

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Regional project Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries

On behalf of



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conserv
and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany



PACIFIC REGIONAL FRAMEWORK ON REDD+ Meeting Report

Pacific Regional Forestry Technical Meeting
Day 1, September 21st, 2011
Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi / Fiji

September 2011

Report prepared by:

Thomas Boysen

On behalf of

SPC/GIZ Regional Project

“Climate Protection through Forest
Conservation in Pacific Island Countries”

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1 Introduction

The following excerpt from Sairusi Bulai's opening remarks at the Pacific Regional Forestry Technical Meeting gives the context in which the meeting took place:

In response to the 2008 Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) Meeting recommendation, which was endorsed by the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF) and also the Council of Regional Governments and Administrations (CRGA) Meetings of the same year, SPC through its Land Resources Division organised in September 2009 in Nadi, Fiji, its first Heads of Forestry Meeting since the decision was made in 2003 to cease separate sectoral meetings for agriculture and forestry.

In line with the above, we had, last year, started to make arrangements to organise our second meeting this year. Unfortunately, SPC CRGA in its meeting late last year endorsed a recommendation, reinforcing the 2003 decision, for all sectoral meetings to be discontinued from this year. But with 2011 being declared by the UN as the International Year of Forests, and given the recommendations by both the 2009 HOFS and the 2010 HOAFS for SPC to organise a number of regional activities to celebrate the year, it was considered essential that a meeting of some sort be organised to be the highlight of our celebration and to discuss HOFs issues for consideration at the 2012 HOAFS. It was with this in mind that the idea of a regional forestry technical meeting was conceived.

In this context, the first day of the meeting was dedicated to REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). Current initiatives concerning REDD+ are the UN REDD Programme supported by FAO, UNDP and UNEP, a JICA support to MRV and the BMU-funded regional programme "Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in the Pacific Island Countries" implemented jointly by SPC and GIZ.

The agenda for the first day was as follows:¹²

10.10 – 10.30	Presentation + discussion of outcomes of the Pre-meeting REDD+ workshop	Ben Vickers (UN REDD Consultant)
10.30 – 11.00	Introduction to Regional REDD+ Policy Framework	Sairusi Bulai (SPC)
11.00 – 11.30	Regional information + knowledge management services	Vinesh Pradesh (SPC)
11.30 – 1.00	Group discussion (break out into 3 groups) Topics to discuss 1. Regional REDD+ Policy Framework content 2. Regional REDD+ Policy Framework roadmap and steering structure 3. Design of Regional REDD+ information & knowledge management system	
1.00 – 2.00	L U N C H B R E A K	
2.00 – 3.00	Presentation of group work and discussion	
3.00 – 3.30	Construction of biomass allometric models for Pacific	Hitofumi Abe JICA)
3.30 – 4.00	Afternoon Tea	
4.00-4.30	REDD+ recommendations of the Pacific Regional Forestry Technical Meeting to the HOAFS 2012	

¹ The details of the opening ceremony that preceded the matters reported in the present document are neglected here.

² The full agenda is in annex 5

2 Introductory presentations

Ben Vickers, consultant for the UN REDD Programme, summarised the outcomes of the pre-meeting workshop held on September 19th-20th. The pre-meeting workshop was meant to allow deeper understanding of the REDD+ issues especially for those countries that until the present time had not been very involved in such discussions and have not yet undertaken any steps towards REDD+ readiness. The summary presented to the workshop by the programme's consultant can be found in annex 1 of the present report while the more detailed report is in annex 6.

The remainder of the day concentrated on two themes: The Regional REDD+ Policy Framework (requested by the HOFs meeting in 2009), more specifically its content and the process of getting the policy framework done (roadmap) and the establishment of a regional information and knowledge management system. The following two presentations gave the participants sufficient material to then split up into groups and discuss details and formulate recommendations.

Sairusi Bulai, SPC Land Resources Division, presented a first set of issues that might be dealt with in the policy framework as well as an initial draft of a roadmap. (See annex 2)

Vinesh Prasad, SPC Land Resources Division) presented a conceptual overview of potential elements for a regional information and knowledge management system. (See annex 3)

The group sessions were organised around three topics:

1. Regional REDD+ Policy Framework content
2. Regional REDD+ Policy Framework roadmap and steering structure
3. Design of Regional REDD+ information & knowledge management system

The splitting up of topics 1 and 2 proved to be problematic since the roadmap discussions are strongly influenced by decisions of what is supposed to be in the policy framework. Some crossover communication was organized to alleviate this issue. However, further discussions were necessary after the group session to reconcile the outcomes.

