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Resilient nations.*

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

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**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

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**[Reporting period: January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015]**

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

<b>Project Title</b>	Integrating Environment Commitments in Investment and Development Decision Making (IGECIDDM)
<b>Project ID</b>	00091738
<b>Award Title</b>	00083083
<b>Business Unit</b>	FJ110
<b>Department ID</b>	43301
<b>Fund</b>	04000 & 62000
<b>Donor</b>	00012 & 10003
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	0001981
<b>Operating Unit</b>	SLB
<b>PIMS No:</b>	4928
<b>Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner</b>	UNDP/ MECDM, MoFR & MAL

Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount(USD)
<b>SIG</b>	In-kind	250,000
<b>UNDP</b>	Grant	150,000
<b>GEF</b>	Grant	850,000
<b>Total</b>		1,250,000

## Foreword

In 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, the Integrating Global Environment Commitments in Investment and Development Decision Making (IGECIDDM) Project (also known as CB2- Capacity Building phase 2) has been launched. Its goal is to 'deliver global environmental benefits across the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, and UNCBDF) through reduced deforestation and forest degradation by strengthening policy coordination and planning mechanisms'. Its objective was to 'strengthen and institute a tiered network of key decision-makers, planners, and other stakeholders to catalyze and sustain reductions of deforestation and forest degradation in a way that meets objectives under the three Rio Conventions whilst enabling the realization of the associated environmental benefits to the country <sup>1</sup>'.

The project was mainly developed to address the key cross cutting constraints<sup>2</sup> identified in the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA-which is known as CB1- Capacity Building phase 1)) which impedes the country from complying with its own environmental laws and the Multi- lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Rio Conventions (RCs). Furthermore, unsustainable forest management and over exploitation of natural resources has been the other factor prompting the project to come about. This has posed significant threat to the country's long-term sustainable development and the unique environmental benefits the country can acquire from its natural resources. In essence, the project presents an opportunity to showcase not only how REDD+ can be implemented for small island developing states, but also how a relatively small incremental investment of GEF resources through a Cross Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) programme can help strengthen the underlying capacities necessary to institutionalize the foundational capacities necessary for REDD+ implementation to have long-term impacts<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> IGECIDDM Project Document, nd, pg. 8.

<sup>2</sup> These includes; ineffective legislation and policy framework; institutional, technical and capacity weaknesses; lack of public awareness and information sharing for sound environmental management and decision making; lack of mainstreaming environmental considerations, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development across government programmes; and gaps in human capacity and development. See NCSA, 2008 Report for more details.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pg.19.

## Introduction

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.

This report reflects on the key activities implemented and completed in 2015, discusses ones currently being implemented and is expected to be completed early next year 2016, the funds spent to date on the implementation phase, and also some of the key challenges faced and how they have been mitigated. It will also be discussing the 2016 Annual Work plan/ Budget and the strategies that will be adopted (based on the 2015 lessons learnt) to effectively implement the outstanding 2015 activities and the activities proposed for next 2016.

## Overview of 2015

Since its launch, the Project Management Unit (PMU) has revised the Project's budget twice from the original amount of USD 378,500.00 earmarked in the Project Document. In the first revision, the budget has been reduced to USD 248,500.00. 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. **Attachment 1** is the 2015 Annual Work Plan (AWP) which highlights how the USD 168,500.00 is distributed for the various activities.

Drawing on activities highlighted in the 2015 AWP, Table 1 below discusses activities the PMU has managed to successfully implement in 2015 with the collaboration of the implementing partners<sup>4</sup> and UNDP. Table 2 highlights ones currently being implemented and are yet to be completed and Table 3 highlights outstanding ones which the PMU is unable to implement this year, but will be carried forward to be implemented in 2016.

Table 1: Activities completed this year (2015)

Output/ Activity	Status & Comments	Indicator
<b>Output 1.1: Strengthen Management arrangements for Rio Conventions Implementation</b>		
Activity 1.1.1: Strengthen organizational capacities of the REDD+ Implementation Unit. The Key tasks as agreed in the Implementation Plan 2015 to be implemented to fulfil this activity includes:  •The recruitment of a Second RIU officer (Forest Officer). This has already been completed with the officer already working.	Generally it can be said that Activity 1.1.1 has been fulfilled as all the key tasks earmarked has been successfully implemented and completed.	Job Description and signed contract of the Forest Officer.  COP21 Back to office Report/ Lessons Learnt Report.  REDD+ Brochures and articles

<sup>4</sup> Especially MECDM, MoFR and MAL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•PMU has supported MoFR/RIU by funding the participation of the RIU officer at the COP21 Meetings.</li> <li>•Procure laptop for the officer.</li> </ul> <p>Paper work for procuring of laptop already eventuate.</p>		
<b>Output 3.1</b>	<b>Project Launch and Results workshop</b>	
Under output 3.1, activity 3.1.1 has already been accomplished through the launching of the workshop in 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2015	Completed	Inception workshop report and minutes
<b>. Output 3.2</b>	<b>Public Awareness campaign, survey and education materials</b>	
Under output 3.2, activity 3.2.3, has already been accomplished. Brochures on the three Rio Conventions, survey questionnaires and a brochure on the project including the REDD+ initiative has been published and shared with the participants of the inception workshop	Completed  Note despite the publishing of these materials, more will be developed in the second and final year of implementation of the project.	Copies of the brochures and the completed survey questionnaires.

