

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



National Programme 2013 First Quarter Report

Solomon Island UN-REDD Programme

16 April 2013

Approved by:

Date:

1.0 Summary of Implementation Progress

The 2013 first quarter activities for the UNREDD Programme are based on the 2013 Annual Work Plan and Budget and builds on activities that has been undertaken in 2012. A number of important milestones were achieved in 2012 for the UNREDD Programme that set the pace of activities undertaken in the first quarter of 2013. The following is a summary of these 2012 milestones at the outcome level;

Table 1.0 Summary of Implementation Progress for the UNREDD Programme

Outcome	Summary of Achievements
1.Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes REDD+ readiness Roadmap	National REDD+ Taskforce was officially established through a cabinet decision in November 2012 following initial multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultation meetings in August 2012 and October 2012 to promote their active participation in the national REDD+ readiness process. The first meeting of the TF after cabinet approval occurred in mid November 2012. This was followed by the recruitment of an international policy advisor who is now providing technical support to the programme.
Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+	<p>The current REDD+ readiness process includes broad range of stakeholders from the private sector, civil society groups and government agencies.</p> <p>An initial plan for education and awareness-raising was developed but only covered an initial period of implementation and awareness-raising. The Roadmap will include a detailed section on awareness-raising, and guidelines on stakeholder engagement will suggest key strategies.</p> <p>Two provincial awareness raising and consultation events in Choiseul and Western province were undertaken in October 2012 focused on key</p>

	<p>stakeholder groups at the provincial level.</p> <p>Initial stakeholder mapping conducted by the international policy advisor and validated within workshop in November 2012.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL formulation and MRV</p>	<p>A workshop on MRV / REL held in September 2012 and attended by thirty participants from various stakeholders. The MRV training t provided both training and acted as an initial capacity assessment of key stakeholders. Information also used to complete development of MRV/REL consultant ToR. Advert for an international consultant position issued in November 2012 and recruitment is yet to be done.</p>

A number of important activity carried forward from 2012 includes the recruitment of an MRV expert and the National Stakeholder Engagement Expert on REDD+. This process has taken a significant amount of time through the procurement process and remains to be resolved at the end of the quarter. Numerous attempts to fast track the recruitment did not result in any significant progress and is a cause of concern for the project. The programme continues to dialogue and communicate to procurement of the need to progress this matter urgently.

2.0 Current Activities for the first quarter 2013

2.1 Technical Working Groups, National REDD Taskforce and PEB Meetings

The first activities undertaken in the first quarter of 2013 was the technical working groups meetings organised from the 19-20th February 2013 followed by taskforce meeting on the 20th February and PEB on 21st February 2013.

Three technical working groups meetings were convened with 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 task for 2013

3. Make recommendations to the PEB concerning the final structure and composition of the taskforce
4. Initial discussion of technical issues for each respective technical working group.

The outcome the technical working groups meetings are as follows;

2.11 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 on how these could be addressed. An overview of the outcomes of this process, identifying drivers in order of priority was briefly presented.

Table 2.1: 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

2.12 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

2.13 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

2.14 REDD+ Taskforce Meeting

The taskforce meeting then further discussed how the outcomes of the technical working groups will implement and resulted in a work plan being developed for 2013.

Table 2.2 Overview of National Programme Work plan 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 Deforestation and Degradation				
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 finalize REDD+ Strategies		X	X	
Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement				
Develop process of communication and capacity building for 2013 REDD+ Readiness	X	X	X	

- Development of a multi-stakeholder governance structure				
- Website				
- Awareness raising / Trainings				
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	X	
Develop guidelines for data collection for MRV in SI		X	X	X
Develop step-by-step guidance to implement MRV REDD+ Readiness in Sol			X	X

The taskforce also discussed in detail and number of concerns relating to the management of forest carbon in the Solomon Islands. This is in the light of increasing interest for private investment in forest carbon with local communities.

2.15 Programme Executive Boards Meeting (PEB)

The second Solomon Island UNREDD Programme Executive Board (PEB) meeting was held on Thursday the 21st of February 2013 at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sub Office in Honiara. The meeting had the following objectives:

1. To review programme progress in 2012
2. To review and approve the proposed 2013 UNREDD workplan
3. To consider a no cost extension to the UNREDD programme
4. Discuss key points emerging from the Taskforce and Technical Working group meetings including – Government ownership of programme and programme sustainability

Summary of Decisions made;

- UNREDD no cost extension to March 31st 2014 approved
- UNREDD Budget for 2013 approved

- Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), and Ministry of Forestry and Research (MoFR) provided names of focal points to assist the work of the Programme Management Unit and provide government leadership within the Technical Working Groups.

