



Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report

Reporting Period: July 2019 to June 2020

VANUATU

REDD+ UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS
VANUATU

June, 2020



FCPF Readiness Fund: REDD+ Country Participant Annual Progress Report

About this document

This template is for use by Readiness Fund (RF) REDD+ Country Participants to report their annual progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general, and on FCPF-supported activities in particular. The data provided through these reports represents a central information source for measuring progress against the FCPF's expected results and performance indicators, as articulated within the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

Report preparation

Reports cover progress through 30th June of each year.

When preparing the report, RF REDD+ Country Participants should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD+ (component 6 of the R-PP) and should consult members of the national REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated, with any divergent views recorded as appropriate. Detailed, indicator-by-indicator definitions and reporting guidance are provided within the FCPF M&E Framework (<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-0>).

Reporting schedule

Completed reports should be submitted to the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) by **15th July** every year.

SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities and achievements delivered within your country during the last year?
 - Activities - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
 - Achievements -For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalised, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed
 - Please be as specific as possible, e.g. name, date and number of participants in consultation events (sex disaggregated, if available), name of policy being drafted, institutions involved in policy drafting

Technical Committee Meetings: Nine rounds of technical Committee (TC) meetings were held during the reporting period. In general, discussions were held regarding (a) REDD+ activities that were implemented in different islands (b) management related issues about the REDD+ Project.

National REDD+CSO Platform Executive Committee Meeting: The CSO Platform conducts regular executive meetings. The objective was to brief the executive members of the Platform about the REDD+ activities that will be implemented in different islands by the CSO Networks

Workshops for R-Package and Self Assessment Development: Five rounds of workshops were held with the stakeholders in all REDD+ islands with the objective to prepare the R-Package and self assessment report. The Self-Assessment Workshops were conducted between October 2019 to December 2019.

Workshop on SESA and ESMF Development: One four-days workshop was organized on SESA/ESMF development from 5th October, 2019 to 8th October 2019. The workshop was aimed to brief the SESA consultants on how to approach on the development of SESA/ESMF. It was also to get feedback from the consultants.

Inception workshop on National REDD+ Strategy: Inception workshop on the development of national REDD+ Strategy was held in February 2020. The consultant presented the inception report to national stakeholders representing various government Ministries and Organizations.

Workshop to present the initial findings of national forest inventory: One day workshop was conducted on 26th February 2020 to present the initial findings of the National Forest Inventory to the stakeholders. About 37 participants representing various Organizations and Ministries took part in the workshop.

2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the last year?

- For example, lack of engagement from key stakeholders, political barriers, limited funding

- 1) Obtaining the imprest money, on time, for implementing the REDD+ activities in the islands is a challenge. This situation is delaying the implementation of activities in the field.
- 2) The fieldwork on national forest inventory, SESA and the National REDD+ Strategy development was severely hampered by the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. Progress could not be made as planned.
- 3) Tropical Cyclone Harold has also disturbed the national forest inventory in the islands.

3. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver, and achievements anticipated during the next year?

- For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

The followings are the main REDD+ readiness related activities that will be delivered during the coming year.

- 1) Hold regular Technical Committee Meeting when such Meetings are felt necessary to sort issues related to REDD+ readiness activities to be implemented in the field.
- 2) Hold regular consultation/awareness raising activities with relevant stakeholders at the national and provincial level including the CSO Platform at Port Vila and CSO Network in the Provinces.
- 3) Complete the National Forest Inventory (NFI), mapping work to detect the landuse and landuse change in the country and generate activity data.
- 4) Establish the Database System for National Forest Monitoring System including the MRV
- 5) Complete the work on SESA and development of ESMF within September 2020.
- 6) Complete the development of National REDD+ Strategy Document by April 2020.
- 7) Develop R-Package and submit to the PC by September/October 2020.

SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

4. Please provide your own assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components:

(Indicator OV.1.B: Number of FCPF supported countries that have in place a National REDD+ Strategy, FREL/FRL, NFMS and SIS; Output 1.3 indicators)

Progress rating key:

5	Completed	The sub-component has been completed
4	Significant progress	Significant progress
3	Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
2	Further development required	Further development required
1	Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
0	N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation			
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	5 Completed	Vanuatu is progressing very well with significant evidence of government commitment and ownership. The (i) institutions required for implementation of REDD+ activities, in future, are in place both at the national and provincial level (ii) Information sharing system about the REDD+ activities are done through the REDD+ website: www. reddplus.vu, literatures, study reports and radio program. (iii) Work on National Forest Inventory, and Mapping work for generating activity data is under way. The work will be completed by March/April 2021. (iv) Work on SESA will be completed by December 2020. (v) Study on Value Chain Analysis of NTFP has been completed.	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	5 Completed	Consultations, Trainings and Workshops are held in all five islands. Besides the regular consultations, REDD+ Team has also conducted consultations for studies on SESA, National REDD+ Strategy Development, and MRV related works. Consultations are carried out with the support of the Regional Forest Officers and the CSO Platform and CSO Networks in the islands. The consultations are very effective and useful while implementing the REDD+ readiness activities.	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation			
Sub-component 2: REDD+ Strategy	5 Completed	The preparation of National REDD+ Strategy is progressing well. The work will be completed by September/October 2020.	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use	5 Completed	The study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation has been completed. The agents responsible for deforestation and forest	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	2 Further development required	degradation including the underlying causes have also been identified and the drivers prioritized. Vanuatu already has Forestry Act which was enacted by the Parliament and the National Forest Policy was passed in the year 2013 and is valid till 2023. Policy Brief on deforestation and forest degradation have been developed and submitted to the Government for endorsement.	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	5 Completed	Study of REDD+ Strategy Options has been completed. The outcome of the study is used to inform the development of National REDD+ Strategy of Vanuatu. Policy Brief for Strategy Option has been developed and submitted to the Government for endorsement.	
	4 Significant progress		X
	3 Progressing well, further development required		
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	5 Completed	Implementation Framework for implementation of the REDD+ activities is put in place both for the national level as well as for provincial level. However more work is being done by the REDD+ Unit especially on the capacity building of the staffs involved in implementation of the activities. Clear role and responsibilities will be developed for all the organizations and institutions involved in the implementation including the CSOs and the private sectors.	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	5 Completed	Work on SESA and the development of ESMF is progressing well. The consultant has submitted the draft report. The report is under review process at the moment. All the reports will be finalized by September/October 2020.	
	4 Significant progress		X
	3 Progressing well, further development required		
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels			
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	5 Completed	The work on construction of Forest Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels will be started as soon as the national forest inventory in the islands is completed. The work in Efate has already been started. For Vanuatu the estimation of FRL/RL will take into consideration the drivers and the underlying causes of REDD+ activities like (a) deforestation (b) forest degradation and the (c) enhancement of forest carbon stocks and activity data based on remote sensing and GIS and emission factor data based on national forest inventory of selected 12 islands. The report is expected to be completed by April 2021.	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards			

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	5 Completed	<p>(i) <u>Estimation of emission factor data based on forest inventory of 12 selected islands</u></p> <p>The work on national forest inventory is underway and is progressing well. However some delay, in the implementation of the field work, was encountered because the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the devastation impacts of TC Harold. NFI fieldwork on seven islands has already been completed and the work on balance five islands will be completed by December 2020. Information on forest resources is collected for estimating the emission and removal factors and to assess the amount of carbon in Vanuatu's forests.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Assessment/Generation of activity data on forest cover and forest cover change based on remote sensing.</u></p> <p>The work on assessment/generation of activity data is underway and progressing well. The aim for carrying out this activity is to collect/generate data on forest cover and forest cover change of different islands of Vanuatu using remote sensing method that will meet the IPCC Approach 3 requirements for spatially explicit activity data of forests. The work is being done by the GIS Section of Forest Department with the technical support of the consultant. It will produce forest cover and forest cover change maps, conduct analysis required for estimation of activity data and assessment of its accuracy. The work on collecting/generating activity data is being carried out in parallel with the forest inventory and include (a) collection and organization of remote sensing data and imagery (b) generation of forest cover and forest cover change maps (c) interpretation of remote sensing data to estimate activity data on forest cover and forest cover change for the reference period (d) conduct accuracy assessment to generate stratified area estimates.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Development of Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)</u></p> <p>The activities planned to be carried out for the development of MRV system are (a) Development of a robust and transparent MRV system for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities for</p>	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
		<p>estimation of emissions and removals and associated standard operating procedures (SOP) for collecting, analyzing, estimation and reporting (b) design of database and reporting and archival of data and information and (c) training and capacity building for implementing the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).The design of framework and institutional arrangements for implementing the MRV. The MRV System will be established and link to national GHG inventory for reporting on forest-related emissions and removals to the UNFCCC based on SOP that ensure compliance with the national and international reporting requirements. Training and capacity development will be carried out for implementing the NFMS since the ni-Vanuatu people are the owners of forest resources as such capacity development of communities and other stakeholders for implementing REDD+ activities is very important. The training and capacity building plan will also be developed as part of the MRV</p>	
<p>Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards</p>	5 Completed	<p>Vanuatu is progressing well in establishing a system for monitoring the multiple benefits, other impacts and governance. Information system for such multiple benefits will be developed as part of the database development system and the monitoring aspects will be in-built in the NFMS which is underway. The importance and value of the non-carbon benefits including the social and environmental safeguards are inherently recognized in all activities that are implemented during the readiness phase of the program. The National Forest Policy of Vanuatu has also placed strong emphasis on the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the country's forest resources. The following non-carbon benefits are important and their information will be part of the database like biodiversity monitoring, forest governance, monitoring of non timber forest products, and monitoring of the environmental services that may arise while implementing the REDD+ activities in the field. Report on Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) is completed but it is yet to be fully operationalized</p>	
	4 Significant progress		
	3 Progressing well, further development required		X
	2 Further development required		
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0 N/A		

SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

5. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at livelihoods; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates livelihoods)?

(Indicator 3.2.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	(delete as appropriate)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

The aim of the national REDD+ program, of Vanuatu, is to sustain and enhance livelihood of the ni-Vanuatu people who are living in the rural areas. The Strategy Options study has identified many activities that were geared towards enhancing the livelihood of the common people by generating additional household income for their family. Some of the important activities which enhances livelihood of the rural people are Management of Protected Areas by involving local communities, management of non timber forest products, initiating agroforestry system by combining with more promising agriculture and horticulture activities and development of a national overarching land use plan. Preparation of National REDD+ Strategy is progressing well and all such income generating schemes which will enhance the livelihood of the rural people would be part of the National REDD+ Strategy. The Report on Strategy Options including the Policy Brief paper is available in REDD+ website: [Http://:www.reddplus.vu](http://www.reddplus.vu).

6. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation)?

(Indicator 3.3.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	(delete as appropriate)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

The work on National REDD+ Strategy development is under progress. The draft document has prominently captured the biodiversity conservation. Therefore as part of the NFMS the biodiversity information system (BIS) will be developed and will form one of the most important activities of the National REDD+ Strategy. While drafting the National REDD+ Strategy, the biodiversity information system including the protocol for monitoring will form part of the National REDD+ Strategy. The Institutions responsible for the biodiversity information and monitoring, both at national and sub-national level will be fully involved while developing the NFMS. The conservation initiatives related to convention of biological diversity already exists for Vanuatu but more work is required to be done to upgrade the capacity of the local staffs for monitoring the biodiversity

SECTION D: FINANCE

(Please complete in US\$ ONLY)

7. Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e. fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included: (Indicator 1.B: Amount of finance received to support the REDD+ Readiness process (disaggregated by public, private, grants, loans))

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
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EXAMPLES:

USD 3,600,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	04/2015	Public	Grant
USD 2,500,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	05/2018	Public	Grant

8. Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you hope to secure in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
Not Applicable			

SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

9. To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.B: Participant Countries' assessment of FCPF's role within and contribution to national REDD+ processes)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a central influence on the development of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved the quality of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved national capacities to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X
The FCPF's support has helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities) in our national REDD+ systems and processes					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

10. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (publications, seminars, learning events, web resources), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.3.a: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We regularly access FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information					X
FCPF knowledge products are relevant to our REDD+ related information requirements					X
FCPF knowledge products are sufficient to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
The FCPF website is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

11. If appropriate, please provide any further comments or clarifications relating to your work on REDD+ Readiness during the last year:

1. National REDD+ Strategy is under development. The draft should be ready by July 2020.
2. Work on SESA and ESMF development is progressing well. Consultant has submitted the draft.
3. National Forest Inventory is going on. Fieldwork on seven islands completed. Work on remaining five will be resumed as soon as the situation on COVID-19 normalizes.
4. Work on collecting/generation of Activity Data is also going on in parallel with the National Forest Inventory.
5. Lack of in-house technical expertise is posing problem to fast track the works on all REDD+ activities.
6. The islands are all scattered which poses difficulty in accessing them, communication and transport of materials.