

7th Executive Forest Policy Course

**PEOPLE, LAND USE AND
FORESTRY IN THE PACIFIC:
POLICY CHALLENGES IN THE
21ST CENTURY**

Nadi, Fiji

12 – 23 May 2014

COURSE REPORT

August 2014

Organizers:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Asia-Pacific
Forestry
Commission



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

Partners:



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LOWERING EMISSIONS
IN ASIA'S FORESTS



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SEVENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE
12 May – 23 May 2014
Nadi, Fiji

***People, land use and forestry in the South Pacific:
Policy challenges for the 21st century***



COURSE REPORT

August 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Forest policy formulation and implementation remain extremely challenging in a rapidly changing environment and in this regard Pacific countries have to confront multiple challenges on account of their unique economic, social, cultural and ecological conditions. Of major concern is the impacts of climate change related events, including sea level rise, cyclones and storm surges. Land management, including forestry, will have to address a complex array of issues in the context of larger global changes, including the multifarious impacts of globalization. Policies relating to land management, including that of forests will have to take cognizance of growing demand for goods and services. As these demands increase so too will conflicts in the use of land and policy makers will have to identify trade-offs and communicate them effectively to the various stakeholders.

Course Objectives

It is in this context that FAO and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), with financial and technical support from various organizations joined hands to organize the Seventh Executive Forest Policy Course in Nadi from 12 to 23 May 2014. The main objectives of the course were to:

- ✚ Provide an understanding of the implications of larger societal changes including globalization and localization and the imperatives of current and emerging international agreements and conventions on land use in general and forestry in particular;
- ✚ Enable sharing of experiences and best practices in integrated land use in the pursuit of sustainable forest management.
- ✚ Explore ideas and tools for policy analysis and development and their application to South Pacific countries.

Box 1: Participants expectations from the course:

All participants were requested to write down their expectations for the course. The following are the main expectations as indicated by the participants.

- Enhance understanding of emerging challenges facing the forest sector.
- Gain knowledge and skills in policy formulation and implementation.
- Strengthen capacities in policy analysis.
- Improve implementation of national forest policies.
- Enhance skills in drafting policy briefs.
- Learn from the rich experiences of other participants.

By the end of the course, it was expected that the participants would have:

1. Gained a better understanding of the complexity of the problems that forestry will face in the next few decades.
2. Equipped themselves to analyze the problems and to identify options appropriate under different circumstances.

3. Enhanced their abilities to effectively communicate ideas/ perceptions/ views to the different stakeholders.
4. Produced briefs on selected policy related issues (see Box 1).

Participation

In all 21 participants from 7 countries (see Table 1) attended the course (see **Annex I** for the list of participants). Although the course was initially targeted at senior officials, the divergent nomination process as also the specific conditions in each country led the participation of persons with wide ranging experience profiles, including very senior officials with long experience as also those in the early stages of their careers. Participants included those from civil society organizations, research and education institutions and those dealing with policy making (including those from main stream administration). However, the representation of women was limited to just 3 out of a total of 21. This probably reflects the overall state of representation of women in forestry departments in the region.

Table 1: Participants in the Seventh Forest Policy course

Country	Number of participants
China	2
Fiji	4
Papua New Guinea	6
Samoa	2
Solomon Islands	3
Tonga	1
Vanuatu	2
SPC - Fiji	1
Total	21

COURSE PROGRAMME

Detailed programme of the course is given as **Annex II**.

Opening session

Following the devotional prayer, Mr. Cenon Padolina, SPC welcomed the guests, participants and resource persons and underscored the importance of the course to Pacific countries. On behalf of SPC he expressed his thanks to FAO and other partners, especially GIZ, USAID, LEAF and EU-EFI, and EU-FAO-FLEGT, for sponsoring participants and providing other support for organizing the course at relatively short notice.

On behalf of FAO, Mr. Yurdi Yasmi, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific welcomed the participants and extended his thanks to SPC for taking the responsibility for hosting the course. He highlighted the thrust of the course as giving an opportunity to share the experiences of participants. Also he pointed out that, being the Seventh Policy Course, this has taken full advantage of the experience gained from the previous courses.



The keynote address by His Excellency Col. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests, Fiji set the stage for the course. Col. Seruiratu congratulated FAO and SPC for this very timely initiative to improve policy analysis capability in the region, particularly focusing on the multiple challenges that decision makers have to deal with. In particular he drew attention to the challenges posed by climate change which could have a profound impact on the lives of people and the future of Pacific countries. He underscored the need for a pro-active

approach and to develop policies that are forward looking, taking advantage of the lessons from success stories. Specifically he emphasized the need to pursue sustainable development which will require significant strengthening of policy analysis skills.



Mr. Wulf Killman, GIZ Programme Director and Senior Advisor of Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region (CCCPIR) outlined the challenges confronting the Pacific countries in the context of climate change and the need for adapting land use to the changing situation. He provided an overview of the various GIZ/SPC joint initiatives including the formulation of land use/ forest policies and the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

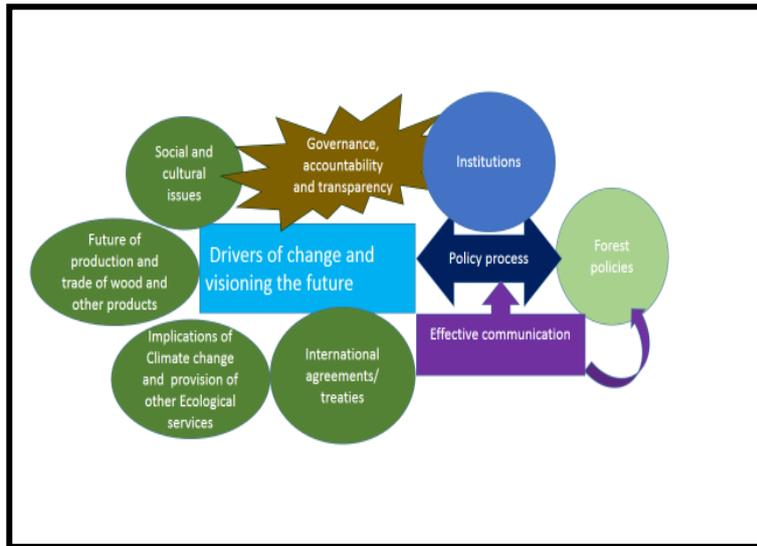
Speaking on behalf of the USAID LEAF programme Mr. Jeremy Broadhead highlighted the rapid changes taking place at the national, regional and global levels and emphasized the need for continued cooperation between different agencies to build policy analysis capabilities. He recalled the earlier involvement of USAID LEAF in the previous policy courses, helping to build capacity in the region and looked forward for continued involvement in similar initiatives in the future.

Ice-breaking session

An ice-breaking session facilitated by Yurdi Yasmi created an informal and congenial environment for the entire course. Participants were able to provide an adjective that best describes their appearance/ character and requested to outline their background and how they got involved in forestry. The way the ice-breaking session was conducted helped to break communication barriers between participants and to create a very dynamic environment.

Technical sessions

Mr. CTS Nair, the Course Coordinator, briefed the participants about the overall framework



of the course and how the different modules/ sessions have been designed. Giving due consideration to the emerging challenges for forestry during the coming decades, the course focused on 10 key areas as depicted in the figure. These included (a) The unfolding future: Societal changes, land use and forestry in the Pacific (b) The environmental dimension: Climate change, natural disasters and land use/ forest policies, (c) Production and trade of wood and other

products in the South Pacific: Legality, sustainability and emerging uncertainties, (d) Social and cultural dimensions of forestry: Equity, poverty alleviation and social inclusion, (e) Building responsive/ proactive institutions, (f) Governance accountability and transparency in the forest sector, (g) Changing international scene: implications of international agreements on national land use/ forest policies (h) The policy process, (i) Effective communications and (j) analysis of national land use/ forest policies. **ANNEX IV** provides the broad areas addressed during the course. The main thrust was to outline key issues under each of the theme and to discuss their implications on forest policy formulation and implementation in the future.

At the outset itself the importance of sharing the expertise and experience of participants was under-scored. Participants were provided with soft copies of relevant articles and reports. Lectures were kept to the minimum, mainly to outline key issues and questions relating to each theme and considerable emphasis was given to group discussions, role playing and group work to elaborate them drawing upon the knowledge and experience of the participants. All through the different sessions participants were encouraged to intervene and to raise questions and share their views.

A short description of the various sessions is provided below:

The unfolding future: Societal changes, land use and forestry in the Pacific

The presentations during the session included (a) Drivers of change affecting forests and forestry (by CTS Nair), (b) Vulnerability of Pacific agriculture and forestry to climate change (Trevor Booth) and (c) Future societies in the South Pacific (CTS Nair), interspersed by group work and discussions. Some of the main points emerging from the presentations and discussion were:

- Society in the future will be very different from what is now on account of the collective impact of multiple drivers – demographic, economic, social, environmental, political and advancements in science and technology.
- While individual drivers will impact forests directly and indirectly, this may be accentuated or moderated by other drivers.
- Collectively the drivers of change will bring about fundamental changes in societal characteristics and the proportion of different segments – pre-agrarian, agrarian, industrial and post-industrial – will be very different from what it is now.
- Divergence in societal characteristics would also imply divergence in the demands on forests.
- Densely populated countries will face major challenges, especially considering the limited availability of natural resources and policies will have to be robust to address increasing conflicts over the use of land and other natural resources including forests.

The environmental dimension: Climate change, natural disasters and land use policies

This session involved presentations on (a) Payments for ecosystem services (PES) in the Pacific – opportunities and challenges (by CTS Nair), Carbon markets, REDD+ and national forest policies (by Jeremy Broadhead), (c) Forest carbon projects and REDD+ in the context of customary land tenure (by Lisa Ogle) and Role of forests in dealing with natural disasters in the Pacific (by Aru Mathias). Substantial time was devoted to group discussions, especially on land use policies and environmental issues and how trade-offs are established between competing objectives. While noting the fact that there is increased awareness of environmental issues and a shift in management objectives from production of wood and other products to provision of environmental services, challenges persist, partly stemming from the limited ability and willingness of society to pay for environmental services. International initiatives like REDD+ are still in the early stages of development and its ultimate impact depends on a number of factors. The discussions highlighted the challenges stemming from customary ownership of land in the Pacific and what needs to be done to ensure wider participation of people in addressing environmental issues.

The policy process

The module was introduced by CTS Nair. This was followed by presentations on the theoretical framework by CTS Nair and integration of forestry in land use policies by Don Gilmour. These presentations were followed by a series of discussions addressing the convergences and divergences between theory and practice, case study presentations on land use policy formulation in the Pacific and what needs to be done to improve the policy process in the Pacific.

- It was noted that historically forest policy has been largely driven by and geared to the industrial model of wood production and has paid little attention to the larger land use issues. Such a framework has led to sector-focused and fragmented policy formulation and implementation, most often resulting in conflicts between different sectors.
- The presentations and discussions underscored the importance of wider stakeholder involvement to identify what needs to be accomplished - for example livelihood – and then to work out how best available land is to be allocated between different uses.
- Community based natural resource management (CBNRM) seems to offer considerable scope for local level integration of land uses. In fact traditional community management systems have been extremely effective in integrating

different land uses and minimizing conflicts. There are multitude of examples of such efforts in the Pacific itself, but often they are marginalized by the more centralized sector focused policies and institutions.

The presentations and discussion underscored the importance of continuous monitoring of policy implementation to ensure that the policy process is continuously updated based on experience as also to accommodate the larger changes.

Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector

The session, facilitated by Don Gilmour, Yurdi Yasmi and CTS Nair, underscored the critical importance of improving governance and addressed the following questions:

- The causes of governance failures and how countries are addressing them;
- Why the forest sector is more prone to governance failures;
- Principles and components of good governance;
- What is actually being done to improve governance in the forest sector and are we seeing any signs of improvement?
- What more needs to be done to improve transparency and accountability?

The five principles of good governance were analysed and how governance can be assessed was elaborated through discussions. Efforts to improve governance are being spearheaded by various players, including civil society, governments, international organizations and the general public. Tools to assess the state of governance have been developed and participants undertook an exercise judging the quality of governance.

Changing international scene: Implications of international agreements on national land use/forest policies



The session included an introduction by CTS Nair, an overview presentation on international agreements by Sairusi Bulai, a presentation on green economy by CTS Nair and a series of group discussions and presentations by participants assessing the pros and cons of different international agreements and how they are influencing national forest policies. Specifically the presentations and discussions

addressed the following:

- Considering the growing linkages between countries through globalization and the trans-boundary nature of environmental problems, international agreements will play an important role in shaping national forest policies.

- Crafting international agreements and their implementation will continue to be challenging, as countries and groups of countries attempt to balance their national interests with what is expected on account of commitments arising out of international agreements. It will remain a slow and often frustrating process.
- Yet there will be no escape from just and equitable arrangements in a more globalized environment.

It is noted that forestry components are addressed in diverse agreements which is causing a number of challenges, as these different components are often handled through different institutional arrangements both nationally and internationally. In particular attention was drawn to the following issues:

- Number and diversity of forest-related agreements and processes although an indication of shared global concern is also indicative of lack of global consensus and coordination
- Agreements have not been negotiated in a systematic way; each negotiated in isolation;
- Agreements have a common trait of taking into account only certain aspects, functions and roles of forests;
- None of the agreements address the balancing of trade and economic growth with environmental protection and local social benefit;
- Forestry has taken centre stage in some of these instruments, particularly under the UNFCCC negotiations.

Participants undertook an exercise in identifying priorities and action areas in forestry in the context of government decision to pursue a “green economy path”. Four groups completed a detailed assessment of priorities and actions which was then presented to the “Cabinet” for consideration. The exercise provided clarity to what needs to be done in the context of a country pursuing a green path and how different activities in the forest sector could be made “greener”.

