



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Vanuatu R-Package

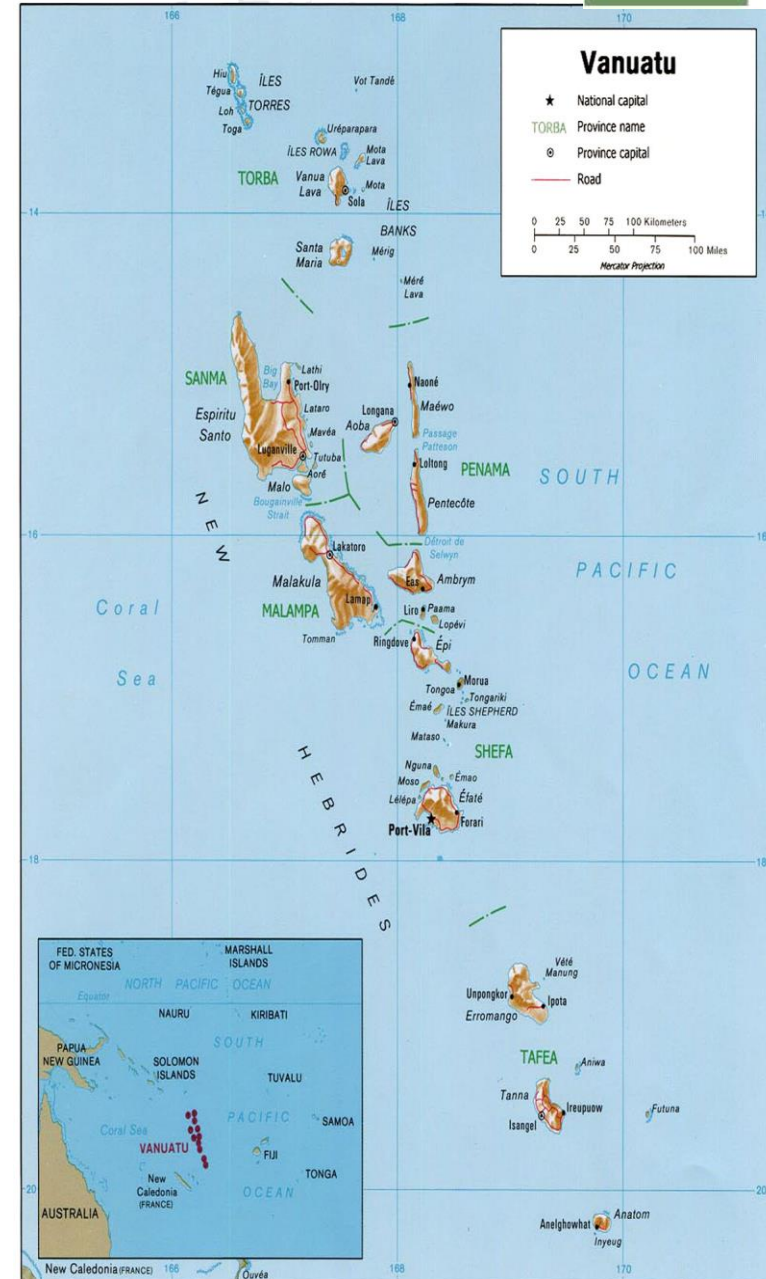
PC 29 Meeting, Washington DC,
Rama Chandra Reddy, Task Team Leader
October 20, 2020

OUTLINE

- Vanuatu Context
- Progress of REDD+ Readiness
- Financing and disbursement
- Priorities and Challenges
- Follow up

Vanuatu Context

- 15 percent of population in poverty
- Agriculture, fishing and tourism are key economic activities
- Customary Ni-Vanuatu land tenure
- Prone to natural disasters (cyclones, earthquakes) with 57% likelihood of at least one natural disaster per year
- Five natural disasters since FY17 – latest Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold in April 2020
- Debt distress increased from borrowing for reconstruction after TC Pam in 2015
- Enhancing resilience to climate and natural disasters is a national priority.
- Vanuatu NDC highlights REDD+ and sustainable forest management (SFM) as both mitigation and adaptation priorities



Progress Towards REDD+ Readiness



Alignment with WBG Regional Partnership Framework for Pacific Island Countries

- Vanuatu REDD+ Readiness Project activities align with the **WBG Regional Partnership Framework (2017-2021) for nine Pacific Island Countries (PIC9)*** that has priorities to protect incomes and livelihoods through preparedness, to strengthen institutional capacity and to enhance resilience to natural disasters and climate change.
- **REDD+ Readiness Project** enabled identification of strategic options to improve sustainable land use and forest resources management and resilience to climate change.

