To: Mr. Mario Boccucci
         Head, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
         International Environment House
         11-13 Chemin des Anémones
         CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

24 March 2014

Subject: Request for Targeted Support

Dear Mr Boccucci,

The governments of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands would like to extend their gratitude to the UN-REDD Programme for the positive response to the joint Targeted Support request sent to the Secretariat in April 2012, requesting funds for the development of a regional proposal to support forest monitoring and measurement in the Pacific. With the support of FAO/UN-REDD, these Targeted Support funds were used to develop the project proposal "Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific", in collaboration with Pacific Island Country (PIC) governments and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC).

With the lessons learned and enhanced capacities gained through the implementation of their UN-REDD National Programmes and the above-mentioned Targeted Support, PNG and the Solomon Islands would like to request further Targeted Support funds for the implementation of the first year of the above-mentioned project. As the two leading Pacific Island Countries in terms of forest cover, we are eager to leverage our expertise and capacities to provide strengthened support to the region – in addition to continuing to build upon our knowledge and experience base. In addition, this project will call upon the expertise of the Government of Fiji, who we expect will shortly submit a request to join the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the regional convening power of SPC.

Please find below an overview of the proposed activities and implementation arrangements for this Targeted Support.

Thank you very much for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Varigini Badira
UN-REDD National Programme Director
Office for Climate Change & Development
Government of Papua New Guinea

Dr Melchior Mataki
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,
Disaster Management and Meteorology
Government of the Solomon Islands

1

Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific

UN-REDD TARGETED SUPPORT REQUEST: GOVERNMENTS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

March 2014

Contents

1. Introduction

Global REDD+[1] capacity building efforts to date have most prominently focused on large tropical developing countries with high forest cover, though eligibility to participate in the mechanism extends to all developing countries. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are therefore eligible to benefit from the positive incentives that will be available through the implementation of REDD+ activities (under the expected post-2020 global climate agreement), the benefits of which go beyond mitigation to support adaptation, ultimately strengthening of the resilience of forest ecosystems in PICs.

Countries aiming to implement REDD+ activities under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are requested to generate information on their forests and begin monitoring change over time, using a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system. Tools recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD Programme) to generate such information include a multipurpose national forest inventory (NFI) and a satellite forest monitoring system. These tools require not only expertise for their design, but also technical capacities in countries to manage and update them over time.

Technical forest monitoring and measurement capacities are sparse and spread across PICs. Many PICs lack the technical capacity to monitor, measure and/or generate accurate data on the extent of their land resources. This is exemplified by the fact that few PICs have an NFI in place to regularly measure their forest resources. In addition, PIC governments possess limited technical capacities to monitor their forests and assess forest cover change over time.

1.1 REDD+ in the Pacific

Table 1 summarizes current REDD+ activities in the Pacific region. Among these, there is a notable paucity of 1) regional-level support and 2) technical support on the development and implementation of national forest monitoring systems.

The pressing need for this form of support was highlighted at the region's highest level in September 2012 through the Pacific Heads of Forestry Services (HOFS) forum. At this event, PIC government ministers endorsed a **regional REDD+ policy framework that requests a regional approach to support and capacity building on technical aspects of REDD+**.

Table 1. Projects in the Pacific region with explicit relevance to REDD+ readiness.

Project or Programme	Source of funds	Target countries	REDD+ Work Area	Implementing Agency	Duration	Budget (USD)
UN-REDD PNG National Programme	UN-REDD	PNG	Forest monitoring and MRV; benefit distribution; stakeholder engagement	Gov. of PNG	2011-15	6.4m

---

[1] Following Decision 1/CP.16 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), REDD+ stands for: *Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.*

Capacity development on forest resource monitoring for addressing climate change	JICA and Gov. of Japan	PNG	Forest monitoring; forest data management	Gov. of PNG	2011-14	11.25 m
Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries	Gov. of Germany (BMU)	Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	Regional REDD+ policy; national MRV in Vanuatu	SPC and GIZ	2010-15	6m
Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region	Gov. Of Germany (BMZ)	Fiji	Focused on adaptation but one component on REDD+ readiness in Fiji	SPC and GIZ	2009-2015	(part of) 18.8m
Governance and Implementation of REDD+ in Small Island Developing States	EU	Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	Governance	Live and Learn Environmental Education (LLEE)	2011-15	2.5m
UN-REDD Solomon Islands National Programme	UN-REDD	Solomon Islands	REDD+ strategy development	Gov. of Solomon Islands	2012-14	550,000

1.2 UN-REDD Targeted Support in the Pacific

In May 2012, the governments of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands request Targeted Support funds from the UN-REDD Programme to develop a regional project proposal to address the critical need for strengthened technical REDD+ support to PICs.

