

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template**
(interim, December 13, 2012, from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6)

Guidelines for Reviewers:

- 1) *FCPF REDD Country Participant R-PPs will be reviewed and assessed by the FCPF Participants Committee, the FCPF's governing body, taking TAP comments into account. External (Technical Advisory Panel or other) and Bank reviewers may provide recommendations on how a draft R-PP could be enhanced, using this template on a pilot basis until a process is approved by the PC.*
- 2) *One set of criteria should be used for review: specific standards each of the current 6 components of an R-PP should be met.*
- 3) *Your comments will be merged with other reviewer comments (without individual attribution) into a synthesis document that will be made public, in general, so bear this in mind when commenting.*
- 4) *Please provide thoughtful, fair assessment of the draft R-PP, in the form of actionable recommendations for the potential enhancement of the R-PP by the submitting country. A REDD Country Participant would be allowed three submissions of an R-PP to the PC for consideration.*

Objectives of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (condensed directly from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 3)

The purpose of the R-PP is to build and elaborate on the previous Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) or a country's relevant comparable work, to assist a country in laying out and organizing the steps needed to achieve 'Readiness' to undertake activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), in the specific country context. The R-PP provides a framework for a country to set a clear roadmap, budget, and schedule to achieve REDD Readiness. The FCPF does not expect that the activities identified in the R-PP and its Terms of Reference (ToR) would actually occur at the R-PP stage, although countries may decide to begin pilot activities for which they have capacity and stakeholder support. Instead, the R-PP consists of a summary of the current policy and governance context, what study and other preparatory activities would occur under each major R-PP component, how they would be undertaken in the R-PP execution phase, and then a ToR or work plan for each component. The activities would generally be performed in the next, R-PP execution phase, not as part of the R-PP formulation process.

Review of R-PP of (fill in country name): Vanuatu

Reviewer (fill in): Suriname and the US

Date of review (fill in): March 16, 2013

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

(From Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6:)

Component 1. Organize and Consult

Standard 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements:

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies beyond the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical

expertise has been used in the R-PP development process, and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Subcomponent 1a provides a clear description of the planned institutional arrangements. It clearly points out Vanuatu's focus on a Disaster Risk Reduction development approach and how REDD+ will be integrated in this framework. Though the lack of the National Advisory Board awareness is worrying, the endorsement of the R-PP and establishment of the PMU as broad coordinating body are positive developments.

Representation and structure of the REDD+ Technical Committee is adequate and it is good that this has been agreed upon in a multi-stakeholder setting. Taking into account specialized capabilities, roles should be flexible where possible.

This subcomponent clearly recognizes the position of the Ni-Vanuatu as customary landowners and the complexity this brings. "This issue of land ownership registration is very sensitive and REDD+ seeks to support a continuous dialogue at the national level. However, the government and land owners may not be ready to fully integrate this issue into REDD+, which is why it is proposed that area-based activities are not included in the national REDD+ strategy for the time being."

Capacity gaps for some of the institutions in the management arrangements are mentioned throughout subcomponent 1a.

Consider providing a timeline for developing the grievance mechanism

Meets the Standard

Standard 1b: Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups:

The R-PP presents evidence of the government having undertaken an exercise to identify key stakeholders for REDD-plus, and commenced a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for key relevant stakeholders. The campaign's major objective is to establish an early dialogue on the REDD-plus concept and R-PP development process that sets the stage for the later consultation process during the implementation of the R-PP work plan. This effort needs to reach out, to the extent feasible at this stage, to networks and representatives of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers and forest dependent communities, both at national and local level. The R-PP contains evidence that a reasonably broad range of key stakeholders has been identified, voices of vulnerable groups are beginning to be heard, and that a reasonable amount of time and effort has been invested to raise general awareness of the basic concepts and process of REDD-plus including the SESA.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

An extensive and thorough stakeholder mapping and analysis has been done. It is encouraging that largely positive relationships between bodies have been identified.

It is not entirely clear how some information sharing challenges such as low literacy and outreach to rural communities will be taken up. The visual awareness materials developed by the CSO Live & Learn provide a good example how to address this issue. How will the challenge in outreach to rural communities be addressed?

