

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE
Regional project
Climate Protection through Forest Conservation
in Pacific Island Countries

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany



**Climate Protection through
Forest Conservation**

REED+ in Pacific Island Countries

Final Project Report



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Climate Protection through Forest Conservation

REED+ in Pacific Island Countries

Final Project Report

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On behalf of:



of the Federal Republic of Germany

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Executive summary

The geographical situation and their sensitive ecosystems make the Pacific island countries especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change even though they have hardly contributed to the factors causing these changes. REDD+ offers the larger Pacific Island Countries' communities two potential benefits in that it can stop or even reverse the loss of important functions of the rainforests as well as provide additional income through the sale of forest carbon.

The regional organization *Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)* with the support of GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and with funding from the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) developed regional and national policies as well as technical and institutional capacities for the implementation of REDD+. The project was designed in 2009. It began operations as a collaboration between SPC and GIZ in 2011. The approved regional project secured a funding of 4.9 Million Euros for four years until the end of October 2014. Original project life span was extended to September 2015 given the late start in 2011. The regional components, Pacific regional REDD+ policy framework, information platform and regional support structures were supposed to benefit all 14 SPC member countries and territories, but national REDD readiness activities focused on Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. These countries were then at different stages in terms of moving towards REDD+ Readiness.

The project goal was set as: *The conservation of forest ecosystems in the Pacific Island Countries is supported in order to mitigate climate change and protect biodiversity.* The project comprised of three components: 1. Regional REDD+ Policy: The Pacific Island Countries have a joint, coherent framework for the implementation of REDD+; 2. REDD+ Information Platform: The implementation of REDD+ activities in the Melanesian PICs is qualitatively improved through the use of a regional and supraregional information and support platform; 3. REDD+ Readiness: Central elements of REDD+ are implemented in 3 countries. In one country this leads to the fulfilment of the requirements to participate in REDD+. Project implementation began with a series of national planning workshops with a wide variety of local stakeholders that explained the project and the concept behind REDD+ as well as allowed first input from local stakeholders as to possible demonstration sites.

This first component achieved its goal two years ahead of time upon request by a technical meeting of forest services in the south Pacific. The regional policy framework was formulated through a series of participatory events and with assistance from an international consultant. It was endorsed by the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services in September 2012, and has been used as a reference for member countries in setting their own agenda on how to move towards REDD+ Readiness. It lays out options and recommendations on all aspects of REDD+, gives information on needed information and training and offers options for regional support as well as international engagement. Feedback on the regional policy framework has been quite good with only a few critical voices concerned that the level of understanding of REDD+ is still too low.

The second component comprised two parts: the setting up of an information platform on the internet and capacity building for partner organisations concerning REDD+ readiness. The information platform went online in November 2014 after several delays due to organisational issues. Unfortunately, the site was hacked and severely damaged just two weeks later and was off-line until September 2015. Since internet service accessibility is often low for local stakeholders as well as for members of national forest services, the platform was designed with a more supply-oriented approach. This choice is reasonable since the project's website, considered a temporary substitute for a proper platform based in a partner organisation (SPC), has recorded a very high number of hits and downloads of important documents (over 26,000).

The project conducted 34 trainings with up to 750 participants and organised two study tours to Indonesia to show REDD+ experiences as well as sustainable logging operations there. These opportunities for capacity building were in general well received. During the first two years of the project, most training concerned general understanding of REDD+. During the last two years, trainings were more focused on technical issues related to Readiness and demonstration activities. As a result, target groups in the partner countries were enabled to develop cross-sector work plans to achieve REDD+ Readiness and begin with their implementation.

The third component consisted of two sets of activities: a process of providing advisory services to relevant actors in each of the four countries in order to advance towards REDD+ Readiness and REDD+ demonstration activities carried out in well selected sites. The original objectives and indicators for the component aimed for full Readiness in one country and elements of Readiness developed in two further countries. This target was set under the assumption that the international REDD+ negotiations would come to a conclusion concerning the technical details of how measuring, reporting and verifying systems as well as reference emission levels should be set up. However, this did not happen until November 2013, which did not allow the project to achieve these targets. Instead, the project shifted its activities towards assisting three countries (Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu) in formulating strategies on how to achieve Readiness based on the format of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility hosted by the World Bank. In order to achieve this, methodologies specific to individual country circumstances were piloted and refined at demonstration sites. The sites allowed for further testing and developing of tools as well as for building capacity of local stakeholders as well as of national forest service members in the areas of MRV and REL. During these demonstration activities as well as through the analyses done at national level for the Readiness strategies, it became clear, that the reversal of forest degradation would be a more effective way of storing carbon than fighting against forest losses. The project conducted numerous detailed studies some of which analysed the carbon rights and the legal framework relating to REDD+ at a national level and others that analysed site specific technical issues relating mainly to REL and MRV. These studies were crucial for the formulation of the Readiness strategies.

By the end of 2014, all three countries had finalised their Readiness strategies and these have been accepted so that new funding is or will be available to set up REDD+ units that will be responsible for the actual move towards Readiness.

As a result of the activities in REDD+ pilot sites, additional communities expressed interest in implementing local REDD+ projects as an alternative to timber harvesting.

The overall assessment of the project is positive considering that the original targets for the third component were, in hindsight, too optimistic. Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that the project could have done better in monitoring more closely training outcomes as well as the use of the regional policy framework. Communication with direct partners was considered good but some deficits were seen regarding communication with local stakeholders. The capacity building was well received and the especially the flexibility of the project that allows it to assist needs of partners in a time critical manner was much appreciated by partners.

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Abbreviations

BMUB	German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
CCCPIR	'Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region' GIZ project
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPIC	Free, Prior, Informed Consent
GCP	Global Canopy Program
ghg	green-house gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NFMPP	Natural Forest Management Pilot Project (Fiji)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PIC	Pacific Island Country
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PNGFA	Papua New Guinea Forest Authority
PRFTM	Pacific Regional Forestry Technical Meeting
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from forest Degradation and Deforestation
REL	Reference Emission Level
R-PP	Readiness- Preparation Proposal
SFM	sustainable forestry management
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard

1 Context and Rational for the Project

Their geographical situation coupled with their sensitive ecosystems make the Pacific island countries especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change even though they have hardly contributed to the factors causing these changes. Climate models predict that extreme weather events (storms, floods, droughts) in the Pacific will become more intensive and/or frequent and that sea-levels will rise. This threatens not only physical infrastructure, settlements, agricultural areas and fresh water resources upon which the island inhabitants directly rely but also the unique biodiversity of land and marine ecosystems upon which humans rely indirectly.

The ecosystems featuring the highest forest cover as well as the highest biodiversity include the natural rainforests in the larger Pacific island states Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG). These ecosystems provide for the subsistence of a majority of the rural population and contribute to the national economy in a substantial way, mainly through timber exports.

When the project was being designed in 2009, sub-standard logging practices by private companies and uninhibited deforestation by local communities contributed to uncontrolled forest cover loss and increased CO₂ emissions. However, there was little reliable data on deforestation rates in most Pacific island countries, and there was also a lack of effective policies and instruments to ensure long-term forest protection.

Many stakeholders saw REDD+ as a two-fold opportunity to stop and reverse forest loss in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs). The anticipated carbon financing in the context of REDD+ could provide a new source of income as an alternative to logging. On the other hand, the multiple functions of rainforests could be maintained and enhanced in the long run. This would be in-line with the traditional attitude of the local communities to preserve the forest as a heritage for the coming generations.

The PICs feature substantial differences with regard to their forestry. The majority of the PICs do not have sufficient forest cover to make full implementation of a REDD+ scheme feasible but could probably benefit from individual measures or participate in a grouped approach. Requirements were unclear then and remain uncertain today. Four countries, possibly five were deemed to have sufficient forest resources to allow full implementation of REDD+ measures. These were Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.



Figure 1: Map of the south Pacific with the four main partner countries highlighted

Fiji started a REDD+ readiness process in 2009 with support from the BMZ/GTZ programme 'Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region' (now renamed to "Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region", CCCPIR). In Vanuatu, first steps were made to develop a roadmap to REDD+ but the means for mid- and long-term implementation were not secured. The Solomon Islands showed extremely

high deforestation rates and very much dependent on the export earnings from logging, but had not engaged much in REDD+ activities. The potential for reducing green-house gas (ghg) emissions was the highest in Papua New Guinea due to its extensive forest resources. PNG was also seen as the country with the most dynamic initiatives on REDD+ in the region.

The interest was there, some initiatives had already been undertaken and some donors were already engaged in or planning future contributions. Thus, the idea was born for a project to support the Pacific Island Countries according to their level of interest, advancement with REDD+ and potential for mitigating effects. The planning process for the project supported by the German Ministry of the Environment and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) began in 2009 and implementation on the ground started in April 2011.

2 Project Concept and Objectives

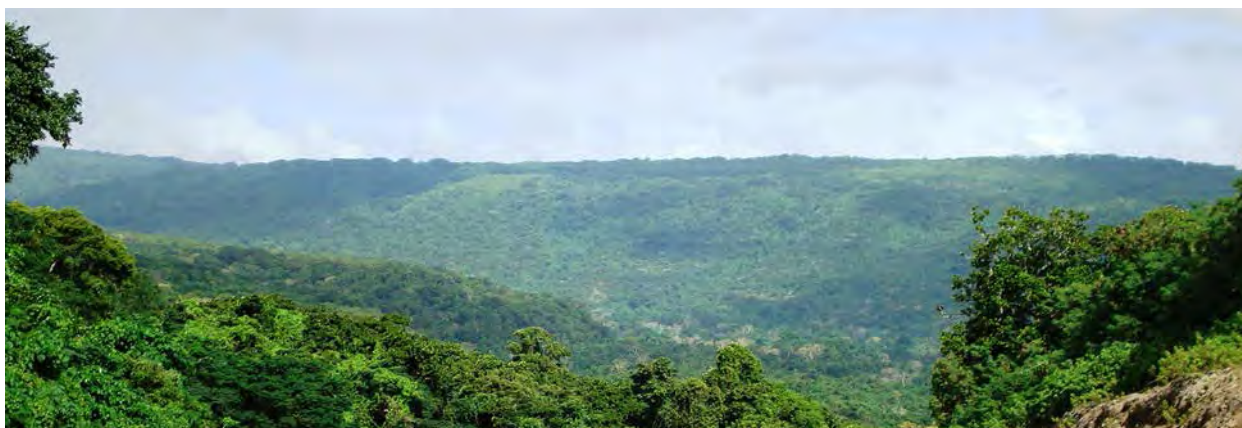
In accordance with the basic ideas of REDD+ as being discussed at the international level, the **overriding project goal** was set as:

The conservation of forest ecosystems in the Pacific Island Countries is supported in order to mitigate climate change and protect biodiversity.

The project design took the different starting positions of the PICs into account. The island states are very small in the international context, have limited financial resources and capacities and are, with the notable exception of PNG, hardly visible at the international debate on REDD+. The Pacific Island Countries typically try to align and connect their policy sectors and strategies on a regional level. This helps to improve their political clout in international negotiations. Therefore, the **first component** of the project was planned as a regional support to the PICs:

1. Regional REDD+ Policy: The Pacific Island Countries have a joint, coherent framework for the implementation of REDD+

The regional approach was intended to deliver added value in three regards: First, by creating synergies and reducing resources required for the advice on technical and conceptual elements in the countries (economies of scale). Second, the cross-national political support of REDD+ through a regional framework reduces the risk of leakage, gives the PICs more weight with regard to international negotiations about REDD+ within the UNFCCC process. Third, the regional policy framework would give guidance to all countries interested in adapting policies, legislation and regulations aimed at moving towards REDD+.



REDD+ was a very new concept and few people had any deeper knowledge of it when the project was being designed. It was clear that a lot of work had to be done to raise awareness levels about REDD+, educate various stakeholders and improve the exchange of knowledge and experiences around REDD+. This led to the second component:

2. REDD+ Information Platform: The implementation of REDD+ activities in the Melanesian PICs is qualitatively improved through the use of a regional and supranational information and support platform.

The main theme of this component was to improve knowledge of all aspects of REDD+. Therefore, the component was also meant to cover training activities as well as exchanges and study tours.

In the year 2009, international negotiations looked promising and it was assumed that within a few years a functional REDD+ scheme would be designed and approved. While in hindsight this might seem overly optimistic, BMUB was not alone in having this positive outlook. With the clear expectation of having a REDD+ system with carbon credits up and running within a few years, the project had to support PICs to get to the point of being able to participate in it as soon as possible. This led to the formulation of the third and final component:

3. REDD+ Readiness: Central elements of REDD+ are implemented in 3 countries. In one country this leads to the fulfilment of the requirements to participate in REDD+.

This component combined working towards REDD+ Readiness at the national level with experiential learning from local demonstration sites. The original intent was to lead one country to full REDD+

Readiness and to assist two other countries in implementing elements of REDD+ Readiness, without specifying which elements these might be. As will be explained later in detail, this turned out to be too optimistic in view of the slow progress of the international negotiations on REDD+, which still are not concluded.

The programme was implemented in close collaboration with the Land Resources Division of SPC and its Forest and Trees programme. In the individual PICs assisted, the ministries responsible for forestry were designated as the focal points.

3 Project results

The project started on the ground in April 2011 when it held its first general planning workshop in Fiji. In June and July of the same year one national planning workshop was conducted in each of the other Melanesian countries Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. The planning workshops included staff from national forestry departments, NGOs, representatives of other development partners as well as selected stakeholders. All workshops went through the same steps:

- Analysis of the state of affairs concerning REDD+ in the respective country,
- Analysis of the various stakeholders concerned with REDD+,
- Pre-assessment of a list of potential demonstration sites,
- Introduction to the project and what kind of support could be expected from the project and
- Discussion of regional aspects concerning the proposed regional policy framework (component 1) as well as the regional information platform.



This start-up phase was accompanied by a series of introductory trainings for various stakeholders. These workshops were intended to improve knowledge about REDD+ and clarify opportunities and challenges for all concerned countries.

3.1 Component 1: Regional REDD+ Policy Framework

By the time the meeting of the Pacific Regional Forestry Technical Meeting (PRFTM) was held in September 2011 in Nadi, Fiji, the project had undertaken numerous discussions with all relevant stakeholders to better reflect on how to go about formulating a regional policy framework as well as to raise awareness of its value. During the PRFTM, intensive discussions led to the formulation of a roadmap with detailed planning and directions on how to finalise the regional policy framework and also to accelerate the process. It was considered important by many states that such a framework be put in place as soon as possible. This would help countries to plan and make decisions on how to go about their individual REDD+ strategies or, if a full blown strategy did not seem relevant because of the increasingly stringent requirements of REDD+, to focus on improving their forestry practices in order to participate in other useful ways. A list of forestry concerns of smaller states was drawn up that was then discussed as to how REDD+ could possibly address these issues.

The PRFTM decided on a roadmap that would allow the regional policy framework to be endorsed at the next meeting of the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services a year later.

Based on the results of the meeting in September 2011, a consultant was hired to write a first draft. In order to do this, an inventory and assessment of national forest policies and relevant implementation activities including local priorities and preferences, other related national programmes and initiatives was made. Also, an analysis of the drivers of deforestation on a regional level was undertaken, taking into account all relevant factors leading to deforestation and forest degradation.

A drafting committee was convened and the first draft was discussed during a meeting in April 2012. The second draft resulting from this was sent to all stakeholders for written commentary. In a parallel activity, other regional policies were analysed and relevant linkages were identified and also included in the second draft. This national and regional multi-sector consultation process was very intensive and involved stakeholders from governments, including non forest sector ministries, non-governmental organizations, development partners and civil society.



The drafting committee discussed the second draft and then proceeded to submit a final draft to the Meeting of the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services in September 2012, which endorsed the regional policy framework. With that, the success indicator of this component was achieved, a full two years ahead of schedule. This had the additional benefit that the framework could now help guide member countries in their efforts toward REDD+. An analysis of what REDD+ means in view of the diverse nature of the Pacific Island Countries was now available.

The document describes the framework conditions and options for the development of national policies and regional cooperation aimed at the achievement of REDD+ Readiness. The main content of the framework can be summarised as:

- A structured presentation of options and recommendations concerning all aspects of current and future REDD+ programmes, specifically identifying differentiated options for REDD+ Readiness and implementation, reference emission levels (REL), measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) processes and safeguards;
- recommendations for information, training and education;
- options for regional support and international engagement.

SPC was mandated to provide technical advisory support as well as to coordinate the cooperation between the countries. Technical support will also be extended to small island countries which will not participate in the REDD+ mechanism but wish to improve their forestry practices in terms of mitigating climate change.