Production and trade of wood and other products in the South Pacific: Legality, sustainability and uncertainties.



This module was facilitated by Dennis Neilson (focusing the changes in the demand and supply of wood and wood products and the changing pattern of investments in wood production and processing), Chen Xiaoqian (FLEGT and trade of wood in the Pacific), Cenon Padolina (Non-wood forest products management in the Pacific) and Frank Vukikomoal (Energy scenarios in the Pacific and their implications on land use).

Neilson's presentation and the ensuing discussion provided a good overview of what is happening globally and regionally, especially in the South Pacific. Some of the megatrends noted are (a) production and demand for saw and ply logs are relatively stable, while demand for paper and paper products and consequently pulpwood demand is increasing, (b) a shift in the location of wood production from high cost to low cost countries, (c) rapid growth in pulp and paper production in China and other Asian countries like Indonesia and Vietnam. The whole world is being influenced by the rapid changes in production, consumption and trade of forest products from China. It was also noted that China's production of wood products is highly competitive. Mr. Neilson also cautioned against the temptation to restrict/ ban/ tax log exports purportedly to increase domestic processing. Most export bans have not had the desired results.

Chen Xiaoqian made a very informative presentation on FLEGT and trade of wood in the Pacific. Global trade in wood products including furniture is currently US\$ 450 billion; there has also been widespread illegal logging and trade that undermines economic opportunities affecting those operating legitimately undermining the rule of law. Ms. Chen outlined existing national and international market requirements on timber legality, including the US Lacey Act Amendment, EU Timber Regulations, CITES and the Australia Illegal Logging Prevention Bill. In particular she outlined the challenges arising from the Lacey Act amendment, which is a fact based legislation. In other words an importer of products to the US has to prove legality entirely based on facts and documents issued by governments and other agencies will not be accepted.

Canon Padolina provided a comprehensive picture of what is happening in the realm of non-wood forest products. While there is a long list of NWFPs, the most important ones in the Pacific are Kava, agarwood and sandalwood. A major challenge in obtaining a clear picture of the state of NWFPs is the absence of reliable data, primarily on account of the preponderance of informal sector. Other issues related to NWFP development are (a) product development and market access, (b) intellectual property rights and benefit sharing (c) sustainability of production and (d) market fluctuations.

In the presentation on energy scenarios in the Pacific and their implications on land use Frank Vukikomola outlined the challenges and opportunities for energy as a whole and renewable energy in particular. Considering the scattered nature of population, the cost of transmission is very high, making it imperative to have decentralised energy systems. It was noted that no single source will provide stable long term energy supplies and hence there is a need to rely on multiple sources, including biomass, solar, wind and ocean current. As such wood and other biomass form the most important source of household energy, but there is an urgent need to enhance the efficiency of the devices used.

Participants undertook exercises aimed at highlighting the challenges in managing natural forests and plantations under diverse governance situations. In particular participants played the role of different stakeholders – logging companies, local communities and government forestry agencies and negotiated what may be done as regards logging of natural forests. A similar exercise was done as regards investments in forest plantations for wood production, enabling participants to have a better grasp of the complex issues involved in policy processes.

Social and cultural dimensions of forestry: Equity and poverty alleviation

This session focused on examining the social and cultural significance of forests, gender dimension and poverty alleviation role of forests and how these are addressed in national forest policies. For a long time forest policies have largely focused on economic and environmental dimensions; however the prevalence of widespread poverty in forested areas and the high dependence of local communities on forests have drawn attention to the social dimension of forests.

Yurdi Yasmi outlined the changing role of forests in poverty alleviation and the broader socio-cultural values of forests:

- A large number of people living within or adjoining the forests meet a significant share of their basic needs from forests. Their level of consumption is very low and often they exist at the edge of poverty. Any reduction in their access to forests pushes them to extreme poverty. There are then those who make a living through sale of products – firewood, charcoal, non-wood forest products, etc. – which supplements their income and often provides a safety net, especially when income from agriculture is low. Then there are those who dependent on commercial forestry, realising income from employment in logging, wood processing, trade, etc. However reliable statistics on the number of people in the different stages of forest dependence are not available. A major challenge in assessing the varied role of forests in poverty alleviation is the absence of reliable statistics on the numbers of forest dependent people.
- People are affected by three kinds of vulnerabilities, namely spatial (related to the place they live), temporal (related to seasonal changes) and structural (related to policies, legislation and institutions) and it was noted that if forests have to play an effective role in poverty alleviation, all the three vulnerabilities have to be addressed. Often forested areas are characterised by acute poverty on account of all the three vulnerabilities.



Maria Elder Ratutokarua outlined the challenges in dealing with land related conflicts in the South Pacific countries in the context of the preponderance of customary land ownership. In the Pacific land is much more than a means of production and is a determinant of social and political standing of the person. Conflicts over the use of land are hence widespread. Ratutokarua elaborated the underlying causes of the conflicts and the way conflicts are resolved under the customary law and modern law. Often the parallel existence of customary and modern laws and institutions enhances the complexities in resolving land use conflicts.

Building responsive/ proactive institutions

A key concern in the context of changing demands on forests is the ability of forestry institutions to adapt to the changes. This session focused on what needs to be done at the

institutional front to ensure that institutions, especially the public sector, is able to take cognizance of the larger societal changes and respond to the ever-changing needs. Key issues discussed during the session are summarized below:

- In his presentation, Patrick Durst provided an overview of the changing institutional scenario and addressed issues like causes of failures of public forestry institutions, drivers of institutional changes and the changing institutional landscape. He outlined how the functions of public forestry agencies have changed over time and the lessons learnt from past efforts to reinvent public sector forestry agencies.
- The presentation by Morgan Tuimalealiifano addressed the challenges faced by customary institutions in the Pacific. In almost all countries, land (including forests) is largely under communal ownership and often community management is seen as a viable alternative. However, it was noted that community organizations are facing enormous challenges especially as individuals are drawn in opposing directions on account of the influence of traditional and modern institutions. Conflicts as regards succession to the



various customary titles in the communities are intense, affecting all the community organizations as also key land uses including agriculture and forestry. There is a huge backlog of unresolved land disputes, which could take up to 10 years to resolve with the current level of resources and facilities. The underlying message is clear: unless the customary institutions are reformed/reinvented they will not be able to implement sustainable land management.

During the session the participants undertook two important exercises: (a) a SWOT analysis of different institutional arrangements (facilitated by Chris Brown) and (b) assessment of public sector forestry institutions (facilitated by Patrick Durst and Chris Brown). A short summary of what was attempted in the above two exercises are indicated below:



Each group identified and discussed 4 to 5 points as regards strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and assigned a score within the range of 1 to 10 capturing the overall strategic strength of the institution. Each of the groups then made a short presentation of their findings.

The second group work aimed to go deeper into the changes that the public sector forestry agencies have undertaken during the last 5 to 10 years

and to assess to what extent the changes have responded to the changing societal needs. Participants were divided into country groups, and each group discussed how values, functions and structures of the institution they have been working have undergone changes.

Effective communication

The session facilitated by Caroline Liou (RECOFTC) and Anju Mangal (SPC), outlined the key elements contributing to the success of effective communication and the opportunities and challenges stemming from the use of social networking media. The session involved:



- Analysis of different communication tools
- Group discussion on the ‘ingredients’ of effective communication
- Elements of a communication strategy
- Using social media
- Group exercise on developing a basic communication strategy for the policy brief or an issue that the participants are working on.



A detailed assessment of the elements that constitute an effective communication strategy was undertaken outlining how a communication strategy could be tailored to a specific context. The importance of research and analysis in developing the communication strategy was emphasized, as this forms the foundation of what is to be communicated. The diverging approaches for general awareness generation and broader changes

were highlighted (See Figure) as also how the different communication tools – Briefs, Brochures, Interactive posters, Research reports, Media reports, Video, Social media, Mobile phone messages, Radio, Community dialogue, etc. – could be used.

In particular substantial time was devoted to discuss the emerging role of social networking media and how these could be used both for awareness generation and bringing about behavioural changes. Traditionally most organizations have been using Web 1.0, which is

largely a top down approach leading to one-way communication. Social networking falls in the realm of Web 2.0 enabling users to create and transmit their messages and share it with other users.

Analysis of national forest policies

Box 2: A set of criteria for policy assessment:

- C1 - Does the policy adequately support the management of trees and forests?
- C2 – Is the policy delivering the requisite conservation outcomes?
- C3 - Is the policy ensuring necessary provision and regulation of ecosystem services and NWFPs?
- C4 - Is the policy adequately supporting wood processing?
- C5 – Is the policy delivering anticipated revenues to forest owners and government?
- C6 - Does the policy align with social and cultural requirements and aspirations?
- C7 - Was the policy prepared with adequate consultation and stakeholder participation?
- C8 - Have there been changes in the political and institutional landscape that necessitate policy revisions?

Having examined the different aspects of policy formulation and implementation, during this session participants made an effort to assess the effectiveness of their national forest policies. Eight criteria – some process oriented while others outcome oriented - were identified (see Box 2). Using these criteria participants working in country groups evaluated their policies, assigning values ranging from 1 to 10, 1 being the least effective and 10 the most effective. The results were presented as a “radar diagram”, providing a visual indication of the effectiveness of the policies.

Field trip

The field trip covered three locations each demonstrating different aspects of forest management:

- Pine resin tapping undertaken by Callison Pacific Pine Chemicals (CPCC): Currently CPCC is in the second year of operations in Fiji and has a memorandum of understanding with Fiji Pine Ltd. to tap the *Pinus caribaea* plantations. The participants got a first-hand idea of the technical, economic and social dimensions of resin tapping. As such pine resin is a byproduct, and CPCC is considering the establishment of plantations with the primary objective of resin production. Currently 400 workers are employed in the resin tapping operation and the entire product is exported.



- Pine plantations managed by Fiji Pine Ltd (FPL): FPL owns some 40,000 ha of *Pinus caribaea* plantations and is responsible for producing and marketing wood. Visit to the plantation site provided an idea of the silvicultural and management aspects of pine

cultivation. Management of the plantations has strong positive linkages with the local economy, especially through employment generation. FPL also provides support to local communities through funding community welfare programmes and common infrastructure. The main products are wood chips, exported mainly to Japan, and saw logs sold mainly to Australia. FPL has obtained FSC certification for its plantations, and is the first forestry company to obtain such recognition, confirming that the plantations are managed sustainably adhering to social and environmental stipulations.

- Coconut wood processing: Pacific Green is one of the pioneering company to produce high value products from coconut wood, especially taking advantage of the senile and mature trees abundantly available in the region. The participants had an opportunity to see all the steps involved in the production of furniture and other household items and how the entire process is organized. Success of Pacific Green largely depends on excellent design of products, dedicated and competent work force and more importantly the global marketing strategy targeting high-income consumers.

Course work

Participants devoted substantial time to identify the problems, define the issues involved, assess the different options and to draft policy briefs on the topics so identified. The following topics were identified for preparation of policy briefs:



1. Improving community livelihoods from forestry projects;
2. Downstream wood processing opportunities for PNG and Fiji;
3. Maximising land use opportunities in the Pacific – National land use policies;
4. Forest plantation strategy for the Pacific.
5. REDD+ in the Pacific

A broad outline for the policy briefs was discussed and agreed upon and each of the group worked independently on the topics with guidance from the resource persons. These briefs were presented at the end of the course and a number of suggestions were provided to improve the structure and content of the briefs. The draft briefs presented are contained in ANNEX V).

Closing session

The closing session was held on 23 May when certificate of successful participation were awarded to all participants.

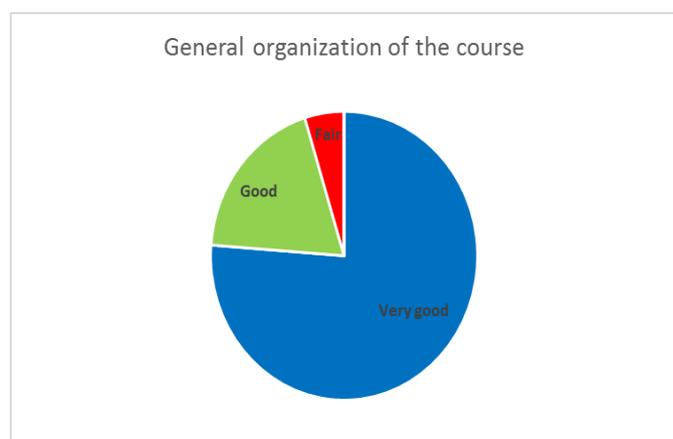
EVALUATION OF THE COURSE

At the conclusion of the course, a questionnaire was distributed to all the participants (questionnaire attached as **Annex VI**) seeking their feedback on the course. In addition to requesting the participants to grade the different components of the course (from very good to very poor), they were requested to give comments on what they found most useful, what parts of the course they found least useful and suggestions to improve the course in future. Key findings of the assessment made by the course participants are summarised below:

General organizational issues

Participants were requested to assess the overall organization of the course based on the following criteria:

1. Information received on the course
2. Information on general arrangements
3. Accommodation
4. Meals, breaks, etc.
5. Venue arrangements
6. Opportunities for interaction among participants
7. Overall organization



Overall the quality of organization of the course was evaluated as very good and good by 20 out of 21 participants (see Fig).