3 Group work outcomes on Regional REDD+ Policy Framework content

Group 1 formulated the following items as important to be included in the policy framework. No priorities were set as it was felt that all were important. The presentation follows in the first section discussions from the pre-meeting workshop on regional drivers and possible regional responses. The other section headings are taken from the introductory presentation made by Sairusi Bulai. These were then further detailed during the group discussions.

Regional Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation...and Leakage

- Difficult to control leakage due to land tenure system
- Migration between countries – displacement of labour
- Agricultural expansion – cash crops / tree crops
- Demand for raw materials in Asia

Regional Cooperation

- Information sharing between countries/sharing of expertise
 - ✓ Free movement of labour in the region and regional trade agreement (MSG)
 - ✓ Identify, reduce/minimise obstacles to free sharing of information and movement of expertise
 - ✓ Knowledge feedback mechanism
 - ✓ Regional training support facility
 - ✓ Collaboration among research and education institutions in the region; Coordinated policy approach to higher education in forestry

- ✓ Experiences from FSC national initiatives
- ✓ Experience from FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements

Integration of other Pacific policies and initiatives

- Mainstreaming existing regional policies to avoid contradictory regulations, and create synergies
 - ✓ PIFACC
 - ✓ Food Security
 - ✓ Regional Cultural Strategy (includes FPIC)
 - ✓ Regional Biodiversity Strategy
 - ✓ Regional Energy Strategy

MRV (provision of services)

- Outsourcing MRV capacities on the regional level to serve other countries
 - ✓ Regional roster of experts to share manpower and expertise – a CROP agency can facilitate, but countries have to manage availability of their experts for this exchange programme
 - ✓ Regional verification support system
 - ✓ Provision of MRV services should include capacity building

MRV (methodology)

- Agree on a common approach to MRV so that regional services can be supplied efficiently
 - ✓ Align GHG MRV with existing national methodologies and definitions
 - ✓ Explore opportunities to harmonise MRV at regional level (example of coconut)
Enhance Pacific influence in international MRV methodology discussions by highlighting regional achievements

REL/RL methodology development

- Provision of service through common approach to REL/RL
 - ✓ Access to satellite imagery – can also benefit smaller countries
 - ✓ Technical support to national level in developing the methodologies

Safeguards monitoring

- Methodology for monitoring must include social and environmental criteria to report on the UNFCCC safeguards
 - ✓ National issue to define safeguards
 - ✓ REDD+ SES (Social and Environmental Standards) – common regional indicators
 - ✓ Regional assistance for monitoring
 - ✓ Lessons from FSC national initiatives and FLEGT VPAs

International engagement of the Pacific Region

- Common preparation for international fora, strengthening Pacific and AOSIS positions
 - ✓ Negotiation training for Pacific delegates
 - ✓ Forestry delegates to feedback to regional forestry sector as well as their own countries

- ✓ Regional preparatory meetings on REDD+, coordinating with SPREP
- ✓ Strengthen Pacific voice in international alliances – AOSIS, CfrN
- ✓ Support from regional forestry networks to build awareness of REDD+ for negotiators in smaller countries
- ✓ Regional REDD+ communications strategy

The following section is the result of the reconciliation between the outcomes of Groups 1 and 2 as described below under Group 2 outcomes. A more refined version of the ideas contained here can be seen in the annex 4 (REDD+ recommendations of the Regional Forestry Technical Meeting to the HOAFS meeting 2012).

Summary of prioritisation discussion

- Policy framework is to deliver guidance soon to countries in need of it
- Issues where countries need guidance are mainly MRV methodology, REL/RL methodology, safeguards monitoring tools/methodology
- Methodology will be done in such detail as to give guidance, not by developing full blown detailed methodologies
- Also to be included is the communication /collaboration /information complex and maybe the basics of a regional communication strategy
- Policy framework will address shared capacities and services in conceptual manner with some principles, no more detail than that
- Safeguards are largely national issues
- Any training and services can and should be set up as needed, no need to wait for the policy framework
- This is feasible and will be presented to HOAFS 2012.
- If at that meeting, HOAFS thinks there is need for more issues being dealt with in detail, that can be done then while already endorsing what is presented in 2012

4 Group work outcomes on Regional REDD+ Policy Framework roadmap and steering structure

The discussion in Group 2 quickly centred on the issue of the ultimate deadline for the endorsement of the policy framework by a HOAFS meeting. Since these are held only every two years the options were limited: either try to produce a policy framework until September 2012 or for the meeting 2014. The latter was considered far too late to achieve what the policy framework was originally intended for, namely to give guidance to those member countries who needed it when embarking on their national REDD+ readiness path (especially the small and medium sized countries). Therefore, the group decided to work on the first option, namely to submit to the HOAFS meeting in September 2012 a policy framework, fully realizing that the limited time would not allow for as much wide consultation as would be ideal as well as limiting the document to only priority issues.

