

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



GOVERNMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS



National Programme Annual Report **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

UN-REDD Programme

2013

1. National Programme Status

1.1 National Programme Identification

Country: Solomon Islands
Title of programme: SOI-UNREDD PROGRAMME

Date of signature¹: 5 May 2011
Date of first transfer of funds²: 3 June 2011
End date according to National Programme Document: 18 months from the start date
No-cost extension requested³: No cost extension approved until 31 March 2014

Implementing partners⁴:

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

Financial Summary (USD) ⁵			
UN Agency	Approved Programme Budget ⁶	Amount transferred ⁷	Cummulative Expenditures up to 31 December 2013 ⁸
FAO	0	0	0
UNDP	514,019	514,019	349,411.01
UNEP	0	0	0
Programme Cost	514,019	514,019	349,411.01
Indirect Support cost(7%)	35,981	35,981	24,458.63
Total	550,000	550,000	373,869.64

Electronic signatures by the designated UN organization ⁹			Electronic signature by the Government Counterpart
FAO	UNDP	UNEP	
Type the date and name of signatories in full:			

⁵ The information on expenditure is **unofficial**. Official, certified financial information is provided by the HQ of the Participating UN Organizations by 30 April and can be accessed on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CCF00>)

⁶ The total budget for the entire duration of the Programme, as specified in the signed Submission Form and National Programme Document. This information is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY: <http://mptf.undp.org>

⁷ Amount transferred to the participating UN Organization from the UN-REDD Multi-Partner Trust Fund. This information is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY: <http://mptf.undp.org>

⁸ The sum of commitments and disbursement

⁹ Each UN organisation is to nominate one or more focal points to sign the report. Please refer to the *UN-REDD Programme Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Framework* document for further guidance

1.2 Monitoring Framework

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:	Baseline for all indicators: No multi-stakeholder working group on REDD+ in place.
Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)	

<p>expected annual Target – Quarterly Meetings for REDD+ Taskforce and Working Groups Engaging in REDD+ process.</p>	<p>Achievement of Annual Target</p> <p>The 2013 first quarter meeting for the National REDD+ Taskforce and Working Groups, whose members were appointed by Cabinet, was organized from the 19-20 February 2013 to map out activities and outline the priorities for 2013. The members of the taskforce and working groups were actively involved in the discussions and decision making processes. The meetings minutes were submitted to the PMU.</p> <p>The taskforce also prepared a cabinet paper on the progress of the UNREDD Programme and recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>The Solomon Islands Government Cabinet has endorsed the current work of the UN-REDD Programme and acknowledges the importance of a multi-sectoral approach. On the third issue, Cabinet has fully endorsed the view and recommends that the UN-REDD Programme facilitate such a mechanism in coordination with the MECDM and the MFR in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=1896&Itemid=53</p> <p>In May 2013, a number of the members of the national REDD+ Taskforce travelled to Fiji as part of a Regional REDD+ capacity building initiative. 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</p> <p>The second quarter meeting of the REDD+ Taskforce and the working groups was organized over a two-day period during 22-23 May 2013 combined with a national safeguards workshop. The workshop reviewed preliminary stakeholder mapping, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as potential REDD+ strategies. These multi-stakeholder groups were also introduced to how a national Safeguards Information System (SIS) could be structured, and during an open plenary, discussed the potential ways to further develop nationally appropriate safeguards (including approaches to stakeholder engagement) and a SIS. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=1896&Itemid=53</p> <p>A REDD+ Roadmap Consultation and MRV Training were organized from the 29 October – 5th November 2013. The two workshops have culminated in the review of the draft National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.</p> <p>A National REDD+ Taskforce Meeting was organized at the end of November 2013. The Taskforce reviewed and provided comments on the Roadmap. The Taskforce further instructed that more work should be done on the document with a summarized version to be finalized and presented in early 2014.</p> <p>During the first quarter of 2014, the National REDD+ Taskforce and Working Groups reviewed and approved the improved version of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap together with technical guidance notes. The next step is for the MECDM to submit to Cabinet for its official endorsement.</p>
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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)	
Expected annual Target:	Achievement of Annual Target:
<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 - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The initial assessment of existing institutional structures was completed through the preparation of the background document by the policy advisor. The assessment shows that REDD+ implementation would require structural changes within the MFR and the MECDM in order to coordinate and implement REDD+ activities. Institutional capacity development on forest governance, national forest monitoring systems for REDD+, transparency and accountability are some of the key components covered by the background document http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2427&Itemid=53 - The assessment of existing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation was also completed in the background document. The major driver of deforestation and degradation in the country is unsustainable logging. This is due to country's reliance on logging as a major source of income. The analysis also reflected that subsistence agriculture is an increasingly important driver of deforestation through shifting cultivation, exacerbated by indirect factors such as rapid population growth. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2427&Itemid=53 - Potential REDD+ strategies linking to the development of capacity to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through REDD+ were reviewed by the Taskforce and Working Groups and incorporated into the Roadmap. - The first draft of the National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap underwent review by key stakeholders. The Roadmap recommends establishing a national REDD+ Committee, a national REDD+ focal point and national REDD+ Implementation Unit. In response, the Ministry of Forest and Research (MFR) recruited a Forestry REDD+ officer in December 2013, after establishing the REDD+ implementation unit within MoFR. <p>In the first quarter of 2014, the final review of institutional structures and REDD+ strategies was done. Furthermore. The programme procured desktops to support the newly established REDD+ implementation Unit in the MoFR.</p>
Expected Results: Output 1.3: A REDD+ readiness roadmap	
Indicators:	Road map in place after 10 months