At the beginning of the process, some objectives were formulated that the framework should fulfil.

Objective	Result
1. Information of PICs concerning REDD+:	The process involved all interested countries at different stages and used meetings as opportunities to further educate stakeholders on REDD+.
2. Guidance concerning if and how	The framework was subsequently used by PICS to guide their national REDD+ Readiness processes.
3. Improved collaboration	The framework itself is a testament to the close collaboration between countries. During the consultation process in every country, workshops were held where not only forestry services participated but also other relevant national ministries as well as the private sector, civil society organizations, land (forest) owners and relevant educational institutions. This allowed the idea of REDD+ to spread beyond the forest sector.

4. Guide development of regional support structures	SPC was mandated to provide advisory services to individual countries. This is ongoing and well perceived.
5. Basis for donor contributions	The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) applications of Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu have already been approved. This means that funds will be made available for the setting up of a REDD+ secretariat with sufficient staff and budget to further guide the process towards REDD+ Readiness.

Table 1: Comparison of planned and realised results concerning the Regional Policy Framework

In the evaluation survey conducted by the project as well as in the evaluation workshop, feedback on the regional policy framework was quite positive, overall, even though there were some concerns. As the most interesting aspects, participants listed not only general assessments such as:

- Regional collaboration,
- It was successful in bringing Pacific Island Countries together over the common issue of REDD+,
- Useful-as a starting point for countries to think about REDD+,
- It provides useful policy options for countries and institutions to consider. And it supports joint regional efforts which suits the Pacific island countries' situations,

but also quite specific issues where the framework gives recommendations:

- Deforestation analysis and MRV manual,
- Safeguards, information, training and education,
- Legal analysis on Carbon Rights and REDD+ framework,
- Proposed REDD+ benefits sharing system, and
- The flexibility to enable "nested" or hybrid approaches within or alongside national level schemes is important.

The concerns raised were mainly related to the low level understanding of REDD+ which was still not good enough:

- The concept of REDD+ under the UNFCCC was still misunderstood, or not at all understood, in the Pacific, and the development of a regional REDD+ policy was a missed opportunity for facilitating a greater understanding.
- Level of awareness-raising was insufficient to enable countries to know what they were signing up to.

Asked about how the regional framework was being used in different countries, the responses were somewhat muted. This could be explained by the progress that was followed over the last two years. Most countries had moved on in their quest for achieving REDD+ Readiness and while the regional policy framework was a useful document at the beginning, other more technical questions had become important in stakeholders' minds. Since there had been little progress in adapting national policies and legislation to the new challenges in forestry in the Solomon Islands, it was not surprising that the following comments were made by participants from that country:

- The regional Policy framework on REDD+ needed to be recognized by the national government through respective ministries and should form the guiding principles in the national REDD+ strategies and, as such, must be referenced clearly so that recognition was understood.
- Needed national workshop on the regional REDD+, and the level of commitment to the MRV component - especially badly needed are national inventories in most countries...bases to justify effective regional and national REDD+ programs.

Overall, the success of this component manifested itself in the statements from most stakeholders. If in some countries the opportunities offered by the framework were not taken up it was entirely the country's legitimate choice and should not diminish the framework's value. The concern about not having used the framework as a vehicle to further the spreading of awareness and knowledge of REDD+ was legitimate. If the framework had been elaborated in a much more lengthy process it was probable that more awareness-raising would have happened. It is probable however, that the benefits from having such a framework early in the project cycle outweigh the disadvantages. Many countries needed the guidance offered through the document itself and through the surrounding discussion and reflection processes. This does not absolve all relevant actors however, from the need for further awareness raising and educational activities to improve knowledge about REDD+ at stakeholder and government agency levels.

3.2 Component 2: REDD+ Information Platform

While this component deals with information and knowledge in general, it has two distinct parts: first the idea was to establish an internet platform that would be inter-active with links to interested parties and to all kinds of information and expertise in the region and potentially in other regions. Second, the component harbours all training and awareness raising activities, from the general information about REDD+ to training on the intricate details of MRV.

The first step in establishing the internet platform was to assess the needs as well as the accessibility of the internet during the national planning workshops conducted in June and July of 2011. It became very clear during the discussions that there was a strong need for more information and access to knowledge and expertise but that the access of most participants was quite limited because of poor internet connections on many islands as well as the lack of internet-connected computers at the workplace. The experiences of the existing SPC "help desk" were also informative in that its use was minimal.

Therefore, the initial success indicator premised on a high number of requests that was matched by a high level of expertise in matching answers was deemed not suited for the situation prevailing in the PICs. What was needed was a more supply-oriented approach.

The participants of the national planning workshops also made up lists of items they would like to see realised in the information platform:

Wishlist	Realised
A repository of all relevant documents pertaining to basic information about REDD+, REDD+ policies, strategies, tools, initiatives, consultancies, case studies, best practices, REDD+ projects etc. Screening should be done to include only regionally relevant documents.	Repository contains all REDD+ documents. Filter allows search according to countries and region
Rating system for REDD+-related documents as well as a brief summary of each document	Documents are tagged for search purposes and summary is provided
Calendar of events	Not realized
Include REDD+ in SPC's "Help Desk" facility	SPC Help desk has been extended to REDD+ and is accessible through the platform (only 7 REDD+ requests since 2011)
Directory of resources: institutions, experts with descriptions of expertise	An address book lists all relevant institutions. A public list of consultants was not included for privacy reasons after consultation with legal experts.
Topical discussion forums	Not realised but exists through the <i>Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network (PAFNet)</i> website, which sees little traffic.

Provide continuous updates on the international discussion	Not realized, is taken care of by other international REDD websites.
Publication of tenders concerning REDD+	Not realized, is taken care of by other international websites.
Email service to inform about new documents uploaded during the last period	Not realized.

Table 2: Comparison of desired and realised elements of the information platform

The next step was to decide on the most appropriate technology and an appropriate host that would guarantee a sustainable service for the years to come. There were initial considerations to piggy-back on an existing service but this option was discarded for technical reasons. In the end, the project formed a partnership with the “REDD Desk” run by the Global Canopy Program (GCP, which is a tropical forest think-tank based in Oxford). This promised to provide a solid base as well as access to global expertise and inspiration through GCP’s other connections and activities.

However, GCP underwent some internal reorganisation (restructuring of the "REDD Desk", loss of employees responsible for the information platform), and the set-up of the hardware at SPC, the regional host, was more difficult than anticipated. This caused various delays. In the meantime, documents were gathered and a large collection of resources was assembled to be eventually positioned in the information platform. Finally, in November 2014, the platform went online during an event hosted by SPC and the project. (www.reddplus-pacificislands.info).

Unfortunately, the website was hacked only two weeks later which caused considerable damage and the site had to be taken off-line. Even though a monitoring system was put in place to analyse what kind of traffic the site generated, it made little sense to analyse that data over such a short period. The reconstruction of the site was more complex than expected. The information platform did not come back online until September 2015.

In the meantime, REDD+ related documents and a helpdesk were made available and used under the SPC-hosted project website [SPC/GIZ "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Islands"](#), which was publicised on the Forest-L mailing list. Next to a general description of the project and its objectives, this website contains a substantial list of REDD+ related documents, all reports produced in the course of the project as well as an option to download relevant video material. Until June 2015, the website had registered the following hits:

Type of hit	Number of hits
Document hits	17,720
Direct website hits	5,855
Hits on the objectives page	235
Hits on the video report page	78
Hits on the studies and reports compilation page	172
Total hits	24,060

Table 3: Hits and downloads on project web page

It is interesting to see which materials were hit the most. The following table gives an overview of how different subject matter fared.

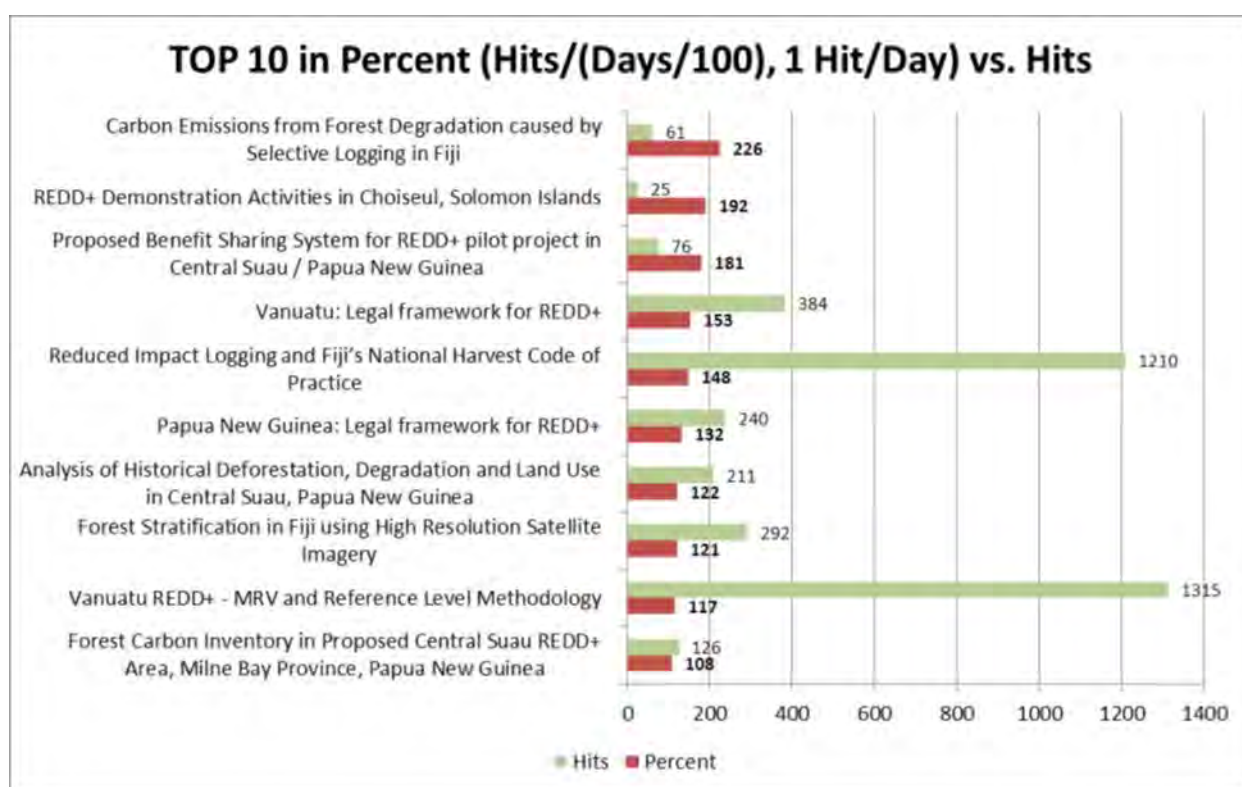


Table 4: Top 10 downloaded documents: average number of hits per day since uploading (percent) versus total hits

User capacities in the Pacific Islands are not well developed, which explained the fact that most requests came from institutions with advanced infrastructure (universities, larger Pacific Island Countries, countries outside the Region).

The high number of hits confirmed the analysis that an information platform was needed. When the reconstructed website comes online again, one can be confident that it would see similar if not more traffic. With that, the indicator should be fully achieved.

One of the principal project tasks was to build capacity of stakeholders (forest service members, land owners, others) concerning REDD+ in general as a potential economic opportunity as well as concerning different REDD+ technical elements. These tasks tie in with the first as well as the third component (advising the partner countries in the development of their national REDD+ strategies).

Within the scope of regional exchange, numerous individuals from the target countries were trained in an array of methods. Workshops and trainings, study tours, on-the-job trainings and direct advisory services were carried out in an intensive manner to build capacity in the partner countries.

29 representatives from 4 Pacific Island Countries and from the implementing partner SPC participated in two study tours to Indonesia, where participants discussed the challenges of the Indonesian national REDD+ policy and visited sustainably managed forest concessions (forest certification, application of Reduced Impact Logging, reforestation etc.) in central Kalimantan. Feedback received from the evaluation survey shows that the practical aspects of actually seeing implementation of SFM and forest certification on the ground was encouraging to participants to overcome difficulties they were experiencing in their own countries.



After their return, representatives from public forest departments, indigenous populations and private timber industry reported back, highlighting the potential of Reduced Impact Logging for the reduction of forest degradation. Furthermore, they demonstrated an increased interest in how the indigenous population could be involved in and to benefit from forest concessions. The value of sustainable forest management

(SFM) seemed also to have become more clear and practical as indicated in responses to the evaluation survey.

During the project period, 34 trainings with approximately 750 participants were conducted (some possible double counts of participants in regional and national events). The focus of the trainings ranged from general awareness-raising to specialized capacity building, especially in remote sensing, forest carbon inventory, forest monitoring systems and strategy development. The evaluation survey indicated that the workshops on carbon rights and the legal framework were particularly well received by participants. Since the analysis of these aspects supplies the framework for further work on REDD+ these workshops might be in such high esteem because they connected to, hitherto, theoretical concepts of REDD+ to the reality of each country and made REDD+ more accessible for stakeholders.

Furthermore, the project supported on-the-job trainings: 2 individuals from Vanuatu were posted in Fiji for several months and trained in the use of geographic information systems (GIS). One individual from Vanuatu was contracted by the project for 2.5 years to carry out the preparation of a forest inventory using remote sensing.

External consultancies were in many cases commissioned to be jointly implemented by international and national consultants. This way, national consultants were able to benefit from training in the elaboration of reports according to international standards while international consultants are able to acquire high degrees of regional knowledge and valuable insights - both of which will contribute to improve the quality of future consultancies.

The forest inventories in Santo / Vanuatu, Nakavu / Fiji and Milne Bay / Papua New Guinea were carried out in cooperation with staff from the respective national forest services as well as by local community members, a task for which all were trained upfront as well as during in the process.

As a result, target groups in the partner countries were enabled to develop cross-sector work plans to achieve REDD+ Readiness and to begin with implementation. This included an array of different elements, such as the participation in the elaboration of a national REDD+ mechanism, the development of a national forest monitoring and reporting system, the planning and implementation of demonstration activities and the analysis of legal frameworks. Resulting from the enhanced capacities, the prerequisites for sustainable forest management were improved.

The evaluation survey asked how participants felt about the level of understanding of REDD+ currently achieved by the main actors in their respective organisations. The response was somewhat sobering as only a few thought that understanding was good. The majority thought that understanding was acceptable and a still significant number thought that understanding was insufficient. A possible explanation for this was that while in each country there were a few people who had been working on REDD+ continuously for a number of years, most people in the organisations only had periodic exposure or none at all. In spite of the national workshops on REDD+ as well as the regional policy framework, it appeared that further training and educational as well as awareness activities on REDD+ would still be required. This would ensure that the wide impact the implementation of REDD+ might eventually have would be fully understood and accordingly taken into account at all levels of forestry operations as well as in the design of programmes. The

survey also showed that MRV was still rated as the most complex issue that would require the most additional training.

3.3 Component 3: Redd+ Readiness and Demonstration Activities

The content of this component is best viewed as two sets of activities that are intimately linked but operationally quite distinct: (i) a process of providing advisory services to relevant actors in each of the four countries in order to advance towards REDD+ Readiness and (ii) REDD+ demonstration activities carried out in well selected sites. The lessons from the sites would inform the development of the national Readiness efforts and elements of these would be tested or piloted in demonstration sites.

As already indicated above, the original indicators here targeted full Readiness in one country with reference emission levels (REL) and measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems established in one country and elements of Readiness established in two further countries. The indicators were formulated in 2009 on the basis of the optimism that reigned at the time concerning the progress of international negotiations on REDD+. It was fully expected that within a few years a functioning system at the international level would be established or at least the detailed requirements for compliance with international standards would be adopted. This turned out to be too optimistic. After tough negotiations, the international standards on data collection, documentation and reporting were finalised at the Warsaw Conference of Parties in November 2013, which paved the way for more detailed preparation of MRV systems and REL. However, subsequent negotiations put into question this deal and today there was still no clarity on what a future REDD+ system would look like as important aspects of the deal were being contested.

In this situation, the project rightly determined that it should set its sights much lower and aimed for the interested countries to formulate by the end of the project a strategy that would lay out in detail how they would go about achieving Readiness. The indicators were never formally reviewed or rewritten, so that the evaluation must decide which measuring stick to use for assessing the project's progress. The choice made here was a pragmatic one, as the way the international negotiations were progressing made the achievement of the original indicators impossible. Therefore, it was only reasonable to assess the project against its new strategy, even though new indicators were never formulated.



