

Opportunities for Forestry in the Pacific Islands

(Development of REDD+ in Fiji)

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Introduction

- Fiji has a forest cover of around 1.1 million hectares, covering about 60 percent of the total land area. Almost 90% of the land is customary owned.
- Deforestation is largely due to commercial and subsistence agricultural activities and cultural shifting cultivation. Logging plays a key role in opening up access, that starts of a chain of other actions leading up to forest Degradation and finally deforestation
- Thus, the country has relatively large areas of degraded forests lands
- Under this context, Fiji recognises REDD-plus as an opportunity to:
 - **provide incentives to protect its forest ecosystems.**
 - **strengthen the socio-economic status of its forest resource owners**
 - **contribute towards global efforts to reduce ghg emission**
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- The **SPC-GIZ Regional Programme Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region** is supporting Fiji through a REDD-readiness programme to address these issues.

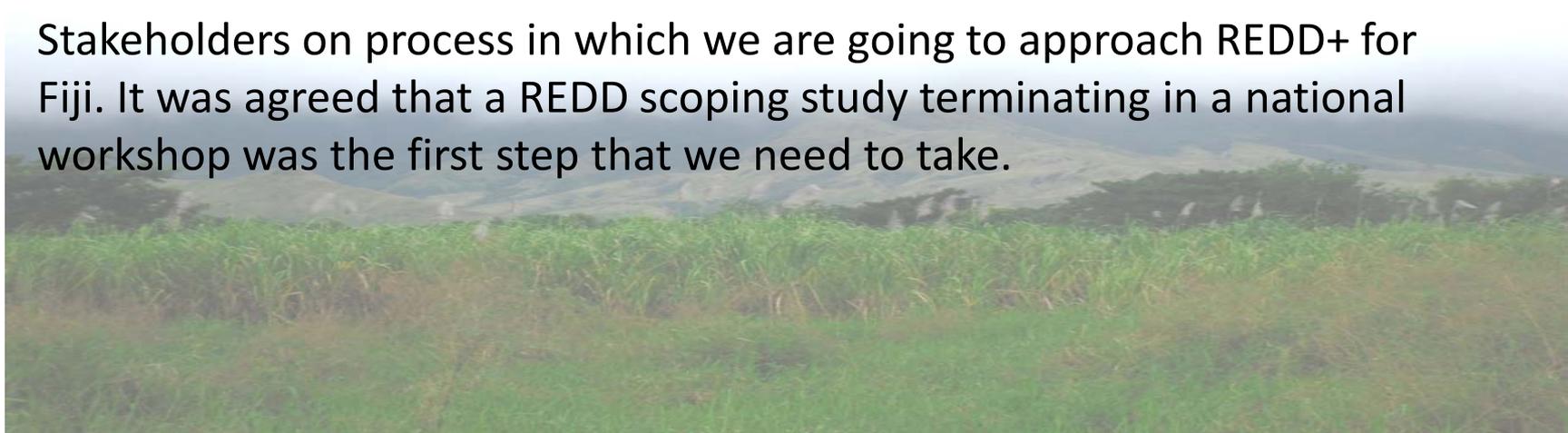
Stakeholder Engagement Process

Identified in many past consultations, eg. forest policy, CC, CITES, etc
Initial REDD+ consultation engagement was done in 2008/2009

Normal Forestry Stakeholders (Dealing with Forests and Land):
Taukei Land Trust Board; Landowners; Department of Environment;
Regional Development (Commissioners); Ministry of Taukei Affairs.

Other stakeholders includes: University of the South Pacific; REDD
Project Implementers (NGOs), Regional Organisation; Industry; other
government departments

Stakeholders on process in which we are going to approach REDD+ for
Fiji. It was agreed that a REDD scoping study terminating in a national
workshop was the first step that we need to take.



