

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



UNREDD National Programme 2013 Second Quarter Report

Solomon Island UN-REDD Programme

16 July 2013

Approved by:

Date:

1.0 Introduction

If Solomon Island is to be REDD+ ready and if it were to implement a successful programme the second quarter of 2013 can be described as the pivotal time or the defining quarter. The UNREDD through a range of activities outlined in this report was able to bring stakeholders to a greater understanding of the process and more importantly their commitment towards REDD+ Readiness. A considerable amount of time, energy, commitment and efforts have been invested by many stakeholders in the process.

The second quarter of 2013 have accommodated a range of activities which include a field study tour to Fiji, a national safeguards workshop, a regional workshop on REDD+ ,the MRV expert initial capacity assessment, the second MRV training workshop, a short MRV field trip and planning retreat. During the same period the programme finally recruited the national safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert and the international MRV expert .All these together have set the platform for the development of the National REDD+ Roadmap and REDD+ guidelines, the key document for a national approach to REDD+ implementation in Solomon Islands. This report provides the overview of these activities and provides details of the nature of these activities with reference to work undertaken in the last quarter and the schedules of the 2013 work plan.

2.0 UNREDD Outcome level summary of Implementation Progress

A number of important milestones were achieved in 2012-2013 for the UNREDD Programme that set the pace of activities undertaken in the second quarter of 2013. The following is a summary of these milestones at the outcome level;

Table 2.1 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- National REDD+ Taskforce was officially established through a cabinet decision in November 2012.- The first meeting of the TF after cabinet approval occurred in mid November 2012.- Second Taskforce Meeting held in February 2013

<p>Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current REDD+ readiness process includes broad range of stakeholders from the private sector, civil society groups and government agencies. - 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. - Two provincial awareness raising and consultation events in Choiseul and Western province were undertaken in October 2012 focused on key stakeholder groups at the provincial level. - Initial stakeholder mapping conducted by the international policy advisor and validated within workshop in November 2012. - Completed a baseline report March 2013 which covers a stakeholder analysis for REDD+ Readiness.
<p>Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL formulation and MRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A workshop on MRV / REL held in September 2012 and attended by thirty participants from various stakeholders. The MRV training provided both training and acted as an initial capacity assessment of key stakeholders. - The International MRV Expert recently recruited - The MRV expert first mission (June 18-23) includes meeting with the Ministry of Forest on the overview of MRV, assessment of forestry's activities, identification of skills and

roles for MRV training. A presentation was also made to all head of forestry and all forestry staff. Many of the staff has expressed knowing about the concept of REDD+ for the first time.

- Meetings were schedule with Director ECD, Director CCD, US MECDM, MESCAL Project and CTI Coordinator. A presentation was also made to the SI Carbon Association (VCS). The meeting with the association focus on the differentiating the VCS and REDD+ under a national programme.
- A training on MRV was undertaken by the MRV expert providing an overview of MRV skills and process, what is MRV” in more detail steps to completion, what is needed for SI (equipment, data and personnel) and what information is available/ do people have in-hand? (GIS, Inventory databases, etc.).
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- A short field trip to Maravaghi was made and field assessment was done for mangroves near Maravaghi. The trip was also used as a planning workshop to select sites for field training and also the schedule for MRV Training 2 (Field work)
- The planning meeting was carried on in Honiara which resulted in South Choiseul being selected as the demonstration site for MRV training. During the meeting the Ministry of Forestry committed itself to co-fund the

activity. Further consultation resulted in the Ministry committing SB\$190,000 (US\$26000) which accounts for about 60% of the budget for the field work. The other 40% will be met by the UNREDD Programme. The field work is schedule for 9-23 August 2013.

