



Fiji REDD+ Annual Progress Report (Period: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)



SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

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

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

REDD+ Unit is holding National Steering Committee meeting in the regular intervals (every three months), also some special RSC meetings, which were conducted for special reasons such for the World Bank mission to Fiji. REDD+ stakeholders were capacitated through various means such as workshop, consultation meetings, and training. The table below shows the main events those were held in 2017.

During the year 2016-2017 various kinds of REDD+ related activities were conducted which contribute to REDD+ readiness. REDD+ Unit, Ministry of Forests completed a study on the assessment of feedback and grievances redress mechanism in Fiji. The study mainly assessed the existing FGRM system in Fiji and suggested future pathways to establish an efficient and cost-effective FGRM system in Fiji.

Likewise, Ministry of Forests completed two deliverables out of four deliverables of the study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The study identified agriculture expansion, infrastructure development, conventional logging, mining gravel extraction and natural disaster as drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

The Hamburg University which is assigned to develop Fiji's National Forest Monitoring System, design forest reference level of Fiji, and establish a database system has submitted a report on situational analysis and methodology for the forest reference level. Ministry of Forests has endorsed the reports. In addition to the reports, a database system has been established at Management Service Division and Standard Operating Procedure for establishing and updating the database.

The biggest achievement for Fiji during 2017 is the submission of Mid Term Review report and request for additional funding. Fiji submitted its MTR and request for additional funding on October 20, 2017. The Participant Committee endorsed the MTR and accepted the request for additional funding of US\$ 2 million.

Ministry of Forests signed a REDD+ Conservation lease agreement for the National REDD+ pilot site with Emalu Community.

Name	Date	No. of participants	Institutions
Stakeholder consultation events			
National REDD+ Steering Committee (NSRC)	18 August 2017 08 December 2017 28 February 2018 01 June 2018	28 21	NSRC members
Drivers Inception workshop	31 August 2017		Refer to report
Resource owner pilot site update and	13 Feb 2018	25	Ministry of Agriculture, Provincial Office, Ministry of Forests
CSO Platform Forum	Mar 5-7 2018	40	Live & Learn, SSV, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, WWF, ECREA, Pacific Conference of Churches
Inception meeting for Divisional Working group – West	16 July 2018	13	Ministry of Agriculture, REDD+ pilot site resource owner reps, Ministry of waterways and Environment, USP, Ba Provincial Office, Grace Trifam (Faith-based NGO)
Capacity building/training & awareness			
Early Childhood Education (ECE) – forest conservation awareness Tacirua Kindergarten Supported by (RDF & AAD)	02 August 2017	20	Tacirua Kindergarten
FIVEM - Valuing and Assessing of Carbon	5th, 12th, 19th Aug 2017	30	FIVEM is an institute comprising of Valuers' and Estate Management
REDD+ awareness Sawani District School	29 Sept, 2017	250	Students, teachers & parents
Expert Exchange on REDD+ and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) for Asian-Pacific Countries	17-19 Oct 2017	1 – Planning Officer 1 – Senior Accounts Officer	Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Forests
27th Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka	23-27, Oct 2017	5 2	Ministry of Forests SPC/GIZ
REDD+ Awareness Dreketi (TEBTEBBA – SSVM)	25-27 April 2018	30	Tikina Dreketi (Men and women)
FGRM training	30-31 May		Ministry of Forests, TLTB, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, LLEE, Drawa and Emalu resource owner reps, Fiji Environment Law Association (FELA), SPC/GIZ, Grace Trifam, USP- IAS, Integra
REDD+ Awareness Navosa (TEBTEBBA – SSVM)	May 21-24	100+	Tikina Namataku, Tikina Noikoro, Tikina Nasikawa

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2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related achievements in your country during the last year?

- 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

During last year a Forest Database System was established and various capacity building activities such as training on R software were conducted. Fiji estimated forest activity data to design forest reference level. Besides, a report on the assessment of Feedback and Grievances Redress mechanism is produced which identifies the existing FGRMs and suggested new FGRM system and improvement in the existing system. Likewise, a study report on drivers of deforestation has identified agriculture expansion, infrastructure, mining, logging, gravel extraction are the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. An FRL methodology has been developed. The report mainly explains types of carbon pools, types of greenhouse gases, a methodological framework to estimate sources and removal. A forest database system has been established along with its standard operating procedures are also developed. Fiji also produced forest activity data to design forest reference level using visual classification method. However, visual classification method has some limitations in terms of consistency, completeness, and accuracy of even single date mapping. The use of multiple operators is likely to increase these problems. Gross errors may arise from omission or accidental deletion of forest polygons. Mainly Landsat of three years 2006, 2012, 2016 were used to estimate forest activity data. The activity data estimation used the Landsat images, but most of the images contained clouds. Presence of cloud in most Landsat images resulted in missing data for cloudy areas.

