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CC: Phil Cowling
From: Chris Heider
Subject: MRV Regional Training & Field Campaign, August 2013, S. Choiseul

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of this document is to outline the Measurement, Reporting & Verification (MRV) training objectives and schedule for a “hands-on” training to be held in South Choiseul in August 2013. The primary objectives of the training are to:

- Develop and initiate a framework for National Forest Inventory (NFI) as described under the UN-REDD Programme
- Conduct a mapping, stratification, and field measurement campaign to gather information to fully characterize the baseline carbon stocks and Reference Emissions Levels for a large land area
- Create a permanent plot network protocol for use in long-term monitoring, measurement, reporting, and 3rd party verification
- Work through potential options for “Project Based” activities that will reduce emissions through avoiding deforestation and degradation (e.g. NAMA process)
- Conduct the bulk of the field measurement and remote-sensing validation work required to develop the NFI in a localized area

Focus Area

- The area of interest is ~46,000 ha in size, located in South Choiseul (**Error! Reference source not found.**). This area was determined through a series of meetings and development of criteria with a Technical Advisory Group in June 2013
- Area includes a range of forest and mangrove types, with mining and timber harvest activities ongoing or under development. A marine protected area is located at the watershed outlets
- The focus area is largely composed of 3 contiguous areas to be sampled. Actual sampling efforts will be determined in the early stages in the field, but will follow a “watershed approach” to better quantify carbon stocks in a hydrological context (e.g. incorporate NAMAs that also support reef protection)

- In-field mapping will be conducted, followed by stratification for field measures in each major vegetation type
- Training of methodologies and potential sampling will include some or all of the following: primary forests in upland and lowland areas, mangrove forest types, other coastal & wetland communities, second-growth forest, deforested/ converted areas, and small island fragments
- Data analysis and reporting will follow with a future workshop (October/November) that will emphasize development of the baseline/ reference emissions levels for the focus area

