

# FCPF – External Technical Advisory Panel

## TAP Summary Report: Vanuatu

TAP team: Steve Cobb and 3 other  
reviewers



14<sup>th</sup> FCPF Participants Committee Meeting

Washington D.C.

March 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

**FOREST  
CARBON  
PARTNERSHIP  
FACILITY**

# Vanuatu Statistics



- A small-island state, with dispersed forest areas spread over many different islands
- Population: 200,000
- Rural Population: 77% (2003)
- Indigenous population: 98%
- Forests cover 36% of national territory (2010), almost entirely under customary ownership
- Annual deforestation rate: (0%) between 1990 and 2010 (FAO)

# Strengths of RPP

- The Vanuatu team did an extraordinary job, particularly in the very last weeks of RPP preparation, bringing the submission from a really very low state, to an extremely creditable one. TAP reviewers were very impressed with this.
- The characteristics of a small highly dispersed archipelagic nation, a small population, land (and forest resources) mainly in customary, private ownership and no discernible net deforestation make this a very special R-PP case.
- If the proposed approach is unusual, it therefore had every reason to be.
- The administration is extremely stretched, both geographically, numerically and in technical capability. The government is clearly very open to the use of international expertise, to help it through these capacity challenges, but is also clear about the pressing need to strengthen its own capacities.

Standard	Initial evaluation by TAP (September 2012)	Revised evaluation - TAP (January 2013)	Revised evaluation - TAP (February 2013)
1a. National Readiness Mgmt. Arrangements	Standard partially met	<b>Standard largely met</b>	<b>Met</b>
1b. Information sharing, Stakeholder Dialogue	Standard partially met	<b>Standard largely met</b>	<b>Met</b>
1c. Consultation and Participation Process	Standard not met	<b>Standard largely met</b>	<b>Met</b>
2a. Land Use, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Standard partially met	Standard partially met	<b>Met</b>
2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Standard partially met	Standard partially met	Standard largely met
2c. Implementation Framework	Standard not met	Standard partially met	<b>Met</b>
2d. Social & Environmental Impacts	Standard not met	Standard not met	<b>Met</b>
3. Reference Level	Standard largely met	<b>Standard largely met</b>	<b>Met</b>
4a. Monitoring - Emissions and Removals	Standard largely met	<b>Standard largely met</b>	<b>Met</b>
4b. Other Multiple Benefits, Impacts and Governance	Standard not met	Standard partially met	Standard largely met
5. Schedule and Budget	Standard not met	Standard not met	Standard largely met
6 Monitoring & Evaluation Program	Standard not met	Standard not met	<b>Met</b>

# Areas needing further work

- **2b** The description of policy options very nearly meets the standard, but it seems to the TAP to be very theoretical, and having evolved so very rapidly in recent weeks, we were left wondering whether or not, at the end of the RPP implementation phase, Vanuatu would be in a position to move ahead, or would still be juggling with different policy options. So we asked for just a bit more thinking about how the policy options would be made to bite.
- **4b** Whilst excellent in many respects, for example on how to manage the challenge of disparate sources of data, and how to monitor governance, the component doesn't offer anything on the monitoring of biodiversity benefits, nor on the co-benefits at the forest-agriculture interface. This needs a little extra work.
- **5** The budget needs a little more work, to link back to individual activities and to reassure that the true costs of certain activities are adequately thought out and that there is a plan for finding other donor partners to complement FCPF funding

# Overall recommendations

In the view of the TAP, this R-PP has made remarkable progress in recent weeks and Vanuatu is certainly capable of making the few remedial changes post approval by the PC

# Concluding Remarks

Vanuatu should be congratulated for its efforts and the TAP wishes to record what a pleasure it has been working with the Vanuatu team to get the proposal to its present state.