Ministry of Forestry

Participatory Self-Assessment of the REDD+ Readiness Package in Fiji

Suva, 15 February 2019

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Acronyms and Abbreviation

AFOLU	The Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
BSM	Benefits Sharing Mechanism
CAWG	Communication and awareness working group
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CSO	Civil Society Organization
C & P	Consultation and Participation
CI	Conservation International
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
COP	Conference of Parties
DoD & FD	Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
DOE	Department of Environment
ERPIN	Emission Reduction Program Idea Note
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBO	Faith based organization
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FD	Forestry Department
FFP	Future Forest Fiji
FNU	Fiji National University
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German International Development Agency)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MOF	Ministry of Forestry
MRV	Measuring, Reporting and Verification

NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDMS	National Database Management System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PSP	Permanent Sample Plot
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus Forest Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests, Carbon Stock Enhancement
RL/REL	Reference Level/ Reference Emission Level
SC	Fiji REDD+ National Steering Committee
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SOPAC	Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (of SPC)
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SSV	Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei
TLFC	iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission
TLTB	iTaukei Lands Trust Board
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNCCD	United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	The University of the South Pacific

1. Executive Summary

Fiji has been in active in REDD+ process since 2009, having achieved many landmarks while continuously progressing towards major milestones of implementing REDD+. Fiji Cabinet endorsed the Fiji National REDD+ Policy in 2011. The Policy provides the framework for the planning, coordination, and implementation of REDD+ activities. Fiji developed its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in January 2014. In May 2015, Fiji became a recipient of the FCPF REDD+ readiness grant of 5.8 million for REDD+ readiness activities.

Fiji initiated the R-Package in December 2018, preparation and multi-stakeholders' self-assessment of Fiji's REDD+ Readiness. An R-Package writing team of four members in accordance with FCPF Readiness Package Assessment Framework organized consultation workshops at divisional and national level.

The assessment framework consists of four components, nine subcomponents and thirty-four assessment criteria. It is guided by fifty-eight diagnostic questions to assess REDD+ Readiness. The team organized two divisional level consultation, one national consultation workshops, and informal discussions with government officials. A total of 44 participants representing various organizations such as Civil Society Organization (CSO), donor partners, academia, land owner's representative and other governmental organizations took part in the consultation workshops.

The R-Package incorporated suggestions and comments received from the workshop participants including their assessment rating. In order to rank the progress of REDD+ readiness, a four color "traffic light" system was utilized. The green, yellow, orange and red colors were used to indicate self-assessment as follows:

- significant progress – Green
- progress well further work required - Yellow
- further development required, - Orange and
- almost nothing started respectively – Red.

Generally, the result of the self-assessment indicate that Fiji has progressed well with further development needed on most of the stage of the readiness process. More detailed assessment of the readiness status of the different components and subcomponents is illustrated in the stakeholder's self-assessment section. Some gaps and areas to improve remain, which will be addressed in the remaining REDD+ readiness period as well as during the implementation phase. The major areas where additional work is needed include:

a) Strengthening institutional capacities and coordination mechanism among the relevant sectors, ministries and more broadly throughout land owners, private sectors, and civil society groups;

b) Further strengthen awareness activities to improve the level of participation and engagement of REDD+ relevant stakeholders including land owner and CSOs;

c) Even though various analytical studies have been conducted their outcomes have not been shared at the divisional level such as the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and corresponding strategic options;

d) The Forest Reference Level design using historical land use change activity data revealed high uncertainties that exist in the numbers used to construct the FRL, therefore adopting a stepwise approach will improve Fiji's estimation of the FRL in the near future;

e) A report on NFMS including MRV is in place and recommends an organizational set-up to operationalize REDD+ monitoring system;

f) Strengthen the forest monitoring systems to expand potential carbon pools and develop monitoring system for non-carbon benefits and safeguard. Also, enhance technical capacities and awareness of relevant REDD+ stakeholders including government, CSO and land owners.

The multi-stakeholder self-assessment report shows that the level of REDD+ awareness varies by division. Participatory tools were utilized, and participants encouraged to discuss the guiding question of each criteria before making assessments. It was interesting to note that participants in the same groups often rated different color for the same component and sub components. The final color rating is based on the views and perception of majority of stakeholders, document review and the REDD+ readiness implementation experience.

Awareness of REDD+ at the national level is higher than other two division as the national level stakeholders demonstrated strong familiarity to the REDD+ concept and mechanism. This is because of the continuous interaction of REDD+ Unit and Ministry of Forestry's staff with national level stakeholders. All data have been analyzed, to form a composite color ranking incorporating findings of interactions at different levels. The team also review the documents of all the analysis undertaken during the Readiness Phase to validate the findings of the consultation with stakeholders.

A summary of each of the four components is discussed briefly below with detailed discussion in the report:

- **Organization and consultation is** supported since 2009 with strong participation of a broad range of stakeholders from civil societies, private sector, academia, statutory bodies and government agencies. With new leadership at the helm of Ministry of Forestry, the REDD+ Unit have recently responded positively to liaise and raise capacity of the REDD+ implementation to become a decentralized arm at Divisional level; aiming to

consolidate readiness of REDD+ in Fiji. At the same time, the Ministry of Forestry, have taken responsibility to mobilize coordination to mainstream REDD+ readiness activities and ensure key ministries integrate issues in their work plan that supports REDD+ readiness. A subcommittee has been formed at Permanent Secretary level to support the above coordination. Members of the subcommittee include the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and Ministry of Environment.

- **REDD+ Strategy preparation** indicate significant progress with the assistance of GIZ/SPC in the compilation of situational analysis and assessments. Coupled with community and wide stakeholder consultation, the reports provide background material to facilitate the assessment of drivers and the development of strategy options that will address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Strong laws in Fiji and clear traditional governance structure pertaining to land titles have provided the enabling environment to develop actions plans that take into account the rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance. With a Strategy Options in place, the REDD+ Unit is committed to facilitate the development of an all-encompassing REDD+ Strategy that will also incorporate the outcomes of the study from SESA and ESMF, ensuring that World Bank Policies and the Cancun Safeguard Systems are aligned.

- **Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level** in Fiji has been developed covering approximately 94% of its landmass. The FRL is consistent with IPCC guidelines and Guidance. Other guidelines such as GOGC-GOLD guideline have also been incorporated. Given the lack of information, FRL only considered above and below ground biomass to account for carbon dioxide only. Since the manual digitization method is used to estimate historical land cover changes, a high level of uncertainty is attached to the deforestation, forest degradation, and forest enhancement estimates. However, adopting a stepwise approach, the country in collaboration with CSIRO Australia is improving the FRL using multi-temporal change and used a semi-automated method of land cover classification. Fiji does not have sufficient technical capacity to analyze land cover change and the associated estimate emission reduction and carbon enhancement. However, capacity enhancement activities are currently underway using the FCPF readiness fund.

- **Design of National Forest Monitoring and Information Safeguards** includes both remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches. Fiji has a strong ground-based measurement system. The national forest inventory carried out in 2006 provided a large set of data for estimation of emission factors. Permanent sample plots are established, and they are regularly measured and monitored even though there is a locational issue with the PSP. Capacity in the Management Service Division is being built and improved to measure, monitor and to report REDD+ activities. The SESA study has identified three categories of non-carbon benefits; socioeconomic, environmental and governance. Also, the SESA report has identified social and environmental impact of REDD+ interventions. Fiji is complying with the World Bank and Cancun safeguard system. Neither Fiji identified country specific indicators for Cancun safeguard nor develop

safeguard monitoring system. However, a system to monitor environmental and social impact at project level is exists under Environmental Impact Assessment framework. During the REDD+ phase, safeguard information system will be developed and linked to the existing National Forest Database System.

A total of 34 criteria were assessed. The overall result of the self-assessment of the R-Package component is summarized in Table 1. Results of the self-assessment, review of Readiness process and assessment of the status of implementation by the facilitation team, indicate that Fiji is progressing well with further development required. Results indicate 19 Criteria with Green status, 13 with Yellow status, and 2 Orange status. It can be concluded that majority of components and subcomponents would follows stepwise approach to progressively achieve the desired outcome by 2020. In particular, more effort is required to establish forest monitoring and reporting system in the country.

Table 1. Summary of R-Package overall valuation based on the self-assessment

Components	Sub Components	Progress Status
1. Organization and Consultation	1a. National Readiness Management Arrangement	Green
	1b. Stakeholder Consultation and Participation	Green
2. Prepare the REDD Strategy	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy and Governance	Yellow
	2b. REDD Strategy Options	Green
	2c. REDD Implementation Framework	Yellow
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Green
3. Reference emission level/reference level		Green
4. Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures	4a. National forest monitoring system	Green
	4b. System of information on the multiple advantages, governance and safeguards	Yellow

Green	'Significant progress.'	Orange	'Further development required.'
Yellow	'Progressing well, further, development required.'	Red	'not yet demonstrating progress.'

2. Background

Fiji has been actively engaged in the UNFCCC REDD+ process and advancing in its national REDD+ readiness process since 2009. In December 2013, Fiji became a recipient of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) with a grant of USD 5.8 million to support the implementation of activities outlined in the country's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Mid-term Review Report. The FCPF Readiness Fund supports the following components: 1) Institutional strengthening for REDD+ (including the establishment and operationalization of the National REDD+ Unit); 2) Development of a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan (includes analytical studies); 3) Designing and developing a Forest Reference Emission Level; and 4) Establishing a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, and a Safeguard Information System (SIS). Apart from FCPF, GIZ is also supporting Fiji's REDD+ readiness activities.

First phase of the readiness is going to end by April 2019. Fiji has already submitted its Mid-term review Report (MTR) and requested an additional funding of USD 2 million. The Participant Committee accepted MTR and approved an additional funding of USD 2 m. Some of the readiness program implemented in phase one will continue in the second phase of REDD+ readiness such as capacity building of stakeholder. The additional fund is primarily intended to be used for technical capacity of the country.

Fiji submitted its Emission Reduction Program Idea Note to the FCPF Carbon Fund for its consideration. The Carbon Fund Participants agreed to select Fiji's ERPIN into its pipeline for result based payment in 2016. The Letter of Intent (LOI) between Government of Fiji and the World Bank for potential purchase of the emissions reduction was agreed in April 2016. Fiji has developed it Emission Reduction Program Document and submitted to the FCPF. It is currently under review. Apart from the FCPF, Fiji is receiving support from the SPC/GIZ for REDD+ readiness activities. Figure 1. illustrate the milestones of the Fiji's REDD+ readiness.

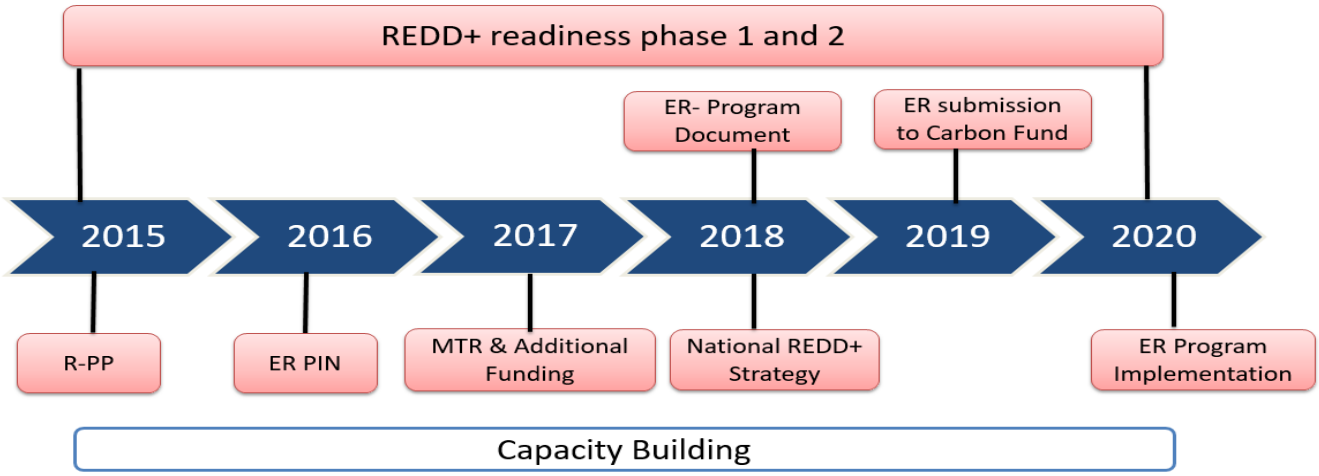


Figure 1: **Landscape of REDD+ Readiness in Fiji**

3. Current Financial Status

Fiji is a recipient of FCPF grant and currently receives USD 5.8 million, which includes USD 2 million of additional funding. Fiji signed a contract with FCPF on April 10, 2015 and start receiving grant since 2015. First phase of readiness finishes by June 2019, since Fiji's request for additional funding is approved by the Participant Committee, the readiness period is extended until December 2020.

Table 2: Financial status of REDD+ readiness for the period of 2015-2019

Funding Agency	Grant amount (Mil. USD)	Disbursement (USD)	% of disbursement	Committed# (USD)	% of committed (includes disbursed amount)
FCPF	5.8*	1.97	33.97	2.59	44.66
GIZ	0.58*	0.33	56.90	0	56.90
Government of Fiji	0.68*	0.50	73.5	0	75.5

In addition to FCPF fund, government of Fiji and GIZ is contributing to Fiji's REDD+ readiness. Government of Fiji committed USD 687,000 and GIZ committed USD 588, 000 for the readiness activities.

Fund utilization of FCPF readiness fund has been challenging given the long lag time since Fiji signed a grant agreement with the World Bank. Only 33.97 % of the grant is disbursed by 12 February 2019. However, Fiji has already signed a various contract with consultants to carry out various analytical studies a percentage of committed amount is 44.66 % (67% of the first phase of readiness grant). Low rate of

fund utilization over the past years may be attributed to multi-level decision making process other than Ministry of Forestry. The Ministry of Forestry is dependent on Solicitor General's Office and Fiji Procurement Office for critical decisions relating to procurement of consultancy work. Unit recently, the agencies agreed to give priority to the readiness activity given the time lost and remaining readiness time. With support from Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Economy, it is expected that fund utilization rate will be improved. Figure 2 shows an increasing rate of fund disbursement the progress is mainly because of the improvement in fund absorption capacity of the country.

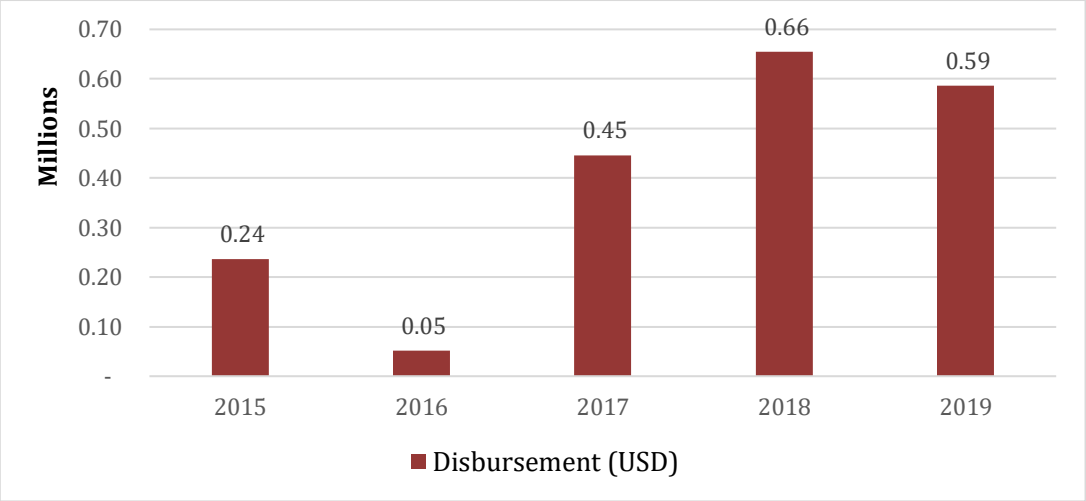


Figure 2: Fund disbursement of FCPF over land four years (2015-2019)

At the same time, disbursement rate of Fiji government funding is satisfactory. Government of Fiji commitment to R-PP a total of USD 0.68 m, however only USD 0.50m has been disbursed which is equivalent to 73.5%. The total amount used of the funds disbursed by the Fiji Government is estimated at 75.5 %. GIZ commitment was USD 0.58 m, but USD 0.33 m is disbursed and utilized (see Table 2).

4. R-Package Process and Outcomes

The purpose of preparing R-package is to assess REDD+ readiness of the Government of Fiji. The assessment approach involves taking stock of progress made, identifying needs and possibilities for changes in implementation and making necessary recommendations to facilitate the Readiness Phase. The report attempts to answer the question: "What has been the progress made with REDD+ readiness in Fiji?". The R-Package report is developed in accordance with the FCPF REDD+ Assessment Framework. The format follows four components (Annex A), nine sub components, and thirty-four assessment criteria.

The R-package development team consists of four members. The team undertook two divisional level and one national level consultation workshops. A total of 44 participants took part in the consultation process across Fiji.

Preparation of the R-package includes an inventory of REDD activities in Fiji; review of REDD-related documents, a collection of stakeholder opinions, among senior management of the Ministry of Forest and policymakers review from other line agencies, private and public sectors.

A traffic light system is used to categorize the level of progress made under each component and sub-component. Four levels of achievement are used: significant progress (green), progressing well, but further development required (yellow), further development required (orange), and not yet demonstrating progress (red).

The workshops collected self-assessment data from various stakeholders including government, landowner, CSO, private sector and donor partners. The R-Package assessment includes the review of findings from all analytical studies conducted under REDD+.

Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

Sub-component 1 a. National REDD Management Arrangements

Criteria of Assessment 1: Accountability and transparency

The Fiji Government has established the REDD+ Unit in the Ministry of Forestry as well as various institutional mechanism such as the REDD+ Steering Committee, Technical Working Groups, and Working Groups at the divisional level. These entities are fully functional at the time of compiling this report.

The REDD+ Steering Committee is an inclusive, multi-stakeholders body consisting of representatives from the key stakeholder groups identified as being relevant for REDD+ as outlined in Figure 3. The committee consists of governmental and non-governmental participants, the private sector, civil society, academic, and regional intergovernmental organizations.

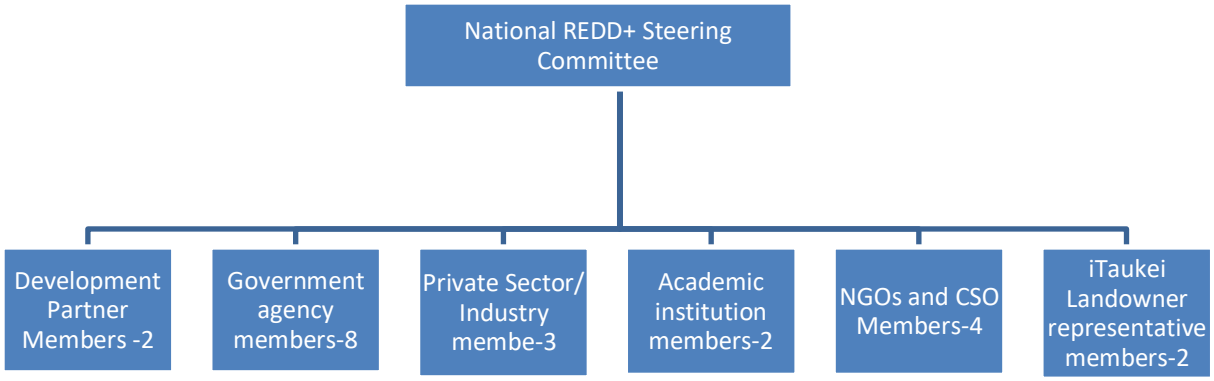


Figure 3: Organizational Structure of the REDD+ Steering Committee

The REDD+ Steering Committee (SCSC) performs various activities and the major responsibilities include monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ strategy and associated action plans; facilitating inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination; as well as serving as an advisory technical body on main streaming REDD+ into national dialogue. Figure 2 depicts the institutional arrangement for REDD readiness. Subcommittees provides technical advisory services that focus on specific tasks relevant to the deliberation of the SCSC.

Figure 4 shows the structure of the different technical working groups which includes the following thematic areas – Safeguards, Awareness, MRV, Governance and Financing.

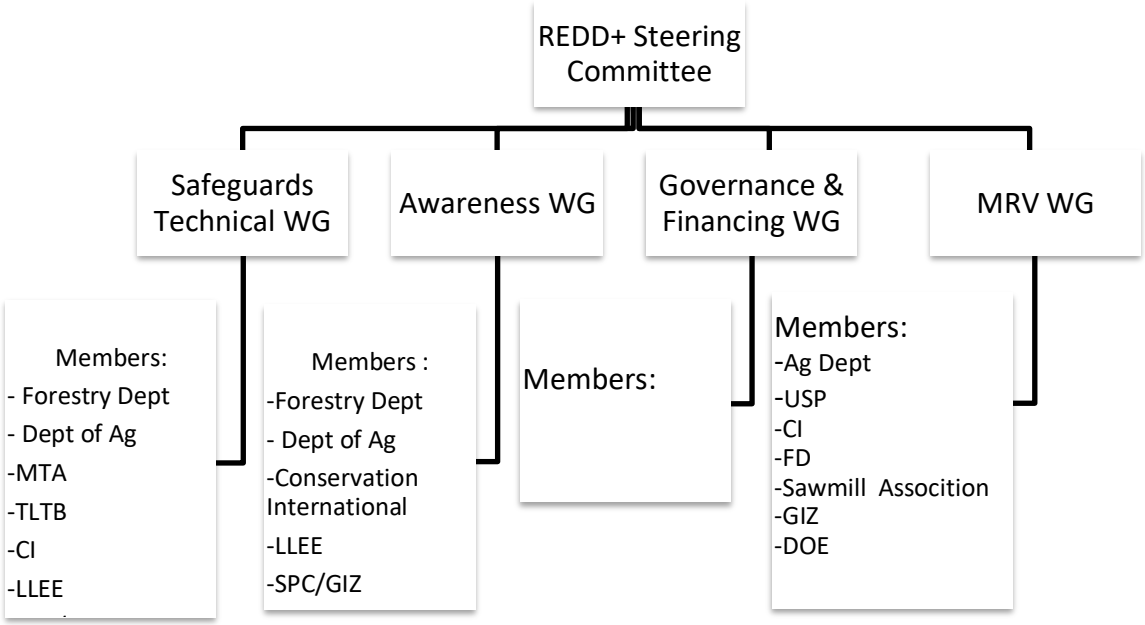


Figure 4: Structure of REDD+ Working Groups

The REDD+ unit has been established as a part of institutional strengthening efforts with regards to coordination and implementation of the REDD+. The Unit has a REDD+ Technical Advisor and two Technical Experts, one communication officer and an Administrative Assistant to support day to day REDD+ readiness activities. The Technical Advisor and the experts are continuously adding value not only to REDD+ at the national level but also providing technical support to ongoing and upcoming REDD+ projects at local level. This support is instrumental for the smooth implementation of REDD+ activities and a continuation of their positions until ERPA signature are secured implementation.

