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

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2017

1.0. Introduction

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

2.0. Project implementation progress

Towards the end of last year was the period the implementation of project activities begun slowing picking up. This was following the recruitment of the consultants¹ and the submission of their first deliverables which are tied mainly to relevant outputs in the project. In the 2016 fourth quarter progress report, the key activities earmarked for this quarter include:

- i. Project Management Unit (PMU) to collaborate, monitor and ensure that all the deliverables due in first quarter is submitted, reviewed and feedbacks are received from UNDP and SIG.
- ii. PMU to convene a two-day workshop in the month of February whereby all 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.
- iii. PMU 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.

In fulfilment of activities (i), (ii) and (iii) following are things being done.

- For activity (i), through PMU's continuous reminder via email, all the project consultants have handed in their first deliverables. For the second deliverables, all of them except the Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement specialist, the Environment and Customary Law Specialist, and the REDD+ Specialist have already handed them in. These three consultants who are yet to hand in their deliverables promised to do so by the end of this month of April. These reports have already been shared with UNDP and Government counter parts for their review and comments. The date line for submission of comments is Friday 21st of April 2017. The comments will be shared with the consultants for them to update their reports accordingly before sending off to the Project's International Technical Specialist for his final review. The payment of the consultants for their second deliverables

¹ The consultants are the REDD+ Specialist, the Environmental Economist, the Environmental Safeguard Specialist, the Social Safeguard and Gender Specialist, the Forest Inventory Specialist, the Environment and Customary Law Specialist and the Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist.

should be processed after this. The only consultant to receive payment for his deliverable two is the Forest Inventory Specialist. It is also worth mentioning that apart from the rest of the consultants, the only consultant who is yet to receive her payment for deliverable 1 is the Environment and Customary Law Specialist. However, she is expected to receive this pay most probably by the end of this month as soon as she sends in her final updated report with a summary of the commentaries received and how she addressed them. The PMU is currently working with the consultant on this. Table 1 below provides an overview of the second deliverables already submitted by the consultants and the next steps for their endorsement for them to become usable to the Government.

Consultants	Deliverable	Status		Related output and activity fulfilled
		Feedback/ Payment	Endorsement	Importance of the deliverables
<i>REDD+ Specialist</i>	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 	Planned mini-workshop with MECDM, MAL and MoFR to finalise the TORs to be held on the 19 th April 2017	<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>
<i>Environmental Economist</i>	<p>Deliverable 1</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+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent report for SIG/UNDP Comments. Feedbacks have already been provided 	<p>Documents are already in their draft final version and ready to be endorsed.</p> <p>PMU is working with the Consultant to develop a summary of the comments received and how the consultant addressed them. This is</p>	<p>Output 1.1, activity 1.1.1</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The REDD+ Policy once endorsed will be the first</p>

	•A draft national policy on REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already paid 	for audit trail purposes.	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 Study Report on the Valuation of Environmental Services from Forest Eco-Systems.	<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 	Planned stakeholder workshop earmarked for the last week of April to facilitate stakeholder feedback	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 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.
	Deliverable 4 Resource mobilization strategy for the National REDD+ Roadmap	<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 	Planned stakeholder workshop earmarked for the last week of April to facilitate stakeholder feedback	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.
<i>Environment and Customary Law Specialist</i>	Deliverable 1 Report setting out the analytical framework that would guide the integration of the conventions into domestic legislations, plans and policies	<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 	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.	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.
	Deliverable 1 report identifying and discussing the need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this 	Awaiting UNDP and National Project Director final clearance/	Somehow fulfils Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.1

<i>Social Safeguards and Gender Specialist</i>	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	<p>report to SIG/UNDP/ International Technical Specialist for Comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already paid 	approval.	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</p> <p>(Note upon the advice of the International Technical Specialist both Social Safeguard and Environmental Safeguard Specialist have consolidated their reports into one report for this deliverable 2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP for Comments. Date line of comments to be received 21 April 2017 • Yet to be paid 	<p>Planned stakeholder workshop earmarked for the last week of April to facilitate stakeholder feedback</p> <p>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.</p>	<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 is which pending cabinet endorsement and the code of logging practice.</p>
<i>Environmental Safeguard Specialist</i>	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 	<p>PMU is working with the consultant to develop a summary of comments received and how the consultant addressed them.</p> <p>Once this is completed the report will be sent to UNDP and National Project Director for clearance and final approval.</p>	<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>
	<p>Deliverable 2 Gap analysis and reviews report focusing on Land Use Policy and Code of Logging Practice</p> <p>(Note upon the advice of the International Technical Specialist both Social Safeguard and Environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP for Comments. Date line of comments to be received 21 April 2017 • Yet to be paid 	<p>Planned stakeholder workshop earmarked for the last week of April to facilitate stakeholder feedback</p> <p>PMU is working with the Consultant to develop a summary of the comments received and how the consultant addressed them. This is</p>	<p>Contribute to fulfil Output 2.1, Activity 2.1.1</p> <p>See comments given to deliverable 2 of the social safeguard specialist above.</p>

