Fiji REDD+ Annual Progress Report (Period: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related <u>activities</u> delivered within your country during the last year?
   - For example, strategy/policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building/training, awareness raising initiatives
   - Please be as specific as possible, e.g. name, date and number of participants in consultation events (sex disaggregated, if available), name of policy being drafted, institutions involved in policy drafting

REDD+ Unit is holding National Steering Committee meeting in the regular intervals (every three months), also some special RSC meetings, which were conducted for special reasons such as for the World Bank mission to Fiji, discussion on ERPD. REDD+ stakeholders were capacited through various means such as workshops, consultation meetings, and training. The table below shows the main capacity building events that were held in 2018-2019.

During the year 2018-2019 various kinds of REDD+ related activities were conducted which contribute to REDD+ readiness and ERPD development. REDD+ Unit, Ministry of Forestry completed a study on Carbon Rights and Benefit Sharing Mechanism in Fiji. The study on carbon rights evaluated the current status of carbon right in the country and suggested options to who owns the carbon. Likewise, the study on the benefit-sharing mechanism assessed the existing systems of benefit sharing and identified a possible mechanism for REDD+ benefit sharing.

The Hamburg University was assigned to develop Fiji's National Forest Monitoring System, design forest reference level of Fiji, and establish a database system has submitted the reports on National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Level, Nesting Guideline, and Capacity Development Plan. Ministry of Forestry has endorsed the reports. In addition to the reports, a database system has been established at Forest Resource Assessment and Conservation Division (FRAC), and Standard Operating Procedure for establishing and updating the database are also produced.

The most significant achievement for Fiji during 2018-2019 is the submission of the Emission Reduction Program (ERP) Document to the Carbon Fund. Besides, Fiji submitted its R-package to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in March 2019, and the R-package is endorsed.

Name	Date	No. of participants	Institutions
Stakeholder consultation events			
National REDD+ Steering Committee (NSRC)	23 July, 2018 12 August, 2018 10April, 2019	20 21 20	NSRC members
REDD+ Awareness	Oct 2018	30	TLTB, TAB (Conservation officers and Roko Tuis), YMST, Fiji Pine, MOF, Mamanuca Environment Society
GHG inventories workshop organised by CFRN and supported by MOF – REDD+ Unit	Oct 2018	20	MOF, SPC, MOA, MOE - Climate Change Division, SPC/GIZ
REDD+ progress update to Sigatoka HODs	Sep 2018	10	Roko Tui Nadroga/Navosa, Ministry of Agriculture, TLTB, PA Nadroga/Navosa
Inception meeting for Divisional Working group – West	16 July 2018	13	Ministry of Agriculture, REDD+ pilot site resource owner reps, Ministry of waterways and Environment, USP, Ba Provincial Office, Grace Trifam (Faith-based NGO)
Benefit Sharing Mechanism Workshop	March 2019	20	Representatives from REDD+ Steering Committee, Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Platform
Divisional Level REDD+ Working Group Meeting (west)	June 18, 2019	14	Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural and Maritime, Fiji Pine, TLTB, Ministry of Environment
Divisional Level REDD+ Working Group Meeting (North)	June 20, 2019	10	Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural and Maritime, Fiji Pine, TLTB
Capacity building/training & awareness			
Emalu interim assessment and evaluation workshop	Feb 2019	30	Representatives from Nakoro, Navitilevu and Draubuta village, Roko Tui Nadroga/Navosa, SSV rep, SPC/GIZ
Consultation with Ridge to Reef project on ERP	Feb 2019	4	REDD+ Unit and R2R team – Ministry of Waterways and Environment
Consultation with TLTB	Feb 2019	5	REDD+ Unit, TLTB.
Consultation with Ministry of Economy on ERP	Jan 2019	7	REDD+ Unit, Budget Team, Procurement Team.
Consultation with ITaukei Affairs on ERP	Jan 2019	4	REDD+ Unit, Min. of iTaukei Affairs.
ERP Consultation Workshop	Feb 2019	30	MOF, TLTB, MTA, LLEE, Solicitor General's Office, Lands & Mineral Resources, Min. of Agriculture, Min. of Women, CSO Platform.