Development of REDD+ program in Fiji has evolved with time with the development of the REDD+ policy in 2011 following the adoption of the Forest Policy in 2007. Strong support from the Ministry of Forestry, development partners such as GIZ/SPC, civil societies and willing community participation has resulted in the establishment of one formal REDD+ demonstration site and two project sites. Aligned to Fiji's hybrid approach, each of the three sites have different core characteristics which provides a wealth of knowledge and opportunities for REDD+ activities in Fiji. The sites demonstrate a range of possible institutional arrangements for three possible scenarios ranging from total Government support (Emalu site), partial Government support (Drawa Block), to private and independent external support (Nakauvadra Community Based Reforestation Project). A summary of a comparison between the three sites is outlined in Annex B.

Nevertheless, participants representing donor partners voiced concerns relating to the declining impact of the SCSC as junior staffs represent organizations who have no decision-making powers. At the same time, definition of roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Forestry and the REDD+ Unit was questioned by participants representing CSO at the self-assessment workshop who expressed concern that the coordination and support between the REDD+ Unit and the Ministry of Forestry is unclear. Donor partners also raised the question on the support from the Ministry of Forestry Senior Staff who are not always visible during REDD+ activities. At the same time, it was observed that only a few staff within the Ministry of Forestry Staff are fully involved and well versed with REDD+ at Divisional level.

Although various working group members are experts in their respective field, there is a need for capacity building of the members specifically on REDD+ related programs. As the REDD+ in Fiji advances, the existing technical capacity may not be sufficient to implement REDD+ effectively. Therefore, the technical capacity not only of members of the technical working groups, but also of the members of the other departments is essential to support holistic development of REDD+ in Fiji.

In view of the importance of bringing REDD+ issues to the attention of decision makers, it is imperative to make presentations about REDD+ activities and progress to existing legislated bodies such as the Forestry Board, National Environment Council (NEC) and the National Climate Change Coordinating Committee (NCCCC). This is imperative to secure the attention of Senior Government Official to support the report-back that representatives of respective organizations take back at the end of SCSC meetings.

The REDD+ Unit will continue to pursue improved ways of networking across all agencies that are part of the REDD+ Steering Committee through newsletters and face to face meetings as well as social media such as WhatsApp, Viber, Twitter and face book. The REDD+ Unit will also aspire to improve communication with the Ministry of Forestry to provide feedback on activities to resource owners to support and ensure mainstreaming of REDD+ activities that encourage multi sectoral collaboration.

Overall Assessment

The self-assessment is ranked at **green** which means that it is has made significant progress with enhanced coordination through the SC, REDD+ Divisional Working Group and the Technical Working Group of the SC. Strong interagency collaboration has resulted in better understanding among core SC of their roles and responsibilities, particularly in support of the Technical Working Groups.

Criteria of Assessment 2: Operational mandate and budget

The decisions made by the SC are widely circulated among the relevant stakeholders. The SC also reports its outputs or decisions to the Forestry Board, the National Environmental Council, and the National Climate Change Coordinating Committee. The SC further submits an annual progress report to the various key stakeholders and other interested stakeholders, which includes the UNFCCC focal point, CBD, and the UNCCD, permanent secretaries of various ministry, and the NGO representative network. The decision-making process is very democratic as at least 75% of the SC members must be present to proceed with the meetings.

The SC have also established Technical Committees and the REDD+ Unit. The technical working groups consist of members of the SC and/or officers nominated by SC members to contribute on behalf of their agencies. Of these technical working groups, the ones on safeguard and MRV are actively contributing to developing SESA & ESMF and MRV, respectively.

The Ministry of Forestry established the REDD+ Unit as a part of institutional strengthening efforts with regards to coordination and implementation of the REDD+ activities. The Unit has a REDD+ Technical Advisor and two technical experts including a Communication Officer and an Administrative Assistant to support day-to-day implementation of REDD+ readiness. The technical advisor and the experts are continuously adding value not only to REDD+ at the national level but also providing technical support to ongoing and upcoming REDD+ projects at local level. This support is instrumental for the smooth implementation of REDD+ activities and a continuation of their positions until ERPA is secured.

Mechanism for multi sector coordination and cross sectoral collaboration are in place however there is a need to introduce incentives for active participation. Incentives may include sitting allowances to attract the right people however this may send the wrong signals and create an undesirable culture that may be different to avoid in future.

Weak collaboration among line ministries to ensure mainstream and alignment of REDD+ actions, sectoral policies and line budget allocation often results in lack of integration of REDD+ with key sectors. It is important that REDD+ is not viewed as strictly "forestry activity" but rather a multisectoral approach. For this reason, meaningful involvement of line agencies through REDD+ activities are imperative to ensure budget allocation for REDD+ and committed outcomes across key sectors.

While the framework for efficient implementation of REDD+ is in place there is a need to ensure that REDD+ institutions and management arrangement operate under clear and mutually supportive mandates with adequate, predictable and sustainable budgets. To this end, it is imperative to find means to decentralize budgets to Divisional level to ensure that funds are available to carry out local REDD+ activities.

To address weak collaboration at the high echelons of Government, minutes, newsletter and other print materials will be shared widely to all line ministries. Minutes of each meeting of the SC is circulated to the members irrespective of whether the member attended the meeting or not in an effort to make sure that all members of the SC are informed about the discussion and decisions made during SC meetings.

Apart from the Fiji Sawmillers Association, there is a need to reach out and involve private sector/relevant organization to support implementation of REDD+ activities. During last few years, Fiji has carried out various systematic capacity building activities for both personnel and institutions for the successful implementation of REDD+.

Likewise, the country has strengthened coordination structures to ensure a holistic and cost-efficient approach. This included for example: Quarterly SC meetings and seminars, participation in international climate change meeting relevant for REDD+, visit of selected SC members to other REDD+ countries, integration of REDD+ activities in the plans and communication procedures in SC members' agencies activities.

Overall assessment

The result of the self-assessment indicates the color yellow to signify that efforts have progress well although further development is required. In particulate, the need to raise capacity of the REDD+ unit to become a decentralized arm at Divisional level is recognized as an urgent need that will affirm the operational mandate of REDD+ in Fiji. At the same time, the need to urgently liaise with line ministries to mainstream REDD+ and ensure key ministries recognize activities in their work plan that supports REDD+. For instance, the Ministry of Women is encouraging the establishment of firewood woodlots and the distribution of fuel efficient "rocket stove" under climate resilient program. They may want to place this under REDD+ program once the connections are made hence the REDD+ Unit and the Ministry of Forest is committed to reach out to all sectors to talk about REDD+ to secure synergies on existing works that are linked to REDD+.

Criteria 3: Mechanism for multi sectoral coordination and cross sectoral

At the sub-national level, REDD+ Divisional Working Groups (DWG) have been established in the Northern and Western Division of Fiji to guide REDD+ implementation at the divisional level. The Divisional Working Group is Chaired by the Commissioner with membership of the Divisional Heads of the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Lands, iTaukei Lands Trust Board, Provincial Office, Provincial Administrator, Ministry of Women, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Rural Development, Private Sector Representatives and Civil Society representatives. These working groups are supporting REDD+ implementation in the division. The Divisional Working Groups aims to capture participation and views of a broader set of stakeholders at operational level to feed into the activities and decisions at the national level and can be instrumental during consultation. However, the DWGs are not fully capacitated to support REDD+ activities in the division and would benefit from further capacity building.

Divisional Working Groups have indicated that stakeholders at District level have limited capacity to coordinate integrated approach to deliver REDD+ activities that will influence broad national or sectoral policy framework. Capacity enhancement is needed in the area of relating REDD+ activities to current workload and finding financial support to carry out REDD+ activities. Upon discussion and dialogue, opportunities to strengthen and improve this need are identified to include 1) decentralization of REDD+ roles, responsibilities and associated budget and 2) capacity building for Divisional Staff from key agencies that would support the implementation of REDD+ activities. Key agencies include Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands, iTaukei Lands Trust Board and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.

As mentioned elsewhere, members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) are experts in their own organizations however, there is yet to be effective coordination among TWG members to influence development and policy framework. Two suggestions are offered. (1) articulate and advocate the linkages between REDD+ policy and other national policy objectives; (2) to effectively involve Technical Working Groups to facilitate multi sector collaboration.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment ranked green which indicates that significant progress has been made to support multi sector coordination. Moving forward, attempts will be devoted ensuring that REDD+ updates are presented at the NEC, NCCCC and other forums. The Permanent Secretary for Forestry is the designated official at these forums hence it is imperative for REDD+ Unit to provide regular update to the Permanent Secretary for Forestry to support reporting processes. At the same time, representatives of CSO felt that capacity building for members of the SC is important given the fact that new members attend each SC meeting, representing key organizations, creating a new set of team to engage in REDD+ dialogue at each meeting. Such upskilling many not be complicated but at the beginning of each SC to recap and show the linkage of why and how REDD+ impact all sectors through its core objectives and outcomes.

Criteria 4: Technical Supervision Capacity

The REDD+ Unit has effectively and efficiently aligned management arrangements through supervising multi-sector readiness activities, including the regular supervision of technical preparations. For instance, with support from the Ministry of Forestry, the REDD+ Unit has successfully commissioned several critical studies including Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, SESA/ESMF, Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism and Free Prior Informed Consensus.

Through the REDD+ SC and in collaboration with GIZ/SPC, the REDD+ Unit under the Ministry of Forest have supported selected stakeholders to undertake the following training:

- Workshop on the 10th Executive Forest Policy Course, Sri Lanka, May 2017;
- Fiji Forestry Staff participants at a Workshop on Climate Change Finance, Results based payments from REDD+ and links to forest landscape restoration, Bangkok, October 2017;
- Study Tour to Nepal: REDD+ and Community Based Forest Management Learning, September 2017;
- Study Tour to Germany for Sustainable Forest Management, downstream processes and climate science in Germany: relevance and insights for REDD+ Melanesian Island Countries, September 2018.

The REDD+ Unit is progressively moving toward effective and efficient management arrangements with local supporting institutions to facilitate development and supervision of multi-sector readiness activities such as the integration of REDD+ activities into the 2020 Agriculture Sector Plan or Infrastructure plan. To this effect, the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and the iTaukei Lands Trust Board are closely working together to coordinate REDD+ readiness activities such as institutional arrangement for emission reduction titles, benefit sharing mechanism, processes and procedures for safeguards.

Further work will focus on multi sector readiness activities especially on agriculture and other land uses such as sustainable management of forest, carbon enhancement, forest conservation and infrastructure. Efforts will be dedicated to providing technical training for stakeholders to strengthen capacity and improve skills sets.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment indicated a yellow code which means that although some aspects are progressing well, further development is required. This criterion is closely related to Criteria 3 which provides the mechanism and enabling environment to implement and apply Technical Supervision Capacity.

Moving forward, the REDD+ Unit will actively seek opportunities to be involved with development in other key sectors such as Climate Change, Agriculture, Environment and Infrastructure in the area of

resource planning and allocation. At the moment, the Ministries are reconciling workplans to ensure streamline of core interests that complement overall output. The Unit will also endeavor to improve coordination of REDD+ expertise between the REDD+ unit and field division to ensure mainstreaming of REDD+ activities across sectors and at all levels. One area that will be explored is to secure opportunities to have a secondment from key Govt. personnel to join REDD+ Unit, for instance the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Services to support application of REDD+ activities aimed at addressing the drivers and barriers of deforestation and forest degradation in agriculture. At the same time, efforts will be geared towards facilitating decentralization through supporting the upskilling of Divisional Staff as well as Forest Wardens and Yaubula Management Support Teams, District representative and Village Headmen.

Criteria 5: Fund management capacity

The REDD+ Unit staff are undergoing in-house capacity enhancement on disbursement of assets and projects to increase fiduciary capacity. The FCPF grant is being implemented in accordance with guidance from the World Bank and with national procedure for the management of public finances.

There has been a gradual improvement in the procurement of consultancies for REDD+ readiness activities. The retirement of the National Coordinator and the departure of Technical Advisor in 2016 attributed to a dip in performance over the last six months. With a new REDD+ Coordinator and a new Technical Advisor now on board, the REDD+ Unit aims to expedite the implementation of remaining critical activities. Funding Civil Society Organization (CSO) to support REDD+ activities would support institutional arrangements that demonstrate effective, efficient and transparent fiscal management, including coordination with other development partner-funded activities. The funding granted to CSO would support targeted outputs of the readiness phase such as raising awareness and amplifying replication of demonstration of REDD+ activities.

Consideration will also be given on appropriate mechanism to decentralize funds allocation for easier access/usage of funds availability at Divisional Level to support function of the District Working Group, Provincial and District level governance. These funds would be coordinated by the Divisional Forestry Officer.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment indicated an orange shade to signify that further development is required. Moving forward, Divisional WG are expected to submit work plan to the REDD+ Unit to facilitate disbursement of funds in an effort to decentralize allocation for easier access/usage of funds availability at Divisional Level (coordinator / DFO's authority) while ensuring activities are mobilized by DFO in the field. It is also considered to facilitate funding CSO to carry out targeted outputs of the readiness phase such as raising awareness and undertaking necessary study and assessments to support REDD+ activities.

Criteria 6: Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism

A study to assess existing feedback grievance mechanism is completed with clear recommendations on a design for FGRM. The design takes into consideration both formal and informal networks for redress. The design process includes strategic choices based on purpose and functionality of the FGRM, as well as integrating the mechanism into the National REDD+Strategy.

The FGRM developed under REDD+ demonstrates a stepwise approach using existing frameworks. The FGRM Team suggested two standard feedback and grievance redress forms (in close consultation with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, the National Disaster Management Office, SC members, and project beneficiaries). The first form is to be use by iTaukei Village Headmen (Turaga ni Koro), supported by dictation from Village Councils (Bose Vakoro) to record grievances for both REDD+ readiness potential sites and implementation stages. The second form is designed for FGRM Officers (Forest Officers from the Ministry of Forestry and the REDD+ Liaison Officer (R+LO) from the REDD+ Unit) to record and report issues and grievances relating to REDD+ activities under their jurisdiction. The forms are in English and will be translated to iTaukei by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. The use of a specific "form" in coordination with other avenues of reporting is further elaborated in the study in order to propose a culturally appropriate and sustainable approach to grievance redress. However, at the time of compiling report and as evident from the field self-assessment exercise, the FGRM is not widely appreciated as it yet to be approved by the SC.

The mechanism is yet to operate at the national subnational and local level but it is transparent, impartial, with clearly defined mandate, and adequate expertise and resources. It is based on existing legal framework and common FGRM procedures.

Consultation process and methodology will adopt the guidelines outlined in the Consultation Strategy and the Consultation Participation Plan while using communication platforms suggested in these guidelines. In addition to regular media outlets such as newspaper, TV and radio, other modes such as social media platforms (WhatsApp, Viber, facebook and others) will be used.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment recorded a green shade which means that significant progress has been made through the completion of the FGRM assessment. Next steps include continuous awareness and information dissemination to support the wide stakeholder uptake and understanding of FGRM processes and procedure. In particular, there will be discussion in the SC on the implementation mechanism and agreed processes & procedures for applying the REDD+ FGRM. Once the procedures are approved, nation-wide consultation on FGRM and related REDD+ processes such as Safeguards & BSM will be carried out.

OVERALL ASSEMENT COMPONENT 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangement

The SC has been in operation since 2009 with strong participation of all broad range of stakeholders from civil societies, private sector, academia, statutory bodies and government agencies. With new leadership at the helm of Ministry of Forestry, the REDD+ unit have recently responded positively to liaise and raise capacity of the REDD+ implementation to become a decentralized arm at Divisional level; aiming to consolidate readiness of REDD+ in Fiji. At the same time, the Ministry of Forestry, have taken responsibility to mobilize coordination to mainstream REDD+ readiness activities and ensure key ministries integrate issues in their work plan that supports REDD+ readiness. A subcommittee has been formed at Permanent Secretary level to support the above coordination. Members of the subcommittee include the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and Ministry of Environment.

The overall assessment for Component 1a is green signifying that significant progress has been made to date with summary of all criterion outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Self-Assessment – Component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangement

Criteria of assessment	Progress			
	Not yet demonstrating progress	**Further development required**	**Progressing well, further, development required**	**Significant progress**
1) Accountability and transparency				
2) Operational mandate and budget				
3) Mechanisms for multi-sector coordination and cross-sector collaboration				
4) Technical supervision capacity				
5) Fund management capacity				
6) Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism				

The Way Forward

The following Table outlines key activities that will support National REDD+ management arrangement moving forward.

Table 4: Summary of future activities to support National REDD+ Management Arrangement

Proposed Activities	Time Line	Current status
• Present REDD+ updates to legislated committees such as the Forestry Board, National Environment Council, and National Climate Change Coordinating Committee	• Biannually or when the meeting is convened	Ministry of Forestry committed to mobilize communication with other line Ministries through Permanent Secretary intervention
• Liaise with line ministries to mainstream REDD+ and ensure key ministries include REDD+ workplan	• February 2019 to update progress • April 2019 to collaborate and align annual workplans (Government of Fiji Financial Year from July-June)	Connected and in discussion with all REDD+ relevant ministry, CSO, Private Sector
• Implementation of FGRM process for REDD+	• March 2019 – Present FGRM to Forestry Board for adoption • March – Dec 2019 Raise awareness on FGRM mechanism using formal (workshops/radio talk shows) and informal means such as WhatsApp, Viber, Facebook and Twitter	

Sub-component 1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

The major objective of this sub-component of REDD+ readiness is to inform the REDD relevant stakeholders of the REDD+ process and motivate the stakeholders to actively participate in the REDD+ process. The intention is also that REDD+ stakeholders are effectively involved in the development, approval, and implementation of the REDD+ process, particularly in the studies, mechanism, and development of the national REDD+ strategy.

Criteria 7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

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. The Committee consists of members from different organizations (explained in section 2.1). Technical Working Groups formed at national level also ensures the representation of people who are directly affected by the REDD+ implementation. Most of the organizations who participate in the SC are

also involved in the Technical Working Groups. The divisional level Working Groups also confirms the engagement of various stakeholders in the REDD+ readiness. The National iTaukei Resource Owner's Committee established in 2014 under the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs provides a very important platform to engage resource owner's representative in the REDD+ process. Their role in the monitoring of REDD+ readiness activities is identified as the most important.

REDD+ readiness process in Fiji using various kinds of participatory mechanisms to ensure the REDD+ relevant stakeholders have the capacity to effectively participate in REDD+ readiness and implementation. A Communication Officer is in place to coordinate the extensive consultations required for REDD+ readiness. The major participatory mechanism the country is using are workshops, meetings, written comments, informal get-together, focus group discussion, website, Facebook and Twitter.

Through the workshops and meeting landowners and forest dependent communities express their concern and take part in decision making process. Often It takes time to receive the concern of landowners therefore traditional ways of informal get-together process is also commonly used. Facebook and Twitter are also used where Internet access is available.

The Civil Society Organization (CSO) Platform consisting of NGOs, iTaukei Resource Owner, and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) have also been the basis for ensuring the effective participation of the indigenous or iTaukei and forest-dependent communities of Fiji.

Through assistance and support from GIZ/SPC, Ministry of Forestry and key Government officers have been supported to attend international, regional and national level technical training/workshops/ conferences relating to forest inventory, carbon pool measurements, remote sensing and GIS, MRV requirements. At the same time project sites have focuses on building capacity of local community/youth/women facilitators at community level on issues pertaining to climate change and REDD+ activities.

Participation is progressing well but there is a need for more engagement of key stakeholders at all levels from national, divisional to district. Efforts will focus on mobilizing Divisional REDD+ WG to undertake awareness needed on importance & relevance of REDD+ program to meeting stakeholder/dept/ organizational objectives. The exercise will also utilize local champions that have undergone Training of Trainers for Awareness and Education on REDD+ and Climate Change. Awareness material will be translated to vernacular for distribution at grassroot level.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is green indicating that significant progress is well particularly with strong support from the SC, DWG, TWG. It was felt that sitting allowance should be offered to Working Groups to ensure

engagement at national and divisional level, however such a proposition will need to be discussed at SC and approved by the Forestry Board.

Criteria 8: Consultation process

A Consultation and Participation Plan (CPP) is now in place to ensure clear, inclusive, and transparent consultation process in the country. The goal of the CPP is to integrate REDD+ consultation and participation objectives into existing outreach structures, systems and norms as opposed to launching a separate REDD+ consultation campaign. The plan serves to guide the various levels of stakeholder engagement. Methodologies outlined in the CP include techniques such as workshops, focus group discussions, meeting with Chiefs at District level, meeting with village heads, school visits where participatory rural appraisal are used as key tools for consultation. Consultation under the Fiji REDD+ program is carried out in accordance to national local governance structures, UNDRIP and guideline of WB as per safeguards policies.

The National Communications Workshop for Divisional Forestry Staff, Fiji, was undertaken in December 2017 while the Regional Communications Workshop for REDD+ Communications Officers and key stakeholders from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu was held in February 2018.

The country follows self-selection process to identify right holders and stakeholders. A stakeholder analysis was carried out early on the REDD+ process, during which diverse groups of stakeholders were identified who are affected by REDD+ implementation and can contribute towards reduced carbon emissions. The self- selection of stakeholders has repeatedly been followed, one example is a reformulation of the SC. Only 16 stakeholders were identified during the R-PP design phase, after self - selection process. Divisional Forest Offices also follow the same process to identify stakeholders and their roles.

About 90% of the land of Fiji is under customary ownership where various kinds of institutions exist in the country to manage these lands. Consultation and participation processes fully utilizes these institutions. The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, National iTaukei Resource Owner's Committee, and iTaukei Affairs Board established at the national level are involved in the management of the customary lands. Members from these institutions participate in the SC committee, the Technical Working Groups and the Working Groups at divisional level as members.

Fiji has 15 iTaukei provinces (Yasana) where each Province is governed by a Provincial Council headed by a Roko Tui. A province is made up of a group of sub-units called Tikina (akin to district level). The Tikina comprises of several villages. Provincial Council meetings are held twice a year. There are also District (Tikina) meetings held within the year. REDD+ consultation and awareness has been a part of the agenda for these meetings ever since the Program began in 2009.

The establishment of a CSO Platform for the Fiji National REDD+ Program is essential to improving outreach and transparency. The Platform ensures a successful implementation of REDD+ activities through awareness, in partnership with all stakeholders, to create a healthy forest ecosystem for all Fijians. The CSO Platform has been formed ensure the free and unbiased awareness and participation of communities in national REDD+ activities. The Platform will promote REDD+ policies and strategies through advocacy, awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and empowerment and impact assessment. A gap exists in the number of CSO that actively participate which is anticipated to increase when the ERP is implements as REDD+ is mainstreamed into multi sectoral dialogue.

The CSO Platform is chaired by the women's group, the Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei or Indigenous Women's Society of Fiji. This is a National Non-Government entity operating in 14 Provinces in Fiji. It is representative of all the indigenous (iTaukei) women of Fiji.

The Soqosoqo Vakamarama have been utilized to ensure the participation of women in the consultation process. Also, the CSO Platform consists of women's groups like the Catholic Women's League, Femlink Pacific, etc. who have been effectively engaged to ensure the participation of women in the REDD+ readiness process. The CSO Platform is part of the Communications and Awareness Working Group and will be working with the REDD+ Communications Officer on producing awareness materials that are relevant to its members to ensure that the materials are understood by the communities especially the women.

