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**REPORT ON COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS
IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**REPORT ON COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

A) COMPLETED PROJECT

PD 682/13 Rev.1 (F) Development of Quality-of-Governance Standards for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in Papua New Guinea

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	179,744
ITTO Budget:		US\$	149,744
Government of Japan:	US\$	149,744	
Government of PNG		US\$	30,000

Implementing Agency: University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in close collaboration with PNG Forest Authority

Period of Approval: Spring 2013

Starting Date and Duration: May 2015 / 24 months

I. Introduction

This project was approved under 2013 Spring Project Cycle and financed at ITTC 49 in November 2013. The project agreement between the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), PNG Forest Authority (PNG FA) and ITTO was finalized in November 2014. After concluding all administrative arrangements including a MOU between USQ and PNG FA, the project became operational in May 2015. In July 2016, the execution of project activities was suspended for about six months due to ITTO internal financial issues. Activities recommenced in early 2017 with a reduced budget (by US\$3,757) and all activities reached their completion in July 2017.

II. Project Objective

In light of the need for strengthening the governance of REDD+ in PNG, the project was designed to contribute to good governance of REDD+ in the country so as to facilitate the achievement of climate change mitigation and national development goals through the sustainable management and enhancement of forest resources. Specifically, the project aimed to develop a voluntary standard for REDD+ quality-of-governance, which can strengthen governance by guiding and evaluating REDD+ structures and processes at the national and sub-national levels.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

All planned activities were undertaken using available resources, leading to the production of a draft Quality of Governance Standard for PNG. Key project achievements in relation to the three outputs include:

Output 1: PNG national REDD+ quality-of-governance standard and accompanying report have been drafted

- A multi-stakeholder workshop was conducted in Port Moresby on 21-22 May 2015. A total of 35 participants representing Government, Civil Society, Universities, International and local, Bilateral Aid Agencies, Cooperative Societies, Community Based Organisations, Landowner Groups and Professionals were present at the workshop. Participants ranked both indicators and verifiers on the basis of their importance in PNG. Four of the 11 indicators (Inclusiveness, Accountability, Resources and Transparency) were ranked high. *Workshop Report: Proceedings on workshop on assessment of forest management and REDD+ governance quality in PNG* is posted on the Project Webpage at <http://www.pip.com.pg/projects/completed-projects/70-development-of-quality-of-governance-standards-for-redd-in-png.html>.

- In order to determine the site-specific means of verification for the top 16 verifiers of the 4 selected indicators, field consultations were held at the 5 different levels identified during the national forum
 - National level workshop in Port Moresby (11 April 2016, 18 people participated)
 - Provincial level workshop in Milne Bay Province (12 April 2016, 6 people participated)
 - District level workshop in Alotau district (13 April 2016, 5 people participated)
 - Local level workshop in Suav, Alotau (14 April 2016, 10 people participated)
 - REDD+ pilot area, at Leleifa, Suav, (Leleifa Elementary School, 16 April, 4 people participated)
- *Draft Quality of Governance Standard* was prepared based on the 4 top ranked indicators and their 18 top ranked verifiers, and their selected means of verification. The PDF standard is posted on the Project Webpage.
- *Technical Report: Development of Quality-Of-Governance Standards for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Papua New Guinea outlines the participatory, multi-stakeholder approach that was used to develop the verifiers and quality-of-governance standard in PNG. The PDF report is posted on the Project Webpage.*

Output 2: Comprehensive database of REDD+ representative stakeholder organisations has been created

- The *REDD+ Stakeholder Database* contains information on individual project stakeholders (name, organisation, sector, location, email address) and project participants (name, organisation, sector, location, contact details and participation). There are tables and charts showing stakeholder sector and location, as well as participant input by sector and location. Due to strict human ethics clearance policy, the public database does not contain the results of the online survey that followed the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007).
- The Online Survey Database was developed using SurveyMonkey. There are 19 questions concerning REDD+ program design and implementation. Each question has 5 single select response categories (very high, high, medium, low and very low) followed by a text box for suggestions on how to improve the present situation in PNG.

