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

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

FOURTH (4TH) 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 fourth quarter of 2016, the key challenges faced; the financial delivery for the period, and the activities earmarked for the first quarter of 2017.

1.0. Project implementation progress

Though no major outputs have been fulfilled in this quarter, fourth quarter of 2016 was the period whereby the project slowly gains momentum in terms of implementation. That is through the deliverables being submitted by the consultants. Most of these deliverables are tied to the project outputs and therefore their submission and acceptance definitely guarantees the related outputs. The table attached to this report provides an overview of these different deliverables and their corresponding outputs they are to fulfil.

As highlighted in the third quarter report, the key task earmarked for the fourth and final quarter of this year with updates on their progress to date are as follows.

- Project Management Unit (PMU) to collaborate, monitor and ensure that the REDD+ Specialist develop and submit a report recommending best practices to implement the REDD+ Roadmap and the TORs of the Forest Sector working group, the Agriculture and Land-use working group and the Technical working group who will be overseeing the mainstreaming of the Rio Conventions into selected provincial development plans.

The report and the TORs have already been submitted by the consultant and reviewed by the Project Manager. Whilst the TORs have already had feedbacks from key Government officials, the Report on best practices to implement the Roadmap is still being updated by the consultant following the International Technical Specialist and the PM's commentaries.

- PMU to collaborate, monitor and ensure that the Environment and Customary Law Specialist completed an Analytical framework to guide integration of Rio Conventions into domestic laws, plans and policies-hence mark the fulfilment of activity 1.2.1 under output 1.2.

The consultant has submitted a draft on the due date. However, the PMU has asked the consultant to review and further update it.

- PMU to collaborate, monitor and ensure that the Environmental Economist completed and submitted REDD+ economic models on appropriate mechanisms, a report on financial mechanisms that could be used in the Solomon Islands for benefit sharing and incentive mechanisms for the greater uptake of REDD+, and a draft national policy on REDD+ economics, benefits sharing.

These reports have already been submitted and reviewed by PMU. A mini-stakeholder consultation was held with MoFR on the policy and the consultant is to update the report based on the comments made. The consultant is yet to send in the revised policy. The model and report on financial mechanisms is yet to be reviewed by the PMU and so is the Government and UNDP.

- PMU to collaborate, monitor and ensure that the Environmental Safeguard Specialist and the Social Safeguard and Gender 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 reports have already been handed in and reviewed by the PMU. PMU has also sent the report to UNPD, GEF SIG for their comments. The only comments received so far is from

UNDP (Joel Scriven). Based on the commentaries received from the International Technical Specialist, the PMU have asked the consultants to review and further updated their reports and finalised them.

- PMU to collaborate, monitor and 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 have already been submitted to the PMU. the PMU has sent out copies to the MoFR for their inputs. PMU has also already sent out the draft final drafts to the International Technical Specialist for his final review.

- PMU to ensure the Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist completed and submitted a comprehensive public awareness plan and survey report containing statistical and sociological analysis focusing on the awareness and understanding of line ministries staff and stakeholders re REDD.

Only the Communication strategy has been handed in. The survey report is not yet handed in given the survey hasn't been conducted due to the absence of most Government officials who are currently having their Christmas holidays. However, the consultant promised he will undertake the survey early next year.

The Communication strategy has already been reviewed by the PMU. It has also been sent out to GEF, UNDP, and SIG for comments. Feedbacks have been received from these stakeholders and the international technical specialist. The strategy is currently being finalised by the consultant.

- PMU to convene at least a provincial awareness before this year end. The aim would to test the Community strategy developed by the Community Consultation Specialist.

This awareness trip hasn't materialised given the Communication strategy are yet to be endorsed by UNDP. However, a trip is anticipated early next year to test the strategy.

From all of these deliverables due this year, only the Communication Strategy developed by the Communication Specialist in collaboration with the Project Manager, the TORs develop by the REDD+ Specialist and the Social Safeguards Report produced by the Socials Safeguard Specialist seems to be of high quality and deserved payment. This is based entirely on the review undertaken by the PMU in consideration of the commentaries coming in from the UNDP and officials from key Government Ministries and the project's international technical advisor.

