

Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report Template



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 30th 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 15th July every year.

SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- 1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related <u>activities</u> 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

Activity:

- a) The development of a methodology to detect Forest Degradation through remote-sensing and GIS approaches has been completed and vetted by the World Bank Team supporting the Fiji Project. Training of the national staff will be conducted by August-September 2022.
- b) The review of the Fiji REDD+ Policy of 2011 has been completed. The report will be tabled in the August Cabinet of Ministers' meeting for government's endorsement.
- c) The National Forest Inventory (NFI) is 48% completed and the final report will be submitted by November 2022.
- d) The Allometric and Biomass Calculation work for 10 timber tree species is at 50% completion and the final report will be submitted by November 2022.

e) The enhancement of the National Forest Monitoring System platform has been completed. Work on the uploading of the NFMS onto the government platform will be completed by September 2022. Thereafter, training on the front-end users, i.e. Ministry of Forests staff will be conducted by the REDD+ Unit.

Achievement:

- a) REDD+ Policy Review: The review of the Fiji REDD+ Policy 2011 was through an iterative consultation process that involved representative of the national REDD+ Steering Committee, which included: Divisional Commissioner Office, Forestry, State Lands, Climate Change, iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), the 11 Provincial offices of the iTaukei Affairs, academia (University of the South Pacific and the Fiji National University) and donor-funded partners (ECAP Project, GEF 5 R2R Project) and Civil Society (Conservation International, Nature Fiji Maregeti Viti, Sogosogo Vakamarama).
- b) **NFI:** There are 45 men currently engaged in the NFI field measurement and sample collection work. Of this number, 23 are staff of the Ministry of Forests and 22 are community engagements. The team were trained on the tree measurement techniques and on the use of the field measurement equipment. An additional 30-men will be engaged in August 2022 and will undergo the same training.
- c) Allometric/Biomass: There are 17 men engaged in the field sample collection work, who were trained in the sample collection methodology and technique, and the preparation of field samples for laboratory analysis. Training on the use (including workman's safety) of the chainsaw was also part of the training conducted.
- d) National Awareness on REDD+ and ER-Program: Annex 1 lists the forums in which the REDD+ and ER-Program awareness campaign was conducted.

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 main challenge sustained by the REDD+ Readiness Project was the delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the spate of natural disasters encountered in late 2020 to early 2021 and the national restrictions that were imposed thereafter. For the better part of 2021, i.e. up until November-December 2021, central government had devoted its attention and resources on the rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts, which affected:

- a) Engagement from key stakeholders reprioritizing to support the national rehabilitation efforts.
- b) Funding access to the FCPF grant, at times, became difficult and only improved after the national priorities were addressed.

One of the prevailing barrier is the lack of political will and/or eroding in political support for the implementation of the ER-Program, which may be due to competing national priorities. The impact of the REDD+ and ER-Program can only be fully realized once the domestic systems and processes are finalized to allow carbon trade and communities and/or participants receive carbon payments for implementing REDD+ intervening activities.

A joint meeting of key stakeholders-line ministries, which include Climate Change, Ministry of Lands, TLTB, Forestry and the Solicitor General's Office will be convened on the Friday, 29th July to review the status of the REDD+ program and the ER-Program and to map the way forward to finalize:

- a) The Lease terms and conditions for REDD+ and support the ER-Program, which requires the joint-effort, strengthening of the institutional arrangements and consensus of the Forestry, Lands and TLTB;
- b) The License terms and conditions for REDD+. The Ministry of Forests will issue Forest Management License (FML) for all field operations within the natural forests. The FML will replace all licenses issued for field activities occurring in the natural/native forests and is designed to support the REDD+ interventions and the implementation of the ER-Program. The FML is a new development and is incorporated in the revised Forest Act. The bill, i.e. Forest Bill, to review and adopt the new changes in the Forest Act, has not been tabled.
- c) The Carbon Sequestration Property Right (CSPR) certificate, which is issued to facilitate carbon trade. The CSPR certificate will be issued by the Office of the Registrar of Titles and is legally established under the Climate Change Act 2021. The Climate Change Division (Ministry of Economy) is developing a regulation under the Climate Change Act 2021 to operationalize and allow the issuance of the certificate.