Across the three demonstration sites where REDD+ activities have been undertaken, partners have tried different approaches to perfect the consultation process. At Emalu site, the village of Draubuta was the target group that received capacity enhancement, this was a single village in the District of Noikoro. At the Drawa Site, 6 villages in the District of Drawa are involved while at the Nakauvadra Site, four Districts (Tokaimalo, Naiyalayala, Naroko and Rakiraki) and 26 villages are involved. The common lesson learned from each site is that consultation process aligned to existing traditional structures and supported by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs is an integral component for successful engagement. Further, based line information gathering through socio-economic assessments and perception surveys are important to establish existing challenges, hopes and fears of the community to better plan intervention suitable to community needs.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is green, indicating that significant progress has been made. It would be interesting to undertake a synthesis of all the consultation process undertaken to document lessons learnt and how best to progress with the ERP activities. It was agreed that "bottoms up" approach will be adopted in dealing with communities and aligned to local and traditional governance system to support more consultation at divisional level in applying the communication process in the CS and CPP

Criteria 9: Information sharing and accessibility of information

To ensure an effective information sharing and access to information for the various organizations, the REDD+ Unit after thorough consultations with relevant stakeholders developed a Communication Strategy[1]. The strategy was developed and approved by SC in May 2016. The goal of the Strategy is to" keep all Fijians informed, encourage participation in the Fiji National REDD+ Program and ensure that relevant information is shared at regional and international level". To meet the goals of the CS, it is prudent that quality, consistent awareness and publication materials are produced.

The Consultation and Participation Plan[2] (CPP) is also in place and guides the sharing and disclosure of processes for the analytical studies that the Fiji National REDD+ Program undertakes. Adhering to the CP Plan, the current studies undertaken through the development of the SESA, Drivers and the MRV and FRL have conducted consultations and shared the information at various levels. The government ministries and departments, private forest entrepreneurs, NGOs, INGOs, and communities participated in the consultation.

To improve outreach and awareness for Fiji's readiness phase at international, regional, national and community levels, a Technical Working Group - Communication and Awareness Working Group (CAWG) has been formed under the SC. The objectives of the CAWG is to provide strategic guidance for the preparation of communication material, selection of channels for communication and delivery of REDD+ key messages to targeted stakeholders; reaching key stakeholders in order to create ownership of REDD+ and integrating feedback into Fiji's National REDD+ Strategy; provide guidance on social media and mainline media campaigns and engage with the CSO Platform and Private Sector for mobilization of resources on REDD+ awareness. The Group strives to make the outreach activities more transparent, comprehensive, consistent and timely. The agenda is shared before the SC meeting, this step allows the members of SC to discuss the agenda within their organization and come up with clear idea during the SC meeting. The decisions made during the SC meeting are widely shared among the members of respective organization.

Ongoing development of a variety of climate change and REDD+ informational materials such as brochures, booklets, posters and information briefs is the core role of the REDD+ Unit with support from GIZ/SPC. Some of the materials have been translated to into the iTaukei language.

Currently, there are several awareness programs conducted mostly in cities and targeted groups. The government extension arm is not sufficient to reach the larger audience, nor communities residing in

[1] The Communication Strategy is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

[2] The Consultation and Participation Plan is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

remote areas where they do not have access to mass media. Efforts will focus on outsourcing community awareness to facilitate wider reach.

A Central Database is under construction, which will ensure the proper documentation of the outcomes of all consultation along with biophysical information on carbon emission reduction and safeguard. A communication officer is in place to ensure the documentation of all information. A Standard Operating Procedure or a manual will be designed to maintain the consistency of documentation and sharing of information.

The training and awareness materials have been developed in both English and iTaukei languages to reach various kinds of stakeholders. Several communication products such as a REDD+ newsletter[3], information briefs[4], posters[5], video documentary, radio interviews, and newspaper articles has been published. Also, trainings for media persons were held, and awareness raising, and capacity building was provided to the council of churches at national and sub-national levels.

Many big documents will be produced under the analytical studies and finding policy relevant information from the document is often difficult. A summary of relevant information is essential to feed into REDD+ policy design process. Policy briefs of the analytical studies is essential and hence proposed under additional funding. A policy brief presents a concise summary of information that can help policy makers understand, and likely make decisions about, government policies. Policy briefs may give objective summaries of the study, suggest possible policy options, or go even further and argue for courses of actions.

Raising the awareness among the university students about environment, international forest policy and mechanism in the country is essential for sustainable knowledge transfer. Therefore, a course on international forest policy is proposed for Fiji's universities under additional funding.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is yellow indicating that it is progressing well but needs further development to demonstrate transparent, consistent, comprehensive and timely sharing and disclosure of information (related to all readiness activities, including the development of REDD+ strategy, reference levels, and monitoring systems) in a culturally appropriate form. In particular it was noted that sharing information across line ministries is still a challenge as agencies protect data access rights. At the same time, it was felt that the REDD+ Unit needs to increase its public engagement through radio programs targeted for all rural communities.

[3] The newsletters are available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

[4] Information briefs are available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

[5] The posters are available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

It is also noted that the REDD+ website is currently under re-construction and update which is anticipated to be completed by March 2019. Moving forward the REDD+ Unit will increase its reach to communities through media and print while undertaking consistent awareness through Increase use of social media maintaining accuracy of information. There will be an increase in the level of participation by Divisional level stakeholders who have accessibility & familiarity with REDD+ activities. Organizations that have been involved in the REDD+ Awareness Training of Trainers will be engaged to support Divisional level dissemination of information.

Criteria 10: Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

Fiji is implementing the REDD+ Communication Strategy (CS). The CS ensures the adoption of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) principles are adhered when informing indigenous landowners about REDD+. This Strategy will also serve to inform other ethnic groups, as well as the marginalized, gender and vulnerable groups on necessary involvement and participation in REDD+.

Fiji REDD+ consultations and awareness carried out with land-holding units (Mataqali), iTaukei communities and other relevant stakeholders are reported to the National REDD+ Steering Committee for information and necessary feedback. Issues raised at the Consultation are brought to the attention of the Steering Committee, consisting of broad-based stakeholder representatives. It is therefore prudent that discussions at community level are then presented to at the national level and vis-a-vis to the relevant communities and stakeholders to ensure that issues are clarified, and misconceptions cleared. After consultations at community level, follow up meetings are held to which the stakeholders are informed of the progress undertaken by Fiji REDD+ since the last consultation.

At the national level, policy briefs were prepared to inform Cabinet of updates related to the Fiji National REDD+ Program. In addition, presentations are made to Permanent Secretaries to inform them on the outcome of REDD+ consultations. In particular, the Permanent Secretary for Rural & Maritime, Agriculture, iTaukei Affairs and Foreign Affairs were informed.

With support from GIZ/SPC analytical studies such as the Fiji Carbon Rights, Estimation of Fiji's Forest Carbon Stocks, Determining Reference Level/Reference Emission Level in support of a REDD+ program in Fiji are completed. All REDD+ information on consultation outcomes are also fed into the Fiji REDD+ website (http://fiji-reddplus.org). Relevant information is also shared to the media through press releases or organizing of interviews or answering questions sent by email as well as through the REDD+ Unit's quarterly newsletter as well as the Facebook and Twitter social pages, radio and television interviews and radio talkback shows. The Department of Information also supports the dissemination of the work of Fiji REDD+ by writing stories for the Government newspaper Fiji Focus, producing documentaries for Nation's Business aired on Fiji TV One and airing REDD+ interviews on the iTaukei and Hindi Radio programmers aired on Fiji Broadcasting Corporation with a reach estimated to cover the entire country, 100% of Fiji's population.

Drivers Study and the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism have been completed and will be published as national reports and be circulated to relevant stakeholders as well as uploaded on the Fiji REDD+ website. Outcomes of the studies undertaken from the analytical studies currently carried out on SESA, ESMF, the MRV and FRL, will use the methodology outlined in the Communication Strategy (CS) and well as the Consultation Participation Plan (CPP). The CS and the CPP outline guidance on target groups, communication platforms, monitoring and evaluation as well as risk managements. Methodology that will be adopted is based on participatory approach and the use of existing Governance including traditional structures.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is color yellow indicating that although some progress is noted further development is required to integrate the outcomes of consultation, arrangements, strategy development and technical activities related to reference level and monitoring and information systems development.

One of the biggest concerns raised by stakeholders while undertaking field work and analysis for DODD and SESA is that rural communities have heard but do not fully understand what REDD+ is about. From the logging industry, stakeholders expressed the concern that they cannot see how their activities fit into REDD+ as they perceived REDD+ to be protection of carbon stocks. In both cases, the key lesson points to the urgent need to step up awareness through all the communications platforms articulated in the CS and CPP. Equal attention will be focused on four key groups of stakeholders including community members, school children, private sector and government agencies.

Efforts will be focused on implementing the CS and reviewing the CPP to integrate new learning from recent experiences across the three REDD+ sites and Officers who have been trained by REDD+ will be provided the necessary support to undertake consultation at community level to be facilitate information dissemination. At the same time all publications developed by REDD+ Unit or partner organization in support of REDD+ work will be deposited in the libraries of all Universities in Fiji to support easy access to students thus providing material for learnings and research.

OVERALL ASSEMENT COMPONENT 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach

The overall outcome of the self-assessment indicates strong performance in consultation process, participation and engagement. REDD+ readiness process in Fiji uses various kinds of participatory mechanisms to ensure the REDD+ stakeholders have the capacity to effectively participate in REDD+ readiness and implementation. With a Communication Officer is in place to coordinate the extensive consultations required for REDD+ readiness, major of the intervention/ methodology via workshops, meetings, written comments, informal get-together, focus group discussion, website, Facebook and Twitter have been effective.

Further with CS and the CPP support the facilitation and adoption of clear, inclusive, and transparent consultation process is applied with alignment to the use of traditional governance systems, UNDRIP and WB safeguards policies. The goal of the CS and CPP to integrate REDD+ consultation and participation objectives into existing outreach structures ensures mainstreaming of REDD+ into local discourse and the overall adoption of REDD+ ERP activities. Methodologies are based on the use of participatory rural appraisal tools.

A summary of the self-assessment for component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach is outlined in Table 5.

The Way Forward

The summary of the self-assessment indicates more work is needed to focus on information sharing and public disclosure. The REDD+ Unit will focus attention on building up repertoire through the CSO Platform to improve outreach and transparency. Aiming to successfully implement REDD+ activities through awareness and partnership with all stakeholders, the CSO Platform will facilitate advocacy, awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and empowerment and impact assessment. At the same time use of all possible media outlets will be essential to support wider national engagement. A summary of the planned activities is outlined in Table 6.

Table 5: Summary of Self-Assessment – Component 1b: Consultation, participation, and awareness

Criteria of assessment	Progress			
	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders				
8) Consultation process				
9) Information sharing and accessibility of information				
10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes				

Table 6: Summary of future activities to support Consultation, participation, and outreach

Proposed Activities	Time Line	Current status
• Information on REDD+ website to be made more assessible to wider public in a clear way in order for better understanding	March 2019	Hired a consultant to design and dvelop user friendly website

• Use the REDD+ CS and CPP to highlight ERP activities to stakeholders	March – Dec 2019	Finalize ERP activities with stakeholder consultation

Component 2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation

REDD+ Strategy is the major step towards REDD+ readiness and ultimately to REDD+ implementation. An assessment of the current situation in the country is the initial step for the preparation of a REDD+ Strategy. To assess the current situation, a number of analytical studies were proposed in the R-PP. The main studies include the SESA, Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Carbon Right and Benefit Sharing Mechanism, Development of Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism. The following sections explain the progress made on each individual analytical study.

Subcomponent 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

Criteria 11: Assessment and analysis

The purpose of the assessment of the land use, forest policy and governance of forestry sector is to identify key drivers of deforestation (DD) and forest degradation (FD). Also, the assessment identifies the activities which contribute to the conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of carbon stocks.

Apart from the land use change trend analysis, the R-PP explains existing land ownership arrangement, and forest ownership arrangement. The R-PP also analyses existing policies and legislation in the country relevant to REDD+. The analysis has assessed the provisions under different policies and legislation which positively contribute to REDD+ and pitfalls. Data availability is an issue associated with low accuracy of forest land use change assessment. A re-run of the land use change analysis is currently in place in collaboration with CSIRO.

Digitization of forest reference level is currently on going. Once results become available, spatial and economic mode for the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation will be completed.

In partnership with GIZ/SPC capacity building to support Ministry of Forest staff on policy issues included:

- Workshop on the 10th Executive Forest Policy Course, Sri Lanka, May 2017;
- Workshop on Climate Change Finance, Results based payments from REDD+ and links to forest landscape restoration, Bangkok, October 2017;
- Study Tour to Nepal: REDD+ and Community Based Forest Management Learning, September 2017.

Reports[6] are available but not limited to the following listing:

- Fiji REDD Policy Scoping Report 2009
- Fiji National Forest Carbon Stock Assessment 2011
- Fiji REDD+ Strategy Workshop Report
- Fiji Forest Policy Statement 2007
- Fiji REDD+ Policy 2011
- Reduced Impact Logging and Fiji's National Harvest Code of Practice 2012
- Rural Land Use policy for Fiji 2005
- Forest Stratification in Fiji using Very High-Resolution Satellite Imagery 2014
- Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2013
- Carbon Emission Factors of Differently Managed Natural Rainforests in Fiji 2014
- Development of technical parameters for the integration of Sustainable Forest Management 2011
- Pacific Islands Regional Policy Framework for REDD+ 2013
- REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Fiji 2013

Overall Assessment

Overall assessment is green indicating that significant progress is noted. Moving forward, the REDD+ Unit will ensure dissemination of information and key recommendation from all the studies and assessment done under the readiness phase.

Criteria 12: Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement

Further to the analysis summarized in the R-PP, the government proposed various analytical studies to assess land use, drivers of change in the allocation of land, forest laws, policies, and governance to identify the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and barriers to enhance forest carbon stocks. Fiji's land tenure system is supported by strong laws that clearly define ownership status and titles. Approximately 90% of the land is owned by native landowners, State land accounts for 4% while Private land owners have 6%. The study on the Drivers on Deforestation and Forest Degradation highlighted threats from agriculture, logging, infrastructure development, mining and traditional use. Underlying causes are identified to include population growth, policy objectives for self-sufficiency and development and socio-economic pressures. Natural disaster is also identified as the major driver in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016. Given the nature of Fiji's island geography, arable lands are largely along coastal areas. With increasing population, land use change along the coastal regions have shifted from agriculture to infrastructure development supporting cities, towns, settlement and infrastructure development. The Strategy Options is based on feasibility assessments of the barriers and

[6] These reports area available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

agents of threat with options aimed at rationalizing resource allocation and reducing impact of the drivers to deforestation and forest degradation.

Other assessments that are in the pipe-line and relevant to this issue includes:

- Carbon rights assessment, benefit sharing mechanism – in progress. Final submission - April 2019.
- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, Environmental and Social Monitoring Framework, safeguard information system – in progress and in final stages. Final submission - March 2019.
- Establishment of a Reference Level (FRL) for forest land and development of a system for Monitoring, Reporting and Verifying (MRV) carbon emission reductions from forests. Completed.

Policy briefs are being developed to supplement local information and provide conscience explanation of each report. The policy briefs will support wide dissemination of the information and facilitate better understanding of the rationale behind REDD+ activities in Fiji.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is green indicating that significant progress is made. Moving forward, policy briefs will be published to support wide uptake of the results and recommendation. The Drivers study needs information from the Ministry of Forestry on land use activity change which is anticipated to become available by March 2019. The REDD+ Unit is committed to involve partners and government stakeholders in all the process from assessment to implementation and communication of results to key stakeholders

Criteria 13: Link between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities

Fiji has categorized the drivers of change that mostly affect forest and forestry into "direct drivers" (where the effects are direct) and "indirect drivers" (which impact forests by catalyzing a chain of events) during Fiji's R-PP preparation. A series of REDD+ Steering Committee meetings and stakeholder workshops, national expert consultation during R-PP preparation identified a broad list of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation without their prioritization. The study on Drivers complemented this and with in-depth policy analysis and assessment of the barriers to REDD+ activities. Strategy Options looked at possible solutions and analyzed each in terms of political, technical, socio economic feasibility.

The R-PP specifies agriculture (subsistence & commercial), forest conversion for pasture lands and grazing, mining, tourism, and energy production (especially hydropower production) as direct drivers of deforestation. Likewise, commercial/conventional logging, firewood collection, invasive species (weeds, pests & disease), a succession of invasive species (African Tulip), and fire are identified as causes of forest degradation. In depth study of the Drivers segregated factors related to deforestation and forest degradation, identified agents and barriers to reducing deforestation and degradation.

Evidence was clear to demonstrate that systematic links between key drivers, and/or barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement activities (as appropriate), and REDD+ activities were identified. For instance, conventional logging is driven by short term logging licenses that disincentives the adoption of sustainable forest management. As a result, loggers are constrained in their operation with limited financial return to invest in sustainable techniques such as reduced impact logging. There is limited demonstration of the implementation of REDD+ activities and to showcase linkage between drivers and barriers.

The study on the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation supported recommendations outlined in the R-PP. Intervention to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation may include rationalization of resource allocation through integrated land use plans, wide stakeholder collaboration to agree on resource allocation, upgrading of the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice[7] (2013) to adopt Reduced Impact Logging, the issuance of longer term license over larger forest areas, and the introduction of improved agriculture practice (shade kava cultivation), and formulation of fire management strategy. All partners and government stakeholders will be involved in all the process from land use capability assessment to implementation to ensure buy-in and agreement on the linkage between driver/barriers.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is rated green, meaning that there is significant progress. Moving forward there is a need to demonstrate how drivers/barriers are reduced through REDD+ activities and align activities to Government development strategies such as the 5-20 year National Development Plan. It was also noted that it is very important to involve partners and government stakeholders in all the process from assessment to implementation of all REDD+ activities that would reduce the impact of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Criteria 14: Action Plans to take into account the right to natural resource, land tenure and governance

An in-depth study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategic options drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as barriers to and the agents for forest conservation, sustainable management of forest and carbon stock enhancement. The study further analyzes the opportunity cost of different strategy options but is yet to make the linkage between land use activity changes. The outcome is expected to allow the identification of appropriate options which are beneficial, feasible and cost-effective among various alternatives. Likewise, the study suggests key policy and governance gaps in the context of REDD+, describing clear links between key drivers of DD and FD, and/or

[7] The Harvesting Code is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

barriers to carbon stock enhancement and proposed activities for implementation of REDD+ strategy options.

The driver study mainly aims to identify the drivers of land use change and respective strategic options. The study identified short, medium and long-term actions to address relevant land use, land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods, and governance issues for the specific area under priority but it does not articulate sectoral action plans needed to ensure alignment with Carbon Rights and Benefit Sharing Mechanism**.**

To ensure sectoral action plans make progress in the short, medium- and long-term towards addressing relevant land-use, land tenure and titles, natural resource rights, livelihoods, and governance issues in priority regions, there is a need to develop action plan for key sectors (agriculture, infrastructure etc.) containing short, medium and long-term actions for strategy options as identified by the driver study is essential.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is rated green, meaning that there is significant progress. Moving forward there is a need to ensure that action plans to make progress in the short, medium- and long-term towards addressing relevant land-use, land tenure and titles, natural resource rights, livelihoods, and governance issues in priority regions related specifically to REDD+ programs. There is also the opportunity to work closely with development partners such as the iTaukei Lands Trust Board and the Ministry of Lands - Land Bank to strengthen benefit sharing mechanisms already in place to be aligned to effective application to REDD+.

Criteria 15: Implication for forest law and policy

The study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation has identified implication for law and policy to support activities such as sustainable forest management. The study further recommended the adoption of Reduced Impact Logging as to address drivers of forest degradation and suggested to make its legal provision and to develop guidelines for implementation.

Recognizing that efforts have gone into facilitating the Forest Bill which support Forest Management License and the construct of carbon registration in support of REDD+ in Fiji, further discussion is needed to determine how carbon rights is treated. Current assumption is that the common law prevails however security of titles and transfer of titles are subjected to interpretation of the law.

Overall Assessment

The overall rating of the self-assessment is green indicating that significant progress has been made. Moving forward, efforts will be put into wider consultation among user groups such as Sawmillers, forest

owners, farmer clusters, Fiji Crop and Livestock Council, Fiji Kava Association and others to ensure policies and laws are harmonized and integrated with other sectors. Further, completion of the study on Carbon Right (April 2019) will facilitate dialogue on the appropriate pathway relevant regulation.

OVERALL ASSEMENT COMPONENT 2a: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Significant progress has been made with the assistance of GIZ/SPC in the compilation of situational analysis and assessments. Coupled with community and wide stakeholder consultation, the reports provide background material to facilitate the assessment of drivers and the development of strategy options that will address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Strong laws in Fiji and clear traditional governance structure pertaining to land titles have provided the enabling environment to develop actions plans that take into account the rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance. A summary of the outcome of the self-assessment for component 2a is outlined in Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of Self-Assessment – Component 2a: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Criteria of assessment	Progress			
	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
11) Assessment and analysis				
12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement				
13) Link between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities				
14) Action plans to take into account the right to natural resources, land tenure, and governance				
15) Impact on forest laws and policies				

The Way Forward

Moving forward, the REDD+ Unit will focus on development of policy briefs to use as part of the awareness campaign. Key study will also be supported for completion. Details are listed in Table 8.

Table 8: Summary of future activities to support REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Proposed Activities	Time Line	Current status
• Validate assessment of the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation with spatial and economic models.	• April 2019	The Ministry of Forest will complete the land use change activity assessment by Feb 2019
• Communicate results of REDD+ Studies through Policy Briefs, newsletters and newspaper articles, deposit hard copies at local University Libraries • Continue to Raise Awareness on the REDD+ Strategy Option	• May 2019 • FEB – DEC 2019	TOR for Policy Brief development in progress Communications Team in REDD+ will publish newsletter on Quarterly basis On-going process

Subcomponent 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options[8]

The REDD strategy forms a basis for developing policy and program interventions that help to reduce carbon emission from the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon stock through other REDD activities. The strategy not only guides to address DD and FD related to forestry sector but also to address the drivers associated with other sectors competing for the same land resources. Strategic options have been completed and is used to guide the development of a National REDD strategy.

Criteria 16: Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+:

Since Cabinet endorsement of the REDD+ Policy[9] in 2010, Fiji has made substantial progress towards the development of its REDD+ Strategy. Several rounds of stakeholder consultations on the development of a National REDD+ Strategy have already taken place.

The Strategy Options was developed as part of the Drivers Study using participatory assessment tools with Open Standards for Conservation to identify key drivers and underlying causes. The Open Standards facilitated the identification of complex relationship of the drivers and underlying causes and enabled the identification of common hubs that reflected pertinent issues common to a number of drivers. Each hub was discussed at length to identify possible solutions. Each solution was assessed by identifying barriers and agents as well as undertaking feasibility by considering socio/political, technical and financial capabilities. Two rounds of national consultation, Divisional level consultation and community

[8] This document is available at:

[9] The document is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

consultations were carried out to consolidate the Strategy Options. Many of the strategic options are interrelated, overlapping, and often reinforcing and will need to be well coordinated and sequenced. The expected emissions reduction potential of the interventions has been assessed to be 2 million tCO2e and is associated with the design of ERP. Although the result of the Strategic Options have been widely circulated to members of the SC, it is yet to be widely circulated outside of the core REDD+ stakeholders. This is imperative as an preparatory stage to the ERP as the design of the ERP is aligned to the recommendations in the Strategic Options.

