

# 'Supporting a Regional National Forest Inventory Scheme.'

Second Regional Forest Inventory Workshop.

Makira , Solomon Islands. 3<sup>rd</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

The Food and Agriculture Organization-led (FAO) UN-REDD Programme project on “Strengthening Regional Support to National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the Pacific” in collaboration with Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) held its second regional forest inventory workshop from the 3<sup>rd</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> of November in Kirakira, Makira Island of the Solomon Islands.

The training workshop was attended by 26 participants from six Pacific island countries (Papua New Guinea , Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga ,Solomon Islands and Fiji), FAO and SPC, representing forestry and environment management and technical personnel involved in national forest inventories (NFIs) (Fig:1)

The main objectives of the Makira workshop was to provide participants with a full review of the range of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to consider, plan and implement a Pilot National Forest Inventory (NFI) in their home country. In addition, the workshop aimed at getting the regional participants to contribute to the manual that will serve as a guide, to address the necessary components of an NFI design, and to provide participants with the exposure of the capacities required to complete the task

The workshop programme included plenary presentations and discussions, group work and field exercises focusing in developing and enhancing the skills needed to address NFI requirements (Fig :3). Participants were firstly made aware of NFI in an international context, the national forest management system, REDD+ , forest monitoring and GHG emissions from land cover change. Activities in the workshop focused on areas of decision making in defining NFI objectives through management’s ability to work through stakeholder issues and budgetary limitations in making the most uniformed decisions, detailed

Fig: 1. Participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional National Forest Inventory Workshop.



Fig: 2. Field Inventory Site.



Fig: 3. Workshop in progress.



understanding of how to create and plan plot designs and field survey design , data processing and analysis and NFI reporting to meet both national and international standards. A two day intensive field work was carried out in both Highland and Lowland forest areas (*Fig :2*) ,where the formulated plot design, field protocol and data forms were put to test. Data collected from this were then analysed during a data analysis session. A representative from the Fiji Ministry of Culture and Heritage also presented on cultural mapping in forestry with the possibility of integrating this into the NFI. This received positive feedback from the participants as it was viewed as a possible solution to land ownership issues and cultural/traditional hindrance in establishing NFI plots.

Overall feedbacks towards a regional NFI manual were positive with progressive recommendations from participants on what is needed in a regional NFI. Participants also expressed their gratitude with the opportunity provided as the workshop had broadened their knowledge on the whole component of a NFI with a proposal of another workshop covering Data analysis, Database creation and reporting.

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