3.0 Summary of Activities for the first quarter 2013

Table 3.1 Summary of Q1 Activities

Q1 Activity	Details
Technical Working Groups (TWG)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
TWG on Drivers and Strategies	<p>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.</p> <p>Main Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation</p> <p>Direct Drivers ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging • Illegal logging • Commercial Agriculture • Subsistence Agriculture <p>Indirect Drivers;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak enforcement of laws and regulations • Importance of logging to economy • Outdated legislation • Population Growth
TWG on Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Next steps Review and assess existing safeguards</p> <p>It was agreed that a number of key activities should be undertaken including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a website, • Undertaking awareness raising and training activities and • Production of awareness raising materials
TWG on MRV and REL	<p>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.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of MRV Expert • Assessment of data sharing approaches
Taskforce Meeting	- Endorse the work plan for 2013
PEB Meeting	<p>Summary of Decisions made;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

4.0 Summary of Major Tasks for 2013

The Q2 activities are undertaken to achieve many of the outcomes from the 2013 work plan.

Table 4.1 Overview of National Programme Work plan 2013

2013 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a multi-stakeholder governance structure - Website - Awareness raising / Trainings 	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	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

4.2 Second Quarter Activities as per 2013 Work Plan

Table 4.2 The UNREDD 2013 Work plan have schedule a number of activities for the second quarter as highlighted below on the table;

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 programme focused on achieving the major milestones which is an ongoing process through the development of the National REDD+ roadmap. Many of these outcomes at activity level could not be realized without creating the enabling environment.

Table 4.3 Progress of Q2 outcomes based on the 2013 work plan as summarized below;

2013 Outcomes	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q2 Progress and Related Activities
Institutional structure					
Assessment of existing institutional structures	X	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The national safeguards and stakeholder consultant was recruited April 2013 and undertook initial desktop review and survey of organization with potential stakes on REDD+ - Initial assessment undertaken on different stakeholders and initial mapping done by national consultant in May 2013 - Initial institutional review undertaken by policy advisor and national consultant and presented in the baseline report - Study tour to Fiji May 2013 for members of the REDD+ taskforce and key government agencies to observe Fiji REDD+ institutional structure.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation done and presented in baseline report - Initial finding presented in the draft baseline REDD+ report
Identification of potential approaches to REDD+ Strategies		X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approaches to national strategies currently being developed and documented - Fiji study tour has resulted in a number of recommendations on potential approaches which are documented in the reports by participants. Many of these recommendations are for various sectors and will be part of the draft roadmap.
Review and finalize REDD+ Strategies		X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This ongoing and will be fully realized in Q3 and 4
Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement					

Develop process of communication and capacity building for 2013 REDD+ Readiness - Development of a multi-stakeholder governance structure - Website - Awareness raising / Trainings	X	X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance structure for the UNREDD programme is currently in place and will be further reviewed for a National REDD+ Programme - A national website consultant has been recently recruited and signed the contract. Currently awaiting the consultants work plan. The website is expected to up and running in the final quarter of the year. - Awareness and training is an ongoing activity. - A 2nd stakeholder engagement and safeguards workshop organized from the 22-23 May 2013.
Develop guidelines on stakeholder engagement for REDD+ Implementation		X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will be developed after the formulation of the roadmap and is expected in the third and fourth quarter of 2013
Assessment of existing safeguards and gaps	X	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The assessment of existing safeguards have been undertaken in first and second quarter and reported in the baseline report. - Further discussion on and presentations by various stakeholders on safeguards was done during the second stakeholder engagement and safeguards workshop -22-23 May 2013
Development of an approach to safeguards – including indicators, safeguard information system		X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is current in progress and will be reflected in the Roadmap - Website consultant has been recruited to design a webpage for REDD+ Solomon Island that will accommodate the SIS.
Development of guidelines for implementation of safeguards in SI		X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will be undertaken after the completion of the roadmap in the third quarter 2013
MRV REL					
Recruitment of MRV Expert	X				
MRV Training workshop on data collection		X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second MRV Training workshop conducted for two days in Honiara by the MRV Consultant – 20-21 June 2013 - The training was followed by a one trip to visit the mangrove ecosystem of central island province – 22-23 June 2013 - Data and baseline information collection was done by MRV Consultant and presentation on MRV to Ministry of Forests on 18 June 2013.
Develop guidelines for data collection for MRV in SI		X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be undertaken in the third quarter of 2013.