Overall Assessment

The overall score of the self-assessment is green indicating that good progress the study clearly demonstrates the comprehensive assessment of direct and indirect drivers of deforestation, barriers to forest enhancement activities and/ or informed by other factors, as appropriate and selected via a transparent and participatory process.

Criteria 17: Feasibility Assessment

Further to the above, an in-depth reassessment of strategic options and their prioritization using multiple criteria will be important for Fiji. The prioritization provides clear sets of strategic options which are important from multiple aspects. Also, the prioritization allows detail discussion among various stakeholders about what should take place to better preserve and manage Fiji's forests. The possible criteria could include: 7 Cancun safeguards, emission reduction potential and political criteria. The Cancun safeguards provide a strong framework for developing prioritization criteria because the safeguards aim to minimize the effect of REDD+ on public, social and environmental goods.

Feasibility assessments were conducted for each REDD+ Strategy Options. The exercise was based on consultation process and economic viability in the aspects of the following criteria: Socio-political, technical, financial and climate change mitigation potential. Participants were asked to discuss and make assessment of each criteria to select one of three feasibility options – high, medium and low together with stated justification to their choice.

Wide stakeholder consultation (Government, Private Sector and community representatives) consolidated eight strategic areas for the implementation of REDD+. The main strategic areas include a focus on development of community- based integrated district land use plan, sustainable forest management, application of Reduced Impact Logging and the Diameter Limit Table, Forest Restoration, Carbon Stock Enhancement, Forest Conservation, Sustainable Agriculture and capacity enhancement of Forest Warden. Each strategy has clear linkages with the drivers/barriers. The development of the integrated land use plan will support resource allocation and zonation and may not directly contribute to emissions reduction but is an integral part of the process. Emission reduction from sustainable forest

management, carbon stock enhancement, forest conservation and sustainable agriculture have been estimated using the forest reference level as baseline information. The Strategy options are supportive of broader development objectives such as the Ministry of Agriculture 2020 Agriculture Sector Agenda, the National Biodiversity, Strategy and Action Plan and the Forest Policy 2007.

Attempt has been made to compile the enterprise budget for each strategy options however the economic model was not completed due to data deficiency on land use activity. Current efforts are undertaken by the Ministry of Forestry supporting the completion of land use activity data and once completed, feasibility studies on the cost benefit of each strategy option will be assessed to support feasibility study and priority amongst the suggested options above. Nevertheless, even without an economic model common sense approach indicates the development of integrated land use plan at District level to be the most critical aspect as it would provide the opportunity to zone and allocate resource use according to land use capability.

A policy brief for the Strategy Options is being compiled to provide a snapshot of the Strategy Options analysis in an attempt to ensure efficient dissemination of information to all stakeholders.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment if green. Progress is well in that the REDD+ strategy options were assessed and prioritized for their social, environmental and political feasibility, risks and opportunities, and analysis of costs and benefits. There is yet to be wide stakeholder consultation to inform them of the outcome of the study.

Criteria 18: Impact of strategic options on sectoral policies

A preliminary assessment of inconsistencies between early REDD+ Strategy options and policies or programs of other sectors related to the forest sector has been carried out at the R-PP stage. The driver study identified drivers of deforestation, forest degradation or /and barriers to enhance the carbon stock and corresponding strategic options.

The Strategy Options have reduced major inconsistencies identified between sectoral policies by targeting interventions that have cross sectoral impact. For instance, the development of the District Land Use Plan is a multi-sectoral zonation to allocate resources in a District according to land use capability resulting in clear allocation of land that should remain forest, areas that are suitable for agriculture production, areas to be protected for biodiversity of water catchment, area suitable for settlements, an infrastructure (road) network plan that will minimize environmental damage. In this way the strategy options will have a positive spin off where all sectors will be brought together to discuss resource allocation.

The Strategy Options was widely discussed at the national level approaching key decision makers in key line Ministries, Private partners and statutory bodies. There is a need to take the strategy options down

to Provincial and District level, to relate the outcome of the study to communities that contributed to the discourse and provided information on challenges faced at grass roots level. At the same time there is a need to develop appropriate time lines with respective sectors to agree to timelines and processes to resolve potential inconsistencies in policy interventions. For instance, in the case of Sustainable Agriculture, the Strategy Options recommends focused attention on kava/taro farm extension advocating for climate smart agriculture which utilizes minimum tillage and shade cultivation which would avoid expanding kava/taro plantation areas into newly cleared forests. Inconsistencies arises when the Ministry of Agriculture promotes export driven kava/dalo (2020 Agriculture Sector Plan) over avoided forest loss (REDD+ Policy).

Resource allocation will improve efficiency, retain to forest cover and enhance livelihood and human wellbeing through sustainable management that maximizes natural resource capability and restoration. At the Divisional level the District Working Group will support the allocation of resource and ensure buy-in from line agencies, private sector and iTaukei land owners. Other governance structures such as the Provincial and District Working Group will also be set up to support dialogue and discussion on the land use plan and multi sectoral resource allocation.

Apart from the formal structures outlined above, it is recommended that round table "Talanoa" dialogue among all stakeholders be encourage at least once a year at District level to facilitate open discussion on strategic options, share concerns and lessons learnt on good practices.

Overall Assessment

The overall self-assessment is green. Moving forward, it is strongly agreed that resource allocation to maximize natural resource capability is essential as a central planning tool that will support REDD+ activities in the medium and long term. It was also suggested that REDD+ should reach out to the tourism sector and provide options for income for local communities through forest based ecotourism. Members of the review felt that a round table "Talanoa" with stakeholders to discuss and agree on strategic options is essential when finalizing the REDD+ Strategy for Fiji.

OVERALL ASSEMENT COMPONENT 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options

Self-assessment for the component on Strategy Options indicate green which means that satisfactory progress has been made to date.

The Way Forward

With Strategy Options in place, the REDD+ Unit is committed to facilitate the development of an all-encompassing REDD+ Strategy that will not only take root in the Strategy Options but will also incorporate the outcomes of the study from SESA and ESMF, ensuring that World Bank Policies and the Cancun Safeguard Systems. Time line of the activity is outlined in Table 10.

Table 9: Summary of Self-Assessment – Component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Option

Criteria of assessment	Progress			
	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
16) Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+				
17) Feasibility assessment				
18) Impact of strategic options on sectoral policies				

Table 10: Summary of future activities to support ERDD+ Strategy Option Proposed Activities

	Time Line	Current status
• Social and environmental issues indicated in the SESA and ESMF report will be used to develop REDD+ Strategy	• MAY 2019	TOR completed and will be

Subcomponent 2 c. Implementation Framework

The implementation framework describes the institutional, economic, and legal arrangement required to implement REDD+ strategy options. An effective implementation framework during the readiness phase is indicative of the country's capacity to implement the demonstration activities in the future.

Criteria 19: Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations

Fiji has developed policies and regulations related to REDD+ activities. One of them is the National Forest Policy, which was developed in 2007 and aims to contribute to "sustainable management of Fiji's forests to maintain their natural potential and to achieve greater social, economic and environmental benefits for current and future generations". Another policy that is a breakthrough for Fiji REDD+ is the National REDD+ Policy (2010). The National REDD+ Policy aims to contribute to the development of a national carbon trading policy and to strengthen the capacities to facilitate access to international financing mechanism.

Fiji's Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP), which is already in operation, provides guidance for the implementation of reduced impact logging. It provides practical guidance to forestry officers,

landowners, contractors and the forest industry on how forest harvesting should be conducted to achieve best practice and minimize any adverse impacts. It is a guideline, and there is no legislative backing to ensure its implementation, nor is there provision to support the application of reduced impact logging or diameter limit table.

The development of land use plan at district level is not legislated although it first appeared in the Rural Land Use Policy 2005. There is a need to review existing legislations to support terrestrial resource zonation. At the same time enabling conditions such as carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanism and others may need to be legislated to ensure smooth adoption and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

There is a need to review existing laws that are related to land use, carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanism and others to support the formulation of relevant laws and regulations aimed at allocating resource use according to land use capability.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is yellow. This implies that progress has been satisfactory but further development is needed to support development of legislation and/or regulations related to REDD+ programs and activities. Moving forward, efforts will focus on improving existing laws through wide stakeholder consultation. Processes and procedures to support adoption and implementation of mechanisms such as FGRM, BSM and improvement on enforcement and empowerment are critical for ERP implementation. REDD+ Unit is thus committed to Improving on networking and collaboration with multi sector agencies to improve the reach and influence of REDD+ in Fiji.

Criteria 20: Implementation Guidelines

REDD+ implementation can take place on different land tenure systems such as government-owned land, freehold land, and customary land. Clear delineation of land tenure, carbon tenure arrangement and effective, equitable and transparent benefit sharing system will determine the performance-based payment system. Clearly defined ownership over land and carbon is essential for the implementation of REDD+.

The REDD+ Policy of Fiji stipulates that the country will adopt a hybrid approach to enabling both national and sub-national scale activities for REDD+ implementation. Therefore, national and sub-national level engagement with REDD+ financing is desirable. Likewise, the REDD+ Policy allows accepting both market and fund-based sources for carbon financing. Discourse on nesting and step wise approach to nest existing REDD+ projects is currently being discussed with key stakeholders. Discussion will align with the Carbon Financing Guideline and align with Carbon Rights as well as Benefit Sharing Mechanism. A study on carbon rights was undertaken (Trenordon 2013) which recognizes the current laws acknowledgement of the ownership of land, trees and carbon. Since 2013 a number of related laws have been passed hence the need to review the study and recommend legislations that need to be developed to support

emissions reduction credits. The Forest Bill currently scheduled for reading and endorsement in the Fiji Parliament provides construct for REDD+ carbon registry. Consideration may be given to develop specific policy and law to safeguard carbon titles and transfer of the same.

With assistance from GIZ/SPC the Emalu site was developed through key interventions as follows:

- Baseline surveys for Emalu REDD+ pilot site – 2012 – 2013 (multi-sectoral). These surveys included socio-economic, present land use, cultural mapping, carbon inventory, biodiversity and archaeological mapping;
- Hands on training for local field guides to undertake forest inventory, carbon pool measurements, biodiversity and cultural mapping surveys;
- Ongoing implementation of local land use plan – sustainable land management, alternative livelihood initiatives, community tree nursery, livestock management, grassland reforestation which will provide valuable lessons learnt that will feed into national approaches and guidelines;
- Stratification of indigenous forest and grasslands for more accurate monitoring of forest carbon changes;
- Training and upskilling of local communities on various livelihood strategies for improved socio-economic wellbeing;
- Development of a REDD+ lease for the Emalu pilot site which is the first for Fiji and Pacific region.

Training and implementation processes adopted by Ministry of Forestry, Conservation International, GIZ, Fij, SPC/GIZ is listed in Annex C.

What we lack is published guidelines on best practices for each process. Efforts are ongoing to develop guidelines for the development of land use plans. More guidelines are needed to guide baseline assessments, community monitoring systems and others.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is orange indicating that further development is required to enable clear implementation framework through detailed field guides on registering interest to participate in REDD+ ERP activities, land acquisition, monitoring and evaluation and others.

Criteria 21: Benefit sharing mechanism

Fiji has clearly defined benefit sharing mechanism in place through existing institutions such as the iTaukei Lands Trust Board and the Land Bank. Existing frameworks have strong legal frameworks and clear processes in place with known time lines of benefit distribution.

The iTaukei Land Trust Board system for distributing benefits to landowners for leasing iTaukei land and through the payment of timber royalties can be referred to. The country has also established three pilot sites with the goal of demonstrating how REDD+ can be scaled up to the national level. It is expected that

lesson learned from these pilot sites will inform the development of a benefit sharing system at the national level.

Even though Fiji currently does not have legislation specifically on benefit-sharing for REDD+ activities, there is experiences and existing structure that it could be used to derive the mechanism. Current study on the Benefit Sharing Mechanism will assess existing situations and recommend the best viable option applicable to REDD+ in Fiji.

To support the design of a benefit-sharing mechanism for Fiji - a consultancy is currently at procurement stage.

Overall Assessment

Overall ranking of the self-assessment is yellow which means that progress is made but further development is required to demonstrate benefit sharing mechanisms are transparent. The study will be completed in April 2019 and will inform REDD+ strategy.

Criteria 22: National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities

As per the Emission Reduction Project Idea Note, Fiji was aiming to develop a national REDD+ registry by 2017. All projects in Fiji will have to be registered there, transparently displaying the reference levels, emission reductions (planned / achieved), carbon owners / lease registration, the source of finance, carbon credit buyer, etc. All REDD+ projects, including the ER program will run under the carbon registry, and reports and background data will be made available through it. The registry will be linked to the international REDD+ Web Platform, but detailed modalities will have to be defined in the development process.

A national database management system has already been established at the Management Service Division with the provision of geo-referenced REDD+ information relating to reference level, carbon accounting activity data, emission factors for different land use change, forest sample plot information, and national forest inventory data. However, the database does not have provision for entering financial flow information.

The database is established at the national level, but according to the ER-PIN[10] (Chapter 7.4, p. 40), the national database management system (DBMS) should have the provisions/facility to accommodate the data from the divisional level. Scaling up the existing national database system and integration of divisional level database into DBMS is essential. For running the database system requires the capacity of the human resources both at national and divisional levels. Focus will be targeted at improving capacity of the REDD+ Unit to support national registry and monitoring system.

[10] The ER-PIN is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is yellow indicating that progress is recognized but more work is needed to support a national REDD+ information system or registry operational, comprehensive of all relevant information (e.g., information on the location, ownership, carbon accounting and financial flows for sub-national and national REDD+ programs and projects).

OVERALL ASSEMENT COMPONENT 2c: Implementation Framework

The overall rating of implementation framework is yellow indicating that despite noted progress, further development is needed. In the area of legislations and regulations, priority will be placed on defining carbon titles to support registration, and security of transfers. The study on carbon rights which will be finalized in April 2019 will inform the structure and content of the legislation. A study on benedit sharing mechanism is currently underway to inform the REDD+ Strategy. A versatile registry system will be necessary to support national REDD+ information system that would manage all relevant REDD+ ERP information (e.g., information on the location, ownership, carbon accounting and financial flows for sub-national and national REDD+ programs and projects).

Self-assessment on criteria of Implementation guidelines indicates orange rating which means that further development is required. Field Guidelines will be developed on registration of interested participants in the REDD+ ERP activities, land acquisition, monitoring and evaluation and others.

A summary of the overall outcome of the self-assessment is listed in Table 11.

Table 11: Summary of Self-Assessment – Component 2c: Implementation Framework

Criteria of assessment	Progress			
	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
19) Adoption and application of laws and regulations			✓	
20) Implementation guidelines		✓		
21) Benefit-sharing mechanism			✓	
22) National REDD+ registry and REDD+ activity monitoring system			✓	

The Way Forward

Key activities that will be pursued involves the completion of the carbon rights and benefit sharing studies. Each study is critical for they will inform enabling environment for the ERP. The carbon rights study will inform the legislation anticipated to support carbon titles and transfers while the benefit sharing study will be used in alignment to the SESA, ESMF and other studies to inform the REDD+ Strategy.

A summary of the proposed activities is listed in Table 12.

Table 12: Summary of future activities to support Implementation Framework

Proposed Activities	Time Line	Current status
• Complete detailed study on carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanism	APRIL 2019	Contract signed
• Develop access to the database management system	APRIL 2019	Database management system will include financial flows. This system will be converted to web-based database system to ensure accessibility by stakeholder
• REDD+ system registry that is operational by 2020	Dec 2019	Consolidate arrangement for third party registry system (possibly the FCPF)

Subcomponent 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts

In order to integrate social and environmental concerns into REDD+ strategy development, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is being carried out for the country. The aim of SESA is to assess the possible negative and positive impacts of REDD+ strategic options. Any negative impacts that can't be avoided, would then be mitigated through the application of an Environmental and Social Management Framework. The identified negative impacts and corresponding mitigation measures will be integrated into other components of the R-PP such as in developing Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism, Benefit Sharing Mechanism and Implementation Framework. The integration will ensure that the WB Safeguards are incorporated from the initial stage to avoid, limit harm to the people and environment and strive to achieve benefits instead.

Criteria 23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues

As proposed in the R-PP, Fiji commissioned SESA & ESMF study in September 2016, with an expected duration of one year. The University of the South Pacific partly completed the study delivering the first five outputs. An independent consultant is currently completing the SESA and ESMF to complete by end of Jan 2019.

The University of the South Pacific submitted five deliverables. The fifth deliverable which is the SESA report does not meet the requirement of the ToR. A separate consultancy team has been asked to resubmit the SESA report addressing the comments provided by REDD+ stakeholders. The revised SESA report and the Environment and Social Monitoring Framework are due at the end of Jan 2019.

Support as much as possible the completion of the SESA and ESMF report.

Overall Assessment

Overall assessment is yellow indicating that further development is needed to fulfil the requirements of social and environmental safeguard issues relevant to the country context that have been fully identified/ analyzed via relevant studies or diagnostics and in wide consultation processes.

Criteria 24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts

The SESA report has identified social and environmental impacts based on proposed REDD+ activities.

The study has prioritized strategic options considering their ease of implementation, carbon benefits, co-benefits, degree of social and environmental impact, and cost of implementation. In parallel, a study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is underway and the study will identify in a more systematic manner the strategic options and prioritize them based on opportunity cost and other factors.

It is expected that outcome of these study will be used as the basis to develop Fiji's National REDD+ Strategy.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is Yellow recognizing progress to date yet acknowledging that future development is required to ensure SESA results and the identification of social and environmental impacts (both positive and negative) used for prioritizing and designing REDD+ strategy options is clearly articulated.

Criteria 25: Environmental and Social Management Framework

The development of Environmental and Social Framework is also under progress and expected to be completed by end of Jan 2019.It is expected that outcome of these study will be used as the basis to develop Fiji's National REDD+ Strategy and guide implementation plan.

Overall Assessment

The overall assessment is Yellow recognizing progress to date yet acknowledging that future development is required to ensure ESMF is in place to manage and environmental and social risks/potential impacts related to REDD+ activities.

OVERALL ASSEMENT COMPONENT 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts

The overall self-assessment for Component 2d indicates a yellow rating which means that further development is needed to fulfil the requirements of social and environmental safeguards. The SESA study is near completion. It will identify social and environmental impacts (both positive and negative) used for prioritizing and designing REDD+ Strategy. The outcomes of SESA will be aligned with the benefit sharing mechanism to ensure fulfilment of world Bank Policies and Cancun Safeguards Systems. Information from SESA will be consolidated into policy briefs and information packages made ready for awareness and education purposes. Community information dissemination will adopt the CS and CPP guidelines and methodology. ESMF, being a critical element of safeguards will be place by 2020 to manage environmental and social risks/potential impacts related to REDD+ activities.

A summary of the self-assessment for component 2d is outlined in Table 13.

Table 13: Summary of Self-Assessment – Component 2d: Social and environmental impacts

Criteria of assessment	Progress			
	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
23) Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards				
24) The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact				
25) Environmental and Social Management Framework				

The Way Forward

Given key studies have been mobilised and results awaited, the next big steps would involve information dissemination of key findings from each work to support the integration of social and environmental impacts into REDD+ activities. Details is outlined in Table 14.

Table 14: Summary of future activities to support Consultation, participation, and outreach

Proposed Activities	Time Line	Current status
• Share detailed Social and Environmental Safeguards advocated in the ERPD	Feb – Dec 2019	Consulted widely at national and divisional level the Safeguards in SESA and ESMF – on going process

Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level

The performance of REDD+ policy is measured in terms of amount of changes in forest area and carbon content over time and corresponding carbon emissions and removals from the atmosphere relative to a forest reference emission level (FREL) or reference level (FRL). The UNFCCC requested participating countries to develop FRL/FREL at the national level, with sub-national approaches as an interim arrangement. Fiji has constructed a Forest Reference Emission Level covering three big islands; Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni. The FRL covers about 1,887, 500 ha which is approximately 90% of Fiji's landmass. About 94% of Fiji's forest area is included in the FRL.

Fiji's reference period entails 11 years beginning from 1 January 2006 and ends 31 December 2016.

Criterion 26: Demonstration of Methodology

Fiji's FRL construction has considered the following approaches.

- REDD+ activities – The FRL includes only three REDD+ activities: (i) reducing emissions from deforestation, (ii) reducing emissions from forest degradation, and (iii) enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

- Carbon Pools- Of the five forest carbon pools identified by IPCC, only above-ground biomass (AGB) and below-ground biomass (BGB) are included in Fiji's FRL construction. Litter, deadwood, and soil organic carbon are not considered. The decision of including only two pools is guided by (i) expert judgment, (ii) data availability, (iii) implication for the emissions reduction program, (iv) IPCC Tier 1 methods, and (v) FCPF-DST.

- The Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector cover mainly three types of greenhouse gases, namely carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O). Only CO2 is taken into account for the FRL construction. This is because the information pertaining to methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) is not readily available. Methane emission is closely linked with biomass burning, but in Fiji fire is not used as a forest establishment or management tool. In addition, most of the fires occur in grassland and sugar cane plantations and hardly spread into natural forest areas and cause forest area loss. However, emission from the fire can be included in a stepwise approach.

- A land cover change assessment conducted for the Landsat images of years 2006 to 2016 to estimate forest activity data. The focus of change assessment is primarily on changes between forest and non-forest categories. Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) data downloaded from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Global Visualization Viewer (GloVis) is used to obtain land cover data.

- Data from Fiji's third National Forest Inventory (NFI) 2005 are the primary source to estimate emission factors (EF) of natural forests (excluding mangrove forests). However, no significant difference in carbon content is observed between open and closed forest using the NFI data.

- Provided the existing remote sensing capacity, Fiji is unable to classify land use into IPCC land use categories. However, the land use is classified into; natural forest, mangrove, Pine plantation; Coconut plantations, water bodies, and non-forest. Natural forest is further classified into Low Land (< 600 m msl) and Upland forests (>600 m msl) based on the altitude.

- A stepwise approach is adopted in the methodology used for the FRL construction. Specific areas for improvement of the FRL have been identified, on which Fiji is advised to continue an investigation on data collection and testing of methodologies, dependent on available resources.

The FRL construction identified various shortcomings in the existing data and methods, therefore recommended improvement under stepwise approach. The following section explains the existing gaps and possible remedies to improve national forest inventory and thereby the FRL construction. These recommendations are based on the FRL Methodology Document, Situational Analysis Report[11], and informal discussions held with the MRV/FRL consultant team. Most of the improvements are included in planned activities under FCPF additional funding.

SN	Existing Gaps	Possible remedies
1	The current allocation of permanent sample plots is statistically not justified, hence statistically sound analysis is impossible and does not qualify for reporting. The plot design was developed for monitoring increment (on small areas) and is not optimal/ cost-efficient for national assessments, especially in remote areas.	Develop a sound sample plot design (including, e.g. plot size and shape, sub-plots for e.g., soil and litter samples, rules for assessment of dead woody debris, plot allocation, hidden labeling of trees and plot center to avoid treatment bias). This activity will be carried out under additional funding.

