

Completeness Check by the FMT on the revision of the Vanuatu Readiness Preparation Proposal

Vanuatu submitted a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the Facility Management Team (FMT) in February, 2013, which was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), a working group consisting of Participants Committee (PC) members established for this purpose, and the World Bank.

In Resolution PC/14/2013/8, the PC requested Vanuatu to consider the issues identified in the TAP’s R-PP assessment as well as those raised by the PC at this meeting during readiness preparation. The following table identifies the key issues that Vanuatu needed to address before entering into a Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement with the Trustee of the Readiness Fund and the respective revisions introduced in the R-PP sent to the FMT on October 7, 2013.

It is the view of the FMT that Vanuatu has satisfactorily taken into account the requests provided by the PC.

| PC request | Revisions in R-PP sent October 7, 2013 |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Revise component 1c of the R-PP by clarifying plans for capacity building, including those at the provincial level.</p> | <p>The following clarification has been introduced in page 41 of the R-PP:</p> <p>“Different tools are described in the following sections which will be used appropriately to inform the relevant people for any activity and receive feedback to inform the national REDD+ implementation. According to the regulations laid out in the tables below, the involved government departments are responsible for the planning and implementation of capacity building for the provincial government, extension officers, representatives of the communities, and the community members. The inclusion of civil organizations in these trainings is requested in this chapter. For trainings on provincial level, the Provincial Working Groups are responsible for identifying all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Since as of now there are very low capacities within the government, Vanuatu depends on the support by NGOs, donors and their consultants. It is crucial that the trainings are all in line with the National REDD+ Scheme. Therefore, a training concept has to be developed which ensures coherence among the trainers. This is provided for in the budget under section 1a of the R-PP.”</p> |
| | |
| <p>2. Revise component 2b of the R-PP by designing and including activities that demonstrate the</p> | <p>The following new section has been added to the R-PP, page 71:</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>feasibility of the strategy options specified in the R-PP.</p> | <p>“5. Demonstration Activities Currently, there is only one REDD+ demonstration activity in Vanuatu, which is a community project supported by the NGO Live and Learn Vanuatu. It is crucial to dramatically invest in demonstration activities that support the REDD+ implementation on national and provincial level, increasing the experience and knowledge base on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The participative process to defining the investment areas; - Capacity building of the relevant departments to implement the measures; - The outreach approaches described in chapter 1c, which lead to the informed decision by people of Vanuatu to request the offered services – or not; - Registration of REDD relevant activities; - Research aiming at defining nationally appropriate default values for a variety of REDD relevant activities; - Relating ongoing REDD relevant projects and activities throughout Vanuatu, such as ArkTek Tanna and the ACIAR reforestation and timber marketing project, to the national archive and reporting system; <p>The detailed design of demonstration activities will have to be developed in the implementation of the R-PP, as indicated in the budget. The priority is to demonstrate a full cycle of the National REDD+ Scheme, including national and provincial government and the communities in a pilot region.”</p> |
| <p>3. Revise component 4b of the R-PP by further identifying co-benefits (in particular related to agriculture and biodiversity).</p> | <p>The following paragraphs on agriculture and biodiversity co-benefits have been added on pages 113-114:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“2.1 Biodiversity monitoring</p> <p>To the extent possible, biodiversity priorities will be incorporated into the REDD+ Scheme. Given the lacking data and lower technical capabilities of Vanuatu’s institutions responsible for gathering and managing biodiversity data, REDD+ represents an unprecedented opportunity for the conservation of forest biodiversity in Vanuatu. A phased approach to implementation will be taken in order not to over-burden REDD+.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>In Vanuatu, conservation programs and initiatives related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) exist, and the national and sub-national institutions responsible for these programs must become more involved in REDD+. During the initial phases, these institutions will be identified and their capacity to monitor biodiversity responses to forest change will be built. Investments and activities for REDD+ will then be linked to the data generated in order to minimize the risk of REDD+ activities negatively impacting biodiversity as well as enhance biodiversity co-benefits in the future. In order to achieve this goal, biodiversity monitoring will be combined with GHG emissions and removals monitoring described in Component 4a.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2.2 Agriculture</p> <p>The Republic of Vanuatu understands REDD+ as a mechanism to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, as opposed to a protection and conservation mechanism. Land is managed by the people, the majority of which conduct subsistence agriculture and rely on the ecosystem services supplied by the natural resources. Improvement in carbon stocks has to be implemented by the land use groups and must promote livelihood improvement in order to succeed. As economic rule, the people would otherwise decide to continue using land as business as usual.</p> <p>It is crucial to address agricultural land use through the investment system to reduce emissions from forest land. Measures that decrease food security and household incomes will not be implemented by the people of Vanuatu. Agriculture and the issue of food security will play an important role in the conception of the extension and outreach topics.”</p> |
| <p>4. Revise the R-PP by clarifying measures to address social risks relating to land registration.</p> | <p>The following clarifications highlighting that land registration will not be a requirement of the REDD+ Scheme in Vanuatu has been added on page 59 of the R-PP:</p> <p>“Given REDD+ in Vanuatu does not seek to</p> |

