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**Integrating Environment Commitments in Investment and Development Decision Making
(IGECIDDM)**

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

SECOND QUARTER REPORT 2017

1.0. Introduction

This report provides an update on the progress of the implementation of the project activities for the second quarter of 2017. It also highlights the key challenges faced; the financial delivery for the period, and the key activities earmarked for the third quarter of the year.

2.0. Key highlights

- The project has been granted a one year no cost extension by GEF. This means the project will now officially close at the end of June next year, 2018, instead of this year. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the UNDP Resilience and Sustainable Development (RSD) team and the Project Management team in coordination with the GEF Focal Point.
- All the contracts of the project's consultants also end this quarter. All except two of them agree to a no cost extension to their contracts. These two are the Social Safeguard and Gender Specialist and the Environmental Safeguard Specialist. Table 1 below highlights the new expiry dates of their contracts.

Consultant	Contract No-cost new expiry date
International Technical Specialist	31 December 2017
REDD+ Specialist	30 June 2018
Community & Stakeholder Engagement Specialist	30 June 2018
Environmental & Customary Law Specialist	31 August 2017
Environmental Economist	31 August 2017
Forest Inventory Specialist	31 August 2017
Social Safeguard & Gender Specialist	No no-cost extension required. Consultant meet all deliverables within the contract period
Environment Safeguard Specialist	Contract not renewed nor extended due to poor performance

- For most of the consultants the no-cost extension is essential as it allows them to complete their deliverables. Out of all the consultants only the Environmental Economist and the Social Safeguard and Gender Specialist manage to submit all their deliverables within their contract period. These has already been shared with UNDP and the three key Government beneficial Ministries- the Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Ministry of Agriculture and Research (MAL), and Ministry of Forest and Research (MoFR) for comments. A two-day workshop has also been convened by the PMU in May whereby all the deliverables has been presented for deliberation by the three Government ministries and UNDP. Attachment 1 to this report provides an overview of the Individual Consultants (ICs) deliverables and their status to date.

General update on project activities

- In line with output 1.1 of the project [strengthening and capacity building of the REDD+ Implementation Unit within MoFR], the REDD+ Specialist has conducted a two days training on GIS and Remote Sensing-a key area identified by the Ministry itself that its officers need especially given their engagement in Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) under the REDD+ programme. The consultant is expected to share the report on this training as soon as he finalises it.
- In-depth discussion has also been conducted with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) Permanent Secretary and his team including Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on how to pilot the educational materials (a text book and a high school teacher guide) produced by SINU. Currently the discussion is on hold pending the editing of the materials by a consultant hired by the project. As soon as the editing work is complete and the materials are formatted into a publishing mode, the project will submit them to a publisher (identified by the editor) and have copies printed out for endorsement by both the SINU senate and the Solomon Islands Curriculum. The PMU expects this work to be completed during the month of August¹. As soon as this is done, the discussion will resume and hence the piloting thereafter.
- Mid-term evaluation of the project. the Project Management Unit (PMU)A in collaboration with UNDP is currently in the processing of selecting an evaluator to undertake a mid-evaluation of the project. PMU is looking forward to this evaluation as it will inform whether the project is right on track in achieving the outputs as per the project document, or not and the recommended actions to be undertaken to move forward.

¹ This is related to output 3.2 of the project

3.0. Funds spent on the implementation

Table 2 below provides an overview of funds spent up to end of this second quarter 2017 under each output and on what items².

Outputs	Funds Spent from Jan-to June 2017 (USD)	Brief explanation
Output 1.1	\$ 40,377.58	These funds comprise of purchase of the new laptop, the consultancy fees due to the international technical specialist, and trainings for the REDD+ Implementation Unit of Ministry of Forest and Research.
Output 1.2	\$ 0.00	
Output 1.3	\$ 0.00	
Output 2.1	\$ 15,133.40	Funds used mainly for the Safeguard Specialist deliverable 1
Output 2.2	\$ 5,559.03	Funds used mainly for adverts of ICs on Solomon Star newspaper
Output 3.1	\$ 0.00	
Output 3.2	\$ 21,838.17	Funds used mainly for tranche 3 payment of SINU and deliverable 1 of Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist
Output 3.3	\$ 14,206.96	Funds used mainly for the provincial awareness trip conducted early in February.
Output 3.4	\$ 0.00	
Output 4.1	\$ 29,827.30	These funds are used for the Telekom bills, salaries, UNDP cost recovery, sundry, and internet bills
Total	\$ 104,174.30	

Brief explanation

The USD \$ 104,174.30 is the actual cash spent on project implementation up to June 30 this year. An additional USD\$181,029 has already been committed to be spent mainly on consultancy fees should the ICs complete their deliverables and cleared by UNDP. That means out of the total 2017 budget of

² Note this analysis is based on the USD 613, 127 budget KK'ed at the beginning of this year.

