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

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT 2015

[Reporting period: OCTOBER 1st – December 31st 2015]

Approved by (.....Date :.....)

1.0. Introduction

2015 has been a challenging year for the Project Management Unit (PMU) in terms of implementing the project. Since the launch of the project on 23rd June, the PMU has spent a considerable amount of time, energy and effort to implement the approved 2015 Annual Work Plan (AWP)¹, however some of the key constraints faced includes time constraints to realistically implement the earmarked activities in the approved AWP given the project has been launched very late, difficulty in recruiting the right consultants with the right technical skills to fulfil selected outputs, slowness in the UNDP bureaucratic process to procure goods and services, and slowness on the part of the key Government partners² to provide feedbacks to the PMU on areas where their technical experts are needed. That said these constraints has really impacted on the implementation phase resulting in the PMU unable to meet the specified outputs (in AWP) as intended. For instance, it has taken the PMU in collaboration with UNDP almost four months since the launching to try and find the 'International Technical Specialist' to fulfil activities under output 1.1. To date there is still no success. However, the sourcing of this consultant will be a key activity earmarked for next year 2016. Also PMU is looking to further enhance its collaboration with UNDP and key Government ministries to minimize the problems of delays.

1.1. Overview of fourth quarter activities

To the PMU, fourth quarter of 2015, has been the period it has managed to get more support from the key Government ministries (especially MoFR) thus enable them to collaborate and implement some of the key project activities which will be discussed in this report. The key ones include a Joint Government-PMU provincial REDD+ and Rio Conventions awareness workshop being carried out in Lata, Temotu Province, the recruitment of the consultant to design the national REDD+ Website, recruitment of a second REDD+ officer for the REDD+ Implementation Unit within MoFR as part of institutional strengthening within the Ministry and funding the trip of their principal REDD+ officer to attend the COP21 meetings in Paris as part of capacity building.

That said, it should also be noted that since the launching of the project right to the end of this fourth quarter, the implementation of these activities (as earmarked in the revised 2015 AW) has been an on-going activity. Therefore, this report although only cover the fourth quarter, it also provide the realistic overview of the activities the PMU has managed to completed since the project's launch. See table 1 in section 2.0 below for the details. Section 3.0 of this report discusses in detail the nature of the activities. Section 4.0 (**table 2**) provides an overview of the funds spent to implement the 2015 activities. Section 5.0 (table 3) highlights and discusses strategies to implement ones the PMU is not able to implement this year 2015 but is brought forward to 2016. Section 6.0 (table 4) provides an overview of the mitigation strategies adopted during the year to address the challenges and risks. Section 7.0 (table 5), highlights the key activities earmarked for first quarter 2016, based on the 2016 AWP.

2.0. Output level summary of implementation progress/activities completed in 2015

Table 1 below provides an overview of the key tasks completed for 2015 under each activity to fulfil the intended outputs as per the Project document and the subsequent 2015 AWP.

Outputs	Activity	Summary of Achievements	Verification
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¹ Note Since its launch, the Project Management Unit (PMU) has revised the Project's budget twice from the original amount of USD 378,500.00 as earmarked in the Project Document. In the first revision, the budget has been reduced to USD248, 500.00. It was then further reduced to USD 168,500.00 in the second revision. This is the final amount the PMU use to implement the activities. To the PMU these revisions are necessary as they realistically reflect the activities it anticipates it can be able to implement in the remaining half of 2015. Therefore when talking about the 2015 AWP, it is the one with the USD 168,000.00 balance that has been referred to.

² The key SIG implementing partners include the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Ministry of Forestry and Research (MoFR), and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL).