Assessment of the different modules:

Table 2 below provides an indication of the overall assessment of the different modules by participants:

Table 2: Evaluation of different modulesⁱ

S.No	Module	Number of participants evaluating the module as:					Total
		Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	
1	Societal changes, land use and forestry	7	12	2	0	0	21
2	Environmental dimension	5	14	2	0	0	21
3	Policy process	14	7	0	0	0	21
4	Governance, accountability and transparency	10	10	1	0	0	21
5	Field trip	9	10	2	0	0	21
6	Implications of international agreements on national land	8	11	2	0	0	21

	use/ forest policies						
7	Production and trade of wood and other products	6	13	3	0	0	22
8	Social and cultural dimensions	12	8	2	0	0	22
9	Building responsive/ proactive institutions	11	9	2	0	0	22
10	Effective communication	12	7	3	0	0	22
11	Analysis of national forest/ land use policies	7	13	2	0	0	22
12	Course work	14	5	3	0	0	22

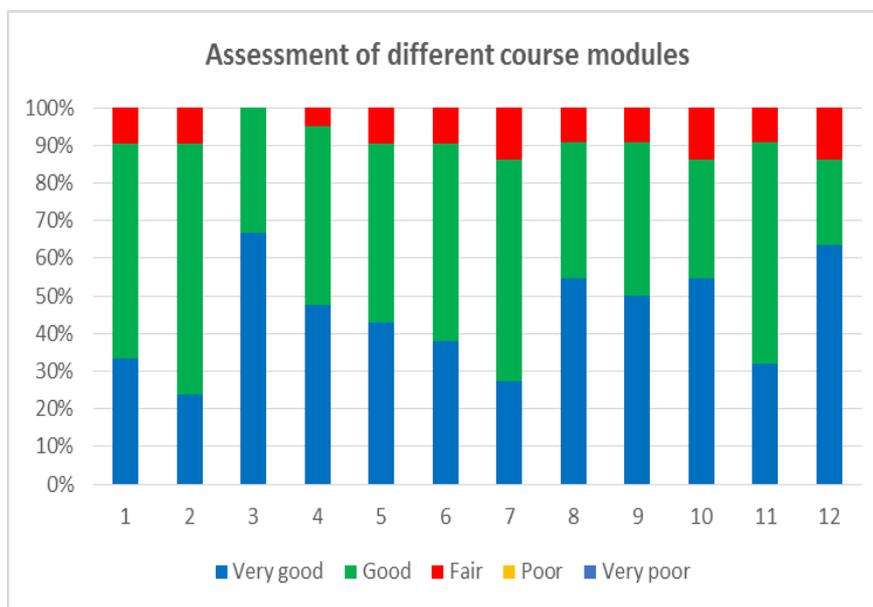
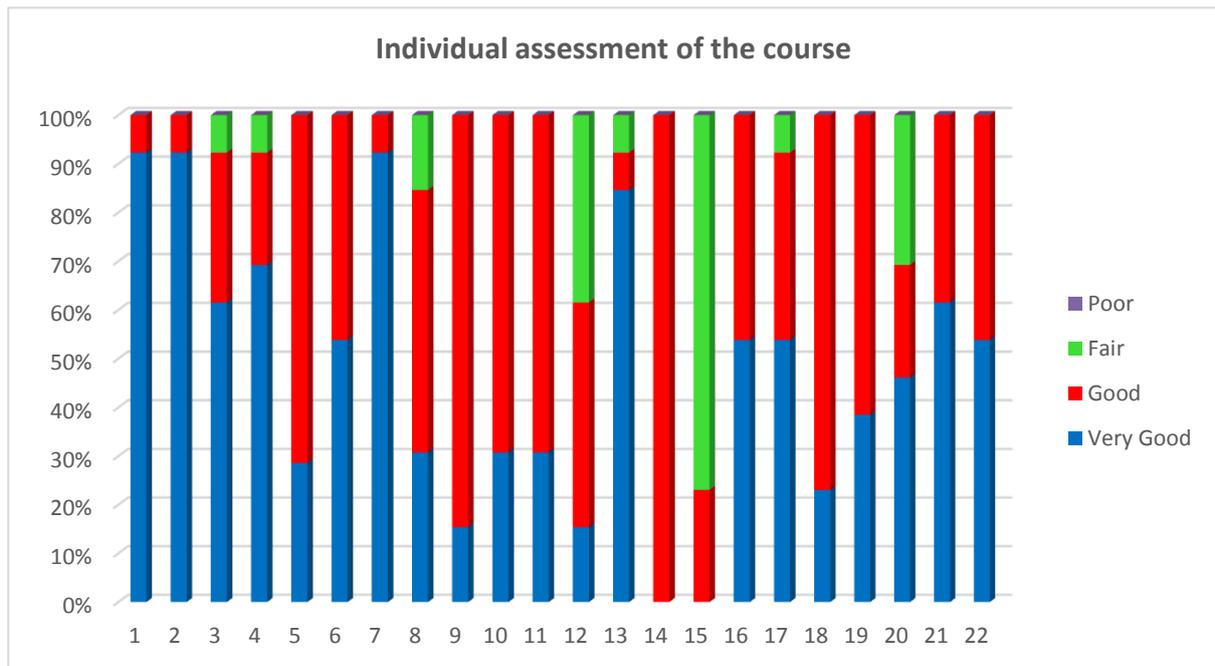


Table above gives an indication that overall the participants were highly satisfied with the different modules offered during the course. No one has assigned an overall grade of poor or very poor to any of the modules. More than 85 percent of the participants have evaluated all the modules as very good or good. Among the different

modules/ sessions the one that seems have been most liked is the policy process (Item 3, policy process), with 100 percent of the participants judging it as very good or good. Governance, accountability and transparency is another module that received a very high rating with 95 percent of participants judging it as very good or good. The course work undertaken – namely preparation of policy briefs seems to have scored well, with 14 of the participants grading it as very good, although 3 participants graded it as fair.

Assessment of different components of the course by participants

Putting together the grades that each of the 21 participants have assigned to the different components of the course provides an overall picture of how the course has been perceived (see Figure below). Some of the conclusions that can be drawn from this are:



- Fourteen participants (or 64 percent of the participants) rated all elements of the course as very good or good;
- A further 4 participants (18 percent) ranked more than 80 percent of the course as very good or good.
- Three participants graded 15 -40 percent of the course as fair;
- Just one participant gave an over all grading of 80 percent as fair and the remaining 20 percent of the course as good.
- No participant has evaluated any of the component of the course as “poor” or “very poor”.

From the above it is clear that overall the course was very well received. Of course there is still scope for improvement so that the grading assigned moves up.

Specific comments and suggestions

In addition to ascertaining the level of satisfaction, the participants were requested to provide specific comments on the topics they liked most and liked least, topics that should have been included and suggestions to improve future courses. Comments received in this regard are summarised below:

Parts of the course most liked by participants

The response in this regard varied significantly as evident from the preferences indicated below:

- Policy process
- Communication strategies
- Field trip

- Group work involving discussion of real situation
- Non-wood forest products
- Governance;
- Societal changes
- Different presentations from the different presenters on contrasting issues;
- Participatory discussion on traditional and modern transition of forestry
- Formulation of land use policy;
- All components of the course
- Effective communications
- All parts of the course in particular the opportunity for discussion
- Interactive presentations,
- Drafting the policy briefs
- Group work;
- All modules, in particular policy process and effective communication

Synthesizing the responses by course participants would suggest the following order of preference as regards the different topics/ modules.

Table 3: Most preferred topics/ activity

Preference	Topic
1	Policy process
2	Effective communication
3	Group work including preparation of policy briefs
4	Interactive presentations

From the responses it may appear that governance and institutions followed by societal changes, social issues and policy process are the modules most liked components of the course.

Parts of the course least liked

To this question thirteen participants responded that they liked all components of the course and they did not dislike any of the modules. However a few indicated their least likes as given in Table below:

Table 4: Least liked topics by some of the participants and the reasons

Responses	Reasons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive group work sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were bombarded with varied group work sessions one after the other , which became boring towards the second week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective communication¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is nothing new to me • This should have come at the beginning of the course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customary land use • Institutional exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both were very general
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood production and forestry institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They seemed the same old stories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing international scene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very hard to cope with.

Parts of the course most useful to the work of participants

The responses to this question are summarised below:

Table 5: Parts of the course most useful for work

Topic	Number of participants rating these as most useful to their work
Policy process and drafting policy briefs	13
All sessions	5
Building responsive/ proactive institutions	1
Effective communication	1

¹ We have a situation where communication is listed as a liked module by participants and at the same time it also appears at the top of the least liked by a smaller number - 3 (out of 22 or 14%). It is important to note that most participants suggested that they did not dislike any module. Therefore, Table 4 illustrates areas where small number of participants made suggestions/ comments on some of the modules they considered rather generic but they still perceive them useful.

While five of the participants indicated that all the sessions are useful for their work, an overwhelming number (13) indicated policy process and drafting policy briefs as the most useful as regards their work. Other topics rated as most useful are building responsive/proactive institutions and effective communication.

Suggestions by participants

The participants gave several suggestions to improve the conduct of future courses, the most important of which are listed below:

- Spend more time on developing policy briefs in a more systematic manner including presentation of each part of the brief as and when it is completed.
- There should be more interactive presentations and group work;
- Grouping of the participants should be on country-basis; this could make the drafting of policy briefs easier.
- There should be a follow-up after the course if feasible.
- More Pacific countries should be involved.
- There should be presentations on country situation by representatives from each of countries.
- The course may be shortened as two weeks is too long.
- More time to be allocated for discussion of group work and SWOT analysis.
- The course should be targeted at middle level managers and organized at the country level.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Factors that contributed to the success of the course

Overall the course could be rated as a highly successful event considering the very high scoring that participants have assigned to the different components of the course. Also almost all resource persons pointed out that the level of involvement of the participants as very high. This is entirely due to the excellent team work of the different institutions/ individuals involved in the course as indicated below:

- SPC, the local host, looked after all details of the organization of the course including Secretariat support, accommodation and transport. Staff of SPC were available at all times to take care of the different aspects of organizing the course and this is the reason why participants have assigned high scores for the overall organization of the course. In addition, SPC provided substantial technical support by providing highly competent resource persons to deal with a number of important topics.
- Participants were contacted in advance and were provided with a very detailed write up on the course structure and how it has been designed, clearly indicating that the course

will focus on sharing their experience and they will have to identify issues/ problems prior to their arrival. This in a way helped to take the course into a participatory framework right from the beginning.

- FAO and SPC were able to deploy several highly qualified experts as resource persons. This provided a unique opportunity to the course participants to interact with those who have varied and in-depth understanding of the issues.
- Although the course dates were firmed up only in mid February 2013, FAO and SPC did an excellent job in speedily completing the various arrangements and effectively engaging the different partners and potential sponsors. It is to the credit of FAO and SPC that the nomination process was completed in a relatively short period and, more important, substantial support could be mobilised from various organizations by way of sponsorship of participants. All the 21 participants were funded by various organizations, largely reflecting the ability of SPC and FAO Regional Office to attract funding based on a credible and relevant programme.

Overall the outstanding teamwork of several individuals and institutions contributed to the success of the course.

Areas that require improvement

Although substantial time was devoted by participants to work on the policy briefs (with most of them spending long hours late in the evening), it was noted that with a bit more planning much better outputs could have been obtained. Almost all participants were quite happy with the component and demonstrated considerable interest and enthusiasm. However, the final products did not fully reflect the level of effort they have exerted. Also more time should have been given for this exercise.

Recommendations

Continuation of the policy course

The Seventh Executive Forest Policy Course is largely based on the framework developed for the Sixth Course held at Thimphu in 2013, adapting it to the specific conditions in the Pacific. The positive response clearly indicates that this framework could be used for similar courses in other sub-regions making appropriate changes in the structure and contents to suit the specific context.

Focus on specific themes

The framework developed could also be adapted to address broader themes relevant to groups of countries. One such theme that could form the core of the next course could be rehabilitation of degraded forests, a topic of critical relevance to most countries, and has policy, legal, institutional, economic, social and environmental ramifications.

Scope for short in-country courses

From the various suggestions received from the course participants, it may appear that there is a need for short courses at the country level focusing on policy process and preparation of policy briefs. For most of those involved in policy formulation and implementation at the national level such a course will provide a solid base in how they could make better policies and implement them more effectively.

Drafting policy briefs

The exercise of drafting policy briefs has been well appreciated by all participants. However the outputs could have been much better if this was done more systematically including through prior preparation before the participants join the course. The quality of the briefs could have been improved, if the entire process is divided into stages with each group making presentation at the end of each stage, providing an opportunity to correct the deficiencies.

