



Targeted Support from the **UN-REDD Global Programme** to UN-REDD National Programmes of **Papua New Guinea** and the **Solomon Islands** for the Development of a Regional Monitoring and MRV Support Structure for Pacific Island Countries

## Introduction

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are at once highly vulnerable and threatened by the impacts of climate change. Their low-lying geographies, small land areas and limited reserves of natural resources, such as fresh water, make their populations, economies and ecosystems vulnerable to rising temperatures and sea levels (and the latter's corollaries, including salt-water incursion) and limit their adaptive capacity to cope with these changes. Their remoteness and inaccessibility adds a further layer of complexity to the challenges they face.

Global REDD+ capacity building efforts to date have most prominently focused on large tropical developing countries with high forest cover, though the scope of the mechanism extends to all developing countries. PICs are therefore eligible to benefit from the positive incentives ultimately available through the implementation of REDD+ activities, the benefits of which would likely go beyond mitigation to support adaptation, by aligning forest sector policies with climate change adaptation strategies and ultimately strengthening of the resilience of forest ecosystems in PICs.

UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, which provides the most comprehensive guidance to date on REDD+ under the UNFCCC, affirms the need to promote broad developing country participation in the mechanism, and urges developed country Parties to support these efforts through multilateral and bilateral channels (Decision 1/CP.16, para, 76). Decision 1/CP.16 also sets out four elements which developing country Parties aiming to participate in the REDD+ mechanism are requested to develop, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support. One of these is a "robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting" of REDD+ activities (Decision 1/CP.16, para. 71(c)). A national monitoring system serves two functions:

- i. To monitor REDD+ activities, to assess the extent to which they are effective, starting in Phase 2 of REDD+. Successful REDD+ activities are known as being "results-based" in the language of the UNFCCC. It is a requirement under the UNFCCC that REDD+ activities are results-based, thus a monitoring system is required to assess the outcomes of activities.
- ii. To measure, report and verify (MRV) the mitigation performance of REDD+ activities in Phase 3 of REDD+. Measurement of the performance of REDD+ activities comprises the analysis (a) land use (area) change, for which satellite remote sensing is recommended<sup>1</sup> and (b) forest carbon stocks and carbon stock changes, for which a national forest inventory is recommended<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Following the guidance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



The varying levels of technical forest monitoring and measurement capacities and capabilities are sparse and spread across PICs. As noted in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Corporate Plan 2007-2012: *"many of SPC's island member countries and territories do not have a large enough population base or the financial resources to develop and sustain the full range of skills required to provide effective public services to their people."* A significant barrier is lack of technical forest monitoring and measurement capacities capacity, which is currently hindering meaningful engagement of PICs in REDD+.

## Objective

The overarching rationale for this request for targeted support is the promotion of equality of opportunity for developing countries to participate in the REDD+ mechanism. The objective of this request is to fund the development of a full proposal for a regional Pacific REDD+ monitoring and MRV support structure, including the establishment of a regional forestry training and support centre and a regional REDD+.

Once the full proposal has been completed and subjected to regional consultations and review, it will be submitted to one of the following to request the full financial support needed for the implementation of the support structure:

- The Green Climate Fund (if operational by the end of 2012)
- The Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative
- The Government of Australia's International Forest Carbon Initiative
- The Government of Japan

The requested targeted support will also fund an initial capacity assessment and development mission of international forest monitoring experts to the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), with a view to establishing SOPAC as a regional focal point for forest information management and assessment.

## Concept

The funds requested through this targeted support proposal will be used to consult on, and write, a full proposal for regional support for a REDD+ monitoring and MRV support structure, which will be submitted to donors by the end of 2012. Consultations with regional stakeholders, including Heads of Forestry departments of PICs, will be undertaken at a two regional workshops, in April and September, and the proposal developed in collaboration with international organisations including GIZ and JICA, and SPC, a regional support body. The proposal will be designed to complement, support and reinforce the UN-REDD national programmes underway in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, and REDD+ initiatives underway being supported by SPC, GIZ and JICA, building synergies and complementarities with these to promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness of REDD+ implementation.



The second objective of the targeted support will be to carry out a mission of two forest monitoring experts to the central office of SOPAC in Suva, Fiji, to carry out capacity assessment and development activities in collaboration with SOPAC. The objective of this mission will be to support the establishment of SOPAC as a regional focal point for forest information management and assessment, as an early REDD+ action for the region.

### **Activities**

This targeted support will fund regional consultations and writing of the full proposal. Consultations and presentation of drafts of the proposal will be undertaken at two regional workshops: a Regional Forest Monitoring workshop in June in Nadi, Fiji, organised by SPC / JICA /GIZ with funding from the EU; and the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry meeting in September in Lae, Papua New Guinea. Following the consultation and drafting phase from May to September, the final version of the proposal will be compiled in October and submitted to donors in November.

The second activity will consist of a one to two week mission by two forest monitoring experts from FAO to the central office of SOPAC in Suva, Fiji, for capacity assessment and development activities.

### **Expected Outcomes (by Nov. 2012)**

- Completion of a regionally-endorsed proposal for a regional Pacific REDD+ monitoring and MRV support structure, to be submitted to international donors.
- Strengthened capacity of SOPAC to become a regional focal for forest information management and assessment for the Pacific region.

### **Budget**

\$100,000 from targeted support fund.

### **Tentative Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
May-Aug	Development of the first draft of the full proposal
June	Presentation of possible activities, assessment of national and international expertise and identification of needs at workshop coordinated by JICA, Nadi, Fiji; and mission of FAO forest monitoring experts to Fiji for technical and logistical consultations with SPC, SOPAC, GIZ and JICA
Aug	Distribution of the draft proposal to Pacific Heads of Forestry, in anticipation of the annual meeting in September
Sept	Presentation of the full proposal at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Forestry Meeting in Lae, Papua New Guinea
Sept-Oct	Incorporation of comments and feedback into the proposal
Nov	Submission of the proposal to international donors



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