[11] The Situational Analysis Report is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

2	The list of attributes assessed in PSP is limited and does not satisfy the information demands of a holistic NFI concept and REDD+ monitoring.	New attributes according to holistic NFI and REDD+ monitoring demand will be added to existing PSP measurement format, and this activity is planned under addition funding.
3	The plots are visibly marked. This introduces a critical risk of treatment bias due to forest management (are marked trees cut?), which leads to non-representative plots.	GPS location system will be applied to avoid the treatment bias.
4	Currently applied remote sensing technology in Fiji does not allow for a separation between open and closed forests.	Investigation of sophisticated image analysis procedures, including spectral mixture analysis (SMA), multiple endmember spectral mixture analysis (MESMA), and object-based classification is proposed. Ministry of Forestry is collaborating with CSIRO to identify an appropriate method to distinguish between open and close forest.
5	The FRL uses logging data received from divisional forest offices as a proxy measure of forest degradation. The proxy of logging statistics does not account for all degradation activities found in Fiji's forests.	Ministry of Forestry is collaborating with CSIRO to investigate a sophisticated image analysis procedures, including spectral mixture analysis (SMA), multiple endmember spectral mixture analysis (MESMA) to locate degradation other than logging by regulated by the MoF. This activity is proposed under additional funding.
6	Volume and biomass equations enable the estimation of individual tree volume and biomass-based on dendrometric attributes such as tree diameters, tree height, and crown width/ length. They are a substantial prerequisite for forest inventories. Those equations are not available for Fijian (commercial) tree species.	MoF is working to develop biomass and volume equation for commercial tree species. This activity is planned under addition funding.

7	The assessment procedures for mangroves is not yet developed in Fiji. The assessment procedures for mangroves differ from those for other forest ecosystems due to the phenology of tree species forming mangroves.	Developing a sound sample plot design for mangroves assessment. Develop biomass equations for above and below ground and soil organic carbon. This activity is proposed for under additional funding.
8	Land changes into sugar cane, cropland, and settlement after deforestation. However, FRL uses grassland carbon stock for the land cover which occurs after a deforestation irrespective of actual land cover change. Likewise, the emission factor of forest fire is not available for the country.	Estimation of carbon stock of the different land covers such as sugar cane, and cropland (*Dalo and Cassava*) is planned for the REDD+ readiness phase. This estimation will enable to improve the FRL.
	Land cover is only categorized into forest and non-forest for FRL construction because of the inadequate capacity of the country to categories land cover into the IPCC land use categories.	Adopting stepwise approach Ministry of Forestry is collaborating with CSIRO to categories land cover according to the IPCC land cover categories.

The FRL of Fiji occupies a significant area of landmass (90%) and forest area (94%), also covering three major Islands. Thus, it is known as a de facto national forest reference level. Considering the distance of other islands from the main islands, it may involve a huge cost for measurement and monitoring of the forest, if the national level FRL is constructed and used. In spite of the cost, the Ministry of Forestry intends to assess the land use change in islands other than three major islands to upscale the scope of existing FRL to national level and submit FRL to UNFCCC for its technical assessment. This up scaling of the FRL will be carried out in 2019.

Criterion 27: Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances

Fiji decided to use historical data, including remotely sensed data and land cover maps to establish the FRL. For the purpose of creating historical activity, the period 2006-2016 was selected covering 11 years forest activity. The change maps were produced by post-classification change detection of three land cover maps produced by the "Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division" of the Pacific Community (SPC) for the years 2006, 2012, and 2016. Three REDD+ activities; deforestation, forest degradation, and carbon stock enhancement were considered for constructing the FRL.

Deforestation is defined as the conversion of natural forest land to non-forest land. Forest degradation has not yet been formally defined in Fiji. For FRL construction proxy method is used to estimate emissions from the unsustainable management of the natural forest. Data on harvested timber volumes in natural forest considered as forest degradation. Enhancement of carbon stocks include removals from afforestation/reforestation as well as gross emission and removals from the forest plantation management. Detail explanation of all assumptions, data sources, equations, forest change data, analysis methodological approach, and derivations of emission/removal factors is provided in the relevant document and the documents are available on the REDD+ Unit website.

Adjustments are needed where historical data do not represent future developments in the absence of REDD+ implementation. Therefore, the FRL developed using those historical data may not be useful to assess the performance of REDD+ activities. The drivers of deforestation and forest degradation study has stated that the REDD+ drivers are likely to remain the same in future. Therefore adjustment for national circumstances is not as essential as suggested by GFOI (2016).

Most of the data used for the construction of the FRL are uploaded into established National Forest Database System. In addition, all information related to permanent sample plot measurement, national forest inventory, and land use land cover map has been deposited into the database repository. However, data sharing mechanism has not developed yet but upgrading towards web-based of the database system is underway, and this activity is planned for rest of REDD+ readiness phase.

Adopting a stepwise approach, Fiji will improve its FRL in the near future, hence a new set of forest activity data is being estimated in collaboration with CSIRO, Perth using semi-automatic method for land use classification and land use change. The collaboration intends to estimate new forest activity data as well as capacity development of government staff. Management Service Division's officers are engaged in estimating the forest activity data.

Criterion 28: Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines

The FRL construction is consistent with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines. The FRL construction follows the transparent, consistent, completeness and comparability principles of both UNFCCC/IPCC.

The FRL is constructed using forest activity data generated using 2006, 2012 and 2016 Landsat images and visual interpretation were used for land use classification. Due to human interpretation of land use classes associated with visual interpretation method of classification, large inaccuracy is observed in land use change data. The accuracy assessment of the forest activity data identified that overall accuracy of the land use classification is high (92% and 88%) this is because of high accuracy of non-change class and low accuracy for the change class. Combination of the very small spatial extent of changes classes (and

the individual mapped polygons) with detected spatial inconsistencies in the images used for mapping produced low accuracies in land use change.

The present FRL is transparent as all required information for its construction is given and allows for the reconstruction at any time. The FRL in its current stage follows a step-wise approach enabling to improve it if data quality and method are improved in the future. Data available at the time of its construction are consistently used. Future improvements need to consider existing methodology.

The FRL construction used the methodologies and formats agreed by the COP for estimating emissions and removals. The allocation of different source/sink categories followed the spirit of the IPCC Guidelines. The current FRL implements the methodology given by IPCC for the LULUCF and AFOLU sector. Therefore, results are comparable with those from other Parties implementing the IPCC guidance.

In current FRL all relevant categories of emissions and removals are estimated and reported, and full geographic coverage of sources and sinks are included. The current FRL includes only CO_2 gas. Other Green House Gases (GHGs) are not included because their emissions and removal are not significant and data related to their emissions are not readily available. For example, Nitrous oxide emission does not represent key categories unless forest land uses N fertilizer (GFOI, 2016: 145) and it is complex to estimate emissions of Nitrous oxide. In Fiji, current management practices do use N fertilizer. Methane gas is also not included in the current FRL because fire is not used in forest establishment and management, and most fires occur in either grassland or sugar cane plantations. Also, no activity data is available for the burned area in Fiji. MODIS Burned Area products do not cover the South Pacific. MODIS Active Fire data are available but "assuming that fires in the vicinity to areas mapped as deforestation are the cause of deforestation may lead to an overestimation of methane and nitrous oxide emissions" (FRL report, 2018). However, emissions from the fire will be included in a stepwise approach. A study to estimate emissions factors for forest fire is planned for the remaining REDD+ readiness period.

Permanent sample plots have been established on a systematic grid on Fiji's three largest islands Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, and Taveuni. Hundred PSP were planned for three islands however, as of today, attributes of trees have been recorded on 86 plots in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016. The data was collected for the fifth time (August 2018). Attributes of trees recorded on the plots included the DBH, the total tree height, and the tree species among other attributes.

Current PSP data collection procedure has several shortcomings that prevent their use to estimate carbon stock and stock changes in Fijian forests. During their establishment phase, some plots were moved from non-forest area to nearby forest area, so due to the relocation of these plots it is difficult to use PSP for estimating forest biomass in Fiji's natural forest. Besides, plot design was altered during data collection phase. Finally, the numbering method used to identify the same tree for the next

measurement does not allow to trace back. Therefore, it is not possible to assess the increments of individual trees. To fix this shortcoming, redesign of size and shape, as well as increase in the number of PSP to attain acceptable level of accuracy, is recommended by a study. **Redesign of the PSP will be carried out in the remaining readiness phase.**

The accounting area covers approximately 94% of Fiji's forested area and 90% of the landmass, which is a significant coverage both in terms of forest and landmass. Under a step-wise approach, completeness can be assumed for the FRL at its current stage.

Overall Assessment Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level

Overall ranking for component 3 is Green.

The FRL report can be a basis for further improvement in order to achieve an acceptable level of accuracy and to allow the country to receive result-based payment. The UNFCCC decision allows for a stepwise approach whereby a country can develop an FRL based on the existing capacity and update and refine the FRL when better data and improved methodologies and estimate for the additional pools and gases are available.

Fiji's current FRL includes only two carbon pools (above and below ground) and for some land use classes default values are used for emission factors in the first iteration. Stakeholders recommended to expand carbon pools and to derive emission factors land relevant land use classes for Fiji. Another area of improvement is the estimation of forest degradation. In the current FRL, forest degradation is estimated using the logging data as a proxy approach. The logging estimate only uses logging activities which are regulated by the Ministry of Forestry and disregard any other sources of forest degradation such as harvesting by communities for their household use.

The stakeholders expressed concern about the monitoring capacity of the Ministry with current human resources, so they recommended enhancing capacity within the Ministry as well as transferring the capacity to other REDD+ relevant stakeholders. They also recommended an upscale of monitoring and measurement capacities of the Universities in Fiji. Specifically, they suggested that there should be REDD+ related courses at the Fiji National University (FNU) to produce future leaders who will embark on the course to address climate change and implement REDD+. The Ministry of Forestry is currently collaborating with FNU to run a training course on Climate Change and REDD+ and to design a REDD+ curriculum in the first iteration.

Forest reference level related data and products are not yet available publically through the data sharing platform for independent verification of the information. The data sharing mechanism will be developed in the next readiness phase.

The Way Forward

The FRL has ample space for its improvement. The improvement includes the use of sophisticated methods of estimating forest activity data, use of country-specific emission/removal values, the inclusion of more carbon pools and the inclusion of more sources and sink of carbon. Various kinds of activities are proposed for the rest of the REDD+ readiness period. Table 2 shows the activities planned for the readiness period.

Table 15. Activities planned to improve the FRL

SN	Activities	Time Line(Year)	Current status
1	Produce multi-temporal forest activity data using the semi-automatic method	2019	Completed my March 2019
2	Develop biomass and volume allometric equations for 10 important tree species	2019	Developing a ToR
3	Develop a method to assess forest degradation using remote sensing approaches (distinguish between open and close forest using RS)	2019	Undergoing in collaboration with CSIRO
4	Estimate emission/removal factor of litter, deadwood, and soil organic carbon	2019	Developing ToR
5	Emission factor of forest fire	2020	Developing TOR
6	Redesign Permanent sample plots and National Forest Inventory	2020	Developing ToR
7	Different Capacity enhancement activities	2019-20	
8	Estimate carbon emission/removal factors of the different land cover include grass land, crop land and sugar cane abandoned areas	2020	Developing ToR
9	Estimation of forest activity data of the islands other than major three islands	2019	MSD staff working on it
10	Up scaling of sub national FRL to national FRL	2020	

Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

This component consists of two subcomponents; 4a) The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); and 4b) Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts Governance, and Safeguards. The UNFCCC decisions demand that an NFMS should be a robust system which uses both remote sensing and a ground-based carbon inventory approach. The Ministry of Forestry commissioned a detail study to design a robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for Fiji's REDD+ process. The study report has since been submitted to the Ministry. The report clearly recommended the basic requirements for developing

a robust National Forest Monitoring System including a MRV system for REDD+. The MRV system combines both remote sensing and ground-based approaches of which a strong foundation has been developed with the National Forest Inventory 2006 and with the establishment of PSP to carry out measurement and monitoring and reporting of carbon. Some gaps remain, a monitoring system for the non-carbon benefits particularly. A monitoring system for non-carbon benefits are yet to be developed.

Subcomponent: 4a. National Forest Monitoring System

The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is one of the four Cancun Elements that Fiji should have in place to receive results-based finance. The information that becomes available through the NFMS/MRV may be used to develop the National Strategy or Action Plan. The NFMS serves two simultaneous functions: 'monitoring' function, and 'Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)' function. A 'monitoring' function is primarily a domestic tool to assess the impacts and outcomes of REDD+ demonstration activities and national policies and measures (PAMs) for REDD+. The MRV function refers to the estimation and international reporting of national-scale forest ERs. The MRV is based on three 'pillars'- i) Satellite Land Monitoring System, ii) NFI, and iii) the National GHG Inventory (GHGI).

Fiji has proposed a forest monitoring system which will be comprised of two connected sections; Forest Biometrics and Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) within the Management Service Division of the Ministry of Forestry. The Forest Biometrics section will be responsible for the measurement of carbon and safeguards including forest inventory. On the other hand, the RS and GIS sections will be responsible for image processing and analysis to produce Land Use/Land Cover classification and database management and maintenance. Entire MSD division will produce a periodic report for dissemination.

Criterion 29: Documentation of monitoring approach

There is a clear rationale or evidence supporting the selection of the proposed methodology (combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches, system resolution, coverage, accuracy, inclusion of carbon pools and gases[12]). The proposed MRV system has been technically reviewed and nationally approved. It is consistent with national and international existing and emerging guidance. Potential sources of uncertainties have been identified. Some of the sources of uncertainties identified are as follows:

- Estimation of total emission factor for logging;
- Assessment of areas logged;

[12] Forest Reference Level report is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

- Land use classification error due to haze, cloud cover, differences in seasonal greenness and reflectance differences between Landsat images;
- Measurement error (uncertainty in measurements of the DBH of trees);
- Wood density estimates;
- PSP height model;
- Estimation of above ground biomass using Chave et al.'s [2014]; and
- Estimation of root-to-shoot ratios

The proposed MRV methodology includes both remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches. Fiji has a strong ground-based measurement system. The last national forest inventory carried out in 2006 provided a large set of data for estimation of emission factors. Permanent sample plots are established, and they are regularly measured and monitored even though there is a locational issue with the PSP. The Situational Analysis Report submitted to the REDD+ Unit by the MRV/FRL consultant team has indicated that PSPs are not appropriately distributed throughout the country to cover the variation of land use and land cover types. Moreover, the number of PSPs is not sufficient to meet the high accuracy in carbon estimation. Field test inventory carried out by the MRV/FRL consultant team indicated that measuring 50 m x 50 m sample plot in a tropical forest where visibility is an issue is quite cumbersome. Hence, a redesign of PSP shape, size and the number is desirable and this activity will be carried out during the readiness phase.

Fiji is only considering two pools of carbon; above ground and below ground and accounting only carbon dioxide gas. There is a clear rationale for accounting only two pools and carbon dioxide. The decision which carbon pools and gas to include is guided by (i) experts judgments (national and international), (ii) data availability, (iii) implications for the emissions reduction program, (iii) IPCC Tier 1 methods, and (v) the FCPF –DST. While sufficient data is available for above ground biomass there is no national data available for below ground however, Tier 1 methods can be used by applying default root-to-shoot values to estimate below ground biomass. Even though soil organic carbon (SOC) is a major source or sink. The SOC data are not available to reliably estimate carbon stocks and carbon stock changes in forest land and land that occur after a land cover change. Fiji classifies land into forest and non-forest land and land use mapping does not allow to do further classification of non-forest land. There is no default value of SOC available for non-forest land. Litter, deadwood are also not included because no data are available and these pools are insignificant (Confirmed by FCPF-DST and IPCC Tier 1 methods).

Methane is not included in carbon accounting because its emission is mainly linked to biomass burning. Fire is not used in forest management and most of the fires occur in either grassland or sugar cane plantations and hardly spread into natural forest areas or cause forest loss. Nitrous oxide is not included. Nitrous oxide emission is linked to the application of N fertilizer and biomass burning and current forest management practices do not use N fertilizer and fires usually do not occur in forest areas.

The preference among the available data sources for national monitoring of forest cover and forest cover change is Landsat data (30 m resolution) with possible use of Sentinel-2 (10-20 m resolution) for future monitoring. Earlier national forest inventories have used both remote sensing and ground measurement approach, and institutional capacity exists to continue the approach for future carbon monitoring. Some advance capacity building in forest inventory, remote sensing and GIS is essential to achieve acceptable accuracy in carbon estimation. Currently, the Ministry of Forestry is collaborating with CSIRO to train human resources in remote sensing and GIS and to establish remote sensing infrastructure at the Ministry.

The draft of the proposed monitoring system was shared and discussed amongst technical experts and officials of the World Bank, Ministry of Forestry and reviewed by external experts. The comments and suggestions from experts are addressed and incorporated while devising the proposed system. The proposed monitoring has adopted good international practices including IPCC methodological guidance and guidelines and GOFC-GOLD REDD Source Book.

Criterion 30: Demonstration of early system implementation

The responsibility of undertaking MRV for REDD+ activities remains with the MSD of the Ministry of Forestry, which is mandated to conduct forest inventory, measurement of permanent sample plot and management and recording of all forest-related information such as logging.

To assume added responsibility of REDD+ MRV, the division would need more staff, additional finance, and equipment. The current organizational set up of the MSD is inadequate to implement forest monitoring. Technical capacity in remote sensing, field measurement, data processing, and information management and communication techniques is insufficient. The software and hardware infrastructure is not at inadequate to run forest monitoring in the immediate future. The needs have been identified and restructuring has been proposed. A new organizational set up with the provision of the human resource having skills and knowledge on Remote Sensing, database management, safeguard and forest biometrician is underway. Figure 4 depicts the proposed organizational set up for the MSD. Forest Biometrics section will be responsible for forest inventory, statistical analysis, safeguard and permanent sample plot measurement, and Remote Sensing section will be responsible for acquiring remote sensing data for forest mapping. A large portion of the additional funding under the FCPF Readiness fund is being utilized to strengthen the capacity of the division.

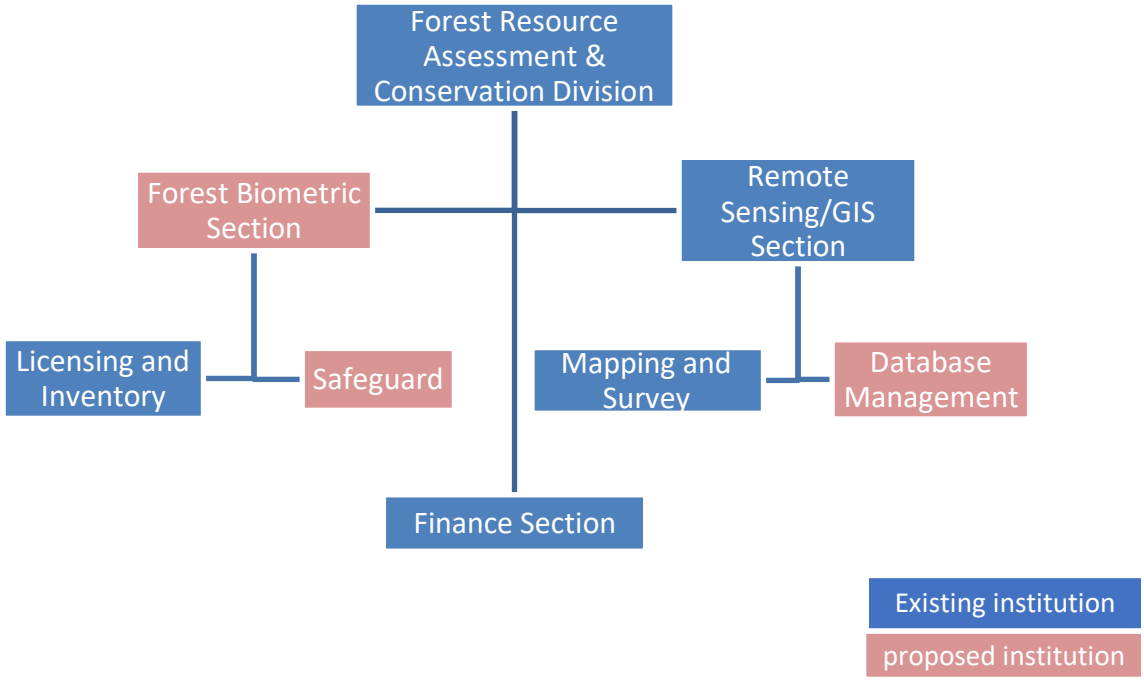
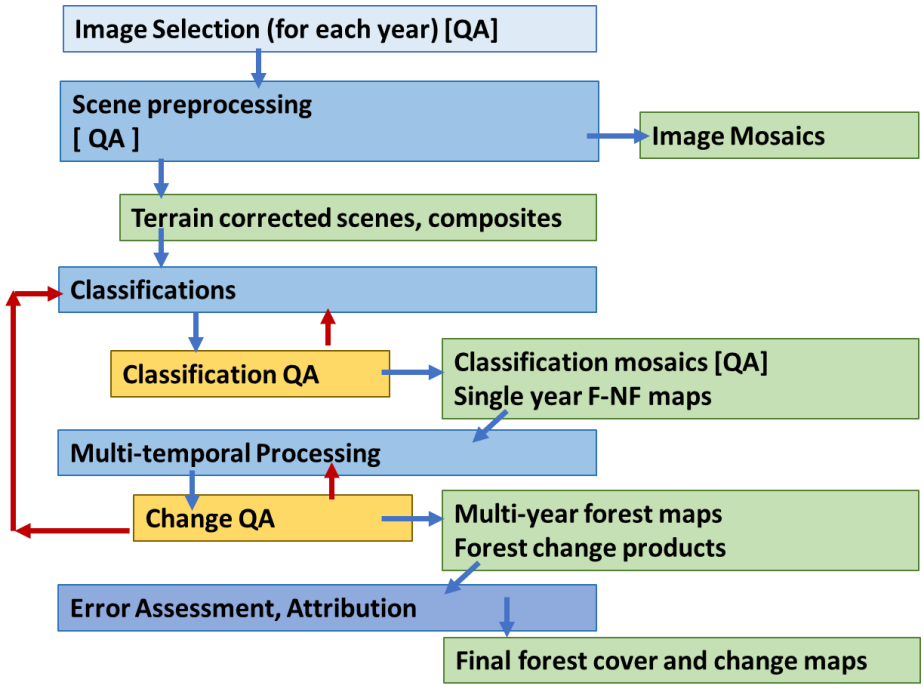


Figure 4. Proposed organization set up of the Management Service Division

The MSD is functioning well and taking an initiative to establish close collaboration with various national and international agencies including academic institutions for technology transfer and capacity building. CSIRO is helping Fiji to train human resources on the application of Remote Sensing for forest monitoring and establishing remote sensing infrastructure at MSD.