	Safeguard Specialist have consolidated their reports into one report for this deliverable 2)		for audit trail purposes.	
<i>Forest Inventory Specialist</i>	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 • PMU already sent this report to SIG/UNDP for Comments. • Already paid 	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 the report will be sent to UNDP and National Project Director for clearance and final endorsement for it to become useful to SIG.	Somehow contribute to fulfil Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6. This manual once endorsed should be implemented by MoFR and forms part of the toolkit when undertaking piloting of National forest management approaches.
	Deliverable 2 Training programmes (report) for field crews who participate in the survey the methodology and tools used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training already conducted and report submitted • Already paid 		Output 1.2, Activity 1.2.6 and Output 3.3, Activity 3.3.2. 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).
<i>Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist</i>	Deliverable 1 A comprehensive public awareness plan developed to targeted activities to promote REDD+: Public Awareness Strategy & an Implementation Plan for the Project and REDD+.	<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. The strategy and plan should then be forwarded to UNDP and national project director for endorsement to enable its usage.	Directly fulfil output 3.2, activity 3.2.2 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.

- Regarding activities (ii) and (iii), a three-day workshop has been undertaken on the 7th, 8th and 9th of February.

The 7th of April workshop mainly focuses on the international technical specialist providing his general feedbacks on the reports produced by the rest of consultants as part of their deliverables 1 and one on one sessions with them on their remaining deliverables. The international technical specialist assist them by reviewing draft formats of their second deliverable reports. The 8th of April workshop focus mainly on the REDD+ policy review. It was conducted by the Environmental Economist doing an in-house review of the REDD+ Policy with the Ministry of Forest and Research (MoFR) sponsored by the Project.

The workshop held on 9th of February was mainly to provide the avenue for final commentaries from stakeholders (Government and NGOs) on the reports produced by the project consultants as part of their deliverable 1. The main reason behind this workshop is there is lack of response received by the PMU from the stakeholders in response to the emails sent requesting their inputs into the reports. The outcome was very good. Useful feedbacks have been received during the workshop from the attendees. The consultants are expected to amend their reports accordingly to reflect the commentaries received. The PMU is working with the them to provide an audit trail of how they have addressed the comments.

Picture 1: Workshop with stakeholders on consultants' deliverable 1



Source: Hayley Kouto, February 2017

The Forest Inventory Specialist, Dr Richard Pauku, doing a presentation on the manual he developed as part of his deliverable 1 to Government officials during the workshop held at Iron Bottom Sound Hotel.

- iv. PMU to 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.
- A provincial awareness trip has already been undertaken from 19th to 26th of February to Isabel Province to fulfil this activity iv and more specifically contribute to output 3.3² of the project. This Isabel Awareness trip is the second provincial awareness the project has jointly collaborated with the Government and SINU. The key objectives of the trip were mainly to:
 - trial out the recently developed REDD+ Communication Strategy and Implementation Plan and gather further information to further improve it.
 - conduct an initial awareness and consultation with the target groups on current 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.
 - undertake consultation with the target groups on the upcoming REDD+ activities thus fulfil the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) criteria
 - conduct possible trainings on forest ecosystem assessments and Measuring Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+.
 - educate the target groups on the roles and responsibilities of MECDM, MoFR and other stakeholders including resource owners in implementing these initiatives.
 - 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.
 - educate the target groups on good environmental community practices that will help safeguard the environment and at the same time promote sustainable development.

² The provincial awareness workshops focus is on Rio Conventions and REDD+. These provincial workshops will be structured to inform stakeholders, including planners and decision-makers, about the need for strategic enforcement of environmental legislation to increase global environmental benefits.

The key outcomes of the workshop include:

- Updating of the Communication strategy to include messages found to be lacking and needed at the community and provincial level particularly to participate in REDD+ as well as help protect the local environment to adapt to environmental threats such as climate change.
- Representatives of the Isabel Provincial Government and the Stakeholders around Buala and Kia who attended the one day workshop acknowledge the facilitators (UNDP, SIG, and SINU) especially in explaining the timber rights process under the Forest Resource and Timber Utilisation Act, potential of REDD+ initiative, and the different roles that different key ministries plays in terms of addressing logging, promoting REDD+ and so forth.
- Local rangers in the Kia Community have been trained by the Project's Forest Inventory Specialist based on the manual he developed. The training was mainly on how to use the manual as well as how to do ecosystem assessment and MRV in the field. This training was mainly conducted in collaboration with technical officers within the MoFR. See attachment 1 for the Back to Office Report (BTOR) on the Isabel Provincial Awareness trip. Also, see the hyperlink below for a newspaper article on the trip.
- Key action points
 - The MoFR to conduct a follow up monitoring visit to Kia community. MoFR is overseeing when this visit is going to eventuate.
 - The Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist to update the Communication Strategy and develop some awareness materials following this trip. This specialist promised to complete this task by the end of this month.
 - Once the Ecosystem training manual is finalized, a copy must be sent to Kia community rangers. The Forest Inventory Specialist will send the final manual to the Project Management Unit (PMU) and to MoFR to send to the Kia Community rangers.
 - Upon arrival, an article will be sent to the newspaper for coverage of the mission. This has already been done. Please click on the hyperlink to access