Output 1.1: Strengthen Management arrangement for Rio Conventions implantation	Activity 1.1.1: Strengthen organizational capacities of the REDD+ Implementation Unit	Successful recruitment of a Second Forest officer for the REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) within MoFR as part of institutional strengthening. She has already commence duties. •Fund the participation of the principal RIU officer to attend the COP21 Meetings in Paris (from 20 Nov-15 Dec) as part of capacity building for MoFR/RIU.	RIU has mandate to coordinate CC CD Activities
	Activity 1.1.2: Formally establish the National REDD+ Committee and Focal Points	Cabinet formally endorsed the establishment of the committee including the REDD+ Roadmap in November.	NRC & Focal points formally established
<p>For Output 1.2, Output 1.3, Output 2.1, Output 2.2, & Output 3.2, and Output 3.3, all the activities under these outputs (<i>plus those which the PMU are unable to implement under output 1.1 due to the challenges faced</i>) are shifted to 2016. That is despite that fact that some of them are not in line with the provisional work plan provided in the Project Document. The key reason beside the other constraints underpinning this shift as highlight in the introduction is the late launching of the project which resulted in the drastic cut in the budget from USD 388,000.00 (as earmarked in the Project Document for year 1 of implementation) to USD 168,000.00. To the PMU the latter amount reflects a more realistic implementation of the project for the remaining months of the year, factoring in the unavailability of the senior civil servants of the key Government ministries for the months of November and December due to the yearend holiday session and attendance of the COP21 meetings. This leaves only five realistic months for PMU to implement the final 2015 AWP.</p>			
Output 3.1: Convene Project Launch and Results Workshop	Activity 3.1: Convene Project Launch workshop	PMU has successfully launch the Project on 23 rd June 2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key outcome of the workshop was the Government (through PSs of both MECDM and MoFR) confirm their support towards the PMU in implementing the project. Also they encourage key stakeholders such as the NGOs and donor partners to render their support to the PMU. 	Inception Report, minutes & attendees list
Output 3.2: Public Awareness Campaigns, surveys and education materials	Activity 3.2.3: Prepare articles and brochures on Rio Conventions and REDD+ activities	Brochures on the three Rio Conventions, a survey questionnaires on stakeholders understanding of REDD+ and Rio Conventions and brochure on the project and the REDD+ initiative has been developed and distributed to the participants of the inception workshop to promote awareness and understanding of REDD+ and the Rio Conventions.	Brochures, questionnaire and newspaper article

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the questionnaires it has been found that generally there is limited knowledge about what REDD+ really is and the Rio Conventions and their objectives. 	
Output 3.3: Awareness raising dialogues and workshops	Organize and convene provincial awareness workshops on Rio Conventions and REDD+	<p>A REDD+ and Rio Conventions Provincial Awareness workshop was successfully completed in Lata, Temotu Province. This was a joint effort of the PMU on behalf of UNDP, MECDM, MoFR and Solomon Islands National University. The notable outcomes of the workshop includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural communities mounting interest in knowing and understanding good practices to safeguard their environment, what REDD+ and the Rio Conventions really are, and key national policies and plans developed by the Government to address this issue. Suggestion to develop a comprehensive awareness strategy/plan to enable more coordination in Government's awareness programs. 	Provincial workshop minutes and awareness materials
3.4.1: internet visibility of Good Practices for REDD+ Implementation	Improve selected or create webpage with info on all REDD+ & Rio Convention activities	A consultant has been recruited and has now been working on the website. This website based on the TOR is expected to be completed and launched by the end of January 2016.	Website launch

3.0. Details on the nature of the activities implemented in 2015 up to the 4th Quarter.

Following are the detailed discussion of the activities highlighted in table 1 which the PMU has managed to implement up to the fourth quarter and more generally in 2015.

Under output 1.1, activity 1.1.1- Strengthening capacity of the RIU-MoFR, PMU

(a) Has successfully recruited a second officer for the MoFR/RIU. *The outstanding task related to this officer is to the PMU is yet to purchase a laptop for her. This is expected to be completed in January 2016.*

(b) Also funded the principal forest officer of MoFR/RIU to attend the COP21 meetings held in Paris this year. PMU will be pursuing in early January for the officer to provide a back to office report, develop an update REDD+ brochure, as well as assist the PMU to implement the rest of the activities as contained in MoFR's Permanent Secretary's letter to UNDP requesting PMU's assistance.

