# Terms of Reference

# Solomon Islands REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

## Working Group 1:

## Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Strategies to Address the Drivers

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| Co-Chairs:  | [To be appointed] |
| Secretary: | UN-REDD PMU |
| UN-REDD Advisors: | Phil Cowling (Consultant –Policy Advisor), Aki Kono (UNDP), Joel Scriven (FAO), Ben Vickers (FAO)  |

## Objective:

to identify and quantify the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Solomon Islands, and their underlying causes, and to identify potential strategies to address them.

## Outputs:

The Outputs of the Working Group will consist of compilations of background materials (studies, reports, legislation, etc.) and minutes, conclusions and recommendations of each Working Group meeting. The conclusions should consist (wherever possible) of text that can be directly inserted into the emerging REDD+ Roadmap (this would also include current knowledge gaps).

Further information on the nature of these outputs is provided in Annex 1.

## Methods of Working

The Working Group will meet regularly – nominally once every two months – to develop the information required for the Roadmap, as described above and in Annex 1. It is expected that most or all meetings will be in Honiara.

Membership of the TWG is provided in Annex 2.

The costs of Working Group members to carry out their duties will be supported.

The duration of the Working Group’s work will nominally be 1 year, but the actual duration will be determined by completion of its outputs.

Background information, consisting of existing reports on drivers and underlying causes, legislation and policies, and analyses of options for improved forest management will be compiled by the Forest Department, assisted by the UN-REDD PMU, although any member of the working group or advisors may contribute materials. All background materials will be shared with all working group members, electronically where possible.

For each meeting, the Co-chairs, assisted by the UN-REDD Programme Management Unit (PMU) will prepare a brief note, defining the purpose of the meeting, the expected result of the meeting, and appending any materials required in preparation for the meeting. This information will be shared with all Working Group members at least a week before the meeting.

At each meeting, a secretary will be nominated who will be responsible for recording minutes and conclusions of the meeting. This document will be shared with all members of the working group within one week of the meeting. Comments and corrections may be proposed by any working group member within one additional week, after which the minutes and conclusions will be considered final. This document will be sent to the REDD+ national focal point and the UN-REDD PMU. While every effort will be made to select a meeting date that will allow all Working Group members to participate, it is inevitable that this will not always be possible. In such cases, Working Group members who are not able to attend a meeting will be provided with all the pre-meeting information, as well as the minutes and conclusions and will be invited to make additional contributions to the conclusions within one additional week.

The working group will be supported by the UNREDD PMU, including the UN-REDD technical advisors there in.

## Responsibilities of members of Working Group Members

Working group members have been identified as representatives of key stakeholder groups or organisations and are responsible for representing those groups through their duties. Their responsibility include:

* Sharing information gained with members of the constituency and/or organization to ensure that others are aware of key elements of REDD+ and decisions that are being taken
* Acting as a focal point for information requests from their constituency and / organization to facilitate the TWG in gaining access to information or sharing information
* Willingness to share information with others and provide updates on projects, programmes or other relevant activities that they are involved or aware of
* Coordinating work with other TWG members to facilitate easy and effective working

## Reporting

The TWG shall report to the REDD+ Taskforce on progress made as well as key challenges and areas of concern. Reporting should occur through the Chairperson of the TWG or their deputy when absent.

# Annex 1: Issues to be addressed by the Working Group

In the context of REDD+, the term ‘driver’ is used broadly, but for analysis and assessments, it is important to separate proximate/direct causes and underlying/indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation. While commercial agriculture is the most important proximate driver of deforestation in the majority of non-Annex I countries, legal and illegal timber harvesting are the most important drivers of forest degradation in the Pacific. However, both these drivers have complex underlying causes.

Many countries stress weak forestry sector governance and institutions, including conflicting policies and illegal activities (related to weak enforcement) as critical underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation.

The main indirect driving forces of forest change such as population and economic growth, national and international demand for agricultural products (food and biofuels), wood products and particularly for the Solomon Islands, minerals are all expected to increase in the coming years.

Historical patterns in deforestation and degradation drivers may not necessarily be repeated in the future, largely due to more rapid economic development and GDP growth among within developing countries.

Taking this into account, the task of this working group in identifying and quantifying key drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation in the Solomon Islands can be broken down as follows:

## Identifying Drivers

#### Overview of land use trends, forest policy and governance relevant to REDD+

* Describe the major land use trends in the Solomon Islands, e.g. use of forests, other land use sectors (mining, agriculture, customary land management, tree crops e.g. oil palm, tourism, urban expansion).
* Describe the current and potential impacts of the 1999 Forest Act, the Climate Change Policy 2012-2017, the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2011 -2020, and other key pieces of legislation on forest protection and sustainable forest management in the Solomon Islands.
* Identify the main governance challenges (both formal and customary) for the forest sector.
* Identify the main capacity[[1]](#footnote-1) challenges in the forest sector.