The new more realistic targets became the formulation of national REDD+ Readiness strategies with (ii) the parallel establishment of demonstration sites in all the three countries. For the sake of readability, these two main activities are presented separately while linkages between them are highlighted.

National REDD+ Readiness advisory process

The national REDD+ Readiness strategies were to lay out what exactly would have to be done in order to achieve Readiness. They would also provide the documentary basis for accessing various programmes and funding facilities for the implementation of activities contained in the Readiness strategies.

Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu chose to pursue the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) format. This offered the most realistic and short term potential for funding. In order to access this funding, the countries needed to formulate a Readiness - Preparation Proposal (R-PP). These were basically strategic plans on how to

achieve REDD+ Readiness and served also as the basis for funding from FCPF to assist in getting to Readiness (implementation of the Readiness strategy). The R-PPs covered four main components: appropriate institutional set-up, adequate REDD+ national policy/strategy/legislation, a functional MRV system and the establishment of REL. The project assisted the selected countries in formulating the R-PPs, at times in a lead position, mainly however, with complementary but important activities in addition to other development partners' efforts (especially Fiji and PNG). These activities included assistance in managing the overall process, bringing in experienced international consultants who had formulated R-PPs in other countries to assist in formulating R-PPs as well as the incorporation of experiences from the demonstration sites and other related activities.

Because of delays in the adoption of new forest policies that would allow them to proceed with REDD+ , the project decided to pursue activities in the Solomon Islands at demonstration sites only and not to put much emphasis on the national REDD+ Readiness process.

The original plan had foreseen REDD+ scoping studies in each country and an analysis of drivers of deforestation. It became increasingly clear, however, that deforestation is less of an issue than forest degradation, which would have a significant impact on the direction of Readiness strategies. Thus the scope of studies was expanded to include this consideration.

Forest policies and legislation that was in line with REDD+ had already been developed in some of the countries. Vanuatu adopted its new forest legislation in 2012 which contained a sub-chapter on REDD+. Fiji was, thanks to the sister-project CCCPIR, quite advanced and a national REDD+ policy was adopted in Fiji in 2012.

PNG was experiencing internal difficulties which delayed the progress of REDD+ at government level and the responsibility for REDD+ was not clarified until 2014. (The Office of Climate Change and Development and the PNG Forest Authority both claimed responsibility for REDD+).



The selected countries were also being supported by the UN REDD programme as well as the WB supported FCPF. In Vanuatu, a coordination agreement was struck in 2011. In PNG, the lack of clarity in responsibility for REDD+ did not allow for a good coordination of development partner agencies by the government during the initial project years, so coordination was done ad hoc and the project sought opportunities where it could. This situation improved substantially in 2013. As was the experience in many countries in such situations, GIZ was very flexible and could make short term support decisions that could take much longer in projects where all expenditures were planned for at the beginning of the project. The project was able to use this structural advantage to the benefit of the progress of the Readiness process in all countries.

In all four Melanesian target countries the project conducted analytical studies concerning carbon rights, which helped the countries to identify and address critical topics. Based on the carbon rights analyses, studies on the current status of the legislation relevant for climate change and the inconsistencies with REDD+ elements were conducted in all four countries, resulting in recommendations for reforms.

In PNG, a study for the improved integration of REDD+ into Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) was carried out, aiming to coordinate emerging NAMA activities with ongoing REDD preparations.

By the end of 2013, R-PPs had been formulated for Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu, wherein the main components of the REDD+ Readiness process were described. Methodologies for the development of reference levels and MRV systems had been developed and included standards for biodiversity monitoring. The R-PP's also contained comprehensive information regarding the currently existing institutions, data and policies and

described in a detailed manner, including the steps that needed to be taken to achieve REDD+ Readiness in the coming years.

With assistance from FCPF, Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu are now developing their respective REDD+ units. The continuation of the national REDD+ programs in terms of human resources is therefore secure.

Based on these Readiness strategies, the project supported further studies and activities to assist the implementation of the strategies, especially the development of reference emission levels and MRV systems. This was done in Fiji at the national level, in Vanuatu at the provincial level (Sanma Province) and in PNG at the site (project) level.

In Fiji, a study was conducted to assess the accuracy of the available data and data storage on the forest resources. The study showed that managed commercial forests were well documented, while indigenous forests usually lack good quality data, due to uncontrolled utilisation. It recommended the systematic improvement of data quality, including a review of definitions of forest and stratification.

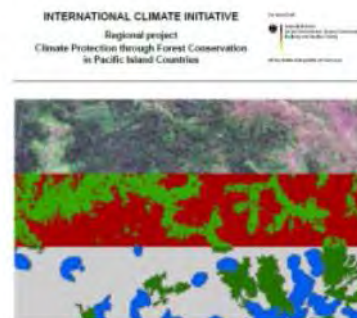


A study on the change in carbon stock was also conducted following different management regimes including Sustainable Forest Management some 20 years ago as part of the Natural Forest Management Pilot Project (NFMPP) in Nakavu, Fiji. The most important result was that the area under Sustainable Forest Management regime seemed to contain only slightly less carbon (2.5 % less, in average over the felling cycle) than the untouched control areas which remained in their natural state.

A remote sensing-based method for forest stratification was tested in Fiji and applied to a REDD+-site. With very high resolution satellite imagery, the canopy of the forest in a demonstration site was mapped, after which this classification was stratified in open and closed forest. The results showed that the method classified the forest well and that the chosen definitions were a good representation of the actual Fijian forest. The planning of the national forest monitoring system will be further developed based on the results. For this purpose, Fiji and SPC have been equipped with computers and image processing software (eCognition), which supported the unsupervised classification of land use categories using remote sensing imagery.



Carbon Emissions from
Forest Degradation caused by
Selective Logging in Fiji



Forest Stratification in Fiji
using Very High Resolution
Satellite Imagery



A further study focused on estimated carbon emissions from selective logging by combining activity-related emission factors from demonstration activities with national log production data from natural forests in Fiji. The log production in Fiji averages 62,500 m³ per year, causing emissions of approximately 252,000 t CO₂. Although emissions from selective logging were modest, the activity represented the most significant potential for carbon emission reductions from the forest sector through the application of Sustainable Forest Management practices. The last two studies show how important the close connection between the demonstration sites and the work at national level was in order to advance and design appropriate methodologies for REDD+ Readiness. The methodologies tested in demonstration sites contributed to the ongoing efforts to establish a reference level and MRV system for the country.

The ongoing efforts in PNG and Vanuatu were best described in the framework of the demonstrations sites. That will be the subject of the next section that describes the process and results of the demonstration sites.

The feedback received from the evaluation study confirmed the impression that the basic studies undertaken in each country on forest carbon rights and the legal framework were very helpful. Also, the flexible and timely support of the R-PP process, even in countries where GIZ did not have the lead role in supporting that process, was found to be important. Other participants appreciated the collaborative and participatory approach, bringing people



together for mutual inspiration and knowledge exchange, including people from outside the forestry sector. Some concern was voiced about the slow pace of the international negotiations, warning that buy-in into REDD+ might be declining, which would cause further delays if not a total change of mind by communities.

Demonstration activities

The national planning workshops were also the starting point for these activities. A first list of potential sites was assembled and very basic data collected according to the selection criteria for demonstration sites: additionality, area size, co-benefits, accessibility and existence of capable local partners. Feasibility studies were carried out for a short list of potential sites. These turned out positive for sites in PNG, Fiji and Solomon Islands, but negative for the proposed Vanuatu sites. The main reason for this was the small size of forest area considering the high costs of establishing reference emission levels and MRV. Therefore, the project and the national forest department decided to proceed at the provincial level, giving the Vanuatu experience a different outlook than the Fiji or PNG one. In Solomon Islands, demonstration activities were initiated but the political will of the government to effectively engage in a REDD+ Readiness process did not allow making a clear connection between the site-level activities and the national Readiness process.



After a lengthy, intensive and participatory process, demonstration sites were chosen in Nakavu / Fiji; Central Suau / Papua New Guinea and Choiseul / Solomon Islands in 2012 in accordance with the selection criteria and expressions of interest by local landowners / forest users. The choice was made jointly by the communities, NGOs, forest departments and the project taking into account the principles of free, prior and informed consent. For each demonstration site profiles of the pilot site were made (bio geographic, socio-economic and cultural aspects).

In all demonstration sites the following important steps were taken:

1. Development of a project concept for each pilot site, with gender specific activities, responsibilities and finances. The requirements of women and indigenous groups had to be considered specifically by ensuring balanced representation, and by providing awareness and educational material specifically targeted for marginalised groups.
1. Endorsement of the project concept by all involved actors: communities, forest departments, where appropriate other ministries, NGOs, etc.
2. Implementation of project activities: forest inventory, forest area monitoring, forest carbon assessment, reference emission level, agreement on the process for assessing the local REDD+ projects, agreement on the financial aspects of REDD+, taking gender aspects into account.
3. Documentation of the pilot projects by relevant stakeholders.
4. Distribution of the experiences and results of the pilot projects.

The activities were intended to be continued by the partner countries. It was proposed and approved by BMUB that some activities would continue to be supported within the follow-up project currently being designed.

The demonstration activities in the four countries resulted in the following achievements.

Papua New Guinea,

In Central Suau, Papua New Guinea, support was provided for the development of a project document - a template for joint project certification under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) standard. The implementing partner (Papua New Guinea Forest Authority - PNGFA) was enabled to finalize the document (documentation of FPIC process, further elaboration of a definite benefit sharing mechanism, among others).

A study was commissioned to investigate the usefulness of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) in connection with REDD+. The study described how the two concepts could be differentiated, and where the potential niche was located for each of the two mechanisms within the future outcomes of the UNFCCC negotiations.

An analysis of the historical deforestation, degradation and Land use in Central Suau gave an overview of the drivers of historical deforestation and forest degradation in Central Suau, Milne Bay Province, PNG. The results on historical land cover and use demonstrated the dominance of agricultural areas for subsistence food and crop production with scattered coconut plantations along the sea shore. The complex of identified agents, drivers and underlying causes were described: population growth was a major underlying cause and, in conjunction with agricultural land use as livelihood activity and scarce land resources along the coast, posed a serious threat to the deforestation of accessible primary forests.



A study on the forest carbon inventory of the demonstration site provided an overview on the methodology, results and discussion of the forest carbon inventory in Central Suau in Milne Bay province, Papua New Guinea. The results of the land cover analysis showed eleven land cover strata including three assessed to hold commercial saw log stocks. These three land cover strata covered 43,374ha or 72.6% of Central Suau area of 59,758ha. The report was used as an

input into the preparation of the Project Description under VCS.

A manual on MRV of improved forest management (logged to protect forest) in Central Suau was prepared. The purpose of this manual was to provide an overall review of the components that would be part of an MRV system for a REDD+ voluntary market forest carbon project. This MRV manual served as the Monitoring Plan in the “Project Design Document Development for Forest Carbon Project (Logged – Protected Forest) in Central Suau” prepared under the VCS in compliance with the VCS VM0011 methodology.

A study on a potential benefit sharing mechanism outlined the prospects of such a mechanism when used with the Massim people in Central Suau. It provided a couple of unique features on how benefits may be shared most effectively while maintaining full social acceptance in the Suau District. The recommendation was that the benefit sharing system should not include cash benefits to landowners, but to focus on community-wide projects that might be identified by women in each ward and shared amongst all community members.

Feedback received from the evaluation survey showed that the demonstration activities were well appreciated in that they contributed to PNG's national REDD+ process including the ongoing efforts of developing a national level MRV system.

Vanuatu

Within the scope of R-PP development, all elements of REDD+ were supported- including methodologies for the development of reference emission levels and MRV systems. These were tested in a pilot site in the Sanma province in Vanuatu. Support focussed on building capacity in this topic, especially through the acquisition of equipment such as computers, software and remote sensing data and the training of human resources in their use.

Since in Vanuatu activities at the pilot sites Penaoru und Big Bay / Santo und Wiawi / Malekul proved not to be feasible, work focussed instead on a forest carbon inventory and reference level methodology described at the provincial level in Sanma Province. This was where measures, specifically the forest carbon inventory and reference level methodologies from the R-PP were implemented with support from the project.

A study conducted on historical and projected deforestation rates in Santo Island in Vanuatu described the processing of historical remote sensing data and modelling of expected land use in the next decade. Results showed a very low deforestation rate of 0.3 % between 1990 and 2010, and predicted a rate of 0.6 % between 2010 and 2020. This supported the assumption that forest degradation should become the focus of further activities towards developing a reference emission level for forests in Vanuatu.

Inventory results and recommendations for adaptations to inventory and reference level methodology are now available. Due to a lack of accurate data, the reference level is not yet sufficiently reliable, but the applied methodology is shown to be adequate.

Fiji

In the pilot site in Nakavu / Fiji, a community based carbon inventory was conducted and the long-term effect of sustainable forest management (SFM) on carbon emissions was analysed. The results demonstrated



that SFM was economically more feasible for all involved stakeholders than both conventional logging and pure conservation. The project results should be promptly incorporated into forest regulations and the national REDD+ program in Fiji.

A further study in Fiji concerned a reference database in combination with a validation concept for remote sensing-based forest cover change products. This accuracy assessment of the available data and data storage on the forest resources in Fiji showed that

managed commercial forests were well documented, while indigenous forests usually lack good quality data, due to uncontrolled utilisation. It recommended the systematic improvement of data quality, including a review of definitions of forest states and stratification. The specific studies undertaken concerning the Nakavu forest were mentioned above. They provided important inputs into the national efforts of preparing the methodologies for national REDD+ Readiness.

Solomon Islands

In Choiseul / Solomon Islands, the regional NGO "Live and Learn Environmental Education" was supported in the demarcation and participatory boundary mapping of an area for a forest carbon project. The support assisted landowners and -users in achieving legal certainty of land tenure.

In the course of these activities a study was commissioned on the detection and quantification of deforestation during 2000 – 2013. During the period 2000 – 2013, 1,998 ha or 154 ha/year were deforested on Choiseul, equalling about 0.65 % of the total forest area in 2010 (307,701ha). This was the result of the analysis of remote sensing data from 2000, 2010 and 2013. The report explained the methodology applied and sources of potential errors within the analysis, such as cloud cover and accuracy of data. This was a valuable first step towards developing a methodology for a national deforestation baseline in Solomon Islands.

The experiences in Choiseul were documented in a report. The report summarized activities and outcomes of REDD+ demonstration activities in Sirebe & Vuri Tribal Land and Guerre Land, Choiseul. The annual baseline emissions were estimated at 40,980 t CO₂e (two sites combined), which equated to a potential annual production of 40,980 carbon credits. The timber inventory, carbon stock estimates and cost benefit analysis performed aimed to further improve a local forest carbon project under the Plan Vivo Standard.

General Assessment

The project support in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu as well as to SPC has led to strengthened capacities for planning and implementing of forest carbon inventories. Equipment, material, software and remote sensing data were acquired and staff in the countries were trained in their use as well as in data processing.

Due to ongoing bad weather conditions, especially in 2014, delays occurred in the activities regarding Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) in Central Suva / Papua New Guinea, and affected forest carbon inventory and data collection activities in Choiseul / Solomon Islands, Nakavu / Fiji and Sanma / Vanuatu. As a result of the project extension until September 2015 however, these activities were completed

3.4 Summary assessment

The project quickly achieved its goal in Component 1 to assist in the formulation of a regional REDD+ policy framework, which was endorsed by the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services in September 2012. This provided a good starting point and ongoing reference for interested countries.

The project succeeded in setting up an information platform in 2014 only to suffer a malicious hacker attack that severely damaged the site. On its web page, the project could offer important information and access to the main documents. The site is very well used.

The project has provided an important contribution to the REDD+ Readiness progress in Pacific Island Countries which possess large forest areas. Organizational structures regarding roles and responsibilities are now clarified. The capacities in planning and implementation of different REDD+ elements and knowledge and information exchange between partner countries have significantly improved, a circumstance that positively affects the Pacific Island Countries' positions in international committees. The national REDD+ dialogue has gained importance and amplitude, also as a result of lessons learned from the demonstration activities.

Data availability for the development of reference levels in the region is insufficient. Therefore, measures aimed at the improvement of the data situation were implemented by the project, for example data collection, accuracy assessments, analyses of degradation, forest stratification and provision of impulses to clarify the definition of forest.

