

GOVERNMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



National Programme Semi-Annual Update Template

Solomon Islands

UN-REDD Programme – Solomon
Islands

2 September 2013

1. National Programme Status

1.1 National Programme Identification

Please identify the National Programme by completing the information requested below.

Country: Solomon Islands

Title of programme: Solomon Islands UN-REDD Initial National Programme

Date of signature¹: 17th May 2011

Date of first transfer of funds²: 3rd June 2011

End date according to National Programme

Document: January 2013

No-cost extension requested³: Yes – approved to 31 March 2014

Implementing partners⁴:

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM)

Ministry of Forestry and Research (MFR)

¹ Last signature on the National Programme Document

² As reflected on the MPTF Office Gateway <http://mptf.undp.org>

³ If yes, please provide new end date

⁴ Those organizations either sub-contracted by the Project Management Unit or those organizations officially identified in the National Programme Document as responsible for implementing a defined aspect of the project. Do not include the participating UN Organizations unless Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) is being applied.

1.2 Monitoring Framework

The table below requests reporting on achievements during the reporting period, January to 30 of June against the expected targets in the annual work plan. If there is no data to be reported in the reporting period, please mark N/A. Please add additional rows as needed. For information on means of verification, responsibilities and risk and assumptions, please refer to the Monitoring Framework in the National Programme Document.

Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes	
Expected Results: Output 1.1: A broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ working group	
Indicators:	Working group formed within two months and meets on a quarterly basis as required.
Baseline:	<u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> No multi-stakeholder working group on REDD+ in place.
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	

Expected annual Target –
Quarterly Meetings for REDD+ Taskforce and Working Groups Engaging in REDD+ process.

Achievement of Annual Target

The 2013 first quarter meeting for the National REDD+ Taskforce and Working Groups was organized from the 19-20 February 2013. The Working Groups and Taskforce through the meeting were able to map out activities and outline the priorities for 2013. The members of the taskforce and working groups appointed by cabinet attended the meetings and were actively involved in the discussions and decision making processes. The meetings minutes were submitted to the PMU.

The taskforce also prepared a cabinet paper on the progress of the UNREDD Programme and recommended that;

1. Government of the Solomon Islands takes full ownership of the development and implementation of a national approach to REDD+.
2. Government leadership facilitates a multi-sectoral approach to the implementation of REDD+.
3. The Government of the Solomon Islands considers the establishment of an official mechanism for the review and approval of forest carbon initiatives and that adequate time is provided for the development of a full framework to guide implementation of REDD+ within the Solomon Islands.

Based on that, the Cabinet has deliberated on the the issues fully and endorsed the current work of the UN-REDD Programme and the importance of a multi-sectoral approach. On the third issues cabinet has fully endorsed the view and recommends that the UN-REDD Programme facilitate such a mechanism in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Manage and Meteorology and the Ministry of Forests and Research in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=1896&Itemid=53

A number of the members of multi-stakeholder national REDD+ Taskforce travelled to Fiji as part of a Regional REDD+ capacity building initiative. This study tour was funded by the UNDP regional Tier 2 budget. The visit was facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Members of the Taskforce and working groups were able to observe how the Government of Fiji is implementing its REDD+ readiness programme and raise their awareness of the important role of a multi-stakeholder group. Lessons learned from each member of the working groups were presented in their study tour reports submitted to the PMU.

http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2350&Itemid=53

The second quarter meeting of the REDD+ Taskforce and the working groups was organized over a two-day combined national safeguards workshop from 22-23 May 2013. The workshop reviewed preliminary stakeholder mapping, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as potential strategies. The multi-stakeholder groups were also introduced to how a national safeguard information system could be structured. The multi-stakeholder working groups in an open plenary discussed the potential ways to further develop nationally appropriate safeguards (including approaches to stakeholder engagement) and a Safeguards Information System (SIS). They noted that it would help stakeholders a lot to have easy access to all information on existing safeguards and linked with information on current forest concessions and other developments. Caution however was also raised about trying to create complicated systems for safeguards and thus confusing many of the resources owners. The minutes of the safeguards workshop were submitted to the PMU.

