determine the RL. Using an indirect approach, a derived BAU can be adjusted to factor in future development needs, resources policies, or other factors considered relevant (e.g. scenario 2). While parties have not yet agreed on specific modalities to be used in determining the RL, Fiji will develop and test different modeling options within both approaches in a stepwise manner. All relevant parameters, assumptions, methods, and procedures and uncertainties will be comprehensively documented. Common scientific standards (sensitivity analysis, verification and validation of models) and good practices will be followed in developing the models.

The above-mentioned scenarios will be finalized as part of the readiness process. The modeling will be conducted based on inputs from national relevant stakeholders to ensure transparency and reliability of the approach. These steps will be aligned with the components 2a and 2b.

***Preliminary work on reference levels (Herold, 2009)***

Fiji regularly reports to the FAO FRA. According to FRA2005 and the draft report for 2010 the area of natural und semi-natural forests is stable since 1990 (figure 3b). However, the expansion of agriculture and infrastructure are not systematically measured with existing inventory methods and constitutes an existing data gap. Thus, the amount of natural forest has consistently declined of the recent years with the actual area being unknown at this point.

Figure 6 also highlights the increase of forest land due to plantations, and forest degradation due to commercial logging and clearing for plantations are reported. This general trend is further confirmed in the draft report of Fiji for FRA 2010.

The 1st national communication to the UNFCCC contains some related estimates (Figure 3c). Both sinks (forest plantations) and sources (forest conversion) are reported with the carbon sink outweighing the sources. The 2nd national communication of Fiji is currently under development.

Besides sinks and sources from plantations and forest conversions, the reporting for FRA 2005 indicated a significant source of carbon due to forest degradation due to loss of dense and medium dense forest towards more open forests (Figure 3d). The reported changes in area can used to provide some first-cut estimates using Tier 1 default data and procedures in the IPCC AFOLU GPG. Figure 8 indicates that, although being a rough estimation, the loss of carbon stocks due to forest degradation is significant.

*Figure 3b: Forest area changes reported for FAO FRA 2005*

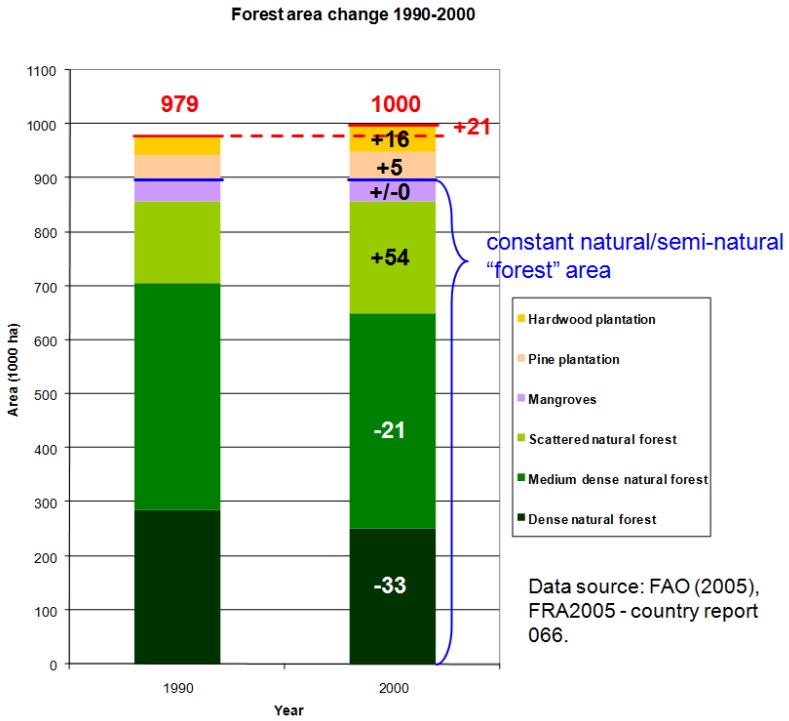


*Figure 3c: Summary of forest related carbon sinks and sources reported in Fiji's 1st National communication to the UNFCCC*

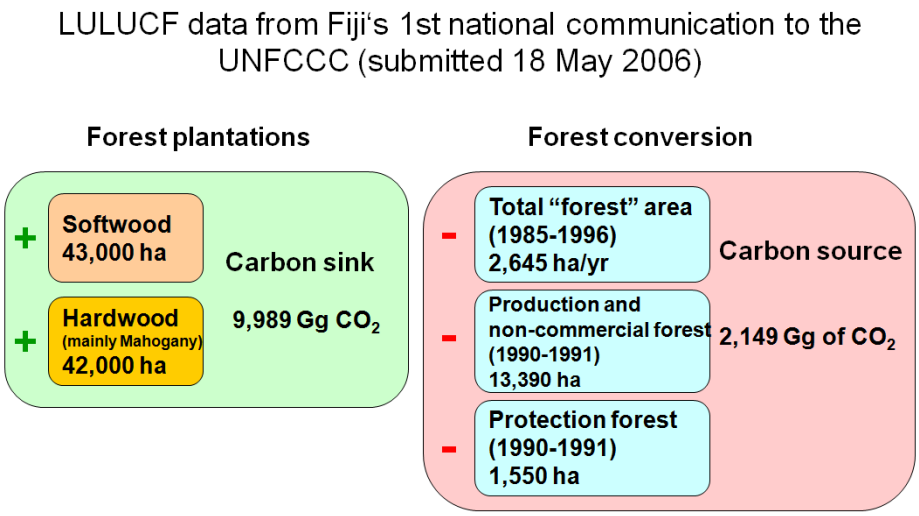
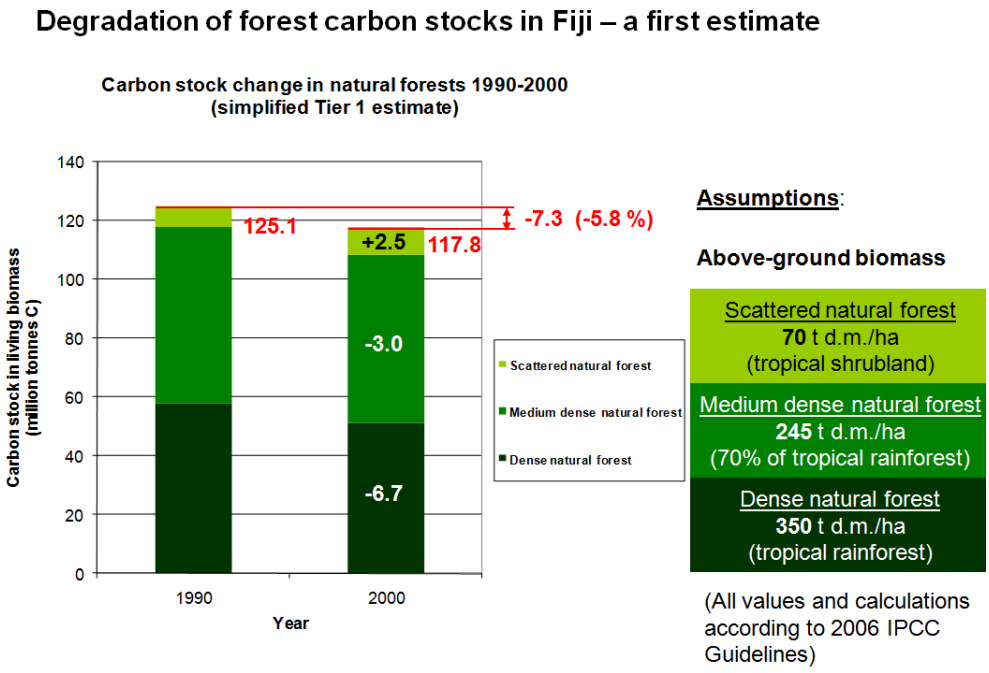



*Figure 3d: Tier 1 estimate of carbon stock change due to forest degradation based on FAO FRA 2005 changes in area for different forest classes*



## 3.9 Institutional framework, capacity and capacity gaps for the development of RL and MRV

The Forestry Department is the lead agency for the "Strengthening REDD+ Readiness Project" and national REDD+ focal point, and holds most of the data and resources necessary to develop the RL. The experts of the dedicated REDD+ unit will be located in the Forestry Department and SPC. However, close cooperation and interaction with the REDD+ Steering Committee and other government bodies (e.g. department of agriculture, department of environment, national planning, bureau of statistics, land department), private sector and civil society will be necessary to develop the RL.

The institutional framework for the REDD+ readiness process is described in detail in section 1a.

The governance structures described here and in section 1a will be the foundation for the MRV institutional framework. Thus, the Forestry Department will be responsible to develop the REL/RL and report emissions from changes in land cover and land use to the Government of Fiji for the national report on GHG emissions. This will require targeted capacity development for the involved parties. Fiji had good experiences with capacity development on the job. The work for constructing a forest reference level is being done by SOPAC and international consultants, which work closely with involved local staff. It is not expected though that Fiji will develop all capacities necessary for RL development, since this work is only needed every 10 years. The training and education is more targeted at data collection and analysis and at research, to enable Fiji provide the full information needed to review and update the RL in future. Capacity development therefore is emphasised more in component 4.

## 3.10 Work plan

Development of the institutional framework required for RL and MRV, and capacity building: The major stakeholders directly involved have been identified during the preparation of this R-PP. A REDD+ unit will be established with two experts in the Forestry Department and one in SOPAC (see section 1a) and supported by an international consultant team. However, both the development of the RL and MRV methodology and implementation thereof require a set of very specific knowledge and skills in the other key institutions. Accordingly a full capacity assessment will be conducted, resulting in a capacity building plan and assignment of roles and responsibilities according to the capacities and interests of the key stakeholders and the required software and hardware needs for the development of REL/RL. The capacity needs assessment will take into account capacity building efforts that have taken place to date.

**Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** Building upon existing data, Fiji will initially SOPs for the estimation of all carbon pools and separately for every REDD+ activity, including required precision & accuracy and quality assurance & quality control (QA/QC) guidance, and following the guidance of the IPCC 2006 for national GHG Inventories. These SOPs will then be used to further gather missing activity and emission factor data. Other tasks for which SOPs will be produced, are data aggregation & reporting system and procedures, remote sensing and image analysis, and manipulation of data (i.e. transfers from one REDD+ activity to another).

Apart from the technical work, SOPs will also be available for aspects such as decision making processes and public participation. All SOPs will in detail describe responsibilities, procedures and information flow, quality assurance and control, and statistical thresholds where applicable. This work is ongoing for the whole implementation period.

**Development of a GIS based data analysis and management system:** Both, the development of the RL and consequently the monitoring, reporting and verification of activities and emissions (component 4a), and REDD+ co-benefits and impacts (component 4b) require storage and analysis of very large amounts of data. The Department of Forestry works closely with SOPAC on data storage and management, a GIS and modeling expert will be engaged to develop the data base and train the REDD+ unit and other users in its use and maintenance.

**Classification of land cover sub-categories**: The currently used forest classification is being adjusted by DoF, SOPAC, USP, and the University of Wageningen. The revised definitions will be presented and discussed with the relevant stakeholders.

**Analysis of land use and land cover change:** The ongoing analysis of historic and current land use, land cover and changes will continue incorporating the above decisions. In the process a more appropriate method will be used to re-analyze the original Landsat data sets (1991, 2001 and ALOS 2007), e.g. by using semi-automatic classification and ground truthing in combination with processes used by the ReCover project. Where applicable remote sensing data will be aligned with other data sources (e.g. planted area as reported by forest plantation companies (Fiji Hardwood Corporation Ltd and Fiji Pine Ltd.). Current inconsistencies in land cover reported will be corrected. The target is to have a wall to wall map of the current land use and land cover for the country up to 2012 which will form an integral part of the RL.

To do:

1. Determining change after deforestation (to what land use)
2. Extend 2007 agriculture map to 5 more islands (so far only main islands)

**Protected Areas Committee sites:** The currently ongoing REDD+ pilot projects have already identified some of the key areas where interventions must focus first, based on e.g. the rampant ongoing deforestation/degradation observed, because of their high value as conservation area (biodiversity hot spot) or importance for ecosystem services (mangroves). The project-based development of RLs and implementation of REDD+ activities will focus on these areas first. Lessons learnt at the pilot projects will be incorporated into the design of RL and MRV system at sub-national and national level.

**Development of emission factors and national biomass inventory:** Currently the data required for the development of tier 2 or 3 emission factors for AGB, BGB and soil carbon is not available. Fiji, within the FORENET, will use destructive sampling methods to determine allometric equations for native forest. Data available for major plantation species will be expanded and allometric models developed. Soil carbon values will be determined for different land cover classes, based on soil mapping work done in 1970s and 1992.

**Scenario modeling of the RL:** The RL BAU will be developed for the five different REDD+ activities at sub-national scale. Scientific standards like sensitivity analysis, validation and verification of models by third parties as well as international best practices will be used to model RL. A framework for the combination of the sub-national RL model will be developed, incorporating macroeconomic parameters. The future projection will include the following policies, legislations and plans in the assessment:

- Harvesting Code of Practice
- Environmental Management Act
- Rural Land Use Policy
- Forest Policy
- REDD+ Policy
- Mining Act, Mineral Policy
- People's Charter for Change, Peace and Progress
- CC policy
- Revised Forest Decree
- SEEDS (Sustainable Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy, 2008)
- NBSAP (National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan)
- Annual Corporate Plans for the Ministries
- Mangrove Management Plan (currently under Review)
- National Energy Policy (draft), including expansion of hydro power generation

**Outreach and information sharing activities:** Consultations will take place with relevant stakeholders, concentrating mainly on the stakeholders represented in the Steering Committee as these have resulted from numerous stakeholder assessments on proposed options for development and adoption of an RL. As the draft and final RL become available, the outcomes will be disseminated and the results will be the subject of targeted consultations before national commitment is given. This activity accompanies every step in the work plan for the implementation period and beyond.

Table 3 shows when the major mile stones should be completed.

| **Comp. 3: Implementation mile stones** | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | |
| | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 - 12 |
| Hiring REDD+ Unit (see comp. 1a) | x | | | | | | | |
| Capacity needs assessment | x | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture mapping 1:10.000 | | x | | | | | | |
| Soil carbon values | | | x | | | | | |
| Data storage system in place | | | | x | | | | |
| Carbon values for different agricultural land uses | | | | | | x | | |
| Country- and region-specific models for BAU scenarios of eligible activities | | | | | | | x | |
| Consolidated Forest reference Level | | | | | | | | x |

*Table 13: Mile stones and time plan for Component 3*

| Table 3: Summary of Reference Level Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Development of the institutional framework for RL and MRV | Capacity and training needs assessment and capacity building plan | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Capacity building and operationalization of the institutional framework | 30 | 15 | 10 | 10 | **65** |
| Design of a hybid accounting system | Acquire technical and hardware support | 40 | 25 | 20 | 10 | **95** |
| | Development of Standard Operating procedures (SOP) | 30 | | | | **30** |
| | GIS based data analysis and management system | 20 | 15 | 15 | 10 | **60** |
| | Classification of land cover sub-categories | 15 | 15 | | | **30** |
| Activity data | Data collection and analysis of land use and land cover change (incl. ground truthing) | | 40 | 40 | | **80** |
| | Identification of REDD+ hotspots | | 10 | 20 | | **30** |
| Emission factors | Assessment of carbon pools | 30 | | | | **30** |
| | Data collection and development of emission factors for all land cover/use categories | 20 | 40 | 40 | | **100** |
| | Aggregate activity data and emissions factors | | | 20 | | **20** |
| Development of national RL and alternative scenario | Compilation and analysis of sources for data on national circumstances | | 25 | 25 | | **50** |
| | Scenario modeling for RL | | | 39 | | **39** |
| | Outreach and information sharing | | 30 | 30 | | **60** |
| **Total** | | **205** | **215** | **259** | **30** | **709** |
| Government | | 35 | 55 | 30 | | **120** |
| **FCPF** | | **140** | **135** | **209** | **30** | **514** |
| GIZ | | 30 | 25 | 20 | | **75** |

# Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

## 4a. National Forest Monitoring System

**Standard 4a the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**National Forest Monitoring System**

The R-PP provides a proposal and workplan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy in the forest sector.

The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest–dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. The R-PP should also address the potential for independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

### 4a.1 Objectives of the MRV system

The objective of the MRV system is to allow the transparent and consistent accounting of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases over time, and the comparison of future emissions and removals with the reference scenarios. The MRV system will be linked directly to the national forest inventory structure which is currently under development. Over time the system will gradually integrate the full scope of REDD+ eligible activities and carbon pools as described in component 3. Additionally the MRV as described in sub-component 4b, collates data and information on multiple benefits, governance and safeguards. Given the sub-national approach to the development of RL and implementation of REDD+ activities monitoring of leakage between island group(s) will be an integral part of the MRV system. Lastly, the activities in this chapter will contribute to a broad understanding and REDD+ awareness by taking the local people on board.

### 4a.2 Scope and principles of the MRV system

Taking into account the decisions of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Durban in 2011 and the Cancun Agreements (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1), a National Forest Monitoring System will be designed. The final National Forest Monitoring System will be based on the latest decisions of the 19. Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Warsaw in 2013.

The monitoring, reporting and verification system will be designed in line with the guidance provided by and decisions made by the Conference of parties of the UNFCCC, IPCC AFOLU and LULUCF (2006, 2003) and GOFC-GOLD (2009). It will build on available terrestrial inventory and remote sensing data, while aiming to incorporate new emerging technologies to continuously improve the quality and cost-

efficiency of the national MRV system. Following the IPCC 2006 guidance for AFOLU, the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) will differentiate between reporting categories and include all five REDD+ activities (Deforestation, Forest degradation; conservation, enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests).