REDD+ Institutional Arrangements

- Government decision through consultation that the Forestry Department will be the lead agency on implementation of the Fiji REDD+ programme
- Department of Environment is the focal point for Climate Change Activities, and also plays the role of the DNA, plays an important role in international policy negotiations and REDD+ approval processes
- A approval of all REDD+ activities will first need the approval of the Conservator of Forests
- The establishment of National REDD+ Steering Committee consisting of Key an Powerful stakeholders to make decisions and coordinate the implementation of Fiji REDD+ programme

The Fiji REDD+ Phased Approach

Fiji is taking a phased approach in its REDD-plus programme.

- **Phase 1: place policy and institutional frameworks** for the implementation of REDD-plus and addressing capacity needs for an MRV system.
- **Phase 2: development of a national REDD+ strategy, establishment of pilot sites** and strengthening MRV capacities (towards Tier 2 and 3 level reporting).
- **Phase 3: strategy implementation, participation in a REDD carbon financing mechanism**, establishment of operational MRV and IPCC reporting system .

Phases 1 & 2 is carried out in parallel



Roadmap to establishing a MRV system

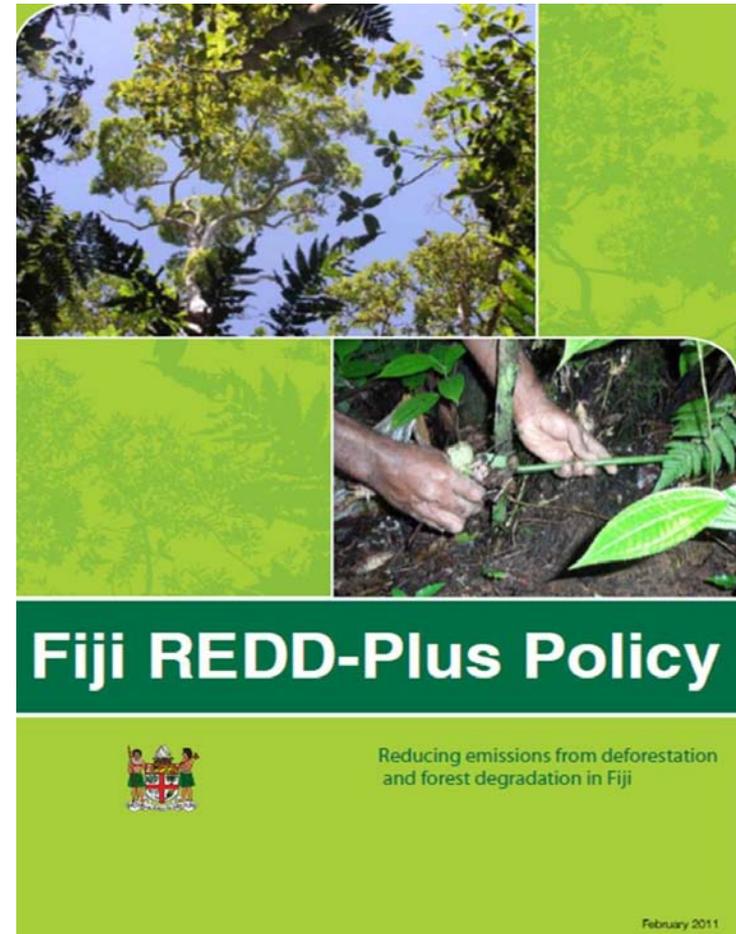


Key MRV related activities:

1. Acquire all data & information needed for national policy strategy and action plan:
 - Evaluate and integrate existing data sources
 - Acquire additional data if needed
2. Develop capacities data for a Tier 2 national forest carbon monitoring and reference level
 - Focus on building baseline datasets
 - Capacity building
 - Reference level
 - Pilot projects
3. Establish operational MRV system and IPCC reporting:
 - Consistent and continuous monitoring and estimation
 - IPCC reporting and GHG inventory
 - MRV support for REDD actions (i.e. projects) and national policy

Policy Development: (Phase 1)

