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| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMEBDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY Date: 13 March 2013 | | | | UNDP_Logo-Blue w TaglineBlue-ENG.png |
| Name Aki Kono, UN-REDD/UNDP/GEF EBD  This was a joint mission with Joel Scriven, UN-REDD/FAO | | | |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**  Bangkok – Honiara – Bangkok | | **List of Annexes**:   * Annexes 1 -6 : mission schedule, meeting agenda and key outputs * PEB report is available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com\_docman&task=cat\_view&gid=1885&Itemid=53 | | |
| Inclusive Travel Dates: | | **Key counterpart(s) in each location:** | | |
| 18 Feb – 28 March 2013  (excluding travel) |  | Location: Honiara, SoI   * Frank Wickham, Permanent Secretary of Min of Agri, and Acting Permanent Secretary of MECDM * Chanel Iori, Under Secretary, MECDM * Gordon Konairamo, Under Secretary, MOFR * Other member of PEB, National REDD+ Taskforce and Technical Working Groups * Fred Patison, PMU Manger * Phil Cowling, Int’l Policy Advisor * Jennifer Kuma Kilua, PMU Assistant * Akiko Suzaki, UNDP DRR * Gloria Suluia, UNDP Programme Officer * Deltina Solomon, UNDP Programme Associate | | |
| **Purpose/Objectives of Mission**  The purpose of this short mission was to attend the second Programme Executive Board (PEB) meeting, and to assist the PMU and UNDP CO in ensuring result-based planning and result tracking, and to support the National Taskforce (TF) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in designing a framework and working out some initial details of the national REDD+ Roadmap. | | | | |
| **Context**  The Solomon Islands joined the UN-REDD Programme in 2010, and received funds to implement REDD+ Readiness activities through a UN-REDD National Programme in 2011. Implementation of these activities began in 2012. The Solomon Islands UN-REDD Programme aims to provide capacity building on REDD+ and support the government to produce a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and REDD+ Guidelines on issues relating to stakeholder engagement, safeguards and the measurement and monitoring of forest carbon. The Solomon Islands UN-REDD Programme will also support efforts to identify the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Solomon Islands, and potential strategies to address these.  At the start of the mission, the PMU including the international policy advisor, the UNDP programme staff and regional advisors met to identify key priority issues to be addressed during this mission. The identified priority issues are as follows:  **Administrative:**   * Finalization of agendas for the meetings (TF, TWGs, PEB, etc.) to take place; * Formalization of the no-cost extension of the programme; * Revision of the work plan and budget – also M&E framework; * Finalization of the annual report; * Information management in the Workspace, Regional site, ERBM and Atlas (issues and risks);   **Technical:**   * Review of baseline assessments; * Agreement on the Roadmap structure/outline and the general scope, approaches and functions of the technical guidelines; * Drafting of communications/awareness raising materials including global newsletter, website, etc. for the Programme; * Raising of awareness of the Programme, and consultations with the government to encourage the strengthening of their ownership and participation in the UN-REDD National Programme; * Follow up with the government, UNDP CO and FAO advisor on GEF CB2 by UNDP and GEF SFM and FLEG T support by FAO; and * Coordination with in-country existing partners in key areas, including safeguards work by ADB and World Bank. | | | | |
| **Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**  Annexes 1 -6 : mission schedule, meeting agenda and key outputs  **Meetings of the Technical Working Groups and National REDD+ Taskforce**  Three TWGs work on three key areas – drivers and strategies, stakeholder engagement and safeguards and national forest monitoring system. At this meeting on the 19th of February 2013, each group was provided with discussion materials, summarizing key outcomes from the previous meeting and proposing key issues and actions to be considered, to discuss and agree on priority areas and outputs to be focused and delivered by the group for the next several months. This meeting was followed by the meeting of the Taskforce the following day. The chairs of the TWGs reported on key activities proposed for 2013 and issues to be considered by the Taskforce members.  Discussions during these two days were productive and forthcoming. However, it was evident and also pointed out the participating TF and TWG members that there was an apparent lack attendance from the government, specifically from the Ministry for Forestry and Research, at both the Taskforce and Technical Working Group meetings. This poses a major barrier to the raising of capacities among key REDD+ government actors in the country; and thus to the delivery of the National Programme. Nevertheless, the Permanent Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Agriculture (currently acting as PS for the Ministry of Environment), showed strong enthusiasm for the potential for REDD+ in the Solomon Islands and acknowledged the need for greater government involvement. Much of the discussion focused on the growing interest by voluntary forest carbon project developers entering the country to establish projects, with no government framework in place for engaging these actors. A key recommendation to emerge from the meeting was for a letter to the Cabinet to be drafted to highlight the following points:   * The need for a national approach to REDD+; * The need for a multisectoral approach to REDD+; * The need for a national framework to engage voluntary project developers in the Solomon Islands.   **Revision of the Programme Work Plan and Budget**  Due to delays in the hiring of the programme manager and other programme implementation changes in 2012, as well as a reduction of scope of the Programme in terms of concentrating efforts and resources at the national level, the Programme budget and work plan for 2013 (and until project-end) required some revision. This was undertaken collaboratively by the Programme Manager, International Policy Advisor and Regional Advisors. As a result, the necessary budget revisions will be made in Atlas, and the new budget appears highly realistic and achievable. Much of the remaining funds will be delivered during 2013, and activities remaining in 2014 will focus mainly on getting the Roadmap and practical guidelines validated by the stakeholders, and conducting training sessions to roll out those guidelines with the government and non-government partners.  **Definition of the scope of UN-REDD National Programme Activities**  Following the revision of the National Programme budget and work plan, it was decided that the Programme should focus its limited resources on capacity building at the national level, to ensure maximum impact and efficiency of delivery. Planned provincial consultations were therefore replaced with national-level consultations and training sessions. The primary output of the Programme remains the delivery of a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap for the Solomon Islands, in addition to practical guidelines on stakeholder engagement, the design of a system to address the REDD+ safeguards and the national forest monitoring system.  **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Programme**  A two hour session on identification, monitoring and evaluation of risks and issues was held for the PMU staff and UNDP CO REDD+ focal point and Int’l Policy Advisor. A number of improvements were proposed by the PMU manager and CO Programme Officer. An offline risk and issue monitoring framework linked to outcomes and outputs was developed. Also, the PMU will work on the revision of the Programme monitoring and evaluation framework to update the targets, indicators and verifiers in order to improve its effectiveness. Any critical changes will be presented to the PEB to seek their approval.  **Meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board**  The second meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board (PEB) was held on the 21st February 2013 in the offices of UNDP Solomon Islands, during which a presentation was delivered by the Programme Manager on the progress of the implementation of the Programme, including barriers and risks. The new work plan and budget were presented and approved. A number of issues and risks were discussed during this meeting, particularly regarding the concern surrounding lack of government participation and ownership of the UN-REDD Programme and participation in the REDD+ Readiness process to date. This was noted by the government, whose representatives met during the tea break to formulate a response. The government then formally responded that they remain fully committed to the Programme, despite having many other commitments, and they named focal points to act as (co-)chairs of each of the Technical Working Groups and the National REDD+ Taskforce. This represents considerable progress towards greater government leadership in REDD+ in the country. The PEB also endorsed **a second no-cost extension** of the UN-REDD Programme till the end of March 2014 given that the Programme successfully met its delivery target for 2012 set by the PEB during the last meeting as a condition for the extension. The Programme plans to deliver **$346,640.97** by the end of 2013.  **Meeting with Government Focal Points**  During the PEB meeting, government representatives agreed to enhanced participation in the REDD+ Roadmap development process and to this end decided to appoint government focal points to co-chair each of the Technical Working Groups and as well as the Taskforce meetings. All appointed focal points met on Monday, the 25th of February to discuss their roles as focal points and the importance of their participation in these meetings.  **Programme Awareness Raising/Knowledge Management**  A decision and action point taken during the mission was the need for enhanced efforts to make the Solomon Islands UN-REDD Programme more visible at the international level. To this end, the Regional Advisors and PMU prepared a brochure for the programme and a TOR for a website developer – the latter to be hired by the Programme to design and publish a dedicated website on REDD+ in the Solomon Islands, to be hosted by the Government. In addition, the importance of keeping the workspace information up-to-date was discussed, and PMU assistance will be the designated focal point to fulfill this responsibility.  **Contracting of experts – int’l MRV consultant and national stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert**  Following the drafting of the TORs for an international MRV advisor and a national stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert for the Programme in September, further discussions were held on the status of the hiring. The candidate was selected following UNDP procedures (with input from the reporting officer at the short-listing stage) and the issuance of the contract is now due from UNDP in Fiji. The procurement process at the UNDP CO and coordination between the CO and Fiji MCO on procurement issues appear to be critically challenged. An intervention from the senior management level is highly recommended to make the process more expeditious.  **Other meetings and development partner coordination**   * Andrew Piper, URS – Discussions on synergies with AusAID-funded project on legality assurance of sawn wood in Solomon Islands and promotion of FSC certification. * Initial contacts with the ABD and World Bank were made to discuss how their planned work on social and environmental safeguards in non-forest sectors could be coordinated with the safeguards process of REDD+ to explore the possibility of establishing a broader national safeguards system. An official request to explore the possibility of consolidating these processes was sent to the ADB and World Bank by the Under Secretary of MECDM. * UN-REDD Programme was invited to the donor coordination meeting, chaired by UNDP to present its work in the Solomon Islands and potential linkages with various work areas of the participating development partner agencies, e.g., poverty reduction, human rights, governance, gender, etc. * A quick discussion within the team (PMU, UNDP CO, Int’l Policy Advisor and Regional Advisors) was held on how to better coordinate FAO and UNDP GEF projects related to REDD+. Better coordination between FAO and UNDP will be promoted. * MoFR is preparing to have a new forestry bill passed the parliament, which will update the existing Law on Forest (1968). The outdated legal and regulatory framework poses a major challenge for the MoFR. | | | | |
| Follow up actions:  * Annual report finalization * Recruitment of MRV and stakeholder engagement/safeguards experts * 2nd no-cost extension notification to the Secretariat * Review of baseline studies * Revision of the M&E framework * National REDD+ website establishment * Cabinet paper from the National Taskforce * Coordination with ADB and WB on safeguards work * GEF CB2 PIF approval and PPG start up | | | **Distribution List:**   * Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA * Fred Patison, PMU Manager * Gloria Suluia, UNDP Programme Officer * Celina Yong, UN-REDD Stakeholder Engagement Specialist | |