Regarding the state of REDD+ Readiness at project start (in the partner countries as well concerning progress in international negotiations), it was not possible to complete the REDD+ Readiness phase in one of the partner countries, as was planned under project goal 3. The reasons for this are, among others, that the available capacities were underestimated in the project development phase, and that the establishment of independent REDD+ units and experts could only be achieved at the very end of the project. The main cause

for the delay is however, the optimistic assumption during the project design phase that the international REDD+ negotiations would provide detailed technical criteria and standards on important elements such as REL and MRV. However, these only came about in late 2013. Therefore, the project could only assist the partner countries to formulate Readiness strategies which are now in place in three countries. These have been accepted by relevant funding agencies, so that these countries can now progress further towards full REDD+ Readiness. However, more capacity building is needed to support the development of reference levels and MRV systems.

As a result of the activities in REDD+ pilot sites, additional communities expressed interest in implementing local REDD+ projects as an alternative to timber harvesting.

While the better known REDD+ countries mainly address deforestation, the focus in the Pacific region has to be on the reduction of forest degradation. Technical and practical approaches to monitor and mitigate forest degradation were developed and tested in this project.



4 Project expenditure

The following graphs depict the project's expenditure by type of activity, by country, which the expenditure relates to, as well as by project component. While project management is relatively high, probably due to the high cost of communication and travel among the PICs, it becomes clear that the majority of expenditure was done on capacity building and related activities such as advisory services knowledge management and studies.

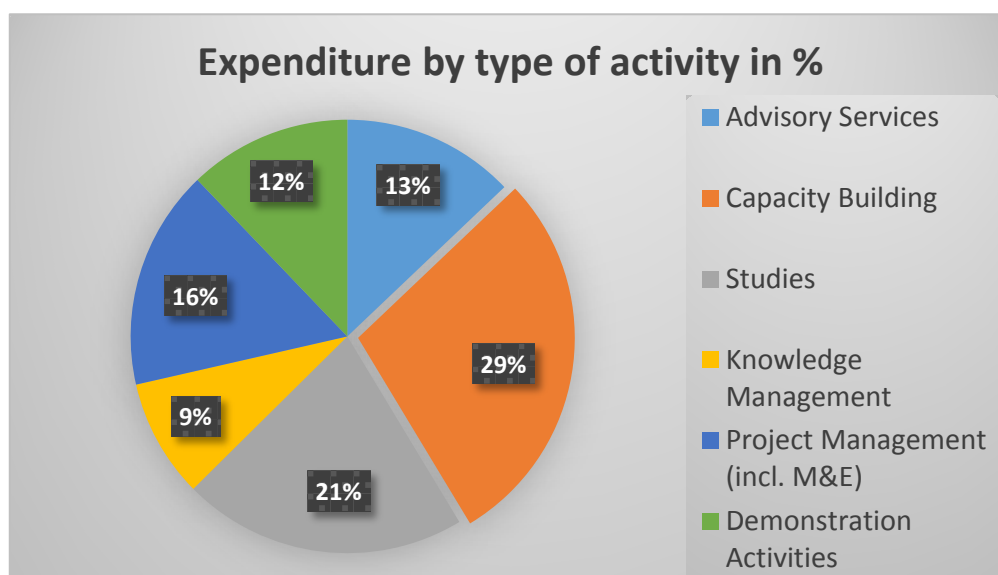


Figure 2: Expenditure by type of activity

In the following graph on expenditure by country it is clear that capacity building in the large sense was almost equally distributed between Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu. The lowest share is for Solomon Islands which is understandable since without effective government buy-in, it was difficult to justify some measures that were undertaken in other countries. It might seem astonishing that PNG also had a lower level of expenditure, compared to Fiji and Vanuatu. However, this may reflect a slow start because of political difficulties during the first two years of the project.

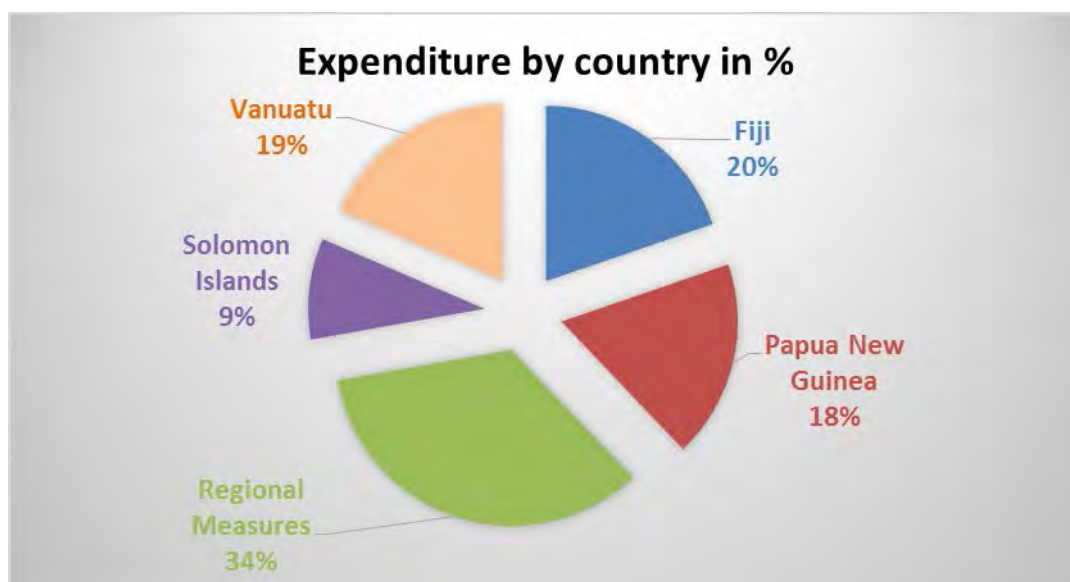


Figure 3: Expenditure by country

The following graph showing expenditure by component offers no surprise in that component 3, REDD+ Readiness including demonstration activities received the lion's share of funding. It might be suggested that

expenditure was too low on component 2 and that this might have been a cause of the delays and difficulties experienced.

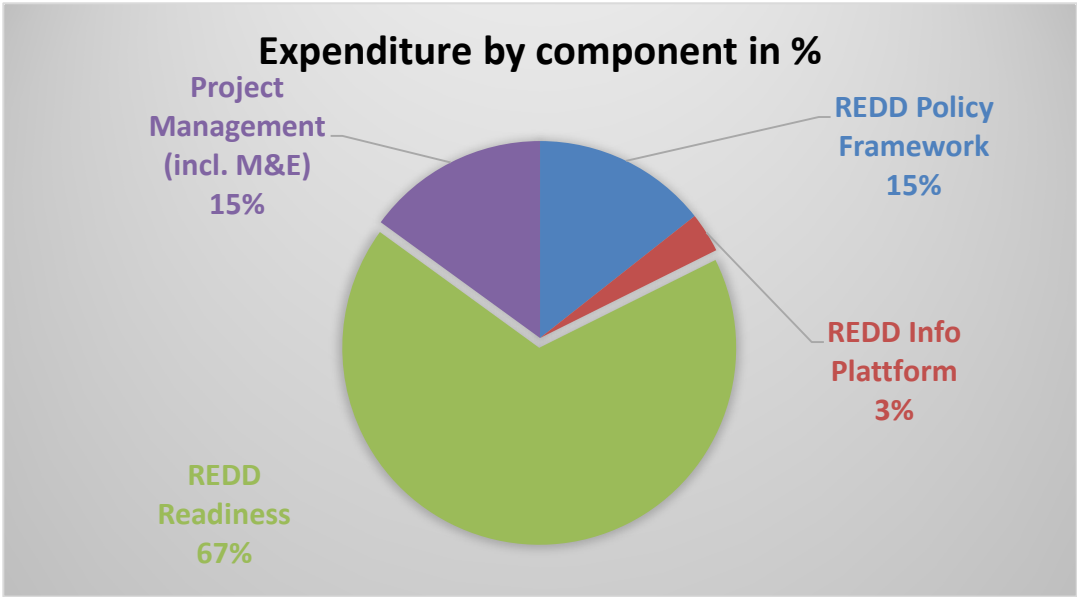


Figure 4: Expenditure by component

5 Feedback from stakeholders

The evaluation survey as well as the evaluation workshop in May 2015 offered opportunities for participants to give feedback to the project and GIZ on various subjects. Most of the comments have already been alluded to in the previous sections. The comments reported here are on more general matters as well as on the possible future engagements of BMUB.

When asked in what way SPC/GIZ regional REDD+ project could further strengthen the organisation the respondent worked for, most indicated that there was still a clear need for further capacity building. Most answers remained fairly generic, merely asserting that training was needed, some answers became quite specific.

Feedback from the survey indicated that there was a concern that the understanding of REDD+ in general is still far too low and would require an intensified effort to build a deeper and broader base of understanding of REDD+, and aim for more national oriented REDD+ programmes rather than projects focused on voluntary markets.

During the evaluation workshop, representatives from the four main partner countries discussed in groups who might need a better understanding of REDD+. It was mentioned that churches can in some countries be an excellent vehicle to transmit general messages about REDD+ and sustainable forest management. The need to raise the understanding of politicians about REDD+ was shared among all country representatives and is of particular importance in the Solomon Islands. The Vanuatu



group thought it would be good to have translations into Bislama of the best REDD+ descriptions and make sure that the messages are standardized. The Fiji group thought that the REDD+ steering committee should take on the task of coordinating and monitoring the level of awareness and understanding of REDD+ through the various representative members and member organisations. REDD+ should also be incorporated into the curriculum of local universities.

Participants from PNG felt that all actors need deepened understanding of the basics of what REDD+ is and could be. The range of government agencies involved in REDD+ is not enough and should be expanded through awareness raising and networking. All actors, including community based organisations and the private sector should be in some way represented or participate in the REDD+ Technical Working Group to allow for better communication, networking and monitoring of what is happening on the ground.



Asked about the need for further support on technical matters, respondents to the survey mentioned the following areas most strongly: MRV and REL, mapping forest degradation, carbon assessments, data analysis. It was suggested that the project could provide assistance to facilitate overseas training as well as exchanges and internships. One participant thought it would be beneficial if the project had

broadened its scope on training forestry actors beyond only the narrow scope of demonstration sites in order to build a broader capacity base on which to draw upon. Related to this was the idea to find ways to involve national consultants in a better way so that they could become more proficient in their work and be hired instead of international consultants. Finally, the colleagues from Solomon Islands made a strong point that their forest department should be more prominent in capacity building efforts by the project. However, they acknowledged that the low level of political leadership concerning REDD+ from the Solomon Islands government made it difficult for the project to engage more intensively.

The evaluation workshop repeated many of these statements but also added a few that were of particular interest: In order to promote REDD+ it would be necessary to also enhance government agencies' more general skills pertaining to process management, negotiation, communication and leadership. It was also felt that almost all countries needed enhanced proposal preparation skills. Knowledge exchanges between local and international universities on REDD+ were also deemed to be beneficial.

Survey participants were asked an open question if they had any other feedback they would like to provide. This resulted in a few detailed remarks that are summarized here. Other remarks are summarized in the next chapter on lessons learnt.



One remark stressed that in such a project where a very new, complex and technical matter is to be introduced, not only at national level but also at the village level, communications are extremely important. The respondent thought that the project had not lived up to its ambitions in this respect. The project's communication was mostly too technically driven and somewhat neglected the much more difficult task of communicating to local communities and gain their trust. From

other remarks during the workshop it seemed clear that this was not a generally held notion, but nevertheless, the follow-up project might want to take the remark as an inspiration to double-check its communications.

Some participants from Fiji thought that there was some confusion between the roles of the two German-funded projects in Fiji working on climate change. The projects might want to do a better job of clarifying the precise dividing line between the two.

It was also noted again by representatives from the Solomon Islands that the project did not satisfactorily use the Ministry of Forestry as focal and entry point especially in field participatory work on REDD+. While it was clear that the Ministry must be a part of any project activity in the Solomon Islands, it was acknowledged that for the project to go ahead with activities in demonstration sites the lack of government interest and support for REDD+ created a difficult situation where a balance needed to be struck.

6 Lessons learnt

Based on the above analysis and feedback from survey and workshop participants the following lessons were learnt and should be considered by the follow-up project expected to begin in the second half of 2015.

General project orientation:

- The economies of Pacific Island countries are too small to bear potential for private-sector investments into REDD+, a circumstance that should be kept in mind when considering REDD+ funding;
- For the same reasons it is important to provide further support to enable the Pacific Island Countries to access new funding sources, especially the Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- In general terms, the technical and financial capacities for the implementation of REDD+ in the Pacific region are insufficient due to island geographies, limited population sizes and associated limited

administrative capacities as well as high transaction costs. Capacity bottlenecks are partially compensated through services provided by the regional organization SPC;

- Due to generally low deforestation rates in all of the analyzed sites in the partner countries, the most significant potential for emission reductions in the Pacific region lies in the reversal of forest degradation and in sustainable forest management. The quantitative assessment and evaluation of the carbon impacts of these measures is still at the very beginning;

What could the project have done better?

- While the capacity building measures were much appreciated, there was too little follow-up on trainings delivered. It might be useful to make more formal capacity building plans in each country.
- The regional policy framework has not been monitored systematically. This should be improved.
- Communication between the main project partners went well, but communication between them and the stakeholders needs some improvement. The project needs to make sure that all key stakeholders are addressed and have the opportunity to participate. This also means that the project must make very clear what reasonably can be expected as benefits and input from all actors.
- The project must not only listen to all partners but also be responsive to partner's needs. Even if the project cannot satisfy all the expressed needs, it must communicate its decisions in an appropriate way.

Which shift in focus might be needed?

- The shift to implementation capacity development is already underway. With the Readiness strategies adopted in three countries, the focus issues should be: MRV, REL, benefit sharing. The legal aspects of carbon sales should be analysed in depth.
- The role of the national steering committee (or whatever name such a body might have) should be very strong in order to facilitate communication and collaboration.
- The national REDD+ structures need further assistance in order to accommodate international and national policy developments. This also includes assistance in facilitating donor contacts and funding opportunities.



Annexes

Annex 1: Original Project Proposal (translation)

Annex 2; List of Studies and Reports undertaken

International Climate Initiative 2010

- ☐ Application for a grant for project promotion
☒ Project proposal

To the

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Climate protection through forest conservation in the Pacific Island Countries

submitted by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH

The project proposal should not exceed 15 pages, not including annexes. In addition please mark the appropriate box and enclose those of the following annexes requested in the call for applications/offers:

☐	Annex 1: Implementing partner(s)/Subcontractor(s)
☐	Annex 2: Bar chart on the work plan/timeline of the project including interim results (see section 4.2)
☐	Annex 3: Funding requirements and financing
☐	Annex 4: Guidelines on monitoring ICI projects

The documents are to be submitted as hard copies (in duplicate) and electronically (as Word file and as scanned PDF document) quoting the project number in the subject line to the Programme Office:

*Programmbüro Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative
Potsdamer Platz 10
D-10785 Berlin*

programmbuero@programmbuero-klima.de

Place, Date

Legally binding signature
[Name of the authorised officer]

Stamp

1 Project master data			
1.1 Project	Project number	10_III_018_Global_Walderhalt pazifische Inseln	
	Project title	Climate protection through forest conservation in the Pacific island countries	
	Country/countries of implementation	Pacific Island Region, probably Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea	
	Duration [mm.yy--mm.yy]	11.10 - 10.14	
	Total project volume [€]	5200000	
		including	
		Own funds	0
		External funding	300000
		Third party grants	0
		BMU funding volume /contract value [€]	2010
		2011	933000
		2012	1619000
		2013	1286000
		2014	962000
		Total	4900000
1.2 Submitter and political main-streaming of the project	Name/ Organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH	
	Department	2040	
	Street, No.	Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5	
	Postal code, town/city	65760 Eschborn	
	Country	Germany	
	Contact person	Dr. Sabine Müller	
	Telephone	06196 792396	Telefax 06196 792396
	Email	Sabine.Mueller@gtz.de	Website www.gtz.de
	Institution	Implementing agency	
	Legal form	GmbH	
	Non-profit status	☒ yes ☐ no	
	Total staff	15,000	
	Staff for project	6	
	Year established	1975	
	Turnover [€/year]	1	
	Experience in the target region [years]	33	
	Experience of activities relevant for the project [years]	25	
	1.2.1		
	1.2.2 Partner institution(s) for embedding in the region	<u>Role/function of submitter in the project proposed here</u> GTZ is the main implementation partner of the programme and responsible for project steering and implementation, dealing with all administrative and financial tasks, quality assurance of all services and processes, project monitoring and reporting. In cooperation with SPC (see below) GTZ is responsible for the coordination with partners in project countries and other donors.	