In collaboration with Secretariat for the Pacific Community's (SPC) Land Resources Division (LRD) and Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC), PIC government technical personnel, and GIZ, FAO/UN-REDD led the development of proposal, which was finalized in April 2013.

The objective of the project, entitled *Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific*, is to tackle the technical and capacity-related barriers faced by PICs for the development and implementation of national forest monitoring systems for REDD+.

This project directly responds to needs identified by Pacific countries on technical REDD+ issues that are not currently tackled in the region at the scale proposed by this project. Indeed, **there is currently no comprehensive regional support for technical capacity building on forest monitoring and measurement**. This project will be pioneering an area of work where little has been done to date and where needs among PICs are pressing. The project will foster regional technical collaboration and the deployment of technology, which will in return generate important economies of scale and numerous cooperation opportunities among PICs.

Through the present document, the governments of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are requesting UN-REDD Targeted Support funds to implement the first year of activities of this regional project. In parallel to this request, as a first step towards building closer ties with the Pacific region, the Government of Fiji is expected to submit a request to join the UN-REDD Programme in 2014.

2. Project Results Framework for 2014

Results	Implementing Partner	Indicator	Baseline	Target	MoV	Assumptions
Objective: PICs are able to independently produce national forestry data to 1) develop their national forest monitoring systems for REDD+ and/or 2) better inform land use policy and decision making	SPC: LRD and SOPAC	Systemic, individual and institutional capacities, key systems and frameworks for forest monitoring and inventory, at regional and national levels	Limited regional support for forest monitoring and inventory; no cohesive approach to regional capacity building on these	By the end of the project, PICs are able to autonomously and transparently generate forest monitoring and inventory data to support their national forest monitoring systems for REDD+	Project reports	Social, political and economic conditions in Fiji/the region do not deteriorate significantly and unexpectedly which disrupts project delivery PIC governments remain committed to participating in the project
Outcome 1: Awareness of and support for national forest monitoring systems for REDD+ is enhanced at the regional Pacific and international levels	LRD	National capacities on forest monitoring and inventory in the Pacific region	Limited knowledge and access to information on forest monitoring, inventory and REDD+ in the region	Within nine months of the start of the support, regional knowledge of NFMS for REDD+ and the regional support framework is enhanced	Annual PIC stakeholder surveys Project reports Mission reports	Project consultants are hired in timely manner PIC staff commit themselves to full participation in project activities
Output 1.1 Awareness of NFMS and the project is raised among PIC staff and other stakeholders	LRD	Level of knowledge of NFMS/MRV among PIC staff	Scoping missions (and reports) by FAO and SPC on extent of existing capacities in the region to carry out forest inventory and monitoring	Within 3 months, a communications strategy completed Within 9 months, NFMS workshop delivered for PIC staff	Workshop report Communications materials	Key partners confirm their mutual willingness to work and participate in awareness raising/training events Women are present at training events
1.2 International profile of the project is raised	FAO/LRD	Level of knowledge among international NFMS stakeholders	No pre-existing knowledge of the project	Within one year of the start of the support, the project coordinator has raised awareness of the project at one international meeting	Mission reports	Appropriate international fora and meetings are organized in 2014 that project staff can attend and provide information on the project

Results	Implementing Partner	Indicator	Baseline	Target	MoV	Assumptions
Outcome 2: A regional forest monitoring support facility and web-portal is established and training is delivered to PIC forestry staff	SOPAC	Existence of a Pacific forest monitoring facility and online web-portal Technical knowledge on forest monitoring among PIC staff	No regional forest monitoring support facility in place for the Pacific Limited knowledge among PIC staff on forest monitoring	After 6 months, regional forest monitoring facility is established	Project reports Online web-portal Stakeholder surveys Training manual	Sufficient and functioning telecommunications infrastructure to support the installation and maintenance of the monitoring platform and related hardware in SOPAC PICs commit to participating in training at the facility
2.1 An operational regional Pacific forest monitoring facility is established, including a web-portal for data sharing	SOPAC	Existence of a forest monitoring facility A freely accessible regional forest monitoring web-portal	No Pacific forest monitoring facility	After one year, the regional forest monitoring platform (web-portal) is freely accessible online	Project reports Online web-portal Data uploaded to the web-portal by PIC staff	Monitoring facility consultants are hired in timely manner, including a technical development specialist based in Rome Monitoring facility consultants receive initial training in Rome for one month All necessary equipment can be procured in timely manner
2.2 Technical forest monitoring and assessment (remote sensing and GIS) capacities of PIC staff are enhanced	SOPAC	PIC staff technical capacity to use remote sensing and GIS for forest monitoring	Technical capacities limited and dispersed across the region	After one year, three training courses on forest monitoring have been delivered to PIC staff at the facility	Forest monitoring training manual Project reports Training workshop reports	Training manual is developed by monitoring facility consultants in timely manner PNGFA staff are able to spare time to deliver training on Open Foris Collect Earth software to PIC staff
Outcome 3: A regional forest inventory support facility is established and regional inventory support is enhanced	LRD	Existence of a Pacific forest inventory facility Technical knowledge on forest inventory among PIC staff	Limited technical capacities and no cohesive regional technical support	After one year, PIC staff have received training through the regional facility and have enhanced technical knowledge to plan and execute inventory activities	Project reports Mission reports Training workshop reports	PICs commit to participating in training events