The current efforts of forest area change and carbon content assessment and the preliminary result so far produced in collaboration with CSIRO demonstrates the ability of Fiji's system to develop an FRL and measure and monitor the carbon in the future relative to the baseline estimates used for FRL. A multi-temporal approach using digital classification is being used to generate forest activity data. The classification method being used is a supervised non-parametric method known as 'random forests' (Jeremy, 2017). Figure 5 shows the steps used for land classification and corresponding outputs. The approach is widely used and described in scientific literature. Such an approach has a potential to overcome major limitations of the current method for activity data, both for setting the FRL and for ongoing monitoring and reporting obligations.



Source: (Wallace, 2017)

Figure 5. A schematic diagram of the multi-temporal classification workflow. Outputs are shown in green boxes.

Criterion 31: Institutional arrangement and capacities

A study to develop an MRV system of Fiji has stated clear mandates to perform tasks related to forest monitoring and activities are clearly defined such as satellite data processing, forest inventory, information sharing. There are evidence that a transparent means of publicly sharing forest emissions data are presented and are in at least an early operational stage. A database system is established, and information associated with national forest inventory, permanent sample plots, historical emissions and removals, forest activity data, and land cover and land cover change maps are already uploaded. The Ministry of Forestry is putting efforts to share the information publicly by making the database a web-based database system. Various kinds of capacity enhancement activities related to forest monitoring have been carried out under REDD+ readiness grant as well as with the support of the donor partners such as SPC/GIZ REDD+ II, UN-REDD Programme, and GIZ. A list of the capacity building activities related to forest monitoring are shown at Annex D. Apart from the ongoing capacity building activities, a full cost capacity development plan is prepared which identifies associated resource needs and estimate the

cost of required capacities such as training, hardware/software budget[13]. A portion of additional funding of the FCPF is allocated for improvement of the database system and capacity building activities.

A framework of Fiji's MRV system builds on the present structure. A study for developing a National Forest Monitoring System for Fiji proposes two sections: forest biometrics and remote sensing and GIS sections of Management Service Division perform the MRV responsibilities. The remote sensing section will responsible for images processing and analysis to produce land use/land cover classification layers. The section will undertake change detection in different forest and land use classes using multi-temporal satellite images and other ancillary data. Upon Land use/ land cover images produced and validated, they will be uploaded into the database. The forest biometrics section will be responsible for the national forest inventories and will coordinate the inventory at the division level to estimate GHG emissions using algorithms and models. Once GHG estimates have been produced and validated, they will be loaded into the database. The database subsection is a technical core unit with a Database Officer. The Database Officer will be responsible for managing and maintaining the MRV database structure. In addition, the Database Officer will manage and maintain the IT web platform interface, server system, firewalls, web services, connections, software update, and web content management.

An MRV system will be established at the divisional level too with computer and internet-based database management arrangement. The forest measurement data from all *mataqali* [14]and agencies participating in REDD+ (e.g. Fiji Pine Limited and Fiji Hardwood Limited) will have to be validated by the Divisional Forest Office, refined and entered in the database maintained at the divisional level. The forest officers at the divisions will need a knowledge and skills on IT and database maintenance/management and computer operation.

Overall Assessment: National Forest Monitoring System

Overall ranking for subcomponent 4a is Green. The activities under this subcomponent have achieved significant progress. Substantial work has been done for establishing an MRV system in the country. Much of the current work provides the foundation for further improvement. More work such as capacity building and institutionalization of mandates and responsibilities which is essential for REDD+ implementation is also desirable.

[13] The Capacity Development plan is available at: http://www.forests.gov.fj

[14] Mataqali is a Fijian clan or land owning unit.

Subcomponent 4 b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

REDD+ implementation not only produces carbon benefits, but also produces many other non-carbon benefits such as livelihood enhancement, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem service provision, and among other institutional strengthening. Monitoring of these benefits is essential to ensure that REDD+ implementation does not impede the quality and quantity of the benefits. A monitoring system should be designed that is effective and efficiently capable reporting how variables representing the benefits (safeguards) are being addressed and respected during the implementation of REDD in Fiji.

Criterion 32: Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues

The SESA study has identified broadly three types of non-carbon benefits; socio-economic, environmental, and governance. The non-carbon benefits are further categorized into sixteen types of non-carbon benefits. A list of non-carbon benefits is as under;

a) Socio-economic
    - Maintaining sustainable livelihood
    - Cultural services and traditional knowledge resources
    - Valuing forest resources
    - Income generation and employment

b) Environmental non-carbon benefits
    - Promotion of Climate-Smart Agriculture
    - Conservation and protection of Ecosystem Services
    - Protection and proliferation of medicinal plants and curative practices
    - Water regulation and watershed management

c) Governance
    - Strengthening of village level socially inclusive governance
    - Forest governance and management
    - Improved provincial forest management
    - Improved land tenure regime
    - Participatory land use planning

The study will identify indicators and based on the indicators a monitoring system will be developed.

The SESA study has identified potential social and environmental risks and potential environmental impact of REDD+ interventions. The social and environmental issues recognized in the ESMF of Fiji corresponding to interventions are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Social and environmental issues related to interventions

Interventions to address drivers and enhance carbon stocks	Potential socio-economic risks	Potential environmental impact
Forest and plantation-based activities Forest protection of existing natural forest through CRAs (and Conservation Agreements);	Possible social impacts if the land was previously used for agriculture or restrictions placed on accessing forest for NTFP collection	Produce multiple ecosystem services including provisioning, regulating and supporting
Avoiding degradation (no planting); located mainly in closed forests	Possible gender and poverty issues related to access to the forest; Possible change or impact on livelihoods if restrictions placed on accessing forest for NTFP collection	Possible initial minor habitat damage; fire; overexploitation of NTFPs; general longer-term benefits due to habitat improvements leading to improved biodiversity
Natural regeneration and enrichment Planting of poor natural forest. Located mainly in closed forests, normally uninhabited.	Possible gender and poverty issues related to access to the forest; Livelihood issues	Possible initial minor habitat damage; fire; overexploitation of NTFPs; potential short-term erosion and possible exotic species planted in Closed Forests
Afforestation with suitable species on existing grasslands and reforestation of existing pine plantations under lease by commercial forestry companies (e.g., Fiji Pine Ltd)	1) None expected in areas already having plantations; 2) Offsetting of infrastructure possibility of some land acquisition; Most offsetting likely occurs in area to be managed by the proposed forest companies	Possible loss of remnant natural forest due to plantation development leading to the clearing of natural forests; Risk is believed to be moderate and will be limited to a small area
Coastal forest and mangrove protection, enrichment planting of degraded forest and mangroves, afforestation/ reforestation coastal and mangrove forest.	1) Possible boundary and resource access and use issues; 2) Possible social impacts if land previously used for household home gardening purposes or agricultural cropping purposes; or restrictions placed on NTFP collection	None expected; An environmental concern is risk of plantation development leading to the clearing of natural forests; Risk is believed to be moderate and will be limited to small areas;
Institutional and capacity building activities Improved forest governance; Capacity building support for the DRWG and YMSTs to improve LUP and cross-sectoral planning; support for CRAs	Potential for reduced access to forest and NTFP resources for forest dependent communities through improvements to forest governance	Improved forest governance should contribute to protection and maintenance of biodiversity; Improved landscape management; Possible loss of remnant natural forest
Livelihood support activities Includes support for development and implementation of incentivized livelihoods and climate-smart agricultural practices to reduce encroachment; implementation of natural forest conservation agreements; and support for cooperative approaches and training on improved climate-smart	1) Possible gender and poverty issues; 2) Possible loss of access to forest;	Limited possibility of negative environmental impacts if activities chosen by communities and forest management entities are not forest or biodiversity conservation supportive; Identification of conservation orientated livelihood models designed not to impact on natural forest

agricultural practices and improvements in value chains.		

Adopted from (ERPD, 2018)

Fiji is complying the World Bank and Cancun Safeguard systems. Fiji has neither developed indicators corresponding to the World Bank and Cancun safeguard system to suit the country-specific situation, nor developed indicators to monitor the performance of non-carbon benefits. A large portion of the additional funding under the FCPF Readiness fund is being utilized to develop country context indicators of the safeguards.

Criterion 33: Monitoring Reporting and information sharing

Other than database system at SOPAC, University of South Pacific, Fiji Museum, National Trust of Fiji, Fiji does not have such a system of sharing consistent information on non-carbon benefits and safeguards. However, recently a National Forest Database System has been established within the Ministry of Forestry aiming to provide information on carbon accounting.

SESA & ESFM study provides key quantitative and qualitative variables surrounding the impacts on livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem provision key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ preparation and implementation of safeguard. To make available this information, a non-carbon and safeguard monitoring systems should be established and integrated into the existing system of NFDS. For this assignment, the budget is allocated under the FCPF additional funding, and this activity will be carried out in 2019.

Fiji is working to design a National Safeguard Information System to report to the UNFCCC on how the Cancun safeguard will be addressed and respected during the implementation of REDD+. A comprehensive review of the existing safeguards policies, laws and regulations is being conducted during 2018/19 that will result in a Safeguards Roadmap. It will identify how Fiji would meet the UNFCCC safeguard requirements.

Criterion 34: Institutional arrangement and capacities

Non- carbon benefits such as biodiversity conservation is currently being monitored by many institutions such as Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, and a number of faculties specialized in biodiversity at the USP. Likewise, the Department of Environment also holds a wide range of data related to biodiversity. However, these institutions are not mandated to perform the tasks of monitoring non-carbon benefits and safeguards.

Fiji is working to design an SIS which would include a description of the relevant governance arrangements (in particular the PLRs), and information to demonstrate how they are being respected. It would include information on how the governance arrangements are working in relation to the policy and measures. The SIS framework has identified information sources on how the safeguards would be

addressed as well as a list of potential existing information systems. It also suggests institutional arrangements for the collection, compilation, aggregation and analysis and dissemination of safeguards information. Further work is proposed to be undertaken in 2019 to further define more specific information needs and to operationalize the SIS.

At the national, provincial and district level most staff that are likely to be involved with REDD+ on an ongoing basis are not very well experience in the WB and Cancun safeguard system. However, some districts which have been involved with infrastructure projects financed by providers of ODA are aware of the safeguards. The awareness of safeguard's related forestry is still limited because the people are mostly engaged in the section that deals with land development, resettlement and compensation and issuance of leasing agreements. At the village level, there is even more limited knowledge of safeguard policies and processes. Therefore, the Program will have to be involved in building the capacity at all levels to better understand how social and environmental safeguard policies and their processes can be used to benefit both those indigenous peoples' groups directly affected by Program interventions and those indirectly affected. Capacity building of the REDD+ stakeholders is proposed for the year 2019 under the FCPF additional funding.

Overall Assessment Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

Overall ranking for subcomponent 4b is Yellow. The SESA study has identified the potential non-carbon benefits, but Fiji yet to develop monitoring indicators and system to monitor them. Many communities around the country has been generating non-carbon benefits along with carbon benefits. One example is the Drawa Pilot site, in the site community is generating several non-carbon benefits such as Bee-keeping, water conservation, cultural hotspot, and food security simultaneously with carbon. Safeguard information system is not established yet but planned under additional funding of the FCPF. Most of the stakeholder opined that the outcomes of the SESA study should be shared among all relevant stakeholders at the division level.

The Way Forward

There is room to improve the forest and safeguard monitoring system of the country. First improvement needed is the operationalization of National Forest Monitoring System which includes organization change of Ministry of Forestry. Clear allocation of responsibilities to the different organs of the ministry is also essential. In order to establish a monitoring system for safeguard, country-specific indicators for Cancun safeguard will identified. Table 16 shows the activities planned for the readiness period to improve forest and safeguard monitoring system.

Table 16. Proposed activities for improving monitoring system

SN	Activities	Timeline (Year)	Current status
1	Different types of trainings to the REDD+ stakeholders (GIS/RS, Statistical Analysis, Forest Inventory, Data Analysis, Database, IPCC guidance and Guideline)	2019-20	Developing ToRs
2	Develop Safeguard Information System	2020	
3	Idetify country specific indicators for Cancun Safegaurd	2019	
4	Operationalize National Forest Monitoring System	2019-20	Contious process
5	Improve Database System	2019-20	Full time Database Management Officer is in place

5. Report on Results of the Multi-Stakeholder Self-Assessment Process

Preparing for the Assessment

Organizing team, facilitator and support

The consortium organized all consultation workshops. A technical team was formed to Organize and facilitate the consultation process. One national consultant, REDD+ Technical Advisor, National REDD+ Coordinator, and REDD+ Project Officer facilitated divisional level workshops with support.

Development of process and schedule

The team formed to facilitate the R-Package team in consultation with REDD+ Unit team designed the consultation process and schedule to organize the consultations workshop. The REDD+ Unit informed Divisional Forest Office to help to invite stakeholders and to organize the Workshops. The facilitators developed and prepared various materials related to facilitation of the consultations. The FCPF Assessment Framework Guideline's criteria were printed in PVC sheets with traffic lights.

Preparation of guided questionnaires

The R-Package Team prepared the survey instruments and questionnaires, tailoring the 34 Criteria and guiding questions. The consultation team collected information and progress achieved, the area of improvement, and weaknesses under each component, subcomponents and assessment criteria. The method and process of consultations were discussed in REDD+ Unit and finalized. The result of the consultations is summarized in the following sections.

Identification of stakeholders

REDD+ Unit identified the list of potential participants in consultation with the Divisional Forest Office. The participants were invited representing a different cluster of stakeholders, and their earlier engagement with REDD+ activities. A prior engagement helps to make a fair and informed assessment of REDD+ readiness.

Conducting the Assessment

The R-Package Team conducted three stakeholder consultations in three divisions, using nine subcomponent and 34 assessment criteria as guidelines for data collection. The summary of the consultation process is reported in the following table. This was participatory and an inclusive process to collect and synthesize the perspectives, experiences, and recommendations of various stakeholders.

Each consultation workshop began with a session from the facilitation team about the R-Package. The team mainly explained what is R-Package, why is it important, the process of R-package, and reporting of R-package. Following the first session facilitation team made a presentation on achievement, weaknesses, and area for improvement for each component. After the presentation, the stakeholders were divided into groups and were asked to rank the progress and provide their views and perceptions on progress and weaknesses in a paper sheet.

Through this process, national stakeholders identified achievements, gaps and further needs in the REDD+ Readiness process. This was the most significant aspect of the R-Package process, as many different perspectives, experiences, and recommendations were received. To maximize efficiency, the consultation workshops were designed using a "nested" approach, where the inputs from one workshop fed into the following workshop, allowing findings to build on one another. Strengths, weakness, and areas of improvement under each component, subcomponent, and criteria from the perspective of REDD+ Unit and facilitation was discussed, and then the stakeholders was asked to make an assessment and rate the progress using the traffic light based the information provided by the REDD+ Unit. The stakeholders were also asked to express their views and perception on the progress that was described by the REDD+ Unit.

6. Summary of workshop findings

Three consultative workshops were held. The first workshop was held in Suva. The workshop was attended by 24 participants including four R-Package facilitation team. In this workshop, REDD+ Steering Committee members were also invited in addition to other key REDD+ stakeholders to express their views and perception on REDD+ readiness. Out of 21 participants 12 representatives were from the

government, four representatives from the donor partners, two representatives from International Non-Governmental Organization, one representative from an academic institution and two representatives from Civil Society Organization. Five women took part in the consultation workshop. The workshop consisted of five sessions.

1) An introductory session on R-package: The session includes the objective of R-Package and assessment method.

2) Description of component 1 and 2: The session included criteria and indicators of component 1 and 2 of REDD+ readiness

3) Group discussion: The stakeholders were asked to discuss criteria and indicators and rate their views and perception for each criterion using traffic light method.

4) Description of component 3 and 4: The session included criteria and indicators of component 1 and 2 of REDD+ readiness

5) Group Discussion: The stakeholders were asked to discuss criteria and indicators and rate their views and perception for each criteria using the traffic light method.

The participants raised concern regarding the awareness of REDD+, and they recommended the awareness program is needed at the community level. Likewise, the participant suggested building the capacity of government staff at the division level. REDD+ Unit staff responded to these suggestions one by one. The REDD+ National Coordinator clarified several remaining points concluded the workshops. Three division level consultations were held using the same format as explained in this section.

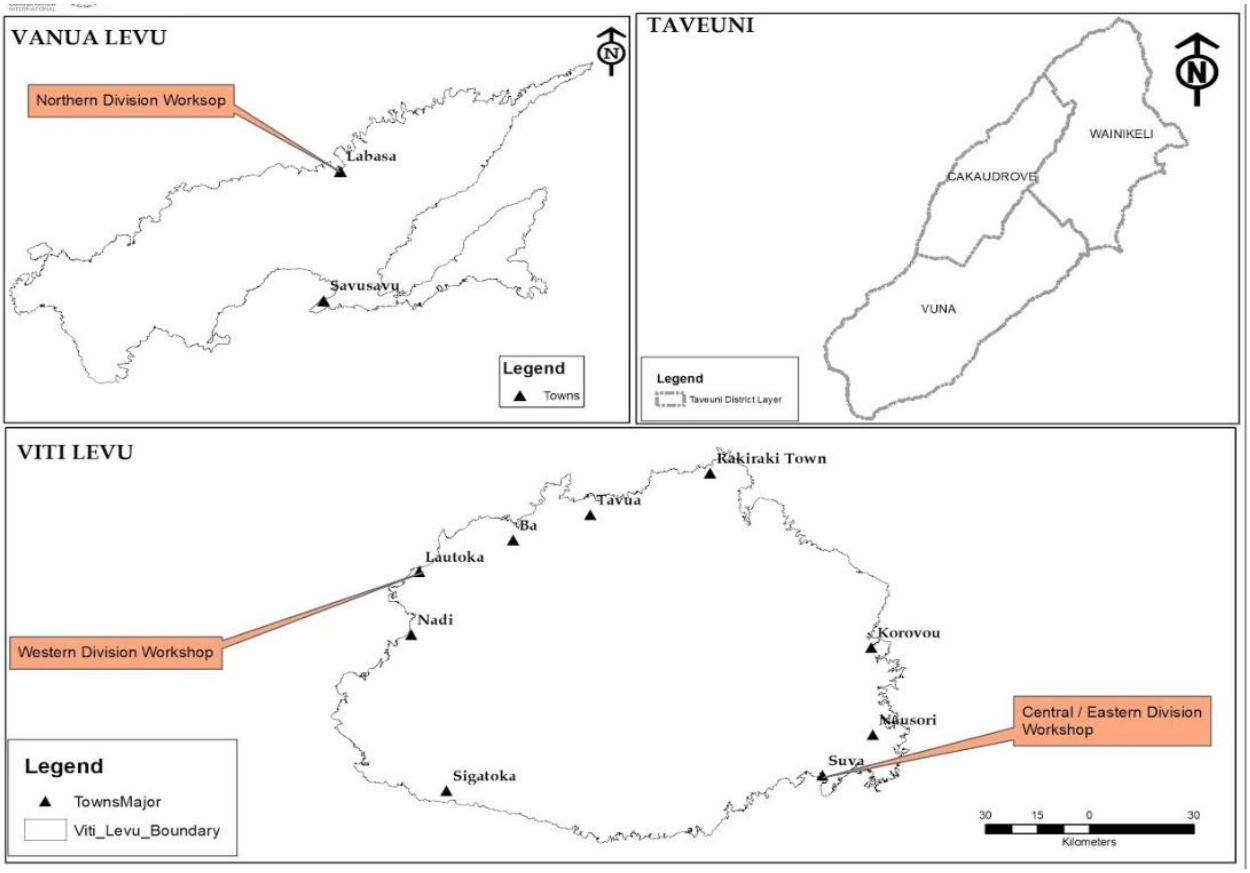


Figure 6. Map of Fiji showing the places of consultation

Fiji is divided into three divisions and 15 provinces. The consultations workshops were held in Suva, Lautoka, and Labasa which are the headquarters of three divisions. Figure 6 shows the location of the consultation site. All together 44 participants took part in the consultation workshops. The disaggregated number of the participants in each of the WS is shown in the Figure 7. Annex F shows the list of participants who attended the consultation workshops.

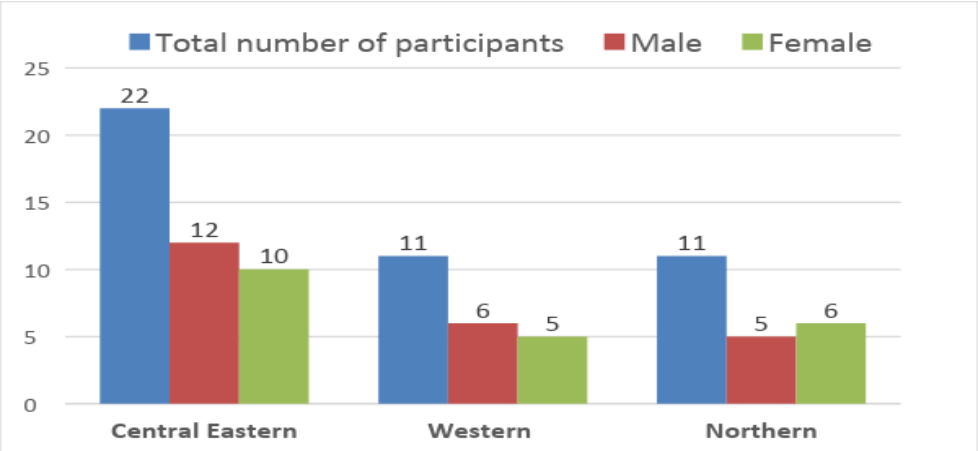


Figure 7. Number of participants in divisional level consultation workshops

Women's participation was significant in the workshops. Women's participation was approximately 47%.

Figure 8. Picture of participants in a group discussion in the Central Eastern Division

The FCPF readiness assessment framework (2013) was intensively used for facilitating the consultations. The assessment was done based on four component, nine subcomponents, and 34 assessment criteria. At the beginning of the workshop, the facilitator explained about the R-package and assessment framework and strength (an indicator of progress), weaknesses, and area of improvement from facilitator's perspective to trigger discussion among participants. Flexes were prepared for all component subcomponents and criteria of assessment. The participants were divided into groups for collective assessment. Even though each group did group discussion, they are were asked to rate progress each criterion individually using four traffic light system of the framework. Each group were provided a sheet of paper to note their comments and suggestion for each criterion to explain why they choose a particular traffic light for criteria. Figure 9 shows participants discussing in a group and writing notes for each criterion.

Figure 9. Picture of participants in group discussion and writing a note on the paper sheet

After group discussion, each group were asked to present their views, perceptions and rate each component, subcomponents and assessment criteria. At the end of each presentation, stakeholders were invited for questions and comments.

Figure 10. A workshop consultation facilitator facilitating the group discussion

Findings of the central level and divisional level consultations

In the central level consultation workshop other than REDD+ stakeholders, REDD+ Steering Committee members and forestry experts were invited to express their views and perceptions. A level of awareness, curiosity, and interest on REDD+ mechanism, process and implementation were found among central level stakeholders. Some of the stakeholders raised a concern about Fiji's REDD+ readiness. Their view was that Fiji is not yet ready to implement performance-based payment, especially Fiji has to develop further capacity on measurement and monitoring of carbon. Facilitation team observed that central level stakeholders were aware of REDD+ activities mainly because of their regular interactions with REDD+ Unit, Ministry of Forestry, and donor partners.

