

Live & Learn Environmental Education

SUBPROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

21st December 2012

TA 6422-REG Mainstreaming Environment for Poverty Reduction



Design effective models for governance and implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in the Solomon Islands to provide equitable benefits for forest-dependent indigenous people



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Description	5
2.1 Rationale and approach	8
3. Objectives and Scope	9
3.1 Sub-project objectives	9
3.2 Subproject Outputs	9
3.3 Subproject Activities	10
3.4 General notes on the relevance of subproject design	16
4. Evaluation of Inputs and Activities.....	17
4.1 Effectiveness of activities in producing outputs	17
4.2 Timeliness of completion of activities.....	20
4.3 Reasons for deviating from planned inputs and activities	20
5. Evaluation of Outputs	21
5.1 Efficiency in the production of outputs (cost and process)	21
5.2 Effectiveness of outputs	22
6. Evaluation of Outcomes.....	24
7. Major Lessons Learned	25
7.1 Project design	25
7.2 REDD+	25
8. Replication / Upscaling Potential and Linkage to ADB Operations	26
9. Recommendations	27
10. List of Appendices	28

1. Introduction

<p>Subproject No., Country, and Name</p> <p>TA 6422-REG Mainstreaming Environment for Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Solomon Islands</p> <p>Design effective models for governance and implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in the Solomon Islands to provide equitable benefits for forest-dependent indigenous people</p>	<p>Amount Approved</p> <p>USD \$249,700</p>
<p>Implementing Organization:</p> <p>Live & Learn Environmental Education</p>	<p>Amount Undisbursed: USD \$14,700</p> <p>Amount Utilized: USD \$250,813</p>
<p>Approval Date:</p> <p>Signing Date: 8th March 2011</p> <p>Initiation Date: 8th March 2011</p>	<p>Completion Date</p> <p>Original: 8th September 2012</p> <p>Extension: Approved until 31st December 2012</p> <p>Actual: 31st December 2012</p> <hr/> <p>Account Closing Date</p> <p>Original: Actual:</p>

In the letter of agreement under TA 6422-REG Mainstreaming Environment for Poverty Reduction, dated 8th March 2011, the Asian Development Bank appointed Live & Learn Environmental Education to implement the project “Design effective models for governance and implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in the Solomon Islands to provide equitable benefits for forest-dependent indigenous people.” This document constitutes the final report upon completion of this project.

The project was highly successful in achieving its objectives and delivering the intended outputs, which are explained in detail in the body of the report. The outcomes of the project strongly suggest that REDD+ is a viable livelihood alternative for local forest dependant people, and that it is required to combat the strong drivers of deforestation; predominantly the need for income and pressures to allow industrial logging to take place to meet this need.

The REDD+ pilot project designed through this action is well supported locally (e.g. in the target communities), and supported informally at national and provincial (Choiseul) levels. Our pre-feasibility study suggests that tribal scale REDD+ projects would be technically and financially viable. However, pressure on indigenous landowning groups to sign agreements to allow industrial scale logging to proceed continue to be extremely high in Choiseul. Recent (unpublished) reports from GIZ/SPC indicate that logging companies are actively negotiating logging agreements with landowning groups, covering many of the areas that have not yet been logged over.

Live & Learn and partners believe that REDD+ has strong potential to provide an alternative, sustainable and more equitable source of income and livelihood for indigenous people in Choiseul, and in the

Solomon Islands more generally. However the opportunity to commence REDD+ is limited due to the increasing pressures for logging.

The project described below was a pilot activity 'design phase,' and was not designed to extend to full implementation of a REDD+ project (for example to market standard certification and issuance of carbon certificates). However the significant progress made through this project has created a strong platform for a potential phase two ('implementation phase'). Continuation of pilot project development and implementation would be highly desirable to local communities and to agencies supporting REDD+ Readiness activities in the Solomon Islands. Furthermore, an implementation phase would be needed to demonstrate REDD+ in practice and demonstrate to landowning communities that an alternative to destructive and unsustainable logging practices is viable. Such a pilot activity would also enable the model to be replicated in new locations and at increased economies of scale.