- **Scoping** - August 2009: A multi stakeholder consultation; discussing main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and capacity needs. Also addressing social needs, cultural values, indigenous rights, transparency and good governance, and institutional capacity .
- **REDD-plus Policy** – identifies appropriate scope, scale, MRV approach, distribution of benefits, institutional support, and safeguards for the implementation of REDD-plus
- December 2010 the Fiji Government approved the Fiji National REDD-plus Policy - developed through a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process



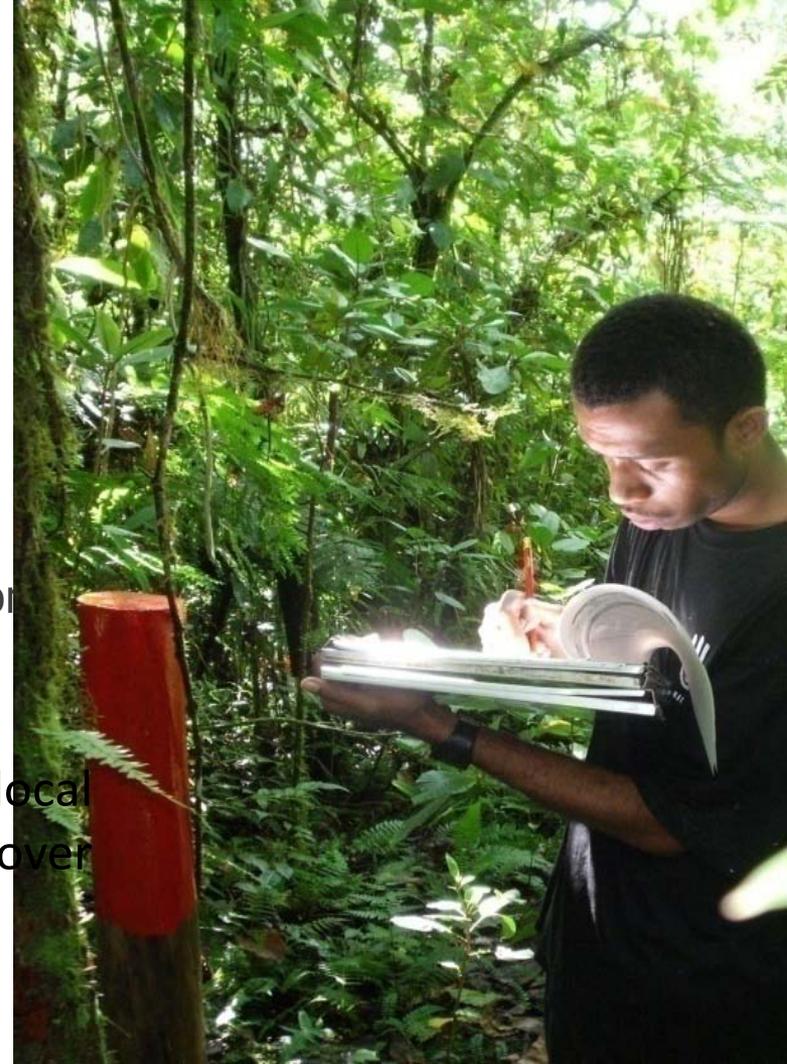
MRV Phase 2

- Drafting of the National **REDD+ Strategy** through multi-stakeholder consultation process
- Development of a series of REDD+ **guidelines – Safeguards, MRV, financing, governance, distribution of benefits etc**
- Establishing criteria for identification **REDD+ pilot sites** and appropriate activity type.
- The two main considerations for forest carbon monitoring are 1) **forest area change (RS)** and 2) **forest carbon change** (forest inventory combined with detailed maps – RS)