The group also proposed that a steering structure in form of a drafting committee (the exact name was not determined) should be struck during the current Forestry Technical Meeting. Two countries from each group of countries - small, medium and large - should be chosen and these countries should then supply names and contact details for their chosen representatives. By the end of the Forestry Technical Meeting, these names should be communicated to all participants.

Group 2 presented to the plenary session the following timetable while making the caveat that all dates were indicative except for the submission date to the HOAFS meeting itself. The SPC/GIZ Project Manager committed himself to shifting resources in order to allow for a maximum of quality within the short timeframe available.

To be completed date Dates are indicative	Item
Oct 2011	Consultant hired by SPC/GIZ and given ToR with limited consultation
31 January 2012	Roadmap and Background paper addressing priority areas ready for circulation
15 February to 15 April	Study tour to PICs for information from PICs relevant to a Regional REDD+ Policy Framework including local priorities and preferences, other related national programmes and initiatives. Remote consultations for some PICs
30 April 2012	Regional consultations meeting with all member countries, only one country representative. Countries will have to organize themselves to give proper guidance to their representative.
20 May 2012:	Integrate meeting findings into draft, and then circulate to PICs
Until 5 July 2012	countries to give written submissions
20 July 2012	further draft of regional policy framework of priority issues
Ongoing during the process	Integration of other policies: consultation with other CROP agencies
20 August 2012	Drafting committee meets to endorse final draft
September 2012	presentation to HOAFS for endorsement

The submission date to the HOAFS meeting 2012 is the only date in this proposal that must be met exactly. The SPC/GIZ Project Manager requested some flexibility in the other dates in order to be able to achieve this ambitious goal.

Since Group 1 had not set any priorities, a small group was struck that analysed (during the tea break) options for setting priorities without diminishing the importance of the proposed content for the policy framework. This was guided by the original idea of the policy framework, namely to give guidance to those countries that need it. This leads to consider all methodological work (MRV, REL/RL, safeguards monitoring) susceptible to at least a degree of regional harmonization. In order for this to be feasible in the targeted timeframe, the policy framework must deliver enough detail to effectively give guidance to member countries without going into fully detailed methodological descriptions. Furthermore, a clear regional policy framework must include guidance on information sharing, communication as well as collaboration. As for regional support services, the policy framework should give only basic principles. It was clearly stated and agreed that no shared service delivery or capacity building needs to wait for the final formulation of the policy framework. Work on these items that has started or is envisioned should proceed as planned.

These ideas effectively allow the results of Group 1 to be prioritized in a manner that will allow the SPC/GIZ programme to proceed with the process of designing and formulating the policy framework in the given time frame. It was agreed to make clear to all that this “priority” policy framework could be accepted as the final policy framework if deemed to give enough guidance, or the HOAFS meeting 2012 might consider that some issues need further detail. In the latter case, it was agreed that this should not keep the HOAFS meeting 2012 from endorsing the “priority” policy framework. It could be either become a “living” document or a second expanded version could be produced. Further discussion on this issue is not necessary at the moment.

5 Group work outcomes on design of regional REDD+ information & knowledge management system

Group 3 worked on a number of questions the answers to which would be helpful in designing an information and knowledge management system that responds to member countries' needs as well as to the specific circumstances of internet access and speed as well as other factors that influence the quality of information systems. The following is the presentation given to the plenary session on Group 3 findings:

1. How many climate change websites or blogs do you follow?

Websites	Information	Frequency	Feedback
Links via SPC FAO REDD monitor UN REDD REDD Net REDD+ Partnership Eco	updates	As per updates – mailing list	- French translation - Provide links: should be accessible by the countries - Add to RFR Net

2. Do you have any bad experiences in dealing with the media suggested?

Media	Problems
Internet	Slow speed, costs
Radio	Coverage (reception), content to be simple
Print/Publication	Quality, weather problems, transportation, translation (simplification of technical terms kind of lose some meaning)
People Champions	Information get Distorted, People look at the person then the person

3. What level of information to be provided to which category of clients etc.? What will be the best medium for us in the Pacific to get up to date information?

- Who are our clients – target audience?
- What media type is more reliable?
- Which media will be more appealing and easily managed by our clients?
- What can be easily kept for later reference, how is it stored (paper, electronic files, etc.)?

