



Fiji REDD Plus Preparation Process





BACKGROUND

- Fiji has a forest cover of almost 1.1 million hectares, covering about fifty-six percent of the total land mass. Almost 90% land customary owned.
- Forest clearance is largely attributed to agriculture
- The country has large areas of degraded and unutilised lands
- Fiji recognises REDD-plus as an opportunity to contribute towards global efforts to reduce ghg emissions, strengthen the socio-economic status of its forest resource owners and protect its forest ecosystems.
- The SPC/GIZ Regional Programme Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region is supporting Fiji through a REDD-readiness programme.





APPROACH

Fiji is taking a phased approach in its REDD-plus programme.

- 1st phase: put in place policy and institutional frameworks for the implementation of REDD-plus and addressing capacity needs for the establishment of a national MRV system.
- 2nd phase: development of a national REDD-plus strategy, the establishment of pilot sites and strengthening MRV capacities (towards Tier 2 and 3 level reporting).
- 3rd phase: implementation of the strategy, participation in a REDD carbon financing mechanism, establishment of an operational MRV and IPCC reporting system .





Institutional arrangements

- Government consultation and decision that the Forestry Department will be the lead the agency on Fiji REDD+ programme
- Department of Environment plays an important role in international policy negotiations and REDD+ approval processes
- Establishment of national REDD+ Steering Committee to coordinate implementation of Fiji REDD+ programme



1st Phase

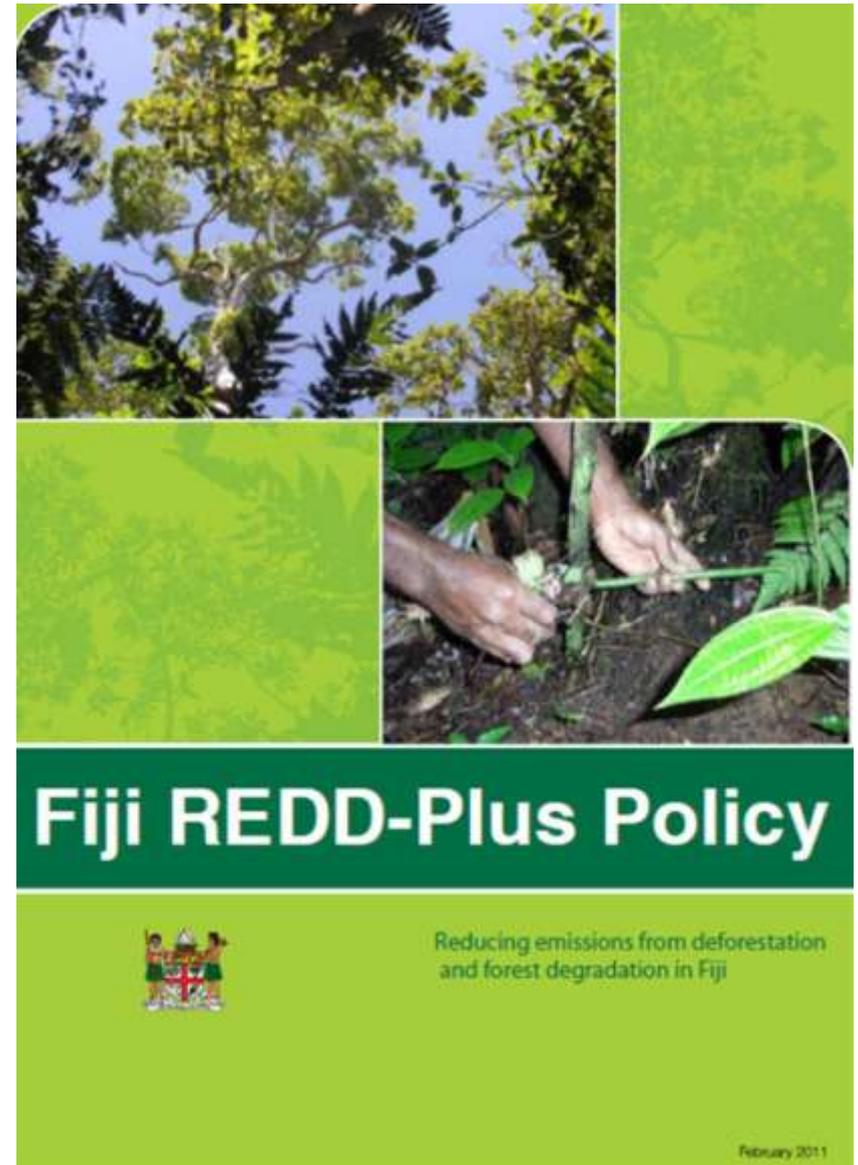
- In August 2009, more than 50 stakeholders from various sectors and agencies contributed to a scoping report detailing the country's capacity requirements to implement REDD-plus
- The consultation also saw the drafting of a national REDD-plus Policy - appropriate scope, scale, MRV approach, distribution of benefits, institutional support, and safeguards for the implementation of REDD-plus identified
- The presence of a multi-sectoral group ensured that interests such as social needs, cultural values, indigenous rights, transparency and good governance, and institutional capacity were appropriately addressed.