*Live & Learn REDD+ Project officer
Bill Apusae at the project site in
Ngorambara*

2. Description

The over arching objective of this action was to reduce poverty, create an enabling business environment (for REDD+), and improve transparency, accountability, equity and efficiency in the management and use of natural resources. It sought to create an activity concept in the Solomon Islands, demonstrating the opportunity to substantially and measurably reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through an incentive-based, participatory approach that can be replicated in other Pacific countries. The project was designed to support the development of REDD+ methods and policies that provide secure land tenure and resource rights for customary owners, and ensure that equitable benefits from land and land-based resources are afforded to indigenous people.

The project further aimed to contribute to higher-level goals of reducing green house gas emissions from deforestation and degradation, and provide tangible co-benefits, including biodiversity conservation, maintaining essential eco-system services, resilience, and capacity to adapt to climate change, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development opportunities. At the broadest level, it was intended to support the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability (integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources; and reduce biodiversity loss).

Methodologies sought to enable the forest-dependant indigenous target groups to participate in REDD+ by developing tools for education, engagement, and capacity building. The project adopted a partnership approach, aiming to foster dialogue between the government and local people to ensure that lessons learned through development and pre-testing of practical tools support REDD+ policy development and opportunities for project replication.

Live & Learn proposed to develop the REDD+ demonstration activity concept for the Padezaka Tribal Land in Choiseul Province in the Solomon Islands. However the target sites and communities for implementation were changed soon after project inception (see boxed text below, and refer to inception report for detailed explanation). The new sites were (a) Sirebe and Vuri protected areas, which are adjacent to Padezaka tribal lands and associated with the village of Sasamungga and (b) Sambe – located 1½ hours by small boat from Padezaka and associated with Nggoreabara village.

In addition to the change in location, Live & Learn developed a partnership with an NGO called Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) to assist with project delivery, particularly in the field (Choiseul). The rationale for this partnership was explained in detail in the inception report.

The subproject performance indicator framework was developed within the Preliminary Design and Monitoring Framework (from the initial subproject proposal). The outcome / outputs indicators are reproduced below (Figure 1)

Figure 1.

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>Outcome Pilot activity design and models for governance and implementation of REDD+ capable of providing equitable benefits for forest-dependent indigenous people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG endorsement for implementation of a pilot project that tests the models developed • SIG adopt REDD+ policies, standards and safeguards that support the model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of support from SIG • SIG REDD+ National Policy Documents 	<p>Assumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG committed to providing equitable development benefits forest-dependent indigenous people <p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG Government support policies favoring elite capture of REDD+ or logging benefits
<p>Outputs 1. Appropriate and effective methods for measurement, reporting and verification of emissions reductions from REDD+ pilot project developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRV methodology complies with UNFCCC Post-Kyoto Standards for offset certification • Local capacity (or the ability to develop capacity) to support MRV implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with UNFCCC Post-Kyoto Standards for offset certification • Pilot REDD+ project design documents • Capacity assessment 	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC Post-Kyoto Standards for offset certification (or a relevant proxy) can be reasonably determined • SIG and community capacity for involvement in MRV can be determined
<p>2. Financial and governance processes that provide transparent and equitable benefit sharing acceptable to Indigenous landowners and the Solomon Islands Government identified and recommended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG consider REDD+ policies, standards and safeguards that support the model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG reports & correspondence in response to recommendations 	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG willing to consider recommendations • SIG policy documents made available • Stakeholders provide honest and informed opinions <p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequitable representation of stakeholders & beneficiaries (e.g. gender bias)
<p>3. Methods to strengthen capacity, and mobilize indigenous landowner involvement in REDD+ to provide transparent, equitable and sustainable community benefits developed and pretested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of target audience developing sufficient knowledge to meaningfully participate in decision making about REDD+ • Quality of activities designed to build capacity, develop, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre & post education program knowledge and capacity tests • Pilot REDD+ project design documents • Climate change & REDD+ education toolkits 	<p>Assumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge gaps have been identified and effectively addressed <p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major change in international approach to REDD+ impacts on