In a more general information sharing context, the Vanuatu Climate Change Portal and SPREP Regional Pacific Climate Change Portal are positive and very important developments both now and for the future.

The issue of land registration is mentioned as a perceived social risk by Ni-Vanuatu, which would in fact be required for area-based REDD+ projects. It is not clear how this concern will be addressed.

Concerns mentioned by resources users are related to corruption and interest in a REDD+ program. It is not clear in the R-PP how these concerns might be addressed during R-PP implementation.

Consider providing more information on how these concerns will be addressed and how benefits can accrue to resource holders to improve livelihoods in the absence of (or until) direct income increases.

What are initial thoughts on how the low credit volumes and in-country capacity gap for REDD+ policy can be addressed?

Meets the Standard

Standard 1c: Consultation and Participation Process

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far³ (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP.

Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The subcomponent clearly illustrates how early dialogues included aspects targeted directly at developing a consultation and participation plan and how existing communication structures can be used and strengthened.

The consultation and participation plan clearly includes all important key communication points. The process described is clear and practical.

In the role of the extension stakeholders in provinces, the Provincial Government, Government Extension Office and several NGO’s are mentioned in each province. It is good to consider whether these stakeholders can handle the described workload or whether human capacity needs to be increased.

It is mentioned that the need for FPIC might arise during the implementation phase and that any decision about land use in relation to REDD+ is likely to trigger FPIC.

³ Did the R-PP development, in particular the development of the ToR for the strategic environmental and social assessment and the Consultation and Participation Plan, include civil society, including forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples representation? In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways: (i) self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements: (a) selected through a participatory, consultative process; (b) having national coverage or networks; (c) previous experience working with the Government and UN system; (d) demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society including Indigenous Peoples organizations; or (ii) Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or Indigenous Peoples organizations (e.g., the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Program Steering Committee).

Consider providing initial information on capacity building needs with regard to REDD+ for the extension stakeholders.

Meets the standard

Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance:

A completed assessment is presented that: identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues; documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD; and sets the stage for development of the country's REDD strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

There is a clear identification of the main drivers of deforestation and degradation

The Governance section is quite helpful.

The subcomponent clearly brings out the perspective of the traditional land owners when it comes to land tenure issues. It is encouraging that the authors recognize the challenge that customary land ownership presents to REDD+. How will the challenges of customary ownership in REDD+ be taken up? It would be useful if initial thoughts are provided on how to address the complexities of this issue in REDD+.

Land grabbing is mentioned as a risk in the context of land leasing arrangements. Is this currently being dealt with? How could this risk be minimalized?

The authors rightly propose a legal study and the importance of aligning laws in order to make forest carbon rights compatible with REDD+. More thinking on next steps after the legal study and stakeholder buy-in for forest carbon rights compatible with customary land will be necessary.

This section provides clear indications of how the REDD+ strategy will be shaped, based on identified drivers, constraints and gaps.

Consider providing some thoughts on initial plans after the legal study and on how to make stakeholder buy-in for forest carbon rights compatible with customary land.

Meets the standard

Standard 2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options:

The R-PP should include: an alignment of the proposed REDD-plus strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies, and a summary of the emerging REDD-plus strategy to the extent known presently, and of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD-plus strategy options. This summary should state: how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD-plus strategy; and a plan of how to assess the risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits. The assessments included in the R-PP eventually should result in an elaboration of a fuller, more complete and adequately vetted REDD-plus strategy over time.

Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The REDD+ strategy described in the subcomponent, a nested approach and focusing on sustainable land use activities by Ni-Vanuatu, seems to appropriate based on the identified drivers and the national circumstances. Who is supportive of the proposed national investment program?

Proposed strategy options provide a clear link with potential future drivers as mentioned in table 2 of subcomponent 2a. Consider indicating the link between the strategy options and potential benefits as well.

There are still some challenges associated with the options, e.g. “The government has little power to establish protected areas”. How would these challenges be addressed?

The assessment of strategy options is comprehensive and the proposed planning is quite thorough, but more attention is needed on how the planning will be launched into activities.

