Republic of Fiji Islands
Ministry of Forestry

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
Emission Reductions Program

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

November 2019

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Acronyms and Abbreviation

AP/DP	Affected persons/ Displaced persons
BAU	Business as Usual (scenario)
BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
BSP	Benefit Sharing Plan
COP	Conference of Parties
CRA	Carbon REDD+ Agreements
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DMS	Detailed Measurement Survey
DOL	Department of Lands and Mineral Resources
DRWG	Divisional REDD+ Working Group
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ER-P	Emission Reduction Program (area)
ER-PD	Emissions Reduction Program Document
ER-PIN	Emissions Reduction Program Identification Note
ERPA	Emission Reduction Payment Agreement
ESMF	Environmental Social Management Framework
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FFHCOP	Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice
FFIS	Fiji Forest Information System
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FGRM/ GRM	Feedback grievance and reporting mechanism
FPIC	Free prior information and consultation
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GISD	Global Invasive Species Database
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GOF	Government of the Republic of Fiji Islands
HHs/hhs	House Holds
IDLUP	Integrated District Land Use Plan
ILUPs	Integrated land use plans
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IOL	Inventory of loss
iTaukei	The indigenous communities of Fiji
LOI	Letter of Intent
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
Mataqali	A mataqali is one clan made up of several Tokatoka (a family unit), several Mataqali will make up the larger tribe or Yavusa
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
METT	Management Effectiveness Management Tool
MMR	Measurement, Monitoring and Reporting
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Economy
MOF	Ministry of Forestry
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDP	National Development Plan a 5 year and 20-year planning process
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NWPA	National Women's Plan of Action (
OP/ BP	Operational Policy / Bank Policy of the World Bank

PA	Protected Area
PAC	Protected Areas Committee
PAP	Program Affected Person
PF	Process Framework
PLR	Policy Laws and Regulations
PMP	Pest management plan
R-PP	Readiness-Preparation Proposal for the FCPF REDD readiness funding
RP	Resettlement Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)
SALA	State Acquisition of Land Act
SERNA	Social and Environmental REDD+ Needs Assessment
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Safeguards information system
SOI	Summary of Information (sent to the UNFCCC)
SPC	Pacific Communities
tCO_2e	Tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
Tikina	District
TLTB	iTaukei Land Trust Board
TORs	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific
WB	World Bank
YMST	Yaubula Management Support Teams
	Weights and Measures m = meters; ha = hectares; Mha = million hectares $MtCO_2e$ = million tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent
	Currency M = million; Currency Unit = US$ Dollar USD1 = Fiji Dollar FJD 2.08 MW = megawatt; kWh =Kilowatt-hour;

Executive Summary

The Emissions Reduction Program Area of Fiji

The Emission Reduction Program (ER-P) of the Republic of Fiji Islands will focus on the islands of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni an area of land totalling about 1,685,742 ha (about 90% of Fiji) of critical terrestrial biodiversity, and has a population of approximately 856,173 people (86% of the total population). The islands are generally hilly and mountainous with over 60% of the land classified as steep-land The main areas of population are often concentrated on the sometimes narrow coastal plains and undulating rolling hills of peri-urban areas.

ER-Program sites have been selected through stakeholder participatory meetings and validation with the REDD+ Steering Committee. There was agreement to target the retention of existing forest areas and apply the following criteria to select 20 districts with areas of forest at high risk of deforestation and forest degradation; areas with large communities/settlements at the forest edge; with high poverty and areas with known high levels of biodiversity. A representation of the 20 districts in the ER-P accounting area is show in Figure 2.2. The districts in the ER-P accounting area have been selected for specific interventions, however this does not limit areas outside the selected areas from being part of the accounting area.

Small island communities in Fiji are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and these impacts are projected to further intensify under the anticipated global warming trajectory. These impacts threaten Fiji's sustainable growth and places large economic, social and physical stress on local communities and ecosystems. Urgent actions are needed to strengthen the resilience of communities against the impacts brought about by climate change. Given Fiji's small island landscape, it is essential that impacts of climate action are maximised by ensuring that mitigation actions and initiative will also result in adaptation co-benefits. Synergies need to be created between mitigation and adaptation activities. Fiji national plans and strategies emphasise the need to embed climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives in all national and sectoral plans and strategies. The National Adaption Plan Framework refers to the REDD+ Policy in support of the National Adaptation Plan, reflecting the dual role REDD+ plays – both in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Fiji's ER Program is designed to maximise climate co-benefits and integrate initiatives that address vulnerabilities of local communities and contribute to the efforts of building a more resilient nation.

Fiji is a biodiversity hotspot of high conservation priority. Its considerable age (about 40 million years) and isolation have resulted in a diverse flora with high endemism. Nevertheless, the flora remains poorly explored, illustrated by the discovery of new species and forest types in Fiji. Knowledge gaps are especially prevalent in the ecology, genetics and conservation of plant species. There exists little data on the ecology or population genetics of Fijian plants and the IUCN red-list states that 97% of the 70 threatened terrestrial plant species need updating.

Anthropogenic disturbance has resulted in large-scale conversion of natural vegetation to fragmented landscapes. This is placing strain on ecosystems and their resident flora and fauna. Protecting biodiversity in degraded landscapes is one of the major challenges facing biologists and naturalists. This challenge is complicated by the forecasted changes in climate, fuelling fears for an environmental disaster and extinction crisis. Islands are considered especially vulnerable. There is a lack of awareness of unsustainable land use practices, the magnitude of the soil erosion problem particularly in areas where the sugarcane crop grown and is poorly managed. A major concern is the rapid nature of the impacts leading to badly degraded land, which can occur within 30 years.[1]

[1] Talasiga Lands in Fiji: Their Potential Expansion through Modern Farming Activities; R J Morrison, Pacific Science (2019), vol. 73, no. 1:61–77

Natural disasters and climate change

Fiji is a country that is most affected by natural disasters particularly cyclones, and floods parts of Fiji are extremely vulnerable to flooding however, droughts also impact Fiji. As a result, it incurs average annual losses of about 2% of GDP. The climate vulnerabilities stem from its exposure to tropical cyclones (averaging one to two a year), and to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. Tropical cyclone Winston (2016) was the strongest ever recorded in the southern hemisphere and was a reminder of the threat that natural disasters pose to the welfare and development of Fiji. More than 70% of Fijians live in coastal and low-lying areas. The majority of urban centres, communities and infrastructure are exposed to storm surges and coastal flooding, which are projected to worsen. Key economic sectors including tourism (Fiji's fastest growing sector), agriculture (70% of the workforce), and fisheries are weather dependent and vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The importance of these sectors means that Fiji's economy is vulnerable to external shocks, particularly climate change and extreme weather events. Fiji has been acting to strengthen the resilience of communities against the impacts brought about by climate change.

Social and Gender Issues

Average household sizes in the ER-P Accounting Area are 5.8 for iTaukei and 5.0 for non-iTaukei households, Household head unemployment is 18% for iTaukei and 30% for non-iTaukei. 24% of iTaukei households earn some of their income from wages and salaries compared to 48% of non-iTaukei households. 98% of all iTaukei households have attended secondary school or participated in post-secondary education compared to 93% of non-iTaukei households. 94% of iTaukei households own their own houses compared to 82% of non-iTaueki households. 57% of iTaukei households have access to electricity compared to 81% of non-iTaukei households but non-access to electricity is not a necessary proxy of poverty. Poverty rates for both iTaukei and non-iTaukei are approximately 35%. Upland iTaukei households rely on the forests to a greater extent than lowland iTaukei households but 35-40% of rural lowland iTaukei households rely to a significant extent on coastal mangroves and fisheries. NTFPs are also important either for household consumption and/or sale in the markets. However, iTaukei households cannot simply rely on land-based income generation activities and urban migration is becoming increasingly important. Non-iTaukei households to some extent rely on NTFPs where they are residing contiguously with forests including plantation forests but in very recent times their access to the latter has been severely restricted because of edicts from the forest plantation companies.

iTaukei women generally have more status than non-iTaukei women because they are also customary owners of land alongside men whereas non-iTaukei women cannot own customary land and are generally not included in leasing agreements. However, there are issues with iTaukei women being able to fully benefit from the fact that they too are customary landowners. While iTaukei women have considerable autonomy in their daily lives generally in the public arena they have very limited opportunities to actively participate. Although in the private sphere they do have some influence on how decisions are made. Non-iTaukei women might also have some influence in the private sphere but because non-iTaukei communities lack the social and communal obligations of iTaukei communities there is considerably less social solidarity than is found in iTaukei communities. A Gender Action Plan based on this SESA has been prepared to ensure women will benefit equally with men irrespective of their ethnicity or marital status.

The drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji

The drivers of deforestation and forest degradation vary between the three main islands of the ER-P accounting area. Given the results of the assessment in Fiji's ER-PIN, Study on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and R-Package, the main drivers identified include forest conversion to agriculture; traditional use of forests; planned infrastructure development including hydropower and mining; conventional logging; and natural disasters. The ER-P focuses on addressing drivers

associated with agriculture conversion, planned infrastructure development and conventional logging. A summary of all drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is outlined in the ER-PD.

The proposed ER-Program

The draft financing plan estimates a total **ER-Program budget of USD $40.04 million** for the implementation time 2020-2024. See Table 8.1 for summary of the costs. It is divided into three major components which are closely linked to the ER-P design components outlined in Section 4.3 of the ER-PD.

Component 1: Strengthening Enabling Conditions for Emission Reductions (~USD $1.65 million)

This component involves Integrated District Land Use Planning to promote integrated landscape management and strengthening forest governance and law enforcement. It also aims to invest in an improved forest information system to support forest sector planning and decision making. The component focus on strengthening existing frameworks, rationalise resource allocation and community-based monitoring systems aligned to local governance structures of the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. Over the period of the ER-P, 20 Integrated District Land Use and Management Plans will be developed with support and commitment of 120 communities in an area of 510,319ha over 5 years.

Component 2: Promoting integrated landscape management (~ USD $36.68 million)

This is the core component of the ER-P and will have the largest contribution to the reduction of emissions and enhancement of removals by sinks. The component aims to implement integrated land use plan at district level; support reduced impact logging, advocate sustainable management of forests in large tracts of forest, and adhere to the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP) over 8,500ha (in 5 years). The component also aims to support restoration of degraded lands through afforestation and reforestation and promote Fiji Pine Ltd. managed plantation forestry activities in 2500ha per year (1,219ha above business as usual (BAU)) for five years and Fiji Hardwood Corp. Ltd. managed plantation activities in 478ha above BAU for 3 years (2020-2022). At the same time community-based afforestation and reforestation activities are proposed in support of the Govt. initiative of 1million tree a year are expected to cover an estimated 5,750ha by the end of 2024. There will also be efforts to implement activities promoting agroforestry and alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on forest resource/habitats. Agroforestry will focus on restoration of riparian zones (5,000ha in 5 years) and shade grown agriculture is proposed for implementation in 5,000 ha over 5-year period. A total area of 36,400 ha is proposed to be set aside as protected area by 2024, The ER-Program is expected to reduce 9,500ha of deforestation over 5 years of implementation. The results anticipated under different program sub-components are listed below.

- Sustainable natural forest management contributing to reduction of forest degradation;
- Afforestation and reforestation; and softwood and hardwood plantations contributing to the enhancement of forest carbon stocks;
- Afforestation and reforestation to restore ecosystem services;
- Promotion of agroforestry and enhanced livelihoods contributing to the reduction of deforestation pressure; and
- Promotion of forest protection, to conserve and restore natural forests.

Component 3: Program Management and Emissions Monitoring (USD $1.72 million)

This component includes the program administration and financial management of the ER-P. It also includes the monitoring and evaluation, safeguards compliance, MRV system, communication and awareness raising programs of the ER-P implementation.

Social and environmental concerns and safeguards

Program safeguards instruments have been prepared. This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is in the final process of being prepared and includes the following supporting safeguard instruments: a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and a Process Framework (PF) both of which are in the final stage of preparation developed to address potential involuntary resettlement and access restriction issues that may occur during the program; which includes safeguard measures in relation to Free, Prior and Informed Consultation (FPIC) in the ER-P area. A Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) is also under final preparation. These measures are designed to ensure non-iTaukei people have the same opportunities to derive benefits from the ER Program. A Gender Action Plan (GAP) has also been prepared and aims to promote women participation in the program, share in the benefits, and maximize gender equality.

The main social concerns relate to security of land tenure for agricultural and forest land, access to forest resources improvement to livelihood, and gender issues. The overall ER-P activities are not expected to cause significant negative impacts in terms of loss of access to land or other resources as the general approach of the ER-P is to try to improve access and introduce improvements to sustainable use, and where such restrictions do occur they shall be addressed through the RPF and PF and through safeguards measures.

A Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) based on the existing and well established laws of Fiji has been prepared. This is consistent with the government's e-governance policies and requirements for transparency and the delivery of better quality and transparent public services including the public provision of land information and dispute resolution and conflict management.

An environmental concern is the perceived risk of conversion of natural forest to agriculture and plantation development leading to the clearing of natural forests and in particular remnant or isolated natural forest. However, this risk is believed to be moderate and will be limited to small areas. The ER-P will build on the Fiji's Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (2013) which was developed to promote reduced impact logging – component of sustainable forest management – a REDD+ activity in the Fiji programme.

An improved forest monitoring system which uses mobile electronic devices to monitor and update forest area changes will be applied to identify conversion from natural forest to plantation on a periodic basis.

The design of the ER-P (and this contributed to the design of the ESMF) is the outcome of a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process that included all the ER provinces. Participation methods included village-level meetings with households, focus group discussions particularly with women, workshops, participatory forest transects, natural resource assessments, interviews of key informants. In this way, a picture of challenges and opportunity-costs of potential REDD+ activities in the localities was formed. Qualitative data acquired through these processes has been used in the design of the overall program and the approach to the Benefit Sharing Mechanism which is the forerunner of the BSP.

Benefit sharing mechanism

The recognition of customary land has led to robust legal mechanism to facilitate the distribution of benefits from leasing or exploitation of land resources. The five types of benefit sharing models - iTaukei Land Trust Board, Land Bank, Charitable Trust, Private Trust Deeds and Company models with legal frameworks and operational in the country have been analysed. A summary of the comparison

of existing BSM frameworks, their relevance to REDD+ framework, and their advantages and disadvantages are discussed in Annex 15-1 of the ER-PD.

The Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) of the ER-P is being designed embracing the principles of the existing BSM between TLTB, iTaukei customary landowners and emerging mechanism such as the Land Bank. A key point of departure from existing BSM is the performance-based payment system of the ER-P as opposed to lease benefits currently distributed by TLTB and Land Bank. The BSM of the ER-P includes sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits. The program performance in generating emission reductions assessed through independent verification forms the basis for monetary benefits from the program. The ER program is also expected to generate several types of non-monetary benefits. Some examples of the non-monetary benefits include:

- Improvements to community forestry and sustainable forest management including planting native species, adopting longer harvest cycles, restoring ecosystems, and promoting agroforestry and alternative livelihoods;
- Improvements to agricultural crop productivity and diversification to reduce the risk of deforestation;
- Improvements in the quality of NTFPs to reduce the risk of forest degradation.

Direct beneficiaries of monetary and non-monetary benefits include landowners and tenant farmers, freehold landowners, government, statutory and civil societies, research and academic institutions and private sector. Indirect beneficiaries include communities living in the ER program accounting area and markets that receive products resulting from climate smart agriculture. The list of beneficiaries is expected to be defined at the completion of the current BSM study.

Purpose of the ESMF

The ESMF is a standalone framework instrument[2] that examines safeguards issues and impacts on the 11 provinces of the Program region by the implementation of the proposed sub-projects or activities included in the ER-P. It complies with the WB's Operational Policy on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01), preparation and disclosure of the ESMF is required before WB appraisal. It ensures that adverse environmental and social impacts are avoided or will be appropriately mitigated or compensated for. It contains measures and provisions related to avoiding, reducing, mitigating and/or offsetting adverse impacts, including cumulative or indirect environmental impacts of multiple activities and enhancing positive impacts, estimating the costs of such measures, and identifying and strengthening the agency or agencies responsible for addressing program impacts. The specific purposes are to: 1) establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social assessment, review, approval and implementation of interventions to be financed under the project; 2) specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to program interventions; and 3) determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF. The ESMF will be supported by a detailed Program Implementation Manual (PIM).

The ESMF does not examine the safeguard issues and impacts of the nationwide National REDD+ Policy (2010), and Strategy which may have quite different impacts in different regions of the country. The ESMF is prepared during the REDD+ Readiness phase, with an emphasis on the ER-P interventions and it draws information from the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process.

The ER-P triggers seven WB safeguard polices (see section 3.5). All the subprojects and activities will be required to screen for eligibility for potential negative impacts and an Environmental. The ESMF

[2] The ESMF follows the guidance provided in: Management Framework Toolkit for World Bank-Financed Projects in Fiji (February 2015).

describes policies, procedures, and processes to be considered and followed during the implementation of the proposed Project.

The objectives of the ESMF

- Assess the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed project, (both positive or negative) and propose mitigation measures which will effectively address negative impacts;
- Establish clear procedures for the environmental and social planning, specify roles and responsibilities approval and provide an outline of reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to the implementation of activities and subprojects under the program;
- Determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance and cost these activities needed to successfully implement the ESMF; and
- Address mechanisms for public consultation and disclosure of project documents as well as redress of possible grievances.

Scope of the ESMF

The ESMF describes the program (Section 2); the policy, legal, and administrative framework (Section 3); the potential project environmental and social impacts and mitigations (Section 4.3 and 4.4); the procedures for review, clearance, and implementation (Section 95); the ESMF capacity building, training technical assistance and arrangements to assist and facilitate implementation (Section 7); ESMF implementation budget (Section 8); grievance and redress mechanism (Section 9); and ESMF consultation and disclosure (Section 10).

Much of the ESMF was based on the findings of the SESA which included field reviews of the experiences of government, relevant laws and regulations, and in particular it reviewed the proposed activities in the Provinces.

- The ESMF, is supported by two other related safeguard instruments which will be applied during implementation of the program: 1) Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF a summary is provided in Appendix 11.5) which provides guidelines for preparation and execution of a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in compliance with the Bank Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12), this will be applied when sub- project and/or activities involve land acquisition, resettlements, and/or limited access to natural resources. 2) The Process Framework (PF) addresses the eventuality that the program objective of REDD+ and conserving important biodiversity, as documented in the prescribed, necessitates reduction of present uses of natural resources. The purpose of the PF is to establish a process by which communities potentially affected by restricted natural resource access engage in a process of informed and meaningful consultations and negotiations to identify and implement means of reducing or mitigating the impact of restricted resource access. This will involve a Socio-Economic and Environmental REDD+ Needs Assessment. The PF is prepared to comply with the World Bank policy on involuntary resettlement (OP/BP 4.12) and GoFs laws and regulations. The PF provides guidelines for the development of Action Plans during project implementation that: Define the restrictions of access to natural resources in protected areas;
- Identify and quantify the impacts that those restrictions may have on different segments of the local communities;
- Propose, implement and monitor remedial measures to compensate for the loss of those assets and the income associated with them; and
- Provide grievance redress mechanisms in order to resolve any issues that may arise due to restrictions of access to resources over the course of the program.

Social and Gender Issues

Average household sizes in the ER-P Accounting Area are 5.8 for iTaukei and 5.0 for non-iTaukei households, Household head unemployment is 18% for iTaukei and 30% for non-iTaukei. 24% of iTaukei households earn some of their income from wages and salaries compared to 48% of non-iTaukei households. 98% of all iTaukei households have attended secondary school or participated in post-secondary education compared to 93% of non-iTaukei households. 94% of iTaukei households own their own houses compared to 82% of non-iTaueki households. 57% of iTaukei households have access to electricity compared to 81% of non-iTaukei households but non-access to electricity is not a necessary proxy of poverty. Poverty rates for both iTaukei and non-iTaukei are approximately 35%. Upland iTaukei households rely on the forests to a greater extent than lowland iTaukei households but 35-40% of rural lowland iTaukei households rely to a significant extent on coastal mangroves and fisheries. NTFPs are also important either for household consumption and/or sale in the markets. However, iTaukei households cannot simply rely on land-based income generation activities and urban migration is becoming increasingly important. Non-iTaukei households to some extent rely on NTFPs where they are residing contiguously with forests including plantation forests but in very recent times their access to the latter has been severely restricted because of edicts from the forest plantation companies.

iTaukei women generally have more status than non-iTaukei women because they are also customary owners of land alongside men whereas non-iTaukei women cannot own customary land and are generally not included in leasing agreements. However, there are issues with iTaukei women being able to fully benefit from the fact that they too are customary landowners. While iTaukei women have considerable autonomy in their daily lives generally in the public arena they have very limited opportunities to actively participate. Although in the private sphere they do have some influence on how decisions are made. Non-iTaukei women might also have some influence in the private sphere but because non-iTaukei communities lack the social and communal obligations of iTaukei communities there is considerably less social solidarity than is found in iTaukei communities. A Gender Action Plan based on this SESA has been prepared to ensure women will benefit equally with men irrespective of their ethnicity or marital status; (ii) loss of income sources or means of livelihoods, whether or not affected people are required to move to other locations; or (iv) involuntary restriction of access to legally designated protected forest areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of displaced people. 2) The Process Framework (PF a summary is provided in Appendix 11.6) addresses the eventuality that the program objective of REDD+ and conserving important biodiversity, as documented in the prescribed, necessitates reduction of present uses of natural resources. The purpose of the PF is to establish a process by which communities potentially affected by restricted natural resource access to the forest in Forest Reserves or protected areas or plantations which are under a forest management entity or plantation management company to engage in a process of informed and meaningful consultations and negotiations to identify and implement means of reducing or mitigating the impact of restricted resource access. The PF is prepared to comply with the World Bank policy on involuntary resettlement (OP/BP 4.12) and GOF laws and regulations. The PF provides guidelines for the development of Action Plans during project implementation that:

- Define the restrictions of access to natural resources in protected areas;
- Identify and quantify the impacts that those restrictions may have on different segments of the local communities;
- Propose, implement and monitor remedial measures to compensate for the loss of those assets and the income associated with them; and
- Provide grievance redress mechanisms in order to resolve any issues that may arise due to restrictions of access to resources over the course of the program.

(This will involve a Socio-Economic and Environmental REDD+ Needs Assessment.)

1 Background and introduction

1.1 Introduction to the Emission Reduction Program Area and REDD+

The World Bank through the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is assisting Fiji with financial and technical support focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (activities commonly referred to as REDD+). Assistance from the FCPF is provided through the Readiness Fund, which supports participating countries in the development of REDD+ strategies and policies, reference emission levels, measurement, reporting and verification systems and institutional capacity to manage REDD+ including the environmental and social safeguards.

1.2 Background of REDD+ in Fiji

Fiji's readiness phase commenced in 2009 through the GIZ REDD+ program and in 2010 Cabinet endorsed a National REDD+ Policy. Following closely from the National REDD+ Policy was the drafting of the National REDD+ Strategic Framework. This framework forms the basis for the components of the National REDD+ Strategy. The start of the readiness phase was marked with extensive stakeholder consultations and raising of awareness on the national REDD+ program, from the policy level to local communities, and technical training on important REDD+ activities such as MRV. In 2012 and 2013, after extensive consultations, two national REDD+ pilot sites were established with the main objective of providing training and a trial for readiness approaches and methodologies in preparation for national scale implementation. The two pilot sites are located on the two major islands of Fiji – Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. In addition, research related to REDD+ readiness was carried out in the Fiji Nakavu Forest research site (managed by the Ministry of Forests).

Fiji became a participant country in the FCPF in 2013 and a year later in December 2014, the FCPF authorized a grant funding of US$3.8 million to support Fiji's preparations in engaging in a future REDD+ performance-based system. The grant agreement for the Fiji's Readiness-Preparation Proposal (R-PP) readiness fund was signed in May 2015.

1.2.1 Overview of the ER- Program area

Poverty rates in Fiji are among the lowest in the Pacific. Based on the US$3.20 per day international poverty line, 14% of the population lived in poverty at the time of the most recent household income and expenditure survey in 2013−14, while less than 2% of the population lived in extreme poverty in 2013-14 (US$1.90 per day). The main drivers of poverty in Fiji have been identified as household size, the presence of elderly people and children in the household, the education level of the head of household, female-headed households and the employment of the head of household. All five of these factors are more marked in rural areas. Rural household income increased by 10% from FJD10,554 in 2002-03 to FJD11,608 in 2008-09, but urban household income increased by 51% in the same six-year period, from FJD15,267 to FJD23,036. Rural Fijians produce only half of their food needs. While the poverty rates in Fiji are among the lowest rates in the Pacific and poverty rates have slightly fallen in the last decade, however, three factors are of concern:

1) Urban poverty has increased (from 12 to 13% based on the US$3.20 per day international poverty line) even as aggregate and rural poverty have declined (from 17% to 14% and 22% to 16%, respectively). The increase is partially explained by accelerating rural to urban migration; however, even if all those who migrated in 2008–13 were poor, it cannot fully account for the increase in the headcount of the urban poor, suggesting that there has been a genuine rise in poverty in urban areas.

2) The risk of socio-economic shocks is high, for example following Cyclone Winston:

"The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment that the GoF prepared with assistance from a World Bank led team of development partners, estimates total damage and losses to the productive, social and infrastructure sectors at US$959 million (22% of GDP)". When this includes damages to the environment and losses in eco-system services, the estimated damage and losses rise to US$1.38 billion or 31 % of GDP. Of the damage and losses to the productive, social and infrastructure sectors, damages represented 65% of the total, with losses representing the remaining 35%. The housing was badly hit accounting for 59 % of total damages with more than 30,000 homes destroyed or damaged. The agriculture and fisheries sectors, which provide employment to an estimated 70% of the population suffered 61% of the total losses. Whereas the agricultural sector is expected to recover in three years, fisheries are expected to take up to ten years, due to the damage to coastal mangroves and coral reef habitats."[3]

3) Vulnerability is greatest for the poorest populations, who live in small communities in coastal areas in or remote outer islands. Women rely more on natural resources for their sustenance and livelihood, which makes them particularly vulnerable to climate extremes.

Fiji's rural population was 390,635 at the time of the 2017 Population Census, a decrease of 21,790 (5.3%) compared to 2007. The count shows that 44.1% of Fiji's population lives in the rural areas, which is a decrease of 5.1 percentage points compared to 2007. The population growth rate of Fiji is 0.06% (2012 to 2017), the proportion living below the national poverty rate is 28%; prevalence of undernourishment 2014-2016 4.6%; maternal mortality rate per 100,000 ratio 30; female unemployment rate is 8.6% (ADB 2018). The population of the ER-P area is shown in Table 1.1 and the location of the ER-P area is shown in Figure 1.1.

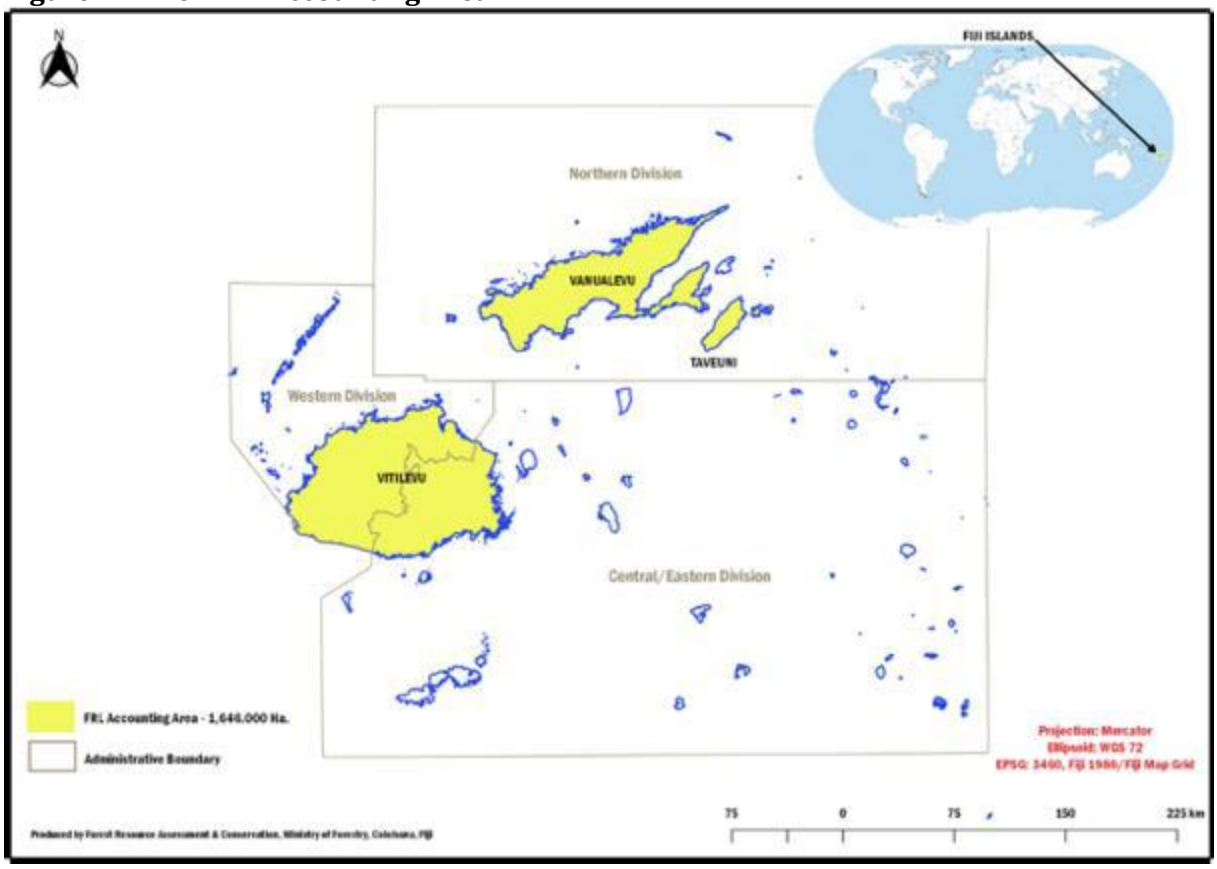
Table 1.1 Population and total area of Divisions and Provinces in the ERPD area

ER P Island and Provinces	Divisions	Total Area (Ha/Km²)	Population (2007)	Population (2017)	% Share of the ER-P Population
1. Viti Levu	**Central and Western**	**1,038,900 Hectares**	**594,791 Persons**	**715,219 Persons**	**83.6**
Ba	Western	2,634 km²	212,197 (54.4%)	247,708	28.9
Ra	Western	1341km²	30,904 (30.1%)	30,432	3.6
Nadroga-Navosa	Western	2,385km²	54,083 (37.9%)	58,931	6.9
Serua	Central	830 km²	15,461 (31.6%)	20,031	2.3
Namosi	Central	570 km²	5,742 (07.4%)	7,871	0.9
Rewa	Central	272 km²	101,547 (23.8%)	108,016	12.6
Tailevu	Central	955km²	48,216 (72.1%)	64,552	7.5
Naitarisi	Central	1,666 km²	126,641 (57.9%)	177,678	20.8
2. Vanua Levu	**Northern Division**	**597,657 Hectares**	**282,798 Persons**	**140918 Persons**	**16.4**
Bua	Northern	1,378km²	14,988 (16.6%)	15,466	1.8

[3] Cyclone Winston, the most powerful storm on record in the Southern Hemisphere, made landfall on February 20, 2016, killing 44 people and leaving a trail of destruction across large parts of Fiji. IBRD Post Cyclone Winston Emergency Development Policy Operation 2016. IBRD June 2016.

ER P Island and Provinces	Divisions	Total Area (Ha/Km²)	Population (2007)	Population (2017)	% Share of the ER-P Population
Macuata	Northern	2,004km²	80,207 (16.3%)	65,983	7.7
Cakaudrove Includes Taveuni	Northern	2,816km²	44,321 (38.9%)	59,469	6.9
Total		**1,636,557**	**734,307** (42.9%)	**856,173**	**100.0**

Figure 1.1The ER-P Accounting Area



1.3 Purpose of the ESMF

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is a framework instrument that examines safeguards issues and impacts of the ER-Program region of eleven provinces and/or a series of sub-projects. It will ensure that adverse environmental and social impacts are avoided or appropriately mitigated and/or compensated for. The specific purposes are to: 1) establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social assessment, review, approval and implementation of interventions to be financed under the project; 2) specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to program interventions; and 3) determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF. The ESMF will be supported by a detailed Program Implementation Manual (PIM).

The ESMF sets out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures for screening, assessment, and follow up on the anticipated environmental and social impacts of ER-Program activities. It contains measures and provisions related to avoiding, reducing, mitigating and/or offsetting adverse impacts, including cumulative or indirect environmental impacts of multiple activities and enhancing positive impacts, estimating the costs of such measures, and identifying and strengthening the agency or agencies responsible for addressing program impacts. The ESMF does not examine the safeguard issues and impacts of the REDD+ policy which may have quite different impacts in different regions of the country. The ESMF is prepared during the REDD+ Readiness phase, in line with the outcomes of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process.

1.4 The SESA

The SESA has provided a substantial body of empirical evidence from the ER-P Accounting Area in relation to the environmental assessment of the proposed ER-P and has concluded there are no major issues relating to conservation and protection of biodiversity, proposed protection and maintenance of ecosystem services, protection and proliferation of medicinal plants and curative practices, water regulation and watershed management. Where there are empirical gaps they can be further investigated and quantified. However, it has to be recognized that the SESA has less quantitative socio-economic data than is necessary to make very robust evidence-driven assertions but the data is adequate to inform both the ER-PD in relation to ER-P design with the necessary components to ensure that it is possible for a reduction in carbon emissions. It does address salient issues ranging from how local forest-dependent communities and even those communities living contiguously with closed forests, open forests, forest plantations and mangroves can participate in the ER-P.

The SESA is a tool which is designed to ensure that environmental and social concerns are integrated into the development and implementation processes. The main output from the SESA is the ESMF help to address risks, issues and impacts that may occur when implementing the interventions in the ER accounting area, to develop safeguards plans to mitigate and manage such risks and impacts in compliance with national legislation and World Bank safeguards.

The SESA process has comprised two main diagnostic parts:

1. Qualitative investigations and consultations on environmental, socio-economic and institutional aspects in rural areas in the ER-P provinces; and

2. A limited quantitative survey focusing on forest dependence and livelihoods of village households in some of 11 proposed ER-P provinces.

The SESA qualitative investigations began with an in-depth study of secondary literature, relevant policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) and both spatial and demographic data that had been collected by the FCPF team.

The SESA team's qualitative work was carried out in all of Provinces, and selected Districts and Villages from October 2015 to March 2016. It also included visits to villages. High priority districts for poverty alleviation (included under the Government's were deliberately chosen for investigations, as there is a significant number of them (12 districts covering a large percentage of the potential ER-P areas) in the northern part of the ER-P area;. Additionally, the SESA work echoes one of the three objectives for REDD+, as stated in the ER-PIN (revision, 2014:19) poverty reduction and rural livelihood development. The public consultation is discussed in detail in Chapter 10 of the ESMF. Additional follow up stakeholder consultations using participatory approaches were held village at level meetings in seven villages from July to August 2018 (see Table 1.2) shows the general are of consultations during July to August 2018 and a further nine village consultations were held in April and May 2019.

Table 1.2 Overview of Provinces visited for SESA investigations

Proposed ER-P area and provinces	Island	Landscape
Ba	Viti Levu	The western side of Viti Levu is a rain shadow and together with western parts of Ra is where much of the sugarcane is grown with pine becoming more important in the interior. The Nausori highlands are becoming important of cool climate vegetables. Pine plantations are scattered over much of the upland areas together with remnant natural forest. Fire is an important issue as it is Ra Province.
Ra	Viti Levu	The coastal part of Ra where heavily impacted by Cyclone Winston and are still recovering, large areas of pine were destroyed
Nadroga Navosa Sigatoka	Viti Levu	Includes important tourist locations and in land includes areas of sugar and pine. Includes the Sigatoka valley, which drains the Nadrau plateau. The lower part of the valley continues to be the most important area for vegetables, tobacco, papaya and fruit tree production. Upland areas contain pine and some large areas of remnant natural forest
Naitasiri and Namosi	Viti Levu	Includes rugged high land areas running up to the Rairaimatuku and Nadrau plateau and is important for the HPPs and includes large important areas of relatively undisturbed forest across the Korobasabasaga and Medrausucu mountain ranges. Some important tourist areas along the coast of Namosi including Pacific Harbour
Rewa	Viti Levu	Includes the Suva. The Rewa river delta is the largest area of mangroves in Fiji
Serua	Viti Levu	An important coastal tourist area but includes mangroves and areas of *pandanus* swamps
Tailevu	Viti Levu	Areas of mixed forest, livestock, plantations with coastal mangrove
Bua	Vanua Levu	This province is on the western end of Vanua Levu and has extensive pine plantings around the coast it is subject to quite strong wind
Macuata	Vanua Levu	This province is where much of the sugarcane is grown (in the central area) on Vanua Levu, toward the eastern end which is more rigged this gives way to mixture of pine and forest and then natural forest. The eastern end has tracts of relative good and unlogged forest. Around the coast and off shore from the province are extensive areas of mangroves. The high upland central area between Macuata and Cakaudrove provinces contains good forest. Along the road corridor this has been logged and there is much secondary regrowth. Invasive African Tulip has grown in some disturbed areas but away from the logged area it is not apparent.
Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Includes the island of Taveuni which is an important area for kava production and high levels of biodiversity. The main island has a mixture of high/ upland land forests often logged around the coast and replaced by coconuts, many of the coconut plantations are quite old

1.5 Approach and methodology for developing the ESMF

1.5.1 Information collection

All information/data relating on natural conditions of area, legal, regulatory and policy regime, for the ESMF, was collected through desk studies and participatory approaches. Natural conditions include climate, topography, soil suitable for forest tree species and main agricultural crops in the identified areas, biodiversity value, and ecosystem services. Legal, regulatory and policy regime include those related to forestry, agriculture and environment applied for the regions.

1.5.2 Stakeholder consultation

Relevant stakeholders (MOF staff, agriculture, forestry, environment, staff at provincial, district and Village levels, have been consulted to collect information on the proposed program activities through various workshops and field visits.

Stakeholders from the household level to the national and international level have been consulted. These consultations commenced in October 2015 although for the past three years there have also been consultations of an iterative nature. Consultations have involved rural communities, Matagli, and women focus groups. At the national level, including international participants based on consultation and participation records in excess of 100 people (including 25 women). Some 35 people, including 20 women, 11 different NGOs have been have been consulted in detail on REDD+ by the program and have participated in all or some of the REDD+ workshop activities. There have been in excess of 30 program related Workshops at the national and sub-national level.

Consultations were held with relevant Government departments/divisions/offices at Province, District and Village levels to assess the understanding of and preparedness for REDD+. This especially included the consultations with Matagali at the village level but representatives of other CSO organizations such as were also included. The assessments included discussions with the different organizations on the approaches taken especially on issues related to forest land management, and how they themselves assess their own resource availability in terms of staffing and implementation budgets.

1.6 Principles of the ESMF

A key principle is to prevent and mitigate any harm to the environment and to people by incorporating environmental and social concerns as an intrinsic part throughout the project/program cycle. Any identified adverse environmental and social impacts will be addressed and tracked throughout all stages of the project/program cycle to ensure that supported activities comply with the policies and practices laid out in the ESMF. It is necessary to 1) avoid potential adverse impacts; 2) if the impacts cannot be avoided mitigation measures should be proposed; and 3) if the impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated, compensations should be made.

1.7 Application of the ESMF and other safeguards frameworks

During FCPF's Readiness Phase the SESA, ESMF, RPF, and PF have been prepared on the basis of the existing suite of Bank safeguard policies, along with the Benefit Sharing Plan, all of which are expected to apply to the ER Program activities as the country moves into the carbon fund phase. These safeguard frameworks would be reviewed and cleared by the Bank as part of the Bank's due diligence process. In the ER Program Documents submitted to FCPF (on the basis of which the ER Program is selected into the Carbon Fund pipeline), Ministry of Forestry as the Program Entity commits to ensure that all activities which comprise the ER Program will adhere to the requirements set forth in the approved safeguard frameworks, including where relevant the preparation and implementation of site specific plans (such as RPs or ESMPs).

2 Program description

2.1 Program development objectives

Fiji's ER Program is designed to maximise climate co-benefits and integrate initiatives that address vulnerabilities of local communities and contribute to the efforts of building a more resilient nation.

Fiji's strong political commitment to REDD+

The national REDD+ programme and the activities of ER-Program are important components of recent national plans and strategies, most of which are forward looking long-term plans. These include the 5-year and 20-year National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2036; Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS); enhanced NDC (to be submitted in 2020); the new National Climate Change Policy (2019). In addition, Fiji's current efforts to include emission reduction commitments for agriculture and forestry in its NDCs demonstrates a very high-level of political support for ERP actions given the reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement. Coherent and transparent carbon accounting for the NDC, LEDS and REDD+, will be ensured as the ER Program will help strengthen the monitoring and reporting processes and capabilities.

2.2 ER-Program location

Republic of Fiji is an oceanic small island state with a total land area of 18,270km^2 within Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone of 194,000 km^2 and is made up of an archipelago of 332 islands in the South Pacific Ocean of which 100 are inhabited.

The ER program of the Republic of Fiji Islands will focus on the islands of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni an area of land totalling about 1,685,742 ha (about 90% of Fiji) of critical terrestrial biodiversity and has a population of approximately 734,307 people (86% of the total population). The islands are generally hilly and mountainous with over 60% of the land classified as steep-land and population is often concentrated on coastal plains and undulating rolling hills of peri-urban areas. The communities in Fiji are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and these impacts are projected to further intensify under the anticipated global warming trajectory. These impacts threaten Fiji's sustainable growth and places large economic, social and physical stress on local communities and ecosystems.

The proposed Emission Reduction Program (ER-P) has been developed by the Government of The Republic of Fiji Islands (GoF) and the World Bank (WB) in support of the FCPF-REDD+ Program for Fiji. The WB is not financing this ER-P but rather assisting the GoF to secure carbon financial benefits from the Carbon Fund based on a quantitative demonstration that Fiji can reduce carbon emissions to an agreed upon level. Fiji's Ministry of Forestry (MOF) is assigned to be the Program Owner and is responsible for the Program. The ER-P is expected to be implemented from 2020-2024.

REDD+ is an initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect global climate system through forest development and protection, utilization and sustainable management of forests in developing countries with technical and financial supports of international community. The COP16 decision No. 1/CP16 (the Cancun Agreement) of the Conference of Parties of United Nations Framework Convention to Climate Change (UNFCCC) identifies five key activities: i) reducing emissions from deforestation, ii) reducing emissions from forest degradation, iii) conservation of forest carbon stocks; iv) sustainable management of forests and v) enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

In Fiji, REDD+ implementation is fully consistent with Government's policies on responding to climate change, on green growth. It is expected that REDD+ will create new financial resources, contributing to forest development and protection, increase in value of forests and socio-economic development. Furthermore, REDD+ preparation and implementation shows willingness of Fiji to join hands with the international community to protect global climate system.

2.3 Environmental and socio-economic conditions in the ER-Program areas

Fiji is a large archipelago with strong climatic contrasts between the eastern wetter and dry westerns sides of the large islands, and with diverse landscapes. The complexity and mix of the climatic and vegetative variations over the ER-P make generalisations difficult.

The Western division of Viti Levu is a rain shadow and has a tropical climate with hot humid 'summers' and relatively dry 'winters'. The average annual rainfall in Nadi is 1,809 mm and in Lautoka is 1,868 mm, much less than in Suva (3,041 mm). Both Nadi and Lautoka have an average rainfall of less than 75 mm in June, July and August. Rakiraki on the coast in the north of Ra province has a higher annual rainfall than Nadi and Lautoka (averaging 2,352 mm), though rainfall further south in the province is lower.

A geographic difference in sunshine distribution is evident between Suva (windward side of Viti Levu) and Nadi (Leeward side of Viti Levu during winter (June to August). The prevalence of onshore trade winds results in significant periods of overcast along the windward coast of the larger islands, often (but not always) associated with showers or drizzle. While these two locations represent the two extremes of sunshine.

On Vanua Levu the central Labasa and flatter north-eastern side of the island is also a rain shadow and is where the sugarcane industry is centred

The production of kava is currently having a large impact on agriculture and the forest where it can be grown. In Fiji the crop is valued at around FJD66M per year benefitting over 21,000 kava farms. Between 2010 and 2013, kava production in Fiji grew by over 30%. In that period, earnings doubled from FJD3.8M to FJD7M. In Vanuatu, kava exports grew by almost 40% during that period benefitting over 30,000 households.

A summary of important environmental issues in the Emission Reduction Program area includes:

- The ER-P area is susceptible to climate change and is vulnerable to natural disasters and extreme weather events;
- The area has a number of relatively large and small infrastructure project that have resulted in short and long term social and environmental impacts which can be locally quite severe;
- The ER-P area has a number of deforestation and forest degradation drivers working (including infrastructure), most are localised but the local impacts can be quite severe which impact on forest cover and include:
    - Encroachment on forest for agricultural purposes particularly the conversion of forest to kava or a mix of taro and kava;
    - Illegal logging encroachment impact on protected areas and forest reserve/watershed protection forest; and
    - Fragmentation and degradation of remnant various types of natural forest;
- Increasing threats to protected areas and biodiversity; and

- Forest governance issues.

2.3.1 Species biodiversity and endemism

As of August 2013, 1,417 species in Fiji were assessed according to the IUCN Categories and Criteria for inclusion in the Red List of Threatened Species. While the majority of assessed species are found in marine habitats, a greater percentage of terrestrial species are threatened. This pattern can be explained by the more restricted range of many of the terrestrial species and the extent of human impact on terrestrial ecosystems.

Agricultural activities of concern include cattle farming, logging, wood harvesting and shifting cultivation practices (which can include conversion to coconut and sugarcane plantations). Land-use change due to agriculture, the spread of invasive species, fires, habitat degradation and alteration, mining activities and over-exploitation are the main threats to all single-country endemic species. In total, 930 of the 2,062 extant single-country endemic species (nearly 45%) are at a risk of extinction.

The biggest threats to single-country endemic species classified as "threatened" are the spread of invasive species followed by land-use change due to agriculture, fires and habitat loss.

Of a total of 258 extant Fijian endemics, 45% are plants, and 34% are molluscs (Class *Gastropoda*). Over half (56%) of these endemics have been assessed as threatened, with 32% listed as Critically Endangered.

The uniqueness of its biodiversity distinguishes Fiji from all other countries. Much of Fiji's biodiversity is unique to Fiji, however, virtually most if not all of the terrestrial natural habitats of Fiji have been modified or even extensively modified over time due to human influence. This does not in any way reduce the significance of the biodiversity. While the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan does not systematically recognize different risk management approaches to protecting biodiversity, however, it does recognize, that some areas are of critical importance. This follows advice from international and national conservation NGOs (this also follows the OP4.04) and of the course the Action Plan recognises protected areas, nature reserves etc. (see Table 3.4 and Figure 3.1 below). The conservation NGOs (including NatureFiji, BirdLife International IUCN, WCS etc.) have identified important biodiversity areas and these are all listed in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. For example, these include the identification of Important Bird Areas, Endemic Bird Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and Alliance of Zero Extinction Sites (all have accepted international definitions e.g. "IBAs are sites of global biodiversity conservation importance selected because they may hold threatened birds, birds restricted to particular regions or biomes…" etc., see Section 3.1.6 c) below). The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan also recognises "critical" ecosystems (but not all potential "critical" habitats are recognized as such) and there is no definition of risks faced by different habitats, nor are there definitions of "critical" "natural" or "modified" habitats used in Fiji. As noted already, almost all the natural habitat ecosystems of Fiji have been modified to some extent, but some "critical natural habitat" areas are included in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The ER-P area for Fiji includes the following which are referred to as "critical" (in a broad sense) by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: 1) Areas of cloud forest, 2) The Sovi Basin (this is the largest remaining relatively undisturbed tract of lowland forest), 3) Kilaka Forest an area of relatively undisturbed upland forest (Kilaka Forest Conservation Area 4.02km^2) on Vanua Levu, 4) mangroves (in general), 5) riparian forest (in general), 6) wetlands (in general including two Ramsar sites), and 7) the IBA, KBAs, and AZE sites.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan notes that different risk management approaches are not available for all critical habitats i.e. "most of the protected areas do not have management plans in place although the National Trust is piloting management plans for Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park and Sovi Basin Protected Area and other NGOs such as WCS have been working on management plans for protected areas. Furthermore, many of the areas have not been selected on the basis of

ecological knowledge or biodiversity values".). It should also be noted that there is no intention in the ER-PD to promote significant activities to disturb, modify, log, replant etc. any potential "critical" habitat or protected area; quite the opposite as the ER-PD does include strengthened forest governance and which should contribute to improvements to the protection of the protected areas, high conservation forest and hotspots of high biodiversity. The ER-P will support the development of management plans/ improved management approaches and any necessary mitigation for critical natural habitats and this approach is included in the SESA (Tables 4.2 and 4.3) and the ESMF (Tables 4.1 and 4.2).