Baseline:	<u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> No roadmap process.
Expected annual Target The roadmap in place by end of 2013	Achievement of Annual Target – - Draft National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap document completed and circulated to stakeholders for inputs in March 2014.
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 INP
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 - 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 The process for communication and capacity building began during the reporting period and has been very successful. Key achievements include: - The development of a multi-stakeholder governance structure for awareness raising, and the structure was supported by the respective technical working groups. - A national REDD+ website was developed and hosted by the MoFR http://202.1.169.27/itsolution/ . - A UN-REDD Programme brochure and leaflet was developed and circulated through awareness-raising, consultation and training events.. - Three awareness raising and three training events were organized in Honiara and Provinces with support from the REDD+ Taskforce and working groups. This work has significantly increased both the number of people (mainly in Honiara and key provinces) participating and deepened awareness of REDD+ in the Solomon Islands. In addition to these awareness-raising events, there were also consultation, and two MRV training events, and key members of the Taskforce undertook a study tour to Fiji. Stakeholders were particularly interested in the potential contribution that the five REDD+ activities to towards sustainable development in the Solomon Islands. The focus of many of the awareness activities was on the benefits of REDD+ beyond carbon.
Expected Results: Output2.2: A process to ensure the right of free, prior and informed consent for actions to be undertaken on REDD+	
Indicators:	- 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)	
<p>Expected annual Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FPIC processes to be reflected in the REDD+ Roadmap - Develop guidance note on stakeholder engagement for REDD+ implementation 	<p>Achievement of Annual Target</p> <p>While work is on-going to develop an FPIC guidance note to accompany the Roadmap, key steps taken during this reporting period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion with Taskforce members regarding the scope of the stakeholder engagement guidance note during the two-day national stakeholder workshop on safeguards in May 2013; - Development of an outline of the stakeholder engagement guidance note, encompassing FPIC and other broader stakeholder engagement and consultation methods, which has been shared for initial comments and will be linked to the first draft of the Roadmap. <p>Review of the guidance note that will be attached to the REDD+ roadmap and submitted to cabinet was done in Q1 2014</p>
<p>Expected Results: Output2.3: Promoting social and environmental benefits whilst reducing risks from REDD</p>	
<p>Indicators:</p>	<p>Awareness and discussion on the formulation of a nationally appropriate safeguards mechanism.</p>
<p>Baseline:</p>	<p><u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> No current approach to or analysis of safeguards for REDD+.</p>
<p>Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)</p>	