Results	Implementing Partner	Indicator	Baseline	Target	MoV	Assumptions
3.1 A regional Pacific forest inventory facility is established and responds to requests from PICs for technical support	LRD	Existence of a regional inventory facility Ability of the facility to proactively respond to requests for support	No regional inventory support facility	After six months, all consultants hired and one training workshop delivered After one year, inventory training manual finalised and two training workshops delivered	Forest inventory training manual Project reports Mission reports	Inventory facility consultants are hired in a timely manner PICs request targeted technical support/backstopping from the facility
3.2 Technical forest inventory capacities of PIC staff are enhanced	LRD	PIC staff capacities to independently plan and carry out forest inventory	Limited capacities among government staff in the region	After one year, two training courses have been delivered to PIC staff	Pacific inventory training manual Mission reports Project reports Training workshop reports	PIC staff participate in training workshops Forest inventory training manual is drafted in a timely manner

3. Implementation Arrangements

Results	Implementing Partner	Indicative activities for each Output	Indicative time frame			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Outcome 1: Awareness of and support for national forest monitoring systems for REDD+ is enhanced at the regional Pacific and international levels						
Output 1.1 Awareness of NFMS and the project is raised among PIC staff and other stakeholders	FAO / LRD	- Hire project coordinator and project communications assistant	▨			
		- Develop project communication strategy	▨			
		- Plan and deliver regional NFMS workshop		▨		
		- Distribute project communication materials		▨	▨	▨
1.2 International profile of the project is raised	FAO / LRD	- Identify strategically-important international meetings and fora	▨			
		- Project coordinator/LRD staff attend international meetings/fora			▨	▨
		- Project materials/updates are distributed to regional and global parties		▨	▨	▨
Outcome 2: A regional forest monitoring support facility and web-portal is established and training is delivered to PIC forestry staff						
2.1 An operational regional Pacific forest monitoring facility is established, including a web-portal for data sharing	SOPAC	- Hire project consultants and procure facility premises and equipment	▨			
		- Train facility consultants (one month in FAO-HQ)	▨			
		- Develop TOR (including technical hardware and software specifications) for the regional monitoring facility and web-portal	▨			
		- Procure all necessary data, software and hardware		▨		
		- Develop and operationalize the regional monitoring system and web-portal		▨	▨	▨
2.2 Technical forest monitoring and assessment (remote sensing and GIS) capacities of PIC staff are enhanced	SOPAC	- Develop TOR and TOC for the forest monitoring training manual		▨		
		- Coordinate drafting of sections and peer-review, and finalize the manual		▨		
		- Organize and deliver three two-week training courses on forest monitoring to PIC staff		▨	▨	▨
		- Host PIC staff in the facility for two-week periods to assess their national data (and upload to the web-portal)			▨	▨
		- Organize and deliver training course on FAO's Open Foris Collect Earth software, with support from PNGFA				▨
		- Respond to ad-hoc requests for technical forest monitoring support from PICs		▨	▨	▨
Outcome 3: A regional forest inventory support facility is established and regional inventory support is enhanced						
3.1 A regional Pacific forest inventory facility is established and responds to requests from PICs for technical support	LRD	- Hire project staff and procure facility premises	▨			
		- Procure inventory equipment necessary for responding to support requests		▨		
		- Disseminate information to PICs on availability of regional facility support		▨		
		- Respond to requests for technical support from PICs			▨	▨
3.2 Technical forest inventory capacities of PIC staff are enhanced	LRD	- Develop TOR and TOC for inventory manual document	▨			
		- Coordinate drafting of sections and peer review, and finalize first draft of the manual	▨	▨		
		- Procure equipment necessary for training		▨		
		- Organize and deliver first training course, and gather feedback		▨	▨	
		- Refine and finalize manual based on feedback			▨	
		- Organize and deliver second training course				▨

4. Summarized Budget Table

Consultants	317,000
Contracts (LoAs)	533,000
Travel	240,000
Procurement	200,000
Support from FAO staff	50,000
National MRV support to Solomon Islands	75,000
Total	**1,415,000**

5. Management and Implementation Arrangements

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities of PNG and the Solomon Islands in Project Implementation

The governments of PNG and the Solomon Islands want to play central roles in the delivery of regional technical support on national forest monitoring systems, by leveraging the capacities and lessons learned from the implementation of their UN-REDD National Programmes and the Targeted Support which was delivered through FAO/UN-REDD between 2012-2013.