Of the 1,769 native vascular plant species in Fiji, 50% or more of Fiji's plants and birds, all 24 palms, 72 of the 76 species of *Psychotria*, both frogs, over 90% of some insect groups, such as cicadas and marine insects, are all endemic. The total number of vascular plants known is approximately 2,600, of which 1,600 are native and 1,000 introduced. Current best estimates suggest that Fijian flora consists of 310 *pteridophyte*s and at least 2,225 seed plants. Out of a total of 27 reptile species, 12 are endemic.

Fiji's remaining native forest is now mainly confined to areas of high rainfall and elevation and steep slopes, with much of the accessible lowland forest cleared by loggers and converted to plantations or agriculture. The exploitation of forests for timber has played a major role in deforestation and significantly affected forest quality and diversity (GoF, 2010c). The loss of native forest will have undoubtedly affected populations of the restricted-range species and several are classified as threatened or Near Threatened. An example is *Lamprolia victoriae*, which, although still common in forest on Taveuni (nominate *victoriae*), is very rare on Vanua Levu (race *kleinschmidti*) where it is restricted to the already heavily logged and unprotected Natewa peninsula. The survival of the majority, if not all, of the restricted-range species will depend on the existence of areas of native forest large enough and sufficiently well distributed to negate the localized destruction caused by regular cyclones (D. Watling *in litt*. 1993).

Unplanned and uncoordinated tourism activities can become a major threat to Fiji's biodiversity. In particular, habitat destruction in the coastal areas for tourism development is a major threat to Fiji's biodiversity in the mangrove, estuaries, reef and foreshore ecosystems.

Fiji has undertaken a number of initiatives to progress towards biodiversity conservation in the country, and these are documented in Fiji's Fifth National Report to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) (GoF, 2014a). The report highlights the increasing importance of preventing spread of invasive species: "Travel within the Fiji group is increasing rapidly and there is a need for measures to be introduced to prevent the spread of established invasive species within Fiji's 300+ islands".

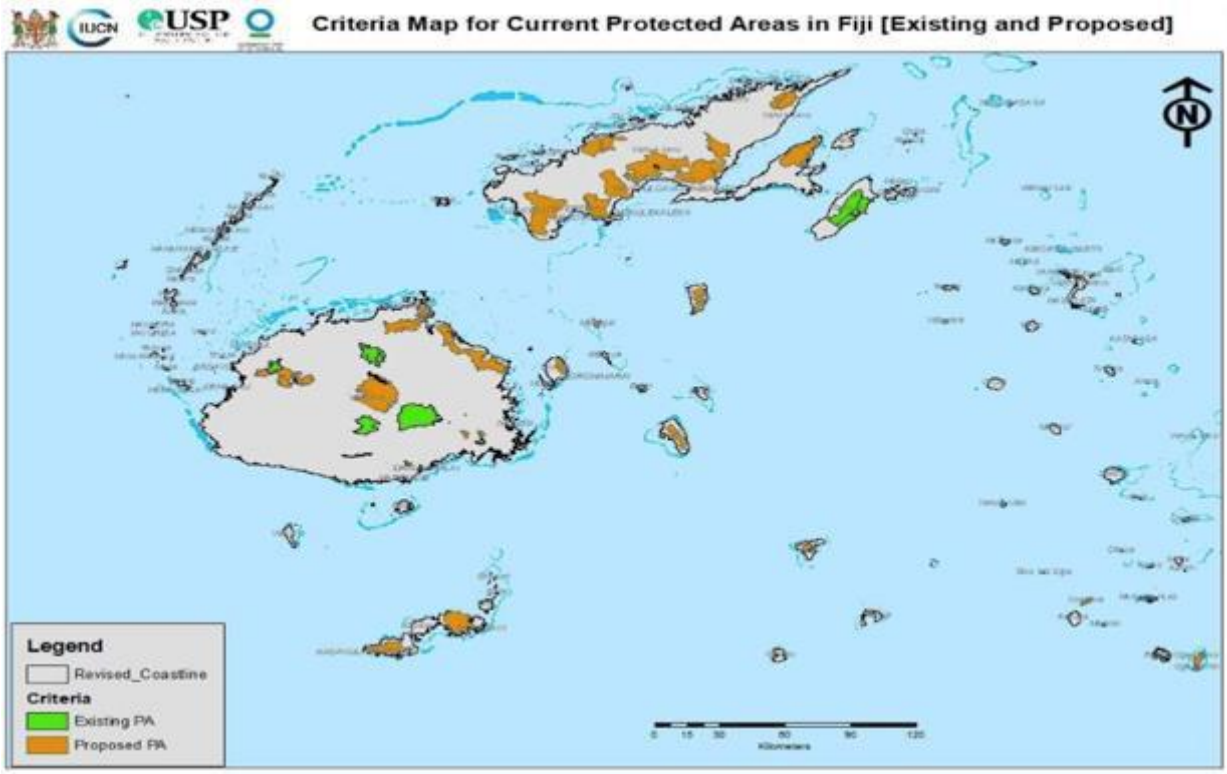
The 2013 State of Conservation in Fiji assessment also outlines key achievements in conservation in Fiji, with particular focus on the size and type of protected areas and governance initiatives in the country (SPREP, 2016).

The National Environment Strategy (NES) drew up a list of 140 Sites of National Significance, proposing that a formal legislative process be enacted to give them greater protection from destructive development. There are 16 Forest Reserves (22,214 ha)[4], six Nature Reserves (5,373 ha) and 15 Parks (16,912 ha) and two Ramsar sites within the ER-P accounting area. The reserves were established and declared during the colonial era, with the first - *Taveuni* Forest Reserve, declared in 1914 (Erasito 2011).

In the 15 years since the NES, several forest areas have been reserved either through formal leasing arrangements with landowners or through informal agreements. Notable among these are Waisali – established through a formal lease in 1996; and the 'Heritage Parks' of Bouma and Abaca.

Figure 2.1 Protected areas and key biodiversity areas of the ER-P

[4] Ministry of Forests, 2016 Key Statistics Booklet. The Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Forests, 2016.



2.3.2 Forests

It is estimated that 140,000 hectares of Fiji's native forests have been converted to non-forest land-use since 1967. The four main causes of this conversion include forest clearance for commercial agriculture and rural development projects; commercial and subsistence farming; growth of small settlements and urban areas; and infrastructure development such as roads to service settlements.

Recent trends indicate an increase in overall forest cover in Fiji from 52% of land mass in 1990 to 56% of land area in 2010 (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2010) (see Table 4), reflecting the increase in plantation forestry (primarily pine and mahogany), which now composes 11% of the forest area of Fiji (Government of Fiji 2010). The increase in plantation forests was associated with a 9% decline in primary forest cover from 490,000 hectares in 1990 to 449,000 hectares in 2010.

The major causes of loss of coastal and littoral forests include:

- Overexploitation and felling of useful trees for construction, woodcarving, fuel, medicines and other uses;
- Rapid urbanisation and expansion of settlement;
- Conversion of coastal areas to agriculture (sugarcane), aquaculture and tourism;
- Invasive alien species, including goats, pigs, rats, ants and weeds, such as Wedelia (Sphagneticola trilobata). Listed as one of the '100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species, Wedelia has spread to beaches on most islands and is found along riverbanks to elevations of 700 meters. It has invaded Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park and other conservation areas; and
- Failure to replant trees after cyclones and other extreme event or natural causes.

2.3.3 Traditional forest use

Fiji recognizes customary land ownership as enshrined in the Constitution. The rights flowing from customary land ownership, including traditional forest use, are regulated in the legislation. Traditional forest use rights for subsistence and customary purposes include harvesting of wood for firewood and other traditional uses, the collection of forest produce for food and medicinal purpose.

Although the annual population growth in Fiji is low at 0.7% per year compared to the global average of 1.2% per year (World Bank, 2017). The urban-rural distribution is close to parity between the ages 45-49 while rural dwellers dominate the population aged 60 and over.

The protection of traditional forest use is strengthened by its exclusivity, given no person other than the traditional landowners may exercise these rights where the land is un-alienated. Men and women have equal access to non-timber resources as sources of income and or food security.

The community consultation conducted in Tomaniivi and Serua revealed that communities[5] still collect medicinal plants, wild crops, edible ferns, fruit, nuts, pandanus leaves (for weaving mats), sago palm leaves (for roof thatching), and wild pigs in the forest. Any non-timber forest products that are collected in excess are sold on the roadside or at local market. However, there is a lack of quantifiable information on the impact of such extraction to substantiate the impact of traditional practices.

Various species are selectively logged for traditional use, and thus their unsustainable harvesting changes the natural forest species composition. The traditional demand for selected species has been exacerbated with the increasing iTaukei population. Traditional use of forest trees such as Dakua makadre (*Agathis macrophylla*, Pacific Kauri) include timber for the construction of village houses and community structures; tree trunks for canoes and gongs; dead branches for firewood; resins for glue and glazing pots; resin smoke as a dye for hair and tattoos; and – for several *mataqali*, villages and districts – also the totem tree.

Vesi (*Intsia bijuga*) is also highly valued for its durability, attractive dark red-brown coloring, and traditional use for central poles in chiefs' houses, gongs, and canoes. Its easy-to-work properties also make it suitable for woodcarving of valuable artifacts. The commercial production of kava bowls, weapons, and other artifacts to supply the growing tourist market has put additional pressure on the vesi population, particularly in the absence of replanting (Thaman, Thomson, DeMeo, Areki, & Elevitch, 2006).

2.3.4 Agriculture

The study on Deforestation and Forest Degradation Report[6] included both commercial agriculture, in which the objective is selling the majority of products, and subsistence agriculture, in which producers focus on growing enough food to feed their entire families with the surplus sold in the local market to complement household income.[7] Sugar cane production is the most important commercial agricultural product, while the most popular small-scale semi-commercial or subsistence crops include kava, taro, cassava, and rice.

The Fiji National REDD+ Program as established in 2009 identifies agricultural clearance as one of the three main drivers of deforestation in Fiji (GoF, 2017b), as confirmed by the participants of the community, divisional, and national consultation workshops. While there has been a significant change in agriculture over the last 20 years with a decrease in area under production, deforestation

[5] Situational Analysis Report Delivery 3, IAS, April 2017,

[6] Analysis of Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Identification of Response Strategies, Conservation International 2018.

[7] In Fiji, producers earning less than FJD8,000/year are categorized as subsistence, producers earning between FJD8,000 and FJD15,000/year are categorized as semi-commercial, and producers earning over FJ$15,000/year are categorized as commercial (MoA, 2016).

continues to be driven by conversion to agriculture as previously cropped areas, now depleted areas are abandoned, and new areas are cleared. It must be noted however that much of the available agriculture land were cultivated by the mid-1970s so development for new expansion of agricultural land will fall on rolling to steep terrain, often with some form of forest cover (Leslie & Ratukalou, 2002a). Unsustainable practices are becoming increasingly common, including: intensive farming methods (e.g., hillside farming methods), land reclamation within wetlands (e.g., mangrove conversion for rice farming), and commercial husbandry with poor pasture management (e.g., slash and burn methods to clear areas for new pasture) (Ganpat & Isaac, 2016).

Twyford and Wright (1965) classified Fiji's land utilization capacity based on its suitability for cultivation and the effort needed to modify it for agricultural use. The results indicate that an estimated 5,298 sq.km of Fiji's land mass is suitable for agricultural production. An additional 5,846 sq.km needs modification for drainage and soil conservation before they can be used for agriculture. Such lands are well suited for forest and (marginally) for grazing. The rest of the land is deemed unsuitable for both agriculture and forestry (although limited forestry use may be considered) with strong recommendation for protection for water catchment and biodiversity (UNCCD National Focal Point, 2007; Twyford & Wright, 1965; ADB, 2014a; Akram-Lodhi, 2016; MoA, 2016).

Between 1991 and 2009, the number of farms in Fiji reduced by one-third from 95,400 to 65,033, and the average size of each farm has decreased from 6.2 ha to 3.9 ha or o.039 sq.km to 0.062 sq.km (Department of Agriculture, 2009). This represents an overall reduction in total farm area of nearly 60%, to the current total of 251,858 ha or 2158 sq.km (Department of Agriculture, 2009), which is equivalent to 14% of Fiji's landmass. Given that 29% of Fiji's land was suitable for agriculture production in 1965, an estimated 15% of prime agriculture land is now either dormant/abandoned or converted to other land uses such as infrastructure development, housing, industrial expansion, and others.

Although decreasing area of production, agriculture is still an important economic activity and remains the largest employer in Fiji. Estimates from 2015, value agriculture at 8.3% of GDP, which includes subsistence (2.8%); crops[8], livestock, and horticulture (4.2%); and sugarcane (1.3%) (FBoS, 2016b). Agricultural commodities have stabilized between 2014-2015 with strong increase in livestock beef and pig farms while cassava, taro and assorted vegetables have driven crop production Inability to compete effectively in deregulated global markets coupled with political instability have had adverse effect on the sugar industry.

The demand for agricultural products is rapidly increasing, as a result of rural-urban drift along with change in diet and food preferences, the growth of the hospitality and tourism sector, and government pressure for more exports and import substitutions. In addition, non-renewal of agriculture leases has caused an influx in migration farmers, particularly those producing sugarcane, to move out of agricultural activities and into an urban lifestyle. As a result, about 51% of Fiji's population live in urban areas, and this is expected to increase to 60% by 2030 (UNICEF, 2011). Natural, climate-related events have added to the pressure. For example, Tropical Cycolen Winston, (Category 5 cyclone) hit Fiji in 2016 which impacted 62% of the population. This resulted in an estimated total damage and loss across all sectors at FJ$2.85 billion (Esler, 2016), nearly one-third (29%) of which was sustained in the production sectors. The prices of certain crops like kava have significantly increased due to the cyclone and because of the high demand on both the domestic and export markets (Naleba, 2017).

a) Commercial Agriculture

Sugar is the only agricultural commodity that qualifies as a commercial crop, given the characteristics of: (1) being a leading commodity that drives production and (2) providing a consistent contribution to annual GDP. The government is a major shareholder of the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) and

[8] Including taro.

recognizes the importance of the sugar industry with more than 20,000 independent farmers (cultivating an average 3 ha per farm) (Department of Agriculture, 2009).

Sugar was once the stronghold of the agriculture sector, reaching a maximum annual production of 3.2 million metric tons in 2006 (FSC, 2007); however, production has been declining since 2007 (FSC, 2015). Several factors contributed to this decline, including: the poor performance of the sugar industry, the slow adjustment to trade liberalization, the impact of natural disasters, incidences of pest and disease outbreaks, export trade restrictions, political instability and inconsistent public-sector support.

The government began to reform and invest in the industry in 2006, to support mill upgrades for improved efficiency. The effort appeared to be successful for a short period, as efficiency of processing cane into sugar increased – but it then declined. Despite the improvement in sugar productivity, the stagnant growth of the sugar industry over the last decade reflects the failure of productive activities that spin off from a vibrant and growing export market. The lack of stimulus from the sugar sector and non-renewal of land lease has given rise to rapid rural-urban migration.

b) Subsistence Agriculture

Almost half of Fiji's population lives in rural areas and derives a portion of its livelihood from agriculture (ADB, 2012). The majority of farms produce a mix of crops and livestock (73%), with the remainder cultivating either crops (20%) or livestock (7%) (Department of Agriculture, 2009). Agricultural land uses are categorized as: temporary crops,[9] permanent crops[10] (including kava), coconut, pasture (including animal husbandry), planted forest, natural forest on farm, non-agriculture land, and fallow.

There are over 30 species listed under temporary crops, the most popular of which are cassava, taro, and assorted vegetables which are most commonly cultivated by farmers with at least three hectares of land. The most popular permanent crops are banana, coconut, and kava (Department of Agriculture, 2009).

In terms of deforestation and degradation, the production data from the Ministry of Agriculture (2017) indicates that the high levels of semi-commercial cultivation of kava, taro, and cassava cultivation are leading to encroachment into the native forests, as confirmed by the deforestation and forest degradation community consultation sites in Naitasiri and Ra provinces. Small patches of forest are cleared and planted with kava (as it requires shade in its first three years of growth), after which the kava is thinned and a greater patch of forest cleared to expose it to direct sunlight. Kava is followed by taro and cassava. By the time these crops are harvested, the soil is depleted of its fertility, causing farmers to continue to seek new farmlands in the native forests.

The informants from Rewasau and Nabukelevu stressed that newly cleared forest is the best location for new kava crop. While kava has a production cycle of three to five years depending on the variety, high market demand is driving local farmers to plant the varieties with a shorter life cycle.

Many farmers in the study site prefer to plant taro and cassava for subsistence and sale of excess produce (CI, 2017). Vegetable farming in the study sites is limited to subsistence, other than the village of Navai in Naboubuco, Naitasiri (CI, 2017). Other subsistence agriculture includes rice farms although the area is very small (less than one ha); florist where ornamental plants are raised in a backyard nursery; and livestock. Livestock farms are often under one-half hectare in size with two to four animals. The cattle (raised for beef) are let loose in the forest with no restrain simply due to high cost

[9] Temporary crops include all crops that have a planting cycle of one year or less.
[10] Permanent crops include all vegetables and woody plants or shrubs that take more than nine months to become productive, have a planting cycle of five years or more, and do not need to be replanted once it goes into production.

of capital input needed for fencing material and maintenance of feedstock. Pigs and goats are also common amongst local farmers, often with a carrying capacity of four to six animals per farm.

Although ginger is a non-traditional commodity, it has proven to be a successful diversification crop in other areas which has generated interest among rural farmers. The caveat in such interests lies in the agronomical needs of the ginger plant which needs a lot of sunlight and good drainage hence is associated with forest clearing similar to kava. However, the production cycle of ginger is much shorter with greater impact on deforestation, forest and land degradation.

It has been observed that households where the head of the household works in agriculture are detected to be poorer than those whose heads worked in the services sector (ADB, 2012). Additional findings from the community consultations revealed that some households depend on remittances from relatives in urban areas. Coupled with easy availability of processed foods from village canteens, subsistence agriculture in some communities has declined.

c) Fire

Fire is widely used in Fiji and includes 1) sugarcane farmers who burn their fields to facilitate hand harvesting;[11] 2) village farmers burn forest, fallow fields, and secondary vegetation to plant crops, fallow 3) fires on mission grass covered hills serve to provide 'new grass' for village cattle, horses, and goats (King 2004), 3) hunters who use fire to flush out game and/or crop-thieving pigs (Kull, 2012) and 4) fire in Fiji, is to clear vegetation on lower hill slopes for the collection of wild yams (*Dioscorea* spp.) according to King (2004),

Impact of fires

Anthropogenic fires are seen as an important primary driver leading to the loss of Fiji's tropical dry forests (Keppel & Tuiwawa, 2007). The fires that cover the most ground are those set in the grasslands of the drier, lee-side of the islands[12]. Major land degradation occurs over a period of time, mainly through clearing, deforestation, and in dry zones frequent burning and the creation of a self-perpetuating cycle of fire-dependent highly flammable grasses.

Fires occurred in the western lowlands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu islands, even where fewer sugar cane plantations are located. These regions are also predominantly occupied by pine plantation, and although fire clearance is strictly prohibited for FSC certification, unplanned fire is remains a considerable threat (Herold & Payton, 2009) to young pine plantations. Given the heavy ground fuel accumulated over time, many of these fires are very intense, exacerbating the effect on forest degradation and deforestation.

Sugarcane fields

Fire takes place during the harvest season of sugarcane, lasting from July to November (dry season) with the peak of the burning season being in September. Fire occurrence is also related to annual rainfall, showing an increase in fire when the annual rainfall was lower than the average (2003, 2010, 2014). The opposite is also true, wetter years (2007, 2009, and 2012) show a low number of fires. Sugarcane burning is discouraged and was penalized under certain conditions, but it is still practiced by farmers to accelerate the task of harvesting, clearing weeds and undergrowth, and destroying insects; to minimize labour costs or mitigate labour shortages; or to advance milling priority (Davies, 1998). This burning alone is responsible for 44% of greenhouse gas emissions from sugarcane production (de Figueiredo, Panosso, Romao, & La Scala, 2010). Sugarcane fires spread to grasslands, forest, and pine plantations, thus contributing to the forest degradation and deforestation. The

[11] Sugarcane fields are burned prior to harvest to remove the sharp leaves and other material on the stalk that slow down – and, in some cases, can injure – workers who manually harvest the cane.
[12] Kull, Christian A. (2012) Fire and people in tropical island grassland landscapes: Fiji and Madagascar. Journal of Pacific Studies 32: 121-129.

practice of burning cane prior to its harvesting. This practice increased rapidly. The burning of sugar cane may be deliberate or it may be accidental. In Fiji it is estimated by the industry that over 95% of all burning is deliberate, the residual 5% being attributable to lightning, carelessness or neighbourly sabotage (which is, of course, also deliberate). Some of the deliberate burning is initiated by the growers, some by the harvesting gangs. The effects of burning are widespread, affecting processing, harvesting, growing, and the environment, five principal categories of consequence: soil and environmental damage; diminished quantity and quality of sugar recovery; slower, more costly and less efficient processing; diminished energy potential of bagasse fiber; and easier harvesting [13].

In a rapid spatial assessment between the locations of the sugarcane plantations and fire occurrence between 2002 and 2016, it was observed that there is a high correlation between sugarcane plantations and fire occurrence. This correlation is most evident in the northern lowlands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu islands.

A coordinated effort on wildfire control, at community level and including a fire surveillance system; improving the institutional environment for agroforestry planting is required.

2.4 Summary of the socio-economic conditions in the ER-P area

The 11 ER-P provinces present a varied set of socio-economic conditions that are influenced by their location (coastal, inland or upland), natural resources (coastal mangroves, grasslands once were largely forested and forests and numerous water bodies including lakes, streams and rivers), economic activities (ranging from upland natural forest based activities to tree plantations for milling, to grasslands used for livestock grazing, agricultural cropping land especially the cultivation of sugarcane and to a lesser extent other crops, and tourism), and most importantly the people themselves (most the ER-P provinces are people in rural areas are iTauekei to a greater extent than other non-iTaukei). The most populous of the ER-P provinces are Ba, Naitarisi and Rewa are in Viti Levu where Fiji's largest urban populations (Nadi, Lautoka, Nasouri and Suva – also where the largest informal settlements constituting 15% of Fiji's population - are located in addition to Labasa in Macuata Province in the Northern Region of Vanua Levi. Male children outnumber female children by a ratio of 100 female children to 107 (right on the world average) but the highest ratio in the ER-P provinces is in Macuata where the population ratio is 112 to 100.

The average household size for iTaukei households is 6.2, but this varies with whether or not the household is poor or not. Poorer households surveyed for the SESA sometimes had household members in excess of 10 (the highest number was 16) while non-poor households had average household sizes of just under 6 persons (were some smaller households of 2 to 3 members). By way of contrast the average size of poorer non-iTaukei households was 5.5 persons (the largest number was only 8) whereas for non-poor iTaukei households the average size of households was 5.2 persons (smaller households were similar in size to iTaukei households). Of course, when reference is made to iTaukei households it has to be remembered here the reference is to the *Tokatoka*, which is the individual family unit and for most iTaukei they are members of a *Mataqali* clan with its attendant social and communal obligations that are not typically characteristic of non-iTaukei households at least in the ER-P Accounting Area. This does not mean that in non-iTaukei communities there are no social and communal obligations, but they are embedded to a much greater extent in cultural characteristics of non-iTaukei culture than in iTaukei culture. iTaukei cultural obligations are more deeply embedded in customary land ownership, which of course non-iTaukei households do not have access to except *via* leasing arrangements.

[13] The causes and consequences of cane burning in Fiji's sugar belt; Davis J (1998); Journal of Pacific Studies 22: 1998 1-25.

Education and literacy data for the ER-P provinces after 2007 has not differentiated among and between different groups based on ethnicity, but data for 2007 reveals that less than 0.0% of iTaukei people had no formal schooling compared to 3.5% of non-iTaukei people (4% of people nationally have not attended school). 85% of iTaukei households had household members who attended secondary school compared to 70% of non-iTaukei households (74% of people nationally have attended secondary school), but 23% of the latter have participated in post-secondary education programs compared to only 13% of non-iTaukei households (15% of people in Fiji under the age of 45 have participated in post-secondary education). In relation to gender differentiated participation these is little differentiation although iTaueki women are more likely to participate at all levels than non-iTaukei women, but it is difficult to attribute this to "culture" or other reasons such as "poverty" because, especially in the context of poverty issues there is not a great deal of difference between the poor and non-poor in the rural areas. Older iTaukei women and men are more likely to be able to converse in both the Fijian and English language than older non-iTaukei women and to a lesser extent men. Non-iTaukei women and men speak Fiji Hindi or what is sometimes referred to as *Fijian Baat* or *Fijian Hindustani* and many of these younger women and men also speak Fijian (some iTaukei also speak Fiji Hindi although to a lesser extent than the non-iTaukei persons of Indian ethnic background and this is partly explained by the latter's dominance in the business and retail sector).

Also, most young Fijians, even in rural areas and irrespective of gender and ethnicity also speak English that is also one of the three official languages of Fiji. This incidentally has some implications for the ER-P. Where non-iTaukei communities are to be targeted the language of dissemination should be Fiji Hindi not Fijian or English unless preferred by all participants, which was not found by the SESA Team during consultations with these communities in Ba Province. To date information pertaining to REDD+ in Fiji has not been systemically disseminated in non-iTaukei communities, but it is argued in this SESA and the Consultation and Participation Plan, that will be included in the ESMF and Process Framework, that further dissemination should be supported.

In the context of health indicators, Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) which is a good indicator for assessing health outcomes is 15/1,000 in Fiji. In the Central Region the IMR is 11/1,000, Western 16/1,000 and Northern 24/1,000. This compares with 6/1,000 in the Cook Islands which has the lowest IMR among South Pacific Island States and is relatively low by comparison with some middle-income countries and has declined from 25/1,000 in 1965. The Under 5 Mortality Rate for Fiji is 22/1,000 compared to 10/1,000 in the Cook Islands but the Mortality Rate is 35/1,000 in the Northern Region, 21/1,000 in the Western Region and 20/1,000 in the Central Region. Common aliments that impact upon mortality rates in the ER-P provinces include birth asphyxia, congenital malformations, sepsis, underweight and congenital syphilis. While over 98% of young people are immunized for BCG/ Tuberculosis and in every ER-P village the percentage of young children immunized for other childhood illnesses (e.g., OPV1, 2 and 3 and Pentavalent) is below the effective rate of 90%. According, to 2018 WHO data male life expectancy is 69.9 years (Male: 67.1 and Female 73.1). There is no data on a provincial basis, but it can be assumed that that life expectancy is lower among poorer households than non-poorer households. Similarly, there is no data disaggregated by ethnicity.

The leading non-communicable diseases in Fiji are hypertension, diabetes and illnesses associated with obesity (even some cancers are on the increase). In recent times dengue fever has dramatically increased in Fiji. In 2012 there were only 708 positive cases but by 2018 there were over 45,000 positive cases and a number of deaths (data not available). Whether this can be attributed to climate change in the South Pacific is problematic but from Mainland SE Asia there is anecdotal evidence that perhaps it is. However, it also needs to be noted that dengue in Fiji is not simply occurring in urban and peri-urban areas or in coastal settlements but also in upland forested areas where people are living. The incidence of HIV/AIDS in Fiji is quite low, but once more anecdotal evidence suggests that with the rise of "commercial sex" work in Fiji this may change. No sociological studies have been undertaken of commercial sex workers – female or male – but once more anecdotal evidence suggests that both iTaukei and non-iTaukei workers, including some who have migrated from rural areas are involved in such activity. This phenomenon is indicative or rural-urban drift in Fiji, which can also be

argued does not bode well for younger and better educated village women and men residing in the village and contributing to the ER-P.

People living with some form of disability do have to be considered as vulnerable. In the ER-P provinces the greatest form of disability is associated with forms of physical impairment accounting for over 60% of all people disabled. Of disabled persons males constitute 54% and females 46%. The highest incidence of disability is 2.5% in the Northern Division of Macuata and the lowest of 0.2% in the Central Division of Namosi. There is no data disaggregated by either gender or poverty although intuitively and based on the SESA observations poorer people who are physically impaired and living in more remote villages are more likely to be disadvantaged than people from non-poor households living in less remote villages. It can be stressed here that some of the ER-P interventions, especially those associated with afforestation and reforestation or other forest protection activities are generally beyond the physical capacity of these physically impaired persons, but they should also benefit from both carbon and non-carbon benefits. Interestingly, both iTaukei and non-iTaukei informants agreed that any program should also ensure the participation of these physically impaired households as equal beneficiaries in the ER-P.

Access to a metered water supply in the ER-P provinces ranges from a high of 70% in Rewa to a low of 20% in Ra. However, villages in Ra in the Western Division have access to better natural water resources than in villages of Rewa so this does not mean metered water supply is a guarantee of a reliable supply of potable drinking water but clearly in the watersheds of the ER-P provinces it is necessary to protect watersheds. But metered water supplied from engineered water supply systems is supposed to be safer than from other sources even if it is not considered as having the same good taste as water from other sources. 70% of households in the ER-P have access to flush toilets ranging from a high of 80% in Rewa to 50% in Ra.

While no-one in Fiji experiences serious forms of food insecurity in the context of nutrition relating to stunting that 8.5% of non-iTaukei persons are stunted and 7.2% of iTaukei persons. Stunting for females at 9.5% is significantly higher than 5% for males and 7% of infants up to 2 years and 8% for young children 2 to 5 years. Whether this means that households are more likely to ensure that males and better nourished than females are problematic. During cultural and religious festivals older males are served first, but on a day-to-day basis males and females irrespective of gender typically eat at the same time in the same venue. Anaemia rates at 40% are higher for males than females at 35% and 88% for infants under 2 years, 22% for young children from 2 to 5 years, and 25% in urban areas and 70% in rural areas. Only 1% of iTaukei experience wasting compared to 8% of non-iTaukei, 4% of males and 3% of females, 4.5% for infants under 2 years and 3% for young children from 2 to 5 years. Vitamin A deficiency occurs in 42% of males, 40% of females, 91% of infants under 2 years and 25% for young children from 2 to 5 years. Interesting Vitamin A deficiency is highest in Ba at 75% and lowest in the Northern Division, which is also the poorest division at 15%. This SESA cannot offer plausible explanations as to why this should be so but it does demonstrate that poverty per se does not always explain nutritional issues.

In relation to livelihoods there are significant differences in the pattern of rural household employment by ethnicity based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2008-9. Non-iTaukei households are twice at as likely at 46% to have a household head source of income in wages and 50% of such households who are self-employed than iTaukei households where 24% of these households have at least one member working for wages but only 20% who are self-employed. 18% of iTaukei rural households had household heads who are not working compared to 31% of no-iTaukei household heads. This suggests significantly higher levels of income vulnerability among non-iTaukei than for iTaukei because of variations in income received from self-employment and also because there are 58% of non-iTaukei household heads that state they are not working. However, there is a gender bias built into the HIES in Fiji that should also be noted. That is, they are usually referenced to the household head – and unless this head is female (some 12.5% of households in the ER-P area) – it does not take adequate account of the multiple sources of income in low income households, especially the multiple sources of income of women in such households. There is also the issue that the head of

household is not always clear and it maybe in some households as the SESA Team found that the titular head might be a retired father of adult children while the functional head (one who earns income and manages finances) may, in some instances not simply be a man, but also it might be a woman. This is also why the ER-P has to consider both generational and gender issues when attempting to mobilize villagers.

Nearly 50% of non-iTaukei households rely on casual wage labour as the main source of their income compared to only 15% of iTaukei households and 18% of non-iTaukei households rely on waged and salaried incomes compared to 12% of iTaukei households. Nevertheless, this reliance on casual wage labour varies from province. In provinces where sugar is harvested a significant number of iTaukei household members, both make and female, rely on casual wage labour during the six months that sugar is harvested. Such households do not simply live in villages contiguous with the land that non-iTaukei lease for the cultivation of sugar but travel from a variety of villages elsewhere in Fiji including upland villages where households are more forest-dependent than iTaukei villages located at lower elevations. However, more than 60% of iTaukei households rely on primary production (primarily taro, cassava, kava and livestock) as their main source of income compared to only 12% of non-iTaukei households. Income from businesses are infinitesimal for rural iTaukei households compared to 5% for non-iTaukei households although the same caveat as expressed above vis-à-vis the multiple sources of iTaukei women should not be ignored. Surprisingly 10% of non-iTaukei households have as their main source of income pensions, social transfers and remittances compared to 8% of iTauekei households. But the higher percentage is likely to be due to remittances that non-iTaukei receive from household members or relatives living abroad especially after the political turmoil of the 1980s and 1990s when many agricultural leases were not renewed and where a significant number of non-iTaukei persons migrated to New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Britain. Some 2% of iTaukei households list other sources of income compared to 8% of non-iTaukei households.

This can be taken one step further when the focus shifts to sources of income. Some 30% of iTaukei households receive regular wages and salaries compared to 58% of non-iTaukei households where as 33% of iTaukei households receive casual wages compared to just over 30% of non-iTaukei households. But 60% of iTaukei households receive money from friends and family compared to just under 40% of non-iTaukei households. Where iTaukei households outstrip non-iTaukei households is in income derived from forestry, agriculture, horticulture and mangrove products: over 85% of rural iTaukei households compared to 27% of non-iTaukei households. Similarly, and not surprising over 40% of rural iTaukei households receive income from land they lease either through the TLTB or in some instances the Land Bank whereas only 2% of non-iTaukei households receive income from such sources. However, it was learned during the SESA that some iTaukei households receive informal payments for leasing land, especially in coastal areas to both other iTaukei households who have their own land as members of their Mataqali but want to use more productive land and even some non-iTaukei households sub-lease land on an informal basis to other non-iTaukei households. Some 18% of iTaukei households receive income from both formal and informal businesses compared to 10% of non-iTaukei households but once more the same caveats expressed above apply. In relation to government assistance 12% of both iTaukei and non-iTaukei households receive some form of government assistance (social protection allowances, poverty benefits scheme, social pension scheme, food vouchers for rural mothers, and bus fare assistance are all examples of this).

Ownership of residential housing is high at 94% for iTaukei households and 82% for non-iTaukei households and the level of renting is very low although many non-iTaukei renters told the SESA that their rentals were not always very secure whether renting from iTaukei landowners or other non-iTaukei landowners. As a generalization those households that rent are generally among the poorest of households in the ER-P Provinces unless they own houses elsewhere (more likely to be non-iTaukei than iTaukei). But most of these rentals are in lowland coastal areas close to main transport routes and the extant point is that all iTaukei renters are members of mataqali that own land in the ER-P Accounting Area and could benefit from the ER-P. The physical structures of the outer walls of these houses reflect the ability of the iTaukei to use wood 35% compared to the 20% of houses occupied by non-iTaukei occupants. But more significant and suggestive of a high level of self-building is that over

65% of non-iTaukei houses have outer walls made of tin or corrugated iron compared to 40% of iTaukei houses. Concrete, brick or cement is used for 15% of iTaukei houses and 12% of non-iTaukei houses and traditional *bure* materials for 8% of iTaukei houses and less than 1% of non-iTaueki houses. In upland areas where there is ready access to forests nearly all iTaukei houses are constructed out of wood, but in areas that Cyclone Winston devastated in 2016 such as the mid-Western Division on Viti Levu houses that are being rebuilt are generally "cyclone-proofed" and are using a variety of construction materials. The houses of iTaukei owners are typically smaller with an average size of 2.28 rooms compared to 3.49 rooms of non-iTaukei owners. The size of house, rather than construction materials except in urban areas, is likely to be an indicator as to whether the occupants of these houses are poor or non-poor.

Where there is a significant difference between iTaukei and non-iTaukei households is in relation to electricity. Over 80% of non-iTaueki households have access to electricity compared to only 57% of iTaukei households, but probably the reason for this is that iTaukei households are more likely to be living in remote areas than the non-iTaukei households. In the more remote areas kerosene is used for lighting although in recent times there has been an increase in the use of rooftop solar units but these are only effective during daylight hours when there is sunshine and the irradiation factor is much lower in upland areas and in some lowland areas then where for instance, the Western Division around Nadi and Lautoka and the Northern Division around Labasa have higher irradiation levels because of lower rainfall and lower rainfall. A major issue for this ER-P is that for cooking 90% of iTaukei households use wood for cooking and heating and 80% of non-iTaukei households. Specifically, the SESA found that over the past few months Fiji Pine Limited has attempted to restrict access to its pine plantations so households irrespective of their ethnicity cannot access the plantations to collect firewood (and other NTFPs) and this has created a market for firewood collected from forests: not yet a driver of "deforestation" but raises questions about the "short-sighted" nature of this ban.

In terms of durables non-iTaukei households are more likely to own a motor vehicle at 15% than iTaukei at 3% but in 2013 the latter were recorded at owning no motor vehicles. Refrigerators are owned by 65% of non-iTaukei households compared to 20% of iTaukei households; desktop or laptop computers by 5% of iTaukei households compared to 12% of non-iTaukei households although with a reduction in the price and use of smart phones that can be used to access internet the ownership of mobile phones among iTaukei households has increased from 21% in 2013 to over 60% in 2018 and non-iTaukei households from 23% to over 70% during the same period. Television ownership rates among the iTaueki are approximately 50% (but people without a television set often visit other households that own television sets to watch TV) and 80% for non-iTaukei households. Radio ownership is high at 80% for iTaukei households and 100% for non-iTaukei households (there are as many Fijian-Hindi FM radio stations as there are Fijian language FM radio stations). Washing machines are owned by 25% of iTaukei households and 45% of non-iTaukei households. These relatively high percentage ownership of durables is partly related to the fact that in the past five years consumer durables have decreased in price by 35-60%. Ownership of these durables or lack thereof to a large extent differentiate the poor from the non-poor households although not wholly because in villages where there is problematic access to any form of electricity households are not gong to acquire durables that rely on electricity.

To put socio-economic issues in their sociological context the issues are not simply related to the indices identified above and it is necessary to also focus on communal obligations at the village level and also church obligations because they have an important bearing on social relations from the *Tokatoka* though to the *Mataqali* and *Yavusa* and ultimately the *Vanua* level for the iTaukei. The same structures do not impact upon the non-iTaukei, but it is important to compare and contrast the indigenous and non-indigenous social groups within the ER-P Accounting Area.

The iTaukei are culturally obligated to make significant contributions to their home villages, even when they have moved away although this does not always apply to women who have moved to another village as result of marriage. These contributions are made for funerals, weddings and other community events such as when the local rugby or netball team excels in sporting fixtures at the

district, provincial or even divisional level or even if and when a young village male or female graduates from university. Amounts that are to be paid can range from a low of FJD150 to a high of more than FJD2,500 and in one study it was reported that the median contributions over the past 12 months amounted to FJD480, which is still very significant (more than 30 days of waged labour for most villagers). Where clans refuse to contribute, which is most unlikely or are unable to meet communal expectations a feeling of shame and guilt known as *madua* is likely to occur and it is a very important cultural value that all iTaukei try to avoid because demonstrating an unwillingness to fulfil traditional societal obligations can result in ostracization and a sense of non-belonging to one's clan. *Madua* is related to the *kerekere* system of "borrowing" from one's kindred without any obligation to repay and when a "favour" is asked it cannot be refused. There is another system known as the *dinau* system that is a form of time-based payment but how widely it is practised remains unknown. SESA investigations found that most iTaukei informants prefer the *madua* over the *kerekere* system of assistance.

However, the *kerekere* system does have its advantages such as during times of crisis sharing with other households means that everyone can access food and whatever life necessities are available. It is simply inconceivable that any household in a crisis whether on an individual household basis or on a village-wide basis would be neglected. Non-iTaueki households do not have quite the same communal obligations, but rather extended household dynamics are more important. These dynamics include reducing expenses in shared households to avoid extra living costs, such as rent or a less stressful work environment by seeking work closer to home or feelings of non-belonging when far from home. Such dynamics may appear to be less pervasive than in iTaukei culture, but they should not be discounted and are important in non-iTaukei Fijian-Indian culture in Fiji. Where non-iTaukei own land (less than 8% of all land in Fiji is freehold) land is inherited by the oldest son and while this son can support younger members of the household should he choose to do so it is not unknown that the oldest son might simply refuse to do so. Sisters generally marry and move to live with their spousal partner and are therefore do not enter the equation. In deciding whether the iTaukei or non-iTaukei benefit more from the communal obligations embedded in iTaukei culture or the household dynamics embedded in non-iTaukei households it is likely that poorer and more vulnerable iTaukei households are more likely to benefit socially and economically than non-iTaukei households, but the latter are more likely to be able to accumulate wealth and avoid distributing to poorer and more vulnerable households.

For the iTaukei households it also needs to be remembered that they have church obligations and given the centrality of the church irrespective of which religious denomination a household belongs to they are often expect to tithe at least 10% of their income to the church and often more for special fundraising drives for renovations and other expenses. This imposes considerable burdens on cash-poor households where annual church tithes range from FJD250 to FJD700 with a reported median of FJD400. Now households can try and avoid paying such tithes, but the spiritual consequences are very severe with messages of "fire-and-brimstone" replete in the narratives of the church clergy and laity with close connections to the church. But that to one side most iTaukei interviewed for the SESA stated they get a "sense-of-meaning" out of their interaction with the church and cannot conceive of a world where the church does not play an important role. For non-iTaukei households the Hindu Temple or the Muslim Mosque (and to a lesser extent the Christian Church because some Fijian-Indians are Christians) are also very important but there are no formal tithes and households contribute what they can. Of course the non-iTaukei the SESA talked to said they would prefer to make greater rather than lesser contributions because they too derive a sense-of-meaning from supporting the temple or the mosque.

2.5 Land tenure in the ER-P area

Land tenure, access to resources and livelihoods have been cited as the most important social issues identified through the SESA and quantitative survey with relation to the implementation of REDD+

activities in the ER-P area. Comprehensive assessments and analyses undertaken during the SESA process highlighted that REDD+ interventions in the ER-P will focus on often difficult to access rural villages in upland and mountainous. Despite Fiji's seemingly abundant natural food resources many households in these villages are vulnerable to food shortages. In many natural forest areas, the forest and NTFP resources are sometimes looked upon as "free goods" for traditional landowners and while statutory land tenure is very clear there are some problems associated with either incomplete or inequitable forestland allocation to the traditional landowners as explained in Section 3.6.1 of the SESA. For communities more dependent on land-based agricultural and forest land, problems associated with accessibility and lack of capital impact upon being able to sustainably use forest resources to meet livelihood needs. This often results in giving away access rights for timber harvest to logging companies due to a lack of incentives for protection and/or sustainable use, coupled with insufficient management capacities on the part of the Districts and Village. Such communities are often substantially dependent on land and forest resources to meet even the most basic livelihood issue associated with household food security.

Therefore, any interventions, which affect land availability, could exacerbate existing poverty, food insecurity and vulnerability to climate change and lead to negative impacts on rural upland livelihoods. There are safeguard concerns that ER-P conservation and reforestation interventions could lead to situations where individual households and even whole communities may experience involuntarily resettlement issues, lose productive land (particularly lands which are customarily used) and/or access to natural resources. The ER-P includes inbuilt program design features as well as safeguard processes for avoiding, minimizing and otherwise mitigating or compensating for the loss of land and resource access restrictions.

There are differences in the land holdings of the two major ethnic groups. The iTaukei have the largest area of land per capita but this varies between each of the three Viti Levu (1,038,900 hectares), Vanua Levu (554,257 hectares) and Taveuni (43,400 hectares) - in the ER-P accounting area. Non-iTaukei by way of contrast are tenant farmers on either iTaukei lands, Crown Land or free hold land. The latter is often managed by owners or sub-let to tenant farmers. Farm size are on average less than 5acres. Majority of non-iTaukei tenant farmers generates a higher income per capita even if most of this same land is leasehold land. Typically, most of the landholdings of the iTaukei are used largely for subsistence livelihood activities whereas the lease holdings of the Non-iTaukei are used largely for market-based agricultural activities (vegetable cropping, livestock and in some instances agroforestry).

There are an estimated 493,610 iTaukei people that constitute the customary landowners in the ER-P accounting area but some 51.5% or 238,759 do not physically reside in rural villages but rather in the peri-urban and urban areas of Fiji. While there are an estimated 155,433 non-iTaukei leaseholders in the same area. The latter are not entitled to own land claimed by customary landowners although they are able to own land that are freehold. Based on an analysis of landownership including leasehold land in the ER-P accounting area there is no forest land owned by non-indigenous groups. Where land has been claimed for resort development in coastal areas and resulting in the loss of coastal mangroves it is a mixture of state and leased land (from iTaukei landowners), including that which international hotel groups such as Accor, IHG and Sheraton lease.

Land Problems and Disputes

Lack of land is not a real problem in the ER-P area although the increasingly poor quality of land is an often-cited problem. Land that has been cleared of its natural forest cover either as a result of controlled logging or illegal logging is typically of poor quality although crops of very high value, notably kava, with chemical inputs (notably Roundup) grow very well. Other crops such as taro have decreased in yield although cassava is holding its own. If there are any major problem, it is lack of water for agricultural purposes during the dry season and too much water during the wet season. The sustainable management of water is increasingly becoming problematic. One of the reasons why the

diminished quality of land is not a major problem is that villages are being depopulated as younger people gravitate to urban and peri-urban areas.

However, land disputes while not frequent in the ER-P area are becoming more common in some of the villages. The major dispute relates to illegal encroachment by Mataqali from one village on the land of Mataqali from another village that belong to a different clan, but the actual dispute is exacerbated by unclear demarcation of traditional boundaries. Lack of cadastral surveys of forest land belonging to Mataqali by the TLTB has exacerbated this problem. Illegal logging has been mentioned in 20% of villages surveyed for the SESA but this activity is also associated with unclear boundary demarcation.

In a smaller number of villages constituting 6.5% of villages surveyed villagers cited the link between illegal logging and forest fires: such illegal loggers (whose identities are often known but appear to be "untouchable") have no stewardship over the forests that they log (a complaint that some villages consulted have made). There are also disagreements in over 30% of villages with livestock surveyed with the Forestry Department because local villagers want to graze their livestock (horses and cattle) in the forests and are told this is unsound for the sustainable management of existing forests. Over 50% of villagers that also complained about illegal logging also complained that most benefits from the forests, especially the capture of value, accrue to the government, businesses and "political elites".

Customary rights

Around 90% of land in Fiji is owned by indigenous Fijians (iTaukei) through their Mataqali (clan) and is termed native or iTaukei land. Of the remainder, about 8% is freehold and 2% is government owned. Native land is communally owned and cannot be bought or sold except to the state for public purpose. The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) is a statutory body with responsibility to administer, develop and manage this land on behalf of its owners, and for their benefit, according to the Native Land Trust Board Act. The TLTB identifies the land required for use by iTaukei communities and makes the remainder available for leasing. The TLTB as the legal custodian of native lands issues legally binding leases or land use agreements, as to whether the land can be used for agricultural, commercial, industrial or other purposes.

All people residing on native land are either landowners or tenants who have the permission of the landowning clan. Residents on native land have either formalized status through legal lease arrangements with the TLTB or have informal (Vakavanua) agreements with the landowning Mataqali.

The Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA) governs all agricultural leases of more than 1 ha and the relations between landlords and agricultural tenants. Minimum 30-year and maximum 99-year leases are allowed with no right of renewal. In practice, most leases are for 30 years. In the event of non-renewal, the tenant must vacate the land after a set grace period. The maximum annual rental is 6% of the unimproved capital value. In theory, the rental rate is reviewed every five years. The tenant can claim compensation for all development and improvements of the property with claims determined by the Agricultural Tribunal. Tenants can, however, they can only be compensated for improvements if the TLTB has granted prior approval to these improvements. In practice, there is a fixed schedule of lease rental rates under the ALTA, which has not been updated since 1997. The TLTB, however, has introduced a lump sum payment to induce landowners to lease their land for an additional 30-year period.

