Pilot effective models for governance and implementation of REDD+ in Small Island Developing States to provide equitable benefits for forest-dependent local and indigenous people

Initiative
Country Pacific Island Countries, Vanuatu
Other Readiness Initiative: No
REDD+ project: Yes
Project type: REDD+ pilot project
Scope Deforestation Enhancement Conservation
SFM
Level Subnational
Status Active
Duration (Years) 5
Start date 2010
End date 2015
Cost (USD) 2,754,260

Exchange rate to USD

1
Sources of finance: Bilateral
Size (hectares) 400
Summary

The REDD+ Pilot Project, being implemented by Live and Learn, aims to pilot effective models for governance and implementation of REDD+ in Small Island Developing States to provide equitable benefits for forest-dependent local and indigenous people. The project is part of a grouped regional project being implemented by LLEE throughout the Pacific region, called the Nakau Programme.

This EU-funded project is being implemented by Live and Learn Environmental Education in Fiji, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands, with lessons learned shared in Papua New Guinea. The project aims to demonstrate a community-owned model for REDD+, which provides benefits for forest-dependent communities and indigenous people while reducing emissions and conserving and enhancing forests. The Live and Learn REDD+ project seeks to coordinate closely with and add value to national and regional efforts towards REDD+ readiness. The project has a strong focus on education and participatory design to enhance local capacity for participation in REDD+.

In Vanuatu, the project is implementing a REDD+ pilot project on the island of Espiritu Santo, which aims to provide long-term sustainable development benefits and offer valuable lessons in the development of both national and international REDD+ policy.

The REDD+ pilot project is being implemented in a 400 hectare area on the East coast of Santo. A mixture of forest regeneration and agroforestry will provide the main carbon elements while the further livelihood benefits will be produced from agroforestry products such as Canarium nuts, food crops and timber. Like much of Vanuatu, an invasive vine (Merremia peltata) has overtaken areas of disturbed forest. Agroforestry is a way of removing the invasive vine that aligns well with local resource needs and capacities. To this end, the project is providing a demonstration of potentially highly replicable REDD+ activities for the country.

The project is seeking certification under the Plan Vivo standard. The project has been developed with elements of the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards and as such has often exceeded the requirements of each individually. The grouped approach acknowledges the realities of small custom-owned land parcels in Melanesia and provides reduced transaction costs to support REDD+ alongside community development.

Stakeholder engagement and participation

Live and Learn have developed a number of tools to promote effective stakeholder engagement and participation in REDD+. These include a film: “Ready for REDD?” which aims to simply and clearly explain REDD+ in order to promote effective community participation, as well as a Climate Change and Community-Based REDD+ Education Manual. The project site itself was selected through extensive consultation with the community and the project has been developed with significant community participation.

Land tenure arrangements and carbon rights

The area is under the ownership of one clan, who therefore represent a fairly homogenous group. The carbon rights remain with the individual landowners but are managed by the family business (seller’s entity), which acts on behalf of the clan regarding the REDD+ project.
**Forest Management**

The project is also establishing agroforestry activities throughout the area, with the first planting in November 2013. In this way, the project aims to promote long-term sustainable benefits other than the potential revenue from selling REDD+ credits, which will incentivise continued participation in agroforestry and also demonstrate how similar communities can be empowered through developing sustainable businesses from their land. Neighbouring communities, whose own gardens are more inaccessible, have expressed an interest in being involved in the project. Therefore the possibility of granting use rights for gardening, agroforestry and associated invasive species control to external landowners is being explored.

**Safeguards**

The project is piloting a model for community-owned and community-led implementation of REDD+ and aims to promote co-benefits through the establishment of sustainable development business opportunities resulting from agroforestry activities. Live and Learn are adopting a number of approaches that aim to ensure that the community is empowered to meaningfully participate in, and benefit from, REDD+. This includes the use of the ‘Money Story’, which is an innovative tool to help communities understand business and, in particular, financial information in less complex terms. This is an important part of empowering the community to develop a sustainable business from REDD+. The importance of equity in decision making is also being taken into account, through the establishment of a ‘formation group’, comprising of both old and young, and male and female representatives.

**MRV**

The approach to MRV is being designed by Carbon Partnership Ltd using methodologies in line with the ISO (International Standardisation Organisation) and the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). Carbon monitoring is being carried out in accordance with guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to ensure that the project and national approaches are consistent.

**Financing**

**Financing agreement RD4914 [12]**

Value (USD) 2 754 260.00  
Funding Institution European Union

- Read more about Financing agreement RD4914 [12]

**Related Actors**

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