USD \$ 613,127.00, adding both the cash spent and the commitments together, approximately 53% of the budget is expected to be utilised³.

4.0. Challenges and mitigation

Table 3 below highlights some of the key challenges faced by the PMU and how they have been mitigated.

Challenges	Mitigation measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There an on-going challenge with getting feedbacks on the reports or even data required for deliverables produced by the project consultant especially from officials within the three ministries-MECDM, MoFR, and MAL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous follow ups through emails. Workshops has been convened to generate feedbacks from the ministries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few of the consultants (in this case the Environmental Safeguard Specialist) seems to be very poor in addressing comments received from stakeholders whilst requesting PMU to pay their deliverables quickly. The Environment and Customary Law Specialist and the Community Consultant and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist have prolonged delays in submitting their over-due deliverables (1 and 2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contract of the Environment Safeguard Specialist is not renewed due to his poor performance. UNDP has decided to only pay him the second deliverable and ask him to stop working on the third and final one. The PMU is working closely with RSD UNDP team to directly contract the Socials Safeguard Specialist to complete the deliverable three of the Environment Safeguard Specialist. PMU has already convened discussion with the community consultation and stakeholder engagement specialist and is looking to hold another with the Environment and Customary Law Specialist. Purposely to agree on a date

³ Note this analysis is based on the project budget balance report extracted from the ATLAS on 29 June 2017.

line. Should there be further delays, this to the PMU meant the ICs are incapable of delivering the deliverables expected.

5.0. Earmarked activities for third quarter 2017

- Mid-term evaluation of the project. PMU is expected to convene meetings between the evaluator with the Government and UNDP as well as provide relevant information or data required.
- PMU to work closely with the editor and ensure the materials are published and printed.
- PMU to re-convene the meetings with MEHRD and SINU as soon as editing work is completed. Key focus should be on endorsing the materials as well as the work-plan to pilot the materials.
- PMU to convene another series of workshop in the month of August to deliberate on the remaining deliverables yet to be submitted by the Environment and Customary Law Specialist, the Forest Inventory Specialist, the REDD+ Specialist and the Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist.
- PMU to send all deliverables to the project board for endorsement.
- PMU to convene a series of briefings to MECDM, MoFR and MAL senior staff on the usefulness of the deliverables to their work. Some of these deliverables include the REDD+ Policy, the Forestry and Agriculture checklists linked to the EIA process under the Environment Act, Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the REDD+ Roadmap, and so forth.

Attachment 1: Matrix of the ICs deliverables, their status and their importance

Consultants	Deliverable	Status		Related output and activity fulfilled
		Feedback/ Payment	Endorsement	Importance of the deliverables
REDD+ Specialist	Deliverable 1: TORs of the Forest Sector Working Group, the Agriculture and Land-Use Working Group and the Technical Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • SIG/UNDP/ Project International Technical Specialist already provided Feedback. • Already paid 	To be submitted to the Project Board for endorsement	<p>Output 1.1, Activity 1.1.4 & Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.2 & 1.2.3.</p> <p>Once the TORs are finalised and the groups established, this will contribute a lot to strengthening the management arrangements purposely to implement the country's REDD+ programme as well as Rio Conventions obligations- which is exactly output 1.1 of the project.</p> <p>Should these groups be up and running part of their role should be to mainstream Rio Conventions into selected development plans and policies using the analytical framework developed by the Environment and Customary Law Specialist as a guide. Thus, this fulfils output 1.2 of the project.</p>
	Deliverable 2: Report on Proposed best practices, financial and economic instruments to implement the REDD+ Roadmap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent report for SIG/UNDP comments. Feedback to be provided by 21 April 2017. • Yet to be paid 	Planned stakeholder workshop earmarked for the last week of April to facilitate stakeholder feedback	<p>Output 1.3, Activity 1.3.2</p> <p>The endorsement of this report directly fulfils activity 1.3.2 under output 1.3 of the project. output 1.3. focus is on ensuring the financial and long-term sustainability of implementation of REDD+ programme in the country guided by the National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and the REDD+ Policy developed by the project's Environmental Economist and which is also pending endorsement. This document will be a useful guiding document for the Government.</p>
	Deliverable 3: Draft sections of the action plans for Solomon Islands' NFMS and RELs/RLs; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed work plan for the development of the Solomon Islands' RELs/RLs • Proposed recommendations to strengthen the intuitional linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already circulate for SIG/UNDP Feedbacks. • Yet to be submitted to the ITS for comments. • Yet to be paid 	Yet to be submitted to Project board for endorsement.	<p>Output 2.2, activity 2.2.3</p> <p>The report providing the recommendations to strengthen the links between the NFMS and the EMIS is vital to establishing the Centralised system if the SIG wants to, thus fulfil output 2.2. However, the key obstacles now is concerns over the usage/ property rights of the data to be shared. This</p>