implement land registration, REDD+ will need to be implemented in a context of customary and often unclear land ownership. Therefore, it is proposed that REDD+ should be accompanied by a national dialogue (integral to the E&O plan and assisted by the E&O officer) in which Ni-Vanuatu will be able to give their informed and common consent to the REDD+ strategy. Moreover, laws across different sectors will need to be harmonized and a large number of stakeholders consulted, including for example the Ministry of Finance regarding forest carbon taxation issues.”

In addition, a new section on the matter has been introduced on pages 78-79:

“3. Addressing the current land tenure system and social risks involved

As described in previous chapters, esp. 2a, the land tenure situation in Vanuatu is subject to conflicts and mistrust. Different initiatives are working on a clear regulation for land governance, considering official and unofficial (customary) elements. A solution, however, is not in sight for the next years. The national approach to REDD as laid out in section 1 of this chapter suggests that land registration is not necessary to share the benefits of a carbon emission reduction scheme:

- The Government of Vanuatu invests into in-kind support for sustainable land use activities, so there is no cash flow;

- As in other existing programmes in forestry and agriculture, the people can request support for certain activities. The implementation arrangements, i.e. for plantations, management plans or agricultural intensification schemes, have to be decided among the land owners and resource users themselves, as usual;

- The activity generates income and other benefits through economic production of goods. These benefits as well will be generated and shared as commonly done – according to the initial agreement between the stakeholders;

- Should conflicts arise over the sharing of the benefits from economic land use activities, the products cannot be sold. The income is delayed until the conflict is solved. These situations already arise regularly in Vanuatu. In most cases, they are

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>solved within the communities, through the customary systems of conflict resolution.</p> <p>The Republic of Vanuatu is working closely with the State Law Office to ensure the legality of this approach.</p> <p>In the meantime, the REDD Scheme will provide valuable inputs into the other ongoing processes of land tenure governance clarification. When those come to a result, according laws and regulations will be incorporated in the National REDD+ Scheme.”</p> |
| <p>5. Revise and modify the budget to reflect better actual costs of planned activities.</p> | <p>The R-PP has been revised in Component 5, page 120, including the organization of the overall budget table from page 121 onwards according to R-PP components and correction of overall R-PP budget amount. The proposed FCPF funding for the sub-set of activities in the R-PP has also been introduced by highlighting those activities in blue.</p> <p>The FCPF allocation of US\$200,000 to strengthen national feedback and grievance redress mechanisms under 1c has now been allocated for Design and planning; Setup and training and ongoing activities.</p> <p>FCPF funded activities have been corrected to amount to US\$ 3,600,000.</p> <p>Finally, the activity in 1a: “ Preparation of detailed design of national REDD+ Scheme” was recommended not to be included as an expenditure under the FCPF, as it would seem to refer to the ER program, which would only be relevant towards the end of Readiness. Furthermore, the linkages of the REDD+ Scheme to activity-based on-the-ground activities is in conflict with the SESA, which does not provide coverage for such. This activity has been removed.</p> <p>The revised text under Component 5is: “The total amount of funding required for R-PP implementation is 7,186,080 USD. The funding requested from FCPF amounts to 3,600,000 USD. The intended areas of expenditure for this amount are highlighted by blue fields in the table.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>3,586,080 USD of necessary funding are yet unspecified. Ways to secure this funding will be explored in the implementation phase. The potential contributions of other donors that are listed below are not quantifiable, as contributions are not directed at REDD+. Their implementation will serve to fulfill some of the tasks outlined in this document and relieve the implementation costs. Major activities are not yet covered with funding, namely the implementation of demonstration activities and the implementation of the MRV system and REL/RL development. Vanuatu is seeking additional development partners to assist with funding and development of REDD+ activities.</p> <p>The budget for each activity has been based on expected working days and whether local, regional, or international consultants are anticipated for the tasks. Those backgrounds are described in the related sections of the R-PP. In many cases, synergies with existing initiatives and projects are possible, cutting down the total costs (i.e. projects funded by the German Environmental Ministry work on MRV and REL/RL for Santo Province and on Mangroves). Since there are not many donors and implementers in Vanuatu, the planning targets a minimum effort for preparation of the national REDD+ Scheme, i.e. in developing and implementing demonstration activities. Additional efforts will be highly welcome, but can't be realistically planned for at this stage.</p> <p>Lastly, it is expected that certain items decrease in costs in future, such as remote sensing data. Model processes are being developed, such as the SESA, of which countries that join the REDD community later will profit in terms of efficiency.</p> <p>“</p> |
|--|--|