ANNEXES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<p>Mr Chen Yong Deputy Director Center for International Forest Products Trade, SFA China chenyong2000@vip.sina.com</p>	<p>Mr Malaki Iakopo Principal Policy and Planning Officer Water Resource Division Samoa malaki.iakopo@mnre.gov.ws</p>
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<p>Mr Lyall Umbo</p>	<p>Mr Watson John Lui</p>

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<p>Mr Terence Barambi Senior REDD+ Officer Office of Climate Change and Development PNG laronwavi@gmail.com</p>	<p>Ms Mary Theresa Boni Manager - Policy, Governance & Research PNG ECO Forestry Forum Inc. PNG mboni@ecoforestry.org.pg</p>
<p>Mr Gae Y. Gowae Deputy Chief of Party USIAD-IUCN MARCH Project PNG gygowae@gmail.com</p>	<p>Ms Maria Elder-Ratutokarua Agriculture and Forest Policy Officer Land Resources Division Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) SPC, Fiji MariaR@spc.int</p>

7th Executive Forest Policy Course, 12 – 23 May 2014 | Nadi, Fiji

**PEOPLE, LAND USE AND FORESTRY IN THE PACIFIC:
POLICY CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Monday 12 May 2014

- Opening ceremony and introduction to the course
- Module 1: Societal changes, land use and forestry

Time	Agenda	Presenter/ Facilitator
0730 - 0900	Registration:	Bale Wilikibau
0900 – 0945	Opening ceremony: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garlanding of Chief Guest • Devotional Prayer • Welcome remarks • Introductory remarks • Keynote address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote of thanks 	SPC (Cenon Padolina) FAO (Yurdi Yasmi) His Excellency, Col. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests, Fiji <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIZ (Wulf Killmann) • USAID LEAF (Jeremy Broadhead) FAO (Aru Mathias)
0945 - 1030	Icebreaker – Getting to know each other	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
	Introduction to the course	CTS Nair
1030 – 1100	Coffee break – Group Photo	
1100 - 1200	Drivers of change	CTS Nair/Jeremy Broadhead

1200 - 1300	Special lecture: Vulnerability of Pacific agriculture and forestry to climate change	Trevor Booth
1300 – 1400	Lunch break	
1400 – 1500	Future societies in the South Pacific	CTS Nair
1500 – 1545	Group work on societal changes in the Pacific and their implications on land use	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
1545 - 1600	Tea break	
1600 – 1730	Course work discussion – Presentation of problems by participants	CTS Nair/ Aru Mathias
1800 - 2030	Welcome dinner	

DAY 2: Tuesday 13 May 2014

Module 2: The environmental dimension: Climate change, natural disasters and land use policies

0900 - 0915	Review of topics addressed on Day 1	Selected Participants
0915 - 0945	Introduction: Payment for ecological services (PES) in the Pacific: Opportunities and challenges	CTS Nair
0945 - 1030	Carbon markets, REDD+ and national forest policies	Jeremy Broadhead
1030- 1100	Coffee break	
1100 - 1200	Incentivizing forest and land use carbon emissions reductions: Lessons from Australia and New Zealand	Jeremy Broadhead
1200 - 1300	Forest carbon projects and REDD+ in the context of customary land tenure.	Lisa Ogle
1300 - 1400	Lunch	
1400 - 1500	Group discussion on environmental issues and land use policies	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Jeremy Broadhead/ Sairusi Bulai
1500 - 1530	Coffee break	
1530 - 1630	Role of forests in dealing with	Aru Mathias

	natural disasters in the Pacific	
1630 - 1730	Preparation of policy briefs: Identification of topics	Sairusi Bulai/ Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair/ Jeremy Broadhead
Day 3: Wednesday 14 May 2014		
Module 8: The Policy Process		
0900-0915	Review of topics addressed on Day 2	Selected Participants
0915- 0930	Introduction to the module	CTS Nair
0930 – 1030	Land use policy formulation: The theoretical framework	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi
1030-1100	Coffee break	
1100 -1200	Integrating forestry in land use policies: The challenges in the Pacific	Don Gilmour
1200 - 1300	Case study presentations on land use/forest policy formulation in the Pacific: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The convergences and divergences between theory and practice 	By participants (facilitated by CTS Nair and Yurdi Yasmi)
1300 -1400	Lunch	
1400 - 1500	Case study presentations on land use/ forest policy formulation in the Pacific:	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
1500 -1530	Coffee	
1530 -1630	Group discussion: How to improve policy formulation process in the Pacific	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair/ Aru Mathias
1630 - 1730	Course work	Sairusi Bulai/ Yurdi Yasmi/CTS Nair
Day 4: Thursday 15 May 2014		
Module 6: Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector		
0900 - 0915	Review of topics addressed on Day 3	Course participants

0915 - 0930	Introduction to the module	CTS Nair
0930 - 1030	Why governance is becoming a critical factor?	Don Gilmour
1030 – 1100	Coffee	
1100 -1200	Improving forest governance: Experience in the Pacific	Don Gilmour/ Yurdi Yasmi
1200 - 1300	Tools for improving forest governance	Don Gilmour
1300 - 1400	Lunch	
1400 - 1500	Discussion on the challenges in improving forest governance in the Pacific	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
1500 -1530	Tea\Coffee break	
1530-1730	Course work	

Day 5: Friday 16 May 2014

Field trip

0830	Depart for field trip	Jalesi Mateboto
1730	Return to Hotel	Jalesi Mateboto

Day 6: Saturday 17 May 2014

Module 7: Changing international scene: Implications of international agreements on national land use/ forest policies

0900 -0915	Review of topics addressed on Day 4	Course participants
0915 - 0930	Introduction to the module	CTS Nair
0930-1030	An overview of international agreements impacting forests	Sairusi Bulai
1030-1100	Tea\Coffee break	
1100 - 1200	The pursuit of green economy: Challenges and opportunities in the Pacific	CTS Nair
1200 - 1300	Discussion: Green economy and	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair

	forestry in the Pacific.	
1300 - 1400	Lunch break	
1400 - 1500	Discussion: Implications of international agreements on forests and forestry in the Pacific.	Yurdi Yasmi/CTS Nair
1500 -1530	Tea\Coffee break	
1530 - 1630	Drafting briefing notes on the pros and cons of selected international agreements	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
1630 -1730	Course work	
Day 7: Sunday 18 May 2014		
Course work by participants		
Day 8: Monday 19 May 2014		
Module 3: Production and trade of wood and other products in the South Pacific: Legality, sustainability and uncertainties		
0900 - 0915	Review of topics addressed on day 5	Course participants
0915 - 0930	Introduction to the module	CTS Nair
0930 - 1030	Wood production, processing and trade: What future for the Pacific countries?	Dennis Neilson
1030-1100	Tea\Coffee break	
1100-1200	FLEGT and trade of wood in the Pacific	Chen Xiaoqian
1200 -1300	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term sustainability of wood production in the Pacific • Potential of agroforestry for wood production in the Pacific 	Dennis Neilson/ CTS Nair/ Chris Brown/ Chen Xiaoqian Cenon Padolina
1300-1400	Lunch break	
1400 -1500	Non-wood forest products	Cenon Padolina

	management in the Pacific	
1500 -1530	Tea\Coffee break	
1530 -1630	Energy scenarios for the Pacific and their implications on land use	Frank Vukikomoal
1630 -1730	Course work discussion	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Chris Brown
Day 9: Tuesday 20 May 2014		
Module 4: Social and cultural dimensions of forestry: Equity, poverty alleviation		
0900-0915	Review of topics addressed on day 8	Course participants
0915 - 0930	Introduction to the module	CTS Nair
0930 - 1030	Social and cultural dimensions and land use policies	Yurdi Yasmi
1030-1100	Tea\Coffee break	
1100 - 1200	The nature of land use conflicts in the Pacific	Maria Elder-Ratutokarua
1200 -1300	Forests and poverty alleviation: Myths and misconceptions	Yurdi Yasmi
1300 -1400	Lunch break	
1400 -1500	Group Work: Bench marking and measuring forest policies for social objectives	Yurdi Yasmi/ Sairusi Bulai/ CTS Nair
1500 -1530	Tea\Coffee break	
1530 -1630	Role playing: Briefing Forest Ministers on social significance of forests	Chris Brown/ Sairusi Bulai/ Yurdi Yasmi
1630 - 1730	Preparation of policy briefs	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi
Day 10: Wednesday 21 May 2014		
Module 5: Building responsive/ proactive institutions		
0900 -0915	Review of issues addressed on day 9	Course participants
0915 - 0930	Introduction to the module	CTS Nair

0930-1030	Changing institutional scenario in the forest sector	Patrick Durst
1030 -1100	Tea\Coffee break	
1100 -1200	Customary institutions in the Pacific: How they are adapting to socio-economic changes	Morgan Tuimalealiifano
1200 -1300	SWOT Analysis of forestry institutions: Group Work	Chris Brown
1300 -1400	Lunch break	
1400 -1500	Group Work on assessing public sector institutions	Patrick Durst/ Chris Brown
1500 -1530	Tea\Coffee break	
1530-1730	Preparation of policy briefs	Patrick Durst/ CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi
Day 11: Thursday 22 May 2014		
Module 9: Effective communications		
Module 10: Analysis of national land use/forest policies		
0900 -0915	Review of issues addressed on day 10	Course participants
0915- 0930	Introduction to the modules	CTS Nair
0930 - 1030	Making communications effective and efficient	Caroline Liou
1030 -1100	Tea\Coffee break	
1100 -1300	Impact of social networking media in the Pacific	Anju Mangal
1300 -1400	Lunch break	
1400 -1500	Criteria and indicators for analyzing national land use/forest policies	Patrick Durst
1500 -1530	Tea\Coffee break	
1530-1630	Group Work: Analysis of national forest policies	Patrick Durst/Yurdi Yasmi/ Sairusi Bulai/ Chris Brown
1630-1730	Finalization of policy briefs	CTS Nair/ Chris Brown/ Patrick Durst/

		Yurdi Yasmi
1800-1830	Cocktail (Hosted by the Hotel)	
Day 12: Friday 23 May 2014		
0900 - 1030	Presentation of course work (Policy briefs)	Participants
1030 - 1100	Tea\Coffee break	
1100 - 1200	Course evaluation	Patrick Durst/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Sairusi Bulai
1200 -1300	Closing ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award of Course certificates • Closing remarks by participants, Course sponsors, organizers and local hosts 	Patrick Durst/ Sairusi Bulai
Saturday 24 May 2014		
Departure of participants and resource persons		

RESOURCE PERSONS

<p>Trevor Booth Senior Principal Research Scientist CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences Canberra, ACT 2601, AUSTRALIA Email: trevor.booth@csiro.au</p>	<p>CTS Nair Natural Resource Management Consultant P:O: Naduvath, Wandoor, Kerala 679328 INDIA Email: ctsnair47@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Caroline Liou Communication Manager RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, Bangkok</p>	<p>Frank Vukikomoala Energy Database Officer Secretariat of the Pacific Community FIJI</p>

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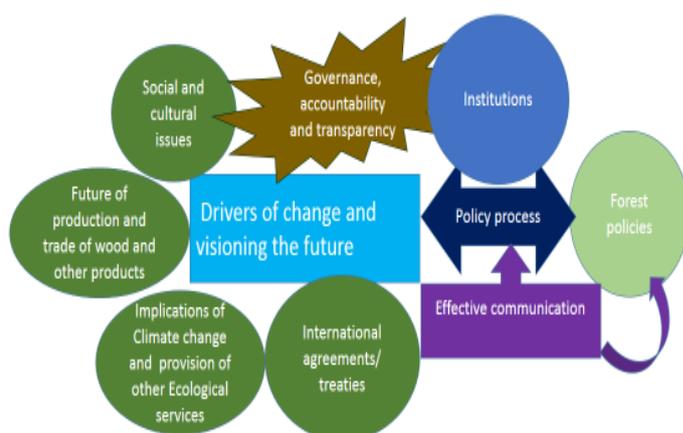
OUTLINE OF THE 7TH FOREST POLICY COURSE

PEOPLE, LAND USE AND FORESTRY IN THE PACIFIC: POLICY CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

INTRODUCTION

Drawing upon the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission's Forestry Sector Outlook Study, in particular the Pacific Sub regional outlook report and various other initiatives spearheaded by countries/territories and bilateral and multilateral agencies, the Seventh Executive Forest Policy Course aims to provide a unique opportunity to discuss and debate the emerging challenges facing forests and forestry in the Pacific countries. Participation in the course will help sharpen policy analysis capability through providing in-depth understanding of critical economic, social and environmental issues at the national, regional and global levels. Participants will become familiar with the recent developments in a wide array of areas impacting land use in general and forestry in particular. The course has been particularly designed to address some of the specific conditions in the Pacific such as:

- Preponderance of customary land ownership;
- Need to adopt a landscape approach ensuring close integration of forest and trees with other land uses, especially agriculture;
- Direct and indirect implications of climate change, in particular the increasing frequency and severity of extreme climatic events on land use and forestry; and
- The impact of globalization on the economy in general and forestry in particular.



The overall framework of the course will be as given in the diagram. While the issues relating to a given topic will be introduced by an expert, much of the thrust will be to capitalize on the varied experience of the participants through seminars, group work, role playing and debates. Participants attending the course will be required to undertake advance preparations from their home countries. Once nomination is received the course coordinator will get in touch with the participants

requesting them to prepare for seminars, debates and group discussion on specific topics based on their experience/ expertise.

MODULE 1: THE UNFOLDING FUTURE: SOCIETAL CHANGES, LAND USE AND FORESTRY IN THE PACIFIC

Background

A major challenge confronting forestry is the need to adapt it to the changing needs of society. Being a long term investment maintaining a balance between long term stability in policies and the need to respond to the rapidly changing needs requires a clear understanding about the overall direction of societal change. The needs of pre-agrarian, agrarian, industrial and post-industrial societies differ significantly and often most of the conflicts in the use of land and forests stem from such differences. Crafting land use policies therefore requires a clear understanding of how the society is changing, the divergent needs of different segments in society and how to balance the differing perceptions, priorities and needs. Most often policies are formulated without giving due consideration to the future changes and consequently many policies become ineffective or outdated within a very short period. It is in this context that this module aims to provide an opportunity to examine how the future is unfolding for the people in the Pacific and what it really means for land use in general and forestry in particular.

Objectives of the module:

- Examine key drivers of change and help to visualize how these may transform society in the Pacific in the next two decades and beyond;
- Analyze how the larger societal changes will impact land use in general and forestry in particular in the Pacific countries;
- Discuss probable scenarios for forestry and how these may be factored in the formulation of forest policies.

Issues proposed to be discussed:

Some of the main issues/ questions proposed to be discussed under this module are listed below. These are not exhaustive and many others may emerge during the discussions:

- What will be collective impact of the different drivers – demographic, economic, environmental, technological and political – on the larger society in the Pacific countries? What will be the broad differences in the situation between countries?
- What will be the differences between the large and small island countries as regards the long term economic situation?
- In what way the larger changes in the global economy will impact the Pacific economies and how these impacts will affect land use and forestry? What will be the future of land use and what will be the direction of change as regards dependence on land?
- Will climate change related events be a major factor that will impact land use in the Pacific countries and what will be capacity of countries to respond to the risks and uncertainties involved?