The MRV system, once fully functional, will enable accounting of emissions and removals in the AGB, BGB and soil carbon pool. HWP, litter and dead wood may be included if the carbon pool cost benefit analysis justified a cost-effective inclusion (see section 3). The tier of accounting will be increased from 1 to 2-3 as data availability and technical capacities increase.

The drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the implementation of REDD+ strategies, described in components 2a and b will be monitored as part of the activity data and as described in component 4b.

### 4a.3 Forest stratification

For future forest inventories, a more sophisticated, but still practical forest stratification is currently being developed. For this purpose, the Department of Forestry works with USP and SOPAC on the inventory design for the pilot sites in Emalu (Viti Levu) and Vunivia (Vanua Levu). The two sites are in a different environment, the results of the stratification will be brought together after the implementation. The information from these inventories will inform the design for a national inventory, in which the strata combine the criteria, as the matrix in table 14 shows. This criteria table will be refined before the data collection starts.

| Proposed Fiji Forest Stratification Matrix (to be verified) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Elevation above sea level | | | |
| | 0 – 200 m | 200 – 600 m | 600 – 800 m | 800 m < |
| Slope (North/West) | | | | |
| Precipitation | | | | |
| Soil | | | | |
| Relief (flat/slope) | | | | |
| Forest type (to be developed) | | | | |

*Table 14: Criteria for the Fiji Forest Stratification under development*

The development of an accurate, yet practical forest stratification will be aided by remote sensing with very high resolution (VHR) satellite data. Fiji is working with the University of Wageningen to detect the described strata on VHR data, because only than it is viable to use those in the field. Satellite supported pre-stratification is necessary to significantly decrease the costs of the national forest monitoring system. Therefore it is probable that the final set of criteria will not include all of these suggestions.

Very high resolution (VHR) satellite data in conjunction with auxiliary information will be integrated in an object-oriented and knowledge-based classification scheme for forest stratification mapping of REDD pilot sites. VHR data for Fiji mainly comprises WorldView-2 data, for which a country-wide acquisition is on-going. The WorldView-2 data features a spatial resolution of 46 cm panchromatic resolution and 1.85 meter multispectral, and is pre-processed by SOPAC where a pre-processing chain is in place.

Conventional pixel-based classification neglects object shape, context, position, and focuses only on spectral information which is considered one of the main drawbacks of this approach[40]. The object-oriented image analysis overcomes the limitations of these traditional pixel-based approaches for the analysis of VHR images by analyzing image objects (segments) instead of single pixels[41, 42]. This allows the consideration of contextual features (e.g. topology, texture and shape) together with spectral information to describe real world objects[43].

The first stage of the object-oriented data analysis is the segmentation of the WorldView-2 images into homogeneous objects of similar spectral and spatial characteristics. The segmentation process reduces spectral variation of WorldView-2 images, and can increase the classification and statistical accuracy.

Spectral band information, texture and contextual features derived from the image segments will be used. This information, in combination with ground-truth information of the forest strata will be used to train the object-oriented knowledge-based classification scheme. Since certain forest strata in Fiji are characterized and defined by elevation and other morphological characteristics such as slope steepness and aspect, a local elevation model will be integrated.

A robust classification scheme that separates different level of forest strata is intended that can be applied to WorldView-2 data in Fiji following the desired forest strata.

As another filter on the way to a final and approved set of strata, Fiji will conduct research on the possibility and accuracy of linking those strata to the carbon content on the ground. So far, the carbon content of five strata has been evaluated for the pilot site in Emalu and measurements are currently being carried out in the pilot site of Vunivia. Further research is necessary.

## Avoiding double counting of emissions:

The system will be designed in a way that avoids double accounting of emissions and removals, i.e. accounting must be explicit and non-overlapping.

### *Development of standard operating procedures:*

As outlined in component 3, the developed Standard Operating procedures (SOP) will be used for the measuring, analysis, reporting and verification of activity data and emission factors. An estimate of accuracy and uncertainty will be provided for all reported data. The SOPs will help to ensure consistency between different data sets. SOPs will also include use and regulations for the data management system.

## 4a.4 Monitoring of leakage:

Fiji is planning to implement a bottom up GHG emission accounting structure; starting with the development of RL and MRV system for selected pilot projects and island-groups. Accordingly leakage beyond project boundaries or between islands must be taken into account until the sub-national RLs have integrated into the overarching national RL and the MRV system is functional at national level.

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[40] J. S. Walker and T. Blaschke, Object-based land-cover classification for the Phoenix metropolitan area: optimization vs. transportability. *International Journal of Remote Sensing,* 29**,** 2021-2040, 2008

[41] U. S. Benz, P. Hofmann, G. Willhauck, L. Lingenfelder, and M. Heynen, "Multi-resolution, object-oriented fuzzy analysis of remote sensing data for GIS-ready information", ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, vol 58, p.p. 239-258, 2004

[42] M. Baatz, U. Benz, S. Dehghani, M. Heyen, A. Höltje, P. Hofmann, I. Lingenfelder, M. Mimler, M. Sohlbach, M. Weber and G. Willhauck, "eCognition Professional: User Guide 4", Definiens AG, München, 2004

[43] J. Schiewe, "Segmentation of high-resolution remotely sensed data-concepts, applications and problems", Proceedings of the Joint International Symposium on Geospatial Theory, Processing, and Applications, 9.-12. July, Ottawa, Canada, p.p. 6-11, 2002

Methodologies developed by carbon accounting standards (e.g. VCS AFOLU, CDM AR, CAR, Gold Standard) will form the basis for monitoring of leakage.

## 4a.5 Key components of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

Once mature, the system will cover all five eligible REDD+ activities. Countries are requested to use "a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches for estimating, as appropriate, anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes". Therefore, each procedure will have its own unique combination of ground-based assessment and Remote Sensing (RS) analysis. Periodic field-based inventory activities, in combination with RS analyses, are expected to form the cornerstone of the measurement and quantification efforts, whereby RS will be highly suitable for area change detection, and the system of PSPs can be refined to detect GHG emissions and removals and changes in carbon stock in the various strata and sub-strata.

All activities that lead to the ready National Forest Monitoring System, such as the described research on national default values and allometric, and the work steps towards development of the final methodologies lie in the responsibility of the designated lead agency: Management Services Division of the Department of Forests (MSD).

Table 15 below provides a very simplified overview of how field data collection and RS analysis can be combined. The combinations have to be fine-tuned to the different management scenarios.

*Table 15: Combining field data and RS for different REDD+ activities*

| REDD+ activity | Field Data | RS analysis |
|---|---|---|
| **Reducing Emissions from deforestation** | • Area recorded with GPS<br>• PSP data<br>• AGB measurement* | • Historical / multi-temporal land cover and/or land use change assessment<br>• AGB estimation from reflectance** |
| **Reducing Emissions from forest degradation** | • Area recorded with GPS<br>• PSP data<br>• AGB measurement* and/or assessment of forest product / timber removals<br>• Forest regrowth measurements* | • Estimation of homogeneity in forest cover<br>• AGB estimation from reflectance** |
| **Enhancement of carbon stocks** | • Area recorded with GPS<br>• AGB measurement*<br>• Forest regrowth measurements* | • Estimation of homogeneity in forest cover<br>• AGB estimation from reflectance** |
| **Conservation** | • Database of, gazetted and leased areas, landholdings under conservation status (e.g. from NGOs), etc. | • Area estimation and monitoring through image interpretation |
| **Sustainable forest management** | • Area recorded with GPS<br>• PSP data<br>• AGB measurement* | • Estimation of homogeneity in forest cover<br>• AGB estimation from reflectance** |

* in some cases it may be possible to base estimates on RS techniques – depending on the total area and the associated costs

** subject to available and affordable techniques – otherwise AGB based on field data

***Activity data***

Remote sensing information will be preferred for the monitoring of activity data, i.e. forest cover and forest cover changes, as well as changes in land use that do not result in deforestation (e.g. changes in

forest management, selective harvest in native forests). For the envisioned forest cover monitoring at national level high resolution imagery such as Landsat or Spot will be used. Very High Resolution optical data (WorldView 2, GeoEye) will be used for the detection of changes in forest carbon stocks and in areas where disturbances in forest cover are small and temporary, as in e.g. slash and burn agricultural systems or selective harvesting in conjunction with field inventories for ground truthing.

To date the availability and cost of remote sensing imagery and technologies for detection of historic and future forest cover/land use change have not been fully explored. Therefore, the specifications regarding the frequency of monitoring, minimum mapping units (MMU) and accuracy levels to be targeted for different activities have not been set. Accordingly the immediate next steps are to:

- Finalise the wall to wall mapping of current land cover in Fiji initiated by SOPAC, and
- Develop SOPs for remote sensing analysis, including the monitoring frequency and minimum mapping unit according to land cover category, activity type[44], and accuracy requirements.

Field data collection will be based on the grid-based network of existing PSPs, which will be reviewed and modified to accommodate the stratification and the requirements of carbon reporting. The NFMS will be integrated into the SOPs for REDD+ activities. Specific SOPs can be developed as necessary to supplement existing methodologies for the National Forest Monitoring System work such that all relevant carbon pools can be estimated.

The SOPs for estimating emissions and removals will accommodate “transfers” from one REDD+ activity to another or from one Forest Land sub-category to another, in compliance with 2006 IPCC INV GLs. These transfers can in practice only take place between reporting periods; in other words, during a single reporting period every piece of forest remains in a single Forest Land sub-category and it may support a single REDD+ activity only. The specific provisions in the SOPs will therefore relate primarily to initial and final conditions of the area of Forest Land that is transferred to a different sub-category or REDD+ activity. These transfers are also essential to allow for the “natural” progression from degraded land to healthy forest.

## 4a.6 Emission data

In 2010 Fiji started a permanent sample plot (PSP) system. The inventory is restricted to Fiji’s three major islands Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, and Taveuni, and to indigenous forests. Due to budget constraints, the inventory uses permanent sample plots that are evenly distributed along a grid of varying size, thus not accommodating the need for a minimum of sample plots per island. Altogether it is planned to establish and measure above ground biomass in 100 sample plots. The sample plot design uses a nested approach in order to reflect trees of different dimensions appropriately while keeping the cost of measuring at acceptable levels. The plot design and parameters measured are described in Payton et al. (2011) and Trines (2012).[45] However, there is no detailed inventory manual available and the sampling design is not well suited to the circumstances. The PSP system will be upgraded to a National Forest Monitoring System on seven islands, complying with IPCC standards for carbon accounting. A manual for this will have to be drafted soon to establish the national standard. Training for the inventory teams is being held at the Forest Training Center (FTC) in Suva.

In plantation forests, permanent sample plots were established between 1967 and 2004. Plot size and design varies between sample plots and very few measurements were made since 2004. According to

[44] E.g. for monitoring of harvest in native forest annual frequency would be required, for slash and burn agriculture the frequency could be 2-3 yrs, permanent land cover changes require monitoring every 4-5 yrs.

[45] Payton I., Weaver S. 2011: Fiji national forest carbon stock assessment. Version 1. Consultancy report prepared for GIZ/SPC by CarbonPartnership Ltd.

Trines E., 2012: Blueprint for MRV and NFM systems in Fiji. Consultancy report.

Payton (2012)[46] measurements in mahogany plantations exclude non crop trees[47], thus leading to an underestimation of carbon-stocks.

The stratification currently used for forests is very basic, distinguishing only between indigenous forest, pine plantation and hard wood plantation (Payton et al. 2011). As described in component 3 (forest classification), a clarification of stratification and sub-stratification is in progress. So far, variation of biomass within a given stratum is very high, leading to very low precision of carbon stock estimates. This is probably further exaggerated by the fact that emission factors are derived with the help of tier 1 equations and default values for volume, biomass expansion factor, and root shoot ratio as described in component 3.

Shortcomings of the current inventory design are known and a set of recommendations for improving it will be taken up in the revision process.

Therefore, within the framework of the REDD+ readiness implementation the following steps will be undertaken to improve the data basis for emission factors to at least tier 2:

- Development of a comprehensive forest inventory manual,
- Forest inventories are time consuming and costly, and thus, are often repeated at large time intervals only. To avoid the resulting information gap and potential difficulties in the reporting of national GHG emissions the forest inventory design will consider the option of conducting it as rolling forest inventory where plots are measured every year but in different locations before starting again from the beginning. This can be combined with more frequent returns in REDD+ hot spots as recommended in component 3.
- (Re)establishment of sample plots in plantation forests and the use of a homogenous sample plot design that includes non-crop trees for hardwood plantations
- Develop a more suitable stratification based on the adopted classification system for forests and activity data collected for the RL. Stratification will strike a balance between the need to reduce the number of sample plots by creating very homogenous strata and the ability to actually separate and delineate strata from each other based on the available data and information.
- The number and distribution of sample plots per stratum must be adjusted such that a precision of ±10% at 90% confidence interval can be reached. The currently available inventory results can serve as a pre-test for the estimation of the final sample plot number.
- Generic local values and equations must be developed for timber volume, biomass expansion factors (BEF) and Root Shoot Ratio. Furthermore realistic growth models should be developed for all major plantation tree species (see section 3).

The PSP grid that is currently under development in Fiji is helpful, and provides relevant information. It will be expanded from a fixed grid (12 km interval) to a random stratified sampling regime with sample plots per forest (sub-)stratum; this will increase accuracy and reduce the number of plots per (sub-)stratum. All strata must be included in the sampling regime, including mangrove forests.

For natural forest only one allometric equation has been used which was developed by Chave et al. (2005) for all moist tropical forest; Fiji-specific allometric equations must be developed for at least the most important tree species. And in line with the recommendation made by Payton (2012) wood

[46] Payton I. 2012: Development of a national methodology for forest carbon stock assessment in Fiji. Consultancy report prepared for SPC and GIZ.

[47] Mahogany is planted under shade of indigenous forest species, leading to a slow conversion from indigenous forest to pure mahogany plantations.

densities of Fijian tree species should be systematically sampled too[48], targeting, but not be limited to, species making a major contribution to the national forest carbon stock. For more detail, also for parameter values measured in the PSPs and Chaves' allometry, see Payton (2012).

Regarding the root to shoot (R/S) ratio, one could argue that the R/S ratio can have a significant impact on carbon stocks. However, Cairns et al. (1997), after reviewing all available literature at the time, found that the overall mean R/S ratio was approximately 0.26 and the tendency was for values to be between 0.20 and 0.30, independent of latitude, soil texture, or tree type. Therefore, the decision to use a R/S ratio of 0.24, as recommended by Cairns et al. (1997) for tropical forests, is appropriate and possibly even slightly conservative.

The collection of data on emissions and activities will help to further detail the current knowledge on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, identification of hot spots for forest cover change, and to weighing the strategy options according to their probable impact (components 2a, b).

***Participation of land owners and resource users***

The REDD+ Policy from 2011 requires the involvement of landowners in all REDD+ related activities. A forest inventory can't be conducted without including the local people in the process. Before a sample point can be reached and measured, the land owning communities have to give their consent. This requires an event to inform about the reason for the request to enter their land. Usually, local guides are recruited in every affected community to take the inventory team to the plot. These guides receive training in measurement techniques and help the inventory team in gathering data. Tree spotters are local people who are highly knowledgeable on tree species. They are indispensable for the monitoring work. Their contacts are kept in an archive at DoF and they are hired to join the inventory teams throughout the country.

USP and Fiji Forestry Department are training taxonomists (local language, partly English) among the resource owners, local and provincial government officers, and forestry officers, and giving courses on formal taxonomy (local language, English, botanic names) in the field for students. Taxonomy in the field, especially accompanying forest inventories, feeds into biodiversity surveys.

These efforts are part of the aforementioned policy to develop a local expert pool for Fiji and the region (as in component1a)

## 4a.8 Reporting and Verification

***Reporting***

All forest related national monitoring is done by the Forestry department. NFI's for forest land conducted for 1991 and 2006. A remote sensing based forest cover map exists for the year 2002. Fiji's forestry department prepares the country reports for FAO's global forest resources assessment.

All information required and used to report on sub-national and national emissions and removals in the land use sector must be well documented and archived in future. Data, methodologies, SOPs, assumptions, analysis of accuracy/uncertainty and results must be accessible for verification. Verification includes third party verification at the end of each reporting event, but should also include verification through e.g. peer reviews by experts regarding e.g. methodological aspects, and presentation of the results to both sub-national and national stakeholders from Fiji.

[48] In the National Forest Carbon Inventory exercise, wood densities were grouped into four broad density classes (very light, light, medium and heavy) and tree species were allocated to one of these classes with the help of local expert knowledge.

A solid Data Base Management System is in place, covering the following aspects:

- Data collection to feed into the database
- Data control (QA/QC)
- Data entry authorization
- Actual data entry
- Data validation and checking
- Statistical analysis
- Data manipulation authorization
- File backup
- Data file documentation

This system is hosted commonly by DoF and SOPAC. It is currently under modernization and the new system will be documented and validated under carbon forest aspects.
Different MRV approaches and tools will be used to monitor the performance of REDD+ policy measures, depending on the identified national circumstances (component 3) and priority strategy options (sub-component 2b). The majority of these do not require specific measurement Schemes but efforts to compile, aggregate, and analyze data provided by other monitoring activities.

