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Resilient nations.*

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

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

SECOND (2ND) QUARTER REPORT 2016

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

Introduction

This report basically provides an update of the progress of the implementation of the project activities for the second quarter, the key challenges faced; the financial delivery for the period, and the activities earmarked for the third quarter.

1. Project implementation progress

As highlighted in the first quarter report, following are the key activities earmarked to be implemented this quarter.

- i. PMU to assist the REDD+ Specialist to convene training workshop on inter-agency coordination and collaboration for SIG,
- ii. PMU to work closely with REDD+ Specialist to finalise the TORs of the working groups for land, agriculture and forest sector,
- iii. PMU to work closely with Environmental Economist to complete a Public Service Announcement (PSA) radio programme,
- iv. PMU to work closely with the Environmental Sociologist to develop at least two awareness materials (brochures and postures),
- v. PMU to work closely with the Environmental Sociologist to develop a public awareness strategy and plan for the project.

Sadly all of these activities never eventuate. The inter-agency coordination and collaboration training workshop and the TORs for the working groups aren't being done as the REDD+ Specialist who is the expert and should be taking the lead role is never recruited despite the advertisements. Likewise, there wasn't any PSA because the Environmental Economist who should be producing this document wasn't also recruited. This also applies to the awareness materials and the public awareness strategy and plan for the project. These awareness materials and strategy/plan has not also being materialise due to the unavailability of an Environmental Sociologist to do the work. As a result the Project Management Unit in collaboration with the Project's International Technical Specialist have revised all the TORs in consultation with the key Solomon Islands Government (SIG) partner ministries (MECDM, MoFR, and MAL). This is mainly to expedite and ensure the project moving forward. The key changes includes the renaming of the consultancy titles as well as capturing of certain policy issues of interest to the Government. These are all highlighted in the International Technical Specialist's report which is also attached as Annex 1 to this report.

Despite these hindrances, to ensure these activities are implemented and fulfilled, PMU has taken the liberty by developing a draft REDD+ PSA Radio programme, a brochure on REDD+ which is distributed during the World Environment day on 8th June this year, and an Awareness Strategy and Plan for the project, purposely in order to meet the latter three activities as highlighted above. It is also important to note that these documents (apart from the brochures) are yet to be used as they are yet to be shared with the partner implementing agencies (MECDM, MoFR and MAL) for their inputs.

There are also some notable activities happening during this period. The key ones are as follows.

(a). The formal launching of the National REDD+ Website administered by MoFR and funded by the project. This event took place at the Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel on the 24th of June 2016 and this marks the fulfilment of output 3.4 of the project. Attached as Annex 2 is an article on the launch published by Island Sun newspaper.

(b). The International Technical Specialist has already deliver deliverable 1 of his TOR. The report attached as Annex 1 verifies this. Also the revised TORs are now being advertised with the hope of contracting ICs at the end of this month of July/early next month August.

©. The newly recruited Project assistant has begun duties as of 27th June. He is Mr Eric Houma. Mr Houma is well versed with UNDP and SIG processes from his previous employment as project assistant to SWoCK project. As the PM I personally welcome him the project. HR Manager of MECDM has already introduced him to most of the staff at the corporate services division.

(d). The first Tranche payment has already been made to SINU following the signing of the Letter of Agreement between UNDP and the Institution on 27 April. The Agreement is for SINU to develop an education module on REDD+ and Rio Conventions and a teacher resource guide hence fulfil activity 3.2.4 and 3.2.5 of the project. Since then the development of these materials has been progressing well. The second tranche is expected to be release as soon as the draft module and resource material is submitted. Attached as annex 3 is an article on the signing ceremony which took place at the SINU's Vice Chancellor's office.

(e). The PMU in collaboration with the other UNDP environmental projects has participate in the World Environment day organised by SIG (MECDM) on 8 of June. During the event, questions on the Rio Conventions and REDD+ has been asked with prizes awarded for the right answer. The PMU has also shared with the Public its brochures on REDD+, the Rio Conventions and the project itself.

Figure 2 below shows the PM sharing the price money for one of the student winners of the quiz questions asked during the event.