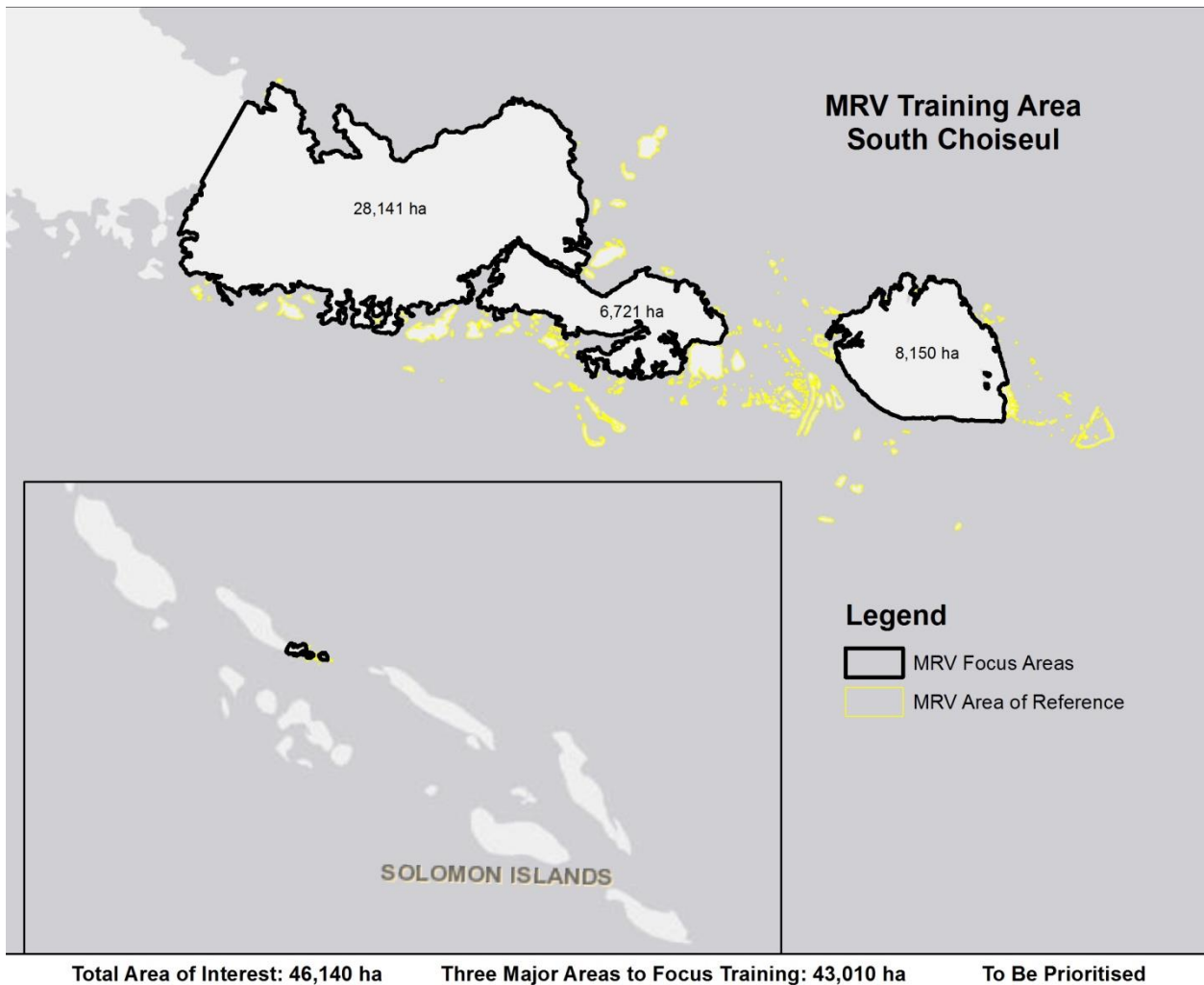


Figure 1. Area of focus for MRV. A total of 46,140 ha in S. Choiseul are selected as the "Area of Reference" (black and yellow polygons). Three major areas will be sampled within ~43,000 ha (black polygons). Priorities will be based on field reconnaissance and logistical considerations.

Key Participants

Total staff considerations have been allocated, with names of participants committed in June 2013. The schedule established for a total of 10 solid days in the field (14 days total), with one team for the full duration and a smaller group coming to the field at the half way point. The later arrivals are generally individuals having upper division responsibilities in their departments. The following table outlines the contribution by each organization in terms of participants, “full time equivalents” (part or full time in the field), and co-funding source.

Organization	Number People	Full Time Equivalents	Co-Funding Source
Forestry (Operations, Herbarium, Other)	13	10.5	Ministry Forestry
Climate Change (MECDM)	4	3.5	Ministry Environment
University (SINU)	4	4	UNDP
Other Government	3	2.5	Government
UNDP	3	3	UNDP
Fiji Forestry – Cross Training Objective	4	4	Unknown (GIZ Requested)
Totals	31	27.5	

An appropriate field team size is 8 people, plus trainers. On average, this allows for 3 full teams at any given time, allowing trainers to assist and ensure oversight without encumbrances.

An effort is underway to secure 4 members of the Fiji Forestry team, under the leadership of Viliame Tupua. Each of these four members has extensive training and experience in both upland and mangrove carbon assessment. Their role will be a “train the trainers” role with a direct counterpart from Solomon Islands Forestry to be co-leaders of each individual team, and to further strengthen trainings and cross-training experience in the Region. Funding is currently under discussion with GIZ—Fiji Forestry has indicated they are willing to participate.

Timeline & Schedule

The current timeline is to incorporate a few days in advance to discuss the Roadmap Document currently in progress. Following this, an “advance” field team will depart for Choiseul on 9th August to engage Protocol with the host village and conduct reconnaissance for site selections. The majority of participants will arrive in Choiseul on or about the 12th. All team members will depart on Monday 26th August for Honiara.

The Tentative Schedule is below:

Date	Activity	Participants
6 August (Tues)	Chris Arrive Honiara – Initial meetings in late afternoon	Chris, Phil, Fred, Douglas
7 – 8 August (Weds-Thurs)	Roadmap Meetings	Phil, Fred, Chris, Others (Terrence, Douglas, ..)
9 August (Fri)	Fiji Team Travel; Advance team to Choiseul Protocol w/ Hosts	Advance Team: Steven, Chris, Gus, Hudson, Fred, Fiji Team (4), Advanced Forestry Officers
10-11 August (Sat-Sun)	Field Reconnaissance – Ground truth & plot layout. “Train the trainers”	Advance Team
12 August (Mon)	Remainder of team arrives Choiseul. Briefing and overview of methodologies	See Fred’s List
13 – 20 August (Tues-Tues)	Field Sampling	Full Team
21 August (Weds)	Half-time team arrives (or leaves); Field Sampling Continues	Remainder of team
22 – 24 August (Thurs-Sat)	Conclude Field Sampling	Remainder of Team
25 August (Sunday)	Feast & Debrief	Everyone
26 August (Monday)	Debrief & Travel to Honiara	All Non-Choiseul Personnel
27 August (Tues)	Heider Departs USA	Chris

Materials

A list of field materials is being generated in collaboration with Gusgrendy Mua at Forestry. A full list will be submitted for review prior to procurement. Overall goal is to outfit 3 forestry teams with equipment for upland forest, and 2 teams for mangrove field sampling. Additional resources include a small solar power source capable of charging laptop and GPS batteries.

Logistic Information – Participants

- All return air tickets will paid for by the organizers (UNREDD and MoF)
- DSA of 350 per day will provided for the duration of the field study – this will be paid upon at the airport before boarding and for UNDP vendor upon issue of ticket.
- Accommodation will be paid for by organizers
- Food will be met by support from the Ministry of Forests and Research
- All the field transport and Logistics cost will be met by the organizers