http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=1896&Itemid=53

Expected Results: Output 1.2: Policy and sectoral analyses to inform the development of the Roadmap

Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and oversight process in place within four months - Report produced within 10 months
Baseline:	<p><u>Baseline for all indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No policy and sectoral analysis for REDD+ undertaken
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	
<p>Expected annual Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of existing institutional structures - Assessment of existing drivers of deforestation and degradation and past and present strategies to address them - Identification of potential approaches to REDD+ Strategies - Proposal for revised institutional approach and improved coordination - Review and finalize REDD+ Strategies - Develop guidelines on stakeholder engagement for REDD+ Implementation 	<p>Achievement of Annual Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The initial assessment of existing institutional structures has been undertaken through the background document prepared by the policy advisor. The assessment shows that REDD+ implementation will require developing institutional changes within the Ministry of Forest and Research and the Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) in order to facilitate REDD+ related activities. The development of institutional capacity to facilitate the requirements of REDD+ in terms of governance, MRV capacity, transparency and accountability are some of the key components. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2427&Itemid=53 - The assessment of existing drivers of deforestation and degradation has also been undertaken in the background document. The major drivers of deforestation and degradation in the country are unsustainable logging operations. This is due to country's reliance on logging as a major source of income. The analysis also showed subsistence agriculture is also a major cause of deforestation through shifting cultivation exacerbated by indirect factors such as rapid population growth and that more than 85% of Solomon Islanders are subsistence farmers. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2427&Itemid=53 - Proposals for a revised institutional approach and improved coordination are currently being developed. - Review and finalization of REDD+ Strategies are being formulated. - Guidelines for stakeholder engagement are being formulated.
Expected Results: Output 1.3: A REDD+ readiness roadmap	
Indicators:	Road map in place after 10 months
Baseline:	<p><u>Baseline for all indicators:</u></p> <p>No roadmap process.</p>
Expected annual Target	Achievement of Annual Target –
The roadmap in place by end of 2013	Progress has been made towards the achievement of this target with baselines studies being completed. The formulation of the major components of the roadmap is in progress through national stakeholders' consultations, workshops and meetings, initial capacity assessment for MRV and preparation towards the second MRV field training in August 2013. All these activities will lead to the formulation of the draft roadmap at least by end of October 2013.
Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD	
Expected Results: Output 2.1: A constituency-based education and awareness raising programme	

Indicators:	Plan developed within 4 months; programme delivered by end of initial programme
Baseline:	<u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> Very limited understanding of REDD+ at constituency level.
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	
Expected annual Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop process of communication and capacity building for 2013 for REDD+ Readiness - Development of a multi-stakeholder governance structure - Website developed and published - Awareness raising / Training events delivered 	Achievement of Annual Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The process for communication and capacity building began during the reporting period and remains on going through a number of structures and events including: . - The development of a multi-stakeholder governance structure for awareness raising is being implemented through the respective technical working groups. - A UNREDD website which is currently under development and will be done in coordination with work being done on a regional REDD+ website. - A UN-REDD programme brochure which was developed for circulation. - A number of awareness raising and training events related to the operation of the REDD+ Taskforce and working groups. This work has significantly increased both the number of people (mainly in Honiara and key provinces) and depth of awareness of REDD+ in the SI. Key events within this process have been awareness raising meetings, the recent study tour to Fiji, consultations, meetings and training on MRV. Stakeholders are particularly interested in the potential contribution that the five REDD+ activities can have towards sustainable development in Solomon Islands. The focus of many of the awareness activities are on the benefits of REDD+ beyond the carbon given its relevance to the context of Solomon Islands where unsustainable logging has been affecting the livelihoods of the rural populace.
Expected Results (Output2.2): A process to ensure the right of free, prior and informed consent for actions to be undertaken on REDD+	
Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan developed within four months; - Programme delivered by the end of initial programme
Baseline:	<u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> No FPIC process in place
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	
Expected annual Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FPIC processes to be reflected in the REDD+ Roadmap 	Achievement of Annual Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work is ongoing on inclusion of FPIC guidelines within the Roadmap key steps taken during this reporting period include: - Discussion with the Taskforce members regarding the scope of the stakeholder engagement guidelines during the two-day national stakeholder workshop on safeguards in May 2013. - Development of an outline of the stakeholder engagement guidelines, encompassing FPIC and other broader stakeholder engagement and consultation aspects, which has been shared for initial comments and will be linked to the first draft of the Roadmap.
Expected Results: Output2.3: Promoting social and environmental benefits whilst reducing risks from REDD	
Indicators:	Awareness and discussion on the formulation of a nationally appropriate safeguards mechanism.

