

Background for Development of REDD+ in Fiji

REDD+ now forms a key component of the activities of a number of organizations in Fiji with a significant financial contribution from the Fiji Government starting in 2012 with significant future commitments.

REDD+ was identified as a potential climate activity for Fiji in 2008, a scoping workshop was further carried out by a number of international consultants in late 2009 to identify the actual feasibility, scope and components of a possible REDD+ project for Fiji. The workshop include wide consultations with various key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Forests, Department of Environment, the Climate Change Unit, the Fijian Land Administration, Landowner groups, NGOs, and many others. It also involved an assessment of possible sources of emission from the forest sector, potential REDD+ activity types, current data and data collection, storage and processing capacity and capabilities to identify data and capacity gaps and needs. The report from this scoping mission forms the basis and foundation for all other REDD+ work that is carried out in Fiji the very first of which was the development of the Fiji REDD+ Policy in 2010.

The Fiji Government endorsed the Fiji REDD+ Policy in December 2010. The Fiji REDD+ Policy was then launched by the Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forests with the presence of a number of media organization with key stakeholders in early 2011 and in 2012 the Fiji Government started its financial commitment towards the project with the translation of the Fiji REDD+ Policy into the Fijian vernacular language, and the Finalisation of the Fiji REDD+ Strategy. With the establishment of the Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee, reporting to the Fiji Forestry Board and the National Climate Change County Team, REDD+ now forms a key component of Fiji's climate change mitigation effort.

Carbon measurement and monitoring permanent plots had been established through out the main islands of the country covering the bulk of Fiji's land mass, with the first assessment of Fiji's national forest carbon stock already undertaken including Fiji's forest cover change assessment. REDD+ Pilot sites had been established and field work are now ongoing. An international consultant has completed the first assessment of all the REDD+ activities including the first attempt of producing Fiji's REL and RL.