Carbon Rights

The ALTA was supplemented by the 2009 Land Use Decree No.36 (2010) in recognition that the requirement for tenants to vacate land once the fixed lease and grace period had expired causes both social and economic hardship. Government therefore amended the land laws to increase the flexibility of leases and to facilitate leasing of lands, which are currently idle or unutilized, under terms and conditions intended to be attractive to both the landowners and tenants. The Decree provides for

longer tenure leases (up to 99 years) for agricultural and commercial development. Native Reserve land is not leased but legally reserved and set aside for the sustenance of *Mataqali* members.

Community Forest Management and Forest Land Allocation

Forest land allocation is not an issue in Fiji because of customary land rights and the state has never been able to allocate forestry land. This forestry land belongs to those Mataqali and only the Mataqali can allocate forest land to non-Mataqali members. To date there are few instances of these communities allocating forest land to other users although at present there are several proposals to allocate forest land in the form of concessions to concessionaires who agree to sustainably log forests in accordance with Fiji's own laws on sustainable logging. But it is not the state that would be allocating this forest land but the Mataqali albeit with the TLTB facilitating such an allocation.

Despite the customary land rights of the iTaukei communities, community forestry management according to recent studies and consultations for the SESA suggest that the processes are not socially inclusive with women being relegated to lesser and insignificant roles by the male leadership in many villages. This is largely due to the patrilineal nature of Fiji's indigenous culture. However, if the five most important uses of the forests are considered (fishing, planting, foraging or gathering, hunting and timber extraction) individual households manage their own subsistence activities to meet household food consumption needs and where there are surpluses also to exchange with others for a range of goods and services although more recently seeking to be paid cash via trading intermediaries.

Timber extraction or logging for commercial purposes is collectively discussed as against for individual household or community cultural needs are generally managed by the community leadership who interface with commercial logging entities. Decisions made in this sphere are not subject to any real input by the whole of the community even though the Mataqali with ownership of the forest resources is supposed to receive royalties paid and distributed to all members on an equal basis. Commercial logging of forests in Fiji began in 1924 (although logging commenced in the 19th Century during the early colonial epoch) by Fletcher Timber and other pioneering companies. These companies logged during the dry season and constructed roads to upland villages where in the past they did not exist (one of the putative advantages according to logging companies involved: the other was waged employment for village males who were basically living outside the monetarized economy of urban Fiji and commercial sugar cane production).

Although there were significant disadvantages as explained by older villagers (caterpillars or even draft animals used to drag the felled logs to local sawmills or logging trucks destroyed much of the vegetation in the forest where logging was taking place and generally landslides during the wet season became more frequent) logging production from native peaked in the 1980's followed by steady decline to date. Longer term, as explained below the social impacts were in some instances quite negative and contributing in no small part to a demise in the social cohesiveness of traditional village society, However, logging on non-indigenous species began in 1983 with the commencement of logging operations by Fiji Pine Limited but of course by this time the archetypal village ceased to largely exist as a traditional social unit even if physically there appeared to be few differences: the immediate landscapes of villages remained the same but sociologically they were in transition even if not depicted as such in stereotyped images of Fijian rural villages.

Subsistence logging for building by way of contrast for use in foundation and wall posts for houses, floors for individual houses, and community purposes often involved all males in the village working together and trying to choose trees in such a manner that NTFPs would not be destroyed, watersheds would not be compromised, and landslides would be averted. Unfortunately, it appears that in many villages this traditional approach to forest resource management has been undermined to a significant extent. Consultations with many villagers suggest that the cumulative impact of commercial logging and more recently even the more traditional subsistence logging methods have resulted in the need to travel further into the forests to look for wild vegetables, taro, firewood and timber. It has also been observed that there are fewer medicinal and other useful plants that were once available much closer to the village settlements and this impacts more so on women than men. Also, in the water bodies

(rivers and streams) prawns, eels and fish are in significantly shorter supply as a result of increased flash floods caused by logging and subsequent deforestation.

It appears that the social costs of logging on the cohesiveness of local communities has been quite high. While older people argue commercial logging brought short-term monetary benefits there was no program to reforest their forest land. Additionally, the revenue received from logging was not for the most part reinvested in sustainable livelihood activities either on a household or community basis. In many households there was an increase in alcoholism, over-use of kava, domestic violence, and unwillingness to focus on sustainable forms for forest management. There have been general observations that the spiritual importance of the forests has dissipated to a significant extent with the advent of monetary benefits via the payment of logging royalties, even when after 2010 people were to be paid on an equal per capita basis. Finally, with deforestation came degradation as many households turned to convert forest land into agricultural land for the cultivation of crops including kava, taro and cassava.

2.6 The ER-Program

The overall approach and design of the ER-P to address the drivers and underlying causes of forest loss and barriers to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), forest conservation and enhancement to build on and support implementation of the current ambitious national and sub national programs. A summary of the three components follows:

Component 1: Strengthening enabling conditions for emissions reduction (~USD $1.65 million)

This component focuses on strengthening existing frameworks, rationalises resource allocation and supports setting up of community-based monitoring systems aligned to local governance structures set up by the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.

Over the period of the ER-P, 20 Integrated District Land Use and Management Plans will be developed with the support and commitment of 120 communities over an area of 510,319ha over 5 years.

Component 2: Promoting integrated landscape management (~ USD $36.68 million)

Component 2 aims to formulate and implement integrated land use plan at district level; this component focuses on addressing conventional logging, advocating improved standard of sustainable management of forest to include management of large tracts of forest, and adherence to the FFHCOP over 8,500ha (in 5 years). The component also aims to support restoration of degraded areas through afforestation and reforestation for plantation forest where Fiji Pine Ltd. will plant 2500ha per year and Fiji Hardwood Corp. Ltd. will plant 478ha for 3 years (2020-2022). At the same time community-based afforestation and reforestation in support of the Govt. initiative of 1million tree a year will establish an estimated 5,750ha by the end of 2024. There will also be efforts to set up agroforestry and alternative livelihoods to take the pressure off forest resource/habitats. Agroforestry will focus on restoration of riparian zones (5,000ha in 5 years) and shade grown agriculture by 5,000 in 5 years. A total area of 36,400 ha will be set aside as protected area by 2024 as a result of consultation, community endorsement and gazetting/leasing of the protected area.

Component 3: Program Management and Emission Monitoring (USD $1.72 million)

Focusing on project management and administrative support, Component 3 will monitor and evaluate implementation of above activities to enable efficient reporting that will allow response to prevailing conditions at the time of implementation. This component will also ensure timely delivery, reporting and dissemination of key learning from ER-P activities.

Outcomes of the activities and above outputs would include (1) improved forest information system to support efficient reporting; (2) enhancing the adoption of sustainable forest management; (3) a

vibrant public and private sector collaboration, participation and growth of both native and plantation forest development as well as (4) upgrade and improve emission reporting and verification.

Figure 2.2 Maps showing the location of the 20 priority districts

3 Policy legal and administrative frameworks

3.1 The Constitution

A colonial constitution was created in 1966 as Schedule 2 to the Fiji (Constitution) Order 1966. In 1970, Fiji created its first Constitution as an independent sovereign State as set out in the Schedule to the Fiji Independence Order 1970. The 1970 Constitution was abrogated in 1987 by the Fiji Constitution (Abrogation) Military Government and Finance Decree 1987. In 1990, a new Constitution was created by the Constitution of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of Fiji (Promulgation) Decree 1990. Amendments were made in 1997. The most current Constitution of the Republic of Fiji (Constitution) was created in 2013. It is the supreme law of the country (Article 2) and establishes Fiji as a secular, sovereign democratic State (Articles 1 and 4). The Constitution establishes a federal parliament as the legislature (Chapter 3), a Cabinet as the executive (Chapter 4) and various courts as the judiciary (Chapter 5).

The Constitution includes specific provisions recognizing the indigenous people and their ownership of customary land and relating to protection of the environment. Specifically, the preamble states that:

"We, the people of Fiji, recognizing the indigenous people or the iTaukei, their ownership of iTaukei lands, their unique culture, customs, traditions and language; recognizing the indigenous people or the Rotuman from the island of Rotuma, their ownership of Rotuman lands, their unique culture, customs, traditions and language..."

The Constitution includes a bill of rights, which includes rights of ownership and protection of iTaukei, Rotuman and Banaban lands (Article 28), a right to the protection of ownership and interests in land (Article 29) and environmental rights (Article 40). Article 40(1) provides that "every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment, which includes the right to have the natural world protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures".

The Constitution confers authority to make laws on the Parliament. The members of Parliament pass bills and the President approves them as Head of State (Articles 46 and 81). The Constitution also requires written laws to make provision for freedom of information (Article 150).

3.2 Local Government and Customary law

a) iTaukei Law

Fiji continues to operate under a traditional iTaukei system of law and governance in addition to the western elements of law. The cession of Fiji to Britain in 1874 resulted in the Crown taking ownership over some natural resources, which included marine resources due to the common law doctrine of public trust.

Customary owners retained customary ownership over land, but over marine resources, they have only restricted customary rights. The Constitution recognizes customary ownership over iTaukei, Banaban and Rotuma land (Articles 28-29). A number of statutes have been passed to support the iTaukei system of law, including the following:

iTaukei Affairs Act (otherwise known as the Fijian Affairs Act (Chapter 120))

- Sections 3-9 Establishes a Great Council of Chiefs, a Fijian Affairs Board and a system of Provincial.
- Section 7 Provincial Councils have the power to make "by-laws for the health, welfare and good government of ... Fijians residing in or being members of the community of the province".
- Sections 16, Establishes Tikina courts and provincial courts.

iTaukei Lands Act (otherwise known as the Native Lands Act 1905 (Chapter 133))

The iTaukei Lands Act supports the Constitutional recognition of the customary ownership of land. Section 3 provides that "native lands shall be held by native Fijians according to native custom as evidenced by usage and tradition". In addition, section 4 establishes a Native Lands Commission to resolve disputes about land ownership. Various by-laws have been made under this Act.

iTaukei Lands Trust Act (otherwise known as the Native Land Trust Act 1940 (Chapter 134))

Section 4 of this Act establishes a Native Land Trust Board and vests it with the control of customary land "for the benefit of the Fijian owners". Section 7 stipulates that native land may only be alienated in accordance with the Act and subject to the provisions of the Crown Acquisition of Lands Act, the Forest Act, the Petroleum (Exploration and Exploitation) Act and the Mining Act. Regulations under this Act include the following:

- Native Land (Forest) Regulations; and
- Native Land Trust (Leases and Licences) Regulations.

iTaukei Trust Fund Act 2004 (otherwise known as the Fijians Trust Fund Act).

b) Local Government

The Local Government Act (Ch 125) establishes a trust fund for the benefit of Fijians and Rotumans in section 3, and a trust fund Board under section 7. This was amended in 2009 and 2012 Section 8 establishes a system of local government by mandating a local council for cities, towns and districts. The powers of local government are expansive as provided in section 88, which states that "every council shall do all such things as it lawfully may and as it considers expedient to promote the health, welfare and convenience of the inhabitants of the municipality and to preserve the amenities or credit thereof. " These powers include the power to acquire and manage land (Part XII, Division 2-3). Local councils also have authority to do works for public drainage (Part XII, Division 5).

3.3 Legal and administrative frameworks

Fiji's legal framework for forestry and agriculture-related activities comprises over 30 pieces of legislation, as well as national policies, strategies and plans. A thorough treatment and analysis to apply legislation to REDD+ in Fiji is outlined in Fiji's REDD+ website key laws and statutes that directly impact ER-P includes

Table 3.1 Important laws that effect the implementation of the ER-P

Law	Main purpose
Forest Decree 1992	Main law that is currently used to manage forest resources of Fiji. The Decree establishes a Conservator of Forests to enforce the decree under section 3, and a Forestry Board to advise the Minster on forestry policy under section 4. Un-alienated State land, un-alienated native land already reserved for a public purpose, and land leased to the State, may be declared

Law	Main purpose
	by the Minister to be a forest or a nature reserve. The Minister may compulsorily acquire alienated land for reservation (section 6). Forestry can only occur within a forest or nature reserve, so the reservation of land is precursory to any activity (section 28). Most uses within forest and nature reserves require licensing; Under sections 8-9, forest resources cannot be used unless authorised by a licence. On State or native land "not being alienated" the felling of timber, extraction of forest products and clearing of land needs to be licensed; on alienated land only felling or extracting timber requires a licence (section 8). Licences are issued by a licensing officer subject to conditions. The prior consent of various statutory and other bodies is required, depending upon the tenure of the land; these consenting parties include the Native Land Trust Board, Director of Lands, lessees and owners (s10). Part V protects customary rights relating to forest produce on native land. The Decree also creates a number of offences including an offence of clearing land, felling or extracting timber or taking forest produce without lawful authority under section 28. The Forest Decree does not require any active management of nature reserves, though, nor are tools for management available - forestry and other extractive activities are allowable uses of nature reserves.
Crown (State) Lands (Ch 132)	Used to administer Crown land through leases and licenses, and includes (under part V) the administration of reservations of foreshores. Crown Land is only to be alienated in accordance with this Act subject to other Acts including the Native Land Trust Act, the Mining Act, the Oil Mines Act and the Forest Act.
Native Land Ch133 and iTaukei Land Trust Act [Chp 134]	Native Lands (Ch 133) The purpose of this Act is to identify native lands, whereafter which these are administered under the terms of the Native Lands Trust Act. (Ch 134) Allows for the management of native land through a trust. Ch133 allows that Native owners are the mataqali or other division of natives having the customary right to occupy and use any native lands (section 2). Fundamental to this definition is that the community—not an individual—owns native land. Ch 134 Basic to the system is the inalienable nature of native land. Other than to the State, native land cannot be alienated nor encumbered (section 5). However, pre-eminent resources legislation does prevail, though (the Forest, Petroleum and Mining Acts) as does the State Acquisition of Lands Act (section7).
Land Conservation and Improvement Act [Chp141]	Provides for the conservation of land and water resources of Fiji - Its purpose is to ensure the integrity of land and water resources which sustain agricultural productivity. Conservation orders are a key tool for addressing land degradation
Land Use Decree 2010	The main land use planning law in Fiji
Environment Management Act 2005	The main environmental law includes legislation on EIA.

Law	Main purpose
Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act [ALTA]	The law allows for leasing of native land for agricultural purposes
National Trust of Fiji Act	Law that set out the management of the native land
Fiji Pine Decree 1990	Law set up manage Fiji Pine and the pine plantations
Mahogany Industry Development Decree 2010	Law manage the mahogany industry and plantations
Mining Act Ch146	The law that regulates prospecting and mining in Fiji. All land in Fiji is essentially open for mining under the Mining Act. Reserved forests and water supply areas require the consent.
Drainage Act	Provides for the establishment of drainage boards for the purpose of draining land or of preventing or mitigating flooding or erosion to which land is subject
Land Transfer Act	Regulates the transfer and registration of title to land – a registered instrument is conclusive evidence of title
Birds and Game Protection (Cap 170) and Endangered and Protected Species Act (No. 29 of 2002)	Wildlife is not afforded any general protected status at law. The Endangered and Protected Species Act operates primarily to adopt in Fiji international controls under CITES, an international treaty which works to protect wildlife at risk of extinction from the demand stimulated by international trade.

3.3.1 Fiji Laws on Land Tenure and Ownership

Land in Fiji is managed through three complementary systems: (i) native land; (ii) freehold land; and (iii) crown land. Native land, which is owned by iTaukei people, accounts for about 84 percent of all land, with freehold and crown or Government land accounting for around 8 percent each. Native and crown land cannot be bought or sold, but each is available on a leasehold basis, with leases often lasting up to 99 years, while freehold land can be bought and sold on the open market.

Native land is communally owned and administered by Mataqalis (clans) and cannot be bought or sold except to the state for public purpose. The TLTB is the statutory body with the responsibility to administer, develop and manage this land on behalf of its owners and for their benefit according to the Native Land Trust Board Act. The TLTB identifies the land required for use by traditional Fijian communities and makes the remainder available for leasing. The TLTB, not the actual owners, issues the legally binding leases or agreements, which can be for agricultural, commercial, industrial or other uses.

Table 3.2 Laws that affect the Native Land Trust Board and management of the native land in Fiji

Laws affecting the NLTB
Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act Cap 270
- Section 59(2) of ALTA effectively makes agricultural land on native land subject to ALTA.
Crown Acquisition of Lands Act Cap 135
- Section 7 of the Native Land Trust Act Cap 134 subjects native land to the provisions of the Crown Acquisition of Lands Act.
Drainage Act Cap 143
- Any drainage rates for native land pursuant to the Drainage Act is payable by the native owners (s.10 (3) NLTA).

Laws affecting the NLTB
Fijian Affairs Act Cap 120
- Any land rates payable under the Fijian Affairs Act shall be paid by the native owners.
Fisheries Act
- Provides for jurisdiction of all Fiji fisheries and waters which means all waters appertaining to Fiji.
Forest Act Cap 150
- Section 7 of the Native Land Trust Act subjects native land to the provisions of the Forest Act.
Land Conservation and Improvement Act Cap 141
- The Land Conservation Board appointed under this Act has wide powers and can require an owner or occupier of any land to construct and maintain on the land such works for the conservation of the land or water resources.
Land Development Act Cap 142
Land Transfer Act Cap 131
- A lease made under NLTA is subject to the provisions of the Land Transfer Act once it is registered (s.10(2) NLTA).
Local Government Act Cap 125
- This Act governs the activities of local government that includes the collection of rates, drainage, provision of public amenities, and even the compulsory acquisition of land (s.94).
Mining Act Cap 146
- Section 7 of the Native Land Trust Act subjects native land to the provisions of the Mining Act.
Native Lands Act Cap 133
- Records of the transfer of native lands are made in the Register of Native Lands pursuant to section 8 of the Native Lands Act.
Petroleum (Exploration and Exploitation) Act Cap 148
- Section 7 of the Native Land Trust Act subjects native land to the provisions of the Petroleum (Exploration and Exploitation) Act.
Property Law Act Cap 130
- All dealings on Native Land namely mortgage, transfer, subleases and subdivision will have to be made under the provision of the Act.
Rivers and Streams Act Cap 136
Crown (State) Lands Act Cap 132
Subdivision of Land Act Cap 140
- This Act governs the subdivision of any land in Fiji and a subdivision on native land must comply with its provisions.
Town Planning Act Cap 139
- The Town Planning Act is the primary legislation for planning in Fiji and accordingly planning and development approvals on native land are subject to this Act.
Marine Spaces Act Cap 158A
- Management and conservation of fisheries, demarcates and defines internal, archipelago waters, territorial seas and the Exclusive Economic Zones.

All farmers of native land are either tenants or landowners farming with the permission of the own landowning clan. Some of these may have formalized their status by leasing the land and so have become tenants. Other tenant farmers will be either iTaukei in the ER-P Accounting Area, or largely non-iTaukei Fijian citizens of Indian ethnicity.

The Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA) governs all agricultural leases of more than 1 ha and the relations between landlords and agricultural tenants. Minimum 30year and maximum 99-year

leases are allowed with no right of renewal. In practice, most leases are for 30 years. In the event of non-renewal, the tenant must vacate the land after a grace period.

The maximum annual rental is 6% of the unimproved capital value. In theory, the rental rate is reviewed every five years. The tenant can claim compensation for all development and improvements of the property with claims determined by the Agricultural Tribunal. Tenants can, however, only be compensated for improvements if the TLTB has granted prior approval to these improvements. In practice, there is a fixed schedule of lease rental rates under the ALTA, which has not been updated since 1997. The TLTB has, however, introduced a lump sum payment to induce landowners to lease their land for an additional 30-year period, but this "new lease consideration" has been applied mostly only to Fijian citizens of Indian ethnicity and not very often to iTaukei farmers with leases.

The ALTA has been supplemented by the 2009 Land Use Decree No.36 (2010) because it was recognized that the requirement for tenants to vacate land once the fixed lease and grace period have expired, causes both social and economic hardship. Government therefore amended the land laws to increase the flexibility of leases and to facilitate leasing of lands, which are currently idle or unutilized, under terms and conditions which are meant to be attractive to both the landowners and tenants. The decree provides for longer tenure leases (up to 99 years) for agricultural and commercial development. Reserve land is presently not leased, but reserved by Mataqali/Government for future use.

3.3.2 Fiji Laws on Land Acquisition and Compensation

The Constitution of the Republic of Fiji 2013 provides for protection of private property against arbitrary expropriation. The Constitution states that native (iTaukei) land cannot be permanently alienated except for the public purpose. It requires just compensation for all land or rights acquired by the government.

Land acquisition in Fiji is governed under the State Acquisition of Lands Act[14] (SALA). Under the Act, all types of land can be acquired for public purposes. The law provides that in cases of land acquired for public purposes, legal title holders have a right to compensation. The law also provides for the right of land owners to legal proceedings for solving disputes and grievances. The customary rights of indigenous peoples without formal title are also protected.

The SALA guarantees compensation to those with recognized legal rights or interests in land. Compensation is paid at market values effective from the date at which notice of the State's intention to acquire the land is given. Structures are, however, compensated only at book/depreciated values. Compensation includes for land, crops and trees, damage to portions of land not acquired (if any), changes in use and restrictions on use of any un-acquired portions – and any reasonable expenses associated with necessary changes of residence or places of business.

14 Originally the Crown Acquisition of Lands Act, 1940, subsequently amended: by Ordnance numbers 24 of 1940, 11 of 1942, 15 of 1943, 9 of 1955; Orders of Jan 1967 and Oct 1970 and Act of Parliament (Act No 1 of 1998).

3.4 Environmental and social safeguard policies and legislation

3.4.1 Environment Management Act 2005

Environment Management Act 2005 is the main environmental law includes legislation on EIA. The Act provides for the protection of the natural resources and for the control and management of developments, waste management and pollution control and for the establishment of a National Environment Council and for related matters including: i) principles of sustainable use and development of natural resources; and ii) identify matters of national importance for the Fiji Islands.

Following the Act the National Environment Council with various functions such as approving, monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the National Environment Strategy, to ensure regional and international environment and development commitments are implemented and to advise the government on international and regional treaties, conventions and agreements about the environment.

3.4.2 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

In Fiji Environmental Impact Assessment is governed by Part 4 of the Environmental Management Act. The substantive provisions include the following:

Section 27(1) An approving authority must examine every development proposal it receives and "determine whether the activity or undertaking in the development proposal is likely to cause significant environmental or resource management impact".

Section 27(4) Any activity or undertaking that the approving authority determines will cause a significant environmental or resource management impact must be subject to the EIA process.

Section 28 EIA is comprised of screening, scoping, preparation of an assessment report, reviewing the report and a decision on the report.

Schedule 2 Sets out the types of proposals that require EIA, including, but not limited to:

- Mining, reclaiming of minerals or reprocessing of tailings;
- Commercial logging or for a saw milling operation;
- A proposal that could jeopardize the continued existence of any protected, rare, threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat or nesting grounds;
- A proposal that could harm or destroy designated or proposed protected areas;
- A proposal that could destroy or damage an ecosystem of national importance[15];
- Section 54 Contains a wide standing provision as "any person may institute an action in a court

[15] Fiji Review of Natural Resource and Environment Related Legislation, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and Environmental Defenders Office (EDO NSW) 2018.

to compel any Ministry, department or statutory authority to perform any duty imposed on it by this Act or a Scheduled Act"; and

- Section 56 establishes an environmental tribunal.

Table 3.3 Important environmental legislation in Fiji

Environmental and biodiversity related legislation	Comments on legislation
Environmental Law, Planning and Assessment	
Environment Management Act 2005	See above
Land use Act	
Banaban Lands Act 1965	The Act only relates to the Banaban community
Banaban Settlement Act 1970	
Crown Acquisition of Lands Act 1940	
Crown Lands Act 1946	
Environmental Levy Act 2015	Impose an environment and climate adaptation levy on prescribed services, items and income
iTaukei Affairs Act	See above
iTaukei Land Trust Act	See above
Land Transfer Act	See above
Mining Act 1966	See above
Native Lands Act	See above
Native Land Trust Act	See above
Rotuma Lands Act 1959	This Act only applies to Rotuma
Town Planning Act 1946	Planning of towns and how land is developed and used
Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resources	
Birds and Game Protection Act 1923	Provides for the protection of birds and game
Continental Shelf Act 1970	
Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002	Regulates and control the international trade domestic trade, possession and transportation of species protected under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) and for related matters
Fisheries Act	Regulates fishing within "all waters appertaining to Fiji and incudes all internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial seas and all waters within the exclusive economic zone
Forest Decree 1992	See above
Irrigation Act 1974	
Land Conservation and Improvement Act 1953	See above
Protection of Animals Act 1954	
Marine Spaces Act 1978	
Petroleum (Exploration and Exploitation) Act 1978	
Petroleum Act 1939	
Quarries Act 1939	The Act applies to excavations and places where rock, earth, clay, sand, soil, gravel, limestone or other mineral substances
Rivers and Streams Act 1882	
Water Supply Act 1955	
Plant Quarantine Act 1982	

Environmental and biodiversity related legislation	Comments on legislation
Waste Management and Pollution	
Litter Promulgation 2008	
Ozone Depleting Substances Act 1998	
Public Health Act 1936	
Sewerage Act 1966	

Table 3.4 International environmental conventions

Multilateral Environmental Instrument	Status
Biodiversity	
Convention on Biological Diversity	R
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	R
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing	A
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	A
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)	R
World Heritage Convention	R
Waste and Pollution	
Stockholm Convention	R
Vienna Convention	A
Montreal Protocol	A
Climate Change	
UNFCCC	R
Kyoto Protocol	R
Paris Agreement	
Land Degradation	
UNCCD	R
Regional Agreements	
Waigani Convention	R
Noumea Convention	R
R – Ratified	
A – Accession	

3.5 World Bank Operation Policies and safeguards

WB policies on resettlement address both: (i) social and economic impacts, permanent or temporary, caused by acquisition of land and other fixed assets; and (ii) changes in the use of land or restrictions imposed on land as a result of a Bank operation. An affected or displaced person (AP/DP) is one who experiences such impacts. The objectives of the policy are: (i) to avoid involuntary resettlement impacts wherever feasible; (ii) to minimize resettlement impacts by choosing alternative viable project options; and (iii) to ensure that affected people receive compensation, assistance for relocation (including provision of relocation sites with appropriate facilities and services) and assistance for rehabilitation, so that they will be at least as well off as they would have been in the absence of the project.

World Bank Safeguards Policies

The WB's Safeguard Policy on Involuntary Resettlement – OP/ BP 4.12 (December 2001) – seeks to ensure that impoverishment risks due to involuntary resettlement are addressed and minimized.

1) The objectives of the policy are to:

- Avoid resettlement where possible, and otherwise minimize through alternative project designs;
- Resettlement should be conceived and executed as a sustainable development program;
- Affected people should be meaningfully consulted, and be facilitated to participate in planning and implementing resettlement plans; and
- Displaced people should be assisted to improve, or at least restore their livelihoods and standards of living to pre-project levels.

2) The policy includes direct economic and social impacts that result from (a) the involuntary taking of land resulting in (i) relocation or loss of shelter; (ii) loss of assets or access to assets; or (iii) loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location; or (b) the involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks and protected areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of APs.

3) Where impacts on the affected population are minor, a short resettlement plan will be prepared. For projects causing significant resettlement (more than 200 people are displaced or will lose 10% of productive/income generating assets), a full resettlement plan is required.

4) The policy requires that in the resettlement planning process:

- Affected people and their communities, as well as host communities, are provided timely and relevant information, consulted on resettlement options, and offered opportunities to participate in resettlement planning, implementing, and monitoring;
- At new resettlement sites, infrastructure and public services are provided as necessary to improve, restore, or maintain accessibility and levels of service. Alternative or similar resources are provided to compensate for the loss of access to community resources (such as fishing areas, grazing areas, fuel, or fodder); and
- Patterns of community organization appropriate to the new circumstances are based on choices made by the affected people, and existing social and cultural institutions of those people are preserved.

5) To achieve the objectives of the policy, WB requires that particular attention be paid to the needs of vulnerable groups among those displaced, especially those below the poverty line, the landless, the elderly, women and children, indigenous people, or other displaced persons who may not be protected through national land compensation legislation.

6) The policy comprises three important elements: (i) compensation to replace lost assets, livelihood, and income; (ii) assistance for relocation, including provision of relocation sites with appropriate facilities and services; and, (iii) assistance for rehabilitation to achieve at least the same level of well-being with the project as without it.

7) The policy recognizes as displaced persons as people in one of the following three groups:

- Those who have formal legal rights to land (including customary and traditional rights recognized under the laws of the country);
- Those who do not have formal legal rights to land at the time the census begins (i.e. affected people are counted and their assets identified through site visits by the project team) but have a claim to such land or assets-provided that such claims are recognized under the laws of the country or become recognized through a process identified in the resettlement plan (see Annex A, para. 7(f) of WB policy); and
- Those who have no recognizable legal right or claim to the land they are occupying.

OP4.01 Environmental Assessment: To meet the OP4.01 the program needs to consider environmental and social context, include an assessment of potential environmental and social risks and impacts, institutional capacity and Fiji's international obligations.

OP4.04 Natural Habitats: The program needs to identify critically important natural habitats, provide an analysis of the scale of potential impacts, intensity, vulnerability of important species and habitats. The program should also assess the capacity of national and local institutions for effective environmental planning and management, and capacity building requirements.

OP4.09 Pest Management: To meet OP4.09 the program should provide environmental and social assessments of pest management issues in the context of Fiji, the capacity of the country's regulatory framework and institutions, how IPM will be integrated into Agroforestry and Alternative Livelihood interventions and any constraints. Guidance in the interventions should include the criteria for pesticide selection and use.

OP4.10 Indigenous Peoples: For the OP4.10 to be followed the FPIC process should be followed and document how free, prior and informed consultation is undertaken. To Meet OP4.10 the cultural and spiritual values that iTaukei attribute to land and forest resources need to be considered, together with natural resource management practice and long-term sustainability of such practices by iTaukei. OP4.10 is supported by the requirement for a Process Framework, and efforts must be made ensure that no unnecessary inequities happen to non-iTaukei, poor and marginalised groups

OP4.11 Physical and Cultural Resources: Assess the Physical and Cultural Resources values in Fiji that may be impacts or relevant to REDD+. Screening methods, including consultations, key informant guidelines on interviews, would be required when preparing interventions as part of the safeguards screening process to meet the OP4.11. Where appropriate, recommendations should be made on capacity building measures to agencies for implementing the proposed mitigating measures and for managing 'chance finds'.

OP4.36/BP4.36 Forests Paragraph 4: This requires that the Bank ensures 'adequacy' of land use allocations for the management, conservation, and sustainable development of forests, including any additional allocations needed to protect critical forest areas. This assessment provides an inventory of such critical forest areas, and is undertaken at a spatial scale that is ecologically, socially, and culturally appropriate for the forest area in which the project is located'. The OP4.36 should be considered when designing approaches for forest management planning and include guidance on the magnitude and recommend mitigation measures for intervention planning and implementation. Consideration should also be given to the existing policy, legal and institutional frameworks and specific capacity building requirements. The OP4.36 should also be considered when drawing up monitoring supervision and enforcement approaches, on-going engagement and outreach to the communities once plans are in place to increase understanding, support and compliance. This includes ensuring the budget and resources are available for on-going implementation and outreach activities. The OP4.36 also supports FPIC consultation practices and engagement of vulnerable people and cross section of communities.

Applicable World Bank Safeguard Policies and Safeguard Instruments. The World Bank OPs/BPs as they apply to this Program are included in Table 3.5 below.

Table 3.5 Summary of World Bank Safeguards that apply

World Bank Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Proposed approach
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) has identified potential environmental impacts including: 1) soil erosion on sloping areas, and from poor maintenance tracks; 2) loss of soil fertility due to removal of biomass in harvesting; 3) health risks associated with the use of pesticides and herbicides; 4) loss of biodiversity and habitat fragmentation due to conversion of natural forests into plantations of pine by lease holding private sector companies; and 5) possible invasive plants if agroforestry or NTFP species are introduced without guidance. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will establish the modalities and procedures to address potential negative environmental and social impacts from the implementation activities identified in the ERPD, including the screening criteria, procedures and institutional responsibilities. The specific process in the ESMF are to: 1) establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social assessment, review, approval and implementation of interventions to be financed under the program; 2) specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to program interventions; and 3) determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF.
Natural habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	This policy is triggered as the ER-P will work both within existing protected areas and other forest habitats of varying significance, although it is not expected to involve conversion of critical natural habitats. The ERPD includes activities in potential High Conservation Value Forests. This ESMF includes provisions to assess possible impacts prior to actions being undertaken on the ground. This policy will ensure that the interventions in the ER-P area consider biodiversity conservation and critical natural habitats. During the implementation phase, monitoring activities will be established to ensure that biodiversity and critical natural habitats are not adversely affected.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	The overall program objective includes reduction of deforestation and forest degradation and interventions are expected to have significant positive impacts on the health and quality of forests. 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+ and activities may indirectly affect the rights and welfare of people and their level of dependence upon or interaction with forests. The ERPD include activities affecting management, protection, or utilization of natural forests and/or plantation forests. Potential impacts and proposed enhancement/mitigation measures will be included in the ESMF. Forest management plans are expected to be prepared during implementation
Pest Management OP/BP 4.09	Yes	Agricultural and agroforestry practices supported by activities under the ER-Program may involve the use of pesticides for nursery management and possible crop intensification. Impacts and risks of any potential use of chemicals in forest management and agroforestry activities, if needed, will be analyzed and mitigated through actions contained in forest management plans. The ESMF will provide guidance on development and implementation of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM),which provides principles on prevention, early detection, damage thresholds, and design, mechanical and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides.
Physical and Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	This policy is triggered as the activities proposed in the ER Program could indirectly affect areas containing sites with physical cultural resources. The indigenous people of Fiji often have close connection with forest areas, including spiritual connections, it is possible that in isolated cases REDD+ activities could interfere with villager defined sacred forest sites. The ESMF will include 'chance

World Bank Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Proposed approach
		find' procedures and guidance on development and implementation of a Physical Cultural Resources Management Plan
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	OP4.10 was triggered in Fiji at the concept stage, however, as in the ER-P the majority of the population are iTaukei and no IPPF is prepared rather elements of the IPPF will be embedded in the ESMF, RPF and Process Framework.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	OP/BP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement is triggered to ensure affected persons (including land owners, 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/BP 4.12 are adopted. The SESA has identified and assessed the possibility of any involuntary land acquisition or restriction of access to natural resources that may occur, and management processes are included in the ESMF. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared which lays down the principles and objectives, eligibility criteria of displaced persons, modes of compensation and rehabilitation, participation features and grievances procedures that will guide the compensation and potential resettlement of program affected persons. The RPF will guide the preparation of site-specific Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). There is high potential for an involuntary restriction of access (for example, NTFPs, fuelwood collection) to legally designated production and protection forest areas and protected areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of affected persons. A Process Framework (PF) has been prepared to guide procedures to identify, assess, minimize and mitigate potential adverse impacts on local livelihoods by restriction of access. The PF is to ensure adequate consultations with specific communities in specific locations for proposed interventions through the preparation of process plans when working with the management board entities and with a benefit sharing agreement mechanism for the natural resources use. Site-specific RAPs and Action Plans for Access Restrictions for activities will be identified during implementation as required. The ER-P includes mechanisms that will help address the underlying problem of inadequate consultations with communities in specific locations including through the Community REDD+ Agreement (CRA) process with the Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMST) and locally prioritized forest management plans that require an assessment of impacts and possible mitigation measures to avoid or address potential undesirable effects including a benefit sharing mechanism for natural resources use. OP/BP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement is triggered to ensure affected persons (including land owners, 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/BP 4.12 are adopted.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	This policy is not triggered as the program will neither support the construction or rehabilitation of dams nor will it support other investments which rely on services of existing dams.
International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The program does not have any investments will be located on international waterways so this policy is not triggered.
Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	Neither the program nor related investments will be located in disputed areas as defined in the policy.

According to the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework the World Bank's safeguards (OPs – see Table 3.5 above) must be adhered to for ER-Program, but the UNFCCC safeguards should also be

"promoted."[16] This is also echoed in the ER-PIN. The seven UNFCCC safeguards decided by the Conference of Parties (COP) at Cancun (COP 16) comprise the following: a) consistency with national forest program and objectives of relevant international conventions/agreements b) Transparent and Effective Governance, c) Knowledge and Rights of Indigenous People and Local Communities, d) Full and Effective Participation, e) Enhanced Social and Environmental Benefits, f) and g) Risk of Reversal and Risk of Displacements. Although there is no safeguard on "gender" it is understood that this an important crosscutting topic by both the Carbon Fund/World Bank and UNFCCC.

The ER Program meets the World Bank safeguards with the relevant safeguards policies triggered and promotes and supports Cancun Safeguards included in UNFCCC. This is reflected in the Table 3.6 below:

Table 3.6 Comparison between UNFCCC and World Bank safeguard polices and procedures

UNFCCC Safeguards (Cancun Safeguards)	**Relevant World Bank Safeguard Policies and Procedures**
(a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programs and relevant international conventions and agreements.	**OP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment**, in particular paragraph ("para.") 3 **OP 4.36 on Forests**, in particular paras. 14 and 6
(b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty.	**Access to Information** policy, in particular para. 1 **OP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment**, in particular paras. 3 and 13 **OP 4.36 on Forests**, in particular para. 14 **BP 4.04 on Natural Habitats**, in particular para. 5 **BP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples**, in particular para. 10 **BP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement**, in particular para. 2
(c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	**OP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples**, in particular para. 1; para. 16 and footnote 17; paras. 19 to 21 **OP 4.36 on Forests**, in particular paras. 10 and 14 **BP 4.36 on Forests**, in particular para. 4
(d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision.	**OP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment**, in particular paras. 14 and 15 **OP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples**, in particular para. 1 and footnote 4 **OP 4.04 on Natural Habitats**, in particular para. 10 **OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement**, in particular para. 7 **OP 4.36 on Forests**, in particular paras. 11 and 12

[16] See The Carbon Fund (2013) Methodological Framework, Point 4.1 on the Safeguards: "With the World Bank acting as both the Trustee and the Delivery Partner of the Carbon Fund, all ER Programs will need to meet applicable World Bank policies and procedures. ER Programs also should promote and support the safeguards included in the UNFCCC guidance on REDD+."

UNFCCC Safeguards (Cancun Safeguards)	Relevant World Bank Safeguard Policies and Procedures
(e) Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.	**OP 4.04 on Natural Habitats**, in particular para. 1 and Annex A, para. 1(a); para. 4 and Annex A, para. 1(c) **OP 4.36 on Forests**, in particular paras. 1, 2, 5, and 7
(f) Actions to address the risks of reversals.	**OP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment**, in particular paras. 1 and 2 **OP 4.36 on Forests**, in particular para. 14
(g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.	**OP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment**, in particular para. 2 and footnote 3; para. 3 and footnote 5 **OP 4.04 on Natural Habitats**, in particular para. 4 and Annex A, para. 1(c)

3.6 Additional work for the ERPA

Additional work is required for the signing of the Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) and this includes work on the development of the carbon title and the benefit sharing plan.

3.6.1 The carbon title

Ownership of Forest Carbon - Current Legal Position

Before developing a legislative and policy framework for forest carbon rights, it is imperative to first establish who owns the carbon sink in standing forest and soil under existing laws. The general position is ownership to land could include rights to carbon. [17]This is confirmed under the current legal system in that a landowner in the context of iTaukei land, Crown Land and Freehold land owns the forest growing naturally and therefore by implication, must also own forest carbon rights. This position is founded on existing definition of land ownership and includes interest in land, even if that interest is a right of exclusive possession of land and its inheritance by heirs. The rights to lease payment, easement or profit constitute an interest in land that legally extends to carbon rights.

The provisions of the Clause 8 of Forest Decree and Mining Act confirm that the owner of land also owns the forest on that land. The Forest Decree is explicit in stating that the ownership of forest timber remains with the owners of the land whilst the trees are attached to the land. Where trees are legally cut, the existence of mandated royalty payment implies that it is accepted that the landowner owns the trees growing on the land. Under the Mining Act, a tenement owner can cut specified trees within the classes specified under (Mining Act section 20 and 24(1) (c) with the consent of the owner. This underlies, by implication proprietary interest in trees on land for owners.

[17] See Section 17 (Titles to the Emission Reductions) of the ER-PD for Fiji

Proposed legal changes

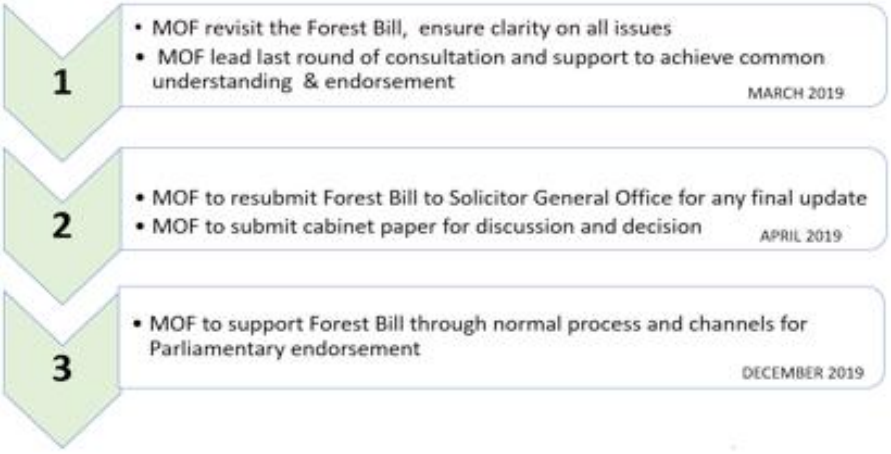
As per the Forest Decree (1992), the Minister for Forestry (MOF) is authorized by Parliament to manage the forest resources and act on behalf of the Government of Fiji. The draft Forest Bill (Bill no. 13 of 2016) currently in the consultation stages in the Parliament comprehensively covers several aspects of forest administration (part 2); forest policy (part 3) licensing (part 4); fees, royalties and customary rights (part 5) and forest protection (part 6). The draft Forest Bill covers provisions related to iTaukei customary rights (paragraph 30; part 5)) and forest carbon trading (paragraph 33; part 6).

The draft forest Bill defines the following terms:

- "carbon" means chemical element present in all organic matter which contributes in the form of various greenhouse gases, for example carbon dioxide and methane to climate change;
- "forest carbon" means carbon stored in forest biomass; and
- "carbon credit" is a generic term for any tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit one ton of carbon dioxide or the mass of another greenhouse gas with a carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e) to one ton of carbon dioxide.

As carbon right is an interest linked to the land, it would be expected to be dealt with in similar ways to any other asset (and interest) attached to a land lease i.e. as part of the lease for transfer, surrender or extension and the details of this would need to be included in the lease conditions in the form of the "carbon title". Deliberations and approval of draft Forest Bill are expected to provide clarity on the steps needed to clarify title and transfer of ERs. A summary of the process is shown below.

Figure 3.1 Summary of the expected legal process



3.6.2 Benefit sharing plan

The benefit-sharing arrangements of the ER program build on customary land ownership of the indigenous people (the iTaukei) that have ownership to most of the forestland and is recognized by the Government of Fiji. In designing the benefit-sharing arrangements of the ER program, existing institutional, legal and operational aspects of benefit-sharing and priorities for ER program benefit-sharing have been considered.

There are five types of benefit sharing models that exist in the country. All are institutionalised with strong legal frameworks, functional institutional support ensuring efficient delivery of each mechanism. A study on benefit sharing is under way and is assessing the five existing mechanisms outlined below. Through wide stakeholder consultation, it will make recommendations on the most appropriate mechanism relevant for Fiji. A summary of the comparison between existing BSM

frameworks in Fiji focusing on its relevance to REDD+ framework, advantages and disadvantages is outlined in the Annexes 1-15 of the ER-PD.

The iTaukei Lands Trust Board (the Board) Model: The TLTB is responsible to protect and manage land ownership rights assigned to iTaukei landowners and to facilitate the commercial transactions that revolve around its use through a process of leasing and licenses. Under the iTaukei Lands Trust Act (TLTA - see Section 4.5), the control of iTaukei land is vested in the Board and administered by the Board for the benefit of the iTaukei owners. TLTB collects the premiums, lease rentals and other fees derived from land resource transactions. Lease rental money is distributed according to the provisions of section 14 of the TLTA and the iTaukei Land Trust (Leases and Licenses) (Amendment) Regulations 2010. All benefit payments to TLTB are expressly stated in the terms and conditions of the lease agreement, clearly stating the amount to be paid. Usually, lessees are expected to make two payments in a financial year. These are received and distributed to the landowning units by TLTB. Upon receipt of rental payments and after deduction of poundage on leases (administration fee), TLTB is legally mandated to remit the payments to all individual members' bank accounts (above 18 years) in equal parts. The register of all living members from the record of the VKB (register of all living members), housed at the offices of the iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission, is cross-referenced to ensure currency of members. Member deaths and births are recorded through periodic updates.

The Land Bank: The Land Use Decree offered iTaukei owners the option to have their lands administered by government through a system commonly referred to as the Land Bank. Despite the provisions of the Land Use Decree, the iTaukei lands that remain in the control of the TLTB continue to be administered under the provisions of the TLTA. Under this model land-owning units (LOUs) are required to elect up to five qualifying members who, after approval by the Prime Minister, are to act as trustees for their respective LOU. Trustees receive lease rental payments and are then responsible for their distribution according to specifications as articulated in the deed of trust. Unlike the TLTB model, the Land Bank Model distributes 100% payment of lease rentals to the LOUs. The state guarantees the payment and the methodology of the distribution of lease monies amongst members of the LOUs.

Charitable trusts: The Charitable Trusts Act makes particular provision for charities. Significantly, it also makes provision for the incorporation of charitable trusts. For the operation of the system, it is important that a charitable purpose is being fulfilled by the trust. In addition to the four traditional purposes of charity – relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion, and other similar purposes of a public nature; the Act provides for the application of the Act to other purposes declared charitable by the Attorney-General. Many attempts have been made to make this trust operational, but none has been for environmental purposes, although international practice has, in many cases, extended charity to cover environmental purposes. In the case of its use for REDD+ benefit distribution purposes, Attorney-General should accede to a request to declare an environmentally oriented trust charitable.

Companies benefit sharing mechanism: A company limited by guarantee is incorporated under the Companies Act 2015 and may provide a suitable option for non-profit organization. Instead of shareholders (company limited by shares), there are members who agree to subscribe a certain (typically nominal) amount in the event of the company being wound up. Registering a company limited by guarantee provides an alternative company registration process and, once registered; the company can apply to FRCA for not-for-profit-status, giving it the same tax exemptions as would normally be associated with a charitable trust.

Benefit-sharing mechanisms – incorporation as a co-operative: The Co-operatives Act 1996 provides that a co-operative is an association of persons who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a common end through the formation of a democratically controlled organization which makes equitable contributions to the capital required and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertaking. Members of the co-operative actively participate in the running of the co-operative, which is provisionally or fully registered under the Co-operative Act. A co-operative aims

at promoting the economic and social interests of its members by providing effective services that the members need and can make use of. The Co-operative may function as a primary or secondary cooperative, apex organization or the National Co-operative Federation registered according to the provisions of the Act. Often, the main purpose of a co-operative is to maximize profit, ensure inclusivity and to ensure long-term sustenance of business operations. The co-operative must operate according to sound business principles. A registered co-operative is also a body corporate and, once registered, it may apply for a tax holiday for up to eight years. Co-operatives have by-laws or internal regulations and must hold an annual general meeting once every financial year. It is run by a board of directors, and delivers a dividend and bonus, being a share of the surplus.

TLTB model is the most commonly applied in Fiji with clearly acknowledged laws and regulations that have stood the test of time and well-known processes, benefits and challenges. Cooperatives have also been applied across sectors and common in rural areas in support of small enterprises that are collectively pursued. The least applied are the Charitable Fund and creation of Companies. Land Bank model and Trust Deed have recently gained popularity as land owners continue to assess benefits from registering their land under the initiative.

