

SOLOMON ISLANDS

*(Initial NPD dated October 2010)***GOVERNANCE OF REDD+***To what extent does the R-PP promote good governance within REDD+ systems and processes?***Stakeholder participation in REDD+ planning and implementation**+ *Identifies relevant stakeholders for REDD+*+ *Specifically considers how to engage vulnerable groups*+ *Establishes procedures to ensure a transparent process and accountability for stakeholder input*- *Establishes a grievance / dispute resolution mechanism*+ *Considers how to learn and build from other relevant participatory processes*

Generating support for REDD+ readiness through transparent and accessible efforts to conduct education and consultation efforts is one of the key outcomes envisioned as part of initial Joint Programme efforts. Key outputs will include a process to ensure that the right of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is respected, and the NPD stresses the need for this engagement to be ongoing rather than a discrete event. The NPD lists key stakeholders for REDD+, including government agencies, development partners, and international and national level NGOs—including groups that represent human rights of indigenous peoples. Respect for human rights and a special emphasis on education and awareness-raising for women stakeholders is also stressed (p16). One proposed output of the NPD is a multi-stakeholder national REDD+ working group, which it states will be led by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and/or the Ministry of Forestry (p18). The working group will have balanced stakeholder representation, including other government agencies, NGOs, customary land owners and the private sector.

Initial efforts to engage stakeholders focus on improving understanding of the potential benefits and risks posed by REDD+, therefore the NPD does not explicitly discuss procedures or timelines for stakeholder engagement or feedback mechanisms in detail. It does propose to build on expertise from AusAID and stakeholder processes in other UN-REDD Programme countries. Finally, a grievance or dispute resolution mechanism for stakeholders is not discussed.

Recommendations:

- Outline a clear process for implementing the proposed efforts for awareness raising and for ongoing engagement of stakeholders
- Create a grievance or dispute resolution mechanism that will address stakeholder concerns during the process of developing and implementing readiness efforts and REDD+ activities

Government coordination in REDD+ planning and implementation+ *Considers REDD+ in the context of other sector policies, land use plans, and national development plans*+ *Proposes a process to reconcile potential conflicts between REDD+ strategies and other policies/plans*+ *Proposes effective mechanisms to coordinate REDD+ across sectors*+ *Proposes effective mechanisms to coordinate REDD+ across levels of government*

The NPD emphasizes the need to integrate REDD+ plans into existing national programs, and many of the challenges to be addressed in the initial national program are in line with the existing goals listed as part of the UN Development Assistance Framework for the Pacific Island States, as well as the Forestry Development Strategy (p6,8).

The R-PP recognizes that competing land uses such as industrial plantations, mining development, infrastructure and timber extraction all impact forest land in ways that are unlikely to be compatible with REDD+ goals and strategies (p7). The multi-stakeholder REDD+ working group is designed to help oversee the REDD+ process and coordinate efforts by including a range of government agencies and other stakeholder groups, however the NPD does not elaborate on specific mechanisms for managing the conflicts that may arise in this group (p18). The NPD does not specifically address whether coordination across levels of government is a necessity.

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*(Initial NPD dated October 2010)***Recommendations:**

- Clarify whether further methods of coordinating readiness efforts across levels of government is necessary
- Discuss how land use allocation decisions are typically made and what process might be developed for discussing competing goals such as expanding oil palm and reducing forest loss

Transparent and accountable REDD+ revenue management & benefit sharing

- *Proposes a transparent system to track and coordinate international financing of activities related to REDD+*
- *Considers measures to promote fiscal transparency and accountability for REDD+ revenue management*
- *Proposes a transparent process for deciding who should benefit from REDD+ and how benefits will be targeted*
- *Reviews lessons from past and/or existing systems for managing and distributing forest revenues*

The development of a transparent system for monitoring REDD+ revenues or deciding on sharing of benefits is not one of the key outputs of the initial National Joint Programme as described in the NPD. However, the NPD does raise some issues that will likely need to be considered if the Solomon Islands move forward with readiness processes with regards to the development of revenue management systems; weak governance structures and poor coordination of customary ownership groups are cited as challenges that contribute to elite capture or unequal sharing of benefits from logging agreements (p4). The NPD notes the need to build capacity of these customary ownership groups to apply their rights to a larger share of benefits from timber harvesting (p14). These issues could have important lessons in the future for deciding on who will benefit from REDD+ revenues and how these funds will be shared.