- To what extent technological developments have impacted land use/ forestry and what could we expect in the coming decades?
- Visualizing the emerging changes in society in the coming decades, what factors and considerations need to be taken into account in the process of crafting land use/ forest policies to ensure that they remain relevant to the needs of a dynamic society?

MODULE 2: THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION: CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL DISASTERS AND LAND USE/ FOREST POLICIES

Background:

Environmental issues, especially climate change, are of foremost importance for all the Pacific countries. Undoubtedly climate change will remain an over-arching issue for all Pacific countries especially as extreme climatic events like cyclones, storm surges, etc. start affecting the lives of people adversely. Issues like loss of biodiversity and changes in water supply are also becoming critical. For a number of countries protecting the landscape is critical especially to support the tourism industry. Environmental concerns will have to be built into land use/ forest policies and there are several ongoing initiatives aimed to mainstream environmental concerns in national economic and land use policies. This module is intended to assess how the countries have been addressing the environmental issues, what will be the critical environmental issues in the coming decades and what more needs to be done to deal with the emerging challenges

Objectives:

- Provide an opportunity to discuss and debate how environmental issues, especially climate change will directly and indirectly impact the Pacific economies and how these needs to be addressed in land use/ forest policies.
- Analyze the experience in mainstreaming environmental concerns in land use/ forest policies and their effectiveness.
- Assess the potentials and limitations of market driven approaches in addressing environmental issues.

Issues to be addressed:

Presentations, discussions and debates under this module are aimed to address key society-environment issues that are impacting land use specifically focusing on the following:

- What will be the emerging environmental scenarios for the Pacific countries and to what extent these are taken into account in the land use/ forest policies?
- How effective have been the efforts hitherto to address the environmental issues, in particular climate change? Are these efforts taking the countries towards a more environment friendly scenario?
- What are the mechanisms to develop a balance between production and environmental objectives in land use and forest policies? How is this being accepted by society at large?

- Considering the preponderance of customary ownership of land what are the challenges in dealing with key problems like climate change mitigation and adaptation, loss of biodiversity and watershed degradation? What are the mechanisms available to ensure a balance between meeting the development aspirations of local communities and at the same time enhancing the provision of global public goods like combating climate change and protecting biodiversity?
- What are the linkages between environmental policies and legislation with land use/ forest policies? Are they complementary/ synergistic?
- What are the lessons from the experience hitherto as regards market focused approaches like PES within and outside the Pacific region? Considering the larger changes in society, including the willingness and ability to pay for environmental services (or willingness to bear the direct and indirect costs of environmental protection) what are the long term prospects for market based interventions?
- What are the long term scenarios for REDD+ in the Pacific countries? What should be done to address the different challenges in making REDD+ operational on the ground?

MODULE 3: PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF WOOD AND OTHER PRODUCTS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC: LEGALITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND EMERGING UNCERTAINTIES.

Background

Historically wood production has been the main focus of forest management in most of the forest rich Pacific countries, especially Melanesia. While most countries have resorted to logging natural forests catering to the regional and global demand for timber, only a few countries have embarked on a planted forests programme to ensure long term sustainability of wood production. Sustainability of wood production and forest law enforcement and governance issues have become key concerns for a number of countries. Countries in the region will also have to address the long term changes in global demand for wood and wood products including changes in the competitiveness of wood production. Further the countries will have to identify the opportunities and challenges as regards the production, trade and consumption of other products, including woodfuel and non-wood forest products. This module is geared to analyze the diverse issues as regards the production, trade and use of key forest products and to what extent policies have accommodated the emerging challenges of production forestry.

Objectives:

1. Provide an overview of production, trade and consumption of wood and wood products in the Pacific countries and the various scenarios as regards wood production and trade especially focusing on probable changes in global and regional markets including the impact of climate change policies.
2. Analyze the challenges in forest law enforcement and improving legality and accountability in timber production and trade.
3. Assess the future of woodfuel and non-wood forest products in bolstering local economies.
4. Examine how production objectives are accommodated in land use/ forest policies and how trade-offs have been established.

Issues proposed to be addressed

Discussions and debates under this module will focus attention on the efficiency and sustainability dimensions of production of wood and other products and how production and trade are contributing to the economic well-being of people. Some of the important questions/ issues that will be addressed include:

- What are the long term trends in the demand for wood and wood products and the current and potential contribution of Pacific forests? Could we visualize a very different scenario than what is manifesting now?
- What should be the appropriate strategy for sustainable timber production in the forest rich countries in the Pacific? Should they adopt a strategy of fully taking advantage of the present demand for tropical timber irrespective of what happens in the future or ensure long term sustainability?
- What should be done to improve governance and legality in timber production? What are the lessons that can be learnt from the FLEGT experience hitherto?
- What are the long term opportunities for production, processing and trade of non-wood forest products that are unique to the Region?
- What are the probable scenarios for biomass energy production and use in the Pacific countries?
- To what extent current policies on land/ forests reflect the long term issues relating to production, trade and consumption of wood and other products?

MODULE 4: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF FORESTRY: EQUITY, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Background

With the exception of Australia and New Zealand most of the large island countries are predominantly rural and forests fulfill a number of social and cultural functions. In particular forests contribute to rural employment and poverty alleviation and the cultural ties of traditional communities with forests are very strong. A key issue therefore is the future role of forests in meeting the social and cultural needs of the local communities and to what extent they are able to alleviate rural poverty and enhance social inclusion. Of particular concern is the gender aspects of forestry and how changes in forestry practices impact women, who along with others tend to be marginalized in the context of current approaches to forest management. There are very divergent views on this. One school believes that as society becomes richer the dependence of people on forests tends to decline and the alleged role of forests in poverty alleviation is at best transient. There are others who believe that forests could play an important role in poverty alleviation and improving the livelihood of local communities. It is important to examine what will be the future role of forests in contributing to social objectives and how these should be reflected in the forest policies.

Objectives

- Analyze the social and cultural significance of forests including their role in food security, poverty alleviation and improving the livelihood of rural communities.
- Roles of traditional/ customary institutions as part of the socio-cultural practices of forest management.

- Discuss how the relevance of these functions will change and visualize the probable scenarios as regards the social and cultural roles of forests in the coming decades.
- Assess the gender dimensions of current forestry practices and how women and other marginalized groups are affected
- Examine how the probable changes may be reflected in policies relating to land use/ forestry

Issues to be addressed

This module will address key social and cultural aspects of land use in the context of the Pacific countries particularly considering the relevance of these in the context of a dynamic society. In particular the following issues/ questions need to be addressed:

- Importance of forests in poverty alleviation and improving the livelihood of rural communities. How relevant is forestry in poverty alleviation in the Pacific island countries and to what extent this differs between countries?
- How is the livelihood role of forests perceived by local communities? Or is this a perception influenced by external players?
- How important is the gender dimension of land use in the Pacific context and how this has changed during the recent decades? Considering the larger changes in society, what are the likely issues that may become important in the next few decades?
- What are the key cultural dimensions that land use policies have to take cognizance of in the Pacific countries context? Will there be any changes in the cultural relevance of forests considering the larger changes in society?
- To what extent land use/ forest policies have accommodated the social and cultural specificities of the population?

MODULE 5: BUILDING RESPONSIVE/ PROACTIVE INSTITUTIONS

Background:

Institutions form the core of all societal actions. As demands on resources increase managing them require highly effective institutions that are able to visualize emerging changes and take a proactive approach to create a future that society aspires for. Yet this remains a neglected area especially in the forest sector and many of the problems of poor policy delivery stems from weak and outdated institutional framework. There have been several efforts to reform and reinvent forest sector institutions, especially government forestry departments, to make them more responsive to the larger changes. However the experience has been somewhat mixed and most often institutional reinvention has been an extremely slow and tortuous process. This module will focus on sharing the experience of institutional reform, the lessons that have been learnt and what more need to be done in the Pacific context.

Objectives

- Provide an overview of the changes in the institutional framework dealing with land use/ forestry in the Pacific, specifically outlining how functions and structures of public institutions have responded to the changing needs of society.
- Discuss how emerging changes are likely to impact public, private and community institutions and what needs to be done to make them relevant and responsive.
- Analyze the experience of institutional reforms in land/ forestry sectors within and outside the Pacific countries and how the lessons thereof could be taken into account while embarking on such reforms.

Issues to be addressed

This module is designed to address the following issues/ topics:

- How the institutional landscape in the forest sector has changed/ is changing in the Pacific countries and outside and how the different institutions are adapting (or not) to the larger changes.
- How do we assess the performance of public sector institutions and what are the measures to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness?
- What should be done to create a better institutional landscape in support of sustainable management of land/ forests?
- What should be the appropriate realms of operation for a pluralistic institutional system that accommodates the interests of communities, individual land managers, investors and governments?
- What should be done to take advantage of the comparative advantage of different institutions and what needs be done to develop synergy?

MODULE 6: GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE FOREST SECTOR

Background

Although some of the governance issues will be dealt under the module on institutions, there is need for a more detailed consideration in view of its critical importance in managing forests on a sustainable basis. Governance failures are particularly severe in the forest sector resulting in widespread corruption and consequent loss to society through illegal extraction and trade of forest products. Often transactions taking place in the illegal domain are much more than what happens in the formal domain creating a powerful parallel economy. This module will focus on some of the key issues relating to improving governance in the forest sector, how the larger governance situation is affecting forests and share the ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and accountability.

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of the governance situation in the forest sector particularly focusing on the government departments and customary institutions.
- Outline ongoing efforts to improve governance, in particular forest law enforcement and measures being taken to improve transparency and accountability.

- Assess how some of the initiatives like FLEGT and legislations like Lacey Act. EU Timber Regulations are impacting forest management in the Pacific countries.
- Role of non-governmental organizations and other non-state actors in improving governance in the forest sector, especially as an integral part of the “checks –and-balances system”
- Discuss the future governance scenarios in the Pacific countries and how these may impact land use/ forestry.

Issues to be addressed

- What are the fundamental causes of governance failure and how societies are coping up with the problem?
- Why the forest sector is particularly prone to governance failures?
- What are the principles and components of good governance in forestry?
- What has been done to address governance failures in the forest sector (including government forestry agencies, customary institutions) in the Pacific countries, e.g. policy measures? How effective these have been?
- What are the major national and international initiatives to improve governance in the forest sector? To what extent these have helped to improve the situation in the Pacific countries?
- What should be done to enhance governance especially transparency and accountability in the forest sector?

MODULE 7: CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SCENE: IMPLICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON NATIONAL LAND USE/ FOREST POLICIES

Background

In a globalized world what happens to the economy and environment in one country tends to have an impact on human well-being elsewhere. In many cases isolated action by individual countries may not help to address the problems, especially considering their trans-boundary character. Addressing the problem of climate change is a typical example of a global problem that requires collective action by all countries. It is in this context that global community has crafted a number of agreements/ conventions/ treaties that have a direct and indirect bearing on land use, in particular forests. In addition to those that are directly related to environment (for example UNFCCC, UNCBD) and forests (for example the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests - NLBI) there are others related to trade, indigenous people, etc. that influence national policies. The purpose of the module is to provide an overview of the evolution of various international agreements that have directly and indirectly impacted forests and how these have been accommodated in the national policies and programmes. A major challenge on pursuing global action will be how the costs and benefits are distributed among and within the countries.

Objectives

- Provide an overview of the evolution of various international agreements, conventions and treaties that impact forest sector, including the new SDGs and the importance of forests in the future SDGS;
- Examine how Pacific countries adopt or apply those agreements into forestry sectors

- Analyze how these have impacted land use/ forestry in the Pacific countries.
- Identify challenges in implementing international agreements / conventions in particular the implications of fragmenting the forestry agenda in a multitude of agreements and conventions.
- Examine the costs and benefits involved in implementing the various agreements and

Issues to be addressed

- What have been the positive and negative implications of implementing the various international agreements/ conventions/ treaties as regards forests in the Pacific countries?
- To what extent national policies and legislation relating to land use/ forestry have factored the commitment of the countries to implement the various agreements?
- What are the institutional arrangements required to ensure that international agreements are mainstreamed effectively in the national land use/ forestry policies?
- What is the overall willingness to meet the costs of implementing the various international agreements? Is this dependent on significant resource transfers?
- What will be the long term scenario as regards implementation of international agreements? Is there a decline of interest globally and nationally in the context of a slowing down of the global economy?
- How do we analyze the pros and cons of the various global initiatives?

MODULE 8: THE POLICY PROCESS

In theory land use/ forest policies should be formulated as an iterative process with the full involvement of all the important stakeholders. However in practice the policy process on the ground varies enormously and often it is driven by dominant interest groups, often undermining the interests of the less vocal/ influential segments in society. Consequently the commitment to implement policies also differs significantly among the different groups. Diversity in demand on forests leads to severe conflicts and most often formulation and implementation of forest policies come under the category of “wicked problems” with no easy solutions. Drawing upon the discussions during the previous modules this module will critically assess the processes adopted in policy formulation and implementation in the Pacific countries.

Objectives

- Provide an overview of the policy process focusing on the entire cycle of formulation, implementation and review and how practice diverges from theory;
- Outline the different approaches to policy formulation – bottom up, top down and various combinations – and their pros and cons;
- Analyze how the process of policy formulation addresses resource use conflicts and acceptable trade-offs are established.

Issues to be addressed:

- To what extent the actual process of forest policy formulation and implementation differs from theory in the Pacific countries?