Develop step-by-step guidance to implement MRV REDD+ Readiness in Sol			X	X	
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5.0 Activities for the Second Quarter 2013

Table 5.1 Second quarter activities

Major Activity	Activity Progress from Q1 2013	Activity Progress in Q2 2013 and Technical inputs
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national stakeholder mapping current being developed by the national consultant and will feed into the formulation of the roadmap - Stakeholder map analysis presented at the second safeguards and stakeholder engagement workshop in Honiara – 22-23 May 2013. Day 1 of the workshop focused on an overview of current background research conducted on the forest sector including drivers of deforestation and degradation and potential REDD+ strategies. Presentations were led by the UNREDD programme team with

		<p>extensive time allowed for discussion particularly drawing on the experiences of the multi-stakeholder group that had recently returned from a field trip to look at Fiji's REDD+ programme.</p> <p>Day 2 of the workshop focused on the development of Safeguards for REDD+, the development of a national Safeguard Information System and existing experiences of working with safeguards within the Solomon Islands (SI). Presentations were provided by Celina Yong (UNREDD Regional Center Bangkok), the UNREDD team in country and government and non-government organisations working around natural resource management and safeguards in the SI.</p>
International MRV Consultant	Contract issued on the 12 th April 2013 to consultant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 2013 consultant signed contract - 2nd June 2013, MRV consultant met with Programme Manager and Director Climate Change and UNDP Prgm Analyst in Fiji - June 18-23 2013 - Second MRV Training in Honiara focuses on, initial MRV assessment to inform the development of the national REDD+ Roadmap, develop outline for National REDD+ MRV Guidelines and Gain information for the development of draft REDD+ MRV guidelines. - Initial training and increase understanding of the potential MRV approach for REDD+ in Solomon Islands - Initial field assessment of the different forest types in Solomon Islands.
Website Development Consultant	Currently advertised as of the 12 April 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultant recruited and currently formulating work plan for the required tasks. The consultant already met with the PMU.