Clients	Communication medium	Type of information	Level of information
Policy makers	E-mail/prints, internet	Policy briefs, policy framework, REDD+ readiness processes, road maps	Top priorities (high)
Managers	Internet, print, meetings/workshops	Climate change, technical information (MRV), REDD+ Readiness process	General
Technicians/Foresters, civil societies	Internet, prints, face to face, training workshops	Training manuals, field manuals	Specific technical information, e.g. MRV methodology
Community level	National programmes		

Major outcomes of the 2011 Pacific Forestry Technical Meeting are reflected in the REDD+ recommendations made by the meeting's participants to the HOAFS meeting 2012. (See annex 4)

ANNEXES

Annex 1 Summary of outcomes of Pre-meeting REDD+ Workshop



**Summary of workshop:
Pacific Regional Approach
on REDD+ Readiness**

Ben Vickers
Lead Technical Consultant
UNDP UN-REDD Tier 2 Project, Pacific
20 September 2011, Nadi, Fiji
Contact: ben.vickers@silvestrum.com





Workshop process

- Introduction to REDD+ and REDD+ Readiness
- Progress with national level REDD+ Readiness programmes in the Pacific to date
- Civil society involvement in REDD+ programme development
- Donor agency updates on REDD+ Readiness
- Briefing on regional approaches to MRV
- Summary of UN-REDD report on Regional REDD+ Readiness Support Strategy in the Pacific
- Group discussions and presentations on regional approach to REDD+ Readiness



Feedback on report

- General endorsement, but leaves many relevant issues aside
- Cultural importance of land
- Land use planning issues
- More practical suggestions for accessing benefits for small countries and for local communities
- Clear in its broad scope but short on detail
- Appetite for more in-depth regional studies and discussions



Gaps in addressing regional drivers of Defor/Deg

- **Regional response to forest governance issues**
 - Discussing forest land tenure arrangements
 - Encouraging forest land demarcation, cultural resistance, tendency to solve disputes internally, avoid conflict
- **Internal drivers**
 - Demographic issues – urbanisation and migration
 - Demand for agricultural land, cash crops, construction materials
- **External drivers**
 - Asian demand for raw materials: mining



Gaps in addressing issues of concern to smaller countries

- **Vegetation mapping:** more powerful imaging required for coconut
- **Management skills of local people**
- **Mangroves as traditional methods of coastal zone protection**
- **Resources to address invasive species**
- **Control of fire**
- **Large-scale protection strategies** (conservation, watershed management)



How can a Regional REDD+ Readiness strategy help?

Establish:

- **Regional training centre**
 - Forest inventory, remote sensing (Location?)
 - Enhanced and shared capacities
 - Generate expertise and info relevant to region
- **Regional REDD+ platform**
 - Will also benefit territories
 - Countries in control, through CROP agency
 - Include real world interaction

The more that smaller countries are aware of ongoing REDD+ activities, the better they will be able to decide how to get involved



How can a regional REDD+ Readiness strategy help?

- Raise global awareness of coconuts as a forestry issue
- Bring foresters to the forefront of REDD+ discussions
- Promote REDD+ as a climate change adaptation strategy – mangrove restoration
- Access to satellite imagery and analysis

SOPAC's work is highly appreciated as an essential part of land use planning as well as a precondition for carbon inventory

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



How can a regional REDD+ Readiness strategy help?

- Leverage support for improved satellite imagery across the region, for vegetation mapping
- Put existing conservation programmes into the context of regional REDD+ approach
 - Research into invasive species control
 - Coastal zone protection
 - Species inventory – biodiversity monitoring

A regional approach should provide guidance for small countries on the opportunities for forest sector support through REDD+ Readiness

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Outcome

As a result of the workshop, delegates from smaller PICs feel confident about becoming involved and participating effectively in regional and international discussions on REDD+ and climate change.

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

Thank you for listening!

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

Annex 2 Introduction to Regional REDD+ Policy Framework

SECRÉTARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ DU PACIFIQUE

PROGRESSING THE PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR REDD IN THE PACIFIC

SAIRUSI BULAI
FORESTS & TREES AND FORESTRY &
AGRICULTURE DIVERSIFICATION TEAM
LAND RESOURCES DIVISION

REGIONAL FORESTRY TECHNICAL MEETING,
NADI, FIJI
21-23 SEPTEMBER 2011

INTRODUCTION

- 2009 HOFs Meeting made a number of recommendations for REDD
- In response SPC with support of GIZ submitted a proposal for funding under the German ICI
- One component in response to regional framework for REDD
- Need some clear guidance from HOFs on content, etc., of framework
- Presentation to propose some content ideas and draft development roadmap for discussions.