2.2 Other Activities

1. **Consultants Recruitments** – The recruitment process for an international MRV expert and a National stakeholder engagement expert has taken sometimes. It is expected that both consultants would be taken on board by the end of April 2013. The programme is also in the process of recruiting a website development expert to develop a website for the programme.
 - **International MRV Expert:** The Forest Monitoring and Inventory Expert will work as part of the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and closely with local partners and stakeholders to provide a range of services including broad capacity building on forest monitoring and MRV for REDD+, practical training on forest inventory methodologies and data analysis, and contribution of technical chapters to the national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.
 - **National Stakeholder Engagement Expert:** The National Expert will support the International Policy Advisor and other international experts in gathering, collating and analyzing relevant information and documents pertaining to specific national and sub-national contexts in the areas of governance, policies and measures, stakeholder engagement and the national forest monitoring system during the preparation of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and associated technical implementation guidelines. S/he is also expected to help with the implementation of demonstration activities at the provincial/local level to inform the development of the Roadmap and related technical guidelines.
 - **Website Development Designer:** The website designer will support the work of the Forest monitoring Expert with Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the key tools for this function are satellite remote sensing, a national forest inventory and a national GHG inventory. The ultimate objective is to design a national website on REDD+ for the Solomon Islands.

2. Background Report Development - The background document is currently being prepared by the UNREDD International Policy Advisor. The background document will provide the contextual background and situational analysis for the country and provided the basis for the development of national REDD+ Roadmap and guidelines. This document provides a background analysis of the forest sector within the Solomon Islands (SI). It assesses the national context, levels of forest and land-use change, key policies and strategies and key stakeholders before looking at existing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the existing strategies to address them. A final section discussed potential drivers of change and future strategies that may form part of a REDD+ framework. The document is a living one and will be updated and adjusted through consultation with key stakeholders as well as being used as a basis for the development of policy briefs and documents more appropriate for public consumption.

3. Information and Communication Materials – The programme also embarked on the development of information and communication materials. The programme assistant has been tasked with the responsibility of information management and communications. The programme has so far developed one brochure, a pamphlet and banners. The technical challenge with communicating REDD+ is managing expectations at the community and government levels. The experience in the logging sector has resulted in many communities already looking alternatives for their livelihood. Managing expectations is a major challenge where NGOs and potential investors are involved in forest carbon in the voluntary carbon market. The priority in that regard is to develop the roadmap and guidelines and work with partner organization in communicating the current process for the UNREDD programme.

4. Workshops and Meetings

SPC-GIZ Workshop on Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme - The workshop was attended by the UNREDD Programme Assistant Jennifer Kilua. The objective of the Workshop was to develop a 3 year operational plan to support various interventions of the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (ChICCP). This Programme was initiated by the Choiseul Provincial Government to increase the resilience of Choiseul communities against the impacts of climate change and treats of natural disaster, as well as to enhance their food security and to strengthen the resilience of their ecosystem. The three days' Workshop concluded successfully with a good number of Lauru chiefs and elders from various Choiseul communities and also Governments, NGOs and Regional organizations representatives.

The UNREDD Social and Environment Safeguards Meeting - Bangkok Meeting - The Social and Environment Safeguards” was organized by the UN-REDD Programme in Asia-Pacific from 5-6 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting is part of the continuing series of the Regional UN-REDD lessons learned workshop, which aims to provide as a forum to share knowledge and examples of good practices among UN-REDD partner countries. The workshop contributed a lot to a better understanding of safeguards system in other countries and a lot of information from UN-REDD Partner countries was shared.

The Solomon Island UNREDD programme manager presented on the current progress of UNREDD in the country and the challenges that a safeguards system will need to address. Discussions were also made on the governance structure of the programme for Solomon Islands and the linkages to the National Climate Change Policy.

3.0 Programme Risks

Table 3.0 Existing risks/threats identified PRIOR to this quarter

Category of Risk	Description of Risk	Mitigation Measures	Level of Risk H- High M- Medium L- Low	Responsibility
Organizational Risk	Coordination within government can be difficult due to limited capacity in terms of personnel and available resources.	Government has now appointed two focal point for both the MECDM and MFR to liaise with the programme on REDD+ issues and the UNREDD Programme	M	PMU, SIG
	Competing for priority with other UNDP Projects and Donor Agencies – All projects demanding time and effort from a limited pool of officers within the Government and partner agencies.	Develop a schedule of meetings for government officers on a monthly basis. Also ensuring the activities a planned in advance to secure government and other partner agencies commitment.	M	PMU, SIG
Operational Risk	Limited procurement capacity within UNDP – Honiara sub-office resulting in long delays in consultant recruitment.	Communicate as much as possible of the need to procure on time.	H	PMU , UNDP

Political Risk	Political stability have improved but in ability of the government to appoint a Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment has some impacts on the programme	Programme currently utilize the REDD+ focal points and develop strong institutional partnership with the Ministry of Environment	M	SIG
Natural Disaster Risk	Natural disaster remains a significant risk for the programme as the country is prone to natural disasters	UNDP DRR is a member of the National Disaster Committee and continuous provide information on disaster issues affects the programme	M	PMU,UNDP

