

Document of
The World Bank

READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT NOTE

ON A

PROPOSED GRANT

IN THE AMOUNT US\$ 3.8 MILLION

TO THE

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

FOR

FIJI: FCPF IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT PROJECT (P151209)

March 27, 2015

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DATA SHEET

FIJI

Fiji: FCPF Implementation Support Project

READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL (R-PP) ASSESSMENT NOTE

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

GENDR

Basic Information	
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Date:	March 27, 2015	Sectors:	Agriculture, fishing and forestry sector: Forestry (100%)
Country Director:	Franz Drees-Gross	Themes:	Climate Change (100%)
Practice Manager:	Iain Shuker	EA Categor:	B
Project ID:	P151209		
Lending Instrument:	IPF		
Team Leader(s):	Stefanie Sieber/Haddy Jatou Sey		

Date of country selection into FCPF: December 15, 2013

Date of Participation Agreement signed by Country: February 21, 2014

Date of Participation Agreement signed by Bank: March 14, 2014

Date of R-PP Formulation Grant Agreement signature: NA

Expected date of Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement signature: April 10, 2015

Joint IFC: N/A

Project Implementation Period: Start Date: March 31, 2015 End Date: June 30, 2019

Project Financing Data			
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Loan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guarantee		

For Loans/Credits/Others (US\$M):

Total Project Cost :	3.8	Total Bank Financing :	3.8
Total Cofinancing : N/A		Financing Gap : N/A	

Financing Source	Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT	
IBRD	
IDA: New	
IDA: Recommitted	
Others: FCPF	3.8

Financing Gap
Total | 3.8

Regional FCPF Trust Fund Number: TF017524

FCPF Country Child Trust Fund Number: TF019204

Recipient: Republic of Fiji

Responsible Agency: Department of Forestry, at the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests

Contact: Inoke Wainiqolo Title: Permanent Secretary Fisheries and Forests
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Institutional Data

Practice Area / Cross Cutting Solution Area Environment and Natural Resources

Cross Cutting Areas

- Climate Change
- Fragile, Conflict & Violence
- Gender
- Jobs
- Public Private Partnership

Sectors / Climate Change

Sector (Maximum 5 and total % must equal 100)

Major Sector	Sector	%	Adaptation Co-benefits %	Mitigation Co-benefits %
Agriculture, fishing and forestry sector	Forestry	100	40	60
Total		100		

I certify that there is no Adaptation and Mitigation Climate Change Co-benefits information applicable to this project.

Green House Gas Accounting N/A since the REDD+ Readiness activities will not involve any site-specific activities and focus on analytical work, capacity building and consultation and participation activities.

Is GHG accounting applicable for your project? No

Themes

Theme (Maximum 5 and total % must be equal to 100%)

Major theme	Theme	%
Climate Change	Climate Change	100
Total		100

Private Capital Mobilized N/A

Gender Tag

Does the activity plan to undertake any of the following? **Please select Yes or No for each:**

Gender analysis and/or consultation on gender related issues. Yes

Specific actions to address the distinct needs of women and girls, or men and boys, or positive impacts on gender gaps. Yes

Mechanisms to facilitate monitoring and/or evaluation of gender impacts. Yes

Clearances to the Readiness Preparation Proposal Assessment Note

Practice Manager: Iain Shuker, February 21, 2015

Regional Safeguards Advisor: Peter Leonard, February 28, 2015

Safeguards Specialists (Environment and Social): Jonas Bautista, February 20, 2015 and Ross James Butler, February 27, 2015

Procurement Specialist: Cristiano Costa e Silva Nunes, February 25, 2015

Financial Management Specialist: David Bruce Whitehead, February 20, 2015

PURPOSE OF THE READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT NOTE

As part of its responsibilities for the FCPF, the World Bank has been asked to ensure that the FCPF's activities comply with the relevant World Bank Operational Policies and Procedures, in particular the Safeguard Policies, and the policies on Procurement and Financial Management.

The World Bank has also been asked to assist REDD Country Participants to formulate and implement their Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs).

The purpose of this Readiness Preparation Proposal Assessment Note (R-PP Assessment Note), therefore, is for the World Bank to assess if and how the proposed REDD+ Readiness Support Activity, as presented in the R-PP, complies with Safeguard Policies, and the World Bank's policies on Procurement and Financial Management, discuss the technical quality of the R-PP, record the assistance it has provided to the REDD Country Participant in the formulation of its R-PP, and describe the assistance it might potentially provide to the REDD Country Participant in the implementation of its R-PP.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCPiR	SPC/GTZ Pacific-German Regional Program on Adaptation to Climate change in the Pacific Island Region or SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme (CCCPiR)
C&P Plan	Consultation and Participation Plan
CEN	Country Engagement Note
CO _{2e}	Carbon dioxide equivalent
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific
DoE	Department of Environment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ER	Emission Reduction
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FD	Forestry Department, Ministry of Fisheries and Forests
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FMT	Facility Management Team
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
GoF	Government of Fiji
GTZ	Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation - now GIZ since 2011)
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IPF	Investment Project Financing
ISDS	Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFF	Ministry of Fisheries and Forests
MOG	Multilateral Observer Group
MRV	Measurement, reporting and verification
Mt	Megaton (million metric tonnes)
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCAS	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
NCCCC	National Climate Change Coordinating Committee
NCTTT	National Carbon Trading Technical Team
NEC	National Environment Council
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PC	Participants Committee
PF	Resettlement Policy Process Framework
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
REDD+ SC	REDD+ Steering Committee
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
R-PIN	Readiness Preparation Idea Note
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal

RTL	Register of iTaukei Land (<i>Vola ni Kawa Bula</i>)
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SOPAC	Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, SPC
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SWG	Safeguards Working Group
TAP	Technical Advisory Panel
TLC	iTaukei Land Commission
TLTB	iTaukei Land Trust Board
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WBG	World Bank Group

FIJI
Fiji: FCPF Implementation Support Project

CONTENTS

I. Introduction and Context	10
A. Country Context	10
B. Sectoral and Institutional Context	12
C. Relationship to the Country Engagement Note (CEN).....	21
II. Proposed PDO/Results.....	22
A. Proposed Development Objective(s).....	22
B. Key Results	22
III. Project Context.....	23
A. Concept	23
1. Description.....	23
2. Overall Risk and Explanation.....	27
B. Implementing Agency Assessment	29
C. Stakeholder Assessment	31
IV. Proposed Team Composition and Resources, including Technical Assistance Provided by Bank Staff to Date.....	31
V. Assessment Summary	32
A. Technical.....	32
B. Financial Management	32
C. Procurement	33
D. Social and Environmental (including Consultation, Participation, Disclosure and Safeguards).....	36
1. Social (including Safeguards).....	37
2. Environmental (including Safeguards)	38
3. Consultation, Participation and Information Disclosure	39
4. Safeguards Policies Triggered	40
Annex 1: Systematic Operations Risk-Rating Tool (SORT).....	42
Annex 2: Preparation Schedule and Resources	43
Annex 3: R-PP Submitted by the REDD Country Participant.....	45

**Annex 4: TOR for Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for Fiji REDD+
Readiness 46**

FIJI
Fiji: FCPF Implementation Support Project

I. Introduction and Context

A. Country Context

1. **Fiji has not been able to fulfill its economic potential and role as regional leader, despite being one of the largest and wealthiest countries in the Pacific.** In fact, it is the second largest country in the Pacific and is centrally located, serving as a regional hub for transportation, business, and telecommunications, and as a home for important regional institutions¹ (see Figure 1). Fiji is also one of the most developed and diversified economies in the region – with a GNI per capita of US\$4,370 (2013). The dependence on sugar and garments has declined over time, with tourism becoming the leading sector and currently accounting for about 38 percent of GDP. Remittances also play an increasingly important role, having increased from very low levels during the 1990s to approximately 4.7 percent of GDP in 2013.² However, the growth rate over the last decade has been low due to political instability, external shocks and slow structural reforms.³ Of the 837,271 population (2007 census) nearly half still lives in rural, often remote areas⁴ with a poverty rate of 44 percent (compared to only 26 percent in urban areas). Dependence on subsistence agriculture and fisheries is still high, with agriculture making up only 10 percent of GDP but more than 70 percent of employment.

2. **Economic growth has been constrained by the political instability of recent decades – resulting in three coups (1987, 2000, 2006) – due to entrenched social and economic divisions that often run along ethnic lines.** In fact, Fiji’s recent political history has to a large extent reflected the absence of a political settlement between its main ethnic communities. Most of the population is indigenous Fijians – collectively referred to as ‘iTaukei’. 37 percent of the population is made up of Fijians of Indian descent (2007 census). Most are descendants of indentured laborers brought to Fiji to work on the sugar cane plantations during the British colonial period. These historic divisions of labor were reinforced following independence in 1970, with the increasingly well-educated Fijians of Indian descent gaining economic as well as political power. Both the 1987 and 2000 coups were triggered by perceptions of undue Indian influence over politics. Nonetheless, the last coup of 2006 led by Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama, an iTaukei, was different, as it overthrew an overtly anti-Indian government. This most recent period of military rule saw relatively stable economic management, reductions in crime and corruption, and efforts to eliminate ethnically-based policies and institutions.

3. **The elections of September 17, 2014 marked a step towards a successful democratic transition that could strengthen the reform process as well as progress towards sustainable and inclusive growth.** Fiji First, Mr. Bainimarama’s party, won an outright majority, receiving support across ethnic lines, providing a clear mandate for the newly elected government. To achieve long-term growth and poverty reduction, it will be critical that the new Government continues to build legitimacy across all

¹ These include, amongst others, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

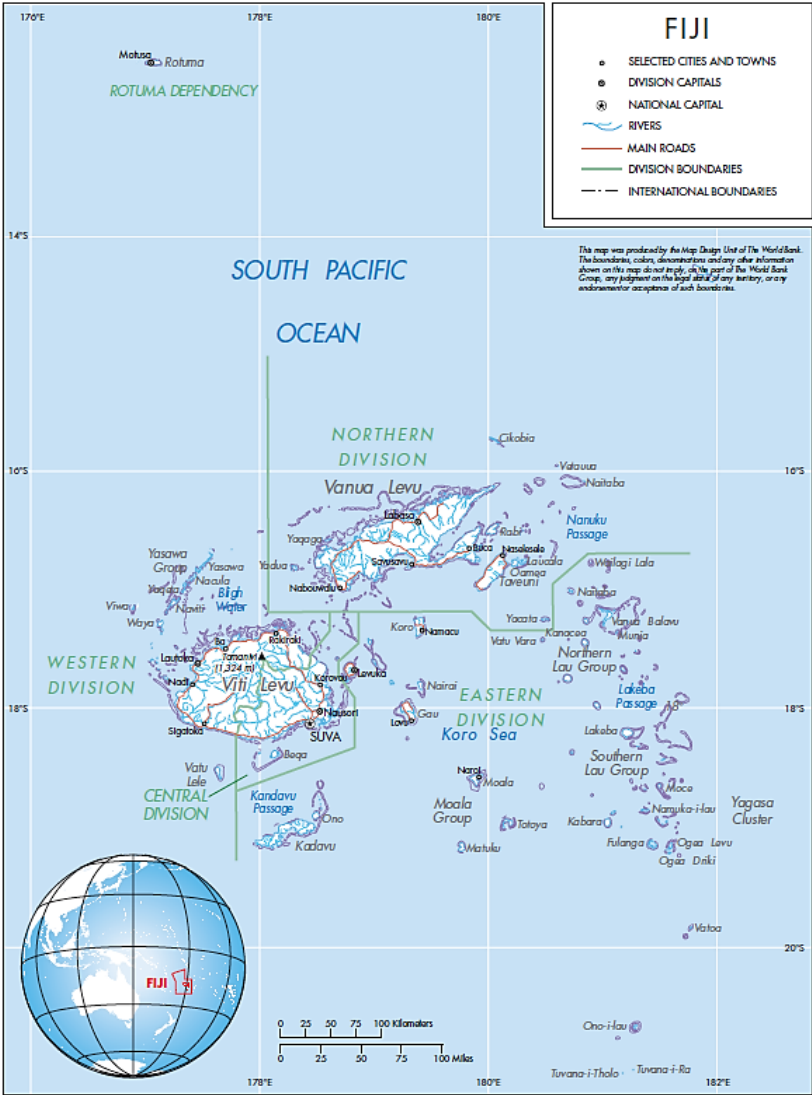
² Recently, remittance have been driven by high levels of emigration and the participation of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces in international peacekeeping operations, as well as sporting professionals and Fijian expatriates.

³ IMF (2013) *Executive Board Concludes 2013 Article IV Consultation with the Republic of Fiji*; Press Release No. 13/521; December 20, 2013

⁴ 110 of Fiji’s 322 islands are inhabited with the majority residing on the two largest islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

ethnic groups and provides broad-based economic opportunities. This will involve economic diversification away from sugar, but also public investments and policy reforms that target vulnerable populations. The sustainability of this growth path will, in turn, depend on the careful management of the nation’s natural resources that underpin key industries, such as tourism and sugar, and are an important source of income for the poor. Moreover, healthy ecosystems enhance the resilience of local communities to economic as well as environmental shocks; for example, forests provide food, water and shelter as well as flood and erosion control. Given that the frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather events is predicted to increase as a consequence of anthropogenic climate change,⁵ sustainable natural resource management will be critical to avoid potentially large economic and social costs.⁶

Figure 1: Republic of Fiji



Source: Map International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) 33407, January 2005

⁵ IPCC (2007) *Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007*
⁶ For example, tropical Cyclone Evan (17th December 2012) cost US\$108 million or 2.6 percent of GDP. Government of Fiji (2013) *Post Disaster Needs Assessment: Cyclone Evan 17th December 2012* March 2013

4. **The “Fiji First Manifesto”⁷ describes the vision of the new Prime Minister’s party, committing itself to continue the policies initiated during the past several years.** The Government of Fiji (GoF) aims to make Fiji the “most modern and advanced nation in the South Pacific” and to build on its efforts to create an “inclusive and economically strong Fiji” for all Fijians and to “move to a genuine democracy in our nation for the first time”. The GoF will also be formulating a Five Year Development Plan over the course of 2015 to further prioritize and costs its initiatives. Under the direction of the Prime Minister and with the support of the ADB, a “Green Growth Framework for Fiji” was formulated and endorsed by Cabinet in July 2014 following an extensive consultative process. The Framework aims to guide the design of the Development Plan, recognizing the need to manage population growth and urbanization, unsustainable consumption and resource use, the infrastructure deficiency, and the impact of climate change and natural disasters. The Five Year Development Plan is expected to benefit from consultation with the public, development partners, private sector representatives, and NGOs.

5. **Given Fiji’s high vulnerability to the impacts of anthropogenic climate change,⁸ the GoF identified ‘no-regrets’ options for key sectors, including forestry, that provide both climate mitigation and resilience benefits.** In particular, the 2012 National Climate Change Policy identifies climate change impacts and areas for adaptation and mitigation for a broad range of sectors including forestry, agriculture, marine and fisheries, tourism and infrastructure. For forestry, improving land use planning processes that lead to sustainable forest management (SFM) and reforestation/afforestation were identified as ‘no regrets’ options, as they provide important climate resilience and mitigation benefits. The latter could potentially accrue through a future performance-based system from Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries – or REDD+ – within the context of the international climate negotiations of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Similarly, agricultural practices, such as the use of fuel-efficient farming equipment, agroforestry, minimal soil tillage, reduced use of fertilizers and intensification of small scale commercial and subsistence agricultural activities can increase carbon sequestration and reduce emissions whilst enhancing climate resilience.

B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

Forest Management

6. **Fiji has large forest resources relative to its land area.** More than half of the total land area, or about 1.1 million hectares, are covered with different types of forests.⁹ Native forest of mainly indigenous species constitute the largest share of Fiji’s forest resources, covering 47.5 percent of the total land area, while man-made forests of exotic softwood and hardwood plantations make up the remaining 5.5 and 2.9 percent respectively. The softwood plantations are mainly pine (*Pinus caribaea*) and are typically located in the leeward and grassland areas, where there is considerable potential for future expansion. In contrast, hardwood plantations largely focus on mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) and have been established on

⁷ Fiji First, “Fiji First Manifesto”, <https://fijifirst.com/our-manifesto/#toggle-id-10>

⁸ Climate change projections indicate that Fiji is likely to experience an increase in annual mean temperatures over the coming century, including a rise in the number of hot days and warm nights. Projections also suggest an increase in rainfall during the wet season and a reduction in dry season rainfall. Extreme rainfall days are likely to occur more often (IPCC (2007) *Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007*). Fiji is also located in an area that is subject to many natural hazards, including earthquakes, cyclones, storm waves, flooding, and tsunamis.

⁹ FAO (2010) Forest Resources Assessment

logged over rainforest mainly in the East and Center of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Mangroves make up three percent of Fiji's forest¹⁰ and are included in the national REDD+ program.

7. **Fiji has historically modest rates of deforestation and forest degradation compared to other countries in the region, such as the Solomon Islands or Papua New Guinea.** To date one historic land-use change analysis has been carried out by the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).¹¹ Using Landsat 1991 and 2001 and ALOS 2007 data, it shows that the overall forest extent increased slightly between 1991 and 2007. However this figure marks significant changes between different types of forest. That is, the significant drop in closed forest cover (148,471 ha) was offset by a doubling in open forest cover (190,180 ha) and substantial increase in plantations (65,132 ha). It is also important to note that wetlands have not been included in the National Forest Inventory so far, though they have experienced significant losses in recent years.

8. **Downstream financing for REDD+ is not likely to be significant however upstream analytical and policy work will improve land management practices in forestry, agriculture and NRM more generally.** The analysis of the multi-sectorial drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, forest governance and land tenure as well as the REDD+ strategy options will enhance the understanding of the social and environmental trade-offs associated with different land-use options. This technical and policy advice can in turn help strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices. Moreover, analytical work in monitoring, reporting and verification consistent with REDD+ requirements will improve the information base and future collection of data within Fiji. Such as system will assist in improving land management and investment decisions and will allow for a transparent assessment of performance and more efficient land use planning within a landscape under population, development, food security and climate adaptation pressures.