POSSIBLE CONTENTS

TOPIC	ISSUES
Regional drivers of deforestation & degradation/leakage	Identify drivers of DD with impact on regional level. How can they be addressed? How can leakage be addressed on a regional level?
Regional cooperation	Information and expertise sharing between PICTs
Integration of other Pacific policies & initiatives	Mainstreaming of existing regional policies to create synergies
MRV (provision of services)	Outsourcing of MRV capability on the regional level to serve the PICTs
MRV (methodology)	Agree on a common approach to facilitate efficient provision of regional services
REL methodology	Provision of service through common approach to develop national REL
Safeguards monitoring	MRV methodology to include social and environmental criteria to report on UNFCCC safeguards
International engagement	Common preparation for international fora strengthening Pacific and AOSIS position

DRAFT ROADMAP FOR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

STEP/EVENT	CONTENT/DETAIL	DEADLINE
Policy Framework Scoping		
Regional REDD+ policy framework scoping paper	Desktop exercise based on discussions/recommendations of forestry technical meeting to frame issues & themes relevant to development of framework	30/02/2012
Option 1: Policy framework scoping mission in PICTs		
Option 2: Policy framework scoping meeting	Output: Information from PICTs relevant to framework including local priorities and preferences, other related national programmes and initiatives	10/03 – 30/07/2012
Option 3: Policy framework consultation		

DRAFT ROADMAP FOR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (contd.)

STEP/EVENT	CONTENT/DETAIL	DEADLINE
Regional REDD+ Policy Framework		
1 st draft regional policy framework text	Preparation of 1 st draft policy framework text and background report	30/08/2012
Discussion of 1 st draft in connection with HOAFS meeting 2012	PICTs delegates and key non-state stakeholders to review draft text and make recommendations for improvements & refinements	30/09/2012
Written submissions on the 1 st draft regional policy framework text	Submissions prepared by each national REDD+ and/or climate change committee (& key non-state stakeholders)	28/02/2013
2 nd draft regional policy framework text	Report encompassing a summary of submissions & associated analysis	30/06/2013

DRAFT ROADMAP FOR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (contd.)

STEP/EVENT	CONTENT/DETAIL	DEADLINE
Regional REDD+ Policy Framework (contd.)		
Integration with other regional policies	Consultation with CROP agencies (i.e. PIFS, SPC, SPREP, etc)	31/01/2014
Drafting committee meeting*	Decide on final draft of the policy framework to be sent out for final approval by members	05/2014
Endorsement of regional policy framework	HOAFS Meeting	09/2014
* Drafting committee will be providing support throughout the development process		

Annex 3 Introduction to Regional information and knowledge management system

Regional Information Platform Knowledge Management Services



Vinesh Prasad
Information & Communication Technology Assistant
Land Resources Division

Summary

National Project Planning Meetings (Solomon Islands, PNG & Vanuatu)

1. Information on REDD+ projects
2. Virtual Library
 - Case studies
 - Basic Information
 - Documentary repository
 - Database
3. Different REDD+ design options
4. Directory of relevant institutions and experts dealing with REDD+
5. Topical discussion forums
6. Continuous update on the international discussion

The Age of Information




Summary Continued

7. Directory of experts
8. Mailing list

BACKGROUND

Objective 2: Regional REDD+ Information Platform



Existing dissemination tools at SPC

LRD

- SPC website – general articles
- LRD Website – dedicated climate change page - http://www.spc.int/lrd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=357&Itemid=48
- List servers – mailing list – PAFNet & Regional Forest Rehabilitation Network(RFR Network)
- Printed materials from LRD – Policy briefs & Newsletter
- LRD Help Desk lrdhelpdesk@spc.int
- Frequent media article to create awareness
- Economic Blog <http://lrdeconomics.wordpress.com/>



How about this?

Suggestion	Existing tool	Proposed tool
1. Information on REDD+ projects	LRD website	
2. Directory of experts	None	Menu point on REDD+ webpage within LRD website
3. Repository	LRD website	Enable access for non-SPC staff
4. Mailing list REDD+	None	Establish and manage with the LRD by IKM team
5. Database	None	Establish and manage within LRD and link up with climate change team of SPC.
Facebook & Twitter	None	Set up and appoint a dedicated moderator.

This can be shortened and amended in the group work, according to the criteria of relevance



SPREP portal on Climate Change

Under construction!

- Mock site is online at www.pacificportal.com.au.

This is in the process of being improved and the url will change to something more suitable like www.pacificclimate.org or www.pacificclimate.net. We will inform users accordingly once this is done.

[illegible]

Thank You!