Field Study Visit to Fiji – 12-17 May 2013

<p>Study tour arrangement currently organized in collaboration with SPC and GIZ.</p> <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>How to balance interest project level</p>	<p>Field study successfully undertaken from 12-17 May 2013. Participants as follows;</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Institution</th> <th>Representative</th> <th>Position</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">Government</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology</td> <td>Chanel Iroi</td> <td>Undersecretary MECMD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology</td> <td>Douglas Yee</td> <td>Director Climate Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ministry of Forestry and Research</td> <td>Gordon Konairamo</td> <td>Undersecretary -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ministry of Forest and Research</td> <td>Terence Titiulu</td> <td>Assistant Commissioner – Planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ministry of Lands</td> <td>Genesis Kofana</td> <td>Director – Land Reform</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prime Minister Office</td> <td>Derrick Vghi</td> <td>Analyst</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Civil Society</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Representative of Landowners group</td> <td>Mr.Ferguson Vaghi</td> <td>KIBCA Coordinator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Representative of a governance and rights focused NGO</td> <td>Tearo. W</td> <td>Legal Officer</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Programme Management staff</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNREDD Programme Manager</td> <td>Fred Patison</td> <td>UNREDD Programme Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNREDD Programme</td> <td>Jennifer Kilua</td> <td>Programme</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Institution	Representative	Position	Government			Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	Chanel Iroi	Undersecretary MECMD	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	Douglas Yee	Director Climate Change	Ministry of Forestry and Research	Gordon Konairamo	Undersecretary -	Ministry of Forest and Research	Terence Titiulu	Assistant Commissioner – Planning	Ministry of Lands	Genesis Kofana	Director – Land Reform	Prime Minister Office	Derrick Vghi	Analyst	Civil Society			Representative of Landowners group	Mr.Ferguson Vaghi	KIBCA Coordinator	Representative of a governance and rights focused NGO	Tearo. W	Legal Officer	Programme Management staff			UNREDD Programme Manager	Fred Patison	UNREDD Programme Manager	UNREDD Programme	Jennifer Kilua	Programme
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	<p>voluntary market interests and approaches to REDD+ at the national level</p>	<p>Assistant</p>		<p>Assistant</p> <p>Presentations Summary;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The approach taken by Fiji is to first of all develop national REDD+ policy through a national consultative process. This process is supported by SPC-GIZ and sets the scope of the how REDD+ will be approached in the country. Fiji becomes the first country in the pacific to have national REDD+ policy framework. The approach in the forestry sector is for a paradigm swift to accommodate REDD+ initiatives and activities as part of their core business. - The climate change office in Fiji is located in the Department of Foreign Affairs whilst REDD+ is addressed through the department of Forests. There is established the Fiji National REDD+ Secretariat located within the forestry department with a full time officer. All national REDD+ related activities are administered through the National REDD+ Steering Committee. The Committee consists of government, private sector, NGO and academic institutions representatives. The national REDD+ secretariat provides administrative support to the steering committee. - Fiji is currently developing a national safeguards system that has a number of components to address FPIC principles, a national safeguards system and benefit distributions. - There is also technical presentations on Forest Carbon Assessment
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		<p>Methodology, Allometric Modeling, Forest Cover Change Mapping and Forest Carbon Assessment methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field trips to national REDD+ Pilot site, Fiji Pines and Fiji Water. <p>Major outcomes field study;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A better understanding of the concept of REDD+ 2. Each participant understood the need for a national approach for REDD+ 3. Understanding of the key issues for REDD+ implementation in Solomon Islands 4. Observe the institutional arrangement for REDD+ in Fiji 5. Understanding REDD+ within the broader Forestry Sector and Policy Environment. <p>Examples of Key observations and recommendations based on submitted reports from participants;</p> <p><u>Participants A.</u></p> <p>Lesson learnt</p> <p>Fiji is way ahead in terms of policy formulation, strategies and guidelines along with program activities for REDD+ operations in SI. Solomon Islands Government in its attempt to properly align these new REDD+ programs is committed to ensure a legislation is in place for a possible enabling environment for the operators/drivers of REDD.</p>
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		<p>Fiji forestry sector is now going through a paradigm shift from harvesting to conservation.</p> <p>REDD+ is an option available to add value to our conserved forest including both above and underground biomass. SIG commitment to REDD is noted as a way forward especially with our depleting forest.</p> <p>REDD+ is highly adaptable to climate change particularly on the resilience ability of our local population.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG to ensure maximum commitment and to be reflected in a budgetary provision by both the Ministry of Forests and Environment in order to implement 2013 REDD work programs. • Policy to include integration of current programs and NCRA priorities to be aligned properly to the REDD national objectives. • Review to existing Forestry Act to accommodate REDD activities and consolidate previous amendments on activities related to REDD • The Ministry of Forestry to develop strategies for a paradigm shift from harvesting to conserving. <p><u>Participant B</u></p> <p>General recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend all relevant laws to provide an easy path through to REDD+ preparedness
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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Move focal point to Ministry of Forestry from current 3. Appoint a full time REDD+ office to man the office. 4. Work closely with SPC and seek their technical advice more often. 5. Ministries need to work closely together and be open with each other to avoid duplication and time wasting. <p>Below I have provided a possible way forward in terms of how to record and register customary land for REDD+ activities.</p> <p>Recording Process as provided for under the customary land recording Act 1994, prepared for REDD+ projects on customary land in Solomon Islands.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Area identified for REDD+ project 2. Fill up an application form for recording 3. Declaration by Minister – to declare the area is a recording area for REDD+ projects 4. Awareness about the process and the impact of the process on the current status of Land 5. Sketch a map of the land and the main features of the boundaries 6. Provide a Draft Family tree for prove 7. Submit to House of chiefs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Verification of tribes by House of Chiefs. 7.2 Confirmation of a tribal land. 8. Training workshop on the requirements of recording 9. Recording <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9.1 Settlement – reconciliation programs involving Family trees compilation etc 9.2 Formation of Trust board authorities to deal on behalf of the tribe 9.3 Sketching and marking on a paper of boundary. 10. House of Chief's final approval 11. Submission of recorded information to the MOLHS
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		<p>12. Three months' Notice</p> <p>13. Issuance of Certificate of Customary land ownership</p> <p>14. Survey of Boundary 14.1 Use of GPS not any other forms of survey.</p> <p>15. Registration 15.1 Submission of Information 15.2 Trust board must be registered 15.3 Land to be registered in the name of the tribe</p> <p>16. MOU between tribal group and the REDD+Taskforce for the transfer of power of Attorney over the tribal land</p>
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REDD+ and Safeguards Workshop: 22nd -23rd of May 2013