The GHG inventory report for Fiji is compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The section on Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use receives contributions from several entities, the Department of Forests being in charge of the forestry sector, using all means described in chapters 3 and 4a of this document.

As long as there are no reporting requirements on REDD+ agreed, DoF will continue to compile the data for the GHG inventory. Fiji will seek the cooperation with potential partners on developing a standard reporting format which takes into account possible REDD+ requirements as well as national reporting requirements. This way, it will be easy to adapt the reporting system.

REDD+ projects which have their own reporting will be required to comply with the national reporting system. To ensure the compatibility of the project approach with the national system, the SC commissions consultants to review the project MRV and gives recommendations to the SC. The project will have to comply with the SC decision to be vetted on national level.

Further, the projects are required to contribute to the National Forest Monitoring System. Methodology and all data from REDD+ projects will have to be shared with DoF.

All information on REDD+, including projects, national baseline, forest information, governance, finances, and policies will be made available on the Fiji REDD+ website, included in the national awareness programme, advertised in national media (Radio, TV), and reviewed with relevant stakeholders in a participative manner. This practice has shown efficient in the recent years of readiness preparation. Additionally, school curricula and universities are currently being amended to integrate climate change and REDD+. The extension officers of the forest department and iTaukei ministry are successively being trained and forward all information to the people. This practice is in line with the description in component 1b.

***Verification***

The Forest Department will undertake reporting activities according to guidance to be agreed on under the framework of the UNFCCC. It will be responsible for reporting and dissemination of the GHG information related to REDD+. Communication of the national REDD+ process will be communicate d to the national stakeholders prior to UNFCCC submission and verification and feedback from stakeholders will be incorporated. For reporting purposes, a 4 - year interval is envisaged to submit national

communications to the COP, as proposed under 1/CP.16, section III B on nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries (NAMAs), in paragraphs 60 (b).

Independent verification audits will be conducted as required under the UNFCCC. This verification will not be relevant until Fiji reports its GHG emissions from the forestry sector to UNFCCC under any arrangement set up by the international community. Since the negotiations have not come up with such a provision yet, Fiji intends to develop its REDD+ programme according to available standards and guidelines, such as elements of the voluntary market guidelines and multilateral products like the R-Package under FCPF. In order to achieve this compliance, Fiji is working with a variety of internationally renowned consultants in the implementation of its REDD+ readiness. The exchange with other implementing countries, donors and civil society at FCPF level will significantly contribute to this target.

## 4a.9 Work plan

Many of the necessary steps required to develop Fiji's MRV system for REDD+ are captured in the work plan for section 3. Thus, the activities described below only cover activities that are additional to the work plan for RL.

**Development of reporting structures:** As described in sections 1 and 3, information required for monitoring of REDD+ activities, changes in land cover and land use is collected by several institutions, therefore a structure for data aggregation and reporting must be developed. The Forestry Department, as the lead institution, will be responsible for the aggregation of all relevant data. To that end information channels and reporting requirements will be specified between institutions and the corresponding key departments within. Furthermore, procedures for internal and external verification of reported data will be set. The development of the reporting and verification system will determine roles and responsibilities for reporting of GHG emissions from land use change and land cover change to the responsible national institution. Reporting frequency and timelines will be set.

**Capacity building for MRV:** Targeted capacity building exercises will be conducted for the monitoring of biomass in different land use categories and sub-categories using classic inventory methods and remote sensing analysis. Staff in relevant institutions, and in particular in the Forestry Department and the REDD+ unit will be trained in data collection, storage and management systems. Furthermore, personnel will be trained in data analysis and reporting. Target groups include DoF, Department of Agriculture, Department of Lands, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, divisional authorities, communities and land owners, and civil society engaged in projects. An effort has to be made in order to grant uniformity to the inventory results from all stakeholders to harmonize the national reporting. This capacity building is an ongoing exercise throughout REDD+ readiness.

**Building the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS):** The methodology of the national forest inventory will be revised, in particular in regard to aspects of stratification, sample plot number and distribution according to the concerns raised and recommendation made by experts during the development of the R-PP. First, the measurement of aboveground biomass (AGB), deadwood and litter will be regulated. Other carbon pools, such as soil and belowground biomass (BGB), harvested wood products (feasibility of including this to be assessed), and inventories in other land cover and land use categories, will be added as soon as capacities are built.

The current national forest inventory is limited to Fiji's three major islands Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni as well as inventories conducted in the framework of the pilot projects. The full inventory will be conducted in combination with remote sensing analysis (ground truthing). The currently used methodology will be revised incorporating lessons learnt to date and will be expanded to a full biomass inventory including other land cover classes (crop land, grassland, wetland) to allow the comprehensive development of emission factors. Ultimately the biomass inventory will cover all relevant islands and land cover categories. Sampling methods for plantation forest will be adjusted to allow more reliable estimation of biomass in soft and hard wood plantations, including cover trees in Mahogany plantations.

Table 16 below shows the main mile stones for this component and when to achieve them.

| Comp. 4a: Implementation mile stones | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
| | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 – 12 | 01 – 06 | 07 - 12 |
| Forest Stratification map consolidated | | | x | | | | | |
| National Multipurpose Forest Inventory manual published | | | x | | | | | |
| Data base management system functional | | | x | | | | | |
| Activity data collection: | ongoing | | | | | | | |
| • National Multipurpose Forest Inventory completed | | | | | | | x | |
| • Agriculture survey completed | | | | | | | x | |
| Submit forest emission report to international review (FAO) | | | | | | | | x |
| National distribution campaign for the report | | | | | | | | x |

*Table 16: Mile stones and implementation schedule for component 4a*

| Table 4a: Summary of Monitoring Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Design and establish institutional framework for NFMS | Establishment of national NFMS unit | 30 | 25 | | | **55** |
| | Establishment and implementation of systems for monitoring, review and reporting | | 40 | 40 | 40 | **120** |
| Implementation of national remote sensing and forest inventory methodology (based on component 3 | Collection and analysis of activity data based on component 3 | | 80 | 80 | 60 | **220** |
| | Collection and analysis of emission factor data based on component 3 | | 80 | 80 | 60 | **220** |
| Capacity building and for implementing NFMS | Development of institutional capacity for NFMS | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | **105** |
| | National forest inventory capacity building and remote sensing capacity | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | **140** |
| Reporting and Verification | Reporting of national GHG emissions and emissions reductions | | | 25 | 25 | **50** |
| | Define and implement internal and external verification strategy | | | 25 | 25 | **50** |
| **Total** | | **100** | **290** | **305** | **265** | **960** |
| Government | | 40 | 25 | | | **65** |
| **FCPF** | | **60** | **240** | **305** | **265** | **870** |
| GIZ | | | 25 | | | **25** |
| Other Development Partner 1 (name) | | | | | | |

# 4b. Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

**Standard 4b the R-PP text needs to meet for this component: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards:**

The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design and a workplan, including early ideas on capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) for an integrated monitoring system that includes addressing other multiple benefits, impacts, and governance. Such benefits may include, rural livelihoods enhancement, conservation of biodiversity, and/or key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD-plus implementation in the country.

(The FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

## 4b.1 Step-wise approach to building REDD+ non-carbon information system

In order to ensure the non-carbon impacts of REDD+ are indeed positive or at a minimum cause no harm, a comprehensive monitoring system for these impacts will be developed during R-PP implementation. These impacts are often referred to as safeguards (when they are expected to be negative) or co-benefits (when they are expected to be positive). Following the general guidance provided by the UNFCCC[49], a safeguard information system (SIS) will be developed in order to assess and regularly monitor how safeguards are addressed by Fiji's REDD+ activities. The carbon emissions reductions, carbon storage or carbon stock enhancement resulting from REDD+ activities will be monitored and documented through the systems described in sub-component 4a while all non-carbon impacts will be monitored through the parallel systems described in this sub-component. Similar to the MRV system developed in the previous sub-component, Fiji is committed to developing this system in a cost-effective way. Whenever possible, links and synergies with the MRV system being developed in Component 4a will be sought.

The MRV system described in the previous sub-component is central to R-PP implementation as the main objective of REDD+ is to reduce forest-related emissions and thus contribute to climate change mitigation. However, it is increasingly recognized that REDD+ can contribute to providing a range of benefits beyond climate mitigation to REDD+ countries and stakeholders.[50] The importance of these benefits should not be underestimated because they play an important role in explaining to stakeholders, especially iTaukei communities, the advantages they have from participating in REDD+. For example, REDD+ should foster more transparent government processes, improved participation of civil society in policy making and the conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage. This sub-component explains the series of steps Fiji will take to develop the system required to monitor these non-carbon benefits.

The REDD+ Unit will play a key role in developing this system, and this unit will receive regular guidance from Fiji's REDD+ Steering Committee. In order to guide the development of this system, a working group dedicated specifically to non-carbon monitoring will be created in the Steering Committee. This working group will be comprised of experts in biodiversity, cultural heritage monitoring and any other

[49] The SIS is a response to the UNFCCC guidance provided in Cancun (2010) COP Decision 1/CP.16: Reporting on Safeguards.available for download at http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf.

[50] Dickson, B. et atl. REDD+ Beyond Carbon : Supporting Decisions on Safeguards and Multiple Benefits. UN-REDD Programme Policy Brief, 16 October 2012.

experts identified as being relevant for the SIS. It is possible that this will be the same working group created for the SESA.

### *1. Identify Priority Non-carbon Variable for Monitoring*

Before designing the safeguards information system (SIS), Fiji will need to identify the key non-carbon aspects of REDD+ to be monitored under this system. Guidance is given on page 6 in the Fiji REDD+ Policy (2011):

"The following will be ensured for all REDD-Plus initiatives and projects in Fiji:

i. protection of and respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples (as stated in UNDRIP and UNCSICH and other international instruments);
ii. full and effective participation of indigenous people and other relevant stakeholders;
iii. equitable distribution of benefits to rights owners;
iv. consideration of gender issues in all phases of decision-making and implementation;
v. no conversion of natural forests but will reward the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and will enhance other social and environmental benefits;
vi. that these initiatives and projects complement and are consistent with the objectives of the Fiji Sustainable Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) and relevant international conventions and agreements."

During this first step, all the possible benefits, risks and impacts of REDD+ that would be relevant for the SIS will be identified and thereafter prioritized. The Cancun Safeguards provide general guidance, which will help to narrow down the safeguards relevant to REDD+. The proposed set of indicators associated with non-carbon governance and social and environmental benefits and impacts will undergo validation from the Steering Committee as well as receive comments from a wide range of stakeholders. These will also be defined through the implementation of the Consultation and Participation Plan as well as the analysis carried out for the SESA. The forest governance assessment proposed in the work plan under sub-component 2a will also serve to identify the priority governance aspects that should be monitored for the purposes of REDD+ implementation.

REDD+ is a highly compatible land use alternative to certain ongoing activities that are less sustainable. That's the reason why the government of Fiji is engaging in this in the first place. An additional income from the activities it promotes is guaranteed – not from uncertain carbon markets, but from promoted income generating activities, increased market access, and avoiding damage to the basic needs of life that can occur after depleting the resources (erosion, water pollution, etc.). The safeguard monitoring system will therefore put a high emphasis on the improvement of livelihoods and the statistical impact of REDD+ on disasters. The government urges project proponents to emphasize these issues with their stakeholders instead of carelessly promoting carbon benefits only. Positive outcomes of projects will support the spread of REDD+ in Fiji and the Pacific Island Region.

### *2. Identify Existing Monitoring Institutions*

The rights of iTaukei are an important pillar of the new constitution of Fiji, which was launched in September 2013, as well as the previous constitution. Numerous institutions already monitor the impacts of various government programs on the native Fijians and REDD+ needs to build upon these structures in order to make their monitoring systems effective for the purposes of REDD+. For example, the National Trust of Fiji Islands identifies areas that should be protected due to their high value in Fiji's cultural and natural heritage. Through the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Fiji Museum can survey sites of cultural importance. Fiji Museum also assesses areas and documents how special sites should be protected and any developments planned for that area must be replanned. These institutions and their capacities will need to be more fully assessed during R-PP implementation.

Biodiversity impacts are central to REDD+ in Fiji and these are currently being monitored by a number of institutions, including Conservation International, World Conservation Society, and a number of Faculties

specialized in biodiversity at USP. The map of biodiversity hotspots provided in Annex 2b demonstrates the large amount of knowledge regarding strategic biodiversity protection in Fiji. Moreover, the Department of the Environment has a wide range of data acquired through the submission of impact assessments required by any large-scale development project. Fiji is also a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the national and sub-national institutions responsible for these programs must become more involved in REDD+. During the initial phases, these institutions will be identified and their capacity to monitor biodiversity responses to forest change will be built. Investments and activities for REDD+ will then be linked to the data generated in order to minimize the risk of REDD+ activities negatively impacting biodiversity as well as enhance biodiversity co-benefits in the future. In order to achieve this goal, biodiversity monitoring will be combined with GHG emissions and removals monitoring described in Component 4a.[51]

The amount of information available and the procedures and systems through which this information is managed must be more closely assessed, so that it can be useful for use during REDD+ implementation. Moreover, the information pertinent to REDD+ non-carbon impacts and benefits is currently dispersed throughout many institutions. This information will need to be brought together and its analysis integrated in a more systematic manner in order to make the information of use during R-PP implementation.

### *3. Build Safeguard Information System (SIS)*

Once the potential impacts, risks and monitoring institutions have been identified, a centralized system must be developed through which the monitoring will take place. Building on existing safeguard standards, monitoring systems and safeguard requirements specific to REDD+ will help to reduce the burden placed on Fiji's administration.

During REDD+ strategy development, the role of other institutions and their monitoring systems than those mentioned above will become clearer. If Fiji's REDD+ strategy focuses on agricultural activities for decreasing deforestation resulting from forest conversion for agriculture, then the monitoring systems will need to integrate information on the extent and effectiveness of agriculture extension services and land use planning. However, the terms for the sharing of relevant data should be defined in an agreement. Currently, few persons decide if data is sensitive or available for other government institutions to co-host in a separate storage system. SOPAC has a data storage system that could be expanded, but it is not clear to what extent the different departments feel comfortable with that. The SIS will need to remain flexible in order to respond to this challenge and still be able to produce tangible results, using the information of the other institutions.

### *4. Information Gathering*

Once the priority safeguards and governance indicators are defined and the institutional and management arrangements clarified, quantitative and qualitative data will need to be gathered on a regular basis and fed into the monitoring system. This information may be secondary, i.e. already existing databases will be explored, such as the USP or Fiji Museum or National Trust of Fiji. Where important information is lacking, this will be gathered for the purposes of REDD+. It is important that all information gathered be available for public access. This transparency should also help Fiji in assessing its other development strategies or sector policies.

Data collection must be cost-effective and feasible in the island context of Fiji. The overall cost of implementing the SIS is not fully known because the capacity assessment of existing institutions and current practices for safeguards data collection has not yet been carried out. While quantitative information, i.e. economic valuation of the impacts of available REDD+ strategy options, would be ideal, the cost of such methods may be prohibitive. Monetary valuation techniques would help decision-makers

[51] Dickson B, Kapos V. Biodiversity monitoring for REDD+, Curr Opin Environ Sustain (2012), http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2012.09.017

and other stakeholders assess different land use options against REDD+ strategy options. The ecosystem valuation required for the opportunity costs assessment carried out during the drivers assessment in sub-component 2a will also provide important information to the SIS.

Due to the complexity and uncertainty of impacts surrounding REDD+ strategy options, scenario analysis that assesses different possible futures would be useful.[52] These are already being carried out for the purposes of the REL/RL development and the results of these activities should be integrated into the priority aspects being monitored under the SIS. Map-based analysis will also help in visualizing priority areas for biodiversity conservation or protection of cultural heritage.

Given numbers may not always capture the entire governance and safeguards picture and its inherent complexity, qualitative data gathering would help in assessing safeguards. Expert interviews help to measure the progress and challenges facing REDD+ in the context of increasing development and globalization in Fiji. For example, interviews can be carried out whenever there are serious indications that REDD+ is not meeting safeguard requirements, which can then be reported to the Steering Committee. The grievance mechanism will also play an important role in this regard. The SIS should help the relevant stakeholders make choices about whether and how REDD+ should be implemented. It should assist Fiji in collectively reaching informed decisions in light of local and national priorities, its REDD+ Policy and international safeguards.

***5. Inclusion of project proponents***

As described in components 3 and 4a, Fiji is aiming for a hybrid approach, in which the forest inventory system created for projects has to contribute to the national data base, and therefore the project methodologies have to be compatible with the national methodologies, which is overseen by the SC. The safeguards defined on national level will as well apply to the project level and will have to be either monitored or the project proponent has to prove that certain concerns do not apply in their case.

As a consequence, Fiji will include project proponents in the trainings on the NFMS and safeguard monitoring. Projects are expected to regularly monitor the safeguards and report to the government. The following section on independent auditing applies to REDD+ projects as well as the national mechanism.

## 4b.2 Key Aspects of Fiji's Safeguards Information System

***Adaptive management***

Monitoring the positive and negative social and environmental impacts should go a step further in influencing the decisions taken regarding REDD+ activities and priorities. A feedback mechanism for properly integrating the information collected in the SIS must be developed. The feedback structure for dealing with any risks or negative impacts will be developing in the ESMF, described in Component 2d. The multiple benefits monitoring system, i.e. SIS, will help to detect those issues or conflicts that will then be mitigated through the ESMF.

