

Reducing emissions and enhancing livelihoods in Fiji

Fiji's proposed emissions reduction programme



Background

Fiji has prioritised the improvement of its communities' livelihoods as a major objective for national development. Given that rural Fijian communities are highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, the management of these resources is crucial. This management should promote proper land use planning, sustainable management of natural resources and increased economic opportunities from diversified sourcing and production of agriculture and forest products.

Fiji's National REDD+¹ programme was established in 2009. The planning and implementation of the programme is overseen by the National REDD+ Steering committee (RSC), which is made up of agencies and organisations from various sectors.

Fiji's approach

Fiji has been approved into the FCPF (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility) forest carbon funding pipeline. To participate in this funding Fiji will be proposing an Emission Reductions Programme (ERP) that serves to implement the

Land tenure arrangements in Fiji

Approximately 87.9% of Fiji is communally owned by indigenous Fijian (iTaukei) landowning units. The remainder is privately owned freehold land (7.94%) and state land (3.91%). iTaukei land cannot be alienated and land use rights are transferable only through leasing arrangements. All iTaukei land owning members are required to be registered and most iTaukei land boundaries are surveyed.

National REDD+ Policy and support the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Plan and the Green Growth Framework. Three major REDD+ activities will be rolled out in Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, and Taveuni which encompasses 91% of the country's forest area.

¹ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stock enhancement

1. Reforestation / Afforestation

The National REDD+ Programme will work with local communities to convert degraded grasslands and idle degraded land into productive forests. This will help expand forest carbon sinks and at the same time stabilize and restore the forest ecosystem and its important services, such as the provision of clean water and wild foods, stabilise micro-climate, protection of soils, and protection or enhancement of biological biodiversity. The replanting plan will ensure that traditional and social needs of the local communities will be considered whereby medical plants and trees of traditional significance will be promoted. Agroforestry systems will also be included to strengthen food security. Strategies to address the main risk of burning will be defined.

2. Forest conservation

The emissions reduction programme will support the implementation of the Protected Area Network (PAN), which will cover almost 300,000 ha of forests. The PAN is identified according to its biological diversity status and fragility of the ecosystem.

3. Sustainable harvesting

Commercial logging in Fiji largely follows conventional practices. In 2012, the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP) was revised and incorporated results from the Nakavu Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) research site. Regulations will be developed to help support the implementation of the FFHCOP and the Forestry Department will carry out capacity building to the private sector and local communities' on the implications of the FFHCOP and its associated regulations. SFM practices are estimated to potentially reduce emissions from logging by 65 %².



The Fiji emissions reduction programme places high emphasis on the generation of co-benefits. Co-benefits include strengthened food security, an improved ecosystem, strengthened informed decision-making capacities, diversified income sources and the conservation of social and cultural values.

All activities of the program will be implemented within a land use plan which will be developed with local communities and involved stakeholders. The planning process will follow the national land use planning guidelines (currently drafted) which requires an integrated and participatory planning process with gender issues considered and climate change adaptation and mitigation actions promoted.

Synergies with other community development projects and initiatives will be created to provide holistic support to local communities. For instance, the national REDD+ programme will collaborate with other sectors and projects to support REDD+ communities with alternative livelihood ventures within the framework of implementing REDD+ activities. This ensures that the REDD+ activity (e.g. reforestation, forest conservation) is not compromised (by competing land use needs of the local community mainly driven by the need for cash) and helps address the issue of reversals.

Trained local communities and civil society groups will also actively participate in the monitoring of REDD+ activities on the ground.

Emissions reduction target

Fiji is aiming to reduce and remove around 3.6 million tCO₂ emissions with these activities between 2019 and 2024. In the medium term, highly conservative estimates show an emission reduction potential of more than 9.5 million tCO₂ (2015 – 2030).

Implementation strategy

REDD+ provides sustainable options to land use that would otherwise lead to forest degradation and deforestation.

² "Carbon Emissions from degradation caused by selective logging in natural forests in Fiji": M. Haas, 2015

The Fiji National REDD+ Programme was established in 2009. The focal agency is the Forestry Department (which includes a REDD+ Unit) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests. The implementation of the programme is guided by the National REDD+ Steering Committee, composed of members from various sectors and agencies. The REDD+ secretariat supports the National REDD+ Steering Committee in carrying out their roles.

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