Please state partner institutions, contact persons and relevance for the project, e.g. competent ministry, research institute.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is a regional advisory organisation serving the Pacific island countries. The Land Resources Division (SPC-LRD) provides advice on questions related to forestry, agriculture, land use planning and climate change. SPC-LRD is the project partner for the implementation of the BMZ funded regional programme 'Adaptation to climate change in the Pacific island region'. SPC-LRD advises national governments to shape political processes and strategies. A focus is on advising local communities in concrete project implementation. SPC-LRD initiates and supports regional cooperation among the island states as well as other regional organisations and has intensive ties with the ASEAN region. SPC is - inter alia - the regional focal point of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). SPC was actively involved in the development of the project concept and attained general approval of the involved countries. SPC attributes importance to the project, as it meets a request by the Pacific island region (see chapter 5.1.). Contact person is the acting director of the Land Resource Division Mr. Inoke Ratukalou, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands. Tel: +679 3370733, mail: InokeR@spc.int. SPC acts as partner institution for embedding in the region as well as 'other partner/subcontractor'.

Are other partners/subcontractors directly involved in the implementation of the project?

☒ yes ☐ no.

If yes, please complete Annex 1 "Implementing partner(s)/Subcontractor(s)".

2 Project classification

Please enter a cross in one box only in each of sections 2.1 and 2.2. For projects covering several categories, please indicate the main category only.

2.1 Thematic focus	☐ Waste ☐ Transport ☐ Energy efficiency ☐ Renewable energies ☐ Energy efficiency / Renewable energies ☐ Carbon market (CDM/JI)/ Emissions trading ☐ MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) ☐ Adaptation strategies ☐ Ecosystem-based land use systems ☐ Conservation/sustainable use of climate-relevant biodiversity without REDD+ ☐ Conservation/sustainable use of climate-relevant biodiversity with REDD+ focus ☒ Conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural carbon sinks with REDD+ relevance ☐ Other (please specify) ☐ Climate policy ☐ Innovative financing instruments ☐ Insurance solutions
2.2 Project type	☐ Investment ☐ Credit programme ☐ Technology transfer ☒ Policy advice ☐ Other (please specify) ☐ Research cooperation ☐ Capacity building/training ☐ Study/concept development
2.3 Emission allowances	The project generates emission allowances during the period of promotion: ☐ yes ☒ no The allowances generated by the project during the period of promotion will be permanently cancelled: ☐ yes ☐ no

	If emission allowances are generated after the period of promotion, please specify below. The project supports REDD+ readiness processes with the objective that certificate generating REDD+ projects will develop in the long run.
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3 Brief description	
3.1 Structured brief description	Please describe the project for public presentations (e.g. BMU website) in three paragraphs, using approx. 1,400 characters: Paragraph 1: Starting situation, context, challenges Paragraph 2: Project goals and planned measures Paragraph 3: (Multiplier) effects extending beyond scope of project (e.g. concerning environment, employment market, business and industry, competences, ...). The forests in the Pacific provide the livelihoods for a considerable part of the rural population and contribute in some countries to a substantial part of the national income (timber export). Uncontrolled logging by private companies and uncontrolled forest transformation by the local population contributes to deforestation and therefore to the emission of carbon dioxide. Therefore the project aims at conserving forest ecosystems in the Pacific as a means to mitigate climate change. For that purpose processes shall be initiated and implemented in three countries, which enable the participation in an international financial mechanism for the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). REDD+ strategies and policies will be developed and capacities to monitor, report and verify (MRV) build on a national level. REDD+ pilot projects will be implemented with communities and forest user groups, which conserve the forests and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On a regional level, a coherent regional REDD policy will be developed, based on national policies and an analysis of the drivers of deforestation. A regional information and support platform will be developed. A virtual network of users and experts on REDD+ will be set up, a data platform installed and trainings conducted. The conservation and sustainable management of forest eco-systems secures the natural and cultural livelihood of local communities. The export of sustainable produced wood and non-wood products contributes to the GDP and provides employment. The high biodiversity will be maintained and the important function of forest ecosystems increases the adaptation capacities of the Pacific Island Countries.

4 Project concept	
4.1 Starting situation and project goals	
4.1.1 Starting situation in the target region	Please describe the present situation in such a way that it can be used as a base-line. The Pacific island countries are especially vulnerable to climate change due to their geographical situation and their sensitive ecosystems. The Fourth IPCC Report (2007) predicts that extreme weather events (storms, floods, droughts) in the Pacific will become more intensive and/or frequent and sea-levels will rise. Physical infrastructure, settlements, agricultural areas and fresh water resources will be particularly threatened. But also the preservation of biodiversity, of land based and marine ecosystems will be at risk as a result of climate change. The ecosystems featuring the highest biodiversity include the natural rainforests in the bigger Pacific island states Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. These ecosystems provide for the subsistence of a majority of the rural population and contribute to the national economy in a substantial way (timber export). The forest resources are almost exclusively owned by the indigenous population. The proportion of customary land ownership is 88% in Fiji, 98% in Vanuatu, 97% in PNG, and 87% in the Solomon Islands. Unrestrained logging by private companies and uninhibited deforestation by local

	communities lead to uncontrolled forest cover loss and contribute to CO₂ emissions. Currently there are no reliable data on deforestation in most Pacific island countries. There is also a lack of effective policies and instruments to ensure forest protection. Many stakeholders see REDD/REDD+ as a twofold opportunity to stop and reverse forest loss. On the one hand, anticipated carbon financing in the context of REDD+ could provide an income as an alternative to logging. On the other hand, the multiple functions of rainforests can be maintained in the long run. This corresponds to the traditional perception of the local communities to preserve the forest as a heritage for the coming generations. Fiji started a REDD+ readiness process in 2009 with support of the BMZ/GTZ programme 'Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region' (now renamed to 'Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region, CCCPIR'). Experiences and results will feed into the regional REDD+ policy and the information and support platform. The four project countries are members of the 'Coalition for Rainforest Nations', which is advocating for emission reductions and sustainable forest management.
4.1.2 Project goals and target group	Please describe each goal in a short sentence. Project goals must be measurable. Please indicate the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions expected per year. In addition, please specify verifiable target indicators including the respective starting and target values. <u>Overriding project goal</u> The conservation of forest ecosystems in the Pacific Island Countries is supported in order to mitigate climate change and protect biodiversity. <u>Specific project goals</u> 1. Regional REDD+ Policy: The Pacific Island Countries have a joint, coherent framework for the implementation of REDD+ 2. REDD+ Information Platform: The implementation of REDD+ activities in the Melanesian PICs is qualitatively improved through the use of a regional and supraregional information and support platform. 3. REDD+ Readiness: Central elements of REDD+ are implemented in 3 countries. In one country this leads to the fulfilment of the requirements to participate in REDD+. <u>Target group</u> Target groups are the staff of ministries, national NGOs, land owner associations and private forest companies which are included on the national and regional level into the development of policies and information platforms. The target group includes local communities and indigenous people implementing REDD+ pilot projects in the project countries as well as communities not directly involved in the pilot projects who will benefit from the longterm perspective to participate in REDD+. The conservation of forest ecosystems including their cultural and social functions as well as their central role for the livelihoods of the forest users will benefit local communities directly.. <u>Target indicators</u> Objective 1: - The heads of forestry departments (HOFS 2014) endorse a regional REDD+ policy Objective 2: - The REDD+ information and support platform registers X requests from Y countries, with at least Z requests coming from local communities, and generates high-quality responses by network members (especially SPC). (documentation of requests and responses, user survey) Objective 3:

	- Reference level for ghg-emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, MRV systems which include parameters for biodiversity monitoring and an institutional and legal framework are established in one country (documentation of MRV-services, laws and regulations on REDD+). - Contributions to the establishment of MRV-Systems, institutional and legal frameworks (forest inventory, REDD+ policy...) are delivered in two additional countries. - 3 pilot projects for the trialling of REDD+ activities, taking into account the principles of gender equality, are successfully implemented and documented (documentation of pilot projects).
4.2 Course of action and risks	
4.2.1 Planned measures, activities and actors	The Pacific Island Countries feature substantial differences with regard to their forestry. The four proposed project countries have the highest forest cover rates and relatively high forest assets. But also the starting positions for REDD+ differ among the project countries. Fiji began the process of REDD+ readiness in 2009 with support by BMZ (see above). In Vanuatu, first steps were made to develop a roadmap to REDD+, but the means for mid- and long-term implementation are not secured. The Solomon Islands boast extremely high deforestation rates and are dependent on the export earnings from logging, but did not engage in noteworthy REDD+ activities. The potential for reducing ghg-emissions is the highest in Papua New Guinea (PNG) due to the extensive forest assets. PNG also boasts the most dynamic initiatives on REDD+ in the region (see chapter 5.2). The forest and marine ecosystems are the areas with the highest biodiversity in these countries. Therefore approaches to identify and conserve areas with high biodiversity will be used for the project implementation in the countries and at the regional level (possibly using the High Conservation Value Approach HCVA). These different starting positions will be taken into account and developed further in the national advisory processes in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (project objective 3). The island states are very small in international comparison, have limited financial resources and capacities and are - apart from PNG - hardly visible at the international debate on REDD+. The Pacific Island Countries try to align and connect their policy sectors and strategies on a regional level, also to improve their political impact on an international level. The regional approach promises to deliver added value in two regards: First, by creating synergies and reducing resources required for the advice on technical and conceptual elements in the countries (economies of scale). Second, the cross-national political support of REDD+ through a regional framework reduces the risk of leakage and gives the PIC more weight at international negotiations with regard to REDD+ at the international UNFCCC process (see also chapter 4.2.3) Project objectives 1 and 2 are geared to support this process. The experiences of the REDD component of the BMZ funded project CCCPIR in Fiji will be taken into account in this regional approach, leading to a cross fertilisation of the two programmes. As described above, confined REDD+ processes will be supported in PNG, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as part of the programme. This complements the BMZ funded project CCCPIR which supports the adaptation to climate change on a policy level and in pilot projects in the project countries, as well as dealing with sustainable energy management and climate relevant aspects of tourism. Therefore the two programmes cover nearly the whole spectrum of climate relevant topics in the four project countries. Synergies are also expected as a result of an exchange of successful methods and processes in policy advice as well as the implementation of pilot projects between the two programmes. The programme will be attached to the Land Resources Division of SPC and implemented with the Forest and Trees programme. The steering of the programme will be a joint effort by the sectoral team of SPC and the GTZ team of the programme. In the PICs the ministries responsible for forestry will be the focal points and will steer the country components together with SPC/GTZ. The BMZ programme CCCPIR is attached to the executive level of SPC to account for the

thematic scope and works with different divisions. Through conceptual and hierarchical linkages the BMU programme will become part of the overall steering of SPC's climate portfolio under the guidance of the climate change adviser. The complementarity of the steering in the project countries will be ensured through the intensive collaboration of the forest ministries with the ministries or institutions responsible for climate change, which deal with the BMZ programme CCCPIR.

To reach to project objective the following measures are envisaged:

Project objective 1: Regional REDD+ policy

- Inventory and assessment of national forest policies and relevant implementation activities
- Analysis of drivers of deforestation on a regional level, taking into account the demand side (international forest trade) which lead to deforestation
- Development of a concept for a regional REDD+ process
- Training of all stakeholder groups from government, NGO, civil society, local communities, research and private sector on major aspects of REDD+
- Development of a draft regional REDD+ policy: iterative advisory process with inclusion of all relevant stakeholders
- Development of a monitoring concept and necessary instruments for the implementation of the regional REDD+ policy
- Adoption of the regional REDD+ policy by the Heads of Forestry Services.

Besides SPC the most important actors for the implementation of these activities are the forestry ministries as well as ministries for environment/climate change of the project countries, other line ministries (e.g. agriculture), national and regional NGO, research institutions, indigenous forest users and owners, and the private sector. SPREP, FAO and others will be involved in the process.

Project objective 2: REDD+ information platform

- Screening of REDD+ processes in the Pacific and similar / neighbouring regions (Australia, New Zealand, ASEAN, South America, SIDS)
- Provide best practices from similar processes: Publishing one/several reference documents
- Establishment of an expert and practitioners network with regular knowledge exchanges which includes indigenous participants, facilitating the exchange of indigenous knowledge.
- Development of an intraregional information platform on REDD+ for the Pacific (steering and maintenance by SPC)
- Provide experiences from REDD+ processes in the countries (see objective 3) especially on governance, MRV, reference level, financing, gender and biodiversity.
- Development/translation of information material in widely used local languages.
- Link the intraregional information platform with other relevant platforms and sources of information on REDD+ and climate change (SPREP, UNFCCC, CIFOR, UNFF, UNCBD, UNCCD...) and similar projects of the German development cooperation.
- Training of stakeholders in knowledge management and information platforms (regional, supraregional)
- Initiation of an exchange of information and experiences between government representatives, project developers, NGOs and representatives of local communities from other regions, e.g. ASEAN, South America
- Organisation of educational journeys between the Pacific region and other regions, e.g. ASEAN, South America
- Institutionalising an information platform with other regions, e.g. ASEAN, South America

	- Development and provision of tools and advisory services for REDD+ - Clarify responsibilities, develop a concept for long term financial sustainability - Development of a monitoring system for the use of the platform and advisory services - Secure access of all relevant stakeholders to the information platform Besides SPC the most important actors for the implementation of these activities are the forestry ministries as well as ministries for environment/climate change of the project countries. Other actors include representatives of local communities, international NGO, research institutions and SPREP. Indigenous groups and local communities will be enabled to participate as informed actors in the debates on REDD+ as well as to negotiate with other actors (project developers, government officials, NGOs) through the access to specifically targeted information and support. The support platform can also support local communities in the development of their own REDD+ projects through independent professional advice. Project objective 3: REDD+ readiness - Implementation of REDD+ scoping studies in 3 project countries and an analysis of the drivers of deforestation on the national level - Development of REDD+ policies by governments with intensive stakeholder consultation - Conduct scoping studies to identify biodiversity hotspots and analyse the interfaces and interaction between REDD+ and conservation of biodiversity (possibly using the HCVF approach) - Development and partial implementation of a REDD+ action programme - Conduct trainings on essential elements of REDD+ (especially MRV, forest area monitoring, forest carbon monitoring etc) for staff of relevant departments and other organisations - Development and provision of all relevant components and elements for the participation in upcoming REDD+ financial mechanisms in one country, where appropriate in cooperation with other internationally renowned organisation like GOFC-GOLD (reference level, governance, MRV, controlling institutions) - Design and implementation of REDD+ pilot projects. The following sub-activities will be implemented in a participatory approach. The requirements of women and indigenous groups will be considered specifically by ensuring balanced representation in consultation and economic processes, representation in institutions for REDD+ governance, and by providing awareness and educational material specifically targeted for marginalised groups: 1. Introductory and training workshops on REDD+ for local actors, 2. Joint selection (communities, NGO, forest department, Project) of the pilot sites under full consideration of the principals of free, prior and informed consent; development of profiles of the pilot site (bio geographic, socio-economic, cultural). The identification of pilot sites will consider the results of the biodiversity analysis (see above) to avoid potential negative influences on areas with high biodiversity and to conserve these areas. In PNG the results of the 'High Conservation Value Forest Toolkit' (2005) will contribute to the decision making process 3. Development of a project concept for each pilot site, with gender specific activities, responsibilities and finances 4. Endorsement of the project concept by all involved actors: communities, forest departments, where appropriate other ministries, NGO... 5. Implementation of project activities: forest inventory, forest area monitoring, biodiversity monitoring, forest carbon assessment, reference level, agreeing on the process for assessing the local REDD+ projects, agreement on the financial aspects of REDD+, taking gender aspects into account 6. Documentation of the pilot projects by relevant stakeholders
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	7. Distribution of the experiences and results of the pilot projects 8. Support of small enterprises in the marketing of forestry and agro forestry products from REDD+ projects, taking gender and biodiversity aspects into account. The monitoring system will apply specific criteria for assessing gender equality. The most important actors for this measure next to SPC are the forest departments, if appropriate the ministries for environment and/or climate change, other line ministries (e.g. agriculture), international research institutions and fora on REDD+ (e.g. GOFC-GOLD) and conservation of biodiversity, national NGO and the private sector. Representatives of provincial and communal administration are involved in the implementation as well. Central actors are the local communities and indigenous groups, who are involved as forest owners and users in the establishment of an national REDD+ architecture and who are the focus of the pilot projects. The pilot projects will contribute directly to the conservation of the ecosystem and livelihoods of the affected groups and will provide income opportunities through REDD+ payments, agroforest systems and sustainable forest management. The planning and implementation of the REDD+ measures and processes in the three countries (except Fiji) can build on the experiences and results of the long-lasting regional forestry project of SPC/GTZ. This includes forest inventories and the development of a forest policy and land use planning in Fiji, training of actors from Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and PNG in forest inventory procedures, remote sensing, GIS, forest certification and provision of material for forest inventories and GIS. The experiences and results from the development of a new, climate relevant forest policy in Vanuatu supported by the BMZ project CCCPIR will be used as well for the REDD+ readiness processes.
4.2.2 Interim results	Concise description of interim results to ensure effective structure and verifiable progress of the project. Please indicate interim results which are absolutely necessary for the continuation of the project. Re: Objective 1: 1. A roadmap for the development of a regional REDD policy is developed (mid 2011). 2. Draft of regional REDD+ policy is available and in the consultation process (end 2012) Re: Objective 2: 3. Experiences and references from the region as well as supra regional best practices are documented and used for project planning and policy development (end 2011). 4. Delegates from 4 countries and 3 regional organisations visited and analysed 2 REDD+ projects and presented their findings at a regional forum (end 2012) 5. The concept of the information platform is agreed on by all stakeholders (participating governments, regional organisations, representatives of local communities) (beginning 2012) 6. The information and support platform is established (mid 2013) Re: Objective 3: 7. REDD+ policy drafted in chosen partner country (mid 2012) 8. Pilot sites for REDD+ projects are identified through scoping studies and the expression of interest by the local communities (beginning 2012) 9. National REDD+ Action programmes are approved (end 2012) 10. Forest area and carbon monitoring systems, including biodiversity parameter, are functioning (mid 2013) 11. A legal framework for REDD+ is established (end 2013)