**Annex 1: Mission itinerary**

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| 17-18 February (Sunday-Monday) | * Travel Bangkok – Honiara * Meeting with Solomon Islands UN-REDD Programme Manager and international policy advisor * Meeting with UNDP and Programme Management Unit (PMU) to finalize mission agenda * Preparation of presentations for meetings in subsequent days |
| 19 February (Tuesday) | * Technical Working Group meetings (plenary then individual group discussions) * Meeting with Head of Climate Change Unit of Ministry of Environment |
| 20 February (Wednesday) | * Meeting of National REDD+ Taskforce * Support to drafting of documents emerging from Taskforce meeting * Meetings with Live and Learn (NGO) * UN-REDD National Programme budget and work plan revision |
| 21 February (Thursday) | * Solomon Islands UN-REDD Programme Executive Board (PEB) meeting * Meeting with UN-REDD Programme Management Unit (PMU) and UNDP on outcomes of PEB |
| 22 February (Friday) | * Drafting of National Programme brochure and website developer terms of reference * Meeting with URS * Further drafting of project documents |
| 23 February (Saturday) | * Internal discussions and review of annual work plan and budget * Finalization of the Solomon Islands UN-REDD 2012 Annual Report with PMU and UNDP |
| 24 February (Sunday) | * Finalization of the Solomon Islands UN-REDD 2012 Annual Report with PMU and UNDP (continued) * Follow-up and drafting of actionable points from Taskforce and PEB meetings |
| 25 February (Monday) | * Meetings with government focal points / Chairs for the National REDD+ Taskforce and Technical Working Groups * Mission debriefing with PMU, programme policy advisor and UNDP |
| 26 February  (Tuesday) | * Desk work following up on communication and KM issues |
| 27 February  (Wednesday) | * Desk work following up on CB2 and other coordination issues * Quick visit to a log pond with MoFR |
| 28 February  (Thursday) | * Travel to Bangkok in the morning |