- The rest of the activities under Output 1.1 (activity 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4 & 1.1.5), those of Output 1.2, Output 1.3. Output 2.1, Output 2.2, Output 3.2, Output 3.3 and Output 3.4 (**which according to the Project Document Provisional Work Plan timeline should be implemented in 2015 but are not thus deemed outstanding activities for 2015**) will be brought forward to be implemented in 2016. See the 2016 AWP and its Implementation plan for details of the strategies to be used to implement these activities. This is attached as annex 1.
- Under Output 3.2, Activity 3.2.3- Prepare articles, brochures on Rio Conventions and REDD+, three brochures on the UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC, a brochure on REDD+ Implementation in Solomon Islands and a brochure on this project has been developed and shared with the participants. A set of generic questionnaires has also been developed to get the understanding of key government ministries understanding of the conventions. From these questionnaires, it is found that only a few of the civil servants (especially the senior ones such as the undersecretaries and directors) that has broader understanding and awareness about these conventions. The junior officers and seem to have limited knowledge on them. These brochures and questionnaires can be sourced from the PMU.
- Under output 3.3, Activity 3.3.2- Organise and Convene Provincial Awareness workshops on Rio Conventions and REDD+, PMU in collaboration with Government and Solomon Islands National University has managed to successfully convene a Joint REDD+ and Rio Conventions Provincial Awareness workshop in Lata, Temotu Province from the 9th to 10th of September 2015. The key objectives of the workshop are:
 - *To conduct an initial awareness and consultation with relevant provincial government, leaders, administrators, heads of division and non-governmental stakeholders in the provinces on on-going Government initiatives in addressing environmental problems such as climate change and unsustainable harvesting of the country's forest resources and so forth. Key focus will be on the REDD+ Initiative as a strategy to meet the country's obligations under the Rio Conventions.*
 - *To undertake consultation with the Provincial Governments and the stakeholders on the upcoming REDD+ activities thus fulfil the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) criteria*
 - *To educate the Provincial Governments on the roles and responsibilities of MECDM and MoFR in implementing these initiatives.*
 - *To conduct a stakeholder consultation hence gather inputs from the Provincial Governments and the stakeholders and find synergies that will help the Government implements its existing policies, and revise or improve the ones yet to be implemented.*
 - *To educate Provincial Governments and the stakeholders on good environmental community practices that will help safeguard the environment and at the same time promote sustainable development.*

Following are the key outcomes of these workshops:

- 1) It has been found that that there is limited knowledge in the rural communities on the REDD+ initiative and the Rio Conventions, the EIA process, the Timber Rights Process, and the overarching national policies and laws and roles of the MECDM, MoFR and MAL in implementing them. There is a need for comprehensive awareness on these policies and processes throughout the country. Currently PMU has already completed a draft Public Awareness strategy which will be shared early January 2016 for comments. This strategy discusses the types of REDD+ information that can be shared, identify the target groups and the communication methods and

tools that can be used. From the workshop it has been found that without a communication strategy or plan, there will be limited evidence that people do really understand what REDD+ is all about.

- 2) From the policy level at the International (the RCs) and National level (SIG's policies) to the Provincial and community level, there seems to be a missing link on how the National and Provincial Government policies tie in together.

Further to the outcomes, there has been interesting developments taking place which can be attributed to the awareness workshop. The notable one was change of leadership of Temotu Provincial Government. This was following the resignation of the Premier after being found to have granted the grant of profit of the Provincial registered land to Xiang Lin by which the COF issue a felling license (Solomon Star issue no.5985, dated 28 /09/2015). Also the attendees admit that this was the first time they are made aware of profit sharing for logging activities. 60% (contractor), 25% (Govt) and 15% (Licensee & resource owner to share). They thank MoFR for making this known to them. They highlighted that this information has definitely change their perception of logging-as not beneficial at all.