<p>Expected annual Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of existing safeguards and gaps - Develop guidance note on stakeholder engagement for REDD+ Implementation - Development of an approach to safeguards – including indicators, safeguard information system - Development of guidance note for implementation of safeguards in SI 	<p>Achievement of Annual Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An assessment of existing safeguards and gaps was conducted during the preparation of the background document by the policy advisor. The initial assessment shows that while 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 in order to reduce environmental impacts. This has not been fully implemented due to weak monitoring and inability of the MFR to enforce the code. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2427&Itemid=53 - A guidance note on REDD+ safeguards was prepared to accompany the draft Roadmap and circulated to stakeholders for review. - Based on the review of safeguards an overall approach to REDD+ safeguards and an information system to report on these was discussed and identified, which is going through consultation with key stakeholders. It is anticipated that this work will also align with the on-going efforts to develop safeguards within the transport sector. <p>Safeguards guidance note was reviewed and approved by Taskforce in the first quarter of 2014</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL/RL formulation and MRV</p>	
<p>Expected Results: Output3.1: REL and MRV capacity assessment</p>	
<p>Indicators:</p>	<p>Needs assessment report.</p>
<p>Baseline:</p>	<p><u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> No national REL and MRV capacity assessment.</p>
<p>Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)</p>	

<p>Expected annual Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of MRV Expert - MRV Training workshop on data collection - Develop guidance note for data collection for MRV in Solomon Islands - Develop step-by-step guidance to implement MRV REDD+ Readiness in Solomon Islands 	<p>Achievement of Annual Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MRV expert's (consultant) first mission (June 18-23) included meetings with the MFR on the overview of MRV, assessment of MFR's activities, and identification of skills and roles for MRV training. A presentation was also made to all heads of forestry and forestry staff. http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2946&Itemid=53 - MRV expert conducted a training workshop on data collection for all stakeholders. The training provided an overview of MRV skills and methods, an overview of the needs of the Solomon Islands to reach international reporting standard (in terms of equipment, data and personnel) and what information is available (GIS, inventory databases, etc.). http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=2946&Itemid=53 - The MRV "hands-on" training was held in South Choiseul has resulted in more than 30 participants. The MRV Training was a good example of inter-agency collaboration for REDD+ both at the national and regional levels. The MFR, through its development budget, funded over 60% of the training. The UN-REDD Programme co-financed the remaining 40%. SPC-GIZ, through its regional project on climate protection through forest conservation, then met travel costs for four officers from Fiji's Department of Forests to support the delivery of the training. <p>The primary recommendations to emerge from the training event were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and initiate a framework for National Forest Inventory (NFI); 2. Conduct a mapping, stratification, and field measurement campaign to systematically collect information to fully characterize the forest carbon stocks and inform the development of a national Reference Emission Level; 3. Create a permanent sample plot network protocol for use in long-term monitoring, measurement, reporting, and 3rd party verification; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic MRV guidance notes have been formulated and are included in the MRV section of the Roadmap.
<p>Expected Result: Output 3.2: Assessment of potential for regional cooperation on MRV</p>	
<p>Indicators:</p>	<p>Regional cooperation opportunities</p>
<p>Baseline:</p>	<p><u>Baseline for all indicators:</u> Regional approach not well defined.</p>
<p>Progress against target (Achievements gained in the reporting period)</p>	

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 in Lambi Suva, Fiji Islands. 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.