1st Phase

- 07 December 2010 the Fiji cabinet endorsed the Fiji National REDD-plus Policy - a first for the region, developed through a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process
- Policy very timely with growing interest from private investors and donors, the Policy - provides a framework for the implementation REDD-plus projects in the country





1st / 2nd Phase

- Drafting of the National REDD+ Strategy through multi-stakeholder consultation process
- Development of a series of REDD+ guidelines – Safeguards, MRV, financing, governance, distribution of benefits etc
- Currently establishing criteria for identification REDD+ pilot sites and appropriate activity type.
- Fiji has made significant progress towards establishing a national MRV system with the Forestry Department as the lead agency. The two main considerations for forest carbon monitoring are 1) forest area change (RS) and 2) forest carbon change (forest inventory combined with detailed maps – RS)





- The assessment of forest area and forest carbon change between 1991 to 2001 and 2001 to 2007 is being carried out. This will provide the quantitative carbon balance situation prior to carbon financing (national reference)
- Technical support from SOPAC (Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, SPC).
- This exercise is technically demanding and remote sensing and GIS assessment techniques appropriate for Fiji were developed in the process. The assessment for the period 1991 to 2001 for Fiji has been completed.
- In late 2010, under the guidance of an international expert, the Fiji Forestry Department calculated national carbon stocks of indigenous and plantation forests using existing inventory data. Figures based on current datasets estimate the national carbon stock for the indigenous forest estate to be 157,325,000 tCO₂e



- The forest area change detection and forest carbon estimation exercise was facilitated by existing national inventory data and the skilled technical officers of the forestry department.
- The capacities now developed for analysing local data for national forest area and forest carbon change has enabled Fiji to proceed to Tier 2 level reporting
- REDD MRV experts will continue to work closely with local officers in developing their capacities in forest cover change and carbon stock assessment
- Still obstacles with data quality, comparative methodologies, local resources





Roadmap to establishing a MRV system



Key MRV related activities:

1. Acquire all data & information needed for national policy strategy and action plan:
 - Evaluate and integrate existing data sources
 - Acquire additional data if needed
2. Develop capacities data for a Tier 2 national forest carbon monitoring and reference level
 - Focus on building baseline datasets
 - Capacity building
 - Reference level
 - Pilot projects
3. Establish operational MRV system and IPCC reporting:
 - Consistent and continuous monitoring and estimation
 - IPCC reporting and GHG inventory
 - MRV support for REDD actions (i.e. projects) and national policy



Observations and lessons

- Clear identification of responsible national agency and roles from the beginning
- Whilst REDD-plus is acknowledged to be a complex mechanism, the wide participatory consultation process, along with capacity development on the subject, ensured a common understanding of REDD-plus and issues being openly addressed.
- Collaboration and cooperation was greatly facilitated by the presence of existing policy frameworks protecting indigenous land and cultural rights , and a genuine desire to protect forest resources and improve the livelihoods of resource owners.



- Process facilitated by trust between forestry sector stakeholders, developed over many years of close collaboration. Strong partnership between GIZ and the Fiji Forestry Department
- Increased involvement of the forestry sector at international climate change negotiations, an area previously considered as environment “territory”.
- The increasing prominence of REDD plus in the international agenda and its growing interest nationally saw the Fiji Forestry Department being part of the country delegation to these international meetings
- The commitment of the Fiji government saw the Fiji Forestry Department incorporating the REDD+ activities in their Ministry corporate plan and Department work plan. This ensures allocation of resources towards these activities.



- Integration of MRV methodologies into existing national inventory processes and methodologies needed
- Harmonising with FRA/MAR process
- Establish a multi-agency technical MRV team for a standardised methodology
- Capacity development of national personnel at all stages!





THANK YOU!