A fundamental requirement of both TLTB and Land Bank model is the requirement for collective discussion and consensus of no less than 60% of the registered landowning units to agree to all transactions pertaining to iTaukei Lands. Consensus gathering adopts the FPIC process which involves a mix of community and Mataqali consultation. Mataqali member in the village and urban areas are approached either collectively or individually to discuss and gain consensus to move ahead with land development.

A Benefit Sharing Mechanism for the ER-P is being designed that will address specific REDD+ issues rather than simply being a facsimile of the existing BSM that is widely used in Fiji even though it will embrace the principles of the existing BSM between TLTB, iTaukei customary landowners and emerging mechanism such as the Land Bank. Perhaps key points of departure from existing BSM practices is associated with the performance-based payment system of the ER-P as opposed to lease benefits that are distributed by TLTB where all lease holders irrespective of status or level of productivity are penalised for late land rental payments. For instance, tenant farmers are expected to pay annual rents twice a year irrespective of yield or production level from the land.

3.7 Gap analysis

In terms of major gaps, the Fiji SALA and its regulations do not require compensation payments to affected persons who have no recognized legal right or interest in the land, and only require compensation on a depreciated/book value basis for structures. Informal sharecroppers and squatters (non-titled) are, therefore, not entitled to any kind of compensation for the land they use. However, to comply fully with WB resettlement requirements, any non-titled people affected by the Project at the time of the land survey to determine the cut-off date for eligibility for compensation and rehabilitation assistance will be entitled to compensation for loss of structures, crops, trees, or incomes they derive from land, regardless of whether they have formal title to the land or not. And, all compensation including for structures will be at replacement cost without any deduction of depreciation.

The SALA does not provide relocation sites (in the case of resettlement) and there is no provision for assistance for the rehabilitation of adversely affected people. However, the project seeks to avoid resettlement where possible and otherwise minimize through alternative project designs. In case resettlement cannot be avoided, mitigation measures to restore livelihoods and standards of affected persons/displaced persons (APs/DPs) to pre-project levels are described in the Resettlement Plan (RP), including how resettlement should be conceived and executed with the need for APs/DPs to be meaningfully consulted and involved in the planning and implementation of any sub-project resettlement plan

The Fijian law does not provide for any special assistance for vulnerable groups or the poorest section of those adversely affected, but it does not prevent Government from providing assistance to adversely project affected people including vulnerable groups. The RP includes provisions to ensure that affected people particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged people are assisted to improve their living standards.

Other Gaps

There are no explicit legal provisions related to the operation of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in Fiji, there are several provisions across various legal statutes that provide for their existence. Key to the effective implementation of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas. In Fiji such issues as tenure, enforcement, legal recognition and institutional support. Traditional tenure and governance is a key element in establishing effective Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas particularly as most of all land in Fiji is held under customary tenure. The lack of a proper legal foundation for Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in Fijian law to a certain extent affects the legitimacy and longevity of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas. There is however a recognized lack of national policy and legislative framework for protected areas, and while it is currently being addressed as it stands there is no legislative support for it. Developing institutional support framework of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in government agencies has the potential to assist communities' cope with the growing challenges faced by Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas as well as maintain long-term collaboration with support systems. There should be a focus on establishing a network of partnerships that support community management that allows these communities to remain independent and self reliant in their management approach. Fiji is fortunate to have many committed locally, regional and international NGOs and institutions that have worked together with government agencies to meet some of Fiji's targets in the NBSAP. [18]

Table 3.7 Gaps and Gap-Filling Measures

World Bank Requirements on Involuntary Resettlement	Fiji Laws on Land Acquisition/ Resettlement	Gaps	Gap-filling Measures
Avoid and/or minimize involuntary resettlement wherever possible by exploring project and design alternatives.	The Constitution and the State Acquisition of Land Act (SALA) set out the conditions under which land may be compulsory acquired. The property can only be acquired for the public good, and with the payment of reasonable compensation.	No explicit reference to the need for minimizing resettlement impacts by exploring alternatives.	The RPF includes measures on avoiding/ minimizing land acquisition and resettlement impacts. It provides principles on compensation and entitlements.

[18] An analysis of international law, national legislation, judgments, and institutions as they interrelate with territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities Report no. 19 Fiji. Kiji Vukikomoala, Stacy Jupiter, Elizabeth Erasito, and Kevin Chand. 2012

World Bank Requirements on Involuntary Resettlement	Fiji Laws on Land Acquisition/ Resettlement	Gaps	Gap-filling Measures
Enhance, or at least restore, the livelihoods of all displaced persons in real terms relative to pre-project levels. Particular attention to be paid to the needs of vulnerable groups among those displaced who may not be protected through national land compensation legislation.	General principles of compensation for land and assets are set out in the Constitution and SALA.	Fiji Laws do not prescribe measures to restore/ improve standard of living.	The RPF and each subproject RP include measures on compensation at replacement cost for affected land/assets and to minimize and mitigate adverse social and economic impacts. It is recommended for the Government to undertake a social assessment of the impacts, particularly for the poor and vulnerable groups.
Screen the project early on to identify past, present, and future involuntary resettlement impacts and risks. Determine the scope of resettlement planning through a survey and/or census of displaced persons, including a gender analysis, specifically related to resettlement impacts and risks.	SALA sets out the process for land investigation which includes identification of affected landowners and their assets.	No specific requirements for census, cutoff date, impact assessment and scoping of resettlement planning	The RPF includes measures on survey/census, cut-off-date, assessment of impacts and resettlement planning.
Carry out meaningful consultations with APs, host communities, and concerned NGOs. Inform all displaced persons of their entitlements and resettlement options. Ensure their participation in planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of resettlement programs. Pay particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, especially those below the poverty line, the landless, the elderly, women and children, and Indigenous Peoples, and those without legal title to land, and ensure their participation in consultations.	SALA sets out the process of notification of the land acquisition.	No specific provisions for preparing and implementing RP based on meaningful consultations with DPs, including the poor, the landless, elderly, women, and other vulnerable groups	The RPF includes measures on consultations with DPs, including vulnerable groups, during preparation and implementation of RPs. The concerns of women will be identified based on gender-disaggregated socioeconomic data, separate discussions on women's concerns, and ensuring adequate measures and budgetary allocations in the resettlement plan to compensate and resettle them in a manner that does not disadvantage them. In this effort the assistance of national NGOs currently engaged in women's welfare will be sought;
Establish a grievance redress mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of the affected persons' concerns. Support the social and cultural institutions of	SALA provides for appeal against a declaration of public purpose for compulsory acquisition and amount of compensation.	No requirements for a project specific grievance redress mechanism.	The RPF includes measures on project-specific grievance redress mechanism.

World Bank Requirements on Involuntary Resettlement	Fiji Laws on Land Acquisition/ Resettlement	Gaps	Gap-filling Measures
displaced persons and their host population.			
Improve, or at least restore, the livelihoods of all displaced persons through (i) land-based resettlement strategies when affected livelihoods are land based where possible or cash compensation at replacement value for land when the loss of land does not undermine livelihoods, (ii) prompt replacement of assets with access to assets of equal or higher value, (iii) prompt compensation at full replacement cost for assets that cannot be restored, and (iv) additional revenues and services through benefit sharing schemes where possible.	SALA sets out the process that any person who claims to be entitled to an interest in compulsory acquired land may make a claim for compensation (within 3 months). SALA also sets out the requirements for payment and the provisions for assessing compensation.	No specific requirement for land-based resettlement, replacement of assets, compensation at replacement cost, and benefit sharing.	The RPF includes measures of on-site relocation, replacement of affected structures, compensation at replacement cost and priority of project employment to DPs.
Provide physically and economically displaced persons with needed assistance, including the following: (i) if there is relocation, secured tenure to relocation land, better housing at resettlement sites with comparable access to employment and production opportunities, integration of resettled persons economically and socially into their host communities, and extension of project benefits to host communities; (ii) transitional support and development assistance, such as land development, credit facilities, training, or employment opportunities; and (iii) civic infrastructure and community services, as required.	No equivalent provision.	FIJI laws have no specific provisions on relocation, transitional support and civic infrastructure and services.	The RPF includes measures on-site relocation of affected structures, transitional allowances and restoration of civic infrastructure.

World Bank Requirements on Involuntary Resettlement	Fiji Laws on Land Acquisition/ Resettlement	Gaps	Gap-filling Measures
Develop procedures in a transparent, consistent, and equitable manner if land acquisition is through negotiated settlement to ensure that those people who enter into negotiated settlements will maintain the same or better income and livelihood status.	DOL has Procedures for Land Acquisition through negotiated settlement or purchase.	No provision of maintaining the same or better income and livelihood status for APs.	The RPF describes measures on maintaining or improving livelihoods of APs through paying compensation at replacement cost and other assistance.
Ensure that displaced persons without titles to land or any recognizable legal rights to land are eligible for resettlement assistance and compensation for loss of non-land assets	Customary rights for Fijian people/ Indigenous People stipulate that individuals without formal title are also protected.	There is nothing in the FIJI Laws to address the issue of displaced persons without land title or legal land rights.	The entitlement matrix for the project provides for resettlement assistance and compensation for non-land assets to non-titled DPs as well.
Prepare a resettlement plan elaborating on displaced persons' entitlements, the income and livelihood restoration strategy, institutional arrangements, monitoring and reporting framework, budget, and time-bound implementation schedule		FIJI Laws have no provision of preparing RP.	The RPF includes measures on preparation of RPs for subprojects involving land acquisition/resettlement impacts.
Disclose a draft resettlement plan, including documentation of the consultation process in a timely manner, before project appraisal, in an accessible place and a form and language(s) understandable to affected persons and other stakeholders. Disclose the final resettlement plan and its updates to affected persons and other stakeholders.	SALA sets procedures in notification of landowners at different stages of land acquisition steps.	No requirements on disclosure of an RP.	The RPF includes disclosure measures, including posting of documents on website as well as providing information to DPs.
Conceive and execute involuntary resettlement as part of a development project or program. Include the full costs of resettlement in the presentation of project's costs and benefits. For a project with significant involuntary resettlement impacts, consider implementing the involuntary resettlement	No explicit provision		Land acquisition/resettlement costs will be included and financed out of the project cost.

World Bank Requirements on Involuntary Resettlement	Fiji Laws on Land Acquisition/ Resettlement	Gaps	Gap-filling Measures
component of the project as a stand-alone operation.			
Pay compensation and provide other resettlement entitlements before physical or economic displacement. Implement the resettlement plan under close supervision throughout project implementation.	SALA sets timing for payment of compensation.	SALA states within 30 days of notification, but does not specifically state before displacement. DOL Procedure provides for 75% before construction and 25% after construction.	The RPF includes measures on full payment of compensation for affected assets before start of civil works on affected land.
Monitor and assess resettlement outcomes, their impacts on the standards of living of displaced persons, and whether the objectives of the resettlement plan have been achieved by taking into account the baseline conditions and the results of resettlement monitoring. Disclose monitoring reports.	No equivalent provision	Gap	The RPF includes monitoring measures, including requirements of semi-annual safeguard monitoring report. Arrangements for monitoring of resettlement activities will be done by implementing agency, supplemented by independent consultant if sub-project is considered high risk.

Table 3.8 Gaps and Gap-Filling Measures on Environmental Issues

World Bank Requirements on Environment	Fiji Laws on Environmental Management	Gaps	Gap-filling Measures

Categories (A, B, C, FI) Non-prescriptive on a case-by-case basis for categorization, safeguards policies application, and EA instrument identification. The World Bank will classify the project as category A, B, C, FI according to the nature and magnitude of potential environmental and social impacts. Category A: Full EA required Category B: EA, ESMF, or ESMP required Category C, no EA required. Category FI: EA or ESMF or both required. EA Instrument: Depending on the project impact, a range of instruments are used to meet the World Bank's requirement, these include: ESMF, specific ESIA; ESMPs, sectoral & regional EA; SEA; hazard or risk assessment; environmental audits. The World Bank provides general guidance for implementation of each instrument. Scope: The World Bank helps Borrower draft the TOR for EA report and identify the scope of EA, procedures, schedule and outline of the EA report. For Category A projects, ESIA TORs is required, and scoping and consultation are conducted for preparation of the TORs for the EA report. Public Consultation: During EA process, the Borrower consults project affected groups and local NGOs about the project's environmental aspects and takes their views into account.	The Environment Management Act (2005) and Environment Management Regulations (2007) came into force on 1st January 2008. The passing of the Act was seen as a significant step in the right direction to help mitigate some of the increasing threats to Fiji's environment at the time. The EMA provides detailed guidelines on all aspects of the conduct of an EIA including: Definitions, the screening on the types of proposals needing an EIA, EIA applications, processing, scope of the consultations, public participation, guidelines on TORs, the format of the EIA study and report. The report includes requirements for an environmental plan, publication of the EIA and procedures for the review and approval of the EIA report. The regulations for the Act also provide for an Environmental [withholding] Bond; compliance and inspection procedures etc.[19]	In similarity with many countries, the law and regulations on the environmental management is reasonably comprehensive and well meant. The main gaps relate to capacity, specific standards, manpower and the court systems needed to enforce the Act. These are in the process of being developed. Many of the required support systems to support the Act are not yet totally in place today.[20]	Raise public awareness and understanding of environmental laws and strengthen the legal system for enforcement. The Fiji Environmental Law Association is active in promoting policy and law reform, community and legal education and promoting improved professional, institutional and legal approaches and for example of a home grow initiative includes the increased support and collaboration for Fiji Environmental Law Association's work from domestic and international networks between 2015-2020.

[19] Environmental Management Act 2005; and Environmental Management (EIA Process) Regulations 2007
[20] Comment from the Fiji Environmental Law Association (FELA) Strategic Plan 2015-2020 Promoting Resource Management and Protection of Fiji's Environment Through Law

For Category A projects, the Borrower consults these groups at least twice: (a) shortly after environmental screening and before the TORs for the EA are finalized; and (b) once a draft EA report is prepared. In addition, the Borrower consults with such groups			
Other gaps	**Fiji Laws on Environmental Management**	**Gaps**	**Gap-filling Measures**
Protected areas	Since the first environment legislation was passed in the Rivers and Streams Ordinance 1880, over 26 different legislative descriptions mandating 15 government authorities have been enacted by the Fiji government for the protection of the environment and natural resources (Lees and Siwatibau, 2007). These have led to a complex mix of conservation areas established in the country by different mechanisms, having different values and levels of legal status or protection.	There is no dedicated legislation specifically for protected areas in Fiji	The proposed Forest Bill will help close this gap
Recognition of Indigenous/local Rights	Fiji's forest policies recognize that vast majority of Fiji's forests are owned by Fiji's indigenous people. Fiji's policy on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation 16 and Forest Degradation acknowledges that the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples shall be guaranteed as defined under the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNCSICH) and other international instruments on rights of indigenous people such as the International Labour	The Forest Decree recognizes customary rights of the iTaukei on native land to hunt, gather firewood, collect food and build their homes on native land, however access depends on the type of land tenure. These rights are not recognized without a license in a forest reserve or nature reserve or alienated native land without the consent of the lessee. Under section 17 of the Forest Decree, royalties received for the felling or removal of timber shall be paid	The proposed Forest Bill will help close this gap

	Office's Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples to which Fiji is also party	to the Conservator of Forests or the TLTB for distribution after a 25% deduction by TLTB for administration fees	
Sacred Natural Sites		There is no single legislation that makes specific reference to the protection of sacred natural sites or to specific indigenous people's governance of sacred natural sites.	There are several pieces of legislation that may impact on sacred natural sites. The Preservation of Objects of Archaeological and Paleontological Interest Act and the Fiji Museum Act define processes for declaring, acquiring, preserving and maintaining objects of archaeological interest. The scope of the Preservation of Objects of Archaeological and Paleontological Interest Act is considerable, due to the broad definition of "objects of archaeological and paleontological interest"

3.8 Other project and program safeguards

The list of significant donor and government projects currently ongoing in the ER-P region are shown in Table 3.9 below together with the overlaps and the current donor safeguards that are applied by those projects.

Table 3.9 Significant proposed and on-going ministry and donor projects in the ER-P accounting region

Project/ program	Province	Safeguards	Status	Overlap	Summary of project	Comments/ issues
Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management Project	Ra and Tailevu (both ER-P provinces)	GEF/ FAO	On-going	Some		
International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) Project	Implemented area: Rewa Delta, six project villages Viti Levu	GOF	On-going to end of 2019	Some	Coastal rehabilitation of mangroves	Budget of about USD249,000
Sandalwood development	Multiple	GOF	On-going	Some	Sustainable management of the sandalwood species; total area covered is 185 ha with 74,000 seedlings already planted. Apart from this, ACIAR is providing separate funds for domestication and breeding of Santalum yasi	Small annual research project FJD100,000
Reforestation of Degraded Forests (RDF) Includes the 4 million tree project	All 3 Divisions	GOF	On-going	Some	Rehabilitate degraded/ vulnerable forest area and Improve Fiji's forest cover. 2015 Target 150ha; Achievement-164.2ha 2016 Target 500ha; Achievement 25ha 2016-2017 Target 500ha Achievement-506ha 2017-2018 Target 500ha Achievement 300ha	
Reforestation of indigenous species (activities included in the RDF project activities above)	As above	GOF	On-going	Some	Revive local indigenous species	Small project
HPP projects in Namosi 3 schemes total about 30MW	Namosi	GOF	On-going	In ER-P area	For the three projects involved, there are altogether 22 landowning units Wainikoroiluva Dam – 11 landowning units;	Funding from 2017-2020

Project/ program	Province	Safeguards	Status	Overlap	Summary of project	Comments/ issues
Hydro Fiji/ Fiji Electricity Authority					Wainikovu Dam – 7 landowning units; Waivaka Dam – 4 landowning units	
Nawaka HPP 3rd Scheme	Namosi	GOF	Funded	In ER-P area	Funding for construction to start 2020	Funding from 2020-2022
Lower Ba Development 3 HPPs 49MW	Ba	GOF/ EIB		In ER-P area		EIB funding design
Qaliwana Upper Wailoa Diversion Hydro Project 44M	Nadroga-Navosa	GOF / EIB	Planning/ Design	In ER-P area	The project includes a new plant, Qaliwana hydropower, and the upgrading of the existing Nadarivatu hydroelectric scheme assignment is financed and managed by the European Investment Bank	EIB funding design
Waivaka HPP 32MW	Namosi	GOF and expected JICA funding	Planning	In ER-P area	Initial scoping feasibility and initial EIA completed. JICA's top ranked HPP scheme	
Fiji Agricultural Partnership Project (IFAD)	Interior of Viti Levu; Seven districts of the Provinces of Ba, Nadroga/ Navosa and Naitasiri	IFAD Category B project	On-going	Some overlap in the area and some minor overlap of the proposed activities	Project to promote agricultural sector growth in remote areas; poor communities located in the interior of Viti Levu	
Ridge to Reef Project	Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	UNDP	Closes Dec 2019	Some but project closes shortly	Priority catchments are Ba River, Tuva River and Waidina River/Rewa Delta on Viti Levu and Labasa River, Vunivia River and Tunuloa district on Vanua Levu; adoption of appropriate sustainable land use practices and riparian restoration in adjoining upstream watersheds as well as terrestrial protected areas, restored and rehabilitated forests.	
Fiji Invasive Alien Species Project	Taveuni island and near by islets	UNDP/ GEF	Closes 2022	Yes some complementary	Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and	GEF trust fund USD 3,502,968;

Project/ program	Province	Safeguards	Status	Overlap	Summary of project	Comments/ issues
				activities on Taveuni	Threatened Species on Taveuni Island and surrounding Islets	UNDP USD101,096 GOF USD 26,763,418
Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management Project	Ra and Tailevua provinces	GEF/ FAO	Closes 2021	Yes some in particular provinces	To promote community-based integrated natural resource management at landscape level to reduce land degradation, enhance carbon stocks and strengthen local livelihoods in Ra and Tailevu provinces; Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forests, Department of Environment, Ministry of Economy	
Action Against Desertification	Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	FAO	On-going	Some activities may compliment the ER-P	Small project. Capacity building for government involved in land forest management and restoration at the landscape level. Includes forest restoration and alternatives livelihood activities include agroforestry and vanilla which are included in the ER-P activities	
Strengthening climate resilience of communities for food and nutrition security		FAO and EU	2018 onwards to 2020	Some activities may compliment the ER-P	Capacity building hopes to support women subsistence farmers in particular	

4 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

4.1 Description of planned actions and interventions under the ER-P

For a description of the planned actions and interventions see the following Table 4.1 and Table 4.2.

4.2 Summary of the finding from the SESA

The SESA has informed how the drivers, components, sub-components and activities of the ER-P have been developed to ensure the objectives of this ER-P for the ER-P Accounting Area are incorporated in the final design. Activities associated with collaborative and participatory approaches to sustainable forest management, the development of equitable and transparent benefit sharing plans, modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification of results based on efforts to reduce carbon emissions and the social inclusion of women and other marginalized groups have been identified based on this SESA.

It is not anticipated that the ER-P will make significant inroads to rural poverty, which the SESA suggests do exist and are likely to get worse if villagers simply rely on land-based livelihood activities that the SESA clearly also suggests they no longer are. Rather the emphasis has to be on what incremental and modest reduction in poverty can the ER-P contribute to. Here the SESA is relying on a multi-dimensional approach to poverty reduction and one that also facilitates the greater empowerment of women and other marginalized groups, whether the owners of forests and other land or among those groups that are leasing land. The gender analysis undertaken as part of the SESA and building upon a WB supported study in 2017 clearly demonstrates that irrespective as to whether women are "joint" customary owners of land they are less likely to control access to and use of forest and mangrove resources than men. *It is strongly recommended by the SESA that the GAP that will be developed for the ER-P build upon the strengths of the WB supported study otherwise women will not benefit from to the extent they should from the ER-P.*

The SESA has also argued this is not a conservation program and it is necessary to differentiate between the sustainable management of forests that people as human agency is actively participating in and the conservation of forests where people are essentially excluded or at least are unable to engage in activities such as using climate-smart agricultural activities to arrest deforestation and degradation. The SESA has for instance highlighted the rapid expansion of kava production in response not only to local demand but also international demand. Households growing kava are simply not going to buy-in to conservation measures but based on consultations that were undertaken for the SESA they might be able and wiling to buy in to more climate-smart approaches to the cultivation of kava. The same approach can be seen in how households are responding to the need for enhanced food security. There is no way these households are going to conserve Fiji's forests at the expense of their own food security. This argument that some erstwhile conservationists might tend to use is simply naïve. *Similarly, the SESA has stressed that carbon emission reduction activities are not simply based on Fiji's forests in the ER-P Accounting Area but also its coastal mangrove areas where most of the existing and vital tourism development has been taking place.* This very important carbon footprint has been recognized in the SESA and therefore the stakeholders in the SESA are not simply the Government of Fiji and its relevant agencies and local communities, but also the private sector: those that invest in and develop these coastal resorts. The SESA has also focused on the pine and mahogany plantations because there are likely to be issues associated with how these plantations can contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions but also not have a deleterious socio-economic impact on people whose livelihoods – whether as growers or workers – depend on income from these plantations.

The SESA has identified what should be the positive impacts of the ER-P. These positive impacts include a more sustainable approach to forest and mangrove management that does not exclude people from either the forests or the mangroves, which of course is in marked contrast to a strictly conservation approach to a program such as this. Managing the forests and mangroves is qualitatively different to conserving the forests and mangroves. Climate-smart agricultural interventions in areas surrounding existing forests or areas that villagers are contemplating clearing for agricultural cropping is a very good example of what is possible. Similarly, managing mangroves including planting more mangroves has a range of positive impacts including increased access to aquatic resources and mitigation of storm and cyclone damage. *The SESA recommends that the conceptual confusion that might result from articulating the ER-P as though it is a REDD+ Program to conserve rather than manage the forests and mangroves to generate a reduction in carbon emissions should be clarified because there are some instances where stakeholders in the proposed ER-P have confused the two approaches*.

The SESA has documented that fact that women appear to understand the ecology of the forests better than men, whose knowledge is largely restricted to logging and hunting. There are other positive impacts as well including the use of emission reduction payments to fund village and district level activities that might not otherwise be funded including modest but incremental improvements to people's livelihoods including and especially those estimated one-third of households that consider themselves and are considered by others to be poor. *As with other countries admitted into the Carbon Fund the SESA has also demonstrated that villagers require some upfront payments (an advance) for ER-P related activities. It is simply ridiculous to expect any village household to rely simply on results-based payments. This both the Government of Fiji and the WB need to understand clearly. Demarcation of boundaries between landowning groups and including leaseholders in the ER-P is also another positive impact that has been identified in this SESA. Given that during the course of some of the consultations facilitated for preparing this SESA it is highly recommended that the ER-P accord this activity the priority it warrants.*

The SESA has identified some possible negative impacts even though in general the SESA argues all or most impacts should be positive because reducing carbon emissions is environmentally a very sound objective. But it is not the environmental impacts *per se*, rather it is the social impacts especially those associated with possible restricted access to natural resources from the forests and mangroves in the proposed ER-P Accounting Area. As iTaukei own more than 84% of the land in this ER-P Accounting Area it is they who can decide to do as they please with this land. This includes logging in all forests with the exception of the closed forests that constitute 30.47% of the total land area in the ER-P Accounting. If the ER-P is going to encourage the iTaukei to log less and accrue carbon financial benefits from reducing carbon emissions then there will need to be more sustainable approaches to forest management. This in the short-term will affect the incomes of those communities who rely for part of their livelihoods on the sale of logged trees from the forests.

Similarly, if there are to be restrictions on the households that rely to some extent on NTFPs for their livelihoods there will be some negative impacts that will need to be mitigated as there will where households go hunting and fishing or are raising livestock in the forests or collecting firewood for either domestic use or for sale. There are also conceivably negative impacts on those households, groups residing within non-iTaukei villages who are involved in production forestry, notably pine and mahogany forestry if attempts are made to encourage such households to extend the production cycle to maximize the objectives of the ER-P. As also explained in the body of the SESA what is likely to happen if the iTaukei customary landowners via the TLTB try to cajole leaseholders to be involved in reforestation or afforestation activites where the former is neither able or willing or a combination thereof to comply with such a requirement. Issues that might generate negative impacts relating to the forests are also likely to be replicated to a large extent, in relation to the mangroves as well. If more systemic land-use planning activities are to be introduced and the SESA has made a case for such activities to take place they have to start at the local level and not be promulgated at the national level otherwise they will be largely ineffective. The SESA has shied away from commenting on controversial land tenure issues, except in relation to leasing and the narrative in the SESA has been populated in Section 14 of the ER-PD. *One of the most important objectives of the ER-P is to promote collaboration*

among and between stakeholders not conflict and the SESA strongly recommends that sensitive issues associated with lease holdings be very carefully analysed to ensure there is no inter-ethnic conflict or at the very least minimize such tensions.

The SESA is quite positive when it comes to important issues such as benefit sharing arrangements so long as "elite capture" can be avoided wherever possible and all putative beneficiaries can enjoy both carbon and non-carbon benefits. To date despite some of the criticisms of how the TLTB have been managing the payments of lease monies to customary landowners at least 70% of the lease payments are finding their way back to local communities. How this lease money is being used by individual households is another issue and not entirely relevant to the ER-P although every attempt *via* the ER-P should be made to ensure there are as broad-based benefits that have the greatest impact for the greatest number of people. Of equal importance participants on the ER-P do not have to rely simply on the TLTB and can also utilize the services of the Land Bank other institutionalized mechanisms should they choose to do so. *An analysis of these different modalities has been made in the SESA and is also reflected in Section 15 of the ER-PD. In fact, the SESA suggests that the ER-P could benefit from monitoring and evaluating which of these mechanisms has or will generate the most effacious outcomes. Thus, another recommendation of the SESA is that all existing Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (BSM) should be trialled.*

The SESA concludes in its recommendations by arguing that unfortunately many local villagers that are likely to be the putative beneficiaries of the ER-P still do not understand much if anything at all about the objectives of the National REDD+ Program let alone the specific objectives of the ER-P. For instance, they know little or nothing about issues as the reference emissions level (all quantified as tCO_2a/Year), reference level GHG removals, estimation of total expected emissions (including removals) under the ER-P or total net estimated net emissions reductions levels. Should they need to know at this juncture? The SESA has argued yes, otherwise how can they understand processes associated with for instance a participatory approach to MRV processes. These beneficiaries for the most part are quite literate and able to follow arguments if they are presented in contexts that make sense to the world as they know it. Indeed, during the Second Round of the SESA as it also needs to be noted during the initial SESA local people were interested in what was being proposed. However, it appears that printed and visual information available on a largely ad hoc basis including on radio, television and in the newspapers, has had significant less impact than perhaps it should. Although to be objective the SESA notes that the Ministry of Forestry in its efforts at the divisional level has made a good attempt to stress the non-carbon benefits of REDD+ and thereby not raising unrealistic expectations among villagers. *Therefore, as a concluding comment the SESA strongly recommends that more effort be made to disseminate information about REDD+ and the proposed ER-P and there be a continued emphasis on the non-carbon benefits.*

4.3 Mitigation of social risks

Table 4.1 Main ER-Program interventions potential socio-economic impacts and mitigations

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
Component 1: Strengthen enabling conditions for emission reduction			
Subcomponent 1.1 Integrated District Land Use Planning (IDLUP) (To promote more sustainable long-term integrated landscape management)	-Improved land use planning, objective is to reduce conversion of natural forest or reduce degradation of natural forest -The participatory planning process envisaged, may encourage the recording and sharing and handing down of local land and forest knowledge between generations. The reduction or even loss of this transfer between generations is seen as a concern in some communities. -Opportunity to take account of and integrate with the NBSAP objectives and action plans -Expected to cross cut sectors, MOF, MoEnv MOA land use, TLTB, Provincial councils, District REDD+, NGOs, CSO	- Potential for reduced access to forest and NTFP resources for forest dependent communities through improvements or changes to forest access through changes in boundaries or access rights - Possible exclusion of poor, remote or vulnerable and potential for gender exclusion issues. - Possible change or impact on livelihood issues due to introduction of a land use plan or changes in current land use and plan that may not follow existing agricultural crop production, i.e. may require investment and change increasing risk to hhs - Possible FGRM issues - Potential for changes to land leasing arrangements with non-iTaukei	-Socio-economic screening collaborative management used to help resolve any boundary issues and ensure access to forest; helps resolve the potential exclusion and gender issues. - If there are any disputes the FGRM process may be used by iTaukei, and non-iTaukei to resolve grievances. - Awareness raising and training on land use planning and involvement of the community and adopting a fully participatory approach - In the unlikely instance where the FGRM process is not successful and where a land use plan is enforced for activities that are inconsistent with the new land use plan, OP4.12 will be triggered. - The assessment of environmental and social risks and any necessary consultations on policy reforms will be undertaken. If any households are affected by being forced to desist from using land for other purposes (e.g. traditional agricultural cropping or livestock grazing) they will be compensated for loss of production and OP4.12 will be used to mitigate possible negative impacts - Free prior and informed consultations need to include iTaukei and non-iTaukei to achieve broad support with all affected parties, with emphasis on inclusion of vulnerable (poor households and communities, remote communities,

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
			lease holders (non landowning households), women and men, youth. - The provisions of OP 4.10 may also apply where necessary and a Process Framework would be followed. -Training on improved crop production and crop diversification
1.1.1 Development of Integrated District Land use plans (IDLUP)	- Plans in 20 Districts over life of the program	- As above	- As above
1.1.2 Develop integrated community management plan	- 40 community consultation workshops over life of program As above	- As above	- As above
Subcomponent 1.2. Strengthening forest governance and law enforcement	- Improved protection and conservation of the natural forest - Awareness raising and training on the sustainable use of forest, improved management and forest laws - Improved social awareness of the importance of forests and that they are finite -Awareness training on FFHCOP, SFM, Fire management -Expected to cross cut across sectors MOF and MOA land use, TLTB, Provincial councils, District REDD+ NGOs, CSO	- Similar to above, possible impacts on livelihoods due to changes in crops or land use - Improved governance may not include unfettered or continued access to all forest areas	- FGRM would be introduced and used to help resolve any disputes - Improve transparency, encourage the participation of community in discussing and improving forest management. Ensure that people who agree to participate in the Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMST) are in broad agreement with on the need to improve the management of forests as to whether it is necessary to restrict access to the forests and if necessary no household should be worse off as a result. In such instances OP 4.12 will apply. - Identification of conservation orientated livelihood and sustainable forest use models designed not to impact on natural forest in Protected Areas. However, where households that are negatively impacted are able to secure livelihoods by being offered alternative livelihoods within the provisions of OP 4.12
1.2.1. Raise awareness on revised legal and regulatory	- As above; - Establish Forest Care Groups in 20 districts over the life of program	- This activity may result in some risks associated access restrictions	- This depends if the forest and related laws are more strictly enforced and the status of the forest changes i.e. a reserve or a protected area is set up and access to forest changes

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
framework, strengthen forest law enforcement		- Could result in livestock (horse, goats, cows) not having access to forest - May also result in restrictions on collection of firewood, logging, hunting	In most cases the FGRM would normally be used to resolve issues in some circumstance the final option would be to follow OP 4.12
1.2.2 Capacity building on forest laws, enforcement and governance at community level	-Awareness raising at District level three trainings per year on carbon enhancement, application of the FFHCOP and land leasing processes - Improved social awareness of the importance of forests	- Women may be excluded - Exclusion of poor, and vulnerable hhs - Possible elite capture - Possible particular problems in coastal economic zone where high value land leases are to be found	- Use FPIC and need to ensure community consultations with iTaukei and non iTaukei - Matagali and TLTB need to continue to ensure transparency - FGRM would be introduced and used to help resolve any disputes as above final option would be use of OP4.12
1.2.3. Capacity building on forest law enforcement at industry and trade level	- Two inter agency training per year on forest law - Two trainings per year on reporting process for non-compliance of forest related legislations	- Similar to above at the village level	- Awareness raising and training on proposed processes to be used i.e. FPIC, FGRM and OP4.12
Subcomponent 1.3 Forest information system	- Improved information on status of the forest - Improved forest monitoring providing feedback into planning and management process -Training for MOF staff - Potential to provide linking feedback to the communities managing protecting and using the forests	- Possible gender and poverty issues related to access to forest; - Possible livelihood issues through changes in land use and increased governance -Similar to 1.2 above - Possible miss use of information system leading to elite capture of remaining forest resources	- Similar to 1.2 above - Socio-economic screening, collaborative management helps resolve any boundary issues and ensure access to forest - Improved forest monitoring providing feedback into planning and management process and discussion with local communities through the YMST to improve forest protection and management and agree to designate areas for livelihood related activities including NTFP collection. OP 4.12 will apply. - Aim for forest management plans to improve local ownership, and sustainable approaches to reduce pressure on timber harvesting. Introduce more sustainable management approaches to NTFP collection.

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
1.3.1. Upgrade Forest information & data base systems	Data and equipment purchase activities	- Not applicable	- Not applicable
1.3.2 improved monitoring and reporting to feed forest information system	- As above in 1.3	- As above in 1.3	- As above in 1.3
Component 2: Promoting integrated landscape management			
Subcomponent 2.1. Sustainable natural forest management	- Generally positive, some clarifications of forest natural forest boundaries - Potential for increased transparency where necessary on management of remaining natural forest - Lead Agency: MOF Collaborators: Ministry of iTaukei Affairs iTaukei Lands Trust Board Saw-millers Association NGO, CSOs	- Some possible impacts on livelihoods, i.e. improved conservation of natural forest may not include unfettered or continued access to all forest areas. -This activity may result in some risks associated access restrictions to Forest Management License areas by non-Matagali. - Matagali self-select but may depend of 60% agreement legal principle and this may also be more problematic where different Matagali do not agree on boundaries between the Matagali especially if the boundaries are still imprecise. (Note that TLTB has long experience of resolving boundary disputes and these are normally resolved amicably)	-Matagali self-select to be part of a public private partnership for Forest Management Licenses. Their involvement is voluntary. -Where a problem occurs first recourse would be through the FGRM - Implement collaborative management of natural forests between communities through the YMST improved forest planning and management process and discussion with local communities through the YMST to improve forest protection and management and agree to designate areas for livelihood related activities to reduce pressure on critical forest areas. - If the proposed FGRM process does not satisfactorily resolve access issues such when as access to forest changes when protected area boundaries are set, are not resolved by the Forest Division and YMST, then OP 4.12 will apply to ensure that involuntary resettlement impacts, will be mitigated. - If any non-Matagali households (leaseholders, tenants, squatters) are affected by being forced to desist from using land for other purposes as a result of Forest Management Licenses (e.g. traditional agricultural cropping or livestock grazing) they will be compensated for loss of production and OP4.01 and OP4.10 will be used to mitigate possible negative impacts

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
2.1.1 Land tenure clarification and SFM management planning	-5 agreements between landowners and logging operators approved per year -3 Forest Leases secured per year - Social and economic benefits of having clearer boundary and tenure -Forest owners/ landowners more aware of socio-economic benefits of SFM	- As above	- As above
2.1.2 Activity Missing			
2.1.3 Implement and monitor logging aligned to FFHCOP	-10 sites monitored quarterly -Awareness raising - Results disseminated widely to all stakeholders through newsletter and social media -Forest owners/ landowners more aware of socio-economic benefits of SFM	- Potential in remoter upland areas that dissemination of results awareness (SESA fieldwork showed that there is limited dissemination of information in remote upland areas)	- A clear communication strategy to ensure dissemination go information etc. (currently not an activity in the ER-P) - Use other cultural appropriate means, i.e. social media may not work or may not be appropriate with some vulnerable hhs -Where a problem occurs first recourse would be through the FGRM
Subcomponent 2.2 Enhancement of Carbon Stocks	-Generally positive, some clarifications of forest natural forest boundaries -Lead Agency: MOF Collaborators: Fiji Pine Ltd For pine Fiji Mahogany Trust for mahogany	- Generally minor socio-economic impacts expected see review of various models below - Possible gender and poverty issues related to access to forest; - Possible change or impact on livelihoods if restrictions placed on accessing forest for NTFP collection - Possible health and safety issues related to plantation harvesting	- Implement collaborative management of natural forests and plantation areas with communities (through the YMST). OP4.12 may apply but this is specific to communities who may face a change in legal or legalisable access to plantation forestland. - To ensure women or other poor and vulnerable groups are not excluded the GAP highlights how it is necessary to ensure full gender inclusion. However, where restrictions are to be imposed restricting access to forests to collect NTFPs and this negatively impacts on women and their households then the provisions of OP4.12 will apply because the impact results in loss of livelihoods. - Provide training on health and safety related to timber harvesting[21]

[21] Health and Safety at work Act (1996)

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
			- Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide)
2.2.1 Investments in reforestation, short and long rotation plantation - pine plantations	-Restocking of pine plantation with 2500ha/yr. - Continued economic benefits of land leases - Continued or improved fire watch/ control -Improved monitoring report by the MOF once a year - Expected to be on existing or extended pine lease	- Access issues on pine leases for NTFPs (already occurring Vanua Levu in some areas[22])	- Where a problem occurs first recourse would be through the FGRM - If FGRM process fails, OP4.12 will be triggered - Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide)
2.2.2. Investments in reforestation, short and long rotation plantation investments - mahogany plantation	-Restocking of logged over mahogany forest plantation at 780 ha/yr. between 2020-2022 -Improved monitoring report by MOF	- Possible health and safety issues if herbicides are used	- Provide training on safe use of herbicides etc including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials - Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents - Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide)
Subcomponent 2.3. Afforestation and reforestation - restoration of ecosystem services	- Matagali should self select for activities - Detailed below	- As above	- Where a problem occurs first recourse would be through the FGRM - If FGRM process fails, OP4.12 will be triggered
2.3.1. Implement land owner engagement through Fiji Pine Trust Extension Scheme	-Matagali should self select for activities - Fiji Pine Trust facilitate registration of at least 4 groups in ER-P per year (each group with at least 25ha)		- Where a problem occurs first recourse would be through the FGRM - If FGRM process fails, OP4.12 will be triggered

[22] Fiji Pine Public Notices: "According to the Draft Planted Forestry Policy Statement 2015 the guiding principles 4.3.2 state no natural forest or minor forest produce will be harvested removed or damaged in the development of a new plantation". Fiji Pine prohibits the logging or removal of minor forest products "under any circumstance" from its leases.

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
	-Establishment of 200ha pine woodlot per year		
2.3.2 Activity missing			
2.3.3. Community based restoration for 4 million Trees	- Matagali will self select for activities, encourage community decisions and decision making involving women. - Establish an incremental 400ha per year from 2020 at the baseline of 300ha. -Establishment of 4000ha by year 3 - At least 100 communities/ Mataqali register for intervention - Socio-economics benefits of afforestation/ reforestation	- Possible gender and poverty issues	- Where a problem occurs first recourse would be through the FGRM - If FGRM process fails, OP4.12 will be triggered
Subcomponent 2.4 Promotion of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable livelihoods	- Matagali will self-select for activities - Socio-economic benefits of risk/ and awareness raising of climate change issues - Lead Agency: MOF Collaborators: - Ministry of Agriculture, Kava Commodity Clusters, Fiji Crop and Livestock Association, Kava Association, Famers, NGOS	- Possible gender and poverty issues; - Possible access to forest issues; - Possible changes in land use - Possible social impacts from changes in land use (with some land users no longer able to farm / harvest / collect NTFP). - Possible increased risk of exposure to harmful herbicides and pesticides	- Activities should be voluntary and OP4.12 would not be expected to apply provided that the land use plan (or similar) is not enforced or restrictions imposed. In first instance of a dispute FGRM would be used if this fails OP4.12 applies - Benefit sharing still under discussion, Matagali would be expected to benefit in one form or another - Selection of the livelihood support should be targeted to contribute to reduce forest dependency; Similar to above discussions through the YMST to design best approach that fits with local forest dependency and use and climate smart agriculture that best suits the local area and market conditions - Training on improved crop production (including sustainable soil management) and crop diversification, where crops are not agreed to FGRM for example if communities want crops that do not confirm to the land use plan would be used to resolve issues. Depending on the crops and detailed activities or possible enforcement of the land use plan OP4.09, and OP4.12 may apply

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
			- Training on the safe use of herbicides etc. including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials - Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents
2.4.1 Implementation of Riparian restoration to mitigate flash floods	- Establish at least 6 sites annually at 300ha per site - 6 Reports of community consultation on traditional species used and preferred species for restoration. - At least 3 field schools for farmer-to-farmer exchange per year - Socio-economics benefits of mitigation of floods	- Possible changes (minor) in land use in some riparian area which could have socio-economic impacts	- Matagali will self-select for activities and therefore their involvement is voluntary - Land will not be acquired for this activity, as it will be land already being used by forest-dependent households. If any households are affected by being forced to desist from using land for other purposes the FGRM will be followed (e.g. traditional agricultural cropping or livestock grazing) and where they will be compensated for loss of production and OP4.12 will be used to mitigate possible negative impacts
2.4.2. Afforestation and restoration for ecosystem services	-Establish at least 5 sites annually at 100ha per site -6 Reports of community consultation on traditional species used and preferred species for restoration. -At least 3 field schools for farmer-to-farmer exchange per year - Socio-economic benefits of afforestation	- As above	- As above
2.4.3 Enhanced alternative livelihood and restoration	-As above, could include incentivized climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry -Establish at 200ha of alternative intervention per year -6 Reports of District alternative livelihood intervention -At least 3 field schools for farmer-to-farmer exchange per year	- "Climate smart crops" could add to the burden of the community and especially women farmers if proposed crops (such as vanilla) require extra time and resources or technical training - Possible increased risk of exposure to harmful herbicides and pesticides	- This type of activity is unlikely to have any negative impact if a consensus can be achieved at the local level and the program is able to assist impacted or targeted households seek financial assistance. - Land will not be acquired for this activity as it will be land already being used by forest-dependent households - Careful selection of "climate smart crops" this includes improved crop production techniques and sustainable soil

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
			management approaches is required to avoid negative impacts and ensure uptake. Particular attention needs to be taken of impact on women. - Training on the safe use of herbicides etc. including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials - Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents
Subcomponent 2.5 Promotion of forest protection to conserve existing natural forest carbon stocks.	- Secure 60% community consensus at each priority site through FPIC process by 2023 - Community awareness raised on the importance of PAs - Socio-economic benefits of watershed protection - These activities unlikely to result in any risk of relocation, land acquisition. - Lead Agency: MOF - Collaborators: Ministry of Environment, iTaukei Lands Trust Board, Department of Lands NGOs, CSOs	- Possible changes in land use - Possible gender and poverty issues; - Possible access to forest issues; - Access restrictions by local communities to natural forest may happen if the legal framework is strengthened and forest turned into conservation area	- Similar to above, in the first instance FGRM applies and OP 4.12 will apply if issues can not be resolved - If any households are affected by being forced to desist from using land for other purposes (e.g. traditional agricultural cropping or livestock grazing) they will be compensated for loss of production and OP4.12 will be used to mitigate possible negative impacts - Biodiversity surveys could be used to refine potential areas - Careful planning and consideration of resources is required for communities
2.5.1. Implementation of natural forest conservation agreement (at the deforestation frontier)	- Secure 60% community consensus at each priority site via FPIC process by 2023 - Socio-economic benefits from the reduction in risk of land degradation or soil erosion	- As above. - This activity may result in some FGRM risks associated with disenfranchisement and access restrictions - Potential to result in changes in levels of income	- Similar to above, in the first instance FGRM applies and OP 4.12 will apply if issues can not be resolved - If any households are affected by being forced to desist from using this land for other purposes (e.g. traditional agricultural cropping or livestock grazing) they will be compensated for loss of production and OP4.12 will be used to mitigate possible negative impacts
2.5.2 Formalise protection of forest area under the Forest Decree 1992 and other instruments such as the TLTB Act	-Improvements to policy at least 2 Discussion Papers drafted and submitted to Forestry Board per year -Endorse and enforce PA status at least one site per year	- As above. This activity may result in some risks associated access restrictions and changes in levels of income	- If any households are affected by being forced to desist from using this land for other purposes (e.g. traditional swidden agricultural cropping or livestock grazing) they will be compensated for loss of production and OP4.12 will be used to mitigate possible negative impacts

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Socio-economic impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
	-Secure at least 1 REDD+ Conservation Lease per year		
2.5.3 Develop and Implement community-based Forest Protection Management Plan based on co-management regime between the Forest Management Enterprise and management body of the Protected Area	-At least 3 Community consultation using Open -Standards and other tools to identify target specifies, key threat and management strategy for protection -2 Forest Protection Management Plan formulated per year	- Possible changes in land use - Possible gender and poverty issues; - Possible access to forest issues; - Access restrictions by local communities to natural forest may occur	- Similar to above, in the first instance FGRM applies and OP 4.12 will apply if issues can not be resolved
2.5.4 Secure sustainable financing to support the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the forest protected area	-2 Community and Stakeholder consultation develop - Business Plan -Secure "seed fund" for sustainable financing of ER-P priorities by 2023		
Component 3: Program management and emission monitoring			
3.1 Program coordination and management	-Support for capacity building and at central Province and District levels, -Improved coordination across sectors and ministries	- Facilitate institutional setup, coordination mechanisms, program implementation manual; - Training programs and Financial Management	
3.2 Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) includes monitoring of safeguards	-MRV plan implemented at national, divisional and provincial levels	Development of effective M&E system that includes training on data collection and reporting on safeguards information	- It is requirement that the RPF be monitored and evaluated to ensure all measures to mitigate the negative impacts of involuntary resettlement are adequately documented
3.3 MRV - Management and processing of MRV activities	-M&E Guidelines, Verification Reports, Communication Materials and Report	- Development of effective MRV data and forest cover information. - No negative impacts expected	

4.4 Mitigation of environmental risks

Table 4.2 Main ER-Program interventions potential environmental impacts and mitigations