Fiji faces a number of very important practical challenges to implementing this information system in a way that is effective. For example, during the first step of defining the benefits or potential risks to be monitored, it is important to keep in mind that numerous unexpected impacts are likely to occur, making it difficult if not impossible to identify in advance. The monitoring system must be regularly reviewed and the type of information gathered updated. This flexibility must be built into the system itself from the beginning. The system must be economically sustainable while simultaneously meeting the requirements of international standards and best practice. Guidance will be sought from other countries implementing R-PPs under the FPCF process.

[52] Dickson, B. et atl. REDD+ Beyond Carbon: Supporting Decisions on Safeguards and Multiple Benefits. UN-REDD Programme Policy Brief, 16 October 2012.

***Independent monitoring***

Although Fiji has an internal financial auditor body, which is legislatively required to regularly audit the Fiji Government, a third-party or independent organization would help to monitor and possibly provide additional auditing functions for REDD+. The REDD+ Steering Committee will largely play this role, as it is made up of all relevant national stakeholders. Whenever technical expertise is needed, either a consultant can be contracted to provide advice on the issue to the committee, or an organization, such as Transparency International branch in Fiji, could independently approve and publish REDD+ results in Fiji and support 'watchdog' functions. The capacity of this organization can be built up during R-PP implementation.

The tasks of the independent monitor can include:

- overseeing that MRV for carbon is implemented in accordance with national and international standards;
- verifying or certifying emissions reductions to be credited in the voluntary or compliance markets, or to be rewarded by national or international funds or donors;
- overseeing the operation of social and environmental safeguards; and
- implementing and overseeing grievance procedures.

***Capacity building***

Fiji has been actively following the safeguard requirements identified in its REDD+ Policy. However, quantifying or qualifying the impact of these safeguards, i.e. the co-benefits generated through REDD+, may be a new concept to many stakeholders in the country. An important goal of this component is to set up a system and culture of monitoring multiple benefits and governance that reaches beyond REDD+ activities, such as transparency, law enforcement and independent monitoring by civil society. The ultimate goal of this component is to create or reinforce existing national institution(s) capable of setting standards and monitoring impacts of sector policies even if REDD+ is no longer relevant. Some important benefits or risks, e.g. land tenure, gender equality and civil society participation, are relevant at a level much larger than REDD+.

One main goal of developing this system is to build national capacity in order for this culture of monitoring to be supported among the many stakeholder groups involved in REDD+, including iTaukei communities. Monitoring of REDD+ co-benefits is meant to take place at the national level, but should incorporate local institutions such as community natural resource monitoring structures. When communicating these concepts to communities, linkages will be sought with other R-PP components, such as the grievance mechanism. Communities can play an important role in monitoring adherence to safeguards and this capacity will be built surrounding pilot activities described in sub-component 2c during R-PP implementation. The guidelines, including gender and cultural sensitivity, laid out in the Consultation and Participation Plan (see sub-component 1c) will be followed during community monitoring capacity building activities. Traditional knowledge is highly valued in Fiji and it is important that REDD+ activities respect local traditions and cultural norms at all times. This activity will be ongoing continuously.

The below table informs about the planned mile stones for component 4b:

| **Comp. 4b: Implementation mile stones** | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | |
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Safeguard definition | | x | | | | | | |
| Assessment of existing data and information on safeguards | | | x | | | | | |
| Setup of SIS ready and integrated into NFMS where feasible | | | | | x | | | |

*Table 17: Implementation mile stones for component 4b*

| Table 4b: Summary of Monitoring Activities and Budget for Assessing and Monitoring Co-Benefits | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands US$)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Build Safeguards Monitoring System | Identify and prioritize non-carbon benefits | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Assessment of existing information or data management regarding safeguards | | 20 | | | **20** |
| | Build multiple benefits monitoring system | | | 50 | | **50** |
| | Collect data where gaps exist | | | 10 | 10 | **20** |
| Dissemination of results | Translation | | | 10 | | **10** |
| | Publication | | | | 20 | **20** |
| Capacity building | Community support for monitoring | | 5 | 3 | 3 | **11** |
| | Reinforcement of existing institutions | | | | | |
| **Total** | | **10** | **25** | **73** | **33** | **141** |
| Government | | | 20 | | | **20** |
| **FCPF** | | | | **73** | **33** | **106** |
| GIZ | | **10** | **5** | | | **15** |

# Component 5: Schedule and Budget

**Standard 5 the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**Completeness of information and resource requirements**

The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD-plus readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.

The Fijian Forestry Department commits F$300,000 (currently ca. 160.000 USD) annually to REDD+, which is a capital project in addition to its regular operational budget. This budget may be increased in the future.

| Table 1a: Summary of National Readiness Management Arrangements Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands US$)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Steering Committee | General Committee Meetings | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| | Field Excursions | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| | Travel to international meetings | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | **32** |
| | Regional Travel: "Peer-to-Peer exchanges" | | 12 | 12 | 12 | **36** |
| | Steering Committee Working Groups (Specific Thematic WG Meetings) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| Fiji REDD+ Unit | 1 Manager/Adviser and 2 Technical Officers | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | **680** |
| | Communication Officer | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | **60** |
| | Office/Administration Costs | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | **32** |
| | Adminstration Assistant (based in Forestry) | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| Divisional REDD+ w orking group | Meetings | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | **8** |
| | Training of members | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| | Travel and field excursions | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| Mainstreaming REDD+ into national institutions, policies and | Capacity assessment of institutions involved in REDD+, i.e. institutions represented in SC | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Develop and validate capacity building plan | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Implement capacity building activities and trainings at national institutional level | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 | **50** |
| Total | | **288** | **280** | **270** | **270** | **1,108** |
| Domestic Government | | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | **140** |
| **FCPF** | | 188 | 188 | 230 | 230 | **836** |
| **GIZ** | | 60 | 52 | 10 | 10 | **132** |

| Table 1b: Summary of Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Activities and Budget** | | | | | | |
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Development of guidelines for gender and vulnerable groups analysis for REDD+ | Guideline Development | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Translation, Publication and Dissemination | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | **60** |
| Communication Strategy | Consultancy for development of communication strategy | 15 | 10 | | | **25** |
| | Translation and publication of materials into iTaukei and Hindi | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | **50** |
| | Dissemination and Awareness through various media forms | 20 | 15 | 15 | 15 | **65** |
| Community Awareness-raising and education | Training of trainers for*Rokos, TLTB, Ext Officers, NGOs* | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | **48** |
| | Community education programmes | 20 | 20 | 15 | 15 | **70** |
| | REDD+ guidebook for officers | 15 | 15 | | | **30** |
| REDD+ Research Programme | Support for USP and Forestry Department to carry out and publish biodiversity assessment and research | 20 | 25 | 20 | 20 | **85** |
| **Total** | | **152** | **127** | **87** | **87** | **453** |
| Domestic Government | | 47 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **77** |
| FCPF | | 20 | 52 | 62 | 62 | **196** |
| GIZ | | 85 | 65 | 15 | 15 | **180** |

| Table 1c: Summary of Consultation and Participation Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Phase 4: Development of appropriate consultation and outreach approaches | Assessment of effectiveness of participatory consultation tools and approaches used in Fiji | 15 | | | | 15 |
| | Identification and further development of appropriate partcipatory consultation ools and approaches | 10 | | | | 10 |
| | Training of resource persons agencies in applying the partcipatory tools | 10 | | | | 10 |
| Phase 5: Develop and strengthen the capacity of REDD+ stakeholders to engage fully and effectively in consultations | Support outreach centres to disseminate information especially to remote communities | 6 | 5 | | | 11 |
| | Conduct REDD+ training w orkshops and seminars tailored specifically for target groups (biodiversity, carbon rights, | 12 | | | | 12 |
| | Establish a REDD+ information centre (w ithin the REDD+ Unit) for the public to contact for information and guidance | | 10 | | | 10 |
| Phase 6: Conduct the consultation (2014) | Travel to islands | 12 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 57 |
| | Conduct community consultations using the selected tools | 15 | | | | 15 |
| Phase 7: Analyze and disseminate results (2014 - 2015) | Establish a central database in the Forestry Department to store all information and data from consultations | 15 | 10 | 10 | | 35 |
| | Strengthen institutional capacity for efficient and effective information know ledge management | 15 | | | | 15 |
| | Document, analyse and report on the consultations and the responses proposed | | 10 | | | 10 |
| | Documentation and development of SOPs for the management of data generated | | 15 | 4 | | 19 |
| | Develop an action plan responding to consultation and participation issues | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Phase 8: Feedback (2016) | Conduct w orkshops in all Divisions and Districts to discuss the results of the consultation approaches and tools and present on the proposed action plans | | 10 | | 8 | 18 |
| | Input action plan into overall REDD+ the implementation plan | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guideline | Analyse the consultation process and use findings to improve draft FPIC guideline. | 5 | 5 | | | 10 |
| | Development of guideline through stakeholder consultation (including Divisional Offices and Provincial Councils) | 10 | 10 | | | 20 |
| | Validate guideline at national level | | 10 | | | 10 |
| | Translate, Publish and Disseminate | | 10 | 10 | | 20 |
| **Total** | | **125** | **120** | **44** | **18** | **307** |
| **Government** | | 40 | 15 | | 0 | **55** |
| **FCPF** | | 69 | 90 | 34 | 18 | **211** |
| **GIZ** | | 16 | 15 | 10 | | **41** |

| Table 2a: Summary of Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance Activities and Budget (Follow-up Activities Needed) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Estimated Cost (in thousands) | | | | |
| Main Activity | Sub-Activity | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Total |
| National-scale study of drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and underlying causes | Legal Analysis | 20 | | | | 20 |
| | Policy and strategy analysis | 20 | | | | 20 |
| | Report on challenges and obstacles for addressing deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji | 50 | 80 | | | 130 |
| | Opportunity Cost Assessment | | 50 | | | 50 |
| | Forest Governance Assessment | | 50 | | | 50 |
| **Total** | | **90** | **180** | **0** | **0** | **270** |
| Government | | | | | | |
| FCPF | | **50** | **180** | **0** | **0** | **230** |
| GIZ | | 40 | | | | **40** |

| Table 2b: Summary of REDD-plus Strategy Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Estimated Cost (in thousands) | | | | |
| Main Activity | Sub-Activity | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Total |
| Develop Strategy Options to address drivers | Study | 10 | 10 | | | **20** |
| | Stakeholder Validation | | 10 | | | **10** |
| Develop tools for prioritizing and choosing strategic options | REDD+ Activity Matrix | 5 | 10 | | | **15** |
| | REDD+ Resource Map | 10 | 10 | | | **20** |
| | Stakeholder consultation for validation of prioritized activities | | 15 | 10 | | **25** |
| Cost/Benefit Analysis of strategy options | Ecosystem valuation | | 50 | 20 | | **70** |
| | REDD+ | | | 20 | | **20** |
| **Total** | | **25** | **105** | **50** | **0** | **180** |
| Government | | 15 | 20 | 0 | | **35** |
| **FCPF** | | | 65 | 50 | 0 | **115** |
| GIZ | | 10 | 20 | 0 | | **30** |

| Table 2c: Summary of REDD-plus Implementation Framework Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Develop a REDD+ Implementation plan | Design REDD+ financial flow framework | | 30 | | | **30** |
| | Integrate financial flow framework into registry | | | 10 | | **10** |
| Benefits sharing mechanism | Design | 15 | 5 | | | **20** |
| | Implementation | | | 25 | | **25** |
| Process for legislative change for carbon rights | Legal Review, which includes stakeholder consultations | 5 | 5 | 5 | | **15** |
| | | 10 | 5 | | | **15** |
| Strengthening of policies and legislations | Implement policy reform | | 10 | 10 | 10 | **30** |
| | Law enforcement | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | **40** |
| Grievance redress mechanism | Training of stakeholders on adressing grievances and conflicts duiring REDD+ preparation | 10 | 10 | | | **20** |
| | Identify existing redress structures and institions and strengthen for REDD+ grievance redress | 5 | 5 | | | **10** |
| | Develop grievance guideline including grievance recording form for local villages and communites | 15 | 10 | | | **25** |
| | Train Village headman and other officers in recording and adressing grievances | 15 | 10 | 5 | 5 | **35** |
| Finalization of REDD+ Guidelines | | 20 | | | | **20** |
| **Total** | | **105** | **100** | **65** | **25** | **295** |
| Government | | 30 | 25 | - | - | **55** |
| FCPF | | **55** | **75** | **65** | **25** | **220** |
| GIZ | | 20 | | | | **20** |

| Table 2d: Summary of Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Capacity Building | Comprehensive assessment of capacities of existing institutions to manage key environmental, social and vulnerability issues | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Capacity building for SESA / EIA / ESMF for government staff | | 40 | 15 | | **55** |
| SESA Summary Dissemination | Hiring of Consultant Team | | 60 | 50 | 20 | **130** |
| | Carry out SESA | | 40 | 40 | 20 | **100** |
| | Dissemination of SESA report | | | 20 | | **20** |
| ESMF ToRs Development | Stakeholder Consultations and drafting of ToRs | | | 15 | | **15** |
| | Workshops for sharing and approving the ToRs | | | 2 | | **2** |
| Formulation of SESA / ESMF | Formulation of ESMF | | | | 25 | **25** |
| | Piloting of ESMF in three selected Provinces | | | | 60 | **60** |
| **Total** | | **20** | **140** | **142** | **125** | **427** |
| Government | | | | | | |
| **FCPF** | | **20** | **140** | **142** | **125** | **427** |
| | | | | | | |

| Table 3: Summary of Reference Level Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Development of the institutional framework for RL and MRV | Capacity and training needs assessment and capacity building plan | 20 | | | | **20** |
| | Capacity building and operationalization of the institutional framework | 30 | 15 | 10 | 10 | **65** |
| Design of a hybid accounting system | Acquire technical and hardware support | 40 | 25 | 20 | 10 | **95** |
| | Development of Standard Operating procedures (SOP) | 30 | | | | **30** |
| | GIS based data analysis and management system | 20 | 15 | 15 | 10 | **60** |
| | Classification of land cover sub-categories | 15 | 15 | | | **30** |
| Activity data | Data collection and analysis of land use and land cover change (incl. ground truthing) | | 40 | 40 | | **80** |
| | Identification of REDD+ hotspots | | 10 | 20 | | **30** |
| Emission factors | Assessment of carbon pools | 30 | | | | **30** |
| | Data collection and development of emission factors for all land cover/use categories | 20 | 40 | 40 | | **100** |
| | Aggregate activity data and emissions factors | | | 20 | | **20** |
| Development of national RL and alternative scenario | Compilation and analysis of sources for data on national circumstances | | 25 | 25 | | **50** |
| | Scenario modeling for RL | | | 39 | | **39** |
| | Outreach and information sharing | | 30 | 30 | | **60** |
| **Total** | | **205** | **215** | **259** | **30** | **709** |
| Government | | 35 | 55 | 30 | | **120** |
| **FCPF** | | **140** | **135** | **209** | **30** | **514** |
| GIZ | | 30 | 25 | 20 | | **75** |

| Table 4a: Summary of Monitoring Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| **Design and establish institutional framework for NFMS** | Establishment of national NFMS unit | 30 | 25 | | | **55** |
| | Establishment and implementation of systems for monitoring, review and reporting | | 40 | 40 | 40 | **120** |
| **Implementation of national remote sensing and forest inventory methodology (based on component 3** | Collection and analysis of activity data based on component 3 | | 80 | 80 | 60 | **220** |
| | Collection and analysis of emission factor data based on component 3 | | 80 | 80 | 60 | **220** |
| **Capacity building and for implementing NFMS** | Development of institutional capacity for NFMS | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | **105** |
| | National forest inventory capacity building and remote sensing capacity | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | **140** |
| **Reporting and Verification** | Reporting of national GHG emissions and emissions reductions | | | 25 | 25 | **50** |
| | Define and implement internal and external verification strategy | | | 25 | 25 | **50** |
| **Total** | | **100** | **290** | **305** | **265** | **960** |
| Government | | 40 | 25 | | | **65** |
| **FCPF** | | **60** | **240** | **305** | **265** | **870** |
| GIZ | | | 25 | | | **25** |

| Table 4b: Summary of Monitoring Activities and Budget for Assessing and Monitoring Co-Benefits | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Main Activity** | **Sub-Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands US$)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| **Build Safeguards Monitoring System** | Identify and prioritize non-carbon benefits | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Assessment of existing information or data management regarding safeguards | | 20 | | | **20** |
| | Build multiple benefits monitoring system | | | 50 | | **50** |
| | Collect data where gaps exist | | | 10 | 10 | **20** |
| **Dissemination of results** | Translation | | | 10 | | **10** |
| | Publication | | | | 20 | **20** |
| **Capacity building** | Community support for monitoring | | 5 | 3 | 3 | **11** |
| | Reinforcement of existing institutions | | | | | |
| **Total** | | **10** | **25** | **73** | **33** | **141** |
| Government | | | 20 | | | **20** |
| **FCPF** | | | | **73** | **33** | **106** |

| Table 6: Summary of Program M&E Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Component** | **Sub-Component / Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Design, finalize and sanction the M&E framework | Overall design of the M&E framework | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Identification of measurable and verifiable indicators | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Collection of feed-back from CSOs to the program M&E framework | | 10 | 10 | 10 | **30** |
| | Endorsement of M&E framework | | 5 | | | **5** |
| M&E framework implementation | Setting up of program database | 15 | | | | **15** |
| | Link of program database to REDD+ website | | 10 | | | **10** |
| | Monthly collection of data for update of database | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| Mid-term evaluation | Evaluation report preparation | | | 10 | | **10** |
| Periodic reporting and adjustments | Preparation, publication and distribution of half-yearly and annual reports M&E reports | | 5 | 5 | 5 | **15** |
| | Public forums to review implementation progress and provide feedback | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| | Adjustments to the program implementation | | | 10 | 10 | **20** |
| **Total** | | **45** | **40** | **45** | **35** | **165** |
| Government | | 10 | 20 | 15 | 15 | **60** |
| **FCPF** | | 15 | 10 | 30 | 20 | **75** |
| GIZ | | 20 | 10 | | | **30** |

## BUDGET SUMMARY

| | | (,000) | | FCPF | Government | GIZ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **COMPONENT 1 TOTAL** | | **USD 1,868** | | 1243 | 272 | 353 |
| Component 1a | 1,108 | | | | | |
| Component 1b | 453 | | | | | |
| Component 1c | 307 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **COMPONENT 2 TOTAL** | | **USD 1,172** | | 992 | 90 | 90 |
| Component 2a | 270 | | | | | |
| Component 2b | 180 | | | | | |
| Component 2c | 295 | | | | | |
| Component 2d | 427 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **COMPONENT 3 TOTAL** | | **USD 709** | | 514 | 120 | 75 |
| | | | | | | |
| **COMPONENT 4 TOTAL** | | **USD 1,101** | | 976 | 85 | 40 |
| Component 4a | 960 | | | | | |
| Component 4b | 141 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **M&E** | | **USD 165** | | 75 | 60 | 30 |
| | | | | | | |
| **TOTAL** | | **USD 5,015** | | **USD 3,800** | **USD 627** | **USD 588** |

# Component 6: Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

**Standard 6 the R-PP text needs to meet for this component:**
**Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

The R-PP adequately describes the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and to identify in a timely manner any shortfalls in performance timing or quality. The R-PP demonstrates that the framework will assist in transparent management of financial and other resources, to meet the activity schedule.