The University of South Pacific was selected to assess Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and to develop an Environmental and Social Monitoring Framework for REDD+ activities of Fiji. Altogether six deliverables were expected under this study. The consultant had submitted five deliverables, but deliverable D4 which deals with REDD+ Priority Strategic Options and Environmental and Social Issues, and D5 which is the main report on SESA and ESMF were not accepted, because these reports do not comply with the TOR. Ministry of Forest is planning to appoint a new consultant to accomplish the assessment of the environmental and social impact of REDD+ in Fiji.

3. 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

Fiji has a tropical climate with a hot, humid and rainy season, resulting in the significant cloud all year around. Because of cloud cover, it is hard to find any image without any cloud. Presence of cloud in Landsat images is a challenge for Fiji in estimating forest cover change. Presence of cloud in most of the Landsat images resulting in missing data for cloudy areas.

Capacity regarding using Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System for measurement and monitoring of forest resources is limited with the Ministry of Forests, hence capacity development program for the staff is essential. Various kinds of capacity building programs such as forest inventory and GIS/RS training are proposed for next year.

The administrative process to procure consultancy services is taking considerably long time, which is a challenge to implement REDD+ for an extended period. Hence, the ministry should strive to shorten the process.

Another challenge is the inconsistency of historical data such as native forest logging, plantation harvesting, and plantation area. The data provided by agencies responsible for the management of native forest, plantation forest does not match with the data available in the ministry of forests. Hence an updating of data is essential through online submission (database system).

REDD+ is a new approach for Fiji with many technical requirements arising from the implementation of REDD+, and it takes time to complete all the readiness milestones.

4. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver during the next year?

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

Next year, a complete set of reports related to drivers of deforestation will be produced, particularly a report of modelling of deforestation, forest degradation, and carbon enhancement will be produced. Likewise, Fiji will construct a forest reference and develop a report on National Forest Monitoring System and REDD+ nesting guideline. Since SESA & ESMF was incomplete last year, hence it is expected that Fiji will produce SESA and ESMF report. Fiji intends to carry out various studies next year. A list of activities that will be delivered next year is given in the table below.

Descriptions	Name of the consultant	Expected date of completion	Remarks
Drivers of deforestation / forest degradation, REDD+ strategy options,	Winrock International, Conservation international, Indufur	Sept 2018	Modelling of Deforestation and Forest Degradation will be delivered
Carbon rights assessment, benefit sharing mechanism	Conservation International	September 2018	Conservation International is assigned for this study
SESA & ESMF	Individual Consultant	September 2018	D4, D5 are not acceptable hence the contract termination process is underway
Development of R-Package and Assessment of REDD+ Readiness in Fiji	Individual consultant (IC)	October 2018	TOR is developed
International Forestry Course	Firm or Institution (CQS)	November 2018	TOR is being developed
REDD+ Strategy	Firm or Institution (CQS)	November 2018	
An improvement on the Forest Reference Level of Fiji and activities include: (a) Construct biomass equations, estimate density for important species of the country, and emission and removal factors for different land use land cover (grass land, crop land, forest fire)	Firm or Institution	March 2019	

(c) Redesign Permanent Sample Plots and National Forest Inventory (including Mangrove), (d) Upgrade database system and establish carbon registry, and safeguard information system			
Training of Trainers (3 events at division level) and develop a REDD+ training manual	Firm- CQS	Sept 2018	The hiring process is underway
REDD+ awareness program through CSOs (various events at community level)	Firm-CQS	Oct 2018	The hiring process is underway
Emission Reduction Project Document	The World Bank	Oct 2018	

SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

5. 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:

Complete	The sub-component has been completed
	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress
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: Readiness Organisation and Consultation		
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Complete	Apart from the already established permanent institutions, the Fiji government has established various institutional mechanism consisting of a REDD+ Steering Committee, Technical Working Groups, and working groups at the divisional level. They are fully in place and functioning well.
	X	
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	N/A	
	Complete	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	Yellow	X	Various kinds of institutional mechanism have been established to ensure the participation of key stakeholders in the REDD+ readiness process. Fiji's first meeting on REDD+ in 2009 decided to form a national multi-stakeholder governance structure leading to the formation of a REDD+ Steering Committee (SC). Currently, there are several awareness programs conducted mostly in cities and targeted groups. Only, the government extension work is not sufficient to reach the larger audience and to the communities residing in remote areas where they do not have access to mass media.
	Orange		
	Red		
	N/A		
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation			
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Complete		Fiji has completed some studies on identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Various analytical studies are underway related to land use and land use change such carbon right, benefit sharing mechanism. Likewise, a study on Feedback & grievances redress mechanism has recently completed. This study has assessed the existing FGRM and recommended some improvement.
	Green		
	Yellow	X	
	Orange		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	Complete		A study has recently completed which identified the strategic options required to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. However, the country will prepare a detailed REDD Strategy, and process to develop the strategy. A process of developing a REDD+ is underway.
	Green		
	Yellow	X	
	Orange		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	Complete		Some institutional, economic, and legal arrangement required to implement REDD+ strategy options is already in the country, however, to implement REDD+ improvement in the existing framework is essential. For example, a study on National Forest Monitoring System will come up with recommendations what sort of institutional arrangement is required for Fiji to establish the robust measurement, monitoring, and reporting system for Fiji. Likewise, FGRM study has recommended some institutional arrangement, a study on carbon right will recommend legal arrangement.
	Green		
	Yellow	X	
	Orange		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	Complete		In order to integrate social and environmental concerns into REDD+ strategy development, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
	Green		
	Yellow	X	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
		(SESA) is being carried out for the country. The consultant has already delivered three deliverables which mainly explains the current social and environmental issues of the country. However, SESA & ESMF report submitted by the consultant was not accepted by the Fiji government. Hence, rewriting of the SESA and ESMF is underway.
	N/A	
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	Complete	The consultancy team submitted a Methodology for Developing the FRL. Forest database system established, a draft report on nesting guideline is submitted. Capacity activities such as training on R-software, forest inventory were conducted. Expected date for the submission of the FRL report and the report on National Forest Monitoring System is 30 October 2018.
	X	
	N/A	
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards		
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Complete	The Hamburg University, Germany, is helping to develop a National Monitoring System in Fiji. Information is being collected to develop an NFMS. The consultancy team has conducted a test inventory, but report on test inventory has not submitted yet. Expected date for the submission of NFMS is 30 October 2018.
	X	
	N/A	
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Complete	Other than identifying seven potential non-carbon benefits during the R-PP preparation period, no systematic study has been conducted to identify the non-carbon benefits and their monitoring system in the context of Fiji. A study on identification and establishment of a monitoring system of non-carbon benefits is essential. This study will be conducted by the end of 2018.
	X	
	N/A	

SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

6. 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:

Fiji has not developed a REDD+ Strategy as such yet, but the country will develop a strategy soon. Emission Reduction Program Idea Note intends to reduce emissions and enhance livelihoods. The livelihoods of local communities are closely tied to their land and natural resources. The strategy options reflect the broadness of impact achieved with interventions in land use.

7. 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

Many policy documents such as REDD+ Policy and Strategic Development Plan aim to conserve biodiversity in the country. The ER program will specifically target for protection areas identified as having high biological diversity. The Fiji Protected Areas Committee has mapped out a network of protected areas, but these are currently not legally protected. The readiness process will support the legal protection of these sites, and the ER program will monitor this protection status.

SECTION D: FINANCE

8. 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)
\$ 3,800,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	04/2015	Public	Grant
\$ 1,027, 000	Government of Fiji	04/2015	Public	Other
\$ 988, 000	GIZ	04/2015	Public	Grant

9. 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	Public or private finance?	Grant, loan or other?
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	(e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	(Delete as appropriate)	(Delete as appropriate)
\$		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
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

10. 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					X
The FCPF's support has improved the quality of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved national capacities to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X
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					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

The FCPF support is instrumental in improving national capacities to measurement, monitoring and reporting of forest in Fiji. Besides, REDD+ approach expected to bring breakthrough in sustainable management of forest.

11. 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 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				X	

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

Fiji conducts capacity building activities for the REDD+ Stakeholders, and the resource material produced by FCPF is very useful and are frequently used by Fiji.

SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

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

REDD+ is a new approach for Fiji, and institutional arrangement and existing capacity was not adequate considering REDD+ requirement hence significant progress could not be realized in terms of REDD+ readiness during the running year. However, Fiji is now building its institutional and technical capacity hence during next year significant progress in REDD+ readiness can be achieved.