

# REDD + ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTING

**COUNTRY: Vanuatu**  
**PERIOD: January 2015 – August 2015**

## 1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

### **SUMMARY:**

*The Vanuatu REDD+ Program was fortunate to access the Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (“FCPF”), pursuant to which the World Bank agreed to provide to the Recipient a grant for formulating the Readiness Preparation Proposal (“R-PP”). The R-PP was then approved by the World Bank; Participants Committee of the FCPF. Accordingly, the PC, through its Resolution PC/14/2013/8, decided to allocate grant funding to the Recipient in the amount of up to three million six hundred thousand Dollars (US\$ 3, 600,000)(“Grant”), to enable it to move ahead with preparation for readiness.*

*Given the Grant Agreement was signed, and that the project fund is rolling in, the project now began with the implementation of the preparation phase of the project; rather on a slow mode but it will eventually speed up very soon as the Projects Officer like the Technical Specialist and the Communication Officer recruited soon.*

***The R-PP Roadmap includes all activities necessary for Vanuatu to achieve a state of REDD+ Readiness.***  
*The FCPF Grant committed was US\$3.6 million over a period of three years (2015 to 2018) to finance a subset of mentioned in the R-PP. The Readiness Preparation Grant will finance key elements of the R-PP Roadmap and prepare Vanuatu to engage in and benefit from a future performance-based system from REDD+. In particular, it will fund three components, which aim to:*

- Strengthen existing institutions for REDD+ at the national and decentralized level through the establishment and operation of a Vanuatu National REDD+ Unit, support to the REDD+ Technical Committee, support to the NAB and its PMU, as well as the set-up of Provincial REDD+ Committees,*
- Strengthen the stakeholder engagement at the decentralized level, including the assessment and strengthening of existing FGRMs for REDD+, and*
- Develop a National REDD+ strategy, its implementation framework and the ESMF are developed and validated by a broad spectrum of national stakeholders through the SESA. These activities will also strengthen existing forest policy and management systems, information and data, participatory methods and human and institutional capacity, which will directly support the sustainable management and development of Vanuatu’s forests.*

*Thanks to the World Bank Mission who visited Vanuatu on May 25-29. The objective of the World Bank Team mission were to: conduct an operational kick-off workshop, covering fiduciary, safeguards and technical aspects; Review with the Government the overall status of project activities and identify any bottlenecks that may prevent rapid implementation of the project; Review annual work programs and budgets and provide technical advice to the implementing agency; Review the procurement and financial*

*management aspects of the project and provide relevant advice; and Review the safeguards aspects of the project and provide relevant advice.*

*The progress activities and achievements carried out so far include;*

- *FCPF Grant and Project launching – 26 May 2015*
- *REDD+ Unit Establishment and recruitment – advertisement of Technical Specialist Post and Extension and Outreach Officer Post*
- *Procurement – began process to procure equipment*
- *First portion of grant is now in the account – ready to be used*
- *DoF commitment – allocated fellow staffs to assist*
- *Work is underway to establish a platform with NGO, CSO to be able to be part in implementing the RPP – there is a need to engage them*
- *Currently working on the TORS – Analytical studies, SESA*
- *Working with Live & Learn on Technical Committee TOR and finalizing REDD+ Key messaging*

## 2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS DURING THE PERIOD

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process ( <i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.</i> ):	
<u>Source:</u> Vanuatu Government	<u>Amount provided:</u> Not available
<u>Source:</u> SPC/GIZ	<u>Amount provided:</u> (as in 2014 progress report)
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
Amount of non-FCPF investments received for implementation of activities relevant to ER Programs (e.g. FIP, bilateral donors, private sector), if relevant ( <i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.</i> ):	
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>
<u>Source:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u>

Describe how stakeholders are participating and engaging in REDD+ decision making processes ( <i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator I.3.A</i> ):
<p><u>Provide examples of how IPs and CSOs are represented in institutional arrangements for REDD at the national level.</u></p> <p><i>In work undertaken by partner grants outside of the FCPF funding, Live &amp; Learn Vanuatu in partnership with Conservation International has been working to capacity build VANGO to establish a Civil Society Platform for REDD+. An initial meeting was held in June 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Since this time VANGO has been unable to organise a training workshop. LLV has been asked to facilitate a workshop itself which will be done on 27th-28th August 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Live &amp; Learn Vanuatu is planning a provincial strengthening trip in September and looking forward to the recruitment of the REDD+ Unit to ensure that the trip is of value.</i></p>
Examples of stakeholder engagement platforms in country which meet regularly to discuss and provide inputs to the REDD+ readiness process ( <i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework 3.2.a.</i> ):

