



## FIJI NATIONAL REDD+ PROGRAMME

# CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION PLAN

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<b>ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS</b>	
Community Based Organisations	<b>CBO</b>
Civil Society Organisations	<b>CSO</b>
Consultation & Participation Plan	<b>C&amp;P Plan</b>
Divisional Working Group	<b>DWG</b>
Environment and Social Management Framework	<b>ESMF</b>
Faith Based Organisations	<b>FBO</b>
Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation	<b>FCEF</b>
Fiji Crop and Livestock Council	<b>FCLC</b>
Fiji Electricity Authority	<b>FEA</b>
Free Prior Informed Consent	<b>FPIC</b>
Fiji Public Service Credit Union	<b>FPSCU</b>
Fiji Roads Authority	<b>FRA</b>
Fiji Teachers Union	<b>FTU</b>
Fijian Teachers Association	<b>FTA</b>
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	<b>FCPF</b>
Measurement, Reporting and Verification	<b>MRV</b>
Non-Government Organisations	<b>NGO</b>
iTaukei Lands Trust Board	<b>TLTB</b>
Reducing Emissions from Forest Degradation and Deforestation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stock enhancement	<b>REDD+</b>
Readiness Preparation Proposal	<b>R-PP</b>
REDD+ Steering Committee	<b>RSC</b>
Soqosoqo Vakamarama	<b>SSVM</b>
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	<b>UNFCCC</b>
Water Authority of Fiji	<b>WAF</b>
World Bank	<b>WB</b>

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The Fiji National REDD+ Programme

REDD+ refers to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (+) the role of forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stock enhancement. Forests store large amounts of carbon and the loss of forests is a major contributor to global climate change. REDD+ is an international mechanism under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) designed to compensate developing countries to reduce emissions through avoided deforestation, forest degradation and the better management of forests.

Fiji recognises REDD+ as an instrument to achieving the sustainable management of forests and improving livelihoods. The development of forests in Fiji also has significance in terms of history, tradition, culture, environment and the economy.<sup>1</sup>

The Fiji National REDD+ Programme began in 2009 and its activities are steered by the National REDD+ Policy, National Climate Change Policy and the Fiji Green Growth Framework. The Ministry of Forests is the lead agency for the implementation of the Fiji National REDD+ Programme and the Ministry of Economy is the national climate change lead agency and the lead finance agency.

The Fiji National REDD+ Programme is guided by the National REDD+ Steering Committee for implementation of REDD+ activities. Since 2012, the Government of Fiji has allocated funds and resources to support the readiness phase of REDD+ in the country. In 2013, Fiji presented its Readiness Preparation Proposal to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and was granted a funding of US \$3.8million in 2015.

For REDD+ work in Fiji to be effective, the country needs to address the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Deforestation drivers include agriculture clearance, infrastructure development and settlement establishment while the main drivers of forest degradation include destructive logging, firewood collection and burning.

Actions undertaken by the Fiji National REDD+ Programme to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation include:

1. a holistic land use planning and natural resource management;
2. addressing forest governance issues;
3. providing a positive incentives to reduce pressure on forests;
4. promoting alternative income sources;
5. promoting sustainable agricultural practices and technologies that reduce forest clearance, take into account gender considerations; and
6. ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), Page 9.

## 1.2 Developing the C&P Plan

The Consultation and Participation (C&P) Plan is a requirement under the FCPF readiness phase that will ensure that consultations with stakeholders are carried out effectively and are well documented with stakeholder input into the REDD+ programme.

The C&P Plan is the framework in guiding the consultation and awareness processes for the analytical studies that the Fiji National REDD+ Programme is undertaking. These include the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) Study, the Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) and development of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) Study, the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) Study, the Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism (FGRM) Study and the Drivers Analysis and REDD+ Strategy Options Study.

Since 2009, Fiji has carried out extensive consultations on REDD+ to stakeholders using the existing national Government systems and that of the iTaukei administrative institutions.<sup>2</sup> Experiences from these consultations resulted in the drafting of a Consultation and Participation Plan in 2011. This draft C&P Plan was reviewed after two-stakeholder consultation workshops during the months of May and June 2016.

The first workshop identified old and newer stakeholders and reviewed existing communication structures and channels for REDD+ consultation and awareness. The second workshop was to set up guidelines on what to expect prior and during consultations and the expected challenges when engaging and consulting REDD+ stakeholders.

## 2. Objectives

The overall objective of the Consultation and Participation Plan is to strengthen understanding on REDD+ and ensure inclusiveness and full participation of stakeholders to make informed decisions. It is anticipated that when the Emissions Reduction Programme (ERP) begins Fijian stakeholders will be well informed on REDD+.

More specifically, the Plan serves:

1. to enhance awareness and understanding on REDD+ issues;
2. to inform relevant stakeholders of REDD+ readiness activities;
3. to ensure relevant stakeholders contribute to the development of REDD+ plans, activities and programmes;
4. to ensure full and active participation of all communities in Fiji taking into account gender, all ethnic communities, people with special needs, the marginalised and those living in informal settlements;
5. to contribute towards national development priorities on social inclusiveness, transparency and forest governance; and
6. to guide the consultation and participation processes of the grievance redress mechanism.

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<sup>2</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, 2009 Pg. 45

### 3. Principles

The following Principles that will guide this C&P Plan will:

1. **Ensure inclusivity** - full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular, people with special needs, marginalised groups and people living in informal settlements
2. **Apply the Free Prior Informed and Consent (FPIC) principles** – this supports informed decision making by all concerned stakeholders
3. **Promote transparency** – ensure information and processes are well understood, credible and open to scrutiny
4. **Integrated approach** – promote the participation and involvement of various sectors and agencies at all levels
5. **Promote ownership** – ensure effective involvement of participating stakeholders and strengthen the feedback mechanism process;
6. **Respect for culture, tradition** – recognise the importance of cultural and traditional values in REDD+ implementation
7. **Gender Inclusivity** – ensuring gender issues and concerns are addressed at all levels of the consultation and participation processes
8. **Capacity Development of resource persons and groups** - strengthen the capacities of community facilitators and organisations to implement the C&P Plan

### 4. Consultation and Participation Management Structure

The National REDD+ Steering Committee endorses the Consultation and Participation Plan.

The REDD+ Secretariat coordinates the implementation of the Consultation and Participation Plan with support rendered to partners and stakeholders. These include the provision of technical expertise, resource materials, budget support and facilitation of meetings and workshops.

The REDD+ Awareness and Communication Working Group will support the REDD+ Secretariat in coordinating the implementation of Fiji's C&P Plan. The Working Group is made up of technical members of the Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee, a representative from the CSO Platform, private sector and relevant government agencies.

The Secretariat in consultation with the Awareness and Communications Working Group will review the C&P Plan for improvement and incorporate new structures and processes. The REDD+ Steering Committee will endorse any revised C&P Plan.

### 5. Lessons from previous Consultation and Participation Processes

Since 2009, Fiji's consultation and participation processes have provided significant lessons learnt for the different stakeholder engagement approaches. Some of these lessons learnt are being considered in this C&P Plan and include:

- i. **Awareness and capacity building approaches** - consultation process should use approaches and tools that promote inclusivity to ensure full and active participation.
- ii. **Use of existing communication structures** – to ensure effective participation of stakeholders on all consultation and participation processes.
- iii. **Pilot site activities** – lessons learnt from the pilot site is to improve consultation, awareness and capacity building approaches to other interested communities
- iv. **Effective coordination** – roles and responsibilities are clearly defined for better planning and monitoring of the consultation and participation processes
- v. **Clear documentation and dissemination of information** – to guide consultation and participation processes

## 6. Stakeholder Engagement

This C&P Plan serves to guide the various levels of stakeholder engagement. It highlights issues and challenges that can be expected when carrying out consultations. The Plan will also include the priority issues that facilitators will most likely encounter when engaging with various target groups.

*Table 1: Identifying Stakeholder Roles in REDD+*

Category	Stakeholders	Role in REDD+ Programme
<b>Government</b>	Relevant Ministries & Departments,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Forests oversees implementation of REDD+ activities</li> <li>• Support and integrate REDD+ activities into annual corporate plans</li> </ul>
	Parliamentarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorse legislation, policies, cabinet information papers relating to REDD+</li> </ul>
	Policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and integrate REDD+ activities into national and sectoral policies</li> </ul>
	Divisional Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation and awareness of REDD+ activities</li> <li>• Support with the communication of REDD+ to the communities and to the national level</li> </ul>
	Foreign Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate REDD+ activities at international level to gain support and funding opportunities from donor countries</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory Bodies</b>	WAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation of REDD+ activities and approaches e.g Protection of water catchment areas</li> </ul>
	FEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation of REDD+ activities and approaches</li> </ul>
	FRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation of REDD+ activities and approaches</li> </ul>
	TLTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advisory and technical</li> </ul>

