

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Minutes of the 2nd Solomon Island REDD+ Programme Taskforce Meeting

Venue: Heritage Park Hotel

Date: 20th February 2013

Summary of Minutes

The second Solomon Island (SI) REDD+ Taskforce (TF) meeting was held on Wednesday the 20th of February at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara. The meeting had the following objectives:

1. Review and endorse the recommendations made by the working groups concerning the structure and composition of the taskforce and working groups (TOR)
2. Endorse the WG schedule of tasks for 2013
3. Make recommendations to the PEB concerning the final structure and composition of the taskforce

The meeting was opened by the Permanent Secretary (Acting) for the Ministry of Environment Mr Frank Wickham and was attended by 18 participants from government, the private sector, civil society and development partners (for full list please see Annex 1). Discussion throughout the meeting was comprehensive and constructive with the focus on the workplan and for 2013. The chair opened the meeting expressing the need for a clear approach to REDD+ within the SI due to an increasing interest in carbon trading, and forest carbon projects within the Solomon Islands.

Summary of Outcomes and Decisions made

Positive discussion was held throughout the meeting with key outcomes including:

- The work of the Technical Working Groups (TWG) was approved by the Taskforce including the outline workplan for 2013 shown on page 5 .
- This workplan was to be reflected in the annual workplan and budget to be approved by the UNREDD Programme Executive Board.
- The Chair of the Taskforce should raise the issue of government ownership with other key ministries.
- A set of concerns and recommendation were adopted to present to policy makers and key stakeholders with regard to development of forest carbon projects within the Solomon Islands.

Due to limited attendance of both the Technical Working Groups and the Taskforce meeting by government stakeholders no final decision made on the membership and the chairmanship for each Technical Working Groups.

Summary of Agenda

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Review and endorse the recommendations made by the working groups concerning the structure and composition of the taskforce and working groups (TOR) .
2. Endorse the Working Group schedule of tasks for 2013 .
3. Make recommendations to the PEB concerning the final structure and composition of the taskforce.

Outputs of the Workshop will include:

- An outline workplan for the Technical Working Groups and REDD+ Taskforce .

Agenda:

Time	Session	Speaker
08.30	Registration	Secretariat
08.45	Welcome Remarks	Frank Wickham Permanent Secretary (Acting) Environment
09.00	Overview of the progress of REDD+ under the UNREDD Global Programme and progress through the UNFCCC	Akihito Kono – UNDP Regional Advisor
09.15	REDD+ within the Context of Solomon Island Development	Douglas Yee – Director of Department of Climate Change
09.30	Overview of the outcomes of the Working Group Meetings outcomes and recommendations	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	

Meeting Discussion

Welcoming Remarks were made by Mr Frank Wickham the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Acting Permanent Secretary (Supervising) for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change ,Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM). He thanked members for attending the meeting and the continued commitment to the work of the Taskforce. He noted the importance of REDD+ as an issue for the Solomon Islands due to the continued pressure on the forests and the importance of the logging sector. He also referred to recent interest

in both the potential for carbon trading in the Solomon Islands and requests from groups outside the Solomon Islands to be engaged in forest carbon.

Introduction to REDD+ and Overview of the UNREDD Programme

Joel Scriven (FAO UN-REDD Regional Advisor) provided an overview of REDD+ as a concept. Mr Aki Kono (UNDP UN-REDD Regional Advisor) provided an overview of the UN-REDD programme internationally and what has been done globally. He also noted that there were opportunities for the Solomon Islands to gain further support in the future following this initial programme particularly with regard to specific elements of REDD+. He also noted the importance of government leadership within the process.

See Annexes 2 and 3 for full presentations.

Role of REDD+ within the existing policy structure

Mr Douglas Yee (Director of Climate Change) from MECDM provided an overview of how the government currently reviewed the REDD+ process within the context of existing policies and Solomon Islands development. He stressed the commitment of the Solomon Island government to sustainably develop noting Objectives 7 and 8 of the National Development Strategy 2011-2020.

He then noted that this had been further developed by the MECDM through their National Climate Change Policy including policy directive four which reiterates the government's commitment to quantify existing emission levels and developing nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) of which REDD+ is identified as one.