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
	support and manage cooperatives • Quality and effectiveness of education and capacity building activities		knowledge and capacity requirements
4. Mechanisms to focus REDD+ finance to support sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities identified	• Number of investment options identified for sustaining REDD+ finance • Quality of governance model for REDD+ funds at the community level	• Pilot REDD+ project design documents • RAP report	Assumption • Sustainable livelihood opportunities exist that are viable and culturally appropriate • Potential development partners can operate in the location
5. Property rights and land tenure issues identified and solutions offered	• Recommendations for available and appropriate carbon property rights / land tenure instruments	• Pilot REDD+ project design documents	Assumptions • Appropriate carbon rights / land tenure instruments exist or can be modified • Relevant legislation and legal documents are accessible Risk • Carbon property rights nationalized

2.1 Rationale and approach

The project was designed to build national capacity and REDD+ 'readiness' by addressing specific gaps in knowledge and technical capacity of the Solomon Islands to implement REDD+ effectively. In particular, the action targeted the need for increased knowledge, capacity, effective models and mechanisms to engage with, and foster involvement of forest dependent indigenous people in REDD+. This gap has relevance for (i) equity, in terms of the distribution of benefits and costs of REDD+ to various stakeholders; and (ii) effectiveness, in terms of the ability of REDD+ to reduce emissions that have permanence, avoid leakage, and negate potential negative social consequences of a REDD+ program (such as land-related conflict).

The issue of equity for local and indigenous people is not exclusively linked to notions of fairness and social justice. There is a strong argument that efforts to reverse negative trends in deforestation and degradation are less effective without participation and equity for local and indigenous people. In the Solomon Islands, the majority of land is not alienated and is held under customary title. Customary landowners therefore play key roles in land use decisions, such as deals with developers on logging concessions and commercial agriculture including palm oil.

Research suggests that decisions to allow clearing of forest are based on the need and desire of rural people to earn money. National and locally managed protected areas are ineffective when they neglect to provide alternative sources of revenue and livelihoods for local people. A study in PNG has shown that deforestation continued to occur at similar rates within the country's National Parks as in surrounding areas. This was attributed to lack of benefits for landowners, and the impact of poverty on landowner decisions to allow developments such as logging or cash cropping to continue. In the Solomon Islands the declaration of World Heritage at Morovo Lagoon did not prevent destructive logging, and on East Rennell (Lake Tegano World Heritage Area) there is a significant risk of logging with the next decade.

At present, in remote areas of the Solomon Islands, there is limited value in legislating for forest protection. Government agencies have little capacity to police and enforce laws, hence local drivers of deforestation, such as clearing for subsistence agriculture, are likely to continue unabated. Therefore, while national governments work towards increasing their capacity in land use regulation and enforcement, incentives for REDD+ and equity is of particular importance at the local community scale and as a national strategy.

REDD+ is fundamentally cross-sectoral and engages a wide variety of institutions. The effectiveness of this activity relied upon the strength and inclusiveness of the partnerships, networks, and alliances, which the action was able to maintain and develop. From the outset, therefore, the process of developing a model for a REDD+ pilot activity was outward looking, seeking to make connections with initiatives, programs, groupings and networks through whom REDD+ may be further promoted and implemented.

The social, economic, and political environment within the Solomon Islands is relatively similar to other Pacific Island countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) where REDD+ has potential. Therefore, the model developed for forest-dependent indigenous participation in REDD+ will be highly relevant in other countries, particularly within Melanesia.

3. Objectives and Scope

3.1 Sub-project objectives

These were identified as follows:

1. Identify appropriate and effective methods for measurement, reporting, and verification of emission reductions from REDD+ projects;
2. Recommend financial and governance processes that provide transparent and equitable benefits acceptable to indigenous landowners and the Solomon Islands Government;
3. Identify and develop methods to strengthen capacity, and finalize indigenous landowner involvement in REDD+ to provide transparent, equitable, and sustainable community benefits;
4. Identify mechanisms to finance and support sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities; and
5. Identify property rights and land tenure issues and offer solutions.