9. **More than 80 percent of the total land area¹² is under communal ownership through traditional Fijian communal land owning units called *mataqali*, *yavusa* and *itokatoka*;** however the *mataqali* is considered to be the dominant and most commonly referred to landowning entity. The remainder of the land is either private freehold or state-owned land. The iTaukei Lands Act recognizes and maintains communal ownership and provides the legal basis for community level decision-making about the use and conservation of natural resources on iTaukei land. This ownership is not transferable through land sales, but user rights can be transferred via land leases and licenses issued by the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB).¹³ The TLTB is the legal custodian and representative of all native land in Fiji and administers it for the benefit of the iTaukei owners. TLTB leases and licenses take precedence over community-level land use decisions.¹⁴ The Land under this customary land tenure system is charted on iTaukei Land Commission (TLC) maps once they have been surveyed and are registered in the Register of iTaukei Land (RTL), known as the *Vola ni Kawa Bula*.¹⁵ Leases and licenses are also documented in

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ SPC Applied Geoscience and Technology Division(2012) *Fiji Forest Change Analysis - Deforestation 2001 to 2007, 1 Hectare Basis* 2012

¹² Estimates range from 83 to 88 percent.

¹³ The iTaukei Land Trust (Leases and Licenses) Regulation sets out (i) standard conditions applying to all leases on iTaukei Land and (ii) conditions applying to leases for particular purposes, e.g. residential, agricultural, gardening, grazing and quarrying.

¹⁴ This makes it difficult for *mataqali* to seek court redress on land negotiations or land use compensations they perceive as unfavorable. See 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

¹⁵ Efforts are underway to digitize and update the system to establish a National land Register.

dedicated registers. Customary iTaukei land may also be submitted to the Land Bank with the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources for land to be leased.

10. **Almost 90 percent of the total forest area is iTaukei land.** Most softwood and hardwood plantations are grown on iTaukei land and thus require leases. Under these arrangements, the companies own the trees, but the iTaukei retain ownership of the land. Moreover, the Government owns a 90 percent share in mahogany plantations and over 98 percent in pine plantations, and the remaining 12 percent is owned by indigenous landowners (i.e., iTaukei *mataqali*). Some long-term forestry leases have been challenged by customary landowners regarding the vagueness of leasing procedures and agreements. Landowners have at times also rejected continuation of leases. These land tenure arrangements are often perceived by the private sector as impediments to forest sector development. Competition for land is expected to increase even further, as foreign investors are increasingly interested in Fiji's natural resource sectors, most notably hydropower and mining. To formalize carbon ownership on iTaukei lands, the TLTB has expressed the need for a TLTB REDD+ policy and lease. This option will be further explored during the Readiness phase.

11. **With forests covering so large a proportion of Fiji's land area, forest sector governance is important.** However, this is challenging, as there are a large number of laws, policies and reform processes that are relevant to the forest sector and REDD+.¹⁶ The below focuses on five key components. A detailed analysis will be conducted during the Readiness phase to strategically integrate REDD+ objectives into all relevant policies and strategies.

- The Ministry of Fisheries and Forests (MoFF) has responsibility for most aspects of the forestry sector in Fiji, ensuring that forest resources are managed sustainably and are developed for the benefit of all stakeholders. Under the MoFF, the Forestry Department (FD) has the administrative responsibility for planning, monitoring and regulation of forest management. Its core roles and responsibilities include research and development, provision of extension services and training, forest law enforcement, monitoring and surveillance, provision of supporting infrastructure as well as the conservation and protection of forest resources.
- The Forest Decree of 1992 set up a Forestry Board, whose main tasks 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. Prior consent of the TLTB is required if a license is issued on iTaukei land. In addition, certain customary rights are preserved over iTaukei land, including hunting, fishing or collecting of fruits and cutting or removal of forest produce by any iTaukei in accordance with iTaukei customs unless the *mataqali* landowning group decides to have their lands designated as a nature reserve. A logging plan also needs to specify, for example, annual allowable cuts and reforestation requirements, while the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (2010) provides the national approach for SFM.
- The National Forest Policy of 2007 is centered on the application of SFM principles and improving the livelihoods of forest communities. It aims to incorporate forest sector planning in an integrated land use and development planning and to protect the integrity of forest ecosystems and biodiversity as well as multifunctional SFM. In addition to promoting the forest industry, the National Forest Policy also fosters the involvement of resource owners in the management and utilization of their own forests.
- Fiji's REDD+ policy was approved in 2011 and is implemented within the framework of the National Forest Policy. Its overall objective is to enhance the national forest-based carbon balance

¹⁶ For a comprehensive discussion refer to the R-PP section 2a.5

by supporting and strengthening initiatives that address the drivers of forest-based carbon emissions and to encourage the drivers of forest-based carbon sinks. It outlines the framework for the development and implementation of REDD+ activities in Fiji, covering amongst others safeguards, the scope and scale of REDD+ activities and pilot projects, financing and governance as well as measuring, reporting and verification.

- The Environmental Management Act of 2005 established the National Environment Council (NEC), which is responsible to oversee the formulation and approval of the National Report and National Environment Strategy of 1992. It has a broad role of facilitating discussion of environmental issues and overseeing the implementation of International and Regional Treaties. The NEC also sets out directions for environmental impact assessment of proposed developments for ‘approving authorities’ and certain waste management and pollution control measures including a permit system.

12. **Mitigation and adaptation are two key objectives under the National Climate Change policy of 2012 with forestry being one of the key sectors.** Forestry and more specifically REDD+ has been recognized as a key sector which can contribute both to climate change mitigation and adaptation with cross-sectoral benefits. For example, mitigation measures such as forest conservation or reforestation will improve biodiversity conservation, watershed management, food security and waterway conditions. A healthy forest ecosystem will also enhance the resilience of forest communities by supporting their current consumption and by providing an opportunity to smooth income and accumulate assets over time. The REDD+ policy has thus been integrated into the ongoing policy and stakeholder discussions on economic development, land use and forestry and national climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and action plans. The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS), currently in draft, will further articulate this link and will need to be formulated taking into account the national REDD+ policy and evolving REDD+ strategy.

13. **The Climate Change Division is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy.** It was established in the Department of Environment (DoE) in 2009, but was moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in 2011 to strengthen the political and national support for climate change activities in Fiji. The National Climate Change Coordinating Committee (NCCCC), which includes representatives from a range of government agencies, NGOs and academic institutions, provides direction and guidance to the Climate Change Division and coordinates climate change projects and activities across different government agencies. MoFA is also responsible for the National Carbon Trading Technical Team (NCTTT) that was set up in 2008 to establish carbon trading projects in both voluntary and compulsory¹⁷ trading markets. A policy guideline for the clean development mechanism has since been developed.

14. **Fiji is a highly decentralized country that has four distinct systems that undertake sub-national level governmental and administrative activities.** First, the government administration is responsible for the supervision and coordination of all governmental services and development activities. It divides the country into four Divisions, 14 Provinces and 17 Districts, which are headed by Divisional Commissioners, Provincial Administrators and District Officers respectively. Second, the major urban centers are headed by Special Administrators and are administered by elected councils. Third, rural local public health authorities are in charge of all areas outside the jurisdiction of proclaimed cities, towns and Fijian villages. Lastly, the iTaukei Affairs Board governs all matters concerning the administration of iTaukei affairs. Fiji has 14 iTaukei provinces (*Yasana*), which are made up of sub-units called *Tikina* (similar to districts) that are further broken down into villages. Each of the 14 provinces is governed by a Provincial Council headed by a *Roko Tui*. The first three serve all ethnic groups, whilst the fourth serves

¹⁷ These refer to possible mandatory trading markets that might be introduced at a future point.

the iTaukei people exclusively. To target the various levels of communities, the GoF proposes to set up divisional REDD+ working groups, which will represent all ethnic groups as well as stakeholders from government, the private sector, civil society and academia.

REDD+ Readiness and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

15. **The FCPF was established to help countries get ready for future systems of financial incentives for REDD+, but also helps countries strengthen their existing mechanisms to manage and develop their forests in a sustainable manner.** Within the context of the international climate negotiations of the UNFCCC, performance-based payments from REDD+ will be based on (i) environmentally and socially sound policies and programs for REDD+, (ii) a credible and marketable reference level (forest carbon emission “baseline” scenario) and (iii) technically robust systems of forest monitoring and emissions reporting. Since its inception in 2008, the FCPF has developed a framework and processes for REDD+ readiness built on these three main pillars, which are applied and adjusted to different country contexts. The REDD+ Readiness activities also help strengthen existing forest policy and management systems, information and data, participatory methods as well as human and institutional capacity all of which will contribute to the sustainable management and development of forests.

16. **The REDD+ process in Fiji began in 2009** with the first multi-stakeholder national REDD+ consultations funded by the SPC/Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Pacific-German Regional Program on Adaptation to Climate change in the Pacific Island Region (ACCPiR)¹⁸. The National REDD+ policy was subsequently developed through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation process considered by many as exemplary in the region. It helped build trust and consensus between the various stakeholders from different Government agencies, resource owners, national and international NGOs, the private sector and Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies.¹⁹ Following the endorsement of the REDD+ policy by the cabinet in 2010, the consultation process for the development of the REDD+ strategy has begun. The latter has involved focused workshop sessions on forest carbon rights, benefit sharing and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

17. **In 2012 Fiji requested to join the FCPF as an observer and has since developed the required documentation for becoming a FCPF REDD+ Country Participant.** Led by the FD, Fiji began developing its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in December 2012 and validated the draft through a series of steering committee meetings and national stakeholder consultations, including different Government agencies, national and international NGOs, resource owners, the private sector, regional organizations, academia and development partners like United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The R-PP outlines the activities and work plan for the REDD+ Readiness process that will build upon the on-going REDD+ activities. In accordance with the FCPF framework and REDD+ Readiness processes, the R-PP was widely reviewed and assessed by the FCPF Facility Management Team (FMT), independent reviewers on behalf of the FCPF’s Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), and the FCPF Participants Committee (PC)²⁰.

18. **In December 2013, the FCPF PC authorized grant funding of US\$ 3.8 million to support the preparation of Fiji’s REDD+ strategy.** This Readiness Preparation Grant, which makes up about 65 percent of the estimated budget for REDD+ Readiness, will fund key elements of the R-PP. In particular, it will support the development of the REDD+ strategy through a highly consultative and participatory process, which will carefully assess the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with

¹⁸ This program is now called the SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region.

¹⁹ For a full list of the stakeholder consultations conducted to date refer to Annex 1b of the R-PP.

²⁰ The committee comprises an equal number (14) of donors and recipients.

different land use options and will be informed by a range of technical and policy studies. The Readiness Preparation Activities will also strengthen the existing implementation arrangement for REDD+ in Fiji by supporting the establishment and operationalization of a National REDD+ unit as well as assessment and strengthening of existing feedback, and grievance redress mechanisms (FGRMs) for REDD+. Lastly, the Readiness Preparation Grant will finance the set-up of an effective monitoring system for REDD+, including the development of Reference Emission Level/Reference (REL/RL), the design and set up of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) as well as a safeguards information system. GoF and GIZ resources will complement these activities by funding broader capacity building and awareness raising activities.

19. **The Readiness Preparation Activities will also support ‘no regrets’ activities by, for example, strengthening sustainable land and forest management and planning through technical work and policy advice.** More specifically, the REDD+ Readiness process will provide the opportunity for broad-based strategic discussions of land use options for its forested and mixed agricultural lands, considering criteria such as: (i) revenue for government; (ii) benefits and livelihoods for communities; (iii) environmental and social sustainability; (iv) climate adaptation and resilience benefits; and (v) potential carbon benefits. Based on these discussions and associated technical and policy analysis, the Government will be better able to strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices and possibly attract funding to support some of the multi-sectorial solutions proposed under the REDD+ strategy related to SFM, agriculture and climate change resilience. Moreover, the technical work on MRV/REL will strengthen Fiji’s capacity to monitor and manage natural resources more generally through the extension of the national forest inventory beyond forest management purposes, enhancement of national databases and geospatial information regarding Fiji’s natural resource base. This data and information infrastructure could then be used serve other important purposes beyond REDD+, such as FAO FRA reporting, national land use planning and biodiversity reporting. In addition to these ‘no regrets’ options, the Readiness Preparation Activities will lay the foundation for Fiji to enter into an emissions reduction program in the future. However, given Fiji’s size and the fact that it is a low deforestation/high forest cover country, future REDD+ revenues are likely to be modest.²¹

20. **To inform the REDD+ strategy and associated ‘no regrets’ options, it will be critical to analyze the multi-sectorial drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji, which have not been comprehensively assessed to-date.** A few analyses for REDD+ pilots or projects have been carried out, but no systematic assessment of the drivers of land use change and their underlying causes exists at the national level. The consultations conducted during the development of the R-PP identified agricultural expansion (both subsistence and commercial) and forest conversion for pasture lands and grazing as primary drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, followed by infrastructure development (for tourism and logging roads), energy production (mainly hydropower), urban expansion and forest fires (see Table 1). Given the country’s development objectives, however, pressures on forests are likely to increase further driven by a range of sectors, including agriculture, logging, mining, tourism, energy, transport and urban development.

²¹ A back-of-the envelope calculation suggests that Fiji could potentially generate \$2 million/yr in REDD+ revenue (assuming an annual reforestation rate of 0.21 percent, a forest carbon density of 200t CO₂e/ha and a price of \$5/t CO₂e).

Table 1: Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Fiji

Past (1990-2000)	Current (2000-2015)	Future (2015-2030)	Responsibility	Carbon impact
Drivers of Deforestation				
Underlying driver: Economic development				
Agriculture (subsistence & commercial) 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
Forest conversion for pasture lands and grazing	Ongoing	Expected to continue with current incentives for dairy farming	Land owners / lease holders	Large source
Mining	Mining (bauxite)	Expected to increase due to international demand for mineral	Mining companies	Small source
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
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 Increasing demand for renewable energy (more dams, biofuels- deforestation) Water dams for Waidina (Sovi basin) and Navua River	Energy policy	Small to medium source
Underlying driver: Population growth				
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
Underlying driver: Governance				
Poorly planned Infrastructure development	On-going	increasing		
Underlying driver: Lack of law enforcement				
Human-induced forest fires for hunting	On-going	continued	Farmers, arsonists for hunting or accidental	Medium source
Underlying driver: Environmental circumstances, geographic location				
Natural Disasters, e.g. cyclones, hurricanes and floods	On-going	continued	Resistance and resilience of ecosystems	Negligible

Past (1990-2000)	Current (2000-2015)	Future (2015-2030)	Responsibility	Carbon impact
Drivers of Deforestation				
			lower due to human management	
Drivers of Forest Degradation				
Commercial/ conventional logging	Ongoing	More access roads – increase logging Logging trend may also decrease in natural forests considering the shift from logging to conservation with incentives	Logging companies / FD; market demand	Small – medium source
Firewood collection Continuous harvesting of mangroves in given area for firewood 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) Succession of invasive species, African tulips, (domesticated cattle & pigs on free run)	Increasing	Increasing	Farmers, FD, Agriculture, Livestock, 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

Data source: R-PP, Section 2a, Table 6 and 7, January 22, 2014.

21. **The REDD+ strategy options to address the multi-sectorial drivers of deforestation and forest degradation will be further developed and consulted upon during the REDD+ readiness phase.** During the R-PP preparation, a broad stakeholder workshop identified a first set of possible REDD+ strategy options, many of which had already been suggested for years but were never implemented (Table 2). Most address the multi-sectorial drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, e.g. by proposing to improve agricultural extension services as well as land use planning and infrastructure development. Some REDD+ strategy options also aim to improve the management of the forest ecosystems through the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), community-based forestry activities, strengthened SFM, agroforestry, forest conservation or carbon stock enhancement. Many of these activities are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and it will, hence, be important to fully assess and prioritize REDD+ strategy options during the REDD+ readiness phase. This process will be supported by the parallel implementation of the consultation and participation plan, which will help ensure that all relevant stakeholders can contribute to the discussion.

Table 2: REDD+ Strategy Options in Fiji

Driver	Strategy Options	Co-Benefits
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a national land use plan Review policies and legislations that encourage unsustainable clearing of forests for agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall sustainable management of natural resources More income generating

Driver	Strategy Options	Co-Benefits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitate degraded sites and grasslands, for agriculture development to avoid farmer encroachment into forests • Raise awareness on and enforcement the Land Use Capability Classification System • Promote sustainable farming approaches and technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agroforestry and multi-cropping systems that promote the inclusion of trees in farming – Intensive farming to make optimal use of small areas of land – Diversify on cash crops • Support value-adding of forest produce and create niche markets for forest communities to access high-end markets (e.g. hotels) • Introduce, promote and invest in alternative livelihoods (aside from cash crops) • Establish and train local landcare and forestcare groups to facilitate sustainable land use in forest areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for farmers • Higher crop and income diversification leads to increased resilience against climate change impacts and natural disasters • Increased appreciation of economic value of forests • Local communities are skilled in various SLM technologies
Large-scale forest conversion by local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local land use plans with communities and relevant supporting agencies to promote sustainable forest management • Conduct educational programs through the Provincial Offices and Divisional Offices • Promote eco-tourism in feasible forest areas • Conduct biodiversity assessment of these sites and inform and educate local communities • Implement Fiji's NBSAP and proposed protected area network • Ecosystem valuation • Promote value adding technologies for forest products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity conservation • Better understanding of value of standing forests • Broader income generating base
Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National land use planning where ecological and social values of forests are considered against mining impacts • Review legislation to ensure more thorough ecological and social consultations and assessments are carried out • Enforce EIA and HIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in pollution and adverse health impacts caused by mining • Protection of forest ecosystem services
Infrastructure development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated land use planning to also include socio-economic and ecosystem impact assessments • Sustainable Infrastructure Development • Proposed infrastructure planning and development to be captured in the national land use plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of mangroves and ecosystems • More sustainable development of the local population • A more intact environment will increase resiliency of infrastructure and local communities against climate change impacts and natural disasters
Forest fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review legislation • Law enforcement • Local community awareness and education programs • Active community involvement in enforcement and patrolling (fire wardens) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities have an increased awareness and appreciation on the value of forests
Unsustainable timber harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce the national harvesting code of practice • Afforestation/Reforestation programs to increase timber supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity conservation • Economic diversification • Improved capacity and

Driver	Strategy Options	Co-Benefits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote reduced impact logging Improved Law Enforcement of SFM Replant abandoned plantation sites Education/Awareness for small-scale timber operators Promote the utilization of lesser known commercial timber species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education for small-scale timber operators Added value to standing forests

Data source: R-PP, Section 2b, Table 9, January 22, 2014.