Outcomes from November Taskforce Meeting

Mr Fred Patison (UNREDD Programme Manager Solomon Islands) provided an overview of the outcomes from the previous Taskforce meeting in November 2012. Key points included:

- The Taskforce would become smaller – 15 people and would be supported by three Technical Working Groups looking at:
 - Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation and Strategies to address REDD+
 - Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement, and
 - Measuring Reporting Verification (MRV) and Reference Emission Levels (REL)
 - Groups to meet jointly every 6-8 weeks over consecutive days to discuss key issues
 - Mandate of Taskforce to be for duration of Roadmap development and endorsement after which point in time its mandate will be reviewed
- For the full presentation please see annex 4

Outcomes of Technical Working Group Meetings

Fred Patison continued in presenting the work of the Technical Working groups during their meetings on the previous day. Key elements included:

- Review of Technical Working Groups ToR
 - Recommendations for two changes
 - Addition that minutes of the working groups should be signed by the TWG chair
 - Addition of responsibility for participants to be willing to 'participate regularly, actively and constructively'

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- Chair person was selected for TWG Safeguards & Stakeholder Engagement (S & SE) while the other TWGs identified spokespeople to represent them today with official co-chairs still need to be selected.

TWG on Drivers and Strategies

The working group reviewed both direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and degradation, reviewing the scale and impact of these practices and providing comments on their nature and initial recommendations for how these could be addressed. An overview of the outcomes of this process, identifying drivers in order of priority was briefly presented.

Table 1: Main Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

Direct Drivers	Indirect Drivers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging • Illegal logging • Commercial Agriculture • Subsistence Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak enforcement of laws and regulations • Importance of logging to economy • Outdated legislation • Population Growth

Next Steps

- Continue review of drivers and strategies
- Present analysis at next TWG meeting combined with initial assessment of potential strategies

TWG on Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement

The TWG on S&SE discussed the potential frameworks for Safeguards and identified the need for a full review of existing safeguards in Solomon Islands.

On stakeholder engagement a proposed approach to increasing awareness and knowledge on REDD+ was discussed. It was also stressed that there was a general need to increase awareness on REDD+ among key stakeholders.

Next steps

Review and assess existing safeguards

It was agreed that a number of key activities should be undertaken including:

- Development of a website,
- Undertaking awareness raising and training activities and
- Production of awareness raising materials

TWG on MRV and REL

The TWG on MRV and REL discussed the importance of MRV and REL activities. The importance of the government within this process and the need for clarity on institutional arrangements.

Next Steps

- Recruitment of MRV Advisor
- Assessment of data sharing approaches

Overview of Workplan

These activities were then presented within the context of an annual workplan for the working groups and the National REDD+ Programme as a whole .

Table 2: Overview of National Programme Workplan 2013 proposed by Technical Working Groups

Outcomes	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Institutional structure				
Assessment of existing institutional structures	X	X		
Proposal for revised institutional approach and improved coordination			X	X
Drivers of Def and Deg				
Assessment of existing drivers of deforestation and degradation and past and present strategies to address them	X	X		
Identification of potential approaches to REDD+ Strategies		X		
Review and finalise REDD+ Strategies		X	X	
Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement				
Develop process of communication and capacity building for 2013 REDD+ Readiness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a multi-stakeholder governance structure - Website - Awareness raising / Trainings 	X	X	X	X
Develop guidelines on stakeholder engagement for REDD+ Implementation		X	X	
Assessment of existing safeguards and gaps	X	X		
Development of an approach to safeguards – including indicators, safeguard information system		X		
Development of guidelines for implementation of safeguards in SI		X	X	
MRV REL				
Recruitment of MRV Expert	X			
MRV Training workshop on data collection			X	
Develop guidelines for data collection for MRV in SI		X	X	X
Develop step-by-step guidance to implement MRV REDD+ Readiness in SI			X	X

Discussion of these points as well as elements of the working groups work is covered below. The table above shows modifications added (–) mark where a mark was amended deleted in the meeting and (X) marks where they were added.

Taskforce Discussion

Open Discussion

The initial discussion focused on a number of open points with regard to the REDD+ process and the role of government within this. The discussion was Chaired by Mr Frank Wickham with key areas of discussion including:

The role of government in the REDD+ process and the need to ensure both ownership by key ministries and ensuring that the government play a role in balancing of interests between private sector and landowners/ communities. Mr Stephen Suti (NRDF) noted that the Ministry of Forestry has in the past been focused on supporting the work of the logging industry as opposed to working to support and protect the rights of landowners. He said REDD+ should be seen as an opportunity to improve this relationship. Mr Ferguson Vaghi (KIBCA) noted the need to balance the process of strengthening the capacity of the MECDM as well as the MoF. Mr Jimmy Kereseka (LLCTC) made comments raising the issue that the climate change working group and the mitigation working group were not yet in place and the importance of having these if the National REDD+ Taskforce are to report to them.

Mr Frank Wickham thanked the participants for their comments in this area and noted the importance of government commitment to these areas. He committed to discuss the situation with the MoF and suggested that it may be possible for them to take a role as Co-chair on the Taskforce. He also requested the Taskforce to provide some recommendations for the government with regard to carbon trading and forest carbon, including potential recommendations with regard to the voluntary carbon market.