- What is the process involved in ensuring local community involvement especially considering the preponderance of customary landownership? How effective is the process in the countries in the Pacific?
- How are linkages with other sectors taken into account in the policy formulation process? Are they effective in resolving intersectoral conflicts?
- What are the major conflicts involved in articulating land use/ forest policies in the region? How is the collective vs individual interests/ priorities resolved during the policy formulation phase?
- Compare and contrast the differences in policy formulation and implementation process and how this is reflected in the condition of forests and the goods and services provided by forests.

MODULE 9: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

With multiple stakeholders with differing perceptions and priorities effective communication becomes very critical element new opportunities have emerged and this is clearly reflected in the fact that the younger generation is much better informed than their predecessors. Unfortunately forestry institutions, especially public sector forestry departments still living in the “command and control era” have not fully tapped into new concepts, ideas and tools of communications. In many countries social networking has become particularly influential among the younger generation and there are instances where mass mobilization has been accomplished through social networks. What happens to forests in the future will largely depend on how effectively the need for sustainable management is communicated.

Objectives:

- Analyze the present system of communication in the forest sector and its effectiveness.
- Outline key elements of effective communication and how this can be put into practice in the Pacific context?
- Assess the emergence of new communication technologies, including the spread of social networking media, and discuss how these may impact the forest sector.

Issues to be discussed:

- What are the basic approaches adopted for communication with stakeholders in the forest sector and how have the “command and control framework” of the forest departments shaped the system of communication?
- What are the key elements of an effective communication strategy? To what extent forest policies have taken on board the essentials of successful communications in crafting forest policies?
- To what extent the emergence of new technologies have created new opportunities and challenges? And how are the forestry institutions coping up with the developments? Is there any reluctance to embrace new technologies?

MODULE 10: ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL LAND USE/ FOREST POLICIES

Having discussed and debated the different dimensions to be considered in forest policies and the processes to be pursued, this module will focus on analysis of national forest policies and how they

are catering to the different challenges facing the forest sector. Selected policies will be subjected to in-depth assessment including SWOT analysis and group work will focus on how policies could be redrafted addressing the deficiencies identified.

- Case studies on forest policies in the Pacific
- Case studies on forest policies in other countries
- Group work - redrafting policies

POLICY BRIEFS PREPARED BY PARTICIPANTS

POLICY BRIEF 1

IMPROVING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD FROM FORESTRY PROJECTS - Lewa Community

Background:

Forest has been a source of life for the Lewa community. It provides a range of products and benefits for community's livelihoods and sustenance. At the same time, it has potential for economic investment that will generate permanent incomes and benefits to community if project is properly designed and implemented.

Currently the community is experiencing increasing economic pressure with limited incomes. This has significant impact on their livelihoods.

There is a major project proposal from the Shanghai Company to harvest the community forest in the Lewa area for export. This is seen as a great opportunity for the community to improve their livelihoods.

The objective of this submission is therefore to seek the Honourable Minister's consideration and approval of the Policy Brief's recommendations for implementation.

Approach

Community participation in the planning and implementation process is critical not only to the success of the project but also to the welfare of the community. It will ensure that the interests of both the community and the company are discussed and agreements will be made. It is therefore proposed that the community must participate in the following project dialogues based on the following requirements;

1. Project Design (Decision Making)

At this decision making process it is important that the community is well informed of the nature of the project and is able to voice their interests and aspirations for consideration in the project formulation. This includes the following:

- a land lease agreement, maximum of 30 years and renewable;
- community must have access rights to the land for their subsistence needs;
- areas with high ecological values, historical and sacred sites must be excluded from any logging activities;

- timber royalty rates and shares must be agreed upon between government and community;
- company must construct all weather roads for timber hauling;
- company must finance a new school and assist with the upgrade of the water supply;
- 100 employment opportunities will be given to the community;
- Women must be represented in the community negotiation team.

2. *Project Implementation.*

Participation of the community in project implementation is essential to ensure that the objectives and activities are fully implemented. This includes the following:

- trainings for the community workers;
- surveying of the project area;
- assess and approve the project's Management Plan;
- approve the Forestry Code of Practice;
- reforestation of logged area within 1 year after logging;
- designate suitable areas for ecotourism;
- designate areas for community farming (agroforestry)

3. *Monitoring and Evaluation.*

This process is essential to ensure that the company's management performance is in compliance with the management plan and the Forestry Codes of Practice. Community participation in the process will ensure that the assessment and evaluation process is properly conducted and to the required standard:

- monthly monitoring;
- monitoring team members will comprise representatives from the company, government and community;
- logging operations is in compliance with the Forestry Codes;
- log measurements is properly carried out and recorded;
- a quarterly review must be carried out in the Year 1 of operation;
- Government should impose penalties accordingly.

4. *Royalties*

Community participation in the evaluation of the timber royalty is important to ensure maximum earning to community. Royalty payments must be made on a monthly basis. Payments will be directly deposited to a community trust fund account in the bank. The trust fund account will be invested in the bank's long-term deposit, and will not be allowed to use until the annual interest generated provides sustainable incomes to the community.

Recommendations

1. Community should participate in all levels of the project;

2. Women must be adequately represented in project dialogues;
3. A project review must be carried out after 1 Year of operation.

POLICY BRIEF 2

Forest Plantation Strategy for the Pacific

Issues

1. The perception on the role of forest plantations in contributing to national sustainable development is changing but yet not clearly defined.
2. Until there is a clear definition and agreement on the role of forest plantations, the forest sector will not realize its potential in significantly contributing to economic sustainable development.
3. Land tenure challenges will continue to increase and must be urgently and strategically addressed.

Background.

As the supply of timber from native forests continues to rapidly decline, the local and international demand for timber will continue to increase. On the other hand, the expectation of society on the role of natural forests is rapidly changing towards providing ecosystem services, increasing public pressure for its protection.

The Pacific has approximately 190,000² hectares of plantation forests consisting of mainly of Mahogany, Pines, Eucalyptus, Teak, and Endospermum. These plantations are established with targeted end use for their log products at time of harvest. Accordingly, some fast growing species are preferred for short rotation crops for pulpwood, while more valuable species are grown over longer rotations for furniture grade timbers targeting high value markets.

The current area of plantations is insufficient to support the growing demand for wood, address the current pressure on natural forests, and contribute significantly to national sustainable development. However, the availability of land for the expansion of forest plantations is a current challenge taking into account the land tenure system that we have and the conflicting interests for land use. Further, the important role of forests play in addressing climate change issues is gaining recognition; an example is the preservation of forests for climate change adaptation and mitigation and as carbon sink.

Implications

Plantation forests were established by the forestry department 20 to 40 years ago without significant involvement of other sectors in its decision making process. Now, interest for participation in the plantation sector from a variety of players is rapidly increasing with their own perception of what the role of plantation forests should be. Views and opinions of

² Fiji 100,000 ha; PNG 46,000 ha; Vanuatu 4,000 ha; Solomon Is 30,000 ha

communities on the role of these plantation forests are also rapidly changing. Since there is no clear definition of the role of plantation forests in contributing to national development, this will lead to disagreements and confusions.

Plantation forests have lots of potential to contribute to national sustainable development, but they have to be strategically designed and implemented for such purpose. The details of specific roles expected from plantations is often not clearly defined and therefore need to be fully clarified, agreed upon, documented and completely understood by all parties. This will involve a totally different way of thinking as it will involve compromise between players when working towards what is best for the region, in this regard governments may have to step in and provide the necessary support and incentives for the sake of national interest.

Land is a very limited resource with a lot of competing interest for its utilization, the type of land tenure system that we have further adds to the current challenge. Currently we are using our land without any long term strategic planning on its utilization such as a national land use plan. Without a national land use plan, utilization of land will be undertaken without strategic direction resulting unproductive utilization of land.

Possible options

There are two options for addressing future timber needs.

The first is for Governments to establish a large scale industrial plantation and provide assistance to communities to also grow forest plantations as a form of addressing poverty and clearly define and legislate the role of plantation forests in contribution to national sustainable development. In this option government will source funding for the establishment and management of plantations. Governments will also have to capitalize on the strengths and opportunities, and addresses the threats and weaknesses experienced from currently established plantations. Governments are much more trusted by the communities, thus much easier to strike deals with landowners compared to private investors.

The second is for Governments to create conducive environments to attract investment in the forest sector and get overseas investors to invest in forest plantations, but will still have to provide assistance to the communities to set up plantation forests in order to support community livelihoods in rural areas, and to supplement the national wood supply. Governments will still have to establish and legislate the role of the forest plantations and investors will have to agree on the legislated role that their plantations will play in contributing to national sustainable development. Private investors are free to make whatever type of deals with the landowners but according to Government requirement.

Options for addressing land tenure

There are also two options for addressing land tenure issues, both options will kick start the process of land use planning to be led by Government. The issue of land allocation for

optimum use through an integrated national land-use plan is greatly needed. All areas for plantation development must be identified through a process of integrated national land-use plan.

The **first option** is for Government to identify the land that is suitable for establishment of industrial plantations through the process of a national land-use plan; negotiate with the landowning communities for outright purchase under current laws, which means that government cannot further sell the land to any other body nor use it for any other purpose, and the land has to be returned to the owners if it is no longer needed for plantation development. The identification of land-use must be done in the best interest of countries and not the interest of individuals or a particular community. However Governments must be prepared to pay the right price for the land to the landowning communities for the sake of national interest.

The **second option** is for Government to identify land that is suitable for establishment of industrial plantations through a national landuse plan, negotiates with the landowning community for a long term leasing arrangement under current laws. All other condition for the long term leasing will be similar to option 1.

Outcomes to be accomplished

The Industrial forest plantation must be managed in the best interest of the countries and not in the best interest of any other body.

There are three main outcomes that need to be accomplished:

1. An agreed document that clearly specifies the total areas of plantation that has to be planted by species. Identify the role of forest plantation in terms of providing employment, provision of timber to the industry, environmental protection, and a strategy for ensuring long term sustainability of the plantation industry.
2. A long term strategy for positioning the forest plantations to significantly contribute to national sustainable development through the provision of employment; sustainable log supply to meet local and overseas timber demands.
3. An established and documented process in place for addressing land tenure issues, setting the framework for addressing land tenure challenges. This results in a process for the reform of current land tenure systems

Recommendations

1. Noting the importance of having Government leadership in the establishment of large forest plantations; creating a conducive environment for investment is also vital for

the expansion of plantation resources. A combination of options 1 and 2 is recommended in order to obtain the benefits of both options. Therefore government will have to take the lead role in establishing the plantation, establishing the necessary governance structures to attract overseas investments including incentives, and assistance packages for community forest plantation establishment, and lead discussions towards establishing and legislating the role of forest plantations.

2. Governments to initiate the necessary instruments for national land use planning and development processes, identify land for development of forest plantations, negotiate with landowners for long term leasing arrangement, and agree on conditions for long term lease arrangement.

POLICY BRIEF 3

Maximising Land Use Opportunities in the Pacific

National Land Use Policy

1. Purpose

This policy brief will discuss 1) the need for countries to formulate land use policies as a way forward for maximizing land use opportunities in the Pacific 2) issues surrounding land use policies, analysis of policy gaps and 3) suggest policy options and recommendations when formulating land use policies.

2. Background

Conflicts between rural land use and urban or industrial expansion, the complexity of land tenure issues, increasing pressure on land resources and conflicting interest from the various stakeholders requires a national land use policy that will provide a long term national framework for land development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)

The 2011-2015 Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific identifies the formulation of land use policies and land use plans as one of the strategy to promote sustainable development of land resources in the Pacific. The aim of the land use policy is to address the issue of how the Pacific people as a society allocates a very scarce and important resource –land – to meet the requirements of Pacific Islanders for food, housing, employment, and the need to protect the environment in general in view of the requirements of future generations.

3. Key issues

3.1 Lack of land use policies

Most PICTs (with the exception of Fiji, Cook Islands and French Polynesia) do not have and integrated land use policies and the need to have one is urgent, to systematically assess existing land potentials and alternative land-uses, and to determine economic and social conditions in order to select and adopt best land-use options.

3.2 Conflicting interest amongst sectors

Key messages

Most PICTs do not have an integrated national land use policy

National land use policy is necessary to address policy gaps, harmonize existing land use policies, and address competing uses of limited land resources.

Land use planning necessary to maximise economics and enhance social and environmental benefits from limited resources

Government to establish a national land use committee to facilitate land use policy formulation processes

While currently, there are various land use policies in the region, these policies are contained in separate national laws, and their coverage is limited to specific sectors such as agriculture, forestry, housing, environmental protection and several others. Since these sectors oftentimes have conflicting interests (they compete for a limited supply of land, among other resources), as well as differing views on current land use policies, the sector-specific laws do not address cross-cutting land use issues that usually crop up during policy implementation. The formulations of a national land use policy is thus necessary to address policy gaps, harmonize existing land use policies, and address competing uses of limited land resources.

3.3 Pressures on land resources

High population growth rates along with increasing urbanisation will severely challenge existing land use systems, with high demand for housing, employment, urban development, and farming systems to produce enough food to feed the growing population. This will place a lot of pressures on land resources, particularly marginal land and native forests. These demands are become more pressing, as the threats imposed by growing populations, climate change, rising food prices, sea level rise and urbanisation increase.

3.4 Limited understanding of land potential and land use options

Majority of land uses in PICTs are not based on capabilities of the land use and are not matched to the suitability of the land or soils. Only in Samoa, Fiji and Cook Islands is land classified to determine its capacity for sustained production (land capability assessment/classification). Demands from other land users are increasing and they often take over good agricultural land, forcing agriculture onto marginal and steep land. Pressures on land indicate an urgency to increase sustainable production per unit area but there is poor understanding of land use and land capability. Information on land use in PICs are summarised in Table1.