4.0. Funds spent on the implementation

In implementing the 2015 AWP, outline in Table 2 below is the summary of funds spent during the year for each output³. Note the remaining funds is brought forward to be used in 2016 and this is factored in the 2016 AWP.

Outputs	2015 Approved budget (USD)	Funds Spent up to 31 st Dec 2015 (USD)	Budget balance (USD)	Budget Utility (%)
Output 1.1	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 2,773.00	\$ 27,587.00	10
Output 1.2	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 7,881.00	\$ 22,119.00	26
Output 1.3	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0
Output 2.1	\$ 0.00	\$ 112.00	-\$ 112.00	26
Output 2.2	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0
Output 3.1	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,669.00	-\$ 469.00	115
Output 3.2	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00	0
Output 3.3	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 19,534.97	\$ 15,465.03	56
Output 3.4	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	0
Output 4.1	\$ 51,300.00	\$ 49,381.00	\$ 1,919.00	96
Total	\$ 168,000.00	\$83,725.18	\$ 84,274.82	50

Subsidiary to table 2 above, the total amount of funds spent on each outputs in 4th quarter are as follows.

Outputs	Funds Spent from 1 st October to 31 st Dec 2015 (USD)
Output 1.1	\$ 2,913.49
Output 1.2	\$ 7,881.00
Output 1.3	\$ 0.00
Output 2.1	\$ 0.00
Output 2.2	\$ 0.00
Output 3.1	\$ 0.00
Output 3.2	\$ 0.00
Output 3.3	\$ 2,038.41
Output 3.4	\$ 0.00
Output 4.1	\$ 16,589.00
Total	\$29,422.11

³ Source: Project Budget Balance as of 31st December 2015.

5.0. Strategies to implement 2015 outstanding activities in 2016.

Drawing on the 2015 AWP, highlighted in table 3 below are the activities the PMU has not been able to implement. That said also outlined are the strategies the PMU will be using especially in 2016 to ensure that they are implemented. See attachment 1 (2016 AWP/ Implementation Plan) details of the proposed 2016 budget and its implementation plan.

Table 3: outstanding activities and strategies to implement them

Output/Activity	Strategy	Indicator
Output 1.1		
Activity 1.1.3: Strengthen coordination and institutional linkages	To be implement next year 2016. Strategy: This activity will be implemented as soon as the International Technical Specialist is recruited. The specialist will draft the MOU to be signed to foster cooperation amongst the Government agencies.	MOU signed between NRC, TWGs and Govt ministries
1.1.4: Support working group on land degradation and formulate National Land-use Policy	To be implement in 2016. Strategy: collaborate with MAL and SWoCK on the progress to date on the drafting of the cabinet to establish the LDWG.	LDWG established & NLUP Endorsed
1.1.5 Convene training workshops for improved inter-agency coordination and collaboration.	To be implement in 2016. Strategy: Note this activity will be fulfilled once the International Technical Specialist is on board. PMU will be liaising with him/her to convene the workshop.	Training workshop materials
Output 1.2		
1.2.1 Develop analytical framework for Rio Convention obligations into sector planning	To be implement in 2016. Strategy: PMU will be drafting a TOR to recruit a consultant to fulfil this activity in 2016. It will them collaborate with UNDP to do the recruitment.	Analytical Framework
Output 1.3		
1.3.1 Develop Resource Mobilization Strategy and Plan for National REDD+ Roadmap.	To be implemented next year 2016. Strategy: CB2 is looking to recruit a consultant to fulfil this activity.	Resource mobilization strategy & Implementation Plan
Output 3.2		
3.2.6 Prepare radio PSA discussing good community practices to safeguard global environment	Strategy: PMU in collaboration with the key ministries will develop draft PSA Radio programs for the Government. Assuming the International Technical Specialist is on board, PMU will seek his/her guidance to review the programmes	PSA Radio programs

6.0. Addressing the challenges/risks

Highlighted in the table 4 below are the mitigation strategies that has been used in 2015 and will continued to be used to address the challenges in 2016/2017.