The following M&E Framework is proposed as a basis for discussions and will be further developed and validated during R-PP implementation. For each action item identified in the sub-components' workplans indicators are identified with which Fiji can keep track of its progress towards REDD+ Readiness. Potential lack of progress can be identified in a timely manner, after which remedial action can be taken. The example table provided in the FCPF guidance document is used in amended format to identify process or product indicators, whatever is appropriate, for each of the action items identified in components 1 through to 4.

*Table 17 Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1a** | Capacity of Steering Committee members and operation is reinforced | Training undertaken<br>Manual published<br>SC members actively contribute to REDD+<br>Views of stakeholders are clearly incorporated in decisions that are relevant to the REDD+ implementation process | Documentation of training and excursions are available<br>Publication<br>SC minutes of meeting document views of stakeholder. Influence can be assessed when final product is published (evidence of feedback loop) | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Survey of SC members and other relevant stakeholders | frequently | Department of Forests and SC Secretariat |
| **1a** | Establishment of REDD+ Unit | TOR of the REDD+ Unit exist<br>People are hired to work in the REDD+ Unit<br>REDD+ Unit integrated in structure of DoF | TORs available<br>REDD+ Unit recruited and active | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Stakeholders are aware of the existence of the REDD+ Unit and know what activities it is responsible for<br>Work contracts<br>Revised structure of DoF | June 2014 | Department of Forests and Steering Committee |
| **1a** | Creation and effective operation of Divisional REDD+ Committees | TOR for Divisional Committees exist<br>Divisional REDD+ Committee implemented activities | Number of Divisional REDD+ Committees created<br>Number of reports of activities send to SC (minutes of meeting, requests, decisions, etc.) | Fiji REDD+ website<br>Archive at DoF or Divisional REDD+ focal point | frequently | Steering Committee<br>Divisional REDD+ Focal Points |
| **1a** | Analysis of the capacity of the members of the SC and subsequent capacity building | Capacity assessment document published and discussed with all SC members<br>Capacity building plan verified by all SC members<br>Capacity building measures carried out | Minutes of SC meeting on capacity assessment discussion<br>Minutes of SC meeting on capacity building plan verification<br>Documentation of trainings | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Survey on confidence of SC members regarding REDD+ implementation within their work spaces | August 2014<br>CB: annually 2015-2017 | SC<br>SC Secretariat<br>REDD+ Unit |
| **1a** | Mainstream REDD+ into other | Taskforce | Taskforce formally | Taskforce is established | August | SC |

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | sectors. This involves the establishment of an inter- and intra-departmental taskforce. A capacity assessment will need to be done to determine what, if any, gaps in capacity may exist. | Plan for mainstreaming<br>Capacity analysis | established, documents available and collected<br>Collection of documents | and operational (TOR, incl description of roles and responsibilities of members, functions etc.)<br>Minutes of meetings<br>Appropriate mainstreaming plan available and being implemented<br>Capacity of members of the TF tested and appropriate | 2014<br><br>March 2017 | DoCC (MoFA) |
| **1b** | Develop and validate guidelines for gender and vulnerable groups | Guidelines developed participatively<br>Guidelines applied in implementation | Guidelines available<br>Participative process documented<br>Conclusions integrated in REDD+ Strategy<br>Documentation on use of guidelines in REDD+ activities | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Stakeholder meeting documentation in annex<br>Survey among stakeholders if their issues are addressed in REDD+ Strategy<br>Gender checklist as documentation standard | Nov 2014 | SC<br>Fiji Department of Women |
| **1b** | Develop REDD+ communication strategy | REDD+ communication strategy developed<br>Structures in place | Strategy available<br>Responsible persons know their tasks | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Independent review of the implementation status | July 2014<br>annual reviews | SC<br>DoF |
| **1b** | "Training of trainers", including the development of instruction manuals | REDD+ Manual for Officers developed<br>Rokos to be trained identified<br>Rokos trained<br>Trainings with stakeholders conducted by Rokos | Manual available<br>Documentation on training programme<br>Documentation on trainings conducted and feedback from trainings<br>Knowledge test with trainers | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Archive on activity documentation<br>Survey among trained persons | August 2015<br>frequently | DoF<br>Rokos<br>SC |
| **1b** | Develop and Execute REDD+ Research Programme | Funds for research have been dispersed and accounted for<br>Number of international | collect project reports and publications | check delivery of outputs in accordance with project funding | Annually | SC<br>DoF<br>USP |

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | publications regarding REDD+ in Fiji | | Publication catalogue<br>Fiji REDD+ website | | FNU |
| **1c** | Carry out consultation and participation plan addressing differentiated for different stakeholder needs and allowing for key stakeholders to properly contribute to the REDD+ strategy | Consultation and participation plan implemented<br>Stakeholder consultation approach re/formulated and updated on a continuous basis<br>Information received from stakeholders and addressed in products / national process | Documentation of stakeholder meetings<br>Documentation of information passing the channels of the plan<br>Sampling of received information reflected in concerned products | Review approach and consultation framework<br>Survey with stakeholder groups whether they are aware of the procedures and whether they have been consulted<br>Test the feedback loop: have their views been incorporated | Bi-annually<br>2015 and 2017 | SC |
| **1c** | Analysis of all consultations to date, issues raised, and action taken to address them and include them in the REDD+ strategy development process | Review consultancy conducted<br>Recommendations discussed and implemented | Report available<br>Minutes of SC meeting on report discussion<br>Recommendations addressed and documented | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>comparison of recommendations and addressed strategies/ processes | Sep 2015 | SC Secretariat<br>DoF |
| **1c** | Compilation of outreach and consultation materials for each stakeholder group published in English, Fijian and Hindi | Outreach and consultation materials developed | Existing outreach and consultation material<br>Review documentation on stakeholder comments on drafts | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Archive of SC Secretariat | frequently | SC Secretariat<br>NGOs (Live and Learn, Conservation International) |
| **2a** | conduct a comprehensive study on drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation | study on drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation | Collect document | Assess the report and the findings<br>Sample some sites to verify the findings in the report | Dec 2015 | DoF<br>SOPAC |
| **2a** | Assess the available technical, legislative and financial capacity for good governance of the land use and forestry sector; develop a capacity building and good governance design plan to remedy possible gaps in capacity; and, develop a forest governance assessment | Full scale capacity analysis<br>Full scale capacity building plan<br>Forest governance assessment framework<br>…developed | Collect documents | A forest governance assessment framework is formulated, in place, appropriate in terms of quality, and operational<br>Key staff is able to work with the framework and achieve its objectives<br>Interview key | Nov 2015 | SC Secretariat<br>SC members |

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | framework. | | | stakeholders to investigate their opinion on their increased understanding and the capacity building program | | |
| **2a** | Analysis of failing monitoring of adherence to the Forestry Harvesting Code of Practice and impacts on the forest, and post-harvest monitoring operations. This includes the assessment of the monitoring and quantification of timber removals from the logging sites. | Assessment reports | Collect reports | Assess the reports and the findings<br>Sample some sites to verify the quality of the report<br>Compare ex-ante and ex-post estimates of timber removals<br>Check field activities against the Code<br>Check activities of staff responsible for monitoring<br>Verify availability of the resources (financial and technical) for staff to conduct the monitoring | Nov 2015 | SC<br>DoF |
| **2b** | Full and comprehensive analysis of all REDD+ activities that can possibly be implemented in Fiji, including their potentially positive and negative, social and environmental impacts. Included in the analysis will be a risk assessment associated with the different options, as well as the design of risk mitigation strategies and an assessment of the risk of not undertaking any action (social and environmental damage). Past efforts to implement REDD+ type of activities shall be assessed as well. | Analysis of possible REDD+ activities and summary of recommendations for action | Collect document | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter | April 2015 | SC |

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2b** | Development of the REDD+ strategy options document. This will need to be done on the basis of information derived from other action items, and take the 30 action items in sub-component 2b, to the extent that they are relevant, into account. | REDD+ strategy options selection and prioritization documented | Collect documents | Assess the options against the report reviewing all the REDD+ activities<br>Fiji REDD+ Website<br>Verify the appropriate use of the DSS, SESA and ESMF | July 2016 | SC |
| **2c** | Develop a 'Strategic Financing Plan for Implementation of the national REDD+ Programme that will clarify the national approach to REDD+ implementation. | Strategic Financing Plan for National REDD+ Implementation for the national REDD+ Programme | Collect documents | Assess documents, possibly with independent financial experts | March 2015 | SC<br>DoF<br>MoFA |
| **2c** | Develop a Benefits Sharing Mechanism (BSM) | BSM ready for testing | Collect documentation on consultation process for BSM<br>Collect preliminary structures of BSM | Fiji REDD+ Website and newsletter<br>BSM exists<br>Survey among stakeholders if they are aware of and in agreement with the outcome | February 2015 | SC Secretariat<br>Ministry for iTaukei Affairs<br>DoF |
| **2c** | Develop a blueprint for the REDD+ implementation phase, including the institutional arrangements and regulatory framework | Blueprint for the REDD+ implementation phase | Collect documents | Assess quality of the document<br>Ascertain all topics that need to be covered are in there<br>Check consistency with description of framework from component 1<br>Check with outcome of options document | October 2017 | SC<br>DoF |
| **2c** | Feedback and grievance redress mechanism, including best practices, and outreach | Grievance redress mechanism organizational structure documented<br>Outreach conducted | Documentation of mechanism organizational structure<br>Responsible staff appointed<br>Mechanism promoted to stakeholders and citizens of | Fiji REDD+ Website and newsletter<br>Work contracts<br>Documentation of awareness campaign | June 2015 | Steering Committee members |

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | procedures functional | Citizens from all forested areas of Fiji make use of the offer | Fiji<br>Documentation of complaints/ requests received and from where | Survey among stakeholders about awareness of the mechanism<br>Documentation archive of responsible staff | | |
| **2d** | Organise a broad consultation on the design of the ESMF | Consultation plan and reports | Collect reports | Check consultation plan on quality and whether it has been implemented<br>Survey among stakeholders about their participation in the process and satisfaction with result | Through-out 2016 | SC<br>Technical partner (i.e. World Bank) |
| **2d** | Develop an ESMF, including provisions for the Safeguards. | The ESMF is in place, appropriate and functional<br>Provisions for the safeguards are included<br>Stakeholder engagement procedures and dispute resolution framework in place | Collect document<br>Check ESMF against Guidelines of the FCPF<br>Assess quality and use of the stakeholder engagement procedures and dispute resolution framework | Fiji REDD+ website and newsletter<br>Survey among responsible persons to check if ESMF is understood and applied | January 2017 | SC<br>Technical partner (i.e. World Bank) |
| **3** | Develop Fiji-specific default values or default factors (e.g. BEF, wood densities, allometrics, growth rates of different forest types and recovery rates of forests after catastrophic events) | Fiji specific default factors described in research documents and manual<br>and applied to past forest carbon change analysis and future prediction in BAU scenarios | Collect documents | Independent verification documentation for default values<br>Fiji database management system | Dec 2016 | DoF |
| **3** | Improve the LU/LC change analysis, including the recognition of different strata and forest types | LU/LC change maps | Documents collection | Independent verification<br>Sample some sites in the field whether they have been classified properly | March 2015 | University Wageningen SOPAC<br>DoF |
| **3** | Develop models to make projections of future deforestation and forest degradation in support of the RL, including the impact of | Projection models | Collect document and software | Assess the description of the model<br>Test the software for various future | Nov 2016 | DoF<br>SOPAC |

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | policies | | | development scenarios | | |
| **3** | Develop independently verified forest RL for Fiji, taking into account all ongoing projects | Fiji forest RL verified | Fiji forest RL report<br>Verification report | Fiji REDD+ website<br>Verifier's website/ archive | July 2017 | DoF |
| **4a** | Development of practical stratification and forest inventory methodology for NFMS | Inventory manual<br>Stratification methodology documented, forest stratification maps available | Collect methodologies and maps | Verify appropriate allocation of land to sub-categories in NFMS, both on paper and in the field<br>Verify correctness of maps and consistency with GIS database independently | June 2015 | DoF<br>SOPAC |
| **4a** | Increase capacity for implementing NFMS | capacity analysis available<br>capacity building conducted for NFI team and stakeholders (NGOs, land owners) | Collect documents<br>NFI team and stakeholders collecting data correctly | Availability of documents, including a capacity building plan<br>Cross-check collected data for accuracy | June 2015<br>frequently | DoF |
| **4a** | Upgrade sample plot grid and increase number of plots (PSPs) to a full-blown wall-to-wall national forest inventory | Stratification maps complete<br>Sample plots per stratum calculated and distributed<br>Permanent national budget for inventory | Collect documents from DoF | Annual NFI reports<br>Annual government budget<br>NFI work plan | 2016 and 2017 | DoF |
| **4a** | Design and construct a database management system (DBMS), including a description of the required hard- and software | DBMS, SOPs, user manual, description of the required hard- and software | Verify DBMS, collect documents | Assess DBMS physically<br>Assess SOPs<br>Assess user manual<br>Consult with users to verify appropriateness and user friendliness<br>Check DBMS content against hard copies of the data<br>Verify the right hard- and software is being used | Dec 2015 | DoF<br>SOPAC<br>Lands Dpt<br>Agriculture Dpt<br>TLTB |
| **4b** | Develop Guidelines for REDD+ Safeguards. | REDD+ Safeguard Guidelines | Collect document | Test document against the UNFCCC language | Oct 2014 | SC |

| Comp no. | Action item | Indicator | Collection method of evidence | Means of Verification | Due date | Responsible agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | and reporting obligations | | |
| **4b** | Cataloguing exercise, also based on a broad stakeholder consultation campaign, identifying which issues need to be included in the Information System using the outcome of the SESA | Inventory report | Collect report | Assess quality and comprehensiveness of the inventory | May 2015 | SC |
| **4b** | Design of the Information System including systems/structures required for monitoring and review, and determination of indicators to be monitored | Information System, where appropriate compatible with NFMS | Collect document<br>Check inventory system | Assess whether the design of the Information System including systems/structures required for monitoring and review, and determination of indicators to be monitored is appropriate | Sep 2016 | SC<br>DoF |

| Table 6: Summary of Program M&E Activities and Budget | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Component** | **Sub-Component / Activity** | **Estimated Cost (in thousands)** | | | | |
| | | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **Total** |
| Design, finalize and sanction the M&E framework | Overall design of the M&E framework | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Identification of measurable and verifiable indicators | 10 | | | | **10** |
| | Collection of feed-back from CSOs to the program M&E framework | | 10 | 10 | 10 | **30** |
| | Endorsement of M&E framework | | 5 | | | **5** |
| M&E framework implementation | Setting up of program database | 15 | | | | **15** |
| | Link of program database to REDD+ website | | 10 | | | **10** |
| | Monthly collection of data for update of database | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| Mid-term evaluation | Evaluation report preparation | | | 10 | | **10** |
| Periodic reporting and adjustments | Preparation, publication and distribution of half-yearly and annual reports M&E reports | | 5 | 5 | 5 | **15** |
| | Public forums to review implementation progress and provide feedback | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **20** |
| | Adjustments to the program implementation | | | 10 | 10 | **20** |
| **Total** | | **45** | **40** | **45** | **35** | **165** |
| Government | | 10 | 20 | 15 | 15 | **60** |
| **FCPF** | | 15 | 10 | 30 | 20 | **75** |
| GIZ | | 20 | 10 | | | **30** |

# ANNEX 1A: NATIONAL READINESS MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

## THE FIJI REDD+ NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### INTRODUCTION

#### *Background*

Scientists estimate that deforestation and forest degradation account for around 20 percent of the annual greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change. REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) is an approach aimed at reducing the 20 percent of emissions related to forests through financial incentives. Forests are generally regarded as a source for financial and economical gain (agriculture, logging, land development etc.) and this often takes precedence over forest conservation or sustainable management. The REDD-plus concept links financial incentives to forest conservation, sustainable management, and enhancing and increasing carbon stocks for credits for carbon emissions avoided and/or carbon sequestered.