4.2.3 Risks	Please indicate technical, political, economic, environmental and other risks, in the specific implementation of measures, how these are classified (low, medium, high) and how the risks will be addressed. - The suggested Melanesian island states were affected by political instabilities in the past (armed conflict in the Solomon Islands, Coup d'état in Fiji in 2006). In PNG high crime rates in Port Moresby and other urban centres have to be considered a risk. These risks cannot be influenced by the project. However, the risks are distributed through the regional approach. The experiences with GTZ projects in this region demonstrate that project implementation is usually not compromised by political instability (risk: medium, influence of the project on the risk: low). - Irregular and corrupt practices in the forestry sector are a risk for the orderly and conflict free implementation of REDD+ projects (high risk). This problem is tackled through a transparent and inclusive process of policy formulation and development of the legal structure, using established participation methodologies. Capacity development for financial management, project management, organisational development et al will reduce the risk further (influence: medium) - In one of the potential project country (Solomon Islands) the revenues from logging are the most important source of foreign exchange. Therefore it is a challenge to convince all stakeholders from the advantages of REDD+ and create sufficient ownership (risk: high). As the revenues from commercial logging are expected to cease in 5 years due to the fast deforestation rate, REDD+ promises a long term perspective for sustainable incomes. The risk will be tackled by a thorough analysis of opportunity costs and a focus on income generating measures as an alternative to logging in community and conservation forests. (influence: medium). - Uncertainties regarding a future REDD+ regime pose a risk for the willingness for participating and investing in REDD+. It is currently unforeseeable how fast a REDD+ mechanism will be negotiated at the UNFCCC level, which would guarantee unified standards and a financing mechanism. Unpredictable price developments and not finalised negotiations on REDD+ at the UNFCCC will be countered by an open and flexible design of the REDD+ policies and the MRV systems. A variety of international initiatives (FCPF, UN-REDD, REDD+ Interim Partnership etc) support the preparations of countries for the implementation of a future REDD+ mechanism with considerable amounts of funding. These multilateral initiatives are supplemented by concerted bilateral measures. Standards can be developed, recognition rises and experiences gained which can support the international negotiations in finding an agreement. Also the joint and coordinated approach of the four Melanesian states through a regional framework supports the development of an international REDD+ regime. (risk: medium, influence: low) - The inclusion of the programme in already existing agreements has to be clarified in detail, e.g. to prevent delays with procurement. There is a risk that the partner country does not grant the privileges according to the framework of technical cooperation or other possible international agreements. This could lead to delays by custom clearance of delivered goods as well as cost increases as import duties might have to be paid. (risk: medium, influence: low) - The impact factors of the project development can only partially be influenced by GTZ. A risk remains that the budgets allocated cannot be spend in the planned year. GTZ will suggest measures to react to this risk as soon as it is perceivable that this problem will arise. (risk: medium, influence: medium)
4.3 Other characteristics of the project, effects and risks	
4.3.1 Contribution to climate change mitigation or adaptation	Please indicate in bullet points with comments. The programme contributes directly to climate protection, by: - reducing emissions by conserving forests in the pilot sites throughout the project duration. The programme contributes indirectly to climate protection, by:

	- enabling the project countries to create all necessary legal, social and technical conditions to participate in REDD+. - making access to REDD+ financing possible and therefore - decelerating and finally stopping deforestation. - supporting the role of small island states as leading example in the fight against global warming, which increases their political weight at international negotiations - raising awareness at all levels in the countries and the actors and thereby being a role model in the reduction of greenhouse gases in other sectors (e.g. energy)
4.3.2 Contribution to economic and social development in the project region and in the country of implementation	Please indicate in bullet points with comments. In the case of REDD+ projects: please indicate how and in what proportions REDD+ benefits will be transferred to the respective stakeholders in the project. The sustainable use and conservation of forest ecosystems is the natural base of the livelihood of local communities and indigenous groups and their culture. Direct positive effects include: - Use of wood and non-wood forest products for subsistence (firewood, timber, traditional and medicinal plants, game, ritual use of forest products) - Use of wood and non-wood forest products for income generation of local communities (local markets, regional markets, national market, export market) - Ensuring food security of the poorer population and reducing the vulnerability to climate change - By preserving the forest, the export revenues from wood and non-wood forest products can be ensured in the long run. This contributes to national income and creates employment which leads to social security and stability. - Forest protection is fresh water protection: The preservation of functioning forest ecosystems in watershed areas is an indispensable contribution to the sustainable drinking water supply. - The programme creates the preconditions that partner countries and the Pacific region participate in upcoming REDD+ financing mechanism. Direct income opportunities from compensation for avoided deforestation will be a future result. - The participative development of a benefit sharing mechanism will be part of the activities for objective 3.
4.3.3 Further effects of the project	Please indicate, in bullet points with comments, any anticipated effects extending beyond the project goals (e.g. regarding structures, sustainable development, capacity building and ecological impacts). - The programme contributes directly to the preservation of biodiversity of species, ecosystems and genes in the Pacific as it is protecting forest ecosystems. The assessment of areas with high biodiversity and the analysis of interfaces between REDD+ and biodiversity (see chapter 4.2.1) will ensure that REDD+ measures support the conservation of biodiversity and that negative impacts are avoided. - The capacities of local communities regarding organisational, technical and communicative skills will be strengthened through the REDD+ pilot activities and the interaction with actors of all levels of intervention. - The capacities of operational staff in ministries and private forest companies on central aspects of REDD+ are strengthened (e.g. MRV, forest area monitoring, carbon monitoring). - The capacities of political decision makers and Pacific regional organisations are strengthened with regard to communication, coordination and international negotiations on climate change. - Independently from a REDD+ mechanisms sustainable forest systems will be supported, increasing future availability of forest resources. - The programme contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals 1,3,7 and 8 - The programme contributes to the implementation of the convention on biological diversity (CBD).

4.3.4 Securing sustainability after completion of support (long-term project financing, management and institutional integration)	Please indicate in bullet points with comments. The long-term sustainability will be safeguarded by the following measures and principles: - Ownership of the REDD+ process in the countries by the mandated institutions (forest ministries, environmental ministries, coordinating bodies for climate change etc) - Broad inclusion of all important stakeholders (Representatives of local communities and landowner associations, NGO, private sector, other involved ministries, research institutions), if necessary initialisation of additional cooperation and communication mechanisms - Establishing the legal and institutional framework conditions and communication mechanisms (cf project objective 3) - 'Success stories' from the pilot projects (cf. Project objective 3) will create interest for imitation by potentially interested parties - Ownership of SPC for the coordination and development of a regional REDD+ strategy (cf project objective 1) and the regional and supraregional information platform (cf project objective 2), securing mid-term funding and implementation, close links to other information platforms - Strengthening the capacities of staff in departments, organisations and communities through trainings and integration into networks for knowledge exchange - Development and strengthening of SPC's capacities to become a regional knowledge hub on REDD+, this will allow the acquisition of funds for advisory services after project termination
4.3.5 Duplicability of results, prominence and multiplier effect	Please indicate in bullet points with comments. <u>Duplicability of results</u> - The standards developed in the pilot projects (design, safeguards, reference level) will be a reference system for other interested communities and will lead to broad impacts - REDD+ readiness processes can be implemented in other small Pacific island states. SPC as a regional steering and advisory organisation can initiate and service these processes. - Best practices and experiences from the project countries and pilot projects regarding the different elements of REDD+ are accessible via the REDD+ platform and can be duplicated. <u>Prominence of the project</u> - Pacific island countries and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) play an important role in the international climate discussions (see COP 15). The German contribution is expected to be highly visible as advising high level officials is planned. The visibility will be increased through the perception of the increasing engagement of Germany in the Pacific by BMZ and BMU. - The project activities will be visible in other PIC through the cooperation with SPC and the approach of regional integration - The supra-regional exchange of experiences makes the engagement of the BMU visible in the cooperating regions. <u>Multiplier effects</u> - The experiences from REDD+ pilot projects regarding sustainable forest management can be transferred to some extent to other sectors like agro forestry and land use planning. This applies to aspects like stakeholder participation, planning and steering mechanisms, communication, coordination etc. - Upscaling of the pilot projects for the national implementation of measures.

4.3.6 Innovative character (technological, economic, methodological, institutional)	Please indicate in bullet points with comments. The innovative character can be described along the following aspects: - REDD+ is a genuine innovative approach to reach a balance of interest between forest owners and users - REDD+ relies on the principal of performance based payments. This implies that the performance (=positive impact on carbon balance) has to be described and verified. - REDD+ elements and initiatives from the countries will be aggregated and made accessible at a regional level for the use of all - Pacific island countries will have the opportunity to represent themselves as a homogeneous interest group at international negotiations. - Through regional cooperation and the adoption of a regional REDD+ policy the problem of 'leakage', also between countries, is tackled - Exchange of experiences between project countries and other regions will increase the willingness and success of learning - Sustainable forest management and mitigation of greenhouse gases become a mutual interest of government, civil society and forest industry
4.4 Monitoring/progress review by implementing agency	
	Please explain how the target indicators listed in section 4.1 will be quantified. The information and guidelines on results monitoring and greenhouse gas monitoring in Annex 4 must be observed. Please list the accompanying monitoring expenditures in Annex 3. In chapters 4.1.2 and 4.2.2 the objectives and intermediate outcomes are described. The idea is to establish the conditions required for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. A direct reduction of emissions is only expected in the pilot projects, yet the project activities are essential for long term, sustainable reduction of emissions. The tools, methods and experiences of GTZ in results based monitoring will be applied. REDD+ readiness processes in the Pacific shall be expedited and completed. This will lead to long-term reductions in emissions. The exact amount of the expected savings cannot be determined in advance, as the data on deforestation rates, carbon stocks are inaccurate and/or lacking. These will be collected as part of the project. The expected emission savings also depend on the reference emission level, which will be established by the project too. Capacity building for monitoring changes in the carbon cycle of forest ecosystems and the development and trialling of locally adapted carbon monitoring systems are part of project objective 3. During the development of the monitoring system the inclusion of other impacts, especially the protection of biodiversity, will be ensured. The direct reduction of carbon emissions by the pilot projects will be analysed as part of the project implementation. The data collected in the project will be fed into the national MRV systems to achieve the highest accuracy possible. The regional REDD+ information platform will gather all available information on deforestation rates, forest degradation, and ghg- emissions from the forest sector in the project countries thus enabling an analysis on a regional basis. This will be useful for monitoring and addressing potential regional 'leakage' effects. The regional REDD+ policy will provide a common framework for addressing regional leakage. At least two of the project countries already made experiences and attended trainings for ghg-accounting methodologies by experts from GOFCC-GOLD and others. These and other methodologies for MRV will be integrated systematically into REDD+ readiness processes in collaboration with scientific institutions. The results and impacts of the project on regional, national and local level will be monitored with the project partners through the GTZ monitoring system. The progress of the project can be analysed promptly and comprehensively for steering and public relation purposes. Gender aspects will be given special consideration (see chapter 4.2.1). As part of the BMZ project CCCPIR (see 4.1.1), GTZ supports SPC in the development of a monitoring system on climate change. The monitoring of the results of the REDD+ platform and the regional REDD+ policy will be incorporated

	into this system to promote ownership and avoid duplication. The monitoring system of the REDD+ information platform will also be connected to the project monitoring in the narrow sense. .
--	--

5 Embedding of the project	
5.1 Integration of the project into strategies of the target country	The four mentioned Pacific island countries produced National communications (NC) and /or National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA). The programme supports the project countries to implement these strategies. The programme is embedded in the Pacific Island Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) and supports its implementation. SPC declared climate change as one of 10 cross cutting focal areas in its new Corporate Strategy. The Land Resources Division of SPC announced climate change as one of three main advisory issues in its current 5 year strategy (2009-2013). In September 2009 the heads of forestry of the PICs declared the development of a regional REDD+ policy as a priority and requested assistance on that matter from SPC. All potential project countries expressed written interest in the programme and agreed to its strategic direction. The project fits into national strategies on REDD+. In Fiji a REDD+ policy was developed with the support of GTZ. In Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea REDD /REDD readiness roadmaps were elaborated and the development of a National REDD Plan started in Papua New Guinea. The project will support and advance these processes through a regional exchange of experiences and advisory services.
5.2 Synergies and relationships with other relevant projects and sectors in the target country (German development cooperation and other organisations)	The programme can use experiences made in the REDD+ process in Fiji supported by a component of the BMZ financed programme 'CCCPIR'. These experiences will be used for the development of the regional REDD+ policy and the REDD+ platform and made available to other countries. SPC-LRD's forest programme will play a decisive role in this task. Additionally the programme can make use of experiences, data, and capacities from the regional SPC-GTZ Forestry programme, which ended in 2008. This applies especially for the project countries Fiji and Vanuatu as well as SPC. Comprehensive educational campaigns for different target groups improved the understanding for sustainable natural resource management. Staff of the forest ministries was trained in forest inventories, which are crucial for the establishment of forest carbon inventories. For Fiji a detailed forest inventory is available, which in conjunction with satellite images and carbon analysis, will be the basis for the reference scenario and the monitoring, reporting and verification. In Vanuatu the international NGO Live & Learn submitted a proposal for a local REDD+ pilot project to EU with good chances of approval. The proposed programme can use the experiences from these pilot projects to integrate them into a regional knowledge exchange and feed into the development of a regional REDD+ strategy. There are strong working relationships between the BMZ/GTZ programme and Live & Learn as well as the EU in Vanuatu. The World Bank supports Vanuatu as part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in the development of a REDD+ Action plan, which will build on in the REDD+ readiness process by improving political support (REDD+ policy) and implementation (reference level, MRV, governance etc.) In Papua New Guinea REDD+ Initiatives are currently supported by UN-REDD, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank (FCPF), Norway and Australia (AusAID). A joint mission of these organisations developed a 'REDD readiness roadmap' with the government of PNG. This concept which is aligned with the major donors in this field will be the basis for cooperation and identifying elements which could be provided by GTZ. Possible areas of support could be the implementation of pilot projects and the shaping the governance relations between the actors on national and local level. Another area of engagement could be the analysis of the interface between the conservation of biodiversity and REDD+ to improve the dovetailing of these two areas. These activities will draw on the 'High

	Conservation Value Forest Toolkit' for PNG and other approaches. An in-depth identification of REDD+ activities of the project will be done at the beginning of the project. The Japanese technical cooperation (JICA) is active in the forest sector in Papua New Guinea, cooperation for forest monitoring and inventory with a focus on carbon monitoring is anticipated. The BMU-ICI project 'Indigenous Forest Reserve' tests participatory approaches for sustainable management of the YUS conservation area since 2008. Another BMU-ICI project for the protection of mangroves is active in three of the project countries (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands). The experiences gained in these projects will be taken into account for the designing of the concept and the implementation of the REDD+ pilot projects. The activities, experiences and results of the mentioned donor projects will be analysed and made available to other countries by the regional approach. The Solomon Islands have an observer status at the UN-REDD programme which does not imply financial or direct technical assistance for REDD+ measures. An initiative of indigenous organisations plans to protect the forests of the uninhabited island Tetepare through REDD+ mechanisms. This initiative could be supported by the project. A national framework for REDD+ does not exist in the Solomon Islands, the offered support would help filling this gap.
--	--

6 Other	
6.1 Other aspects relevant to funding	The preservation of forest ecosystems does not only reduce ghg emissions and protects biodiversity. It also reduces the vulnerability of the inhabitants of the PIC to extreme weather events which will increase in the wake of climate change. Adaptation capacities are therefore directly supported through watershed protection, diversified sources of income and mitigation of extreme weather events. Also non-forest ecosystems are protected as the degradation of coral reefs by siltation caused by logging will decrease. GTZ and SPC will agree on a financing treaty (130.000 €). SPC will use these funds to employ an additional expert for advising community forestry projects and local communities as well as the implementation of pilot projects. Local subsidies (360.000 €) will be granted to NGOs and local communities for the implementation of activities in the pilot countries, more details are not decided at this stage of planning.. SPC will provide office spaces, staff and other services valuing approx. 300.000€ to the project.