Category	Stakeholders	Role in REDD+ Programme
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support on iTaukei land leases</li> <li>Negotiate with non iTaukei farmers on agriculture leases</li> </ul>
<b>iTaukei village communities</b>	iTaukei villagers, CBOs, vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and implement REDD+ activities</li> </ul>
	Village development committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate REDD+ activities into village development plans</li> </ul>
	Land Care Groups (only for some Provinces)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support implementation of REDD+ into sustainable land use and technologies</li> <li>Monitor land use activities</li> </ul>
	Women groups (Soqosoqo ni Marama)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the implementation of alternative livelihoods</li> <li>Conduct awareness and training to other women groups</li> </ul>
	Youth groups (Soqosoqo ni Tabagone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct awareness and training on REDD+ field activities</li> </ul>
<b>Other Ethnic Communities</b>	Women groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the implementation of alternative livelihoods</li> <li>Conduct awareness and training to other women groups</li> </ul>
	Land Care groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support implementation of REDD+ into sustainable land use and technologies</li> <li>Monitor land use activities</li> </ul>
	Youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct awareness and training on REDD+ field activities</li> </ul>
	Community based groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor REDD+ field activities</li> <li>Conduct awareness and training on REDD+ field activities</li> </ul>
<b>Informal settlements</b>	Communities residing in informal land arrangements (land requested through the Taukei ni qele)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support implementation of alternative livelihoods</li> </ul>
	Informal settlements in mangrove areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the removal of forest and mangrove areas for firewood collection</li> <li>Support implementation of replanting activity</li> </ul>
<b>Civil Society Organisations &amp; Non-Government Organisations</b>	Local NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support awareness and implementation of REDD+ activities</li> </ul>
	FBOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrating REDD+ into theological curriculum</li> <li>Support awareness of REDD+ linking to spiritual teachings</li> </ul>
	CSO Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support awareness of REDD+ activities</li> <li>Provide an avenue to address REDD+ issues and concerns</li> </ul>
	SSVM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support awareness of REDD+ activities to women</li> </ul>
<b>International Agencies</b>	Donor agencies Embassies Diplomatic Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult on funding direction</li> <li>Support with promoting Fiji's REDD+ progress</li> </ul>
<b>Private Sector</b>	Fiji Sawmillers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support interventions to address REDD+ activities.</li> </ul>
	Telecommunications Industry (Vodafone, Digicel, Telecom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support outreach and communication on REDD+</li> </ul>

Category	Stakeholders	Role in REDD+ Programme
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support REDD+ activities through CSR</li> </ul>
	Financial Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support financial literacy training for community livelihood projects</li> <li>Support REDD+ activities through CSR</li> </ul>
	Tourism industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support community livelihood projects</li> <li>Support REDD+ activities through CSR</li> </ul>
<b>Academia</b>	Universities, research institutions, training colleges, vocational centres, primary and high schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support dissemination of REDD+ information</li> <li>Integrate REDD+ into education curriculum &amp; programmes</li> <li>Integrate REDD+ into research studies</li> </ul>
<b>Farmers</b>	Sugar cane farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support interventions to address REDD+ activities.</li> <li>Support the implementation of REDD+ activities</li> </ul>
	Crop & Livestock Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support interventions to address the drivers of deforestation &amp; forest degradation</li> <li>Support the implementation of REDD+ activities</li> </ul>
<b>Media</b>	Print, broadcasting, social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support awareness and dissemination of REDD+ information</li> <li>Support the development of REDD+ informational materials</li> </ul>

## 6.1 iTaukei village communities

Fiji has 14 iTaukei provinces (*Yasana*) and Rotuma. Each of the 14 provinces are governed by a Provincial Council headed by a *Roko Tui*.<sup>3</sup> A province is made up of a group of sub-units called *Tikina* (akin to district level). The *Tikina* comprises of several villages. The *Tikina* and *Yasana* boundaries were drawn up during the colonial era, largely for administrative purposes. However, most of these clusters are based on traditional socio-political ties. The iTaukei Affairs Board, constituted under the iTaukei Affairs Act (Cap. 120) governs all matters concerning the administration of iTaukei affairs, including iTaukei custom services.<sup>4</sup>

Each village has a headman called the *Turaga ni Koro* who is the link between Provincial Office and the villagers. However each village also have the *Liuliu ni Yavusa* who is of chiefly status, likewise for the *Liuliu ni Tikina* (Tikina chief) and *Liuliu ni Yasana* (Provincial chief).

Provincial Council meetings are held twice a year. There are also District (*Tikina*) meetings held within the year. REDD+ consultation and awareness can be part of the agenda for these meetings. In this instance,

<sup>3</sup> A Roko Tui is the executive officer who looks after the administration and welfare of iTaukei villages and provinces. For example, Roko Tui Cakaudrove means he/she presides over the iTaukei administrative affairs of the Province of Cakaudrove. In the absence of the Roko Tui there is the Senior Assistant Roko Tui (SART) and Assistant Roko Tui (ART).

<sup>4</sup>Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, 2009 Pg. 22

liaise with the *Roko* and his/her office to discuss the purpose of attending. Await the notification from the *Roko's* Office to attend and participate in any of these meetings.

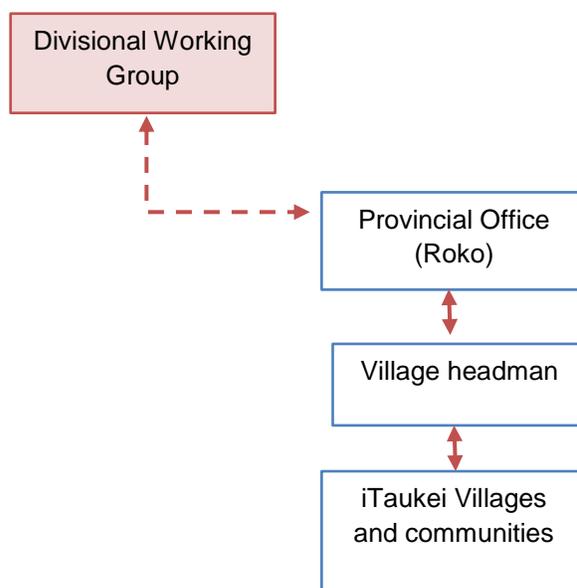
Table 2: Divisions and Provinces of Fiji

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS				
PROVINCE	Central	Eastern	Western	Northern
	Naitasiri	Kadavu	Ba	Bua
	Namosi	Lau	Nadroga/Navosa	Cakaudrove
	Rewa	Lomaiviti	Ra	Macuata
	Serua	Rotuma		
	Tailevu			

### a) Outreach Process

- Reaching out to iTaukei villages, the Provincial Council Office headed by the *Roko* is the one to approach to consult with the purpose, date and time of intended visit.
- The *Roko* will be responsible for contacting the village headman (*Turaga ni Koro*) to set a date and time for consultation with the villagers.
- Traditional protocol must be adhered when entering *iTaukei* village communities. On the date of visitation, kava (*yaqona*) is to be bought for *sevusevu* in the village. This is a formal affair where the *yaqona* is presented to the Village Headman who will then discuss the intentions of the visit. It is a requirement to at least accept and drink a bowl of kava offered during the *sevusevu*.
- In some instances, the Village Headman may take you to the Chief's house to officially introduce you.
- Suitable attire must be worn and hats and sunglasses be removed. Women must wear a sarong or *suluvakatoga* or a skirt or dress below knee length.
- 

Figure 1 : Communication Channel for iTaukei village communities



## **b) Inclusive Participation**

To ensure an all-inclusive and active participation of *iTaukei* village communities the following engagement tools are recommended:

- Hold regular participatory consultations and community workshops
- Utilise Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools
- Communicate via mass media especially via local radio stations (*iTaukei* channels)
- Involve landowner reps in working groups
- Organise for resource owners to visit pilot site and REDD+ communities
- Include landowners in national meetings and events
- Put in place regular community awareness programmes involving the *Rokos'*, senior assistant *Rokos*, assistant *Rokos*, the provincial conservation officers and extension officers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Conduct community school visits/awareness
- Support and utilise the Village Development Committee

## **c) Reporting on concerns and issues**

In a village setting, the process of reporting on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include informing the:

- Village Headman (*Turaga ni Koro*)
- *Roko Tui*, Senior Assistant *Roko Tui* or Assistant *Roko Tui* – MTA
- Divisional Working Group
- REDD+ National Steering Committee
- REDD+ Secretariat

If it were to do with an *iTaukei* land lease issue then the *iTaukei* Land Trust Board (TLTB) would have to be the forum through which the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs (MTA) will refer the matter or the National Steering Committee and/or REDD+ Secretariat refers the issue.

Reporting can also take place from the village to the relevant Ministry and other supporting agencies and to the REDD+ National Steering Committee.

Reporting can also be done through the Village Headman and/or the Landowner rep to the Divisional Working Group and then to the REDD+ National Steering Committee.