	between the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Environment Monitoring System (EMIS)			makes the three ministries (MECDM, MAL and MoFR) reluctant to share GIS maps and so forth now.
	Deliverable 4: •REDD+ Training Manual and Training reports on the training provided •Technical modules and training sessions based on information from similar manuals, the REDD+ Academy “Learning Journals” and other resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to PMU. 	Yet to be submitted to Project Board for endorsement	Output 1.1, activity 1.1.1 These trainings once conducted is vital to capacity building of the REDD+ Implementation Unit.
	Deliverable 5: Terminal Mission Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to PMU 	Yet to be submitted to Project Board for endorsement	
Environmental Economist	Deliverable 1 •REDD+ economic models on appropriate mechanisms •Report on financial mechanisms that could be used in the Solomon Islands for benefit sharing and incentive mechanisms for the greater uptake of REDD+ •A draft national policy on REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent report for SIG/UNDP Comments. Feedbacks have already been provided • Already paid 	Documents are already in their draft final version and ready to be endorsed. PMU is working with the Consultant to develop a summary of the comments received and how the consultant addressed them. This is for audit trail purposes.	Output 1.1, activity 1.1.1 These three reports produced by the Environmental Economist as part of his deliverable 1 will contribute to Government’s institutional strengthening to implement REDD+ in the country. The REDD+ Policy once endorsed will be the first of its kind for the country. Also under REDD+ Development and implementation, phase 1, this document is key to showcase Government’s seriousness in implementing REDD+ in the country.
	Deliverable 2: •Pilot project proposal to ‘test’ innovative forest management approach framed by REDD+ that will demonstrate measurable indicators of delivering environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted to PMU • PMU already submitted to UNDP/SIG for comments. • Yet to be submitted to the ITS • Yet to be paid 	Yet to be submitted to Project Board for Endorsement	Having this pilot proposal directly fulfil Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6. Its objective is to test innovative forest management approaches framed by REDD+ that will demonstrate measurable indicators of delivering the Global Environmental benefits locally. This leaves the onus on the SIG to test it out.
	Deliverable 3 Study Report on the Valuation of Environmental Services from Forest Eco-Systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted to PMU • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/RTA for comments. • Already sent report to ITS for comments. 	Already submitted to Project board for endorsement. Pending endorsement by Project Board	Output 2.1, activity 2.1.5 The endorsement of this report will fulfil output 2.1, activity 2.1.5 of the project. Initiate process and explore standards for the valuation of environmental services from forest ecosystems. By establishing protocols that assess the impacts on environmental services, the EIS and PER processes will more accurately assess