Fiji has a forest cover of almost 1.1 million hectares, covering about fifty-six percent of the total land mass. Forest clearance, largely attributed to agriculture, can be observed on parts of Fiji. The country also has large areas of degraded and unutilised lands which has potential for reforestation and afforestation to increase carbon stock.

Fiji recognises REDD-plus as an opportunity to contribute towards global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the socio-economic status of its forest resource owners and protect its forest ecosystems.

#### *The Fiji REDD-plus approach*

Fiji's REDD+ initiative began in 2009 with support from the SPC[53]/GIZ[54] Regional Programme - Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region. Fiji is taking a phased approach in its REDD-plus programme. The first phase aims to put in place policy and institutional frameworks for the implementation of REDD-plus and addressing capacity needs for the establishment of a national MRV (measuring, reporting and verification) system. The second phase involves the development of a national REDD-plus strategy, the establishment of pilot sites and strengthening MRV capacities (towards Tier 2 and 3[55] level reporting). The third phase will be the implementation of the strategy, participation in a REDD carbon financing mechanism, and the establishment of an operational MRV and IPCC reporting system.

#### *Policy context*

In December 2010 the Fiji REDD-Plus policy was endorsed by cabinet after a comprehensive consultation process involving relevant sectors and agencies. The end of 2010 also saw the drafting of a national REDD+ Strategy. The strategy document will provide directions on the implementation of the policy and the Fiji REDD+ programme. The Fiji REDD+ Programme is the cause of action taken by

[53] Secretariat of the Pacific Community

[54] Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

[55] Tier 1 IPCC methods and IPCC default values (no data collection needed); Tier 2 IPCC methods and country specific data for key factors (including more detailed country specific strata); Tier 3 Country specific methods or models, national inventory of key carbon stocks, repeated measurements of permanent plots to directly measure changes in forest biomass

government and stakeholders to take Fiji through the REDD-readiness phase and to successfully access carbon financing mechanisms

The Fiji REDD-Plus Policy statement 5.5 calls for a transparent multi-stakeholder governance structure. The governance structure will be capable of:

- ensuring the participation and consultation of all relevant stakeholders in REDD-Plus activities;
- delivering efficient and effective decisions;
- enhancing donor and buyer confidence;
- using existing structures and, where possible, modifying them to suit the implementation of the Fiji REDD-Plus Programme;
- standing up to an independent, external, expert third party review.

Policy statement 5.8 emphasises effective engagement and communication. It identifies the need to put in place a communication and awareness strategy capable of ensuring an efficient, effective and transparent flow of information among all stakeholders, at all levels.

Stakeholder consultations identified the need for a national REDD+ steering committee to ensure good and transparent governance and facilitate effective and efficient communication. The establishment of a REDD+ steering committee was recognised as an essential mechanism for strengthening an inter-disciplinary and integrated approach for the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ programme.

**FUNCTIONS OF THE FIJI NATIONAL REDD+ STEERING COMMITTEE**

The overarching function of the Fiji National REDD+ Steering Committee is to "**coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ programme**".

In fulfilling its function, the national REDD+ steering committee will ensure that a transparent and effective multi-stakeholder governance process is followed and that the safeguards identified under policy statement 5.1 (Fiji REDD-Plus Policy, 2011) are considered.

The National REDD+ Steering Committee will perform the following specific functions:

a. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ Strategy and associated action plans

b. Facilitate inter-sectoral and inter-agency support in the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ Strategy and action plans

c. Ensure alignment with international and regional developments in forest governance integrity, and international REDD technical and policy developments

d. Serve as an advisory technical body on both national and project level REDD+ issues, including advising local community groups

e. Assess REDD+ project proposals and make recommendations to the Conservator of Forests and the Director of Environment on the feasibility of these proposals

f. Promote and support awareness-raising on REDD+ issues

g. Report to the Forestry board at each Board meeting

h. Inform the National Climate Change Coordinating Committee (NCCCC) and the National Environment Council (NEC) at each NCCCC and NEC meeting on REDD+ activities and progress

i. Support the development, or strengthening of existing, grievance mechanisms to ensure that all grievances arising from REDD+-related actions are dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.

j. Provide advice and support to Fiji delegates participating at international negotiations relating to REDD+. Such international meetings include those on UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), UNFF (United Nations Forum on Forests), UNCCD (United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification) and UNCSICH (United Nations Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage).

k. Facilitate the development and implementation of REDD+ guidelines (refer to Annex 1)

l. Submit an annual progress report to the following key stakholders, and other interested stakeholders, before the end of the fourth quarter:

    a. The national focal points of the UNFCCC, the CBD, the UNCCD

    b. the Permanent Secretary of Fisheries and Forests

    c. the General Manager of TLTB

    d. the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of iTaukei Affairs

    e. the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources

    f. the Chairman of Fiji Sawmillers Association

    g. the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture

    h. the Permanent Secretary of Provincial Development and National Disaster Management

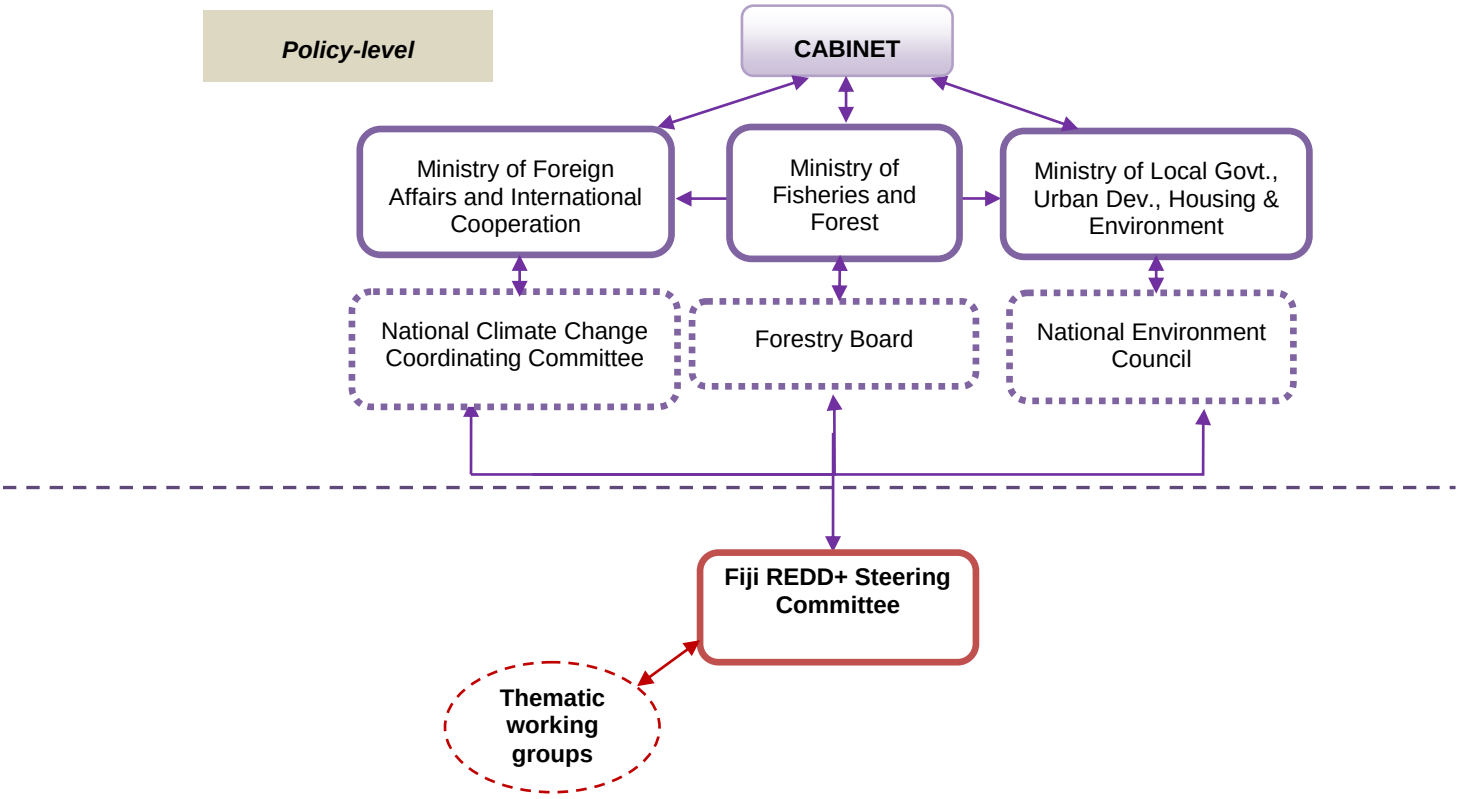
    i. the President of the Viti Land Resources Association

    j. the representative of the NGO network

**STRUCTURE OF THE REDD+ STEERING COMMITTEE**

a. The Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee is established by and reports to the Forestry Board. The REDD+ Steering Committee will also provide progress reports to the National Environment Council.

b. The REDD+ Steering Committee will establish Technical Sub-Committees when required for undertaking certain tasks associated with the implementation of the Fiji REDD+ Programme.




**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The REDD+ Steering Committee is a multi-stakeholder committee comprising of key stakeholders. The key stakeholders are:

1. The Forestry Department
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation – Climate Change Unit
3. The Department of Environment
4. The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
5. The Department of Agriculture
6. iTaukei Land Trust Board
7. Private sector (industry)
8. Fiji Pine Limited
9. Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited
10. REDD+ resource owner representatives
11. Ministry of Provincial Development
12. Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
13. Rpresenatives of non-governmental organisations carrying out REDD+ activties

14. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
15. University of the South Pacific (USP)
16. German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

**ROLES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

a. The Steering Committee will consist of a minimum of a chair, deputy chair, secretary and six ordinary members[56].
b. The chair sets the agenda, convenes meetings, and ensures that they are properly conducted.
c. The deputy chair takes the role of the chair when the chair is not present.
d. The secretary plans, coordinates and monitors all Steering Committee-related activities including distributing the agenda, attending the meetings, preparing minutes and reporting to the REDD+ Steering Committee.

**SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Steering Committee will consist of no fewer than 9 and no more than 18 individuals.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE**

The steering committee will be chaired by the Deputy Conservator of Forests - Services. The deputy chair person will either be the Director of the Climate Change Unit (Director Corporate Services – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) or the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. The secretary will be the Fiji REDD+ Project Coordinator.

If neither the chair nor the deputy chairs are present at a steering committee meeting the members present will elect one of their members to act as chair at that meeting.

**METHODS OF WORK**

a. The chair is responsible for convening meetings.
b. Meetings will take place every two months until such a time when the Committee is dissolved.
c. The chair may convene meetings at other times where it is the consensus opinion of the Steering Committee that it is necessary to do so.
d. The secretary is responsible for ensuring that the agenda of the meeting is made available to the members in good time before the meeting.
e. Recommendations shall be decided by consensus where possible.
f. Consensus means that after deliberation all members support a particular point of view. Where consensus is not achieved, recommendations shall be decided by simple majority vote of members voting on the question. In the case of a tied vote, the person acting as chair shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

[56] In the remainder of this document the word “members” includes all individuals participating in the Steering Committee unless there is an explicit distinction between the officials (chair, deputy chair and secretary) and the ordinary members.

g. A quorum is constituted by no less than 9 members of the Steering Committee. Of these 9 members, at least 3 members will be from the Forestry Department, the Department of Lands, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the iTaukei Land Trust Board and a landowner representative.

h. The Steering Committee may decide (by consensus or majority vote) to ask parties who are not members of the Steering Committee to participate in a meeting so that they can provide relevant information, material or knowledge to the Steering Committee.

i. The Steering Committee may establish sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members and refer to them any matter in the Steering Committee's mandate. Additional organisations can also be invited to contribute to or form a technical subcommittee.

**CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION**

a. The Steering Committee secretary reports the meeting minutes within two weeks of each meeting to the members.

b. The Steering Committee Chair makes a report to the Forestry Board chairman at each Board meeting. Should there be urgent matters arising in the interim, a special Board meeting can be requested by the chair of the steering committee

c. The Steering Committee Chair will communicate to the National Environment Council (NEC) at each NEC meeting the progress of the Fiji REDD+ Programme

d. The Steering Committee chair, deputy chair, and secretary act as focal points of contact between the REDD+SC and external organisations.

**REMUNERATION FOR EXPENSES AND TIME**

Participation in the Steering Committee is at the expense of its members.

**Ministry of Fisheries and Forests**

**Forestry Department**

**Fiji REDD+ Project Coordinator**

**Primary purpose**

The position exists to assist the Conservator of Forests in implementing activities under the Fiji REDD+ project. The REDD+ Project Coordinator (PC) will be responsible to the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Services) for coordinating, implementing and monitoring the REDD+ project activities.

**NATURE AND SCOPE**

***ROLE OF POSITION***

The REDD+ PC will be responsible for the implementation of REDD+ project activities and will provide technical support for the project, with an emphasis on ensuring effective stakeholder engagement, project monitoring and reporting:

*Project Coordination*

- act as Secretary to the National REDD+ Steering Committee, with responsibility for convening meetings, drafting agendas, assembling and preparing materials for consideration by the REDD+ SC and reporting on the outcomes of REDD+ SC meetings;
- provide assistance and support to visiting international consultants and others engaged in project activities, including preparing programmes, appointments and assisting with travel and other logistical arrangements;
- in accordance with the approved AWP, prepare RIEs, monitor project expenditure, procurements, and supervise project activities to ensure timely delivery of project outputs to an acceptable standard;
- report on project activities, outputs and outcomes and submit them to the REDD+ SC and to the MFF Planning Section for inclusion in the project progress reports, and terminal report.
- Safekeeping of all REDD+ Project equipment, key project documents and correspondences

*Technical activities:*

- provide technical assistance to project partners, short-term consultants and other relevant stakeholders;
- contribute to project activities including the capture and documentation of best-practices and lessons learnt.
- provide technical advice and assistance to the mid-term and final evaluations of the project;
- facilitate the exchange of results and information from the project within the country and provide such information for broader dissemination;
- in accordance with the approved AWP and in consultation with the REDD+ SC, organize and implement national and local consultation, workshops and training exercises;

- ensure adequate communication of national activities to all stakeholders (including government, private-sector and NGOs) and invite and encourage the participation of a wide range of stakeholders (particularly local groups) in national activities and consultations when appropriate.
- represent the project at relevant meetings and conferences in the country and facilitate the coordination and integration of project activities into other efforts where appropriate and beneficial to the achievement of the project's objectives.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

The REDD+PC should have the following skills, experience and qualifications:

*Minimum requirements:*

- a university degree in Natural Resource Management or related field,;
- three years of relevant professional experience, including experience in activities related to Climate Change;
- excellent oral and written communication skills in English;

*Desirable qualifications and experience:*

- familiarity with Climate change and forest management issues in the country;
- demonstrated capacity for analysis and technical report writing;
- two years project management experience;
- strong leadership skills;
- familiarity with Climate Change Activities in Fiji.

***Duration of appointment:*** The NPC will be contracted for a probationary period of one year, which will be extended annually until the completion of the project (assuming satisfactory performance).

**Remuneration:**

The successful incumbent will be remunerated accordingly depending on qualification and experience.