**Annex 2: Agendas**

**Annex 3: Technical Working Group Meetings: 19 February 2013**

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Speaker** |
| **08.30** | Registration | Secretariat |
| **08.45** | Welcome Remarks | Chanel Iroi ( Undersecretary for  Permanent Secretary (Supervising) Environment |
| **09.00** | REDD+ under the UNFCCC  UN-REDD Programme support to national implementation of REDD+ | Joel Scriven – FAO Regional Advisor  Akihito Kono – UNDP Regional Advisor |
| **10.00** | Overview of outcomes from the last taskforce meeting | Phil Cowling – Policy Advisor |
| **10.30** | Coffee and division into separate working groups |  |
| **10.45** | Working Group discussion key activities:   * Finalise membership working group and select chair person * Review current status document for SI * Outline workplan for working group for 2013 | Groups will be facilitated by  Phil Cowling  Fred Patison  Joel Scriven |
| **12.30** | Lunch |  |
| **13.30** | Continued working group discussion |  |
| **15.00** | Coffee |  |
| **15.15** | Summary of outcomes from working groups |  |
| **16.00** | Summary of the days discussions | Fred Patison  UN-REDD PMU Manager |

**Annex 4: Technical Working Groups: Objectives, Documents and Outcomes by Group**

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| **Technical working Group on Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement (TWG-S&SE)** | **Technical Working Group on Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation and REDD+ Strategies (TWG-D&S)** | **Technical Working Group on Reference Emission Levels (REL) and Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV)** |
| **Objectives**   * Review the Terms of Reference for the TWG and select a chairperson * Review proposals for stakeholder engagement during the REDD+ readiness process (2013) * Review proposed next steps to the assessment of safeguard mechanisms within the Solomon Islands * Develop workplan for future activies | **Objectives**   * Review the Terms of Reference for the TWG and select a chairperson * Reviewing and identifying drivers of deforestation and degradation (Table 1 provides a format for this) * Reviewing and identifying existing and past strategies to address them * Develop workplan for future activities | **Objectives**   * Review the Terms of Reference for the TWG and select a chairperson * Discuss data availability and sources, and institutional arrangements in place for sharing data * Discuss data and capacity gaps and specific needs for capacity building * Develop a work plan for future activities |
| **Supporting Documents**   * TWG SSE ToR * TWG SSE Briefing note * REDD+ Stakeholder Engagement Background Note February * REDD+ Safeguards Background Note February | **Supporting Documents**   * TWG-D&S TOR * TWG-D&S Briefing Note | **Supporting Documents**   * TWG-REL&MRV ToR * UNFCCC Text of the Convention * UNFCCC COP Decisions: Decision 1/CP.13, Decision 2/CP.13, Decision 4/CP.15, Decision 1/CP.16 * IPCC Guidance and Guidelines: 2003 Good Practice Guidance for Land Use; 2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories |

**Annex 5: National REDD+ Taskforce Meeting: 20 February 2013**

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Speaker** |
| **08.30** | Registration | Secretariat |
| **08.45** | Welcome Remarks | Frank Wickham  Permanent Secretary (Acting ) Environment |
| **09.00** | REDD+ under the UNFCCC  UN-REDD Programme support to national implementation of REDD+ | Joel Scriven – FAO Regional Advisor  Akihito Kono – UNDP Regional Advisor |
| **09.30** | Overview of the outcomes of the Working Group Meetings outcomes and recommendations | Fred P – UNREDD PMU  Phil Cowling – Policy Advisor |
| **10.15** | Discussions and Recommendations | Taskforce Chairman |
| **11.00** | Coffee |  |
| **11.15** | Final Discussions and Recommendations | Taskforce Chairman |
| **12.30** | Lunch and End of Meeting |  |

**Annex 6: UN-REDD Programme Executive Board Meeting: 20 February 2013**

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Speaker** |
| **08.30** | Registration | Secretariat |
| **08.45** | Welcome Remarks  Opening Statement | Co-Chair Frank Wickham  (Acting) Permanent Secretary, MECDM  Jude Devesi, UNDP |
| **09.10** | - Update on the SOI- UNREDD Programme Implementation;  - 2013 Budget and Annual Work plan  - Outcomes of the Taskforce Meeting and TWG Meetings  - No cost Extension | Fred Patison, UNREDD PMU |
| **11.30** | Discussions | Co-chair, Frank Wickham |
| **12.00** | Lunch and End of Meeting |  |