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

- For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options
- a) The completion of the Program Operation Manual (POM) as a guide for the ER-program implementation.
- b) The completion of the Report on Retroactive Carbon (Due Diligence Report) and final report due by September 2022.
- c) Establishing, strengthening and harmonizing of institutional and data-sharing arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the safeguard plan, assessment and reporting on the level of compliance to the UNFCCC safeguards.
- d) The completion of the National Forest Inventory field assessment & sample collection and final report due by November 2022;
- e) The completion of the Allometric & Biomass Calculation field work and sample collection and final report due by November 2022;
- f) The completion in the development of the district level integrated land use plans for the remaining 10 ER districts.
- g) The design and mass production of the ER-Program awareness outreach (audio-visual) mediums and giveaways, and increasing the national awareness coverage
- h) The online operations of the NFMS by September 2022, including the online issuance of FML for REDD+ activities and coding reference system.
- i) The setting up and harmonization of the MRV systems internally, within the Ministry of Forests, and externally, for key partners, e.g. Ministry of Agriculture (Climate Smart Agriculture), Provincial Offices (Site support groups).

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)

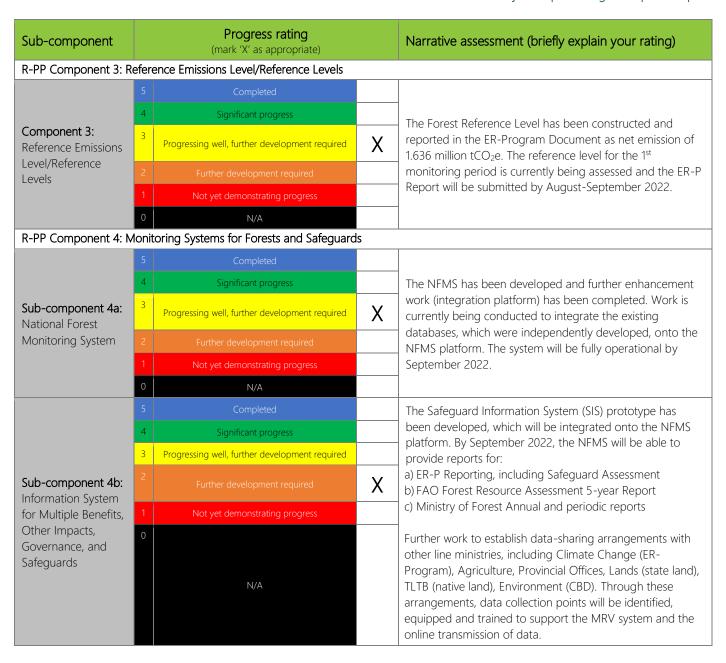
Progress rating kev:

r regress rusing key:				
5	The sub-component has been completed			
4 Significant progress Significant progress		Significant progress		
3	Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required		
2		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)
R-PP Component 1: Re	eadi	ness Organisation and Consultation		
	5	Completed		The initial discussion was to set-up the Program
	4	Significant progress		Management Unit (PMU) to replace the REDD+ Unit after
	3	Progressing well, further development required		31 st December 2022. A Cabinet Paper to guide the establishment and endorse of the PMU have been
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+	2		Χ	submitted and awaiting decision.
Management	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		A decision to retain the national REDD+ Steering committee (RSC) as the national governing body is still
Arrangements	0	N/A		pending. There is a provision under the Climate Change Act 2021 to establish a National Climate Change Coordinating Committee (NCCCC) but no progress made nor discussions on the subject.

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	5 Completed		The ER-Program Awareness Messaging and Outreach Tool Kit was officially launched in June 2022. There have been
Sub-component 1b:	Significant progress Progressing well, further development required	Χ	numerous awareness and consultations conducted at various levels during the period, as per list appended as
Consultation, Participation and	2 Further development required		Annex 1.
Outreach	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		A Communication and Participation Plan has been developed, which will be implemented during the new fiscal
	0 N/A		year. The plan is anticipated to escalate in the years after as the awareness campaign becomes a core activity of the Ministry of Forests with anticipated increase in budget.
R-PP Component 2: R	EDD+ Strategy Preparation		
	5 Completed		The national REDD+ Strategy has been developed. There is
	4 Significant progress		little progress demonstrated on the ground in terms of the
Sub-component 2:	Progressing well, further development required		implementation of the REDD+ activities and is possibly due to the fact that no lease or license for REDD+ has been
REDD+ Strategy	2 Further development required	Χ	issued. However, the national awareness campaign has made
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		significant impact with the growing number of interested
	0 N/A		parties and queries that have been received.
	5 Completed		The assessment of Land Use and Land Use Change drivers
	4 Significant progress		is currently being conducted through the ER-Program reporting for the 1st monitoring period. Being the first
	Progressing well, further development required		report, the collation of information and QA/QC process has
	2 Further development required	Χ	been a challenge in terms of data quality and correctness and is taking longer than anticipated.
Sub-component 2a:	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		The Forest Act is being revised and expected to be
Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	0 N/A		completed and enacted before December 2022. The revised Act supports the Climate Change Act 2021 and the issuance of the Forest Management License, which supports the REDD+ interventions. The Forest Policy 2009 is still in place. The (reviewed) REDD+ Policy 2022 will be tabled at the August Cabinet Ministers' meeting for endorsement.
			The Forest Act remains the governing legal framework for all forest operations and activities, with the Conservator of Forests as the licensing authority. A regulation to operationalize the REDD+ interventions will be developed once the Forest Bill, to amend the Act, has been passed.
	5 Completed		There are five (5) strategy options recommended in the
	4 Significant progress		REDD+ Strategy: a) Integrated Land Use Planning – Under the Readiness
	Progressing well, further development required		project, plans are being developed for the 20 ER
Sub-component 2b:	Further development required	X	districts under the ER-Program. The Ministry of Forests will pursue to develop for all other districts, as stated in the Forest Policy 2009.
REDD+ Strategy	Not yet demonstrating progress		10 plans have been developed and the remaining 10 will
Options	0 N/A		be developed by December 2022. The integrated land use plans are endorsed by the Office of the Director of Town and Country Planning, as the legal authority for all land developments in Fiji. Further work is required in creating awareness on its use amongst key stakes and agencies. It is envisaged that the integrated land use