Table 1. Area and proportion of rural land use in the Pacific

Source: Adapted from FAO/UNDP Consultancy Report; Boydell (2001) as in CIA World Factbook (2000).

3.5 Land tenure

Customary ownership of land is deeply embedded in Pacific culture. A high proportion of

	Area (sq. km)	Arable %	Arable sq.km	Permanent crops %	Forest and woodland%	Other land%
Cook Islands	240	9	22	13	0	78
Fiji Islands	18,270	10	1,827	4	65	11
Kiribati	717	0	0	51	3	46
Marshal Islands	181	0	0	60	0	40
Micronesia	702	0	0	0	NA	NA
Nauru	21	0	0	0	0	100
Niue	260	19	49	8	19	50
Palau	458	0	0	0	0	0
Papua New Guinea	462,840	0.1	463	1	92.9	6
Samoa	2,860	19	543	24	47	10
Solomon Islands	28,450	1	285	1	88	9
Tonga	748	24	180	43	11	16
Tuvalu	26	0	0	0	0	100
Vanuatu	14,760	2	295	10	75	11

land is held under customary tenure (Table 2). Land tenure issues play a crucial role in resource allocation in the Pacific. Most land in Melanesia has not been registered, and this can lead to conflicts about ownership and problems in making decisions about the land's development or conservation. The establishment of permanently protected or conserved areas is complicated by these issues and needs to be viewed in a thoroughly integrated way and through legal means and empowerment of resource owners.

Table 2. Land Ownership in Pacific Island Countries

	Customary %	State %	Freehold %	Registered%
Cook Islands	99	1	little	65
Micronesia	65	35	<1	very little
Fiji	88	4	8	most
Kiribati	50	<5	>45	most
Nauru	>90	<10	0	most
Niue	98.5	98.5	0	10

Palau	some	some		most
Papua New Guinea	97	2.5	0.5	0
Marshall Islands	>99	<1	0	very little
Samoa	81	15	4	some
Solomon Islands	95	8	5	0.2
Tonga	100	0	0	Na
Vanuatu	97			Very little

Source: *Land Issues in the Pacific, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, 2001*

4. Possible options

4.1 Developing national land use plans

Land use planning has an important role to play in guiding activities according to land use suitability assessments that reflect biophysical, social, environmental and economic characteristics. It also helps maximise economic benefits from limited resources by directing particular uses to those areas most suited to them. Land-use planning promotes the sustainable development of not only agriculture and forestry resources, but also secondary uses such as tourism, residential zoning, industry and mining. For these reasons, land-use planning should be considered a primary policy tool for the sustainable development of land and land-based resources in the Pacific region.

Promoting sustainable land management through partnerships with key stakeholders is important in this process of developing land use plans. Stakeholders, including landowners, government, NGOs, communities, resource owners, land authorities, the private sector and regional development agencies, should be directly involved in the process to facilitate good decision making regarding sustainable land use and management practices.



Image 1 shows a land zone map of Rarotonga showing areas of protection for watershed, reserves, forestry, non-agriculture, urban use and for tourism.

4.2 Whole government approach to address land-use planning

Conflicts about land use arise when there is no proper consultation among policy makers, resource owners and developers. This calls for a coordinated, whole-of-government approach and should also include NGOs, which are doing very good work in some PICTs, and partnerships with community organisations. This will illustrate the importance of integrating areas of land-use planning — health, climate change, economics and social objectives — to

achieve a holistic land-use system. This approach will also ensure that the responsibility for sustainable land resources is not the domain of one particular agency.

4.3 Political will and strengthening policy and legislative frameworks

There is a need for political will and appropriate land-use policies and legislation to support and create the socio-economic environment conducive for land development, at the same time offering appropriate protection to the environment, resource owners and developers.

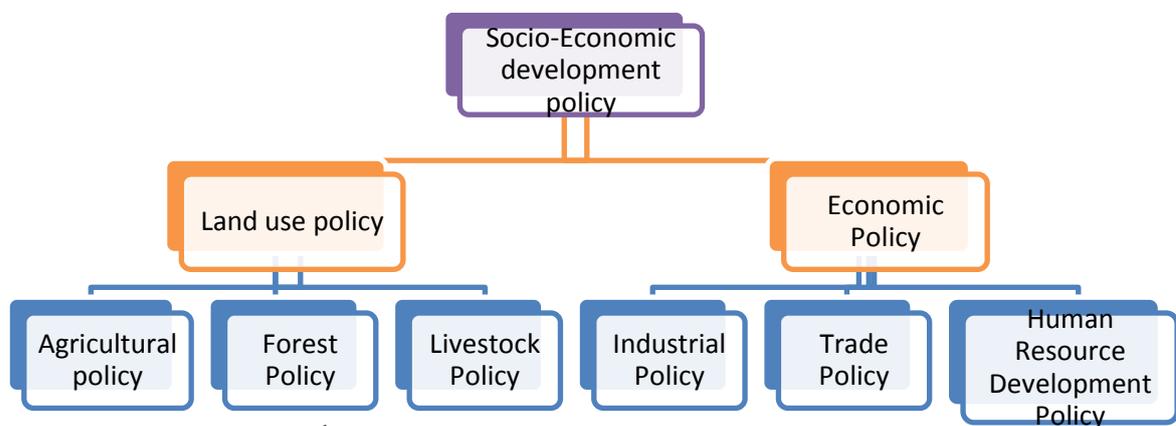
4.4 Land tenure systems

Strengthening customary land tenure systems will support PICTs wanting more land available for economic and social developments. The challenge is for PICTs to improve the links between land governance and land tenure arrangements. Some of these are: formal recognition of customary groups; formal protection of customary landownership through recording or registration; facilitation of dealings in customary land; protection and assistance to customary groups in land dealings; and supporting customary, formal and new institutions for resolving land disputes.

4.5 Review sectoral policies to be aligned to national land use policy

Emphasis should be placed on countries to review their existing land-use policies and legislations to be aligned to national land use polices which needs to be aligned to the overarching government policy on socio-economic development (image 2).

Image 2. Policy Hierarchy



Source: Adapted from the 7th Executive Forest Policy Course, Fiji (2014)

5.0 Recommendation

Pacific Island Countries all face the common challenge of developing land resources to sustain and promote food and nutritional security, to increase the socio-economic development of their community, and to ensure effective environmental management. Therefore, there is an urgent need for:

1. Countries to develop national land use policies and national land use plans to guide them in the sustainable use of their land-based resources.
2. Government to establish a national land use committee to facilitate the process of formulating national land use policies

6.0 References

Boydell, S. 2001. Land Tenure and Land Conflict in the South Pacific: Consultancy Report for the FAO of the United Nations. University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

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POLICY BRIEF 4

Downstream Wood Processing Opportunities for PNG and Fiji

Introduction

This policy brief will briefly analyse the feasibility of value adding forest roundwood and waste wood for Papua New Guinea and the Fiji Islands.

The intended audience is the Prime Minister and His Cabinet Ministers.

Background

Over 81 percent of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) total land mass (45.2 million hectares) is covered with forests. Close to 3.0 million cubic metres of roundwood logs is exported annually to international markets including China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Forest timber in PNG include Kwuila (*Intsia bijuga*), Taun (*Pometia spp*), Rosewood (*Pterocarpus indicus*) and Malas (*Homalium foetidum*).

In the case for Fiji the export of roundwood logs is prohibited by legislation. Timber exports comprise mostly of processed timber such as Veneer, Plywood and Sawn Timber using Dakua (*Agathis*) and Fiji Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). While Fiji Pine (*Pinus caraeibaea*) is processed into woodchips for the Japan market. The volume of timber exports for Fiji compared to PNG is minor averaging 100,000 tonnes per annum.

Downstream processing has the potential to retain the lost profits that is absorbed by importing countries who value add roundwood. Though the international trade of value added timber products is largely dominated by China, there is opportunity for PNG and Fiji to supply their own domestic markets.

Downstreaming for PNG and Fiji

PNG and Fiji are developing countries which are focused on promoting national growth. The primary advantage of value adding domestic natural resources is for the national economy to gain substantial income from the sale of finished wood products rather than selling unprocessed materials.

A competitive wood processing industry will create employment opportunities, contribute to the national economy, income source for low skilled labour and overall raise the standard of living. A

Government must be put more effort into wood processing industry:

- ✓ through research and creation of **niche markets**,
- ✓ **private sector incentives** for downstream processing, and
- ✓ allocating budget for **feasibility research into processing facilities**

sustainable forest management plan will ensure the continuation of the wood downstream industry and thereby reduce the pressure on forest resources and the loss of forest services.

Implication and Analysis

China is the dominant exporter of wood products in the international market. It has been able to achieve this through reducing its cost and establishing an efficient conversion process. New Zealand who is the major wood processing country in the Pacific is still unable to match the competition by China and the European countries.



Countries in the Pacific region are not well resourced to perform at such capacity and large scale to compete at the international stage. However the domestic and regional market offers opportunities for self-sufficiency in wood products which will also require some regulation on foreign imports.

Without a doubt timber harvesting is an economic driver of the PNG economy. However there is opportunity to increase the equitable returns to the country and resource owners by value adding roundwood logs which otherwise are exported. This will ensure that more of the profits are captured at the national level.

Currently Fiji is exploring value adding of wood products by sourcing materials from plantation waste wood such as stumps, branches, twigs and leaves. This is a niche market initiative which uses high valued timber such as mahogany to create finished wood products.

Domestic Market Capacity – Fiji Mahogany Case Study

Domestic market research undertaken by the Fiji Timber Industry Training Centre (TITC) has found it is unviable to process roundwood into finished wood products for the domestic market.

Compensation towards resource forest owners is \$465.75 per cubic metre for ‘Grade A’ Mahogany. The manufacturing cost is estimated to be \$500 per Chair. The sale price of a cubic metre of finished Mahogany Chair is \$2,300 while the total cost is over \$14,000.

Similar research was done for unutilised roundwood logs or waste wood. Resource forest owners are compensated \$46.00 per cubic metre for waste wood Mahogany. The manufacturing cost of a single medium sized bowl is \$500. The sale price of a cubic metre of finished Medium Sized Fruit Bowl is \$13,158 while the total cost per cubic metre is \$18,800.

In both cases whether downstreaming roundwood logs or waste wood, the total cost outweighs the potential revenue.

Possible Options

Further research is needed as this case study does not take into account the economies of scale which can be achieved by PNG given their large forest logging industry. Also further analysis into reducing the associated costs of wood processing is required

The identification of niche markets where PNG and Fiji can market their unique Pacific wood products is a possible option. For example Pacific Green Limited (Fiji) and PNG Forest Products Limited have both successfully established niche markets for Coconut Palm products and Plywood products, respectively.



Given the success of the private sector in establishing market share in the wood products market and maintaining financial stability, more incentives should be put in place by Governments.

The Forestry Department, forest research institute and the National Planning Department to undertake research into the viability of establishing specialized processing zones or tax free regions with tax free incentives and duty concessions to encourage investment. However it is recognised that the economies of scale needs to be achieved for such large scale processing to be successful.

Recommendation

The Fiji case study suggests that it would not be financially feasible at present to do value addition of roundwood and waste wood for either PNG or Fiji.

It is recommended that:

- National budget funding be allocated for further research into feasible downstreaming options for PNG and Fiji;
- Niche markets are researched and identified for the Pacific's unique wood products such as handicraft and furniture making;
- Fiscal incentives such as Tax Free Holidays, Concessions, Duty Free Levy on Imported Plants & Machineries and other incentives schemes;
- Raise the import levy on imported Chinese wood products to incentivise the demand for domestic wood products; and

- Allocate national budget for research into the feasibility of establishing specialised processing zones.

For your information and kind consideration, Sir

Semi Dranibaka (Mr)

Permanent Secretary of PNG and Fiji Ministry of Forestry

Group Members:

Mr. Lyall Umbo (PNG), Mr. Semi Dranibaka (Fiji), Mr. Ken Zilong (PNG), and Martin Nabola (Fiji)

POLICY BRIEF 5

REDD+: A New Opportunity

With only 0.2 hectares of forests per person, the Asia Pacific is, per capita, the least forested area in the world. For Pacific Island countries like Solomon Islands and PNG, large scale logging, often illegal, is the largest driver of deforestation followed by agricultural expansion which is increasing fueled by a high (2.3%) population growth. Coupled with the problem of poor governance and poor monitoring efforts by the state to ensure legal compliance, deforestation is occurring at the rate of 0.5 annually, contributing to the worsening effects of climate change which is affecting pacific people more severely than anywhere else in the world. It is crucial to reinvest in forests to reduce dependence on timber exports and increase support towards biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation to ensure the livelihood of the pacific people.

Background

Deforestation and forest degradation account for 17 % of global greenhouse gas emissions and is widespread in Pacific Island countries (PIC) resulting in high loss of biodiversity. In the pacific a major treat to biodiversity loss due to mining, logging and subsistence agriculture expansion. Primary forests constitutes only 5% of the total land area in the Asia Pacific region and since the 1990, 38.7 million hectares of primary and other naturally regenerated forests in the region were lost to deforestation. Forest conversion from large scale logging and agricultural expansion are the biggest drivers of deforestation, leading to biodiversity loss in the region. In the Pacific islands, primary forests have decreased from about 48 million hectares in 1990 to about 30 million hectares in 2010. Compared to other countries in the region, Pacific Island have done little about replanting to restore forest reserves. It is estimated that 13-42% of species will be lost by the year 2100 leaving the region in a biodiversity crisis.

Government institutions and management systems for forests, lands or the environment are weak being resource starved and lack capacity to effectively carry out their functions. As a result, timber operators get away with their lack of compliance with legal requirements and breaches of timber permit conditions. Even the Government cannot ensure that timber rights are properly acquired from the local people resulting in breaches of basic legal and human rights.