<u>Frequency:</u> <i>Two (2) so far this year</i>	<i>Live and Learn WISE project Pele Island Workshop and VANGO meeting to setting up CSO platforms.</i>
<b>Examples of resources made available to enable active participation of IPs , CSOs and local communities in national REDD+ readiness.</b>	
<i>Live and Learn WISE project REDD+ Awareness materials and Key messages and organizing Radio interviews on the REDD+ program.</i>	

<b>Number and type of policy reforms initiated, completed or underway complying to REDD+ standards, if any (FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator I.3.B.):</b>
<p><u>Number of policy reforms during the reporting period that are:</u></p> <p><i>Underway: Planted Forest ACT.</i></p> <p><i>Completed: Vanuatu National Forest Policy (NFP)</i></p> <p><u>Please describe these policy reforms:</u></p> <p><i>The drafting of the Review of the NFP was at the same time the Readiness Preparation Proposal was prepared and that all sections of the NFP has inclusion of the Vanuatu REDD+.</i></p> <p><i>The Planted Forest ACT was also being drafted in during the Readiness Preparation Proposal and included the relevant sections especially considering Rights and Benefits of the forest dwellers.</i></p>

Design of national REDD+ Strategies addresses indicators for enhancement of livelihoods of local communities and for biodiversity conservation (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.B.):

Provide examples of how national REDD Strategies address livelihoods of local communities and biodiversity conservation.

*During provincial meeting it was interesting and rewarding to note that the local authorities and community are aware of the impact of Climate Change to their live and there is discussion of REDD+ related measures such as Reforestation, Conservation and Protection of the forests resources.*

*Department of forests officers stationed in the islands are informed briefly on the REDD+ program and they were able to support the community members and farmers with information to continue to care for their forest resources and to maintain the way of live to relay on the forest resources for livelihood.*

### 3. PROGRESS AT R-PP sub component level

#### 3.1. REDD Readiness Progress

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly describe here the progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.A.): up to 300 words, if applicable

#### Progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package:

*Vanuatu presented its Readiness Preparation Proposal in March of 2013 at the World Bank FCPF Participants Committee authorized grant funding of US\$ 3.6 million (about half of the total estimated budget of USD \$ 7.3 million).*

*On the 26<sup>th</sup> May of 2015 Vanuatu successfully got the Grant Agreement Signed in Port Vila, Vanuatu by the Vanuatu Government and World Bank FCPF REDD+ program.*

*Vanuatu REDD+ program had been progressing well in late 2014 to early 2015 leading up to the signing of the Grant Agreement between the World Bank and Vanuatu Government. With the devastating damage to the country by the category 5 tropical cyclone 5 the country a national state of emergency was imposed and all efforts were towards recovery. These had directly and indirectly have effect to the progress of the REDD+ program in the country.*

*The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Climate Change office in Vanuatu had continued to support the facilitation of the REDD+ Unit and effective to recruit the Consultants for the procurement and this has been a great support for the Vanuatu REDD+ program in getting the activities moving. Department of forests now organized itself in getting the REDD+ Unit to take on the Implementation of the FCPF funded activities as listed out in the recent May World Bank Aid Memoir.*

*The report was prepared basically with the Department of forests taking the lead and with guidance from the representative of the Technical Committee. The Vanuatu REDD+ Unit is progressing in its setting up. In the next few days soon as the Vanuatu REDD+ Unit is in place and operating that more information regarding the progress of the Vanuatu REDD+ program will be compiled for the next progress reporting.*

















*The annual progress country reporting expected to be submitted to the FMT by August 15<sup>th</sup> but the Vanuatu REDD+ reporting was delayed and it is hoped that the FMT will consider the circumstance Vanuatu is in and accept the late submission.*

Please indicate which of your country R-PP components and sub-components have received support from FCPF through the Readiness Preparation Grant (>3.4 million USD)