## **d) Feedback**

It is necessary that there is feedback received from the *iTaukei* villagers once consultations and awareness takes place. There usually may be grievances and issues raised by the villagers which need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group (DWG), the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC). The issue is then clarified by the DWG, the Secretariat or the RSCS to the villagers who initially raised the issue.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness, evaluation methods can be undertaken. This can include conducting face-to-face interviews, handing out questionnaires, organising focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

## e) Addressing Issues & Challenges

Table 3 : Issues & Challenges for iTaukei village communities

Issues / Challenges	Addressing challenges
Be aware of the high expectations of the iTaukei village communities on projects and its association with money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be transparent and well informed on REDD+</li> <li>▪ Deliver the message as it is and do not include any other assumed or incorrect information</li> <li>▪ Admit to knowledge gaps and revert with correct answers</li> <li>▪ Focus more on the non-carbon benefits to encourage people to reduce emissions</li> </ul>
Be mindful of existing hierarchal system that exists which may not encourage active participation from all members of the communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participatory consultation process by skilled facilitator</li> <li>▪ Focus group consultations</li> </ul>
Be aware that silence may be due to ignorance, lack of understanding & embarrassment to reveal lack of knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participatory consultation process by skilled facilitator</li> <li>▪ Focus group consultations</li> <li>▪ Involve landowner reps in working groups</li> <li>▪ Put in place regular community awareness programme involving the <i>Rokos</i>, assistant <i>Rokos</i>, the provincial conservation officer and extension officers of the various sectors</li> </ul>
Be informed that there will be a lack of resources to effectively carry out consultations. Some villages may have limited or no access to resources such as electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure proper resourcing and planning of activities before carrying out consultations e.g. Portable generator, stationaries etc.</li> <li>▪ Participatory consultation process by skilled facilitator</li> </ul>
Be informed of the existing religious groups and the different religious beliefs that can raise different opinions on how they view REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consult with respective Provincial office prior to carrying out consultations so as to identify the existing religious groups and beliefs</li> </ul>
Be mindful of the internal conflicts and disagreements that exist within iTaukei village communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consult with the respective Provincial office to identify the existing internal conflicts and disagreements prior to carrying out consultations</li> </ul>
Be informed of the different dialects that exist in the 14 Provinces in Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liaise with <i>Roko</i>'s office and/or relevant agency for a representative who can assist with translation</li> <li>▪ Seek assistance of traditional heralds/envoys (<i>veimataki</i>)</li> </ul>
Be informed of traditional relationships that can be a barrier to open discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consult with the respective Provincial office to be aware of traditional relationships prior to carrying out consultations</li> </ul>
Be aware that the geographical distribution and the terrain of villages which can be a hindrance for REDD+ outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare in advance. E.g. transport, field equipment, etc.</li> </ul>
Be mindful that not many are aware of existing laws and regulations relating to the forestry sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Informed and participatory awareness and consultation to resource owners</li> </ul>
Be informed that not all the youth groups will be interested in REDD+ and other land use and sustainable management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure that information prepared for community awareness on REDD+ is conducive to all generations</li> <li>▪ Allow the youth to attend village consultation</li> </ul>

Issues / Challenges	Addressing challenges
	meetings and encourage them to speak up if necessary in focus group meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plan formal and informal meetings (talanoa session) to have an opportunity to hear from the youth</li> </ul>

**6.2 Other Ethnic-Based Communities**

Fiji is a multi-racial country with multi-ethnic communities. There are descendants of European, Chinese, Indian, Tuvaluan, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands settlers who previously came for work and then made Fiji their home. Some of these ethnic-based communities through inter-marriages with the indigenous (iTaukei) communities have become landowners and some have acquired land through leases while others have bought land for agricultural purposes and other commercial interests.

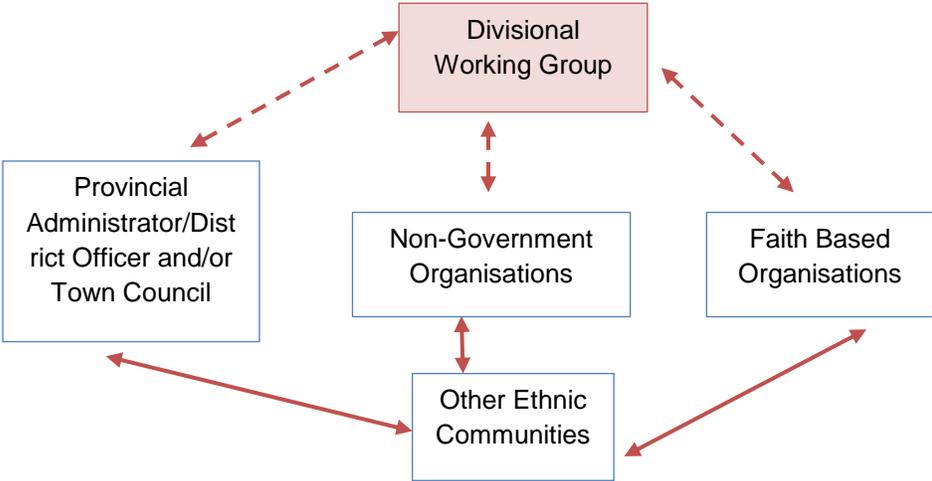
**a) Outreach Process**

Consultation and awareness to the other ethnic communities in Fiji will need the approval of the Provincial Administrator, District Officer and/or the Municipality Town Council. There is also always a possibility of contacting the communities directly and meeting with their respective headman or leader for consultation and awareness on Climate Change and REDD+.

The NGOs who work with these ethnic-based communities can alternatively be contacted for access to these other ethnic communities.

The Divisional Working Group for that area can also be contacted since there will be a likelihood of a representative of the settlement or someone that works closely with the settlement in the group. For instance, a faith based organisation leader from that area being part of the DWG. Another alternative avenue is to contact the leaders of the faith-based organisations that operate within these other ethnic communities.

Figure 2: Communication Channel for Other Ethnic Communities



## b) Ensuring Participation

- Hold regular participatory consultations and community workshops
- Utilise Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools
- Communicate via mass media especially via local (iTaukei and Hindi) radio stations
- Include community in relevant meetings and events
- Put in place regular community awareness programmes involving the Municipality Officers, District Officers, Provincial Administrators, NGOs, Faith Based Organisations
- Support and utilise any existing local Committee

## c) Reporting on concerns and issues

For other ethnic-based communities, the process of reporting on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include referring the issue to the Town Councils, or District Offices, or Provincial Administrators and/or the Divisional Working Group. Matters can also be taken directly to the National REDD+ Steering Committee.

## d) Feedback

It is necessary that there is feedback received from other ethnic communities once consultations and awareness takes place. There may be grievances and issues, which need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee. Once the issue is clarified or solved by the DWG, Secretariat or RSC, this is then be relayed to the informal settlements.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness, evaluation methods can be undertaken. This can include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

## e) Issues to be aware of

*Table 4: Issues & Challenges for Other Ethnic-Based Communities*

<b>Issues / Challenges to be aware of:</b>	<b>Addressing challenges</b>
Be mindful of existing informal hierarchal systems that may not encourage active participation from all members of the communities	Consultation Participatory process by skilled facilitator, Focus group consultations Have a talanoa session after formal consultation session/process
Be aware that silence may be due to ignorance, lack of understanding & embarrassment to reveal lack of knowledge	Consultation Participatory process by skilled facilitator, Focus group consultations
Be informed that some of these ethnic based communities may not have proper access to electricity and water	Ensure proper resourcing and planning of activities before carrying out consultations e.g. Portable generator, stationaries etc. Participatory consultation process by skilled facilitator
Be aware that not many of these ethnic based communities will be aware of the existing laws and regulations relating to the forestry sector	Informed and participatory awareness and consultation to resource owners Consult proper communication channels i.e. national

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
	research committee under the Ministry of Education, MTA Ensure a proper registry of these groups
Be aware that these other ethnic based communities may be involved in unethical practices concerning the environment for e.g. burning land for clearing	Informed awareness Stronger enforcement and stringent monitoring of logging activities
Be informed of the existing religious groups and the different religious beliefs that can raise different opinions on how they view REDD+	Be aware of these differences To consult with the District Office prior to carrying out consultations
Be mindful of the different languages/dialects that exist within these other ethnic communities	Liaise with the Town Council/District Officer/DWG/Social Welfare to gauge the number of different ethnic communities that exist
Be mindful of the need to be gender sensitive when approaching communities for awareness	Conduct thematic REDD+ workshops and seminars to informal groups. For e.g. Gender in REDD+

### 6.3 Informal Settlements

Informal settlements in Fiji, commonly referred to as squatter settlements are located in urban or peri-urban areas without legal approval from the local municipal authorities.

Other forms of informal settlements also exist within the urban & peri-urban areas. These are land acquired through traditional arrangements between the landowner (*tauvei ni qele*) and the occupant. These arrangements are through the presentation of traditional items or through monetary payments.

The squatter settlements are often subjected to inadequate infrastructure, poor access to basic services, unsuitable environments, uncontrolled and unhealthy population densities, inadequate homes, poor access to health and education and lack of effective administration by the municipality in that location.<sup>5</sup>

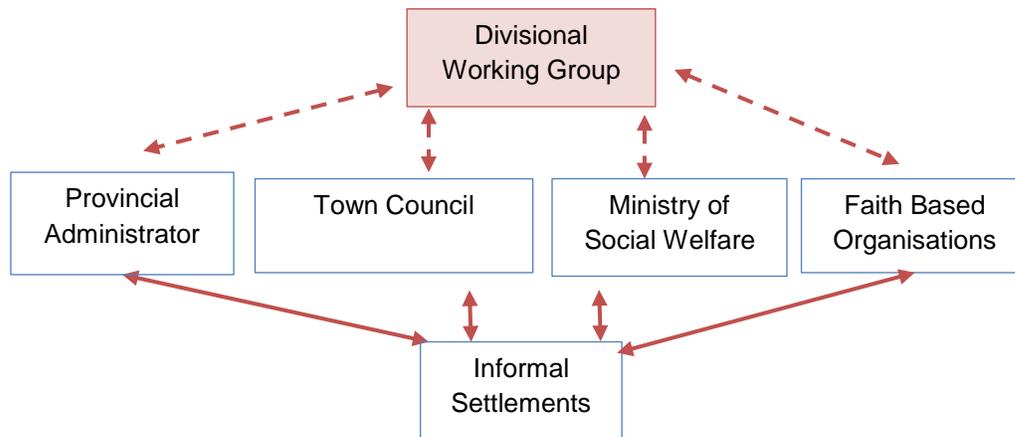
#### a) Outreach Process

REDD+ consultation and awareness to informal settlements will need the approval of the Municipality Town Council and/or the Provincial Administrator. The Ministry of Social Welfare can also assist in this regard especially in identifying their welfare recipients to ensure the marginalised are included in REDD+ consultation and awareness.