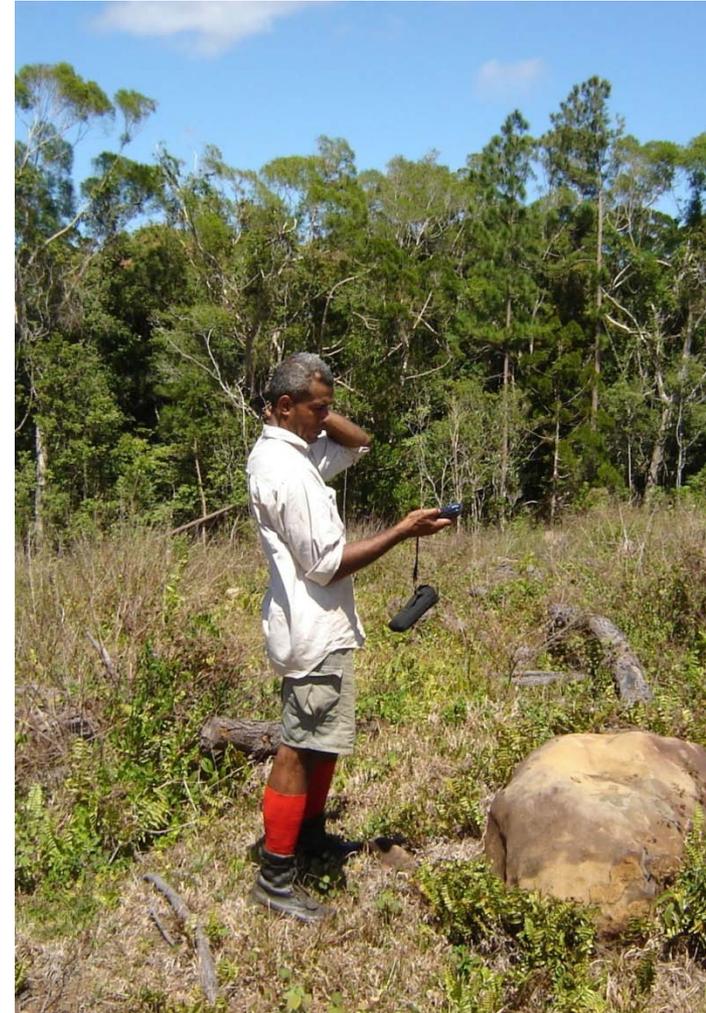
MRV Phase 2

- Complete the assessment of forest area change between 1991 to 2001, and now working on 2001 to 2007, through GIS , Remote Sensing, and Field Verification.
- In late 2010, as a capacity building exercise through the project, the Fiji Forestry Department undertook the calculation of its national carbon stocks of indigenous and plantation forests using existing forest inventory data. The national carbon stock for the indigenous forest estate to be 192,270,000 tCO₂e
- REDD MRV experts continue to work with local officers in developing capacities in forest cover change and carbon stock assessment



REDD+ Activity Types (Phase 2)

- 7 REDD+ Activity types identified:
 - 3 on improved Forest Management
 - Timber Harvesting → Protected Forests
 - Low Carbon → High Carbon Forests
 - High Impact → Low Impact Logging
 - 2 on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation
 - Deforestation → SFM
 - Deforestation → Protected Forests
 - 2 on Afforestation and Reforestation
 - Non forest → Protected Forest
 - Non forest → Timber Plantation



Lessons Learnt

- Establish a healthy relationship between key and powerful stakeholders that is built on mutual trust in which views and inputs are respected and clearly documented.
- True and sustainable progress can only be achieved when commitment of the powerful stakeholders is truly over and above activities provided by supporting agencies. REDD+ is now a budgeted FD activity for 2012
- Mainstreaming REDD+: Identify key output areas that contributes to broad national outcomes, and monitored through the national process.
- Capacity building for the MRV process has a much greater spill over effect into other data related areas of the organisations, eg. Networking, capacity building, and in improving local capacity on issues on data processing and forest management

Challenges

- Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation not only as a REDD+ issue but as a National issue (Mainstreaming of REDD+)
- How can we effectively build cross project and cross sectoral synergies with other related activities and drive REDD+ towards a common national goal.
- Building internal capacities in the face of limited resources
- Packaging of REDD+ incentives to ensure that is attractive enough to address the needs of the resource owners.

Thank You