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
Component 1: Strengthen enabling conditions for emission reduction			
Subcomponent 1.1 Integrated District Land Use Planning (IDLUP) to promote more sustainable long-term integrated landscape management	- Improved land use planning is expected to help control the expansion of agricultural land, i.e. reduced conversion of forest - Contributes to improved planning of land use, this would include avoidance of use of steeply sloping land and improved crop selection, and improved planning related to infrastructure planning and development. -Expected to cross cut across sectors, MOF, MoEnv MOA land use, TLTB, Provincial councils, District REDD+, NGOs, CSO	- Possible disturbance of forest/ forest re-growth that could lead to invasive species - Possible changes in land use - Possible gender exclusion in planning process (see socio-economic impacts and mitigation) -Possible unsustainable increases productivity of soil i.e. changes to soil, loss of organic matter soil structure and hence declining yields and soils being more susceptible to erosion etc.	- Awareness raising and training on land use planning and involvement of the community adopting a fully participatory approach and ensure that land use planning involves women - Training on improved crop production techniques and crop diversification and sustainable management and use of soil - In the instance of a dispute the FGRM would be used, however, unlikely that a land use plan would be legally regulated, i.e. adoption of any land use plan would be voluntary and should be beneficial to the community - Land use planning, training and awareness raising to include identification of import areas of forest (i.e. hotspots of biodiversity or similar), keeps forest disturbance to a minimum - Exclusion of the hotspots from activities and protection of areas of forest identified as critical habitats including cloud forest, riparian, mangroves, from development (and similarly wetland areas and areas included in the NBSAP)

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	Potential negative impact	Mitigation
			- Where appropriate (depending on the type of habitat and areas for example) a specific management plan for the area may need to be considered to ensure that the biodiversity is protected
1.1.1 Development of Integrated District Land use plans (IDLUP)	- Plans in 20 Districts over life of program - As above	- As above	- As above
1.1.2 Develop integrated community management plan	- 40 community consultation workshops over life of program - As above	- As above	- As above
Subcomponent 1.2. Strengthening forest governance and law enforcement	- Improved forest governance should eventually be generally positive and contribute to protection and maintenance of biodiversity - Development/revision of forest policy and regulation might result in negative outcomes during implementation - Expected to cross cut across sectors MOF and MOA land use, TLTB, Provincial councils, District REDD+ NGOs CSO - Apply FFHCOP - Less forest conversion	- Possible gender and poverty issues related to access to forest - Possible change in access to forest or impact on livelihood issues	- Thorough review of the TORs and outputs of these policy and regulation activities to ensure that potential impacts and mitigation measures are addressed - Improve transparency, encourage the participation of community in discussing and improving forest management; - Improve forest monitoring providing feedback into planning and management process and discussion and local communities through the YMST to improve forest protection and management and agree and designate areas for livelihood related activities - Similar to above on the use and sustainable management of NTFPs - Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide)

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
1.2.1. Raise awareness on revised legal and regulatory framework, strengthen forest law enforcement	-Awareness training on FFHCOP, SFM, Fire management -Establish Forest Care Groups in 20 districts over life of program - Improved sustainable forest management less forest conversion	- Potential for access to forest issues or impact on livelihood issues	- In the instance of a dispute the FGRM would be used
1.2.2 Capacity building on forest laws enforcement and governance at community level	-Awareness raising at 3 District level training per year on carbon enhancement, application of the FFHCOP and land leasing processes - Less forest conversion	- Potential for access to forest issues or impact on livelihood issues	- In the instance of a dispute the FGRM would be used
1.2.3. Capacity building on forest laws enforcement at industry and trade level	-2 inter agency training per year on forest law -2 training per year on reporting process for non-compliance of forest related legislations		
Subcomponent 1.3 Forest information system	- Similar to above - Improved information on status of the forest providing feedback into planning and management process -Training for staff at MOF	- Possible miss use of information system leading to elite capture and exploitation of remaining forest resources	-Develop data collection and use protocols that ensure information is available and transparent
1.3.1. Upgrade Forest information & data base systems	- Improved information on forest resources and use	- None foreseen	
1.3.2 improved monitoring and reporting to feed forest information system	- Improved information on forest resources and use	- None foreseen	
Component 2: Promoting integrated landscape management			

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
Subcomponent 2.1. Sustainable natural forest management	- Improved landscape management and SFM; - Generally positive, some clarifications of forest natural forest boundaries, some possible impacts on livelihoods, i.e. improved conservation of natural forest, may not include unfettered or continued access to all forest areas. - NTFP over collection should decrease and lead to improved management and should see an increase in the volume and availability - Lead Agency: MOF Collaborators: Ministry of iTaukei Affairs iTaukei Lands Trust Board Saw-millers Association NGO, CSOs	- May impact on high conservation value forest i.e. untouched or high conservation value forest may be brought under a sustainable/ reduced impact logging approach to SFM	- Biodiversity values should be assessed (following OP4.04 guidelines and definitions) prior to Forest Management Licences being issues - Strengthen forest governance (law enforcement for forest protection and management (propaganda, patrol, control) - Improve dissemination of forest conversion policy and improvements to land use planning, and policies related to the community as the regulation was developed. - Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide) - Improve forest monitoring providing feedback into planning and management process and discussion with local communities through the YMST to improve forest protection and management and agree to designate areas for livelihood related activities including NTFP collection and introduce more sustainable management approaches to NTFP collection - Exclusion of the hotspots from activities and as above protection of areas of forest identified as critical habitats - including cloud forest, riparian, mangroves, from development (and similarly wetland areas and areas included in the NBSAP such as IBA, KBAs, AZEs or areas where rare, vulnerable, endangered, or similarly threatened, as indicated in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, BirdLife World List of Threatened Birds, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants may be found)

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)	Environmental impacts and mitigation		
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
			- Where appropriate (depending on the type of habitat and areas for example) a specific management plan for the area may need to be considered to ensure that the biodiversity is protected.
2.1.1 Land tenure clarification and SFM management planning	- 5 agreements between landowners and logging operators approved per year - 3 Forest Leases secured per year - Improved SFM	- As above	- Biodiversity values should be assessed (following OP4.04 guidelines and definitions) prior any logging if that is included in the SFM plan - Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide) - Exclusion of the hotspots from activities and as above protection of areas of forest identified as critical habitats - including cloud forest, riparian, mangroves, from development (and similarly wetland areas and areas included in the NBSAP such as IBA, KBAs, AZEs or areas where rare, vulnerable, endangered, or similarly threatened, as indicated in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, BirdLife World List of Threatened Birds, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants may be found) - Where appropriate (depending on the type of habitat and areas for example) a specific management plan for the area may need to be considered to ensure that the biodiversity is protected.
2.1.2 Activity Missing			

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
2.1.3 Implement and Monitor logging aligned to FFHCOP	- 10 sites monitored quarterly awareness raising - results disseminated widely to all stakeholders through newsletters and social media	- As above	- Biodiversity values should be assessed (following OP4.04 guidelines and definitions) prior any logging if that is included in the SFM plan
Subcomponent 2.2. Afforestation and reforestation - timber and biomass plantation	-Generally positive, longer-term benefits to habitat improvements if native species are used for afforestation leading to improved biodiversity - Possibility of increasing land under forest cover - Possible of regeneration of heavily degraded land/ stabilisation of eroded areas/ reduce soil erosion/ leguminous spp. may be used - Lead Agency: MOF Collaborators: Fiji Pine Ltd for pine, Fiji Mahogany Trust for mahogany	- Potential for reduction or impact on biodiversity if exotic mono-culture fast growing plantation trees i.e. if *Acacia* or *Acacia* hybrid spp. are used for the biomass plantations - Possible minor habitat damage where enrichment planting occurs; - Impacts would be location dependent, possible minor habitat damage or in exceptional circumstances minor loss of poor quality remnant natural forest. - Possible increased and or overuse of pesticides/ herbicides for seedling and unintended introduction of invasive species in disturbed areas.	- Follow plantation management recommendations conforming to OP 4.36 - Biodiversity surveys could assist with identifying values prior to replanting - Exclusion of the hotspots from activities and as above protection of areas of forest identified as critical habitats - including cloud forest, riparian, mangroves, from development (and similarly wetland areas and areas included in the NBSAP such as IBA, KBAs, AZEs or areas where rare, vulnerable, endangered, or similarly threatened, as indicated in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, BirdLife World List of Threatened Birds, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants may be found) - Where appropriate (depending on the type of habitat and areas for example) a specific management plan for the area may need to be considered to ensure that the biodiversity is protected. - Careful design of planting to avoid any loss of native spp. - Mixed planting of native species with biomass plantations would help mitigate the biodiversity issues.

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)	Activities and potential positive impact	Environmental impacts and mitigation	
		Potential negative impact	Mitigation
			- Training on the safe use of herbicides etc. including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials - Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents
2.2.1 Investments in reforestation, short and long rotation plantation - pine plantation	- Restocking of pine plantation with 2500ha/yr. - Monitoring report by the Ministry of Forestry once a year	- Short rotation plantains need to be managed carefully to avoid undue impact and disturbance	- Careful design of planting to avoid any loss of native spp. - Mixed planting of native species with biomass plantations would help alleviate the biodiversity issues - Encourage longer rotations where possible - Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide)
2.2.2. Investments in reforestation, short and long rotation plantation investments - mahogany	- Restocking of logged over mahogany forest plantation at 780 ha/yr. between 2020-2022 - Monitoring report by the Ministry of Forestry once a year	- Old method used to develop a mahogany "plantation" was inside logged natural forest where there would be biodiversity and environmental impacts. However, this approach has now been replaced by a more normal approach of replanting in existing or old plantations or on degraded land, where the mahogany would eventually have a beneficial impact. - Potential health and safety measures if herbicides are used to protect young seedlings	- Careful design of planting to avoid any loss of native spp. - As previous method no longer used mitigation is similar to any plantation. - Training on safe use of herbicides etc. including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials - Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents - Training on and applying the FFHCOP including the health and safety training following the guidelines on timber harvesting (this training should be community wide) - The assessment of environmental and social risks may be required if there is a change in land use for example where planting is on degraded land, however, most degraded land is used for

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)	Activities and potential positive impact	Environmental impacts and mitigation	
		Potential negative impact	Mitigation
			new plantations is a grass fire climax with limited biodiversity. - Consultations would be required with local Matagali where any new plantation land is leased.
Subcomponent 2.3. Afforestation and reforestation - restoration of ecosystem services	- Generally positive, few impacts expected as the activity mainly focuses on existing plantations (i.e. no new plantations, enrichment planting with native spp. included) and extending and improving management - Potential to improve biodiversity - Possibility of increasing land under forest cover - Possible of regeneration of heavily degraded land/ stabilisation of eroded areas/ reduce soil erosion/ leguminous spp. may be used	- Possible increased and or overuse of pesticides/ herbicides for seedling and unintended introduction of invasive species in disturbed areas.	- Follow plantation management recommendations conforming to OP 4.36 -Implement collaborative management conforming to OP 4.36 and OP 4.04 of natural forests and plantation areas between YMST and communities - Training on safe use of herbicides etc. including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials - Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents - Careful design of planting to avoid any loss of native spp. - Depending on the proposed location the activity may require biodiversity assessments (following OP4.04 guidelines and definitions) as part of process to ensure that there are no impacts on critical natural habitats - Exclusion of the hotspots from activities and as above protection of areas of forest identified as critical habitats - including cloud forest, riparian, mangroves, from development (and similarly wetland areas and areas included in the NBSAP such as IBA, KBAs, AZEs or areas where rare, vulnerable, endangered, or similarly threatened, as indicated in the IUCN Red List of Threatened

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)	Activities and potential positive impact	Environmental impacts and mitigation	
		Potential negative impact	Mitigation
			Animals, BirdLife World List of Threatened Birds, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants may be found) - Where appropriate (depending on the type of habitat and areas for example) a specific management plan for the area may need to be considered to ensure that the biodiversity is protected.
2.3.1. Implement land owner engagement through Fiji Pine Trust Extension Scheme	- Fiji Pine Trust facilitate registration of at least 4 groups in ER-P per year (each group with at least 25ha) - Establishment of 200ha pine woodlot per year	- As above	- As above
2.3.2 Activity missing			
2.3.3. Community based restoration for 4 million Trees	- Establish an incremental 400ha per year from 2020 at the baseline of 300ha. - Establishment of 4000ha by year 3 - At least 100 communities/ Mataqali register for intervention	- As above	- As above
Subcomponent 2.4 Promotion of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable livelihoods	- Lead Agency: MOF Collaborators: Ministry of Agriculture, Kava Commodity Clusters, Fiji Crop and Livestock Association, Kava Association, Famers, NGOS	- Limited possibility of negative environmental impacts, for example, not all activities chosen by communities and forest management entities may not be rigorously forest or biodiversity conservation supportive; - Identification of conservation orientated livelihood models designed not to impact on natural forest in PAs	- Identification of livelihood and sustainable forest use models designed not to impact on natural forest in PAs. Example of livelihood activities will be developed and provided in the PIM (including sustainable soil management) - Promotion of sustainable use and development of NTFPs in the forest areas - Mitigation measures to be developed and included in the ESMP for implementation - Provide training on use of herbicides and pesticides including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	Potential negative impact	Mitigation
			- Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents
2.4.1 Implementation of Riparian restoration to mitigate flash floods	- Establish at least 6 sites annually at 300ha per site - 6 Reports of community consultation on traditional species used and preferred species for restoration. - At least 3 field schools for farmer-to-farmer exchange per year	- Unintended introduction of invasive species in disturbed areas	- Careful design of planting to avoid any loss of native spp. - Depending on the proposed location the activity may require biodiversity assessments as part of process to ensure that there are no impacts on critical natural habitats - Exclusion of the hotspots from activities and as above protection of areas of forest identified as critical habitats - including cloud forest, riparian, mangroves, from development (and similarly wetland areas and areas included in the NBSAP such as IBA, KBAs, AZEs or areas where rare, vulnerable, endangered, or similarly threatened, as indicated in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, BirdLife World List of Threatened Birds, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants may be found) - Where appropriate (depending on the type of habitat and areas for example) a specific management plan for the area may need to be considered to ensure that the biodiversity is protected.
2.4.2. Afforestation and restoration for ecosystem services	- Establish at least 5 sites annually at 00ha per site - 6 Reports of community consultation on traditional species used and preferred species for restoration. - At least 3 field schools for farmer-to-farmer exchange per year	- As above	- As above

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	**Potential negative impact**	**Mitigation**
2.4.3 Enhanced alternative livelihood and restoration	- Could include Incentivized climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry - Establish at 200ha of alternative intervention per year - 6 Reports of District alternative livelihood intervention - At least 3 field schools for farmer-to-farmer exchange per year	- Unintended introduction of invasive species in disturbed areas - Possible increased and or overuse of pesticides/ herbicides for crop protection - "Climate smart crops" could add to the burden of the community if they require specific site locations, or increased levels of in-puts -Possible unsustainable increases productivity of soil i.e. changes to soil, loss of organic matter soil structure and hence declining yields and soils being more susceptible to erosion etc.	- Careful selection of location specific "climate smart crops" this includes improved crop production techniques and sustainable soil management approaches suggests that the program will need a range of different crops for the wide variety of locations found in the ER-P area - Training on the safe use of herbicides etc. including how to handle, use and store the chemicals and or similar hazardous materials - Training to include the wider community to help minimise any risks of misuse or accidents
Subcomponent 2.5 Promotion of forest protection to conserve existing natural forest carbon stocks.	- Improved protection of natural forest through conservation agreements - Secure 60% community consensus at each priority site via FPIC process by 2023 - Improved conservation of natural forest	- Mainly socio-economic issues, potential to lead to increased impact on alternative areas of forest	-Biodiversity surveys could be used to refine potential areas (following OP4.04 guidelines and definitions) - Exclusion of the hotspots from activities and as above protection of areas of forest identified as critical habitats - including cloud forest, riparian, mangroves, from development (and similarly wetland areas and areas included in the NBSAP such as IBA, KBAs, AZEs or areas where rare, vulnerable, endangered, or similarly threatened, as indicated in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, BirdLife World List of Threatened Birds, IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants may be found) - Where appropriate (depending on the type of habitat and areas for example) a specific management plan for the area may need to be considered to ensure that the biodiversity is protected.

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	Potential negative impact	Mitigation
			- Careful planning and consideration of resources required for communities - The METT process of evaluation of PA management could be used to help in the design of the management, but its usefulness is questionable unless there is a properly set up and funded management unit for the PA - Similar socio-economic issues, in the first instance FGRM applies and OP 4.12 will apply if issues can not be resolved - If any households are affected by being forced to desist from using land for other purposes (e.g. traditional agricultural cropping or livestock grazing) they could be compensated for loss of production and OP4.12 will be used to mitigate possible negative impacts
2.5.1. Implementation of natural forest conservation agreement (at the deforestation frontier)	- Secure 60% community consensus at each priority site via FPIC process by 2023 - Improved conservation of natural forest	- As above as one area of forest is closed off this may result in increased use or access to alternatives	- As above
2.5.2 Formalise protection of forest area under the Forest Decree 1992 and other instruments such as the TLTB Act	-Improvements to policy at least 2 Discussion Papers drafted and submitted to Forestry Board per year -Endorse and enforce PA status at least one site per year -Secure at least 1 REDD+ Conservation Lease per year	- As above	- As above
2.5.3 Develop and Implement community-based Forest Protection Management Plan based on	-At least 3 Community consultation using Open Standards and other tools to identify target specifies, key threat and management strategy for protection	- As above	- As above

ER-P intervention to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks (ha)		Environmental impacts and mitigation	
	Activities and potential positive impact	Potential negative impact	Mitigation
co-management regime between the Forest Management Enterprise and management body of the Protected Area	-2 Forest Protection Management Plan formulated per year		
2.5.4 Secure sustainable financing to support the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the forest protected area	-2 Community and Stakeholder consultation develop - Business Plan Secure "seed fund" for sustainable financing of ER-P priorities by 2023	- None foreseen	
Component 3: Program management and emission monitoring			
3.1 Program coordination and management	- Support for capacity building and at central Province and District levels, - Improved coordination across sectors and ministries	- None foreseen	
3.2 Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) includes monitoring of safeguards	-MRV plan implemented at national, divisional and provincial levels - Improved environmental management	- None foreseen	
3.3 MRV - Management and processing of MRV activities	-M&E Guidelines, Verification Reports, Communication Materials and Report - Improved information on forest resources and use	- None foreseen	

4.5 Guidelines for mitigation and enhancement measures

4.5.1 Danger from invasive species

The Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) run by the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union lists 109 invasive species established in Fiji. The Fiji Department of the Environment recognized invasive species as a focal area for action in the 1999 Fiji Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

African tulip trees can be found in many countries throughout Central and South America, Asia, and the Caribbean. They are primarily invasive in the South Pacific. African tulip trees crowd out native species and are extremely difficult to remove as they can grow back from root fragments and its wind-dispersed seeds. They can quickly become the dominant forest tree which has detrimental impacts on the vines and animals that depend on native trees. The ecological and economic impacts are immense. For example, in Fiji, agriculture is the largest sector of the economy, but only 16% of the island is suitable for farming. Many locals will clear sections of land to make it more amenable to farming, resulting in damaged land that is ideal for colonizing trees like the African tulip. The problem in Fiji as grown over the last ten years, and now African tulip trees make up 20% of regrowth forests previously cleared for agriculture. In a survey conducted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the trees appeared on 98% of the farms surveyed. Methods of control: Young trees can be hand-pulled when the soil is soft, but adult trees need to be chopped down and their stumps coated with herbicide. Herbicides can either be painted, sprayed, or injected into the tree.

Rat and mongoose, myna and bulbul, wedelia and mikania, ant and mosquito are some of the invasive mammals, birds, plants and insects that are affecting biodiversity on the islands of Fiji. Endangered birds such as the red-throated lorikeet and the long-legged warbler have been attacked by rat and mongoose predators. Invasive species also affect marine and aquatic life.

Table 4.3 The most import alien invasive species in Fiji

Type/ Species	**Impacts**
Pests	
Fruit flies (*Bactrocera passiflorea, B. xanthodes, B. kirki, B. obscura, B. distincta, B. gentum*)	Significant losses in production and their presence results in quarantine restrictions being imposed on fruits and vegetable export commodities.
Taro Beetle (Papuana huebneri)	A significant loss in production of up to 48 percent in taro beetle infested areas and drastically reduces market value of taro
Weeds	
African tulip (*Spathodea campanulate*)	Reduced planting spaces and long, deep rooting system hinders cultivation for arable land use and development
Ivory-cane palm (*Pinanga coronate*)	Invasive, *P. coronata* is displacing native biodiversity cover and is strongly and negatively related with the abundance of native tree ferns and the palm may therefore be displacing native tree ferns. This relationship was strongest with tree fern seedlings and weakest with mature tree ferns, implying that the palm is preventing the establishment of native tree ferns.
Animals/birds	

Rats (*Rattus rattus*), (*R. exulans*), (*R.norvegicus*), (*R. musculus*)	Damage mature coconut groves and destroying one-third of the total potential copra at various stages in its preparation
Indian mongoose (Rallus phillopensis)	A recent archeological work on Fiji (Worthy *et al*. 1999) reveals many extinct species of birds and reptiles due to this invasive species.
Indian myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) Jungle myna (*Acridotheres* fuscus) Red-vented bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)	These invasive birds are known to be very territorial thus taking charge of breeding areas for other wildlife. They are also known to cause havoc at small-scale fruit and vegetable farms, eating fruits and newly emerging seedlings

* Help mitigate the effects of impeding climate change for four iconic IUCN red-listed tree species endemic to Fiji: *Cynometra falcata* (C*aesalpinaceae*; IUCN red-list status: critically endangered), *Dacrydium nausoriense* (*Podocarpacea*e; endangered), *Degeneria vitiense (Degeneriaceae*; Vulnerable), and *Podocarpus affinis (Podocarpaceae*; vulnerable).

4.6 Application of Forest Stewardship principles for sustainable forest management

a) Forest Certification in Fiji and the Forest Harvesting Code of Practice

The Fiji Forest Certification Standard has been under development and currently follows the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council. A multi-interest stakeholder Fiji Forest Certification Steering Committee (later to become the Fiji Forest Certification Working Group Committee) was set up but has not made much progress since 2012. The basis for the selection is that the FSC forest certification scheme and label is the most demanded at international wood markets and it is also the most fair and robust.

The Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice is designed to address environmentally acceptable harvesting practices to minimize the degradation of forest soil and water while maintaining biodiversity. Compliance to the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice is included in the Fiji Forest Certification Standard, particularly under Criterion 6.5

- The Fiji Forest Certification Standard is included in the Fiji Forest Policy Statement specifically in Policy Field 2.5 whereby the Standard provides criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.
- The main legislation that regulates the forestry sector, the Forest Decree (1992), has undergone a legislative review process and is due to be replaced by the proposed Forest Bill (2016). Monitoring, compliance and surveillance of forest harvesting operations is carried out by the Forestry Training Centre and the MCS Project of the Department of Forests, under the guidance of the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP). Some initial work has been done on setting up Fijian forest certification standards.

5 Procedures for review clearance and implementation of safeguard instruments

5.1 Safeguard screening and impact assessment

The ER-P aims to support programs that would not create adverse impacts and due harm to local communities and to the environment. Any residual impacts will be addressed in line with the World Bank safeguards policies. Environmental and social screening and impact assessment will be done, together with the preparation of safeguards documents, mitigation measures including public consultations.

5.2 Review approval and disclosure of subproject safeguard instruments

Main objective of the ESMF process is to ensure that the subprojects and other project activities to be financed by the ER Program will not create adverse impacts on the local environment and local communities and the residual and/or unavoidable impacts will be adequately mitigated in compliance with the WB's safeguard policies. The ESMF comprises four steps as outline below. Given the nature of subproject activities in the ER-Program the ESMF process will be applied to Components 1, 2, and 3. This section briefly describes the key steps. while more details are provided in annexes.

Step 1: Safeguard screening and impacts assessment;

Step 2: Preparation of safeguard documents as required including development of mitigation measures and public consultation;

Step 3: Safeguard clearance and information disclosure; and

Step 4: Safeguard implementation and monitoring (Section 6).

Processing policy related activities under Component 1 will follow the interim guidelines of the Bank's Operations Policy and Country Services, Operational Risk Management (OPSOR): *"Interim Guidelines on the Application of Safeguard Policies to Technical Assistance Activities in Bank-Financed Projects and Trust Funds Administered by the Bank".* Environmental and social issues will be included in the relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) for the policy and regulation development activities. Public consultation of the proposed policy reforms and assessment of the environmental and social risks and impacts of policy reforms will be conducted.

Step 1: Safeguard Screening and Impact Assessment

This step aims to confirm the eligibility of subproject and/or activities to be financed by the Project as well as identify the potential environmental and social impacts of the subprojects/activities including categorization of the subproject into A, B, or C, identification of WB safeguard policy to be triggered, and identification of safeguard documents to be prepared as required by OP/BP 4.01, OP/BP 4.10, and OP/BP 4.12. Consultation with WB safeguard specialists during the screening process can be sought.

Step 2: Development of Safeguard Documents

This step aims to prepare safeguard documents in line with the issues identified in Step 1. Guideline for the preparation of EIA and ESMP are provided in *Annex 11.2* while those for RPs are provided in the RPF. REDD+ Divisional Working Groups will be responsible for preparation of safeguard documents for Components 2 and 3. Given the nature of small activities, preparation of ESMP will not generally be required for community-based activities. Consultation with WB safeguard specialists for complex subprojects is highly recommended.

It is also necessary that REDD+ Divisional Working Groups will also prepare documents (EIA, etc.) as required by the GOF EIA regulation under the Environmental Management Act 2005 and secure approval of responsible agencies.

Step 3: Review, Approval, and Disclosure of Safeguard Documents

The REDD+ Unit and REDD+ Divisional Working Groups are responsible for review of the subproject/activity safeguard documents and get them approved by the responsible government agencies before approval and commencement of subproject works.

All safeguard documents will be posted in the official MOF website and the project provinces, and hardcopies will be available at REDD+ Unit, and the subproject sites in Fiji. A notification will be published about the disclosure and comments will be sought within one month of the disclosure date. All the safeguard documents will be disclosed at the WB's external website.

Step 4: Review, Safeguard implementation and monitoring (see Section 6 below)

6 Implementation arrangement

6.1 Summary of implementation arrangements

National oversight

The administration of government's program is divided into 4 main divisions, i.e. Central, Eastern, Western, and Northern. The ER-P area, covering Viti Levu and Vanua Levu and Taveuni, includes the central, western and northern divisions, which are divided into 11 provinces (*Yasana*), 155 districts (Tikina) and 982 registered villages (Koro). Figure 6.1 presents is an overview of the institutional and implementation arrangements of the ER program at national, division, districts and villages levels.

The Ministry of Forestry is the lead agency and national REDD+ focal point responsible to coordinate and implement REDD+ activities. The Conservator of Forests approves all REDD+ ER Project proposals and activities after consulting with the REDD+ Steering Committee. The DoF Extension Division will be a major provider of technical information and nursery stock of native tree species to the program, including through its nurseries on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

The REDD+ Steering Committee (SC) provides the administrative oversight for REDD+ activities, including the ER Program. Members of the REDD+ SC at national level include:

- **The Ministry of Economy** is the national focal point for UNFCCC and lead negotiator in international climate change meetings and coordinates with the Ministry of Forestry in representing Fiji's REDD+ agenda at international meetings.
- **The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs** is responsible for developing and promoting policies to ensure good governance and welfare of the *iTaukei*. This Ministry strives to ensure that the rights and interests of the iTaukei are safeguarded in the REDD+ process.
- **The iTaukei Land Trust Board** is the custodian of iTaukei land in the country. Almost 90% of land in Fiji is customary owned. The Board provides guidance on the use of iTaukei land and represents the interests of iTaukei landowners.
- **The Department of Environment** is the national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity. This is the lead agency in ensuring biodiversity is protected and monitored at the national level following the responsibilities under the Environmental Management Act.
- **The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources** looks after State land including mangroves. This Department hosts the Land Bank where landowners can "deposit" their land to be invested on their behalf. The Ministry provides guidance on the use of State land and on land deposited in the Land Bank. The Ministry is also responsible for regulating the exploration and development of Fiji's mineral, petroleum and other related non-living resources of the country.
- **The Department of Agriculture** is the lead agency for the agricultural sector and is the national focal point for UNCCD. The department guides the development and implementation of agriculture policies and incentives to support REDD+ strategies. Given that agriculture is the main cause for deforestation in Fiji, the department plays an important extension role with farmers in the respective program priority districts, and

through the Land Use Planning Section to ensure better soil conservation farming practices, notably on sloping land.

- **The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Natural Disaster and Meteorological Services i**s responsible for administering government activities at the rural, provincial level. The Provincial Administrators are close to the ground and support coordination and monitoring of REDD+ pilot site activities. The office of the Provincial Administrators reports directly to the Commissioner in each Division (Commissioner North, West and Central/Eastern).

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

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

- **Fiji Pine Limited** is a public enterprise and one of the largest plantation industries in Fiji. The company will support and identify opportunities for REDD+ activities pertaining to plantations. Fiji Pine is already FSC certified and an important co-financier.

- **Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited** owns majority of the mahogany plantations in Fiji. The company will support and identify opportunities for REDD+ activities pertaining to plantations. General support for certification of mahogany plantations through the program is expected to be available.

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

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

- **The Ministry of Youth and Sports** ensures the representation of youth interests. Coordinates the country's largest network of youth groups in rural and urban areas.

- **Matagali** Activities undertaken on iTaukei land require permission and support of mataqali.

Divisional Oversight

The program will be under the management of the Ministry of Forestry through direct oversight of the REDD+ Unit. The REDD+ Unit will oversee the ER Program implementation.

The unit is supported at sub-national level by REDD+ Divisional Working Groups. Members of the REDD+ Divisional Working Group consist of:

- **Chair Person**: Commissioner – designated officer responsible for oversight of public and private interventions across administrative boundary of North, Central/Eastern and Western Divisions.

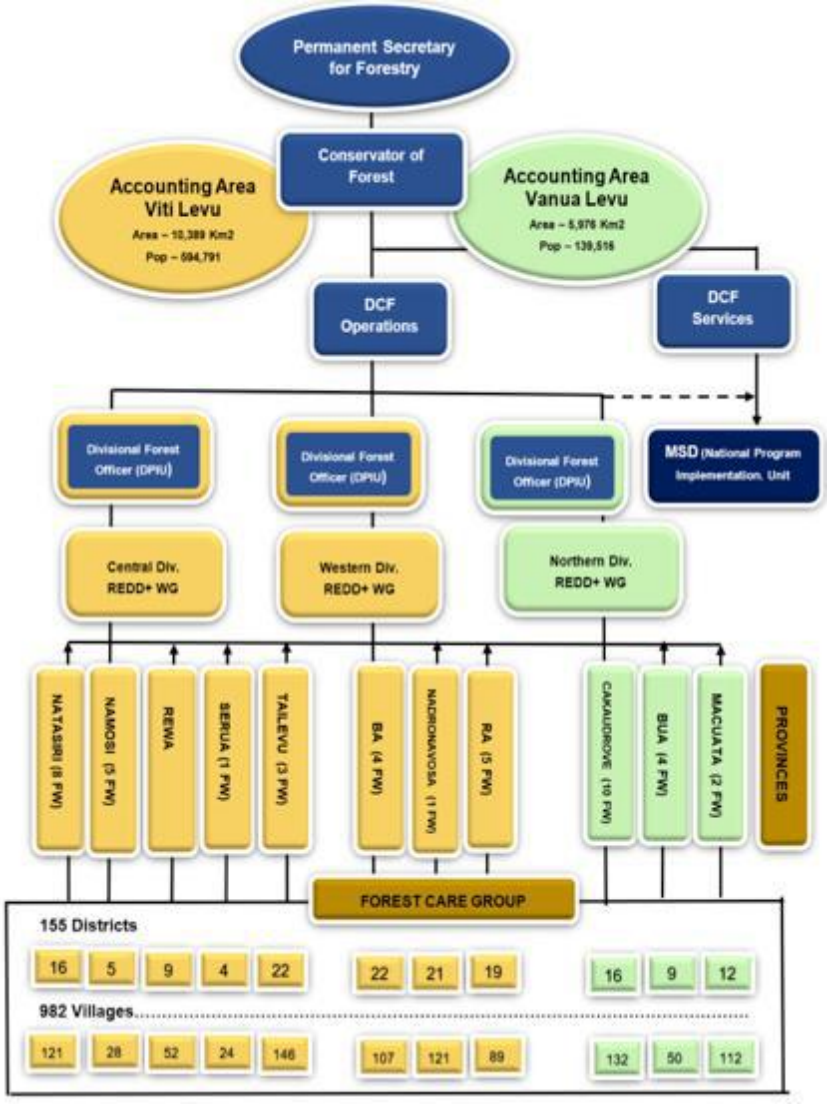
- **Members:**

  1. Senior Administrators of all Government Agencies, private entities and participating NGOs of the REDD+ SC through their offices at Divisional level.

2. Conservation Officers at Provincial Council Offices.
3. Forest Wardens.
4. Representatives of Land Care Groups such as relevant Commodity Clusters (Kava, Taro, Livestock and others).
5. Representatives of Forest Care Groups

A schematic representation of the hierarchy of relationships between the national, divisional, district and village level administration are presented in Figure 6.1 governance and implementation arrangements of ER Program activities at different levels are presented in Figure 6.2 below.

Figure 6.1 Implementation arrangements



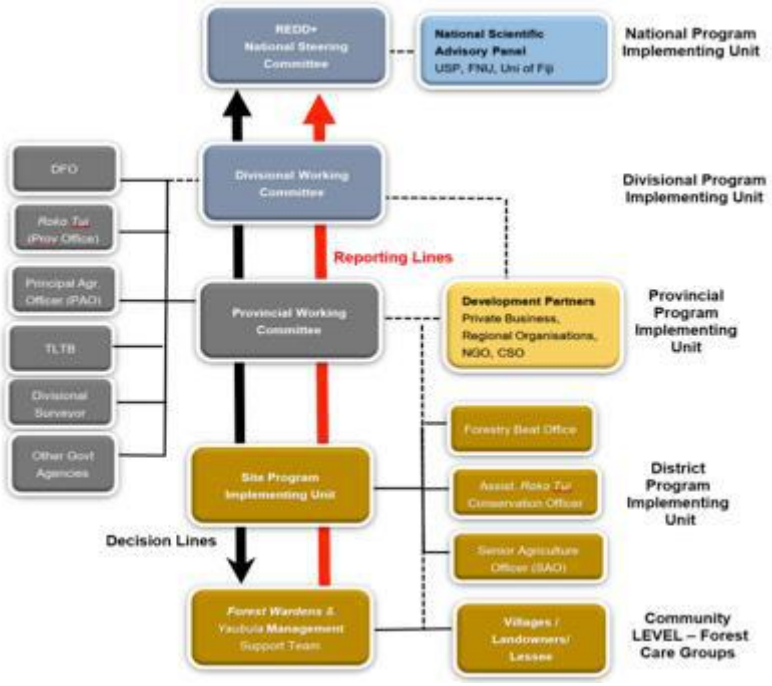
Site Level Implementation

At the site level, the Forestry Beat Officer will be assisted by the Forest Warden (FW) to lead site-level implementation of activities and will be supported by the Agriculture Extension Officers. Community monitoring will be led by the Provincial Council Chief Executive Officer or Roko Tui and/or Conservation Officer.

FW will be the point of contact at the village level. FW will work closely with the *Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMST)* as well as other voluntary community groups such as the Forest Care Group, Land Care Groups, the Commodity Cluster Groups.

The FW will be required to report on (a) the progress of implementation of ER-P activities at site level, (b) landowner grievances and issues that require immediate intervention and redress; (c) on opportunities that may arise to strengthens ER- P national position, and (d) advice on options for efficient and effective implementation and delivery of ER products and services with the widest coverage and greatest impact. Reports are submitted monthly to the District Divisional Forest Officer who will collate and present to the REDD+ Divisional Working Group.

Figure 6.2 Implementation national to local level



Implementation of Benefit Sharing Plan and relevant Safeguard Plan

Successful implementation of the benefit sharing plan will depend on the outcome of the on-going assessment of existing mechanisms and the development of strong legal frameworks with clear definitions of carbon rights and ownership. It is anticipated that carbon rights, once defined will be enshrined in a policy and linked to strong legislative framework that would support and guide implementation of safeguards and benefit sharing.

6.2 Responsibility for ESMF implementation

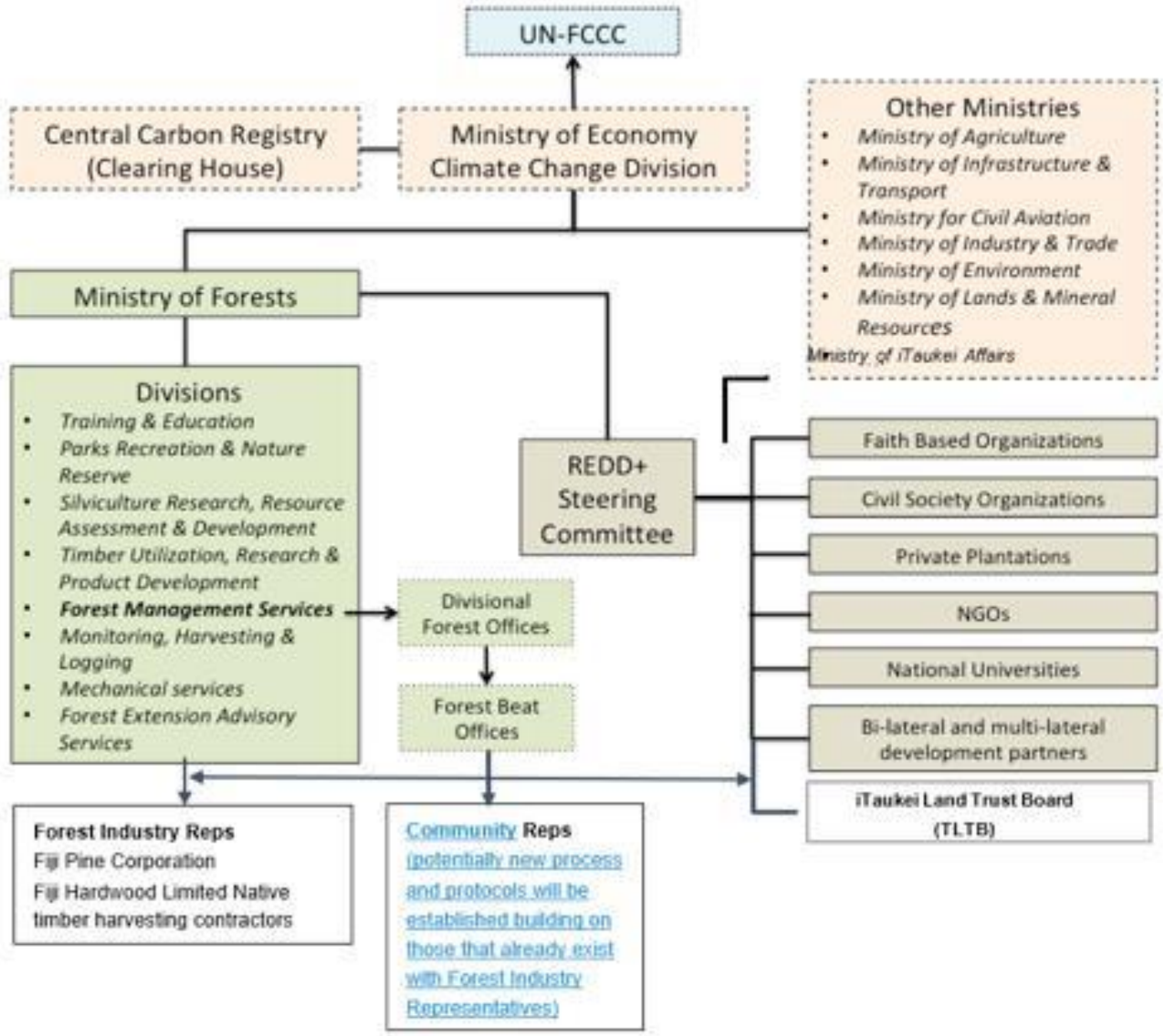
The Ministry of Forestry is the lead agency and national REDD+ focal point responsible to coordinate and implement REDD+ activities. The Conservator of Forests approves all REDD+ ER-P activity proposals and activities after consulting with the REDD+ Steering Committee who will also have responsibilities on safeguard issues. A Safeguards Technical Working Group 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+. The national REDD+ Unit under the Ministry of Forestry has been working closely with the Safeguards Technical Working Group, Ministry of Environment and the National REDD+ Steering Committee will mainstream social and environmental issues in all the analytic work, combined with consultations required for the various activities funded under readiness.

The administration of government's program is divided into four main divisions, i.e. Central, Eastern, Western, and Northern. The ER-P area, covering Viti Levu and Vanua Levu and Taveuni,

includes the central, western and northern divisions, which are divided into 11 provinces (Yasana), 155 districts (Tikina) and 982 registered villages (Koro).

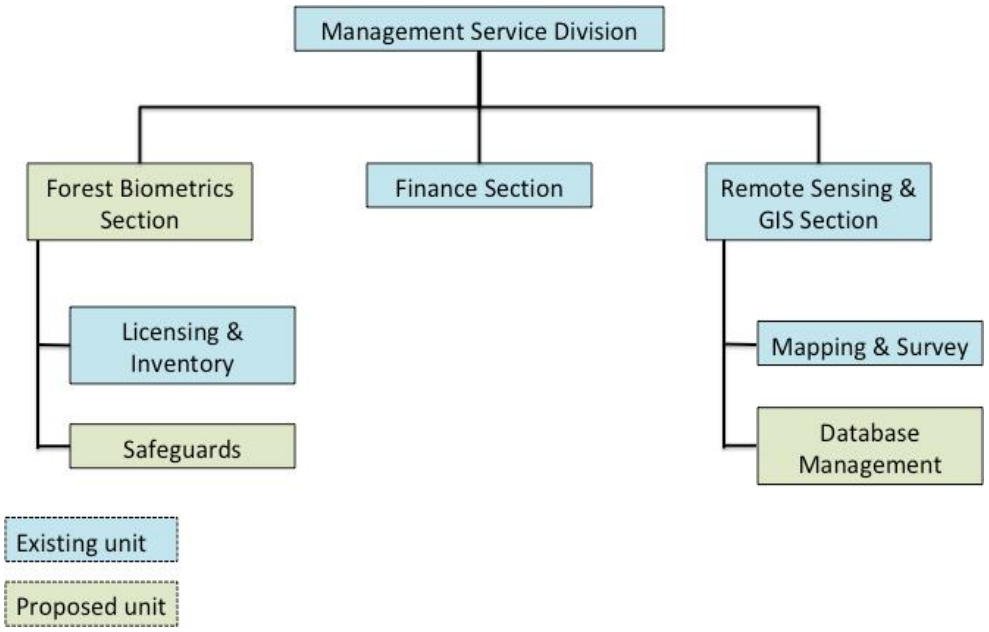
For the implementation of forest and environmental related safeguards the ER-P supports a process for bottom-up data collection from the Mataqali for forest cover monitoring and reporting. Fiji is seeking support from the providers of ODA to improved existing Forest Management System of the MOF. The will aim to improve the process of measuring and reporting forest change within provinces, and addresses limitations of the existing FMS on accuracy, credibility, transparency and quality assurance. Reporting and checking of forest cover change are conducted at each level of the government (districts and provinces in the ER-P Divisions), and at the village and proposed forest management entities. Where forests are allocated to villages a Village Based Forest Patrolling Team undertakes forest patrols and reports to district-based forest officers. They will conduct field measurements of forest change and submit the collected data to a data server. Satellite images and photographs will be used to verify forest changes, and the resulting information is used to update forest cover maps and the use of a tablet-based approach that will allow information to be sent to the Fiji Forest Information System (FFIS) see **Figure 6.3** below.

Figure 6.3 Institutional arrangements for the national forest monitoring



The Management Services Division under the Ministry of Forestry is responsible for measurement, monitoring and reporting activities including data collection and management and verifying outputs from the National Forest Monitoring System. The structure of the Management Services Division is presented in **Figure 6.4** below including proposed new units to facilitate the measurement, monitoring and reporting including a new Forest Biometrics section which is responsible for ground data and safeguards.

Figure 6.4 Management Services Division, responsibilities also include monitoring of safeguards



6.2.1 Capacity building to support the implementation of safeguards

At the national, provincial and district level most staff that are likely to be involved with REDD+ on an on-going basis are not well versed in either the GoF, WB or Cancun Safeguards. There are some exceptions to the rule where districts have been involved with infrastructure projects financed by providers of ODA. However, even here there is a limited understanding because typically only the sections that deal with land development, resettlement and compensation and the issuance of leasing agreements have at least a practical working knowledge of safeguard policies and processes.

At the village level there is an even less knowledge of safeguard policies and processes primarily because they have not been involved for the most part in ODA interventions that trigger safeguards. The only exception being companies like Fiji Pine Ltd that are aware of indigenous peoples safeguard issues as a result of complying with related safeguards due to their involvement with processes associated with Forest Stewardship Certification. Therefore, it is envisaged that the ER-Program will have to be involved in building the capacity to understand and implement safeguards at all levels. The capacity building will need to involve additional training, development of safeguard operation manuals (or equivalent).

General support and capacity building for the implementation of all safeguard requirements is expected and consequently a significant budget is recommended (see Section 8). Key project documents that are expected to assist in the safeguard compliance and general implementation of the ESMF include a proposed Safeguards Operational Manual and a Project Implementation Manual.

6.2.2 Responsibility for ESMF implementation by other projects

Bank's safeguards policies apply to the entire ERP irrespective of financing source (that is, all activities included in the ERPD follow WB policies). Since the ESMF and other safeguard frameworks provide clear guidance on how to comply with the safeguards of the program, the future projects that are financed by bilateral donors and are located within the program area and contributing to the program objectives need to adopt and follow the safeguards of the program. This can be done by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between MoF (or more likely the MoE) and the project owner before approval of the bilateral donor's project. The MOU will cover background of the ER-P and the project, comment objective, commitment to compliance with the safeguards of the program, implementation arrangement, and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Alternatively, if bilateral donors' safeguards are considered for use under the ER-P, MoF will conduct a due diligence to assess if the safeguards of the respective donor at the program level are consistent with the Bank's safeguards policies and requirements of the ER-P ESMF before the project effectiveness. For the on-going bilateral donors' projects, in addition to the due diligence above, MoF will also conduct a due diligence to assess if the donor's safeguards are properly applied. If the due diligence concludes that the bilateral donors' safeguards are consistent with the Bank Safeguards policies and that they apply their safeguards policies properly, ER benefit from these interventions can be included in the BSP.

For other projects financed by the government budget and located within the ER-P area and contributing to the achievement of the ER-P objectives, they need to adopt and implement safeguards of the program.

For the similar projects that are financed by the Bank they need to follow their own safeguards requirements which are relevant to the ER-P.

6.3 World Bank oversight

During the implementation period of an ERPA Operation, the World Bank has the responsibility for monitoring and ensuring effective implementation and compliance of the Program Entity with agreed management measures. The Bank's primary responsibility for oversight would be to assess whether the environmental and social management systems established by the Program Entity address and respect all aspects of the Safeguard Plans that apply to the ERPA Operation.

World Bank accountability and due diligence are related to (a) its role in the development, approval and implementation of the safeguard system which will apply to the ER Program and ERPA and (b) the Bank's role in the review, approval, and compliance oversight of specific activities or projects implemented as part of the ER Program, or within the ERPA accounting area, depending on the source of financing for those activities.

a) Development, approval and implementation of the safeguards system

The World Bank retain the responsibility to determine that the safeguards system which applies to the ER Program and ERPA is sufficient to result in program implementation that complies with World Bank safeguard policies. Specifically, this entails providing appropriate advisory services, conducting quality assurance and compliance reviews, and oversight of the systems to implement environmental and social management frameworks and/or plans which are formulated at the ER Program appraisal and ERPA signing stages of the FCPF process. The Bank's role is to confirm that all such frameworks and plans meet World Bank safeguard policy requirements and that the Program Entity will establish and maintain effective management systems to implement the requirements specified within those frameworks and plans.

b) Review, approval, and oversight of specific program activities

For the Bank-financed projects contributing to the ER Program, the Bank will retain full responsibility for safeguards compliance and oversight as it would for any other Bank financed activity.

