REDD+ Emissions Reduction Program

Benefit Sharing Plan

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Contents

TABLES & FIGURES

ABBREVIATIONS

BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
BSP	Benefit Sharing Plan
CoF	Conservator of Forest
CO_2e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
ER-P	Emission Reduction Program
ERPA	Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement
ERR	Emissions Reduction and Removals
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FFHCOP	Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice
FGRM	Feedback Grievance and Redress Mechanism
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consensus
FRCS	Fiji Revenue Customs Services
GHG	Green House Gas
IDLUP	Integrated District Land Use Plan
IRBD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
iTaukei	Indigenous Fijians
LOI	Letter of Intent
LOU	Landowning Unit
MoF	Ministry of Forestry
MRMD	Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development
MRV	Measuring Reporting and Verification
NDP	5-Year 20-Year National Development Plan 2017-2021 and 2017-2036
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REDD+ SC	REDD+ Steering Committee
RPF	REDD+ Resettlement Policy Framework
PF_ER-P	Process Framework for ER-P
SESA	Strategic Environmental Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SOI	Summary of Information
TLTA	iTaukei Lands Trust Act
TLTB	iTaukei Lands Trust Board
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank
YMST	Yaubula Management Support Team

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Fiji's National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2036 recognises the need for inclusive socio-economic development based on multisectoral collaboration to find solutions to climate change, environmental protection, and green growth. The design of the Emissions Reduction Program (ER-P) activities embraces the above vision for the forest sector, which translates to the goal of pursuing sustainable development and management of Fiji's forests to realize the full potential of the forest sector through reduction in deforestation and forest degradation, promoting sustainable forest management (SFM), conservation, and afforestation as well as reforestation to contribute to climate mitigation (REDD+) while meeting the demands of timber and non-timber forest products; maintenance of ecosystem services and an increase in the resilience of local communities to the impacts of climate change.

1.2 Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Fiji include forest conversion to agriculture; poorly planned infrastructure development; conventional logging; invasive species; natural disaster; urban development and expansion of village boundaries and to a lesser extent mining works. Actions to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation must first tackle barriers to REDD+ in Fiji. The existing shared space between common and customary law considerations on land and resource use lacks a common approach. In addition, universal understanding of issues such as tenure and user rights, restrictions and responsibilities, duties and obligations is challenging in the face of multiple stakeholder interests. Barriers also include participation and coordination in land and resource use, management practices and commercialization.

1.3 The theory of change adopted in the ER-P assumes that in addressing critical underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, the ER-P will strengthen enabling conditions for emissions reduction, and improve forest information systems, measurement, reporting and verification. Implementation of REDD+ activities (sustainable forest management, carbon enhancement, agroforestry and alternative livelihoods as well as forest conservation) will result in improved coordination across sectors, enabling the realisation of an Integrated Rural Development Framework. Cross sectoral coordination will strengthen sustainable management of forests and encourage private-public sector participation supporting growth of the forest sector and the reduction of 2.5 million tCO_2e over five years through implementation of ER-P activities.

1.4 Fiji has an extensive range of existing benefit sharing models that are supported by existing laws and policies; ensuring equitable, transparent transactions that respects the rights of all resource owners. The Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) under the REDD+ ER-P builds on existing laws, regulations, and experience. The REDD+ BSP integrates a number of existing models including *i) the iTaukei Lands Trust Board (TLTB) Lease; (ii) Ministry of Lands – Land Bank*; *(iii) Ministry of Lands Distribution of Mineral Royalties under the Fair Share Mineral Act 2018* and the *Forest Decree 1992* (as well as provisions in the *Forest Bill).* The three models and the legal instruments that support them allow the issuance of land leases with a distinct land title as well as the issuance of forest activity license by the Ministry of Forestry (MoF) that will enable registration of all REDD+ beneficiaries.

1.5 Application of the above mechanism to REDD+ is aligned to existing processes and aims to improve the efficiency of existing models while meeting the needs of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Benefit Sharing Guidelines. Although the Fair Share Mineral

Act is set up for mineral royalties; the Benefit Sharing Plan will align to the principles of distribution of benefits outlined therein where resource owners equitably share no less than 80% of the proceeds. In the case of ER-P performance payment outlined in this plan, beneficiaries share 85% of the net carbon benefit after operational cost (10%) and performance buffer (5%) are set aside.

1.6 A key factor that shapes the REDD+ BSP in Fiji is the determination of carbon rights. Noting the complexity of legal instruments that safeguards the interest of resource owners and recognize its limitations. *iTaukei Land Trust Act (TLTA)* Cap 134 and *iTaukei Land Trust (Leases and Licenses) Regulations* defines benefits landowning units (LOU) may derive from encumbrances on their lands including premium payments, rent for leased land, and royalties for the timber harvesting, forest concessions[1] and gravel extraction licenses. The Land Use Decree 2010, with accompaniment regulation (Land Use Regulations) supports an alternative process of leasing iTaukei land in that the land in question must be "designated" before land is made accessible to lessees. Similar to TLTB, a precondition to designation under Land Bank is that land must be free from all encumbrances to engage in land leases with titles - that is the determination of what entities have the rights to generate, transfer, receive finance and benefit from emissions reduction.

1.7 The issuance of two REDD+ project leases demonstrated under the "iTaukei Lands Trust Act" indicates the pre-emptive legal accommodation for considerations of REDD+ lease provision - a special lease condition which protects the property and integrity of LOU whilst at the same time reflecting conservation protocols, cultural connection and its maintenance merged into the operational and procedural guidelines of REDD+ projects.

1.8 In alignment with Forest Decree and Forest Bill engagement with ER-P activities on the condition of a REDD+ Lease is through the issue of REDD+ Licenses. The REDD+ License is a prerequisite to registration of Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) beneficiaries; a registry that is maintained by the Conservator of Forest (CoF) for carbon trading licence hereafter referred to as REDD+ License. Similarly leasing of State Land is a precondition for REDD+ License for ER-P activities on State Lands. Private landowners simply submit land titles to the Ministry of Forest to verify ownership when applying for REDD+ License.

1.9 Different actors have different rights, influences, and responsibilities with respect to each of the REDD+ activities proposed in the ER-P aiming at addressing various drivers of deforestation and barriers to carbon stock enhancement in Fiji. Each beneficiary plays a direct and important role in the implementation of ER-P in Fiji. The identification of beneficiaries is guided by the ultimate objective to create incentives to achieve long term emissions reduction, consistent with relevant international and national laws and policies. The identification of potential beneficiaries is also guided by the principles and objectives of REDD+ BSP. Anticipated beneficiaries under the ER-P include the private sector who may be involved with sustainable forest management and plantation establishment; community/village/settlements where LOU reside and critical to support permeance of ER-P intervention; small holder farmers who may be involved with afforestation, reforestation and or agroforestry; National Trust of Fiji or Non-Government

[1] s. 2517(1) of the Forest Act provides for Royalties relating to iTaukei land to be paid either to the TLTB or to the Department of Forest that will then pay it to the TLTB for distribution to the landowners. The Forest Bill contains similar provisions.

organisations involved in forest conservation efforts as well as the Provincial/District Councils whose overall guidance and assistance is critical for the successful integration and implementation of ER-P activities.

1.10 The Ministry of Economy has Cabinet Approval to negotiate carbon trade and be the focal point for Fiji to the IRBD. The Warsaw Framework suggests a national entity or focal point designated to liaise with the secretariat and bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on coordination of support and may also be nominated to receive and obtain results-based payments. The Ministry of Economy will receive results-based payments under ERPA. Through normal financial and accounting procedures, the Ministry of Economy will transfer funds to the MoF to distribute carbon benefits to all beneficiaries in accordance to the guidelines outlined in the BSP. The World Bank Safeguards policies will apply to the entire ER-P. The REDD+ Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism will be adopted in the application of ER-P and REDD+ BSP.

1.11 Consultation process supporting the development of the BSP has been extensive through community and divisional liaison with REDD+ Working Groups, REDD+ Steering Committee as well as one-to-one consultation with key Ministries such as the Ministry of Economy Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Lands. Inputs from statutory bodies such as the iTaukei Lands Trust Board are also incorporated. Further consultation targeted at all anticipated beneficiaries and general members of the public will be necessary to ensure complete understanding of the BSP by all stakeholders.

1.12 Despite the complex and intricate issues pertaining to the application of forest management in a multi-sectoral setting, the BSP focuses on identifying key challenges and mitigation role of key agencies; adopting a hybrid approach that blend existing and anticipated legal frameworks through the issuance of REDD+ Leases and REDD+ License to register beneficiaries that will share the net carbon benefits from the ERPA. In this respect, the BSP focuses on core role of the MoF, and its support to the successful implementation of the ER-P including performance-based rewards to all beneficiaries. Successful reduction of emission by an estimated 2.5mtCO_2e over five years will contribute to mitigating climate change, environmental protection, and green growth as well as to fulfil the forest sectors' contribution to NDP.

2 Introduction

2.1 Overview of the Emissions Reduction Program

2.1.1 The accounting area under Fiji's ER-P covers 90% of Fiji's landmass. The approach and design of the ER-P is reflected in different components over the accounting area. Wide stakeholder consultation and prioritization selected 20 districts across the accounting area where different REDD+ activities will be implemented in alignment with Component 2. The 20 districts are selected for planning purposed. ER-P activities will focus but not restricted in these districts to allow wide stakeholder involvement in the accounting area.

2.1.2 Under the ER-P, Component 1 provides enabling activities for Component 2 through development of land use plans. The land use plan integrates infrastructure plans and cuts across all sectors, reflecting shared vision, local goals, objectives, and policies that will support growth in the medium and long term. The plan will serve as the basis for local zoning ordinance, subdivision regulation and other local land regulations that will ensure capital improvements consistent with national and local aspirations across all sectors and in support of the National Development Plan. Zonation of resource use will ensure forest areas and other land uses are identified, recognised, and maintained into the future to address critical drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

2.1.3 Building on the outcomes of Component 1, Component 2 focuses on promoting implementation of integrated landscape management from the lenses of forest management and emissions reduction in the forest sector. Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, Component 2 implements reduced impact logging, advocate sustainable management of existing native forests in large managed areas, and adhere to the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP) in 8,500ha over 5 years. Restoration of degraded lands through afforestation and reforestation is also a key component to promote ex-ante reduced emissions and increased removals through forest conservation. Impact of ER-P integrated landscape management is estimated to generate ERR of 3.5 million tCO_2e. This represents a 43% reduction from the business as usual estimates of the Forest Reference Level (FRL). After setting aside buffer to account for uncertainty and reversal risk, the ER-P is expected to produce 2.5 million tCO_2e.

2.1.4 The overall impact of Component 2 is anticipated to result in avoiding deforestation in 9,500ha; enhancement of forest carbon stocks through afforestation and reforestation at community level in 11,750 ha and enhancement of forest carbon stocks involving plantations in 7,532 ha and reducing forest degradation forest degradation by implementing sustainable harvesting of native forests in 8,500ha. Many of the ER-P activities can be applied to all the 20 districts where Integrated District Land Use Plans (IDLUP) are developed such that large districts have habitats from intact to degraded forest. In such areas (e.g. Tavua and Bua) more than one ER-P activity may apply at different scales. Further the large number of communities/villages in each district makes allocation of multiple components of the ER-P applicable in accordance with the IDLUP. The ER-P supports systematic resource allocation based on carrying capacity of land-use capability at district level and the application of resource zonation that supports sustainable forest management, carbon enhancement and biodiversity conservation. Twenty districts are involved in the ER-P where the area of engagement is estimated at 37,500ha which would involve all above components and engage at least 3500 lessors and lessees associated with over 200 communities.

2.1.5 Component 3 of the ER-P focuses on monitoring the implementation of ER-P activities through measuring, reporting and verification of performance. This component will also support dissemination of key learnings from ER-P implementation. Key impacts of

Component 3 include the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

2.1.6 The ER-P is open to all Fijians to participate and encourages positive behaviour changes toward forest stewardship that will not only result in Emissions reduction of 2.5 million tCO_2e over five years between 2019-2024 but also contribute to restoration of ecosystem services, essential for increasing resilience to climate change for local communities.

2.2 Purpose of the Benefit Sharing Plan

2.2.1 The distribution of carbon benefits generated from REDD+ implementation is important for the creation of necessary incentives and measures to reduce carbon emissions. It must be considered fair by stakeholders and should be widely accepted.

2.2.2 The ER-P will be successful only with a fair and transparent cost and benefit sharing arrangements. All stakeholders participating in ER-P activities will be rewarded. Local stakeholders consulted about the BSP would like to ensure that there is equal and fair share of benefit sharing in REDD+. In addition, consideration needs to be given to ensure that benefits received not only reward past performance but also create incentives for future contribution to ER-P activities and generation of emissions reduction and removals.

2.2.3 For the purposes of this REDD+ benefit sharing in Fiji, the following definition of benefit sharing is adopted:

> *Benefit sharing in the context of this Benefit Sharing Plan is the intentional transfer of monetary and/or non-monetary benefits (goods, services, or other benefits) to stakeholders for the generation of greenhouse gas 'carbon' emissions reduction and removals (ERRs) and other objectives funded by payments received under an Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA)[2].*

2.2.4 The Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) clarifies how funds received through an ERPA are used to provide benefits to stakeholders who are defined as beneficiaries in the Plan. The payment is based on emissions reduction performance of the ER-P at national level. BSP clarifies the full set of institutional arrangements, governance structures, and institutions that distribute finance and other net carbon benefit from the ER-P and identifies the flow of funds that is aligned to existing and proposed legal arrangements.

2.2.5 Taking into consideration existing models of benefit sharing mechanisms in Fiji, noting legal aspects and existing policy frameworks in place and consultations conducted throughout the development of the ER-P and those conducted specifically on benefit sharing; the BSP model combines best practices as is designed to engage and motivate good behaviours that directly address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the ER-P accounting area.

2.3 Process to develop the Benefit Sharing Plan

2.3.1 This Advanced Draft BSP builds on the participatory and transparent processes that have been followed to develop a national approach to REDD+ in Fiji in accordance with the REDD+ Policy, the REDD+ Communication Strategy and the Consultation and Participation Plan. A wide range of stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Readiness Phase of the ER-P, the Strategic Environmental Social Assessment (SESA), the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Process

[2] Adapted from Notes on Benefit Sharing for Emissions Reduction Programs Under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (July 2019 Version 2)

Framework for ER-P (PF_ER-P) as well as studies on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation; Carbon Rights and Benefit Sharing Mechanism. Additional consultation was undertaken to validify assumptions made in this plan. These consultations provided insight to formulate the basis of this BSP. The activities to be rewarded and expected emissions reduction are drawn from the ER-P while the SESA and ESMF provide an outline of key issues addressed under identification of beneficiaries and benefits, the feedback grievance redress mechanism (FGRM), monitoring, safeguards reporting arrangement as well as gender issues.

2.3.2 From March to June 2019 a participatory process was conducted to develop a REDD+ BSM for Fiji. This involved a review of lessons learned on benefit sharing in other countries, a legal, regulatory and policy review and analysis, review of existing benefit sharing processes in Fiji, development of options for the BSM, and refinement of these options through a series of consultations. These included a national inception workshop with members of the REDD+ Steering Committee and other stakeholders. In April 2019, two regional workshops in Lautoka and Labasa and a high-level consultation with key ministries, members of the REDD+ steering committee and other decision-makers and leaders in Government, Civil Society and Private Sector within the forest sector was held in May 2019. The final report on 'Developing a REDD+ BSM for Fiji' was submitted in June 2019.

2.3.3 The process to develop the Advanced Draft BSP involves reviewing and revising the options proposed in the June 2019 report 'Developing a REDD+ Benefit Sharing Mechanism for Fiji' through consultations with key stakeholders at national, subregional, and local level. The BSP focuses specifically on how the benefits will be shared from the funds that will be received through the ERPA as a result of performances associated with the implementation of the ER-P between 2019-2024.

2.4 Existing models of Benefit Sharing Mechanism in Fiji

2.4.1 Fiji has an extensive range of existing models of BSM that are supported by existing laws and policies; ensuring equitable, transparent transactions that respects the rights of all resource owners. There are six existing models including the (i) the iTaukei Lands Trust Board Lease Payment Distribution under the iTaukei Land Trust Act; (ii) Ministry of Lands – Land Bank Lease Payment Distribution under the Decree 2010; (iii) Ministry of Lands Distribution of Mineral Royalties under the Fair Share Mineral Act 2018; (iv) Trust and Charitable Trust under the Trustee Act or Charitable Fund Act; (v) Company/ not for profit organizations under the Companies Act 2015 and (vi) co-managed cooperatives under the Cooperative Act 1996. The first three models aligned to existing laws that define resource owners and associated rights. While the first two models specifically deal with iTaukei or indigenous land, the third model focuses on state owned minerals as defined in the Mining Act.

2.4.2 Models (i) and (ii) recognize that Fiji's indigenous people (iTaukei) own close to 90% of the land in the country. Model (i) focuses on the responsibility of iTaukei Lands Trust Board (TLTB) to protect and manage iTaukei land ownership rights as vested in the iTaukei Land Trust Act, Section 4.5.TLTB is also responsible for facilitating commercial transactions relating to leases and licenses. The TLTB collects premiums, lease rentals (twice annually), and other land resource transaction fees-and distributes the lease rental money to LOU while itself receiving a 10% administration fee. TLTB disburses land rental benefits in equal parts to bank account of each individual member of the LOU. All LOU over 18 years receive benefit while those under 18, have their funds invested to generate interest which are issued to them once they become of age at 18 years.

2.4.3 Model (ii) provides an option for iTaukei landowners to have their lands administered by the government through the Land Bank (under the Land Use Decree, section 4.5) on the condition that 60% of the members agree. Under this arrangement, LOU elect members who are approved by the Prime Minister to act as trustees, representing the interest of the LOU. The trustees receive payments on behalf of the LOU and are then responsible for its distribution according to the specifications in their deed of Trust.

2.4.4 Model (iii) is aligned to the 2013 Constitution that reaffirms the State ownership of all minerals in or under any land or water and provides for the entitlement of landowners and owners of customary fishing rights to receive a fair share of royalties or other money paid to the State for minerals extracted from their land. The Fair Share of Mineral Royalties Act passed in 2018 stipulates that any royalty must be shared in the following manner -(a) 20% of the royalty to the State; and (b) 80% of the royalty to the owner of the land and /or qoliqoli areas (beach, lagoon and reef). Although carbon is not specified in the Act, unanimous agreement among stakeholders agree that the principle should be adopted where no less than 80% of proceeds from ER revenue is directed to beneficiaries.

2.4.5 Model (iv) provides for third party fund management under Trustee Act or under the Charitable Trust Act which supports distribution of funds by the Trust to the beneficiaries nominated in the trust deed, and in accordance with the rules set in the deed. A charitable trust has tax exemptions. For a charitable trust, a charitable purpose must be fulfilled by the trust, which specifically includes poverty relief, education, religion, and other purposes of public nature, in addition to anything declared by the Attorney General.

2.4.6 Model (v) allows companies or non-profit organizations to be incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (under the Companies Act 2015), whereby members take on a share of the risk associated with business operations. Registering as a company limited by guarantee also permits registration with not-for-profit status, which features the same tax exemptions as a charitable trust. In the context of ER-P, not for profit organisations can participate as a third party upon 60% consensus of owners of land. This may be appropriate where third party assists iTaukei landowners to formally secure REDD+ lease for specific ER-P activities.

2.4.7 The last model (vi) supports co-management through co-operatives in pursuit of advancing shared socio-economic interests and providing benefits for members. Co-operatives are run by a board of directors with annual meetings and internal regulations. Once registered, a co-operative may also apply for tax exemption status for a period of eight years.

2.5 Principles of the Benefit Sharing Plan

2.5.1 The objectives and principles for BSP are based on feedback from participants that contributed to the development of the BSM Report (June 2019) which recommended focus on developing climate-resilient communities; strengthen local communities to improve management and sustainable development of their livelihoods; and to conserve native forests while increasing community woodlots and plantations that will generate more emissions reduction and removals. The principles for the BSP are as follows:

- equitable and fair, respecting land and tree ownership and customary rights, considering opportunity costs, and considering the effort and costs needed to implement activities;
- inclusive, with special attention to participation of women, youth and ethnic minorities;

- effective in providing incentives for further action to reduce emissions and increase removals;
- efficient, ensuring that maximum benefit flows to the beneficiaries;
- transparency;?
- flexible to enable adaptive management;
- comply with relevant laws and support meeting international agreements;
- based on commitment and performance.

2.5.2 In addition, local communities are expected to benefit the most and beneficiaries should participate voluntarily through free, prior, and informed consensus, enabling their consideration of options and alternatives. Non-monetary benefits should be prioritized, and consideration should be given to net carbon benefit where necessary as an incentive to initiate good behaviour and engagement in:

- maintenance of natural forest;
- large scale forest tree planting;
- community-based tree planting;
- agroforestry and;
- forest conservation.

2.6 Legal context of the Benefit Sharing Plan

2.6.1 Benefit sharing for REDD+ implementation is an important consideration for any country. From a legal perspective, key structural elements must exist that clearly articulate how benefits are defined, determined, and distributed. In addition, BSP must be supported by safeguarding principles to render measures of ensuring transparency and public participation. Benefits from REDD+ can be carbon (as in sequestered carbon), or non-carbon as in community and biodiversity benefits. Clearly defining the benefits clarifies what the outcomes of REDD+ implementation will be. It will also allow investors to make decisions on whether to allocate resources. In addition, the entitlement to a share of REDD+ benefit must be defined in a legal instrument in order to provide legal certainty, inspire confidence and prevent disputes.

2.6.2 Key factors that shape the REDD+ BSP in Fiji is the determination of carbon rights, that is the determination of what entities have the rights to generate, transfer, receive finance and benefit from emissions reduction. At the time of writing this Plan, Fiji's draft Climate Change Bill (2019) is open for public consultation. The Bill has specific sections on measurement, reporting and verification of Fiji's Green House Gas (GHG) inventory (s. 26-28) property in Fiji Mitigation Unit (s.51) and the provision of Fiji Mitigation Unit international transfer (s.56). These are predicated on the understanding that emissions reduction and removals are attributed from sustainable forest management, reducing deforestation and forest degradation, enhancement of carbon stocks and forest conservation. As regarding carbon sequestration property rights, this is defined under s.65 of the draft Climate Change Bill, which covers the legal creation and transfer of the same.

2.6.3 Carbon sequestration property right is defined as the exclusive legal and property right to carbon sequestration and carbon stocks (art 10 and 11 of the Climate Change Bill (2019)). This is mandated in the Bill in the form of a lease that is attached to the land until its terms is concluded or renewed (s. 65(2)). To simplify and provide clear operative connections of technical terms, what is traded and transferred in the Fiji Mitigation Outcome Unit defined as an emissions reduction unit issued in accordance with the Bill and having a unique serial number. This ties in with s. 66 which defines where a carbon sequestration right may be granted by the Registrar of Titles with the consent of the

Conservator of Forest (CoF: The Technical Head of leadership in the Ministry of Forestry) upon application by (i) registered landowner to which the right applies, (ii) a person who holds a licence or long term lease (concession over the land) to which the right applies as granted by the registered landowner and has the consent of the registered landowner, or (iii) a third party to which the owner of the land to whom the right applies has consented to a REDD+ lease where a carbon sequestration property right be issued.

2.6.4 Given that the third category above, is likely to be owners of landowning unit comprised of customary owners or lessor, the entity becomes the lessee in this scenario. An application is then made to the CoF for implementation of a REDD+ activity. If approved, the application is granted by the CoF for a REDD+ Licence that includes entitlements for seed funding and proceeds of sale of ERs generated.