#### Identification of key drivers

* Identify all drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Solomon Islands. Looking beyond the forest sector in analyzing drivers is critical, particularly the role of subsistence agriculture and alternative land uses in driving deforestation. It is also essential to consider international drivers – for example, timber demand in other countries.
* Distinguish, to the extent possible, in each case between deforestation and forest degradation.
* For each driver, derive the information indicated in the Table below (Some examples of drivers are suggested. Add any drivers that are missing and delete any drivers that are not relevant.)

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| **Driver** | **Direct (D) or Indirect (I)** | **Recent trends (changes in extent and severity)** | **Projected trends (likelihood)****5 = significant increase** **-5 = significant decrease** | **Severity of impact****5 = significant increase** **0 = no impact** | **Overall priority** **(e.g., likelihood x impact)** | **Comments** |
| **1. Inland forests** |
| **a. Forest Degradation (examples)** |
| Pests and disease |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fuel wood collection |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Illegal logging |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Legal logging |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other forest product extraction (legal/illegal) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Invasive species |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **b. Deforestation (examples)** |
| Urban expansion |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Infrastructure  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plantation establishment |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural expansion |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2. Coastal/Mangrove forests** |
| **a. Degradation (examples)** |
| Fuelwood collection |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pollution (oil spills, etc) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other mangrove product collection |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **b. Deforestation (examples)** |
| Agriculture |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aquaculture |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Urban expansion |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Infrastructure  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Review Current Strategies

Identify existing strategies that are being used to address deforestation and forest degradation and the functional as well as technical capacities required to implement these strategies. Identify:

* When the existing strategy was initiated, and under which legal/policy guidelines
* How each strategy is funded
* Results obtained to date
* Constraints which may be limiting effectiveness of each current strategy

## Identify potential REDD+ strategies, policies and measures

In identifying potential REDD+ strategies, policies and measures, the following points should be considered:

1. A mix of incentives, disincentives and enabling measures, under a holistic REDD+ driver intervention package, aimed at drivers and underlying causes, will provide greatest leverage to affect drivers.
2. In order for REDD+ to be successful, incentives, disincentives and enabling measures will need to reach the actors responsible for causing and/or addressing the drivers of deforestation and at the appropriate scale.
3. When demand- and supply-side interventions are mutually reinforcing, there may be greater chance to affect driver activity.
4. Coordinated efforts within entire sectors, spanning multiple scales and engaging key actors, aided by supportive government policies and financial incentives, hold most promise in reducing deforestation and degradation pressures.

Ultimately, the National REDD+ Strategy/Policy will define specific policies and measures to be applied to address each driver and underlying cause. For the purpose of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, the Working Group needs to identify activities to be undertaken to elaborate those policies and measures; it is therefore critical that the Working Group also think through, specifically, any capacity development activities which would need to be undertaken in order to elaborate the policies and measures, taking care to consider not only individual level capacity development needs (e.g. trainings and workshops; individual skills building and learning activities) but also capacity needs within and between organizations/institutions that will have a role in REDD+ in Solomon Island.

Therefore, the Working Group should prepare a Table similar to that shown below.

Consider, especially, land tenure security, customary land coordination and collaboration, adequate information systems for decision-making, integration of forest and land-use planning with socio-economic development planning, the value of good governance, agricultural intensification, cross-sectoral commitments, indirect land-use change and foreign direct investment as potential strategies, and challenges of leakage.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Driver** | **Direct cause** | **Underlying cause** | **Possible REDD+ strategy** | **Action needed to elaborate policies and measures to implement strategy** |
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### Implications of climate change

Review the current climate models for the Solomon Islands and identify the implications of climate change for the forest sector

#### Enhancing forest biomass (forest carbon stocks)

* Analyze the importance of enhancing biomass (forest carbon stocks) in the Solomon Islands.
* Review Solomon Islands’ past experience with enhancing forest biomass in inland and mangrove forests. Identify current programmes to enhance biomass, including their cost.
* Identify future opportunities for enhancing biomass in both inland and mangrove forests.
* Consider the implications of climate change may have on any proposals to increase forest biomass.

# Annex 2: Membership

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1. This overview of capacity challenges should take into account and appropriately distinguish between capacity at the individual, organizational/institutional, and enabling environment (policies, legal framework) levels [↑](#footnote-ref-1)