The Divisional Working Group for that area can also be contacted since there will be a likelihood of a representative of the settlement or someone that works closely with the settlement in the group. For instance, a faith based organisation leader from that area being part of the DWG. Another alternative avenue is to contact the leaders of the faith-based organisations that operate within these informal settlements.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.upgradingsupport.org/content/page/part-1-understanding-your-informal-settlements>

Figure 3: Communication Channel for Informal Settlements



## b) Ensuring Participation

- Hold regular participatory consultations and community workshops
- Utilise Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools
- Communicate via mass media especially via local (iTaukei and Hindi) radio stations
- Include community in relevant meetings and events
- Put in place regular community awareness programmes involving the Municipality Officers, District Officers, Provincial Administrators, Welfare Officers, Community Based Organisations and local Faith Based Organisations
- Support and utilise any existing local Committee

## c) Reporting on concerns and issues

In an informal settlement, the process of reporting on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include referring the issue to the Town Councils, or District Offices, or Provincial Administrators and/or the Divisional Working Group.

## d) Feedback

It is necessary that there is feedback received from informal settlements once consultations and awareness takes place. There may be grievances and issues, which need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee. Once the issue is clarified or solved by the DWG, Secretariat or RSC, this is then be relayed to the informal settlements.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness, evaluation methods can be undertaken. This can include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

### e) Issues to be aware of

*Table 5: Issues & Challenges for Informal Settlements*

<b>Issues / Challenges to be aware of:</b>	<b>Addressing challenges</b>
Be mindful that those occupying these informal settlements may tend to think that they are the guardians of the place and they are to be paid money for monitoring purposes	Make it clear to the occupants the role of REDD+ and its co-benefits Be transparent and well informed Admit to knowledge gaps and revert with correct answers
Be mindful of existing informal hierarchal systems that may not encourage active participation from all members of the communities	Consultation Participatory process by skilled facilitator, Focus group consultations Have a talanoa session after formal consultation session/process
Be aware that silence may be due to ignorance, lack of understanding & embarrassment to reveal lack of knowledge	Consultation Participatory process by skilled facilitator, Focus group consultations
Be informed that some informal settlements may not have proper access to electricity and water	Ensure proper resourcing and planning of activities before carrying out consultations e.g. Portable generator, stationaries etc. Participatory consultation process by skilled facilitator
Be aware that not many of the occupants will be aware of the existing laws and regulations relating to the forestry sector	Informed and participatory awareness and consultation to resource owners Consult proper communication channels i.e. national research committee under the Ministry of Education, MTA Ensure a proper registry of these groups
Be aware that informal settlers may be involved in unethical practices concerning the environment for e.g. Removal of mangroves for firewood collection	Informed awareness Stronger enforcement and stringent monitoring of logging activities
Be informed of the existing religious groups and the different religious beliefs that can raise different opinions on how they view REDD+	Be aware of these differences To consult with the District Office prior to carrying out consultations
Be mindful of the different languages/dialects that exist within these informal settlements	Liaise with the Town Council/District Officer/DWG/Social Welfare to gauge the number of different ethnic communities that exist
Be mindful of the need to be gender sensitive when approaching communities for awareness	Conduct thematic REDD+ workshops and seminars to informal groups. For e.g. Gender in REDD+

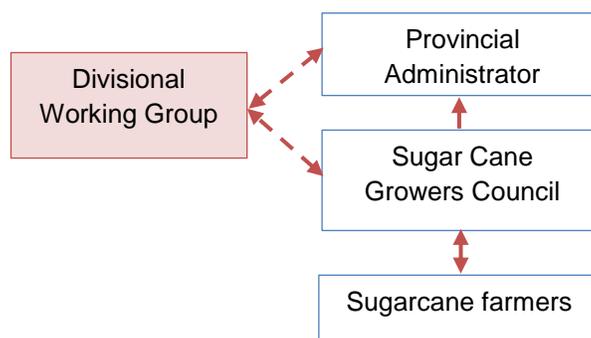
## 6.4 Farmers (Sugar Cane farmers, Crop/Livestock farmers)

Agriculture and livestock are the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and therefore farmers are an important stakeholder for REDD+ awareness and consultations. The majority of sugar cane farmers and crop and livestock farmers in Fiji live and operate in the rural areas.

## a) Outreach Process

- i) For the Sugar Cane farmers, liaise with the Sugar Cane Growers Council, the Provincial Administrator and/or the Divisional Working Group (DWG) in that community. Consultations are also necessary for farmers' wives and the youth who are children of the sugar cane farmers.

Figure 4: Communication Channel for Sugarcane Farmers



- ii) For crop and livestock farmers, liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Offices located throughout the divisions in Fiji for meetings with farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture is also a member of the Divisional Working Group. Alternatively, liaise with the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council (FCLC) to organise consultations, as the FCLC is the platform for farmers' voices in Fiji.

Figure 5: Communication Channel for Crop & Livestock Farmers



## b) Ensuring Participation

- Organise consultation and awareness workshops with the Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council, the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Liaise with EU-SPC sugarcane farmers project to target other commodity groups, producers etc. For instance, the Reforest Fiji Project
- Hold regular participatory consultations and community workshops
- Utilise Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools
- Communicate via mass media especially via local (iTaukei and Hindi) radio stations
- Include sugar cane farmers, their wives and children in relevant meetings and events
- Put in place regular community awareness programme involving the District Officers, Provincial Administrators, Welfare Officers, Community Based Organisations and local Faith Based Organisations
- Support and utilise any existing local Committee

## c) Reporting on concerns and issues

The Sugar Cane Growers Council, the Provincial Administrator and the Divisional Working Group are avenues to which concerns and issues relating to REDD+ can be raised. For crop and livestock farmers, the processing of reporting on REDD+ concerns and issues can either be through the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council or the Ministry of Agriculture and thereon to the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Steering Committee or the REDD+ Secretariat.

#### d) Feedback

It is necessary that there is feedback received from sugar cane farmers, sugar cane farmers' wives and the youth after consultations and awareness. There usually may be grievances and issues raised which need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness, evaluation methods can be undertaken. This can include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

#### e) Issues to be aware of

*Table 6: Issues & Challenges for Farmers*

<b>Issues / Challenges to be aware of:</b>	<b>Addressing challenges</b>
Be mindful that the sugar cane farmers may see REDD+ consultation and awareness as another funding opportunity	Be transparent and well informed Admit to knowledge gaps and revert with correct answers
Be mindful of existing informal hierarchal systems that may not encourage active participation from all members of the sugar cane farming community	Consultation Participatory process by skilled facilitator, Focus group consultations Have a talanoa session after formal consultation session/process
Be aware that silence may be due to ignorance, lack of understanding & embarrassment to reveal lack of knowledge	Consultation Participatory process by skilled facilitator, Focus group consultations
Some sugar cane farming communities may lack the basic necessities and resources to carry out proper consultation	Ensure proper resourcing and planning of activities before carrying out consultations e.g. Portable generator, stationaries etc. Participatory consultation process by skilled facilitator
Be aware that not many sugar cane farmers are aware of existing laws and regulations relating to the forestry sector.	Informed and participatory awareness and consultation to resource owners Consult proper communication channels i.e. national research committee under the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sugar Ensure a proper registry of these groups
Be aware and informed of the existing religious groups and the different religious beliefs that can raise different opinions on how they view REDD+	Be aware of these differences To consult with the District Office prior to carrying out consultations
Be mindful of the internal conflicts and disagreements that may exist within sugarcane communities	Be mindful of these various elements To consult with the District Office prior to carrying out consultations
Be mindful of the different languages/dialects that exist within these informal settlements	Liaise with the Sugar Cane Farmers Association, the Provincial Administrator or the DWG for clarification on the different ethnic groups in a particular sugar cane farming communities

## 6.5 Private Sector

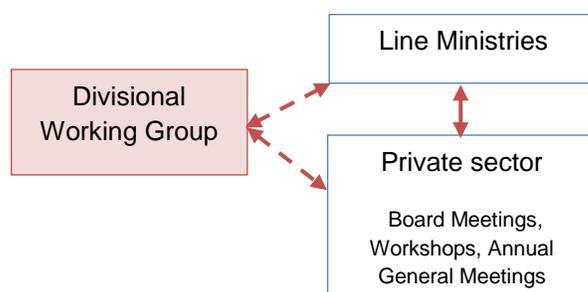
REDD+ consultations and awareness with the private sector in Fiji will mean engaging only with business houses and organisations involved directly or indirectly with forestry and REDD+ activities.

These include the Fiji Sawmillers Association, Association of Banks, Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA), Telecom, Digicel, Vodafone and Airports Fiji Limited.

### a) Outreach Process

Reaching out to the private sector for REDD+ consultation takes place by contacting the organisations directly. There is also the alternative of approaching the line Ministries directly involved with these private sector businesses. Other avenues can also include attending the organisation or company's Board Meetings, Workshops and Annual General Meetings.