2.6.5 The Climate Change Bill also articulates the role of CoF to periodically conduct Measurement, Reporting and Verification then enters ERs into the National Register which is established under the Climate Change Bill under s. 57. Once verified, ERs are then transmitted by the CoF through the specialised unit at Ministry of Economy (CCICD Unit) for trading results-based finance. Through the CCICD the Ministry of Economy receives finance payments and remits to the CoF, TLTB and other line agencies the proceeds of sale on results and performance of ER-P activities as determined by the CoF and reported, verified by the REDD+ Steering Committee and the Forestry Board. Net carbon funds will flow through to the CoF for distribution to beneficiaries. The registry under s. 57(7) also spells out the administrative steps such as holding of Verified Carbon Units (VCU), Certified Emissions Reduction (CER) and other Emissions reduction units.

2.6.6 In considering the system adopted for the distribution of benefits, and in particular between the beneficiary groups, Fiji is mindful of international safeguards requirements (World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards and the Cancun Agreement's safeguards), including the principles of inclusiveness, efficiency and transparency, as well as respect of indigenous peoples' rights and gender inclusiveness. Fiji's Letter of Intent (LOI) with the IRBD in the context of the FCPF expressly requires compliance with the World Bank Safeguards as a condition of purchase of emissions reduction.

2.6.7 One of the key policies that contribute to BSP include 5-year 20-year National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021 and 2017-2036 that mentions the REDD+ financial benefits will be generated through the identification of more areas under the Fiji REDD+ Programme to protect the forests. The NDP also highlights that the expansion of the REDD+ Programme will support Fiji's commitment to reduce carbon emissions, an additional non-carbon benefit. The 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda "Modernizing Agriculture" 2014 is similarly aligned in that it promotes innovation for climate-smart agriculture practices that generate both adaptation and mitigation benefits, noting that this should result in less forest conversion to agriculture for food security. Fiji's Low Emissions Development Plan outlines critical actions aligned to the ER-P. Fiji REDD-Plus Policy outlines the REDD-Plus programme objectives include amongst others, to "maximize benefits arising from carbon and climate-related financial instruments." The policy lists the safeguards to be ensured for all REDD+ initiatives and projects in Fiji, including: "no conversion of natural forests but will reward the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and will enhance other social and environmental benefits". Further maximization context can be deduced from s.67 of draft Climate Change Bill whereby mining or exploration activity is prescribed over land on which REDD+ programme is implemented, or over which carbon sequestration property rights are granted.

2.6.8 The 2013 Constitution reaffirms the State ownership of all minerals3 in or under any land or water, as well as the entitlement of land owners and owners of customary fishing rights to receive a fair share of royalties or other money paid to the State in respect of the grant by the State of rights to extract minerals from that land or the seabed in the area of those fishing rights. A written law aiming to support the framework for the calculation of what constitutes of 'fair share', taking into account a series of factors including risks, benefits and cost was passed in 2018 through the Fair Share of Mineral Act.4. In correlation to benefit sharing, the constitution guarantees freedom from compulsory acquisition or arbitrary acquisition of property unless in accordance with a written law, and for public purposes. The section also provides protection against deprivation of personal property, unless with agreed just and equitable compensation between the parties

2.6.9 The Fair Share of Mineral Royalties Act was passed in 2018 to give effect to s. 30 of the Constitution. The Act stipulates that any royalty must be shared in the following manner— (a) 20% of the royalty to the State; and (b) 80% of the royalty to the landowner. Royalties are to be held in trust by the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources until such time as the royalty is distributed to beneficiaries.

2.6.10 iTaukei Land Trust Act (TLTA) Cap 134 and iTaukei Land Trust (Leases and Licenses) Regulations defines the benefits LOU may derive from encumbrances on their lands including premium payments, rent for leased land, and royalties for the timber harvesting, forest concessions[5] and gravel extraction licenses. The balance of the payments received from the lessees and licensees to the board is distributed to the LOU mostly in monetary form after deduction of the 10% administration fee and other costs not exceeding 25%.[6] Prior to the iTaukei Land Trust (Amendment) Act 2010, the lessors are paid rent by the TLTB twice yearly either in cash to the beneficiaries or to the LOU trustees tasked with their distribution. The TLTA (s.11) define the share entitlement following the iTaukei landowners' hierarchy with 70% shared between the members of the LOU and 30% received by the chiefs[7]. Issues with the transparency and fairness of this system prompted law reform with the iTaukei Land Trust (Amendment) Act 2010 to establish equal rent distribution system. The balance of the premium and rent received by the Board is now distributed to all the living members of the LOU, in equal proportion, through online banking (where possible). The system became effective after the digitalization of the Vola ni Kawa Bula (register of all LOU living members), for all provinces in 2016. In the interim the lease monies are deposited in Trust account set up and registered for this purpose by each LOU and the Trustees who were tasked with the distribution of lease monies equally to all living members.

2.6.11 Purposively, the general nature of leases governed under Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act CAP 270 (1967) is to provide for the relations between landlords and tenants of Agricultural holdings for all matters connected therewith. The Act applies to all parcels of agricultural land under which its provisions apply, meaning land together with any building thereon, used or proposed predominantly for the growing of crops, dairy

[3] s. 163 (1) defines minerals to include: all minerals extracted from land or seabed and includes natural gases

[4] S. 30(2) of the Constitution's list of factors to be included are: (a) any benefit that the owners received or may receive as a result of mineral exploration or exploitation;

[5] s. 2517(1) of the Forest Act provides for Royalties relating to *iTaukei* land to be paid either to the TLTB or to the Department of Forest that will then pay it to the TLTB for distribution to the landowners. The Forest Bill contains similar provisions.

[6] (s.14(1) of the Act and Reg.11 of the *iTaukei* Land Trust (Leases and Licenses) Regulations).

[7] s.11 of the TLTA: Lewe Ni Mataqali (Members of the LOU) – 70%; Turaga ni Mataqali (Chief of the Mataqali) – 15%; Turaga Qali (Chief of the Yavusa)– 10; and Turaga *iTaukei* – 5%.

farming, fruit farming, forestry, horticulture, bee keeping, poultry, apiary and the breeding, rearing or keeping of livestock. While forestry is mentioned within the ambit of allowable agricultural activities, these are not specified enough to the extent that it may provide comfort for the purposes of REDD+ carbon title. In summary, the mechanics of the original ALTA lease terms and its renewal process may be a hinderance, given the long-term requirement of a REDD+ lease. Further, as an exception, landholding under ALTA under s. 3(1) cannot be held by members of a registered co-operative society where the society is the landlord. If intent can be drawn, then the emphasis by inference, may be one towards encouragement of individual production.

2.6.12 In the alternative, REDD+ project leases issued under the Native Lands Trust Act (NLTA) CAP 134 now "iTaukei Lands Trust Act" provides pre-emptive legal accommodation for considerations of potential REDD+ lease. TLTB, through their involvement in the formative policy work and stakeholder discussion of REDD+ have operationalized mechanics of such leases as evident in three leases – Emalu REDD+ Lease, Drawa Conservation Lease and Sovi Basin Conservation Lease. Special lease condition in these pilot leases protects the property and integrity of landowning units whilst at the same time considering conservation protocols, cultural connection and its maintenance dovetailed into the operational and procedural guidelines of REDD+ projects – providing for future sale of carbon removals.

2.6.13 Land Use Bank under Land Use Unit (LUU) of the Ministry of Lands began offering competitive leasing regime like TLTB from 2010, enabled under the Land Use Decree 2010, (No.36 of 2nd July 2010), with accompaniment regulations under Land Use Regulations (4th March 2011). The first step in the process of leasing iTaukei land under this regime is that the land in question must be "designated" before land is made accessible to lease (see Land Use Regulations, Vol 6, No 12, reg 3 and 9(1)). Like TLTB, a precondition to designation is that land must be free from all encumbrances per s. 4 of the decree. This applies equally to existing leases.

2.6.14 The Regulation under 5(1) allows for election by the LOU of between one to five trustees, where the owners of native land presiding over the Trust with the implied consistency that 60 percent of the qualifying members of the landowning unit (mataqali[8]) must democratically vote for the Trustee, and also 60 percent of qualifying members can consent to changing a Trustee under reg 5.(10). The Prime Minister has the final discretionary power in accepting or refusing the appointment of Trustees under reg. 5(2). The trustees are elected on a yearly basis under reg 5(8). The trustees are also tasked with receiving land rent payment on behalf of the landowning unit (mataqali) and distributing the same according to the terms of the Trust Deed.

2.6.15 In comparison, The TLTB may also - distribute non-monetary benefits to LOU. LOU may request to the TLTB, (with a majority of 60% of adult members), an "assignment of lease funds" under s. 14 (3) (e) of the TLTA, whereby the deduction of a percentage of the total lease funds is assigned to a special account for development purposes before the rest of the funds are distributed equally to each living member of that LOU. The purposes of assigning a portion of the total lease funds include: to assist the landowners in having a pool where they can source funds from for the purpose of education, traditional (vanua) obligations, village development, etc. within each LOU (tokatoka/mataqali/yavusa); or to assist landowners starting a business. Assignment of lease funds is approved by the TLTB on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the annual income of the LOU in

[8] *Native land is communally owned by mataqali. A mataqali is a traditional social unit of a clan, consisting of individuals of the same family lineage who are all owners of a specific parcel of native land that is registered in the Fiji Native Lands Commission.*

previous years through lease monies. If approved, deductions or assignment are issued on a monthly basis. Assignment of lease funds is most appropriate in cases where the revenues from leases are small due to a small area of land to lease and/or a large number of LOU members.9 Other forms of non-monetary benefits can be negotiated as leases or licenses conditions by the TLTB such as share equity in the company seeking the lease or license, or employment in the company for members of the LOU.

2.6.16 The funds managed by trustees under Trustee Act (Cap 65) and (Charitable Trust Act (Cap 67) are distributed by the Trust to the beneficiaries nominated in the trust deed, and in accordance with the rules set in the deed. A Charitable Trust has tax exemption benefits. It should be noted that a Company registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee under the Companies Act 2015, may also benefit from similar tax exemptions when registered as a not-for-profit company by Fiji Revenues and Customs Services (FRCS).

2.6.17 Application of the Forest Decree and Forest Bill No. 13 (2016) to REDD+ ER-P at the national level entails logically articulation of the interplay between various laws and regulations pertaining to the forest sector to properly effect trading of sequestered carbon. In the context of its application to iTaukei land under existing leasing regimes of TLTB and the Land Bank, much of the competing interest in this instance pertains to the instrument of leases and licences, as impacted under proposed Forest Bill No 13 (2016) and its precursor in the Forest Decree No 31 (1992).

2.6.18 LOU seeking to exercise connection to forest carbon rights may be prevented at law, in participating in REDD+ projects, where a third person holds an existing right over the same land or forest resources such as timber permit, or a mining licence or lease. Forest Decree (1992) presents an unambiguous treatment of forest and its ownership through distinct treatment, re: connection to iTaukei land where a timber licence is required under s. 2 to convey the right to fell or extract timber. However, additional approval for access from TLTB is a precondition for the issue of such license under s. 10 in the form of a Forest Rights license. In this instance, it is apparent that preference of unencumbered iTaukei land for REDD+ projects is preferred for the obvious reasons of ease of doing business.

2.6.19 Under the Forest Bill No.13(2016) registration of REDD+ projects are provisioned by way of application to the CoF under s. 33, with special provision for its licensing under Regulations to the Bill under s.33(4). However, a licence under this Bill, can only be issued with the consent of TLTB under specific conditions outlined in s. 51. Noting the complexities involved, and the growing preference of premising REDD+ projects on unencumbered iTaukei land, it is crucial for landowning entity or third party to apply for a REDD+ project lease to TLTB. Lease on iTaukei land becomes a precondition for REDD+ registration. This is clearly articulated in the Climate Change Bill. Through the logical steps of this process, the exhaustive steps taken regarding consent (under s. 51 of the Forest Bill No. 13), guarantees dealing in unencumbered iTaukei land under both provisions of TLTB or the Land Bank as well as on State Land. A summary of all key legal issues is listed in Table 1.

[9] Source: www.tltb.com.fj/Landowners/Equal-Rent-Distribution)

Table 1 Summary of Legal Underpinnings of the Benefit Sharing Plan

LEGAL SOURCES
Republic of Fiji Constitution (2013) ○ **Section 27: Freedom from compulsory or arbitrary acquisition of property** ○ **Section 28: Right of ownership and protection of iTaukei, Rotuman and Banaban lands** ○ **Section 29: Protection of ownership and interests in land** ○ **Section 30: Rights of landowners to fair share of royalties for extraction of mineral**
Fair Shares of Minerals Act (2018)-Act 11 ○ **Section 5: Fair share of royalties, per section 30(2) of the Constitution- 5(a) 20 percent royalty to the State and 5(b) 80 percent royalty to the owner** ○ **Section 8: Minister may make Regulations to prescribe matters that are required or permitted by this Act**
Forest Decree (1992) ○ **Section 25) of the Forest Act provides for Royalties relating to iTaukei land to be paid either to the TLTB or to the Department of Forest that will then pay it to the TLTB for distribution to the landowners. The Forest Bill contains similar provisions** ○ **Section 26-Royalties received for forest produce deemed first charge.**
Forest Bill (2016) ○ **Section 29(1) Royalties relating to ITaukei land must be paid to TLTB or Ministry of Lands where the iTaukei land has been designated under the Land Use Decree 2010.** ○ **Section 29(2) Royalties paid in accordance with class of logs scaled** ○ **Section 29(3) (Ministry of Forest to review its fees every 5 years at the commencement of this Act with the approval of Minister. Royalty review in accordance with publicly available standards**
iTaukei Land Trust Act (TLTA Cap 134) ○ **Section 4: Control of all iTaukei Land shall be vested in the Board** ○ **Allows for special lease condition that protects property and integrity of LOU while advocating conservation protocols and cultural connects. The special conditions can be applied to ER transfer.** ○ **small holder farmers with existing leases under TLTA may apply for REDD+ License** ○ **allows the issue of REDD+ Leases to new players**
iTaukei Land Trust (Leases and Licenses) Regulations ○ **Regulation. 7: Fees prescribed in the 3rd Schedule shall be payable to the Board** ○ **Regulation.11: (now amended by iTaukei Lands Trust (Leases and Licenses)- (Amendment) Regulation 2010): Distribution of balance of rents and purchased monies (amended by Regulation in 2010) came into effect on 01 January 2011** ○ **Sand and Gravel Leases and License - Gravel, Sand (and Soil extraction) can be issued to interested parties with royalties, premiums, and other costs, see Fourth Schedule, Regulation 23(32)**
Land Use Decree 2010 ○ **iTaukei land is available for leasing to be designated-see Land Use Regulation, Vol. 6, No.12, Regulations 3 and 9(1)** ○ **Lease under land use Decree is a protected lease** ○ **Land owning Unit is paid directly by the State as head lessee regardless whether sub-lessee pays its rent – see Land Use Regulations 2011, Fiji- Schedule 2 Form 4, clause3(a)** ○ **Landowning units may specify how income is to be distributed in the Deed of Trust**
Land Use Regulations 2011: ○ **Landowner receives land rentals without administration fee deduction: see Land Use Regulations, Vol.6 No 12, Regulation 17(c)** ○ **Equal distribution of rent money is not mandatory**

LEGAL SOURCES
Climate Change Bill (2019) ○ **Section 46(1)(o): Minister may make regulations in relation to benefit sharing** ○ **Section 51: Property in Fiji Mitigation Outcome Units** ○ **Section 65: Definition of carbon sequestration property tights- in the form of a lease attached to land** ○ **Section 66: Creation and transfer of sequestered property rights** ○ **Section 67: Land over which carbon sequestration property right is closed from mining and prospecting activities.**
Trustee Act (Cap 65) and Charitable Trusts Act (Cap 67): ○ **Available legal entity option for management of benefits which provides checks and balances, accountability, and reporting for keeping and distribution through nominated Trustees of beneficiaries**

2.7 Structure of this document

2.7.1 This document outlines the plan for sharing benefits from the funds received under the terms of the ERPA to registered participants of all ER-P activities in Fiji. The document outlines in the following sections:

- Chapter 3 Beneficiaries
- Chapter 4 Benefits from Emissions Reduction Program (ER-P).
- Chapter 5 Benefit Distribution
- Chapter 6 Flow of Fund
- Chapter 7 Addressing Safeguards
- Chapter 8 Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism
- Chapter 9 Monitoring the Benefit Distribution
- Chapter 10 Safeguards Information System
- Chapter 11 Consultations - Benefit Sharing Plan
- Chapter 12 Communicating Benefit Distribution

3 The Beneficiaries

3.1 Definition of Beneficiaries

3.1.1 The identification of beneficiaries of REDD+ Monetary or Non-monetary Benefits is guided by the ultimate objective to create incentives to achieve long term emissions reduction, consistent with the relevant international and national laws and policies. The identification of potential beneficiaries is also guided by the principles and objectives of REDD+ BSP.

3.1.2 Different actors have different rights, influence, and responsibilities with respect to each of the REDD+ activities proposed in the ER-P aiming at addressing drivers of deforestation and barriers to carbon stock enhancement in Fiji. Each beneficiary defined in Table 2 will play a direct and important role in the implementation of ER-P in Fiji.

3.1.3

Table 2: Definition of Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Definition of Beneficiaries
Private Sector	• Implement private initiatives to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the ER-P accounting area such as sustainable forest management and plantation establishment
Communities/village/ settlements	• Main stakeholders in the ER-P • Consists of members who may be legal owners of the land with license to undertake ER-P activities in the ER-P accounting area
Small holder farmers	• Main stakeholders in the ER-P farming at the edge of the forest, targeted to adopt sustainable land use practices • Legal owners of the land with license to undertake ER-P activities in the ER-P accounting area
National Trust of Fiji & Civil Society Organisations	• Main stakeholders that support forest conservation, could also be members of the mataqali leasing own land under guidance of NGO. • Legal owners of the land with license to undertake ER-P activities in the ER-P accounting area
Provincial / District Councils	• Coordination and implementation of activities at District level, liaison with communities and other actors of the ER initiative.

3.2 Eligibility Criteria for Beneficiaries

3.2.1 Divisional consultations conducted for the purpose of the REDD+ BSM study identified the following criteria for allocation of benefits to each beneficiary:

- To have legal rights to carbon
- Those essential to facilitate/enable results (e.g. government, private sector, NGOs etc.)
- Those incurring costs when implementing ER-P activities; as well as
- Resource stewards (communities that collectively maintain/support REDD+ activities) and
- Those whose behaviour needs to change

3.2.2 For each beneficiary identified in Section 3, a list of the critical criteria for the purpose of receiving carbon benefits is outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Criteria of allocation for each beneficiary

Beneficiaries	Criteria for allocation
Private Sector	• confirmed legal rights (lease and license) • incur costs when implementing ER-P activities; as well as • need incentives to change behaviour (sustainable forest management)
Communities/village/settlements	• confirmed legal rights (lease and license) • essential to facilitate/enable results • may incurring costs to implement ER-P activities • resource stewards (communities that collectively maintain/support REDD+ activities) and • those whose behaviour needs to change (sustainable land use and communal stewardship)
Small holder farmers	• confirmed legal rights (lease and license);

Beneficiaries	Criteria for allocation
	• will incurring costs to implementing ER-P activities; as well as • resource stewards • behaviour needs to change (sustainable land use).
National Trust of Fiji & Civil Society Organisations	• confirmed legal rights (lease and license) • essential to facilitate/enable results • incur costs when implementing ER-P activities; as well as • resource stewards REDD+ activities
Provincial / District Councils	• Essential to facilitate/enable results • Traditional leadership of resource stewards

3.2.3 A landowner seeking to become a beneficiary of the ER-P will need to ensure that the land proposed for implementation of REDD+ activities is unencumbered from timber permit, or a mining licence or lease. Forest Decree (1992) requires the issue of timber license to convey the right to fell or extract timber. Prior approval for access from TLTB is a precondition for the issue of such license under Forest Decree s.10 in the form of a Forest Rights license.

3.2.4 In the context of the ER-P, all beneficiaries must register with the MoF through the issue of a REDD+ License in alignment with requirements under the Forest Bill and the proposed Climate Change Act.

3.2.5 Additional requirement to the issue of REDD+ License include fulfilment of standard operating procedures outlined in the Program Operation Manual which includes technical assessment of the proposed REDD+ activity, submission of land titles, proof of residence, bank account details and tax identification number.

3.2.6 Given that the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is associated with agricultural expansion; considering the contribution of each beneficiary to ERR, small holder farmers are at highest risk of behavioural changes. All stakeholders will incur cost in one way or another when implementing ER-P while some will place more emphasis on economic returns than others. An outlay of the agreed allocation of net carbon benefit among the different beneficiaries is outlined in Figure 2. The allocation was agreed at the REDD+ Steering Committee (REDD+ SC) on 29 January 2020.

3.3 Impact of beneficiaries

3.3.1 Focusing on the REDD+ activities proposed in the ER-P document, Table 4 further defines the different beneficiaries outlined above for their rights and influence as related to the implementation of different types of activities that will be implemented under REDD+. Each beneficiary in Table 4 is listed against their rights to resources in addition to the estimated number of beneficiaries anticipated to participate. The estimates are essential for planning purposes and not limited (across the accounting area) during ER-P implementation. The impact and rationale behind engaging “beneficiaries” commitment to implement REDD+ activities are also listed to highlight the relevance of each beneficiary.

Table 4: Impact and Rationale of Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries		Resource Rights	Estimated # Beneficiaries	REDD+ Impact	Rationale
Private Sector	• REDD+ License Holder registered to implement sustainable forest management	• REDD+ Lease • Registered	• 5 @ 1700 ha of REDD+ managed forest per license	• 8500 ha committed to practice Sustainable Forest Management	• Activities directly contribute to ER • Have legal rights over carbon sequestered/stored
Private Sector	• REDD+ License Holder registered to implement plantation tree planting	• REDD+ Lease • Registered	• 75 @ 100 ha per REDD+ plantation license	• 7532 ha under plantation forestry	
Communities/village/settlements	• REDD+ License Holder registered to implement community tree planting	• REDD+ Lease Registered	• 609@ 10 ha per REDD+ community planting license	• 6093 ha engaged under community planting	• Incentivise behavioural change
Small holder farmers	• REDD+ License Holder registered to implement agroforestry	• REDD+ Lease • Registered	• 2350 @ 2.5ha per REDD+ Agroforestry license	• 2350 ha engaged under agroforestry with small holder farms	• Incentivise behavioural change
National Trust of Fiji & NGO	• REDD+ License Holder registered to implement forest conservation	• REDD+ Lease • Registered	• 10 @950 ha per REDD+ Forest Conservation License	• 9500 ha engaged in forest conservation	• Have legal rights over carbon sequestered/stored
Provincial Councils	• Natural Resource Management in Provincial Councils under the 20 Priority Districts	• Registered villages /communities with traditional access to REDD+ Leases	• 20 District Councils	• Strengthen governance of natural resource protection and sustainable use	• Essential to facilitate/enable results

4 Benefits from Emissions Reduction Program

4.1 Anticipated Gross benefit of the ER-Program at National Level

4.1.1 Carbon Benefits will be generated by the sale of emissions reduction credits through the ERPA. The purchase price is calculated on tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) of emissions reduction and removals based on emissions reference level. In Fiji, the emissions reference level is calculated, at the jurisdictional (national) level. The net carbon benefit[10], on behalf of the Republic of Fiji, pursuant to the Letter of Intent (LOI) signed in December 2016 by the Fiji Minister for Economy (MoE) with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IRBD) (the Parties); the latter acting as trustee of the FCPF. The Parties agreed to negotiate and execute ERPAs for the transfer of emissions reduction from Fiji's ER-P during the exclusivity period[11]. The IRBD will purchase the Emissions Reduction, if they comply with the World Bank Safeguards and the General Conditions applicable to the ERPA for Forest Carbon Facility ER-P, at a price agreed by the Parties.

4.1.2 In accordance with the FCPF Methodological Framework[12], uncertainties at an average of 11 percent and a non-permanence buffer with an average of 18 percent (over 5 years) will be deducted from the gross ERs such that Fiji's ER-P is estimated to be able to deliver 2,514,631 tCO_2e over the ERPA period 2019-2024. At a rate of US$5/$tCO_2e$, the gross carbon benefit is expected to be US$12.5m over five years. Annual fluctuations influenced by uncertainties and non-permanence buffer set-aside allocation indicates high levels of ER streams expected at mid-term and at the end of the ER-P period.