REDD+ Training of Trainers, Western Division	Dec 2018	20	Min. of Forestry, Min. of Agriculture, Mamanuca Environment Society, Yaubula Support Management Team Mamanuca.
REDD+ Training of Trainers, Northern Division	Nov 2018	25	Min. of Forestry, Min. of Agriculture, Min. of Rural & Maritime, iTaukei Affairs Board, TLTB, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, Soqosoqo Vakamarama, C3 (NGO).
REDD+ Training of Trainers, Central Division	Oct 2018	25	MoA, CSO platform – SSVM, Emalu landowner rep, Grace Trifam, MoF
Training on Geographical Information System at the divisional level (5days)	June 25 2019	25	Ministry of Forestry divisional level staff, Private Plantation Companies, and NGOs.

2. **What were the main REDD+ readiness-related <u>achievements</u> in your country during the last year?**
   - For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalised, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed

During the last year different kinds of capacity building activities such as training of trainers (ToT) were conducted. Three TOTs were conducted in three divisions; the main objective of the training was to prepare human resources to deliver REDD+ related trainings and awareness program.

Fiji estimated multi-temporal forest activity data using a semi-automated method to design forest reference level. The multi-temporal forest activity were generated in collaboration with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Perth, Australia. The multi-temporal forest change includes annual change from the year 2005 to 2017. The multi-temporal approach that Fiji using is developed by CSIRO's Remote Sensing Image Integration Group. For a capacity building, Fiji sent four staff from the Ministry of Forestry to CSIRO, Perth for five weeks training on forest change classification. Those four officers will be involved in forest monitoring in the future.

Besides, two studies; carbon right in Fiji and REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism were completed. The main objective of the benefit-sharing mechanism study was to develop different options for a benefit-sharing mechanism and to suggest a benefit-sharing mechanism appropriate for the country. A benefit sharing mechanism under REDD+ clarifies how funds received Carbon-funded Benefits linked to emissions reductions performance are used to provide benefits to stakeholders (such as different levels of governments, the private sector, and communities) and the way such benefits are distributed at each stakeholder level. Likewise, the main objective of the carbon right study was to define carbon right in Fiji and to identify who owns the carbon. The carbon right study identified that to engage in a REDD+ project activity on landowner's land; landowning units lease their land through a legal entity of choice, which in turn becomes a licensed entity for the purpose of carbon trading by way of application to the Conservator of Forests.

A forest database system has been established, and different standard operating procedures are developed for uploading new data and manage the existing data. The existing forest database is access

to the authorized members. However, ministry of forestry is working to change it into a web-based database system.

Fiji has completed Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and Environmental and Social Monitoring Framework for REDD+ activities of Fiji. Altogether six deliverables were expected under this study. Fiji is now working to develop its REDD+ Strategy. To this end, consultant hiring process is underway.

Fiji is planning to conduct a National Forest Inventory (NFI). The last NFI was conducted in 2006, and the main objective of the last NFI was to assess the timber in the country. Contrary to the previous, the new NFI will focus on the assessment of timber as well as different forest carbon pools.

Current Forest Reference Level only covers three major islands of the country and covers 90% of its land mass and 94% of the forest area. Now Fiji is developing national forest reference level and expected to be completed by the end of 2019. The National Forest Reference Level will be submitted to the UNFCCC for its technical assessment. Afterward all the project level REDD+ programs will be nested into national program. At the moment two project level REDD+ program are operating in the country and the program are transcating carbon in the voluntary market.

The forest reference level uses forest harvesting data as a proxy measure of forest degradation, and not entire sources of forest degradation are not captured in the FRL. Hence the country is investigating for a remote sensing approach for estimating forest degradation.

As an effort to build the capacity of the academic institutions, the Ministry of Forestry is conducting a nine weeks training on international forest policy and REDD+ at Fiji National University from October 2019. The selection process of a team of consultants for conducting the training is at the final stage.

3. **What were the main REDD+ readiness-related** challenges and/or problems **during the last year?**
   - For example, lack of engagement from key stakeholders, political barriers, limited funding

Fiji has a tropical climate with a hot, humid and rainy season, resulting in the significant cloud all year around. Because of the cloud cover, it is hard to find any image without any cloud. Presence of cloud in Landsat images is a challenge for Fiji in estimating forest cover change. Presence of cloud in most of the Landsat images resulting in missing data for cloudy areas.

Capacity regarding using Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System for measurement and monitoring of forest resources is limited with the Ministry of Forests; hence, capacity development program for the staff is essential. Various kinds of capacity building programs such as GIS/RS training are being conducted at the divisional level.

The administrative process to procure consultancy services is taking considerably long time, which is a challenge to implement REDD+ for an extended period. Hence, the ministry should strive to shorten the process.