* PIC9 - Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and Republic of Vanuatu

Vanuatu REDD+ Readiness

- **Project Development Objective (PDO):** To assist Vanuatu to carry out the Readiness Preparation Activities by supporting the **preparation of REDD+ strategy** through a **participatory and inclusive process** and by producing **technical and policy advice** to help strengthen **sustainable land and forest management** practices.
- **Assessment of REDD+ Readiness progress in R-Package**
 - R-Package progress on REDD+ reflects the participatory assessment of stakeholders from the workshops conducted prior to disruptions from COVID-19 pandemic and Tropical Cyclone Harold in early 2020
 - Progress made on REDD+ readiness activities in the past 6 months is not reflected in the R-Package participatory self assessment
 - Plan for completion of readiness activities includes project activities rescheduled due to COVID-19 pandemic and Tropical Cyclone Harold

Assessment of REDD+ Readiness

Components	Sub-Components	Progress
1. Organization and Consultation	1a. National Readiness Management	
	1b. Stakeholder Consultation and Participation	
2. Preparation of REDD Strategy	2a. Land Use, Forest Policy & Governance	
	2b. REDD Strategy Options	
	2c. REDD Implementation Framework	
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	
3. Forest reference level		
4. Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures	4a. National forest monitoring system	
	4b. System of information on governance and safeguards	

Note: Progress presented in the R-Package is based on participatory assessments conducted prior to COVID-19 and TC Harold

Component 1:

Readiness Organization and Consultation

Achievements:

- Institutions for REDD+ established and mandates developed
- Capacity of Department of Forestry enhanced at national and provincial levels
- Fiduciary, fund management and procurement systems strengthened
- Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) established
- CSO Platform enabled stakeholder engagement and empowerment
- System for public disclosure of REDD+ information implemented

Remaining work:

- Coordination of institutions for REDD+ Implementation to be enhanced
- Technical capacity at national and provincial levels to be strengthened
- Community participation and engagement to be scaled up
- FGRM to be operationalized at provincial level on islands
- Targeted consultations to be continued with the support of CSO Platform
- Reports and consultation outcomes to be disseminated in Bislama language

Component 2:

REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Achievements:

- Analytical studies - Drivers of deforestation & forest degradation; NTFP value chains; Benefit sharing mechanism; Legal framework on land tenure
- REDD+ Strategy Options identified & National REDD Strategy in preparation
- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Process Framework (PF) presented at national workshop
- Database design and development to monitor REDD+ activities in progress

Remaining work:

- Final SESA, ESMF, RPF and PF documents to be disseminated
- National REDD Strategy to be finalized and submitted for government approval
- Guidelines for REDD+ Implementation Framework to be developed
- Capacity to implement benefit sharing mechanism to be strengthened

Component 3: Forest Reference Level

Key achievements:

- National Forest Inventory (NFI) completed on 7 out of 13 islands; and NFI on remaining islands in progress
- Activities covered in Forest Reference Level (FRL) - deforestation, forest degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
- Reference period for FRL: 2008-2018
- FRL design consistent with IPCC guidelines and guidance

Remaining work:

- Completion of NFI to generate emission factor data at national and provincial levels
- Improved activity data methods for assessing forest degradation
- Estimation of sub-national and national FRL

Component 4:

National Forest Monitoring and Safeguards

Key achievements:

- Design of National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) consistent with international good practice
- Enhanced capacity of staff on Remote Sensing and GIS analysis
- Forest biomass and carbon estimates from NFI integrated into NFMS
- Integrated database system for forest resources and safeguards
- Capacity development of technical staff to demonstrate NFMS

Remaining work:

- Operationalize NFMS to address land use and forest sector priorities
- Continue staff training on Remote Sensing/GIS data analysis
- Coordination of government agencies for effective operation of NFMS
- Implementation of Safeguard Information System (SIS)

Financing and Disbursement

- Two-third of total grant disbursed
- Work program for the remaining one-third grant in progress
- Total grant disbursement anticipated in 2021

Financing	Funding	Disbursement
	\$ Million	\$ Million
Readiness Financing	3.6	
Additional Financing	2.5	
Total Financing	6.1	
Cumulative Disbursement		4.1
Grant Disbursement (percent)		67%
Grant to be disbursed		33%

Priorities and Challenges

- Strengthen institutional capacity and coordination among multiple government agencies at national and provincial levels
- Secure financing to implement the national REDD+ strategy
- Expansion of REDD+ activities at provincial level
- Enhance local community stakeholder engagement
- Improve Forest Reference Level (FRL) through a stepwise approach
- Operationalize National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and safeguard information system (SIS)

Follow Up

- REDD+ Strategy to be promoted to influence national land use priorities
- Identification of domestic and international funding sources to support REDD+ strategy options
- Promote awareness of REDD+ co-benefits - livelihoods and resilience
- Strengthen sub-national technical capacity at provincial level
- Operationalize National Forest Monitoring System for carbon and co-benefits monitoring
- Institutionalize safeguard information system to monitor and report on compliance of environmental and social safeguards

WB Task Team Assessment

- World Bank Task Team continues to support Vanuatu REDD+ Readiness Project implementation to align with WB Regional Partnership Strategy for Pacific Island Countries (PIC9)
- Vanuatu REDD+ Readiness process demonstrates inclusive stakeholder engagement and R-Package complies with the FCPF readiness assessment process
- Government of Vanuatu has proposals to operationalize the national REDD+ strategy at provincial level
- World Bank Task Team continues to support the implementation of REDD+ priorities identified in the R-Package