Figure 6: Communication Channel for the Private Sector



### b) Ensuring Participation

- Include private sector in REDD+ consultations and relevant working groups
- Conduct thematic REDD+ workshops and seminars to private sector groups
- REDD+ team to participate in trade fairs (Expo, Showcase)
- REDD+ to be an agenda in private sector conferences
- Identify potential Corporate Social Responsibility opportunities with the private sector and most especially tourism sector
- Establish communication through line Ministries of industry statutory bodies (FHCL, FPL, Fiji Sawmillers Association)
- Provide regular feedback to the Chamber of Commerce

### c) Reporting on concerns and issues

For the private sector, the process of reporting on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include referring to the relevant Boards, the line Ministries, Departments, and the National REDD+ Steering Committee.

## d) Feedback

It is necessary that there is feedback received from the private sector after consultations and awareness. There usually may be grievances and issues raised by the villagers which need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness, evaluation methods can be undertaken. This can include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

## e) Issues to be aware of

**Priority Issues of the private sector are:**

- Employment opportunities
- Income generation – profit margin
- Specific skills and knowledge sharing
- Sustainability of venture
- Granting of logging license
- Access to forest (logging industry)
- Training on viability of REDD+
- Carbon rights

*Table 7: Issues & Challenges for the Private Sector*

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Be mindful that the private sector will not be interested and will lack trust in engaging with REDD+	Identify appropriate businesses/industries Contact and request for presentation Preparation of relevant information before hand Identify potential “Corporate Social Responsibility” opportunities with the private sector and most especially tourism sector REDD+ team to participate in trade fairs (Expo, showcase) Establish communication line through line Ministries of industry statutory bodies (FHCL, FPL, Fiji Sawmillers Association)
Be aware that logging and agriculture users within the private sector will see REDD+ as conflicting interests	Preparation of clear information with regards to REDD+ activities complementing other sectors
Be informed that the private sector will want to see how REDD+ can be as a lucrative economic activity to businesses	Preparation of clear information on REDD+, providing activity options and offering advice on concept development REDD+ to be an agenda in private sector conferences Provide regular feedback to the Chamber of Commerce
Be aware of the lack of knowledge of what is in the local market for REDD+	Carry out research on the level of local knowledge on REDD+ in the local market Identify market potential for REDD+ (begin with the analytical assessment) and produce Information Briefs
Be mindful that the private sector may not be familiar with the existing laws	Be familiar with the provisions of the two Decrees including the stakeholders and responsible agencies

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
	<p>Land Tenure &amp; Governance Study to detail different laws &amp; regulations on de-reservation of iTaukei Reserve Land and Land Rent</p> <p>Forest sector has more than one legislation e.g. Mahogany Decree for management of mahogany plantations and Forest Decree for other forests &amp; plantations</p> <p>Inconsistency in laws relating to land rent and de-reservation of iTaukei Reserve Land E.g. Mahogany Decree, TLTB Rent Act &amp; 2013 Constitution 29(2)</p>
<p>Be aware that the private sector may be involved in the removal or clearance of trees without prior consultation with host communities</p>	<p>Include private sector in REDD+ consultations and relevant working groups so they understand how to approach the communities for consultation before requesting for the removal of land, forests for technical equipment</p> <p>Ensure that consultation takes place with the host communities before the removal and clearance of forests. For e.g. Digicel before setting up a tower network at the top of a mountain/hill must consult with the relevant landowners before clearing the land to set up the equipment</p>
<p>Be aware of the limited or no attention to Non-timber forest products</p>	<p>Private sector should drive the diversification of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)</p>

## 6.6 Civil Society Organisations & Non-Government Organisations

The establishment of a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Platform for the Fiji National REDD+ Programme is essential to improving outreach and transparency. The platform ensures a successful implementation of REDD+ activities through awareness, in partnership with all stakeholders, to create a healthy forest ecosystem for all Fijians.<sup>6</sup>

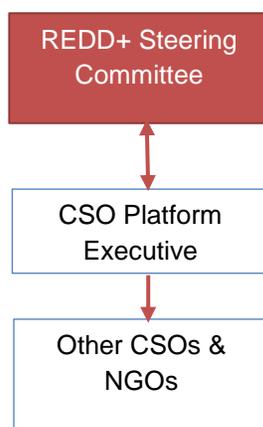
The CSOs and the NGOs in Fiji are those involved in climate change, biodiversity, environment and REDD+ work like Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti, faith based organisations like the Methodist Church, youth groups, and women groups like the Soqosoqo Vakamarama and community associations.

### a) Outreach Process

For consultation and awareness with CSOs and NGOs it is appropriate to liaise with the CSO Platform Executive who will then be able to assist in identifying their members for consultation.

<sup>6</sup> Fiji National Civil Society Organisations Platform, Terms of Reference, Pg. 1

Figure 7: Communication Channel for the CSOs and NGOs



**b) Ensuring Participation**

- Conduct focus group meetings and workshops
- Invite/support participation of the CSO Platform in REDD+ related conferences, workshops and trainings
- Involve CSOs & NGOs in working groups, stakeholder consultations and in the development of community guidelines and procedures
- Organise visits for CSO & NGO groups
- Encourage regular information and data sharing and lessons learned between CSO & NGO community projects and REDD+ projects
- Collaborate with line Ministries to coordinate activities with CSOs and NGOs
- Facilitate agreements & Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CSOs & NGOs for the implementation of REDD+ activities
- Involve CSOs and NGOs in national priority programmes

**c) Reporting on concerns and issues**

The process of reporting on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include referring to the CSO Platform Executive and the Divisional Working Groups as well as the REDD+ Secretariat.

**d) Feedback**

Feedback received from the private sector after consultations and awareness is essential. There usually may be grievances and issues raised which need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness, evaluation methods can be undertaken. This can include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

## e) Issues

### Priority Issues of the CSO & NGOs are:

- Project design consultation
- Land use allocation and use rights
- Training and capacity building of NGO, local community and government counterparts
- Alignment of activities to NBSAP (conservation NGOs) and other national policies and plans
- Funding support to implement activities
- Accuracy of information relayed
- Synergies with REDD+ Programme
- Regular involvement and partnership
- Involved in M&E
- Information sharing
- Free, Prior, Informed Consent
- Ensuring livelihood of community
- Sustainability of project at the site
- Data gathering
- Gender issues

*Table 8: Issues & Challenges for CSO & NGOs*

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Be mindful that the CSOs and NGOs sometime feel their role is not appreciated	<p>CSOs &amp; NGOs have to feel recognised by the National REDD+ Steering Committee (support, cooperation, respect for opinions)</p> <p>Invite/support participation of CSOs &amp; NGOs in REDD+ related conferences, workshops and trainings</p> <p>CSO Platform to receive full support and recognition by government and RSC</p> <p>Ensure that the role that CSOs &amp; NGOs will play in the dissemination of information on REDD+ and capturing of feedback from the communities is appreciated</p>
Ensure that all relevant CSOs participating in REDD+	<p>CSO Platform Executive to reach out to other CSOs &amp; NGOs</p> <p>Provide information relevant to the work area of the CSOs that should join the platform</p> <p>Promote buy-in of all relevant CSOs in Fiji into the platform and REDD+</p>
Be mindful of the challenge of bringing together all FBOs for REDD+ consultation	<p>Involve FBOs in working groups, stakeholder consultations, and in the development of community guidelines and procedures</p> <p>FBO involvement in CSO Platform</p> <p>Training of trainers to FBOs for outreach</p> <p>Ensure that there is a space for all Faith Based Organisations to work together for the common good of understanding the principle of stewardship for the environment</p>

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Lack of gender representation (gender insensitivity)	Conduct thematic REDD+ workshops and seminars for CSOs, FBOs and NGOs. For e.g. Gender in REDD+ In CSOs predominantly represented by men (churches, unions), invite women leaders to the Platform as well
Be mindful that the CSOs are not fully equipped with the resources (finance & equipment)	Provide support for the participation of CSOs in REDD+ related conferences, workshops and trainings National bodies to acquire funding for necessary equipment and activities from various sources
Be mindful that CSOs and NGOs have low human resources. A person changing jobs takes the knowledge with them.	Ensure that within the CSOs there is proper succession planning so that information disseminated on REDD+ is not only kept by one group of people  Proper documentation and overview of staff involvement in activities and systematic knowledge management  Support from RSC by providing space on REDD+ Platform or in REDD+ database
Be informed that not all FBOs will buy into REDD+	CSOs to collaborate with Ministries to coordinate activities Mode of delivery to be attractive Content to be precise Identify the key messages on REDD+ awareness that are compelling, focused and conducive to the communities

## 6.7 Government

Government Ministries and Departments involved with the Fiji National REDD+ Programme are members of the REDD+ Steering Committee. The different agencies and structures are responsible for incorporating REDD+ activities into their annual corporate plans and budget, which then ensures that REDD+ activities is being carried out through the different sectoral agencies.

Working groups to support on the ground implementation of readiness activities have been formed. These include the Safeguards technical working group, Awareness & Communications working group, Governance and Financing working group, MRV working group and the Education and Research working group. While the members of the groups are technical experts in their respective fields, there is still a need to strengthen their understanding on the requirements for REDD+ readiness and implementation.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, 2009 Pgs. 13 and 17

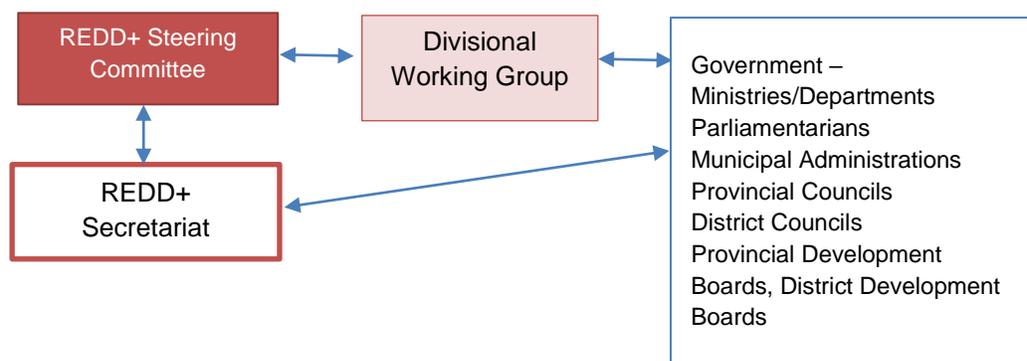
For REDD+ awareness and consultation, the existing structures listed below can be used.