22. **It is important to recognize that Fiji is already implementing many adaptation projects as well as REDD+ pilots that would serve as valuable lessons for informing the development of the national REDD+ strategy.** These sites include the Emalu REDD+ pilot site and the Nakavu SFM research project in Viti Levu implemented by FD with SPC/GIZ support; an Afforestation/Reforestation project in Ra, Viti Levu, by Conservation International; and a REDD+ project in Drawa, Vanua Levu, supported by Live and Learn. In addition, new REDD+ related activities including the Ministry of Agriculture’s coconut tree planting and adaptation projects, the SPC and EU reforestation program, UNDP-GEF’s proposed Ridge to Reef program to preserve ecosystem services and enhance carbon stocks across six watershed areas, and potential pilots by Fiji Pine Trust and Fiji Mahogany Trust are underway. Furthermore, the diversity of government funded projects for both climate change and disaster risk reduction projects such as mangrove restoration, biogas, mini-hydro, reforestation and agroforestry would all contribute to the design of the REDD+ strategy.

C. Relationship to the Country Engagement Note (CEN)

23. **Since the 2006 coup, the engagement of the World Bank Group (WBG) in Fiji was limited and largely governed by the Regional Engagement Framework FY2006-2009 for Pacific Islands.** The latter focused on four overarching themes: (i) generating economic opportunities through greater global and regional integration; (ii) building institutional capacity and resilience to external shocks, including those associated with climate change and natural disasters; (iii) encouraging economic reform and private sector development; and (iv) improving health, education and social services. The objective of WBG’s assistance to Fiji at that time was to help the GoF improve the country’s growth prospects that had begun to recover in the aftermath of the 2000 coup, by helping to improve the business environment, remove regulatory barriers to business formation, and supporting telecommunications reform. However, most of the engagement was limited to trust fund financed grants and technical assistance with no new lending since the 2006 coup.

24. **The democratic elections, which took place on September 17, 2014, paved the way for the WBG and other development partners to launch full engagement with the GoF.** The “Fiji First” Party led by Voreqe Bainimarama, won an outright majority, receiving 290,000 votes (59 percent of the total). Although opposition leaders raised concerns, the 92-member Multilateral Observer Group (MOG) declared that the election was credible and broadly represented the will of Fijian voters. Many bilateral and multilateral partners had begun to re-engage with Fiji in the run-up to the elections, and are committed to strengthening their engagement following the MOG’s endorsement of the election. The constrained country program and lack of presence on the ground have prevented the WBG from developing a deep relationship with the GoF and key stakeholders, making it difficult for the WBG to commit to medium-term objectives and results in Fiji.²²

²² The CEN marks a resumption of IBRD lending after a 23 year hiatus. Between 1971 and 1992 (when the last IBRD project was approved), the Government of the Republic of Fiji (GoF) borrowed US\$153 million from IBRD for 13 projects, and all of the loans have been repaid. Between 1980 and 2005, the IFC invested US\$21 million in

25. **The WBG proposes to prepare a Country Engagement Note (CEN) to outline a 24-month program (2015-2017) that would initiate support for Fiji** as it emerges from military rule, while deepening its knowledge base and setting the stage to design a medium-term program to create broad-based and sustainable economic growth. The CEN will focus on (i) strengthening the foundations for inclusive private sector led growth; and (ii) protecting vulnerable populations. These themes are linked to Fiji's specific needs as well as to the WBG twin goals of boosting shared prosperity and eliminating extreme poverty. Under the first theme, the WBG will focus on supporting the GoF to open avenues for growth and connect people to opportunities and services. Under the second theme, the WBG will assist the GoF to build resilience and protect vulnerable populations and resources from the impacts of natural disasters and other shocks. The GoF is preparing its first Five Year Development Plan that would help guide a medium-term WBG strategic engagement.

26. **The proposed Readiness Preparation Activities are in line with the WBG's objectives of deepening its knowledge of Fiji and protecting vulnerable populations.** More specifically, they will support the GoF in determining the best balance of land use options to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Fiji. In particular, it will support the development of its REDD+ strategy through a highly consultative and participatory process and with the needed analytical work. A FGRM will be set up specifically for the REDD+ Readiness process to ensure vulnerable populations can effectively voice their concerns. The Readiness Preparation Grant will also finance the necessary analytical studies to analyze the social, economic and environmental trade-offs associated with different land use options and development paths, which will further enhance our understanding of the rural economy in Fiji.

II. Proposed PDO/Results

A. Proposed Development Objective(s)

27. The development objective of Grant is to assist Fiji to carry out the Readiness Preparation Activities by supporting the preparation of its REDD+ strategy through a participatory and inclusive process, the establishment of a national MRV system, and by producing technical work and policy advice to help strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices.

B. Key Results

- Existing institutions for REDD+ are strengthened through an operational Fiji National REDD+ Unit and a FGRM;
- A National REDD+ strategy and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) are developed and validated by a broad spectrum of stakeholders through the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA); and
- A robust monitoring system for REDD+ is put in place, including a preliminary national Reference Emission Level or Reference Level (REL/RL), a national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and a safeguards information system.

five projects in Fiji. Following a coup d'état in December 2006, the WBG's engagement with Fiji has been limited to a few selected technical assistance engagements and activities financed by trust funds.

III. Project Context

A. Concept

1. Description

28. **The R-PP Roadmap²³ includes all activities necessary for Fiji to achieve a state of REDD+ Readiness.** The proposed Readiness Preparation Grant will provide US\$ 3.8 million over a period of four years (2015 to 2019) to finance a subset of those activities, focusing on the technical aspects of the R-PP Roadmap. Broader awareness raising and capacity building activities will be financed by the Government and GIZ (US\$ 0.6 million respectively).

29. **The Readiness Preparation Grant will finance the main elements of the R-PP that will not only help Fiji develop its REDD+ strategy, but strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices through targeted technical work and policy advice.** In particular, the Readiness Preparation Activities will aim to (i) strengthen existing institutions for REDD+ through the establishment and operationalization of a Fiji National REDD+ Unit and assessment and strengthening of existing FGRMs for REDD+; (ii) develop National REDD+ strategy and an ESMF, which will be validated by a broad spectrum of stakeholders through the SESA and be informed by several analytical studies; and (iii) put in place a robust monitoring system for REDD+, including a preliminary national REL/RL, national MRV system and a safeguards information system. These activities will also strengthen existing forest policy, practices and management systems, information and data, participatory methods and human and institutional capacity, which will directly support sustainable land and forest management practices.

30. **Table 3 below provides detail activities to be financed with the Readiness Preparation Grant.** In addition, the table also shows other funding source from the GoF and GIZ to complement the proposed Readiness Preparation Activities in order for Fiji to successfully implement all activities required for REDD+ Readiness.

Table 3: Project Components and Costs, 2015-2019 (in USD millions)

Activities for Assessment Note with FCPF Funding	FCPF grant	R-PP component	GoF	GIZ
1. Institutional strengthening for REDD+	1.30		0.20	0.17
1.1. Establishment and operationalization of Fiji National REDD+ Unit	1.10	Comp. 1a	0.14	0.13
1.2. Assessment and strengthening of existing FGRMs for REDD+	0.20	Comp. 1a, c	0.06	0.04
2. Development of a REDD+ strategy for Fiji	1.19		0.23	0.31
2.1. Supporting analytical work to prepare a REDD+ strategy	0.44	Comp. 2a-c	0.09	0.09
2.2. SESA process and ESMF development	0.31	Comp. 2d	0	0
2.3. Consultation and participation activities	0.44	Cross-cutting	0.14	0.22
3. Establishment of a monitoring system for REDD+	1.65		0.20	0.11
3.1. Design and development of a REL/RL	0.58	Comp. 3	0.12	0.07
3.2. Design and development of a MRV system	0.87	Comp. 4a	0.06	0.03
3.3. Design and development of a safeguards information system	0.20	Comp. 4b	0.02	0.01
TOTAL	3.80		0.63	0.59
TOTAL				5.02

²³ Please see Component 5 of the R-PP for a summary of all the activities and budget.

Component 1: Institutional Strengthening for REDD+ (US\$ 1.30 million)

31. The activities under this component include: (i) supporting the establishment and operationalization of the Fiji National REDD+ Unit, by providing them with human, technical and operational resources; and (ii) assessing the relevant existing FGRMs and arrangements at the national and decentralized levels, strengthening the existing FGRMs and, as necessary and appropriate, establishing a new FGRM, to address any relevant feedbacks and grievances related to REDD+. The institutional and human capacity building as well as technical support provided under this component will also help strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices.

- a) *Sub-component 1.1: Establishment and operationalization the Fiji National REDD+ Unit (US\$ 1.10 million).* The Fiji National REDD+ Unit will comprise of a technical adviser (with some management functions), two technical experts, one communications officer, one finance and administration officer, one project assistant and one driver. The GoF will fund the latter three personnel, while the Readiness Preparation Grant will support the remaining positions as well as the set-up and operational costs.²⁴ The technical advisor and experts will provide technical oversight and coordination of the REDD+ Readiness process, including the REDD+ strategy development, analytical work, REL/RL development and establishment of a MRV and safeguards information system. They will also provide technical support to on-going or upcoming REDD+ projects, especially in the design of project methodologies. The REDD+ unit will be based in the FD. The Communication Officer will coordinate the extensive consultations required for REDD+ Readiness and the development of the REDD+ strategy. Key tasks include: (i) ensure effective delivery of the consultation and participation plan; (ii) develop and implement the communication strategy/plan and outreach, which are culturally appropriate to fit the target audience; (iii) ensure the results of the consultations are properly documented and effectively disseminated to the relevant stakeholders using the right channel/medium of communication; and (iv) ensure the procedures for how these consultations influence REDD+ strategy development are followed. This sub-component will also cover expenses associated with the annual budget audit, monitoring and reporting and the mid-term review.
- b) *Sub-component 1.2: Assessment and strengthening of existing FGRMs for REDD+ (US\$ 0.20 million).* Fiji recognized early on that the national REDD+ program needs to be operated in an inclusive manner with particular regard to transparent and effective communication and decisions across different sectors of Government. A stakeholder analysis was thus conducted early on²⁵ and the multi-stakeholder National REDD+ Steering Committee (REDD+ SC) was set up. This sub-component aims to ensure broad stakeholder engagement and use of stakeholder feedback in shaping the REDD+ Readiness program by funding (i) an assessment of existing grievance mechanisms at the national and decentralized levels; (ii) assess the capacity of institutions and customary mechanisms that would handle grievances; (iii) support their strengthening specifically for REDD+; and (iv) establish effective FGRM.

Component 2: Development of a REDD+ strategy for Fiji (US\$ 1.19 million)

32. This component will support the GoF in further developing its REDD+ strategy building on the on-going processes in-country, which will help identify the best balance of land use options to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Fiji. This will require developing a deep understanding of the multi-sectorial drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, integrating social and environmental concerns into the REDD+ strategy and building broad-based support across all ethnic groups and relevant

²⁴ It is important to note that the FCPF grant will only fund the salaries of contractual staff for the Readiness Preparation Activities. It will not fund consultants' services and salaries of officials for Fiji's civil service.

²⁵ For a full list of identified stakeholders see annex 1b of the R-PP.

stakeholders. In particular, the activities under this component include: (i) supporting analytical work to prepare a REDD+ strategy; (ii) undertaking SESA and preparing an ESMF; and (iii) conducting consultation on key issues related to REDD+, including multi-sectorial drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation, REDD+ strategy options, forest governance and land tenure, benefit sharing arrangement, SESA, and MRV. The policy and technical analysis produced under this component will also help strengthen existing sustainable land and forest management practices. It will also help inform possible future programs to implement some of the proposed REDD+ strategy options aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, improving SFM, strengthening agricultural practices and enhancing climate change resilience. This component has three sub-components:

- a) *Sub-component 2.1: Supporting analytical work to prepare a REDD+ strategy (US\$ 0.44 million).* The current state of knowledge indicates that Fiji has modest rates of deforestation compared to other countries in the region, but that its forests are heavily degraded. A broad range of drivers and underlying causes were identified during the R-PP preparation phase, most notably agricultural expansion and conversion of forest to pasture lands and grazing. However, there has been no nationwide assessment of Fiji's deforestation and forest degradation processes and only an initial set of REDD+ strategy options has been identified. The Readiness Preparation Grant will thus fund several studies to (i) comprehensively assess the multi-sectorial drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji,²⁶ (ii) analyze forest governance and land tenure analysis, (iii) identify and prioritize REDD+ strategy options and (iv) analyze the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits associated with different REDD+ strategy options.
- b) *Sub-component 2.2: SESA process and ESMF development (US\$ 0.31 million).* To ensure that negative impacts of future performance-based REDD+ programs are eliminated or minimized, social and environmental concerns will need to be taken into account during the development of the REDD+ strategy. A Safeguards Working Group (SWG) has already been established by the National REDD+ SC to develop national REDD+ criteria and indicators, which will be important for managing the SESA and ESMF development. This sub-component will fund the strengthening of the SWG as well as the SESA process, which will assess the extent to which the proposed REDD+ strategy options address the environmental and social issues associated with Fiji's customary and present patterns of land use and forest management. Any identified gaps will be addressed throughout this process. In addition, the SESA will develop an ESMF that outlines the procedures for managing potential environmental and social impacts resulting from REDD+ implementation including guidance for the preparation of future environmental and social safeguard instruments.
- c) *Sub-component 2.3: Consultation on key issues addressed under the FCPF (US\$ 0.44 million).* Inclusive and participatory consultations are at the heart of the REDD+ readiness process. This sub-component will fund consultation on key issues addressed under FCPF, including on (i) the multi-sectorial drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation; (ii) forest governance and land tenure; (iii) the identification of strategy options; (iv) potential benefit sharing arrangements and mechanisms, (v) the SESA, and (vi) MRV including safeguards and multiple co-benefits. Outreach efforts are anticipated to be substantial given a widely dispersed

²⁶ Since Fiji is a low deforestation/high forest cover country, a methodologically-strong approach is required to account for future drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the REDD+ Strategy. Such an approach would combine an in-depth analysis of the potential impacts of the development of productive sectors on natural forests (based on national plans or sector strategies) with a modelling approach. Such an assessment will also be able to inform discussions on potential competitive land-uses and help identify trade-offs.

population and a rich and strong tradition on consultation and participation across all layers of society in Fiji.²⁷ GoF and Fiji will fund broader awareness raising and outreach programs.

Component 3: Establishment of a monitoring system for REDD+ (US\$ 1.65 million)

The activities under this component will put in place a robust monitoring system for REDD and will include designing and developing: (i) a REL/RL, (i) a MRV system, and (iii) a safeguards information system. The monitoring system established under this component will also provide important information and data that can be directly used in the management and development of the forest sector more broadly. The activities developed under component 3 will enable Fiji to access results-based finance should it choose to. More importantly, it will strengthen its capacity to monitor and manage natural resources more generally through the extension of the national forest inventory beyond forest management purposes, enhancement of national databases and geospatial information regarding Fiji's natural resource base to inform land development and planning and developing technical skills. It will thus be critical to carefully sequence the technical work so that it will be able inform the development of the REDD+ strategy. The activities planned under this component will build capacity and develop data and information infrastructure that can serve other important purposes beyond REDD+, such as FAO FRA reporting, national land use planning and biodiversity reporting. This technical work will build on ongoing capacity building and awareness activities of GoF and GIZ.²⁸ Specifically the grant will aim to draw on existing remote sensing data, ground based measurements, capacity and infrastructure, in a coordinated way, to design, build and operationalize a National MRV system. Such a system will allow Fiji to routinely assess its natural resource base, which is central to meet broader climate change objectives.

- a) *Component 3.1: Design and development of a REL/RL (US\$ 0.58 million).* The development of a REL/RL for Fiji will measure the level of net emissions and removals resulting from land cover changes during a historical reference period. Projections of different development scenarios will be generated taking national circumstances into account. The outputs from this component will inform the development of the REDD+ Strategy for Fiji (Component 2). Funding for this component will include: (i) technical and hardware support, particularly for the DoF; (ii) GIS-based data analysis and management support; (iii) collection, analysis and aggregation of activity data (land use and land cover change); (iv) collection and analysis of emission factors for all land use categories; (v) assessment of carbon pools; and (vi) development of national RL and alternative scenario.
- b) *Sub-component 3.2: Design and development of a MRV system (US\$ 0.87 million).* This sub-component will support the design and establishment of a national MRV system building on existing IT infrastructure. It will provide funding to: (i) design and establish institutional framework for National Forest Monitoring System; (ii) establish a database and integration tool to estimate GHG emissions and removals in the forestry sector; (iii) transparently document the MRV system; and (iv) conduct capacity building for MRV.
- c) *Sub-component 3.3: Design and development of a safeguards information system (US\$ 0.20 million).* This sub-component will support the development and establishment of a comprehensive monitoring system for non-carbon impacts of REDD+, including safeguards as well as co-benefits that integrates with the MRV system (component 3.2). It will be critical to integrate this new monitoring system as much as possible with existing information and data management system. The activities under this component will thus review existing monitoring institutions regarding safeguards and then build a safeguards information system. Communities can play an important role in monitoring adherence to

²⁷ It will, however, be critical to ensure that the consultations relate to specific issues where analytical work can bring additional knowledge and insights and to avoid consulting the same actors too many times on the same issues.

²⁸ Whilst a range of capacity is being built in relevant government departments, there is currently a lack of coordination to generate GHG accounts for UNFCCC reporting and REDD+.

safeguards and will thus be supported through capacity building activities to fulfill this function.