Note that these objectives correspond with the 'Outputs' listed in the Preliminary Design and Monitoring Framework (Figure 1, above), and summarized again below:

3.2 Subproject Outputs

1. Appropriate and effective methods for measurement, reporting and verification of emissions reductions from REDD+ pilot project developed
2. Financial and governance processes that provide transparent and equitable benefit sharing acceptable to Indigenous landowners and the Solomon Islands Government identified and recommended
3. Methods to strengthen capacity, and mobilize indigenous landowner involvement in REDD+ to provide transparent, equitable and sustainable community benefits developed and pretested
4. Mechanisms to focus REDD+ finance to support sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities identified
5. Property rights and land tenure issues identified and solutions offered

3.3 Subproject Activities

Seven activities were implemented to achieve the Output and Objectives; these are briefly summarized, with notes about design relevance in *italics*:

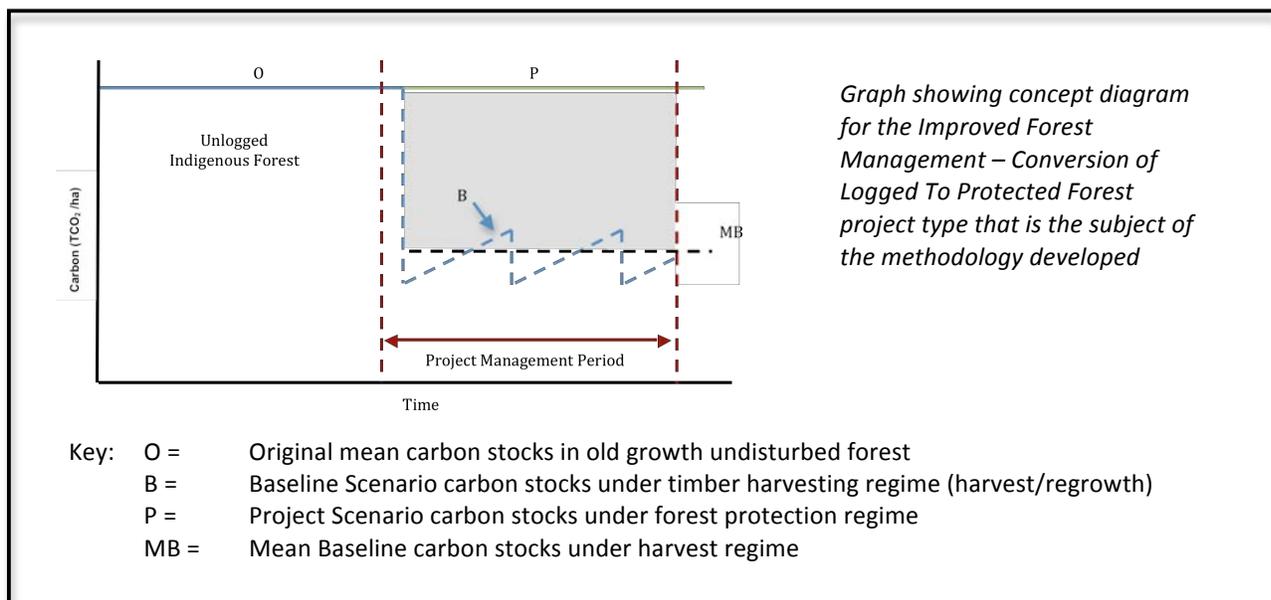
- Activity 1. Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV): This activity was comprised of three phases:

Phase 1: Project Strategy: Carbon market strategy options for the project were defined. This involved selecting the most suitable carbon market standard, defining the project type and eligibility in carbon market terms, and exploring the options for how to market the credits once created, and likely range of carbon revenues to expect from the project.

Phase 2: Methodology: A project methodology was developed in line with the chosen carbon market standard (Plan Vivo), guidance documentation, which may be modified where necessary to suit local circumstances in a project area.

Phase 3: PDD First Draft: This activity involved populating the methodology with the specific project data currently available without gathering any further empirical data for the Project Description Documentation (First Draft PDD). However, in line with Plan Vivo requirements the first stage in PDD development was through development of a Project Idea Note (PIN). Although the title of the output was changed it remained consistent with the intent / purpose of drafting a PDD.

