

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET  
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.:ISDSC22264

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated:** 15-Jun-2017

**Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed** 23-Aug-2017

**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

<b>Country:</b>	Fiji	<b>Project ID:</b>	P151209
<b>Project Name:</b>	Fiji: FCPF Implementation Support (P151209)		
<b>Task Team Leader(s):</b>	Ms. Anisi,Haddy Jatou Sey		
<b>Estimated Appraisal Date:</b>		<b>Estimated Board Date:</b>	
<b>Managing Unit:</b>	GEN2A	<b>Financing Instrument:</b>	
<b>Financing (In USD Million)</b>			
Total Project Cost:	3.80	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
Borrower			0.00
Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility			3.80
Total			3.80
<b>Environmental Category:</b>			
<b>Is this a Repeater project?</b>	No		

**B. Project Objectives**

The development objective of Grant is to assist Fiji to carry out the Readiness Preparation Activities by supporting the preparation of its REDD+ strategy through a participatory and inclusive process, the establishment of a national MRY system, and by producing technical work and policy advice to help strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices.

**C. Project Description**

The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Roadmap1 includes all activities necessary for Fiji to achieve a state of REDD+ Readiness. The proposed Readiness Preparation Grant will provide US\$ 3.8 million over a period of four years (2015 to 2019) to finance a subset of those activities, focusing on the technical aspects of the R-PP Roadmap. Broader awareness raising and capacity building activities will be financed by the Government and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (US\$ 0.6 million respectively).

The Readiness Preparation Grant will finance the main elements of the R-PP that will not only help Fiji

develop its REDO+ strategy, but strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices through targeted technical work and policy advice. In particular, the Readiness Preparation Activities will aim to (i) strengthen existing institutions for REDO+ through the establishment and operationalization of a Fiji National REDO+ Unit and assessment and strengthening of existing feedback, and grievance redress mechanisms (FGRMs) for REDO+; (ii) develop National REDO+ strategy and an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will be validated by a broad spectrum of stakeholders through the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and be informed by several analytical studies; and (iii) put in place a robust monitoring system for REDO+, including a preliminary national Reference Emission Level/Reference (RELIRL), national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRY) system and a safeguards information system. These activities will also strengthen existing forest policy, practices and management systems, information and data, participatory methods and human and institutional capacity, which will support sustainable land and forest management practices.

#### **D. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)**

The REDD+ Readiness Activities does not entail activities on the ground.

Fiji is an archipelago comprised of over 330 islands spread over a large area of ocean. The Project will not fund any on-the-ground activities but would include plans for such activities to operate in forested areas of Fiji, which cover approximately 80% of Fiji's land mass. Over 80% of the total land area also remains under customary ownership. Three trial pilot REDD+ sites are already in place. It is expected that future REDD+ sites will be predominately in rural areas, and have a combination of land tenure arrangements including customary ownership including reserve and non-reserve land, as well as leased lands.

The likely safeguard issues are detailed in Part II of this ISDS. Specifically, the SESA to be prepared during the REDO readiness phase will analyze land holding and tenure arrangements, and identify and assess the potential for any involuntary land acquisition issues or restriction of access to natural resources to occur, and management processes will be embedded into the ESMF. The ESMF will include, as required, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and/or Process Framework (PF), all of which will be part of the SESA, in order to ensure avoidance, minimization, and/or appropriate compensation for adversely affected persons or populations in downstream implementation.

#### **E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies**

Fiji's National REDO+ Policy was developed through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation process and endorsed by cabinet in 2011. The National REDD+ Steering Committee is a multi-sectoral institutional arrangement established to coordinate the REDD+ agenda. The GoF has already mobilized a multi-sectoral Technical Safeguards Working Group to support the National REDO+ Steering Committee and issued a series of policy statements relevant to safeguards associated with the program including the protection and respect of rights of Indigenous People, biodiversity conservation and preservation of the natural forest (e.g. the Forestry Policy in 2007, the Fiji REDD-Pius Policy in 2011 and the National Climate Change Policy in 2012).

Government agencies currently involved in the Readiness activities (e.g. the Forestry Department, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the iTaukei Land Trust Board and the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources) have exhibited awareness of safeguard issues and demonstrated strong commitment to undertake the SESA. The GoF has also conducted an assessment of the country's present legal and institutional framework vis-a-vis the requirements of the REDO+ program (i.e. Republic of Fiji: Legal Framework for REDD Plus, 2013) relevant to safeguards issues, such as the land rights and security of tenure, community involvement in forest management and environmental impact assessment (EIA) of REDD+ activities.

Despite these efforts, GoF's familiarity of World Bank (WB) Safeguard Policies and Procedures is limited and not universal, and the statutory framework does not fully meet WB Safeguard Policies and Procedures requirements. For instance, although grievance mechanisms exist for customary land disputes, access to an adequate grievance redress mechanism or legal remedy regarding land management or change of use varies needs to be broadened to be inclusive of other ethnic groups, land users and vulnerable persons. Other example areas of shortcomings include ambiguity in land-related legislation and lack of community consultation for proposed developments or land use changes. The WBG will conduct a comprehensive institutional capacity assessment to determine national capacity for applying and complying with WB Safeguard Policies during readiness preparation, a detailed analysis of social and environmental impacts to be conducted by a specialist team delivering the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will occur in tandem with consultations on the REDO+ Strategy Options. These assessments will identify additional measures needed to ensure safeguard compliance beyond the existing institutional framework, domestic laws, regulations and policies. The ToR for this specialist team will be approved by the WBG prior to approval of WBG funds. Subsequently, guidelines for effective participation and consultation, carbon transactions, benefit sharing schemes and regulations on the management of REDO+ funds will be developed.