For the ER Program activities financed by others, the MoF as the Program Entity, together with financiers, would be responsible for ensuring that requirements of applicable safeguards frameworks and plans are addressed and respected. The World Bank would not be responsible for any prior review, clearance, or supervision of such activities. The World Bank's role would be to undertake periodic assessments[23] to determine whether the agreed safeguards systems are being implemented in accordance with agreements and that these systems are effective in addressing safeguards risks and impacts. This includes confirming aspects such as, adequacy of budgets and staffing to support the implementation of the Safeguards Plans; that the PE can demonstrate credibly that environmental and social assessments and management plans are prepared in accordance with the safeguard frameworks; mechanisms for self-reporting and Third Party monitoring are in place and functional; grievance redress and dispute resolution mechanisms are established and functional; the implementing entities have demonstrated ability to solve issues of non-compliance and so on. The Bank will establish a clear time-table for supervision and implementation support missions. In the early years of an ERPA Operation, oversight would typically need to be robust and conducted regularly to verify that systems are functioning as agreed.

For activities in the ERPA accounting area which may in some way contribute to emissions reductions but are not part of the ER Program, the World Bank would bear no responsibility for review or oversight either at the transaction or program level.

6.4 Independent third party monitoring

An important aspect of performance and compliance monitoring is the use of Independent Third Party monitors. Third Party monitoring would involve a combination of independent verification of self-reporting data provided by the Ministry of Forestry and annual audits of a sample of ER Program activities to confirm procedural compliance as well as timely preparation of key documents, post-review of the quality review of safeguards documentation which has been prepared, consultation processes, effectiveness of management measures specified in proposed Safeguards Operational Manual, and disclosure of information, among other important aspects. Third Party monitoring can serve at least three purposes: 1) to provide timely information to the Program Entity on specific issues of non-compliance or significant implementation problems so that the Program Entity can take corrective actions, if needed; 2) Third Party monitors provide information to the REDD+ Unit and the World Bank on systemic safeguard performance issues which may require changes in management approach and/or additional financial or human resources; and 3) the disclosing the results of monitoring will inform concerned stakeholders about implementation experience under the ERPA Operation.

In practice, Third Party monitors will typically be private consulting firms, individuals or teams recruited from universities or colleges, government institutes not affiliated with the operation, or NGOs with knowledge and experience in safeguards. Third party monitoring is expected to be

[23] Periodic assessments are not expected to be carried out on a pre-determined or rigid schedule. Each ERPA will, through the applicable action plan, determine the appropriate frequency for Bank assessments and their relationship to the program entity's self-reporting and third party monitoring.

undertaken at least twice per year provision for this is included in the draft budget for supporting the ESMF implementation (See Section 8)

An independent monitoring team will be procured by the Fiji REDD+ Office to undertake periodic annual monitoring environmental and social compliance monitoring during implementation of the ER-P. The role of the independent team will be to monitor and verify environmental and social compliance during implementation of ER-P and would work with the eleven provinces, districts, local officials, communities, civil society, NGOs and the private sector by providing authoritative and objective information on ER-P operations to validate and verify that safeguards have been implemented following the ESMF, RPF, and Process Framework. The Divisional REDD+ Working Group (DRWG) will have key role in monitoring implementation but will work with the YMST.

The team will include environmental, forestry and social specialists and will be tasked with undertaking a mixture of desk reviews of the environmental and social documentation and randomized field investigations in the provinces and districts, forest management entities, the management plans, the CRAs, implementation of BSMs and to generally review and document field activities to ensure field compliance with the environmental and social safeguards and in particular to review that only minimal conversion of natural forest is being adhered to. Information on the implementation of safeguards is summarized in the following Table 6.1 and will comprise information on the following.

Table 6.1 Overview of the proposed M&E system

M&E steps	M&E Process
Safeguards processes, inputs and outputs	This comprises information on the establishment of institutions for safeguards implementation and monitoring (e.g. groups involved in the CRAs and DRWG safeguards units), capacity building, allocation of budgets for safeguards implementation monitoring implementation of key program processes, specific safeguards procedures (e.g. environmental codes of practice, consultation processes, compensation provided, grievance redress procedures) as will be detailed in the ESMF, RPF, PF and their associated outputs e.g. CRAs (including benefit-sharing agreements).
Environmental and social impacts/ outcomes	Participatory assessments of the conduct of the CRA and the resulting management plans (i.e. management plan will include a M&E plan for the forest entity) will provide a basis for impact/ outcome monitoring of management entities. In addition, FMEs would be assessed using a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. Forest monitoring and simple proxies for biodiversity impact would be derived from information collected through the proposed MMR, including community-based patrolling (e.g. collection of information on forest cover/quality change). Baseline forest threat and social data is captured in the CRA (e.g. major biodiversity threats, poverty, forest dependency, forest/land tenure, natural resource access and use).
Environmental monitoring of plantation development	The monitoring of the concern that plantation development may lead to the clearing of natural forests will include monitoring environmental impact mitigation measures in nine areas: site selection, species selection; management regime, plantation establishment; plantation tending; integrated pest control; fire prevention and control; access and harvesting; and M&E.
Monitoring of social safeguards at the program level	Monitoring will ensure that negatively affected households and communities are no worse off as a result of possible restrictions on natural resource use and includes, monitoring of compensation payments and livelihood restoration measures to ensure negative impacts are mitigated and program affected persons are compensated either on a land-for-land basis or cash compensation for loss due to impacts of the program. The DRWG includes a socio-economic and environmental M&E unit to undertake monitoring of the implementation and reporting of the CRA processes. The main responsibilities of the M&E unit will include: 1) overseeing compliance, including

M&E steps	M&E Process
	supervision and monitoring, of all environment and social aspects; 2) dealing with the subproject/ interventions related to the program safeguards; and 3) have overall responsibility for the coordination of subproject/ intervention environmental and social safeguard implementation. Information related to the safeguard measures and performance would be periodically disclosed to the public.
Monitoring at the Provincial Level	The DRWG a designated safeguards coordinator to whom implementation units would report will collect safeguards-related information. The CRA contribute to the sustainable forest use of the management entities and will include an assessment of their potential impact and risks, and this will feed into the M&E included in the CRA for the management of the effectiveness and help monitor the social impact of the ER-P and REDD+ activities, and record changes that impact on the livelihoods of people living either inside the management entities (or in the buffer zone of the Natural Closed Forests).
Independent Monitoring of the REDD+ Registry	Following the requirements of the Methodological Frame the REDD+ Registry will also include and independent monitoring function (see section 18.2 for further details).

6.5 Safeguard reporting arrangements

Self-monitoring and reporting. As noted, the FCPF ERPA General Conditions already require that the Program Entity submits as a separate annex to each ER Monitoring Report "evidence satisfactory to the Trustee that the ER Program Measure(s) are being implemented in accordance with the Safeguards Plans." This means the Program Entity is required to self-report on compliance of ER Program Measure(s) with WB safeguards. The FCPF Methodological Framework requires (Criterion 25) that (i) the Safeguards Plans for an ER Program include "appropriate monitoring arrangements" for safeguard information; and (ii) the (self-reported) information on the implementation of the Safeguards Plans (provided as a separate annex to each ER Monitoring Report) is regularly collected, reported and publicly disclosed. Currently, verification of emission reductions (volume generated under the ER Program) is expected every 2-3 years (due to high cost of related monitoring and verification efforts). It is recommended that self-reporting on safeguard compliance may be done more frequently (e.g. annually).

Progress towards achievement of the program development objectives including safeguards will be measured through an M&E system and reporting on the ESMF will be an integral part of that and will be supported under the program (See Table 6.1 above). Indicators to be measured are listed in the Results Framework (See Table 4.8 of the ER-PD for the detailed indicators). M&E will be an integral part of the program management and decision-making processes, e.g. to feed lessons learned quickly into revising systems, guidelines, and procedures, as well as the training program of the project. Participatory M&E tools will be used at the village level. For sustainability, M&E at higher levels will be developed as a routine function of government agencies at those levels, rather than as a project-specific M&E. it is expected that safeguards performance reports will be submitted to the Bank on a yearly basis. The report will describe program progress and compliance with the ESMF World Bank will conduct periodic systems supervision including spot checks in the field to ensure that the safeguards are being implemented in compliance.

Monitoring and evaluation will cover both program performance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring. Program performance monitoring will determine the progress in program implementation against established benchmarks and milestones indicated in the program document and work plans.

To encourage broad-based participation and to particularly target the poor and vulnerable, participation will be monitored and disaggregated in terms of gender, ethnicity, and household socio-economic status. The following guidelines will be considered when developing the full M&E system and for identifying potential indicators:

- Disaggregate information by gender, ethnic group, and household socio-economic status;
- Involve villagers in designing the monitoring program, collecting data, and drawing conclusions from the data;
- Continue feedback meetings after fieldwork and incorporate recommendations into systems development;
- Biodiversity monitoring will include using the Management Effectiveness Management Tool (METT);
- Keep disaggregated records of involvement and participation in different activities at village level and also in the databases;
- Note successful and unsuccessful strategies for future reference in curriculum development, field implementation, and other project areas; and
- Identify indicators and tools to measure the project's impacts on women, ethnic groups, and the poor.

Monitoring and evaluation will cover both program performance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring and MMR. Program performance monitoring will determine the progress in program implementation against established benchmarks and milestones indicated in the program document and work plans. The MRV will include monitoring reporting and verification of forest cover and will take information from the provincial forest management system and from the central use of remote sensing imagery.

Community forest monitoring is expected to be undertaken through the Village based forest monitoring system which is being introduced in all provinces.

6.5.1 National Safeguards Information System

Fiji has begun work on designing a draft national safeguards information system (SIS) framework providing information to the UNFCCC on how the Cancun Safeguards will be addressed and respected in the implementation of REDD+. A comprehensive review of the existing safeguards policies, laws and regulations is being conducted during 2018/19 that will result in a Safeguards Roadmap. It will identify how Fiji would meet the UNFCCC safeguard requirements.

The scope of the National SIS would include a description of the relevant governance arrangements (the PLRs), and information to demonstrate how they are being respected. It would include information on how the governance arrangements are working in relation to the policy and measures. The SIS framework has identified information sources on how the safeguards would be addressed as well as a list of potential existing information systems. It also suggests institutional arrangements for the collection, compilation, aggregation and analysis and dissemination of safeguards information.

Further work is proposed to be undertaken in 2019 to further define more specific information needs and to operationalize the SIS. It is envisaged that the ER-P ESMF would serve as a useful source of information on provincial level safeguard activities to be fed at the national level SIS and for subsequent inclusion in the Summary of Information (SOI). It is expected the consultations on contents of SIS and SOI will take place in the first quarter of 2020 with the working groups as well

as relevant stakeholders, to ensure necessary progress so that the SIS design framework and SOI shall be completed by June 2020.

7 Capacity building training and technical assistance

7.1 Institutional capacity assessment

Implementation of the Projects financed by the WB is relatively new for MoF, including international donor projects in the forestry sector. Therefore, it is expected that significant effort will be required to orientate MoF staff to the WB and FCPF Carbon Fund expectations. Overall program related activities can be expected to be managed with low to moderate safeguard risks, however, the Program requires upfront activities before payments from the Carbon Fund would normally be expected (after 2-3 years). The cross sector coordination of implementation of Components 1 and 2 activities which are related to land use planning, community planning, improved forest governance and management, reforestation, reforestation, climate-smart agriculture, alternative of off-farm income for forest dependent people, is expected to be challenging for MoF staff particularly as the different Ministries will need to find and priorities resources to support the program. This may not always be easy given that Fiji is constantly at risk of economic shocks. Fiji is a country that is most affected by natural disasters particularly cyclones, and floods parts of Fiji are extremely vulnerable to flooding however, droughts also impact Fiji. As a result, it incurs average annual losses of about 2% of GDP.[24] The climate vulnerabilities stem from its exposure to tropical cyclones (averaging one to two a year), and to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. Therefore priorities in different ministries need to be adaptive and already much work has been done on making Fiji more climate resilient especially through he National Adaption Plan[25] etc.; however, the prospect of significant economic shock occurring during the life of the program that may impact the program is a possibility. It is not clear if this has been taken into account in the economic forecasting of the ER-P.

While most activities have low to moderate safeguard risks and potential negative impacts can be mitigated through the application of screening, assessment, and consultation. However, it is necessary to ensure that the REDD+ Unit has adequate capacity to provide guidance to Divisions and Provinces as well as to implement M&E especially for Components 1 and 2.

7.2 Institutional arrangements for implementing safeguards and safeguard training

The national institutional capacity for implementing WB environmental and social safeguards continues to be enhanced. 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+. Effective coordination between relevant institutions across sectors and institutional capacity to implement policies, laws and regulations has been challenging and was analyzed during the SESA process with clear

[24] IBRD Post Cyclone Winston Emergency Development Policy Operation 2016. IBRD June 2016; Climate Vulnerability Assessment Making Fiji Climate Resilient 2016 Government of Fiji, World Bank.
[25] The National Adaption Plan: A pathway towards climate resilience, Ministry of Economy 2018.

recommendations for institutional strengthening. A Safeguards Working Group 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+. The national REDD+ Unit under the Ministry of Forestry has been working closely with the Safeguards Working Group, Ministry of Environment and the National REDD+ Steering Committee will mainstream social and environmental issues in all the analytic work, combined with consultations required for the various activities funded under readiness. Moreover, the borrower has benefited from several capacity building trainings on REDD+ implementation

The Environmental and Social Management Framework will identify improvements to implementation arrangements for safeguards across the relevant institutions of Government and specifically the capacity of the REDD+ Unit to supervise the implementation and monitoring of safeguards instruments. Furthermore, the ESMF will provide a program for the client to strengthen the country systems for implementing and monitoring safeguards to ensure that the ESMF (including the RPF and PF) and the World Bank policies more broadly are integrated into all activities under the ER Program, regardless of the source of finance. This may involve multiple Ministries with roles and responsibilities for the ER Program, including Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, iTaukei Lands Trust Board, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forestry. During the preparation of the ER Program design the Bank task team will also conduct a capacity assessment and will integrate institutional strengthening and capacity building tasks into the project budget and work plan. The Bank will supervise the safeguards implementation at a systems level as the ER activities are not directly financed by the Bank.

Implementation, Monitoring, and Training. The institutions for forestry are arranged from the national down to Divisional/provincial and district level. At the national level, Ministry of Forestry, as implementing agency will be responsible for the preparation and supervision of ESMF implementation. There is already a national level program implementation unit in place (REDD+ Unit) responsible for implementing readiness activities, including SESA/ESMF. During ER-P implementation, the national REDD+ Unit will coordinate and oversee the safeguards work of the provincial level. Provincial and district levels management units will be set up and they will be responsible for preparing and ensuring the effective implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures (such as EMPs, social assessments/screen and codes of practice) and regularly liaising with local authorities and communities. The national level REDD+ Unit will coordinate and oversee the safeguards work of the provincial level units. The ER-P will support social assessments and EIA. The social assessment process would ensure consultation and disclosure of activities and investments and would identify any safeguard instruments which would apply. In addition, it would identify activities likely to address those threats and would establish a baseline for monitoring the impacts of activities supported by ER-P.

Since implementation of safeguards is the sole responsibility of REDD+ unit and the provincial units qualified social and environment specialists need to be hired and placed in the provincial units within the ER program areas. These specialists would be responsible for supporting the implementation and monitoring of safeguards. The Specialists will support the development of safeguards documents (RP, ESMP) based on the social assessment/EIA which will include community consultations. The communities at villages level need to be further consulted during the development of site-specific ER Program activities. Furthermore, the specialists will work in close collaboration with the provincial management units and will collate all monitoring safeguards reports to be fed into the national monitoring system within the national REDD+ Unit. Technical assistance and capacity building on safeguards instruments will be provided to management units at all levels.

8 ESMF implementation budget

8.1 Funding sources

The funding to the ER program is categorized into domestic and international sources. A major source of international finance is through results-based payments from the FCPF Carbon Fund for emission reductions. A brief description of the domestic and international financing sources, including results based payments is presented below.

The overall draft proposed financing of the ER-P and the budget for implementation of the ESMF safeguards highlighted and is shown in Table 8.1 below. The total program costs over the period 2020-2024 period are estimated at **USD 40.04 million,** which are summarized below and this includes all funding (further details on funding etc. can be found in Sections 6 and 13 of the ER-PD) for:

- Institutional development activities related to safeguards;
- The training program for REDD+ Unit, District consultants, communities and local authorities to implement their ESMF responsibilities;
- FGRM (as per the table note, some costs for FGRM are also shared under Stakeholder consultation and information sharing);
- Monitoring and reporting costs; and
- Technical assistance to local authorities as needed.

8.1.1 Domestic funding

Public (government budget plus external sources)
The government budget will contribute USD $13.3 million over the ER-P timeframe. It is expected that this will be complemented by International Financing and Carbon Fund Financing to meet the total project costs. A review of the existing governmental programs and supported projects was conducted in order to assess their potential to finance the ER-P interventions.

8.1.2 International funding

Global Environmental Finance (GEF)
It is expected that Global Environmental Finance (GEF) will provide USD $3.76 million in financing to facilitate the implementation of the ER-P. This funding will go exclusively towards investments in restoration of degraded forests and enhanced carbon stocks. The project is currently under preparation.

While not secured at the time of writing, it is hoped that other contributions will make the total funding available from International financing sources equal to US$ 6.5 million.

Private
Private sector financing is expected to contribute USD $8.4 million to program implementation (21% of total budget). The investment is expected support revenue-generating reforestation and

afforestation activities and sustainable natural forest management (reduced impact logging and agricultural interventions).

Private sector investment is anticipated from Fiji Pine and Fiji Hardwood (mahogany) and smaller companies and farms. To a large extend the financing of the private sector activities will be generated from cash flows of forestry and agricultural production activities.

FCPF Carbon Fund

The Letter of Intent (LOI) between the Government of Fiji and Carbon Fund permits up to 3.5 million tCO_{2e} emission reductions to be offered to the Carbon Fund. Assuming a negotiated carbon price of USD \$5/tCO_2 results-based payment could add up to about USD \$11.8 million which can be used to support the implementation of the ER-P and for benefit sharing with communities.

The ex-ante estimates (see section 13 of the ER-PD) predict at least 2.37 million tCO2 net emission reductions over the period 2020-2024 after allowing for a conservativeness factor of 8 percent for uncertainty in the emissions from deforestation; and afforestation and reforestation; and 15 percent for uncertainty based on the proxy approach to the estimation of emissions from forest degradation; and a reversal risk buffer of 26% of the ex-ante emissions reductions. Valuing the 2.37 million tCO2 at a price of USD \$5 /tCO2, the Carbon Fund results-based payment will contribute approximately USD \$11.8 million to the financing of the program. The overall draft proposed financing of the ER-P and the budget for implementation of the ESMF safeguards highlighted and is shown in Table 8.1 and Table 8.2 below respectively.

Table 8.1 Summary of the total ER-Program costs (expected uses of funds)

	Activity	USD	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Total
1	**Strengthening enabling conditions for emissions reduction**	**USD**	437,530	407,651	315,862	296,929	189,658	1,647,630
1.1	Integrated District Land Use Planning (IDLUP) to promote more sustainable long-term integrated landscape management	USD	367,630	337,751	246,962	230,029	124,758	1,307,130
1.2	Strengthening forest governance and law enforcement	USD	50,400	50,400	49,400	47,400	45,400	243,000
1.3	Forest information system	USD	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	97,500
2	**Component 2: Integrated Landscape Management**	**USD**	5,396,113	6,459,686	8,041,725	8,109,078	8,674,540	36,681,142
2.1	Sustainable natural forest management	USD	194,828	194,828	194,828	194,828	194,828	974,140
2.2	Afforestation and reforestation plantation	USD	1,721,226	1,721,226	1,721,226	1,340,900	1,340,900	7,845,478
2.3	Afforestation and reforestation restoration of ecosystem services	USD	782,550	1,775,950	2,769,350	3,762,750	4,756,150	13,846,750
2.4	Agroforestry and enhanced livelihoods	USD	2,150,000	2,150,000	2,150,000	2,150,000	2,150,000	10,750,000
2.5	Promotion of forest protection, to conserve existing natural forest carbon stocks.		547,509	617,682	1,206,321	660,600	232,662	3,264,774
3	**Component 3: Program Management and Emissions Monitoring**	**USD**	393,000	293,000	343,000	293,000	393,000	1,715,000
3.1	Program coordination and management	USD	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	625,000
3.2	Monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including monitoring of safeguards	USD	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000
3.3	MRV - Implementation and management	USD	253,000	153,000	203,000	153,000	253,000	1,015,000
	Total	**USD**	**6,226,643**	**7,160,337**	**8,700,587**	**8,699,007**	**9,257,198**	**40,043,772**

The following estimated budget for the ESMF implementation would be comprised of: 1) cost for consultants and capacity building for REDD+ Unit; 2) cost for consultants and capacity building for Divisions and provinces; 3) cost for conducting training courses for the working group members on the details of the process of management arrangements under an YMST process setting up the Forest Care Group, training on the proposed crops and IPM etc. and setting up the BSP/ BSM framework; 4) Training courses and continued awareness raising on the participation of REDD+ and training on the different guidelines including the PIM, Safeguard operating manual, IPM and preparing a benefit sharing agreements. The following Table 8.2 presents the estimated budget and sources for safeguards and independent third party monitoring.

Table 8.2 Estimated budget for implementing the ESMF and safeguards

Item	Cost (USD)
Technical assistance (international and national consultants over 6 years)	
Local SG consultants team as follows:	
- Forester SG compliance consultant 4 months per year	72,000
- Social SG compliance consultant 4 months per year	72,000
- Environmental and biodiversity SG compliance consultant	72,000
- M&E consultant 4 months per year	72,000
International SG and M&E compliance advisor 2 months per year	200,000
ESMF third party monitoring expected to occur twice per year	24,000
General expenses and administration to support ESMF including printing of awareness raising material translation etc.	400,000
Ecological/ biodiversity/ forest monitoring field sites - two assessments/year over six years)	200,000
Training on proposed new crops and IPM	120,000
Stakeholder engagement and awareness workshops	150,000
Grievance redress mechanism dispute mechanism funding	300,000
SG training, including training workshops, provide requirements on the ESMF, SGs and monitoring for the 11 provinces (iterative and over six years)	360,000
SG Training workshops (4 2x2 in the first two years)	200,000
Training on monitoring workshops	60,000
Implementation of the GAP	840,919.21
Contingency	102,600
Total ESMF Implementation Cost	$2,404,600

9 Grievance mechanism

9.1 Feedback and grievance mechanism

The exiting customary system of dispute resolution may not work when related to carbon benefit payments due to a lack of technical capacity or legal knowledge to resolve disputes independently. Currently there is an absence of specific REDD+ legislation and formal institutions may be a party to the dispute thereby compromising their independence and transparency. A formal system may prove to be costly, time-consuming and not necessarily accessible to more remote and poorer communities. Thus, there is the scope for considerable "elite capture" by the village heads and even the TLTB and "social exclusion" by poorer and more vulnerable communities including and especially poorer women in such communities.

Additionally, the FGRM needs to address WB safeguard concerns that have not been specifically addressed in the period leading up to the preparation of the FGRM. These are explained elsewhere in Section 14 of the ER-PD. The type of grievances that have to be captured by the FGRM in Fiji are related to tensions that exist from land and forest governance resources (non-REDD+) such as tenure rights, boundary disputes, administration of customary land, LOUs and investor relations, awareness of rights and access to resources (*in-direct impacts*), as well as aspects related to *direct impacts* from ER-P itself (e.g., benefit-sharing, conservation lease terms). ER-P related grievances are grouped into the following thematic areas:

- **Benefit-sharing –** Distribution of benefits between different forest users, elemental property rights, and internal conflicts over power. Inequity, elite capture, and other internal power struggles are expected to increase when carbon financial benefits are distributed after Year 2 of the ER-P being implemented.

- **Awareness of Rights and Access to Resources –** grievances and disputes of processes to acquire rights to land (FPIC) and access to other forest-based products/resources on REDD+ conservation sites.

- **Boundary Disputes –** overlap or contested land within designated ER-P sites and this would include all types of land tenure in Fiji.

- **Sustainability and Ownership –** division of responsibility between individuals, Lou's, other forest-users, and the government over maintenance of ER-P sites and its effective regulation and implementation.

- **REDD+/Conservation and Forest Management Lease Terms and Enforcement** – Length, authority, and requirements for "specialized" lease[26] terms (e.g., are they properly and appropriately conducted for customary consideration for the purposes of FPIC).

- **Coordination –** Lack of meaningful consultation and effective engagement of forest communities in the ER-P Accounting Area based on the FGRM Principles agreed upon for REDD in Fiji.

- **Unanticipated Impacts –** These may relate to civil infrastructure projects such as small-scale rural-urban water supply projects, and upgraded roads linking forest communities with lowland areas.

The geographic scope for the FGRM will be not just the ER-P Accounting Area but also national because of the interconnectivity of different REDD+ landscapes (forest and mangrove) and high mobility of forest-users. The FGRM should however, gradually expand from project pilot sites (with emphasis on emission reduction program areas) to a national focus in order to provide the MoF, ER-P Unit, and implementer-led projects with lessons learned. It is recommended that rollout of the FGRM occur in an already active national site (Emalu) as well as on an implementer-led site (Drawa), for compatibility modelling. The FGRM can be scaled once it has been piloted and evaluated in these locations and once there has been trust built with stakeholders.

The FGRM proposes the inclusion of both project/implementer-led and national-led activities in a conflict resolution approach for REDD+. Implementer led activities should follow a similar process as the REDD+ FGRM in that there is strong preference for conflicts to be resolved at the informal-level, where possible. Outside of the customary system, conflicts that are on implementer-led sites should try to resolve complaints through their own GRM if possible. However, if the issue is between the implementer and a forest-user or if the forest-user wishes to use the REDD+ FGRM they should be permitted to do so, following the process as outlined in Section 4 of the ER-PD.

Table 9.1 Summary of the FGRM process

FGRM step	Process	Agency	FGRM Representative	Roles
Receive and Register Grievance	The step is designed to be simple, convenient and familiar for forest users, considering cultural preferences for communication as well as illiteracy barriers and, if desired, anonymity. The submission, or uptake, of a grievance is comparable to other traditional GRMs in Fiji, which are initially embedded in village governance processes, to build on existing practice and familiarity of users that wish to engage in the REDD+ mechanisms associated with the ER-P. Where the person seeking grievance, redress wants to use a Forest Officer, in part because at the village level the structures of governance cannot deal with complex ER-P issues they may lodge by email, social media, verbally or in writing the nature of their grievance and a response acknowledging receipt should be notified within 5 working days.	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Ministry of Forestry	iTaukei Village Headman Roko Tui (Provincial Office) Forest Officer	Mediator, Facilitator, Decision Maker Facilitator, Mediator Mediator, Facilitator, Investigator, Decision Maker
Evaluate And Screen for Eligibility and Assign Responsibility	This involves an evaluation of the following principles: 1) Has the ER-P activity caused a negative economic, social or environmental impact or has it the potential to cause such an impact; 2) Specification of the type of impact that has occurred or may occur and how the ER-P activity has or may cause the impact; 3) Does the grievance indicate that the aggrieved filing the grievance indicate that those filing the grievance are the ones who have been impacted or are the ones who are likely to be impacted; 4) Can the FGRM handle the dispute in terms of complexity, multiple parties and loyalty?; and, 5) Does the grievance fall within the scope of issues that the FGRM is authorized to address?	Ministry of Forestry	REDD+ Safeguards Officer (under the MSD see Figure 9.3)	Mediator, Facilitator, Manager, Decision Maker
Respond Proposed Resolution,	If a grievance is deemed eligible for the FGRM during screening and if it cannot be resolved through a relatively simple action at the local	External Party appointed by REDD+ SC	Independent Assessment Group (IAG)	Mediator, Facilitator, Investigator

FGRM step	Process	Agency	FGRM Representative	Roles
Approach and Agreement	level, then is considered complex enough to require additional investigation and engagement with the Complainant and other stakeholders how best to respond. Turnaround period should be within 5 working days. The possible approaches are: 1) Informal resolution with the community deciding itself (the preferred option); 2) Self-Proposed resolution where if a Forestry Officer is involved s/he resolves it with the Complainant or sends back to the community to resolve informally; 3) Joint problem solving approach involving the designated Forest Officer of the FGRM acting as the mediator; 4) Third party resolution whereby facilitation offered through a third party assessment (IAG); and, 5) Board Resolution whereby the External Review Board decides.	Subcommittee of REDD+ SC to verify outcome of IAG and recommend to REDD+ SC	Safeguards Working Group	Mediator, Facilitator, Investigator
Implement Problem Solving and Grievance Resolution	If the Complainant agrees to the proposed approach the response can be implemented collaboratively. For informal, self-proposed, or joint problem-solving resolutions the approach and close-out of the grievance is completed that satisfies both the Complainant and the community. All self-proposed and joint problem-solving results should be uploaded to the FGRM database and communicated to the Complainant. More simple cases involving an IGA undertaking evaluation but if it is too complex or the Complainant seeks an appeal, the grievance is elevated to the RSC who may request additional information or a new IGA. Categorization of seriousness ranges from low, medium and high seriousness based on the potential to 1) gravity or seriousness of the grievance; 2) potential on an individual or group's welfare and safety; 3) potential impact on the environment; 4) Risks posed, whether current or future; and, 5) Impact of the seriousness of the allegation on the processing timetable. Proposed resolutions include informal resolution, self-proposed resolution, and joint problem-solving. The turnaround period should be no more than 15 working days.	Ministry of Forestry Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Ministry of iTaukei Affairs	Forest Officer iTaukei Village Headman Roko Tui (Provincial Office)	Mediator, Facilitator, Investigator, Decision Maker Mediator, Facilitator, Decision Maker Facilitator, Mediator
Closure Monitoring and Tracking Results	The process for monitoring and tracking should cover the duration of the grievance redress in alignment with UN-REDD/FCPF guiding principles that include transparency, accessibility, predictability, engagement and dialogue, Legitimacy, equity, rights-compatibility and enabling continuous learning.	Subcommittee of REDD+ SC to verify outcome of IAG and recommend to REDD+ SC	Safeguards Working Group	Mediator, Facilitator, Investigator

Table 9.2 Procedures for grievance redress and timeline SEE THE SESA example ADB

Stage	Processes	Time	Responsible Agency
1	Affected Person takes grievance to the PMU focal point responsible for addressing grievances.	Any Time	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
2	Focal point reviews and find solutions to problem in consultation with relevant agencies	15 days	Ministry of Forestry
3	Focal point reports decision taken to the AP seeking grievance redress	07 days	Ministry of Forestry
If unresolved or dissatisfied with the outcome of the complaint, there is the option of seeking a review and a decision as to whether the dispute can be resolved.			
4	AP seeking grievance redress who is dissatisfied with the outcome request a review and decision as to whether the grievance can be resolved	15 days from the day a review is sought	REDD+ SC
5	Focal point with the PMU reviews the decision to assess the merits or otherwise of the AP	30 days	Ministry of Forestry
6	Focal point reports back the decision to the AP	07 days	Ministry of Forestry
If the grievance is unresolved the AP (including at any stage) can take the matter to an appropriate court in Fiji (the court is obliged to receive this complaint and the Project/Program is legally obliged to pay all court-related costs)			

It can be seen from the above timeline that it would take up to 2.5 months for such grievances to be resolved. But how long such grievances would take to be resolved depends entirely on the courts and not the project or program.

10 ESMF Consultation and disclosure

10.1 Consultations and case studies

Table 10.1 Summary of consultation visits in the ER-P area

Division	Province	Village	District	Island	Remarks
Central/ Easter	Serua	Nabukelevu Village	Serua	Viti Levu	Largely Forest Dependent
	Tailevu	Natila Village	Bau	Viti Levu	Coastal Mangrove and Upland Forest Land
	Namosi	Namuamua	Wainikoroiluva	Viti Levu	High land Forest
Western	Nadroga Navosa	Motokana	Nasikawa	Viti Levu	Degraded landscape
		Draubuta	NoiKoro	Viti Levu	High Conservation Value Forest, Degraded Grasslands
		Nakoro	NoiKoro	Viti Levu	Sugarcane and low dry forest land
	Ra	Narara	Saivou	Viti Levu	Forest Converted into Grassland
		Naseyani	Rakiraki	Viti Levu	Grassland with Pine Plantation
		Vunisea	Tokaimalo		Forest land, kava driven deforestation
Northern	Cakaudrove	Savudrodro	Savusavu	Vanua Levu	Grassland and Native Forest
		Korosi	Navatu	Vanua Levu	Largely Forest Dependent
		Qila	Cakaudrove	Taveuni	Recent Kava Driven Deforestation
		Somosomo	Cakaudrove	*Taveuni*	Recent Kava Driven Deforestation
		Soqulu	Cakaudrove	*Taveuni*	Recent Kava Driven Deforestation

The IAS team conducted a series of case studies a summary is shown in the following Table 10.2[27]. The case studies used a participatory rural appraisal approach and spatial analysis. These case studies also helped obtain a clear understanding of the key environmental and social issues, inter-sectoral linkages, and potential policy trade-offs, and how they may affect the overall ER Program. The team conducted participatory rural appraisals in eleven villages and two non-iTaukei settlements from November 2016 to March 2017.

[27] After Situational Analysis Report Delivery 3 Volume 1 April 2017, Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), University of the South Pacific, the table has been updated and modified.

Table 10.2 Summary of early case studies

Case Study Location	Community	Key Social Characteristics	Significant environmental, social or natural resource issues
Nakauvadra (Ra Province) Viti Levu	*Villages*: Narara Vunisea *Settlement:* Narara	Communities fully understand the importance of their forests and its resources. There is a clear gender division of labour in utilising the forests' resources. In Narara village there is an on-going ecotourism activity that helps community livelihood. Communities acknowledge the need to include all members of community in the stages of REDD+ project cycle for improved awareness, learning and understanding. Women groups & committees are successful in implementing micro-enterprises Problems identified: (1) food and nutritional insecurity, (2) lack of income generating activities, (3) water shortage.	. Nakauvadra range and associated watershed. Headwaters of the Wainibuka, Penang and Nakauvadra River. . Aquifer (Fiji Water). . Fiji ground frog (threatened) . Important Bird Area.
Emalu (Nadroga Navosa Province) Viti Levu (Tomaniivi)	*Villages:* Nakoro Draubuta Namuamua Matokana	. Men and women share financial commitment . Clear division of labour . Apart from Nakoro, other villages are well versed with REDD+ and potential benefits . Problems identified: (1) root crops (2) water shortage (3) poor road access (4) no electricity	• Important catchment area for Sigatoka and Navua River. • High Value Conservation Forest in Fiji • Nine Red List avifauna species • High concentration of rare plants. • Rare endemic cicada *Raiateana knowlesi* (Totem for Emalu clan).
Dreketi (Macuata province) Vanua Levu	*Villages:* Nabiti, Nabavatu, *Settlement:* Matasawalevu	• Communities fully understand the importance of their forests and its resources. • There is a clear gender division of labour in utilising the forests' resources. • Women are the main income earner followed by men. • Communities acknowledge the need to include all members of community in the stages of REDD+ project cycle for improved awareness, learning and understanding. • Men in Nabiti have sole access and control on timber trees. • Problems identified: (1) road access (2) water shortage.	• Third largest mangrove delta in Fiji • Remnant dry forest (highly threatened habitat in Fiji). • Only known roost for *Chaerephon bregullae* (insectivorous cave dwelling bat)
Kadavu Island	*Villages:* Nalotu Daviqele Nabukelevu-i-Ra	• Women are the traditional herbal practitioners. • Clear leadership structure in terms of governance and chiefly system. • In Yawe district there is an on-going tourism activity that helps community livelihood. • Problems identified: (1) poor road access (2) water shortage (3) poaching in their Marine Protected Areas (4) water shortage	• Important Bird Area • Mt. Nabukelevu is a Biodiversity hotspot • Several island endemic flora species.

10.2 Consultation results relating to the ESMF and RPF

Stakeholder consultations were undertaken under the different phases of the REDD plus work in Fiji. These consultations were to ensure transparent stakeholder information sharing using consultation mechanisms that could guarantee broad community support and the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders. This was especially with regard to affected Indigenous Peoples and local communities. One safeguard promoted for the design and implementation of REDD+ is to recognise the 'full and effective' participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities (UNFCCC 2010). Legal recognition of traditional communal ownership of native lands provides a legal basis for community level decision-making about the use and conservation of natural resources on native land, thus the importance of inclusion of land owners and communities.

Stakeholder consultations were at various levels and included indigenous communities, non-indigenous commercial investors, private sector, government, non-government organizations/civil society, academic and research institutions, international agencies, faith-based organizations, urban based indigenous decision makers, National iTaukei Resource Owners Council (NTROC), Provincial and District representatives from the 11 provinces, community groups and statutory bodies. A stakeholder analysis to determine consultation process was carried out early on in Fiji's REDD+ process, during the scoping work that preceded REDD+ policy development.

A Village/ community awareness program was carried out by (at various times) a multi-sector team which included Forestry Department, Agriculture Department (Land Use Section), trained landowners, Provincial Office, SPC and GIZ. Regular feedback and information sharing on the progress of REDD+ was also undertaken with the pilot site landowners**.** Participatory land use planning in targeted districts including Tokaimalo, Naiyalayala and Naroko in Nakuvadra, Western Viti *Levu*, included the analysis of physical and socio-economic conditions and development pathways discussed amongst the stakeholders. Multi-stakeholder consultation was conducted across various government stakeholders which facilitated discussions to address issues such as clear ownership of land boundaries between the Mataqali Namako and Nabunilagi in the Vunivia REDD + site in *Vanua Levu*.

Stakeholder consultations conducted in the different phases of REDD plus work included;

- The SESA team conducting participatory rural appraisals in eleven villages and two non-iTaukei settlements of Indian descent from November 2016 to March 2017;
- The ERPD Team did stakeholder consultations using participatory approaches to all the outer islands and held village level meetings in seven villages from July to August 2018;
- REDD+ demonstrations included training and awareness raising activities at: 1) Emalu REDD+ pilot site, Navosa; 2) Nakavu Project Site, Drawa, Macuata; and the 3) Nakauvadra Community Based Reforestation Project. Other related REDD+ projects include the REFOREST Fiji Project implemented by SPC.

Fiji has adopted a hybrid approach for REDD+ implementation (Fiji Govt. 2014)[28]. This allows flow of funds at national, programmatic and project-scale in alignment with the Fiji REDD+ Policy.

Additional Consultations in the ER-P Accounting Area

[28]Fiji Government. 2014. Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Fiji. Date of Submission or revision:22 January 2014. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

Consultations on the proposed ER interventions and its potential impacts/risks in the ER-P commenced on the 29th of November 2016 and concluded on the 27th of February 2017 with field visits by multidisciplinary teams to the proposed ER-P accounting area and included work with villages and districts which contributed to the SESA process. Further information on consultation can be found in Section 5 of this ERPD, the SESA and the REDD Readiness Assessment. Additional consultations in July and August 2018 and included *Taveuni* in Cakaudrove Province of the Northern Region (which was not included in the original field-based studies) were undertaken and consultations specifically targeted women and other vulnerable people.

Table 10.3 Villages visited July and August 2018 and April and May 2019

Village	District	Province	Island	Remarks - major land use
July and August 2018				
Nabukelevu Village	Serua	Serua	Viti Levu	Upland area, natural forest, mahogany
Natila Village	Bau	Tailevu	Viti Levu	Coastal mangrove
Narara	Saivou	Ra	Viti Levu	Grassland
Naseyani	Rakiraki	Ra	Viti Levu	Grassland with Pine Plantation
Savudrodro	Savusavu	Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Grassland and Forest
Korosi	Navatu	Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Forest
Qila Road	Cakaudrove	Cakaudrove	Taveuni	Deforestation
Somosomo hydro road	Cakaudrove	Cakaudrove	Taveuni	Deforestation
Soqulu Estate road	Cakaudrove	Cakaudrove	Taveuni	Deforestation
April and May 2019				
Uto	Nawaka	Ba	Viti Levu	Pine, sugarcane, grassland
Navala	Tavua	Ba	Viti Levu	Pine, sugarcane, grassland
Nalebaleba	Sigatoka	Nadroga/ Navosa	Viti Levu	Natural forest, pine, vegetables sigatoka river valley
Yalava	Sasa	Macuata	Vanua Levu	Pine, sugarcane and mangroves,
Cogea	Wainunu	Bua	Vanua Levu	Forest, regrowth, yams
Dogotuki	Dogotuki	Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Good quality forest
Nadala/ Navai/ (near Monasavu Dam area)	Wainimala	Naitasiri	Viti Levu	Upland forest, on the Rairaimakutu Plateau
Waivou	Bau	Rewa	Viti Levu	Mangrove
Nayavutoka	Nakorotubu	Tailevu	Viti Levu	Village was hit badly by Cyclone Winston and is still recovering, mangroves

10.3 Consultations with Program Affected People

Community engagement is an on-going process throughout the life of a project. Community engagement is a term used to describe the multitude of ways in which members of the community can interact with the project and be involved in decision-making processes. Engagement is about a relatively sustained and systematic interaction; not a single process or set of activities. It is an on-going process or conversation that builds trust and relationships.

Participating communities will play a key role in defining management and mitigation actions that may be needed to address any negative impacts that could arise from project-supported interventions, including

changes in access to and use of forest and related resources. There is no right way to conduct an engagement process. Nevertheless, the community engagement aims to achieve this overarching objective based on the following four core principles:

1. All communities will be approached in the spirit of constructive collaboration and made aware of the project's purpose and potential benefits to participating communities. It will be made clear at the outset that communities have the option to refuse to participate.

2. All project beneficiaries, regardless of their ethnic group or social status, shall be engaged in a culturally relevant way on the basis of a free, prior, and informed consultation aimed at establishing broad-based and sustainable community support for the project.

3. The community engagement process will take account of ethnic differentiation to ensure that project implementation, including consultations, is inclusive and carried out in the appropriate language(s). Communication throughout the project cycle will use appropriate information, education, and communication materials to respond to issues of language and ethnicity, literacy / illiteracy, gender, and social vulnerability.

Table 10.4 Number of consultation meetings and socio-economic survey for ER-PD development

Island	Province	Village	District	Key Issues Discussed	Female participants (%)
Viti Levu	Serua	Nabukel*e*vu Village	Serua	Dissatisfaction with payment of logging royalties; Boundary demarcation disputes; Poor communication with forestry officials; and, TLTB not as transparent as it could be.	37.5%; Male:20; Female:12
Viti Levu	Tail*e*vu	Natila Village	Bau	Disputes over access to and use of mangrove aquatic products and relatively poor communication with forestry officials.	50.0%; Male:25 Female:25
Viti Levu	Ra	Narara	Saivou	Converted land not suitable for productive grassland-based livelihoods; quality of watershed now very poor; and, landslides becoming more of an issue.	33.3% Male:12 Female:06
Viti Levu	Ra	Naseyani	Rakiraki	As with Nasara except that Fiji Pine has very poor outreach and does little to improve livelihoods.	37.1% Male:22 Female:13
Vanua Levu	Cakaudrove	Savudrodro	Savusavu	People do not understand native forest being converted to grassland is not a sustainable activity and there are negative impacts of a trans-generational nature.	23.0%; Male:18 Female:06
Vanua Levu	Cakaudrove	Korosi	Navatu	Conserving forests is very important for cultural and environmental reason, but livelihoods also must be considered.	50.0%; Male: 25 Female: 25
Taveuni	Cakaudrove	Qila	Cakaudrove	Kava is a cash crop that is making local villagers quite well off and conserving the forests does not pay for children's	28.5% Male:15 Female :06

Island	Province	Village	District	Key Issues Discussed	Female participants (%)
				school expenses or other livelihood needs.	
Taveuni	Cakaudrove	Somosomo	Cakaudrove	Much the same as Qila Village except some "blame" apportioned to "outsiders" from other Islands.	42.8% Male: 12 Female: 09
Taveuni	Cakaudrove	Soqulu	Cakaudrove	To save the forests REDD+ needs to engage more effectively with local communities and forest experts cannot explain to us why we should not deforest the slopes to plant Kava.	30.7% Male: 09 Female: 04

10.3.1 Free, Prior, and Informed Consent – Cornerstone for Community Engagement

FPIC is generally understood as the collective right local communities to approve or reject proposed actions or projects that may affect them or their lands, territories or resources. "Free, prior, and informed consultation" is consultation that occurs freely and voluntarily, without any external manipulation, interference, or coercion, for which the parties consulted have prior access to information on the intent and scope of the proposed project in a culturally appropriate manner, form, and language.

To define FPIC it is useful to reflect on what FPIC is not: FPIC is not merely community consultations, community dialogue, community engagement, community facilitation or negotiations. These are concepts and tools for which FPIC can be achieved. FPIC is built upon these tools and concepts, but moves beyond them in redefining power in relation to decision making.

Free should imply no coercion, intimidation or manipulation.

Prior should imply that consent has been sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities and respect of time requirements of indigenous consultation/consensus processes.

Informed means that consultation must be based on adequate and relevant disclosure of project information, and using methods of communication that are inclusive (i.e. include various levels of vulnerability), culturally appropriate, and adapted to community language needs and decision-making, so that members of communities fully understand how the project will affect their lives. Informed should imply that information is provided that covers (at least) the following aspects:

a. The nature, size, pace, reversibility, and scope of any proposed project or activity;

b. The reason(s) or purpose of the project and/or activity;

c. The duration of the above;

d. The locality of areas that will be affected;

e. A preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impact, including potential risks and fair and equitable benefit sharing in a context that respects the precautionary principle;

f. Personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the proposed project (including indigenous peoples, private sector staff, research institutions, government employees, and others);

g. Procedures that the project may entail;

h. An understanding of the opportunity costs that may be lost as a result of the project or activity; and

i. An understanding of the time frame in which expected benefits will occur.

Consent. Consultation and participation are crucial components of a consent process. Consultation should be undertaken in good faith. The parties should establish a dialogue allowing them to find appropriate solutions in an atmosphere of mutual respect in good faith, and full and equitable participation. Consultation requires time and an effective system for communicating among interest holders. The ethnic groups should be able to participate through their own, freely chosen representatives and their customary or other institutions. The inclusion of a gender perspective and the participation of indigenous women are essential, as well as participation of children and youth as appropriate. This process may include the option of withholding consent. Consent to any agreement should be interpreted as ethnic groups having reasonably understood it.

Good Practice Principles for FPIC

1. It is essential to develop a **good understanding of the local culture**, including factors such as social organization and consultation systems, before engaging in FPIC. This could involve conducting targeted anthropological research, including training and maintaining "local ethnographers" who could be teachers, students, or other community members.

2. **Information** provided should be as independent, comprehensive, and accessible as possible: this may imply translation into local languages and use of audio-visual materials.

3. Agreements should be **written and notarized**, in addition to the traditional form of recognition, and there should be video or photographic record of the process.

4. Free prior and informed consent should not be understood as a one-off, yes-no vote or as a veto power for a single person or group. Rather, it is a **process** by which indigenous peoples, local communities, government, and companies may come to **mutual agreements** in a forum that gives affected communities enough leverage to negotiate conditions under which they may proceed and an outcome leaving the community clearly better off.

5. Methodologies used in the consultation process need to be informed by knowledge of village **social organization**. In this respect the consultation process might be described as a system for finding a system that is sensitive to the cultural setting.

6. Consultation is also a **feedback loop**. Information that emerges from the process in continually fed back into the process always evolving and adapting to a changing situation as villagers become more competent and confident in their abilities and capacity.

7. The structure of the consultation process must be **flexible** so that it can be carried out in culturally appropriate ways. The flexibility should imply that the process can be adjusted based on feedback obtained from the village participants.

Modalities of Community Participation

There are four main modalities of participation in the community, as discussed below

Location: village authorities will help project team to select the most suitable location for the village initial meeting. Village authorities select the time (the suitable date avoiding peak seasonal labour demand and also religious festival and the ideal time of the day) and also the ideal location.

Participation requirements for village meeting:

1. A minimum of 50% households in each hamlet must participate in the village quarterly meeting.

2. 50% of the participants should be women.

3. Customary leaders should be invited to participate.

4. 60% of the poorest households should also participate.

5. Separate meetings should be held in hamlets which are 5km or more in distance from the main village settlements.

Working in Small Focal Groups

The best way to give vulnerable groups a chance to be heard is to work in small groups.

To implement an exercise it is often suggested to form small groups of 5 or 6 people. One or two persons work as recorders, summarizing the groups' output, and reporting to the larger group afterwards. **The facilitator does not interfere or write down the group's findings**, but monitors progress of the groups and offers guidance and content suggestions.