- a. Ministries/Departments
- b. Municipal Administrations
- c. Provincial Councils (MTA)
- d. District [Tikina] Councils [MTA]
- e. Provincial Development Boards (MRMD)
- f. District Development Boards (MRMD)
- g. Rural Advisory Boards
- h. Parliamentarians

### a) Outreach Process

To approach stakeholders in Government, it is advisable to contact the REDD+ Secretariat or the National REDD+ Steering Committee who will then liaise and facilitate consultation and awareness on REDD+ with Ministries/Departments, Parliamentarians, Municipal Administrations, Provincial Councils, District Councils, Provincial Development Boards and District Development Boards.

Figure 8: Communication Channel for Government



### b) Ensuring Participation

- Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops
- Develop promotional/informational material relevant for each government sector
- Have different government agencies as members of expert working groups and further develop in this regard
- Align REDD+ activities closely with the National Green Growth Policy Framework
- Member of the National REDD+ Steering Committee and the Divisional REDD+ Working Groups
- Link to national executive boards like FB, NEC, NCCC, ITAB,TLTB
- Support and utilise the Yaubula Committee
- Include REDD+ activities in the Ministries annual corporate plans (ACP) and provide direct budget allocation to Ministry for implementation
- Develop communication strategy between Ministries
- Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes

- Train government officers on various REDD+ related areas from policy level to technical to community facilitation
- Support Fiji climate change negotiating team on REDD+ issues
- Establish a multi-agency REDD+ awareness team
- Develop close links with the Ministry of Information for the coverage of REDD+ events and dissemination of information to all government agencies

**c) Reporting on concerns and issues**

The process of reporting within Government on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include reporting to the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat and the National REDD+ Steering Committee.

**d) Feedback**

Grievances and issues raised by stakeholders in Government need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness with Government stakeholders it is important to carry out evaluation work. These will include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

**e) Issues**

**Priority Issues of Government include:**

- Consultation on the design of the REDD+ activity
- Contribution to economy and GDP
- Employment opportunities
- Mapping
- Forest boundary delineation
- Land use allocation and carbon rights
- Training and capacity building
- Sustainability of programme – long term funding
- Alignment with Green Growth Policy Framework
- Coordination with other sectors
- Synergy with government and private sectors
- Landowner benefits
- Benefits to country/government
- Meeting international obligations (e.g. Multi-lateral environment agreements)
- REDD+ programme to be apolitical
- Compliance with national legislations and regulations
- Cost-sharing between Ministries
- Benefit distribution
- Awareness and training in Departments
- Relevance of REDD+ in Ministry's core business and ACP
- Reference level for Fiji's carbon financing

*Table 9: Issues & Challenges for Government*

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
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Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
<p>Be informed that there is no mechanism for addressing issues of concern from landowners; land designated to land use eg. Land Use Decree (no clarity over the status of the reserve land [de-reserve or reserved])</p>	<p>Put in place a Redress Mechanism process to address issues of concern for landowners and land designated to land use to Government institutions and vice versa. For e.g. With the Land Use Decree there is no clarity over the status of the reserve land whether it is de-reserve or reserved</p> <p>Allow only trained community facilitators. Facilitation training can be incorporated in training programme on REDD+ facilitation</p>
<p>Be aware of the REDD+ technical terms when intending to consult communities on REDD+</p>	<p>Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops</p> <p>Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes</p> <p>Ensure that technical and social jargon on REDD+ is simplified and prepared before awareness is being taken to the communities</p>
<p>Be informed that not all policies take into account the interest of everyone in particular where you have forest areas e.g. Declaring Tax Free Zones</p> <p>Tax free zone declaration can harm interests of stakeholders if there are not properly consulted.</p>	<p>Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops</p> <p>Tailor REDD+ training to interests &amp; policies of targeted sectors</p> <p>Have different government agencies as members of expert working groups and further develop in this regard</p> <p>Ensure sustainable development standards (e.g. EIA before declaration of tax free zones)</p>
<p>Be aware of the lack of economic and social impact assessment, environmental impact assessment and the lack of management plans</p>	<p>Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes</p> <p>Advocate for inclusion of assessments in government projects</p> <p>Safeguards implementation ensured by RSC members</p> <p>More training on Safeguards</p> <p>Ensure that studies are carried out to assess the economic, social, environmental impacts on REDD+ programs</p> <p>Ensure that necessary management plans are prepared accordingly on how to document and consolidate relevant information gathered from consultations</p>
<p>Be aware of the absence of sensitivity to REDD+ issues</p>	<p>Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops</p> <p>Advocate for inclusion of carbon accounting in EIAs and data sharing with REDD+ database</p> <p>Ensure that sensitive issues are listed and documented for use. For e.g. Carbon emissions not being part of the EIA</p>
<p>Be informed of the need to promote FPIC</p>	<p>Prepare a Guidelines checklist on the FPIC process for community facilitators and technical officers who will be</p>

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
	<p>carrying out awareness programmes on REDD+            Ensure that the FPIC process is carried out at every level of the consultation process</p>
<p>Be informed that the Principle of stewardship while it needs to be promoted is not part of law</p>	<p>Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes            Advocate for stronger regulations and laws (RSC, CSOs)            Ensure that the principles of stewardship are included in the legislations and policies relating to forestry and climate change</p>
<p>Be prepared for the late submission of Information papers</p>	<p>Ensure that RSC working groups are meeting and preparing necessary information papers on REDD+ activities            Ensure that Information papers for Parliamentarians, policy makers etc. are prepared well in advance before submission through the necessary structures e.g. Cabinet Information Paper</p>
<p>Be aware of the competing priorities of Parliamentarians, policy makers, etc.</p>	<p>Present to parliament standing committees            Train government officers on various REDD+ related areas from policy level to technical to community facilitation            Ensure that information provided allows them to be committed to the cause of REDD+</p>
<p>Be aware that not all target groups will be available and some will only be able to spend a little time during the consultation processes</p>	<p>Develop promotional/informational material relevant for each government sector as they may not have time to be available for workshops held</p>
<p>Be informed that not all target groups know of the REDD+ requirements and applications of penalties and fines</p>	<p>Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes on various REDD+ related areas from policy level to technical to community facilitation            Make use of communities to monitor REDD+ Activities, violations of regulations.            Take community monitoring / feedback serious and follow up            Ensure that information is made clear on the adherence to REDD+ requirements and the applications of penalties and fines</p>

## 6.8 Statutory Bodies

A statutory body is an organisation with the authority to check that another organisation's actions are legal. A Government or Parliament sets it up. Consultations and awareness to statutory bodies will include only organisations that have programmes and activities linked to REDD+. Some of these institutions include the iTaukei Affairs Board (iTAB), iTaukei Lands Commission (TLC) and iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB).

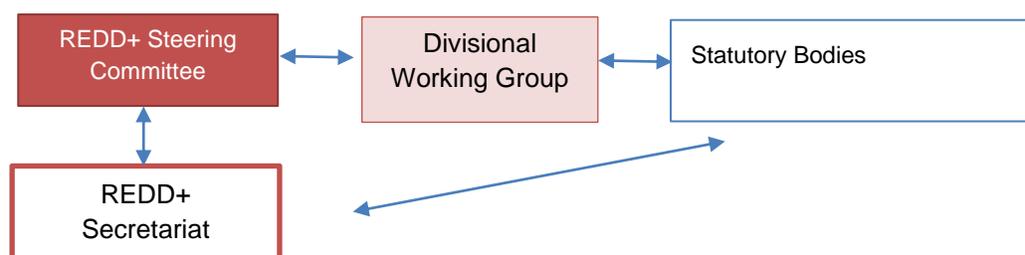
## a) Outreach Process

Statutory bodies involved with the Fiji National REDD+ Programme are members of the REDD+ Steering Committee. The different agencies and structures are responsible for incorporating REDD+ activities into their annual corporate plans and budget, which then ensures that REDD+ activities is being carried out through the different sectoral agencies.

Working groups to support on the ground implementation of readiness activities have also been formed. These include the Safeguards technical working group, Awareness working group, Governance and Financing working group, MRV working group and the Education and Research working group. While the members of the groups are technical experts in their respective fields, there is still a need to strengthen their understanding on the requirements for REDD+ readiness and implementation.<sup>8</sup>

**Communication Channels:** To approach stakeholders within the Statutory Bodies, it is advisable to contact them directly or contact the DWG, the REDD+ Secretariat and/or the REDD+ Steering Committee.