4.1.3 Gross Carbon Funds received by the Ministry of Economy (MoE) will be held in consolidated account with clear guidelines on required processes for access. The guidelines are strictly followed, and the fund cannot be spent or allocated to purposes outside of its original intent.

4.2 Operational costs

4.2.1 From the gross net carbon benefit received at national level a portion will be used to cover fixed costs that will focus on necessary services through the MoF to address REDD+ coordination, awareness, and communications. The default portion for operational costs is set at the maximum possible value at 10 percent. The Forestry Board may decide on the specific percentage to be allocated to the MoF through the recommendation of the REDD+ Steering Committee (REDD+ SC) – this amount may not exceed 10 percent. REDD+SC receives recommendations from the REDD+ Divisional Working Group based on site assessments and validation. The Forestry Board is expected to meet at least twice a year while the REDD+ SC meets every quarter.

4.2.2 The operational cost supports the function and roles of the project management unit and consist of financial and fixed costs. Annual cash flow requirements for Operational Costs includes both Government contributions and carbon fund revenues. Financial costs include Internal Audit and Communications while the fixed operational cost covers coordination and logistics. Assuming, that Operational Costs will entail a maximum of 10 percent of the Gross Benefit, the total amount allocated as "carbon fund operational

[10] The LOI provides for a ministry other than the Ministry of Economy to represent Fiji in the negotiation and execution of ERPA, provided that this decision is made, and the Trustee notified at the beginning of the ERPA negotiations.

[11] The LOI was amended to extend the exclusivity period from 24 months to 44 months from the date of signature of the LOI.

[12] Carbon Fund Methodological Framework

cost" is estimated at US$1.25m over five years. These estimates are proxy based on the maximum possible allocation of 10 percent for operational cost. Cost structure operational cost over five years under the above assumptions is outlined in Table 5. Actual allocation will be determined during the ER-P implementation, potentially including other program management aspects required for the ER-P, but never exceeding 10% of the Gross Benefit.

4.2.3 Fiji Government contribution is assumed to cover program implementation, awareness, and coordination. Program implementation reflects the support for hiring of a safeguard specialist to address monitoring reporting and verification (MRV). The MRV team consists of Divisional Staff from the MoF as well as secondment officers in the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Provincial Councils on account of Yaubula Management Support Teams at District level.

Table 5: Estimated Operational Cost

Carbon Fund		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Financial Cost	Internal Audit	$ 42,125	$ 56,825	$ 85,261	$ 84,021	$ 84,926	$ 353,158
	Initiative evaluation and Communications	$ 41,047	$ 24,570	$ 36,865	$ 36,329	$ 36,721	$ 175,533
Fixed Operational Cost	Feeb Back Grievance and Redress Mechanism	$ 20,000	$ 19,573	$ 29,367	$ 28,940	$ 29,252	$ 127,132
	Safeguards Specialist	$ 62,280	$ 60,950	$ 91,449	$ 90,118	$ 91,092	$ 395,889
	Verification of Safeguards Implementation	$ 32,345	$ 31,654	$ 47,494	$ 46,803	$ 47,308	$ 205,605
	TOTAL	**$ 197,797**	**$ 193,572**	**$ 290,437**	**$ 286,212**	**$ 289,299**	**$ 1,257,317**

4.3 Performance buffer contingency fund

4.3.1 Performance buffer contingency fund of 5 percent of the benefits from carbon payments will be set aside to cater for possible loss associated with climate change and under performance of the ER-P in the period 2019-2024.

4.3.2 Fiji experiences cyclone season between November and April. Climate Change projections indicate more intense hurricanes in increasing frequency across all the group of islands in Fiji. Storms that result in heavy damage typically occur every ten years, however with climate change the frequency of such damaging storms is anticipated to increase. The risk of a storm event impacting REDD+ interventions exists. Damage from heavy storms is typically more significant in exotic plantation forests compared to secondary native forest areas and decreases further in primary forests. To mitigate potential losses, areas identified for reforestation projects will undergo prior assessment of suitability (i.e., aspect, soil type, species composition, management regime) with the aim of minimizing losses.

4.3.3 Performance buffer contingency fund will be used to reward potential beneficiaries who would have effectively reduced ER but have underperformed due to circumstances beyond their control across the whole accounting area. Detail of how beneficiaries can access this pool is outlined in Section 5 & 6.

4.3.4 The use of the Performance Buffer Contingency Fund will be triggered when there is under performance across the entire ER-P as assessed by the MRV team such that the net carbon benefit received are not sufficient to provide benefit payments and non-monetary incentives. The MRV team will make assessments and recommendations to the Divisional Working Group to undertake field verification. The Divisional Working Group will make recommendations to the national REDD+ Steering Committee (REDD+ SC) who are required to make necessary recommendations to the Forestry Board of the MoF. MoE will not release funds unless there is clear documentation with the submission from the

Minister of Forest through the Forestry Board to MoE. These requirements are articulated in the Climate Change Bill.

4.3.5 The Performance Buffer Contingency Funds will be kept with the Ministry of Economy in its consolidated funds with clear processes and guideline in place that will support the MoF to access the same as and when needed. The consolidated funds cannot be use for any purposes but specific to its original intent. Consolidated funds can retain funds to roll over to the next financial year should expense rate be low and staggered.

4.3.6 Key criteria that the REDD+ SC and the Forestry Board may consider when making necessary decisions on the use of Performance buffer includes the following:

- Nature of the underlying causes that result in non-performance;
- Validity of registration under REDD+ License;
- Stakeholder engagement and support of the Provincial/District Council;
- Historic performance of the beneficiary.

4.4 Net carbon benefit

4.4.1 The net carbon benefit is the balance of gross carbon benefit after operation and performance contingency buffer are considered of as expressed in Equation 1.

Equation 1: Net Carbon Benefits

$$\boldsymbol{Net\ Benefit} = Gross\ Carbon\ Benefits - (Operational\ Costs + Performance\ Buffer\ Contingency\ Fund)$$

4.4.2 Once the operational fixed costs and performance buffer have been deducted from the gross carbon benefits received at national level, the remaining Net Carbon Benefits will be distributed to beneficiaries as outlined in Figure 1. The ERR benefit shared with beneficiaries in accordance with this BSP are derived from Net Carbon Benefits (herewith referred to as net carbon benefit).

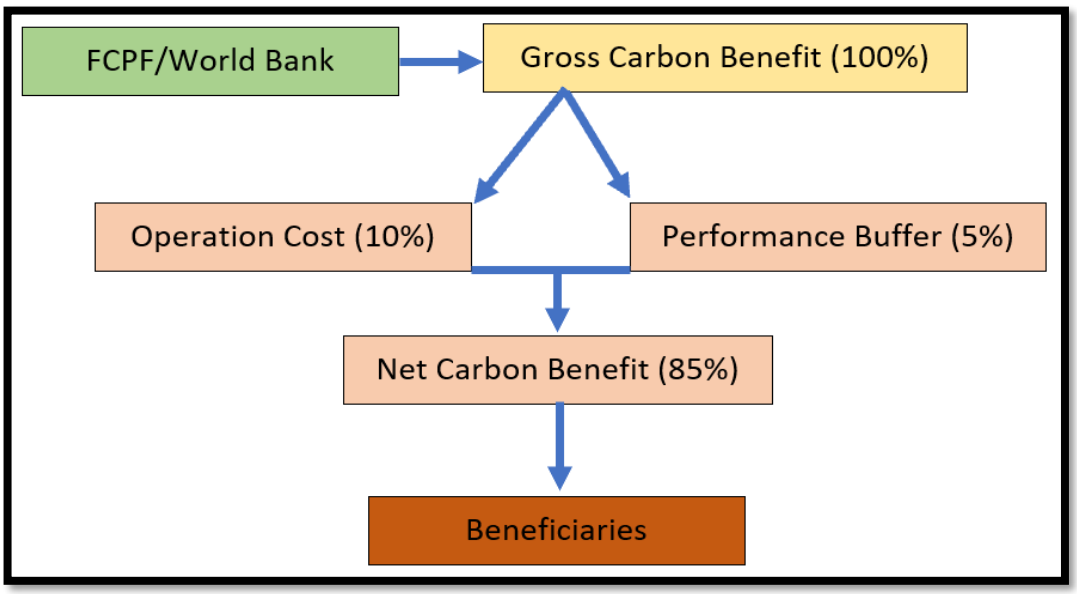


Figure 1: Gross and Net carbon benefit

4.4.3 The type and amount of Net carbon benefits for each group takes into consideration appropriate incentives for participation in activities that generate ERRs, appropriate rewards for past contributions to generation of ERRs, costs involved including opportunity

costs, and other incentives such as non-carbon benefits linked to the activities and perceived by each group; that is the benefits they receive through the implementation of the activities and/or financed from other sources other than the ERR payments.

4.5 Carbon and non-carbon benefits

4.5.1 The activities conducted in the context of REDD+ generate a broad range of environmental, social, and economic benefits that are classified into two categories:

- **Carbon benefit** are Monetary and/or Non-monetary Benefits shared with beneficiaries under the ER-P in accordance with the BSP financed by the results-based payments from the sale of ERRs.
- **Non-carbon Benefits**, are any benefits produced by or in relation to the implementation and operation of an ER-P, other than Monetary and Non-Monetary Benefits (e.g., improvement of local livelihoods, improved forest governance structure, clarified land tenure arrangement, enhanced biodiversity and other ecosystem services, etc.). Refer to Annex 1 for details.

4.5.2 This BSP is concerned with sharing Net carbon benefit only. Non-carbon Benefits are specified in Annex 1 and do not form part of the Benefit Sharing Arrangements or the BSP for the ER-P. Net carbon benefit may be distributed as:

- Monetary Benefits in the form of cash received by beneficiaries or
- Non-monetary Benefits in the form of goods, services, or other benefits (e.g., technical assistance, capacity building, in-kind input, or investments such as seedlings, equipment, building of nurseries etc for common needs and priorities within the community).

4.5.3 When considering the most effective, efficient and equitable use of carbon finance to provide net carbon benefit, it is important to consider the type of incentive that will be most appropriate, taking into consideration the Non-carbon Benefits each group of actors is expected to receive from implementation of the activity. The non-carbon benefits include those inherent to the implementation of the activity such as improved yields from agroforestry, or maintenance of water catchment, and those benefits which are provided from other sources such as government budgets.

4.5.4 The types of carbon benefits distributed to beneficiaries take into consideration the types of activities involved in implementing the ER-P aiming to reward stakeholders for contributions to generating ERRs and providing incentives for future generation of ERRs. Carbon benefits are provided either as Monetary or Non-Monetary Benefits (NMB) which was seen as most favoured type of benefits for distribution in communities.

4.5.5 Component 2 of the ER-P involves activities that directly generate ERRs relevant for this BSP. The types of benefits for each beneficiary are described in Table 6 under each activity in relation to other incentives for stakeholders to support successful implementation of the activities.

4.5.6 Ineligible non-monetary benefits include the purchase of chainsaws, hunting and fire - fighting tools/equipment and projects that disproportionately benefit any individual or family. Application of the BSP will adopt the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) checklists for ineligible and prohibited activities[13].

[13] Fiji Govt. 2019. Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework. May 2019. Republic of Fiji Islands. MoFMoF.

Table 6: Types of Carbon Benefits for each Beneficiary

Adapted from Benefit Sharing Mechanism report

ERP Activities	Beneficiaries	Roles and responsibilities for ensuring success of the activity	Types of Benefits: Non-carbon benefits (from other sources not ER payments)	Types of Benefit: Carbon Benefits (from ER payments)
Forest Conservation	Owners of Land (iTaukei or Others)	Consent to lease for conservation Protect the forest	+ Lease payment from the conservation lease holder and compensation cost	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Private sector or NGO lease holder	Protect the forest	+ Income from ecotourism + Enhanced forest protection + Soft loan incentive	
	Villages/ communities that use the forest	Protect from fire, illegal use of forest resources, monitor and enforce for	+ Maintained supply of forest products, (e.g. timber, firewood) and ecosystem services etc	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Ministry of Forests	Oversight of all REDD+ activities, technical support, coordination, monitoring at the national, subnational and district level.	Budgetary allocation for REDD+	Monetary allocation
	iTaukei Land Trust Board	Support lease and benefit negotiation with iTaukei landowners	Lease administration benefits	
Sustainable Management of Native Forest	Owners of land – iTaukei or other	Consent to lease for sustainable management of forests or for plantation Owners of land plant and harvest trees and crops, protect trees	+ Lease payments, market premium, rent, stumpage paid by lease holder +Timber revenue + Training on RIL principles and monitoring FFHCOP from MOF - Pay own lease payment Enhance protection of forests/plantation	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Larger private sector lease holders	Developer – plant trees, harvest wood, protect trees, finance	- Loss in timber revenue from adoption of Reduced Impact Logging	

ERP Activities	Beneficiaries	Roles and responsibilities for ensuring success of the activity	Types of Benefits: Non-carbon benefits (from other sources not ER payments)	Types of Benefit: Carbon Benefits (from ER payments)
			+ Increased security from longer term leases for 50 years + Training on RIL principles and monitoring FFHCOP from MOF + Enhanced protection of forest/plantation + Soft loan incentive	
	Villages/ communities that use the forest	Protect from fire and illegal use of forest resources, monitor, and enforce forest laws, paid labor	+ Maintained supply of forest products, (e.g., timber, firewood) and ecosystem services etc. + Training to use waste timber for revenue from MOF	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Ministry of Forests	Oversight of all REDD+ activities: Authorization for logging, monitoring and enforcement at the national, subnational and district level.	Budgetary allocation for REDD+	Monetary allocation
	iTaukei Land Trust Board	Support lease and benefit negotiation with iTaukei landowners	Lease administration benefits	
Carbon Enhancement: Plantations (Private Plantations, Fiji Pine and Fiji Hardwood)	Owners of land – iTaukei or other	Consent to lease for sustainable management of forests or for plantation Owners of land plant and harvest trees and crops, protect trees	+ Lease payments, market premium, rent, stumpage paid by lease holder +Timber revenue + Training on RIL principles and monitoring FFHCOP from MOF - Pay own lease payment + Enhanced protection of forest/plantation	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Large Private Sector Lease holders	Developer – plant trees, harvest wood, protect trees, finance	+ Training on RIL principles and monitoring FFHCOP from MOF	

ERP Activities	Beneficiaries	Roles and responsibilities for ensuring success of the activity	Types of Benefits: Non-carbon benefits (from other sources not ER payments)	Types of Benefit: Carbon Benefits (from ER payments)
			+ Enhanced protection of forest/plantation + Soft loan incentive	
	Villages/ communities that use the forest	Protect from fire and illegal use of forest resources, monitor and enforce forest laws, paid labor	+ Maintained supply of forest products, (e.g. timber, firewood) and ecosystem services etc. + Training to use waste timber for revenue from MOF	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Ministry of Forests	Oversight of all REDD+ activities: Authorization for logging, monitoring and enforcement at the national, subnational and district level.	Budgetary allocation	Monetary allocation
	iTaukei Land Trust Board	Support lease and benefit negotiation with iTaukei landowners	Lease administration benefits	
Carbon Enhancement: Community Planting (woodlots and riparian planting – flood mitigation)	iTaukei Landowning Units	Landowners plant and harvest trees and crops, protect trees	+ Revenue from timber + Lease payment + Training on basic forest management principles (planting and maintenance) from MOF + Enhanced protection of woodlots + Monetary or Non- Monetary: Incentives for tree planting (e.g. RDF model $244/ha)	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Villages/communities that use the forest	Protect trees from fire and illegal use of forest resources, monitor and enforce forest laws	+ Maintained supply of forest products, (e.g. timber, firewood) and ecosystem services etc.	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Ministry of Forests	Oversight of all REDD+ activities: monitoring and enforcement at national, subnational and district level	Budgetary allocation for REDD+	Monetary allocation

ERP Activities	Beneficiaries	Roles and responsibilities for ensuring success of the activity	Types of Benefits: Non-carbon benefits (from other sources not ER payments)	Types of Benefit: Carbon Benefits (from ER payments)
	iTaukei Land Trust Board	Support lease and benefit negotiation with iTaukei landowners	Lease administration benefits	
Carbon Enhancement: Agroforestry and alternative livelihoods	Owners of land – iTaukei or other	Consent to lease for Agroforestry Owners of land plant and harvest trees and crops, protect trees, finance	+ Lease payments, market premium, rent, stumpage from the lease holder + Revenue from crops and timber + Training on forest management (planting and maintenance) from MOF and training on agroforestry from MOA - Pay own lease payment	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Large private sector lease holder	Plants and harvest crop and trees, protects trees, provides finance	+ Improved yields from agroforestry + Training on forest management from MOF and agroforestry from MOA + Enhanced protection of trees + Soft loan incentive	
	Small farmer lease holders < 5 ha	Developer – plan and harvest crops and trees, protect trees, finance	+ Training on forest management from MOF and agroforestry from MOA, possibly with subsidy + Enhanced protection of trees	Monetary or Non-monetary incentives (e.g. seedlings, materials)
	Villages/ communities that use the forest	Protect from fire and illegal use of forest resources, monitor, and enforce forest laws	+ Maintained supply of forest products, (e.g., timber, firewood) and ecosystem services etc.	Non-monetary: Community development project
	Ministry of Forests	Oversight of all REDD+ activities: Authorization for logging, monitoring and enforcement at national, sub-national and district level	Budgetary allocation for REDD+	Monetary allocation

ERP Activities	Beneficiaries	Roles and responsibilities for ensuring success of the activity	Types of Benefits: Non-carbon benefits (from other sources not ER payments)	Types of Benefit: Carbon Benefits (from ER payments)
	iTaukei Land Trust Board	Support lease and benefit negotiation with iTaukei landowners	Lease administration benefits	
	Ministry of agriculture	Sets policies and incentives that may affect farmer decisions	Budgetary allocation for Climate Smart Agriculture	Monetary allocation

5 Benefit Distribution

5.1 Existing benefit sharing processes in Fiji

5.1.1 The extensive range of BSM available in Fiji (see Section 2.4) provides the foundation of developing BSP for REDD+ that clearly defines ownership of carbon, registration for REDD+ activities as well providing a framework for allocation of funds.

5.1.2 The BSP is informed by three existing benefit sharing models in Fiji: i) the iTaukei Lands Trust Board Lease; ii) Ministry of Lands – Land Bank; and iii) Ministry of Lands Distribution of Mineral Royalties under the Fair Share Mineral Act 2018.

5.1.3 The Benefit Sharing Mechanism for the FCPF ER-P in Fiji will build on these models by delivering benefits to REDD+ License holders. Stakeholders are able to obtain REDD+ Licenses under the iTaukei Lands Trust Board Lease and the Ministry of Lands – Land Bank. Currently, these mechanisms include REDD+ Lease holders who may be registered under REDD+ License with opportunity to involve over 90% of the ER-P's beneficiaries – therefore it will not be difficult to include all beneficiaries by the time of the first ERPA payment. Details on the process for stakeholders to obtain REDD+ Licenses can be found in Section 6.

5.1.4 In addition, the Fair Share Mineral Act 2018 requires that no less than 80% of proceeds from ER revenues goes to beneficiaries. The BSP for the ER-P is consistent with this approach.

5.2 Allocation of Net carbon benefits

5.2.1 Fijis' National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is designed to support National level Measurement, Reporting and Verification. Using wall-to-wall analysis to generate activity data, the system is capable of reporting National level Emission Reductions for the defined REDD+ activities of Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Enhancements (Afforestation/reforestation and Sustainable Management of Forests). The National level reporting from the NFMS, combined with the local registration of beneficiaries and ER licences will inform the lower-level distribution of benefits as described in this plan.

5.2.2 The net carbon benefit will be allocated to different beneficiaries in accordance with discussion across broad stakeholders where each beneficiary is allocated a proportion of the net carbon benefit.

5.2.3 Beneficiaries are defined by the types of activities they are licensed to undertake. Each activity is aligned to the ER-P Component 2 as outlined in Section 3.2 above. Conditions of participation for different beneficiaries is listed in Table 3 & 4 (see Section 3.2 and 3.3).

5.2.4 The type and amount of Net Benefits for each beneficiary takes into consideration appropriate incentives for participation in activities that generate ERRs, appropriate rewards for contributions to generation of ERRs, costs involved including opportunity costs, and other incentives such as non-carbon benefits linked to the activities and perceived by each group; that is the benefits they receive through the implementation of the activities and/or financed from other sources other than the ERR payments.

5.2.5 The proportion allocated to each group of beneficiaries is determined by the REDD+ Steering Committee in alignment with priority drivers of deforestation and degradation as well as the corresponding actions aimed at addressing such threats. Payments of net carbon benefits therefore aims to reward beneficiaries for change in mindset and adoption of sustainable practices that reduces the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

5.2.6 As outlined in Section 5.2.1, the National Forest Monitoring System cannot spatially report Emission Reductions at the individual land owner level. It can report the Emission Reductions against each REDD+ Activity at a National scale. This REDD+ activity level breakdown combined with the REDD+ licencing process will inform the Steering Committee in allocation of share.

5.2.7 As expressed in Section 5.1.4 and Section 11; stakeholder consultation considered activities of the ER-P Component 2 with unanimous agreement that this is well represented in Figure 2.

5.2.8 In the context of this Plan, community/groups mean a set of individual households in the society having a common interests and property rights who collectively agreed to engage in an ER activity through securing REDD+ License. The community/group may include a mataqali, village, settlement, or a group of farmers coming together under a Farmers Group or similar registered scheme with various Government agencies. Such community/groups may be issued a REDD+ License. Given the land tenure arrangement in Fiji where 90% of the land belongs to indigenous mataqali, most ER activities will engage land owning community and development partners, thus benefits will mostly flow to the local communities through the divisional, provincial and district mechanisms.

5.2.9 Benefits are assigned to the REDD+ License holder. In the case of community/groups, a nominated group representative will be the license holder. There are existing structures that support such communal engagement with existing benefit sharing arrangements (see Section 1.4; 2.3.2; 5.1). The REDD+ License holder is usually the group leader, Chief, Talking Chief (Matanivanua) or a person of "Status" in the community. The REDD+ License holder is responsible to ensure the collective performance of the group as well as to manage internal personal dynamics to ensure full collaboration of the group.

5.2.10 The beneficiaries are rewarded in recognition of the level of commitment and efforts required to participate in the ER-P. The ER-P involves activities that directly generate ERRs relevant to ERPA and aligned to the REDD+ BSP. The proportion of benefits allocated to each beneficiary is outlined in Figure 2.

5.2.11 In the case of community/group REDD+ License, the benefits will be directed to the License holder who will distribute benefits to group members. Existing benefit sharing mechanism that support such communal systems enable equal distribution of monetary benefits to each member of the group. Nevertheless, a precondition of the REDD+ License for communal engagement is an agreed distribution structure of all carbon and noncarbon benefits accrued through the REDD+ License.

5.3 Allocation under different scenarios

5.3.1 Three hypothetical scenarios are discussed. Each scenario is based on anticipated response and assumed willingness of the greater population to participate and engage in ER-P activities.

- 100% performance;
- 50% under performance;
- 150% performance;

5.3.2 **Scenario 1:** At 100% performance, all ER-P activities are fulfilled, and anticipated ERs outlined in the ER-P document delivered. Assuming performance review will be undertaken at the end of 2020, 2022 and 2024; the payment schedule is anticipated at mid-year 2021, 2023 and 2025. Under this scenario, all the parameters assumed in the ER-P are fulfilled and ERR successfully generated.

5.3.3 Funds for Performance Buffer Contingency Fund will be set aside by MoE and accessed upon request of the Minister of Forestry to the Minister responsible for MoE. The Minister of Forestry will be advised by the Forestry Board on the recommendations from REDD+ SC. REDD+ SC receives recommendations from the REDD+ Divisional Working

Group based on site assessments and verification of REDD+ Unit/Divisional Working Group.