Knowledge is POWER

Annex 4 Recommendations of the Pacific Regional Forestry Technical Meeting 21st to 23rd September 2011 concerning REDD+

A. Regional Framework on REDD

In recognition of the important role that forests plays in mitigation and adaptation to climate change particularly in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), the Meeting recommends:

1. A draft Regional REDD+ Policy framework to be presented at the Regional HOAFS meeting in September 2012
2. As priorities to give guidance to member countries it is recommended to emphasize in the regional REDD+ policy framework:
 - a. The identification of the regional drivers of deforestation and regional strategies to address leakage issues in the region
 - b. Regional guidance on MRV methodology, REL/RL methodology, safeguards monitoring tools/methodology.
 - c. Elements of regional open communication, collaboration and information sharing
 - d. Identification of capacity building
3. Existing regional policies need to be considered in the draft regional REDD+ policy framework
4. Basic principles of the following regional support services should be stated in the regional REDD+ policy framework:
 - a. The sharing and coordination of capacities, services, and expertise on REDD+ in the region
 - b. Enhancement of existing regional facility to provide training and technical services on MRV
 - c. Set up a regional roster of experts for REDD+. Countries have to manage the availability of their experts for exchange
 - d. Establishment of a regional information and knowledge management system on REDD+
 - e. Strengthening regional capacity in international engagement

The implementation of the above mentioned support services should begin without delay.

5. SPC to coordinate with SPREP to integrate REDD+ in regional preparatory meetings of UN (and support the participation of national forestry representatives in these meetings).
6. A coordinated policy approach on tertiary education in forestry is necessary to develop expertise in related aspects of integrated forest management including accessing and management of future forest carbon finance.
7. REDD+ readiness role in adaptation in small island countries

- SPC to assist smaller island countries in their efforts to benefit from REDD+ readiness processes.
- SPC to assist in the integration of small island countries REDD+ concerns in the preparation for international negotiations

B. Other Recommendations related to REDD+

- i. To enhance cooperation and collaboration between development partners especially those already active in the Pacific Region with support to REDD+ on national and regional level like EU, GIZ, JICA and UN REDD (UNDP and FAO)
- ii. Voluntary market trading by private forest enterprises should be regulated and endorsed by national REDD+ or Climate Change bodies.

Annex 5

*Draft Programme***PACIFIC REGIONAL FORESTRY TECHNICAL MEETING, 21-23 SEPTEMBER 2011,
NADI, FIJI**

TIME	ITEM	LEAD
Day 1: Wednesday 21st September 2011		
8.00 – 8.30	Registration	Bale
	Opening Session & Introduction	
8.30	Devotion	Rev. Lai Tora
	Official Opening	Inoke Ratukalou (SPC – LRD)
	Election of Chairperson and other officials	Plenary
9.15 – 9.45	Progress Report 2010-2011 including responses to 2009 HOFs recommendations	Sairusi Bulai (SPC – LRD)
9.45 – 10.10	Group Photo & TEA B R E A K	
	Session 1 – Regional Framework on REDD	
10.10 – 10.30	Presentation + discussions of outcomes of the Pre-meeting REDD+ workshop	Ben Vickers (UN REDD Consultant)
10.30 – 11.00	Introduction to Regional REDD+ framework	Sairusi Bulai (SPC – LRD)
11.00 – 11.30	Regional information + knowledge management services	Vinesh Prasad (SPC - LRD)
11.30 – 1.00	Group Discussion (break out into 3 groups) Topics to discuss 1.) Regional REDD+ Policy Framework content 2.) Regional REDD+ framework roadmap and steering structure 3.) Design of Regional REDD information + knowledge management system	
1.00 – 2.00	L U N C H B R E A K	
2.00 – 3.00	Presentation of group work and discussion	
3.00 – 3.30	Construction of biomass Allometric models for Pacific Island Countries	Hitofumi Abe (SPC/JICA)
3.30 – 4.00	Afternoon Tea	
4.00 - 4.30	REDD+ recommendations of the Pacific Regional Forestry Technical Meeting to the	

	HOAFS	
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Day 2: Thursday 22nd September 2011		
	Session 2 – Regional and Country Reports	
8.30 – 9.00	SPC Reforms and future directions	Inoke Ratukalou (SPC – LRD)
9.00 – 9.25	Woodlot establishment and management in the Solomon Islands – Lessons learnt	Gordon Konairamo (Solomon Islands)
9.25 – 9.50	SWARS in the Republic of the Marshall Islands – Lessons learnt	Karness Kusto (Marshall Islands)
9.50 – 10.15	New Forestry Initiatives in Samoa	Maturo Panini (Samoa)
10.15 – 10.30	Morning Tea	
	Session 3 – Update on Regional Initiatives	
10.30 – 10.55	Tree seed centre – MTA	Cenon Padolina (SPC – LRD)
10.55 – 11.20	Strengthening Capacities on Tree Seed Technologies in the PICs	Bronwyn Clarke (CSIRO)
11.20 – 11.45	Increasing Agriculture Commodity Trade (IACT)	Lex Thomson (SPC – LRD)
11.45 – 12.10	Global Forest Resource Assessment Long term Strategy	Sairusi Bulai (SPC – LRD)
12.10 – 12.35	Harmonised SFM - Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting system in the PIC	Jalesi Mateboto (SPC – LRD)
12.35 – 1.00	Vegetation Mapping in the Pacific Atoll islands	Wolf Forstreuter (SPC – SOPAC)
1.00 – 2.00	L U N C H	
2.00 – 2.25	Global Environment Fund – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF PAS)	Aru Mathias (FAO)
	Session 4 – Opportunities for Forestry in the region	
2.25 – 2.50	Enhancing trade in forest products	Lex Thomson (SPC – LRD)
2.50 – 3.15	Potential of biomass energy in the Pacific Islands – a forestry perspective	Hitofumi Abe (SPC/JICA)
3.15 – 3.30	Afternoon Tea	
3.30 – 3.55	Forestry and Education	Makelesi Bulikiobo-Batimala (Live & Learn)
3.55 – 4.30	ACP FORENET	Prof Simon Saulei