The REDD+ and Safeguards Workshop was held on Wednesday 22nd to Thursday 23rd May 2013 at the Kairos Conference room at the Hyundai Mall in Honiara. The meeting had the following objectives:-

- To update Background document and fill gaps in information
- Progress the process of developing guidelines for stakeholder engagement and safeguards
- Gain feedback on identified drivers and potential strategies

Day 1:

- REDD+ was introduced as a potential mechanism to help the SI address deforestation and forest degradation – it was recommended that this should occur in combination with other strategies that were important for the country’s development and environmental protection and should not just rely on money from carbon finance.
- It was agreed that a broad range of stakeholders should be engaged in the process including Government, Private Sector, Civil Society and Development Partners. It was also recommended that academic groups and independent branches of government (such as the Public Solicitors Office) should be given particular attention.
- It was also noted that while distinctions between groups may be theoretically clear they may be a lot less clear particularly at the local level where individuals may represent a range of interests.
- Discussion was held on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation with the most prominent driver of forest degradation being identified as

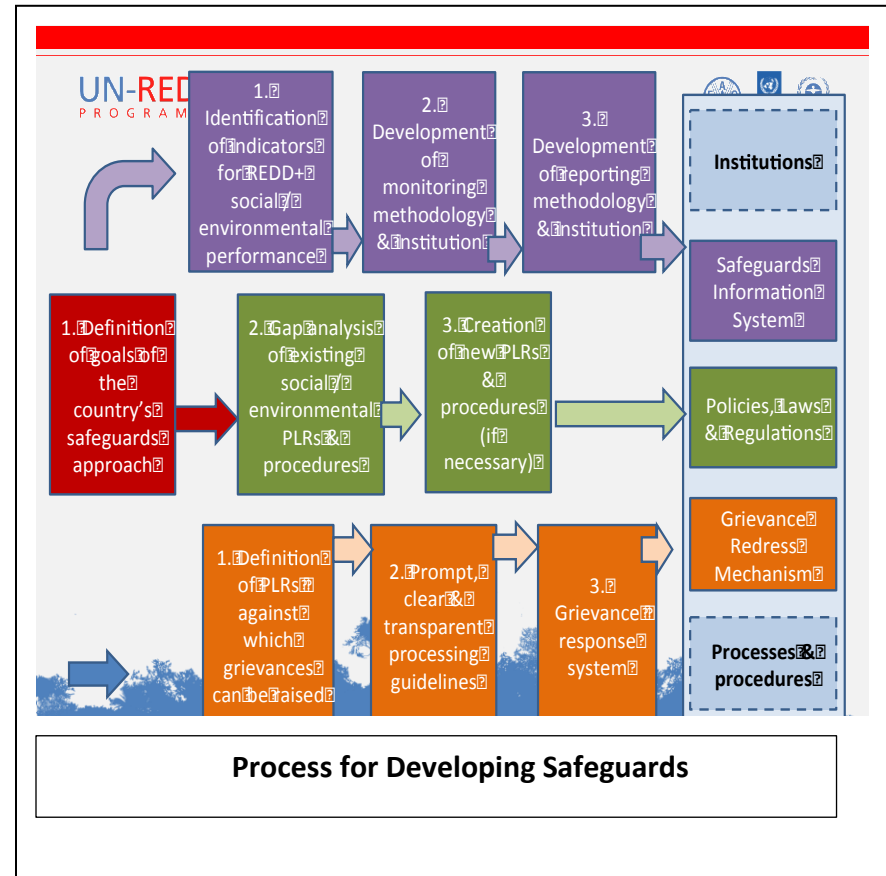
logging which continues to occur at a very high rate and in many locations is causing significant environmental damage.

