

REDD+ IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES:

ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2011 SIDE EVENT
BEIJING, 10 NOV. 2011

SUMMARY

In the context of REDD+, as in so many other ways, the Pacific region is unique. Though separated by vast expanses of ocean and by the diversity encapsulated by 60% of the world's languages, the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are leading the way in exploring regional approaches to REDD+.

Strong regional institutions are the key to these efforts. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) provides a focal point for policy and technical support to PICs. For the smaller countries facing shortage of human resources, this support is often essential to make use of foreign investment and bilateral assistance in the forestry sector. Working together with SPC and the PICs, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the UN-REDD programme are providing assistance to

The poster features a green header with the text 'ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK' and 'BEIJING | 7-11 NOVEMBER CHINA | 2011'. The main title 'REDD+ in the PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES' is displayed in large, bold, white letters against a background of lush green trees. Below the title is a collage of six small images: a person in a hard hat, a child, a person working in a field, a person in a red shirt, a person in a blue shirt, and a person in a white shirt. A green starburst graphic on the left contains the text 'SIDE EVENT'. The bottom section is a dark red banner with the text 'Co-hosted by' followed by a list of five organizations: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and UN-REDD. Below the banner, the date 'date: 10th November 2011' is written in red. At the bottom, the logos for JICA, IGES, GIZ, and UN-REDD are displayed.

ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK BEIJING | 7-11 NOVEMBER CHINA | 2011

REDD+ in the PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

SIDE EVENT

Co-hosted by

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- UN-REDD

date: 10th November 2011

JICA IGES GIZ UN-REDD PROGRAMME

help countries in the region prepare for REDD+.

The partner event on 10th November – REDD+ in the Pacific Island Countries – demonstrated how these donors are collaborating effectively to ensure that support is attuned to the needs of the region.



Presentations from senior forestry officials from Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu explained how the heavily forested countries of Melanesia have progressed towards REDD+ Readiness at the national level. It was very encouraging to hear that all countries are keen to see donors collaborate and to ensure that foreign consultants do not do all the work. The technical assistance provided as part of REDD+ Readiness programmes is an excellent opportunity to transfer skills and knowledge to forestry officials and local communities.

In a region where nearly all the land is in the hands of the local, indigenous population, the PICs are well aware of the importance of establishing trust relationships with local stakeholders for any changes in land use policy. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is working in PNG to explore potential roles for local people in REDD+ strategies, through monitoring biomass in community-managed forests. Like rural communities throughout the Asia Pacific region, these



people demonstrate the skills and commitment necessary to provide reliable information. JICA, in turn, is financing the research required to convert inventory data into carbon stock

data through species-specific allometric equations.

But can these local communities and, indeed, the smaller PICs, realistically benefit from these investments, or is this only possible at the national scale in the larger, forested Melanesian countries? As a recent report by UN-REDD explains, a regional approach to REDD+ Readiness in the Pacific can indeed ensure that all countries may benefit.

REDD+ Readiness entails many 'no regret' actions; work such as improved forest inventory systems, multi-sector land use planning, stakeholder consultation networks and capacity building, that are of benefit to all countries, whether or not they then proceed towards a full national REDD+ programme. SPC and GIZ are working together at the regional level to develop platforms for policy development and pooling of expertise so that support for REDD+ Readiness reaches further than stand-alone national programmes.

Annex: Agenda

Time & Date: 13:30 – 16:00, 10 November 2011

Venue: China National Convention Center

Programme:

Chaired by Mr. Hiroki Miyazono, Senior Advisor, Global Environment Department, JICA

13:30 – 13:40 Opening remarks

Mr. Shigeki Hata, JICA

13:40 – 14:00 Keynote speech

“Overview of REDD+ Initiatives in the Pacific Island Countries”

Mr. Sairusi Bulai, Coordinator, Forests and Trees Programme, SPC

14:00 – 14:45 Getting ready for REDD+: progress and challenges

Facilitator: Dr. Thomas Enters, Regional Coordinator (UN-REDD)

Papua New Guinea

Mr. Goodwill Amos, Manager, Climate Change & REDD Branch, Forest Policy & Planning Directorate, PNG Forest Authority

Fiji

Mr. Samuela Lagataki, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Fisheries and Forests

Q&A

14:45 – 15:00 Break

15:00 – 15:55 Case studies on capacity building and technical development

Facilitator: Mr. Yati Bun, Executive Director, Foundation for People and Community Development, PNG

Participatory carbon monitoring in PNG: Dr. Henry Scheyvens, Director, Natural Resource Management Group, IGES

Construction of biomass allometric models in Pacific Island Countries: Dr. Hitofumi Abe, SPC/JICA Regional Forestry Advisor GIZ's capacity building for REDD readiness in Pacific Islands

Ms. Christine Fung, Technical Expert, SPC/GIZ Regional Project: Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries.

Q&A

15:55 – 16:00 Closing

The presentations of the event are available at:
http://www.iges.or.jp/en/fc/activity_20111110.html