



Safeguards and REDD+ in Vanuatu

Mr. Bjoern Hecht
Fiji REDD+ Adviser
Former Adviser to SPC/GIZ Pacific REDD+ Project

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Safeguards and REDD+ in Vanuatu



- Ca. 250,000 inhabitants spread over 80 islands
- More than 100 different languages
- Poor infrastructure, high vulnerability
- Officially 36 % forest area
- Major economic contributors: tourism, agriculture, remittances
- 98 % of land owned by indigenous communities
- R-PP accepted 03/2013



Status of safeguards-related elements

Issue	Status	Risk
Land & carbon rights	Constitutional protection, sale not possible	Only 2 % of land registered. Land grab on daily basis, aided by corruption
Benefit distribution	Lease arrangements to govern commercial activities include BSM	Low level of education (literacy rate 75 %) and poor government presence allows for inequitable BS
FPIC	75 % of Ni-Van live in rural areas, many without infrastructure	High effort has to be accepted in order to inform the people in reg visits
Policy alignment	Government structures to coordinate different processes exist	Donors and ministries alike don't coordinate. Policy-making intransparent

Status of safeguards-related elements

Issue	Status	Risk
Permanence of activities	Lease agreement or financial incentives	Change of land owner or breach of lease agreement
Capacities	Project-oriented Extension officers in 6 provinces Educated CC professionals increasing	Very low capacities in government, few environmental NGOs, no local higher education
Monitoring & reporting	Ministry for Climate Change reports to UNFCCC Few NGOs in env. sector	Forestry has no current monitoring framework for forests, biodiversity or safeguards

Highlights of R-PP implementation

1. Capacity building for key institutions, extension officers, NGOs, church organizations, local government and land owners
2. Designing REDD+ activities for each province
3. Activity-based programme with national accounting (vs. area-based activities)
4. Initially prioritize islands with larger impact potential
5. Enable decentralization of legal monitoring
6. Complement traditional grievance mechanism with establishment of direct communication channels to REDD+ professionals

Thankiu tumas



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