- Clearance of land for agriculture is the most significant direct driver of deforestation although clearance for commercial agriculture has been slowed due to challenges in clarifying land ownership and data on subsistence agriculture remains very limited.
- These direct drivers are underpinned by indirect drivers with key indirect drivers discussed including:
 - Outdated legislation – for example the Timber Utilisation Act
 - Limited enforcement capacity within key ministries and agencies
 - Weaknesses in local level governance structures
 - Limited awareness and capacity within local communities to hold logging companies / contractors to account
 - Unclear land ownership which combined with other issues has either allowed a small group to capture resources or had delayed development due to ongoing challenges in clarifying ownership
- Discussions were had on the difficulties of implementing existing legislation as well as the challenges of assessing the levels of impact when there is no accurate national data on levels of deforestation or degradation.
- Discussion was held on potential strategies that could be adopted to address these drivers. Key strategies discussed were:
 - Increase public awareness
 - Legislative reform
 - Improved data availability
 - Support reforestation and enrichment planting
 - Increased Protected Areas Coverage
 - Increased linkages between forest management and disaster risk reduction
 - Improved Forest Management
- There was general agreement that the strategies addressed many of the existing drivers. It was also noted that several of the proposed strategies were already being undertaken by forestry or had been tried before. It was thus seen as important to identify where previous strategies had not been successful and what had been and address these within the new proposals.
- Awareness raising was seen as a critically important component of any strategies due to the important role landowners play in managing forests

Day 2:

- An overview of safeguards for REDD+ was provided, noting that they originate from the seven safeguards identified within the Cancun Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and that it has also agreed that information should be provided on how these are being implemented in each country through a safeguard information system (SIS)
- It was discussed that each country should develop both their own safeguards and a system for monitoring them – an outline set of steps to achieve this was also presented.

- A number of presentations were then provided on how existing safeguards related to the forest sector were being addressed.
- Live and Learn Environmental Education presented on how there were addressing safeguards in their existing REDD+ pilot project, noting that they had worked to engage the stakeholders at the local level and had developed a series of awareness raising materials. They also noted that many stakeholders identified existing weaknesses in the safeguards system for logging and that these caused many negative impacts.
- Discussion following the presentation noted the value of moving forward at a specific site but also the importance of these types of pilot activities working closely with the national government to help share skills and develop a common approach.
- The Landowners Advocacy and Legal Support Unit (LALSU) provided a presentation outlining existing safeguards and the role LALSU play in supporting landowners to address grievances through the courts system. They however noted the current costs to landowners of raising a court case and the limited capacity in the court system to address all the cases raised. In response to this they are working with the public prosecutor’s office in the establishment of an environmental crime unit to raise public prosecutions of infringements.
- A presentation was also provided on the development of Forest Stewards Council certified timber extraction. It was noted that it was challenging to obtain all the steps on this process in the Solomon Islands at present and that it required capacity for operators to engage in the process and maintain the paper work. It was also noted that there was a significant cost in this process to have it externally verified – as such small producers needed to come together. It was noted that this would also be an important consideration for REDD+ particularly if landowners are considering working on voluntary projects.
- A final presentation was then given on the Environmental Protection Act and the role of Environmental Impact Statements, and Public Environmental Report. It was noted that currently the regulation is currently only implemented on a small number of projects and there has been limited detailed use on logging concessions. It was also noted that to fully implement the legislation was a significant cost to



companies due to the costs of transport, the diversity of the environment and the dispersed nature of the population.