**Expression of Interest to be** a**ddressed to**: The Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forests, GPO Box 2218, Government Buildings, Suva and marked on the envelope REDD+ – Project Coordinator. For further information, contact Samuela Lagataki on ph: 33101611 or e-mail: samuela_lagataki@yahoo.com **Closing Date: January XX 2012.**

## ANNEX 1B: INFORMATION SHARING AND EARLY DIALOGUE WITH KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

***Stakeholder Scoping for National REDD Governance***

| Key REDD+ Stakeholders & Roles | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Agency** | **Role** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Funder | Buyer | Regulator/ Policy | Seller/ Beneficiary | Technical capability | Training/ education / awareness | Communication | Quality Assurance | Facilitating participation | REDD Program Governance | Advisory | Affected Party | International relations |
| **Regulatory** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Cabinet | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NEC | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDC | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Executive** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Environment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forestry | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture (MPI) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fisheries (MPI) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mineral Resources | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Energy | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lands | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T & C Planning | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tourism | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigenous Affairs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foreign Affairs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Regional /Provincial** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Tikina/Advisory Cncl | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Village Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Statutory bodies** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| TLTB | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fiji Trade & (FTIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Trust | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tourism Fiji | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FAB | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FEA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Authority | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Housing Authority | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fiji Pine& Hardwood | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Private Sector** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Fiji Saw Miller Assoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Logging Companies | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbon Buyers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Developers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tourism | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **NGOs** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Fiji ENGOs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Fiji ENGOs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social Justice NGOs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Research Education** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| USP | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FIT | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| University of Fiji | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schools | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Internat Uni /Res | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Faith Based Orgs** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Christian Churches | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hindu | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muslim | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Landowners** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Vanua | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yavusa | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mataqali | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tokatoka | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VLRA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fiji Mahogany Trust | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fiji Pine Trust | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Landowner Fore Co. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freehold Landowner | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State Land | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Donors** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Multilateral Banks | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Local Donors | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bilateral Donors | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Consultants** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Local | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| International | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Internat. Agencies** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| SPC | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (SOPAC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SPREP | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PIFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PI Private Sector Org | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pacific Power Assoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FAO | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| UN Agencies | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Media** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Print | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Radio | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TV | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

***Consultation and Outreach Overview***

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | 04 – 08 Nov | Completion of Land Use surveys for sites the vicinity of Emalu REDD+ pilot site | Pilot site survey | Completion of survey from 2012. Surveys conducted with land users of the pilot site and its vicinity. Villagers from the surrounding areas included. Participatory tools utilised. | Forestry Department, Department of Agriculture, SPC, GIZ |
| 2013 | 25 Oct | REDD+ website launching | Awareness | REDD+ website | |
| 2013 | 25 Oct | REDD+ Steering Committee meeting | Meeting | REDD+ activity updates, RPP development | REDD+SC members |
| 2013 | 21 – 23 Nov | Soqosoqo vakamarama climate change and REDD+ workshop | Training workshop | Climate change, REDD+, Fiji REDD+ policy, Development of REDD+ pilot sites, REDD+ co-benefits | Ladies from provinces of Tailevu, Rewa, Naitasiri, Namosi, Navosa |
| 2013 | 01 – 12 Oct | Vunivia pilot site socio-economic survey and land use mapping | Pilot site survey | Surveys of landowners of the pilot site a. Completion of survey fro. 2012. Villagers from the surrounding areas also surveyed. Participatory tools utilised. | Forestry, Agriculture, Emalu youths, GIZ |
| 2103 | 04 Sep | Workshop on the Nakavu research site preliminary findings | Workshop | Present on findings of graduate student on the impact of carbon stocking under different logging iintes<br>ities | Forestry officers, REDD+ SC members |
| 2013 | 13 Aug | REDD+ workshops at the national climate change summit | Workshops; Awareness-raising | Climate change, REDD+, Fiji REDD+ policy, Development of REDD+ pilot sites, REDD+ co-benefits | Public |
| 2013 | 8-9 Aug | Vunivia REDD+ Reconnaissance | Pilot site survey | Vunivia REDD+ survey dates and arrangements | Forestry, GIZ, Landowners(Vunivia & Kedra village |
| 2013 | 22-Jul | REDD+ Awareness Nukuilau village) & Survey Update(Draubuta village) | Awareness | Forests, Climate Change & REDD+; Emalu Survey update for Draubuta village | Forestry, Agriculture Ext officer(Navatumali), Emalu youths, GIZ |
| 2013 | 18-Jul | Fiji's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal-Validation of draft before submission to FCPF | National consultation | Group Validation of specific issues; Overview of M&E framework; Next steps for submission of proposal-Fiji government submission to FCPF; FCPF approval process | SPC-SOPAC, UNDP, NGOs, Forest Indistry, Emalu LO rep, Government agencies, GIZ |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | 8-10, 12 Jul | Namosi & Navosa CC & REDD+ Awareness | Awareness | Forests, Climate Change & REDD+ | Forestry, Emalu LO rep, Emalu youths, GIZ |
| 2013 | 17-18, 20 Jun | National Stakeholder workshop for drafting & Validation of R-PP | National consultation | Overview of R-PP and how it fits in to Fiji's National REDD+ programme; Thematic group discussions focussing on key R-PP elements | SC members, Government agencies, NGOs, Regional organisations, Forest industries, UNDP, GIZ |
| 2013 | 14-Jun | Steering Committee Special meeting for R-PP development | RSC meeting | Overview of R-PP components and key elements; Working groups on Components 1,2,4; Schedule and Budget Development | USP, CI, Forestry, |
| 2013 | 10-13 Jun | Emalu REDD+ Pilot site Socio-economic survey, Navitilevu village | Pilot site survey | Surveys conducted for landowners of the pilot site a. Completion of survey fro. 2012. Villagers from the surrounding areas also surveyed. Participatory tools utilised. | Forestry, MTA, Land Use Division-MPI, Emalu LO youths, GIZ |
| 2013 | 7-Jun | Agriculture stakeholder seminar - Sigatoka | Stakeholder workshop | Climate Change; What is REDD+? Fiji National REDD+ Programme, Results of the Emalu pilot site surveys, Next steps to addressing encroachment and current agricultural development in Emalu & other areas. | Agriculture stakeholders fron government, NGO and private sector from the Province of Nadroga/Navosa and Ba. Resource persons were Department of Agriculture, , Emalu LO rep, USP, GIZ |
| 2013 | 23-24 May | PRA refresher training of the Emalu socio-economic survey team | Training | Improve on the PRA tools used in the last survey; Develop more effective approaches for the survey; Finalise work programme | Forestry Dept, MTA, Emalu youths, Emalu LO rep, Land Use Division, GIZ |
| 2013 | 17-May | Development of the Fiji National REDD+ Strategy | National consultation | Objectives of a National REDD+ Strategy, Review of strategic framework, meeting REDD+ Policy Objectives-confirming strategies. | Government agencies, NGOs, Regional organisations, Emalu LO rep, Forest industries, UNDP, UNREDD - Solomon Island delegation, GIZ |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | 12-18 May | Solomon Islands UNREDD Study tour | Study tour (regional information exchange) | Briefing/seminar on Fiji National and Project level approach, Community visit to the residing village of Fiji National REDD+ pilot site LO, Field visit to Pine plantation and Congregation plant, Stakeholder meeting-development of Fiji National REDD+ Strategy. | Government agencies, NGOs, Regional organisations, Emalu LO rep, Forest industries, UNDP, UNREDD - Solomon Island delegation, GIZ |
| 2013 | 24-Apr | 8th Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | Fiji REDD+ Progress report, Emalu pilot site development, REDD+ awareness and training programmes for 2013. | Government agencies, NGOs, Regional organisations, Emalu LO rep, Forest industries, GIZ |
| 2013 | 18-28 Mar | Emalu REDD+ Biodiversity and Archaeological survey (2nd phase) | Pilot site survey | Completion of survey from 2012. Surveys conducted with landowners including training conducted for the field assistants from the local villages and landowners | USP, Fiji Museum, Draubuta and Namosi LO fieldguides, Forestry |
| 2013 | 10-16 Mar | Emalu REDD+ Land Use Survey (2nd phase) | Pilot site survey | Completion of survey from 2012. Surveys conducted with land users of the pilot site and its vicinity. Villagers from the surrounding areas included. Participatory tools utilised. | Forestry, Land Use survey, Emalu LO field guides, GIZ |
| 2013 | 21-Feb | Juno Trimble GPS training | Technical training | Downloading data, Differential correction; Exporting data in Pathfinder office; Importing in MapInfo/ArcGIS; Hotlinks to photos | SPC-SOPAC, Forestry Department, Land Use Division-MPI, Emalu LO rep, GIZ |
| 2013 | 11 Feb-1 Mar | Emalu REDD+ - Forest inventory (2nd phase) | Pilot site survey | Completion of survey from 2012. Forest inventory, carbon stock estimation of above-ground pool; Surveys conducted with landowners including training conducted for the field assistants from the local villages and landowners | Forestry, Drawa inventory experts, Emalu LO fieldguides |
| 2013 | 6-8 Feb | Forest Inventory Training | Technical training | Carbon pool measurements; Field measurements; Preparation for plot establishment & assessment; Data analysis | Drawa inventory experts, Emalu youths, Forestry, SPC |
| 2013 | 15-Jan | REDD+ Mataqali Emalu LO consultation workshop-Holiday Inn, Suva | LO Consultation | Respecting REDD+ requirements and interests of all stakeholders, Presentations: REDD+ implementing issues arising from survey and consultations, Group work - identifying expectations, Main activities for 2013. | LO, Government agencies, NGO, USP, GIZ |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | 4-Jan | REDD+ Mataqali Emalu LO consultation workshop-Draubuta village, Navosa | LO Consultation | Confirm with Mataqali Emalu LO residing out of Suva of the LO consultation workshop that was postponed (18 Dec, 2012) to Jan 15, 2013; 2nd phase of the Emalu pilot site survey Commitment concerning leasing of land for REDD+, Consideration of nearby land owning units to part of the REDD+ pilot sie, Tasks that were to be expected regarding the 2nd pahse of the Emalu pilot site survey. | LO, Emalu LO rep, GIZ |
| 2012 | 19-Dec | 7th Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | Fiji REDD+ Progress report, National pilot site development, COP18 report on REDD+ development and Fiji's interventions, The GEF Protected areas project-identifying synergies with the Fiji REDD+ programme. | Forestry, Emalu LO rep, GEF PAS, USP, GIZ |
| 2012 | 13-Dec | REDD+ Mataqali Emalu LO consultation - Draubuta, Navaga, Bukuya | LO Consultation | Inform LO of the upcoming REDD+ Mataqali Emalu LO consultation workshop for 18 Dec, 2012 | Mataqali Emalu LO, Government agency, GIZ |
| 2012 | 10-11 Dec | Climate Change & Forestry | Stakeholder workshop | Climate Change causes, impacts & responses; Brief overview of National Climate Change documents; Climate Change & Forests; Introduction to REDD+; Fiji's National REDD+ Programme | Provincial Administrators, Emalu Landowver rep, Government agencies, SPC/GIZ |
| 2012 | 30-Oct | Establishment of Divisional REDD+ Steering Committee | Sectoral Consultation | Progress of national REDD+ activities so far; Developing a Divisional Steering Committee; Emalu pilot site issues for the committee; Agreement arrangements between landowners and project; Feedback from Divisional officers | TLTB, Emalu LO rep, Forestry Dept, Mineral Resources Dept, GIZ |
| 2012 | 29-Oct | Report back of Survey results to Mataqali Emalu-Sigatoka | LO Consultation | Outcomes of pilot site survey (Forest inventory, biodiversity, archeological, socioeconomic and cultural mapping survey-July 2012; Identification of REDD+ activity type; Developing REDD+ agreements between Mataqali Emalu & REDD+ project | Mataqali Emalu LO, Government agency, GIZ, USP, Fiji Museum |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 23-Aug | 6th Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | Fiji REDD+ progress report; National pilot site development; Outcomes of Emalu pilot site surveys; Developing agreements between LO and REDD+ project; Drafting national REDD+ strategy | NGOs, Forestry, Forest Industry, Government agencies, Resource owners, Fiji Museum, IUCN, USP, Emalu LO rep, SPC/GIZ |
| 2012 | 30 Jul-2 Aug | Cultural Mapping | Pilot site survey | Mapping of cultural sites, history, information with local communities and landowners | MTA(Cultural Mapping Programme-CMP), Department of National Heritage, Culture and Arts |
| 2012 | 15-27 Jul | Emalu REDD+ Biodiversity and Archeaological survey | Pilot site survey | Surveys conducted with landowners including training conducted for the field assistants from the local villages and landowners | USP, Fiji Museum, Draubuta and Namosi LO fieldguides, Forestry |
| 2012 | 18-20 Jul | Emalu REDD+ Socioeconomic survey | Pilot site survey | Surveys conducted for landowners of the pilot site and villagers from the surrounding areas. Participatory tools utilised. | MTA, Forestry, Land Use Division-MPI, Emalu LO rep |
| 2012 | 9-27 Jul | Emalu REDD+ - Forest inventory | Pilot site survey | Forest inventory, carbon stock estimation of above-ground pool; Surveys conducted with landowners including training conducted for the field assistants from the local villages and landowners | Forestry, Drawa inventory experts, Emalu LO fieldguides |
| 2012 | 2-3 Jul | Forest Inventory Training | Technical training | Carbon pool measurements; Field measurements; Preparation for plot establishment & assessemnt; Data analysis | Drawa inventory experts, Emalu youths, Forestry, SPC |
| 2012 | 28-Jun | Emalu REDD+ pilot site-Community consultation with the Provincial office (Follow-up from 12 June, 2012) | LO Consultation | Current status of developing Emalu as a REDD+ pilot site; Problems faced in the last visit (22 May, 2012); Head of Mataqali status; Presenting Emalu survey work plan; ollow-up steps to informing landowners of upcoming surveys and further consultations of REDD+ activities | Landowners, Govt. agencies, Provicial council, GIZ |
| 2012 | 12-Jun | Emalu REDD+ pilot site - Community consultation with the Provincial office | LO Consultation | Problems faced in the last meeting(22 May, 2012); Mataqali Emalu representative to be made clear; Presenting Emalu survey work plan | Provincial council, Govt. agencies, SPC/GIZ |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 30-May | iTaukei REDD+ Stakeholder workshop | | Presenting draft translated policy documents & development process; Review of translated document | Government agencies, NGOs, USP, Resource owner reps, Forest industries, iTaukei Land Trust Board(TLTB), Local consultants, SPC/GIZ |
| 2012 | 22-May | REDD+ pilot site consultations -Draubuta village, Navosa | LO Consultation | Address expectations of REDD+; Discuss eligible REDD+ activity | Landowners, Govt. agencies, Roko Navosa, GIZ |
| 2012 | 2-Apr | Determining Reference Level/Reference Emission Level in support of a REDD+ programme in Fiji | National Consultation | Presenation by Ms Eveline Trines | Government agencies, JICA, SOPAC, SPC/GIZ |
| 2012 | 26-27 Mar | Regional Media Pre-Summit Workshop on REDD+ | Stakeholder workshop | DAY1: Overview on the development of REDD+ in Fiji and current status; Developing a REDD+ regional policy framework for the Pacific; Developing a regional REDD+ information platform DAY2: REDD+ rediness in Fiji; Status of REDD+ in other Pacific Island countries | Media particpants, Forestry Dept, SPC/GIZ |
| 2012 | 8-Mar | Fiji REDD+ Workshop on the consultancy to Estimate Fiji's Forest Carbon Stocks - Ian Payton | National consultation | Presentation to Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee-Estimation of Fiji's Forest Carbon stocks | Government agencies, Emalu LO rep, TLTB, USP, SPC/GIZ, NGO, Forest industry, USP, JICA, SPC/GIZ |
| 2012 | 5-6 Mar | Carbon Pool measurement training | Technical training | Carbon pool measurements; Field measurements; Data analysis | Forestry, LLEE, Consultant - Ian Payton, GIZ |
| 2012 | 16-Feb | 5th Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | Fiji REDD+ updates: LLEE pilot site, CI-Rakiraki, SPC/GIZ-FD SFM assessment for REDD+ Nakavu, National REDD+ pilot site-Emalu; Draft National REDD+ Strategy; Next steps towards finalising of REDD+ strategy | Government agencies, Emalu LO rep, TLTB, USP, GIZ |
| 2012 | 1-Feb | REDD+ pilot site consultations-Draubuta village, Navosa | LO Consultation | Address expectations of REDD+; Discuss eligible REDD+ activity; 1st phase of the survey workplan(i.e. forest inventory, biodiversity & archeaological, socioeconomic & cultural mapping surveys) | Mataqali Emalu LO, Emalu LO rep |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 19-Jan | REDD+ pilot site consultations- Ba | LO Consultation | Discuss landowners interest in REDD+ | Mataqali Raralevu LO, Forest Dept, Emalu LO rep, GIZ |
| 2012 | 17-Jan | REDD+ pilot site consultations-Draubuta village, Navosa | LO Consultation | REDD+ awareness; Main concerns & issues; Criteria for establising a REDD+ pilot site(objective, process & requirements); Eligible REDD+ activity types | Government agencies, TLTB, Roko Navosa, SPC/GIZ |
| 2011 | 22-Dec | 4th Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | Legalising REDD+ approval process; GEF 05 funding opportunities, Summary outcomes of REDD+ issues from the climate change conference in Durban (UNFCCC 17th COP); Summary of main issues arising from Fiji REDD+ strategy workshop | Government agencies, Forest industry, Emalu LO rep, SPC/GIZ |
| 2011 | 20-21 Dec | Fiji REDD+ Strategy Development workshop | National consultation | DAY1: Summary of Durban COP 17 negotiations on REDD+; Overview of the draft REDD+ strategy DAY2: REDD+ social & socio-economic aspects; Overview of the REDD+ financing guidelines | Government agencies, Regional organisations, NGO, UNDP, Emalu LO rep, GIZ |
| 2011 | 3-Nov | 3rd Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | REDD+ lease issues-learning from the Drawa SFM concession agreement; Development of allometric models fro determining biomass of local tree species; Fiji REDD+ activity eligibility criteria; Carbon Property Rights in REDD+; Fiji REDD+ Activity updates: The LLEE Drawa REDD+ pilot site RAP(Rapid Assessment of Perceptions), Preliminary Mataqali consultations for the National REDD+ pilot site-feedback & next steps, Briefing on the TLTB and MTA REDD+ workshop-summary of outcomes(12 Sept, 2012) | Emalu LO rep, Government agencies, NGO, Forest industry, SPC/GIZ |
| 2011 | 4-7 Oct | REDD+ Navosa Awareness | Awareness | Awareness on REDD+ and Climate Change | Forestry Department, Landowners - *Emalu* Draubuta village, *Raralevu* Nasauvakarua village, *Koroivabeka* Korolevu village, GIZ |
| 2011 | 28-Sep | LO followup consultation | LO Consultation | Fiji REDD+ activity eligibility criteria | LO, Forestry Dept, GIZ |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2011 | 12-Sep | REDD+ Awareness workshop for TLTB and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (MTA) | Stakeholder workshop | Introduction to REDD+; Fiji's National REDD+ Programme; REDD+ Social Aspects | Government agencies, TLTB, GIZ |
| 2011 | 31-Aug | REDD+ Awareness for the Namosi Provincial Council | Awareness | Forest, Climate Change & REDD+ | Forestry, Provincial Administrators and reps, GIZ |
| 2012 | 17-Aug | 2nd Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | Review and endorsement of Steering Committee TOR; Overview of REDD+ & REDD+ in Fiji; REDD+ eligible activity types and selection criteria; Review of 1st proposed REDD+ pilot site-Nabukelevu; LLEE proposed REDD+ pilot iste; Fiji Experience from the 'Indigenoues Peoples and Local Communities Dedicated Initiatiative' (under the World Bank-Forest Investment Programme) meeting; FIji REDD+ work programme to end 2011: awareness programme, MRV, pilot site establishment | Government agencies, LLEE, TLTB, LO rep, Forest industry, SPC/GIZ |
| 2011 | 28-29 Jul | REDD+ Training for the Fiji Forestry Department | Stakeholder workshop | DAY1: Climate Change & Forestry, Introduction to REDD+, REDD+ issues currently under the international negotiation, Fiji National REDD+ Programme DAY2 Fiji REDD+ Financing Guidelines (draft), Fiji MRV components | Forestry Dept, Department of Environment(DOE), Live&Learn Environmental Education(LLEE), GIZ |
| 2011 | 27-Jun | 2nd Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee | RSC meeting | Review and endorsement of Steering Committee TOR; Confirmation of office bearers; REDD+ progress in Fiji; Overview of selection criteria for REDD+ pilot sites and next steps | Fiji Forestry Dept, DOE, TLTB, MTA, USP. LLEE |
| 2010 | Jul | Understanding REDD; booklet for LO and forest communities in the Pacific region that want to participate in REDD | | Intrroduction to the idea of REDD; Main concepts and practical issues surrounding REDD+ projects; Important legal issues and rights for communities interested in REDD | |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010 | Nov | Regional program on " Climate protection through forest conservation in Pacific Island countries"- 3days | Regional workshop | Improved Forest Management for pilot projects; Examples from new Zealand to illustrate operational issues; nesting projects in a National system; Hybrid of voluntary market projects and National level REDD+ programs Workshop/presentation: Financing instruments;Project activity types; Funds vs markets; Payments for Environmental sevices Workshop/presentation: REDD+ & Policy developments; Basic concepts; Policy themes Workshop/presentation: Forest governance; Fostering integrity into REDD+ Workshop/presentation: Forest & CLimate Program; Overview & developments in REDD+; REDD+ policy update; Forest Cover change detection; Forest cover maps; AR pilot project | |
| 2010 | Nov | REDD+ Strategy Planning workshop | Sectoral Consultation | Discussions and consultation on the national REDD+ strategy based on the REDD+ policy; Policy, institutional & technical issues for REDD-readiness; Implementation of REDD+ projects; Workshop/presentation:Process & methodologies for the determination of the National forest carbon stock estimation; Summary of the REDD+ policy development Workshop/presentation: Position regarding REDD at the CBD COP10 meeting; Biodiversity international Policy issues relevant for REDD+ in Fiji | |