The role of population growth in increasing pressure on the forest sector through increases in subsistence agriculture. Mr Genesis Kofana (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey) noted that while subsistence farming was a direct driver it was being driven by the rate of population growth as such this should be seen as a key indirect driver of deforestation. Ms Martha Manaka (LALSU) also commented that with regard to the raise on the population, the Ministry of Health should also be engaged as a key stakeholder.

The role of different forms of agriculture in deforestation and degradation. Mr Ferguson Vaghi (KIBCA) noted that with regard to agriculture it is important to differentiate between the different soil types in the country with the need to improve the quality and productivity of agriculture in the country particularly in different areas. Mr Genesis Kofana (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey) noted that work on agriculture could be a key element of a REDD+ strategy and questioned if the Solomon Islands needed to pick one of the five activities under REDD+ or if they could chose any of the activities they wanted. Joel Scriven (FAO/ UN-REDD) advised that the Solomon Islands could choose any or all of the 5 activities under REDD+ to implement in the Solomon Islands.

Mr Frank Wickham agreed with the points made and the importance of increasing agriculture productivity in different areas of the country and noted that the Ministry of Agriculture were working on this.

The current high levels interest in carbon trading and forest carbon amongst key stakeholder groups are also discussed. Mr Stephan Suti (NRDF) noted that some of the communities they worked with had already been contacted by carbon trading companies, who were proposing ideas of how to approach a project and offering them a 60-40 split between landowners and developer. Joel Scriven (FAO/UN-REDD) provided experience of Papua New Guinea in voluntary carbon where

there had been an initial rush, facilitated by certain members of government. The outcome, however, was a lot of confusion and a corruption scandal that then caused people to become very nervous and they then put a ban on all voluntary carbon agreements until they have a fully established national approach. Mr Aki Kono (UNDP/UN-REDD) also noted that different countries had adopted different approaches mentioning that the Philippines had also placed a full ban on new voluntary projects whereas Cambodia had adopted an approach that utilised voluntary projects as a test case for national approaches although this was tightly controlled by the government. Mr Genesis Kofana (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey) noted that landowners had also come to his office saying they had been approached by companies saying that they are interested in buying carbon from the. He expressed concern that such companies may be interested in other projects such as mining but using carbon and a way to start. Mr Frank Wickham noted that the Government could be interested in seeing voluntary projects as a potential learning area for the REDD+ guidelines for the country.

A break was taken for tea and coffee. Mr Frank Wickham apologised for having to depart due to his responsibilities as part of the earthquake and tsunami response and passed over to Mr Douglas Yee to take over as Chair following the break. Following the break the discussion focused initially on the details of the workplan and then on potential recommendations that could be provided to a high level meeting to be held on REDD+ next week.

Discussion of Annual Workplan

There was an initial discussion on how the workplan would be implemented. Mr Genesis Kofana (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey) requested confirmation as to how the Technical Working Groups and National REDD+ Taskforce would contribute to the delivery of the activities listed. Mr Phil Cowling (UNREDD Policy Advisor SI) confirmed that the UNREDD Programme Management Unit and National REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat would lead work including development of reports but would request information and support from members of the Technical Working Groups and National REDD+ Taskforce in providing information, guidance, and reviewing outputs to ensure they are nationally appropriate and that they are agreed with by key stakeholders.

Institutions and Structures

Discussion was held on the speed at which recommendations for the institutional structure should be developed. Several participants noted that they wanted the time frame for proposals to be developed should be moved forward with the time frame. Following discussion, however, it was agreed that there was a need for sufficient time to be allocated for assessment of different strategies and approaches prior to proposal of new structures.

Drivers and Strategies

Discussion was held on the time frame for assessing drivers of deforestation. Discussion focused on the extent of the assessment. It was clarified that it would be based on the existing data and interviews and discussions with key stakeholders.

Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement

There were discussions on the process of communication and capacity building for 2013 REDD+ Readiness.

Discussion was held on the development of guidelines for stakeholder engagement noting that this would sit within the context of the existing strategies and should guide future activities.

Discussion was then had on the process of safeguard identification and assessment, as well as development of an approach to this. It was noted that safeguards needed to be developed to suit the country and could be effectively enforced.

MRV / REL

Discussion was had on MRV and REL group with key questions being when the MRV/REL consultant would be in place and who would be engaged in the training process. It was clarified that the MRV/REL consultant should be recruited within three weeks and that they would support the running of trainings and this would include as many people as possible.

Recommendations to be taken forward

A final discussion was held to discuss recommendations that could be taken into a high level meeting of key government figures to attend the following week. Key elements of this discussion are covered below.