Relative to the central level consultation, divisional level stakeholders were less aware of REDD+ activities and readiness. However, because of continuous engagement with REDD+ unit activities and GIZ REDD+ program, Conservation International's REDD+ related program, the division level stakeholders expressed their view and perception on REDD+ readiness. The facilitation team observed that the division level stakeholders expressed their views more rigorously on component 1 and two than component 3 and 4. This is possibly because the component 3 and 4 contain more technical aspects of the REDD+ readiness and it is difficult to perceive the details related to a forest reference level and national forest monitoring system without studying its specifics.

Table 3 shows the progress rating in the central level and the divisional level consultations. The progress assessment demonstrates that majority criteria are "progressing well further development required" followed by "Further development required". Some stakeholders rated significant progress only for few criteria.

Table 3. Progress rating in central level and divisional level REDD+ readiness

Component 1: Organization and consultations		Progress rating			
Components	Criteria of assessment	C/E	W	N	V
1a. National REDD+ management arrangement	1) Accountability and transparency	Y	O	Y	G
	2) Operational mandate and budget	O	Y	O	Y
	3) Mechanisms for multi-sector coordination and cross-sector collaboration	Y	Y	O	G
	4) Technical supervision capacity	Y	O	O	Y
	5) Fund management capacity	O	O	Y	Y
	6) Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism	G	Y	O	G

1b. Consultation, participation, and awareness	7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	Y	Y	Y	G
	8) Consultation process	Y	Y	Y	G
	9) Information sharing and accessibility of information	Y	Y	Y	G
	10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	O	Y	Y	Y
Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy					
2a. Assessment of land use, changes in the allocation of land, forest laws, Policies, and governance	11) Assessment and analysis	Y	Y	G	G
	12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	Y	Y	O	G
	13) Link between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	Y	Y	O	G
	14) Action plans to take into account the right to natural resources, land tenure, and governance	O	Y	O	G
	15) Impact on forest laws and policies	Y	G	O	G
2b. Strategic REDD+ options	16) Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+	Y	Y	G	G
	17) Feasibility assessment	Y	Y	G	Y
	18) Impact of strategic options on sectoral policies	O	Y	O	O
2c. Implementation framework	19) Adoption and application of laws and regulations	O	Y	G	Y
	20) Implementation guidelines	O	Y	G	O
	21) Benefit-sharing mechanism	O	Y	G	Y
	22) National REDD+ registry and REDD+ activity monitoring system	R	Y	Y	Y
2d. Social and environmental impacts	23) Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	Y	Y	Y	G
	24) The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	Y	Y	Y	Y
	25) Environmental and Social Management Framework	Y	Y	Y	Y
Component 3: Reference Emission Level / Reference Level					
3. Reference Emission Level/ Reference Level	26) Demonstration of methodology	Y	Y	O	G
	27) use of historical data and adjusted for national circumstances	Y	O	O	G
	28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	Y	Y	Y	G
Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards					

4a. Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards	29) Documentation of monitoring approach	O	Y	Y	G
	30) Demonstration of early system implementation	O	Y	Y	G
	31) Institutional arrangements and capacities	Y	Y	O	Y
4b. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	32) Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues	O	Y	Y	G
	33) Monitoring, reporting and information sharing	O	Y	O	Y
	34) Institutional arrangements and capacities	O	Y	Y	Y

C/E= Central Eastern, N= Northern Division, and W= Western Division, V= Validation WS held at Suva, Y=yellow, G=green, O=orange, R=Red

A simple statistical analysis showed that 3.4 % of the participants rated the overall progress in REDD+ readiness (for all 34 criteria) in red, 32.6 % in orange, and 56.7 % in yellow and 10.7 % in the green. The rating is relatively poor in the case of consultation WS held in the western division with 3.2 % in green, 75% in yellow, 21% in orange, and 1.1 % in the red zone. The rating was for the WS held in central division with 9.9 in green, 52 % in yellow, 32 % in orange, and 6.5% in red. The number of participants who expressed their views on different rating is given at Annex E.

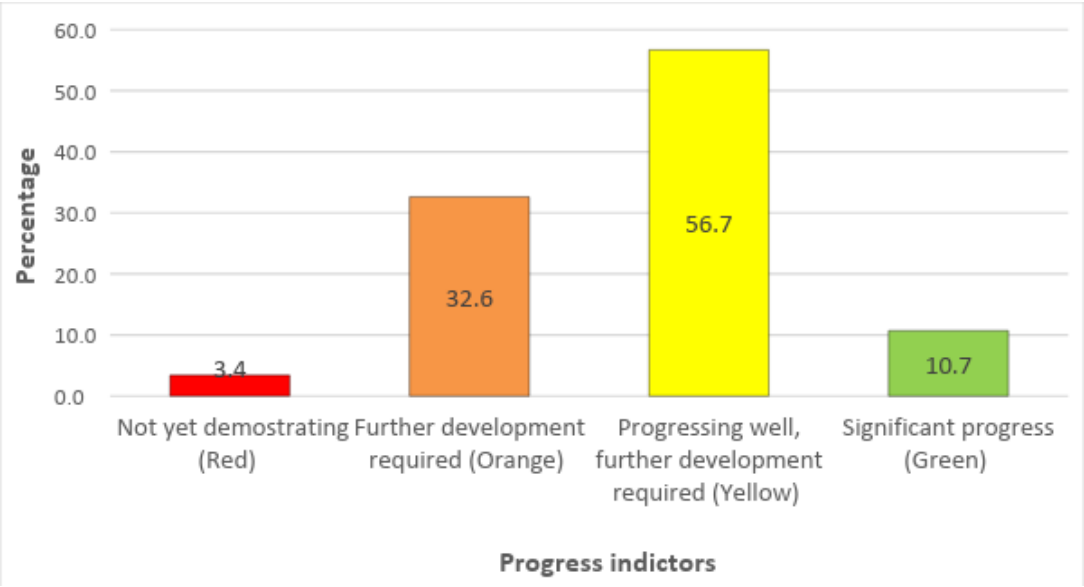


Figure 11. Percentage of progress indicator expressed in the consultation workshops at the divisional level

The R-package assessment team considered the results of the divisional and central level consultation workshops while doing an overall assessment of REDD+ readiness in Fiji. The review of the documents, studies carried out under REDD+ readiness, informal discussion with several stakeholders and overall working style of the ministry of forestry was included in the final grading of the REDD+ readiness status of Fiji. On the basis of above-mentioned criteria, the team concluded that Fiji has been putting efforts to achieve a high rating on REDD+ readiness. However, Fiji still has two more years to carry out readiness activities.

7. Communicating and Disseminating the Assessment results

The result of all consultations was analyzed and the summary of the multi-stakeholder process, assessment of the results, major and way forward was prepared and discussed with REDD+ Unit staff and other expert staff after the completion of each consultations WS.

Dissemination and validation

The result of the R-package assessment is not yet widely disseminated to the REDD+ stakeholders, and R-package will be uploaded into the REDD+ Unit website for comments and suggestions. The comments and suggestions from the stakeholders, government staff, and the expert will be incorporated into the R-package.

R-package validation Workshop

A national information sharing and validation workshop for the validation of the R-package was held at Suva on 28 January 2019. Some of the stakeholders who participated in the divisional level consultations were also invited for the validation workshop. The national validation workshop had 22 participants representing all major stakeholders. Figure 12 shows some glimpses of the validation workshop. Government officials, provincial offices, land owner's representative, CSO alliance, and private plantation company actively participated in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to:

- Share the results and outcomes of the divisional level consultation workshops to the key stakeholders at the national level;
- Share and discuss the overall outcomes of the R-Package and its validation;
- Seek approval the R-Package assessment report.


Figure 12. REDD+ stakeholders participating in the validation WS held at Suva

The process and outcomes of the divisional level consultation workshops were thoroughly described and presented in the validation workshop. The R-Package assessment team presented the ranking of each criteria under four components and nine sub-components based on the divisional level consultations and document review. The assessment results show low level of performance of REDD+ readiness at the divisional level. This was discussed in detail in the workshops. Attempts were made to explain the reasons for relatively weak performance at the divisional level as compared to the performance at national level. The main reason for low rating of the REDD+ readiness activities at the divisional level is because of the concentration of REDD+ related activities only at the central level. Many capacity buildings and outreach program implemented by REDD+ Unit, GIZ, and GIZ/SPC focused only on the national level stakeholder. The validation workshop concluded that the national level preparedness is better than the progress expressed by the stakeholders at the divisional level. All the stakeholder agreed that large sections of the country are informed about REDD+ mechanism and climate change issues. However, the stakeholder at the national level realized that sharing of technical details of the REDD+ activities such as FRL is rather weak, but they agreed to enhance the capacity of the division level stakeholders during the remaining phase of the REDD+ readiness. The validation workshop satisfied with well preparedness of the country in REDD+ implementation. The participants of the validation workshop condoned the R-package assessment and recommended to finalize the R-Package assessment report and submit to the FCPF as soon as possible. The workshop concluded with the note that the country is ready to implement REDD+ and approved the key findings of the R-Package assessment.

8. Overall rating of the REDD+ readiness

Division level assessment demonstrated rather weak REDD+ readiness. Majority of REDD+ readiness activities such as the establishment of REDD+ steering committee, REDD+ working group, forest

reference level, MRV were conducted at the central level, only in few instances, the divisional level stakeholders were consulted and informed. International non-governmental organizations such as TEBTEBBA and local non-governmental organizations such as Grace Trifam and the Soqosoqo Vakamarama[15] (SSVM) conducted REDD+ awareness activities in different parts of the country. The consultation was also done during the preparation of various national documents such as Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism, Drivers of deforestation, however, the awareness or consultation were carried out in limited villages and awareness program did not take into consideration the entire set of assessment criteria as FCPF readiness assessment framework has suggested. All these resulted in the relatively poor evaluation of the REDD+ readiness at the divisional level. However, the R-Package Assessment Team take into consideration a review of large number of the documents, direct observation of the REDD+ activities, informal discussion with SC members, and the outcome of the validation while doing the overall assessment of each component and sub components and the final grading of the REDD+ readiness in the country. The team found that the overall readiness activities are progressing well and the country is ready for the implementation of REDD+.

[15] Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei (SSV) is formed by women of 14 provinces of Fiji. SSV is non-governmental organization involve in REDD+ awareness activities.

9. Result of the multi-stakeholder self-assessment

Table 17. Results of the multi-stakeholder self-assessment

Sub component 1a. National REDD+ Management and Arrangement

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement	Time Line
1. Accountability and transparency	• Established the REDD+ Unit in the Ministry of Forestry • Regular meeting of the SC – inclusive and multi-stakeholder body consisting of representatives from key stakeholders' groups identified as relevant to REDD+ - • Monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ Work Program and associated action plans, facilitating inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination, and serving as an advisory technical body.	• Clearly defined accountability of the Ministry vs REDD+ Unit as there is no real commitment for instance the involvement of Senior Officers in the Ministry of Forestry on REDD+ • Involve to full capacity the skill sets in the various Working Group • Only a few people involved and well versed with REDD+ at Divisional level	• Report to the Forestry Board, NEC and National Climate Change Coordinating Committee • Effective efficient networking is essential across all agencies that are part of the REDD+ Steering Committee • Provide Feedback on activities to resource owners to support and ensure mainstreaming of REDD+ activities that encourage multi sectoral collaboration	• Biannually or as and when these legislated committees meet • Immediately - In addition to emails, use modes of communication/ social media such as WhatsApp, Viber, twitter • Quarterly at every SC Meeting • Newsletter – every Quarter (3months)

2. Operational mandate and budget	• Requested and granted additional budget • Commissioned a few additional studies to support preparedness state such as Drivers on Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Feedback Grievance and Redress Mechanism, SESA, ESMF • Channelling funding to other line ministries and private sector where ER actions can be effectively utilized – promotional funding to other ministries, private and public sector	• Provide incentives such as sitting allowances to attract the right people • Collaborate with line ministries to ensure budget allocated to ministries involved • Provide sufficient budget in the Division for Department of Forest to implement REDD+ • Involvement of private sector/relevant organisation to support implementation	• Liaise with line ministries to mainstream REDD+ and ensure key ministries include REDD+ workplan • Find means to decentralize the operational budget to ensure Divisions are allocated appropriate budget to implement REDD+ activities	• February 2019 to update progress • April 2019 to collaborate and align annual workplans (Government of Fiji Financial Year from July-June) • Feb -March 2019 Consolidate plans with Principal Accountant Ministry of Forestry to roll out by May 2019
3. Mechanisms for multi-sector coordination and cross-sector collaboration	• REDD+ Steering Committee work program is widely shared with members • Five technical working groups exist on: safeguards, awareness, governance and financing, MRV, and education and research[16] support multi sector coordination and cross sector collaboration	• Articulate and advocate the linkages on how the REDD+ policy supports other national objectives • Effectively involve Technical Working Groups to facilitate multi sector collaboration	• Present REDD+ updates in NEC, NCCCC and other forums • Capacity building for of SC members to advocate linkages with other sectors	• Biannually or as and when these legislated committees meet •

[16] **The technical working groups consist of members of the SC and/or officers nominated by SC members to contribute on behalf of their agencies. Of these technical working groups, the ones on safeguard and MRV are actively contributing to developing SESA & ESMF and MRV, respectively**

4. Technical supervision capacity	REDD+ Unit managing all REDD+ activities Focused on Forest sector readiness	• Collaborated but failed to integrated effectively into Agriculture Sector Plan • Focus on multi sector readiness activities esp. agriculture and other land uses such as infrastructure • Further development to consider commitment of stakeholders representatives to strengthen • Provided technical training for stakeholders to strengthen capacity and improve skills sets	• Actively seek opportunities to be involved with development in other key sectors such as Agriculture, Environment and Infrastructure such as resource planning and allocation • Improve coordination of REDD+ Expertise between the REDD+ unit and field division to ensure mainstream • Seek and secure opportunity to have a secondment from key Govt. personnel to join REDD+ Unit, for instance the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Services to support application of REDD+ activities aimed at reducing DODD • Facilitate decentralisation through supporting upskilling of Divisional Staff as well as Forest Wardens and YMST representatives at District & Village level	•

5. Fund management capacity	Establishment of the REDD+ Unit within Ministry of Forestry with own Accounting and Administrative support have increase fund management capacity and improved facilitation of budgeted REDD+ Readiness activities Advocated and supported inclusive management such that the work of the REDD+ Unit is aligned to REDD+ Steering Committee Work Program	Decentralise the REDD+ Unit to facilitate flow of funding to the Division to support implementation of REDD+ readiness Sought ways and means to support Fund Management Capacity that will build capacity of all stakeholders	Decentralised funds allocation for easier access/usage of funds availability at Divisional Level (coordinator / DFO's authority) Consider funding CSO to carry out targeted outputs of the readiness phase such as raising awareness and amplifying replication of demonstration of REDD+ activities.	
6. Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism	Supported and Completed the study on FGRM	Institutionalise FGRM to clarify – who to contact and expected process of grievance redress Transfer messages of the institutionalised FGRM at community level as currently there is no mechanism incorporated or mainstreamed Raise awareness on the FGRM process for REDD+ to ensure that impacted communities are aware of and have access to the mechanism to be responsive Applied bottom up approach from the community to the	Discuss and agree at SC on the implementation mechanism and agreed processes & procedures for REDD+ FGRM Carry out nation-wide consultation on FGRM and related REDD+ processes such as Safeguards & BSM	

		district/Tikina Meeting and Roko Tui's office/Provincial level		

1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	• Completed the Communication Strategy • Completed the Consultation and Participation Plan (CPP)	• Engage full scale implementation of the CS and CPP with special attention to ensure inclusion of marginalised groups such as informal settlements, women, youth and disadvantaged • Have frequent meetings at divisional level • REDD+ is still a foreign concept in most communities and for communities/ indigenous forest rights owners to make right decision, there needs to be consistency and amplification of efforts to date - on awareness & education	• Participation is progressing well but need more engagement of key stakeholders –to suggest to SC the provision of allowances to attract stakeholders • Mobilise Divisional REDD+ WG • More awareness needed on importance & relevance of REDD+ program to meeting stakeholder / dept/ organizational objectives • Awareness material needs to be translated to vernacular

8) Consultation process	• Consultation and participation processes fully utilizes existing mechanism and institutions. These include Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, National iTaukei Resource Owner's Committee, and iTaukei Affairs Board established at the national level and are involved in the management of the customary lands. Members from these institutions participate in the SC committee, the Technical Working Groups and the Working Groups at divisional level as a member. • Consultation Strategy (CS) and & a Consultation and Communication Plan (CPP) is in place.	• Upscaling the process used at the pilot site at national level • Institutional level but not at community or provincial level. • Influence the Retention of Officers involved in REDD+ activities to avoid brain drain through transfer of staff to other Division/institutions. • Comply with CS and CPP process to align with Consultation needs at community level hence funding needed at Divisional level	• Engagement of key stakeholders on all consultation process • Implement more consultation urgently at all levels • Apply Bottoms up approach in dealing with communities – more consultation at divisional level in applying the communication process in the CS and CPP
9) Information sharing and accessibility of information	• Information sharing through REDD+ web site, REDD+ face-book & twitter, REDD+ Newsletter, Newspaper and media releases in addition to Exhibitions and other events	• Implement the CPP and ensure consistent access by all stakeholders • REDD+ communication material (posters, brochures etc) have been prepared but not in the vernacular. • Information on REDD+ website to be made more assessible to wider public in a clear way in order for better understanding • Ensure visibility of information through regular newsletter, brochures etc • Adopt Govt Policy on Information Sharing – identify process for • Materials are being produced but need to upscale and share widely	• REDD+ website currently under re-construction and update • Increase reach to communities through media and print • Undertake consistent awareness through Increase use of social media maintaining accuracy of information needs to be improved • Improve Divisional level stakeholders accessibility & familiarity with REDD+ activities through making information available at Divisional level

10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	• Reports are available on the REDD+ web site which is now under re-construction	• Operationalise REDD+ CPP and CS to include ER activities through integration in management arrangement and strategy development • To provide other means of accessing technical reports such as depository of hard copies in University Library	• Upgrade CPP to integrate new learning from recent experiences • Officers who have been trained by REDD+ to further do consultation at community level to be provided the necessary means to apply training and undertake community training • Facilitate the depository of all REDD+ studies during Readiness Phase in a local University Library

Sub component 2a. Assessment of land use, changes in the allocation of land, forest laws, Policies, and governance

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
11) Assessment and analysis	• Completed assessment on Drivers of deforestation including analysis of recent land use trends, land tenure, forest laws, policy and governance • Completed many other studies that complement ERP such as FGRM, Financing Guideline etc	• Validate assessment with spatial and economic model Validation is important	• Complete spatial and economic models • Land use change activity date needed • Facilitate involvement of partners and government stakeholders in all the process from assessment to implementation
12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	• Collated wide stakeholder view on the priorities of DODD, assessed legal and policy implications, incorporated barriers to REDD+ activities and prioritised low hanging fruits	• Publicised results in a policy brief for wide stakeholder buy-in to rationale of the ER activity • Publish analysis of REDD+ Studies and data gathered for public consumption	• Publish policy brief on REDD+ Strategy to support ER activities • Data needed for model to support assumption

		• Communicate results to key stakeholders	• Involve of partners and government stakeholders in all the process from assessment to implementation and communication of results to key stakeholders
13) Link between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	• Identified the root cause of the problem exacerbating DODD • Develop strategy to manage drivers of deforestation	• Test approaches to address drivers/barriers during readiness phase • Need evidence of the implementation of REDD+ activities and to demonstrate linkage between drivers and barriers • Linking dissemination of information since some organisations have implemented these to share learnings	• Consider development strategies to reduce barriers • Evidence of implementation needed • Involvement of partners and government stakeholders in all the process from assessment to implementation
14) Action plans to take into account the right to natural resources, land tenure, and governance	• Forest rights and resource use laws well established through Fiji laws	• Review Carbon Rights and develop Benefit sharing mechanism that complement existing framework yet uniquely supported ERP • Sectoral action plans need to be developed to ensure alignment with CR and BSM	• Ensure action plans to make progress in the short, medium- and long-term towards addressing relevant land-use, land tenure and titles, natural resource rights, livelihoods, and governance issues in priority regions related specifically, to REDD+ programs • The current TLTB/ Land Bank BSM is already in place but to be reassessed to identify gaps for effective application to REDD+
15) Impact on forest laws and policies	• Identified implications of Forest Decree 1992, Forest Bill and other relevant policies	• Consulted user groups on relevance of existing and revised laws • Sectoral action plans need to be developed, reviewed and assessed to identify legal gaps	• Consult user groups such as Sawmillers, forest owners • Expand and ensure harmonization and integration with other sectors • Implement Action Plan ASP

		• The current TLTB/Land Bank BSM is already in place but to be reassessed to identify gaps for effective application to REDD+	

Subcomponent 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
16) Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+	• Used participatory process to support comprehensive assessment of direct and indirect DODD to develop strategic options for REDD+	• Raise awareness on the strategy to all stakeholders to ensure buy-in of REDD+ activities • Communicate strategy options widely due to timing constraints	• Develop awareness package that can be easily understood to rationalize REDD+ activities that will address DODD • Develop brief and brochures for information dissemination
17) Feasibility assessment	• Undertook comprehensive Feasibility Assessment incorporating the cost of intervention	• Complete the economic model • Feasibility studies involves costs such as different priorities of the barriers/drivers also when issues are priorities than only you will see which is applicable for not	• Complete economic model once data is available • To popularize the outcome of the cost benefit analysis to facilitate realistic decisions
18) Impact of strategic options on sectoral policies	• Identification of inconsistent policies such as the export driven policy of Agriculture, infrastructure development and others	• Detailed consultation with key sectors to agree to timelines and processed to resolve inconsistencies • Consider tourism sector • yet to complete the process to seek SC support to adopt strategic options and support ER activities	• Resource allocation to maximize natural resource capability • Consider tourism sector and provide options for income for communities • Facilitate a round table “Talanoa” with stakeholders to discuss and agree on strategic options

Subcomponent 2c. Implementation Framework

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
19) Adoption and application of laws and regulations	• Forest Bill 2016 – parliamentary reading	• Develop implementation mechanism and detail processes for SFM • Involve as many partners and government stakeholders in all the process from assessment to implementation	• Review and improve existing laws • Support adoption of the implementation mechanism and improve on enforcement and empowerment • Improvement on networking and collaboration
20) Implementation guidelines	• Strategy aligned to National Policy and national advocacy for SFM and carbon enhancement. • Completed FGRM • Completed Carbon Financing Guideline	• Define carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanism, REDD+ financing modality, procedures for official approvals and institutionalise FGRM • Align implementation guideline with Strategic Options to ensure necessary law/regulations can be drafted to support implementation	• Complete detailed study on carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanism, REDD+ financing modality, procedures for official approvals and institutionalise FGRM
21) Benefit-sharing mechanism	• BSM will align to existing structure	• Identify gaps in the existing structure • SWOT analysis of existing structure – look at leases and carbon ownership to identify gap of existing structure, review lease arrangement and BSM	Refine BSM on carbon through wide consultation Need more improvement on networking and collaboration
22) National REDD+ registry and REDD+ activity monitoring system	• Suggested REDD+ registry and activity monitoring system aligned to existing legal frameworks	• Demonstrate a national geo-referenced REDD+ information system or registry that is operational, comprehensive of all relevant information (e.g., information on the location, ownership, carbon accounting	• Ensure public access to REDD+ Information is made available • Collaborate with Climate Change Division who will undertake establish registry for GHG inventory to facilitate alignment of

		and financial flows for sub-national and national REDD+ programs and projects) • Need improvement of system communication	the two – Carbon and GHG inventory. • Collaborate on LEDs mitigation strategy to align with ERP aiming for net zero emission by 2050