As highlighted above the rest of the deliverables are still currently being reviewed by the PMU and are yet to receive commentary from the Government. Therefore, their payments are being held off until next year.

- Regarding the module and high school resource, SINU has asked for a no-cost extension to the date for submission of these materials. The materials as agreed supposed to be handed in by 30 November 2016. The PMU is still following up with SINU on the submission of the materials. Due to the closer of the UNDP pay cycle, tranche 3 will be paid out next year 2017 as soon as the final drafts are cleared by UNDP.

2.0. Funds spent on the implementation

On the 2nd of December a second budget revision has been done to the USD 345,000. The revised budget is USD 279, 625. This further reduction is important to realistically reflect the activities the PMU anticipate can be completed by the end of this year. The key ones being the payments for the deliverables of the consultants due this year, SINU tranche 3 payment which looks likely to be completed next year and the PMU operations. Table 3 below provides a more detail summary of the funds by outputs and a brief explanation on what they are spent on. The remaining funds especially for GEF are carried forward to next year 2017. The PMU is looking to do another budget revision early next to see exactly how much is spent for 2016 and how much will be spent in 2017.

Outputs	Funds Spent from Jan-to date 2016 (USD)	Brief explanation
Output 1.1	\$ 22,762	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	\$ 22,713	Funds used to pay for the Environment and Customary law specialist deliverable 1
Output 1.3	\$ 38,330	Funds used to pay for Environmental Economist deliverable 1
Output 2.1	\$ 44,003.55	Funds used mainly for the Safeguard Specialist deliverable 1
Output 2.2	\$ 39,755.66	Funds used mainly for adverts of ICs on Solomon Star newspaper
Output 3.1	\$ 0.00	
Output 3.2	\$ 43,941.34	Funds used mainly for tranche 2 payment of SINU and deliverable 1 of Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist
Output 3.3	\$ 0.00	
Output 3.4	\$ 4,384.13	
Output 4.1	\$ 78,819.76	These funds are used for the Telekom bills, salaries, UNDP cost recovery, sundry, and internet bills
Total	\$ 291, 997.76	

3.0. Earmarked activities for first quarter 2017

2017 is the final year of the project implementation as per the Project Roadmap. Thus the PMU will be pushing to ensure all planned activities highlighted in the 2017 work plan are implemented to fulfil the intended outputs. For the first quarter, the key activities earmarked to be implemented are as follows.

- PMU to collaborate, monitor and ensure that all the deliverables due in this quarter is submitted, reviewed and have feedbacks from UNDP and SIG. Attachment highlight these deliverables.
- PMU collaborate with MECDM, MoFR, MAL, and SINU to convene several provincial awareness workshops with the first one expected to be rolled out in Isabel in the month of February 2017.
- PMU is looking to convene a two-day workshop in the month of February whereby all of the ICs could reflect on what has already been accomplished (i.e. in terms of the deliverables completed and approved), the lessons learnt, discuss strategies to boost project delivery as it pushes to implement the activities earmarked for the second quarter of 2017 which is the final three months of the project life.
- PMU is looking to convene a wider stakeholder consultation in the month of February on the draft REDD+ Policy, and the other reports produced by the ICs as part of their deliverables.

Challenges

- A key challenge encountered during this quarter is the delay in getting feedbacks on the reports or even data required for deliverables produced by the project consultant especially from officials within the implementing partner ministries. However, it is also understood that a key to this is the festive season whereby most of them have already gone for holidays. The PMU anticipate this will improve as people return from their holidays. This has already affected some of the deliverables to be incomplete thus their payments are being held off for next year 2017.

Conclusion

Having the consultants submitting their deliverables shows a major leap forward in terms of the project implementation. That is because these deliverables tie in with the project activities and their subsequent outputs. For 2017, the key focus will be on ensuring all the deliverables are met with quality. For that to happen, the PMU needs the support of the key government ministries and UNDP's inputs. Also given 2017 will be the final year of the project life, it will definitely be a very busy and interesting year as the PMU push to implement almost all of the project activities and outputs which are still outstanding except for output 3.4.