Source: CB2 PMU

2.0. Funds spent on the implementation

From the USD 22, 084.79 utilised in first quarter this year, the amount has risen to USD 72, 663. 77 this quarter. This however accounts for only about 12% of the total budget of USD 598,500 for this year. Table 3 below provides a more detail summary of these funds by outputs and a brief explanation on what they are spent on.

Outputs	Funds Spent from Jan-to date 2016 (USD)	Brief explanation
Output 1.1	\$ 16,147.53	These fund comprise of purchase of the new laptop, UNDP Cost recovery, and consultancy fees due to the international technical specialist and the web-designer
Output 1.2	\$ 0.00	
Output 1.3	\$ 0.00	
Output 2.1	\$ 0.00	
Output 2.2	\$ 5,363	Funds used mainly for adverts of ICs on Solomon Star newspaper
Output 3.1	\$ 0.00	
Output 3.2	\$ 13,506.09	
Output 3.3	\$ 0.00	
Output 3.4	\$ 4,384.13	
Output 4.1	\$ 34,843.01	These funds are used for the Telekom bills, salaries, UNDP cost recovery, sundry, and internet bills
Total	\$72,663.77	

As highlighted in the first quarter report, hoping that we have the 8 consultants on board by the end of this month, this amount will increase as more funds will be spent on their deliverables, travels, and workshops that will be held. In addition, approximately USD 39,000 is already locked down to be paid to SINU for the work they are currently doing.

3.0. Challenges

The key challenge of the project is getting the right consultants on board to fulfil the project outputs. Currently adverts are running for the project's consultancies after the previous unsuccessful attempt. The hope is by the end of this month, all of the IC posts will be filled hence expedite the project in moving forward.

4.0. Earmarked activities for third quarter 2016

Following are the key activities earmarked for the third quarter.

- PMU work with UNDP to finalise and contract all the IC posts. The adverts will close on Friday 15 July with the processing of paper expected to last a week. The actual contracting of ICs will either materialise at the end or early next month of August. Following are the follow-up activities the PMU will engage in should these ICs be on board.

- Monitor and ensure the environmental safeguard specialist produce the report identifying and discussing the need for national policy strengthening and coherence of existing laws with regard to environmental safeguards, the potential environmental a benefits and risks posed by the National REDD+ Road Map and proposed REDD+ activity implementation and priorities. The report is due on the 30 of September 2016.
- Ensure the Forest Inventory Specialist produce the training manuals incorporating standardised local friendly methods for community based ecosystem assessments for REDD+ projects and the 2016 third quarter report on services provided in support of the REDD+ Technical Advisor. These reports is due on the 30 of September 2016.
- Ensure the REDD+ Technical Advisor develop the Consolidated ToRs of the Forest Sector Working Group and the Agriculture and Land-Use Working Group and the Technical Working Group as well as working with the Government to establish these groups. The due date for finalising all the TORs is 30 September 2016.
- Work with the REDD+ Specialist to convene the inter-agency coordination and collaboration workshop focusing on REDD+ implementation.
- PMU collaborate with the International Technical Specialist to convene the multi-ministry, multi donor workshop to assess the current activities being undertaken by each Ministry and donor, and how the donors can work collaboratively with both the Ministries and UNDP to achieve the outcomes desired by the IGEICDDM Project. This workshop will is proposed for the first week of August this year.

For all of these activities to eventuate, all the ICs have to be recruited. However, this depends entirely on the availability of suitable candidates. Unless all of the ICs are recruited, this project will not deliver approximately 90 percent of the outputs specified in the project document. The PMU has been committed and doing all it can to collaborate with UNDP to ensure this is done.

Annex 1: International Technical Specialist Inception report

Annex 2: Island sun article on the REDD+ Website launch

UNDP WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST SI IN REDD+ PROGRAMME: COUNTRY MANAGER KUBOTA

BY SAMIE WAIKORI | June 27, 2016 (ref: <http://theislandsun.com/undp-will-continue-assist-si-redd-programme-country-manager-kubota/>)



UNITED NATION Development Program (UNDP) office in the country will continue to work more closely with the Government and people of Solomon Islands in the implementation of the REDD+ Roadmap in the country.

UNDP Country Manager, Azusa Kubota told this when explaining UNDP's relationship with Solomon Islands emphasizing that UNDP's partnership with the government of Solomon Islands goes back many years.