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be paid 		<p>true costs and benefits of new developments. This will build on the activities of output 2.2 to identify and collect data and information needs.</p>
	<p>Deliverable 4 Resource mobilization strategy for the National REDD+ Roadmap</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted to PMU • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/RTA for comments. • Already sent to ITS for comments. • Yet to be paid 	<p>Already submitted to Project board for endorsement. Pending endorsement by Project Board</p>	<p>Output 1.3, activity 1.3.1 This strategy was exactly what was needed for the SIG to ensure financial and long-term sustainability of the REDD+ programme/ implementation of REDD+ activities in the country. It shows the different funding sources the SIG can tap into to fund REDD+ implementation in the country.</p>
<p>Environment and Customary Law Specialist</p>	<p>Deliverable 1 Report setting out the analytical framework that would guide the integration of the conventions into domestic legislations, plans and policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/RTA for comments. Feedback should come in by 21st April 2017 • Yet to be paid 	<p>Planned stakeholder workshop earmarked for the last week of April to facilitate stakeholder feedback PMU is working with the Consultant to develop a summary of the comments received and how the consultant addressed them. This is for audit trail purposes. Once this is completed it will be send to UNDP and National Project director for approval.</p>	<p>Output 1.2, activity 1.2.1 This analytical framework will be very useful to guide SIG when mainstreaming Rio Convention Obligations in to local plans and polices. In her deliverable 2, the consultant will be developing a training programme on how to use this analytical framework to mainstream the Rio Conventions into selected plans and policies.</p>
	<p>Deliverable 2 Training materials on good mainstreaming practices to integrate global environment priorities into selected national and provincial development plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to PMU 		<p>The completion of this deliverable will directly fulfil output 2.1, activity 1.2.5 of the project. The training will provide understanding on the whys and how to mainstream global environment priorities into selected development plans and policies. This will be based on the Analytical framework (deliverable 1) .</p>
	<p>Deliverable 3 Advice on the proposed amendments to the <i>Environment Act</i> and <i>Environment Regulations</i> Advice and proposed amendments on the integration of REDD+ into domestic law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to PMU 		<p>These proposed amendments to the EA and the FRTUA Act is vital to the implementation of REDD+ initiative in this country. It will show how serious the Government is in dealing with Issues such as climate change, sea level rise and so forth. The completion of this deliverable will somehow contribute to fulfilling output 1.2, activity 1.2.5 of the project.</p>

Social Safeguards and Gender Specialist	Deliverable 1 report identifying and discussing the need for national policy strengthening and coherence of existing laws regarding social safeguards, the potential environmental/social benefits and risks posed by the National REDD+ Road Map and proposed REDD+ activity implementation and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/ International Technical Specialist for Comments. • Already paid 	Already cleared by Project Board	<p>Somehow fulfils Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.1</p> <p>The report including that of the Environmental Safeguard Specialist are fundamental to informing the Government of the existing safeguards within the Environmental Act, Forest Resource and Timber Utilisation Act, the Code of Logging Practice and other relevant policies, the gaps and proposed recommendations to address the gaps. Parallel to output 2.1, activity 2.1.1 of the project, the reports contribute a lot in setting part of the background information for the country to set up a safeguards system</p>
	Deliverable 2 Gap analysis and reviews report focusing on Land Use Policy and Code of Logging Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/ ITS for Comments. • Already paid 	Already cleared and endorsed by Project Board.	<p>Contribute to fulfil Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.1</p> <p>Like the report produced in deliverable 1 by the Social Safeguard Specialist, this gap analysis report also serves the same purpose. However, the focus here is more on the National Rural Land Use Policy which pending cabinet endorsement and the code of logging practice.</p>
	Deliverable 3 Advice on National Guidelines and plans (including checklist) on social safeguards particularly for the forestry and agriculture sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted to PMU • PMU already sent to SIG/UNDP for comments • Yet to be sent to ITS for comments. • Yet to be paid 	Yet to be submitted to Project Board for endorsement	These deliverables once completed will contribute to fulfilling output 2.1, activity 2.1.2 as well as 2.1.1. in the broader sense, these checklists is essential as they link the Forest and Agriculture sector to the EIA process under the Environment Act.
Environmental Safeguard Specialist	Deliverable 1 report identifying and discussing the need for national policy strengthening and coherence of existing laws regarding environmental safeguards, the potential environmental/social benefits and risks posed by the National REDD+ Road Map and proposed REDD+ activity implementation and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/ International Technical Specialist for Comments. • Already paid 	PMU is working with the consultant to develop a summary of comments received and how the consultant addressed them. Once this is completed the report will be sent to UNDP and National Project Director for clearance and final approval.	<p>Somehow fulfils Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.1</p> <p>See comments given for deliverable 1 of the social safeguard specialist above.</p>
	Deliverable 2 Gap analysis and reviews report focusing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this 	UNDP agree to pay off the deliverable 2 and not renew his	Contribute to fulfil Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.1