| Year | Date | Title | Type | Subjects discussed | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | Sept | Policy Scoping workshop | Sectoral Consultation | REDD Scoping report: scale, scope, reference level, financing, distribution and governance; Asessment of the capacity gaps and resources needed to undertake REDD Workshop/presentation: REDD programmes and project types and its implications for Fiji; Policy options & oppotunities; Different activities; Framework Workshop/presentation: REDD policy & strategy framework; Fund based vs market based finance; National scale, project lvel or hybrid, MRV issues Workshop/presentation: REDD & carbon finance; Framework: fund vs market; Regulated vs voluntary markets; Emission/carbon trading | |
| 2009 | Aug | National REDD Policy & Scoping-5days | National consultation | REDD Policy options & opportunities; Basic concepts; Project type eligibility Presentation: REDD & carbon finance; Monitoring capacity; Sources of finance & emission trading; Types of markets Presentation: REDD policy & strategy framework; Define ultimate goals; Develop roadmap; Structure & givernance issues; MRV issues & pilot projects | |
| 2009 | May | National Project Planning Workshop | National consultation | Overview of REDD; Forest carbon & carbon projects; REDD & carbin markets; PES markets; Grant finance Workshop/presentation: Community involvement & mobilisation process for REDD projects; Testing & modelling Community organisation & Mobilisation in Carbon trading and Avoided Deforestation in the Western Pacific; Multiple benefits; Implementation model; Village cooperatives | |

***Scoping for a National REDD Communication Strategy***

| | What | Who | How |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Group 1** | Producing CDs with presentations<br>Reach teachers and community groups<br>Radio programme. | Build on Fijian administration conduit: Workshop for Rokotui, they go out to the provinces and disseminate information, district reps bring information to villages | Secretariat with government reps. and resource owners and church representatives to implement communication strategy.<br>Need for conceptualization, use the right language and stories.<br>Translation of materials into Fijian. |
| **Group 2** | Set of materials (fact sheets, videos) developed by a multi agency group.<br>Different materials for different target groups (minister of finance, communities…) .<br>Objectives have to be clear to avoid creation of false expectations.<br>Regional perspective on REDD. | Key agency to push REDD process including the communication strategy: Dept of Environment & Dept of Forests<br>National Trust | Common message important to avoid confusion. |
| **Group 3** | Focus on REDD plus | DNA with steering committee (NEC could be the steering committee or collaborate closely). Secretariat with forest department.<br>Forestry board as legal entity for decisions about forests has a role to play.<br>Technical committee looking at technical issues.<br>Communication and coordination committee for REDD with key stakeholders to ensure one common message. | Advisory council, non-indigenous Fijians have to be informed as well. |

## ANNEX 2A: ASSESSMENT OF LAND USE, LAND USE CHANGE DRIVERS, FOREST LAW, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

### *List of Laws, Policies and Programs potentially relevant for REDD+ in Fiji*

| Law/ Policy / Program | Notes |
|---|---|
| Mining Act | Supersedes all other Acts |
| Tourism development plans – policy? | |
| Forestry (FCOHP, REDD+ policy, Forest Policy) | revised Forest Decree under legal vetting |
| Land Use Decree, Regulations and Policy | need enforcement |
| Agriculture policies and schemes | increase agricultural export |
| Environment Management Act and Regulations (2005) | under review and being integrated into other sector legislation |
| International Commitments "UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, KP, Ramsar agreement, Nagoya Protocol , CITES, UNDRIP, CEDAW | |
| Climate Change Policy | |
| Energy policy | under review |
| Mangrove Management Plan (1985) | does not address current drivers – act currently under review |
| Land Conservation Improvement Act | revised 2007 currently under legal vetting |
| Current Agriculture Act (ALTA) | only relates to land leases not land use |
| Endangered and Protected Species Act | |
| Crown Lands Act | |
| Birds and Game Protection Act | |
| Fiji Pine Rules | |
| Land Conservation and Improvements Act | |
| Fiji Mahogany Act | |
| Fisheries Act | |
| Qoliqoli Bill | |
| Preservation of Objects of Archaeological Importance | |
| Petroleum (Exploration and Exploitation) Act | |
| Ozone Depleting Substances Act and regulations | |
| National Trust for Fiji Act | |
| Marine Spaces Act | |
| Local Government Act and subsidiary legislation | |
| Litter Decree | |

***Past efforts to promote conservation and sustainable management of forests in Fiji***

| Program/Project<br>***How did this address drivers?*** | Successes | Challenges, Lessons learned, barriers |
|---|---|---|
| Forest Enhancement, (Reforestation and Aforestation-plantations )<br><br>*Restored of degraded forests, increased diversity* | Sandalwood, Teak, Mahogany, Mangroves, Pine, Mixed timber tree farming, Exotic species | Lack of funding,<br>Lack of awareness- lack of appreciation of value of forests<br>Lack of technical expertise – mangroves<br>Lack of management or monitoring / technical support or extension |
| Sustainable Forest Management<br>*Required forest management plans that take into account the biological limits of timber exploitation* | Harvesting system - From conventional to SFM, incorporated into the CODE and policy ,<br>SFM – reason for remaining forests in Fiji. | Implementation in practice , monitoring<br>Need for more information-sharing and awareness, esp. amongst informal loggers |
| Reforestation and Afforestation-Community Extension programs<br>*Replant trees to reduce pressure on existing native forests* | Re-vegetation of degraded areas (non-forested area to forest land )<br>Community benefits – economic benefits | Market access for small islands for matured forests , slowing down replanting programs |
| Community Based Forest Management Programs<br>*Involved local communities in forest ecosystem protection and generated incomes alternative to shifting cultivation* | Drawa- promoted as model for CBMP. | Traditional vs. Business culture<br>Continuity of Government support ,<br>Duplication of this project elsewhere – financial support required as it is a long term project |
| Agro-Forestry<br>*Promotes tree planting within agricultural areas, allows food production without forest conversion* | Model agro-forestry farms (Drawa, retain some trees rather than clear fell) | Agricultural development targets vs. agro-forestry<br>Conflicting policies – lack of harmonization of inter-sectoral policies |
| Eco-tourism & Eco-lodges<br>*Alternative income generation, adding value to ecosystems* | Community based Eco-tourism projects include Biausevu, Colo-i-suva, Bouma, Abaca, Rain Tree, Nadarivatu | Accessibility- remoteness , transportation costs<br>traditional vs business culture |
| Establishment of Conservation areas e.g. Parks, and Reserves<br>*Places protected areas under conservation* | Sovi basin, & Forest and Nature reserves (Wabu, Taveuni, Sand Dunes, Waisali, Savura) | Encroachment<br>Lack of enforcement<br>Lack of funds for compensation & for expansion of the number of reserves)<br>Needs to create more awareness |
| Renewable energy<br>Hydro dams | Hydro – Monasavu, Savusavu, Tutu,<br>Butoni – failed wind farm | Requires sustainable funding<br>Influenced by Extreme weather events (drought ),<br>Location of wind farm? Feasibility |

| Program/Project<br>*How did this address drivers?* | Successes | Challenges, Lessons learned, barriers |
|---|---|---|
| Wind farms | | study recommendations not followed |
| Bio-fuels | Koro Is, Tropik – cogeneration plant , FSC , SPD , hotel laundry generated by bio-fuels –pine | Technology (Tropik)<br>Koro Is- supply of resources, coconuts |
| Solar panels<br>*Provides alternatives to fuel wood and charcoal* | Solar Home Systems Project – implemented in rural areas | Lack of support systems , affordability in terms of initial investment (high costs) |

*Source: Outcome of Drivers Working Group at R-PP Stakeholder Meeting (20 June 2013)*

**Regional Drivers of Forest Change**

During an APFSOS Pacific national focal points meeting in 2007, a brainstorming exercise on Drivers of change in the region and their impacts through to 2020 developed a list of major drivers of change in the Pacific. The exercise sought to identify the most important factors that will catalyze change in Pacific forestry to 2020. The drivers of change identified were categorized into six groups – Demographic, Economic, Social, Environmental, Technology, and Political/Institutional.

*Regional Drivers of Forest Change*

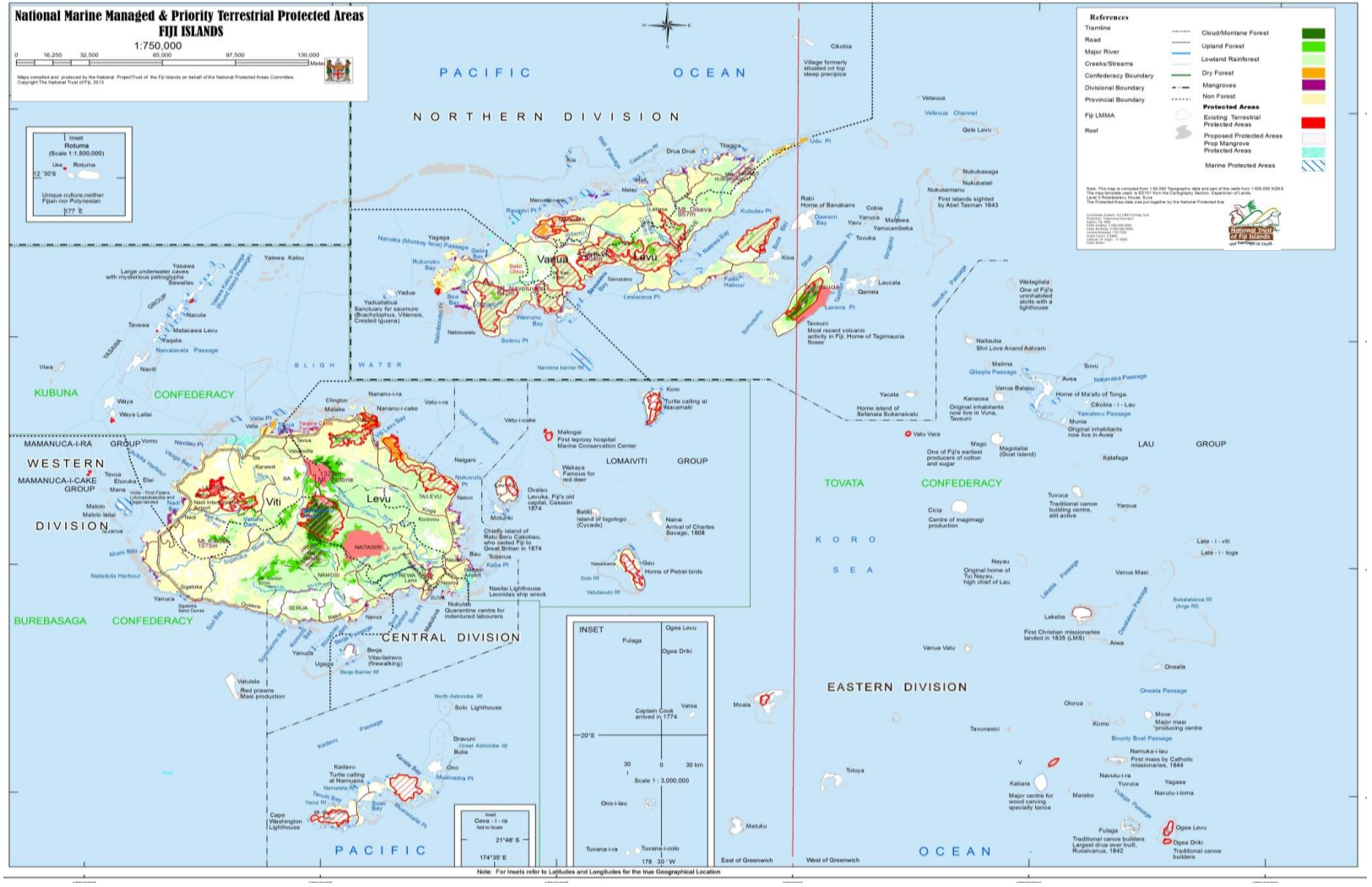
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Demographic Environmental** | • Population increases<br>• Workforces (labour)<br>• Increasing urbanization<br>• Decreasing populations | **Environmental** | • Climate change<br>• Sea-level rise – inundation<br>• Environmental concerns<br>• Strength in the green movement<br>• Soil erosion<br>• Tourism<br>• Personal interest in lifecycles of trees<br>• Natural disasters<br>• Sustainable forest management<br>• Certification<br>• Invasive species<br>• Dominance of fast-growing species (plantations)<br>• More things demanded from fewer forests |
| **Technology** | • Efficient, value-added, integrated processing<br>• Efficient, small-sized processing plants<br>• Cheap substitutes for wood<br>• Energy<br>• Need for infrastructure development – esp. roads<br>• Information technology<br>• E-technology | | |
| **Economic** | • Infrastructure<br>• Economic recovery and development<br>• Conversion of forest lands to oil-palm<br>• Corruption<br>• Changing land use<br>• Very limited resources<br>• Agricultural developments (e.g taro leaf blight)<br>• Declining natural forest resource base | **Political and institutional** | • Stakeholder participation<br>• Political problems<br>• Policies and legislation<br>• Political reforms – changes<br>• Move/look North policies materialize<br>• Politics – changing governments<br>• Stability of governments<br>• Political directions<br>• Assistance from donor agencies |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | • Narrow-based economies<br>• Narrowing resource base<br>• Increasing incomes<br>• Economic rise of India and China<br>• Low earnings<br>• Continuing poverty<br>• Public economic expectations of forests<br>• Finance, capital and investment<br>• Domestic markets<br>• Trade agreements<br>• Export markets | | • Regional cooperation<br>• NGO input<br>• Stability of governments<br>• Political directions<br>• Assistance from donor agencies<br>• Regional cooperation<br>• NGO input<br>• Donor/international priorities |
| **Social** | • People<br>• Increasing awareness and training<br>• Public awareness<br>• Unemployment (youth)<br>• Landowner demands<br>• Better-informed populations<br>• Increasing knowledge on climate change<br>• Access to land – land tenure<br>• Resource owners mobilized to reclaim lands<br>• Availability of land (scarcity)<br>• Problems between landowners and others<br>• Demands for people's participation<br>• Increasing landowner participation<br>• Education<br>• Rights – indigenous, human, etc<br>• Increasing participation by women | | |

*Source: FAO, Pacific Forests and Forestry to 2020: Subregional Report of the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study. Chapter 3: "What Will Influence the Future State of Forests and Forestry?" RAP Publication 2011/01. Bangkok 2011.*

## ANNEX 2B: REDD-PLUS STRATEGY OPTIONS

Map of National Marine Managed & Priority Terrestrial Protected Areas for Fiji Islands



**[end]**