The current trend needs to be arrested if PIC countries are serious about ensuring the livelihood of their people and combating climate change and its effects. Studies show reduction in forest cover has greater impact on levels of biodiversity than other threats. Fragmentation of forests and loss of forest density leaves forests vulnerable to threats of fire and accelerates biodiversity loss.



Unsustainable Logging Industry

This is extremely crucial for most people in the pacific who are rural dwellers and rely heavily on the forests for food, medicine and basically their livelihood. Investment in forest resources is essential to mitigating climate change as studies have shown it can reduce human induced rise in global temperatures by 2 degrees Celsius. The recent initiative of Reduced Emissions for Deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) can achieve all that and is the answer to the current issues affecting local communities due to climate change.

Implications And Analysis

REDD arose out of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), to which most major Pacific Islands countries are signatories to, in the bid to combat the effects of climate change, worldwide. REDD was a response to the absence of a mechanism under the UNFCCC to allow developing nations to excess incentive payments from industrialized nations for a reduction of emissions from their forestry sector. REDD provides an opportunity to create and sell carbon assets, creating economic opportunities for local communities who are able to show a reduction in emissions in their forestry activities.

Effects of climate change is ever increasing and currently is at dangerous levels. In the pacific such effects are evident in the rising sea levels, sinking atolls and increasing number of climate refugees. Climate studies in the region by FAO in 2011 predict changes in the seasonal distribution of rainfall resulting in intensively drier longer seasons, more shorter intense wet seasons and increase in tropical cyclones by 10 - 20%. Average temperatures are likely to increase from 0.8 – 2.2 degrees Celsius by 2039. Ensuring forest health and vitality will be of key importance in addressing climate change related threats and REDD with its multiple benefits provides an excellent opportunity to achieve that.

Global requirements for REDD allow for effective protection of the environment through sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity, sustaining the ecological services of forests which is fundamental for pacific local communities and their livelihood. Protected areas are a core activity for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem stability as levels of threat of deforestation and degradation within those areas are lower. The region is extremely rich in biodiversity holding 13 of the 34 identified which is half of the world's biodiversity hotspots in the world. PNG has the largest intact block of tropical rainforest in the region which is home to 6-7% of the world's biodiversity, however studies by Shearman, UPNG in 2008, predict, 83% of PNG's natural production forest forests will be cleared or degraded by the 2021.

Why REDD+ ?



Unsustainable log Exports

Financing for REDD to countries allows opportunities for creation and strengthening of legal policy frameworks, government institutions and governance mechanisms that must function to ensure the effective operation of REDD+ Initiative and all other resource development for that matter. This will assist in addressing current governance issues that are a constraint, and initially could not be dealt with due to lack of resources and funding. Corruption constitutes a significant threat to forestry and to national economies where revenues are substantial.

According to the World Bank's governance indicators which are; i) control of corruption, ii) rule of law, iii) regulatory control, iv) government effectiveness, v) political stability, and vi) voice and accountability, scores in corruption fell in 55% of the countries in the Asia Pacific region. 71% of the regions forest cover were in countries that had a 'control of corruption' rating below zero which implies a general weakness in existing governance systems.

REDD+ Initiative as part of its Good governance approach could take the lead in ensuring that this is addressed as part of the Phase approach.

Opportunities for REDD+ Initiatives



Solutions that are consistent with the principles of sustainability, and compatible with the existing customary land tenure system. Forest policies should be to allow fundamental features of customary ownership to remain intact while allowing some new types of land use to occur. REDD+ initiative and its activities can provide such principles for sustainable forest management.

It is very unlikely that Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea will meet the criterion for sustainability in forestry without drasti-



cally reducing harvests, with consequent serious impacts on the over economy.

REDD+ initiative gives an opportunity to establish a sustainably managed forest sector that supports rural livelihoods, maintains

the quality of the environment, contributes to the socio-economic development of the nation and through reducing levels of emissions from the forest sector contributes towards global efforts to mitigate climate change.

The enactment of a REDD+ Policy into the Forest Act will ensure that there is regulatory backing for activities towards resource owner recognition within the forest industry.

The implementation of a REDD+ Policy for regulating forest resources will ensure sustainable outcomes for resource owners to participate and be aware of their statutory responsibilities and functions in the forestry industry the long term.

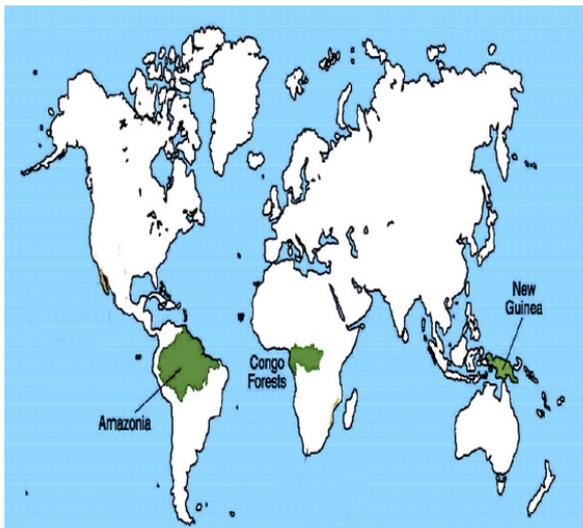
Possible Options

The “Phased Approach”

The most practical mode of implementation for REDD+ in developing countries would be the “phased approach,” which basically involves a step by step implementation of the mitigation mechanism according to a participating country’s circumstances. The “phased approach” shall create an enabling environment for the reform of legal and policy frameworks regarding land, forestry and the environment for the purpose of incorporating REDD+ and necessary safeguards as required by international obligations. Both Papua New Guinea and the Solomon’s have successfully engaged in the readiness phase activities.

Capacity building and strengthening of institutions and mechanisms in the land, forestry and environment sector, mandated for administering the relevant acts in its roles and functions

The current institutions and mechanisms available are ineffective being often under sourced and riddled with corruption. There is a need to appropriately resource these institutions and effectively deal with the corruption that exists to allow effective functions, proper monitoring and administration of their responsibilities.



Reform policy frameworks for land, forestry and the environment for the purpose of incorporating REDD+ and necessary safeguards as required by international obligations.

Currently there are no specific legal policy framework for REDD+ and a decision has to be made, whether to create a separate system or have it incorporated into the existing framework. To secure economic benefits from REDD+, it is necessary to offer security as to the ownership or tenure over the areas identified for REDD+ projects to give the investor confidence to invest in the REDD+ projects. Apart from ensuring land available for REDD+ initiatives have been legally acquired or issued, REDD+ policy and legislation must provide clear strategies as to how land tenure over REDD+ projects are secured. Ownership of carbon as a property must be clarified and provided for by law to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits. It is also crucial that legal and policy frameworks for REDD+ provide strategies for resolving disputes that may arise from transac-

Increase judicial capacity and strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms available to deal with issues likely to arise out of the REDD+ initiative.

Current judicial systems and dispute resolution mechanisms are weak and are not able to cater for an onslaught of issues that may arise from REDD+ transactions. Land dispute mechanisms are not functioning as effectively as there is a lack of capacity in the Courts to deal with land disputes apart from the costly exercise of convening land court hearings. Court systems are not functioning effectively due to a lack of judges. Nevertheless, a well-developed legal system with a number of elements able to support the creation of national framework for REDD+ is available for PNG according to a legal analysis commissioned by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and GIZ.

Outcomes to be accomplished

1. Support Global efforts to reduce GHG emissions.
2. Support Socio-economic development of forest resource owners.
3. Provide relevant domestic legislation and policies that contribute to the implementation of international agreements, conventions and treaties that both Solomon and PNG have associated themselves with, signed and ratified;
4. Generally strengthen governance procedures and legal mechanism available to monitor the role, responsibilities of the different stakeholders and especially the industry.



8 Year old Teak

Recommendations

1. Endorse the REDD Plus Policy as a guiding document for the implementation of all National, -National REDD+ pilots and projects.
2. Endorse the “Phased Approach” for REDD+ in order to have the mechanism rolled out at the sub national level in line with the Regional Framework for REDD+ Guidelines.
3. Endorse and commission the formulation of Sustainable Forest Management legislation to be spearheaded by the responsible authority/ agency/ Department in order to compliment the REDD+ Mechanism. i.e. Forestry Policy, Reforestation policy, Plantation Policy, Environment & Conservation Policy etc.



Natural forest Ecosystem

References

1. Shearman, P. et al (2008). *The State of Forests of Papua New Guinea: Mapping the extent and condition of Forest and measuring the drivers of forest change in the period 1982 to 2002*. (pp. 9, 28-30). University of Papua New Guinea.
2. O'Brien, S. (2012). *REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Papua New Guinea; Background Legal Analysis*. SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ project.
3. Secretariat of the Pacific Community. (2013). *Pacific Islands Regional Policy Framework for REDD+*. ISBN: 978-982-00-0602-7.
4. Hirata Y, Takao G, Sato T, Toriyama J (eds) (2012) *REDD-plus Cookbook*. REDD Research and Development Center, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute Japan, 156pp. ISBN 978-4-905304-15-9
Retrieved from: <http://www.priarc.go.jp/redd-rdc/en/reference/cookbook.html>



EVALUATION FORM

Completion of this form is voluntary. However, your response would be very valuable for us – it would help us in preparing future courses that would maximize their value for all participants.

Please tick one response for each question.

General organizational issues

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
1. Information received on the course was					
2. Information on general arrangements (travel, hotel) was					
3. Accommodation arrangements for the course were					
4. Meals, breaks and general comforts provided were					
5. Venue arrangements for conducting course were					
6. Opportunities for interacting with other participants were					
Overall the arrangements for the course were					

Comments:

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Modules

1. Societal changes, land use and forestry, 12 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
1.1 Drivers of change					
1.2 Vulnerability of Pacific agriculture and forestry to climate change					
1.3 Future societies in the South Pacific					
1.4 Group work on societal changes in the Pacific and their implication on land use					
1.5 Course work discussion					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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2. The environmental dimension: Climate change, natural disasters and land use policy

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
2.1 Introduction: Valuation of environment services and experience of PES in the Pacific					
2.2 Forest carbon projects and REDD+ in the context of customary land tenure					
2.3 Carbon market, REDD+ and national forest policies					
2.4 Incentivizing forest and land use carbon emissions reductions: Lessons from Australia and New Zealand					
2.5 Group discussion					
2.6 Role of forests in dealing with natural disasters in the					

Pacific					
2.7 Preparation of policy brief					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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3. The policy process, 14 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
3.1 Land use policy formulation: the theoretical framework					
3.2 Integrating forestry in land use policies: the challenges in the Pacific					
3.3 Case study presentation by participants					
3.4 Group discussion: How to improve policy formulation process in the Pacific					
3.5 Coursework					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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4. Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector, 15 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
4.1 Why governance is becoming a critical factor?					
4.2 Improving forest governance: Experience in the Pacific					
4.3 Tool for improving forest governance					
4.4 Discussion on the challenges in improving forest governance in the Pacific					
4.5 Coursework					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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5. Field trip, 16 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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What did you learn from the field trip?

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6. Changing international scene: Implications of international agreements on national land use/forest policies, 17 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
6.1 An overview of international agreements impacting forests					
6.2 The pursuit of green economy: challenges and opportunities in the Pacific					
6.3 Trade related international and national regulations					
6.4 Debate on the relevance of international agreements to the Pacific countries					
6.5 Drafting briefing notes on the pros and cons of selected international agreement					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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7. Course work by participants, 18 May

Comments:

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8. Production and trade of wood and other products in the South Pacific: Legality, sustainability and uncertainties, 19 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
8.1 Wood production, processing and trade: what future for the Pacific countries?					
8.2 FLEGT and trade of wood in the Pacific					
8.3 Discussion on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term sustainability of wood production in the Pacific - Potential of agroforestry for wood production in the Pacific 					
8.4 Non-wood forest products management in the Pacific					
8.6 Energy scenarios for the Pacific and their implication on land use					
7.6 Coursework discussion					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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9. Social and cultural dimensions of forestry: Equity, poverty alleviation, 20 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
9.1 Social and cultural dimension and land use policies					

9.2 The nature of land use conflicts in the Pacific					
9.3 Forests and poverty alleviations: Myths and misconceptions					
9.4 Groupwork: Bench marking and measuring forest policies for social objectives					
9.5 Role play: Briefing Forest Ministers on social significance of forests					
9.6 Preparation of policy briefs					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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10. Building responsive/proactive institutions, 21 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
10.1 Changing institutional scenario in the forest sector					
10.2 Customary institutions in the Pacific: How they are adapting to socio-economic change					
10.3 SWOT analysis of forestry institutions: Group work					
10.4 Group work on assessing public sector institutions					
10.5 Preparation of policy briefs					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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11. Effective communications and Analysis of national land use/forest policies, 22 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
11.1 Making communications effective and efficient					
11.2 Impact of social networking media in the Pacific					
11.3 Criteria and indicators for analyzing national land use/forest policies					
11.4 Group work: analysis of national forest policies					
11.5 Finalization of policy briefs					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

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12. Presentation of coursework (policy briefs), 23 May

Comments:

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Conclusions and Recommendations

1. What parts of the course did you like best?

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Why?.....
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2. What parts did you like least?

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Why?.....
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3. What parts of the course are most useful for your work?

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4. What will you do differently after attending this course?

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5. What did you miss?

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6. What other comments would you like to make?

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7. Suggestions to improve the course?

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8. Are you interested in joining an online discussion group on forest policy analysis?

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ⁱ In addition to the 21 participants, one of the resource persons who attended the course during the second half also evaluated the course and hence the increase in the number of responses in the case of certain modules.