Table 4: Mitigating the risks

Potential Risks	Category	Mitigation strategy

1. Bureaucratic process and limited capacity risk		
<u>UNDP</u> Delays in procurement within UNDP – Honiara sub-office resulting in long delays in procuring of goods and services essential for moving the project forward.	High	A procurement plan has already been developed to address this issue. However, the issue which is beyond control is the weaknesses of the staff to be proactive.
<u>SIG</u> Competing for priority with other UNDP Projects and Donor Agencies – All projects demanding time and effort from a limited pool of officers within the Government and partner agencies.	High	Convene Quarterly meetings and share the quarterly reports with MECDM, MoFR & MAL PSs and directors to update them on progress as well as rallying their support for the project.
2. Political will risk		
<u>SIG</u> Change in Government or minister in MoFR is volatile.	High	This is beyond everyone’s control. Liaising with PSs of MECDM and MoFR to monitor the situation.
3. Capacity constraints in PMU		
CB2 PMU is currently constraints with enough manpower to implement the project.	High	PMU is hereby seeking the approval of MoFR to enable one of its staff to assist the project manager. It also seeking the MECDM PS’s approval that the officer can be granted permission to come and sit in with the PMU.

7.0. Earmarked activities for first quarter 2016 AWP

Following are the key activities to be implemented in first quarter of 2016. Note this is drawn from the 2016 AWP and its subsequent Implementation Plan.

Table 5: 2016 first quarter activities

Output	Activities
1.1: Strengthen Management arrangements to implement Rio Conventions	<p>For Activity 1.1.1-Strengthen Organisation capacity of REDD+ Implementation Unit/MoFR, the key tasks include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procuring a laptop for the newly recruited officer 2. Review the TOR and work with UNDP to recruit an International Technical Specialist to fulfil activities of this output plus other related ones. 3. Assuming the consultant is on board, ensure he trains RIU staff, and develop institutional strengthening MOA to be signed between key Government ministries and technical working groups.
	<p>Activity 1.1.2-Formally establish National REDD+ Committee.</p> <p>The key tasks to be undertaken to fulfil this activity are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft a TOR and formal letter of appointment of the members 2. Liaise with MECDM and MoFR senior officials to identify potential members. 3. Get copy of the cabinet conclusion for reference.
	<p>Activity 1.1.4 Support Land Degradation Working Group and Formulate NLUP</p> <p>The key tasks to be undertaken includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with SWoCK and MAL and get updates on the progress of the cabinet to establish the LDWG.
3.2: Public awareness campaigns, survey & education materials	<p>Under Activity-3.2.2- prepare comprehensive public awareness plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a public awareness strategy. 2. Develop a TOR for consultant to develop the public awareness plan
	<p>Under activity- 3.2.6- prepare PSA radio programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with MoFR and MECDM to develop sample radio programs.
3.4: internet visibility of good practices for REDD+ Implementation	<p>Under activity 3.4.1- Improve or created webpage with REDD+ and Rio Conventions information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure consultant deliver the expected outputs and liaise with UNDP to process payments.

Conclusion

Following the launch of the Project, 2015 has not only been a challenging year but also a year which provides an opportunity for the Project Management Unit (PMU) to learn from the experiences thus improve on the implementation of the project in 2016 and 2017. It is only in the third and fourth quarter (July to December) of 2015 that PMU has managed to implement the key activities as highlighted earlier

on in the midst of the challenges faced. Having said that, PMU anticipates 2016 to be a more challenging year. Additional challenges will stem from the very fact to deliver the 2016 AWP which currently sits at USD 598,500.00. However, it is hoped that through the collaboration of the key implementing partners, the PMU will try its very best to deliver at least fifty percent of the proposed budget.