Working in small groups is a very effective participatory training method increasing farmers' participation and commitment. In small group people have less chance to hide or to get lost. Participants speak more freely than in large groups where people feel little or no personal responsibility. Working in small groups offers the opportunity to:

- Stimulate individual inputs;
- Break the ice;
- Gather opinions and identify preconceived ideas;
- Rank order items and create an agenda; and
- Collect questions and issues and promote feedback.

5-6 people groups can either be focused on:

- Putting similar people with same background together, e.g. all poor families, all women, or all people from one ethnic group; and
- Putting people with shared interest together: e.g. all NTFP collectors, people who are interest in setting up a producer group, people who are interested forest boundary delineation etc.

During the exercises, the facilitator may also need to promote group discussion or assist groups to accomplish the activity assigned. To be able to promote group decision-making process you need to use a variety of facilitation skills. Some basic facilitation skills are summarized below.

- **Listening.** Listening is the most fundamental skill for facilitation. Effective listening will allow you to single out problems if there is one, to understand the main point expressed by a farmer or a group, help speakers to develop competence and motivation to solve her or his problem.
- **Observing**. This skill involves seeing without judging what happens. Within a group people interact in different ways, they interact not only through what is being said but also through how it is said; use of voice, facial expression, attitude, and gesture. Body language gives a clue to feeling and can convey strong messages.
- **Questioning**. For a group to work together effectively, everyone ideas must be heard. Effective questioning is a necessary facilitation skill to get everyone involved in learning. Questions are one of the most valuable tools for assessing understanding, making points; promote farmer-to-farmer exchange, using available knowledge in the group to answer a question.

- **Summarizing**. Summarizing what a group of people have said, or summarizing decision taken by the group will help all the participants in the meeting to have a clear understanding of the main point discussed and agreed.

Gender Disaggregated Focus Group Discussions

Women's empowerment is a key component for the sustainable use and management of forest resources as well as for upholding principles of social justice and human rights. REDD+ is therefore committed to mainstreaming gender perspectives into policies and programs to promote equality and rights in project implementation.

- Recruit 8-12 people in collaboration with the village authorities;
- Representatives from each hamlet should participate in the FGD;
- The team must ensure that vulnerable groups are included;
- In multi-ethnic villages, hold multiple discussions;
- For each focus group discussion, a facilitator would be needed; there is one recorder and one observer. The recorder ensures that each main idea is summarized, and records the content on a large paper with a marker. Then the results are compiled on A4 format tables;
- Women are often reluctant to share their opinions and voice concerns in meetings. In ethnic villages, women will not speak out when outsiders are there and when men and women are mixed in one group. Separate groups are needed to be organized. Women FGD should be conducted in a suitable environment; often informal places under the canopy of a tree or away from formal authority areas (house of the village chief, village office) usually associated with literacy and power; and
- Avoid that some individuals monopolize the discussion. Each participant should contribute to the discussion.

10.4 Public Disclosure of the ESMF

The ESMF, will be disclosed on MOF website when approved. The ESMF will also on disclosed on the WB's external website for public disclosure.

During Program implementation all the requirements such as the, RPF, RAPs including safeguard monitoring reports will be discussed on the REDD+ website at MOF and the Program provinces

11 Annex

11.1 Checklists for environmental and social screening

Checklist 1: Ineligible and Prohibited Activities

Note: Subproject not eligible for REDD+ funding if any items are checked "yes"

#	**Subproject Characteristics:**	**Yes**	**No**
1	Relocation and/or demolition of any permanent houses or business.		
2	Use of REDD+ investment or subproject as an incentive and/or a tool to support and/or implement involuntary resettlement of local people and village consolidation.		
3	Land acquisition that affect more than 200 persons or 20 households.		
4	New settlements or expansion of existing settlements inside a forest reserve or nature reserve as defined in the Forest Decree.		
5	Likely creation of adverse impacts on the village and/or in neighboring villages or unacceptable to villages.		
6	REDD+ subproject activities that have the effect of imposing ideas and changing priorities identified by the community and endorsed village level meetings without community consultation, prior review and clearance from the REDD Unit..		
7	Damage or loss to cultural property, including sites having archeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, religious, cultural and unique natural values.		
8	Resources access restriction that could not be mitigated and will result in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of villages and disadvantage peoples.		
9	New roads, road rehabilitation, road surfacing, or track upgrading, new irrigation system, of any kind in environmentally sensitive natural habitats and existing or proposed protected areas.		
10	Purchase of guns and ammunition; chain saws; asbestos, dynamite, destructive hunting and fishing gears, and other investments detrimental to the environment.		
11	Purchase of banned pesticides, insecticides, herbicides and dangerous chemicals. However, if pest invasion occurs, small amount of eligible and registered pesticides may be allowable if supplemented by additional training of farmers to ensure pesticide safe uses in line with World Bank's policies and procedures (Bank clearance is needed). No pesticides, insecticides and herbicides will normally be allowable in the "buffer zone" of protected area, protected forests and natural habitats. Exceptions may be		

#	**Subproject Characteristics:**	**Yes**	**No**
	allowable under exceptional circumstances for example environmental system changing pest/ invasive species invasion,		
12	Certain forestry operations that may be deptrimatl a including logging, harvesting or processing of timber and non sustainable extraction of non-timber products (NTFP) unless supported by a community agreed forest management plan.		
13	Unsustainable exploitation of forest resources.		
14	Introduction of non-native species, unless these are already present in the vicinity or known from similar settings to be non-invasive.		
15	Significant conversion or degradation of natural habitat or where the conservation and/or environmental gains do not clearly outweigh any potential losses.		
16	Production or trade in any product or activity deemed illegal under Fijian laws or regulations or international conventions and agreements, or subject to international bans.		
17	Labor and working conditions involving harmful, exploitative, involuntary or compulsory forms of labor, forced labor, child labor or significant occupational health and safety issues.		
18	Trade in any products with businesses engaged in exploitative environmental or social behavior.		
19	Subprojects that require full EIA will not be funded including any projects that will use or induce the use of hazardous materials (including asbestos) or any banned pesticides or other chemicals.		

Checklist 2: Environmental and Social Issues

SUBPROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

Project Title:	
Project Location:	
Description of Subproject:	
Surrounding land uses and setting; briefly describe the Subproject's surroundings:	

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	None	Remarks **Note: The impact indications below refer to the potential REDD+ Subproject, not to any other existing activities.**
I. AESTHETICS: Would the Subproject:					
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on scenic vistas or resources?					
II. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY Would the Subproject:					
a) Negatively affect agricultural lands (terraced, irrigated, and others)?					
b) Affect community forests, National, Leasehold or Production forests, including any formally designated preservation categories?					
c) Lead to forest conversion to other uses?					
III. BIODIVERSITY Would the Subproject affect:					

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	None	Remarks **Note: The impact indications below refer to the potential REDD+ Subproject, not to any other existing activities.**
a) Modified, natural and critical or sensitive habitats					
b) General terrestrial ecology and biodiversity zones, including any possible rare, endangered, threatened or endemic species/habitats					
c) Ecosystem services, including provisioning, regulating, cultural or supporting services					
d) Formally designated protected categories (Ramsar sites, National Protected areas, other conservation/ preservation categories					
IV. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the Subproject affect:					
a) Cultural resources (archaeological, paleontological, historic, touristic or other)					
V. PHYSICAL RESOURCES Would the Subproject negatively affect:					
a) Geo-physical and flooding risk, seismic instability, erosion, soil stability, landslides					
b) Air Quality and Noise					
c) Water Quality					
d) Water Resources					

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	None	Remarks **Note: The impact indications below refer to the potential REDD+ Subproject, not to any other existing activities.**
e) Hazardous materials and waste					
f) Greenhouse Gas Emissions					
VI. GENDER ISSUES **Would the Subproject:**					
a) Have gender dimensions: marginalization; access to justice, education and social services; domestic violence, property rights, and political representation?					
b) Create conditions that may introduce or exacerbate Trafficking in Persons (TIP)					
VII. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES **Would the Subproject:**					
a) Restrict access to health care facilities					
b) Restrict access to educational facilities or other social services					
c) Introduce general health hazards (noise, air, water pollution) for local populations					
d) Create conditions that might have an impact on the incidence of HIV/AIDS, for example, through influx of "foreign" labor					
VIII. LAND USE **Would the Subproject:**					

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	None	Remarks **Note: The impact indications below refer to the potential REDD+ Subproject, not to any other existing activities.**
a) Affect land use and land use planning (urban, agriculture, pastoral, production forest, barren land, and other types)					
b) Adversely affect subsistence farmers, forest users and other vulnerable groups					
IX. POLITICAL ISSUES Would the Subproject:					
a) Provide opportunities for participation by civil society organizations and NGOs?					
b) Affect local government activities?					
c) Provide opportunities for empowerment of women, and the poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable?					
X. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS Would the Subproject:					
a) Create conditions that would have an adverse impact on the poverty profile of local communities?					
b) Affect local households/ communities?					
· Provide opportunities for employment and service provision					
· Adversely affect socioeconomic structures,					

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	None	Remarks **Note: The impact indications below refer to the potential REDD+ Subproject, not to any other existing activities.**
such as in dividing settlements, introducing foreign labor					
· Adversely affect land tenure for affected people					
c) Physically or economically displace populations, particularly the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable					
d) Adversely affect the socioeconomic and cultural activities of villages / Matagli					
e) Affect cultural mores and activities of communities in the area of influence					
f) Affect the ability of local persons to access forest resources					
g) Introduce changes to economic activities of local communities					
h) Increase the vulnerability of local populations to natural disasters (flooding, landslides, etc.)					
i) lead to forest degradation					
j) Create hazardous conditions on roads in transport of goods and materials to Subproject sites					

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	None	Remarks **Note: The impact indications below refer to the potential REDD+ Subproject, not to any other existing activities.**
XI. VULNERABLE GROUPS **Would the Subproject negatively affect:**					
a) Vulnerable communities					
b) Poverty and inequality: characteristics; access to education and employment; progress in social mobility;					
c) Child labor incidence, prevention					
d) Changes in population, governance, institutions or practices, traditional territorial rights, land use, and economic activities					

Note: "**X"** indicates impact significance choice. "**+**" indicates that a potential positive impact is expected.

Category Description	**Applies?**	**Remarks**
Is this a Non-Eligible or Prohibited Activity? See Checklist 1		
A: Subproject has the potential to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented. These impacts may affect an area broader than the sites or facilities subject to physical works.		[Subproject not eligible. See Checklist 1]
B: Subproject's potential environmental and social impacts are less adverse than those of Category A Subprojects. Typically, these impacts are site-specific, few if any of them are irreversible, and mitigation measures are more readily available.		

C: Subproject is unlikely to have adverse environmental and social impacts.		

11.2 Guidelines for development an Environmental Management Plan

11.2.1 Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental assessment in Fiji is regulated by the Environment Act 2005 and the Environment Regulations 2007.

The major components of an EMP include mitigation measures, enhancement measures, Environmental Codes of Practices, environmental monitoring, and institutional arrangement for implementation of EMP. Environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures have to be recommended in the Project implementation process.

An EIA study in Fiji must be undertaken by a registered consultant and be based on a set of TOR. The EIA consists of eleven sections:

A Executive Summary

B Introduction

C. Policy, Legal and Administrative Framework

D Description of the sub-project

E Description of the Environment and Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

F Analysis of Alternatives

G Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation

H Grievance Redress Mechanism

I Environmental Management Plan

J Conclusions and Recommendations

At least two public consultation stages must be held during the EIA study. The first stage of consultation is held with the community at the start of an EIA study to discuss the proposal, identify any issues or concerns and obtain any relevant local information on the site is essential to avoid issues at a later stage.

11.2.2 Environmental Management Plan

A full description of the activities is to be provided in the EMP including the rationale, development outcomes, description of the physical and social environment and details of the actual physical intervention proposed.

The EMP will summarize impacts and mitigation measures the anticipated adverse environmental and social impacts and risks, describe each mitigation measure with technical details, and will provide links to other mitigation plans (for example, for resettlement plans or reports) required for the project.

The EMP will describe monitoring measures with technical details, including parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, that will indict the need for any corrective actions. The reporting and disclosure procedures will also be identified.

The REDD+ Unit will include a monitoring unit and should include reporting to the Dept. og Environment monthly or quarterly reporting would be expected but would be dependent on the size of and potential impacts of the activity or sub-project for example small activities would be expected to less frequent monitoring.

The EMP will include an implementation schedule showing phasing and coordination with overall investment activity or sub-project implementation and describe the institutional organizational arrangements for responsibility for carrying out the mitigation and monitoring measures.

The EMP will also identify practical measures to strengthen environmental and social management capability that can be implemented during the program. The section will estimate costs and describes sources of funds for implementing the EMP.

A budget for the effective implementation of the EMP will need to be provided including allocation for any of consultant time and cost to support implementation and where needed funding for capacity development should be included.

The ESMP will include and describe the desired outcomes as measurable events, performance indicators, targets, or acceptance criteria that can be followed over defined time periods. Any environmental standards should be included where as appropriate. Where standards are not provided in the Regulations the World Health Organization standards should be used.

11.3 Gender issues women and forest land use rights

Fiji is a signatory to the Beijing Declaration for Action and Gender Equality of as reflected in the National Women's Plan of Action (NWPA), the Road Map for Democracy and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development 2011-14 and the 2015 National Gender Action. Gender Responsive policies as reflected in originally the MDGs and more recently the SDGs have been taken on board by the GoF. However, there were originally no specific references to gender and forestry issues but only gender and agricultural issues. It is only as recent as early 2018 have there been movers afoot to ensure gender responsive actions (building upon existing forestry-related women's networks, capacity building for technical training and gender mainstreaming and more effective coordination between the Ministry of Forestry and other ministries).

Despite this the Gender Inequality Index of the UNDP reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. Fiji scores 0.418 on the 2014 index and ranks 87 of 188 countries, better for example than Samoa (97) and Tonga (148) and better than the indigenous Aboriginal women in Australia (122). According to the World Economic Forum (2015) Fiji scores 0.65 in the Gender Gap Index and ranks 121 of 145 countries. Its ranking has been declining since 2009. In terms of the sub-indexes, Fiji ranks the lowest (129) in women's economic participation and opportunity. Only 42% of women are engaged in the formal labor force compared to 82% of men. However, for women participating in the labor force Fiji is the only South Pacific Island state that provides for paid maternity leave for women (up to 90 days).

Women's wages are only 75% of men's in the same sector although Fijian women with higher educational qualifications fare considerably better (this excludes most women currently residing in villages that are dependent on the forests to some extent). But women do have very high unemployment rates and constitute 75% of unpaid home workers. Women also work up to 30% longer most days although men do not consider domestic work to be work per se but rather the duty of women. Nevertheless, the legal marital property regime in Fiji does recognize the non-monetary contribution of women to the household. Women as iTaukei members have equal right to the ownership of customary land and receive leasehold and logging royalties alongside men.

In most rural communities, women are involved in collecting NTFPs such as herbal medicinal plants, ornamental plants and forest food such as wild ferns. They are also involved in selling fruits, vegetables and

root crops as mentioned above. Men typically are involved in animal husbandry (although women are also involved with small livestock such as poultry), staple root crop cultivation, vegetable gardening, fishing, collecting firewood, hunting wild pigs, bats and pigeons and sugar-cane farming in districts where sugar is cultivated on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. In recent times, given the patrilineal nature of the Fijian kinship system, post-marital residence where newly married women typically go and reside in their husband's village, according to the findings of the SESA these women (referred to as "local expatriates") appear to be more innovative than older women who have resided for longer periods in the village. It is these "local expatriate" women that have embraced the cultivation of high-value kava far more enthusiastically than older women. But it may well be that older women still place significant value on natural resource conservation. Given Fiji's patrilineal systems, women cannot accrue economic benefits (dividends from land lease and similar pay-out) from their husband's land but will maintain their rightful share to rental payments for leasing land and royalty payments from their Mataqali / villages of birth and for the payment of carbon benefits that are result-based ostensibly the same procedures may be subject to a degree of ambiguity. This would be addressed in the benefit sharing section.

However, the gender division of labor is not really pronounced except in the areas of hunting in the forests and logging. Men claim they undertake the more physical and demanding activities, but during village level visits the SESA Team observed that women are also sometimes involved with physically more demanding tasks and for activities such as firewood collection. It could be argued that in many respects most of the gender-productive roles outside of the domestic sphere are quite complementary.

Cultural systems in the iTaukei community may render women to be largely invisible with most public decision-making processes even if they are invited to be physically present. This is even a more significant issue for the estimated 12.5% of village households headed by women (latter live on average six years longer than men). Nevertheless, women do have a strong network of association across Fiji such as the Soqosoqo Vakamarama with affiliated women's groups in all local Village Women's Associations. The Women's Association focus on women's reproductive health, schooling for their children and economic empowerment and more recently have been heavily involved as the Chair of the REDD+ Civil Society Organization (CSO). At the village level, the Women's Association form a Committee that is a subcommittee of the Village Development Committee. The Women's Committee are required to report to the wider village meeting which in most iTaukei villages are held twice a month. The village meeting is Chaired by the Chief with the village headman, the Secretary. The village headman submits monthly reports to the Provincial Council Office which includes issues raised by the Women's Committee at the village meeting. Despite the strict customs and traditional norms, women have avenues to raise concerns and contribute to the greater good of the society.

For non-iTaukei communities the leader of the community is selected by community consensus and typically the person selected is a male. This person facilitates the implementation of interventions and initiatives for the community. Leadership is mixed ethnic communities is usually decided via some form of electoral process. At the same time, Women's Associations under faith-based organizations attempt to present a platform for women's voices to be heard. It has been assessed that the voices of women are more likely to be heard in mixed ethnic communities than in homogenous ethnic communities.

During the SESA process women were also consulted about the REDD+ Program and women often had a more realistic approach to how possible carbon financial benefits should be utilized (men were more likely to look at individual payments whereas women were more likely to stress payments that would enhance the collective welfare of the village community). Nevertheless, during joint consultations at the village level the SESA Team also found that men after a good deal of focused discussions on gender issues agreed that REDD+ without the active participation of women would be less than effective. It is acknowledged that women generally have a great knowledge of the forests and their resources, especially NTFPs.

To summarize the substantive gender issues are as follows: 1) women's participation in the management of forests and forest resources is very limited despite their skills, knowledge, and involvement in forestry; 2) there are no proper support mechanisms to enable women's access to credit and markets that would help to facilitate their participation in community-based forest enterprises that would enhance their livelihoods; and, 3) The Ministry of Forestry is still wrestling with approaches that would ensure women's leadership in policy-

making bodies and ensure adequate human and financial resources for more systemic approaches to gender-responsive activities. These substantive issues form the basis of gender tagging to ensure that both the GoF is satisfied that the issues are addressed and women benefit and also the WB that is seeking to: 1) quantify the participation of women in the management of forests and forests resources with at least 40% of management positions allocated to women to women at the village level; 2) enhancement of livelihoods and incremental reduction in poverty of women either living in poverty or in danger of moving into poverty by at least 1.5% per annum; and, 3) at least 30% of managerial and technical positions at national, decisions and provincial level related to the ER-P be staffed by women who have either been trained in the type of activities required for the ER-P including safeguards compliance or will receive on-the-job training.

A Gender Action Plan has [in preparation] been prepared to ensure that women benefit from ER-P interventions. The action plan includes gender specific indicators to monitor outcomes and impacts of the intervention. In the ER-P Accounting Area there will be capacity building support for women and men, younger people and older people, poor and non-poor or less poor people to receive capacity building support to establish their local network or organizations that focus on the conservation of indigenous knowledge for forest protection, climate sustainable livelihood, enhancing the value chain for their productive farming and collection of NTFP, and economic development in line with the ER interventions. It is expected that the results from this work will feed into ER-P implementation in the long run.

11.4 Summary of the Draft Gender Action Plan

The objective of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) is to promote women's participation in the program and share in the benefits, maximize positive gender equality impacts as well mitigate possible risks and negative impacts. The GAP has three approaches: (1) provide opportunities for and strengthen the role of women in local economic activities; (2) disseminate information about environmental sustainability and social risks to men and women; and (3) increase female representation in the sector and in decision making positions.

More than 352 women, including 279 indigenous iTaukei women and 73 non-indigenous Fijian-Indian women were involved in a series of Focus Group Discussions and Natural Resource Transects and 50 males in 21 different villages in eight of the 11 ER-P provinces that the Fiji National REDD+ Program has identified for inclusion in Phase 1 of the ER-P. Although because the GAP Research Team also focused on coastal mangrove villages where 35-40% of iTaukei women reside and carbon sequestration rates are significantly higher (and also acting on the advice of the Fiji National REDD+ Program) it was considered necessary to include women residing in such villages. It also needs to be stressed that there was some focus on non-indigenous Fijian-Indian women because they also reside in some of the ER-P Provinces.

Moreover, despite arguments that traditional iTaukei society is based on cultural norms that preclude women from playing a more active role in the public domain but are influential in the private domain this does not mean women have an equal voice with women. During consultations many women made this clear and while they do not seek to usurp men in the public domain, they would like to be more actively involved than they are at present. This is what they are hoping the ER-P will make at least a modest contribution to. The same applies to non-iTaukei Fijian-Indian women although the analysis has demonstrated that iTaukei women tend to have more social autonomy than the former.

Nevertheless, the GAP Report acknowledges that most women have quite high levels of literacy and awareness based on educational participation rates and quantifiable outcomes – iTaueki women more so than non iTaukei women which is rather unique because typically indigenous peoples elsewhere in the world do not have the same opportunities. Based on the consultations it has been confirmed that the indigenous iTaukei women still highly value the traditional knowledge of the natural resources they have but also note younger women no longer have the same knowledge or indeed the same interest but this is not always acknowledged. Although most of the men who on a *de facto* basis participated in some of the consultations were inclined to agree with the women. Actions suggested in the GAP are designed to address this shortcoming and contribute to an enabling environment for women that will not only benefit women but also men at the local level and Fiji at the national level.

During the consultations it was clear for the most part that neither iTaukei or non-iTaukei women, especially the latter, had not really been targeted by the National REDD+ Program. A few of the women, primarily those with good connections had some knowledge but had not shared it with other women. This indicates a degree of "elite capture" by some women typically the least poor and least vulnerable and is strongly suggestive as to why the GAP has to ensure that poor and vulnerable women also be encouraged to participate in the ER-P but on both a transparent and equitable basis. The GAP suggests that the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Children and Poverty Alleviation and CSOs and NGOs with an interest and competency in natural resource management projects and programs be involved one way or the other. It is also noted that church groups, especially for iTaukei women are also very important and it is well near impossible to conceive of situations where they would not be involved either directly or indirectly.

Table 11.1 Summary of GAP Activities for Fiji's ER-P

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
Action 1 **Agreement on Participatory Approaches to ER-P** **Implementation**	**Targeted Interventions:** National REDD+ Program secures agreement with each of the 11 ER-P Provinces that where possible a practical and formal commitment will be made to the adoption of participatory approaches to ER-P implementation that will also be socially and gender inclusive, especially of marginalized indigenous women residing in Vanua and significantly dependent on either forested areas or coastal mangroves. **Stakeholders:** Village women at the Vanua level, Gender Focal Points (to be created if not in existence and provided with logistical support by the ER-P) in Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of ITaueki Affairs, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Divisional and Provincial Offices and CSOs or NGOs with knowledge or experience in previous REDD+ activities in Fiji or who have demonstrated they can replicate and upscale activities that ensure greater levels of women's participation in natural resource management projects or programs. **Estimated Cost:** It is proposed that the National REDD+ Office facilitate a 2-day workshop in each of the Western and Central Division in Viti Levu and the Northern Division in Vanua Levu with one participant from each of the Suva-based ER-P entities, four representatives from each of the twenty ER-P provinces, and 300 women from representative villages (include those indigenous women in both upland and lowland coastal villages and women likely to be impacted upon by the ER-P) in the ER-P provinces. (Travel expenses: surface - land for all participants except those from Tavenui who will require both sea and land transport and air travel for six Suva based ER-P partners to Savasavu - FJ$10,000; Accommodation and Meal Expenses for 350 participants (includes divisional and provincial participants) of approximately US$15,000; and, Facilitation and Miscellaneous Expenses of FJ$5,000 for a total of	Buy-in based on GAP is necessary from all implementing agencies but ERPA not contingent on this except where safeguard issues are triggered.	For the duration of the ER-P on an iterative basis the ER-P will need to monitor and evaluate the whether the agreement on participatory approaches has actually been followed through at the Tokatoka, Mataqali and Vanua Levels. Where patrilineality is flexible (the Yavusa) it will also have to be included in the M&E Processes.

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
	US$30,000 plus contingencies of 5% (FJ$1,500): US$30,150 to be sourced from the existing FCPF-REDD+ grant from the WB to the GoF). **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) Targeted representatives participate in the workshop of whom 30% should be women who are identified as poor and vulnerable (includes women who head households with very high dependency ratio; 2) Understanding by Participants of Participatory Approaches of the ER-P and, 3) Modalities for local participation agreed upon.		
Action 2 **Facilitation of SERNA at Selected Localities in the ER-P Accounting Area**	**Targeted Interventions:** Identify at least one district in each of the twenty ER-P provinces where it would be practical based on existing processes of land management (both agricultural and forestry) to undertake a Socio-Economic and Environmental Resource Needs Assessment that targets local forest and mangrove dependent villages and especially women within these villages of these districts that will be impacted upon by the ER-P. **Stakeholders:** The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, TLTB, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Department of Environment at the Vanua, Yavusa, Mataqali and Tokatoka level district who will work with all potentially impacted women to ensure a socially and environmentally inclusive SERNA. **Estimated Cost: One** facilitator's fees and expenses for 30 days at approximate FJ$3,000; participation fees of designated ministry and departmental officials for 5 days at approximate FJ$5,500; participation fees of villagers (for loss of income) based on 55 villagers over 16 years of age for 15 days of approximate FJ$24,750 (includes meals and travel), miscellaneous expenses of approximate FJ$1,500 and contingency of 5% of FJ$1,738: FJ$36,188 for each SERNA. Thus, total for twenty SERNA would be approximately FJ$723,760. This is to be sourced from the existing grant to the GoF by the FCPF-REDD+ from the WB pre-ERPA and post-ERPA from the advance paid to the GoF by the Carbon Fund supported by the WB. **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) SERNA involving all women in the villages identified during the Divisional Workshops; 2) Women involved in deforestation activities targeted to see what interventions could reduce such activities; and, 3) Agreements to establish forest management entities in 20 sites within 12 months.	**Pre-ERPA** Villages to be identified will be undertaken at the Divisional Workshops based on an assessment at to which villages have the demonstrated "absorptive capacity" for women to be actively involved.	**Post-ERPA** Villages to be identified will be contingent on meetings at the provincial, district, village cluster and individual village level with the most important criteria in the context of gender a demonstration that women are able and willing to participate in the SERNA.
Action 3 **Establishment of Local Forest and**	**Targeted Activities:** On the assumption that there is an agreement based on the SERNA reached between forest managers and forest users a local forest management entity will be established to ensure that the objectives of	**Pre-ERPA** It may not be possible to	**Post-ERPA** Dependent on the outcome of

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
Mangrove Management Entity	the ER-P are achieved. As part of this process benefit sharing plans will be prepared to take advantage of carbon payments based on the MRV process that local women members of the management entity will also participate in. It is anticipated that such payments will be made for a range of ER-P related activities including forest protection activities, targeting households, groups or villages contributing to deforestation and degradation to a greater extent than other households, groups or villages, and resolving issues such as poorly demarcated boundaries but also taking into account traditional customary approaches to boundary demarcation by customary landowners, **Stakeholders:** Tokatoka, Mataqali, Yavusa, and Vanua working with the Ministry of Forestry for upland villages and Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources for lowland coastal villages aided by the TLTB. If possible, a civil society organization could assist with developing this entity but it would need to demonstrate very clearly from past performance that it understands gender and forestry and mangrove management issues and it is able and willing to work with other stakeholders to ensure the highest possible degree of gender responsiveness. **Estimated Costs:** For Pre-ERPA entities there should be additional cost of approximately FJ$5,000 on a per annum basis with Year 1 being funded by the FCPF-REDD+ WB fund. However, for Post-ERPA entities they will initially be funded by the Advance Grant that the GoF has requested from the Carbon Fund. Thus, realistically the estimated cost over the first 12 months based on twenty SERNA village sites would be FJ$100,000 and Post-ERPA for the other forty villages the approximate cost would be FJ$200,000. Total cost FJ$300,000. **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) Number of Benefit Sharing Plans initiated by local village women signed; 2) Effectiveness of measures such as boundary demarcation; and, 3) Percentage of women involved in ER-P activities including forest and mangrove protection work and MRV activities.	achieve the outcomes of this activity prior to the ERPA for all 60 sites selected but ideally at least 20 should be completed.	the Pre-ERPA forest management entities within 12 months of the ERPA being signed there should be at least 3 of these entities in each of the 11 ER-P Provinces
Action 4 **Facilitation of Participatory Planning Processes**	**Targeted Activities:** It has been found during consultations with indigenous village women that older women lamented the loss of traditional knowledge relating to land and forest among younger women and would like to ensure that indigenous knowledge acquired over many centuries is not lost among the younger generation of indigenous women. At the provincial level Integrated Land Use Plans will be developed and at the village level Community Management Plans will be developed. Thus, the PPP represents an opportunity to take into account these concerns and be integrated with the NBSAP objectives and action plans.	It should be possible to commence activities prior to the signing of the ERPA using FCPF Grant Funds in 20 sites as per Action 3	Based on past experience with forms of LUP it is anticipated that a minimum of 3 years post ERPA signing.

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
	Stakeholders: Women at the Tokatoka, Mataqali, Yavusa and Vanua level, Ministry of Forestry, Land Use Division in Ministry of Agriculture, TLTB, Provincial Councils, District REDD+, NGOs and CSOs. **Estimated Costs:** FJ$2,691,1110 will be allocated for the ILUPs at the district level and FJ$106,444 at the village level for Community Management Plans. An Indigenous Person's Development Specialist with a local knowledge of indigenous women in the ER-P Provinces should be appointed to each of the three divisions for a period of 12 months each on an intermittent basis during the ER-P implementation. It is estimated that each of these facilitators will require lump sum payments of FJ$8,000 per month or FJ$96,000 over the 12-month period. Thus, 3 facilitators require FJ$288,000 (plus 5% contingency for a total of FJ$302,400. **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) Number of ILUPs and CMPs that involved the active participation of women; 2) Qualitative assessment of revival and transmission of indigenous knowledge to younger indigenous women; and, 3) Evidence of integration with NASDP objectives and action plans.		
Action 5 **Identification of Climate-Smart Agricultural Interventions**	**Targeted Activities:** It is necessary to identify climate-smart agricultural interventions that not only ensure a greater degree of food security but also the possibility of generating income that cannot be generated at present while also simultaneously reducing the pressure to clear existing forest cover for agricultural cropping. The intention is also to reduce on a voluntary basis the forms of shifting cultivation that are still undertaken in upland areas. However, it is also necessary to identify with women what are "climate-smart" interventions as these are often vaguely defined and are of a more generic nature. **Stakeholders:** All women who agree to participate in the ER-P should be involved but where women do not agree to be involved initially for whatever reason they should have the option to participate if at a later date they think the ER-P interventions could work for them. However, initially with grant financing the ER-P needs to identify those households that contribute for whatever reason to deforestation for agricultural cropping purposes and work with them. The Crop Extension Division of the Ministry of Agriculture will work with village women. It also necessary to identify a specialist with a demonstrated working knowledge of climate-smart agricultural interventions in both upland and lowland coastal areas of the South Pacific and preferably in Fiji. **Estimated Costs:** Approximately FJ$6,000 per village is likely to be required as an upfront investment that would serve as a revolving fund to target all women in the	**Pre-ERPA** Villages to be identified will be undertaken at the Divisional Workshops based on an assessment at to which villages have the demonstrated "absorptive capacity" for women to be actively involved. But post SERNA also based on agreement to participate in the local forest management entity.	**Post-ERPA** Villages to be identified will be contingent on meetings at the provincial, district, Tokatoka, Mataqali, Yavusa, and Vanua Level with the most important criteria in the context of gender a demonstration that women are able and willing to participate in the SERNA.

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
	village. A specialist would need to be mobilized at an estimated cost of FJ$12,000 per person month worked for up to 6 months and thus FJ$72,000. The advance payment from the ER-P could be utilized for such purposes although at six of the villages if they have agreed to be part of a forest management entity could draw on the existing FCPF-REDD+ grant to fund such activities. Post ERPA and once advance payment is made the ER-P would cover these costs. Initial total of FJ$192,000 plus 5% contingency of FJ$9,600. Thus, FJ$201,600. **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) Impact of grants on livelihoods of women involved in non-sustainable forest activities; 2) Percentage of women electing to practice climate-smart agricultural and forestry activities; and, 3) Replication and up-scaling in villages over the initial 12 months of the Action Plan (excluding pre-ERPA phase).		
Action 6 **Strengthening Village's Legal Rights to Use and Benefit from Forest and Mangrove Land**	**Targeted Activities:** Under Fiji's Forest Decree of 1992 where nature or forest reserves have been declared without a special licence indigenous woman (and men) are not permitted to enter such forests to harvest NTFPs, fell trees, graze livestock or hunt and fish. Under Fiji's Environmental Management Act of 2005 women residing in coastal mangrove villages are not accorded any management role and are not able to voice opposition to coastal developments such as resort or housing development. The Forest Bill of 2016 which has not been accorded legal status attenuate to some extent the 1992 Law but there have not been any successful plans to update the EMA. It is proposed that both a new Forest Law and EMA be updated to ensure access to forests and management of the mangroves. **Stakeholders:** Women living in the villages at the sub-Vanua level, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Reserves, and Department of Environment. **Estimated Costs:** There are no initial costs involved because this is a longer-term intervention although as part of the SERNA it will be necessary to whether restricted access to nature or forest reserves or coastal developments are impacting negatively on the livelihoods of indigenous women. **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) Quantitative assessment of different types of land tenure in ER-P villages and 2) Recognition by LPRP of recommendations made by ER-P for strengthening female villager's rights to use and benefit from forest land.	**Pre-ERPA** Process begins during the SERNA in the targeted villages but ERPA not contingent on any change to legislation.	**Post-ERPA** Penultimately during the implementation of the ER-P the Forest Law should be updated to ensure women have access to nature or forest reserves to at least collect NTFPs and where livestock owned by women are not destroying forest cover women should not be penalized. In relation to mangrove management the EMA should be updated so women can also decide on whether they support coastal developments.
Action 7 **Enhanced Gender Responsiveness in**	**Targeted Activities:** The ER-P PMU at the national and provincial levels will need to ensure that gender inclusive actions that will benefit women based on the GAP are actually implemented. It will also be necessary to ensure	**Pre-ERPA** No action because the	**Post-ERPA** Initial 12 months any

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
ER-P Management Activities	that the suite of safeguards (Resettlement Policy Framework, Environmental and Social Management Plan and Process Framework) are implemented in ways that also safeguard specific gender interests of both indigenous women and where relevant also non-indigenous women. To this end each of the PMUs should have a target of 30 percent of their staff being indigenous females with at least 10 percent of the female staff being from ethnic minority backgrounds. **Stakeholders:** All female beneficiaries/participants of the ER-P in general but specifically women who are working in each of the ER-P PMUs. **Estimated Costs:** The average monthly salary for managerial positions in PMUs is FJ$2,250 (excluding allowances) but ERPA there would be no payments made because the ER-P PMUs are yet to be established. But assuming at the national level there will be at least three female staff appointed and in each of the four Divisional PMUs one female staff appointed over 12 months following the signing of the ERPA the total estimated cost would be FJ$162,000. **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) Percentage of women appointed to managerial positions in the ER-PMUs; 2) Assessment of GAP outcomes in the first 12 months post-ERPA; and, 3) Resolution of safeguard grievances lodged by village women relating to the ER-P.	ERPA yet to be signed.	necessary site-specific Resettlement Plans that are prepared demonstrate the necessary degree of gender responsiveness and reflect the provisions of the ER-P Gender Action Plan.
Action 8 **Need to involve Women in Policy Processes and Decisions**	**Targeted Activities:** Need to improve ways how women are involved in policy processes and decisions related to climate mitigation measures associated with sustainable management of forests and mangroves; and how to support women movements as they work with emerging and evolving policy in projects. For example, significantly more gender responsive measures to interventions associated with the ER-P. **Stakeholders:** The ER-P at the national level working with the key GoF ministries, Divisional and Provincial agencies associated with the ER-P, and organizations with a long history of advocacy for indigenous women in Fiji such as Soqosoqo Vakamarama. **Estimated Costs:** Approximately US$36,000 to cover researchers' expenses and meetings among key stakeholders both at the national level and in the three Divisions. **Monitoring Indicators:** 1) Development of Stakeholder Engagement Plan that demonstrates how village women can be involved in ER-P activities associated with climate mitigation and forest devolution; 2) Evaluation of initial participation of village women in ER-P activities (% from different ethnic groups and poor households; and, 3) Specific clauses in a new Forest Law (currently status is	No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA	Initial 12 months the ER-P needs to embark on a series of iterative actions, including applied research by independent local researchers with a demonstrated capacity to understand gender and natural resource management issues.

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
	that of "Bill" only) that effectively embody gender equality.		
Action 9 **Women must be Involved in Discussions on Climate Variability**	**Targeted Activities:** Women are heavily involved in agriculture and need to find ways on how they should be involved in discussion on what are the gender impacts of climate variability (as opposed to climate smart crops) **Stakeholders:** Women in selected villages ensuring that poor and vulnerable indigenous women are targeted. It is likely that the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation should facilitate these discussions but it will be necessary to ensure that this Ministry understands extant issues associated with climate change. **Estimated Costs:** Based on 20 villages and stakeholder involvement (also includes village women who give up their time) the costs should be absorbed under Action 3 because they are related. **Monitoring Activities:** 1) Village women's specific understanding of climate variability; 2) Capacity of government stakeholders involved to understand climate variability; and, 3) Data disaggregated by district and province.	No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA	Initial 12 months consultations need to be facilitated among women from different ethnic groups in each of the 20 ER-P Provinces
Action 10 **Women's Involvement in Markets and how can Access to Markets be Improved**	**Targeted Activities:** Action to find out how to overcome the constraints (and what are the constraints) for women's involvement in markets and how can access to market be improved. It is important for indigenous women in the rural areas of Fiji to understand what the market demands and to develop coping strategies to deal with the changing nature of market demands. **Stakeholders:** Village women either currently involved in trading activities, especially of NTFPs, and women who are seeking to be involved, trading intermediaries and wholesalers and retailers. **Estimated Costs:** As this will involve some intra-district intra-provincial and inter-island visits it is estimated for all of the 11 ER-P provinces upwards of FJ$100,000 needs to be allocated. This could be sourced from the advance payment sought by the GoF but could be deducted from the payment of carbon credits during implementation of the ER-P. **Monitoring Activities:** 1) Number of intra-districts, intra-provincial and intra-island visits undertaken by village women; 2) Increase in quantities of NTFPs sold to trading intermediaries; and, 3) Price increase/decrease as a result of closer linkages with the market.	No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA	Activities to be undertaken that involve women from the villages, trading intermediaries and wholesalers and retailers in district, provincial and intra-island visits.

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
Action 11 **Need to Improve Women's Management of NTFPs**	**Targeted Activities:** Find ways to improve management of NTFPs with women "collectors" having more of a say. What kinds of products harvested and overall access arrangements and do different proportions of men and women in user groups influence how forests and mangroves are managed? **Stakeholders:** Village women (and men) who are either directly or indirectly involved with the "collecting" of NTFPs. **Estimated Costs:** To be absorbed under Action 3 because it is planned that the ensuing BSPs will include the more sustainable management of NTFPs. **Monitoring Activities:** 1) Women perceive they have "greater voice" than in the past; 2) Kinds of NTFPs harvested and improvements to overall access arrangements; and, 3) Improved management of NTFPs than prior to this Action.	No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA	As part of BSP that will be developed in the first 12 months in 20 villages in each of 11 ER-P provinces.
Action 12 **Summarising Progress on Gender Issues – Taking Stock of the Situation**	**Targeted Activities:** Action to support a summary of the issues facing women and previous work in the ER-P provinces. What gender related topics and themes have been of interest in the past decade and what new investments are needed to keep abreast with new demands in the management of the forests and mangroves in the ER-P. **Stakeholders:** All ER-P stakeholders from individual indigenous women from the Tokatoka through to ministries at the national level and research institutes with a mandate to develop knowledge products germane to indigenous women in the field of natural resource management in Fiji. **Estimated Costs:** Lump sum of FJ$30,000 to undertake and publish the independent research. **Monitoring Activities:** 1) Similarities and differences in gender and forestry and mangrove issues facing women; 2) Extant causes of changes in these issues and outcomes for women; 3) Changes necessary that reflect new demands in the forest and mangrove sectors.	No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA	Independent research commissioned by the ER-P to provide an evidence-driven analysis of past, present and future issues
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR ACTIONS		**FJ$1,885,900** **(US$869,828)**	

11.5 Summary of the Resettlement Policy Framework

The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared at the request of the Government of Fiji (GoF) to support its Emission Reduction Program (ER-P) with the technical and financial support of the FCPF, which is a World Bank program to support REDD+ initiatives associated with the Cancun Agreement of the

Conference of Parties of United Nations Framework Convention to Climate Change (UNFCC). The GoF is seeking to ensure that activities it has identified as priority activities designed to address REDD+ initiatives do not lead to serious involuntary resettlement impacts but to safeguard stakeholders (primarily local forest-dependent communities who, if the indigenous iTaukei are the customary landowners of more than 86% of the forest land in the ER-P and 90% of the unexploited production forests but there are also the non-indigenous Fijian-Indians who lease land off the customary landowners in some instances also use the forests and the state than is the owner of the remaining 14% of forest land will be included in this ER-P) from the negative impacts of involuntary resettlement. However, it needs to be stressed here that for the most part the impacts are very positive and clearly outweigh the negative impacts. The RPF has been designed to facilitate the effective implementation of the ER-P

The ER-P designed by the GoF has three components – 1) Strengthening of the Enabling Conditions for Emission Reductions; 2) Promoting Integrated Landscape Management; and 3) Program Monitoring and Emissions Monitoring – that have as their development objective to develop an effective system to support REDD+ implementation that contributes to the maximization of climate co-benefits and integrate initiatives that address the vulnerabilities of local communities and contribute to the efforts of building a more resilient and socially inclusive Fijian society

It will be implemented in eleven ER-P area provinces in the three divisions of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu (Central, Western and Northern) – Ba, Ra, Nadroga-Navosa, Serua, Namosi, Rewa, Tailevu, Naitarisi, Bua, Macuata, and Cakaudrove (includes the island of Tavenui – where 41.4 per cent of Fiji's rural population can be found and of which 60.5 per cent of this population are the indigenous iTaueki people.. The total cost for the ER-P is estimated to be US$40.04 million and does not include any costs associated with the mitigation of involuntary resettlement impacts. The ER-P is expected to be implemented from 2019-24.

The cornerstone of the ER-P of at the local level will be the Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMST) as voluntary community groups such as the Forest Care Groups, Land Care Groups, Women's Groups, Church Groups and Community Cluster Groups. It is envisaged that these village entities will work with the Ministry of Forestry supported Forest Wardens, who will be subject to divisional and national oversight through the Ministry of Forestry's REDD+ Unit and Sub-National REDD+ Divisional Working Groups. The Conservator of Forests within the Ministry of Forestry will approve all REDD+ ER-P projects to be implemented at the local level after consulting with the REDD+ Steering Committee. Other national agencies such as the Department of Agriculture Extension Division will provide most of the technical and information services related to agriculture while the Ministry of iTaueki Affairs will ensure that the rights and interests of the iTaukei are safeguarded during the implementation of the ER-P. Via the processes embedded in the collaboration between forestry officials at the local level and the YMST it is anticipated that any project proposals will seek to avoid activities wherever possible that lead to any but minor forms of involuntary resettlement although there may well be some civil works, such as new or upgraded access roads within the existing jurisdictional areas of the YMST but this will be wholly dependent on the decisions made by the YMST and other community groups. However, the FMCs will not be responsible for implementing any RAPs, whether full RAPs and abbreviated RAPs, dependent on the magnitude of the impacts. This is the organizational responsibility of the yet to be established District Resettlement Committees. It is envisaged that there will be few full RAPs but there may be a considerable number of abbreviated RAPs. The different requirements between the two are noted in this RPF.

The RPF identifies some of the activities that might trigger OP4.12 based on the premise that there will be some restrictions on some groups to existing forest resources and there may also be some activities that impact upon land that was originally natural forest land but has been deforested or degraded and being used for other purposes. The RPF will ensure that despite the legality or otherwise of current non-sustainable forest-based activities that individuals, households, groups and villages, if required to desist from current livelihood activities will be compensated in accordance with entitlements that both the GoF and WB deem suitable. Where there are discrepancies between the WB's OP4.12 and the GoF laws and policies the WB's policies are binding on the GoF. Where the WB concludes existing projects and programs are neither able or willing to comply with WB Safeguards then areas where these projects and programs are located cannot be included in the ER-P and the latter cannot claim benefits from these areas and exclude the existing YMSTs and

their local communities. The RPF only applies to those jurisdictional areas that are able and willing to participate in the ER-P.

This RPF discusses the legal framework (both GoF and WB); principles and policies for resettlement, compensation and entitlement (importantly that program affected people should be no worse off and ideally better off); eligibility, criteria and entitlements (it differentiates between legally eligible APs in the Fiji context but that based on OP4.12 legally ineligible APs also are entitled to some forms of compensation); consultation with PAPs (and especially women and ethnic minority APs); the importance of information disclosure (this also to be in a culturally appropriate manner); implementation arrangements (importantly there is a role for the YMSTs); the grievance and redress mechanism (for involuntary resettlement purposes the existing GRM has been retained); and monitoring and evaluation (this includes not only the utilization of an independent monitoring consultant but also APs.

As with other RPFs it does not include actual costs of possible involuntary resettlement impacts although it includes accepted procedures for how the budget is allocated. The appendices include the suggested format for the social screening report to be undertaken by the YMSTs and the public information booklet.

The RPF has yet to be disclosed to the GoF at the national, divisional, provincial, district or village level or to local customary landowning communities or to leaseholders that are likely to be targeted. However, once the WB either approves this RPF or requests amendments it will be translated into Fijian and Fijian Hindi, disseminated as widely as possible and uploaded to the GoF Information Portal and the WB's FCPF website.

11.6 Summary of the Process Framework

The Process Framework (PF) addresses the eventuality that the program objectives of REDD+ as reflected in the ER-P might result in some restrictions on access to and use of existing forest land that belongs to the State rather than customary land that belongs to the iTaukei people who will be impacted upon by the ER-P. It also addresses the possible eventuality that non-iTaukei people who the iTaueki or the State permit access to and use of forest resources may also results in restrictions as the ER-P program objectives are implanted.

The purpose of the PF is to establish a process by which communities or households potentially affected by restricted natural resource access to forest which are under the management authority of the Ministry of Forestry (MoF) engage in a process of informed and meaningful consultations and negotiations to identify and implement means of reducing or mitigating the impact of restricted resource access. This will involve a REDD+ Needs Assessment and Social Screening Report, known as the SERNA (Socio-Economic and Environmental REDD+ Needs Assessment) or similar to be undertaken by the Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMST) in conjunction with voluntary community groups and the MoF Forest Wardens at the village level.

The PF is prepared to comply with the World Bank policy on involuntary resettlement (OP/BP 4.12) and Government of Fiji's (GoF) laws and regulations. The PF provides guidelines for the development of Action Plans during project implementation that:

- Define the restrictions of access to natural resources in protected areas;
- Identify and quantify the impacts that those restrictions may have on different segments of the local communities;
- Propose, implement and monitor remedial measures to compensate for the loss of those assets and the income associated with them;
- Provide grievance redress mechanisms in order to resolve any issues that may arise due to restrictions of access to resources over the course of the program.