Baseline:	<u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> No current approach to or analysis of safeguards for REDD+.
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	
Expected annual Target	Achievement of Annual Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of existing safeguards and gaps - Develop guidelines on stakeholder engagement for REDD+ Implementation - Development of an approach to safeguards – including indicators, safeguard information system - Development of guidelines for implementation of safeguards in SI 	<p>The background document also provides an analysis of the existing environmental and social safeguards and gaps in their implementation. The initial assessment shows that whilst there are safeguards such as the Environment Impact Assessment process (which includes both social and environmental elements) under the <i>Environment Act 1998</i>, the ability of the country to fully implement them has been limited. This is due to limited capacity within the respective government agencies and also negligence on the part of those responsible for implementing them. Another example of an environmental safeguard for the forestry sector is the code of logging practice which comprehensively provides for how logging operations should occur to reduce environmental impacts. This has not been fully implemented due to weak monitoring and inability of the Ministry of Forests to enforce the code.</p> <p>http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2427&Itemid=53</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines on stakeholder engagement for REDD+ implementation are under development and will be included within the draft Roadmap.. - Based on the review of safeguards an approach to REDD+ safeguards and an information system to report on these is under development through consultation with key stakeholders. It is anticipated that this work will also work with ongoing efforts to develop safeguards within the transport sector. - Once these have been developed and reviewed guidelines will be developed to support application of the safeguards.
Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL/RL formulation and MRV	
Expected Results: Output3.1: REL and MRV capacity assessment	
Indicators:	Needs assessment report.
Baseline:	<u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> No national REL and MRV capacity assessment.
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	
Expected annual Target	Achievement of Annual Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of MRV Expert - MRV Training workshop on data collection - Develop guidelines for data collection for MRV in Solomon Islands - Develop step-by-step guidance to implement MRV REDD+ Readiness in Solomon Islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MRV expert's (consultant) first mission (June 18-23) included meetings with the Ministry of Forest on the overview of MRV, assessment of Forestry's activities, identification of skills and roles for MRV training. A presentation was also made to all heads of forestry and forestry staff. The report for this initial assessment is yet to be submitted by the MRV consultant. - MRV expert conducted a training workshop on data collection for all stakeholders. The training provided an overview of MRV skills and process, what is MRV in more detailed steps, what is needed for SI (equipment, data and personnel) and what information is available (GIS, Inventory databases, etc.). The capacity assessment report yet to be submitted by the MRV consultant. <p>http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2946&Itemid=53</p> <p>http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2946&Itemid=53</p>
Expected Result: Output 3.2: Assessment of potential for regional cooperation on MRV	

Indicators:	Regional cooperation opportunities
Baseline:	Baseline for all indicators: Regional approach not well defined.
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	
Expected annual Target	Achievement of Annual Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective processes for coordination with regional organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UN-REDD Programme and national partners were engaged with regional programs such the SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Exchange and Planning Workshop, 3-5 June 2013. The Objectives of the Workshop were to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current work in the SPC-GIZ Pacific Regional Project on Climate Protection through Forest Conservation. 2. Exchange knowledge and lessons learned for National REDD+ Readiness 3. Develop and design work to complement the SPC-GIZ Regional REDD+ Programme. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2351&Itemid=53 - As a result of this regional collaboration the SPC-GIZ Pacific Regional Project on Climate Protection through Forest Conservation Programme funded four officers from the Fijian Department of Forest to support the Solomon Islands National MRV Field Training which resulted in more than 30 people being trained.