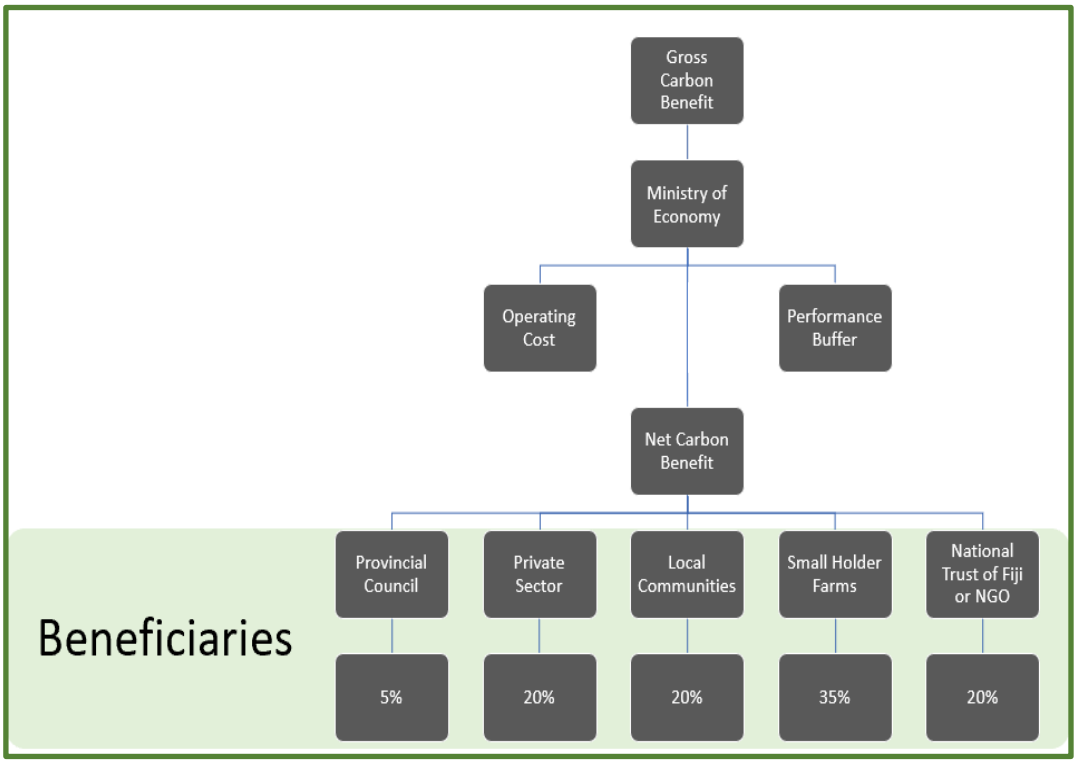


Figure 2: Allocation of Net carbon benefit to ER-P Beneficiaries

5.3.4 In Scenario 1, the Performance Buffer Contingency Fund is expected to be utilised in alignment with payment scheduled in 2021, 2023 and 2025. Under this scenario, the Performance Buffer Contingency Fund will be distributed to beneficiaries using the same allocation outlined in Figure 2.

5.3.5 **Scenario 2:** assumes underperformance in all ER-P activities that could be a direct result of many factors including:

- **Natural catastrophe** is self-explanatory and may include cyclones, flood, drought, fires but their occurrence and intensity cannot be predicted before-hand.
- **Anthropogenic** causes of underperformance may include among other factors; fires, slow implementation associated with governance systems, absence of planting material in the first year of operation, slow consensus and processing of REDD+ leases.

5.3.6 At 50% performance, the estimated ER is expected to reduce by 50% and subsequent revenue decline by half. The allocation to Operational Cost, Performance Contingency Buffer and Net carbon benefit outlined in Figure 1 will be retained.

5.3.7 Under 50% performance, the amount of ERs payments set aside for Performance Buffer Contingency Fund will be access at mid-term (2023) and at the end of the ERPA period (2025). Allocation of Performance Buffer Contingency Fund to beneficiaries will adopt that which is outlined in Figure 2 where Provincial Council receives 5%; Private Sector 20%; Local communities 20%; Small Holder Farmers 35% and National Trust of Fiji/NGO 20%.

5.3.8 Any remaining balance of funds in the Performance Buffer Contingency Fund at the end of the ERPA will be equally distributed to all beneficiaries. Should non-performance occur without the influence of natural unforeseen events, the assumptions of the ER-P have been too ambitious. The REDD+ SC will review the allocation of benefits and make

necessary recommendations to the Forestry Board and subsequently to the Minister of Forest for onward submission to the Minister responsible at MoE.

5.3.9 **Scenario 3:** assumes overperformance in all ER-P activities and may result from wide scale acceptance and implementation of the REDD+ ER-P activities across the accounting area. No additional flow is fund is expected aside from the ERPA. This scenario is discussed as it is likely to occur given the current initiative of the Fiji Government to plant "4-million trees" in four years. The MoF is committed to the above initiative having mobilised and strengthened its ability to restore and report all associated activities of the "4-million trees".

5.3.10 Under Scenario 3, there is no need to draw on the Performance Buffer Contingency Fund. In a such case the Performance Buffer Contingency Fund will be held until the end of the ERPA and divided equally among all beneficiaries. The motive behind this equal benefit sharing is associated with the idea of sharing equal benefits for collective efforts to all beneficiaries. This also recognises that the over performance may be attributed by additional and new players within the accounting areas that were not enlisted in the planning process.

5.3.11 The Performance Buffer Contingency Fund will be set aside by MoE and accessed upon request of the Minister of Forestry to the Minister responsible for MoE. The Minister of Forestry will be advised by the Forestry Board on the recommendations from REDD+ SC. REDD +SC receives recommendations is based on the REDD+ Divisional Working Group who are informed by the site assessments and verification of REDD+ Unit/Divisional Working Group. Membership of the Forestry Board, REDD+ SC and Divisional Working Group is outlined in Annex 2.

6 Flow of Funds

6.1 Prior to distribution of benefits

6.1.1 Prior to the distribution of benefits, institutional arrangements currently in place supporting REDD+ initiatives at Divisional and Provincial level would coordinate the registration process for all beneficiaries under the Ministry of Forestry.

6.1.2 As discussed in Section 3, landowners seeking to become a beneficiary of the ER-P must ensure that the land proposed for implementation of REDD+ activities is unencumbered from any legal use such as timber permit, or a mining licence or lease.

6.1.3 Under the Forest Bill No.13(2016) registration of REDD+ projects are provisioned by way of application to the CoF under s. 33, with special provision for its licensing under Regulations to the Bill under s.33(4). However, a licence under this Bill, can only be issued with the consent of TLTB for licencing in relation to iTaukei land which is part of a forest reserve, if no provisions of royalties are made under s. 51(a) or a licence in relating to iTaukei land other than iTaukei land in a forest reserve under s.51(c), or a licence in relation to iTaukei land and the leasing of such land, for a licence to fell or extract timber on alienated iTaukei land.

6.1.4 In view of the complexities involved, and the preference of premising REDD+ projects on unencumbered iTaukei land, it is crucial for landowning entity or third party to apply for a REDD+ project lease to TLTB. The TLTB lease on iTaukei land becomes a precondition for later registration (for the same entity) when applying to the CoF for carbon trading licence hereafter referred to as REDD+ License.

6.1.5 A schematic representation of the process for obtaining REDD+ Lease and REDD+ License is outlined in Figure 3 with key steps listed below:

1. Provincial/District Councils under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development (MRMD) Integrated Rural Development Framework provides advisory services and

support to all parties interested in participating in ER-P. The parties are referred to as Potential Beneficiaries. Focus areas or location of potential beneficiaries is advice by MOF and TLTB in accordance with the ER-P.

2. For iTaukei land, TLTB or Land Bank negotiates the REDD+ Lease between the iTaukei landowning units through existing policies, legislation, and procedures. This process may take 3-6 months with TLTB and Land Bank confirming special attention will be given to ER-P activities.

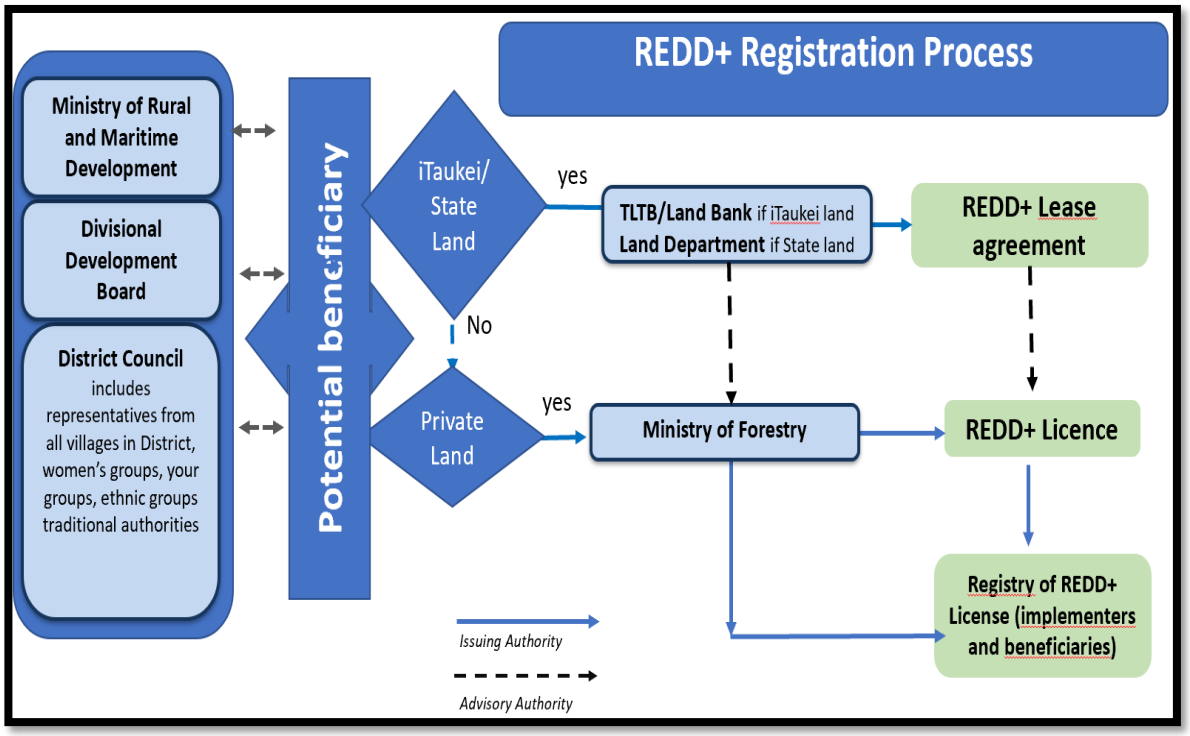


Figure 3: Process for establishment of lease, license, and registration for REDD+ Beneficiaries [14]

3. Upon issuance of a REDD+ lease, the lessee must pre-register for a REDD+ License indicating the area of land and intended REDD+ activity under the following guidelines.

- As part of pre-registration, MOF, TLTB or Land Bank/Lands Department or the owners of land, and the lease applicant conduct a site visit to establish eligibility for the REDD+ activities and determine the sustainable management plan to include in the license.
- The lease applicant develops a sustainable management plan to meet the requirements of the REDD+ activity and submits to MoF for approval.
- MOF issues REDD+ License specifying approved REDD+ activities and the land area where they will be implemented.

[14] Note that owners of land (landowning units or private and owners) and REDD+ Community Trusts are always signatories of a REDD+ Lease (solid arrows)s, while the lease applicant may be a REDD+ Community Trust, an owner of land or a company/individual (dashed arrows)

- The lease applicant submits the provisional REDD+ License to TLTB/Land Bank/Lands Department/owner of lands to request a REDD+ Lease.
- On submission of a REDD+ Lease and approved sustainable management plan, MOF issues a REDD+ License to the lease holder.
- MOF maintains a registry of REDD+ implementers and beneficiaries.

6.2 Flow of funds and delivery of benefits

6.2.1 The Ministry of Economy was granted Cabinet Approval to negotiate carbon trade and be the focal point for Fiji to the World Bank. The Warsaw Framework suggests that the national entity or focal point designated to serve as liaison with the secretariat and bodies under the UNFCCC on coordination of support and may also be nominated to receive and obtain results-based payments.

6.2.2 Key institutions that have a part to play in the facilitation of sharing net carbon benefits to beneficiaries may support delivery of benefits. These institutions include Provincial/District Councils under the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, MRMD, Divisional Working Group and the REDD+ Unit under the MOF. A schematic representation of the two-step process for distributing benefits is outlined in Figure 4 with key steps listed below:

Step 1: Measuring, Reporting and Verification (in orange shade Figure 4)

a. The REDD+ Unit (MOF)[15] undertakes MRV and submits report to Divisional Working Group for verification.
b. The Divisional Working Group will note performance level of all REDD+ License holders. The report will also reflect the status of non-performances and suggest the appropriate remedial actions (Table 7). Through its network and agency support, the Divisional Working Group and MoF REDD+ Unit, will coordinate remedial actions and support non-performing REDD+ Licenses to improve while validating stipulated default clauses that are triggered and any future benefit to the licensed beneficiaries.
c. The Divisional Working Group may revert back to REDD+ Unit for clarification of pertinent issues or submit report to the REDD+ SC for approval. Upon approval, the REDD+ SC submits the report to the MoF.

Step 2: Distribution to beneficiaries (see Figure 4)

A. At the MoF, the Minister of Forestry makes submission to the Minister of Economy recommending the release of payments to beneficiaries in alignment to the register of REDD+ projects and the Climate Change Bill.
B. The MoE verifies the report from Minister of Forestry and makes payment to MoF from the pool assigned to Net carbon benefits.

The MoF distribute benefits to beneficiaries16 in accordance with the agreed proportions as outlined in Section 5 (see Figure 2) or as recommended by the Forestry Board and endorsed by Minister of Forestry and Minister of Economy.The

[15] REDD+ Unit (MOF) is a Division within the Ministry of Forestry specifically assigned to oversee and manage the development, implementation, monitoring, reporting and validation of REDD+ Emission Reduction Activities. The REDD+ Unit is the Secretariat of the REDD+ Steering Committee. Its function and relationship to other key governance bodies is outlined in Figure 5: Implementation at national to local level

[16] The MoF have standard operating procedures in place to authenticate beneficiaries in accordance to the REDD+ Beneficiary Register. Beneficiaries are registered by MoF at the issue of REDD+ License. Apart from technical aspects, license conditions include submission of land titles, proof of residence, bank account details and tax identification number.

general agreement during the stakeholder consultation on the BSP, is to maximise non-monetary carbon benefits that will benefit goods and services that will benefit all community members. At the same time, funds will be reinvested into REDD+ activities agreed by community members through participatory processes and listed in the conditions of community Deed of Trust as outlined in Section 2.4.3 and Table 1. Table 7: Performance Criteria and Remedial Action for Non-Performing REDD+ License Holders

REDD+ License Categories	ER Activity Targets	Performance Criteria	Remedial Actions for non-performers	Result of non-compliance
Forest Conservation	9,500 ha	From the date of issue of REDD+ License: (i) Report of Biological Diversity within first 10 months (ii) Develop management Plan within 18. (iii) Clearly demarcated boundary within 24 months (iv) No extraction of timber or other forest product at all times	6 months grace period from the date of non-compliance notice Divisional Working Group and MoF Parks and Reserves Unit to coordinate necessary assistance	Cancel REDD+ License. Deregister REDD+ License holder from Beneficiary register
Sustainable Management of Native Forest	8,500 ha	All conditions of the Code of Harvesting will be applied. Specific conditions will include: - (i) Harvesting Management Plan (ii) The area boundaries will be clearly demarcated in the field. (iii) Tree-Selection will be compulsory and will adhere to the Diameter-Limit table approved by the Ministry of Forestry. (iv) Tree-felling direction will be marked and followed to ensure reduced impact logging.	3 months grace period from the date of non-compliance notice MoF Forestry Training Centre undertake training of workers on the use of Diameter Limit Table within 3 months from the date of non- compliance notice. MoF Forestry Training Centre undertake training of workers on directional felling techniques within 3 months of date of non-compliance notice	Cancel REDD+ License. Deregister REDD+ License holder from Beneficiary register
Carbon Enhancement: Plantations (Plantation)	7,532 ha	• The area will be clearly demarcated in the field. • Plantation management plan endorsed and implemented. • Minimum size of tree stands at 0.5 hectares (Ha) and the crown of these trees at 5m height is capable of providing 10% canopy cover	3 months grace period from the date of non-compliance notice Increase size of tree stands/clumps at least to 0.5 Ha with in 9 months of date of non-compliance notice	Cancel REDD+ License. Deregister REDD+ License holder from Beneficiary register
Carbon Enhancement: Community Planting (woodlots and riparian planting)	6,093ha			
Carbon Enhancement: Agroforestry and alternative livelihoods	~~3,780~~ 2,350ha			

7 Addressing Safeguards

7.1 Safeguard Instruments

7.1.1 The ER-P has three safeguards instruments[17] prepared during FPCF Readiness Phase as a result of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). Benefits Sharing Plan adopts all three-instrument including:

- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) under World Bank Safeguard Policy OP4.01 Environmental Assessment
- Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) under World Bank Safeguard Policy OP4.12 Involuntary Resettlement
- Process Framework (PF_ER-P) under World Bank Safeguard Policy OP4.12 Involuntary Resettlement

7.1.2 The MOF is the lead agency and national REDD+ focal point responsible to coordinate and implement REDD+ activities.

7.1.3 At the national level, MoF, as implementing agency will be responsible for the preparation and supervision of ESMF, RPF and PF implementation. There is already a national level program implementation unit in place (REDD+ Unit in the MoF) responsible for implementing readiness activities, including SESA/ESMF.

7.1.4 During ER-P implementation, the national REDD+ Unit will coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Safeguards Information System through collaboration at all levels of REDD+ governance structureProvincial and district levels management units will be set up and they will be responsible for screening risks for each project (or group of projects) using the ESMF process, preparing and ensuring the effective implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures (such as environmental and social management plans, social assessments/screen and environmental codes of practice) and regularly liaise with local authorities and communities.

[17] All three instruments include the provisions of World Bank Safeguard Policy OP4.10 Indigenous Peoples

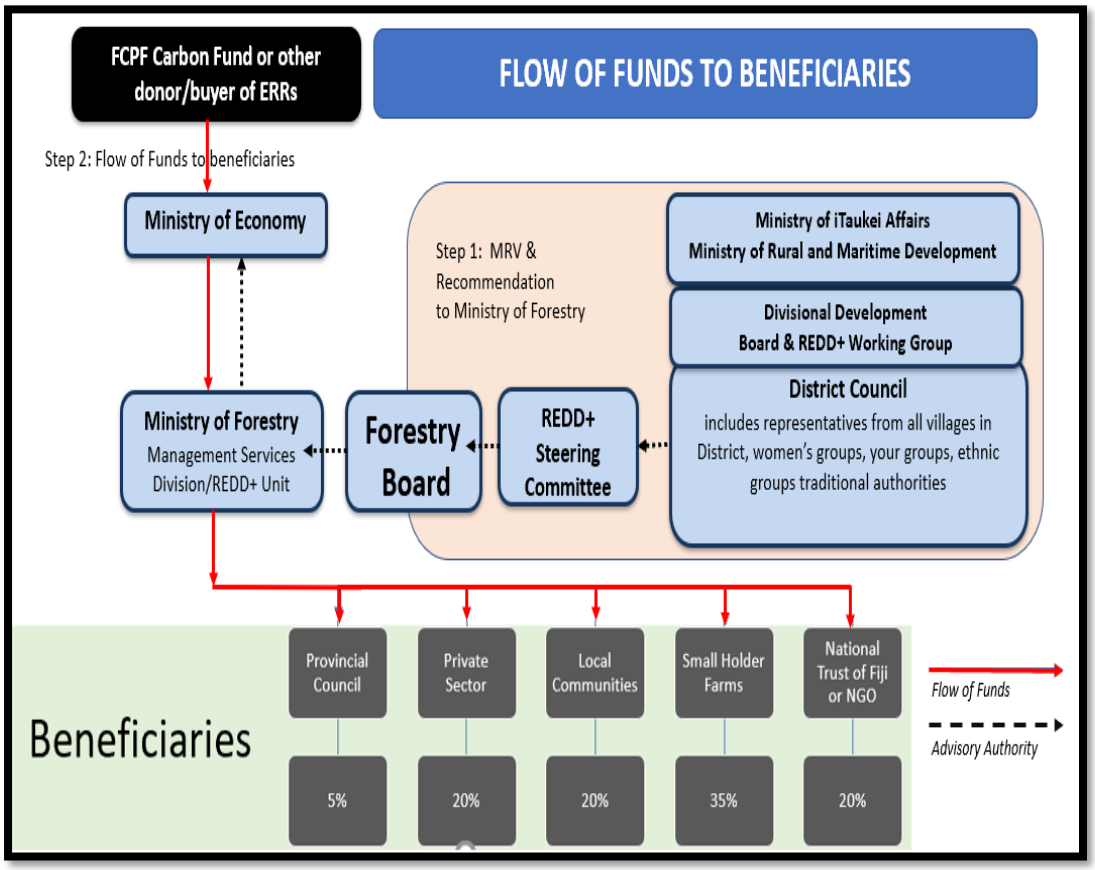


Figure 4: Financing flow of benefits to beneficiaries

7.1.5 The REDD+ Unit will coordinate and oversee the safeguards work of the provincial level units. The social assessment process would ensure consultation and disclosure of activities and investments and would identify any safeguard instruments which would apply. In addition, it would identify activities likely to address those threats and would establish a baseline for monitoring the impacts of activities supported by ER-P.

7.1.6 Divisional oversight will be provided under the Ministry of Forestry and assisted by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development where Commissioners[18] of each Administrative Division is appointed the Chairperson of the Divisional REDD+ Working Group. Member of the Divisional Working Group includes Principal and Senior Administrators of all Government Agencies, private entities, and participating NGO of the REDD+ SC through their offices at Divisional level. Details of the intricate and detailed decision and reporting lines at Divisional level is outlined in Figure 5.

7.1.7 The REDD+ Steering (REDD+ SC) provides administrative oversight for the REDD+ activities including the ER-P. Members of the REDD+ SC at national level include the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, iTaukei Lands Trust Board; Department of Environment, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Women Youth and Sports, representatives of non-governmental organisations, private forestry sector and REDD+ iTaukei resource owners representatives.

[18] Commissioner is an appointed Civil Servant who heads and coordinates Government Services at Divisional Level. There are three main Administrative Divisions including, North, West and Central/Eastern.

7.1.8 Under the REDD+ SC, a Safeguards Technical Working Group is already in place and has been in operation since 2009 having done considerable work on assessing social and environmental risks/impacts associated with REDD+ activities. The national REDD+ Unit of the Ministry of Forestry will work closely with the Safeguards Technical Working Group, Ministry of Environment and National REDD+ Steering Committee to mainstream social and environmental issues in all analytical work combined with wide stakeholder consultation.

7.1.9 The District Program Implementing Unit is a consortium of Government agencies at site level consisting of the MRV Unit which reports all field information through the Provincial Working Group as outlined in Figure 5.

7.1.10 The ER-P supports a bottom-up approach for the implementation of forest and environmental related safeguards. The bottom-up approach entails data collection from the Mataqali for forest cover monitoring and reporting aiming to improve the process of measuring and reporting forest change within districts, provinces while addressing limitation of the existing Forest Management System on accuracy, credibility, transparency, and quality assurance. Satellite and photograph images will be used to update forest cover maps and the use of table-based approach will allow real time information to be sent to the Fiji Forest Information System (FFIS).