		(PNGFA-FRI)
4.30 – 5.00	Networking – ANZIF proposal	Andrew McEwen (NZIF)
5.00 – 6.00	B R E A K	
6.00	Launching of the Pacific forestry book and the presentation of the awards and prizes towards the celebration of the International Year of Forests	Refer to separate programme

Day 3: Friday 23rd September 2011

8.30 – 12.30	Session 5 - International Phytosanitary Standards on Forestry	Shiroma Sathyapala (MAFF Biosecurity NZ)
12.30 – 1.30	L U N C H - B R E A K	
	Session 6 - HOFs going forward	
1.30 – 2.30	Asia – Pacific Forestry Week Briefing	Aru Mathias (FAO)/Sairusi Bulai (SPC – LRD)
2.30 – 3.00	Drafting of meeting recommendation	
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon Tea	
3.15 – 3.45	Drafting of meeting recommendation	
3.45 – 4.15	Endorsement of meeting recommendation/report	
4.15 – 4.30	Closing of the 2011 Forestry Technical Meeting	

Annex 6

Workshop Report: Pacific Regional Approach to REDD+ Readiness

SPC/GIZ, JICA and UN-REDD Collaborative Workshop in association with the Pacific Regional Heads of Forestry Technical Meeting
19-20 Sept 2011, Nadi, Fiji

Key Messages

- As a result of the workshop, forestry officials from smaller PICs feel better equipped to participate effectively in regional and international discussions on REDD+ and climate change. They feel confident enough to articulate their needs and priorities in the context of REDD+ Readiness.
- Larger PICs appreciate their role as regional leaders on the topic of REDD+, understand the needs and interests of their smaller neighbours and the mutual benefits of moving forward as a region, while pursuing national REDD+ Readiness programmes at their own pace.
- All countries in the region recognize the benefits of a knowledge support platform and access to improved tools and skills for monitoring, that a regional approach to REDD+ Readiness can deliver.

Workshop Process

The workshop progressed through the following stages:

A common starting point for discussions: An introduction to the concepts of REDD+ and REDD+ Readiness, accompanied by distribution of the UN-REDD report 'Regional REDD+ Readiness Support Strategy for the Pacific'.

Update on national level REDD+ Readiness programmes in the Pacific: Progress reports from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and forest cover change detection by SOPAC.

Perspectives on civil society involvement in REDD+ Readiness programmes: Provided by CSOs from Fiji, PNG and the Philippines.

Update on technical and financial assistance for REDD+ Readiness in the Pacific: Provided by GIZ, JICA and UN-REDD.

A framework for visualizing the benefits of a regional approach to REDD+ Readiness: A summary of the UN-REDD report and a briefing on possible regional approaches to MRV from FAO.

Group discussions and presentations on a regional approach: Separating larger and smaller PICs into separate groups to analyse the UN-REDD report, regional forestry issues for the region (including regional drivers of forest loss and degradation) and the potential for regional REDD+ Readiness to address these issues for the benefit of all PICs.

Outcomes of group discussions

Feedback on UN-REDD report

Participants gave a general endorsement of the report's structure, approach and framework, with the following provisos:

- The cultural bond between Pacific island people and their land should be reflected more prominently
- The importance of REDD+ to land use planning was not fully addressed
- More practical suggestions would be welcome on ways for smaller countries and local people to access benefits from REDD+ Readiness
- The broad scope of the report is clear and useful, but it lacks detail.

The report has clearly stimulated a desire for more in-depth regional studies and discussions on the benefits of a regional approach to REDD+ Readiness.