The PF includes those laws relevant to the ER-P as follows – Constitution of the Republic of Fiji (2013), iTaukei Land Trust Act (Amended 2019), Forest Decree (1992, Land Conservation and Improvement Act (1953), Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (1967), National Trust of Fiji Act (1978), Land Use Decree (2010) – and of central relevance to this PF the State Acquisition of Lands Act (1998). As per the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) this PF identifies the legal framework (both GoF and WB); principles and policies for resettlement, compensation and entitlement (importantly that program affected people should be no worse off and ideally better off); eligibility, criteria and entitlements (it differentiates between legally eligible APs in the Fiji context but that based on OP4.12 legally ineligible APs also are entitled to some forms of compensation); consultation with PAPs (and especially women and ethnic minority APs); the importance of information disclosure (this also to be in a culturally appropriate manner); implementation arrangements (importantly there is a role for the YMSTs); the grievance and redress mechanism (for involuntary resettlement purposes the existing FGRM of the GoF has been retained); and monitoring and evaluation (this includes not only the utilization of an independent monitoring consultant but also APs).

As iTaukei own more than 84 per cent of the land in this ER-P Accounting Area it is they who can decide to do as they please with this land. This includes logging in all forests with the exception of the closed forests that constitute 30.47% of the total land area in the ER-P Accounting. If the ER-P is going to encourage the iTaukei to log less and accrue carbon financial benefits from reducing carbon emissions then there will need to be more sustainable approaches to forest management. This in the short-term will affect the incomes of those communities who rely for part of their livelihoods on the sale of logged trees from the forests. Negative impacts that may have to be mitigated include the following:

- Restricted access to forest land will be overcome with training courses on how to increase production on remaining forest land;
- The longer harvesting cycle will result in deferred income but the costs of deferment can be overcome through micro-financing; and
- The longer harvesting cycles may also impact negatively on community income and local waged employment and reduced incomes but specific measures to offset these impacts will be introduced in the improved climate smart agriculture.

The PF describes how these impacts will be mitigated if and when OP4.12 is used although in the first instance the PF will attempt to ascertain via the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) where issues surrounding such impacts can be mitigated without having to rely on OP4.12.

The PF identifies the eligibility of the targeted groups, who for the most part will be iTaukei villagers living in the villages of the ER-P Provinces. However, non-iTaukei persons (primarily Fijian-Indian) will also be targeted if the ER-P are also because of their close proximity, especially the plantation forestry land, impacts upon them. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Gender Action Plan (GAP) also specifies how poorer and more vulnerable women and men will benefit from the ER-P.

Actions associated with livelihoods restoration include ensuring as per OP4.12 that APs have their livelihoods restored to at least pre-ER-P levels and preferably they should be better off as a result. To ensure this outcome materializes the ER-P will undertake if necessary, a detailed Inventory of Loss (IOL) and Detailed Measurement Survey (DMS). Other alternative livelihoods will be based on interventions such as climate-smart agriculture that are designed to mitigate and where possible reverse the negative environmental impacts of deforestation and degradation. The Benefit Sharing Plans (BSPs) includes not only the processes about how local communities will reach consensus on activities associated with the BSP whether it be seasonal restrictions of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) of forest and grassland fire protection activities but also how carbon benefits will be distributed. Based on the SESA most villagers prefer to see such benefits distributed on a collective rather than individual basis but there are some different priorities between women and men. The PF outlines the actions necessary to ensure that these differences are reflected in the BSPs.

The PF provides an outline of the implementation arrangements at the national, divisional, province, district and village level. Specifically, in relation to activities that may trigger OP4.12 the Conservator of Forests within

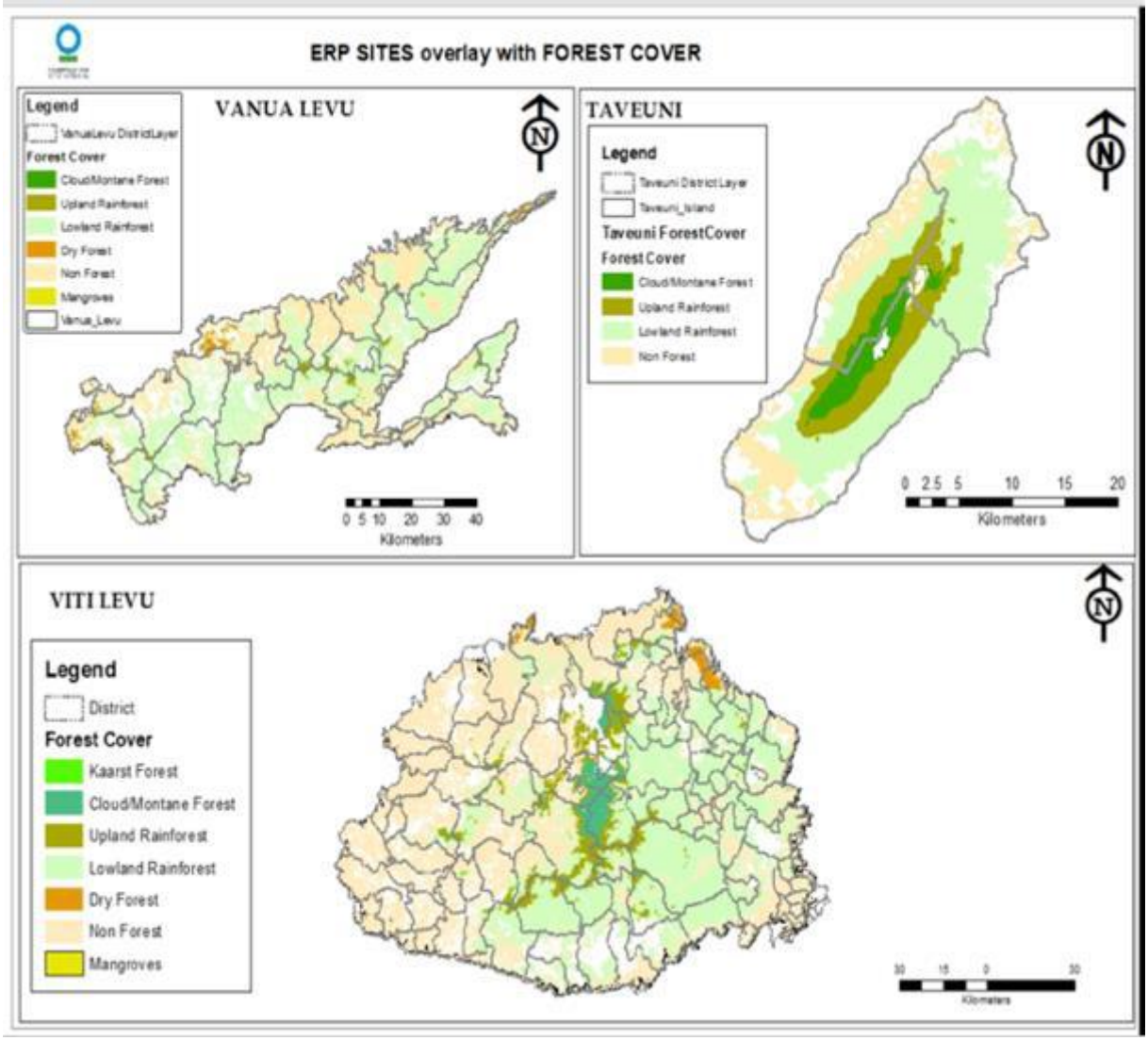
the Ministry of Forestry after consulting with the REDD+ Steering Committee (and here the iTaukei Trust Land Board: TLTB also plays a significant role) will decide what REDD+ ER-P projects identified by the Yaubula Management Support Groups (YMST) should be implemented. If the Conservator of Forests decides that the resettlement impacts are more extensive than is envisaged for this ER-P, such as the physical dislocation of village households or excessive restrictions on access to and use of forest resources, these projects will be rejected. If submitted Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) are approved they will have to be implemented by a District Resettlement Committee or similar. The PF also reiterates the point made in the ESMF, RPF, SESA and ERPA that the GoF and not the ER-P is responsible for the payment of compensation and any other allowances. The EMPF and RPF identify the limited scope of involuntary resettlement actions.

The Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) that deals with APs directly or indirectly impacted by actions that trigger OP4.12 according to WB and GoF policies. The steps involved based on existing practices in Fiji and agreed upon by the WB and GoF are included in the PF. However, specifically for the UN-REDD FGRM that deals with actions that may cause grievances specifically related to the ER-P, such as the modalities for BSP or exclusion from climate-smart agricultural activities or training courses, the PF based on the ESMF outlines how such aggrieved persons can seek redress. The PF also highlights the fact that OP4.10 dealing with Indigenous Persons (also with ethnic minorities in the case of Fiji: the Fijian-Indians) is very likely to be followed and the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be utilized. But the PF in both instances argues that where possible and practical grievances should be resolved locally.

The PF outlines the monitoring and evaluation activities, both internally and externally associated with the ER-P. Internal monitoring will be undertaken by the MoF assisted by divisional, provincial and district forestry officials associated with the ER-P and the APs themselves. At present the MoF has this capacity at the national level but not at other levels. It will need to engage M&E specialists which is indicated in this PF. The PF also identifies the need for external monitoring because OP4.12 requires a combination of internal and external monitoring of OP4.12 activities to ensure that APs are safeguarded and receive all entitlements due to them as per the RPF

11.7 Maps and additional data

Figure 11.1 Forest cover in the ER-P area



11.8 Stakeholder consultations

Consultation mechanisms

Stakeholder consultations were undertaken under the different phases of the REDD+ work in Fiji. Consultations were held with relevant Government departments/divisions/offices at Province, District and village levels in Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni to assess the understanding of and preparedness for REDD+. These consultations were to ensure transparent stakeholder information sharing using FPIC consultation mechanisms and helped to establish broad community support and the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders.

A variety of mechanisms were used to consult with stakeholders during the preparation of the SESA, ESMF GAP and ER-PD including: 1) village meetings involving both women and men from communities; 2) specific facilitated meetings with stakeholder in villages including mataqali leaders, land owners, and users affected directly by the ER-P; 3) separate meetings with women and vulnerable households; 4) key informant

interviews with relevant government staff, *mataqali* leaders, *Turaga-ni-Koro*, chiefs, women, religious and youth leaders 5) one-to-one socio-economic household surveys and stakeholder affected communities; and 6) informal conversations with passers-by and forest users near the subproject sites. Consultations were undertaken in the Fijian vernacular where possible, or translated from English into the local Fijian dialect. Household interviews or focus group discussions with Fijian citizens of Indian ethnicity were conducted in Hindi or English.

For the GAP work primary and secondary sources were used to glean relevant anthropological and ethnographical data for the Study. This was complemented by a series of Focus Group Discussions and Natural Resource Transects in selected villages although these were not undertaken in all villages either due to inclement weather or non-availability of participants. To avoid "elite capture" the GAP Study Team selected women at random and paid a participation fee to compensate them for not only possible lost earnings, but also in recognition of the time they spent with the Team. It is sufficient to say it was relatively easy to convince women to participate in the focus group discussions and transects Some semi-structured interviews were also conducted with key informants, but the GAP Research Team relied to a greater extent on *ad hoc* conversations that often took place on the side of the road, at local markets, on public transport and even in and around churches for iTaukei women or temples for non-iTaueki Fijian-Indian women.

Stakeholders included iTaukei non iTaukei, commercial investors, private sector, government, non-government organizations/civil society, academic and research institutions, international agencies, faith-based organizations, urban based indigenous decision makers, Provincial and District representatives from the 11 provinces, community groups and statutory bodies.

Participatory land use planning was discussed amongst the stakeholders in targeted districts including Tokaimalo, Naiyalayala and Naroko in Nakuvadra, Western Viti Levu. This included the analysis of physical and socio-economic conditions and development pathways. Multi-stakeholder consultation was conducted across various government stakeholders which facilitated discussions to address issues such as clear ownership of land boundaries between the Mataqali Namako and Nabunilagi in the Vunivia REDD + site in Vanua Levu. Stakeholder consultations conducted in the different phases of REDD+ work included:

- The IAS team conducted a series of case studies a summary is shown in the following **Table 11.2**[29]. The case studies used a participatory rural appraisal approach and spatial analysis. These case studies also helped obtain a clear understanding of the key environmental and social issues, inter-sectoral linkages, and potential policy trade-offs, and how they may affect the overall ER Program. The team conducted participatory rural appraisals in eleven villages and two non-iTaukei settlements from November 2016 to March 2017;

- Additional follow up stakeholder consultations using participatory approaches were held village at level meetings in seven villages from July to August 2018 (see **Table 11.3** below) shows the general are of consultations during July to August 2018 and a further nine village consultations were held in April and May 2019.

- REDD+ demonstrations included training and awareness raising activities at: 1) Emalu REDD+ pilot site, Navosa; 2) Nakavu Project Site, Drawa, Macuata; and the 3) Nakauvadra Community Based Reforestation Project. Other related REDD+ projects include the REFOREST Fiji Project implemented by SPC.

[29] After Situational Analysis Report Delivery 3 Volume 1 April 2017, Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), University of the South Pacific, the table has been updated and modified.

Table 11.2 Summary of early case studies

Case Study Location	Community	Key Social Characteristics	Significant environmental, social or natural resource issues
Nakauvadra (Ra Province) Viti Levu	*Villages*: Narara Vunisea *Settlement:* Narara	• Communities fully understand the importance of their forests and its resources. • There is a clear gender division of labour in utilising the forests' resources. • In Narara village there is an on-going ecotourism activity that helps community livelihood. • Communities acknowledge the need to include all members of community in the stages of REDD+ project cycle for improved awareness, learning and understanding. • Women groups & committees are successful in implementing micro-enterprises • Problems identified: (1) food and nutritional insecurity, (2) lack of income generating activities, (3) water shortage.	• Nakauvadra range and associated watershed. Headwaters of the Wainibuka, Penang and Nakauvadra River. • Aquifer (Fiji Water). • Fiji ground frog (threatened) • Important Bird Area.
Emalu (Nadroga Navosa Province) Viti Levu (Tomaniivi)	*Villages:* Nakoro Draubuta Namuamua Matokana	• Men and women share financial commitment • Clear division of labour • Apart from Nakoro, other villages are well versed with REDD+ and potential benefits • Problems identified: (1) root crops (2) water shortage (3) poor road access (4) no electricity	• Important catchment area for Sigatoka and Navua River. • High Value Conservation Forest in Fiji • Nine Red List avifauna species • High concentration of rare plants. • Rare endemic cicada *Raiateana knowlesi* (Totem for Emalu clan).
Dreketi (Macuata province) Vanua Levu	*Villages:* Nabiti, Nabavatu, *Settlement:* Matasawalevu	• Communities fully understand the importance of their forests and its resources. • There is a clear gender division of labour in utilising the forests' resources. • Women are the main income earner followed by men.	• Third largest mangrove delta in Fiji • Remnant dry forest (highly threatened habitat in Fiji). • Only known roost for *Chaerephon bregullae*

		• Communities acknowledge the need to include all members of community in the stages of REDD+ project cycle for improved awareness, learning and understanding. • Men in Nabiti have sole access and control on timber trees. • Problems identified: (1) road access (2) water shortage.	(insectivorous cave dwelling bat)
Kadavu Island	*Villages:* Nalotu Daviqele Nabukelevu-i-Ra	• Women are the traditional herbal practitioners. • Clear leadership structure in terms of governance and chiefly system. • In Yawe district there is an on-going tourism activity that helps community livelihood. • Problems identified: (1) poor road access (2) water shortage (3) poaching in their Marine Protected Areas (4) water shortage	• Important Bird Area • Mt. Nabukelevu is a Biodiversity hotspot • Several island endemic flora species.

Table 11.3 Overview of Provinces visited for SESA investigations

Proposed ER-P area and provinces	Island	Landscape
Ba	Viti Levu	The western side of Viti Levu is a rain shadow and together with western parts of Ra is where much of the sugarcane is grown with pine becoming more important in the interior. The Nausori highlands are becoming important of cool climate vegetables. Pine plantations are scattered over much of the upland areas together with remnant natural forest. Fire is an important issue as it is Ra Province.
Ra	Viti Levu	The coastal part of Ra where heavily impacted by Cyclone Winston and are still recovering, large areas of pine were destroyed
Nadroga Navosa Sigatoka	Viti Levu	Includes important tourist locations and in land includes areas of sugar and pine. Includes the Sigatoka valley, which drains the Nadrau plateau. The lower part of the valley continues to be the most important area for vegetables, tobacco, papaya and fruit tree production. Upland areas contain pine and some large areas of remnant natural forest
Naitasiri and Namosi	Viti Levu	Includes rugged high land areas running up to the Rairaimatuku and Nadrau plateau and is important for the HPPs and includes large important areas of relatively undisturbed forest across the Korobasabasaga and Medrausucu mountain ranges. Some important tourist areas along the coast of Namosi including Pacific Harbour
Rewa	Viti Levu	Includes the Suva. The Rewa river delta is the largest area of mangroves in Fiji
Serua	Viti Levu	An important coastal tourist area but includes mangroves and areas of *pandanus* swamps
Tailevu	Viti Levu	Areas of mixed forest, livestock, plantations with coastal mangrove
Bua	Vanua Levu	This province is on the western end of Vanua Levu and has extensive pine plantings around the coast it is subject to quite strong wind
Macuata	Vanua Levu	This province is where much of the sugarcane is grown (in the central area) on Vanua Levu, toward the eastern end which is more rigged this gives way to mixture of pine and forest and then natural forest. The eastern end has tracts of relative good and unlogged forest. Around the coast and off shore from the province are extensive areas of mangroves. The high upland central area between Macuata and Cakaudrove provinces contains good forest. Along the road corridor this has been logged and there is much secondary regrowth. Invasive African Tulip has grown in some disturbed areas but away from the logged area it is not apparent.
Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Includes the island of Taveuni which is an important area for kava production and high levels of biodiversity. The main island has a mixture of high/ upland land forests often logged around the coast and replaced by coconuts, many of the coconut plantations are quite old

Additional Consultations in the ER-P Accounting Area

A first round of consultations on the proposed ER interventions and its potential impacts/risks in the ER-P commenced on the 29th of November 2016 and concluded on the 27th of February 2017 with field visits by multidisciplinary teams to the proposed ER-P accounting area and included work with villages and districts which contributed to the development of the SESA and ESMF. Further information on consultations can be found in Section 5 of the ER-PD, and also in the REDD Readiness Assessment. Additional consultations in July and August 2018 and included Taveuni in Cakaudrove Province of the Northern Region (which was not included in the original field-based

studies) were undertaken and consultations specifically targeted women and other vulnerable people. Further consultations and particularly with women were undertaken in April and May 2019. The following **Table 11.4** provides a list of the villages and different landscapes visited.

Table 11.4 Villages visited July and August 2018 and April and May 2019

Village	District	Province	Island	Remarks - major land use
July and August 2018				
Nabukelevu Village	Serua	Serua	Viti Levu	Upland area, natural forest, mahogany
Natila Village	Bau	Tailevu	Viti Levu	Coastal mangrove
Narara	Saivou	Ra	Viti Levu	Grassland
Naseyani	Rakiraki	Ra	Viti Levu	Grassland with Pine Plantation
Savudrodro	Savusavu	Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Grassland and Forest
Korosi	Navatu	Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Forest
Qila Road	Cakaudrove	Cakaudrove	Taveuni	Deforestation
Somosomo hydro road	Cakaudrove	Cakaudrove	Taveuni	Deforestation
Soqulu Estate road	Cakaudrove	Cakaudrove	Taveuni	Deforestation
April and May 2019				
Uto	Nawaka	Ba	Viti Levu	Pine, sugarcane, grassland
Navala	Tavua	Ba	Viti Levu	Pine, sugarcane, grassland
Nalebaleba	Sigatoka	Nadroga/ Navosa	Viti Levu	Natural forest, pine, vegetables sigatoka river valley
Yalava	Sasa	Macuata	Vanua Levu	Pine, sugarcane and mangroves,
Cogea	Wainunu	Bua	Vanua Levu	Forest, regrowth, yams
Dogotuki	Dogotuki	Cakaudrove	Vanua Levu	Good quality forest
Nadala/ Navai/ (near Monasavu Dam area)	Wainimala	Naitasiri	Viti Levu	Upland forest, on the Rairaimakutu Plateau
Waivou	Bau	Rewa	Viti Levu	Mangrove
Nayavutoka	Nakorotubu	Tailevu	Viti Levu	Village was hit badly by Cyclone Winston and is still recovering, mangroves

The following **Table 11.5** provides a summary of the consultations with communities and **Table 11.6** Summary of Divisional forest management issues raised and discussions with the other stakeholders and REDD+ Steering Committee

Table 11.5 Specific issues raised during different consultations with communities

Consultation	Issues raised
Nabukelevu Village	Community benefit sharing mechanisms, land tenure issues, how to access and gain knowledge on REDD+; How to do sustainable forest management and community forest management plans, use and management of NTFPs; hardwood plantations
Natila village	Ownership, use, management/ stewardship of mangroves
Narara, Naseyani	Afforestation, value added chains for different crops; climate smart crops - options for dry areas western division - facing diminishing returns from

Consultation	Issues raised
	sugarcane; availability of water, grassland fires, boundaries to land, pine plantations, land tenure issues, protected area assignment and management
Multiple discussions	Financing afforestation/ reforestation; what are the costs and benefits of REDD+ and how to access the benefits?
Savudrodro, Korosi,	Trade off between agriculture and planning and planting re-growth trees; flooding and protection of the watershed, firewood – use large quantities for copra drying etc.
Taveuni	Land use, land planning, IPM, expansion of kava and taro crops, sustainable climate smart cropping systems, encroachment of natural forest and protected area
Vanua Levu	Meeting with women – importance of the management and use of mangroves for food; decision making on family issues, availability of cash

Table 11.6 Summary of Divisional forest management issues raised and discussions with the other stakeholders and REDD+ Steering Committee

Summary of issues	Notes
Training and development of capacity to deal with REDD+ issues	Divisional issue
How to issues - financing of REDD+ activities	As above
Land and forest tenure – various issues, including lease conditions, management of leases	As above
M&E forest information system	As above
Improvements to land use planning	As above and discussions with Ministry of Agriculture
Climate smart crops	Discussions with Ministry of Agriculture

11.9 Pest management plan

The ER-P is assessed to trigger World Bank Operational Policy 4.09 on Pest Management, which then is based on the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach with the aim of promoting good agricultural practices through the use of responsible and sustainable activities that will result in a rational and a reduction in pesticide use.

- Potential increased use of pesticide with agricultural intensification in both the production and post harvest
- ER-P should include ecologically sound integrated pest management (IPM) strategies in crop production
- Change in cultivation and management practices
- The ER-P promotes enhanced cropping intensity and possibly more mono-cropping, the likelihood of increase in the population of weeds, insect pests and plant diseases is possible.

ER-P activities and introduction of new crops might lead to a tendency for farmers and agricultural extension workers to promote excessive use of chemicals in agriculture, causing soil and water pollution. Such potential negative environmental impacts can be avoided through the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The nucleus of the modern Fiji agriculture is the proposed Rural Transformation Centers (RTCs), RTC is a facility that promotes integrated rural development initiatives. The RTC is a venue that facilitates the collaboration of different parties engaged in promoting agriculture development. The RTC also serves as a one-stop information center that combines information and services offered by various ministries, government corporations, private corporations, banks, and other agencies. Every RTC has a service area, and in Fiji, it can be a 25-50 kilometer radius from the RTC. Proposed initiatives in the RTCs in Fiji include:

- Information on crops livestock and aquaculture products;
- Credit assistance;
- Information on new technology on seeds fertilizer crop protection and machinery

Community Participation Through the Farmers Field School

Farmer Field School now covers organic agriculture, animal husbandry, etc., but also continues to provide information on IPM. Pesticide and herbicide applications should be avoided as much as possible to avoid residues and damaging the environment. Integrated pest management and manual control of weeds and pests should be used as much as possible.

Fiji's national agriculture risk management services include 1) Pest control and 2) Plant and animal disease control.

The MOA has a comprehensive guide to the weed and pest control including use of chemicals in agriculture[30]. It provides very detailed information on the following

- Types of weed and herbicides and rate of application;
- Choice of methods of weed control;
- Steps for correct application of herbicides;
- Weed control in non-crop and crop situations including the crop and recommended herbicides, rate of application;
- Use of sprayers and sprayer calibration;
- Insect pests and disease control;
- Insecticides recommended for crops;
- Fungicides recommended for crops;
- The manual includes requirements for reporting on framing systems and from reporting;
- Pest management related to the law on Biosecurity (2008) which includes requirements for "surveillance and monitoring of pests and diseases in the Fiji Islands and assess the status of regulated pests and disease" Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Section 9; and
- Examples of IPM vs pesticide application.

The manual focuses more on operational matters in detriment of defining and regulating the overall context under which pesticides herbicides should be integrated, considered and possibly used

[30] Fiji Farm Management Budget Manual 2014, Ministry of Agriculture 2014.

In addition there are also manuals for grow the main crops in Fiji and these also contain advice on use of chemicals and the use of IPM[31].

Applications of chemicals, including the type of chemical and how much was applied, should be recorded in farm records. It is important that the people applying the chemicals understand how it should be applied and use appropriate equipment (such as overalls or spare clothes, gloves, goggles, face mask). Where possible, those applying chemicals should have appropriate training to make sure they know how to handle and apply chemicals safely. Chemicals will often have a minimum time interval between chemical treatment and when plants can be harvested after treatment and this should be written on the label of the chemical.

Pesticides Act (chp. 157) No use, offer for sale or sale unless registered labeling and storage is. Prescribed, penalties for non compliance include cancellation of registration, fines.

The Act regulates the registration and sale of pesticides. Unless a pesticide is registered pursuant to the Act it may not be used, offered for sale or sold in Fiji. The label must also show, in English, Fijian and Hindustani warnings with regard to storage and handling, procedure in case of accidental poisoning, details of the manufacturer and importer and the registered number of the pesticide. In Fiji, this control relates only to the availability of pesticides but not to their use.

In relation to extension of IPM related activities include:

- Intensive farmer training;
- Provision of farmer support;
- Intensive public awareness;
- Strengthening and supporting stakeholder partnership;
- Farmer mobilization;
- Resource mobilization; and
- Development and enforcement of IPM related legislation.

Some of the methods suggested for control of pests in the Integrated Pest Management Package are

- Cultural Practices;
- Mechanical Practices;
- Bio-Control Practices; and
- Chemical application.

Cultural Practices: These are agricultural practices that make the environment less favorable for proliferation of insect pests. Some typical cultural practices include cultivation of alternate hosts (e.g., weeds), crop rotation, selection of planting sites, trap crops, adjusting the timing of planting or harvest, tilling practices, and nutrient and irrigation application.

[31] Fiji Quality of Kava Manual, Ministry of Agriculture (2017), Part of the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access (PHAMA) program, Pacific Community's Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (SPC PAPP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Mechanical Practices: The use of physical barriers such as row covers or trenches prevents insects from reaching the crop. Other methods include hand picking of pests, collection and destruction of larvae, sticky boards or tapes for control of flying insects, having sources which attract pests such as sugar or yeast solutions, and other trapping techniques.

Bio-Control Practices: Bio-control practices are increasingly being used in Fiji include managing of major insect pests through conservation of existing natural biological control agents including the control of weeds.

Chemical Application: Application of chemical pesticides should be recommended only when control of pests below the threshold limits are not possible by other techniques suggested above. Appropriate selective chemicals in recommended doses shall only be applied when economic threshold is reached. Gestation time for action of chemical pesticide should be provided for control of pests.

General IPM principles

IPM consists of set of interventions that all together result in reduction of pest incidence to low and acceptable levels with minimal possible negative impact on natural ecosystems, non-targeted pests and the environment. IPM is an effective tool to combat the negative effects of over application of pesticides that can potentially:

- Destroy crop pollinators and lead to poor crop yields;
- Eliminate the natural enemies of crop pests causing loss of natural pest control that keeps the populations of crop pests very low;
- Cause development of pest resistance to pesticides;
- Encouraging further increases in the use of chemical pesticides;
- Contamination of the soil and water bodies;
- Pesticide poisoning of farmers and deleterious effects on human health;
- Unacceptable levels of pesticide residues in harvested produce and in the food chain; and
- Loss of biodiversity in the environment.

IPM is based on building sound farmer knowledge of the agro-ecological processes of the farming environment and empowering them to make informed decisions on the most appropriate management strategies to minimize crop loss due to pests, using economic threshold in pesticide application, and decide on best pest management practices to increase financial viability of their farming activity in an environmentally sustainable way.

IPM components should include:

- Cultural practices (good farm management);
    - Frequent, complete harvesting;
    - Sanitation Pruning of fruit trees;
    - thinning of vegetable population; and
    - Weed management;
- Planting materials resistant/tolerant to major pests and diseases;
- Biological control of pests and diseases if available; and
- Rational pesticide utilization (minimal, efficient and safe use of permitted pesticides).

The ER-P would promote the use of IPM practices, in particular through the following measures where possible:

Increased use and reliance on chemical pesticides

- Promote adoption of IPM on chemical pesticide practices through farmer education and training; and

- Move farmers away from input-dependent crop/pest management practices and promote use of locally produced organic matter, botanical pesticides and biological control, use of economic threshold levels for pesticide application.

Current pest management practices

- Allocate adequate resources to implement National Plant Protection Policy;

- Increase IPM awareness amongst policy maker, agricultural produce retailers, and farming community; and

- Promote safe handling and application of pesticides.

Enforcement of quarantine requirement

- Strengthen institutional capacity at MAF to effectively supervise compliance with agrochemical registration and pesticide legislation.

IPM research and extension

- Strengthen IPM research limited – but very limited opportunities under the ER-P it may be possible to have some farmer led research for example, GOF already conducting research on some biological control;

- Strengthen IPM extension - training is included;and

- Strengthen group efforts for field implementation of IPM.

Environmental hazards of pesticide misuse

- Create public awareness of pesticide misuse hazards through public awareness campaigns;

- Undertake regular assessment of pesticide residues in irrigated agricultural production systems and in harvested produce; and

- Carry out monitoring of pesticide poisoning in the farming and rural communities.

Increased dependence on chemical control

- Support mixed cropping and crop rotation systems to keep pest species from reaching economic damage levels; and

- Promote proper disposal of unused agricultural chemicals and packaging materials.

ER-P activities through training and capacity building of the crop protection and agricultural extension departments would include support for training of farmers and other stakeholders on IPM strategies for the control of the pest and diseases, as well as resources for the implementation of the response plan. This is in line with the needs expressed by communities during consultations carried out during the preparation of the ER-PD.

Specific training should also be performed related to the safe, efficient and minimal utilization of pesticides, based on economic threshold levels for each major crop. The Pest Management Plan (PMP) within the project operational plan should be finalized by project appraisal and should be included in the Program Implementation Manual (PIM).

11.9.1 Occupational and health risks and mitigation

IPM methods based on cultural practices normally do not involve the use of chemicals and is of no risk to farmers. However, modern agricultural practices and intensive crop production normally require adoption of agrochemicals use, such as would be the case for crop production under the ER-P. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that farmers involved in the project are made adequately aware and are taught proper procedures for the safe use, handling, application, storage and disposal of agrochemicals. The use of such gears as face and nose masks, eye and body protection and personal hygiene including thorough washing of hand and clothing after the application of the agrochemicals should be introduced and, as much as possible, enforced. Only permitted pesticides should be used in recommended quantity and frequency with appropriate application techniques and nozzles to make sure that the most efficient control of targeted insects, using narrow band and targeted pesticides with minimal quantity are used.

Training activities would be designed so as to maximize participation by women farmers since field observation indicated that most women are involved in day-to-day farming activities that include spraying of crops with pesticides.

11.9.2 IMP under ER-P

Part 1 Study to identify the major pest problems in the selected production chains for the selected fruit root and vegetable crops (including identification of which crops the ER-P will promote), their contexts (ecological, agricultural, public health, economic, and institutional), and defining main parameters for evaluation.

Part 2 Develop operational plans to address the identified pest problems. The possible activities might include:

- Implementation and dissemination of the list of pest control products that are authorized by the project for procurement;
- Development of IPM approaches (biological control, cultural practices, use of resistant or tolerant varieties, reducing pesticide use to the minimum based on economic threshold limits and replacement of pesticides with other environmentally safe practices);
- Identification of actions that would be required and prioritize each of the selected production chains to:
    - Improve the policy, economic, institutional, and legal framework for regulating, procuring, and managing the use of pesticides that are consistent with an IPM approach and are sustainable; and

- Propose mechanisms for financing, implementing, monitoring, and supervising components relating to pest management or pesticide use, including any role envisaged for the private sector including local nongovernmental organizations.

Finalizing of the proposed training plan to develop the capacity of all who are involved in initiating IPM related research and agricultural extension activities within production chain approach to provide alternatives to undesirable pesticide use. Training activities should also include the various aspects related to the safe use of pesticides such as the use of protective gear and safe disposal of containers used, timing of application.

Agree on a time-bound program to phase out the use of an undesirable and broad spectrum pesticide and properly dispose of any existing stocks, if applicable.

161Depending on the nature and complexity of the pest management and pesticide-related issues confirmed before project implementation, and in relation to the Pest Management and the Environmental Action Plans, the supervision missions might include appropriate technical specialists.

11.9.3 Pesticide use

The following criteria apply to the selection and use of pesticides in activities under the ER-P

They should have negligible adverse human health effects. 1) They should have shown through field studies that they are effective against the target species, 2) They should not be broad-spectrum pesticides and should have minimal effect on non-target species and the natural environment. 3) The methods, timing, and frequency of pesticide application must be aimed to minimize damage to natural enemies; and 4) Their use should take into account the need to prevent the development of resistance in pests.

11.9.4 Proposed steps for implementation of IPM approach

The Pest Management Plan (PMP) aims to provide basic knowledge to the national, provincial and district government, the REDD+ team, consultants, MAF staff, village officials, private and public sector agencies with adequate guidance for effectively addressing the safeguard issues in line with World Bank's OP 4.09. The process will be implemented as part of the REDD+ program and fully integrated into the subproject selection, approval, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation process. The REDD+ program does not include procurement of pesticides, but the ESMF identifies key issues related to the existing use of pesticide and chemical fertilizers and identified mitigation measures required in relation to prohibited items, training, and guidelines on safe use and disposal of pesticides. The PMP will be applicable for all REDD+ activities related mostly to Component 2 Promoting integrated landscape management which includes agriculture and sustainable livelihoods development.

Agriculture is the default livelihood of the rural population and the most direct pressure on forests. As such, the ER Program will offer direct measures for value chain integration, and agro-technological solutions for improved yields. Engaging the private sector for climate-smart and responsible investments is critical for ensuring sustainable decisions on land use. Activities under this component aim to support a private-public dialogue on REDD+ and climate-smart agriculture, and to directly invest in scalable models that sustainably engage with local communities including ethnic groups, and supporting alternative livelihood options. Chemical based fertilizers and pesticides are currently being used in the project areas, particularly in instances where monoculture is practiced.

All responsible agencies at central, provincial, and local levels will be responsible for implementation of the PMP and ensuring full compliance, including keeping proper documentation in the project file for possible review by the World Bank.

This PMP document is considered a living document and could be modified and changed as appropriate. Close consultation with the World Bank and clearance of the revised PMP will be necessary.

Table 11.7 Major steps in the development of the pest management Plan

Major Steps	Actions
Assess IPM needs and establish priorities	Consider the relative importance of target crops and their need for pesticide application
	Review pesticide use history, trends, availability and needs for development of IPM technology
	Identify training needs for farmers and extension agents
	Respect and use local knowledge.
Identify key pests for each target crop	Become familiar with key pests of target crops and the damage they cause;
	Correctly identify the common pests
Monitor the fields regularly	Inspect crops regularly to determine the level of pests and natural enemies
	Seek assistance of agricultural extension staff if necessary
	Determine when crop protection measures, including pesticides are necessary
Select develop appropriate IPM kits	Maximize the effectiveness of traditional and introduced non-chemical control techniques;
	Use targeted (not broad spectrum) pesticides when no other practical, effective and economic non-chemical control methods are available;
	Examples of Non-chemical Pest Management Techniques include: Maintaining good soil fertility and a diverse agro-ecosystem; 162 Plant resistant crop varieties; Selecting pest resistant plant varieties for location and season; 162 Rotating crops; Planting clean seed; Select correct planting and harvest periods to minimize pest population increase; 162 Proper irrigation methods; Correct fertilizer, rates, and timing; Good crop sanitation; Hand picking of larger pests; encourage biological control
Develop education, training, and demonstration programs for extension workers	Conduct hands-on training of farmers in farmers' field format as opposed to a classroom;
	Use the participatory "Farmers' Field School" approach
	Conduct special training for extension workers, government officials, retailers, and the public.

11.9.5 Training of officials and farmers

The REDD+ team will continue providing basic knowledge on alternative options for agriculture development and /or livelihood activities, including safe use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals. The capacity of the MAF and MOF staff is currently expected to be limited due to budget constraints. However, some good technical guidelines are available for individual crops and for general farm management (see above references) Budget would be allocated for project staff

training to understand 1) overall policy on Pest Management (government and Bank policy); 2) basic knowledge on possibly negative impact on environmental and health from the use of pesticide and chemical fertilizer; and 3) basic knowledge on how to prevent these negative impacts including what are the prohibited items in the country for pesticide and chemical fertilizer, how to prevent or mitigate the negative impact from the use etc. (staff training could be done jointly with other topics). This training would be provided for subprojects that involve the use of fertilizer, pesticides, and/or toxic chemicals.

Under the ER-P farmers would be trained on IPM principles in conjunction with discussions on land use planning and the introduction of proposed changes to the crops to be grown or supported by the ER-P. Crop protection and agricultural extension staff capacity should be improved through structured and applied training programs to be conducted by MOA and MOF staff, however, it is also expected that the training would be also delivered through productive partnerships with NGOs and the USP.

Prior consultation would be provided to project communities. Pest management will be included as one topic for village consultation meeting at the community. Both for agriculture infrastructure and livelihood support, training on pest management should be provided in the following areas:

Pest management training: The objective is to provide basic knowledge to the target farmer on prohibited pesticides, the negative impacts of the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers both on environmental and human health, and how to mitigate their negative impacts if there is a need for using them. It is also to inform farmers that, Government of Fiji is not intended to support the use of any pesticides and chemical fertilizers in any agricultural productivity but promote conservation agriculture instead.

However, the country has experienced severe pest invasions, and could lead to the usage of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in some cases to limit losses and damages to the agriculture products. The procurement of pesticide and chemical fertilizer will not be funded under REDD+ budget except for the special circumstances of the insect invasion occurred and the proper training has been provided to farmers.

- Training on Government of Fiji regulations: The country is experienced in the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The REDD+ will train target farmers on use of pesticides before any subprojects are implemented, subject to compliance with the Bank's safeguard policy OP 4.09 on Pest Management.

- Technical training: This training would aim at providing the target farmers to understand clearly the technical aspects of pesticides and skills in using them such as what are the eligible and prohibited items of pesticides in Fiji the level of negative impacts of each eligible item, how to use them, how to protect and minimize the negative impacts while using them, how to keep them before and after used etc. Thus, the trainers would be someone from MOF or MOA who is knowledgeable on this. REDD+ will finance the training cost and per diem and transportation cost for the trainers.

- Procurement, storage, and usage of pesticide: the REDD+ will not involve procurement of pesticides. That said, any pesticides currently used in the project areas would require proper storage and usage monitoring throughout the course of the REDD+, and this responsibility will lie fully with the DOA.

- Continued monitoring of pesticide use: As part of the regular monitoring of project activity, the World Bank and REDD+ teams will continue to monitor changes in pesticides, insecticides and chemical fertilizers use in all project related activities. Programs and trainings will be specifically amended to address any such changes.

The REDD+ has been designed also to promote good agricultural practices and conservation of natural resources when possible. It is anticipated that linking the REDD+ agriculture activities with conservation agriculture techniques will be important for improving quality of life among farmers. Subprojects for REDD+ are still being determined, but for instances where subprojects are located in remote areas, the sustainable use of natural resources would be critical for farmers' livelihoods development and poverty reduction. If protected areas or critical natural habitats are located nearby, it is necessary to also take measures to minimize potential negative impacts and/or enhance positive impacts through community-driven processes. In this context, a "conservation agriculture technique" should be introduced for target communities, if and when applicable. During the planning process, actions will be carried out jointly between the REDD+ and MOA to plan and train farmers.

11.9.6 Public Awareness Raising

To inform the retailers and the public of the importance of IPM and to aware them of the benefits of using the IPM approach to food production in reduction of potential concentration of pesticides in the food and vegetable produce, it is proposed to develop an information campaign through public media such as newspapers, radio and television. Such awareness program should concentrate its efforts on informing the public that use of IPM approach reduces the need for application of pesticides, minimizing potential concentration of pesticides on fruits, root crops and vegetables and limit the possible presence of damage or blemishes which not only indicate poor quality, but that such damage might also be an indication that the produce has not been sprayed during its last stages of development, reducing the possibility of having pesticide residue in the produce.

11.9.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

MOF should train one of the senior staff as a Environmental and Social Management Specialist (ESMS) to coordinate the ESMF and EMP related activities and be engaged. It would be the responsibility of this person and international TA to train the relevant agricultural extension officers involved in PMP and other environment related activities of the ER-P and any other staff involved in monitoring activities and to routinely visit all the ER-P in the three target islands, and to report to the REDD+ Steering Committee on a semi- annual basis. xx

REDD+ staff at local level will work with MOA staff for the monitoring of the use of pesticide in target community including: a) ensure that any pesticides procured by the MOA is not in the non-eligibility list below; b) ensure procured pesticides are properly kept and transported to the target area; c) ensure training delivery to the user before distribution; and d) monitor compliance usage of pesticide according to the MOA regulations The World Bank and REDD+ team at central will carry out a joint Implementation Support Mission in every six months period to review the compliance. The World Bank will use its Pest Management Guidebook as a standard to monitor compliance of the use of pesticide procured under the project.

11.9.8 Policy and Regulations

Fiji is currently preparing a national plan that would see the reduction in use of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) through the Department of Environment The POPs project is assisting the Department of Environment in preparing the National Solid Waste Management Strategy as well as the National Chemical Management Plan, and the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention which basically deals with some of the chemical issues that are present in the country.

The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. The development of Fiji's implementation plan is being funded by

the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through an enabling activity project to assist countries in meeting their obligations under the Convention.

The convention currently covers 12 chemicals which include: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, toxaphene, hexachlorobenzene, (HCB), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans. The first nine of these chemicals are pesticides and HCB is also classified as an industrial chemical as are PCBs, while the dioxins and furans are formed as unintentional by-products in combustion processes and some industrial activities. HCB and PCBs can also be formed in this way. The Stockholm Convention requires Parties to develop and attempt implementation of a plan and to develop strategies, measures and action plans to address : international production and use of POPs,

11.9.9 Government regulation related to pest management

In Fiji the *Pesticides Act* (Cap157), which came into effect on 1st April, 1972 is rather outdated, regulates the registration and sale of pesticides. Unless a pesticide is registered pursuant to the Act it may not be used, offered for sale or sold in Fiji.[7] Contravention of the Act is an statutory offence with penalties comprising cancellation of registration, a lump sum fine and, for a continuing offence, a further daily fine.[8] The Act does not, however, prescribe who should apply for registration. Selling or using unregistered pesticides in Fiji is illegal. The Fiji Pesticide Act 1971 Section 4 clearly states that 'No pesticide may be used, offered for sale or sold in Fiji unless such pesticide has been registered with the Registrar of Pesticides'.

According to the Fiji Pesticide Act Section 2, Pesticide means 'any product intended for use or used for controlling a pest, or any adjuvant intended for use or used in connection with any such product'.

Labels must state the trade name of the pesticide, its net weight or volume, recommended use and directions for use and its chemical composition. The label must also show, in English, Fijian and Hindustani,[22] warnings with regard to storage and handling, procedure in case of accidental poisoning, details of the manufacturer and importer and the registered number of the pesticide.[23] The Director of Agriculture has a discretion to waive any of these requirements.[24] The Registrar also has wide discretionary powers to waive the registration procedures and the labeling requirements[26] in the case of pesticides used solely for experimental purposes.[25]

The Act purports to give the Minister of Agriculture, wide powers to prescribe the forms to be used for the purposes of carrying out the Act [29] as well as prohibiting or controlling the use of any pesticide [30] or *'prescribing any other matter which may be desirable or expedient for the better regulation and control of the sale of pesticides'*.[31] The Director also has a discretion to waive the requirements of the regulations. It would be desirable, however, to make such decisions the collective responsibility of a statutory pesticides committee which could take into account the concerns of a larger section of the community.

11.9.10 List of banned pesticides herbicides etc. in Fiji

Only registered chemicals can be used in Fiji meaning that most pesticides or herbicides that are banned in other countries are not registered for use in Fiji so cannot be imported.

Banned insecticide and herbicide chemicals in the process of being banned include;

- Lannate insecticide (active ingredient Methomyl – highly toxic to humans and wildlife);

- Nicotinoids- group of chemicals used as insecticides that are now being phased–out just over the past three months. Residues of these compounds have been found in locally produced honey; and
- Parquat - a herbicide has been phased out.

11.10 Codes of practice for logging/ plantation development

See the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP).

11.11 Chance find procedures

World Bank's OP/BP 4.11 Policy addresses physical cultural resources, which are defined as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic or other cultural significance. Physical cultural resources may be located in urban or rural settings, and may be above or below ground, or under water. Their cultural interest may be at the local, provincial, or national level, or within the international community.[32] The following "chance find" procedures are to be included in all civil works contract:

If the Contractor discovers archeological sites, historical sites, remains and objects, including graveyards and/or individual graves during excavation or construction, the Contractor shall:

- Stop the construction activities in the area of the chance find;
- Delineate the discovered site or area;
- Secure the site to prevent any damage or loss of removable objects. In cases of removable antiquities or sensitive remains, a night guard shall be arranged until the responsible local authorities take over;
- Notify the supervisory REDD+ Unit Environmental Officer responsible for environmental issues who in turn will notify the responsible local authorities of Province immediately (within 24 hours or less);
- Responsible local authorities of the Province would be in charge of protecting and preserving the site before deciding on subsequent appropriate procedures. This would require a preliminary evaluation of the findings to be performed by the archeologists of the Fiji Museum under the Ministry of Education Heritage and Arts. The significance and importance of the findings should be assessed according to the various criteria relevant to cultural heritage and follow advice from the Fiji Museum; those include the aesthetic, historic, scientific or research, social and economic values;
- Decisions on how to handle the finding shall be taken by the Fiji Museum who will provide advice to the responsible authorities of Province. This could include changes in the layout (such as when finding an irremovable remain of cultural or archeological importance) conservation, preservation, restoration and salvage; and
- Implementation for the authority decision concerning the management of the finding shall be communicated in writing by relevant local authorities.

[32] Operational Manual, OP 4.11 – Physical Cultural Resources, Revised April 2013.

11.12 Program safeguards reporting

As part of the overall Project reporting to REDD+ Unit and the WB, the central REDD+ Safeguards section will prepare semi-annual environmental progress reports[33] that summarize the status of the subproject environmental assessment processes, subproject environmental monitoring, and any compliance issues and corrective actions. A sample outline which can be adapted as necessary is provided below. Ranking systems for compliance, mitigation effectiveness, etc., are indicative examples only and can be modified or disregarded as appropriate.

1. Introduction and Report Purpose

2. Subproject Environmental Assessment

Status of subproject screening, categorization and environmental assessment. Identification of key issues encountered in the environmental assessment process (if any) and the means by which issues have been, or will be, addressed. (Include updated tracking matrix,)

3. Environmental Monitoring

3.1. Summary of Compliance Monitoring Inspections Activities

3.2. Assessment of Mitigation Compliance[34]

3.3. Assessment of Mitigation Effectiveness[35]

[33] Based on: https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/152872/40253-036-earf-01.pdf

[34] Overall compliance with mitigation implementation requirements could be described in qualitative terms or be evaluated based on a ranking system, such as the following:

1. Very Good (all required mitigations implemented)
2. Good (the majority of required mitigations implemented)
3. Fair (some mitigations implemented)
4. Poor (few mitigations implemented)
5. Very Poor (very few or no mitigations implemented)

Additional explanatory comments should be provided as necessary.

[35] Effectiveness of mitigation implementation could be described in qualitative terms or be evaluated based on a ranking system, such as the following:

1. Very Good (mitigations are fully effective)
2. Good (mitigations are generally effective)
3. Fair (mitigations are partially effective)
4. Poor (mitigations are generally ineffective)
5. Very Poor (mitigations are completely ineffective)

Additional explanatory comments should be provided as necessary.