the article: <http://theislandsun.com/redd-reaches-out-to-isabel-stakeholders/>

Update on other project activities

- Under output 3.2, activities 3.2.4 and 3.2.5, SINU has already handed in early March the final draft of the book and high school resource material developed under the Letter of Agreement signed on the 26th April 2016. These materials as expected is going to contribute to the general efforts of the Government and relevant partner agencies in improving awareness and understanding of environmental issues affecting our day to day life. The module will enable students to think critically about why global environmental issues (for instance global warming) is a concern, how it affects our lives and what we can do as global citizens to mitigate the impact. Equally, the module whilst providing the link between the Rio Conventions and national frameworks and policies, it is also expected to broaden the knowledge of students and teachers alike on some of the good community practices that can be applied and scaled up in our local communities to help safeguard the environment. Likewise, the teacher resource guide will equip high school teachers to teach their pupils effectively especially ones living in the rural areas who lacks access to well-resourced libraries or internet services to get further background materials useful in teaching students. This resource guide will provide them with enough information related to the high school environmental topics thus boost the transfer of useful environmental information to high school children throughout the country.
- The PMU has already initiated discussion with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD), to review and endorse the high school resource material as well as pilot the materials to be implemented in selected schools in the nine provinces. The last of week April is earmarked as the week the Solomon Islands National Curriculum Committee will sit to review and endorse the material for implementation. The PMU is currently working with MEHRD to develop and sign another LOA to undertake a pilot. The PMU is hoping the pilot will eventuate mid-May early June this year.

3.0. Funds spent on the implementation

Table 2 below provides an overview of funds spent up to end of first quarter 2017 under each output and on what items³.

³ Note this analysis is based on the USD 613, 127 budget KK'ed at the beginning of this year.

Outputs	Funds Spent from Jan-to date 2016 (USD)	Brief explanation
Output 1.1	\$ 37,047	These funds 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	\$ 89	Funds used to pay for the Environment and Customary law specialist deliverable 1
Output 1.3	\$ 0.00	Funds used to pay for Environmental Economist deliverable 1
Output 2.1	\$ 0.00	Funds used mainly for the Safeguard Specialist deliverable 1
Output 2.2	\$ 13,793	Funds used mainly for adverts of ICs on Solomon Star newspaper
Output 3.1	\$ 0.00	
Output 3.2	\$ 2,118	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	\$ 0.00	
Output 4.1	\$ 12,724	These funds are used for the Telekom bills, salaries, UNDP cost recovery, sundry, and internet bills
Total	\$ 79,978	

Brief explanation

The PMU expects an additional USD 196,544 to be spent in the quarter. Huge part of this money will be for consultancy fees of the project consultants whose contracts expire at the end of June this year as well as trainings they are expected to conduct in collaboration with the PMU especially for the Government officers on the Rio Conventions Analytical Framework and the provincial awareness trips to be conducted. This will be approximately 45 percent of the budget spent⁴.

4.0. Challenges and mitigation

⁴ Note this analysis is based on the project budget balance report extracted from the ATLAS on 5 April 2017.

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"> • Despite a remarkable improvement from fourth quarter of 2016, there is still 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 implementing partner ministries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous follow ups through emails and face to face meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few of the consultants (in this case the Environmental Safeguard Specialist) seems to very poor in addressing comments received from stakeholders whilst requesting PMU to pay their deliverables quickly. • Also, the quality (structure, grammar) of the reports they produce seems to be very poor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU is working closely with the consultants to provide a summary of commentaries received and how they addressed them. This is for audit trail purpose. • PMU together with the International Technical Specialist have develop a guideline on the report structure (font, font size, line spacing, content, so forth) for all the consultants to use.

5.0. Earmarked activities for second quarter 2017

The key activities earmarked to be implemented during the second quarter are as follows.

- PMU to collaborate, monitor and ensure that all the deliverables due in the second quarter are submitted, sent out to UNDP, the Project International Technical Specialist and SIG for comments.
- PMU collaborate with MECDM, MoFR, MAL, and SINU to convene a third provincial awareness workshops.
- PMU is looking to convene a two-day workshop in the month of May on the reports produced by the ICs as part of their deliverables 2.

- PMU to liaise with Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) and SINU to endorse the materials SINU produce for them to become usable. On this note, PMU will mainly be focusing on piloting the high school teacher resource material in at least 9 schools in the nine provinces.
- PMU to collaborate with UNDP to submit all project no cost extension documents to Eva and Tom UNDP/RTA.
- PMU to organise venues for the upcoming trainings to be provide by some of the project consultants before their contract ends at the end of June this year.