Figure 9: Communication Channel for Statutory Bodies



## b) Ensuring Participation

- Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops
- Develop promotional/informational material relevant for statutory bodies
- Align REDD+ activities closely with the National Green Growth Policy Framework
- Member of the National REDD+ Steering Committee and the Divisional REDD+ Working Groups
- Link to national executive boards like FB, NEC, NCCC, ITAB,TLTB
- Support and utilise existing Committees within Statutory Bodies
- Include REDD+ activities in the organisation's annual corporate plans (ACP) and provide direct budget allocation for implementation
- Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes
- Train statutory body officers on various REDD+ related areas from policy level to technical to community facilitation
- Support Fiji climate change negotiating team on REDD+ issues

## c) Reporting on concerns and issues

<sup>8</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, 2009 Pgs. 13 and 17

The process of reporting on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include reporting to the REDD+ focal points, the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat and the National REDD+ Steering Committee.

#### d) Feedback

Grievances and issues raised by the statutory bodies need to be brought to the attention of the Divisional Working Group, the REDD+ Secretariat or the REDD+ Steering Committee.

To determine the effectiveness of REDD+ consultations and awareness with statutory bodies it is important to carry out evaluation work. These will include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, gender participatory methods and workshops.

#### e) Issues

##### Priority Issues of Statutory Bodies include:

- Contribution to economy and GDP
- Mapping
- Forest boundary delineation
- Land use allocation and carbon rights
- Training and capacity building
- Synergy with government and private sectors
- Landowner benefits
- REDD+ programme to be apolitical
- Compliance with national legislations and regulations
- Benefit distribution
- Grievance Redress Mechanism
- Awareness and training

Table 10: Issues & Challenges for Government

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Be informed that there is no mechanism for addressing issues of concern from landowners; land designated to land use e.g. Land Use Decree (clarity over the status of the reserve land [de-reserve or reserved])	Put in place a Redress Mechanism process to address issues of concern for landowners and land designated to land use to Government institutions and vice versa.. For e.g. With the Land Use Decree there is no clarity over the status of the reserve land whether it is de-reserve or reserved Allow only trained community facilitators. Facilitation training can be incorporated in training programme on REDD+ facilitation
Ensure that there is proper clarification of who the landowner and land users are before approaching them for awareness on REDD+ activities	Prepare a list which clearly defines who the landowner and land users are for each community visited  Approach landowners to provide VKB list and <i>mataqali</i> boundaries
	Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Ensure that technical and social jargon on REDD+ is simplified and prepared before awareness is done to the communities. Approach the communities in the different dialects or languages (iTaukei, Hindustani etc.)	workshops  Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes
Ensure that policies take into account the interest of everyone in particular where you have forest areas. For e.g. Places where you declare, tax free zones. Tax free zone declaration can harm interests of stakeholders if there are not properly consulted.	Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops  Tailor REDD+ training to interests & policies of targeted sectors  Have different government agencies as members of expert working groups and further develop in this regard Ensure sustainable development standards (e.g. EIA before declaration of tax free zones)
Ensure that studies are carried out to assess the economic, social, environmental impacts on REDD+ programs  Ensure that necessary management plans are prepared accordingly on how to document and consolidate relevant information gathered from consultations	Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes  Advocate for inclusion of assessments in government projects  Safeguards implementation ensured by RSC members. They need regular training
Ensure that sensitive issues are listed and documented for use. For e.g. Carbon emissions not being part of the EIA	Regularly conduct sector-focused REDD+ meetings and workshops  Advocate for inclusion of carbon accounting in EIAs and data sharing with REDD+ database
Ensure that the FPIC process is carried out at every level of the consultation process	Prepare a Guidelines checklist on the FPIC process for community facilitators and technical officers who will be carrying out awareness programmes on REDD+
Ensure that the principles of stewardship are included in the legislations and policies relating to forestry and climate change	Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes Advocate for stronger regulations and laws (RSC, CSOs)
Ensure that Information papers for Parliamentarians, policy makers etc. are prepared well in advance before submission through the necessary structures eg. Cabinet Information Paper	Ensure that RSC working groups are meeting and preparing necessary information papers on REDD+ activities
Be mindful of the competing priorities of Parliamentarians, policy makers etc. & ensure that information provided allows them to be committed to the cause of REDD+	Present to parliament standing committees  Train government officers on various REDD+ related areas from policy level to technical to community facilitation
Be aware that not all target groups will be available and some will only be able to spend a little time during the consultation processes	Develop promotional/informational material relevant for each government sector as they may not have time to be available for workshops held

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Ensure that information is made clear on the adherence to REDD+ requirements and the applications of penalties and fines	<p>Institute regular departmental training and awareness programmes on various REDD+ related areas from policy level to technical to community facilitation</p> <p>Make use of communities to monitor REDD+ Activities, violations of regulations. Take community monitoring / feedback serious and follow up</p>

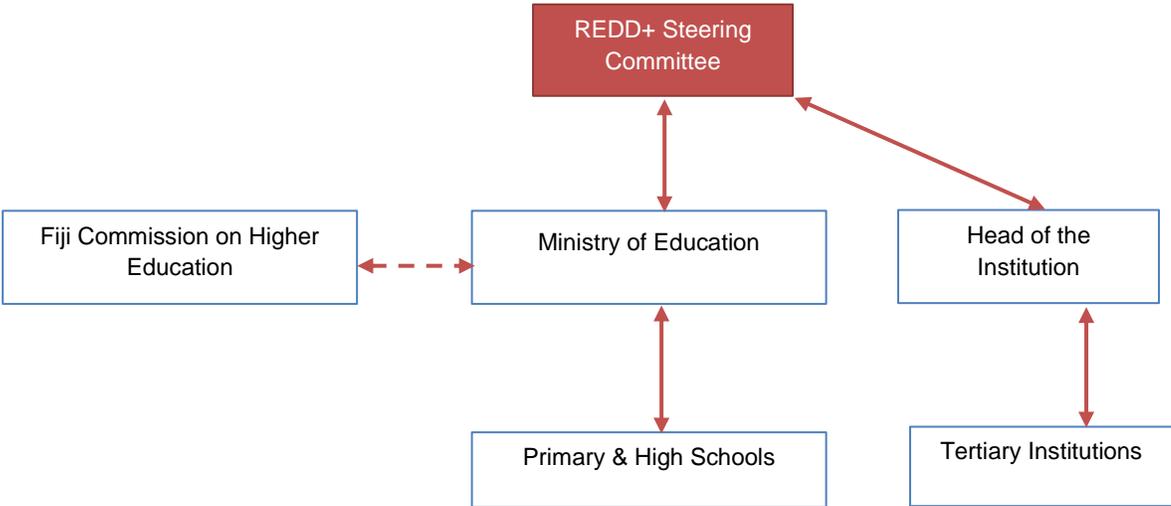
**6.9 Academia**

**a) Outreach Process**

The primary and high schools, universities, training colleges and research institutions is another significant stakeholder of the Fiji National REDD+ Programme. This is in terms of generating and disseminating knowledge information on REDD+, carrying out research on REDD+ work and culminating REDD+ into the school curriculums.

**Communication Channels:** Primary and high schools first need approval from the Ministry of Education. For tertiary institutions, it is always best to visit the head of the institution. The Fiji Commission on Higher Education is also another alternative to approach when wanting to consult and promote REDD+.

Figure 10: Communication Channel for Academia



**b) Ensuring Participation**

- Organise focus group meetings and workshops
- Support academic research on REDD+ related fields
- Invite academics to present in REDD+ conferences – national and international

- Involve academics in working groups
- Co-organise debates, panel discussions on REDD+
- Co-organise technical trainings and workshops
- Regularly deliver presentations on REDD+ development in lectures and events
- Utilise Fiji REDD+ website to post papers and reports of interest to academics
- Encourage student attachments and student exchange programme
- Encourage scholars to take up research and studies in REDD+ pilot sites
- Encourage University to University agreements and partnerships
- Engage academic institutions for local consultancies and literature review
- Involve academic institutions as resource persons in awareness and training programme

**c) Reporting on concerns and issues**

The process of reporting through the academia, tertiary institution and schools on concerns and issues pertaining to REDD+ will include reporting to the Ministry of Education focal REDD+ reps, REDD+ Secretariat and the National REDD+ Steering Committee

**d) Feedback**

Carry out evaluation amongst the academia sector and these to include face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, workshops etc.

**e) Issues to be aware of**

**Priority Issues of Academic, Tertiary Institutions and Schools include:**

- GIS facility
- Training and capacity building
- Specific skills and knowledge sharing
- Education – scholarship
- Research – field assessments, studies
- Information gathering and sharing
- Funding and equipment
- Baseline work
- Contribution to courses and curriculum

*Table 11: Issues & Challenges of the Academia*

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Be informed of the lack of interest or buy in from the tertiary institutions, schools (teachers and students) on REDD+	Organise focus group meetings and workshops with school teachers and students Encourage and support scholars to take up research and studies in REDD+ pilot sites Take part in educational events Teacher’s union and student’s associations as part of CSO platform Work with curriculum development unit and school committees Technical officers to work with Ministry of Education to include REDD+ as an information programme from primary up to high schools and even tertiary level

Issues / Challenges to be aware of:	Addressing challenges
Be informed of the need to develop an internationally recognized study program	Integrate/mainstream REDD+ into existing courses at universities. Facilitate cooperation with international universities. Support academic research on REDD+ related fields Invite academics to present in REDD+ conferences – national and international Encourage University –to – University agreements and partnerships Involve academic institutions as resource persons in awareness and training programme
Be aware of the knowledge gaps that exist between students in the urban centres and those in the rural areas and outer islands.	Prepare sequential learning material for students from primary school upwards and include in curriculum Promote REDD+ through advertisement in children tv shows Disseminate material and trainings evenly in the country, ensure regular training for teachers in all provinces Make use of in-service training for teachers Conduct community school visits/awareness Encourage student attachments Regularly deliver presentations on REDD+ development in lectures and events Engage academic institutions for local consultancies and literature review
Ensure that there is proper budget funding available for schools, universities to carry out work plans	Utilise Fiji REDD+ website to post papers and reports of interest to academics Co-organise seminars, debates, panel discussions with schools and universities Co-organise technical trainings and workshops Work with universities (faculties) to promote directing resources towards REDD+ and help to acquire additional funding Hire universities for consultancies

## 7. Communication Structures

The first level of the communication structure for the Fiji National REDD+ Programme is through the **National REDD+ Steering Committee**. The Steering Committee was formed as a governance mechanism to coordinate and facilitate REDD+ activities through a multi-sectoral approach.