7.1.11 Since implementation of safeguards is the sole responsibility of REDD+ Unit, qualified social and environment specialists will be hired to support this work. These specialists would be responsible for supporting the implementation and monitoring of safeguards. In particular, the development of project-specific safeguards documents (such as Resettlement Plans, Environmental and Social Management Plans) will be guided by the framework safeguards documents and based on the social and environmental assessments which incorporates community consultation.

7.1.12 An independent monitoring team will set up to support the Fiji REDD+ Unit to undertake periodic annual monitoring of environmental and social compliance during implementation of the ER-P. The role of the independent team will be to monitor and verify environmental and social compliance during implementation of ER-P and would work with the eleven Provinces, and all districts, local officials, communities, civil society, NGOs, and the private sector in the ER-P accounting area to provide authoritative and objective information on ER-P operations; validate and verify that safeguards have been implemented following the ESMF, RPF, PF_ER-P and BSP.

7.1.13 The monitoring team will also assess performance of each beneficiary against the original intent as registered under the REDD+ License and Beneficiary Register with the Conservator of Forest. The monitoring team will relay field monitoring report to the Site Program Implementing Unit (Figure 5) to address any emerging issues of concern including challenges contributing to non-performance of beneficiaries. The Site Program Implementing Unit will work with beneficiaries to implementation challenges to ensure performance of all registered beneficiaries.

7.1.14 The monitoring team will also monitor the provision of carbon benefits to registered beneficiaries while ensuring that **safeguards are met.**

7.1.15 The World Bank task team will provide support, mentoring, training, and oversight of the implementation of the framework safeguards instruments and will review and clear new safeguards instruments prepared during project implementation.

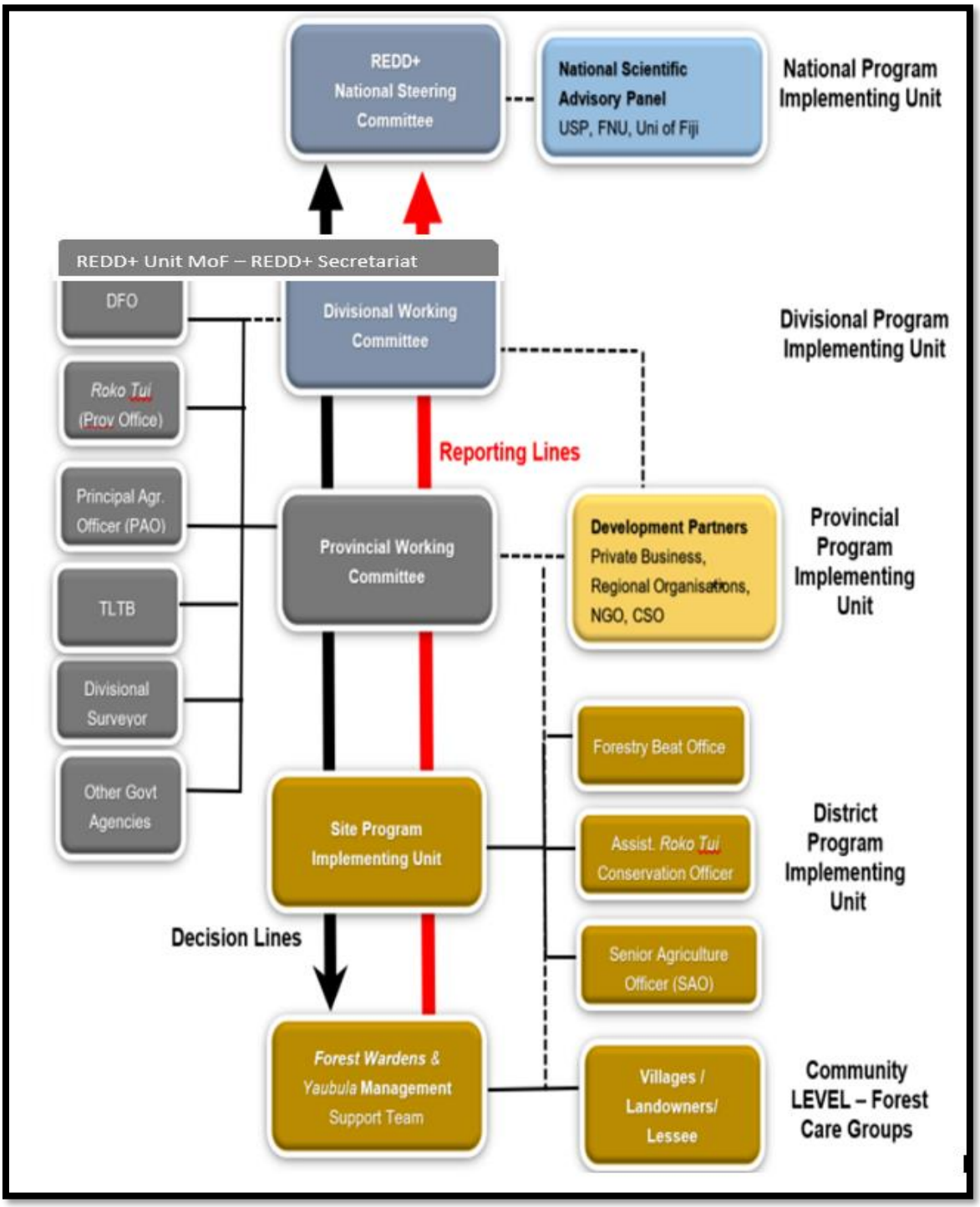


Figure 5: Implementation at national to local level

7.2 Procedures for the application of safeguards

7.2.1 The ER-P aims to support programs that would not create adverse impacts and due harm to local communities while targeting to reward the development of good behaviours to all registered beneficiaries. Any residual or unintended impacts that cannot be mitigated in the design of the projects or programmes will be addressed in line with the ER-P ESMF, RPF, PF and World Bank Safeguards policies.

7.2.2 The ESMF, RPF and PF, along with the Gender Action Plan, apply to the monetary and non-monetary activities under the BSP. This BSP is consistent with the safeguard instruments and the Gender Action Plan. The key safeguards from the instruments include:

- Ensuring iTaukei women have equal access to decision making and to benefits as iTaukei men, based on their equal rights as iTaukei landowners.
- Ensuring vulnerable, including those with physical impairments, non-landowners, elderly are included in the programme and can participate in benefit sharing activities.
- iTaukei and non-iTaukei could participate and benefit from the programme under existing legal framework through the various REDD+ Leases and REDD+ License.
- Awareness raising, consultations and engagement activities are targeted to be inclusive and additional support and resources provided to vulnerable, women, non-landowners and others who may require it in order to fully understand, engage in, and benefit from the programme. This includes youth, even those under 18 who may not be able to be signatories to agreements but can participate in non-monetary benefits.
- Ensuring that community development projects are consistent with the Land Use Plans and key issues outlined in the ESMF, PF and RPF. Project or site-specific environmental and social impacts will be managed through safeguards instruments (see below).

7.2.3 During implementation of the ER-P and the BSP, the REDD+ Unit Safeguards Specialist will screen the World Bank (WB) Safeguard policies that will be triggered by the non-monetary benefits and community development projects as well as the safeguard documents that will need to be prepared (if any) as required by the ESMF, RPF and PF_ER-P. Consultation with WB safeguards specialists during the screening process may be sought by the REDD+ Divisional Working Group, with the assistance of specialist consultants and the REDD+ Unit, will undertake consultations, social and environmental assessment, identification of land access requirements as well as to prepare, consult, and disclose all relevant instruments.

7.2.4 A four-step safeguard process is as follows and depicted in Figure 6.

- **Step 1:** Potential beneficiaries applying for REDD+ License are reviewed by the REDD+ Unit at the MoF. The criteria for entry or registration of beneficiaries outlined in Section 3.2 will guide decision as well as field verification for unencumbered land. Possible timeline per applicant is 2 weeks.
- **Step 2:** At Divisional level, the REDD+ Divisional Unit in MoF will ensure that all safeguard requirements are fulfilled. The REDD+ Divisional Unit is responsible for documentation of all Safeguard criteria and indicators as well as raising awareness, consultation, and engagement at community/village/settlements. Recommendations are submitted to REDD+ working Group. Possible timeline per applicant is 4 weeks.
- **Step 3:** The REDD+ Divisional Working Group will assess reports submitted by the REDD+ Divisional Unit and present to the REDD+ SC for approval. In the event that an EIA is required under the Environmental Management Act 2005, the REDD+ Divisional Unit will facilitate the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment and submit to the REDD+ Working Group for verification and forward submission to the REDD+ SC. Within the REDD+ SC, the Safeguards Technical Working Group will review and advice the REDD+ SC on appropriate actions. Possible timeline per applicant is 2 weeks.

- **Step 4:** The REDD+ SC will submit recommendations to the CoF to approve detailed BSP for endorsement by the Forestry Board. The Forestry Board advises the Minister for Forestry, assuring that all safeguard requirements are met, and continuous field monitoring occurs through the Divisional REDD+ Unit.

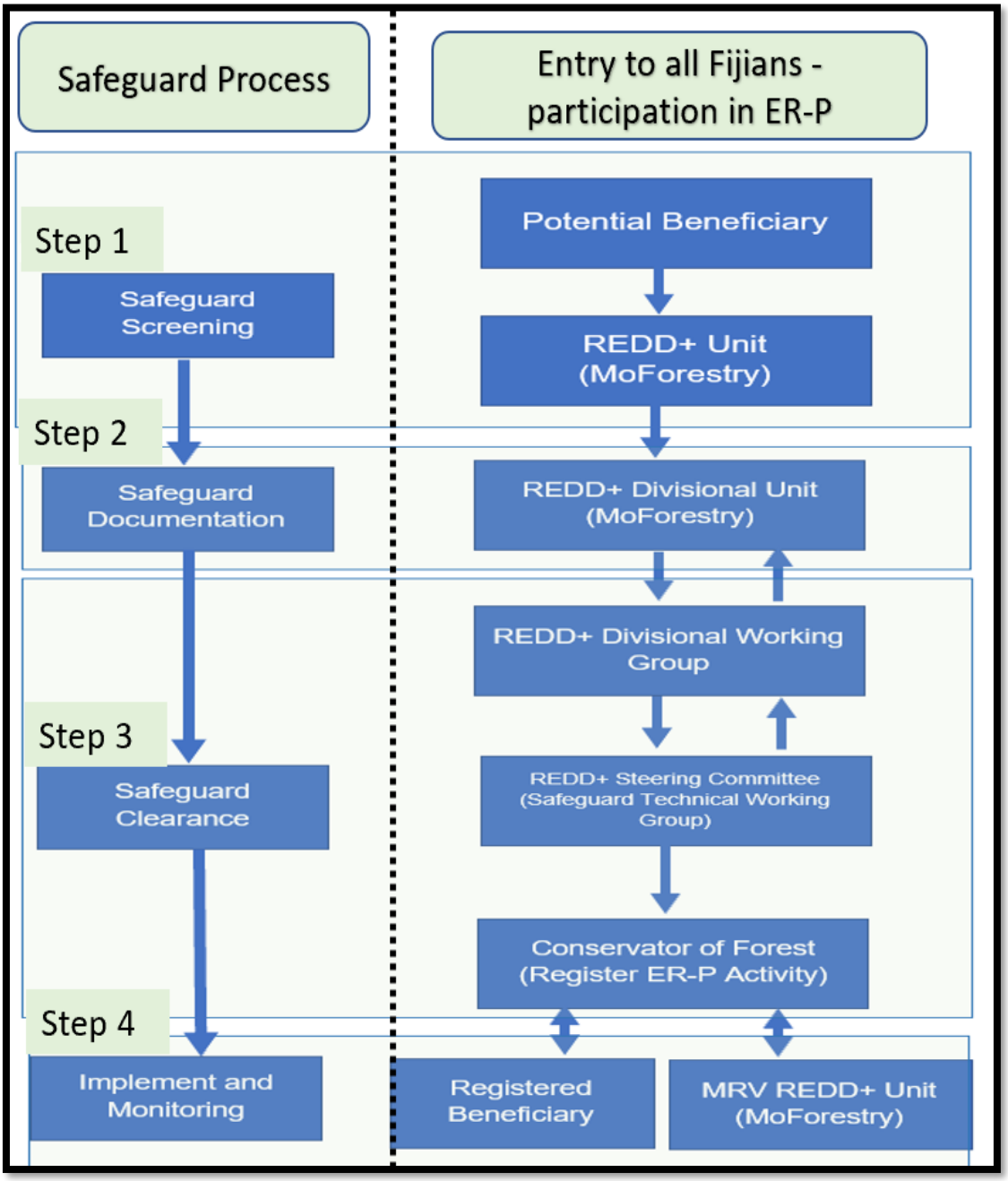


Figure 6: Four-Step Process for Implementation of Safeguard Instruments

7.3 Safeguard's compliance

7.3.1 The intuitional arrangement of the MoF is arranged from the national level down to divisional level (see Figure 5) and application of safeguard instruments outlined in Figure 6. At the national level, the MoF is responsible for the preparation and supervision of ESMF implementation as well as to oversee safeguard compliance at national and divisional level. Under the existing Management Services Division and the REDD+ Unit, the

Divisional REDD+ Unit will be set up to be responsible for preparing and ensuring the effective implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures and regularly liaise with local authorities and communities at Divisional level. The national level REDD+ Unit will coordinate and oversee the safeguards work at all the Provincial and District level units where beneficiaries are located. An Independent third-party monitoring system will monitor and evaluate safeguards performance, effectiveness, and compliance.

7.4 Development and strengthening of institutional capacities

7.4.1 General support and capacity building for the implementation of all safeguard requirements is expected and consequently budgeted under the Operation Cost. Key documents that are expected to assist the safeguard compliance and general implementation of the ESMF, RPF and PF include a proposed Safeguards Operational Manual and a Project Implementation Manual.

7.4.2 The World Bank Safeguards policies will apply to the entire ER-P irrespective of financing sources. In this regard, all projects in the ER-P area must comply with the safeguards irrespective of funding sources. The MoE will enter Memorandum of Understanding with project proponents upon recommendation of the MoF. Recommendations by the MoF will be attained through the normal process as outlined in Figure 6 where the project proponents apply for registration as a "potential beneficiary". On the other hand, if the bilateral donors' safeguard is considered for use under the ER-P, the MoF will undertake due diligence to ensure compliance and consistency with the Banks Safeguard Policies. In the case of on-going bilateral donors', the MoF will apply due diligence to ensure consistency and that they are being properly implemented.

7.4.3 The REDD+ Unit, the REDD+ Divisional Working Groups and the REDD+ Divisional Unit will have Safeguards Specialists staff to support implementation of Safeguard Instruments. In addition, consultants hired on an ad hoc basis will ensure the ER-P is implemented and supported by enough capacity to fulfill all safeguard requirements.

7.4.4 The MoF will establish and maintain effective management systems to implement the specified requirement with oversight by World Bank Safeguard Specialists that will ensure that safeguard systems in the ER-P and ERPA comply with the WB Safeguard Policies.

8 Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanism – FGRM

8.1 Application to REDD+

8.1.1 Fiji's REDD+ FGRM is designed under the enabling laws of Fiji's Constitution and existing laws, policies and regulations pertaining to land and resource access and development. Its development considers the identification and analysis of legislation and policy that impacts REDD+, analyses existing institutional capacity and mechanisms used to respond to and resolve conflict, and identifying existing and potential grievances and conflicts that may arise as a result of implementing REDD+ projects. The FGRM is primarily designed for intervention as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism at a semi-formal level of grievance redress of customary/informal systems so as to compliment but not replace, current legal/formal redress.

8.1.2 Operationalizing REDD+ ERs from its point of creation, recording, transfer for value and actual market trade can only be based on comparative studies and lessons learnt from REDD+ projects in operation in other jurisdictions. To this end, level of understanding at beneficiary level amongst communities, landowning units and titleholders is crucial to avoid future conflicts when abstract notions regarding intangible property becomes real.

The type of grievances capture anticipated by the FGRM is related to tensions that exist from land and forest governance resources (non-REDD+) such as tenure rights, boundary disputes, administration of customary land, LOU and investor relations, awareness of rights and access to resources (in-direct impacts), as well as aspects related to direct impacts from REDD+ program itself (e.g., benefit-sharing, conservation lease terms).

8.1.3 As discussed in Section 2, significant issues are anticipated given the duality of common law and customary considerations in the administration of land, that affects value and time thus significantly raising risks given differing value considerations and emphasis with regards to ownership rights, its degree of exercise and the resultant considerations from the impact of REDD+ project implementation.

8.1.4 It is noteworthy, given the bespoke functions of TLTB and the Land Bank, grievance issues regarding technicalities and procedures of provisioning access, rentals and valuation of land interests are finalised through the respective leases and licences regulations and within existing FGRM. The sum total of the complimentary operations of these check and balances augment much needed safeguard standards under the Cancun standards with regards to Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) , fair and just compensation, transparent and effective forest governance structures, respecting knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples, full participation of relevant stakeholders through indigenous and local communities, addressing risks and the avoidance of people displacement.

8.1.5 Having considered the above, certainty through time and progressive status updates is critical towards solving grievances and disputes arising from REDD+ implementation. The grievance, once received, follows a systematic process that consists of five steps consisting; uptake; evaluate; respond; implement; and close through monitor and follow up (track). Each step proposes a phase timeline to help FGRM designate officers and institutions to manage expectations of the user, as well as to help facilitate a smoother grievance process and identify where breakdowns may be occurring along the pipeline (which my result in the need for additional resource allocation, a revisited process, etc.).

8.1.6 The REDD+ FGRM as designed for Fiji is inclusive and participatory as well as responsive, respectful, and predictable – clearly laid out in the expected timetable for key process milestones. Inclusive engagement also ensures the preservation of open dialogue amongst different stakeholders to promote joint problem solving and a workable resolution that will be upheld, promoted, and pragmatic.

8.1.7 Existing mechanisms in Fiji are semi-formal and alternative to Court systems that functions as second tier to dispute resolution. These systems exist inside and outside of government line agencies and can include mitigation, arbitration, conciliation, or some combination of the different approaches. For instance, land leases issued by TLTB allows arbitration under the Arbitration Act and other procedures prescribed by the iTaukei Land Trust (Leases & Licenses) Regulation 1984. Such systems within government and the informal sector provides a method to create better informed decisions that may require a more complex understanding of land use and management, proving to be more flexible and adaptable to the existing circumstances where the grievance arise; they are cost effective, accessible, and more convenient compared to a formal system.

8.1.8 In designing Fiji's FGRM, considerable consideration has been given to the existing FGRMs and the fact there is no current FGRM to deal specifically with REDD+ activities with most grievances addressed through TLTB and the Taukei Land and Fisheries Commission (TLFC). The Climate Change Bill (2019) offers possible resolution in that it offers adequate legal framework to support benefit sharing under s. 46.

8.1.9 Hence, the emphasis by the FGRM to build upon the compromised "hybrid" of land administration and traditional control current in Fiji from the village / land owning unit

level to the upper structures of bespoke ITaukei peak institutions such as the iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission, TLTB, iTaukei Affairs Board and the ITaukei Ministry for the progression of grievances on the informal side and the option of the legal formalities of the law-through the police and Courts, on the other as outlined in Figure 7.

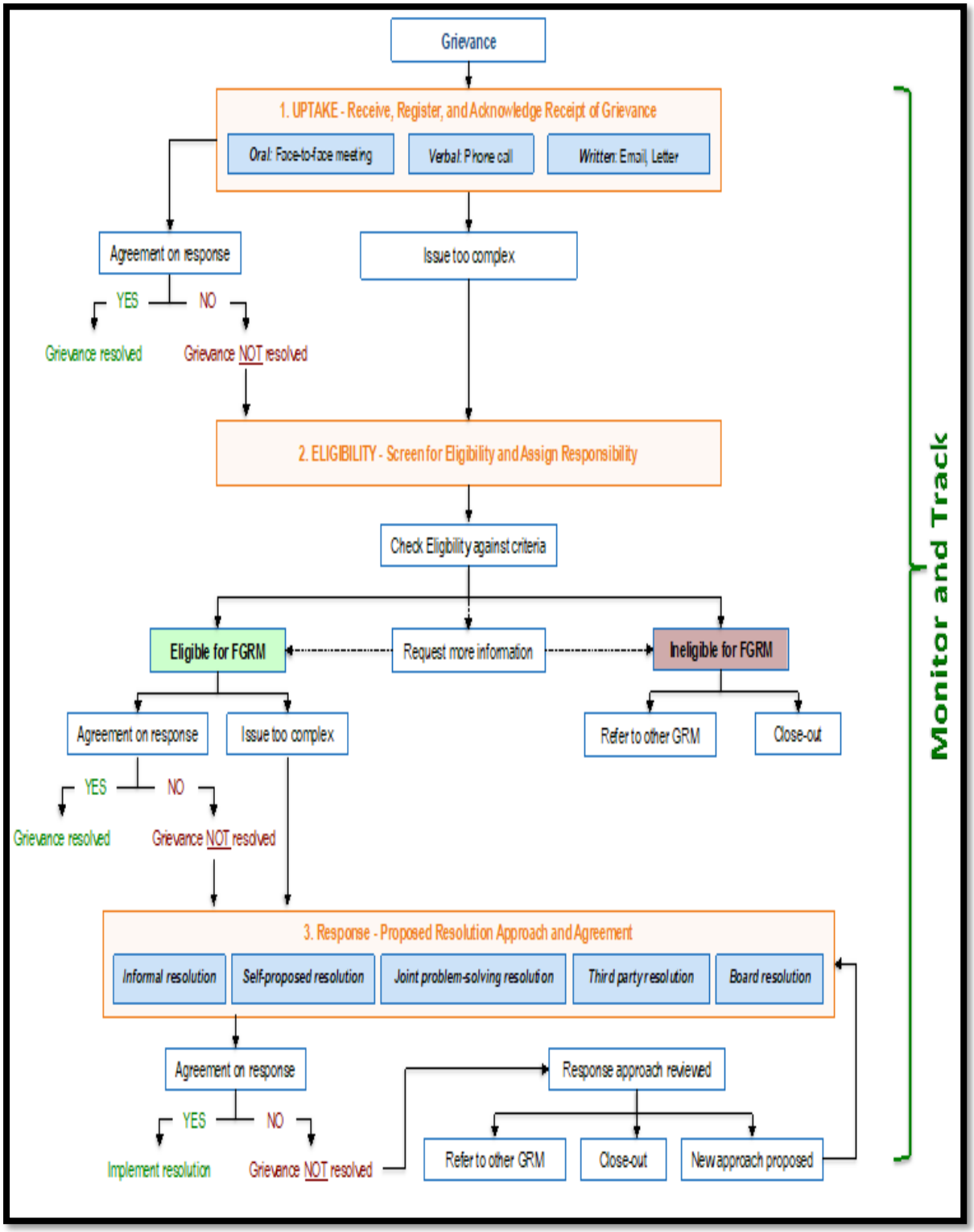


Figure 7: Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism Process

9 Monitoring the Benefit Distribution

9.1 Monitoring and reporting arrangements

9.1.1 At the national level, the MoF Extension Officers will monitor all REDD+ activities and report on performance of beneficiaries with respect to commitments in the REDD+ Licenses and Leases. The MRV team is led by REDD+ Unit and supported by REDD+ Divisional Unit. At the REDD+ Divisional Working group, secondment officers from the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Agriculture and iTaukei Affairs Trust Board provide support to the REDD+ Divisional Unit. Technical reports from the field go through layers of verification before they reach the Forestry Board and Minister for Forestry. The MRV team are strategically positioned at Divisional (REDD+ Divisional Team) and at national level (REDD+ Unit in MoF). All reports are presented to the REDD+ SC before recommendations is made to the Forestry Board.