Participants again shared experiences of being asked for information about carbon trading and forest carbon by private sector groups, community members, landowners and politicians. Ms Tearo Walenenea (LALSU) reiterated her concern as a lawyer that as the law currently does not cover many of the issues related to carbon trading and forest carbon in the Solomon Islands there is an increased risk that people at all levels could be exploited should one party not conduct themselves properly. Mr Stephan Suti (NRDF) also noted that there had been positive experiences of outside support to the forest sector providing the example of a Dutch company that had provided financial incentives to a number of communities in Vela la Vella to reforest their areas. He explained the process had led to increases in the forest cover and a strong commitment from the communities to protect them from illegal logging.

The Chair (Mr Douglas Yee) reminded participants of the earlier discussion regarding the potential ways of managing voluntary carbon projects in terms of banning them, making them a learning activity for the national level, or allowing them to go ahead in an uncontrolled manner. Participants provided a mixed response with many noting the need for proper checks and balances on any future projects, while others noted that landowners would be unlikely to accept a blanket ban on new projects as they own the land which they would take place on. Following further discussion a series of key points of concern and recommendations were developed. Due to some challenges with regard to the exact wording of recommendations it was recommended that the UNREDD PMU/ Advisors / and Taskforce Secretariat work together to finalise the wording in line with the discussion and circulate them to members for confirmation. This amended work is attached in Annex 5.

Annex 1: List of Attendees

	ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE	EMAIL	MOBILE
1.	Public Solicitors Office	Martha Manaka	mmanaka@pso.gov.sb	7716187
2.	Public Solicitors Office	Tearo B Walenenea	twalenenea@pso.gov.sb	7456277
3.	Public Solicitors Office	Adam Beeson	adambeeson@fastmail.fm	7641550
4.	UNDP	Gloria Suluia	gloria.suluia@undp.org	7711219
5.	UNDP/UNREDD	Jennifer Klua	jennifer.kuma@undp.org	7422071
6.	Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey	Genesis Kofana	gkofana@yahoo.com	7498400
7.	Live & Learn Environmental Education	Bill Apusae	bill.apusae@livelearn.org	7431840
8.	Pamahima Association	Joachim Kuman	jkyvll2000@yahoo.com	7477736
9.	KIBCA	Ferguson Vaghi	coordinator@kibca.org	7401198
10.	KFPL	David Salt	honiara@kfpl.com.sb	7494358
11.	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Martin Jaiki	martinjaiki@gmail.com	8633956
12.	NRDF	Stephen Suti	sutiagalo@gmail.com	8627543
13.	LLCTC	Jimmy Kereseka	jKereseka@tnc.org	7650885
14.	St. Barbara Mining Limited	Joshua Kera	joshua.kera@St.barbara.com.au	7690727
15.	MECDM	Douglas Yee	d.yee@met.gov.sb	24074
16.	MECDM/MAL	Frank Wickham	frankw.pamal@gmail.com	7495819
17.	UNDP/UNREDD	Fred Patison	fred.patison@undp.org	7498982
18.	SPC/GIZ	Gideon Bouro	gideonb@spc.int	7423991

Annex 2-4: Presentations

Please see attached PDF document

Annex 5: Taskforce Statement

The below statement was developed based on the discussions held during the National REDD+ Taskforce meeting on 20th November 2013.

Following discussions with the PS and US of MECDM and the US of MoFR it has been proposed that this be modified into a cabinet paper for submission to Cabinet. This process is ongoing at present but should be completed in early March. Any comments on this should be provided following receipt of these minutes.

The National REDD+ Taskforce recognizes the ongoing commitment of the Government of the Solomon Islands to the objectives of the National Development Strategy (2011-2020) and we are committed to supporting the delivery of Objective 4 of the National Climate Change Policy (2012-17) requesting the development of an approach to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) as a nationally appropriate mitigation action.

In light of this the National REDD+ Taskforce is pleased to note the high levels of interest in carbon trading related to forestry, from the national government, the private sector, NGOs and land-owners. We are, however, concerned that at present there is **no clear guidance on forest carbon** at the national level and risks exist in the rapid development of an **unregulated market** for a forest carbon in the Solomon Islands. To avoid these risks it is critical that **political support** for the development of a **multi-sectoral national approach** to REDD+ as part of a national sustainable development agenda is maintained and strengthened.

With respect to this the Taskforce **requests** that:

- The Government of the Solomon Islands takes full ownership of the development and implementation of a national approach to REDD+.
- Government leadership facilitates a multi-sectoral approach to implementation of REDD+.
- The Government of the Solomon Islands consider the establishment of an official mechanism for the review and approval of forest carbon initiatives and that adequate time is provided for the development of a full framework to guide implementation of REDD+ within the Solomon Islands.

The National REDD+ Taskforce and its co-chairs the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Disaster Management and Meteorology and the Ministry of Forestry and Research reiterates its commitment to supporting the work of the Government of the Solomon Islands in this process through the provision of technical support and guidance.