2. Overall Risk and Explanation

33. **Political and governance.** The successful elections present a window of opportunity for Fiji to lay the foundation for inclusive and sustainable development, and the WBG is committed to help the GoF confront this challenge. The WBG needs to establish an effective engagement with the GoF after a long period of limited interaction. Social and economic divisions have contributed to political instability since Fiji's independence, and it will be important that the WBG program is well-informed in order to promote broad-based economic development and social inclusion. The current political situation also presents important risks. The new Constitution did not benefit from broad legitimacy. The GoF may struggle to shift away from authoritarian decision-making. The September 2014 elections are only the start of Fiji's path back to democracy, and Fiji will need support from all of its partners to strengthen democratic institutions and civil society and return to full democracy. Economic and social cleavages that drove previous constitutional crises remain pronounced. Key institutions, including the press, the judiciary and the public service, will need support and capacity building through the democratic transition.

34. *Mitigation measures:* The WBG's major objectives during the CEN reengagement period are to deepen its relationship with government counterparts and key stakeholders in Fiji, while developing a more comprehensive understanding of the development opportunities and risks in Fiji. The WBG intends to undertake activities that will enhance its understanding of the current extent and drivers of poverty as well as the political economy challenges that Fiji faces in order to better inform a longer-term program that would support Fiji's efforts to build political stability and inclusive growth. Over the CEN period, the WBG will engage with Fiji to undertake a limited number of interventions to build trust and to lay the foundation for a sustainable medium-term partnership and program.

35. Fiji recognized the importance of setting up transparent and accountable governance system for effective implementation of REDD+. A national multi sectoral institutional arrangement is already established (REDD+ SC) and Fiji intends to strengthen the decentralized levels of Provincial Development Boards, which will act as REDD+ Working groups, and Provincial REDD+ taskforces led by the *Roko Tui*. Coordination will be required to ensure transparent communication and inclusion of relevant stakeholders engaged in land use, in decision making and in implementation of readiness activities. Furthermore, Fiji has a national REDD+ policy which provide the legal and institutional framework for the implementation of REDD+. However, the clear rules for effective participation and consultation, carbon transactions, benefit sharing schemes and regulations on the management of REDD+ funds are not yet in place. Therefore, overall governance challenges in the country are foreseen as a potential risk.

36. *Mitigation measures:* A forest governance and land tenure analysis will be conducted during Readiness. The assessment will provide an overview of all factors influencing how decisions are made regarding forest and land tenure as well as provide a basis against which forest governance can be continuously assessed during Readiness and REDD+ implementation. In addition, it is expected that the assessment will help: (i) inform coordination and effective communication across the various institutions at national and local levels; (ii) the Government in creating clear rules for carbon transactions and in strengthening the capacity to implement those; (iii) support the establishment of clear rules on benefit sharing of REDD+ revenues; (iv) supporting the functioning of the REDD+ SC and decentralized REDD+ working Groups; and (v) ensure permanent communication with stakeholder on all potential controversial issues.

37. **Environment and social.** Fiji has a well-established EIA system and the government is fully aware of the urgent need to address the issues of biodiversity loss and sustainable forest management. The implementation of Readiness Preparation Activities (which are mainly analytical works, consultation, planning and capacity building) will have no direct environmental impacts. However, the REDD+ strategy options to be identified and discussed during the REDD+ Readiness process and to be implemented using other sources of funding (not necessarily from the WBG) will have potential environmental impacts, hence requiring more detailed attention during readiness. The implementation of the REDD+ strategy options is expected to have net positive environmental impacts particularly in terms of biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management. Nonetheless, some negative environmental impacts may occur in potential future emission reduction (ER) programs that would involve reforestation, afforestation, plantation forest, agricultural production and infrastructure. These include possible introduction of alien invasive tree species, possible increased use of pesticides and potential massive conversion of degraded natural forest into mono crop plantation forest (e.g. Caribbean Pine or Mahogany). Moreover, any support infrastructure such as access road could also have localized environmental impacts, such as sedimentation of waterways and minor vegetation loss.

38. Fiji has a well-developed legal and regulatory framework, especially for land management and indigenous land rights. However, there are critical social issues requiring more detailed attention during readiness. Security of land tenure, allocation of revenue benefits to land owners and those leasing lands, and clear identification of who owns the title to ER, will need to be explored during readiness. In relation to land tenure issues, consideration of all land related legal systems in Fiji will be required, including the Land Use Decree (2010). In addition, the issue of customary lands ownership through *mataqalis* and the issue of land leasing needs to be carefully analyzed from a legal, regulatory, and policy lens in order to inform benefit distribution for REDD+. It is noted that all customary lands in Fiji are placed under the custody and administration of the TLTB which has the authority to lease lands for and on behalf of the *mataqali*. Customary lands are further classified into the iTaukei reserve lands and non-reserve land. Since the power sits with TLTB regarding any lease contract on non-reserve lands and gaining consent is not stipulated under law, there are cases of long-term forestry leases being challenged or discontinued by customary landowners due to the vagueness of leasing procedures and agreements in place.

39. Other potential social risks include the exclusion of Fijians of Indian descent, who currently make up 37% of the population, and other ethnic groups or vulnerable persons. Given that the iTaukei are the major land owning group in Fiji and a substantive amount of land is currently under long-term lease, there is the potential that a significant portion of the population could be excluded from REDD+ strategy development and implementation during readiness. REDD+ policies involving agricultural land use may affect Indo-Fijian as most agricultural areas (primarily sugarcane) are operated by Fijians of Indian descent under long-term lease agreements.

40. *Mitigation measures:* As part of the readiness activities, the GoF will undertake a SESA to be conducted in parallel with the consultations on the REDD+ strategy options and with due considerations of the above issues. The key component of the SESA exercise is the formulation of an ESMF that would address the above issues and comply with the relevant WB Safeguard Policies. In addition, land tenure /governance assessment, as well as land use ecosystem valuation will be conducted as part of readiness. It is expected that these studies will help inform the status of rights relating to and security of land tenure.

41. **Stakeholders.** REDD+ is a mechanism still under discussion internationally and has attracted much attention from various groups of stakeholders abroad and in Fiji. While there is widespread support for the establishment of an international REDD+ mechanism that would reward countries for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, various concerns have been raised about how a REDD+ mechanism would work at the country level. In addition at the national level, although Fiji has made great stride in REDD+ preparation, with a national REDD+ policy already in place as well as robust

consultations and stakeholder engagement processes, there is a risk that insufficient or ineffective consultation with Fijians of Indian descent, other ethnic groups, women and other vulnerable persons and land users will erode support for the REDD+ Readiness process. In addition, 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 thus quite high. This runs the risk of further marginalizing or excluding those that are geographically isolated.

42. **Mitigation measures:** Sufficient financial resources and personnel will be made available to ensure inclusive participation through broader outreach, consultation and documentation of the results of such consultations. A number of options will be employed in order to ensure that these risks are managed: (i) the Readiness Preparation Activities will emphasize a rigorous information sharing and multi-stakeholder consultation process during all stages of the REDD+ readiness, building on the stakeholder analysis. Consultation will include Fijians of Indian descent and other vulnerable groups depending on the forest for their livelihood and well-being; (ii) a communication specialist will be recruited as part of the REDD+ Unit to help in the development and implementation of effective communication strategy and outreach; and (iii) the implementation of the SESA process will identify social and environmental risks arising from the national REDD+ Strategy, and which should also support the identification of mechanisms to ensure transparent benefit sharing.

43. **The overall risk rating for the Readiness Preparation Activities is high.** The REDD+ Readiness process presents a high level of risk, as it depends on a conducive governance environment. For Fiji, a successful REDD+ mechanism touches upon sensitive issues, such as land tenure rights and revenue distribution across relevant stakeholders. In addition, the program has high visibility internationally, due to the high stakes of REDD+ for various stakeholders including vulnerable forest-dependent communities. Stakeholder expectations for benefiting from carbon revenues are high and may not be realistic so far the payment aspect is not really in place.

B. Implementing Agency Assessment

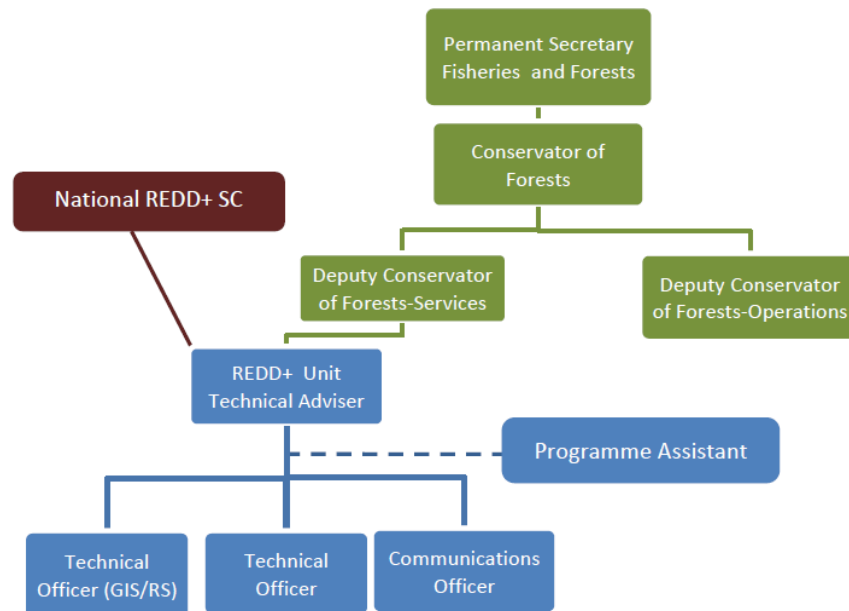
44. **The Forestry Department (FD) is the lead agency and national REDD+ focal point.** The FD, under the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, is the lead agency for all REDD+ in Fiji and in charge of overall REDD+ coordination and implementation. The FD has proven that it has the capacity to conduct a multi-sectoral process, as demonstrated in the highly consultative and participatory development of the REDD+ policy. It also collaborates closely with the MoFA, which is the national focal point for UNFCCC and leads international climate change negotiations and thus has considerable convening power. The Conservator of Forests approves all REDD+ Project proposals and activities, while the Deputy Conservator of Forests-Services will have overall supervision of the REDD+ Unit (see Figure 2). All consultants and implementers will be contracted by the FD and will report to both the FD and National REDD+ SC. The overall technical oversight to ensure timely progress and completion of activities shall be a responsibility of the FD in conjunction with the multi-stakeholder National REDD+ SC.²⁹ The REDD+ SC is chaired by the Deputy Conservator of Forests and REDD+ coordinator and can also establish Technical Sub-committees or working groups as required, including the already established SWG as well as an Awareness Working Group (see Figure 3).

45. **However, due to capacity constraints and limited resources some FCPF funds will be dedicated to support the establishment and operationalization of the Fiji REDD+ Unit.** The Fiji

²⁹ The REDD+ SC includes all the key stakeholders, including the MoFA, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, sectoral agencies (agriculture, land and minerals, environment), NGO and private sector representatives. It was established in 2011 and has since effectively led the REDD+ process in Fiji.

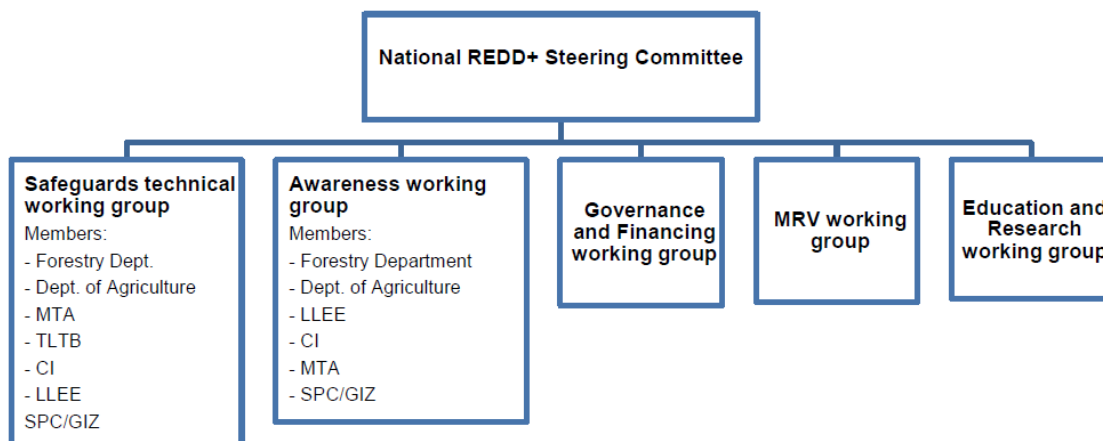
REDD+ Unit will comprise a technical adviser (with some management functions), two technical experts, one communications officer, one finance and administration officer, one project assistant and one driver. The GoF will fund the latter three personnel illustrating the Government’s commitment to strengthen REDD+ Readiness Activities. It is envisaged that the FCPF-funded positions will be absorbed into Government at grant closing, which will be critical to ensure the sustainability of the REDD+ process in Fiji. Moreover, the national institutional capacity for implementing WB environmental and social safeguards is limited. Fiji has robust environmental and social policies, laws and regulations, but effective coordination between relevant institutions across sectors and institutional capacity to implement decisions will need to be investigated during the SESA process. The Readiness Preparation Activities will thus also strengthen the capacity of SWG.

Figure 2: Fiji REDD+ Institutional Arrangement



Source: R-PP, Component 1a, Figure 1c, p. 21, January 2014

Figure 3: Fiji REDD+ working groups



Source: R-PP, Component 1a, Figure 1b, p. 17, January 2014

C. Stakeholder Assessment

46. **The government of Fiji has acknowledged the important role relevant stakeholders must play in ensuring the effective delivery of REDD+ readiness in an inclusive and participatory manner.** The R-PP formulation process emphasized multi-stakeholder consultation and participation that aimed at sensitizing various stakeholders and promoting understanding of REDD+ and its concepts. To ensure the inclusion of key stakeholders affected in the process, Fiji first conducted a detail stakeholder analysis and mapping exercise to identify which stakeholders are likely to be affected by REDD+, both positively and negatively. Multi-stakeholder workshops were held bringing together a cross-section of stakeholders including sectors engaged in land use at national and local government level, private sector, CSOs, international donors and local community representatives and Fijians of Indian descent to discuss issues pertinent to the R-PP preparation, including exploration of both underlying drivers of deforestation, potential social and environment issues, and also lessons from existing forest degradation and deforestation strategies. During REDD+ readiness, the consultation and participation plan (C&P Plan) may be reviewed and updated to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are brought on board. It is recognized that the Fijians of Indian descent are currently not represented through a member agency on the National REDD+ SC. However, moving forward the government emphasized their inclusion as a top priority.

47. **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.

48. **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 development takes place during readiness.

IV. Proposed Team Composition and Resources, including Technical Assistance Provided by Bank Staff to Date

49. **To support the REDD+ Readiness Preparation, the WBG has mobilized specific technical expertise to respond to Fiji's needs** and supported the drafting of this R-P Assessment Note (see Table 4 below). The R-PP was developed without funding support from the FCPF. However, it was widely reviewed and assessed by the WB task team, the FCPF FMT, independent reviewers on behalf of the FCPF's TAP, and the FCPF PC.

Table 4: Readiness Preparation Stage Task Team

Name	Title	Unit
Stefanie Sieber	Environmental Economist, TTL	GENDR
Haddy J. Sey	Senior Social Development Specialist, co-TTL	GCCGT
Cristiano Costa e Silva Nunes	Senior Procurement Specialist	GGODR
David Whitehead	Senior Financial Management Specialist	GGODR
Marjorie Mpundu	Senior Counsel	LEGES
Vidya Narasimhan	Finance Officer	WFALN
Ross James Butler	Social Safeguards Specialist / Regional Safeguards Coordinator	GURDR
Kenneth M. Green	Senior Safeguards Specialist	Consultant
Jonas Bautista	Environmental Safeguards Specialist	Consultant
Claire Forbes	Social Safeguards Specialist	Consultant
Carly Green	MRV/REL Specialist	Consultant
Fnu Hanny	Program Assistant	GENDR

V. Assessment Summary

A. Technical

50. **Fiji's R-PP underwent extensive review both by the independent Technical Advisory Panel of the FCPF as well as the Participants Committee.** In addition, IPs and CSO organizations in-country as well as international reviewed the R-PP and provided comments. As a result the R-PP was revised and approved by the PC in 2014. The task team conducted two preparation missions in February and August of 2014 to discuss with the GoF activities to be funded with FCPF resources during the readiness phase. As such activities identified for funding as outlined in Table 3 is a result of exhaustive discussion between the task team, the National REDD+ SC as well as many meetings with different stakeholders engaged in land use, the private sector, as well as other development partners. Activities to be implemented during readiness have taken into consideration the WBG's comparative advantage, as well as the priority needs/activities identified by the government for FCPF funding. The implementation of readiness activities will be supported by the national REDD+ unit to be established within the Department of Forestry and oversee by the National REDD+ SC.

51. The studies to be carried out will be led by the REDD+ Unit under the supervision of the National REDD+ SC, with support of independent consultants with strong technical skills. These studies involve technical knowledge in various areas, including remote sense analysis, setting up national MRV and REL, rural economy, social sciences, public administration and law. Hence, the approach is to tap into a broad range of expertise through studies to be launched throughout the process.

B. Financial Management

52. **A financial management (FM) assessment was carried out in accordance with the WBG policies OP/BP 10, and the "Principles Based Financial Management Practice Manual" issued by the Board on March 1, 2010.** The main FM risks relate to the lack of experience with WBG projects of the Implementing Entity, the FD of Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, which may result in errors or processing delays. The Implementing Entity will dedicate an FM officer within the REDD+ Unit, and the FM arrangements for the Readiness Preparation Activities will utilize existing financial management systems. Ongoing training will be provided as part of the WBG's regular FM implementation support.

The proposed financial management arrangements satisfy the financial management requirements stipulated in OP/BP 10.00.