1.3 Financial Information

Programme Outcome (Reference: National Programme Document)	Part. UN Org.	Approved Budget/Amount Transferred (USD) A	Cumulative Expenditures as of 31 December 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		136,163.32	136,163.32	
	UNEP					
Sub-total Outcome 1				136,163.32	136,163.32	132.4%
Outcome 2 : REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+.	FAO					
	UNDP	238,318		82,681.64	82,681.64	
	UNEP					
Sub-total Outcome 2				82,681.64	82,681.64	34.7%
Outcome 3 : Preliminary capacity developed for REL/RL formulation and MRV.	FAO					
	UNDP	121,495		85,992.58	85,992.58	

	UNEP					70.7%
Sub-total Outcome 3				85,992.58	85,992.58	
Project Management	UNDP	51,402		44,573.47	44,573.47	86.7%
Total Programme cost per Agency (all outcomes):	FAO					
	UNDP	514019		349,411.01	349,411.01	67.9%
	UNEP					
GMS - Indirect Support Cost (7%)	FAO					
	UNDP	35,981		24,458.63	24,458.63	67.9%
	UNEP					
Grand Total (total Programme + indirect support cost)		550,000		373,869.64	373,869.64	67.9%

1.3.1 Co-financing

Sources of co-financing ¹⁰	Name of co-financer	Type of co-financing ¹¹	Amount (US\$)
UNDP UN-REDD Tier 2 Asia-Pacific Regional Readiness	UNDP	Cash	50,000.00
FAO Targeted Support: Development of a Regional Monitoring and MRV Support Structure for Pacific Island Countries	FAO	Cash (partial)	100,000.00
UNDP Regional Office Support	UNDP	Cash	38000.00
UNDP Regional Office Support	UNDP	Cash	10000.00
Solomon Islands Government (Ministry of Forest and Research)	SIG	Cash	20000.00

1.3.2 Additional finance for national REDD+ efforts catalyzed by the National Programme

Name of financer	Description	Amount (US\$)
UNDP/GEF	Integrating Global Environment Commitments in Investment and Development Decision-making through REDD+ Readiness	935,000.00

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. Please provide examples if relevant (600 words).

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

The national REDD+ Readiness Taskforce and technical working groups have been directly driving the formulation of the REDD+ Roadmap. Some of their members participated in the REDD+ study tour to Fiji, which contributed to their increased understanding and awareness of REDD+ readiness work and their roles and responsibilities in the process. They have also been actively engaging in the stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising efforts. Active engagement by the Taskforce and working group members in this initial REDD+ readiness efforts have resulted in firm commitment, toward REDD+ readiness by 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 REDD+ and particularly their roles and responsibilities, benefits and risks associated with REDD+ remain. The benefits of REDD+ beyond

¹⁰ Indicate if the source of co-financing is from: Bilateral aid agency, foundation, local government, national government, civil society organizations, other multilateral agency, private sector, or others.

¹¹ Indicate if co-financing is in-kind or cash.

carbon (multiple benefits of REDD+) 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. Inputs from the stakeholders through the work of the Taskforce and working groups, particularly during their November meeting, have been incorporated in the Roadmap, which is currently in circulation for further comments before it will be finalised in early 2014.

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 a second national MRV training event, was conducted in June 2013 with technical support from an international MRV expert.

The MRV expert met with the MFR to discuss the structure and function of a national forest monitoring system for REDD+, and to assess existing of forestry activities and define training objectives. 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 carried out at a mangrove site near Maravaghi.

The “hands-on” MRV training was held in South Choiseul and resulted in more than 30 participants being trained. The MRV Training was a good example of inter-agency collaboration for REDD+ both at the national and regional levels. The MFR, through its development budget, funded over 60% of the training. The UN-REDD Programme co-financed the remaining 40%. SPC-GIZ, through its regional project on climate protection through forest conservation, then met travel costs for four officers from Fiji’s Department of Forests to support the delivery of the training.