It could be useful to indicate how the strategy options are linked with potential benefits with regard to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Standard Largely Met

Standard 2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework:

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.

Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The subcomponent provides a comprehensive framework in which the REDD+ scheme will be implemented. It could be useful to provide more information on the different elements of the framework and who will be responsible for each part of the process.

Because of the complexities associated with land tenure issues, the REDD+ scheme chooses an activity-based approach as opposed to an area-based approach. It is positive that this approach has been agreed upon by all stakeholders as being more realistic to succeed. However, it is not entirely clear from the description how this approach will address the previously mentioned

complexities related to land tenure.

Meets the Standard

Standard 2.d: Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation:

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country's readiness preparation efforts. For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, , and for preparing the ESMF.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Subcomponent provides a very comprehensive description of the SESA and clear steps of the workplan integrating SESA outcomes into the design of the ESMF.

How will the land tenure issues be incorporated in or assessed by the SESA? Some more insights on the relationship between SESA and land tenure could be useful.

Is it appropriate for a SESA to raise awareness of the EMC, as suggested? Is there concern that inadequate EIAs will make adequate SESA more difficult?

Meets the Standard

Component 3. Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Standard 3: a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Present work plan for how the reference level for deforestation, forest degradation (if desired), conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks will be developed. Include early ideas on a process for determining which approach and methods to use (e.g., forest cover change and GHG emissions based on historical trends, and/or projections into the future of historical trend data; combination of inventory and/or remote sensing, and/or GIS or modeling), major data requirements, and current capacity and capacity requirements. Assess linkages to components 2a (assessment of deforestation drivers), 2b (REDD-plus strategy activities), and 4 (monitoring system design).

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a stepwise approach may be useful. This component states what early activities are proposed.)

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Though the proposed approach to determining Vanuatu's REL/RL could prove to be complex, the proposed pilot to test the approach and calibrating REL's by islands seems logical and appropriate.

The workplan provides clear steps and for implementing the pilot. The methodological framework

also describes practical activities contributing to development of the national RL.

The institutional framework is briefly described as which institutions will support the development of the REL/RL's. Some more elaborate information on the contribution and responsibilities and, if possible, the capacity building needs of each institution would make a more comprehensive institutional framework.

How will all the different stakeholders be involved in developing the REL/RL's?

Meets the Standard

Component 4. Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

Standard 4a: National Forest Monitoring System:

The R-PP provides a proposal and workplan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy in the forest sector.

The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. It should also address independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-Plan meets this standard, and recommendations:

The approach to first develop building blocks of Vanuatu's MRV system at the regional level and then integrating them seems appropriate.

There is a clear identification of available data, data gaps and capacity constraints. More thought might be necessary for capacity constraints of involved institutions for meeting all demands of the MRV system.

The decision to improve consistency in data management and so on mentioned under section 4. Cross-cutting MRV issues is encouraging.

Meets the standard

Standard 4b: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards :

The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design and a workplan, including early ideas on capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities), for an integrated monitoring system that includes addressing other multiple benefits, impacts, and governance. Such benefits may include, e.g., rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD-plus implementation in the country.

(The FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-Plan meets this standard, and recommendations:

The subcomponent sets the foundations for monitoring multiple benefits in Vanuatu. It would be good to add more information on the actual additional benefits to be monitored. Other than forest governance, consider for example rural livelihoods, possible synergies in resolving land tenure conflicts.

Standard Largely Met

Component 5. Schedule and Budget

Standard 5: Completeness of information and resource requirements

The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.

Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The budget is much more comprehensive than previously and seems to address all components for the coming years. In the overview it is unclear to which component each activity is linked and what the FPCIF contribution per component related activity will be. Some clarification is necessary.

Standard Largely Met

Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard 6: The R-PP adequately describes the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and to identify in a timely manner any shortfalls in performance timing or quality. The R-PP demonstrates that the framework will assist in transparent management of financial and other resources, to meet the activity schedule.

Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The M&E framework table is comprehensive. Indicators for activities to be chosen should be added

later on in the process.

Capacity building should be included as major activities where relevant, with outputs, means of verification and so on.

Standard Met