**Table 2:** Activities whose implementation has already begun and is expected to be completed early 2016.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
For Activity 1.1.2 (establishment of the National REDD+ Committee and Focal Point) Cabinet has already endorsed the establishment of the National REDD+ Committee and Focal Points. Draft TOR and formal letter of appointment for the members are currently being drafted.	Cabinet endorsement- Completed  The formal appointment will be done early January 2016.	Cabinet Conclusion  NRC TOR & Formal Letter of appointment
In fulfilling Output 3.3 (Awareness raising dialogues and workshops), under activity 3.3.2, PMU in collaboration with MECDM and MoFR has already rolled out a provincial awareness workshop in Lata.  In 2016, PMU expects that there will be further calls from the Government for them to be part of these Provincial awareness workshop.	Following the first trialled provincial awareness workshop, it has been found that:  In the provincial government and community level, people never heard of REDD+ or the Rio Conventions. There is interest shown that the National Government provide more of these awareness.  Neither has there been any active policies at the provincial level which specifically correlates with the likes of the NAPA, NBSAP. There is a missing link between the national environmental policies and the policies of the Provincial Government.  <u>Next step:</u>	Provincial Awareness Workshop Report  Workshop Minutes

	In its report, the IGECIDDM Project highlighted that a national REDD+ Awareness Strategy and Plan has to be developed first before such awareness can be effective. The Project is looking to develop one in collaboration especially with MoFR early 2016.	
In fulfilling output 3.4 (Internet visibility of good practices for REDD+ Implementation), under activity 3.4.1, already a consultant has been hired and is currently in the process of developing a National REDD+ Website for Solomon Islands. This website is to be hosted within MoFR.	The website is expected to be launched early January 2016. The reminder of tasks which including developing operations and training manuals and training the MoFR and PMU staff on the usage and maintenance of this site) is expected to be completed by January 14 <sup>th</sup> 2016.	Functional Website

### Challenges faced

During the year, PMU has also faced some notable challenges. Top of the list is the sourcing of the right consultants with the right technical skills to undertake the technical activities as per the Project document. 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. The other challenges faced includes the slowness in the UNDP bureaucratic process to procure goods and services. This has impede the PMU from acquiring on time the much needed goods and services (especially consultant services) to fast tract the project implementation thus unable to meet outputs as intended. PMU is looking to further enhance its collaboration with UNDP as a strategy to minimize this problem in 2016. Likewise, slowness on the part of the key Government partners<sup>5</sup> to provide feedbacks has also been the other factor hindering the effective implementation of the project. This attitude should change in 2016, if the project is to be implemented effectively. Having said that, these has resulted in the following activities unable to be implemented in 2015.

**Table 3:** Outstanding 2015 activities to be brought forward to 2016

Output/Activity	Strategy/comment	Indicator
<b>Output 1.1</b>		
Activity 1.1.3: Strengthen coordination and institutional linkages	To be implement next year 2016. <b>Comments:</b> 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. <b>Comments:</b> 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

<sup>5</sup> 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).

1.1.5 Convene training workshops for improved inter-agency coordination and collaboration.	To be implement in 2016. <b>Comments:</b> Note this activity will be fulfilled once the International Technical Specialist is on board.	Training workshop materials
<b>Output 1.2</b>		
1.2.1 Develop analytical framework for Rio Convention obligations into sector planning	To be implement in 2016. <b>Comments:</b> Strategy: CB2 will be drafting a TOR to recruit a consultant to fulfil this activity in 2016.	Analytical Framework
<b>Output 1.3</b>		
1.3.1 Develop Resource Mobilization Strategy and Plan for National REDD+ Roadmap.	To be implemented next year 2016. <b>Comments:</b> Strategy: CB2 is looking to recruit a consultant to fulfil this activity.	Resource mobilization strategy & Implementation Plan
<b>Output 3.2</b>		
3.2.6 Prepare radio PSA discussing good community practices to safeguard global environment	<b>Comments:</b> Strategy: With the guidance of the International Technical Specialist, PMU will be working with MoFR and MECDM on the relevant radio programs.	PSA Radio programs

#### Funds spent on the implementation

In implementing the 2015 AWP, outline in Table 4 below is the summary of funds spent during the year for each output<sup>6</sup>. 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 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2015 (USD)	Budget balance (USD)	Budget Utility (%)	Comments
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	\$ 9,995.00	\$ 5.00	100	
Output 3.3	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,264.00	\$ 736.00	98	
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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 168,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 108,215.00</b>	<b>\$ 59,785.00</b>	<b>64</b>	

#### Addressing the challenges/risks

Potential Risks	Category	Mitigation strategy

<sup>6</sup> Source: Project Budget Balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

<b>1. Bureaucratic process and limited capacity risk</b>		
<b>UNDP</b> 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.
<b>SIG</b> 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.
<b>2. Political will risk</b>		
<b>SIG</b> 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.
<b>3. Capacity constraints in PMU</b>		
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.

## 2016 AWP

Attachment 1 is the proposed Budget for 2016 which awaits the board’s deliberation and approval. The total amounts to US 598,500.00. Note that this figure comprises of leftover funds from 2015 plus the total funds earmarked for 2016 as per the Project Document.