Attachment 1: overview of consultants' deliverables and their corresponding project outputs

Components	Outputs & Activities	Consultants' deliverables	Related output/activity
<p>1: Strengthening Institutional Capacities to implement RCs</p>		<p><u>1. REDD+ Specialist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •TORs of the Forest Sector Working Group, the Agriculture and Land-Use Working Group and the Technical Working Group 	<p>Output 1.1, Activity 1.1.4 & Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.2 & 1.2.3</p>
	<p>1.1: Strengthened Mgt arrangements for RCs implementation Activity: 1.1.1 Strengthen Organizational capacities of REDD+ Implementation Unit 1.1.2 Formally establish National REDD+ Committee & Focal Points 1.1.3 Strengthen Coordination and Institutional Linkages 1.1.4 Support land Degradation Working Group & Formulate NLUP 1.1.5 Convene Training workshops for Improved inter-agency coordination & collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Proposed best practices, financial and economic instruments to implement the REDD+ Roadmap •Draft sections of the action plans for Solomon Islands' NFMS and RELs/RLs; •Detailed work plan for the development of the 	<p>Output 1.3, Activity 1.3.2</p> <p>Output 2.2, Activity 2.2.3</p>

		<p>Solomon Islands' RELs/RLs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Proposed recommendations to strengthen the intuitional linkages between the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Environment Monitoring System (EMIS) •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 	<p>Output 1.1, Activity 1.1.1</p>
	<p>1.2: Mainstreaming RCs into selected development plans through REDD+ Framework 1.2.1: Develop Analytical Framework for RCs Obligations into Sector Planning 1.2.2: Convene Expert Working Group to integrate RCs into Forest Sector planning 1.2.3: Convene Expert Working Group to integrate RCs into Agriculture Sector Planning 1.2.4: Convene Expert Working Group to Integrate RCs into Provincial Development Plan 1.2.5: Convene Training Sessions to Integrate</p>	<p><u>2. Environment & Custom Law Specialist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Report setting out the analytical framework that would guide the integration of the conventions into domestic legislations, plans and policies •Training materials on 'good mainstreaming practices to integrate global environment priorities into selected national and provincial development plans' 	<p>Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.1</p> <p>Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.5</p>

	<p>Environmental Priorities into Development Plans 1.2.6: Piloting components of Forest Management Approaches based on the REDD+ Roadmap (building on 1.2.2, 1.2.3 & 1.2.4) 1.2.7: Prepare Lessons learned Report from piloting Activity 1.2.6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on the proposed amendments to the Environment Act and Environment Regulations as deemed necessary following the Asian Development Bank review • Advice and proposed amendments on the integration of REDD+ into domestic law 	<p>Somehow contribute to Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.5</p> <p>Somehow contributed to Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.5, Output 2.1, activity 2.1.2</p>
	<p>1.3: Resource mobilization strategy 1.3.1: Develop Resource Mobilization Strategy and Plan for National REDD+ Roadmap 1.3.2: Identify best Practices & Instruments to pilot and Implement REDD+ Roadmap</p>	<p><u>3. Environmental Economist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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+ economics, benefits sharing etc • Study Report on the Valuation of Environmental Services from Forest Eco-Systems. • Pilot project proposal to ‘test’ innovative forest management approach framed by REDD+ that will demonstrate measurable indicators of delivering environmental benefits • Resource mobilization strategy for the National REDD+ Roadmap 	<p>Directly fulfil output 1.3, activity 1.3.2</p> <p>Somehow contribute to fulfil output 1.1, activity 1.1.1 and output 1.3, activity 1.3.2</p> <p>Output 2.1, activity 2.1.5</p> <p>Directly fulfil Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6</p> <p>Directly fulfil Output 1.3, Activity 1.3.1</p>
<p>2: Mainstreaming RC obligations into Development Consent</p>	<p>2.1: Global Environment priorities and REDD+ Safeguards integrated into DC Process</p>	<p><u>4 & 5. Environment Safeguard Specialist & Social Safeguard and Gender Specialist</u></p>	