Annex 1:

Implementing partner(s)/Subcontractor(s)		
1. Implementing partner/ subcontractor	Name Secretariat of the Pacific Community Institution Multilaterale Postal code, town/city Noumea Country New Caledonia Legal form international organisation Non-profit status: ☒ yes ☐ no Total staff 400 Staff for the project 6 Year established 1947 Turnover [€/year] 50000000 Experience in the target region [years] 60 Experience of activities relevant for the project [years] 15 <u>Expertise and experience relevant for the project</u> SPC-LRD's 'Forest and Trees' Team advises the governments of the member states as well as forest owners and users on sustainable forest management, agro forestry, forest conservation and preservation of forest genetic resources. In close collaboration with the private sector and governments SPC-LRD supports certification of sustainable forest management, marketing of processed wood (crafts) products as well as non-wood products. Other competences including participatory land use planning and climate change, and an excellent connection of SPC to the partner countries will be crucial for the project implementation. <u>Function/role in the proposed project</u> SPC has the mandate to provide advisory services on the forest sector. As a result of its successful activities the partner governments have confidence in SPC. In its role as a regional organisation SPC is indispensable for the development of regional strategies. SPC's structures for the project implementation and its established communication channels will be used for the implementation of the pilot projects and educational and awareness raising activities. The partnership with SPC ensures the continuation of the activities after the project duration and plays a decisive role for the sustainability of the project.	
2. Implementing partner/ subcontractor	Name N.N. Subcontractors will be identified by tender after the start of the project. Institution ---bitte auswählen--- Postal code, town/city Country Legal form Non-profit status: ☐ yes ☐ no Total staff Staff for the project	

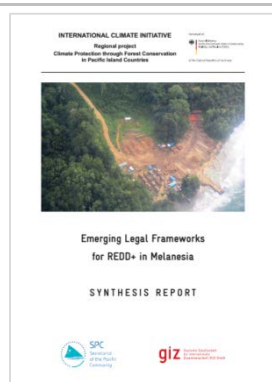


REDD+ IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

STUDIES AND REPORTS

2011 – 2015

I. Regional



Emerging Legal Frameworks for REDD+ in Melanesia – Synthesis Report

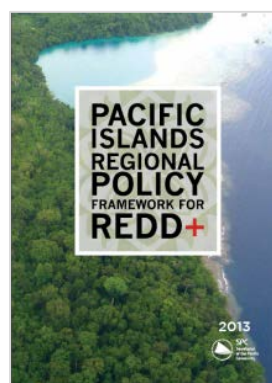
The purpose of this Synthesis Paper is to summarize the findings from the detailed Country Papers which describe and analyse the emerging legal frameworks for REDD+ in each country.

A notable omission in the legal frameworks of all Melanesian countries is the absence of land use planning laws.

Prepared by Lisa Ogle, on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries”.

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Pacific Islands Regional Policy Framework for REDD+

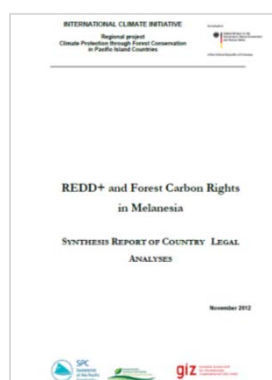
The 3rd Regional Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community on 28 September 2012 in Nadi, Fiji, endorsed the Pacific Islands Regional Policy Framework for REDD+.

The framework is designed to provide policy options to guide REDD+ programme development at regional and national levels, and to provide a rationale for financial support for the sustainable management and use of forest and tree resources.

The development of this framework was supported by the SPC/GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) regional project, “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in the Pacific Island Countries”, with funding from the BMUB.

(Hits: 876)

2013 - [Download](#)



REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Melanesia – Synthesis Report

Who owns the carbon in the forest?

The purpose of this synthesis paper is to summarize the legal position as to how carbon rights are treated under existing legal frameworks in four Melanesian countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) including options for law reform.

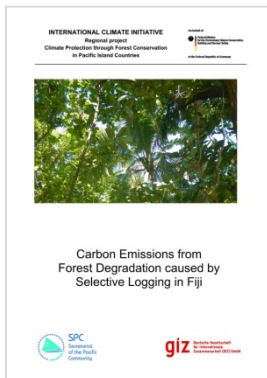
Prepared by Lisa Ogle, on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries”.

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II. Fiji



Carbon Emissions from Forest Degradation caused by Selective Logging in Fiji

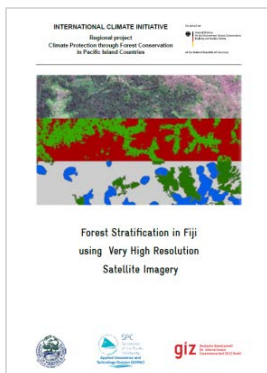
In this study, carbon emissions from selective logging are estimated by combining activity-related emission factors from demonstration activities with national log production data from natural forests in Fiji.

The log production in Fiji averages 62,500 m³ per year, causing emissions of approximately 252,000 t CO₂. Although emissions from selective logging are modest, the activity bears the most significant potential for carbon emission reductions from the forest sector through an application of Sustainable Forest Management practices.

Prepared by: Manuel Haas, on behalf of the SPC/GIZ Regional Project 'Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries'.

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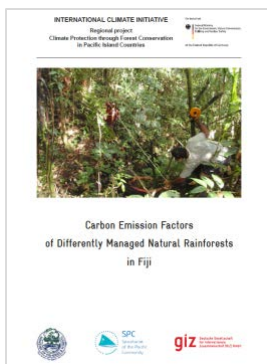
Forest Stratification in Fiji using High Resolution Satellite Imagery

A remote sensing based method for forest stratification in Fiji is proposed and applied to a REDD+-site. With very high resolution satellite imagery the canopy of the forest is mapped, after which this classification is stratified in open and closed forest. The results show that the method classifies the forest well and that the chosen definitions are a good representation of the actual Fijian forest.

Prepared by: Jonas van Duijvenbode, Johannes Reiche, Wolf Forstreuter - on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 769)

August 2014 - [Download](#)



Carbon Emission Factors of Differently Managed Natural Rainforests in Fiji

This study reports on the change in carbon stock following different management regimes including Sustainable Forest Management some 20 years ago as part of the Natural Forest Management Pilot Project (NFMPP) in Nakavu, Fiji.

Currently, the most important result is that the area under Sustainable Forest Management regime seems to contain only slightly less carbon (2.5 % less, in average over the felling cycle) than the untouched control areas which remain in their natural state.

Prepared by: Michael Mussong on behalf of the regional SPC/GIZ REDD project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

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June 2014 - [Download](#)



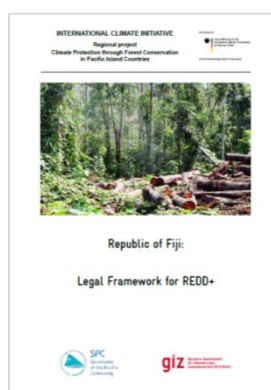
Reference Database and Validation Concept for Remote Sensing based Forest Cover Change Products in Fiji

This accuracy assessment of the available data and data storage on the forest resources in Fiji shows that managed commercial forests are well documented, while indigenous forests usually lack good quality data, due to uncontrolled utilization. It recommends the systematic improvement of data quality, including a review of definitions of forest states and stratification.

Prepared by: Johannes Eberenz, Johannes Reiche - on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 407)

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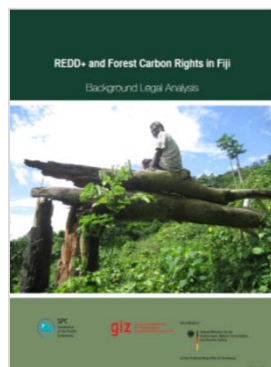
Republic of Fiji: Legal Framework for REDD+

The report provides a legal context to the various issues relating to REDD+ in Fiji. These include the required institutional arrangements, land tenure issues, regulatory instruments, leasing structures, identification of carbon rights, addressing competing land use interests and implementation of safeguards. Concise information on the current legal arrangements in Fiji and proposals to support the requirements under REDD+ are detailed.

Prepared by: Lisa Ogle - on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 692)

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REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Fiji - Background Legal Analysis

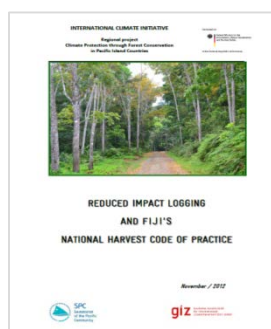
The purpose of this Paper is to describe the relevance of carbon rights for REDD+ in Fiji and to identify the options for the ownership of forest carbon rights.

Fiji has to make a policy decision on the way ahead for carbon rights to proceed with the national REDD+ programme. The choices are between the various options for ownership of carbon rights.

Prepared by: Ms Christine Trenorden, on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project: "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 1132)

November 2012 / Published April 2013 - [Download](#)



Reduced Impact Logging and Fiji's National Code of Harvest Practices

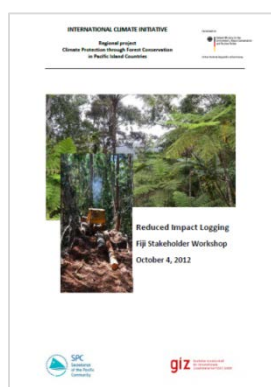
Fiji has in place a revised national code of harvest practices (NCOHP).

However, the Code is just a guideline and currently has no legislative backing to enforce its implementation. For RIL to be implemented effectively, it is considered desirable to develop a legal framework in order to strengthen enforcement. This consultancy identifies actions and issues to be addressed to support this implementation.

Author: Arthur W. Klassen – on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 1757)

November 2012 - [Download](#)



Reduced Impact Logging - Fiji Stakeholder Workshop, October 4, 2012

This workshop was convened by the Fiji Department of Forests to provide a forum for stakeholder discussion of the proposed changes to the Fiji National Code of Harvesting Practice 2010.

It was also intended to be a forum for presentation of the Consultants initial observations and findings with regards to incorporating the concept to RIL into the NCOHP (see for reference report: Reduced Impact Logging and Fiji's National Code of Harvest Practice, Klassen, 2012).

Author: Arthur W. Klassen On behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

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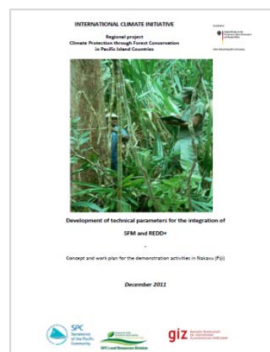
Technical Parameters for the Integration of SFM and REDD+ in the Nakavu Demonstration Site (Fiji)

Report on investigations in a demonstration area to elaborate technical planning parameters for the integration of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation + forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks)

Prepared by: Michael Mussong and Stephan Hoffmann, HNE Eberswalde/Germany, on behalf of the SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 504)

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Development of Technical Parameters for the Integration of SFM and REDD+ - Concept and Workplan for the Demonstration Activities in Nakavu (Fiji)

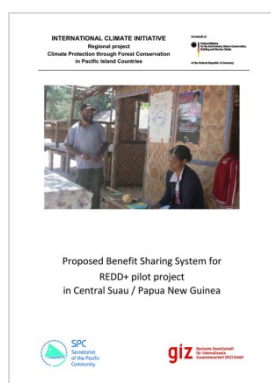
The report contains a project concept for a demonstration area: all SFM-relevant measures will be implemented but under the extended perspective of REDD+. In particular, the development of carbon stock after different logging intensities will be elaborated.

Prepared by: Michael Mussong on behalf of the SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 972)

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III. Papua New Guinea



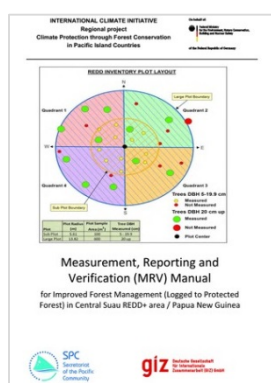
Proposed Benefit Sharing System for REDD+ pilot project in Central Suau / Papua New Guinea

This document outlines current prospects for a Benefit Sharing mechanism that could be used with the Massim people in Central Suau REDD+ Project Area in Milne Bay Province / Papua New Guinea. It provides a couple of unique features as recommendations for how benefits may be shared most effectively and most amicably in the Suau District. The recommendation is that the Benefit Sharing System does not include cash benefits of any kind to landowners, but focus on community-wide projects that might be identified by women in each ward and shared amongst all community members.

Prepared by: Österreichische Bundesforste (lead author: Nancy Sullivan), on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 143)

April 2015 - [Download](#)



Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Manual for Improved Forest Management (Logged to Protected Forest) in Central Suau REDD+ area / Papua New Guinea

The purpose of this manual is to provide an overall review of the components that will be part of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for a REDD+ voluntary market forest carbon project. This MRV manual serves as the Monitoring Plan in the "Project Design Document Development for Forest Carbon Project (Logged – Protected Forest) in Central Suau" prepared under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) in compliance with the VCS VM0011 methodology.

Prepared by: Österreichische Bundesforste, on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

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February 2015 - [Download](#)



Forest Carbon Inventory in Proposed Central Suau REDD+ Area, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

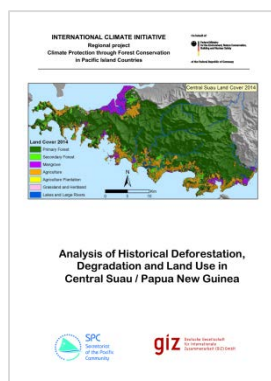
The present report provides an overview on the methodology, results and discussion of the forest carbon inventory in Central Suau in Milne Bay province, Papua New Guinea.

The results of the land cover analysis show eleven land cover strata including three assessed to hold commercial sawlog stocks. These three land cover strata cover 43,374ha or 72.6% of Central Suau PPA area of 59,758ha. The report will be used as an input into the preparation of the Project Description under VCS.

Prepared by Österreichische Bundesforste AG on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 472)

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Analysis of Historical Deforestation, Degradation and Land Use in Central Suau, Papua New Guinea

The report gives an overview on drivers of historical deforestation and forest degradation in Central Suau, Milne Bay Province, PNG.

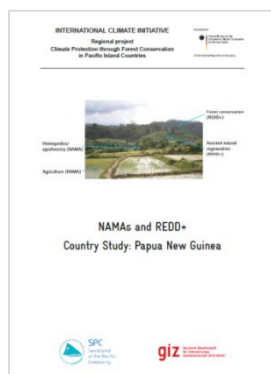
The results on historical land cover and use pronounce the dominance of agricultural areas for subsistence food and crop production with scattered coconut plantation along the sea shore.

The complex of identified agents, drivers and underlying causes are described: population growth is a major underlying cause and poses in conjunction with agricultural land use as livelihood activity and scarce land resources along the coast the high threat of deforestation on accessible primary forests.

Prepared by Österreichische Bundesforste AG on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 610)

October 2014 - [Download](#)



NAMAs and REDD+ Country Study: Papua New Guinea

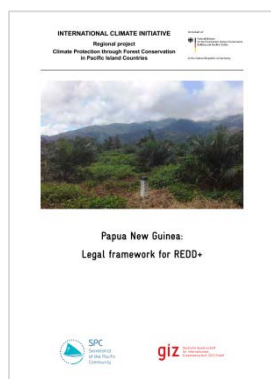
Two instruments for climate change mitigation are being discussed internationally: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA). How can they be differentiated, and where lies the potential niche for each of these two mechanisms under which the UNFCCC conferences prepare opportunities for funding of on-the-ground implementation?

