



Inception workshop for “Technical support to the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority to implement a multipurpose national forest inventory project”

(As of 14-04-2015)

Date: 30th April 2015

Venue: Holiday Inn, Port Moresby

Background

New Guinea is the largest tropical island in the world and contains the third largest tropical rainforest after Amazon Basin and Congo Basin. The country of Papua New Guinea (PNG) comprises the eastern portion of the New Guinea Island as well as numerous islands and archipelagos. PNG is a well-known centre for biological endemism and diversification. Currently PNG’s tropical rainforest is relatively well conserved. PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) recently produced a national forest base map with assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency and conducted remote sensing based national forest assessment with assistance of UN-REDD. Both studies showed that PNG’s forest covers 80% of country’s land area and 60% of the forest are undisturbed. Nevertheless, the forest is coming under increasing pressure, due to resource extraction, especially through logging, but also from clearing for mining and agriculture. Despite their extent, size and rich diversity, PNG forests are poorly known scientifically.

PNG has taken a global lead in seeking to combat climate change, particularly by proposing measures to realise the carbon abatement opportunity offered by preserving and sustainably managing tropical forests, i.e. by introducing the concept of REDD+ into international negotiations at COP13 in Bali in 2007. The capacity on forest monitoring of PNG using remote sensing technology has significantly improved in recent years. However a large information gap still remains. National scale information on carbon stock in the diverse forests subject to different disturbances is poorly known. Previous studies were too scattered and the estimation of average carbon stock in PNG forests were often contradictory. With the completion of a national forest inventory (NFI), PNG will be able to accurately estimate Green House Gas emissions from forest and land use change meeting the requirements of Tier 3 emission factors (as prescribed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; IPCC) for REDD+ Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV). Biodiversity information collected in the NFI will also be contributing to requirements of Environmental Safeguards of REDD+. Beyond REDD+, PNG’s first NFI will make a significant scientific contribution to the understanding of PNG’s tropical rainforest and the biodiversity within.

The necessity of NFI for better understanding, planning and management of PNG’s forest has been recognized for many years. Designing and planning a PNG NFI has been attempted a number of times but it has never been implemented mainly due to lack of funding and capacity. It will finally be implemented with funding by European Union. PNGFA and the collaborating partners have drafted a methodology for NFI with

the support of UN-REDD National Programme and FAO Mountain Partnership. A number of trainings including species identification, soil survey and data management have been conducted and significant capacity have been built. NFI field implementation will commence later this year after some field trials, refinement of the methodology and regional trainings.

The overall objectives of the project “Technical support to the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority to implement a multipurpose national forest inventory” is to contribute to the implementation of Papua New Guinea’s policies and measures for climate change mitigation. The purpose of the project is to support PNGFA to implement a continuous and multipurpose NFI as part of a National Forest Monitoring System that will fulfil the UNFCCC Cancun and Copenhagen decision requests. The Project will be co-financed with UN-REDD National Programme and supported also by FAO Mountain Partnership.

Workshop Objectives and Outcomes

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- Inform stakeholders the commencement of the EU funded NFI Project;
- Present and discuss the PNG NFI design and methodologies;
- Present and discuss the work programme of the EU funded NFI Project.

Participants

Government and non-government organizations, universities and research institutions, community leaders and development partners.

Agenda

Time	Title	Presenter
8:30am	Registration	
Opening Session Chaired by Prof Simon Saulei, <i>Director, PNG Forest Research Institute</i>		
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome & opening prayer	Goodwill Amos <i>Acting Managing Director, PNG Forest Authority</i>
09:15 - 10:00	Statement by the Minister of Forest	Hon. Douglas Tomuriesa
	Statement by Ambassador, the European Union Statement by Resident Representative, the United Nations	H.E. Martin Dihm Hemansu-Roy Trivedy
10:00 - 10:20	Summary of EU funded PNG NFI Project	Dr Ruth Turia <i>Director of Forest Policy and Planning, PNG Forest Authority</i>
10:20 - 11:00	Photo session followed by coffee/tea break	
Session 1: NFI methodologies Chaired by Dambis Kaip, <i>PNG Forest Research Institute</i>		
11:00 - 11:12	Outcome of Phase 1 (remote sensing based) NFI and forest stratification	Gewa Gamoga <i>PNG Forest Authority</i>
11:12 - 11:24	Cluster selection and design	Elizabeth Kaidong <i>PNG Forest Authority</i>
11:24 - 11:36	Soil survey methodologies and training	Patrick Nimiago <i>PNG Forest Research Institute</i>
11:36 - 11:48	Vertebrate assessment	Dr Paul Dargusch <i>University of Queensland</i>
11:48 - 12:00	Invertebrate assessment	Pagi Togo <i>Binatang Research Centre</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Panel discussions	Panellists: above speakers
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	
Session 2: Capacity building Chaired by Constin Bigol, <i>PNG Forest Authority</i>		
13:30 - 13:42	FAO's support to NFI design and implementation; a global perspective	Dr Julian Fox UN-REDD
13:42 - 13:54	NFI preparation supported by UN-REDD PNG National Programme	Dr Hitofumi Abe UN-REDD
13:54 - 14:06	Species identification methodologies and training	Kipiro Damas <i>PNG Forest Research Institute</i>

14:06 - 14:18	Floral assessment and Mountain Partnership	Giorgio Grussu <i>FAO</i>
14:18 - 14:45	Panel discussions	Panellists: above speakers
14:45 - 15:15	Coffee/Tea	
Session 3: Management arrangement Chaired by Gewa Gamoga, <i>PNG Forest Authority</i>		
15:15 - 15:30	Contents, management structure and work schedule of EU PNG NFI Project	Kenichi Shono <i>FAO</i>
15:30 - 15:45	Management, logistics and schedule of PNG NFI	Constin Bigol <i>PNG Forest Authority</i>
15:45 - 16:00	Panel discussions	Panellists: above speakers
16:00	Closing statement	Dr Ruth Turia <i>Director of Forest Policy and Planning, PNG Forest Authority</i>