She said during the launch of the REDD+ Programme Website under the Ministry of Forest and Research over the weekend, that three years after REDD+ emerged from the 2007 13th UNFCCC COP in Bali, in February 2010 Solomon Islands joined the UN-REDD Programme.

Kubota added that this partnership is still maintained as there are lots of collaborations between the two institutions in addressing the issues of RED+ Programme in the country and other issues.

However, explaining the issue of REDD+ she said REDD+ has been widely recognized for many years as a unique opportunity for developing countries to reduce emissions from forest lands, and to invest in low-carbon pathways to sustainable development.

"REDD+ stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. And the + sign refers to the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

“Perhaps, REDD+ is not only about reducing emission by tinkering around the edges of natural resource management.

“It is a transformational initiative which aims to advance every strand of sustainable development for current and future generations of humanity and for the planet.

“REDD+ has a great significant in the context of the post 2015 global agenda as it is vital for building resilience to disasters and for building better futures for the world’s poor,” Kubota said.

She stated that achieving such transformational calls for strong and visionary leadership.

She added that Solomon Island can be and should be a pioneer in showing the rest of the world how REDD+ can be done in tackling climate change and to advance sustainable development and a transformational post 2015 agenda.

“UNDP is grateful for the partnership and looks forward to work closely with national partners in making contributions domestically and internationally to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.”

ANNEX 3: SINU-UNDP LOA SIGNING CEREMONY

SINU AND UNDP SEAL AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENT STUDIES MODULE

BY BEN BILUA | April 29, 2016 (ref: <http://theislandsun.com/sinu-undp-seal-agreement-develop-environment-studies-module/>)



THE Vice-Chancellor of Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and Country Representative of United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) to Solomon Islands have sealed an agreement to develop an environmental module aimed at improving awareness and understanding of environmental issues affecting the country.

Dr Glyn Galo and Ms Azusa Kubota signed the Letter of Agreement (LOA) yesterday to officially announce the beginning of the agreement.

Speaking during the signing Ceremony, Ms Kubota said the environmental module will enhance high school teachers with effective resource guide to advocate and promote global environmental issues affecting Solomon Islands.

She said SINU was identified as a suitable partner to develop an education module to be taught as part of the university's environment programme, as well as a teacher resources guide to be used in high schools throughout the country.

Ms Kubota stressed that the module will enable students to think critically about why global environmental issues especially global warming is a concern and how it affects people's lives and what people can do as global citizens to mitigate the impacts.

She further explained that the resource guide will provide the teachers with information related to the critical environmental topics facilitating the sharing of useful environmental information amongst high school students throughout the country.

Ms Kubota is confident that the module will broaden the knowledge of students and teachers with some good community practices that can be applied and scaled up in local communities to help safeguard the country's environment.

"This model will be a great instrument to assist teachers in the rural areas who lack access to well-resourced libraries and internet to get further background materials useful in teaching students," she added.

Meanwhile, Ms Kubota said the partnership aims to improve awareness and understanding of environmental issues affecting people's day to day life.

She stressed that the signing of the LOA marks a strategic partnership between SINU, UNDP and Solomon Islands Government.

Ms Kubota said UNDP through its vibrant partnership with focal Ministries have been supporting the Solomon Islands Government with plans and strategies to address environmental issues in the country.

She reiterated that the agreement signed between UNDP and SINU demonstrates the ongoing partnership Solomon Islands Government and UNPD share over the past years.

Ms Kubota said UNDP, through the support of Integrating Global Environment Commitments in investment and development decision making project, commonly referred to as the IGECIDDM project, has supported the Solomon Islands government through strengthening of government's institutional capacities for improved implementation of the MEAs stipulated in the Rio Convention.

She said part of the project is to strengthen the development of consent process by mainstreaming the Rio Conventions into process and promoting public awareness understanding the REDD+ as a strategy to meet the Rio Convention.

Ms Kubota acknowledged the leadership demonstrated by the Solomon Islands government at the forefront, fighting to address environment issues.

She also salutes Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Forest and Research and the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination for delivering technical support in implementing the project.

On the same note, Ms Kubota wishes SINU the best in developing the module and the teacher resource guide to achieve its intended purpose.