The key output of the SESA is the formulation of an ESMF to address the safeguards issues and satisfy the requirements of the WB Safeguard Policies. The ESMF will govern the screening, the preparation, review, approval and compliance monitoring of projects to be undertaken in the REDO+ program.

#### **F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team**

Ross James Butler( GSU02 )

## **II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

<b>Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDO+ Strategy Options, which may have potential long-term impacts on forest, land use, and landowner and leaseholder rights.</p> <p>The assessments and plans generated by the Readiness Preparation Activities will be informed by policy requirements of OP 4.01 and other relevant safeguard policies. The potential social and environmental impacts of the REDO+ Strategy Options will be assessed through a SESA, with TOR cleared by the WB.</p> <p>Component 3 will support the development and establishment of a comprehensive monitoring system for non-carbon impacts of REDO+, including safeguards as well as co-benefits. Activities will review existing monitoring institutions regarding safeguards and then build a robust safeguards information system.</p>

Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDO+ Strategy Options, which are expected to have significant positive environmental impacts to natural habitats due to a reduction in forest loss. This policy is triggered to ensure the REDO+ Strategy Options take into account biodiversity conservation as well as the conservation of critical natural habitats.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDO+ Strategy Options, which are expected to have significant positive impacts on the health and quality of forests as the overall objective is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. This policy is triggered due to the potential changes in the management, protection, or utilization of natural forests or plantations that could arise from REDO+ Strategy Options and activities which may affect the rights and welfare of people and their level of dependence upon or interaction with forests. Triggering of this Policy will ensure that the work carried out with WB funding is properly informed in relation to potential impacts on Forests.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result in drafting of REDO+ Strategy Options, which might lead to agricultural intensification, and/or reforestation and forest management programs that require pest management. The REDO+ Strategy Options and SESA will address critical issues related to pest management.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation Activities will result' in drafting of REDO+ Strategy Options, which could affect areas containing sites with physical cultural resources (e.g. monuments, historical buildings, archaeological or paleontological sites, holy sites, etc.). The SESA (and ESMF) will assess if ground implementation of REDO+ Strategy Options is likely to include these sites and ensure the appropriate measures are adopted in order to protect them.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	The Readiness Preparation Activities are likely to benefit Indigenous People and occur predominately on the customary lands of Indigenous Peoples (referred to as iTaukei). The application of this policy will ensure that consultation regarding

		REDO+ Strategy Options is culturally appropriate and inclusive, and provides evidence of broad community support for REDO+ activities on their lands. The nature and extent of impacts on Indigenous Peoples will be determined through a social assessment (SA) as part of the SESA. Given that Indigenous Peoples will form the overwhelming majority of people in the project area, elements of an Indigenous Peoples Plan will be incorporated overall project design. Guidance for this is provided in the SESA Terms of Reference.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Since REDO+ Strategy Options are under development, potential impacts, including the type and extent of potential land acquisition, economic or physical displacement or access restrictions to resources, remains unknown. This policy is triggered to ensure landowners, leaseholders and land users and forest dependent communities and/or individuals are properly consulted and not coerced or forced to accept or commit to REDO+ activities or other forest management/reforestation activities involuntarily, and that best practice approaches as informed by OP 4.12 are adopted. The SESA will identify and assess the potential for any involuntary land acquisition issues or restriction of access to natural resources to occur, and management processes will be embedded into the ESMF. The ESMF may include, as required, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and/or Process Framework (PF), all of which will be part of the SESA, in order to ensure avoidance, minimization, and/or appropriate compensation for adversely affected persons or populations in downstream implementation. Sub-component 1.2 of the Readiness Preparation Grant will fund assessment of existing grievance mechanisms at the national and decentralized levels, assess the capacity of institutions and customary mechanisms that would handle grievances, and support their strengthening specifically for REDO+.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The REDO+ strategies and activities will not involve the construction of, nor will be affected by, new or existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The REDO+ strategies and activities will not affect any international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The REDO+ strategies and activities will not be located in any disputed areas.

### III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

#### A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS:

31-Dec-2016

#### B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS.

The main safeguard instrument to be applied is the SESA. The SESA includes the preparation of an ESMF. The ESMF may evolve and be updated over time when new REDO + strategy options and projects or activities (including investments), or policies/regulations are identified during implementation of REDO+. The SESA addresses the key environmental and social issues associated with the analysis and preparation of REDO+ strategy options as well as REDO+ projects, activities (including investments), policies and regulations. In this manner SESA can ensure compliance with WB's environmental and social safeguards.

The SESA process requires that the selection of REDO+ strategy options should take into account the country's institutional and capacity constraints for managing environmental and social risks, and the potential environmental and social impacts associated with these strategy options. Any identified gaps to manage these risks and potential impacts in relation to relevant WB's safeguard policies should be identified along with the strategy options to feed into the preparation of the ESMF. The ESMF should provide a framework to manage and mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts related to specific projects and activities (including investments and carbon finance transactions), in the context of the future implementation of REDO+.

The ESMF will be structured to contain subject-specific frameworks addressing the relevant requirements of the applicable environmental and social safeguard policies including, but not necessarily limited to, a RPF and/or PF.

### V. Approval

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Ms. Anisi,Haddy Jatou Sey	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Peter Leonard (SA)	Date: 22-Aug-2017
Practice Manager/Manager:	Name: Iain G. Shuker (PMGR)	Date: 23-Aug-2017

<sup>1</sup> Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.