53. **Accounting and Funds Flow.** The FD will be responsible for managing, monitoring, and maintaining accounting records for the Readiness Preparation Activities. The existing regulations and internal controls will be applied including the Financial Management Act 2004, Ministry of Fisheries and Forests Finance Manual 2013, and the various taxation and customs requirements of Fiji. The Financial Management Information System (Infoglobal) will be used. The Readiness Preparation Grant proceeds will flow from the WBG into the Designated Account (DA). The FD will be directly responsible for the management, maintenance and reconciliation of DA activities for the Readiness Preparation Activities, including preparation of withdrawal applications and supporting documents for WBG disbursements.

54. **Reporting and Audit.** Unaudited interim financial reports (IFRs) in a format acceptable to the WBG will be prepared by FD for the Readiness Preparation Activities on a half-yearly basis. IFRs will be forwarded to the WBG within 45 days of the end of each period. Financial Statements will be prepared annually in a format acceptable to the WBG. Annual audits of these Financial Statements, together with an associated management letter, will be required. It is envisaged that audits will be the responsibility of the Office of the Auditor General. The audited Financial Statements for the Readiness Preparation Activities, and management letter, must be submitted to the WBG within six months after the balance date.

55. **Supervision.** The FM arrangements for the Readiness Preparation Activities will be reviewed by the WBG FM staff based on the assessed risk rating and at least once per annum.

56. **Disbursement Methods.** Four disbursement methods will be available for the Readiness Preparation Activities: advance, reimbursement, direct payment, and special commitments. Supporting documents required for WBG disbursement under different disbursement methods will be documented in the Disbursement Letter issued by the WBG.

57. **Designated Account.** One designated account (DA) for the implementing agency in US Dollars will be established and reconciled monthly. The DA will be held at a bank acceptable to the WBG. The ceiling of the DA will be determined and documented in the Disbursement Letter. FCPF funds will be disbursed against eligible expenditures, as set out in the legal agreements.

58. **Disbursement Categories.** To be defined in legal agreements and includes goods, services, and training (inclusive of taxes and duties).

C. Procurement

59. **A procurement risk assessment was carried out and most of the issues/risks relate to potential delays to implementing the Readiness Preparation Activities.** For example, the FD has decided to hire a Technical Adviser (with some management functions) and this assignment is in the critical path for successful implementation. The FD will also have to undertake complex technical evaluations of proposals. To ensure smooth implementation the FD has agreed to prioritize the selection of the Technical Adviser and it is recommended that FD agree in advance with the WBG on selection criteria for members of the evaluation committee. A detailed risk mitigation plan is provided below in Table 5. A draft procurement plan has been prepared by the FD.

Table 5: Risk Mitigation Plan

Perceived Risk	Action	Timeframe
Delays due to uncertainty over who is accountable for which procurement decisions regarding individual consultants	Department to seek clarification from FPO about selection of individual consultants	Completed – Selection of Individual Consultants are to be done via FPO.
Delays due to lack of clarity about local taxation on consulting assignments	Department to consult with relevant agency (Tax Department) prepare a guidance note on the applicability of local taxes	After R-AN Review Meeting
Implementation delays if Technical Adviser not on board	Prioritize selection of Technical Adviser, implementation to be supervised by REDD+ focal point in the interim	During implementation
Weak procurement planning could lead to delayed implementation and ad hoc procurements	Department to use PROASYS to monitor procurement Department to consolidate procurement as much as feasible to minimize transactional costs and increase technical integrity of outputs	During implementation After R-AN Review Meeting
Implementation delays because no standardized documents for minor procurement	Department to consider/customize template procurement documents (Shopping and Individual Consultants)	After R-AN Review Meeting
Complexity of technical evaluations may cause extended time to complete selection	Agree on selection criteria for members of the evaluation committee, including technical expertise and review EC formation regularly	After R-AN Review Meeting
Delays in project or increase in claims due to slow contract implementation	Technical Adviser to establish Contract Management System Department to make use "Lump-Sum" type of contracts as much as possible	During implementation During implementation

60. **Procurement for the proposed Readiness Preparation Activities would be carried out in accordance with the WBG’s Guidelines**, including “Guidelines: Procurement Under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits” dated January 2011 and revised July 2014; and “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultant by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 and revised July 2014; and the specific provisions stipulated in the Grant Agreement. Procurement of Goods (Non Consulting Services): A single Supplier will be contracted to supply and install the “safeguards information system”. Procurement will be carried out via International Competitive Bidding (ICB) and with the use of the WBG’s Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) for Supply and Installation of IT Systems. This specialized SBD will provide the Department with bidding and contracting models that facilitate successful installation, integration, and operation of the system. In this arrangement the Supplier will assume responsibility for the design,

supply, and installation of the Digital Registry System defined by the Department mainly in terms of performance specifications. The Suppliers responsibility will go beyond the supply of whatever products or services the Department requests, and extends to the provision of any other products or services required to make the facility perform to specification. Goods estimated to cost less than US\$ 300,000 may be procured through Shopping. Direct Contracting may be used, but only in exceptional circumstances as stated in paragraph 3.7 of the Procurement Guidelines and in accordance with the Standard Contract put in place the Fiji's Procurement Office.

61. **Selection of Consultants:** Quality-and-Cost Based Selection would be the default method for large assignment. Consulting contracts expected less cost more than US\$ 300,000 may follow the method Selection Based on Consultants Qualifications. Least-Cost Selection may be adopted for assignments of routine nature and Quality Based Selection for complex assignments. Under the circumstances described in paragraph 3.9 of the Consultants Guidelines, a consultant may be selected under Single Source Selection basis. Individual consultants would be hired in accordance with the provisions of para. 5.1 to 5.5 of the Consultants Guidelines. Under the circumstances described in para. 5.6 of the Guidelines, individual consultants may be selected on sole source basis.

62. **Prior Review:** Prior review and procurement thresholds for the Readiness Preparation Activities are shown below and are to be reflected in the procurement plan.

Procurement Methods	Applicability	Prior Review Thresholds (contract value)*
Goods		
Shopping	Contract estimated to cost less than US\$ 300,000	First Contract
Direct Contracting	In accordance with the provisions set in Procurement Guidelines and Fiji Procurement Office Standard contract	>= US\$ 50,000
Selection Methods		
Consultants		
QCBS, LCS, QBS	In accordance with the provisions set in Consultant's Guidelines	>= US\$ 200,000
CQS	In accordance with the provisions set under paragraph 3.7 of the Consultant's Guidelines and contracts estimated to cost less than US\$ 300,000	>= US\$ 200,000
SSS	In accordance with the provisions set under paragraph 3.7 of the Consultant's Guidelines and contracts estimated to cost less than US\$ 300,000	All
Individuals' Competitive	In accordance with the provisions set under Section V of the Consultant's Guidelines	Selected contracts only and on an exceptional basis and based on a specific request from the TTL. To be indicated in the procurement plan on case by case basis.
Individuals' Sole Source	In accordance with the provisions set under paragraph 5.6 of the Consultant's Guidelines	All

63. **Frequency of Procurement Supervision:** In addition to the prior review carried out by the WBG, supervision missions to carry post-review of procurement activities would take place every 12 months. The post-review sampling ration would be 20% of contracts.

64. **Procurement Plan:** It was prepared and agreed upon prior to the R-AN review meeting and will be finalized prior to Grant signing. It will be available in the WBG's external website. It will be updated annually or as needed, to reflect implementation needs.

D. Social and Environmental (including Consultation, Participation, Disclosure and Safeguards)

65. **The Readiness Preparation Activities must comply with WB safeguard policies regarding the management of environmental and social impacts.** They will, in part, support the country's activities to identify the potential risks associated with REDD+ and mitigation options. In order to do this, the FCPF is using a SESA to integrate key environmental and social considerations into readiness by combining analytical and participatory approaches. The SESA allows: (i) social and environmental considerations to be integrated into the readiness process, in particular the REDD+ strategy; (ii) stakeholder participation in identifying and prioritizing key issues, assessment of policy, institutional and capacity gaps to manage these priorities and recommendations, and disclosure of findings in the REDD Country's progress reports on readiness preparation; (iii) an ESMF to be put in place to manage environmental and social risks and to mitigate potential adverse impacts; and (iv) development of a Resettlement Policy Framework or Process Framework (if required) to identify specific provisions to address potential displacement or restriction to and use of natural resources.

66. **The SESA will be the key instrument to identifying and addressing all environmental and social aspects, risks and impacts of the proposed REDD+ Strategy Options and activities.** In particular, the SESA will critically analyze REDD+ strategy options from a social and environmental point of view, with the aim of minimizing risks. This will include the development of criteria/indicators for the identification and prevention of social and environmental risks. It will also propose measures to mitigate environmental and socio-economic risks and impacts during REDD+ strategy implementation and develop a multi-stakeholder engagement approach (that will be part of the Consultation and Participation Plan) to minimize risks and adverse impacts. Options will be identified and discussed to improve sustainable development impacts of REDD+ activities as well as any associated measures that will complement climate change adaptation strategies.

67. **The final stage of the SESA process would be the development and validation of the ESMF.** The ESMF provides a framework for managing and mitigating social and environmental risks and impacts associated with REDD+ operations. It will ensure compliance of proposed REDD+ interventions with WB Safeguard Policies, most notably Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01). The framework will also pay particular attention to the "do no harm" aspects of the applicable safeguard policies, such as Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12) with its focus on the restriction of access to resources in legally designated protected areas and on physical and economic displacement. At the same time, the framework will identify ways to maximize benefits with regard to social, cultural and economic well-being of particularly forest dependent populations and marginalized groups within these populations; and prevent or mitigate any negative impacts on the forest biodiversity and wider ecosystem. Given that Indigenous Peoples will form the overwhelming majority of people in the project area, elements of an Indigenous Peoples Plan will be incorporated into overall project design. Guidance for this is provided in the SESA Terms of Reference. Other Policies to be triggered include: OP/BP 4.04 on Natural Habitats; OP/BP 4.36 on Forests; OP/BP 4.11 on Physical Cultural Resources; and OP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples.

68. **The national institutional capacity for implementing WB environmental and social safeguards is limited.** Fiji has robust environmental and social policies, laws and regulations. Furthermore there are existing legal and regulatory frameworks relating to forest and other sectors that provide good basis for the governance in relation to REDD+. However, effective coordination between relevant institutions across sectors and institutional capacity to implement decisions will need to be

investigated and strengthened during the SESA process. As mentioned a SWG is already in place and has been operational since 2009. This group has done considerable work on assessing social and environmental impacts/risks associated with REDD+. They are currently putting together social and environmental indicators for REDD+. It is expected that this Working Group will work closely with the National REDD+ SC and the SESA Consultants to mainstream social and environmental issues in all the analytic work, combined with consultations required for the various activities funded under readiness. The SESA working group would also help the REDD+ Unit to mainstream gender issues into the readiness process.

69. **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. 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 also gain 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 a 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 FD, Ministry of Education, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, MoFA, DoE, GIZ, Secretariat of Pacific Community and NGOs working on environmental education, such as Live & Learn, Conservation International, WWF, and Nature Fiji.

1. Social (including Safeguards)

70. **Approximately 63% of the population of Fiji is indigenous, known as iTaukei. More than 80 percent of the total land area³⁰ is owned by iTaukei under communal ownership arrangements through traditional landowning groups called *mataqali*.** The rights of iTaukei customary landowners are protected under national law. iTaukei landowners are able to lease their customary lands with government support and a benefits sharing mechanism to distribute rental payments equally amongst *mataqali* is in place (note: female and male *mataqali* members are considered equal under this arrangement). Lease agreements can be long-term (usually 30 to 99 years), therefore land use decisions and lease agreements have intergenerational impacts, which are likely to be adverse in circumstances where legislation and rules remain unclear, or consultation on lease arrangements has been insufficient. In addition, gender equity implications may be present since many Fijian women are married out of their home village where they are identified as *mataqali*. Specific efforts will need to be made to ensure women's participation in consultation activities and decision-making processes.

71. **Land leasing arrangements are complex, land valuation methods vary and not all land is clearly registered or surveyed, all of which have the potential to cause conflict or disputes within *mataqali*, and between the government, *mataqali*, and leaseholders.** Customary land ownership has also created local power imbalances between iTaukei and Fijians of Indian descent (who comprise 37% of the population), and land lease arrangements are often cited as a key constraint to sustainable agricultural land use. For example, many individual farmers on short to medium term leases (mostly Fijians of Indian descent and more recently, Fijians of Chinese descent) are not willing to invest in long-term measures to improve economic viability of their farm land through soil conservation measures, planting tree crops, or agro forestry on short seven-year rotations due to temporary nature of land lease agreements and

³⁰ Estimates range from 83 to 88 percent.

insecurity of land tenure. There is a risk that if REDD+ consultations and Strategy Options are narrowly-focused and only consider the interests of the iTaukei (which constitute majority of Fiji's landowners), the interests of Fijians of Indian descent and other minorities and/or land users or leaseholders may be excluded. This is particularly relevant considering the long-term (>50 years) nature of impacts and benefits from REDD+ Strategy Options and activities anticipated.

72. Although female and male *mataqali* members share equal land rights, dialogue around land tenure tends to be male-dominated, and further analysis on the socio-cultural factors influencing women's marginalized from decision-making on land use and management and lease agreements under the SESA is required. Fiji has a National Gender Policy, but gender mainstreaming across government programs is in its early stages and gender analysis by the Ministry is undergoing an incremental scaling up through various capacity building initiatives. The SESA process will also take into consideration that men and women's knowledge of and management strategies for forests are directly related to their use and dependence on forest resources. Consequently, SESA will also include a robust gender analysis effort focusing on the role of women in decision-making about land use, resource management and benefit sharing arrangements.

73. The development of the REDD+ Policy and R-PP involved extensive consultation at all levels. Fiji supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and has ratified the International Labor Organisation's Convention 169 and thus is striving to implement principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for REDD+ planning and activities. With regard to land development and land use change, consultation with affected communities including Indigenous Peoples occurs in practice to some extent, and there is an awareness of FPIC principles as demonstrated in the C&P Plan and ambitions of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to develop FPIC guidelines for REDD+. Nonetheless, FPIC is not stipulated in national law and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs is currently developing national FPIC guidelines for Fiji (based on the Emalu pilot site). This will be taken into consideration during the SESA process, which will however only need to be compliant to the WB safeguards requirement (OP 4.10) as FPIC is not yet legally binding in Fiji.

74. Although formal grievance procedures for iTaukei land disputes are evident, this is not comprehensive or fully inclusive of all parties involved. As such, there is risk of excluding Fijians of Indian descent, other ethnic groups, women, and vulnerable persons, including those without secure land tenure, or in situations where power imbalances exist. Clear methodologies for inclusive consultation, the integration of stakeholder input, effective and transparent grievance redress and a suitable benefits sharing model relevant to all stakeholders will be critical components of the SESA process.

2. Environmental (including Safeguards)

75. No on the ground REDD+ pilot projects will be financed under the Readiness Preparation Grant, but strategic environmental issues pertaining to the REDD+ strategy options will be explored and reviewed to ensure they "do no harm" and are environmentally sustainable. These issues include biodiversity and ecosystem services; water quality; soil condition; food security; and energy supply. The SESA and ESMF will define how the REDD+ strategy options will address potential environmental risks and impacts and identify key safeguard instruments to be used. As part of the SESA policy, laws and regulation review, the following Acts and policies will be reviewed:

76. Fiji's Environment Management Act of 2005 (EMA) established the National Environment Council and provides legal basis for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of proposed development projects. Under this Act, the DoE shall maintain an Environmental Impact Assessment Unit which is responsible for administering EIAs. The EMA also empowers the DoE to monitor the implementation of environmental laws under the jurisdiction of other government ministries such as those

found in the Forest Decree and the Mining Act. In 2007, Fiji passed the Environment Management Regulation which governs the current EIA process. There is adequate capability within DoE on the management of the EIA process and expertise are locally available in terms of the conduct and review of EIAs (e.g., Academic Professors/Researchers in the University of South Pacific). Conducting a SESA is not new in Fiji as one has recently been completed for the tourism sector.

77. **Fiji has three laws which protect the environment and biodiversity: the EMA (2005), the Endangered and Protected Species Act of 2002 (EPSA), and the Land Conservation and Improvement Act (1985).** The EMA requires the Conservator of Forest (as an approving authority) to direct that an EIA process be carried out for logging operations that are likely to cause significant environmental damage or that could jeopardize the continued existence of endangered species or their habitats or harm mangrove conservation areas. The EPSA on the other hand enacts the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to which Fiji is a signatory. However, the biodiversity provisions in both EMA and EPSA have not yet been integrated into the approval procedures under the Forest Decree of 1992. Meanwhile, a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) which emphasizes the conservation and sustainable management and development of Fiji's natural forests have been prepared and the Forest Policy Statement which 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.

78. **The iTaukei Land Trust Act allows the TLTB to enter conservation lease agreements on behalf of the *mataqali*.** The Forest Decree (1992) allows the Minister to declare a nature reserve if there is consent from the *mataqali*, which transfers the management rights of the land to the Conservator of Forests and therefore customary access rights to hunt, fish and utilize natural resources are thus surrendered.

3. Consultation, Participation and Information Disclosure

i. Experience to Date

79. **More than 20 national-level REDD+ stakeholder consultations, awareness-raising workshops and seminars have taken place in Fiji.** The stakeholders targeted both at the national and regional levels include the following categories: (i) the National REDD+ SC including sectors engaged in land use; (ii) focus groups representing forest-dependent communities and Indigenous Peoples; (iii) Provincial Council heads, the so-called *Roko tui*; (iv) the private sector (Fiji Pine Trust, Fiji Mahogany Trust, Fiji Pine Ltd, Fiji Hardwood Corporation); and (v) civil society and Academia.