9.1.2 The processes involved in monitoring and reporting arrangements are highlighted by numbering sequence in Figure 8 and explained in detail below:

1. The MRV team led by REDD+ Divisional Unit from the MoF. Assessment done at field sites with all registered beneficiaries. REDD+ Divisional Unit may incorporate the assistance of officers in the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Agriculture and iTaukei Affairs Trust Board as well as the Yaubula Management Support Teams. Reports on performance of beneficiaries with respect to commitments in REDD+ Licenses is submitted to the REDD+ Divisional Working Group.
2. Technical reports reviewed by the REDD+ Divisional Working Group. Technical reports consist of three critical themes. The Divisional Working Group may be return the report for clarification. REDD+ Divisional Working Group clears technical reports and submit to REDD+ Unit. Key thematic areas of reporting include:
    a. Milestones achieved at Divisional level as a consolidated output from all registered beneficiaries.
    b. Report on criteria for assessment including fulfilment of all Safeguard requirements. At the same time,
    c. Financial reports on distribution of net carbon benefits to beneficiaries by MoF is compiled by REDD+ Divisional Unit and submitted to REDD+ Working Group for review, verification, and endorsement.
3. REDD+ Unit prepares annual report of benefits shared and performance on REDD+ activities and conservation commitments and proposes a plan for the use of carbon funds for next period in consultation with REDD+ SC. The report is compiled from information collated by MSD/REDD+ Unit in collaboration with the MRV team, consisting of field data collectors who will provide updated data on performance of all registered ERP implementers. Performance is determined by comparing the original intent of the REDD+ License against the actual area impacted by the activity described in the license. The performance data will provide recommendation to the MoF, REDD+ SC and Forestry Board on the use of Performance Buffer Contingency Fund. REDD+ SC reviews report, calls for clarification if needed and submit to the Forestry Board.

4. Forestry Board reviews report from REDD+ SC and makes recommendation to the Minister of Forestry. Recommendations includes the sharing of net carbon benefits as well as distribution of Performance Buffer Contingency Fund. Once triggered, the Minister for Forestry will recommend to Ministry of Economy to utilise Net carbon benefits and as and when necessary the Performance Buffer Contingency Fund using PF_ER-P outlined in Section 6 (see Figure 4). MoE submits report to FCPF in alignment to the ERPA.

10 Safeguards Information System – SIS

10.1 Application to REDD+ in Fiji

10.1.1 Fiji has begun work on designing a multipurpose Safeguard Information System (SIS) to support national capabilities to meet its International and National Biodiversity reporting commitments in a cost-effective way, harnessing the opportunity to build on the existing monitoring network established for the REDD+ MRV. This will minimize investment and enhance the synergies between REDD+, GHG Inventories, Biodiversity and Safeguards.

10.1.2 The MoF will also establish a subset of the Safeguard Technical Working Group to specifically focus on safeguard information system and be responsible for Summary of Information (SOI) working group. The SOI working group will consist of NGO and CSOs, members from MoF and other line ministries. The main task of the group is to deliver information and comments on the SIS and SOI's contents during the development process, to support REDD+ Unit in acquiring the approval from REDD+ SC, Forestry Board and MoF for onward submission to MOE for reporting to FCPF.

10.1.3 The SIS and SOI are expected to be completed in a phased approach over the next three to five years and will be consistent with national REDD+ safeguards approach as outlined in the ESMF.

10.1.4 In recognition that REDD+ activities could potentially lead to various negative impacts on the environment and communities, according to the Warsaw Framework, countries aiming to receive results-based finance for REDD+ must: 1) implement REDD+ measures in a manner consistent with the Cancun safeguards; 2) establish a system to provide information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected (the SIS); and 3) provide an SOI on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+.

10.2 Functions and institutional arrangement for SIS:

10.2.1 As outlined in Section 6 & 7, the MOF Management Services Division, and the REDD+ Unit will play the lead role in measuring, reporting and verification as well as maintaining the SIS and SOI. In the absence of the SIS, the function and institutional arrangements discussed in this chapter are based on the ESMF developed for Fiji REDD+ ER-P. Self-monitoring and reporting will support the MOF to provide "evidence satisfactory to the Trustee that the ER-P Measures are being implemented in accordance with the Safeguard Plan". Hence, independent third-party who may involve the Yaubula Management Support Team to measure and monitor activities are anticipated to support compilation of data. The third-party monitoring would involve a combination of independent verification of self-reporting data.

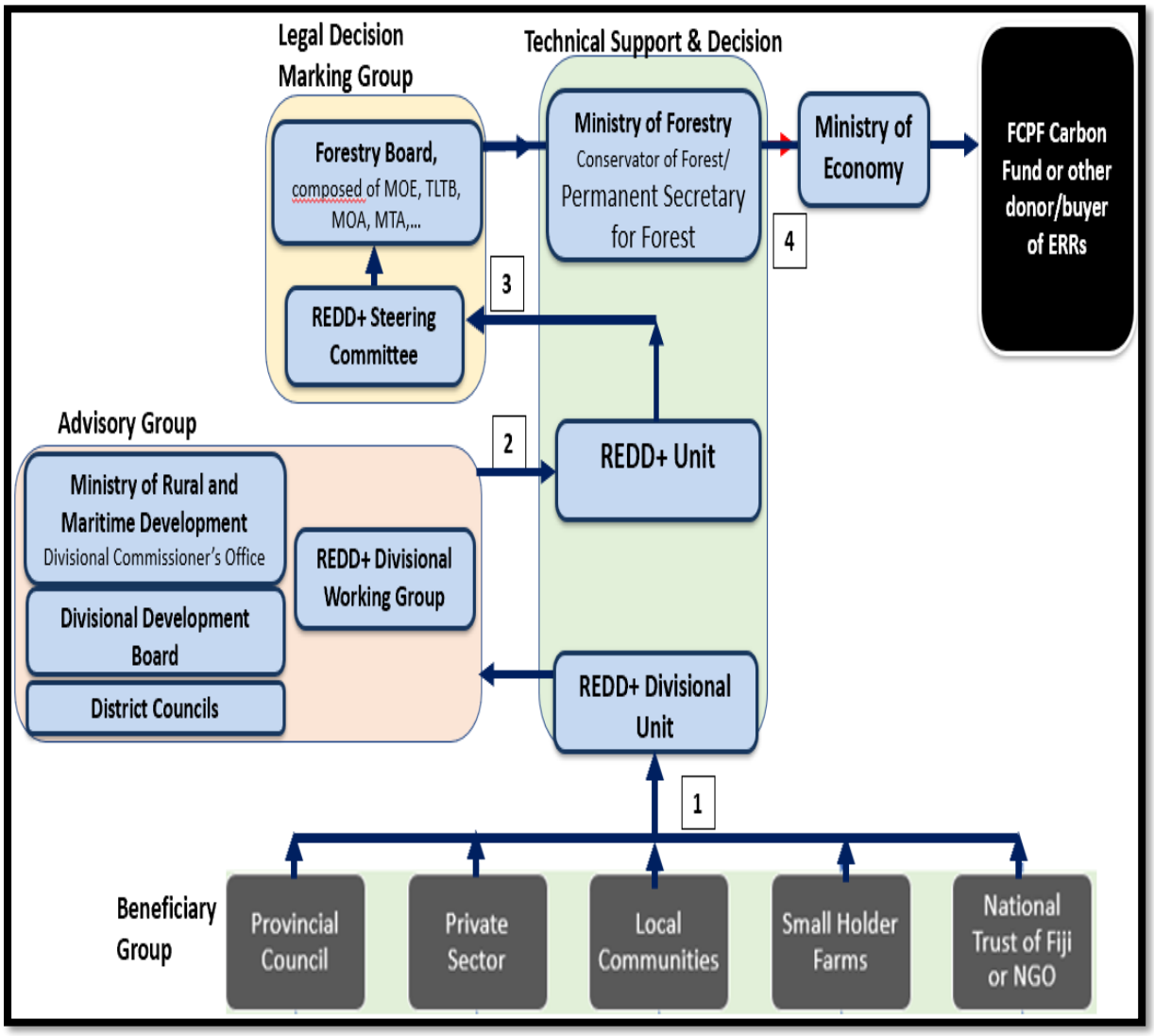


Figure 8: Institutional Monitoring and Reporting Arrangement between Beneficiaries, Advisors, Legal and Technical Support/Decision

10.2.2 In addition, an independent monitoring team will be procured by the Fiji REDD+ Office to undertake periodic annual monitoring of environmental and social compliance during implementation of the ER-P. The role of the independent team will be to monitor and verify environmental and social compliance during implementation of ER-P and would work with the eleven provinces, all districts in the accounting area, local officials, communities, civil society, NGOs and the private sector by providing authoritative and objective information on ER-P operations to validate and verify that safeguards have been implemented following the ESMF, RPF, and PF_ER-P. The Divisional REDD+ Working Group will have key role in monitoring implementation but will work with the Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST). Information on the implementation of safeguards is summarized in the Table 7.

Table 7: Overview of the M&E System[19]

M&E steps	M&E Process
Safeguards processes, inputs, and outputs	This comprises information on the establishment of institutions for safeguards implementation and monitoring (e.g. groups involved in the Carbon REDD+ Agreements and Divisional REDD+ Working Group safeguards units), capacity building, allocation of budgets for safeguards implementation monitoring implementation of key program processes, specific safeguards procedures (e.g. environmental codes of practice, consultation processes, compensation provided, grievance redress procedures) as detailed in the ESMF, RPF, PF and their associated outputs e.g. CRAs (including benefit-sharing agreements).
Environmental and social impacts/ outcomes	Participatory assessments of the conduct of the CRA and the resulting management plans (i.e. management plan will include a M&E plan for the forest entity) will provide a basis for impact/ outcome monitoring of management entities. In addition, Forest Management Enterprise would be assessed using a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. Forest monitoring and simple proxies for biodiversity impact would be derived from information collected through the proposed MRV, including community-based patrolling (e.g. collection of information on forest cover/quality change). Baseline forest threat and social data is captured in the CRA (e.g. major biodiversity threats, poverty, forest dependency, forest/land tenure, natural resource access and use).
Environmental monitoring of plantation development	The monitoring of the concern that plantation development may lead to the clearing of natural forests will include monitoring environmental impact mitigation measures in nine areas: site selection, species selection; management regime, plantation establishment; plantation tending; integrated pest control; fire prevention and control; access and harvesting; and M&E.
Monitoring of social safeguards at the program level	Monitoring will ensure that negatively affected households and communities are no worse off as a result of possible restrictions on natural resource use and includes, monitoring of compensation payments and livelihood restoration measures to ensure negative impacts are mitigated and program affected persons are compensated either on a land-for-land basis or cash compensation for loss due to impacts of the program. The DRWG includes a socio-economic and environmental M&E unit to undertake monitoring of the implementation and reporting of the CRA processes. The main responsibilities of the M&E unit will include: 1) overseeing compliance, including supervision and monitoring, of all environment and social aspects; 2) dealing with the subproject/ interventions related to the program safeguards; and 3) have overall responsibility for the coordination of subproject/ intervention environmental and social safeguard implementation. Information related to the safeguard measures and performance would be periodically disclosed to the public.
Monitoring at the Provincial Level	The DRWG a designated safeguards coordinator to whom implementation units would report will collect safeguards-related information. The CRA contribute to the sustainable forest use of the management entities and will include an assessment of their potential impact and risks, and this will feed into the M&E included in the CRA for the management of the effectiveness and help monitor the social impact of the ER-P and REDD+ activities, and record changes that impact on the livelihoods of people living either inside the management entities (or in the buffer zone of the Natural Closed Forests).
Independent Monitoring of the REDD+ Registry	Following the requirements of the Methodological Frame the REDD+ Registry will also include and independent monitoring function.

[19] Adopted from Section 14.2.3 of the ER-P documentation (Table 14-5).

10.3 Safeguard Reporting Requirements:

10.3.1 The types of information that will be included in the SIS include:

- Disaggregate information by gender, ethnic group, and household socio-economic status;
- Involve villagers in designing the monitoring program, collecting data, and drawing conclusions from the data;
- Continue feedback meetings after fieldwork and incorporate recommendations into systems development;
- Biodiversity monitoring will include using the Management Effectiveness Tool;
- Keep disaggregated records of involvement and participation in different activities at village level and in the databases;
- Note successful and unsuccessful strategies for future reference in curriculum development, field implementation, and other project areas; and
- Identify indicators and tools to measure the project's impacts on women, ethnic groups, and the poor.

10.4 Information analysis and interpretation

10.4.1 Monitoring and evaluation will cover both program performance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring. Program performance monitoring will determine the progress in program implementation against established benchmarks and milestones indicated in the program document and work plans. The measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of forest cover and will take information from the provincial forest management system and from the central use of remote sensing imagery. Community forest monitoring is expected to be undertaken through the Village based forest monitoring system which is being introduced in all provinces.

10.5 Information quality control and assurance:

10.5.1 Bottom-up approach by using third party monitoring would ensure that the information collated reflects the reality on the ground. Once submitted to the Site Implementing Unit (Divisional REDD+ Unit) the information submitted from self-monitoring are verified and recorded in the SIS. The Site Implementing Unit reserves the right to seek redress should the quality of the information submitted be questionable. The arrangement outlined in Figure 5 allows all relevant line Ministries to support the Site Implementing Unit and ensure quality control and assurance for all information submitted in the SIS.

10.6 Information dissemination and use:

10.6.1 Community engagement is an on-going process during the implementation of ER-P. Community engagement in this context describes the multitude of ways in which members of the community can interact with the project and be involved in decision-making processes. Engagement is about a relatively sustained and systematic interaction; not a single process or set of activities but an on-going process or conversation that builds trust and relationships that would ensure safeguards policies are implemented and the

objective of ERPA fulfilled. Although there is no right way to conduct an engagement process, the community engagement is based on the following core principles:

a. All communities will be approached in the spirit of constructive collaboration and made aware of the project's purpose and potential benefits to participating communities. It will be made clear at the outset that communities have the option to refuse to participate;
b. All project beneficiaries, regardless of their ethnic group or social status, shall be engaged in a culturally relevant way on the basis of a free, prior, and informed consultation aimed at establishing broad-based and sustainable community support for the project;
c. The community engagement process will take account of ethnic differentiation to ensure that project implementation, including consultations, is inclusive and carried out in the appropriate language(s);
d. Communication throughout the project cycle will use appropriate information, education, and communication materials to respond to issues of language and ethnicity, literacy / illiteracy, gender, and social vulnerability.

11 Consultation – Benefit Sharing Plan

11.1 Summary of Consultation

11.1.1 Development of the BSP draws upon information gathered through consultations at village, district, divisional and national level. At village level, communities within the ER-P area were randomly selected to avoid bias however at divisional level, consultations were held through the REDD+ Divisional Working Groups in the North, West and Central/Eastern Division. For more detailed information on village level stakeholder consultations, please refer to Annex 3.

11.1.2 At national level, while consultation was held on a one-to-one basis with key institutions such as the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Lands and iTaukei Lands Trust Board; wider stakeholder input was secured through targeted focused groups such as the REDD+ Steering Committee.

11.1.3 A special meeting for high level Government official from key Ministries was held to validate assumptions and recommendations of the BSM. Government agencies that were involved in the meeting included Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, iTaukei Lands Trust Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Mineral Resources. Information collated from the special meeting informed the flow of funds as well as processes necessary to support BSM and inform discussion on roles, responsibilities, procedures, and processes concerning establishment of REDD+ Lease and License (Figure 3); flow of benefits to beneficiaries (Figure 4); network of collaboration at national level (Figure 5); implementation of Safeguard Instruments (Figure 6); as well as the monitoring and reporting arrangements (Figure 8).

11.1.4 Consultations was conducted with the REDD+ SC on 20 November 2019 and followed by focused group meeting of the REDD+ Safeguards Technical Working Group on 26 November 2019. The REDD+ SC endorsed the BSP framework. The REDD+ SC recognised the constraint in time and approved the meeting with the REDD+ Safeguard Technical Working Group on 26 November 2019. The REDD+ Safeguard Technical Working Group was tasked to review the detail assumptions the support the recommendation of the benefits sharing plan framework.

11.1.5 The outcome of the REDD+ Safeguard Technical Working Group on 26 November 2019 consolidated the structure of the Benefit Plan as discussed in Section 3 and 4 above as well as to inform the revised BSM as discussed in Section 5 and 6.

11.1.6 The draft BSP was presented to Permanent Secretary Forestry and Senior Staff of the Ministry of Forestry on 02 December 2019. Similar consultations were held on 06 February 2020 and 26 February 2020. Comments and suggestions received have been incorporated into this version of the BSP.

11.1.7 The BSP was also presented to the REDD+ SC for validation on 29 January 2020. The validation workshop reviewed comments from FMT and discussed the distribution of benefits to beneficiaries. The Benefit Sharing Mechanism was also discussed at length considering comments from FMT. Critical decisions made at the workshop informed the review of the BSP to align with all comments received through the review process.

11.1.8 MoF is satisfied with representation of stakeholders in the REDD+ SC and aims to present the Benefits Sharing Plan to Cabinet for approval by April 2020.

12 Communicating Benefit Distribution

12.1 Goals and Objective

12.1.1 The overall goal of the communication plan for BSP is to raise awareness among potential beneficiaries to encourage participation in the ER-P.

12.1.2 The key objectives include (1) enhancing understanding on the different types of beneficiaries; (2) the conditions of participation and benefits to each types of beneficiaries; (3) improve awareness of processes and procedures as well as legal instruments that support the implementation of the ER-P and the BSP to (4) facilitate reporting and exchange of information on best practices among beneficiaries.

12.2 Key Stakeholders

12.2.1 Moving forward, focus group discussion and engagement will focus on stakeholders that will be directly impacted by REDD+ ER-P activities including:

- Government Agencies
  - Cabinet Ministers
  - Relevant agencies such as the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.
- Statutory Bodies
  - iTaukei Lands Trust Board
  - iTaukei Affairs Board
  - National Trust of Fiji
- Communities
  - District Councils in at least 10 of the ER-P focus areas (ref to Annex 4 for list of priority Districts)
  - Informal settlement aligned to the 10 Districts above
- Social/Faith based Women's Groups
  - Soqosoqo Vakamarama and other Ethnic Women's Group
- Youth Group
- Private Sector
  - Sugar Cane Farmers Association
  - Crop & Livestock Farmers

- All Small Holder Farmers outside the sugar sector
- Plantation operators in Fiji
- Logging and Sawmill Operators – Fiji Sawmillers Association

- Academia
  - University of the South Pacific
  - Fiji National University

12.3 Approach

12.3.1 MoF also aims to utilize communication approach via working meetings and focused working group meetings at national level to discuss policies and legislations supporting the BSP. In particular, the **Permanent Secretary Forum on Natural Resources** is an avenue where the MoF aims to share the REDD+ BSP to ensure support and coordination from Ministry of Environment and Water Way, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources as well as the Ministry of Economy.

12.3.2 MoF aims to work with the REDD+ Steering Committee to secure the services of REDD+ Technical Subcommittee/Working Group on Safeguard. The Technical Subcommittee on Safeguard collectively have more than 10,000 hours of experience in applied community projects and are well positioned to guide discussions on details of the BSP. Members of the REDD+ Technical Subcommittee on Safeguard consist of representatives from Government agencies, academia, civil societies, and private sector.

12.3.3 In addition to the above, it is also anticipated that the MoF will (1) produce high quality and consistent information packages about the BSP conditions and benefits; (2) work closely with local media organisations to disseminate the above information and (3) enhance visibility of the options presented in the ER-P.

12.3.4 In alignment with the REDD+ Communications Plan, awareness and outreach will adopt (1) public relations and promotion; (2) improving media relations; (3) improving information and knowledge management; (4) train and build capacity of local stakeholders to support implementation of the BSP at all levels of Governance; (5) improve and strengthen institutional structures and to (6) use appropriate information tools relevant to each stakeholder.

12.3.5 The outreach process will adopt the business as usual through direct liaison and communication to each organisation listed above. At the same time, for iTaukei community consultation, the process will align with the REDD+ Communication Plan (2018) as outlined in Figure 9.

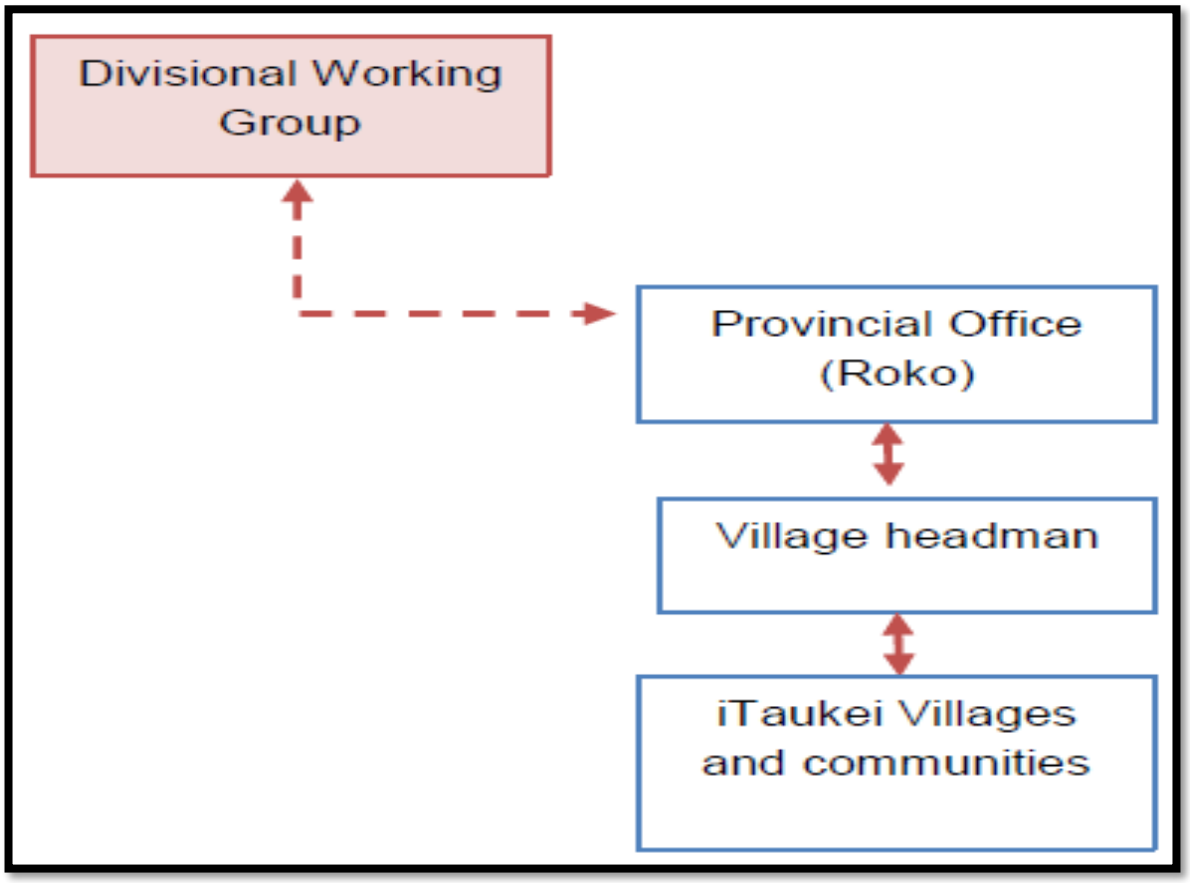
12.4 Key Messages

12.4.1 The essence of the messaging that will be presented for the BSP must strike the interest of key target group to make voluntary commitment to engage in the ER-P activities – not for economic gains but for stewardship, to safeguard the interest of current and future generations by providing an enabling condition to become resilient to climate change in the long run. Such messaging will be linked back to the REDD+ message (outlined in the Communication Strategy) and provide clear pathway that will make REDD+ and ER-P meaningful to making an impact through active participation.

12.4.2 The benefits of the BSP must not be the main driver for engagement but a response to growing concerns of climate change as a global citizen. Emphasis must be placed on the critical message that highlights the linkage between human wellbeing and nature; tied into a response to climate change and we how can collectively make an impact to become more

resilient as individuals within our community in an island nation that is heavily dependent on nature for survival.

12.4.3 Condition of participation and benefits to each types of beneficiaries will be clearly articulated in the vernacular language to ensure complete understanding by all stakeholder and minimise misinformation that will result in false expectations.