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, these can include the establishment of REDD+ institutions expected to outlive the programme, regulations, or capacities that will remain in place after the completion of the programme. (250 words)

The government is taking active steps to ensure that the sustainability of Programme outcomes. The MFR recruited a Forestry REDD+ officer in December 2013 after establishing a REDD+ implementation unit. The implementation unit in close collaboration with MECDM will be responsible for the implementation of the REDD+ activities in the country. In addition, four new positions for forest monitoring have been secured and confirmed for 2014 and also be affiliated to the implementation unit. MFR 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 MECDM also sought resources to support climate change mitigation activities, in particular through NAMAs, of which REDD+ is an important component. MECDM has also been working with UNDP to align GEF resources to support these efforts.

A new UNDP project called “Integrating Global Environment Commitments in Investment and Development Decision-making through REDD+ Readiness” is currently designed and will provide strategic guidance towards the implementation of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. It is expected to start in July 2014.

The FAO/GEF integrated Forest Management in the Solomon Islands will also support the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management activities, which are directly aligned to the REDD+ roadmap. The project inception will take place in April 2014.

2.1.3 If there are difficulties in the implementation of the National Programme, what are the main causes of these difficulties? Please check the most suitable option.

- UN agency Coordination
- Coordination with Government
- Coordination within the Government
- Administrative (Procurement, etc) /Financial (management of funds, availability, budget revision, etc)
- Management: 1. Activity and output management
- Management: 2. Governance/Decision making (Programme Management Committee/National Steering Committee)
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Absence of technical capacities and expertise nationally
- Difficulty to draw international technical capacities and expertise
- National Programme design
- External to the National Programme (risks and assumptions, elections, natural disaster, social unrest)

2.1.4 If boxes are checked under 2.1.3, please briefly describe any current *internal* difficulties¹² the National Programme is facing in relation to the implementation of the activities outlined in the National Programme Document.

In terms of procurement, the UNDP process can be very rigid and is time consuming.

And in terms of National programme design, indicators identified were not realistic to adhere to. For example having a roadmap within 10 months.

2.1.5 If boxes are checked under 2.1.3, please briefly describe any current *external* difficulties¹³ (not caused by the National Programme) that delay or impede the quality of implementation.

Coordination within Government at times is a challenge due to the limited capacity, time, and resources. For example, most times key personals are away on official duties so decisions cannot be made when and as needed. Furthermore, line ministries have limited human resource personals to help out in the implementation of the programme.

2.1.6 Please, briefly explain the actions that are or will be taken to eliminate or manage the difficulties (internal and external referred to in question 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) described in the previous sections.

The action taken to manage the challenge is to strengthen the engagement process, communication, and planning process with the Government partners. This ensures that there is an ongoing commitment towards the programme and its activities. For example, the formulation of the REDD+ Taskforce and implementation unit has and will be the bridge to address the gap in coordination.

2.2 Inter-Agency Coordination

The aim of the questions below is to collect relevant information on how the National Programme is contributing to inter-agency work and “Delivering as One”.

2.2.1 Is the National Programme in coherence with the UN Country Programme or other donor assistance framework approved by the Government?

- Yes No

¹² Difficulties confronted by the team directly involved in the implementation of the National Programme

¹³ Difficulties confronted by the team caused by factors outside of the National Programme

- 2.2.2 What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery?**
The INP in the Solomon Islands is financially administered through UNDP, while both FAO and UNDP regional advisors provide technical oversight in the implementation of INP activities. UNEP also provides technical inputs on an ad-hoc basis for activities related to UNEP's expertise under the UN-REDD Programme. This arrangement has worked well.
- 2.2.3 Are the recommendations of the HACT assessment being applied in the implementation of the National Programme by the three participating UN organisation?**
 Yes No Not applicable, as UNDP administers the entire INP funds.

2.3 Ownership¹⁴ and Development Effectiveness

- 2.3.1 Are the national implementing partners and UN-REDD focal points involved in the planning, budgeting and delivery of the National Programme?**
 No Some Yes

Please explain what measures are in place to ensure national ownership:

The partner agencies (MECDM and MoFR) are represented on both the Programme Executive Board (PEB) and also the National REDD+ Taskforce. The representatives of these agencies, including the UN-REDD focal points have also been engaged throughout the year in delivery of the National Programme through consultation, workshops and meetings.