- The day concluded with a discussion on the potential ways to develop a Safeguards Information System (SIS). Participants noted that it would help stakeholders a lot of have easy access to all information on even existing safeguards linked with information on concessions and other developments. It was felt this would be good to have in a spatial form. Caution was however again also raised about trying to create too complicated a system.

MRV Consultations, Planning and Training Workshop -18-23 June 2013

Q1 - Programme and Schedule will be developed when the Consultant signed the contract and submit their work plan and schedules.

Activity Undertaken ;

- The MRV expert first mission (June 18-23) includes meeting with the Ministry of Forest on the overview of MRV, assessment of forestry's activities, identification of skills and roles for MRV training. A presentation was also made to all head of forestry and all forestry staff. Many of the staff has expressed knowing about the concept of REDD+ for the first time.
- Meetings were schedule with Director ECD, Director CCD, US MECDM, MESCAL Project and CTI Coordinator. A presentation was also made to the SI Carbon Association (VCS). The meeting with the association focus on the differentiating the VCS and REDD+ under a national programme.
- A training on MRV was undertaken by the MRV expert providing an overview of MRV skills and process, what is MRV" in more detail steps to completion, what is needed for SI (equipment, data and personnel) and what information is available/ do people have in-hand? (GIS, Inventory databases, etc.)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A short field trip to Maravaghi was made and field assessment was done for mangroves on Maravaghi. The trip was also used as a planning workshop to select sites for field training and also the schedule for MRV Training 2 (Field work)- The planning meeting was carried on in Honiara which resulted in South Choiseul being selected as the demonstration site for MRV training. During the meeting the Ministry of Forestry committed itself to co-fund the activity. Further consultation resulted in the Ministry committing SB\$190,000 (US\$26000) which accounts for about 60 percent of the budget. The other 40 percent will be met by the UNREDD Programme.
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6.0 Other Activities

1. **Background Report Development** - The draft background document for REDD+ have been submitted by the 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.
2. **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 but not much progress has been made since then. 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.
3. **Workshops and Meetings**

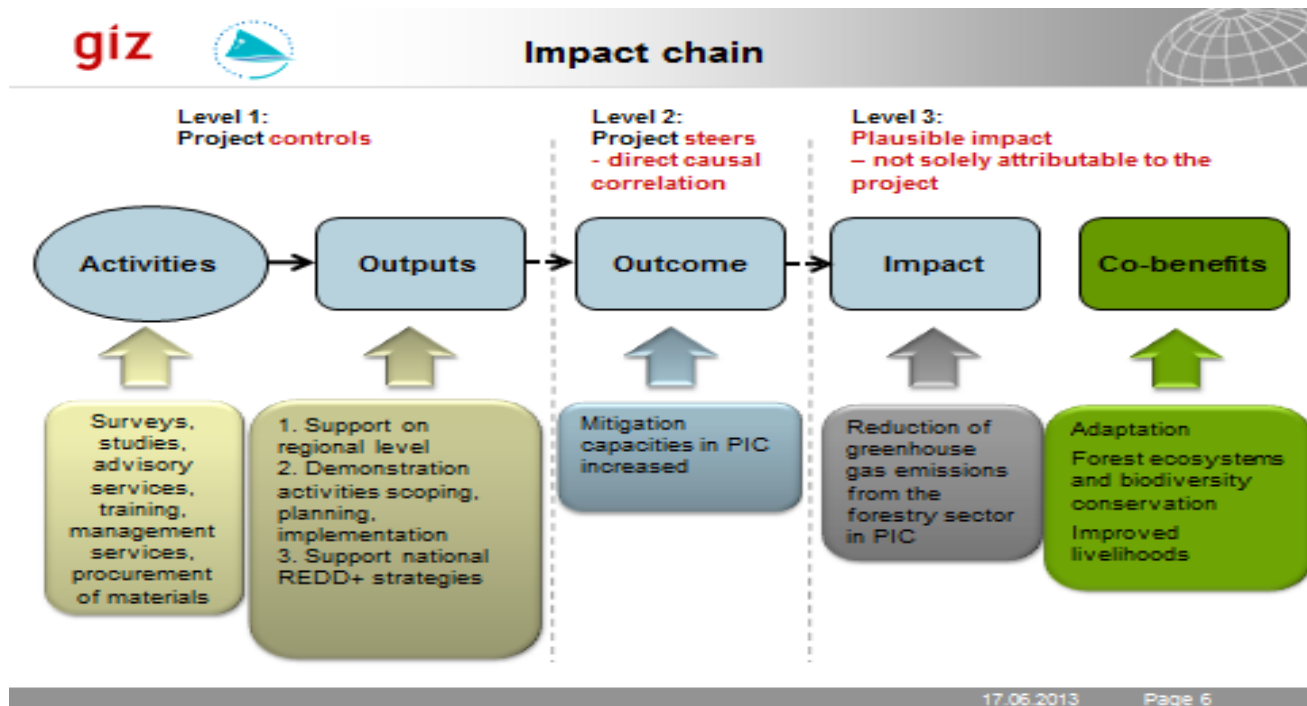
SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Exchange and Planning Workshop, 3-5 June 2013