Subcomponent 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
23) Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	• Social and Environmental Safeguards are relevant to cultural and country context • SESA outputs are incorporated into the ERPD	• Socialize the Social and Environmental Safeguards advocated in the ERPD	• Publish key issues identified in the Social and Environmental Safeguards
24) The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	• Used SESA findings and output, linked to findings of the DODD study to develop strategy options	• Socialise the REDD+ Strategy Option	• Complete SESA • Publish Policy brief on the REDD+ Strategy Option • Need more improvement on networking and collaboration
25) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)	• ESMF currently compiled to be completed by end of Jan 2018	• Demonstrate that the ESMF is in place and sufficient to manage environmental and social risks/potential impacts related to REDD+ activities?	• Complete ESMF based on learnings from implementation

Component 3: Reference Emissions / Reference Level

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
26) Demonstration of the methodology	• Sub-national level FRL established and endorsed by the government and based on the FRL the ERPD and developed and submitted to the FCPF • A separate FRL methodology is developed prior estimating the FRL • The design of the FRL consistent with recent IPCC guidelines and Guidance • The FRL has recommended for national level FRL, and stepwise approach adopted to improve the FRL by incorporating better data, improved methodologies and, where appropriate, additional pools	• Only two pools of carbon are included in the FRL • Manual classification is used to estimate land use change over the reference period • Only Carbon Dioxide is taken into account disregarding other GHG • Not yet developed any relationship between national and sub-national FRL • Information on methodology is not shared fully with the REDD+ stakeholders	• Develop FRL according to the requirements of UNFCCC, e.g. land use classification, emission factor, estimation of activity data • The methodology should be shared with relevant REDD+ stakeholders • The division staff should be informed about the FRL • Use automatic classification (supervised classification)
27) Use of historical data and adjusted for the national circumstances	• The database is developed using historical information (logging, plantation, national forest inventory, measurement of permanent sample plots) • SOP is developed for the storing and analysis of the information • EF/RF are estimated using the National Forest Inventory data	• Data are sufficient to the point that allows to reconstruction and cross-checking of the reference emission level	• Fully functioning database • Allometric equation for country context • EF for some land use, e.g. grassland, fire, crop land • Capacity building of divisional staff • Database infrastructure at the divisional level
28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	• The methodology and technical issues are consistency with IPCC and other guidance and guidelines such as GOFC-GOLD REDD+ Source Book, FCPF methodological Framework • The FRL allow transparent evaluation of data sets, approaches, methods	• Default values are used for Emission factors for some land use classes • The National Forest Monitoring System has not yet established • Some potential uncertainties, i.e. errors in field measurement and land cover change maps remain	• Estimate EF for land uses such as grassland, cropland, sugar • Institutionalize a national forest monitoring system

Subcomponent 4a: National Forest Monitoring System

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
29) Documentation of monitoring approach	• Used combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approach and there is a clear rationale for adopting the inventory approach. • The proposed Forest monitoring system is consistent with national and international guidance • The sources of uncertainties are identified in accordance with good practice guidance, and their management are proposed • Proposed improvement of National Forest Inventory and allocation and design of permanent sample plots is available	• The REDD+ national forest monitoring has not been institutionalized • The outcome of the NFMS study is not shared with divisional staff • Capacity enhancement	• Share monitoring methodology with divisional REDD+ stakeholders • Redesign of PSP
30) Demonstration of early System Implementation	• The existing system of forest monitoring system can afford monitoring of prioritized REDD+ activities • RS/GIS lab established • Human resources are trained for RS/GIS analysis • Permanent Sample plots are regularly measured and monitored • MSD is solely responsible for the forest inventory and assessment	• Human resource is not fully trained • Change in PSP design is necessary	• Capacity enhancement
31) Institutional arrangements and capacities	• The ministry and its organs have a mandate related to forest monitoring • Capacity development plan determined the needed capacity and adequacies for the operation of the MRV.	• New roles under REDD+ different organs is not institutionalized yet • Capacity developed activities are delayed • Only few staff trained	• Establish National Forest Monitoring System

	• The hardware and software required for forest monitoring are gradually established		

Subcomponent 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impact, Governance, and Safeguards

Criteria of assessment	What we have done (Strength)	What we have not done (weakness)	Area for improvement
32) Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects , and social and environmental issues	• Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment report has identified social and environmental issues • non-carbon benefits identified • Drawa Forest Project has developed benefit sharing and payment for ecosystem services systems and which is functioning • Non carbon benefits - Vunisea- Fish pond	• The outcome of SESA report not shared at the divisional level	
33) Monitoring, reporting, and information sharing	• Only Monitoring system of PSP reports biodiversity-related safeguard • A database system established which will share the safeguard information	• No system of monitoring of non-carbon yet developed • SIS is under construction and not yet institutionalized	Develop non-carbon benefit monitoring system
34) Institutional arrangements and capacities	• Institutional arrangement is already there • Capacity development plan is in place • Study report (SESA and ESMF) has suggested institutional arrangement	• Fully functional institutional arrangement is yet to establish	Institutionalization of non-carbon benefit sharing mechanism

References

GOFC-GOLD, 2016, A sourcebook of methods and procedures for monitoring and reporting anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals associated with deforestation, gains and losses of carbon stocks in forests remaining forests, and forestation. GOFC-GOLD Report version COP22-1, (GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Project Office, Wageningen University, The Netherlands).

Wallace J., 2018. Generation of Forest Activity Data for Fiji from Time Series Imagery: Preparation for a Workshop to Implement a Multi-temporal Approach, Consultant Report 3, REDD+ Unit, Ministry of Forestry, Suva, Fiji.

Annex A: REDD+ Readiness Assessment Criteria

Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultations

Components	Criteria of assessment	Progress			
		Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
1a. National REDD+ management arrangement	7) Accountability and transparency				
	8) Operational mandate and budget				
	9) Mechanisms for multi-sector coordination and cross-sector collaboration				
	10) Technical supervision capacity				
	11) Fund management capacity				
	12) Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism				
1b. Consultation, participation, and awareness	7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders				
	8) Consultation process				
	9) Information sharing and accessibility of information				
	10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes				

Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ strategy

Components	Criteria of assessment	Progress			
		Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
2a. Assessment of land use, changes in the allocation of land, forest laws, Policies, and governance	11) Assessment and analysis				
	12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement				

	13) Link between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities				
	14) Action plans to take into account the right to natural resources, land tenure, and governance				
	15) Impact on forest laws and policies				
2b. Strategic REDD+ options	16) Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+				
	17) Feasibility assessment				
	18) Impact of strategic options on sectoral policies				
2c. Implementation framework	19) Adoption and application of laws and regulations				
	20) Implementation guidelines				
	21) Benefit-sharing mechanism				
	22) National REDD+ registry and REDD+ activity monitoring system				
2d. Social and environmental impacts	23) Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards				
	24) The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact				
	25) Environmental and Social Management Framework				

Component 3: Reference emission level/reference level

Components	Criteria of assessment	Progress			
		Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
	26) Demonstration of the methodology				
	27) Use of historical data and adjusted for the national circumstances				

	28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines				

Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures

Sub Components	Criteria of assessment	Progress			
		Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further, development required	Significant progress
4a. National forest monitoring system	29) Documentation of monitoring approach				
	30) Demonstration of the first phases of application				
	31) Institutional arrangements and capacities				
4b. System of information on the multiple advantages, governance and safeguards	32) Identification relevant non carbon aspects , and social and environmental issues				
	33) Monitoring, reporting, and information sharing				
	34) Institutional arrangements and capacity				

Annex B. Comparison of Existing Redd+ Projects in Fiji (2009-2018)[17]

Characteristics	REDD+ Projects in Fiji		
	Emalu REDD+ pilot site, Navosa	**Drawa Rainforest Conservation Project [18]**	**Nakauvadra Community Based Reforestation Project[19]**
REDD+ Activity	Forest Conservation	Forest Conservation	Carbon Stock Enhancement
OBJECTIVE	Conservation through livelihood activities – with intervention of alternative livelihood will community conserve forest	Demonstration of entry to Voluntary Carbon	Demonstration of carbon enhancement and community engagement resulting in behavioural change Increase forest cover to protect biodiversity Increase economic wellbeing
Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation	Agriculture	Agriculture Logging	Agriculture Fire
Underlying Causes of DODD	Income generation through Agriculture	Income generation through logging and Agriculture	Income generation through Agriculture
Level of Ambition	7,347 Ha of lowland, upland & cloud forest - REDD+ Conservation lease.	The project incorporates 4,120 ha of tropical rainforest on Vanua Levu, Fiji (1,548 ha eligible for generating carbon credits), conservation lease (to be finalised)	1,135ha secured through voluntary **Community Agreements**
Estimated Carbon Offset	Not systematically estimated yet	18,800 Carbon Credit Annually from Quarter 1 2017	280,000 tCO_{2e} OVER 30 YR
Carbon Accounting	Land Based Accounting	Land Based Accounting	Activity Based Accounting
Certification System		Plan Vivo	Certified CCBS – Gold Standard 2013-2018
Risk of Leakage	Low – livelihood intervention introduced to the community ensure low chances of leakage	Low – livelihood intervention introduced to the community ensure low chances of leakage	Low – livelihood intervention introduced to the community ensure low chances of leakage

[17] ***Extracted from Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation Strategy Options***

[18] http://www.nakau.org/drawa---fiji.html

[19] http://www.climate-standards.org/2013/04/22/the-nakauvadra-community-based-reforestation-project/

Risk of Reversal	Low for the duration of Conservation Lease as it uses the Yavusa/Mataqali land for agricultural needs identified. Development of a land use plan to ensure other future land use needs are considered. High without Conservation Lease	The Management Plan protects the eligible forest area in the form of a conservation lease. Low for the duration of Conservation Lease High without Conservation Lease but once the lease agreement is issued this is low. Lease agreement issued in 2017. (Drawa Forest Project PD Part B D3.2b v1.0, 20151009)	Medium – depend on opportunity for alternative economic use of the land Planted trees belong to communities so this should incentivise them to avoid reversal Development of a District level land use plan ensures other future land use needs are considered.
Financial Structure	Currently Supported by Govt of Fiji, in future – carbon fund	Fund and Market-based	Fund-based
Recognition by REDD+ Steering Committee, Fiji	REDD+ Pilot Site	REDD+ Carbon Project in the Nakau Payment for Ecosystem System	
Year of implementation	2011	2005 (GIZ Drawa Block) 2010 – (Live & Learn Drawa Rainforest Conservation Project) 2012-2015 Development for market-based carbon trading via EU funds	2009

Annex C. Capacity building activities undertaken by different INGO and Donor partners

Capacity building activities by Ministry of Forestry

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

Capacity Building Activities by Conservation International

Name of training	**Training objective**	**Main topics**	**No of participants**	**Relevance to REDD+**
Trainings for communities				
Tree identification & Seed Collection	To ensure that communities can correctly identify native tree species and are aware of the best flowering and fruiting seasons to collect viable seeds for germination	• Tree identification using leaf, bark, flowers and seeds • Tree flowering seasons • Seed collection and predation • Basic Seed Storage	• Lololo Pine Station- 10 Nadarivatu Forestry Station- 10	Identification of high-quality viable seeds for carbon enhancement planting.
Polling and Planting	To be competent with the use of compass, line bearing	• Compass reading • Setting base line to aid planting • Setting up Line bearing • Weeding techniques • Mensuration techniques to determine the total number of seedlings needed • Planting techniques	• On the job training Mataqali Dreketi 10 local participants	Proper planting of seedlings to ensure survival before during and after carbon enhancement planting.
Nursery establishment & Management	To ensure that communities are able to establish and manage a successful nursery by themselves	• Requirements to consider before constructing nurseries • Different sizes of nurseries • Techniques on constructing simple community nurseries	• Nabalabala Village-30 participants • Nailawa Village-25 participants • Lagilagi Methodist Church Compound 15 participants	Raising of quality seedlings for carbon enhancement planting

		• Weed and pest management		
Forest Health Monitoring	To assist Project Officer in the collation of information to assess Forest Health	• Measuring parameters and technique of measurement • Tree Health Assent data entry • Plot selection	• On the job training of CI casuals' staff 10 participants	Monitoring of carbon enhancement plots to expand the forest habitat and enhance the populations of endangered and endemic species in the Nakauvadra Range thereby also promoting forest conservation.
Fire awareness and monitoring	To increase community awareness on wild fire risks and to assist field staff with the monitoring of fires in project area	• Laws pertaining to Fires, fire types, mitigation measures • Fire Warden Roles & Data Collection	• Fire awareness at high risk communities	Reduce the incidence of fires by carrying out fire awareness and educational campaigns with local communities thereby reducing forest degradation
Sustainable Land Management	To increase community awareness on the importance of soils resource and its management	• Importance of soils • Soil Fertility and plant growth • Land use capability • Soil Erosion & Degradation • Land management technologies	• Nayaulevu Village 60 participants • Rewasa Village 40 participants • Nananu Village 42 participants	• Demonstrate sustainable agriculture practices, good farming techniques to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
Root Crop Production	To assist communities in methods to improve crop productivity.	• Ginger production • Taro production • Cassava Production • Sweet Potato Production	• 21 people from various villages	• Introduce alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on nearby Nakauvadra Forests reducing deforestation and forest degradation.
Training on Traditional Crop Varieties	To ensure that communities understand the various crop varieties in Fiji and the importance of conserving them.	• Different crop varieties • Indigenous knowledge of traditional varieties • Advantages of conserving genetic diversity	• 21 people from various villages)	
Bee Keeping	To encourage community interest in bee keeping and to improve knowledge on	• Basic hive components • Handling bees • Bee colony • Selection and rearing of queen bees	• Distributed 35 boxes to 7 communities.	• alternative agriculture livelihoods to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

	productivity. This training was mainly targeted at women	• Harvesting and Marketing		• Promote bee-keeping to help with the pollination of trees to sustain the forest health of the Nakauvadra forest to improve sustainable forest management.
Financial Literacy Training	To help community members manage their personal finances and gain understanding about the options available for savings and budget management	• Budgets • Financial management • Basic accounting principles • Savings plans	• 92 participants	• Manage personal finances through income derived from activities related to SFM and carbon enhancement planting.
Biodiversity monitoring	To assist CI staff in conducting biodiversity monitoring	• Basic bird identification training (Bird diversity in Fiji, bird calls) • Basic plant taxonomy training (bark slash, leaves, flowers identification)	• Narara Village-10 participants	• Promote forest conservation through monitoring of biodiversity indicators.
Trainings for Project Field Supervisors and Assistants				
Project Management Training	To assist project Staff to effectively manage projects, both in a technical and supervisory capacity	• Project vision/goals/activities • Time and team Management • Planning & Target setting • Forest Technical Skills ○ Polling & Planting ○ Base Line Setting • Communication Skills • M & E and Report	• On the job training of CI interns and casuals including 25 Forestry Training School Forestry Technician students for one month at Tokaimalo.	• Capacity building of future Ministry of Forests staff on REDD+ activities including SFM and carbon enhancement planting.
Basic Map and GPS reading	To enable project staff to be proficient and efficient in using maps and GPS	• Map Reading ○ Different types of maps ○ Scales & Legends ○ Field Demonstration and Application	• On the job training of 3 CI staff	• Proper use of maps to map carbon enhancement planting.

Capacity Building Activities by GIZ, Fiji

SN	Activities	Agency	Implications of the activities
1	Fiji Carbon Rights Study	GIZ, Fiji	The study helped to define right over Carbon
2	Development of a variety of climate change and REDD+ informational materials such as brochures, booklets, posters and information briefs some of which have been translated to into the iTaukei language	GIZ, Fiji	Enhanced awareness of the communities on REDD+ and Climate Change
3	Participation of Forestry Government officers at International, regional and national level technical training / workshop / conference relating to forest inventory, carbon pool measurements, remote sensing and GIS, MRV requirements	GIZ, Fiji	Enhanced the exposure to REDD+ approach
4	Training of resource persons especially youths as community facilitators on climate change and REDD+	GIZ, Fiji	Created awareness to community members
5	Participation of local community representatives at national and international conferences	GIZ, Fiji	Enhanced exposure on REDD+ approach
6	Analytical study on Carbon Emissions from Forest Degradation caused by Selective Logging in Fiji	GIZ, Fiji	Estimated total emission factor from logging
7	Development of a national participatory land use planning guideline (draft)	GIZ, Fiji	Help to develop land use plan
8	Baseline surveys for Emalu REDD+ pilot site – 2012 – 2013 (multi-sectoral).	GIZ, Fiji	These surveys included socio-economic, present land use, cultural mapping, carbon inventory, biodiversity and archaeological mapping.
9	Hands on training for local field guides to undertake forest inventory, carbon pool measurements, biodiversity and cultural mapping surveys.	GIZ, Fiji	The community members will able to assess their local resources
10	Training and upskilling of local communities on various livelihood strategies for improved socio-economic wellbeing	GIZ, Fiji	Community members will generate income from other resources rather than relying on forest resources as result carbon stock in the forest will enhance

Capacity Building Activities by SPC/GIZ

SN	Description of the activity	Date	No of participants
1	Workshop on the 10th Executive Forest Policy Course, Sri Lanka,	May 2017.	2
2	Training on Results Based Finance for REDD+ and the linkages to Forest Landscape Restoration	Bangkok 10/17	2
3	National Communications Workshop for Divisional Forestry Staff, Fiji,	December 2017	15

Annex D. List of capacity enhancement activities (Forest Monitoring)

Name of training/workshop	Year	Conducted by	No. of participants from Fiji
Forest inventory refresher training – REDD+ monitoring	6-8 Feb 2013		10
GPS (Trimble & Garmin)/GIS training – REDD+ monitoring	21 Feb 2013		6
Regional Forest Inventory Workshop	15-29 August, 2014	UN-REDD Programme by the Pacific Community	5
Regional National Forest Inventory Workshop, Solomon Islands	3-14 November, 2014	UN-REDD Programme by the Pacific Community	5
Regional National Forest Inventory Workshop, Solomon Islands	3-14 November, 2014	UN-REDD Programme by the Pacific Community	5
Forest Inventory Backstopping Data analysis (emission factors) training	17-19 June, 2015	UN-REDD Programme by the Pacific Community	2
Regional Forest Monitoring Capacity Building Workshop	18-19 Nov, 2015	UN-REDD Programme by the Pacific Community	21
National Forest Inventory Capacity Building Workshop on Data Analysis for Fiji	23-27 May, 2016	UN-REDD Programme by the Pacific Community	13
REDD+ Forest Reference Emission Level Workshop: Preparing a UNFCCC FREL/FRL Submission	26-28 Sep, 2016	UN-REDD Programme by the Pacific Community	3
Fiji Forestry Collect Earth training	13-15 Dec, 2016	Fiji FD with SPC/GIZ, UN-REDD & PNGFA	5
Study Tour to Germany: Sustainable Forest Management, Downstream Processing & Climate Science in the scope of REDD+	15-22 Sep, 2018	SPC/GIZ REDD+ II	4

Annex E. Number of stakeholders who expressed their views and perception for 34 assessment criteria

Component 1: Organisation and consultations		Sum total of all selections			
Components	Criteria of assessment	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further development required	Significant progress
1a. National REDD+ management arrangement	1) Accountability and transparency	1	12	20	4
	2) Operational mandate and budget	2	19	8	8
	3) Mechanisms for multi-sector coordination and cross-sector collaboration	2	10	21	4
	4) Technical supervision capacity	2	16	19	0
	5) Fund management capacity	1	19	7	10
	6) Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism	1	9	13	14
1b. Consultation, participation, and awareness	7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	2	5	26	4
	8) Consultation process	0	4	29	4
	9) Information sharing and accessibility of information	0	4	32	1
	10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	0	18	17	2

Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy		Sum total of all selections			
Components	Criteria of assessment	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further development required	Significant progress
2a. Assessment of land use, changes in the allocation of land, forest laws, Policies, and governance	11) Assessment and analysis	0	0	29	9
	12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	0	6	10	22
	13) Link between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	0	13	15	10
	14) Action plans to take into account the right to natural resources, land tenure, and governance	0	18	18	2

	15) Impact on forest laws and policies	1	13	17	7
2b. Strategic REDD+ options	16) Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+	0	8	14	16
	17) Feasibility assessment	0	3	32	3
	18) Impact of strategic options on sectoral policies	0	28	10	0
2c. Implementation framework	19) Adoption and application of laws and regulations	2	15	15	6
	20) Implementation guidelines	2	21	7	8
	21) Benefit-sharing mechanism	5	15	12	6
	22) National REDD+ registry and REDD+ activity monitoring system	9	11	18	0
2d. Social and environmental impacts	23) Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	0	8	30	0
	24) The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	0	8	30	0
	25) Environmental and Social Management Framework	0	5	33	0

Component 3: Reference Emission Level / Reference Level		Sum total of all selections			
Components	Criteria of assessment	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further development required	Significant progress
3. Reference Emission Level/ Reference Level	26) Demonstration of methodology	0	8	26	0
	27) use of historical data and adjusted for national circumstances	0	11	23	0
	28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	0	11	23	0

Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	Sum total of all selections

Components	Criteria of assessment	Not yet demonstrating progress	Further development required	Progressing well, further development required	Significant progress
4a. Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards	29) Documentation of monitoring approach	5	12	17	0
	30) Demonstration of early system implementation	0	17	17	0
	31) Institutional arrangements and capacities	0	13	21	0
4b. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	32) Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues	0	12	14	8
	33) Monitoring, reporting and information sharing	3	12	19	0
	34) Institutional arrangements and capacities	3	9	19	3

Annex F. Participant List: R-Package, Validation Workshop

Date: 28 Jan 2019 **Venue: Tanoa Plaza, Suva**

No.	Name	Gender	Designation	Organisation	Email
1.	Jese Volau	M	Roko Tui Roko	Ba Provincial Office, iTAB	kbqiolevu@hotmail.com
2.	Iliatia Leitabu	M	Landowner Rep	Emalu REDD+ Pilot Site	ilaitial@connect.com.fj
3.	Sovaia Lewanavanua	F	Scientific Officer (Environment Division)	Mineral Resources Department, MLMR	sovaia.lewanavanua@govnet.gov.fj
4.	Marica Vakacola	F	Project Manager	Mamanuca Environment Society	marica@mesfiji.org
5.	Noa Vakacegu	M	Project Co-coordinator, Lautoka	R2R Project, MOE	vakacegunoa@yahoo.com
6.	Eferemo Kubunavanua	M	Research Officer	TLTB	ekubunavanua@tltb.com.fj
7.	Kalesi Nadalo	F	GIS Officer	Conservation International, Fiji	knadalo@conservation.org
8.	Eliki Senivasa	M	Terrestrial Protected Area Manager	Conservation International, Fiji	esenivasa@conservation.org
9.	Livai Tubuitamana	M	Technical Assistant	CI, Fiji	ltubuitamana@conservation.org
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