- 2.3.2 Are the UN-REDD Programme's Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement and Operational Guidance Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities applied in the National Programme process?**
 No Partially Fully

Guidance note has been formulated with close consultation with government and active non-government stakeholders that are directly or indirectly impacted through the implementation of REDD+ activities in country.

- 2.3.3 What kind of decisions and activities are non-government stakeholders involved in?**
 Policy/decision making
 Management: Budget Procurement Service provision
 Other, please specify

- 2.3.4 Based on your previous answers, briefly describe the current situation of the government and non-government stakeholders in relation to ownership and accountability¹⁵ of the National Programme.**
The involvement of non-government organizations in advocating for natural resources management, good governance and inclusive participation in decision making ensures the REDD+ readiness work compliments their work on the ground and their inputs are reflected in policy processes related to REDD+. From this perspective, there is an increasing sense of ownership of REDD+ readiness efforts among non-government stakeholders. Meanwhile, government stakeholders, as regulators of natural resources development, treat the REDD+ readiness work as a strategic entry point for advocating and strengthening sustainable forest management and strengthening environmental management accountability across government. The REDD+ Readiness process also reveals the kind of gaps the country will need to address in order to facilitate sustainable natural resource management. An example is strengthening the safeguards process, benefit sharing and transparency in the forestry licensing system. Therefore, the government stakeholders have been aware of the need for increased government accountability in order to implement REDD+.

3. General Programme Indicators

¹⁴ Ownership refers to countries exercising effective leadership over their REDD+ policies and strategies, and co-ordination of actions.

¹⁵ Accountability: Acknowledgment and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies and encompassing the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences.

- 3.3.1 Number focal personnel with increased capacities on MRV and monitoring:**
 Women Total No more than 15
 Men Total No more than 50
- 3.3.2 Does the country have a functional MRV and monitoring system in place?**
 Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage
- 3.3.3 Does the country have nationally owned governance indicators, developed through a participatory governance assessment?**
 Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage
- 3.3.4 Was a participatory governance assessment supported by the UN-REDD Programme and incorporated into the National REDD+ Strategy?**
 Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage
- 3.3.5 Does the National REDD+ Strategy include anti-corruption measures, such as a code of conduct, conflict of interest prohibitions, links to existing anti-corruption frameworks, protection for whistleblowers or application of social standards?**
 Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage
Comments: The country does not yet have a national REDD+ strategy.
- 3.3.6 Number of Indigenous Peoples/civil society stakeholders represented in REDD+ decision making, strategy development and implementation of REDD+ at the national level:**
 Women Total No. More than 5
 Men Total No. More than 10
- 3.3.7 Number of consultation processes (Meetings, workshops etc.) underway for national readiness and REDD+ activities:**
Total No. More than 15
Comments: REDD+ is a new concept thus raises concerns regarding benefit sharing. Through awareness workshops and meetings it is obvious that more information of benefit sharing the marketbase structures needs to be explored in-depth.
- 3.3.8 Grievance mechanism established in order to address grievances of people alleging an adverse effect related to the implementation of the UN-REDD national programme:**
 Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage
- 3.3.9 Country has undertaken to operationalize Free Prior and Informed Consent for the implementation of readiness or REDD+ activities that impact Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' territories, resources, livelihoods and cultural identity:**
 Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage
Comments: MRV training and community consultation include getting the FPIC of local communities involved. The Stakeholder Engagement guidance note, currently being finalized, will provide support to the operationalization of FPIC in the context of REDD+ in the Solomon Islands.
- 3.3.10 Country applying safeguards for ecosystem services and livelihood risks and benefits:**
 Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage
Comments: Safeguards are not yet in place.

3.3.11 Application of the UN-REDD Programme social principles and criteria:

Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage

3.3.12 REDD+ benefit distribution system contributes to inclusive development¹⁶, with specific reference to pro-poor¹⁷ policies and gender mainstreaming¹⁸:

Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage

Comments: BES does not yet exist.