5.1.1. Government of Papua New Guinea

PNG government officers will support the implementation of project activities through the following:

1. Deliver land use assessment training to Pacific Island government counterparts;
2. Play a lead role in the development of the regional training manual on forest inventory planning and implementation;
3. Host project staff to attend PNG's national forest inventory methodological design workshop;
4. Provide technical advice and share data for the regional Pacific forest monitoring system;
5. Participate in and provide technical input (e.g. through presentations) to regional workshops on national forest monitoring systems for REDD+, land use assessment/monitoring and forest inventory.

5.1.2. Government of the Solomon Islands

Solomon Island government officers will support the implementation of project activities through the following:

1. Provide technical support to the initial two-week field training course on forest inventory planning and implementation;
2. Host a two-week field training course (classroom- and field-based) on national forest inventory in a province of the Solomon Islands;
3. Play a lead role in the development of a regional training manual on forest inventory planning and implementation (based on lessons learned from the implementation of their Initial National UN-REDD Programme (2012-2014) and associated training);
4. Participate in and provide technical input (e.g. through presentations) to regional workshops on national forest monitoring systems for REDD+, land use assessment/monitoring and forest inventory.
5. Undertake, with the support of the project, the first national land use assessment and be the first country to implement operational national forest monitoring.

5.2 Implementation Arrangements

Project Steering Committee (PSC): The PSC will provide overall guidance and be responsible for the effective implementation of the project, the approval of annual workplans, budgets (AWP) and budget revisions, and overall monitoring and evaluation of progress made. The PSC will make decisions by consensus, and in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for results, cost-effectiveness, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

The PSC will be chaired by the Director of the Land Resources Division of SPC, or his/her designate. The Project Coordinator will join PSC meetings, as will a representative from FAO. Representatives of other organizations, Ministries, Departments/Agencies and development partners may be invited to join the PSC as observers or members. The PSC will meet at least three times a year and more often if necessary, to approve annual workplans and budgets and to review progress.

The Project Team will be comprised of:

- Project Coordinator (PC)
- Project Communications and Operations Assistant
- Head of Remote Sensing and GIS, SOPAC (already in place, funded by SPC)
- Monitoring Facility Assistants (x3)
- Monitoring Facility Systems Development Specialist
- Inventory Facility Assistants (x2)
- Forest Inventory Expert

6. Project Communications and Visibility

Communication is a vital part of this project. Regular and effective communication will be key to ensuring timely and effective organization and delivery of training events and dissemination of project activities and results. The communications assistant, with the guidance of the PC, will take the lead role in developing communication materials and work with SPC (LRD and SOPAC) to deliver these through their networks. Communications materials will include:

- Online news articles;
- Flyers/brochures;
- Workshop reports;
- Training reports and manuals;
- Press releases.

The project communications and operations assistant, with the support of the project coordinator, will establish communications focal points in all PICs to facilitate the capture of all relevant project-related activities and impacts. In addition to the collection of information, this approach will also underpin the dissemination of lessons learned and relevant information sources to all relevant PIC counterparts.

7. Project Sustainability

The expected end-of-project situation is that the project support team and infrastructure will be actively providing regional support to PICs to produce systems and data for the development of their national forest monitoring systems for REDD+. This first year will also yield a number of

stand-alone achievements that will advance the technical capacities and overall REDD+ readiness of a number of PICs. Firstly, a regional Pacific forest monitoring system will be developed, operationalized and managed by a regional organization (SPC) that will ensure continued utility for the monitoring of forestry activities in the region. Secondly, the project will produce training manuals on 1) forest monitoring and 2) forest inventory planning and implementation. These documents will allow countries to train current and future foresters in internationally-developed methodologies and standards (e.g. IPCC) that will enable the accurate and statistically robust measurement of forest carbon stocks and representation of land use. Beyond these products, the first year will build the capacity of PIC government counterparts through training workshops, field inventory training and class-based GIS and remote sensing training.

The central involvement of existing regional networks and national agencies is fundamental to this objective. SPC, as the regional agency responsible for REDD+ issues, will take forward its lead role in coordinating capacity building activities for PICs and managing communications. SOPAC, as host of the regional monitoring training facility and web-portal, will lead regional remote sensing and GIS training and data management. This role will be greatly facilitated through the project's promotion of open-source software tools for the development of the regional monitoring platform, as no software license fees have to be considered.

The forest inventory support delivered through this project aims to result in the implementation of multipurpose national forest inventories in PICs. Once PIC governments have received training and technical backstopping missions to their countries, as necessary, it is expected that knowledge of the design and implementation of inventory field data collection and data management will become institutionalized, and thus sustainable in the long term.