80. **In 2011, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and MoFA recognized the need to standardize the way information regarding climate change and REDD+ was being developed and translated for indigenous Fijian communities.** Because certain climate change terms and words were translated differently by different agencies, the Ministries took the initiative to develop the iTaukei Glossary of Climate Change Terms in 2011. 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

81. **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 as well as information centers are set up during national events, and REDD+ panel discussion are held in both national and regional events. Fiji's FD, 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.

ii. Proposal Going Forward

82. **The R-PP includes a C&P Plan and the GoF intends to develop national guidelines for FPIC consultations, which will be particularly relevant for REDD.** The C&P Plan outlines key principles on which consultation is based, which mirrors some of the requirements for FPIC. Although the Plan identifies key stakeholders and appropriate engagement tools, the C&P Plan does not differentiate between consultation, engagement and participation, nor specify the role and responsibility of each stakeholder at various levels. The appointment of a Communications Officer during readiness will greatly assist in developing and refining the C&P Plan further, as well as managing information dissemination and collecting stakeholder feedback in a centralized manner. Capacity gaps at decentralized levels are to be addressed in the early stages of readiness so as to avoid misinformation or miscommunication causing conflict or frustration amongst stakeholders, and also avoid consultation fatigue. Feedback mechanism will incorporate a grievance redress mechanism (as detailed in the ESMF) to log, track and resolve grievances as they arise. It is recommended that the C&P Plan is expanded to ensure a socially inclusive process throughout the readiness phase that is inclusive of all Fijians regardless of their ethnicity or gender.

4. Safeguards Policies Triggered

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
<p>This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDD+ Strategy Options, which may have potential long-term impacts on forest, land use, and landowner and leaseholder rights.</p> <p>The assessments and plans generated by the Readiness Preparation Activities will be informed by policy requirements of OP 4.01 and other relevant safeguard policies. The potential social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ Strategy Options will be assessed through a SESA, with TOR cleared by the WB.</p> <p>Component 3 will support the development and establishment of a comprehensive monitoring system for non-carbon impacts of REDD+, including safeguards as well as co-benefits. Activities will review existing monitoring institutions regarding safeguards and then build a robust safeguards information system.</p>			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
<p>This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDD+ Strategy Options, which are expected to have significant positive environmental impacts to natural habitats due to a reduction in forest loss. This policy is triggered to ensure the REDD+ Strategy Options take into account biodiversity conservation as well as the conservation of critical natural habitats.</p>			
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
<p>This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDD+ Strategy Options, which are expected to have significant positive impacts on the health and quality of forests as the overall objective is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. This policy is triggered due to the potential changes in the management, protection, or utilization of natural forests or plantations that could arise from REDD+ Strategy Options and activities which may affect the rights and welfare of people and their level of dependence upon or interaction with forests. Triggering of this Policy will ensure that the work carried out with WBG funding is properly informed in relation to potential impacts on Forests.</p>			
Pest Management (OP 4.09)	X		
<p>This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDD+ Strategy</p>			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Options, which might lead to agricultural intensification, and/or reforestation and forest management programs that require pest management. The REDD+ Strategy Options and SESA will address critical issues related to pest management.			
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)	X		
This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDD+ Strategy Options, which could affect areas containing sites with physical cultural resources (e.g. monuments, historical buildings, archaeological or paleontological sites, holy sites, etc.). The SESA (and ESMF) will assess if ground implementation of REDD+ Strategy Options is likely to include these sites and ensure the appropriate measures are adopted in order to protect them.			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)	X		
The Readiness Preparation Activities are likely to benefit Indigenous People and occur predominately on the customary lands of Indigenous Peoples (referred to as iTaukei). The application of this policy will ensure that consultation regarding REDD+ Strategy Options is culturally appropriate and inclusive, and provides evidence of broad community support for REDD+ activities on their lands. The nature and extent of impacts on Indigenous Peoples will be determined through a social assessment (SA) as part of the SESA. Given that Indigenous Peoples will form the overwhelming majority of people in the project area, elements of an Indigenous Peoples Plan will be incorporated into overall project design. Guidance for this is provided in the SESA Terms of Reference.			
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
Since REDD+ Strategy Options are under development, potential impacts, including the type and extent of potential land acquisition, economic or physical displacement or access restrictions to resources, remains unknown. This policy is triggered to ensure landowners, leaseholders and land users and forest dependent communities and/or individuals are properly consulted and not coerced or forced to accept or commit to REDD+ activities or other forest management/reforestation activities involuntarily, and that best practice approaches as informed by OP 4.12 are adopted. The SESA will identify and assess the potential for any involuntary land acquisition issues or restriction of access to natural resources to occur, and management processes will be embedded into the ESMF. The ESMF will include, as required, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and/or Process Framework, all of which will be part of the SESA, in order to ensure avoidance, minimization, and/or appropriate compensation for adversely affected persons or populations in downstream implementation. Sub-component 1.2 of the Readiness Preparation Grant will fund assessment of existing grievance mechanisms at the national and decentralized levels, assess the capacity of institutions and customary mechanisms that would handle grievances, and support their strengthening specifically for REDD+.			
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X	
The REDD+ strategies and activities will not involve the construction of, nor will be affected by, new or existing dams.			
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X	
The REDD+ strategies and activities will not affect any international waterways.			
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X	
The REDD+ strategies and activities will not be located in any disputed areas.			

Annex 1: Systematic Operations Risk-Rating Tool (SORT)

Risk Categories	Rating (H, S, M or L)
1. Political and governance	S
2. Macroeconomic	M
3. Sector strategies and policies	M
4. Technical design of project or program	M
5. Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	M
6. Fiduciary	M
7. Environment and social	H
8. Stakeholders	H
Overall	H

Annex 2: Preparation Schedule and Resources

Preparation Schedule				
Milestone	Basic	Forecast	Actual	
AIS Release	June 5, 2014			
Concept Review	January 29, 2015			
Auth Appr/Negs (in principle)	N/A			
Bank Approval	February 23, 2015			
Sector Unit Estimate of Resources Required from Preparation through Approval				
Source of Funds	Preparation Expenses to Date (USD)	Estimate of Resource Requirements (USD)		
		Fixed	Variable	
Bank Budget				
Trust Funds				
Team Composition				
Bank Staff				
Name	Title	Specialization	Unit	UPI
Stefanie Sieber	Environmental Economist	Task Team Leader	GENDR	364876
Haddy Jatou Sey	Senior Social Development Specialist	Co-Task Team Leader	GCCGT	146523
Cristiano Costa e Silva Nunes	Senior Procurement Specialist	Procurement	GGODR	280057
David Whitehead	Financial Management Specialist	Financial Management	GGODR	320696
Marjorie Mpundu	Senior Counsel	Operational Lawyer	LEGES	289323
Vidya Narasimhan	Finance Officer	Disbursement	WFALN	255977
Ross James Butler	ETC	Social Safeguards Specialist	GURDR	458893
Fnu Hanny	Program Assistant	Program Assistant	GENDR	282386
Non Bank Staff				
Name	Title	Office Phone	City	
Jonas Bautista	Environmental Safeguards Specialist		Manila, Philippines	
Kenneth M. Green	Senior Safeguards Specialist		Washington DC, USA	

Claire Forbes	Social Safeguards Specialist		Brisbane, Australia
Carly Green	MRV/REL Specialist		Lake Hawea, New Zealand

Additional Information (Optional)

Annex 3: R-PP Submitted by the REDD Country Participant

The R-PP can be found on the FCPF website at <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fiji>

Annex 4: TOR for Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for Fiji REDD+ Readiness

1. INTRODUCTION

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*. The Fiji National Forest Policy emphasizes the application of sustainable forest management principles and improving the livelihoods of rural forest owners. REDD+ is seen 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 recognizes 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.

Fiji has advanced in its national readiness process since the first multi-stakeholder national REDD+ consultations in 2009. The National REDD+ Policy endorsed in 2010 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 also 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.

The implementation of activities for readiness is overseen by the National REDD+ Steering Committee (REDD+ SC). The committee is made up of twenty agencies from various sectors. The Forestry Department (FD) is the lead implementation agency for REDD+ in the country. The Government of Germany, through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), has been supporting readiness efforts in the country since 2009. In 2012, the Government of Fiji began allocating F\$ 300,000 per annum into this readiness effort.

Fiji hopes to further recognize and institutionalize numerous advancements, such as stakeholder consultation guidelines for developing REDD+ projects in communally-owned forests. 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 will 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.

1.1 Fiji's progress in REDD+ readiness

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. It is important to note that Fiji's national REDD+ strategy to date is much broader than the strategy options proposed in the 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 the R-PP.

In addressing social safeguards, Fiji already has in place strong legal frameworks that protect the rights of the iTaukei (indigenous Fijians). This includes a grievance redress mechanism and a benefit distribution structure. However, additional inputs will be necessary to further strengthen these structures to specifically address REDD+ safeguards requirements. In addition, structures addressing the needs and concerns of the non-iTaukei resource owners and land users will need to be strengthened.

Fiji has been undertaking activities in the Emalu national pilot site to come up with a practical approach that ensures a free, prior and informed consent process. This encompasses a consultation approach that confirms all true resource owners are present and participating (through cross-referencing with the *vola ni kawa bula* – the registry of all iTaukei members which identifies the clan, tribe and village they belong to), that cultural and traditional land agreements are recognized, that the externalities affecting decision-making of the resource owners are identified (e.g. traditional obligations and the church can be a strong influence) and that clear communication instruments to reach an often dispersed landowning group are established.

At the national scale, training of community facilitators have been carried out with specialized trainings for women and youth groups. 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 have undergone training to be now part of the REDD+ community trainer/facilitator resource team. The training of the iTaukei women's group serves to promote awareness amongst women who under Fiji's iTaukei land law have equal landowning rights as their male clan members. In addition to the women and youths, the Provincial Officers have also undergone training. The development of a pool of local community facilitators for REDD+ is ongoing and it is anticipated that these trained personnel will be the driving force in reaching out to local communities all over the country. Meetings between the provincial officers and extension officers will be held regularly to ensure that work is carried out efficiently and information is consistent.

Valuable information has also been sourced from the pilot site on biodiversity indicators and focal species for national biodiversity monitoring. With the Emalu pilot site identified as one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in Fiji, good baseline information on a pristine and intact forest was determined. The use of experienced and competent local experts (instead of international experts) and local graduate students from the Fiji-based University of the South Pacific and the utilization of trained local officers and field assistants reduces costs by half and at the same contributes to strengthening of local capacities development.

At the national level, a forest cover change assessment has been undertaken and the national forest carbon stock estimated. Stakeholder consultation workshops have been conducted in 2014 to draft a national biodiversity monitoring plan. The monitoring of forest biodiversity will be managed under the Fiji National Forest Monitoring System (to be developed through FCPF funds) and fed into the safeguards information system (managed by the FD)

1.2 Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation - potential strategy options

The following table outlines the main potential strategy options that address the identified multi-sectorial drivers. This list is necessarily broad and these potential activities will be more fully assessed and prioritized and certain strategic options will also be removed if not considered viable. The strategy options result from a broad stakeholder workshop where participants identified what they thought were the drivers most relevant for Fiji and on how best to address clearance and forest degradation.

The table below provides a summary that groups the options considered most desirable and feasible.

Driver/Reference Activity	Strategy Options	Co-Benefits of Strategy Option
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a national land use plan (that accommodates local land use patterns) • Review policies and legislations that encourage unsustainable clearing of forests for agriculture • Rehabilitate degraded sites and grasslands, for agriculture development to avoid farmer encroachment into forests • Raise awareness on and enforcement of the Land Use Capability Classification System • Promote sustainable farming approaches and technologies • Agroforestry and multi-cropping systems that promote the inclusion of trees in farming • Intensive farming to make optimal use of small areas of land • Diversify cash crops • Support value-adding of forest produce and create niche markets for forest communities to access high-end markets (e.g. hotels) • Introduce, promote and invest in alternative livelihoods (aside from cash crops) • Establish and train local landcare and forestcare groups to facilitate sustainable land use in forest areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall sustainable management of natural resources • More income generating opportunities for farmers • Higher crop and income diversification leads to increased resilience against climate change impacts and natural disasters • Increased appreciation of economic value of forests • Local communities are skilled in various SLM technologies
Large-scale forest conversion by local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local land use plans with communities and relevant supporting agencies to promote sustainable forest management • Conduct educational programs through the Provincial Offices and Divisional Offices • Promote eco-tourism in feasible forest areas • Conduct biodiversity assessment of these sites and inform and educate local communities • Implement Fiji's NBSAP and proposed protected area network • Ecosystem valuation • Promote value adding technologies for forest products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity conservation • Better understanding of value of standing forests • Broader income generating base
Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National land use planning where ecological and social values of forests are considered against mining impacts • Review legislation to ensure more thorough ecological and social consultations and assessments are carried out • Enforce EIA and HIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in pollution and adverse health impacts caused by mining • Protection of forest ecosystem services
Infrastructure development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated land use planning to also include socio-economic and ecosystem impact assessments • Sustainable Infrastructure Development • Proposed infrastructure planning and development to be captured in the national land use plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of mangroves and ecosystems • More sustainable development of the local population • A more intact environment will increase resiliency of infrastructure and local communities against climate change impacts and natural disasters
Forest fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities have an

Driver/Reference Activity	Strategy Options	Co-Benefits of Strategy Option
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement • Local community awareness and education programs • Active community involvement in enforcement and patrolling (fire wardens) 	increased awareness and appreciation on the value of forests
Unsustainable timber harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce the national harvesting code of practice • Afforestation/Reforestation programs to increase timber supply • Promote reduced impact logging • Improved Law Enforcement of SFM • Replant abandoned plantation sites • Education/Awareness for small-scale timber operators • Promote the utilization of lesser known commercial timber species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity conservation • Economic diversification • Improved capacity and education for small-scale timber operators • Added value to standing forests

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.

1.3 Evaluating and choosing strategy options

A REDD+ Activity Matrix will be designed as a tool for strategic decision-making tool related to REDD+ implementation. The REDD+ Activity Matrix will priorities 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 analyses economic, social and environmental trade-offs of alternative land allocation and management scenarios, based on locally-derived information and the results of studies to be undertaken for assessing the multi-sectorial drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and assessment of options to address these. 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, prioritizing the most urgent REDD+ activities based on criteria agreed with all relevant stakeholders in a participatory manner. The prioritization/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 should 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. A policy and strategy analysis will provide an overview of the status quo and will take place before REDD+ strategy option development. Thereafter, the integration of the selected strategy options will be integrated into these policies and strategies.

1.4 Cost benefits analysis

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.³¹

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.

1.5. Links between the SESA and the REDD+ strategy options

The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) serves to further assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of the different strategy options and to identify to what extent different safeguards will apply for the Fiji REDD+. These potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the different options need to be fully assessed. A preliminary risk assessment of the different strategy options is shown in the table below.

Preliminary Risk Assessment of identified Strategy Options

Strategy Option	Risk and Impact	Significance
Agriculture Develop a national land use plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of commitment from the all the involved agencies • Weak enforcement on the ground 	High
Review policies and legislations that promote unsustainable forest clearance for agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of commitment from responsible sectors • Economic needs take priority 	High
Promote sustainable farming approaches and technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak institutional capacity for implementation • Technology not accepted by farmers • Poor market demand & availability for crops • 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnect between community (producer) and the markets. • Lack of consistency in supply and meeting demand • Weak government mechanisms to strengthen connection between local communities and markets 	High
Rehabilitate degraded sites and grasslands for agriculture development to avoid farmer encroachment into forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of harmonization of inter-sectoral policies (FD, Agriculture, Environment) 	High
Raise awareness on and enforcement of the Land Use Capability Classification System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No enforcement • Lack of personnel for training and awareness 	

³¹ Vickers et al. “Community guidelines for accessing forestry voluntary carbon markets” FAO RAP publication 2012/16; Bangkok.

Strategy Option	Risk and Impact	Significance
2. Eco-tourism in forested areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of tourists • Accessibility (remoteness) • Loss of interest of communities • Clashing of traditional and business cultures • Poor business management • Social and gender issues 	Medium
3. Implementation of Fiji's NBSAP and implementation of proposed protected area network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor management by responsible agency • Poor financial management and disbursement of funds to implementing agencies • Lack of capacity (trained personnel) • Sourcing funds through Department of Environment/ lack of formal structure (formalize the protected areas network) 	High
4. SFM and Forest Enhancement Activities: Forest management by local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of legal protection , • Illegal logging • Encroachment • Unsustainable subsistence utilization of forest products • Uninformed new village arrivals / need for regular awareness (high villager turnover) • Traditional agreements (on land utilization by other groups) existing that conflict with project • Conflicting advice from other sectors e.g. agricultural extension promoting crop production 	Medium
Afforestation/ Reforestation programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire • Free roaming animals , • Pest and diseases (weeds, invasive alien species) • Extreme weather conditions (e.g. prolonged droughts, high rainfall) • Conflicting plans from other sectors e.g. factory, etc. • Contamination of genetic pool (bringing in exotic species) • Introduction of incorrect species during inappropriate succession phase of forest growth 	High
Reduced Impact Logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enforcement of Fiji Code of Harvesting Practice • Lack of capacity and resources for enforcement, 	High
Improved Law Enforcement of SFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsecure lease • Lack of long term capacity for landowners to develop and manage the plantations 	High
Expand Tree plantations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of ideal tree species (market demands, resilient, fast growing etc.) 	Medium
5. Sustainable Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National economic drive for development (tourism etc.) • Weak inter-sectoral decision making and planning • Noncompliance of process (EIA, etc.) 	Medium
6. National land use planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of inter-sectoral collaboration • Lack of legislation 	High

Source: R-PP Stakeholder Workshop, 20 June 2013

1.6 Consultation and Participation plan

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 (described in R-PP, Component 1b).

On 18 June 2013, a Consultation and Participation (C&P) Plan was collectively developed in a broad stakeholder workshop. The C&P Plan was shared with the National REDD+ SC in its entirety on July 18th 2013, 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. The consultation and participation plan was designed following the FCPF and UN-REDD Joint Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ readiness and is structured according to those guidelines.

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 terms of the consultation and participation process are defined as follow:

- 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, 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* (landowning clan) members before consultations. This includes the formal identification and location of clan members using the iTaukei landowning registry (*vola ni kawa bula*). This would be crucial especially for women clan members who have equal landowning rights to the clan land but are usually living away from the village because of marriage.
- 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 National REDD+ SC secretariat

Consultations carried out will also serve as the cornerstone for the SESA and 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. These processes will be streamlined so that the consultations and communication with stakeholders is consistent and straight-forward. The Consultation and Participation Plan will be continuously adapted according to the experiences in the field.

2. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

2.1 Principles

The work and deliverable required in this contract includes a collection of linked activities: (i) development of the SESA, (ii) an ESMF; (iii) analysis of land issues and if necessary, the preparation of a Resettlement Policy/Process Framework; and (iv) the identification of the elements of a Safeguard Information System. These activities will support the integration of social and environmental safeguards into the REDD+ policy development. Each of these initiatives is discussed in detail below. A key overarching principle for this consultancy is that the outputs need to be generated in an integrated manner in tandem with the other REDD+ readiness processes. There needs to be close coordination with the National REDD+ SC, and depending on the specific activities, cooperation in planning, undertaking and analyzing the results with designated stakeholders and as appropriate, other consultants.

The development of the SESA will be done in tandem with the evaluation of the strategic options described in the Fiji R-PP, 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 will value iTaukei (indigenous Fijians) principles and traditional authority and will include processes to build these principles into the design. The Safeguards Working Group (SWG) of the National REDD+ SC will provide oversight and coordination for the SESA and other safeguards reports described below.

2.2 Objectives

The core of this consultancy is the SESA that will assess the potential environmental and social risks and impacts, both positive and negative, of the proposed REDD+ strategy. The SESA makes use of a variety of tools, and 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”.

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 WB 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 process will comply with FCPF guidance on SESA for REDD+.

The SESA will integrate environmental and social considerations in the Fiji REDD+ strategy options (Fiji R-PP, Component 2b) and will advise on a framework for managing potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the implementation of these strategy options (Fiji R-PP, Component 2c).

The SESA aims to:

- Critically analyze REDD+ strategy options from a social and environmental point of view, with the aim of minimizing risks. This will include the development of criteria/indicators for the identification and prevention of social and environmental risks;
- Propose measures to mitigate environmental and socio-economic risks and impacts during REDD+ strategy implementation;
- Develop a multi-stakeholder engagement approach (that will be part of the Consultation and Participation Plan) to minimize risks and adverse impacts; and
- Identify and discuss options to improve sustainable development impacts of REDD+ activities as well as any associated measures that will complement climate change adaptation strategies.

The outcome of abovementioned assessments will lead to the development of mitigation, risk management and capacity building measures that will be defined in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). If found necessary, this will include the application of appropriate measures to avoid or properly compensate for displacement and continued access and use of resources as part of the Resettlement Policy/Process Framework. The SESA will also provide the foundation for developing a national safeguard information system, which will be developed to assess and monitor how safeguards are addressed by Fiji's REDD+ activities.

3. SESA AND SAFEGUARDS WORK PLAN

This section describes the tasks to be undertaken to ensure proper SESA undertaking and associated safeguard implementation and documentation. Since this is the key building block for all 4 consulting products, the early work plan and budget preparation should cover all required safeguard products and outputs.

Task 1: Stakeholder analysis and final work plan development

This phase builds on the consultations carried out during the R-PP formulation. Firstly the consultants should carry out a stakeholder gap analysis to identify any relevant stakeholders that might not have been considered during the R-PP formulation phase. This would especially target forest resource owner representatives, forest users of all ethnicities, the private sector, women and youth representatives, and government and non-governmental agencies working in the forestry and land use sectors. Since this is part of the early phase of the contract, it is understood that most of this analysis can be based on document review and discussions with key REDD+ SC members.

Secondly, the consultants should facilitate the development of an inception report that contains a detailed work plan and budget for the SESA and other safeguards products. This will be carried out following a participatory consultation processes with relevant stakeholders. The consultations will also include a review of the current Consultation and Participation plan, as presented in the Fiji R-PP, as this plan will guide the consultation and participation activities for the SESA. The development of the work plan will be coordinated with the preparation of the REDD+ strategy options to ensure consistency of timelines, in particular for consultation activities. The consultants will work closely with the SWG to get feedback on the Work Plan and budget.

The output of this step is a draft Inception Report with a detailed work plan and budget covering all safeguard related products including a revised consultation and participation plan.

Task 2: Launching the SESA and Safeguards Work plan

This second step is to validate and gather endorsement of the SESA and safeguards work plan. The consultants will support the National REDD+ SC in presenting the draft safeguards work plan and budget in a broad national stakeholder validation workshop in order to define the legitimacy of the work plan and all subsequent stakeholder consultation and participation processes. The consultants should incorporate the comments from the validation workshop to write the final Work plan ³². The final work plan will also be publicly disclosed through other appropriate means and platforms.

The output of this step is a validated SESA and Safeguards work plan and budget.

Task 3: Situational Analysis

The aim of this step is to collect and analyze baseline information that is necessary to identify the relationship between REDD+ policies and land use; existing environmental and social issues related to REDD+ policies; relevant sectoral policies and institutional gaps; and key stakeholders that are associated with these issues/gaps identified.

Fiji has been implementing REDD-readiness activities since 2009 and therefore, useful information and lessons are already available with regards to environmental and social issues that pertain to the implementation of REDD+ activities. This includes, for example, the current development of the national biodiversity monitoring framework and the REDD+ community consultation and participation processes being undertaken in the pilot sites and more broadly in across the country.

Lessons learned from participatory environmental impact assessments in the mining and forestry sectors must be fully assessed. The EIA process undertaken for activities that are relevant to REDD+ and surveys conducted in the REDD+ pilot sites can provide a baseline for biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring.

The consultants should undertake the following activities:

- a) Assessment of existing information, policies, regulations, procedures and institutional structures that are supporting the implementation of environmental and social safeguards in Fiji.
- b) Assessment of existing land tenure and land rights, conflict resolution mechanisms, and equitable distribution of benefits including benefits for the resource owners and other indirect and co-benefits.
- c) Assessment of key stakeholders including a gender assessment on key issues.
- d) Assessment of current progress in Fiji with regards to addressing social and environment risks relating to REDD+ (includes drawing from information from the current C&P process) including an analysis of the institutional arrangements for coordinating the integration of environmental and social issues in REDD+ readiness.

The output of this step is a report on the situational analyses on the social and environmental issues relating to REDD+ implementation in Fiji.

³² The Fiji REDD+ focal point will prepare a cabinet information paper on the final SESA workplan to be presented to cabinet to secure official support and ensure it is recognized within government processes. This is not the responsibility of the consultants, but they will support the focal point in preparing necessary documentation and presentation material.

Task 4: Identification of key environmental and social issues

Following from the situational analysis above and through the application of appropriate analytical tools, this step aims at identifying environmental and social risks and impacts associated with deforestation and forest degradation/strategy options in Fiji.

The SESA consultants should conduct this analysis using spatial analysis, case studies and participatory rural appraisal methods. Spatial analysis will be applied in mapping and for overlaying different sets of information to identify critical issues and specific geographic areas with environmental and social risks and impacts. Appropriate case studies will be used to show opportunity costs of different land uses including environmental and ecosystems valuation. Case studies will also help to dig deeper into key issues, inter-sectoral linkages, and potential policy trade-offs in key areas. Participatory rural appraisal would be the main vehicle for identifying key environmental and social issues at the community level.

The consultants in coordination with the SWG will produce a scoping report that will, among others:

1. Analyze critical institutional, legal, regulatory, policy and capacity gaps underlying the key environmental and social issues identified and formulate policy recommendations for a policy framework to address key environmental and social impacts, and for addressing institutional and governance weaknesses. This includes identifying gender concerns.
2. Discuss key forest areas land use trade-offs by analyzing the opportunity cost of conserving forests and other proposed REDD+ activities versus developing these areas into alternative land uses such as housing/settlement, industrial estates, agriculture, among others.
3. Identify any gaps in knowledge where additional data-gathering and analysis may be needed.
4. Map environmental/forest hotspots that are under threat. This will involve, amongst other things:
 - a) Construction of a base map (first layer), using information on forest cover (stratified forest classes if available), mangroves, watersheds, water bodies, and special forest ecosystems, including biodiversity hotspots, protected areas and sites of local significance.
 - b) Mapping of main economic activities in forest areas and surroundings including but not limited to logging, farming, agriculture, mining, roads, settlements (including squatter settlements in mangroves) and tourism. The map will include information on existing land tenure and lease boundaries and village locations (second layer).
 - c) Mapping of existing and, where possible, large scale infrastructure such as hydro-dams and reservoirs (third layer).
 - d) Superimposition of these layers of information, and other relevant existing resource maps, to define critical forest areas that are currently and/or potentially under environmental stress.
 - e) Examination of specific environmental issues by using participatory consultation approaches and analysis of case studies.
5. Map areas with high social vulnerabilities and areas of cultural significance. This will involve:
 - a) Construction of a base map (first layer) of significant communities in and around forest and mangrove areas, including key demographic indicators such as number of inhabitants, ethnicity, and land use practice.
 - b) Map of existing land leases and other land use tenements such as agriculture leases, commercial leases, reserved forests, mining leases, mineral exploration tenements and land bank allocations and other development leases (second layer).
 - c) Map of culturally significant sites as defined by the Fiji Museum Database and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (third layer)
 - d) Map of communities vulnerable to impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Reference can be made to the vulnerable community mapping undertaken by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Climate Change Division and the National Disaster Management Office. There are implications on this as it affects the socio-economic status of forest resource owners and the possibility of villages and settlements relocating to forest areas (fourth layer).

- e) Superimposition of the above layers of information, and other relevant resource maps, to define critical social issues in forest areas.
6. Examination of specific social issues by using participatory consultation approaches and analysis of case studies to document critical interactions and synergy of different social factors affecting forest utilization in Fiji.

Building on the evidence and results of these analyses, the consultants should produce a report of key environmental and social risks and impacts associated with deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji.

The output of this step is a report that will inform the stakeholder consultations for the selection of the SESA’s environmental and social priorities.

Task 5: Identification of environmental and social priorities

Based on the results of the scoping report from Task 4, consultations will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders to identify environmental and social priorities. The approach will follow the terms of the consultation and participation process as defined for the C&P plan. The consultation workshops will include both focused group consultations (which include the iTaukei Resource Owners Committee, the Protected Areas Committee, civil society groups, local women organizations, youth representatives and faith-based organizations) and broader stakeholder participation conducted at various levels.

The consultants, in consultation with the SWG, will synthesize the results from the stakeholder consultations and prepare a report on Priority Environmental and Social issues. This report will be presented for discussion at a national stakeholder consultation workshop. The objective of the workshop is to discuss the synthesized results of the target group consultations and to agree on a common set of environmental and social priorities. The consultants will prepare a report on the selection of priorities by the SESA stakeholders. The final report after the workshop will be published and publicly disclosed through appropriate means.

The output of this step is report on Environmental and Social Priorities as informed by the scoping and consultation exercises in these early tasks.

Task 6: Safeguards assessment of candidate REDD-Plus Strategy options

The Consultants with support from the SWG (in parallel with any other similar consulting work across REDD Strategic Planning and Design) will assess how REDD+ Strategy options address the SESA’s environmental and social priorities as well as determine on a preliminary basis potential environmental and social risks and impacts. When specific REDD+ strategy options have been identified as falling short of these considerations, specific recommendations will be made to refine the REDD+ strategy options to close these gaps. This process will ensure that priority environmental and social considerations and to some extent forest valuation will be integrated into the preparation of the REDD+ strategy.

The expected output is a “Safeguards” REDD+ strategy options analysis.

The revised REDD+ strategy options will be assessed against the environmental and social impacts and risks that they may present during their implementation. These risks and impacts will be assessed against existing legal and policy provisions and vis-a-vis the WB environmental and social safeguard policies. For example, one of the REDD+ strategy options may result in new restrictions on use or access to “protected” forest areas which would require application of the “process framework” provisions defined in OP 4.12

The SWG will be consulted during this assessment and review a draft Safeguards Assessment Report that will be submitted to the National REDD+ SC for review.

The output of this step is a final report covering all the information from tasks 4 and 5.

Task 7: Validation of Safeguards Assessment of the REDD-Plus Strategy Options

The consultants and the SWG will present the draft REDD-Plus Strategy Safeguards options to a national validation workshop. Participants in the workshop will include those involved in the initial national consultation on the identification of priorities as well as women's groups and marginalized communities. The consultants should integrate comments arising from the validation workshop and finalize the report for submission to the National REDD+ SC.

The output of this step is the endorsed report on Safeguards Assessment of the REDD-Plus Strategy Options.

4. DEVELOP THE ESMF

4.1 The Purpose of the ESMF

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed from results of the SESA. The ESMF is an instrument to manage safeguards risks and impacts. The ESMF will help minimize and mitigate any potential negative safeguard risks and impacts of REDD+ as well as ensure its social and environmental integrity. The ESMF will lay out the processes, procedures and/or requirements through which future activities and projects under the REDD+ program, shall undergo to ensure compliance with safeguards.

In terms of engagement of all stakeholders, the ESMF will take the outcome of the stakeholder mapping exercises from the earlier SESA activities 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 program.

The ESMF incorporates procedures for:

- a) In-depth voluntary consultations with concerned stakeholder groups to seek their broad support;
- b) Culturally-appropriate capacity building measures;
- c) Environmental and social impact screening, assessment, and monitoring; and
- d) Grievance redress.

The ESMF also specifies the inter-institutional arrangements for the preparation of time-bound action plans for managing and mitigating adverse impacts related to the future project(s), activity(-ies), or policy(-ies)/regulation(s).

By doing the above, the output is an ESMF that is compliant with applicable safeguard policies at the time of the assessment of the R-Package while also providing the overall framework for addressing social and environmental risk management issues in REDD-plus activities that are implemented beyond the readiness preparatory work.

The development of the ESMF will be supervised by the National REDD+ SC and the SWG of the committee will be working closely with the consultants of the SESA/ESMF to provide advisory support. The Chairperson of the National REDD+ SC and the national REDD+ focal agency, the FD, will coordinate the implementation of the ESMF drafting work plan.

4.2 Contents of the ESMF

The Consultant will prepare a draft ESMF suitable for public consultations that includes the following:

- Review of the country's existing legal and institutional framework and current practices of relevant government agencies, vis-à-vis relevant WB Safeguards policies as described in the

- R-PP Assessment Note, and the initial set of REDD+ strategy options (collected as part of the SESA activities);
- Description of the expected project/activity types under the REDD+ program i.e., the typology of potential REDD+ projects to be implemented;
 - A list and description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts for each anticipated project activities;
 - Safeguard screening requirements for the overall REDD+ program at each stage of the project cycle, including required processes and approaches (e.g. awareness, consultation, social and environmental review, consensus building, stakeholder participation, etc.), documentary requirements (e.g. Environmental and Social Assessment Report, Environmental and Social Management Plan, evidence of free, prior and informed consultation, community consent, land acquisition documents such as landowner consent, lease agreement, etc.) and the responsible project unit;
 - Methods by which the particular needs of indigenous people have been incorporated in the overall project design (See Annex 1);
 - Institutional arrangements to implement the ESMF (e.g., TLTB, Department of Environment, FD) and relevant program units and staffing arrangements;
 - Specific guidelines (e.g. how to conduct an environmental and social review of proposed project, consultation, etc.) and templates/forms for: (i) Environmental and Social Screening; (ii) Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); (iii) specific checklists for those project types requiring greater environmental and social due diligence; (iv) approval; and (v) audit/monitoring requirements; and
 - A capacity building plan for the various agencies and REDD+ program units involved in the implementation of the ESMF that includes a review of the authority and capability of institutions at different administrative levels (e.g. local, district, provincial/regional, and national).

The ESMF will also contain specific sections addressing the requirements of the applicable WB safeguard policies covered in the separate RPF/PF document and the summary of proposed stakeholder engagement and dispute resolution framework.

The deliverable for these activities will be a draft and final ESMF.

5. LAND TENURE AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Analysis of land requirements and Preparation of Safeguard Documents

The activities in this task are to be complemented by the forest governance and land tenure analysis (part of the analytical work supporting the preparation of the REDD+ strategy) and the SESA process. Given the locality based nature of REDD+ projects, it is considered likely that projects may have impacts on land and access to livelihood resources. Accordingly a detailed analysis of land requirements will be required to identify these issues/risks early in the process. To address these issues/risks, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and/or Process Framework (PF) may need to be prepared to establish objectives and principals, organizational arrangements, capacity building activities and funding mechanisms for any land requirements including compensation for resettlement or restrictions to access as required by the OP 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement. Since the extent and location of resettlement/compensation is not known at this time and will be determined as the SESA process unfolds and REDD activities are detailed, the Framework provides the opportunity to document how compliance with OP 4.12 will be achieved, either through existing country systems, or through the use of special provisions documented in the Framework .

If any resettlement/compensation is identified for any future REDD activity, preparation of a Resettlement Action Plan or Process Framework will be subsequently prepared.

The RPF ensures that any Resettlement Action Plan protects affected parties and physical structures, and livelihoods are restored to their previous standard and preferably exceed their current status. The RPF will include the process for valuation of all associated impacts on people's property and livelihoods and address mitigation of the impacts of resettlement based on international standards. A guide to Minimum Requirements for a Resettlement Policy Framework is held at Annex 2.

A Process Framework may be required in place of the RPF to address restrictions of access to legally designated parks and protected areas which result in adverse impacts on livelihoods of the affected persons. To determine the appropriate coverage of the Process Framework, the SESA activities will identify if any involuntary restrictions of resource access are anticipated.

The **Process Framework** will outline the criteria and procedures as described in OP 4.12, which will be followed for REDD activities in cases where project-induced involuntary restriction of access to natural resources results in adverse livelihood impacts, to ensure that eligible, affected persons are assisted in their efforts to restore or improve their livelihoods in a manner which maintains the environmental sustainability of the nature reserve in question. More specifically, it describes the participatory process by which: (i) specific components of the Project were prepared and will be implemented; (ii) the criteria for eligibility of affected persons will be determined; (iii) measures to assist the affected persons in their efforts to improve or restore, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels, their livelihoods (e.g., as appropriate, alternative grazing areas, cultivation of unique non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, or of other crops, or investments in community infrastructure) while maintaining the sustainability of the park or protected area will be identified; and (iv) potential conflicts involving affected persons will be resolved. It also provides a description of the arrangements for implementing and monitoring the process.