	on Land Use Policy and Code of Logging Practice	<p>report to SIG/UNDP for Comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already sent to ITS for comments • Already paid 	contract due to the poor quality of the reports he produced FOR BOTH DELIVERABLE 1 AND 2.	See comments given to deliverable 2 of the social safeguard specialist above.
	Deliverable 3: Advice on National Guidelines and plans (including checklist) on environmental safeguards particularly for the forestry and agriculture sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relieve from doing deliverable • [TO BE DONE BY THE SOCIAL SAFEGUARD SPECIALIST UNDER A NEW CONTRACT] 	Yet to be submitted to Project Board for endorsement.	See comments given to deliverable 3 of the social safeguard specialist above.
Forest Inventory Specialist	Deliverable 1 Training manuals incorporating standardised local friendly methods for community based ecosystem assessments for REDD+ projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted to PMU • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/ITS for Comments. • Already paid 	<p>Already endorsed by PS MoFR</p> <p>BUT Yet to be endorsed by PS MECDM AND UNDP</p>	<p>Somehow contribute to fulfil Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6.</p> <p>This manual once endorsed should be implemented by MoFR and forms part of the toolkit when undertaking piloting of National forest management approaches.</p>
	Deliverable 2 Training programmes (report) for field crews who participate in the survey the methodology and tools used AS SPECIFIED IN THE MANUAL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training already conducted and report submitted • Already paid 	Yet to be endorsed by the Project Board	<p>Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6 and Output 3.3, Activity 3.3.2.</p> <p>The training manual has already been tested out in Kia Isabel Province whereby training was provided both to the MoFR and Local Forest Rangers in Kia Village. MoFR is expected to carry on the training given they will be using the manual. The trainings should be conducted when conducting provincial awareness workshops in the provinces (which is in line with output 3.3 of the project).</p> <p>From the outset the manual is very important in terms of REDD+ implementation in the country as it is intended as a training guide for rural communities in Solomon Islands in respect of REDD+ projects. It helps provide a practical guide to the key steps involved in identifying, assessing, and communicating the value of ecosystem services. It is also providing guidance on forest inventory and the voluntary participation of rural communities in support of the REDD+ initiatives.</p>
	Deliverable 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted to 	Yet to be endorsed by the	This Quality Assurance Guideline goes along the

	<p>Guidelines for Quality Assurance for the field survey of future NFY Cycles and Test the QA methodology during any survey conducted in the provinces.</p> <p>2017 Q1</p>	<p>PMU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU already sent to SIG/UNDP for comments • Yet to be sent to the ITS for comments. • Yet to be paid 	Project Board	<p>training manual above. Therefore, it is essential that it is consulted before using the manual.</p>
	<p>Deliverable 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training programmes (report) for field crews who participate in the survey the methodology and tools used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to PMU 		<p>This deliverable actually reports on the testing of the manual and Quality Assurance Guideline.</p>
<p>Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist</p>	<p>Deliverable 1</p> <p>A comprehensive public awareness plan developed to targeted activities to promote REDD+: Public Awareness Strategy & an Implementation Plan for the Project and REDD+.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP/ International Technical Specialist for Comments. • Already paid 	<p>Yet to be endorsed by the project board</p>	<p>Directly fulfil output 3.2, activity 3.2.2</p> <p>The communication strategy and plan should guide the project when conduction awareness programme. Even after the project finishes, the strategy and plan should still be useful to guide the REDD+ Implementation Unit within MoFR when conducting awareness.</p>
	<p>Deliverable 2</p> <p>First Survey Report containing statistical and sociological analysis focusing on the awareness and understanding of line ministries staff and stakeholders re REDD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to PMU 		<p>Directly fulfil Output 3.2, activity 3.2.1 & Output 2.2, activity 2.2.1</p>
	<p>Deliverable 3</p> <p>REDD+ Awareness Materials (Posters, brochures, short videos and articles) that communicates issues and facts on REDD+, Climate change and its link to forestry, Livelihoods and development. At least six (6) awareness materials should be developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted and currently reviewed by PMU 		<p>Directly fulfil Output 3.2, activity 3.2.3 & 3.2.6</p>
	<p>Deliverable 4</p> <p>Consolidated Training packages and programme and resource materials on the revised EMIS and NFMS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to PMU 		<p>Contributed to fulfilling Output 2.2, activity 2.2.4</p>
	<p>Deliverable 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be submitted to 		<p>Directly fulfil Output 3.2, activity 3.2.3 & 3.2.6</p>

	<p>REDD+ Awareness Materials (Posters, brochures, short videos and articles) that communicates issues and facts on REDD+, Climate change and its link to forestry, Livelihoods and development. At least three (3) awareness materials should be Developed</p> <p>2nd Survey Report containing statistical and sociological analysis focusing on the awareness and understanding of line ministries staff and stakeholders re REDD+</p>	PMU		
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