3.3.13 Country adopting multiple benefit decision tool kit:

Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage

3.3.14 National or sub-national development strategies incorporate REDD+ based investments as means of transformation of relevant sectors¹⁹:

Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage

3.3.15 Investment agreements supported or influenced so that they take advantage of the REDD+ as a catalyst to a green economy:

Yes Partially No Not applicable at this stage

4. Key lessons

1. The three phases of REDD+ need to be understood in order to manage expectations at both national and community levels.
2. The REDD+ readiness process has been very successful to identify thematic areas that require further work to fill capacity gaps at the national level.
3. The REDD+ readiness process will be complementary to existing processes in the natural resources sector such as protected area management, sustainable forest management and community engagement.
4. It is critical that the Readiness process is accompanied by demonstration activities and thus a larger size programme would have been more meaningful. The site for demonstration would have then been used to test processes such as stakeholder engagement, FPIC, safeguards, benefit distribution and the technical components for MRV and REL/RL.
5. More flexibility in terms of timeframe should be given in order for countries to fully develop the

¹⁶ Inclusive development is development that marginalized groups take part in and benefit from, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability or poverty. Inclusive growth implies **participation** and **benefit-sharing**. On the one hand, it ensures that everyone can participate in the growth process, both in terms of decision-making for organizing the growth progression as well as in participating in the growth itself. On the other hand, it makes sure that everyone shares equitably the benefits of growth.

¹⁷ Pro-poor policies are those that directly target poor people (i.e. benefit the poor more than the non-poor), or that are more generally aimed at reducing poverty. There is also a general consensus that pro-poor policy processes are those that allow poor people to be directly involved in the policy process, or that by their nature and structure lead to pro-poor outcomes. For some, the aim of pro-poor policies is to improve the assets and capabilities of the poor.

¹⁸ The overall intention of gender mainstreaming with regard to environment and energy is to ensure the inclusion of gender equality considerations in planning systems at all levels, and to expand both the access of women to finance mechanisms and the direction of that finance to areas that will benefit women. Gender mainstreaming tools include gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data and participatory approaches that explicitly consider women.

¹⁹ Relevant sectors denote those that are related to forests and land use, e.g. including energy, agriculture, mining, transport and land use planning.

respective thematic areas of REDD+. For example safeguards are already a huge thematic area to cover, and then there is FPIC, stakeholder engagement, benefit sharing, discussion on multiple benefits and other areas relating the governance all linking to capacity to implement effectively the five REDD+ activities.

6. The REDD+ Readiness process of the national programme should be used to validate the next phase of the national REDD+ readiness programme.
7. It is important that the national REDD+ programme has communications officers as the programme covers many thematic areas and strategic communications with stakeholders are crucial in establishing effective working networks and coherence across the efforts.
8. The national circumstances and level of development of the country reflects that governance issues are either partially in place or not present at all. This means many similar processes will need to be established in order to facilitate REDD+ activities implementation.
9. Implementation arrangements are a challenge and one that require some innovation on the ground. For example, the UNDP processes are rigid and challenging.

5. Government Counterpart Information

The UNREDD Programme has enabled the country to formulate the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and REDD+ Guidance note that will be vital for the country to allude to for REDD+ readiness activities. The UNREDD Programme has set the platform for the next phase of the National REDD+ Programme and the government will provide its full support to see the REDD+ roadmap is implemented.

6. Other stakeholders (non-government) Information

Comments by other stakeholders (non-government):

The consolidated approach by UNREDD Programme is to be complimented. The piecemeal approach by NGO, in undertaking demonstration phase needs to also include other provinces in the Solomon Islands with broader stakeholder participation. It is important that a sectoral approach is also considered when the country enters the second phase of REDD+. The Programme has been very successful in stakeholder engagement and participation and has paved the way for future REDD+ activities.