Components	Sub-components	Support from FCPF (Yes/No)
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yes
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Yes
2. REDD+ Strategy	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change	Yes

Preparation	Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Yes
	2c. Implementation Framework	Yes
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Yes
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Yes

**Level of overall achievement of planned milestones according to approved FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD) (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.b.):**

<u>Planned Milestones:</u>	<u>Level of Achievement<sup>1</sup>:</u>	<u>Tracking<sup>2</sup>:</u>															
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Progressing well, further development required</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Further development required</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Not yet demonstrating progress</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>Non Applicable</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Please explain why:</i></p> <p>Generally Impact from Category 5 tropical Cyclone PAM – National state of Emergency.</p> <p>Delay in recruitment of the REDD+ Unit Personals, Technical Specialist and Extension Outreach Officer.</p>			Significant progress			Progressing well, further development required			Further development required			Not yet demonstrating progress			Non Applicable
		Significant progress															
		Progressing well, further development required															
		Further development required															
		Not yet demonstrating progress															
		Non Applicable															







<sup>1</sup> Countries are expected to provide data on the overall level of achievement of planned milestones as defined in their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, and, if applicable, on their Supplementary Grant Agreement for an additional grant of up to \$5 million. For instance, under their Preparation Readiness Grant Agreement (>3.4 million USD), Countries should provide data on (i) the support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations; (ii) the contribution to the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy; and (iii) the preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+

<sup>2</sup> The level of achievement of planned milestones according to approved RF grant will be summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of an overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale "Non Applicable" can be selected.

This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework













Degree of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component and sub-component (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c.).













Countries are expected to rate progress toward the implementation of R-PP sub-component only once a year, as part of the reporting submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup> each year











	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)
		Planned milestones	Achievements	
R-PP Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation	<b>Sub-Component 1a</b> – National REDD+ Management Arrangements <i>Purpose: setting-up national readiness management arrangements to manage and coordinate the REDD-plus readiness activities whilst mainstreaming REDD-plus into broader strategies</i> <i>Country Self-Assessment Criteria: (i) accountability and transparency; (ii) operating mandate and budget; (iii) multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration; (iv) technical supervision capacity; (v) funds management capacity; (vi) feedback and grievance redress mechanism</i>			<div>  <div></div> Significant progress </div>
				<div>  <div></div> Progressing well, further development required </div>
				<div>  <div></div> Further development required </div>
				<div>  <div></div> Not yet demonstrating progress </div>
				<div>  <div></div> Non Applicable </div>
				<p>Please explain why:</p> <p>Delay in recruitment of the REDD+ Unit Personals, Technical Specialist and Extension Outreach Officer.</p>













<sup>3</sup> The level of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component should be self-assessed and reported, as well as summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of this overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then briefly explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale 'Non Applicable' can be selected. This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework, The R-Package assessment criteria are included to assist countries identify, plan and track their readiness preparations progress with the core aspects and desired outcomes of readiness preparation activities as contained in R-Package Assessment Framework.















	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
	<b>Sub-Component 1b</b> – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach <i>Purpose: broad consultation with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs, to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency and accountability of decision-making</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) participation and engagement of key stakeholders; (ii) consultation processes; (iii) information sharing and accessibility of information; (iv) implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes</i>					Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why:		
R-PP Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation	<b>Subcomponent 2a:</b> Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance <i>Purpose: identification of key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, as well as activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) assessment and analysis; (ii) prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement; (iii) links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities; (iv) actions plans to address natural resource right, land tenure, governance; (v) implications for forest law and policy</i>					Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why:		

Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
	Planned milestones	Achievements			
<b>Subcomponent 2b:</b> REDD+ Strategy Options <i>Purpose: Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options; (ii) feasibility assessment; (iii) implications for strategy options on existing sectoral policies.</i>					Significant progress
					Progressing well, further development required
					Further development
					Not yet demonstrating progress
					Non Applicable
Please explain why:					
<b>Subcomponent 2c:</b> Implementation Framework <i>Purpose: Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations; (ii) guidelines for implementation; (iii) benefit sharing mechanism; (iv) national REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities</i>					Significant progress
					Progressing well, further development required
					Further development
					Not yet demonstrating progress
					Non Applicable
Please explain why:					