The deliverable for this task will be an analytical report on REDD+ impacts on land and livelihood access. If required, a Resettlement Policy Framework or Process Framework addressing these issues will be drafted.

5.2 Consultation On and Disclosure of the ESMF (and if relevant the RPF/PF)

The draft ESMF (and if relevant the RPF/PF) will be reviewed and discussed at a designated stakeholder workshops. The consultants and SWG will agree on the most efficient manner to ensure broad stakeholder feedback and consultation. Aside from the broad stakeholder consultations, targeted workshops should be held with the National iTaukei Resource Owners Committee, the Provincial Officers, the Fiji Protected Areas Committee and the civil society groups. All consultations should follow the C & P principles compliant with FCPF/UNREDD Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+ Readiness. Prior to the consultation workshop, hard copies of the draft documents should be sent to all concerned stakeholders including the Provincial and Divisional offices, and relevant public sector institutions, civil society and the private sector. These consultations will also serve as validation workshops that will conclude with the final ESMF and if relevant, the RPF/PF reports.

6. SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM

This collection of tasks will define the function and structure of the Fiji's safeguards information system, which will serve as the main repository and information sources for all safeguards related information across the REDD+ Program and is compliant with WB safeguards. The safeguards information system will be implemented at a national level and built on existing systems, as appropriate. The work will focus on two major components: (i) defining the type of information that needs to be collected, stored and made

available in a transparent manner, and (ii) determining the platform and functional requirements for establishing the safeguards information system. The consultants are expected to have a solid understanding of the various “safeguard systems” being promoted and used around the REDD + countries (e.g., REDD+ SES, UN-REDD, WRI, FCMC etc.)

The tasks associated with this safeguards information system work are listed below.

Task 1: Define the scope of the safeguards information system including information and data sources.

The safeguards information system could be built on existing country systems to collect and provide data, such as those in place to monitor and report on biodiversity conservation under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or to prepare their national reports for the Global Forest Resources Assessments of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Existing systems may need to be adapted for REDD+ if, for example, they do not cover specific issues such as permanence and leakage, which are more specific to a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions context. The fundamental requirements must be designed around defining the following:

- Data that already exist (detailing types and location of data sources);
- Data to be collected (e.g. income data);
- Methodologies to be used (e.g. household surveys; participatory approaches, such as participatory biodiversity monitoring);
- Who is to collect additional data;
- How often are data collected;
- The scale at which data are collected (e.g. at the country, local or project level);
- Quality assurance/quality control of the data collection system;
- Where will the data be stored and managed;
- Data security and back-up;
- How the data are being used and by whom.

Task 2: Establish the institutional and governance arrangements. A crucial step for the safeguards information system is conducting a national assessment of existing information sources, and existing systems for provision of information that are relevant to the safeguards. This will include identification of all organizations and institutions that collect and /or store relevant information like environment, natural resource, demographic, socio-economic, etc. Much of this background should be generated as part of the other consultancies in the REDD+ readiness program and this work should not reinvent the wheel. This is where the input and coordination role of the SWG can be most effective in directing proper attention to already ongoing initiatives to avoid duplication. Based on this, an assessment can be made regarding what types of new processes or procedures and the proper alignment and/or affiliation across institutions, among other structures, might be needed.

Task 3: Identify practical indicators to track over time. In order to collect information on whether safeguards are being addressed and respected, indicators will be needed. These could be process indicators (e.g. illustrate whether or not an output has been achieved) or impact indicators (e.g. linked to actual social or environmental impacts). The indicators used may vary depending on the degree of detail the REDD Program wishes to provide. There are numerous existing indicators for other contexts, such as those linked to implementation of forest policies or assessing income distribution. While these may be adequate for REDD+ safeguards, new indicators may need to be developed as well³³.

³³ For example see the UN-REDD Programme Participatory Governance Assessment process designed to help countries develop governance indicators relevant for REDD+ activities, and the REDD+ SES designed to help countries develop indicators across many REDD related issues.

The indicators provide the parameters to determine what information needs to be collected, tracked and reported on over time. The consultants need to work closely with the National REDD+ SC to define the basic information types and use of such information. There needs to be clear definition on the reason for selection of such indicators and the building blocks to feed into these indicators. Experience shows that too many overwhelms any such design, and this task should also build upon the SESA process to help identify a suite of practical and useful indicators.

Task 4: Determine how to collect, store, manage and analyze information. Data will need to be organized in a functioning database. This also defines how information is shared. It will also need to be presented in a way that makes it easily understandable, accessible and actionable by country stakeholders (e.g. publication through a regularly updated web-based platform and/or in printed information in local languages) with due consideration to data security concerns. Domestic-level dissemination of information may need to exist in various formats and be communicated at varying frequencies, depending on national circumstances and defined needs from the broad collection of stakeholders.

Task 5: Establish reporting, information use and access. Approaches for provision of information will need to be defined and developed. These will need to elaborate how information is tracked over time, the form of the information and the channels through which it should be reported both internationally and at the national level. Today, much of this information can be hosted on publically available platforms so that all “cleared” data and information (including maps and other time series spatial information) is accessible.

The range of standard reports including content and frequency shall be defined and how this information will be made publically available and recommendations for access will be described. Specific information restrictions will also be discussed.

The deliverable for this collection of tasks is the safeguards information system design concept.

7. SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

The overall timeframe for the SESA and safeguards consultancy (from signing of contract) will be 12 months.

The table below summarizes the deliverables and schedule for the consultancy.

Task	Deliverable	Schedule
SESA Process		
1. Stakeholder analysis and final work plan	Inception Report With detailed work plan and budget	Within 3 weeks of signing of the contract
2. Launching the SESA and safeguards work plan	Final Work plan Validated and disclosed	Within 3 weeks from the Inception Report
3. Situational analysis	Report on Situational Analysis review and discussion of E&S issues associated with REDD+ Strategy Options	Within 3 months of SESA launch
4. Identification of key environmental and social issues		
5. Identification of environmental and social issues		
6. Safeguards assessment of candidate REDD+ Strategy options	Safeguards Assessment Report Combines activities in tasks 4, 5 and 6	Within 8 months of SESA launch
ESMF		

Task	Deliverable	Schedule
Draft and final ESMF	ESMF	Within 9 months of SESA launch
RPF/PF (if required)		
Draft and final RPF/PF	Resettlement Policy Framework/Process Framework	Within 10 months of SESA launch
Safeguards information system		
Draft and final safeguards information system	Design functional elements and structure if the safeguards information system	Within 11 months of SESA launch

8. BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

The consultancy for the SESA and safeguards products is allocated a budget of up to US\$ 350, 000 which includes all consultancy fees, subsistence allowances, travel, accommodation and necessary incidentals.

Workshop and meetings costs will be separately covered by the REDD + National Program and the FD.

Output	Payment (%)
Upon signing of contract	20%
Final Work plan	10%
Final Safeguards Assessment Report	20%
Final ESMF	20%
Final RPF/PF (if undertaken but if otherwise then the 10% is spread out to the ESMF (5%) and safeguards information system (5%))	10%
Final Design of the safeguards information system	20%

9. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTED LEVEL OF EFFORT

The SESA and safeguards consultancy will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team of experts in collaboration with relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions. There will be a preference for local and regional consultants to encourage greater ownership by Government whilst closing capacity gaps. The consultant team hired to conduct this work will work closely with the REDD+ Safeguards working group of the National REDD+ SC and other relevant agencies. The tasks described are considered an important capacity building process where consultants are expected to work closely with local agencies and officers to transfer skills and knowledge.

The consultants for these tasks have to be capable of addressing all the safeguard policies triggered by the project(s), activity (-ies), or policy(-ies)/regulation(s) that may occur in the future from the implementation of the emerging REDD+ strategy option(s). The experts should demonstrate the ability to facilitate multi-stakeholder consultation processes surrounding these issues and be knowledgeable of Fiji's social structures and environmental issues, especially on the forest sector.

The Team Leader should demonstrate sufficient experience in leading multi-disciplinary teams. He/She is expected to possess an excellent knowledge of the WB safeguards requirements with experience in developing SESA, ESMF, RPF/PF and have understanding of the safeguards information system tasks. The team of experts will possess expertise in the following fields: policy development, natural/ecosystem management, forestry, social development, communication and stakeholder engagement, land tenure and

administration, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and information systems management.

The following field of technical expertise and working experiences are required:

Expert	Minimum qualification	Required experience and skills	Other desired skills
<p>1. Policy Analyst /SESA – Safeguards specialist (Team Leader)</p>	<p>Master’s degree in natural resources/land management, forestry, environmental economics and/or social sciences.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working knowledge of the WB safeguards requirements with experience in developing SESA, ESMF, RPF/PF 2. Proven experience in leading sector and national reviews and assessments of public policies or development strategies. 3. Experience in leading and managing multi-disciplinary teams from other cultural backgrounds 4. At least 15 years of experience in a relevant field, of which 10 years are relevant experience in developing countries with at least 5 years of experience in Pacific Island countries 5. Excellent communication and reporting skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiar with participatory tools for consultations at all levels will be an advantage • Facilitation skills
<p>2. Natural Resource/ Environmental Specialist</p>	<p>Master’s degree in Environmental Science, Environmental Economic, Ecology, Natural Resource Management or a related field. In lieu of a Master’s degree, a Bachelors degree with at least 10 years’ experience in Fiji will be acceptable.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 5 years of experience in natural resource and/or environment management in Fiji including work in policy development and environmental assessments 2. Familiar with the legal, policy, and institutional frameworks of environmental management, governance, economics and sustainable development in Fiji. 3. Familiar with participatory tools for consultations at all levels 4. Familiar with WB safeguards requirements 5. Excellent communication and reporting skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in environmental valuation and opportunity cost analysis is desirable • Facilitation skills
<p>3. Forestry Specialist</p>	<p>Master’s degree in Forestry or a related field. In lieu of a Master’s degree, a Bachelor’s degree with at least 10 years’ experience in Fiji will be acceptable.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 5 years of experience in the Fiji forestry sector. 2. Familiar with the legal, policy, and institutional frameworks of forest management, governance, economics and trade in Fiji. 3. Knowledge of the timber sector and community-based forest operations. 4. Good knowledge of social and land tenure issues relating to forest communities 5. Familiar with participatory tools for consultations at all levels 6. Excellent communication and reporting skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak in the local language(s) • Facilitation skills

Expert	Minimum qualification	Required experience and skills	Other desired skills
4. Social Development Specialist	Master's degree in development studies, sociology or a related field. In lieu of a Master's degree, a Bachelor's degree with at least 10 years' experience in Fiji will be acceptable.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 10 years of experience in social policy development and assessment where at least 5 of these years are in the Pacific 2. Experience working with forest communities, rural communities and indigenous people in Fiji 3. Familiarity with social issues associated with the forest sector in Fiji 4. Familiar with participatory tools for consultations at all levels 5. Familiar with WB safeguards requirements 6. Excellent communication and reporting skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate in the local language(s) will be an advantage • Facilitation skills
5. Communication / Stakeholder Engagement Specialist	Bachelor's degree in communications or a related field	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 5 years of working experience in Fiji or the Pacific in the field of communication. 2. Experience in developing communication strategies and participation plans 3. Experience in applying participatory and stakeholder engagement tools 4. Excellent facilitation skills 5. Excellent communication and reporting skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate in the iTaukei language and translate will be highly desirable.
6. Land Tenure Specialist	Qualified Lawyer with a focus on land tenure and management.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 10 years of working experience on land tenure and land management in Fiji. 2. Familiar with the iTaukei administration structures and mechanisms and other land tenure arrangements of Fiji 3. Experience with assessing issues and options relating to land tenure and land rights, conflict resolution mechanisms 4. Familiar with national legislations and regulations on land tenure, especially with regards to iTaukei land and benefit distribution arrangements 5. Excellent communication and reporting skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in land valuation will be an advantage.
7. GIS (Geographic Information Systems)/ Mapping Specialist	Bachelor's degree in GIS or related field	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 10 years of experience in Forest and Land Use GIS mapping and analysis using up-to-date software and tools 2. Proficient in applying GIS and remote sensing technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working in Fiji • Familiar with web formats (for posting interactive

Expert	Minimum qualification	Required experience and skills	Other desired skills
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Excellent data interpretation and analytical skills 4. Ability to cover all mapping requirements of the SESA 5. Training skills as the specialist is expected to work with and train local GIS officers 6. Excellent communication and reporting skills 	maps on the web)
8. Information Systems Specialist	Bachelor's degree in information management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 10 years of experience in Information and database management and analysis using up-to-date software and tools 2. Ability to conduct user needs assessment for complex and multiple use data bases 3. Demonstrated capability in designing and using data bases and interacting with spatial systems 4. Excellent data interpretation and analytical skills 5. Ability to understand the various spatial and information databases across multiple institutions in the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working on data bases in Fiji • Familiarity with environment and climate datasets

CONTACT

For further information about the Fiji FCPF Readiness Preparation Activities and on these terms of reference please contact:

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SESA TOR Annex 1: Incorporating Particular Needs of Indigenous People in the Overall Project Design

<i>IPP Elements (OP 4.10, Annex B)</i>	<i>Best Available Means for Incorporation</i>
1. Summary of legal and institutional framework, and baseline data, as relating to Indigenous Peoples in the project context.	To the extent that such information is relevant in the project context, it may best be presented in an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, if one is to be prepared, or a stand-alone social assessment.
2. Summary of social assessment findings.	This summary is, obviously, best presented within the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, if one is to be prepared, or a stand-alone social assessment.
3. Summary of consultations with Indigenous Peoples communities.	Frequently, some or all of the necessary consultations are conducted in tandem with the social assessment process. If that is the case, consultation results can be presented within the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, if one is to be prepared, or a stand-alone social assessment. For consultations conducted independent of the social assessment process, or after the social assessment process is completed, the borrower prepares and submits to the WBG a note summarizing consultation results, including assessment of Indigenous Peoples communities' support for the project and its objectives.
4. Actions to ensure that Indigenous Peoples receive culturally appropriate social and/or economic benefits.	Such actions are incorporated into an overall project Environmental and Social Management Framework and/or Environmental and Social Management Plan. If Indigenous Peoples also are to be affected by land acquisition or loss of access to natural resources, measures to address these impacts should also be incorporated into the Resettlement Policy Framework and/or Resettlement Action Plan that would be required under OP 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement.
5. Actions to address any adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples communities.	Such actions are incorporated into an overall project Environmental and Social Management Framework and/or Environmental and Social Management Plan. If Indigenous Peoples also are to be affected by land acquisition or relocation, mitigation measures <u>must</u> be incorporated into the Resettlement Policy Framework and/or Resettlement Action Plan that would be required under OP 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement. If Indigenous Peoples also are to be affected by loss of access to natural resources in relation to legally designated parks and protected areas, mitigation measures <u>must</u> be incorporated into the Process Framework that would be required under OP 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement.
6. Cost estimates and financing plan for implementing actions or activities.	Where any actions relating to provision of benefits or mitigation of adverse impacts are necessary, costs are estimated and financial arrangements are specified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan and/or the Resettlement Action Plan, as relevant.
7. Appropriate grievance procedures.	Appropriate grievance procedures may be incorporated into the Environmental and Social Management Plan and/or Resettlement Action Plan, as relevant.
8. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements.	Monitoring and evaluation arrangements regarding Indigenous Peoples may be specified in either the Environmental and Social Management Plan or the Resettlement Action Plan, or both as relevant.

SESA TOR Annex 2: Guide to Minimum Requirements for Resettlement Policy Framework

Legal Framework: a) Reviews of relevant laws, policies, legal and administrative procedures of the Government of Fiji, relevant customary and traditional laws and laws and regulations relating to the agencies responsible for implementing land acquisition and involuntary resettlement activities; b) to identify gaps with regards to the WB's Involuntary Resettlement Policy and, c) suggest the mechanisms to bridge such gaps to ensure the effective implementation of resettlement activities in line with international standards.

Institutional Framework: Review of previous land acquisition and involuntary resettlement activities in relevant sectors and assessment of institutional capacity of local institutions and relevant agencies and suggest an organizational structure responsible for resettlement activities and, propose mechanism or activities to enhance its institutional capacity.

Methods for Valuation of Assets: Identification of methodology to be used in valuing losses to determine their replacement cost; and a description of the proposed types and levels of compensation under local law and such supplementary measures as are necessary to achieve replacement cost for lost assets.

Resettlement measures: A description of the technically, socially and economically feasible packages of compensation and other livelihood restoration and social assistance measures. The resettlement packages should be compatible with the cultural preferences of the displaced persons, and prepared in consultation with them.

Site selection, site preparation, and relocation. Identification of (i) institutional and technical arrangements for identifying and preparing relocation sites, (ii) any measures necessary to prevent land speculation or influx of ineligible persons at the selected sites; (iii) procedures for physical relocation under the project, and (iv) legal arrangements for regularizing tenure and transferring titles to re-settlers.

Participatory Process: To establish specific community and individual consultation and participatory planning processes for land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.

Implementation Arrangements: To develop a) an implementation schedule covering all land acquisition and involuntary resettlement activities and, b) grievance redress mechanism³⁴ that provide local communities with a means of raising concerns relating to the project's operations, and dealing with these in ways that are considered to be fair, by both the community and the project management.

Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements: To develop principles, strategy and plan for monitoring and evaluation of land acquisition and involuntary resettlement activities, and to set a frame work for project evaluation and impact assessment including specific results indicators.

Cost and Budget and identifying possible Source of Funding: Estimation of a) budget to cover loss of physical and/or economic assets, livelihood restoration and social assistance measures, operational arrangements as well as for necessary studies. b) Identification of possible funding sources c) institutional mechanisms for the payment of compensation and for the development and implementation of livelihood support and social assistance measures.

³⁴ That is to be linked and complimentary to the independent consultancy on Dispute Resolution and Grievance Redress for REDD Readiness.