4.0 Activities for the Next Quarter of 2013

Table 4.0 Activities for the next quarter 2013

Major Activity	Activity Progress	Major Outcomes
Consultants Recruitment		
National Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement Consultant	Consultant recruited on the 5 th of April 2013 and submitted the proposed work plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Stakeholder Analysis Report 2. Analysis of the existing national safeguards systems 3. Undertaken research to support the policy advisor
International MRV Consultant	Contract issued on the 12 th April 2013 to consultant.	Develop MRV component for the national REDD+ Roadmap and Guidelines
Website Development Consultant	Currently advertised as of the 12 April 2013.	Design a webpage for the Solomon Islands REDD+ Programme
Field Study Visit to Fiji – Proposed for 5-11 May 2013		
Study tour arrangement currently being organized with SPC	<p>The overall objective of the study tour is to:</p> <p>Increase awareness of the potential national level REDD+ architecture, how this can be developed and what challenges need to be overcome.</p> <p>More specifically it is hoped that the study tour will help key stakeholders understand a number of key policy and operational areas including:</p>	<p>Key Questions</p> <p>What structures are appropriate for managing interest in voluntary carbon initiatives?</p> <p>How can pilot sites inform national policy development?</p> <p>How to ensure a project developer is a genuine business?</p> <p>How structures and systems for monitoring a national framework of safeguards can be developed and</p>

	<p>How to balance interest project level voluntary market interests and approaches to REDD+ at the national level</p>	<p>maintained</p> <p>How has a system of safeguards been developed?</p> <p>Which agencies are responsible for it?</p> <p>What linkages exist with other initiatives/sectors?</p> <p>How to develop approaches to REDD+ that are able to work with customary landowners</p> <p>How to arrange benefit sharing and cost sharing with landowners in REDD+ development?</p> <p>How to balance landowner interest in logging with interest in forest carbon?</p> <p>How to address forest carbon rights and landowner rights?</p> <p>What are grievance mechanisms in place or to be developed?</p>
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Technical Working Group and REDD+ Taskforce Meetings – 21-23rd May 2013

<p>Consultations Meetings in Honiara – 13-17 May 2013</p>	<p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully integrate with National Consultant - Gain feedback on identified drivers and potential strategies 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further development of analysis of drivers and further development of draft approach to national safeguards and stakeholder engagement <p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing / debriefing with national consultant - Review information on national safeguards and stakeholder engagement processes - Circulate information on proposed approach to national safeguards and hold meetings with key stakeholders 	
<p>Technical Working Group Meetings – 21-22 May 2013 and Taskforce Meeting – 23 May 2013</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gain agreement on identified drivers of deforestation and potential strategies - Agree draft guidelines/approach for safeguards and stakeholder engagement <p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual meetings with key stakeholders - Technical working group meeting and taskforce meeting as combined event 	
<p>MRV Consultations and Workshop - June 2013</p>	<p>Programme and Schedule will be developed when the Consultant signed the contract and submit their work plan and schedules.</p>	

5.0 Programme Issues and Lessons Learned

5.1 Major Issues Summary

Issue	Details	Impact on Projects	Action required
Procurement process	Procurement process is not predictable, there are times that it is quite efficient and times that it is very inefficient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project experience delay in implementing activities. - Relationship with service provider compromised due to delays in payments. - Negatively affects the confidence of PMU to work with service providers such as consultants and others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PMU to prepare procurement documents well in advance - Procurement section capacity to be enhanced - PMU to do more procurement process training - Business and corporate approach to procurement process is required
Delay in Consultant recruitment	This is a major issue for the UNREDD programme. The delay in recruitment process for consultant is critical to the point that if the programme was to end by June 2013, the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant delay in the MRV component for the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment process needs to be improved and enhanced. - Increase procurement manpower may be necessary to improve service delivery to the programme.

	programme would have failed.		
Inter-agency and intra-agency coordination	Whilst coordination with government is quite strong, there are times that government capacity could not meet the demands from the programme relative to other programme and agencies. This again leads to other issues such as the absorptive capacity of the country for funded programme and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme experience delay in some its activities - Activities can be subjective to availability of representative from the lead government agency. - Programme implementation timeframe experiences delay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PMU to plan activities well in advance to secure government commitment - PMU continuous to develop partnership with government and other agencies - Clear and early communication to government and other agencies by the PMU - Programme look at means to strengthen and complement government capacity

5.2 Lessons Learnt

1. Programme to understand the context of the working environment in both government and implementing agency.
2. Programme to plan ahead at all times and remain flexible for unplanned changes to activities.
3. Collaborative approach at all times to secure the commitment of all stakeholders.
4. Capacity issues remains to be addressed and thus utilize existing capacity where necessary.
5. Focus on the outcomes and outputs required of the programme.

6.0 Summary

The UNREDD Programme progress for the first quarter of 2013 has been below expectation but significant progress has made in other components of programme. The most significant outcome is the approval by the PEB for a second no cost extension period to allow the programme ample time to achieve it's the outcomes. The programme continuous to enjoys a high level of support from the Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and Ministry of Forest and Research. The support from partner agencies and NGOs has also been very high and a lot of optimism has been developed for the future of REDD+ in Solomon Islands. The support from the UNDP Honiara sub-office has been excellent and well complimented by the technical support provided by the regional advisors from FAO, UNEP and UNDP Bangkok.

End of Report