Design relevance: These activities were extremely useful because, at this point in time, there are no other REDD+ methodologies in development in the Solomon Islands, and to date there have not been any other methodologies validated in the Pacific Island region (including PNG) for REDD+. The scope of the project and level of investment meant that this work would not be taken to the validation stage (hence the objectives were limited to drafting the methodologies). The ‘gaps,’ remaining in the methodology developed are extremely useful in identifying where further data is required, or (in the case of carbon rights) where legal instruments or legal reform needs to occur to support REDD+. The grouped project methodology has strong potential for replication.



- Activity 2. Government regulatory mechanisms and capacity: Work was undertaken to identify current regulatory approach and governance structures for REDD+ in the Solomon Islands. This Activity was modified when it was understood that the Solomon Islands Government had not established any institutional arrangements or policies for REDD+, and was yet to commence any significant work in this respect. The activity was therefore changed to identifying current *REDD+ Readiness* activities (if any) that may have started or were planned, and determine the capacity of various stakeholders to contribute to REDD+ in the Solomon Islands.

Research techniques included review of relevant literature and reports, policy documents, and consultation with stakeholders. Consultation and dialogue was undertaken to determine policy directions, limitations, and opportunities. However, in light of the absence of REDD+ policy, research also focused on 'REDD+ Readiness' efforts that were commencing to determine how this action could best contribute and coordinate other efforts (e.g. UNREDD program). Key stakeholders included national, provincial, and local-level government representatives, representatives from international development agencies involved in REDD (e.g. UN REDD and GIZ) and NGOs.

Design relevance: The change of focus increased relevance by achieving the main purpose of the activity – to establish the current 'state of play,' to enable the project to better coordinate with other work of Government and stakeholders. The development of an MOU with Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) was a particularly useful outcome from this work. Refer to report; Appendices 1

- Activity 3. Land tenure and carbon property rights: A desktop study was undertaken into land tenure issues relevant to REDD in the Solomon Islands. The original emphasis was on the Padezaka Tribal Land, however this was broadened to customary land in general. Research and analysis was conducted through review of relevant legislation, literature, and consultation with relevant authorities. Perceptions of indigenous landowners relating to land tenure and carbon property rights were assessed through the RAP (see Activity 5).

Design relevance: The analysis was useful to provide an understanding of legal avenues to secure carbon rights, and included an assessment of opportunities and risks.

- Activity 4. Enabling Education: Climate Change and REDD+ (CCRE): Target communities have a limited understanding about the abstract concepts of climate change and REDD+. Education about these concepts was required to enable informed community participation in dialogue about how REDD+ should be organized. The CCRE manual was developed as a facilitators guide to delivering REDD+ education for village level audiences (with minor adaptation it would also be suitable for stakeholder education). Two animated films were developed in Solomon Islands Pidgin and English to support the education manual. The first film called “Climate Change Everyone’s Business” features two fruit bats that explore the causes and effects of climate change and in particular the role of forests in the carbon cycle. The second animation “Ready for REDD?” features Indigenous Solomon Islanders, whom consider the key things customary land owners need to understand about REDD+ before they can make an informed decision about their involvement. The CCRE manual was improved through pre-testing during the implementation period, leading to a professionally designed and printed publication. The animations link to the CCRE manual, and provide a summary of the main learning outcomes, but can also stand alone as a resource to be viewed by a wider audience.

The holistic education program that was delivered in the villages (and also through the national REDD planning workshop) focused on climate change and REDD, and in addition, explored concepts of multiple forest values, changes to forests, long-term consequences of deforestation, intergenerational equality, governance and decision-making, and links between forest-uses, conflict, and poverty.

Design relevance: Outcomes of the RAP workshop (activity 5) demonstrated the low knowledge base of participating communities, supporting the relevance of this activity. The education program was extremely successful in further assessing current knowledge levels and then subsequently increasing these (measured through post workshop assessment). An informal audit conducted at the commencement of the activity failed to identify any similar resource for REDD+ practitioners worldwide (the situation may change as new REDD materials emerge on a daily basis). The education resources therefore fill a gap in REDD+ readiness tools targeting the community level.



Scenes from the animated films: “Climate Change – Everyone’s Business” and “Ready for REDD+?”