Adapted from REDD+ Communication Strategy

Figure 9: Communication Channel for iTaukei Communities.

12.4.4 Processes and procedures for entry for all beneficiaries will also be highlighted as well as the legal instruments that support the implementation of the ER-P and the BSP.

12.4.5 The Program Operations Manual will outline procedural requirements associated with all aspects of ER-P implementation including the responses to non-performers and reporting of the same in the MRV framework.

12.4.6 During implementation of the ER-P, communication platform will provide exchange in information on benefits to beneficiaries, performance under each ER-P activity as well as best practices for each of the REDD+ activities. Such information will be shared among beneficiaries, facilitating capacity building and improved forest resource management.

12.5 Communication Platform

12.5.1 Mode of communication may vary depending on the target group and may include but not limited to web-based, audio/visual/ radio, print and promotional materials (banners/ billboards etc). In addition, documentaries of early wins and successes may also be developed over time as well as interview with beneficiaries. School curriculum and material will be explored to ensure that the program supplements existing curriculum.

12.6 Implementation Strategy

12.6.1 The REDD+ Communication and Awareness Working Group will be responsible for spearheading the BSP Communication Strategy and Implementation. Services of communication experts such a cChange (a local Non-Government Organisation that specialises in messaging and communications) would be critical to make the message compelling.

12.6.2 Consultation will follow the structure outlined in Section 11 where specific sets of target groups at each level of governance are tapped for instance, members of the REDD+ Steering Committee, the Heads of Key Government Agencies to ensure logistical support at Divisional level, the involvement of the Provincial Council, the District Councils, Village Councils and Yaubula Management Support Teams.

12.7 Schedule of Future Communication

12.7.1 Schedule of further communication is outlined in Table 8 where priority focus is on Cabinet endorsement of the BSP, and communication and awareness of BSP at the 20 priority districts listed in the ER-P.

Generally, future communications will take into consideration stakeholders recognised by the MoF and guided by those enlisted in Section 12.2 above. The approach that will be adopted is outlined in Section 12.3 and key messages outlined in Section 12.4 will be relayed through channel of communication outlined in Section 12.5 and aligned to the strategy outlined in Section 12.6.

Table 8: Schedule of Future Communication

Target Group	Schedule of Communication	Rationale
Fiji Cabinet and key Ministers of Fiji Government	April 2020	Ensure endorsement of the BSP at national level
Permanent Secretary Forum for Natural Resources (Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment and Waterways, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources)	April 2020; Regularly thereafter (as per schedule of meetings to become standard Agenda Item).	Heads of Key Government Agencies to ensure logistical support at Divisional level
Priority areas for ER-P (20 Districts, 9 Provincial Council listed in the ER-P. (Annex 4)	Within 6 months of signing ERPA	Ensure that communities at priority District and Provinces understand and buy-into ER-P to register as beneficiaries
All beneficiary groups listed in Table 2 (see Section 3)	Within 6 months of signing ERPA	Ensure buy-in by potential beneficiaries, encourage and secure REDD+ registration
General members of the public guided by communication plan outlined in Section 12	2019-2024	Ensure greater understanding and appreciation of the ER-P and BSP

12.8 Monitoring Impact of Communication

12.8.1 In close collaboration with REDD+ Divisional Unit and the REDD+ Unit, monitoring of uptake and number of entries into the REDD+ Registry will measure the success of this simple Communication Plan. In collaboration with the REDD+ Working Group the entities above are well positions to review the above strategize through adaptive management. It is crucial to be flexible yet consistent with the overall goal of the ER-P and the Benefit Sharing Plan.

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ANNEX 1 – Non-Carbon Benefits

The following Non-carbon Benefits are listed in the ER-P Document (ER-PD). These Non-carbon Benefits shall not form part of the BSP itself (which is limited to Monetary and Non-monetary Benefits only) but are listed in this annex for stakeholder information purposes only.

Non-carbon benefits are benefits gathered from forest, which can be tangible or intangible. Tangible forest resources include wood, leaves, grasses, fruits, medicinal plants, fish, meat from hunting and others. Intangible forest resources include cool fresh air, flowers and pollen from the forest, erosion prevention, nutrient supply, supply of fresh cool water and many others. Forest-dependent communities look towards noncarbon benefits to sustainably improve existing livelihoods. Discussions surrounding non-carbon benefits recognise three categories including social, environmental and governance benefits.

Forest dependent communities consider non-carbon benefits generically related to sustainable improvements of their existing livelihoods. High dependency of remote rural communities in Fiji on forest resources as discussed in SESA and other studies indicate non-carbon benefits to include access to non-timber forest products (including medicinal plants), bee-keeping, the establishment of conservation trusts and ecotourism, which all provide opportunities for wealth creation, enhance communities' food security and facilitate the empowerment of individuals and communities to be self-sufficient and self-reliant.

The significant long-term positive environmental benefits of creating high value conservation forests (HVCFs) must also include continued traditional use of these forest resources by communities and others for collection of construction material (timber for local use), hunting and medicinal plants. Food and shelter are direct benefits, even though at times it is difficult to attach monetary values to them. But all of these non-carbon benefits serve a multitude of users. In the context of ecosystem services, such as watershed protection and reducing erosion from degraded steep slopes, these benefits directly benefit farming communities in the lower reaches of these forested watersheds.

The ER-P recognizes three broad categories of non-carbon benefits - socio economic, environmental and governance as shown in the following Table. Key non-carbon benefits are identified indicating scale of potential impact, and the most immediate beneficiaries anticipated from ER-P interventions. The table also highlights priority non-carbon benefits that will be included in the proposed program monitoring and verification systems. However, the list is non exhaustive and may be added to as the program develops. (Note some interconnectivity between the NCBs and also the safeguard monitoring requirements). The ER-P interventions are likely to yield, directly and indirectly, multiple non-carbon benefits.

Type of Benefit	Future	Investment Modality	Potential Beneficiaries
Socio-Economic NCBs			
Maintaining Sustainable Livelihoods, Culture and Community (Priority NCB)	Forest-dependent users are (i) more aware of their rights and of the policies, legislation and regulations that impact on their livelihoods and (ii) horizontal linking of stakeholders with shared interests (owners/managers/users) of the forests and establishing relationships of trust, reciprocity and exchange; and, (iii) adding to the social capital of local communities by acknowledging their identity, their sense of honor and commitment to belonging to the community.	Development of integrated Land Use Plan using participatory tools such as Participatory Learning and Action tools with special emphasis to women, youth and the vulnerable in society.	All registered Beneficiaries and communities that are linked to the REDD+ ER-P activities (notably women in remote and rural areas, households living in poverty and physically and intellectually vulnerable members of community).
Valuing Forest Resources (Priority NCB)	Forest users (e.g. village women who collect NTFPs on a regular basis) have a good idea as to the value of forest resources but are unable to translate this knowledge into the public domain that other stakeholders accept.	Tools used in Integrated Land Use Plan include socio-economic assessment of local communities. Such inventory may include additional questions to gather perceived value of forest resources to compile total Economic Value of Forest resources in Fiji (from the perspective of forest users)	All stakeholders participating at District level in the ER-P accounting area.
Income Generation and Employment (priority NCB)	(i)Transparent Lease and License issued to beneficiaries (ii) Additional Income Derived from Agroforestry and Climate-Smart Investments in Agriculture.	Integrated Land Use Plan at District level, socio-economic assessment and participatory learning and action tools all contribute to identification of income generation aspirations and needs of participating communities	Community Trust and lessors
Environmental NCBs			
Promotion of Agroforestry and Shade grown cultivation (Climate-Smart Agriculture - Priority NCB)	Introduction of agroforestry and climate smart agriculture including, drought-tolerant crops, reduction of post-harvest losses, reduction in use of toxic insecticides and pesticides and home gardens to enable women to meet some of the household's food security requirements closer to their physical residence than hitherto has been occurring.	Government Program under Ministry of Agriculture and MOF. ER-P activity will also focus on this.	All households in the ER-P accounting area that rely on land-based livelihood activities associated with agriculture and agroforestry. Additionally, female members of households will benefit from reducing time met in providing non-cereal based foodstuffs.

Type of Benefit	Future	Investment Modality	Potential Beneficiaries
Conservation and Protection of Biodiversity (Priority NCB)	Support for the KBAs, IBAs and EBAs helping to manage and preserve Fiji's endemism	Fulfilment of Fiji's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under CBD focal point – Ministry of Waterways and Environment aiming to protect 17% of Fiji's land mass to fulfil Aichi Targets. Conservation Lease under the ER-P activity.	• Lessors • Community Trust
Protection and Maintenance of Ecosystems Services (Priority NCB)	Water shed protection for environmental services aimed at protecting watersheds and water sources.	GEF 5 Ridge to Reef Project focusing on watershed protection and catchment management including restoration of degraded areas.	• Lessors • Small holder farmers • Community Trust
Protection and Proliferation of Medicinal Plants and Curative Practices	Identification of medicinal plants that should be protected and clear linkages established with known and potential curative practices.	MoF – Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest focusing on planting of native species of which many are medicinal plants	All stakeholders participating at District level in the ER-P activities.
Water Regulation and Watershed Management	Contributes to quantity and quality of water and probable contribution to climate change mitigation, especially in degraded watersheds.	ER-P activity focusing on Community Planting – carbon enhancement of degraded areas aimed at rehabilitating watersheds.	• Lessors • Small holder farmers • Community Trust
Governance NCBs			
Strengthening of Village Level Socially Inclusive Governance (Priority NCB)	Involving the YMST in the process will increase capacity building to that existing organization.	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs YMST mobilization plans. ER-P activities.	All stakeholders participating at District level in the ER-P activities.
Forest Governance and Management (Priority NCB)	Contributes to sustainable forest management in ways that are not possible at present and represents a significant improvement	Ministry of Forest – Forest Warden Program linking with Ministry of iTaukei Affairs YMST.	All stakeholders participating at District level in the ER-P accounting area.
Improved Provincial Forest Management Service	Forest-dependent communities are more involved in participatory forest assessments that include data collection and reporting to the Province through the Divisional Working Group.	Ministry of Forest – Forest Warden Program linking with Ministry of iTaukei Affairs YMST and District Advisory Councils under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development (strengthening of existing structures).	All stakeholders participating at District level in the ER-P activities.
Improved Land Tenure Regime (Priority NCB)	Opportunities to (i) improved forest management tenure; and, (ii) contribution to resolution of boundary disputes.	Review and adoption of the Forest Bill 2016 advocating Forest Management Licenses which supports long term land leases associated with long term forest licenses.	All stakeholders participating at District level in the ER-P accounting area.
Participatory Land Use Planning (Priority NCB)	Improved Division and district land use planning because of the involvement in the planning processes of actual land users to contribute to climate-smart agriculture.	TLTB Master Plan ER-P activity	All stakeholders participating at District level in the ER-P accounting area

ANNEX 2 – Membership of Key Decision-Making Bodies for REDD+ Benefit Sharing Plan

FORESTRY BOARD

Source: Forest Decree 1992 s. 4

Forestry Board, for the purpose of advising the Minister on matters relating to forestry policy.

The Board shall be composed of the following members:

(a) the Conservator of Forests who shall be chairman;

(b) the Permanent Secretary of Primary Industries or his representative;

(c) the Director of Town and Country Planning or his representative;

(d) seven other persons appointed by the Minister of whom:

(i) one shall represent the Native Land Trust Board;

(ii) one shall be a member of the Land Conservation Board;

(iii) being persons not holding any State Office of emolument, shall represent land owners, forest owners, forest users, forest industry and the public interest.

REDD+ Steering Committee (REDD+SC)

Source Forest Decree s. 5

The Forestry Board may appoint Forestry Committees for specific matters relating to forestry. The function of a Forestry Committee shall be to advise the Forestry Board on the matter for which the Committee is appointed. Members of a Forestry Committee shall be chosen on the basis of their expertise in the matter for which the committee is appointed. The Terms of Reference for the REDD+ SC can be found here.

The REDD+ Steering Committee is a multi-stakeholder committee comprising of key stakeholders. The key stakeholders are:

1. The Forestry Department
2. The Department of Environment
3. The Department of Agriculture
4. Native Land Trust Board
5. Private sector (industry)
6. Fiji Pine Limited
7. Resource owner representative
8. Ministry of Regional Development
9. Ministry of Indigenous Affairs (I-Taukei Affairs)
10. Conservation International
11. Live and Learn
12. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
13. University of the South Pacific (USP)
14. German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ

REDD+ Divisional Working Group

At the three Divisional Level (North, West and Central Eastern) the REDD+ Divisional Working Group consist of the following membership:

1.Commissioner of the Division (North/West or Central Easter)

2. Head of Division of the following organisations:

1) Ministry of Forestry
2) Ministry of Agriculture
3) Ministry of Lands
4) Department of Town and Country Planning
5) Ministry of Environment
6) Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
7) Roko Tui (Provincial Representative)
8) Non-Government organisations operating in the Division (for instance, Western Division – Conservation International, Norther Division – World Conservation Society, Central Eastern – World Wild Fund for Nature)

ANNEX 3 – Summary of consultations

Stakeholder Consultation Summary Table

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
4th Feb, 2020	• Solo Nata Deputy General Manager	i'TLTB	• TLTB system is only used to distribute lease related money and royalties accrued from the use of natural resources. • The system can only distribute benefits to registered landowners as defined under the iTaukei Land Trust Act.
6th Feb, 2020	• Shiri Gounder • Legal Advisor (did not capture the name)	Ministry for Economy	• Consultation with the Ministry for Economy focus on the clarification regarding the need to establish a National REDD+ Trust Fund to house the REDD+ benefits before they are distributed to the identified beneficiaries. • According the Ministry for Economy, Trust Fund is good but will need a stronger legal framework to operate under and need clear guideline to guide the management and distribution of the fund. It will also demand good reports to be submitted when appropriate. • Ministry for Economy suggest instead that we stick with the general consolidation fund mechanism that is currently used by the REDD+ unit to access FCPF funds. One important requirement will be raise the funds needed through the annual budgetary program as well as the need to prepare timely Request to Incur Expenditure (RIE) when the payment time is due.
12 Feb 2020	1. Director Land Bank 2. Susana Tuisese - CI	MoLAnds	• Land Bank has an estimated 30 lease application in the pipeline that can be considered under the ERP • Confirm that indigenous landowners in rural areas are keen to develop their land under leading arrangements • LandBank is prepared to assist the MoF to undertake scoping and awareness raising for ERP activities in order to gather consensus to issue land leases under REDD+
29th Jan, 2020	1. Sereima Koli (Ministry of Land &Mineral Resources), 2. Adi Finau Tabakaucoro (Soqosoqo Vakamarama), 3. Nunia Thomas Moko (Nature Fiji/Mareqeti Viti) 4. Venina Moce (Ministry of i'Taukei Affairs) 5. Saiasi Buluta Nau (iTaukei Affairs Board) 6. Josefa Navuku (Ministry of Rural &Maritime Development) 7. Maika Tabukovu (Fiji National University)	Peninsula Hotel	The discourse focuses on the existing BSM that are currently used and specifically weighing the pros and cons and have a common agreement on the best system that Fiji can use: • TLTB lease and royalty distribution system has a long historical record and the recent amendment to distribute equally to all the registered members is demanding the establishment of individual banking details for the sharing of benefits. The limitation though, as mentioned by Peni Qalo of TLTB is that according to law, the TLTB system only distribute benefits to registered i'Taukei landowners and cannot be used to distribute benefits to other beneficiaries. As well as a 10% levy is instituted by TLTB for administrative and management cost. • On the option to use the Ministry of Rural & Maritime framework for the distribution of non-monetary benefits such as community development fund, Mr Josefa Navuku mentioned that

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
	8. Oliver Sohew (GIZ) 9. Teresa Reibel – SPC/GIZ Regional Forestry Project 10. Peni Qalo – iTaukei Land Trust Board 11. Ilaisa Tulele – REDD+ Unit 12. Semi Dranibaka – Ministry of Forestry 13. Reama Naco – REDD+ Unit 14. Vakavotu Korosaya – REDD+Unit 15. Marika Tuiwawa (University of the South Pacific) 16. Maika Daveta (FAO-AAD) 17. David Hunt – CI-US 18. Kalesi Nadalo – CI-Fiji 19. Eliki Senivasa – CI-Fiji 20. Susana Waqainabete-Tuisese – CI-Fiji		this mechanism has been abolished and are no longer active, so the request that other active mechanism be explored to handle such distribution. • The general agreement from the forum was to use the suggested hybrid system but to have the Ministry of Forestry as the central distribution hub to the other beneficiaries, and to be guided through the National REDD+ SC and approved through the Forestry Board. This will be a more flexible arrangement that can potential distribute both monetary and non-monetary benefits to all the diverse beneficiaries via; land owning community, non-land owning but forest users, private sectors, farmers, and others.
20 Nov 2019	1. Ms. Semi Dranibaka Ministry of Forestry (Executive Director Research & Development) 2. Mr. Mohammed Azad Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources (Scientific Officer) 3. Ms. Menuka Anandani Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources (Scientific Officer) 4. Mr. Vinesh Kumar World Wide Fund for Nature Fiji (GSR – PCSO) 5. Ms. Tui Marseu World Wide Fund for Nature Fiji (Communications Coordinator) 6. 6. Ms. Lanieta Tokalauvere LLEE (Project Manager) 7. Mr. Oliver Schlew GIZ (Project Director – REDD+ 2) 8. Ms. Deborah Sue Ministry of Forestry (Director - FRAC) 9. Mr. Marika Tuiwawa IAS/USP (Curator) 10. Mr. Livai Tubuitamana Conservation International (Technical Assistant) 11. Mr. Ilaitia Leitabu Emalu Trust (Landowner Rep) 12. Mr. Sele Tagivuni GTM - FJ (Co- Founder / Co - Director) 13. Mr. Maika Tabukovu FNU (Lecturer) 14. Ms. Arieta Tupou Ministry of Forestry (A/FO) 15. Mr. Waisale Ramoce Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (Director Development Services)		**<u>Performance Buffer Contingency Fund</u>** Where will the Performance Buffer contingency fund be housed? RS: Mr Marika Tuiwawa from USP suggested that the contingency fund to be housed with ITLTB, however, Mr Solo Nata suggested that it should remain with Ministry of Forestry because they would be responsible for monitoring and reporting if some unexpected things happen. One suggestion came up if the FDB could house the fund. The concerned there if the money is pushed to Fiji Development Bank, perhaps the Ministry of Economy would not allow the 100% or the 5% total buffer to be pushed to them but would like to retain some. That rate of the retainment cost or fee was what we did not know or what policy of the government was derived from. Mr Sele Tagivuni suggested that the fund to be kept with the iTaukei Trust Fund Board, however, the board was for iTaukei people only, thus cannot be housed with them since this contingency fund was inclusive of all races and everyone whether it was a state land, private land or itaukei land. Adi Finau suggested that despite the concern raised for Ministry of Economy, the decision should stay with the recommendation that the fund goes to Fiji Development Bank and see how government would respond to that. Mrs Susana Tuisese then again reminded the Steering Committee that this was the first draft, which still needs to be discussed widely with relevant government departments to see how and what they thought about it. This would be discussed with the Ministry of Economy. **<u>Allocations Between Beneficiary Groups</u>** According to Adi Finau, this was a reasonable logical way to deal with the allocations to beneficiary groups. Mr Marika asked where would SFM fit, with response from Mrs Tuisese saying that all leases were included such as SFM lease, carbon enhancement lease, hence everything must be leased irrespective of the activity. Mr Marika further asked there were 4 categories of benefits, what were the plans for systems that were on degraded areas where they have these large plantations, whom intending instead of using clear cutting, they would some sort of SFM approach, it's very different but needed to be consider that they are preserving some carbon

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
	16. Ms. Jeanette S Mani Ministry of Economy (Mitigation Specialist) 17. Mr. Jalesi Mateboto SPC - LRD (Forester) 18. Mr. Eliki Senivasa Conservation International (Forester) 19. Ms. Natasha Nelms World Wide Fund for Nature Fiji (Communication Intern) 20. Mr. Timoci Sukulu Ministry of Forests – REDD+ Unit (Database Officer) 21. Ms. Adi Finau Tabakaucoro SSVM 22. 22. Mr. Ilai Tulele Ministry of Forestry – REDD+ Unit (Program Team Leader) 23. Ms. Reama Naco Ministry of Forestry – REDD+ Unit (Communication Specialist) 24. Ms. Susana Tuisese Conservation International (Director) 25. Mr. Solomoni Nata iTLTB 2 26. Mr. Josaia Nayacakalou Ministry of Forestry – REDD+ Unit (Executive Officer) 27. Ms. Vakavotu Korosaya Ministry of Forestry – REDD+ Unit (Project Officer)		stocks. Then later tried to improve on the stock that they currently have to increase carbon enhancement. Mrs Tuisese response to this question using the components which were; Sustainable Forest Management and Carbon Enhancement / plantations. When the ERPD was developed, there were a lot of queries from the World Bank on the plantation whether it was private plantations or public plantations, and they responded that it was private plantations because it has been privatized by government. On the definition of being private and given the fact that they were already benefiting, or profit making from their operations, there was discussion during the BSM Development to specifically put them out of the beneficiary but involved their people in the community-based benefit. So with the plantations, we were not going to share benefit to Fiji Pine or Fiji Hardwood but we were going to look after the people or communities that have leased land to Fiji Pine and Fiji Hardwood, because of the thoughts that these 2 were already benefiting because of their economic activity, but it's the people and the communities that need to be incentivised to give up their land for lease. **Eligibility for Benefits – REDD+ LEASE** Mr Solo Nata from ITLTB pointed out that on the variation clause, there was a lot flexibility of the whole process especially on the benefit sharing allocations would be determined on the initial discussion, on what percentages was for monetary and percentages for non-monetary, even percentages on priorities like upgrading of boreholes, sanitations, type of houses, these were some of the things that would be discussed on the initial consultation. Once these were clear, then would be written down as part of the lease and also transferred to be also part of the licence. When the benefit arrived, it was clear where to divert funds according to such payments. **Eligibility for Benefits – REDD+ LICENCE** Mr Solo Nata again enlightened that this was something to be discussed with the Ministry of Forestry, when interested people lodged their application, would they lodged it with ITLTB or Lands, and once they received the lodgement, ITLTB would write a letter to Forestry on REDD+ assessment, and then application would proceed because there was no point of giving REDD+ licence without giving REDD+ leases. In order to obtain REDD+ licence and lease, one need to have a management plan, but without it the application would be deemed incomplete or questionable. This was because all the activities that would be monitored and reported against the forest reference level. Suggestions have been made to Forestry to draw clear guidelines on processes to be followed, formulation of management plan templates, community trust deed templates, lease templates because once the works started, many people would be coming in for participation. **Eligibility Criteria** Under REDD+ villages / Communities from the graph, it could be further simplified to settlement, group of farmers coming together, group of people who wanted to have their own trust fund. **Conditionality of Benefits** Mrs Tuisese asked if a premium could be waived for REDD+ Leases. Mr Solo Nata response that they could be flexible, they have special benefits for the landowners like paying their rent for the first 4 years with the anticipation that they would benefit from the result-based payment with no

