



# Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report Template

v. 2021



## FCPF Readiness Fund: REDD+ Country Participant Annual Progress Report

### About this document

This template is for use by Readiness Fund (RF) REDD+ Country Participants to report their annual progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general, and on FCPF-supported activities in particular. The data provided through these reports represents a central information source for measuring progress against the FCPF's expected results and performance indicators, as articulated within the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

### Report preparation

Reports cover progress through 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year.

When preparing the report, RF REDD+ Country Participants should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD+ (component 6 of the R-PP) and should consult members of the national REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated, with any divergent views recorded as appropriate. Detailed, indicator-by-indicator definitions and reporting guidance are provided within the FCPF M&E Framework (<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-0>).

### Reporting schedule

Completed reports should be submitted to the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) by **15<sup>th</sup> July** every year.

## SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

### 1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities and achievements delivered within your country during the last year?

- Activities - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
- Achievements - 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
- 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

- |   |
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| <p>a) On January 28<sup>th</sup> 2021, Fiji signed the Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA). The agreement was signed by the Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Honourable Aiyaz Syed-Khaiyum on behalf of the Fiji Government. The status of the 2 conditions of effectiveness are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final draft of the Benefit Sharing was submitted to the FCPF-Carbon Fund at the end of June for a 2-week no objection.</li> </ul> <p>b) The finalization of the Climate Change Act, which is being led by the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Economy in conjunction with the Ministry of Forestry (MoF), will be tabled in the August session of Parliament. The Act is expected to be enacted before the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>c) The first draft of the REDD+ Strategy was presented at the December 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting. A technical working group made of RSC members have been meeting (virtually) to finalize the report and expected to be completed by end of July 2021.</p> |
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- d) The first draft of report on the review of the REDD+ Policy (20110) was first presented (virtually) to the Ministry of Forestry (MoF) on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The final report (revised REDD+ Policy) is expected by August 2021.
- e) The Safeguard Information System (SIS) has been developed and the final report is expected by end of July 2021.
- f) The work on detecting Forest Degradation through Remote-sensing (GIS) approaches (methodology) has been completed.
- g) The development of the National Forest Inventory for 2006 (NFI, 2006) will be completed by the end of July. The analysis of the 2006 field data and report, as one part, has been completed. The final report will include the analysis of the Permanent Sample Plots (PSP, 2006).
- h) The work on designing and execution of the NFI 2020 was suspended in April, due to COVID-19 restrictions. To-date, 13% of the field data assessment (measurements) and collection of field samples have been achieved.
- i) The NFMS integration framework development was completed in April 2021. Further enhancement and population work and training of users is being conducted and expected to be completed by the end of August 2021.
- j) The rolling out of the awareness campaign to promote the national Emission Reduction has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. The messaging material have been developed.
- k) Work on the assessment of safeguards on retroactive carbon emission level has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. The first draft has been developed.
- l) Work on the development of 20 district-level integrated land use plans will be completed by the end of Dec 2021. To-date, 10 plans have been developed and will undergo internal vetting and socializing process by the end of July.
- m) The Allometric calculation work has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

## 2. 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

The bureaucracy of the domestic system for approving and releasing of grant fund, inter-ministerial and internally within the Ministry of Forestry, including the vetting of contractual agreements and approval of procurement, remains a challenge. There have been numerous inter-ministerial meetings and discussions held in an effort to reduce turnaround time for the vetting process.

In the last 6-months (Jan – June 2021), the project was significantly delayed. The country encountered two tropical cyclones that made landfall in late December 2020 and followed by the second in early January 2021. The situation was exacerbated by the recording of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March, which has not abated and for the better part of the 6-month period, the Fiji Government re-diverted its attention and resources towards the rehabilitation work and national containment efforts. The national COVID-19 restrictions, including social distancing and restricted gathering and the daily enforcement curfews, led to the closure of businesses and domestic service providers and suppliers. Similar difficulties were also encountered for offshore supplies and dependent on the country's pandemic situation. Free-movement was not encouraged and restricted due to the imposition of containment zones and all non-essential service workers were required to work-from-home (WFH). The use of the virtual platform became the norm for discussions, meetings and progressing work but this only really started in early June and also depended on parties' availability, having access and connectivity to the virtual platforms.

## 3. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver, and achievements anticipated during the next year?

- For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

- 1) Convene 7 x virtual REDD+ Steering Committee and Technical Working Group Meetings, Qrtly. update of Readiness project to:
  - present Master Plan for the Greater North and 10 district land use plans in July 2021;
  - (5 meetings) Present final report of Reviewed REDD+ Policy, SIS Report, REDD+ Strategy, FD Detection Methodology and NFMS in August 2021;
  - Present the 1<sup>st</sup> ER Report in September 2021;
- 2) Submit draft SIS Report to WB for review and comments by July 2021;

- 3) Submit safeguards work plan by August 2021;
- 4) Convene CSO meeting and submit Work Plan (Roles and Activities) by August 2021;
- 5) Submit Communication and Participation Plan to WB for review and comments by August 2021;
- 6) Complete the NFMS automation, training of users and linkage of developed POM by end of August 2021;
- 7) Submit due diligence report by Sept 2021;
- 8) Complete the NFI 2020-2021 field work by June 2022, submit final report by Sept 2022;
- 9) Complete Allometric work by June 2022, submit report by Sept 2022;
- 10) Roll out ER Program awareness campaign (digital medium and virtual platform), begin August 2021;
- 11) Staff capacity building and training will be conducted for: -
  - Benefit Sharing Plan (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and National Trust of Fiji) by August 2021
  - SIS work by August 2021;
  - NFMS by August 2021;
- 12) Prepare 2<sup>nd</sup> ER Report

## SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

4. 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:

5	Completed	The sub-component has been completed
4	Significant progress	Significant progress
3	Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
2	Further development required	Further development required
1	Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
0	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)
<b>R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation</b>		
<b>Sub-component 1a:</b> National REDD+ Management Arrangements	5 Completed	X The National REDD+ Management Arrangements are well connected and established at the national and divisional level through the REDD+ Steering Committee, particularly through the Readiness phase and development of the ER Program Document. With the implementation of the ER Program, forums and groups at the lower tiers will be formed and strengthened through capacity building and training.
	4 Significant progress	
	3 Progressing well, further development required	
	2 Further development required	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0 N/A	
<b>Sub-component 1b:</b> Consultation, Participation and Outreach	5 Completed	X A Communication and Participation Plan was developed under the Readiness project. Under the COVID-19 situation and restrictions, the plan is being reviewed to incorporate COVID safeguards and the adoption of digital mediums and virtual platforms as the norm for communication and participation.
	4 Significant progress	
	3 Progressing well, further development required	
	2 Further development required	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0 N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation</b>		
	5 Completed	The REDD+ Strategy Report will be completed by July 2021.

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Sub-component 2: REDD+ Strategy	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required	X	
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	5	Completed		The Climate Change Act and Forest Bill (supplementary regulations of the Forest Decree (1992) are expected to be enacted by the end of 2021 calendar year. The revised REDD+ Policy will be completed by July 2021. The Study of the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation has been completed. The development of district-land Use Plans is progressing (10 plans to be vetted by July 2021).
	4	Significant progress	X	
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
0	N/A			
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	5	Completed		This will be completed after the REDD+ Strategy.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required	X	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
0	N/A			
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	5	Completed		The Program Operation Manual will basically provide the implementation framework for the ER program, which is in its draft form. Aspects to be included are the BSP, SIS, Communication and Participation Plan, which will be completed by Sept 2021.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required	X	
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
0	N/A			
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	5	Completed	X	The SESA and ESMF Reports are uploaded on the REDD+ Website.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
0	N/A			
<b>R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</b>				
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	5	Completed		The 1 <sup>st</sup> ER Report will be submitted by 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021. The national FREL is expected to be completed by Dec 2021.
	4	Significant progress	X	
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
0	N/A			
<b>R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards</b>				
Sub-component 4a:	5	Completed	X	
	4	Significant progress		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
National Forest Monitoring System	3	Progressing well, further development required	The NFMS integration Framework is completed. The final enhancement and automation work is expected to be completed by August 2021.	
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	5	Completed	The Information System for the ER Program is the NFMS, that will be linked directly and/or to data sharing platforms with other partner agencies including Agriculture and Min of iTaukei Affairs (Provincial office).	
	4	Significant progress		X
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		

## SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

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

(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)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

The project has established a REDD+ Pilot Site on Viti Levu. The Government provides and annual Capital Grant that supports the community in the following livelihood activities: -

- a) Annual land rental (one-off compensation payment currently being discussed)
- b) Establishment of tree nurseries;
- c) Construction of Bore Hole and water articulation system
- d) Solar system

Under the ER Program of activities, 3,780 Ha is targeted to establish Climate Smart Agricultural approaches that include: -

- a) Agroforestry (use of shade tolerant crops as cash crops)
- b) Riparian restoration;
- c) Alternative livelihood ventures (honey and vanilla production)

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

(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)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

Under the ER Program, 9,500 Hectares will be protected for the purpose of biodiversity conservation. The details are provided in the ER Program document,

## SECTION D: FINANCE

(Please complete in US\$ ONLY)

7. Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (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)
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### EXAMPLES:

\$500,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	10/2013	Public / <del>Private</del>	Grant / <del>Loan</del> / <del>Other</del>
\$250,000	Ministry of Forestry	01/2014	Public / <del>Private</del>	Grant / <del>Loan</del> / <del>Other</del>

\$ 215,105	Ministry of Forestry	08/2020	Public / <del>Private</del>	Grant / <del>Loan</del> / <del>Other</del>
\$ 250,000	FCPF Readiness Grant	08/2020	Public / <del>Private</del>	Grant / <del>Loan</del> / <del>Other</del>
\$			Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$			Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$			Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$			Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

8. 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 / <del>Private</del>	Grant / <del>Loan</del> / <del>Other</del>
\$		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

9. 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
The FCPF's support has had a <b>central influence</b> on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes				X	
The FCPF's support has <b>improved the quality</b> of our national REDD+ systems and processes				X	
The FCPF's support has <b>improved national capacities</b> to develop and deliver REDD+ projects				X	
The FCPF's support has <b>helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders</b> (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes				X	

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

There are national systems, protocols and processes under which all government agencies and basically all donor agencies must adhere and follow. Through the Readiness project, with the support of the FCPF, a number of systems have been and/or will be improved and is encouraging multiple stakeholder engagements.

10. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (publications, seminars, learning events, web resources), 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)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We <b>regularly access</b> FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information				X	
FCPF knowledge products are <b>relevant</b> to our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
FCPF knowledge products are <b>sufficient</b> to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
The FCPF <b>website</b> is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information				X	

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

## SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS



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

The support of the FCPF, through the World Bank and its team of experts, has greatly assisted in elevating the standards of the national systems and processes.