This study compares the potential for both in Papua New Guinea, as part of a regional study conducted in Asia-Pacific by GIZ

Author: Murray Ward on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 831)

October 2013 - [Download](#)



Papua New Guinea: Legal Framework for REDD+

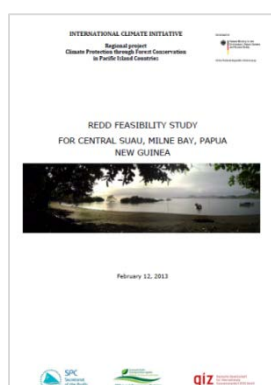
The report provides a legal context to the various issues relating to REDD+ in Papua New Guinea. These include the required institutional arrangements, land tenure issues, regulatory instruments, leasing structures, identification of carbon rights, addressing competing land use interests and implementation of safeguards.

Included in the report are direct links to all important documents regarding REDD in Papua New Guinea.

Prepared by: Lisa Ogle - on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 677)

September 2014 - [Download](#)



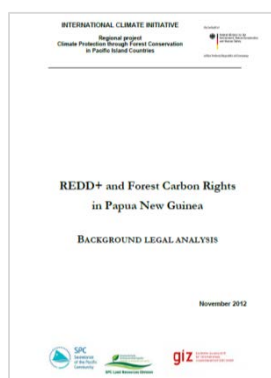
REDD Feasibility Study for Central Suau, Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea

The REDD+ feasibility study for Central Suau in Milne Bay Province/ PNG recommends an IFM/REDD+ forest carbon project following the Verified Carbon Standard methodology for logged to protected forest (LtPF). The report indicates preliminary results on eligible forest area, biomass and carbon stock, and potential revenues.

Author: Scott A. Stanley on behalf of the SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits:1254)

February 2013 - [Download](#)



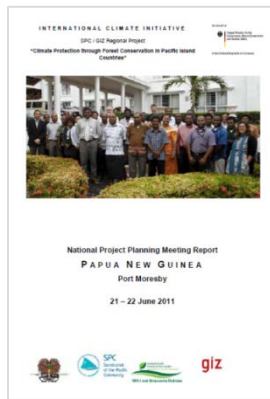
REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Papua New Guinea – Background Legal Analysis – updated version

There is, as yet, no legislation specifically dealing with REDD+, forest carbon rights or payments for environmental services generally in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The conclusion reached in this Paper is that customary land tenure, as presently structured, cannot legally support a market-based approach to REDD+ which involves site-specific forest carbon projects due to the legal restrictions which customary land tenure brings and the contractual obligations that underpin REDD+ projects.

Prepared by: Mr Steven O'Brien, on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 281)

November 2012 - [Download](#)



SPC/GIZ Climate Protection Project – Papua New Guinea National Planning Meeting Report

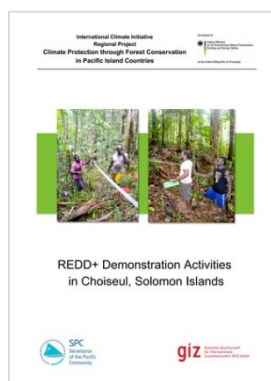
The Papua New Guinea planning meeting of the SPC/GIZ Regional Programme “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries” was held at the Lamana Hotel, Port Moresby, from 21 – 22 June 2011. The report documents the following:

1. An overview of REDD+ initiatives in Papua New Guinea
2. Stakeholder relationships in terms of REDD+
3. Assessment of REDD+ needs and priorities for the country
4. Potential REDD+ pilot sites and feasible project activities as identified by participants
5. Recommendations for the regional REDD+ information portal currently proposed under the project.

(Hits: 970)

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IV. Solomon Islands



REDD+ Demonstration Activities in Choiseul, Solomon Islands

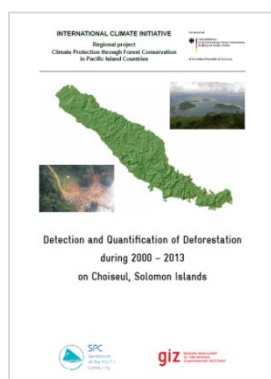
The report summarizes activities and outcomes of REDD+ demonstration activities in Sirebe & Vuri Tribal Land and Guerre Land, Choiseul, Solomon Islands. The timber inventory, carbon stock estimates and cost benefit analysis performed aimed to further improve a local forest carbon project under the Plan Vivo Standard.

The annual baseline emissions are estimated at 40,980 t CO₂e (two sites combined), which equates to potential production of 40,980 carbon credits annually.

Prepared by: Robbie Henderson (Live & Learn / Nakau Programme) on behalf of the SPC/GIZ Regional Project 'Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries'.

(Hits: 196)

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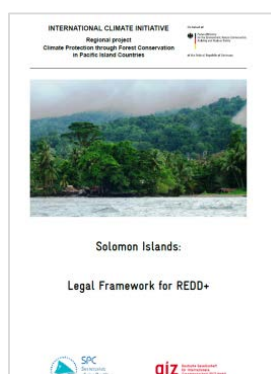
Detection and Quantification of Deforestation during 2000 – 2013 on Choiseul, Solomon Islands

During the period 2000 – 2013, 1,998 ha or 154 ha/year were deforested on Choiseul, equalling about 0.65 % of the total forest area in 2010 (307,701ha). This is the result of the analysis of remote sensing data from 2000, 2010 and 2013. The report explains the methodology applied and sources of potential errors within the analysis, such as cloud cover and accuracy of available data. However, it is a valuable first step towards developing a methodology for a national deforestation baseline in Solomon Islands.

Prepared by: Jörg Seifert-Granzin and Dorys Mendez Zeballos – on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project 'Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries'.

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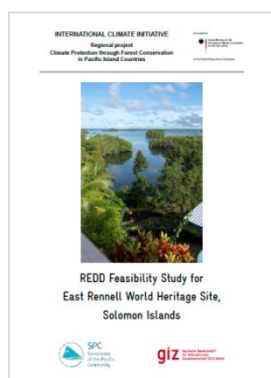
Solomon Islands: Legal Framework for REDD+

The report provides a legal context to the various issues relating to REDD+ in the Solomon Islands. These include the required institutional arrangements, land tenure issues, regulatory instruments, leasing structures, identification of carbon rights, addressing competing land use interests and implementation of safeguards. Concise information on the current legal arrangements in the country and proposals to support the requirements under REDD+ are detailed.

Prepared by: Lisa Ogle - on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project 'Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries'.

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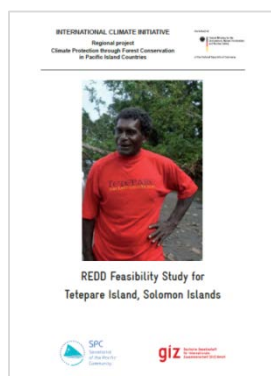
REDD Feasibility Study for East Rennell World Heritage Site, Solomon Islands

Rennell Natural World Heritage Site (WHS) in Solomon Islands is one of only three areas of World Heritage status in the Pacific Island Region. This feasibility study concludes that a REDD+ project for the East Rennell Island WHS, would generate higher income for the local land owner association than a logging operation. Furthermore, it suggests that such an activity could support the local acceptance and conservation of the currently endangered World Heritage Status.

Author: Scott Alexander Stanley on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

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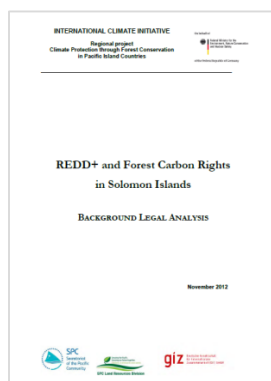
REDD Feasibility Study for Tetepare Island, Solomon Islands

This feasibility study concludes that a REDD+ project on Tetepare Island, Solomon Islands, would generate higher income for the local land owner association than a logging operation. Tetepare is a hotspot for biodiversity, as well as for biomass per hectare, which additionally increases the value of conservation.

Author: Scott Alexander Stanley on behalf of: SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

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REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Solomon Islands – Background Legal Analysis

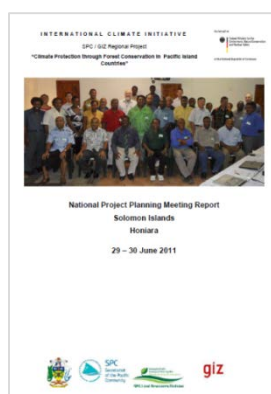
Who 'owns' the carbon in the forest? This is a question of great importance for all developing countries preparing to engage with REDD+, including Solomon Islands.

Land in Solomon Islands is of central importance to the cultural and economic security of customary landowning communities. Consequently, the right to control forest carbon and the right to enjoy the economic benefits that may flow from this under REDD+ are also of critical importance to Solomon Islanders.

Prepared by: Professor Jennifer Corrin, on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project: Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries.

(Hits: 856)

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SPC/GIZ Climate Protection Project – Solomon Islands National Planning Meeting Report

The Solomon Islands planning meeting of the SPC/GIZ Regional Programme "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries" was held at the King Solomons Hotel, Honiara, from 29 – 30 June 2011.

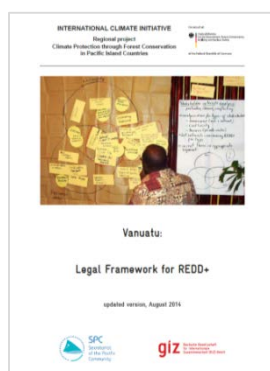
The report documents the following:

1. An overview of REDD+ initiatives in the Solomon Islands
2. Stakeholder relationships in terms of REDD+
3. Assessment of REDD+ needs and priorities for the country
4. Potential REDD+ pilot sites and feasible project activities as identified by participants
5. Recommendations for the regional REDD+ information portal currently proposed under the project.

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V. Vanuatu



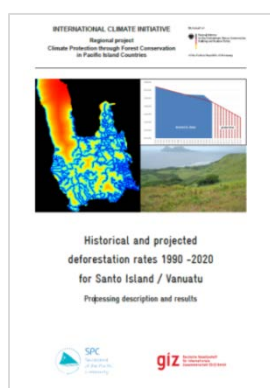
Vanuatu: Legal Framework for REDD+ – Updated version August 2014

This updated version of the report provides a legal context to the various issues relating to REDD+ in Vanuatu taking into consideration the “2013 Land Law Reforms”. These include the required institutional arrangements, land tenure issues, regulatory instruments, leasing structures, identification of carbon rights, addressing competing land use interests and implementation of safeguards. The report provides direct links to all important documents regarding REDD in Vanuatu.

Prepared by: Lisa Ogle - on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries”.

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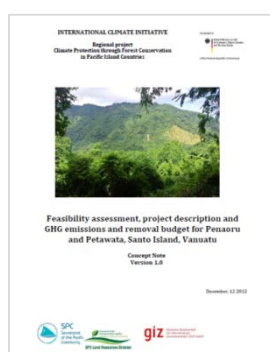
Historical and projected deforestation rates 1990 – 2020 for Santo Island, Vanuatu

The report describes the processing of historical remote sensing data and modelling of expected land use in the next decade. Results show a very low deforestation rate of 0.3 % between 1990 and 2010, and a predicted 0.6 % between 2010 and 2020. This supports the assumption that forest degradation should become the focus of further activities towards developing a Reference Emission Level for forests in Vanuatu.

Prepared by: Jörg Seifert-Granzin, Dorys Mendez Zeballos - on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries”.

(Hits: 302)

April 2014 - [Download](#)



Feasibility assessment, project description and GHG emissions and removal budget for Penaoru and Petawata, Santo Island, Vanuatu

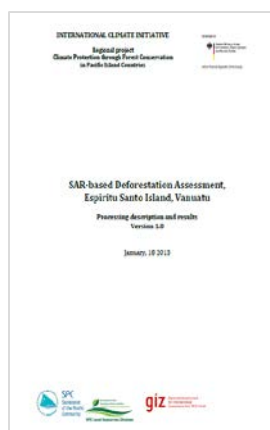
This concept note assesses the REDD+ emission reduction and removal potential in and around Penaoru and Petawata on Santo's West Coast.

The assessment indicates that there is almost no potential for activities reducing deforestation in the proposed area. Reducing forest degradation by eliminating invasive weeds might show some potential for emission reductions and removals, but requires further research to assess the management options and their carbon dynamics. The community areas of Penaoru and Petawata show a potential of 664 ha for enhancing forest carbon stocks activities.

Prepared by Joerg Seifert-Grenzin (MesaConsult) on behalf of SPC/GIZ “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries”.

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SAR-based Deforestation Assessment, Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu – Processing description and results, Version 1.0

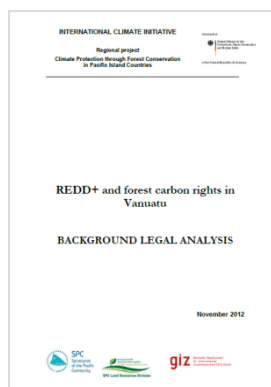
Based on three data sets, the deforestation on Santo Island, Vanuatu, was assessed for 2007-2010. According to the results at this stage, 4,584 ha have been deforested during the 3 year period corresponding to an annual deforestation of 1,528 ha/yr, which appears very high compared to a rate of 467.8 ha/yr for the whole of Vanuatu reported for the period 1990 to 2000 (Herold et al. 2007).

The spatial distribution shows, that most of the deforestation occurred in the agricultural area around Santo's capital Luganville in the Southeast, between the villages Ipayato and Viase in the Southwest, and in the Northern part of the west coast.

Prepared by Joerg Seifert-Grenzin (MesaConsult) on behalf of SPC/GIZ “Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries”.

(Hits: 1125)

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REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Vanuatu - Background Legal Analysis

Vanuatu is the only country in Melanesia which already has a statutory framework for forest carbon rights, although this only applies to leased land: the *Forestry Rights Registration and Timber Harvest Guarantee Act 2000*. The legislation creates a separate property right, which allows the carbon to be decoupled from the land. The grant of forestry rights under the Act is dependent on the prior creation of a lease over the land. Consequently, it does not provide a framework for customary land 'owners' to exercise their forest carbon rights on un-leased customary land.

Prepared by: Professor Jennifer Corrin, on behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project: "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 841)

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Vanuatu REDD+ - MRV and Reference Level Methodology

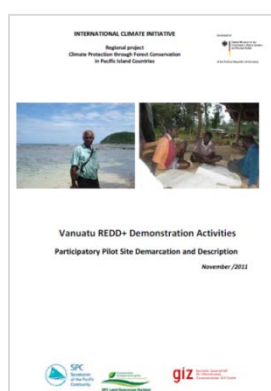
In support of the Vanuatu national implementation strategy for REDD+, SPC/GIZ focuses on the development of a system for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) carbon emissions and a Reference Emission Level (REL).

This report describes in detail the proposed methodologies for REL/RL and MRV for Vanuatu and how national circumstances will be taken into account.

Authors: SPC/GIZ, Seifert-Granzin, J., Hecht, B.

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SPC/GIZ: Vanuatu REDD+ Demonstration Activities – Participatory Pilot Site Selection

In the National Planning Meeting in Port Vila June 15-16 2011, the participants proposed potential pilot sites for the implementation of REDD+ demonstration activities. After further in-country consultations, three potential sites were pre-selected: Penaoru, Vathe/Big Bay Bush (both Santo), and Wiawi (Malakula).

This report compiles the available background information on the three sites, describes the consultative process with the communities and identifies the potential area for implementation.

Prepared by Rufino Pineda for SPC/GIZ Regional Project "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries".

(Hits: 1453)

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SPC/GIZ Climate Protection Project - Vanuatu National Planning Meeting Report

The Vanuatu planning meeting of the SPC/GIZ Regional Programme "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries" was held at the Melanesian Hotel, Port Vila, from 15 – 16 June 2011.

The report documents the following:

1. An overview of REDD+ initiatives in Vanuatu
2. Stakeholder relationships in terms of REDD+
3. Assessment of REDD+ needs and priorities for the country
4. Potential REDD+ pilot sites and feasible project activities as identified by participants
5. Recommendations for the regional REDD+ information portal currently proposed under the project.

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<http://bit.ly/redd-project>

Regional REDD+ Help Desk



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