Recommendation:

- As a full NPD is developed in the future, discuss how REDD+ funds will be managed in a transparent and accountable manner, and consider lessons learned from any existing revenue sharing arrangements

Transparent monitoring and oversight of REDD+

- + *Proposes to establish information management systems for REDD+ that guarantee public access to information*
- *Proposes mechanisms for independent oversight of the implementation of REDD+ activities*
- *Proposes mechanisms to monitor efforts to address governance challenges*

The NPD proposes a comprehensive communication and education plan to help build stakeholder awareness and build the capacity of both government officials and local communities to be informed about REDD+. The NPD states that some mis-information about carbon trading has begun to circulate and intends to design an education program that will provide stakeholders with accurate information about REDD+. The specific systems or processes that will be used to ensure transparent and accessible information dissemination are not discussed in significant detail, although the commitment to informing stakeholders is clear. Specific mechanisms for oversight of REDD+ implementation, including monitoring of efforts to address governance, are not discussed at this initial stage in the program development.

Recommendations:

- Clarify how the communication program will make information publicly available and whether a system for managing and sharing information—including on overall implementation and efforts to address governance challenges—will be created

GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES FOR ADDRESSING DEFORESTATION DRIVERS*To what extent does the R-PP consider key forest governance challenges for achieving REDD+?***Land and forest tenure**

- + *Discusses the situation regarding land and forest tenure, including for indigenous peoples*
- *Considers the capacity of judicial and non-judicial systems to resolve conflicts and uphold the rights of citizens*

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*(Initial NPD dated October 2010)***-** *Links identified governance challenges to proposed REDD+ strategy options and implementation framework*

Local communities own 87% of the land area of the Solomon Islands based on customary tenure rights. Due to the high level of community ownership, the tenure situation discourages large-scale development efforts or setting aside of lands for public goods such as watershed management or conservation. The NPD notes that conflict can arise between landowners and developers over land development, although the capacity of the judiciary or existence of other mechanisms to deal with these conflicts is not discussed. Specific weaknesses or issues related to tenure and land administration systems that should be addressed as part of REDD+ readiness efforts are not identified.

Recommendations:

- Clarify whether judicial or other systems exist to help address conflicts between landowners and developers
- Discuss any weakness in the tenure rules or practice that would need to be addressed as part readiness efforts

Forest Management

+ *Discusses the ability of forest agencies to plan and implement forest management activities*

+ *Considers the role of different stakeholders, including communities, in forest management*

+ *Links identified governance challenges to proposed REDD+ strategy options and implementation framework*

The NPD identifies a series of issues that prevent the sustainable management of forests, including out-of-date legislation, uneven enforcement of laws and penalties, weak coordination and elite capture of revenues (p7). The dominant forest management activity in the Solomon Islands is commercial logging. Since 87% of land is owned by local communities, negotiations occur between logging companies and local communities or tribes. The current Forest Development Strategy for 2009-2013 attempts to promote more sustainable management practices through efforts such as monitoring compliance with prescribed logging practices, updating log export databases, implementing a national forestation program, reviewing forest legislation and developing timber milling and other processing facilities to assist local stakeholder groups in management activities (p8). The NPD proposes some additional future plans to address forest management weaknesses by improving forest data such as concession boundaries and creating a REDD+ “roadmap” that will in part identify forest governance gaps and document activities to improve them (p18).

Recommendation:

- Provide more detail on which institutions or groups have forest management responsibilities and identify whether capacity building efforts will be required as part of a REDD+ strategy

Forest Law Enforcement

+ *Discusses the ability of law enforcement bodies to effectively enforce forest laws*

- *Discusses efforts to combat corruption*

+ *Links identified governance challenges to proposed REDD+ strategy options and implementation framework*

Among the governance challenges discussed in the NPD is the current weak application of rule of law and ineffective law enforcement (p4). The NPD notes that penalties for infractions such as poor management or illegal logging are rarely imposed on offending companies, enforcement is not able to curb smuggling or mislabeling of products that leads to loss of revenue from the forest sector, and legal proceedings have prohibitively high costs. The NPD states that improving efforts to enforce existing laws, as well as the need to update out of date legislation, will be significant components of the REDD+ strategy as it is developed in more detail. Issues of corruption are not discussed in the NPD.

Recommendation:

- Clarify whether corruption is an ongoing challenge for forest law enforcement efforts that is linked to identified problems such as smuggling or loss of revenue

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*(Initial NPD dated October 2010)***Other Forest Governance Issues Relevant for REDD+**

- + *Discusses other forest governance issues that are relevant for REDD+*
- + *Links identified governance challenges to proposed REDD+ strategy and implementation framework*

The NPD clearly recognizes the importance of improving governance as part of readiness efforts and identifies a series of forest governance challenges including out of date legislation and poor enforcement. Planned outputs such as development of a REDD+ roadmap will help clarify the types of reforms and activities that are needed to address these challenges.

Recommendation:

- Clarify the process that will be used to develop the roadmap for REDD+ and the types of background studies that may be necessary to help formulate concrete REDD+ strategies to address forest governance challenges