- Activity 5. Research of Aspirations and Perceptions (RAP) study: The RAP is a participatory research and education process that was used to examine community perceptions of environmental, cultural, social and economic issues relating to REDD+. It is a strength-based participatory research and education process that Live & Learn employs to inform design and progress of development projects. The RAP examines community perceptions and knowledge of climate change and issues related to carbon sequestration / emissions reductions from environmental, cultural, social and economic perspectives. It explores communities' existing knowledge (in identifying knowledge gaps), and opportunities for engagement, mobilization and empowerment. The knowledge assessment also establishes a baseline for monitoring. Live & Learn conducted the RAP in Sasamungga and Nggoreabara.

The RAP included appraisal of community strengths (using asset based community development methods). It was an empowering 2-way process, whereby both researchers and participants had opportunities to learn, and encouraged the participants to take a high degree of ownership of the project from the outset. The participatory approach of the RAP encouraged participants to explore and share experiences, ideas and opinions, to question and clarify issues, and to identify solutions.

RAP implementation was flexible, but generally consisted of two full day participatory workshops (at each site) that ensured equitable representation of community diversity such as language group, age, gender and role (e.g. clan leaders). Groups identified as being disadvantaged in decision making, such as women and youth, were provided opportunities to express their views separately from men and community leaders.

It was critically important to acknowledge community perceptions of forest value and to understand community forest use. The findings of the RAP were used to inform aspects of design of the demonstration concept and various decisions about next steps for project development, and organisation of community participation. The findings of the RAP were particularly valuable in building community relationships and informing design of other activities. For example, knowledge gaps that were identified were addressed in the CCRE manual.

The RAP research included assessment of the following from a community perspective: (i) drivers of deforestation; (ii) risks analysis of issues including conflict and threats to permanence; (iii) needs, aspirations, and livelihoods; (iv) capacity to meaningfully participate in management and governance of REDD; and (v) existing governance structures and implications for mobilization.

Design relevance: Live & Learn has many years experience using RAPs to engage with and learn from target communities. It has been our experience (reconfirmed here) that implementing this process early in a project builds strong relationships and knowledge base from which to continue with project implementation. Refer to RAP report; Appendices 2.

- Activity 6. Education and Planning Workshop: Live & Learn sought to develop an innovative, sustainable, and equitable demonstration concept, which ensures full and effective participation by local and indigenous communities. The workshop was designed to recognise the need to create local ownership of the model and to ensure that the design was in conflict or perceived as threatening to existing national government positions. It was therefore critical to engage government decision makers in dialogue and analysis of the concept. In reality, the project team found that a Government position of REDD policy and project types is yet to be determined.

The educational/dialogue approach provided UNREDD, local community representatives and government decision makers with an opportunities to examine the demonstration concept design and consider policy ramifications against critical outcomes including permanence, potential for conflict, leakage, and drivers of deforestation. Education can lead to improved understanding of the connections between local and indigenous involvement and the range of variables that are necessary for compliance and long-term viability and sustainability.

The activity was delivered as a participatory learning and planning workshop. The main objective of this activity was slightly modified from originally proposed, to become 'critically analyze a proposed option (rather than multiple options) for demonstration concepts.' The potential for the proposed demonstration concept in contributing to REDD+ national policy was also explored.

Design relevance: The workshop was an effective means to engage village level stakeholders with national level government and non-government stakeholders to share understanding, learn and critique the REDD+ demonstration concept.



Participants at the education and planning workshop

- Activity 7. Concept demonstration activity development: Development of the draft demonstration concept incorporates information provided through Activities 1-5. The draft demonstration concept was presented to key stakeholders in the education and planning workshop.

Design relevance: This activity could have been omitted as an activity in its own right. In effect the results from previous activities (especially activity 1), provide the demonstration activity concept. The concept activity design would more appropriately be expressed as a sub-project objective.