	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
	<b>Subcomponent 2d:</b> Social and Environmental Impacts <i>Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i)) analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues; (ii) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts; (iii) Environmental and Social Management Framework</i>		●			Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why:		
R-PP Component 3 – Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	<b>R-PP Component 3</b> - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels <i>Purpose: Development of the general approach to establish a REL/RL</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) demonstration of methodology; (ii) use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances; (iii) technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines</i>		●			Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				And explain why:		






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	<b>Subcomponent 4a:</b> National Forest Monitoring System <i>Purpose: Design and develop an operational forest monitoring system and describe the approach to enhance the system over time</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities- Forests</i>					Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				And explain why:		
	<b>Subcomponent 4b:</b> Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards <i>Purpose: Specify the non-carbon aspects prioritized for monitoring by the country</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues; (ii) monitoring, reporting and information sharing; (iii) Institutional arrangements and capacities – Safeguards</i>					Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				And explain why:		

Disbursement rate of FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD), in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):				
	Rate	Tracking		
RF Grant - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements		Please select your rating:		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10% variance with plans
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 10-25% variance with plans
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 25-40% variance with plans
			<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 40% variance
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Applicable

Disbursement rate of Total R-PP Budget in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):				
	Rate	Tracking		
Total Budget in R-PP - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements (including other funding sources and FCPF Readiness Grant)		Please select your rating:		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10% variance with plans
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 10-25% variance with plans
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 25-40% variance with plans
			<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 40% variance
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Applicable

### 3.2. Engagement of stakeholders within the approach to REDD +

Examples of actions/activities where IPs, CSOs, and local communities participate actively, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.a.):	
Action/activity:	Describe IP, CSO, and local community participation:
Forestry Tree Planting Program and Utilization of timber from cyclone PAM.	Department of forests continues to work with different national institutes and community bodies doing conducting Tree planting activities, forest conservation. And with recent cyclone PAM the community is working together its recovering program assisting communities extracting timbers from fallen logs. The latter was a significant support from the World Bank supplying a total of 27 chain saws and nine (9) portable mills to Department of forests to assist the communities.

Number of IP and REDD country CSO representatives (men/women) having been successfully trained by FCPF training programs (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.b.):					
Please list the training conducted:	Duration (# of days)	# of participants # of men / # of women			Targets in terms of number of men and women to be trained by country to be defined
					
					
					
					Non Applicable

### 3.3. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support:	
Yes/No:	Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period :
Yes	Support from the WISE project the local NGO Vanuatu Live and Learn produces REDD+ Awareness Materials including REDD+ Key Messages.

How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any:	
Overall number by product:	
# of Men: 1000	
# of Women: 500	

Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?		
Yes/No:	List the South-South learning activities:	# of men: (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives)
No		# of women: (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives)

#### 4. ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RISKS

*The Challenge in progressing towards the intended REDD+ results are:*

*It was difficult to find personals for recruiting to the REDD+ Unit causing much delay in the recruitment of the REDD+ Unit.*

*The delay in accessing funds does mean that much of the activities were delayed.*

*Government's commitment needed be more emphasised to the REDD+ project.*

*More support is needed to get the NGOs active involvement in the REDD+ readiness process.*

*General understanding of the public towards the REDD+ project for the process of Readiness Phase and Carbon is still limited.*

*Soon the REDD+ team are recruited much of the project may be moving quicker.*

## 5. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

*There was much learned and yet to learn for since the beginning of the readiness process.*

*It is important the Procedures and Criteria are followed and this is a rather great challenge for Vanuatu when to compare the circumstance for Vanuatu.*

*Support that is provided by the World Bank personals were much appreciated and it was clear to the REDD+ team in Vanuatu that the FCPF program for Vanuatu is fortunate great persons willing to support the program.*

*Vanuatu Government while is keen to participate in the REDD+ program do realized that it is a process and that the National Policies and Programs are in support of the REDD+ program.*

*There is one great realization that pool of expert consultants in Vanuatu and the Region is limited and that it is not easy to acquire to support the National REDD+ program.*

*Urgent need to getting the REDD+ Unit set up is needed soon to implement the Readiness Preparation Proposal activities in the Components.*

*Local Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and CSOs in Vanuatu do need as much support from the Vanuatu REDD+ program to be able to position themselves to actively participate in the REDD+ program.*