Another challenge is the inconsistency of historical data such as native forest logging, plantation harvesting, and plantation area. The data provided by agencies responsible for the management of native forest, plantation forest does not match with the data available in the ministry of forests. Hence an updating of data is essential through online submission (database system).

REDD+ is a new approach for Fiji with many technical requirements arising from the implementation of REDD+, and it takes time to complete all the readiness milestones.

4. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related <u>activities</u> that you hope to deliver during the <u>next year</u>?
   - For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalization of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

Next year, a complete set of reports related to drivers of deforestation will be produced, particularly a report of modeling of deforestation, forest degradation, and carbon enhancement will be produced.

Likewise, Fiji will construct a national forest reference level. The major future activities planned are the National Forest Inventory and Development of Allometric equation for ten major species of Fiji. Fiji intends to carry out various studies next year. A list of activities that will be delivered next year is given in the table below.

Descriptions	Name of the consultant	Expected date of completion	Remarks
Drivers of deforestation / forest degradation, REDD+ strategy options,	Winrock International, Conservation international, Indufur	Sept 2019	Modelling of Deforestation and Forest Degradation will be delivered.
Develop a safeguard information system and national interpretation of the Cancun Safeguards	Not available	Jan 2020	TOR and Cost estimate are developed so will be advertised soon
Develop a methodology to estimate forest degradation using RS/GIS approaches	Not available	December 2020	TOR and Cost estimate are developed
Develop a Report of National Forest Inventory (2006) and Permanent Sample Plot Measurement	Not available		TOR and Cost estimate are developed
National Forest Inventory design and execution	Not available		TOR and Cost estimate are developed
International Forestry Course at FNU	Not available	December 2019	Selection process of a consultant is at the final stage
REDD+ Strategy	Not available	December 2019	EOIs are under evaluation
Construct biomass equations, estimate density for important species of the country, and emission and removal factors for different land use land cover (grass land, and crop land)	Not available	June 2020	TOR, Cost estimate are developed
Upgrade database system and establish carbon registry, and safeguard information system	Not available	December 2019	TOR, Cost estimate are developed

REDD+ awareness program through CSOs (various events at community level)	Conservation International, Fiji	November 2019	Contract Agreement is under vetting process
Construction of National Forest Reference Level	Not available	December 2020	Developing TOR and Cost estimate

SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

5. Please provide your own assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components:
   (**Indicator OV.1.B**: Number of FCPF supported countries that have in place a National REDD+ Strategy, FREL/FRL, NFMS and SIS; **Output 1.3 indicators**)

Progress rating key:

Complete	The sub-component has been completed
	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress
N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation			
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Complete		Apart from the already established permanent institutions, the Fiji government has established various institutional mechanism consisting of a REDD+ Steering Committee, Technical Working Groups, and working groups at the divisional level. They are in place and functioning well.
		X	
	N/A		
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Complete		Various kinds of institutional mechanism have been established to ensure the participation of key stakeholders in the REDD+ readiness process. Fiji's first meeting on REDD+ in 2009 decided to form a national multi-stakeholder governance structure leading to the formation of a REDD+ Steering Committee (SC). Currently, there are several awareness programs being conducted through the radio program, talkback program, consultation workshops, and meetings.
		X	
	N/A		
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation			
Sub-component 2a:	Complete		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	yellow	X	Fiji has completed some studies on identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Also other related to land use and land use change studies are completed, such as carbon right, benefit sharing mechanism. Likewise, a study on Feedback & grievances redress mechanism has completed. Fiji is developing its REDD+ Strategy.
	orange		
	red		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	Complete		A study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified the strategic options required to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. However, the country will prepare a detailed REDD Strategy, and process to develop the strategy. Development of a REDD+ Strategy is underway.
	green	X	
	yellow		
	orange		
	red		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	Complete		Some institutional, economic, and legal arrangement required to implement REDD+ strategy options is already in the country; however, to implement REDD+ improvement in the existing framework is essential. For example, a study on National Forest Monitoring System has recommended institutional arrangement required to establish the robust measurement, monitoring, and reporting system for Fiji. Likewise, FGRM study has recommended institutional arrangement, a study on carbon right has recommended legal arrangement. SESA and ESMF reports have suggested an institutional arrangement for the monitoring of safeguards.
	green		
	yellow	X	
	orange		
	red		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	Complete		In order to integrate social and environmental concerns into REDD+ strategy development, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) was carried out for the country. SESA and ESMF report has been developed.
	green	X	
	yellow		
	orange		
	red		
	N/A		
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels			
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	Complete		Fiji has developed a Methodology for Developing the FRL and FRL. Forest database system established. Capacity activities such as training on R-software, forest inventory were conducted. Now Fiji is working to construct National Forest Reference Level and planning to submit to the UNFCCC for technical assessment.
	green	X	
	yellow		
	orange		
	red		
	N/A		
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards			
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Complete		
	green	X	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	(yellow)		The Hamburg University, Germany, is helping to develop a National Monitoring System in Fiji. A document on National Forest Monitoring System is developed. Likewise capacity development plan for building Monitoring capacity is developed.
	(orange)		
	(red)		
	N/A		
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Complete		Other than identifying seven potential non-carbon benefits during the R-PP preparation period. SESA study has also identify the non-carbon benefits and their monitoring system in the context of Fiji. Fiji is now working to develop a Safeguard Information System and monitoring system for non-carbon benefits.
	(green)		
	(yellow)	X	
	(orange)		
	(red)		
	N/A		

SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

6. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to <u>sustain and enhance livelihoods</u> (e.g. one of your program objective/s is <u>explicitly targeted at livelihoods</u>; your approach to non-carbon benefits <u>explicitly incorporates livelihoods</u>)?

    (**Indicator 3.2.b:** Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods)

Yes		(delete as appropriate)

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:
Fiji has not developed a REDD+ Strategy as such yet, but the country will develop a strategy soon. Emission Reduction Program Document intends to reduce emissions and enhance livelihoods. The ERPD document explicitly planned the livelihood activities for the next five years starting from 2020-2024. Non-carbon benefits incorporate livelihood activities such as agro-forestry, bee farming, and vanilla farming.

7. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to <u>conserve biodiversity</u> (e.g. one of your program objective/s is <u>explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation</u>; your approach to non-carbon benefits <u>explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation</u>)?

    (**Indicator 3.3.b:** Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity)

Yes		(delete as appropriate)

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach
Many policy documents such as REDD+ Policy and Strategic Development Plan aim to conserve biodiversity in the country. The ER program specifically targets protected areas identified as having high biological diversity. The Fiji Protected Areas Committee has mapped out a network of protected areas, but these are currently not legally protected. The REDD+ readiness process will support the legal protection of these sites, and the ER program will monitor this protection status.

SECTION D: FINANCE

8. Please detail the amount of <u>all</u> finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process <u>since the date that your R-PP was signed</u>. Figures should only include <u>secured finance</u> (i.e., fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included:
   (**Indicator 1.B:** Amount of finance received to support the REDD+ Readiness process (disaggregated by public, private, grants, loans))

Amount (US$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
$ 5,800,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	04/2015 and 23/05/2018 (additional funding)	Public	Grant
$ 1,027, 000	Government of Fiji	04/2015	Public	Other
$ 988, 000	GIZ	04/2015	Public	Grant

9. Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you hope to secure in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

Amount (US$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

10. To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:
    (**Indicator 4.B:** Participant Countries' assessment of FCPF's role within and contribution to national REDD+ processes)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree

					X
The FCPF's support has had a **central influence** on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has **improved the quality** of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has **improved national capacities** to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X
The FCPF's support has **helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders** (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:
The FCPF support is instrumental in improving national capacities to measurement, monitoring and reporting of forest in Fiji. Besides, REDD+ approach expected to bring breakthrough in sustainable management of forest and biodiversity conservation.

11. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (<u>publications, seminars, learning events, web resources</u>), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:
    (**Indicator 4.3.a**: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="5" align="center">Mark 'X' as appropriate</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Completely disagree</td><td>Disagree</td><td>Neutral</td><td>Agree</td><td>Completely agree</td></tr>
<tr><td>We regularly access FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td>FCPF knowledge products are relevant to our REDD+ related information requirements</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>FCPF knowledge products are sufficient to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>The FCPF website is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td></tr>
</table>

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:
Fiji conducts capacity building activities for the REDD+ Stakeholders, and the resource materials produced by FCPF are very useful and are frequently used by Fiji.

SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

12. If appropriate, please provide any further comments or clarifications relating to your work on REDD+ Readiness during the last year:

REDD+ is a new approach for Fiji, and institutional arrangement and existing capacity were not adequate considering REDD+ requirement. However, under REDD+ readiness a significant progress has been realized specifically in forest measurement and monitoring. Fiji is implementing activities to enhance its institutional and technical capacity hence during the next year significant progress in REDD+ readiness can be achieved.