Objective of the Workshop:

1. Review current work program for the SPC-GIZ Pacific Regional Project on Climate Protection through Forest Conservation.
2. Exchange of knowledge and lessons learned for National REDD+ Readiness Programme
3. Develop and Design follow on project for the SPC-GIZ Regional REDD+ Programme

Workshop Outcomes:

1. All countries are at different phases in their REDD+ Readiness Process
2. Addressing land issues and carbon rights remains important for REDD+ in many of the pacific island countries in particular in Melanesia.
3. Coordination at the national level with relevant agencies remains an important component of the REDD+ Readiness process.
4. Solomon Islands needs to undertake national driven pilot activities for REDD+ with a view of bringing reform to the forestry sector and increasing its sustainable development credentials.
5. The “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries” has three main components, namely: the Pacific Regional REDD+ Policy Framework, the REDD+ information and support platform and the REDD+ readiness implementation in the Melanesian countries, including Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
6. SPC-GIZ project has the potential to make an impact in the country using the national guidelines developed under the UNREDD Programme.
7. Established important network with regional people/organizations working on similar programme/projects within the region.
8. Development of draft activities for a follow on project for the SPC-GIZ Regional REDD+ Programme.
9. The following is the impact chain for SP-GIZ REDD+ Regional Initiative.



7.0 Programme Risks

Table 7.1 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.	M	PMU , UNDP

Political Risk	Political stability have improved but the inability 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 and Ministry of Forests and Research	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

8.0 Issues and Lessons Learned

Table 8.1 Summary of key issues

Issues	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 	<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

		providers such as consultants and others	
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

9.0 Conclusion

The UNREDD Programme progress for the second quarter of 2013 has been positively significant. A number of activities undertaken have resulted in broader progress towards achieving the major outcomes and outputs of the Programme. The second quarter has been the busiest with a range of activities scheduled one after another. Many these activities have strengthened the enabling environment for REDD+ Readiness in Solomon Islands. Intra-government and inter-agency partnerships have been developed as result with more stakeholders getting involved, understanding issues relating to REDD+ and showing commitment towards the REDD+ readiness process. The most notable progress has been the commitment rendered by the Ministry of Forest to co-fund the MRV field training and assessment. The ministry of Forest through its development programme will be providing about SB\$190, 0000 (US\$26000) towards the MRV field assessments and training for the demonstration site on South Choiseul.

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 outstanding 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