Financial Information

In the table below, please provide up-to-date information based on the Results Framework included in the signed National Programme Document (For programs that have had a substantive revision please include a footnote or reference using the agreed language); as well as financial data on planned, committed and disbursed funds. The table requests information on the cumulative financial progress of the National Programme implementation at the end of the reporting period (including all cumulative yearly disbursements). Please add additional rows as needed.

Definitions of financial categories:

- *Commitments*: Includes all amount committed to date. Commitment is the amount for which legally binding contracts have been signed and entered into the Agencies' financial systems, including multi-year commitments which may be disbursed in future years.
- *Disbursement*: Amount paid to a vendor or entity for goods received, work completed, and/or services rendered (does not include un-liquidated obligations)
- *Expenditures*: Total of commitments plus disbursements

Programme Outcome (Reference: National Programme Document)	Part. UN Org.	Approved Budget/Amount Transferred (USD) A	Cumulative Expenditures as of 30 June 2013			
			Commitments B	Disbursement C	Total Expenditures (B+C) D	% Delivery (total expenditure/Budget) D/A
Outcome 1 : REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes.	FAO					
	UNDP	102,804		90107.80	90107.80	87.65%
	UNEP					
Sub-total Outcome 1				90107.80	90107.80	87.65%
Outcome 2 : REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+.	FAO					
	UNDP	238,318		60745.96	60745.96	25.49%
	UNEP					
Sub-total Outcome 2				60745.96	60745.96	25.49%
Outcome 3 : Preliminary capacity developed for REL/RL formulation and MRV.	FAO					
	UNDP	121,495		18681.32	18681.32	15.38%
	UNEP					
Sub-total Outcome 3				18681.32	18681.32	15.38%
Project Management	UNDP	51,402		43913.34	43913.34	85.43%

Total Programme cost per Agency (all outcomes):	FAO					
	UNDP	550,000		221263.87	221263.87	40.23%
	UNEP					
GMS - Indirect Support Cost (7%)	FAO					
	UNDP	35,981		7,886.99	7,886.99	21.92%
	UNEP					
Grand Total (total Programme + indirect support cost)		550,000		221263.87	221263.87	40.23%

Notes:

- Insert rows for additional outcomes as needed.

2. National Programme Progress

2.1 Narrative on Progress, Difficulties and Contingency Measures

- 2.1.1 Please provide a brief overall assessment of the extent to which the National Programme is progressing in relation to expected outcomes and outputs and the opportunities and challenges. Please provide examples if relevant (300 words).**

Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes.

The Programme now has in place the national REDD+ Taskforce and Technical working groups to drive the formulation of the REDD+ Roadmap. Its members participated in a REDD+ study tour to Fiji which has enlightened their understanding of the concept and their role in the process. They were also engaged in the assessment of current stakeholder engagement/awareness and existing safeguards processes in the country and the steps towards the formulation of a comprehensive REDD+ strategy for Solomon Islands. The stakeholder participation has resulted in firm commitment from the two lead government agencies, the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forest and Research.

Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+.

The challenges in stakeholders gaining an understanding of the benefits and risks remain. These are ongoing challenges from the perspective of the Programme itself and lead government agencies. The benefits of REDD+ beyond carbon has taken centre stage in most consultations, and there is an increasing understanding and awareness among Honiara-based and some provincial stakeholders of REDD+ and its potential risks and benefits, as a result.

Other important discussions by stakeholders are on safeguards, stakeholder engagement, including FPIC. The development of the roadmap would prescribe how these components will be addressed at the national level. The UN-REDD policy advisor is currently in the process of formulating the roadmap and guidelines for safeguards and stakeholder engagement in consultation and coordination with the members of the Taskforce.

Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL/RL formulation and MRV.

Following from the preliminary training on MRV conducted in 2012, an MRV capacity assessment together with the 2nd MRV training were conducted in June 2013 with the help of the international MRV expert.

