

Title	Lessons-learned from REDD+ Implementation in Pacific Island Countries
Organizer	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Pacific Community (SPC)
Type of event	Plenary
Venue	Room 306-307
Date/Time	Friday, June 21; 11:00-12:30
Event description	
<p>In the Pacific countries Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu forests play an important role for the livelihoods. Unsustainable logging practices not only lead to forest degradation, CO2 emissions, and loss of forest products such as food and medicinal plants, but also peril the protective functions of the forests pertaining among others to soil, water and natural disasters like cyclones. In order to address these issues the countries aim to meet the requirements to participate in the international compensation mechanism to Reduce Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). They therefore developed national REDD+-readiness strategies. Owing to differing national and local conditions as well as funding resources, progress towards developing the main REDD+-elements (Forest Reference Level (FRL), National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), information system on social and ecological safeguards, REDD+-strategy) varies from country to country. In Fiji, a demonstration site for sustainable forest management serves as a training area for the Pacific region since 30 years and helped shaping Fiji's forest legislation. While Fiji has final drafts for FRL and NFMS and completed its R-Package for the FCPF, Papua New Guinea submitted its FRL to the UNFCCC in 2017, developed a NFMS as well as a REDD+ strategy. Vanuatu has finalised studies on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, alternative livelihoods and benefit sharing mechanism. A forest carbon project for the voluntary market serves as model for the operational and financial feasibility of REDD+ in Fiji and Vanuatu. The Solomon Islands submitted its FRL to the UNFCC in 2018 and is currently developing its NFMS methodology. Based on these varying degrees of advancements, the countries can share different lessons-learned. The objectives of the event are: demonstrate progress in REDD+ implementation in these countries; to share and exchange experiences and lessons-learned with participants from other countries of the Asia – Pacific region; and to discuss the way forward for REDD+ implementation and the inclusion of the forestry sector in the NDCs.</p>	