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
			expectation of refunds. The premium could be agreed, the rent also could be agreed, but why waive the premium since TLTB would be payment for the first 4 years. **<u>Delivery of Benefits and Flow of Funds</u>** Adi Finau suggested that school renovations, house renovations, church renovations should be included, together with scholarships, or in other words benefits that could contribute to good behaviour that could ensure Emissions reduction of carbon from the activities. This was supported by Mr Maika, Lecturer from the Fiji National University, since we would be holding their land for carbon offset, and these were some things that REDD+ could do as alternative for keeping their trees standing instead of cutting trees down. Mr Ilaitia from Emalu pointed out that sustainable income generating projects would be the best option for communities, as their alternative livelihoods. **<u>Institutions Responsible for Delivering Benefit</u>** Adi Finau then again asked the reason for only referring to kava and vanilla to be planted under the shade, but not dalo or cassava. In her response, Mrs Tuisese mentioned that kava and vanilla were specific commodities that enable and support the existence of the forest cover. Therefore, dalo did not grow well in shades and would need sunlight, these made dalo as a contributor to deforestation, but for kava and vanilla, these could be complementary to having the forest standing. When asked about the masi, Mrs Tuisese again responded that masi was too small to be recorded as a carbon sequester. As for the four agencies of delivering benefits, Mr Tuiwawa suggested that this type of works would be more into research and development agencies who could come up with innovative ideas, in this case, it could be SPC, USP, FNU. However, according to Mrs Tuisese, they did not have any say on this because these were beneficiaries. This was the mechanism where you have the money coming in and then fund would be shared to the beneficiaries, by these four agencies mentioned in here. These would be the key ministries that were responsible for all the development at rural levels.
Community Consultations			
07/11/2019	**Vatubalavu villagers:** Jone Rokovesa, Semi Neicula, **Nukuilau villagers:** Saiasi Baleca, Epeli Nayacalevu, Semisi Jone, **Provincial Office:** Semi Kuru (Rokotui), Tomasi Canuwale (Assistant Rokotui), **REDD+ Unit:** Viliame Rabici, **Nabuyanitu villagers:** Seveci Lumelume, Kesaia Mumukawa, Venaisi Vodo, **Namoli villagers:** Lanieta Tuicolo, Moape Ratu, Jiove Seavula, **Korolevu villagers:** Mereseini Tamuse, Manaini Livia, Siteri Dreka, Daiana Baravi, Kinisimere Nadresu, Eminoni Tabaucu, Josefa Mataitoka, Senitivau Doidoi,	Korolevu village, Noikoro District, Nadrogo-Navosa Province	The purpose of the consultation was to pilot the REDD+ awareness on the range of instruments and mechanisms that Fiji will adopt to help guide future REDD+ activities that will be implemented under the Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement. A lot of questions were raised from the awareness in the ten districts visited, which is indicative of the level of interests and the general appreciation of REDD+ program within the local communities. Major issues raised are itemized below and followed with the intervention discussed. a. A few members of the communities have gone through the REDD+ Training of Trainers program with expectation to be involved in the large scale national REDD+ awareness program in the near future. Participants were curious to learn the time scale to expect

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
	Nakoro villagers: Masilina Reavi, Kinisimere Diligo, **Wema villagers:** Meli Libu, Sitiveni Nadigiwai,		the REDD+ awareness since two years has passed since the training of trainers workshop. **Discussion:** It was clarified that this particular awareness is not associated with the REDD+ Training of Trainers but focuses on gathering issues and information related to public perception of REDD+ ER-P as associated issues such as general understanding of REDD+, Feedback Redres Mechanism, Benefit Sharing Plan. The findings from this pilot work will be used to develop and contribute to these critical issues and consolidate material for the upcoming national awareness work that will involve more trainers as well as agencies that are working with the community. b. *Spathodea campanulata* commonly called Pasi in the iTaukei language, is one of the big problem for the farmers in Ra, so the question of what is the government plan for the eradicate of the African tulip that are crowding the prime agriculture land. This issue was raised in three different district in Ra. **Discussion:** This is a very common concern not only to small holder farmers but also on the overall management of forest degradation and risk of loss to biodiversity in native forests. There is still no concrete solution to this problem and the best intervention at this stage to carry out localised eradication, which is very successfully done by the Asian farmers in Naitasiri. c. "We are hearing about the use of the forests for the carbon work, but how about the people that have no forest like some of us in Emalu and Navosa with only rolling grassland. Will there be any opportunity for us to participate in the REDD+ activities and gain something also through the carbon money"? **Discussion** One of the activity in the ERPD as mentioned already is the carbon enhahncement or basically tree planting (reforestation and afforestation). This is where land owning units can be engaged by freeing their land to be leased and used for tree planting by themselves or by other parties who are willing to work with the land owners. d. Participants in Namosi raised that MoForestry is now saying that logging is not good, but loggers were given the license by government in the first place to logged native forests in Namosi. They pointed to the traditional method of doing small scale logging, cutting two or three trees per cycle and using bullocks to pull the log which have been going on with limited impact, but government give the logging license for company to cut logs leaving the forest in a very bad state and now under REDD+ they understand that we should reduce deforestation. The participants felt as if the policies are are taking them in circles where they felt they are at the beginning of the cycle.
31/10/2019	**Veivatuloa villagers:** Leone Nairuwai, Kelota Sivivatu, **Nakavu villagers:** Vasemaca Moceyawa, Jone Tomasi, Iosefa Butukaucena, Mitieli Moceyawa, Taniela Rakauraku, Peoni Tuivuaka, Josefa Corikula, Jone Kasi, Peni Tavoti, Senimili Romala, Mereoni Ketewai, Peni Ketewai, Meli Nabau, Aisake Mila, Iosefa Butuka, Toma Naicumu, Apenisa Naiyala, Esava Duasava, Emasi Sokosoko, Matia Vere, Filipe Yacabeki, Karalo Euka, **Ministry of Forestry:** Joeli Ledua, Mela Katonivualiku, Reama Naco, Josaia Nayacakalou, Leone Batigai,	Nakavu village, Veivatuloa District, Namosi Province	
30/10/2019	**Navai villagers:** Taniela Vueti, Eroni Saunimagodro, Sailosi Tamanivola, Sikeli Nanuma, Manasa D, Tomasi T, Seini Waidua, Karalaini Vakadrasiga, Susana Volau, Tomasi Nabogi, Qiokata Naseu, Bula Tamanivalu, Makereta Laulau, Jone Draunilubu, Mere Tulebe, Ulamila Rateri, Inoke Rateri, Taniela Vueti, **Rewasau villagers:** Tomasi Navunisaulaki, Samuela Bulivakarua, Rt Meli Namaravulevu #1, Epeli Ceguvia, Inosi Ratoto, Rt Meli Namaravulevu #2	Navai village, Naboubuco District, Naitasiri Province	
29/10/2019	**Waikubukubu villager:** Akuila Waqawai, **Naiyaca villager:** Iliavi Masori, **Lewa villagers:** Apisai Kurucivi, Lanieta Ranavono, Merewalesi Nai, **Koro villagers:** Apolosi Goneva, Simione Namara, Eroni Tabudali, **Nadala villagers**: Jale Deinalagi, Kalivati Wainibuli, Penisoni Kubu, Timoci Ratu, Peni Bukete, Penisoni Rawasoi, Seruwaia Waqalevu, Hendy Jone, Siteri Nukuma, Malakai Kalidredre, Iliesa Tuituba,	Nadala village, Savatu District, Ba Province	
25/10/2019	**Narara villagers:** Amena Bolatawana (District Rep), Josaia Leqa, Lemeki Soso, Lusiana Sabua, Siliva Bobula, Siliva Nabeca, **Provincial Office:** Anaseini Ravesi,	Narara Village, Naroko District, Ra Province	
25/10/2019	**Nanukuloa villagers**: Inoke Cumu, Apakuki Pita Toga (District Rep), **Provincial Office:** Anaseini Ravesi, **Tokiyo villager:** Naresia Lui, **Rokoroko villagers**: Laisenia Ravudi, Elenoa Vakarewa, Latidreketi Varanisese, Alumita Ravodre, Maria Manaini, Petero Koro, Talica	Rokoroko village, Saivou District, Ra Province	

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
	Waqanivanua, Litia Naivila, Laisenia Waqanivanua , Apisalome Ratu, Sailosi Bawaqa,Elenoa Lainivou, Rose Batinavanua, Vilimone Ratu,		**Discussion: Noting the change in policy priorities over time, emphasis have been placed on** economic development as well as improvement of livelihoods for the people through the extraction and processing of timber and non timber products for export and local markets. However, the issue of sustainability and climate change is now critical and the protection of forests is critical to mitigate cliamte change hence the shift in emphasis to forest restoration, afforestation, sustainable production, agroforestry and conservation.
24/10/2019	**Nailuva villagers:** Suli Naisoqo, Lemeki Tokadua, Makarita Adilagi, Sokovata Leqa, Mosese Nabaleca, Jona M, Sikeli K, Atekini Acareva, Mosese Savou, Ramedre Naboro, Eminoni Nakaumica, Alena Luse, Ana Tokadua, Levi Nakau, **Nararavou villagers:** Eleni Cakidrau, **Naqelecibi villagers:** Petero Leusa,	Nailuva village, Nailuva District, Ra Province	e. Communities have been planting food gardens at the same spot that fore-fathers used in the past and hardly move deep into the forests. Fire is not a big issue due to the moisture content in the forest litter. In addition, the fact also that yaqona is not growing well in our land like in other parts of Fiji is probably the reason that kept our forests pretty intact.
24/10/2019	**Nubumakita villagers:** Samuela Seru, Apisalome Koli, Peni Cula, Jemesa Raiqua, Moape Naquru, Samu Batidreu, Simione Kuila, Ulaiyasi Turaga, Netani Qiria, Samu Niusalia, Taraivini Tinai, Lelea Koronawa, Josua Natadra, Pite Kuila, Peni Ramanulevu, Koini Marama, Adi Menani, Litea Nadualada, Ilaisa Waqavulagi, Samisoni Natua, Alivina Cakau, Senimili Likutokalau, Peni Nasokia, Ema Naqele, **Ovalau villagers**: Iqenasia Roqouca, Paula Tunaserau, Kameli Kotobalavu, Eparama Qelo, **Nukulau villagers**: Meli Tokalai(District Rep), Sakiusa Bulisuva, Epeli Serau, Pita Semesa, Rupeni Senigolea, Seru Peceli, **Togavere villagers:** Peni Culia, Peni Tikoitovu, Samisoni Nakuila,	Nubumakita village, Nasau District, Ra Province	**Discussion: F**ire is not so much an issue in the south eastern part of Vit Levu but more common in the drier side and some island systems where precipitation is low. REDD+ ER-P includes SFM logging. Agroforestry, afforestation/reforestation as well as forest conservation. Engagement with any of these activities especially agroforestry model will integrate new technologies and traditional farming methods in addition to long term forest conservation.
23/10/2019	**Nailawa villagers:** Penioni Tuinakelo, Livai Tegunimataka, Peni Ravoka, Tevita Rokoniu, Osea Ligavai, Laisenia Qarase, Milika Sevutirau, Marisilina Veisa, Niumaia Nabakeke, Viliame Masau, Jone Vata, Waisea Natama, Levi Ratu **Mataveikai villagers:** Isei Manu, Tevita Yado, Mosese Waqa, Sesoni Simione, **Namosi Villager**: Koleta Sivivatu,	Nailawa village, Tokaimalo District, Ra Province	f. The Nakavu Forestry Research for SFM indicates the value of the sustainable logging practice in the model plot that was established in 1990 by Forestry but why is this not enforced in other logging sites around Fiji? **Discussion:** The lesson from Nakavu is now appearing in the Forestry Policy and in the Forestry Bill and is currently being enforced though a lot of training, awareness and enpowerment. It is now adopted in the ER-P where more training and practical application will be advocated for wide spread adoption and application. There is strong political pushback from the private sector hence to make this more attractive to the private sector the REDD+ ER-P is advocating long term leases for SFM and the issue of REDD+ licensing arrangement with MoForestry to create the enabling environment for private sector engagement. Leases may be issued by TLTB or MoLands as well as Land Bank.
01/10/2019	**Saniveiuto villagers:** Seveci Batirerega, Atunaisa Vitata, Kinijoji Tubucake, Talica Ratulevu, Koroi T, **Provincial Office:** Emori Tokalau, Elenoa Rauca, **Deuba villagers:** Sakiusa Gasaucala, Iosefa Cakaunisiga, A Dikedike, Disiola Milika, Salote Tagiyawa, Varanisese Sakoto, Valami Roluve, Mere Vakatalai, Ratu Meli Lewaqaliso,	Saniveiuto village, Deuba District, Serua Province	g. We have heard a lot of the REDD+ and what it will do to our people but we have not heard any good thing happening to the people of Emalu after so many years now, can you tell us what are the new things and good things that the people of Emalu have gain to date? When will these benefits flow down to the local people? h. Why was the lease in Emalu taken by government instead of the mataqali, as this looks suspicious to gain control, manipulate and deprive the people of potential benefits **Discussion:** Emalu has been given a 99 year lease as a REDD+ Pilot site by Government. The undertaking through the TLTB is to transfer ownership of lease to land owners

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
			once the carbon benefits starts to flow to the community on the understanding that they will be in a better position to cover their own lease and other land related costs. It is therefore anticipated that the REDD+ lease will be transferred from MoForestry to the people of Emalu once this ERPA is finalised. i. Villagers from Nakoro village are planting yaqona in the Emalu forests and are finding a lot of economic benefits from it, and now we are hearing that we must stop this clear felling practice which will affect our production so what are the alternative crops that government will provide to help meet our daily needs and to replace yaqona? j. In Nailuva our farmers are moving in to the forests and clearfell trees to plant our yaqona and this have been practiced for generations and now that you are telling us that this must stop, but you need to tell us the better way to plant yaqona without removing the trees. k. We understand this drive to conserve and replant forests and to reduce the cutting down of the trees but the Ministry of Agriculture is directly encouraging us to cut down the trees in order that we can expand our farm productions, and so we are hearing conflicting views from the two different government ministries. You really need to put your house in order before you can suggest changes from our farming practices. **Discussion:** Climate smart agriculture is a strategy that will be implemented and this will involve the change of practices from clear felling for mono cropping to agro-forestry practices as well as diversification where farmers integrate a range of commodity like dalo, yaqon, vanilla and Yasi so that farmers have short term, medium term and long term commdities in a whole farm management system. Vanilla pods attract a higher market value than Yaqona/kava. In collaboration with MoAgriculture, promotion of vanilla as an alternative to Yaqona/kava cultivation will be prioritised. l. We have given some of our land for the one million tree planting initiatives when the Minister visited us early this year and now this REDD+ Awareness work indicated that we can participate in the National REDD+ project from 2020? Is it possible to also include our current commitment in tree planting into the REDD+ project for future benefits also? **Discussion:** All areas that wants to be considered under the REDD+ program will need to be leased through TLTB and licensed as REDD+ site through the Ministry of Forestry. Therefore this given land will have to follow this process if it has to be included and registered under the National REDD+ ERPD program. m. Who is going to lease the land for the REDD+ work? Is it going to be leased by government similar to the leasing of Emalu? If the district entity is going to lease, it may cause friction within so it may be best that landowners lease their land and if it is

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
			n. the case, will government pay for the lease establishment costs such as survey costs, goodwill etc.? **Discussion:** Your concern is noted and appreciated indeed. The current thinking is that community will work together to lease the land that will be used for the REDD+ work. However who will holds the lease will be the prerogative of the local community to decide upon. In terms of the survey costs and goodwill, iTLTB is in the position to support all land owning communities who wants to lease their land and be engaged under the REDD+ program with very low to no costs to land owners in the first few years until they receive carbon benefits that can support them in meeting the land lease expenses. o. Our development aspiration is to embark into housing scheme to provide houses for our young families and so the plan is to cut amd harvest timber from our forests and the forestry plan to conserve the forests and reduce timber harvesting, so the question is that will it be possible to still cut logs and mill in the REDD+ sites? **Discussion:** Yes it is posibble to harvest in a REDD+ site and this will follow the model that was used in Nakavu Forestry Reseach Plot which is called the sustainable logging model that use diameter limits and the removal percent will only allow the removal of less than 40% of the standing volume. Refer to (f) above. p. What is the current cost of carbon in the world market? **Discussion: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility** use US$5.00 per ton of carbon equivalent. **This is the market that Fiji will enter via REDD+.** q. If the forest land is leased out, what are the benefits that will be still allowed for the traditional owners, will it be allowed for fishing, hunting and food harvesting or is it a complete lock down? **Discussion:** The REDD+ lease will have conditions that will set the boundary on the rights to the use of the resources, however no net loss in carbon is a fundamental requirement that must be assured as stipulated under the main Carbon fund principle. An example of such lease is the Conservation Lease which allows extraction and use of natural resources for traditional purposes by local communities. r. We have a forest land but there is no road to the forestland, if we are engaged in the REDD+ activities, can the Government cut the road into the forest so that we can reach our forest land? s. If we give our forests for carbon work, will government calculate the carbon value so that we can have the basic information for potential investors that may be interested in our forests?

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			Discussion: There are certain development role that government is mandated to do such as road, but this will have to go through the normally provincial development and regional development screening and prioritization process. In terms of carbon information, this is the role of the Ministry of Forests is mandated to given information upon request under the current forest assessment process. However, once you are registered beneficiary through securing REDD+ Lease and REDD+ License, your land and ER values are under the ERPA from 2020-2024 and will not be allowed to secure additional investors outside of the MoF agreed arrangement. t. How will the carbon benefits be distributed to the different stakeholders who take part in the REDD+? **Discussion:** The proposed benefit sharing plan for Fiji is to use a hybrid approach that will make use of the existing system. Similar to Forest Harvesting Procedures, the REDD+ Lease and REDD+ License are requirements for registration of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are categoried into 5 main groups, including the communities that support landowners, private sector involved wit SFM and plantation establishment; small holder farmers; NGO & statutory bodies responsible for Forest Conservation as well as the Provincial Council. The propotion of distribution is currently being finalised. Carbon payments will flow through the Ministry of Economy who will be advised by the MoForestry on the beneficiaries and will that are currently in use that will include TLTB system if fund flows down to registered land owning units, of the the Department of Lands system if fund is flowing to lease holders under the Land Bank registry. The biggest chunk of benefits will be managed under the Ministry of Forestry system to be distributed both as monetary and non monetary to beneficiaries in the community, to lease holders, farmers who registered under the national REDD+ program. More information on the benefit sharing plan will be widely disseminated
Date	**Stakeholder/Participants**	**Venue**	**Resolutions**
8/10/2020	**Nailuva village:** Ramedre Nasedra, Semi Madra, **Rokoroko village:** Sailasa Varani, Jotame Koro, Tagi Veremalua, Panapasa Bulikula, Benito L, Deilako L, Alumita Ravodre, UnaisI lala, Sikoa V, Sailosi B, Talica K, Maria M, Teresa Sulueti, Elenoa Lomavou, Litia Nasova, Ema D, Eparama N, Eleni R, Elena Ratu, Semi Marovia, Salanieta Ratu, Latidreketi Varanisese, **Nanukuloa village:** Varanava Nakodra, Pita Toga, Noa Loganicola, Inoke Cama, **Naiserelagi village:** Sailosi Matea, **Narara village:** Nemia L **Vatukacevaceva:** Saqa Manaivalu, **Rewasa village:** Etika Nadore, **Nayaulevu village:** Merevusoni A, Maina Nakasa, Amani T, **Navuniyaumunu village:** Vilimoni D,	Naroko (Saivou combine District) • 10 villages • 43 ppl (18 women: 25 men)	• Saivou district agree and support the formation of the District Trust Fund. The resolution will be to explore the development of the Trust Fund as a vehicle to facilitate the flow in and distribution of the carbon fund and non-monetary benefits. • The community agree that the best way forward is to consult the traditional leaders for the formulation of the district (community) trust, made up of credible individuals who have the interest of the community members at heart, being mindful of the lessons learned from past community experiences. • The Saivou combined district agree that one of the key targets for the ERPD work is to secure and formally protect the Nakauvadra range

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
	Barotu village: Apisai T, **Forestry:** Abarama Qio,Akesa Ravia, **CI:** Sera Nagusuca, Nemani Vuniwaqa, Eliki Senivasa		which is the connecting mountain ranges that has not been legally protected as one of the low hanging fruit to consider. •
10/10/2020	**Navai village:** Sailasa T, Kelevi Nima, Makereta Tuitoga, Senimili Naniu, Katarina Tinai, Senaqele T, Eroni S, Qiokata N, Semisi Samusamuvodre, Sale Q, Esava Cimo, Simi T, Tomasi N, Maria B, Senimili T, Sera S, **Nasoqo village:** Cagina N, Ananaiasa N, Vasikali Inosi, Erofina Nasaro, Selositino T, Sakiusa D, Tisevi N, Jope D, Jope Mati, Sefanaia N, Naqumi R, **Naqelewai village:** Elina Mawi, Amoni Cobole, **Rewasau village:** Jone Vakacegu Ratu Manasa A, Manueli N (TKR), **Nasiriti village:** Sereseini N, A Mate, **Forestry Dept:** Akesa Bavia, Abarama Qio, **CI:** Eliki Senivasa, Nemani Vuniwaqa and Sera Nagusuca,	Navai (Naboubuco District) • 5 villages • 39 ppl (11 women:28 man)	• One of the key resolutions from the district is to support forest protection as their priority activity under the ERP program since most of their forests are well known key biodiversity areas for protection. • A resolution from the district is to allow the leasing of land by the landowning unit on behalf of the Community (district) Trust where ER activities can be implemented. • On the distribution channel, the community agree that the trust once established is an important channel that can be used to channel the carbon benefits to the community, the villages and landowning units, but with support and close monitoring from the provincial, district and divisional working committee. • To alleviate the fear on the displacement of farmers from agriculture and food production, the community strongly agree with the resolution to undertake land use planning that will clearly demarcate the important areas for agriculture/food production from other public needs. • The fear of losing control in the use of their resources for livelihood and even commercial logging was highlighted. This was later resolved from the enlightenment given regarding the strict safeguard requirements, as well as on sustainable logging management is part of the key activity was agreed by the community as the best resolution.
25/10/2020	**Talenaua village:** Makarita Mate, Sala Ladeisuva, Temesia T, Silivenusi D, Jokimi Danford, **Vunaniu village:** Arieta Daumeke, Vasemaca Ratu, Aminisitai Nagere, **Korovisilou village:** Samuela B, Miriama Naqou, Sailosi T, Sisario V, Arieta Liku, Nasoni T, Josateki N, Josese L, Semisi W, Ilaitia N, Sitiveni S, **Navutulevu village:** Nimilote Ratudina, Setariki V, Veresa Ratulevu, Teresa D, Jonasa T,	Korovisilou (Serua District) • 8 villages • 43 people (12 female:31 male)	• One issue raised is credibility of the community trust at district/village level to fairly distribute carbon benefits to all the beneficiaries. The resolution reach in the community is to ensure that the procedures use to nominate the trustees must ensure that fair representations of the various interest groups are considered and put in place from the start.

DATE	STAKEHOLDERS/PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	RESOLUTIONS
	Namaqumaqua village: Seveci R, Diuca B, Mere N, Ana L, Elesi N, Vakaro D, **Naboutini village:** Raduvina L, **Mataikadawa settlement:** Sainicila S, Lavenia Corocoro, **Serua village:** Penisoni Vakatoto, Lemeki L, **Ministry of Forestry**: George Vuki -Director Central, 3 Serua Beat Officers, **REDD+ Unit:** Reama Naco **Provincial Office:** Rokotui, Conservation Officer, **CI:** Eliki Senivasa, Sera Nagusuca		• One common resolution from all the districts visited is the need to avoid raising the expectation of the people with regards to the benefits that will be distributed, so there was total agreement to maximise the distribution of non-monetary benefits. This is well aligned also with the common discussion from the three divisional forums.

ANNEX 4 PRIORITY AREAS UNDER ER-P and BSP

Year	Districts Involved	Hectares impacted
2020	Bua Tikina (72,730ha); Tavua Tikina (70,797ha)	143,527
2021	Taveuni (43,755ha); Noikoro (34,937ha); Labasa (26,710ha); Saqani (26,460ha)	131,862
2022	Vaturova (24,650ha); Dreketi (24,290ha); Nadarivatu (24,157ha); Namataku (23,320ha)	96,417
2023	Wailevu (16,138ha); Seaqaqa (15,980ha); Yakete (14,058ha); Cuvu (12,916ha)	89,806
2024	Cuvu (12,916ha); Tunuloa (12,142ha); Naboubuco (10,141ha); Serua (9686ha); Saivou (3,822ha)	48,707
Total		**510,319**