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
		plan is the enabling condition for coordination and will address the trend of in-discriminant deforestation and conversion of forest into other land uses.
		b) Sustainable Agriculture Production – this option adopts the integrated land use plan and identification and securing of arable land for production. The option also recommends incentives (government subsidies) for farmers that practice SLM and good husbandry practices. This is an activity under the ER-Program and the Ministry of Agriculture has programmed Climate Smart Agriculture approaches in its AWP.
		c) Sustainable Forest Management – this option adopts the integrated land use plan and the zoning of CBD, watershed managed, permanent forest estates and timber production areas. A national map of existing and proposed terrestrial protected areas has been developed, which is recognized in the integrated land use plans developed for the ER districts. In forest harvesting operations for timber production, a diameter-limit regime, which reduces removable volume by 30% is being adopted nationally, and is an activity under the ER-Program.
		d) Fire Management – the option recommends the development and implementation of a national fire management plan, legislation and policy. The Ministry of Forests is currently developing a Forest and Rural Fire Management Strategy.
		e) Nature Based Solution & Infrastructure Development – this option recommends that infrastructure development adopts a climate resilient grey-green infrastructure development approach and the mandatory assessment of the social cost analysis to ensure low environmental impact and incorporate human vulnerabilities. This requires further work, in terms of data collection, assessing and reporting.
	5 Completed	
	4 Significant progress	The ER-Program implementation Framework has been developed and widely consulted. The framework has built
Sub-component 2c:	3 Progressing well, further development required	on and enhanced existing systems, processes and
Implementation Framework	2 Further development required	institutional arrangements. A Program Operation Manual is being developed that provides information and to guide
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	participants in the ER-Program. The implementation framework is appended as Annex 2.
	0 N/A	
	5 Completed	The Reports for the Environmental Social Management
	4 Significant progress	Framework (ESMF) and Strategic Environmental Social Assessment (SESA) have been uploaded onto the REDD+
Sub-component 2d:	Progressing well, further development required	website. Links: https://fijireddplus.org/download/508/;
Social and Environmental	2 Further development required	X https://fijireddplus.org/download/514/ The assessments are covered under the Safeguard
Impacts	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	assessment and incorporated as Annex 1 - 3 in the ER-P
	0 N/A	Report for the 1 st Monitoring period. Further work to establish data-sharing and institutional arrangements will be conducted in August 2022.



SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

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

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

Yes X (delete as

(delete as appropriate)

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

Alternative Livelihood is an intervening activity under the ER-Program and is documented in the ER-Program document, link: https://fijireddplus.org/download/401/

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

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

Yes X (delete as appropriate)

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

Forest protection for the purpose of biodiversity conservation is an intervening activity under the ER-program and is documented in the ER-program document, link: https://fijireddplus.org/download/401/

SECTION D: FINANCE

(Please complete in US\$ ONLY)

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

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
EXAMPLES:				
\$500,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	10/2013	Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$250,000	Ministry of Forestry	01/2014	Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$ 4,120,000	FCPF Readiness Grant	07/2022	Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$ 1,260,000	Fiji Government	2017 to 2022	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 / 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 central influence on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					Х
The FCPF's support has improved the quality of our national REDD+ systems and processes					Х
The FCPF's support has improved national capacities to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					Χ
The FCPF's support has helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes					Х

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

The FCPF methodological framework has not only provided guidance to the development and enhancement of the national system and processes but has also improved institutional collaboration and arrangements, particularly in the aspect of data and information sharing and the importance of collecting correct and consistent data for national reporting and the alignment of effort at all levels.

10. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (<u>publications, seminars, learning events, web resources</u>), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.3.a: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

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

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:

No further comments.

Annex 1: Awareness Campaign Conducted.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP/EVENT/AWARENESS ON FIJI'S ER PROGRAM JANUARY – JULY, 2022

Stakeholder Workshop/Event/Awareness	Date	Number of participants	Agencies/ organisations attended
REDD+ Technical Working Group Meeting on NFI Methodology	13 Jan, 2022	20 (13 male, 7 female)	Min. of Forestry, USP (IAS), FNU, Forestry industry reps
REDD+ Policy Technical Working Group Meeting	19-20 Jan, 2022	35 (15 female, 10 male)	Review of revised and updated REDD+ Policy
Awareness Mataqali Waimaro (Nakorosule)	27 Jan, 2022	10 (6 female, 4 male)	Mataqali Waimaro members in Suva
Awareness to SSV National Council Members & Executive Committee	31 Jan, 2022	30 (All women)	SSV member reps from 14 Provinces, REDD+
Awareness to Mataqali Nakiakia, Nabouva (Wainibuka)	17 Feb, 2022	10 (8 male, 2 female)	Mataqali members, Min. of Lands (Land Bank staff), REDD+
Meeting on NFI Methodology with UNIK consultants	21 Mar, 2022	50 (48 male, 2 female)	National Forest inventory teams, REDD+ Unit staff
Serua Provincial Council Meeting	8 Apr, 2022	500 (250 male, 150 female)	Serua Provincial Council Office, Serua communities, Ministries & Departments serving in Serua area, PM and entourage

Namosi Provincial Council Meeting	21 Apr, 2022	500 (300 male, 100 female)	Namosi Provincial Council Office, Namosi communities, Ministries & Departments serving in Namosi area, PM & entourage
Soli ni Yasana o Ra – ER Program awareness	29 Apr, 2022	900 (500 male, 400 female)	Ra chiefs, Mata ni Tikina, Turaga ni Koro,men, women, youth and children from the villages and districts, Ministries/Depts working in Ra also present
Mataqali Nawaidina, Bucalevu, Ra	12 May, 2022	50 (40 male, 10 female)	Mataqali Nawaidina & other Mataqali members they had invited, Ministry of Forestry Western Division staff
Launch of the ER Program Awareness package by PS iTaukei Affairs Ministry	13 May, 2022	60 (40 female, 20 male)	Launch of the Fiji Forestry ER Program awareness package in English, Hindi and iTaukei for use in communities and schools
Soqosoqo Vakamarama - National Consultation for TEBTEBBA project on ERP awareness	1 Jun, 2022	45 (10 male, 35 female)	SSVM women from Provincial Branches, Invited guests – Roko Tuis, Commissioner Central, Min of Lands, TLTB, Mahogany Trust, Min. of Youth
ERP Awareness at the Yaubula Day in Naivuvuni in Ra	17 Jun, 2022	250 (150 female, 100 male)	ER Program Awareness to villagers of Naivuvuni and also other communities from nearby villages, schools etc. that converged & celebrated Combat to Eradicate Degradation & Desertification Day
Soqosoqo Vakamarama Western Consultation for TEBTEBBA project on ERP awareness	21 Jun, 2022	40 (8 male, 32 female)	SSVM Provincial Branches – Ba, Ra, Nadroga/Navosa, Ba, Ra & Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Offices reps, Min. of Lands, Min. of Agriculture, Min. of Forestry, TLTB, Min. of Youth, Min. of Rural & Maritime
Soqosoqo Vakamarama Central Consultation for TEBTEBBA project on ERP awareness	23 Jun, 2022	30 (25 female, 5 male)	SSVM Provincial Branches – Naitasiri, Rewa, Tailevu, Serua, Namosi, Provincial Office reps from Naitasiri, Rewa, Tailevu, Serua, Namosi and Tikina reps from the ER Program sites – Tikina (District) Nabobuco & Tikina Serua
Soqosoqo Vakamarama Northern Consultation for TEBTEBBA project on ERP awareness	05 Jul, 2022	50 (15 male, 35 female)	SSVM Provincial Branches – Cakaudrove, Bua, Macuata, Provincial Reps from Cakaudrove, Bua, Macuata, Min. of Lands, Min. of Rural & Maritime

		(Commissioner's Office), Min. of Agriculture, Cakaudrove Soqosoqo Vakamarama staff
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Annex 2 - ER-Program Implementation Framework