This body ensures that the REDD+ agenda is carried out effectively taking into account the Fiji REDD+ Policy safeguards. Through the Steering Committee members, REDD+ activities is implemented within their respective Ministries, Departments, agencies and organisations.

The second level of the communication structure is the consultations with REDD+ stakeholders, carried out through the **Government Administration** and the **iTaukei Administration**.

Based in the four districts – West, East, Central & Northern is the Government administration while the **iTaukei Administration** also based in these four regions serves the 14 Provinces throughout the country.

The iTaukei Administration through each of the Provinces is managed by a Roko Tui with support from the Senior Assistant Roko Tui (SART) and the Assistant Roko Tui (ART). Therein also exists the Conservation Officers for all the 14 provinces. The iTaukei administration is aligned to the Government administration. From the Province comes the *Tikina* or District led by the *Tikina* heads and then there are villages which consists of the *Turaga ni Yavusa* (chief) and village headman or *Turaga ni Koro*.<sup>9</sup>

Fiji's Government Administration on the other hand, in the four divisions is overseen by the respective Commissioners. Existing within these divisions are the extension officers of the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management as well as other Government Ministries like Women and Health.

The third level of communication is through the **Divisional Working Groups (DWGs)** which have been formed in the four regions (West, North, Central and Eastern). The DWGs are expected to be chaired by the Divisional Commissioners. The members to consist of the Divisional Forestry Officer, Principal Agriculture Officer, Officer from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), Roko Tui, Conservation Officer of the Provincial Council, Provincial Administrator, District Officer, Environment Officer, a rep from the Private Sector, Non-Government Organisation (NGO), Civil Society Organisation (CSO), Faith Based Organisation (FBO) and a relevant academic institution.

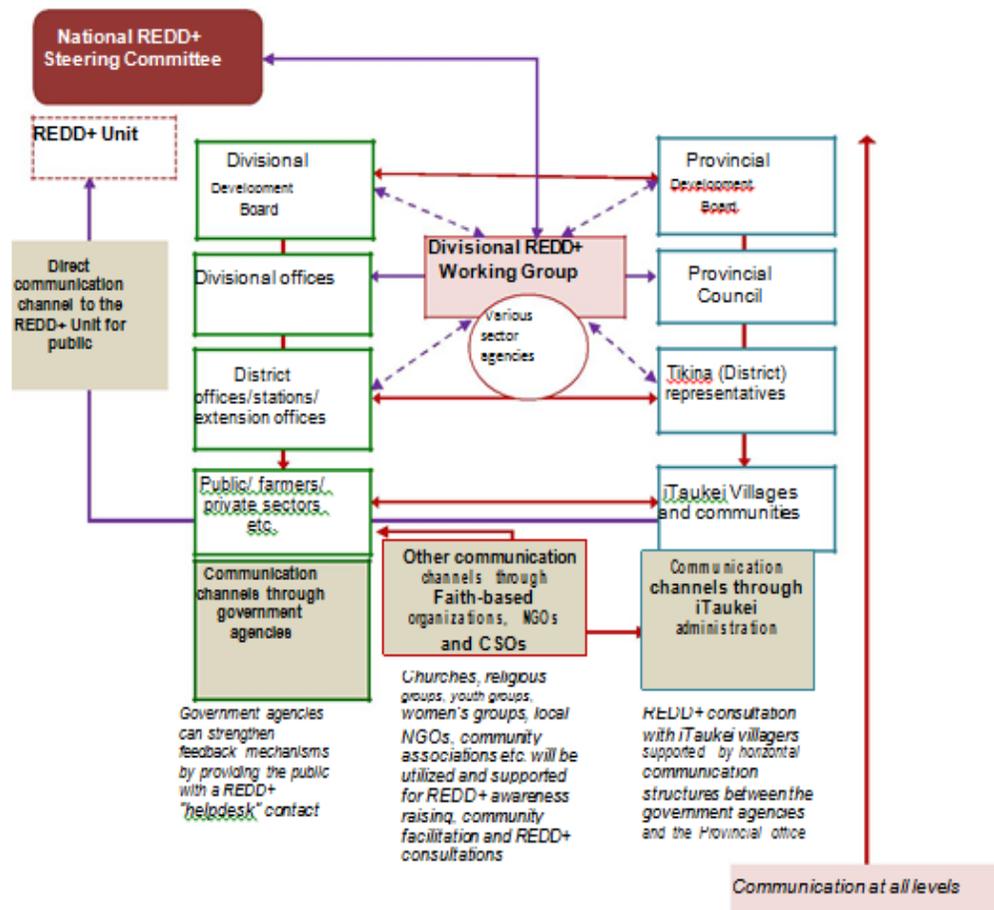
The **Fiji REDD+ CSO Platform** is another newly identified level of communication on REDD+ consultation and awareness. The CSO Platform will ensure the free and unbiased awareness and participation of communities in national REDD+ activities. The Platform will promote REDD+ policies and strategies through advocacy, awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and empowerment and impact assessment.

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<sup>9</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, 2014 Pg.43

*Figure 3: National REDD+ communication structures in Divisions and Provinces*

Figure 1i: National REDD+ communication structures in Divisions and Provinces



## 8. Consultation and Outreach Approaches

The Fiji National REDD+ Programme since its inception in 2009, have used a variety of outreach channels and developed the necessary consultation and awareness materials on REDD+.

Consultation workshops, meetings and events carried out are being documented detailing stakeholder involvement and input.

**The current communication channels and consultation processes for the Fiji National REDD+ Programme include<sup>10</sup>:**

<sup>10</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), 2014, Pg. 50-51

- Workshops and Training – awareness workshops continuously carried out for government agencies, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders
- Provincial Councils – Offices headed by the Roko Tui's and Senior Assistant Roko Tui's based in each Province and administered by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.
- District Advisory Councils – Offices headed by the District Officers and Commissioner Officers and is administered by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime and National Development and National Disaster Management
- Town/City Council programmes, events, carnivals
- Divisional Councils – Offices headed by the Commissioners placed in all four divisions (North, West, Central, Eastern)
- Divisional Working Groups – Chaired by the Commissioners for REDD+ awareness and consultations at community level
- Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Platform
- Churches and other Faith Based Organisations – Ensuring an all-inclusive participation of groups
- Local women and youth groups – Ensuring an all-inclusive participation of groups
- Schools and education curriculum – Ministry of Education, Fiji Education Higher Commission, University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University
- Media – Journalists workshop, Awareness through print, radio and television
- Fiji REDD+ Website – <http://fiji-reddplus.org>
- Fiji REDD+ Facebook and Twitter – **REDD+ Fiji**
- Government exhibitions awareness programmes, road shows and linking to celebrations of international events (e.g. World Food Day, World Water Day)
- Lease holders associations, Cane Growers Farmers Association, Dairy Cooperative Farmers meetings etc. – These are examples of meetings that can be attended when wanting to consult with the private sector
- Informal Communication channels – Getting information across to landowners' takes time and in the end may be best achieved through the traditional ways of informal get-together sessions

## 8.1 Consultation Activities

REDD+ awareness and consultation activities<sup>11</sup> will include awareness workshops, training of trainers' workshops, development of manual for trainers, development of consultation and information materials. Consultation and awareness activities will also include engaging other agencies and the Civil Society Platform to disseminate REDD+ information. The activities from the Fiji REDD+ Communications Strategy will also be a mode of delivery used for REDD+ awareness and consultations.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

All consultations carried out by the REDD+ Secretariat and other relevant training facilitators and stakeholders on REDD+ will be documented and kept within a central database within the Ministry of Forests.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or manual will be created to list down what and how to document for consistency purposes.

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<sup>11</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), 2014, Pg. 52

These M&E records will be kept because it will contain the concerns and queries raised by various stakeholders and will not be made public. The SOPs developed will be coherent with that of the FPIC guidelines. Analysis of consultations carried out will take place at each stage of consultation by the facilitators and will be discussed with other facilitators and stakeholders.

A Working Group will be formed from the REDD+ Steering Committee to address the results of the consultations and present them again to the entire SC and decisions will be made about the results of the consultations regularly and thus be included in the national REDD+ Strategy. For transparency purposes, once the consultation on a particular subject is carried out feedback will be provided to the stakeholders that were consulted so that they are able to see how their input has been included into the Fiji REDD+ Strategy and activities.<sup>12</sup>

The C&P Plan will be adapted and refined to suit the experiences of carrying out consultations to relevant stakeholders. It will be further complemented by the Communications Strategy for the implementation of REDD+ awareness activities to stakeholders. The Plan will cover a period of three years (2017-2019). It was validated by key stakeholders at a national workshop held on Thursday May 4, 2017.

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<sup>12</sup> Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Fiji, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, January 2014, Pg. 52-53