Output 3: PNG national group to promote the standard has been established

- During the national forum in Port Moresby on 21-22 May 2015, a steering committee was established for building institutional support and oversee ongoing development, comprising PNG FA, JICA-PNG, Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD), and Transparency International of Papua New Guinea (TIPNG)
- Second national level workshop (not included in the original work plan) was held in 18 April 2017 to update forestry stakeholders on project outputs and seek suggestions for the final format, dissemination, promotion and adoption of the draft standard. Many participants indicated a strong desire for the standard setting process to continue to move forward, in the context of both REDD+ and community-level forest management.

Based on outcomes of the project, the following journal papers were prepared:

- Paper 1: *Five years of REDD+ governance: the use of market mechanisms as a response to anthropogenic climate change* published in *Forest Policy and Economics*, doi:10.1016/j.forpol.2016.03.008
- Paper 2: *Governance Values in the Climate Change Regime: Stakeholder Perceptions of REDD+ Legitimacy at the National Level* published in *Forests* 2016, 7, 212; doi:10.3390/f7100212
- Paper 3: *Representing whose interests? Stakeholder perceptions around allocation and access in climate policy initiatives* is accepted for presentation at the Earth System Governance Conference in Lund in October 2017.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

Expected project outcomes were associated with improved information sharing and collaboration between REDD+ stakeholders, through the process of engaging people in a multi-stakeholder forum to identify and agree on verifiers for the quality-of-governance standard. More than eighty individuals participated in the project, leading to the production of the draft national standard based on the 4 top ranked

indicators and their 18 top ranked verifiers, together with the means of verification for national, provincial, district and local levels. The *Draft Quality of Governance Standard* developed through a multi-stakeholder process contributed to strengthening governance of REDD+ strategy development and implementation in PNG to achieve climate change mitigation and national development goals through the sustainable management of forest resources.

In PNG and elsewhere, governance has been identified as central aspect of sustainable forest management. While all participants within the forest policy arena would agree with this observation, it has been difficult to determine how best to evaluate forest governance. In this regard, the work of University of Southern Queensland and Griffith University researchers has contributed significantly. Using a hierarchical framework of principles, criteria and indicators (PC&I), a consistent approach to evaluating forest governance at the global, regional, national and local levels has been developed. Quality of governance standards are expected to improve the REDD+ governance system in a country, by making stakeholder participation in REDD+ meaningful, and deliberations more productive, thereby improving implementation.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The following lessons were learned during the project's internal evaluation exercise:

- The project design was based upon a multi-stakeholder participatory process that had been successfully field tested in Nepal. This arrangement greatly simplified project coordination, implementation and reporting processes, ensuring the timely delivery of project outputs.
- The project exit-strategy was properly initiated at the start of the project, but no formal arrangement was in place for deploying the voluntary standard at the end of the project. The expected outcomes associated with the use of the quality-of-governance standard have also not yet eventuated. This situation suggests more time should have been spent building capacity and understanding of the national group responsible for promoting the standard both during and after the project.

The feedback from stakeholders at the final Port Moresby workshop in April 2017 was very positive. In addition to governmental representatives from PNG FA, the Climate Change Authority (CCDA) as well as the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority all made active contributions to discussing how to advance the standard. They reported that the standard has been discussed in depth regarding the contribution it can make to interactions between government agencies around forest and climate policy as it is currently being developed. Further, there was a productive discussion between state and non-state actors present in the workshop, with NGOs requesting that the standard be applied in the context of the emerging community forest management arena. Continuing to improve the current standard is both highly recommended for its value in relation to REDD+ activities, but also to forest governance more generally.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The project has successfully developed a *Draft Quality of Governance Standard for PNG* through using a previously tested and published multi-stage, multi-stakeholder participatory process. The voluntary national standard evaluates the quality of governance of forest management and associated emissions reduction activities in PNG. The standard may be used either informally for general assessment, or more formally, to determine compliance.

Since the ITTO Secretariat has received the project completion report, several technical reports, and financial audit report, the Committee may wish to consider this project as completed. The project completion report and technical reports can be accessed at ITTO Website. Further information can be obtained from the Project Webpage at

<http://www.pip.com.pg/projects/completed-projects/70-development-of-quality-of-governance-standards-for-redd-in-png.html>.

(B) COMPLETED PRE-PROJECT

None.