





REDD+ National Strategy/Action Plan Fiji

ASIA - PACIFIC

1. PLANNING THE NS/AP DESIGN PROCESS

Do you have a Roadmap for preparation of a NS/AP? (Yes)

The analytical work carried out / planned

- Planned analysis on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (Land use , land use changes) as well as the policy measures to address then;
- Analytical work on the Reference Level and MRV.

The coordination mechanism proposed

- National REDD+ Steering Committee (SC) is the implementing authority. Under the SC are technical working groups like Safeguard, Awareness and MRV working groups.
- A number of targeted workshops had been and will be done especially to develop specific guidelines and approach that Fiji moving forward, e.g. one of the area that we are still grappling on is the stratification level.

Proposed decision-making, consultation and validation/endorsement processes

The national steering committee involves in decision-making and endorsement for REDD program in Fiji.

Linkages to other elements of the readiness process and other relevant planning processes

- Provides data for drivers of deforestation and degradation in establishment of the NFMS and FRL and SESA to be fed into the Safeguards Information System for reporting and monitoring.
- Assessment of Land use land use change and the drivers to these changes determines the baseline information for the NFMS and FRL.

2. ANALYZING DRIVERS OF DD, AND OTHER ANALYTICAL WORK

Have you conducted analyses of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation? (Yes)

How consensus was / is planned to be ensured among stakeholders

• One of the key areas that Fiji is adopting is good communication and awareness among key stakeholders. We see this as crucial to let all the stakes fully appreciate the underlying issues to be able to gain their consensus. Tools that are currently been used includes the development of the communication and awareness strategies, vernacular awareness materials, etc.

Were indirect drivers studied?

• Some of the main underlying or in direct drivers as identified includes economic development, population growth, governance, weak enforcement.

Do you have or plan to quantify the GHG impact of the main drivers?

• Definitely, in fact there had been some studies already done to estimate the GHG impact especially on forest degradation in Fiji. Similar study will have to be done for deforestation.

3. SHAPING THE STRATEGIC VISION FOR REDD+

Have you identified how REDD+ fits with broader development objectives? (Yes)

- Under the National Green Growth Framework, where Fiji will accelerate the restoration of the degraded forests and reforestation which falls under the scope of REDD+ activity types for Fiji.
- The REDD+ policy has been integrated an outcome of ongoing policies on land use and forestry sustainable economic development and climate change mitigation and adaptation action plans highlighted in the national climate change policy.
- The climate change policy states "mitigation measures focused on maintaining forest carbon stocks and increasing sequestration of carbon through forest conservation, reforestation, afforestation, and enrichment planting" thus attributes of the REDD+ implementation framework in the REDD+ policy.

Scope: All five eligible activities

<u>Scale</u>: National & project scale; Fiji is suitable to qualify under national scale due to smaller landmass and at project scale due to various REDD+ projects being implemented by NGO's.

Priority drivers selected: Forest degradation - logging; Deforestation - agricultural expansion

4. IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF PAMS

Have you designed a preliminary set of PAMs for REDD+? (Yes)

| PAM | Direct driver addressed | Indirect driver addressed |
|--|---|---|
| Fiji Forest Policy & FHCOP, REDD+ Policy, Forest Decree | Conventional logging and unsustainable forest use (firewood removal, harvesting operations) | Poor logging planning, income generation, demand for timber, economic growth in forestry sector |
| EMA (EIA, NBSAP) | Loss of biodiversity | Unsustainable development |
| Rural Land Use Policy | Agricultural expansion, large scale forest conversion by local communities | Rural development goals, poverty, food security and income generation demand |
| Mangrove Management Plan | Foreshore development, tourism, firewood | Tourism Development priorities |

5. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Have you designed an implementation framework for your NS/AP? (Yes)

How does it differ from implementation arrangements for Phase 1?

- Fiji has chosen to take a hybrid model for REDD+ implementation, which include payments flowing at the national, programmatic, and project scale.
- Institutional arrangements and regulatory framework is put in place and the national REDD+ steering committee is the regulatory body for implementing and monitoring of the national REDD+ strategy.
- The SC will hold regular consultations on overall implementation of the strategy and ensure that the strategy is incorporated in the agency work plans from which specific work plans are drawn for implementation.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Lack of commitment from stakeholders (unavailability, conflict of interest);
- Strategy is still in draft and yet to be finalized;
- Contradicting and superseding development policies and goals e.g. mining act over forest policy;
- Data gaps and technical incompetency.

CHALLENGES

- Carbon enhancement and non carbon benefits is the niche that best suited Fiji;
- Economic development is the main underlying drivers that must be managed;
- If we address the livelihood of the people, REDD will be successful.