<p>Process</p>	<p>2.1.1: Develop Safeguards framework integrating RCs & REDD+ Safeguards 2.1.2: Integrating RCs Obligations into proposed Agriculture & Forestry Sectors EIA Guidelines 2.1.3: Convene Training Sessions on updated EIA Guidelines for Agriculture & Forestry Sector 2.1.4: Initiate Approval Process for National Safeguards Information System (NSIS) & EIA Guidelines 2.1.5: Initiate Process to explore valuation of Ecosystem Services in Environment Impact Statement & Public Environment Review Processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report <u>identifying and discussing the need for national policy strengthening and coherence of existing laws with regard to environmental/social safeguards, the potential environmental/social benefits and risks posed by the National REDD+ Road Map and proposed REDD+ activity implementation and priorities</u> • Gap analysis and reviews report focusing on Land Use Policy and Code of Logging Practice • Advice on National Guidelines and plans (including checklist) on environmental/social safeguards particularly for the forestry and agriculture sectors • Reports as required by the Environmental and Customary Law Specialist within the scope of work as identified above 	<p>Somehow fulfils Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.1</p> <p>Contribute to fulfil Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.2</p>
	<p>2.2: Improved environmental Mgt information system and National Forest Monitoring System 2.2.1: Carry out in-depth Analysis of Information Needs 2.2.2: Convene Technical Working Group to improve EMIS 2.2.3: Strengthen Institutional linkages with NFMS & Development consent processes 2.2.4: Develop Training Program & Technical Training Resources on EMIS & NFMS 2.2.5: Train Government Staff on Revised EMIS & NFMS</p>	<p><u>6. Forest Inventory Specialist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for Quality Assurance for the field survey of future NFY Cycles and Test the QA methodology during any survey conducted in the provinces. • Training programmes (report) for field crews who participate in the survey the methodology and tools used • Training manuals incorporating standardised local friendly methods for community based ecosystem assessments for REDD+ projects • Awareness training for the importance of 	<p>Somehow contribute to fulfil Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6</p> <p>Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6</p>

		<p>REDD+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular update reports on services provided in support of the REDD+ Technical Specialist on other tasks as required 	<p>Output 3.3, Activity 3.3.2</p>
	<p>3.1: Project Launch and Results workshop 3.1.1: Organize & Convene project launch workshop 3.1.2: Organize and Convene project results workshop</p>	<p>To be led by the Project Management unit</p>	
<p>3: Strengthening awareness of REDD+ as a strategy to meet RCs obligations</p>	<p>3.2: Public awareness campaign, survey and educational materials 3.2.1: Conduct Broad-Based Survey of line Ministries Understanding of Rio Conv 3.2.2: Prepare comprehensive public awareness implementation plan 3.2.3: Prepare articles & Brochures on RC & REDD+ Activities 3.2.4: Develop & Integrate an Education Module on the Global Environment for high schools 3.2.5: Develop an Education model on Global Environmental Science Course at SINU 3.2.6: Prepare radio PSA discussing good community practices to safeguard global environment</p>	<p><u>7. Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Training packages and programme and resource materials on the revised EMIS and NFMS • Two (2) Survey Reports containing statistical and sociological analysis focusing on the awareness and understanding of line ministries staff and stakeholders re REDD+ <p>• A comprehensive public awareness plan</p>	<p>Contributed to fulfilling Output 2.2, activity 2.2.4</p> <p>Directly fulfil Output 3.2, activity 3.2.1 & Output 2.2, activity 2.2.1</p>

		<p>developed to targeted activities to promote REDD+:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Awareness Strategy & an Implementation Plan for the Project and REDD+. • REDD+ Awareness Materials (Posters, brochures, short videos, articles, and radio programmes) that communicates issues and facts on REDD+, Climate change and its link to forestry, livelihoods and development. At least nine (9) awareness materials should be developed 	<p>Both deliverables Directly fulfil output 3.2, activity 3.2.2</p> <p>Directly fulfil Output 3.2, activity 3.2.3 & 3.2.6</p>
	<p>3.3: Awareness raising dialogues and workshops 3.3.1: Organize & Convene private sector sensitization panel on RCs & REDD+ 3.3.2: Organize & Convene Provincial Awareness workshops on RCs & REDD+</p>	<p>To be organised by PMU in collaboration with the consultants and the Project Implementing Partners</p>	
	<p>3.4: Internet visibility of good practices for REDD+ Implementation 3.4.1: Improved selected or create webpage with info on all REDD+ & RCs Activities</p>	<p>A REDD+ Website already launched and PMU in collaboration with the host (MoFR) welcomes further data and suggestions to improve it.</p>	