Regional drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

The larger PICs (Melanesian countries with national REDD+ Readiness programmes) discussed common regional drivers of forest loss and degradation and highlighted the following gaps in addressing these drivers:

- A regional response to forest governance issues is required:
 - o Forest land tenure systems in the Pacific are unique to the region, and should be discussed at a regional level to encourage sharing of ideas and experiences, although forest governance issues must ultimately be addressed directly at national and local levels only.
 - o Demarcation of forest land is essential for REDD+ and is important for effective forest governance and management in all contexts.
- Drivers within and between countries in the Pacific may be addressed at the regional level:
 - o Demographic changes such as population growth and population movements have significant impacts on patterns of deforestation and degradation. Migration between countries in the region is now more common and its effects must be addressed at the regional level
 - o Demand for resources within the region, including for agricultural land and construction materials, is growing. Displacement of forest emissions (leakage) between countries is therefore an important consideration for REDD+ programmes across the region.
- Drivers which originate outside the Pacific region should be addressed through concerted regional efforts:
 - o Market demand for new cash crops, including tree crops such as oil palm, particularly for biofuels, will be an increasingly important driver for deforestation.
 - o Demand in key Asian markets for raw materials and natural resources continues to encourage clearance of forest land for mining operations across the region.

Forest issues of specific concern to smaller countries

Group work among representatives of smaller PICs highlighted the following additional issues:

- Vegetation mapping: To meet the needs of smaller countries in monitoring coconut areas and small forest blocks, more accurate remote sensing technology is required
- Management skills of local people: Sustainable use of forest resources is hampered by lack of skills and training for local landowners
- Coastal zone protection: Mangroves have traditionally been managed and maintained as a means of disaster risk reduction; an important approach for effective adaptation to climate change
- Invasive species control: Loss of local biodiversity and some local subsistence products through the spread of invasive species is a key problem for small island states. PICs need access to financial resources to address this problem.
- Protection strategies: Protection of forest areas for watershed management and biodiversity conservation requires continuous negotiation with local rights-holders.

How can a Regional REDD+ Readiness approach help?

At the regional level, PICs all demonstrate strong support for the following:

Regional training facility

- With an emphasis on forest monitoring and inventory, including remote sensing technology
- To build up a pool of skilled forest technicians, to enhance and share capacities throughout the Pacific region
- To generate information and expertise which is specifically relevant to the Pacific

Regional REDD+ knowledge platform

- An open access service which will benefit all Pacific Island Countries and Territories
- Managed and governed by PICs (through regional agencies), not by donors
- To include actual, as well as virtual, interaction

Regional forest assessment information centre

- To facilitate access to, and sharing of, satellite imagery

A Regional REDD+ Readiness approach that focuses on knowledge and skills development benefits the whole region. Larger countries benefit by directly applying the lessons to their national REDD+ Readiness programmes. Moreover, the more that smaller countries are aware of ongoing REDD+ activities, the better they will be able to decide whether and how to get involved.

Engagement of smaller countries in regional REDD+ discussions

Broader involvement of PICs in REDD+ debate is desirable for all, including for larger countries looking for regional support for their political stance on REDD+ at international negotiations. In order to achieve this inclusiveness, a regional REDD+ Readiness approach should address the following:

- Raise global awareness of coconuts as a forestry issue. This is the dominant vegetation type in many smaller PICs. Specific issues that need to be addressed for coconuts include:
 - o Classification of coconuts as forests is not universally accepted. It is a matter for individual countries whether to define coconut areas as forests in Forest Resource Assessments to FAO. However, a consistent regional position, defining coconut as a forest type, would benefit the interests of smaller countries.
 - o Allometric equations for coconut areas

- o Finer satellite imagery is required to distinguish coconuts from other forest areas and thus to monitor changes within these areas. This finer imagery would have a wide range of other uses, particularly in land use planning.
- Bring foresters to the forefront of REDD+ discussions in the region. The lack of discussion of REDD+ at regional fora, for example at pre-COP climate change briefings facilitated by SPREP, is partly due to the lack of forestry knowledge among negotiators, particularly those from smaller countries.
- Promote REDD+ as a climate change adaptation strategy. Usually described as a mitigation strategy, REDD+ is more accurately an example of a dual strategy – both mitigation and adaptation. In the Pacific, the application of REDD+ strategic discussions to mangrove areas, in particular, would address the adaptation-focused priorities of smaller countries in the region.

A regional approach should provide guidance for smaller PICs on the opportunities for forest sector support through REDD+ Readiness. It is understood that this support needs to be sought, initially through active involvement in design of the regional REDD+ platform and roadmap under the SPC/GIZ project Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries. The Pacific Regional Heads of Forestry Technical meeting, held immediately after this workshop on 21-23 September 2011, reflected the priorities stated above in the planning of a regional REDD+ roadmap.