

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**  
**BDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY**  
 Date: 15 July 2013



**Name:** Celina Yong, UN-REDD

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**Approved Mission Itinerary:**

BKK- Singapore – Port Moresby (POM) – Wewak – POM – Hoskins – POM – Milne Bay – POM – Brisbane – Honiara - Brisbane – BKK

**List of Annexes:**

**Inclusive Travel Dates:**

4 – 24 May 2013

**Key counterpart(s) in each location:**

- PNG PMU – Arthur Neher, Lydia Bobola
- CO – Gwen Maru
- OCCD – Gwen Sissiou, Danny Nekitel
- PNG FA – Goodwill Amos
- DLPP – Welenie Yaki
- SI PMU – Fred Patison, Jennifer Kuma, Phil Cowling (Consultant Advisor)

**Purpose/Objectives of Mission**

- Strengthen the current draft FPIC guidelines for REDD+ projects in PNG;
- Technical backstopping for the stakeholder engagement component in the Solomon Island (SI) roadmap development process; and
- Resource person for the Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards in Honiara, 22 to 23 May

**Context**

*Papua New Guinea*

A draft of the 'Guidance to Establishing *Free, Prior, and Informed Consent* for REDD+ Projects in Papua New Guinea' was produced in 2012 by the Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD), the primary partner to the UN-REDD Programme. This guideline was prepared during an early stage on a national level, but has yet to be operationalized. Evident in the title, the guidance was primarily for REDD+ projects with minimal reference to REDD+ at a national level.

*Solomon Islands*

A set of 3 guidelines: MRV, safeguards and stakeholder engagement, is expected to be produced as part of the national REDD+ roadmap. The mission coincided with the conclusion of the PEB members' study trip to Fiji, and a workshop that looked at stakeholder engagement and safeguards.

**Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**

**A. Papua New Guinea - Strengthen national FPIC guidelines (4 – 18 May)**

- The preliminary findings of the mission and a work plan were presented at the first meeting of the Sub TWG on SES on 17 May 2013.
- The current version neither states who will assume an oversight role for the guidelines, nor what the detailed roles and responsibilities are, nor explicitly mention who the intended users are. Furthermore, the relationship between the leading agency and other agencies at the national and sub-national levels, how it will be managed, and how roles and responsibilities will be divided, need greater clarification and elaboration. That is not surprising, given the fact that the guidelines were primarily targeted at REDD+ project developers, and no provisions have been considered to monitor or evaluate the results of the process.
- OCCD in the preparation of the guidelines has stated that it will play a supporting role to government agencies, non-governmental bodies and landowner representatives or organisations in ensuring social

safeguards are implemented, but what constitutes a supporting role is undefined.

- One of the key challenges would be to identify legitimate representation for the communities. Given that PNG has a very diverse background with over 800 ethnic groups, each with its own customs and practices, this will not be an easy task.
- The Incorporated Land Group (ILG), a corporate entity designed to allow traditional customary land owners to enter into agreements with government and developers on matters related to natural resource management, has been widely abused. Some ILG representatives who enter into these agreements are located in urban areas, and some have minimal to no real connection to the village through which the ILG was registered. Even if the representative is related to the village, sometimes they do not have the right to act on behalf of the community. For some of these communities, they are not willing to confront the issue over fears of upsetting harmony within the community.
- The current ILG (Amendment) Act intends to rectify this issue by necessitating birth certificates for the registration of land owners. While laudable, the challenge is daunting as most are without such documentation. In fact, helping these land owners to obtain these documentation are concurrently carried out in the process of re-registering ILGs. This is lending to some friction among the communities themselves as there is a need to distinguish between minor and major clans.
- The communities of Yigai village in April Salumei, a REDD demonstration area under the administrative control of PNG FA had purportedly signed an agreement for carbon trading with a project developer. However, they do not have a copy of the agreement, and given that there is a low literacy rate, it is doubtful they fully understand what they have agreed to. My observation is that this is a community that is very frustrated, to a point of anger, over the absence of expected monetary benefits. A lot will need to be done to change their current perception of REDD+, provided some form of trust can be built with this community in the first place.
- While PNG FA lent tremendous support during the organization of the mission, Goodwill Amos has chosen to be an observer during the mission itself, and has not yet provided substantive input into the mission findings. It is unclear if this was intentional given that PNG FA has its own 34-step checklist that is often presented as steps to seek consent from communities. In reality, the steps are quite different from the 'spirit' of FPIC as laid out in UNDRIP, and is more of a delegation of function from the landowning communities to the Managing Director of PNG FA.
- One of the positive outcomes from the mission is the encouraging response from Danny Nekitel of OCCD, the team leader of the mission as well as author of the current guidelines. He has grown aware of the need to be more conversant with local conditions, having noted how some communities are more vulnerable than others to being manipulated. To him, at least, national level agencies need to play a greater coordinating and monitoring role, instead of leaving it to project developers.
- The revised draft FPIC guidelines will be vetted through a group of experts prior to a series of consultations: public comments, 4 regional and 1 national workshops on social and environmental safeguards.

*B. Solomon Islands - Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards (19 – 23 May)*

- Key recommendations after a study trip to Fiji by PEB members were: Ministry of Forestry and Research Institute to take lead of the REDD+ process; establish a Council of Chiefs that will help to unite different clans; submit a cabinet paper on the establishment of a National REDD+ Task Force; and develop a cabinet paper that will link REDD+ with broader development initiatives.
- Building on the ongoing stakeholders mapping exercise led by Stephen Suti, the local stakeholder engagement consultant, I will lead in the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines for REDD+.
- The main focus of the two-day workshop was to familiarize and seek feedback regarding key components of the roadmap document – key stakeholders, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and corresponding strategies, and a national safeguards framework - with a range of stakeholders. Generally, a sound understanding of REDD+ and the components in the roadmap were unevenly spread among the stakeholders.
- I presented the rationale for safeguards, their link to a safeguards information system (SIS) and shared examples of SIS from the region. Ensuing discussions were mostly to determine what objectives SI would like to achieve through its work on safeguards. However, it was at a preliminary stage and there was no consensus.
- The presentation by Landowners' Advocacy and Legal Support Unit (LALSU) regarding legal and

procedural gaps in current logging and mining projects was informative in that it highlighted the practical challenges of ensuring the various environmental acts are adhered to correctly. Some of the information is familiar to participants, but there were no firm recommendations to address these gaps.

- Due to a very last minute decision to move the dates of the workshop back by a day, I was only able to attend 1.5 days out of the 2-day workshop.

**Follow up actions:**

- PNG - Technical backstopping for the revised draft FPIC guidelines, FPIC expert workshop, in-country regional and national workshops on social and environmental safeguards;
- SI - Lead in the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines for REDD+, which will be part of the roadmap submitted to the Cabinet for endorsement.

**Distribution List:**

- UNDP UN-REDD