The MRV expert met with the Ministry of Forest to discuss the overview of an expected M/MRV mechanism, assessment of forestry activities, training objectives, etc. A presentation was also made to staff members of the ministry including its senior staff. A short field trip to Maravaghi was organized and a field assessment was done for mangroves near Maravaghi. The trip was also used as a planning workshop to select sites for field training scheduled for August 2013.

- 2.1.2 Please provide a brief overall assessment of any measures taken to ensure the sustainability of the National Programme results during the reporting period. Please provide examples if relevant. (200 words)**

The government is taking necessary steps to ensure that the Programme is sustainable not only in the current period but also into the future. The Ministry of Forest and Research is in the process of recruiting a new officer recently interviewed and will be assigned as the forest REDD+ officer. In addition four new positions for forest monitoring have been secured and confirmed for 2014. The Ministry of Forest has sought additional financial resources for 2014 for two REDD+ related development budgets, proposed by the planning section for the Department of Forestry. The first budget was for national forest monitoring and inventory and second for forest biomass and carbon assessment training and capacity development. The Climate Change Division through the Ministry of Environment has also sought resources to support climate change mitigation activities in particular for NAMAs, of which REDD+ is an important component, and is also working with UNDP on the design of a GEF programme to help link with the developments needed within the ministry.

3. Government Counterpart Information

This section is dedicated to the Government Counterpart to provide their assessment, as well as additional and complementary information to Sections 1-2 which are filled out by the participating UN organizations.

Comments by the Government Counterpart: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology.

MECDM has been active in making sure the full implementation of the Programme though with capacity issues. Through the effort and close collaboration with line agencies interests have developed and the country has progressed with MFR now taking the helm with MRV issues.

As MRV is so important and means a lot in order to have a successful REDD+ programme, MFR has committed to submit proposals through the Government for future undertakings in line with activities that may be drawn in the immediate future.

Likewise, MECDM has produced a development proposal to Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination (MDPACP) for a Low Carbon Development Program. In this submission, components cover training as well as development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action framework that could entail green growth commitments and promote sustainable development.

MECDM, through its Climate Change Division has introduced the NAMA concept through two workshops that it held in May and August 2013. Stakeholders from various agencies attended both workshops, including those from MFR and, the UN-REDD Solomon Islands Programme who also made presentation about the REDD+ in the country. The workshops were made possible through the Regional Technical Assistance from the Asian Development Bank under their "Strengthening the Capacity of Pacific Developing Member Countries to Respond to Climate Change (Phase 1)" programme.

While the workshops were to build capacities at the national level, they helped to raise the awareness about CDM Programme of Activities and the Post 2012 Market Mechanism. Discussions during the workshops seemed to indicate certain understanding about NAMA and what may be included as a NAMA. The workshops as such helped to bring the gap closer in terms of understanding what climate change mitigation is all about and how the various frameworks including both NAMA and REDD+ could be set a platforms to address greenhouse gas abatement/reduction while linking it to sustainable development.

Like all other economic sector agencies, MECDM will continue to hold dialogue and make partnership arrangements with development partners in order to foster a strengthened relationship towards fulfilling the development aspiration and economic wellbeing of the country such as under the current UNREDD Solomon Islands Programme.

4. Other stakeholders (non-government) Information

The aim of this section is to allow non-Government stakeholders to provide their assessment, as well as additional and complementary information to Sections 1-3 which are filled out by the three participating UN organizations and the government counterpart. Please request a summary from existing stakeholder committees or platforms.

Comments by other stakeholders (non-government):Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community (LLCTC) – Choiseul Province

The UN-REDD Programme has been instrumental in raising awareness of the need for sustainable forest management practices in the country. The Programme through the consultation meetings, workshops, trainings and presentations has enable stakeholders to understand the concept of REDD+ and the social and environmental benefits as well as risks. A major concern is on the sustainability of UN-REDD Programme or REDD+ itself as important relationships has been built between various stakeholders and the will to engage already exists. It would be in the interest of those involved that the momentum built does not cease at the end of the UNREDD Programme. The Global UN-REDD Programme therefore should provide follow-up activities/programme that will result in the next phases of REDD+ being fully realized in the Solomon Islands.