Typical Pacific Islands logging activity for round log export

3.4 General notes on the relevance of subproject design

- Implementation of activities progressed according to activity description, with only minor adjustments to the local circumstances, as mentioned above. Activity 7 required no specific action aside from consolidating information from previous activities. Hence Activity 7 may have been better articulated as an objective.
- The logic of the subproject objectives and outputs was strong; Live & Learn did not feel it necessary to change the logical framework during the implementation period. However one output (# 4: *Mechanisms to focus REDD+ finance to support sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities identified*) was not fully explored, as it was found to be of less interest and priority to landowners than the more general question of *if and how REDD+ finance could be secured*. In retrospect output 4 could have been better articulated to align with Objective 4 (*Identify mechanisms to finance and support sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities*), which more generally applies to identifying options to obtain REDD+ finance. Live & Learn recommends Output 4 as a priority for further work on REDD+, but to be implemented after a realistic and achievable pathway to achieve initial REDD+ finance can be identified (otherwise expectations may be raised pre-maturely).
- The implementation schedule was realistic in terms of capacity to deliver all activities within the 18-month time frame. However the order and timing of activity implementation was changed (updated work plans were provided within the inception and mid term progress reports). The changes did not impact on delivery of the project outcomes. More detailed notes on the implementation schedule are provided below.
- A small number Outcome and Output indicators were difficult to measure or unrealistic, and could have been better articulated. For example, the indicators for the main Outcome included Solomon Islands Government *endorsement* of the REDD pilot project, however it was found that an institution to approve or disapprove of a REDD+ project does not currently exist. Furthermore, the project achieved numerous significant results that were not mentioned as indicators, but were nonetheless valuable.

4. Evaluation of Inputs and Activities

4.1 Effectiveness of activities in producing outputs

Expected outputs	Indicators	Notes on achievement
<p>1. Appropriate and effective methods for measurement, reporting and verification of emissions reductions from REDD+ pilot project developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRV methodology complies with UNFCCC Post-Kyoto Standards for offset certification • Local capacity (or the ability to develop capacity) to support MRV implementation 	<p>Consultant Carbon Partnership worked efficiently and provided high quality inputs according to the TOR</p> <p>MRV methodology was developed for the Plan Vivo standard following the methodological guidance documentation of the ISO14064-2 standard and the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). The method also aligns GHG accounting with existing compliance GHG accounting for the LULUCF sector in Kyoto Annex B countries and IPCC Guidance on LULUCF monitoring (2003). The draft methodology and Project Idea Note (PIN) are provided as <i>Appendices 3 & 4</i> respectively.</p> <p>The above mentioned approach was designed to align (or be easily adapted to) likely UNFCCC Post-Kyoto Standards, however to date an international agreement on standards has not been reached</p> <p>The Plan Vivo standard was selected because it is relatively inexpensive and enables smallholder projects to be financially viable. The methodology identifies opportunities for local employment to reduce costs and local flow of benefits.</p>
<p>2. Financial and governance processes that provide transparent and equitable benefit sharing acceptable to Indigenous landowners and the Solomon Islands Government identified and recommended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIG consider REDD+ policies, standards and safeguards that support the model 	<p>Key national stakeholders attended the 2 –day education and planning workshop and participated in discussions about REDD+ policy issues and the concept for a demonstration activity. Attendees included Mr Chanel Iroi (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) – lead agency for REDD+), Mr. Fred Patison, manager of the country's UN-REDD National Programme, staff from Department of Forestry, other NGO's, and representative from 3 local communities with interests in REDD+. <i>Details contained in the workshop report; Appendices #5</i></p> <p>Further meetings were conducted separately with UNREDD, UNDP and MECDM to communicate the model and approach developed</p> <p>As a further indicator of achievement UNREDD have invited Live & Learn to draft an MOU, that would see the demonstration project model supported by the UNREDD national programme.</p>

Expected outputs	Indicators	Notes on achievement
<p>3. Methods to strengthen capacity, and mobilize indigenous landowner involvement in REDD+ to provide transparent, equitable and sustainable community benefits developed and pretested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of target audience developing sufficient knowledge to meaningfully participate in decision making about REDD+ • Quality of activities designed to build capacity, develop, support and manage cooperatives • Quality and effectiveness of education and capacity building activities 	<p><i>To be actioned – data required from Bill request sent</i></p> <p>A draft manual has been prepared to support development and governance of indigenous landowner managed cooperatives for REDD+. The majority of funding for this manual was funded through Live & Learn co-finance. <i>Refer to appendices #6 for draft version</i></p> <p>The resource strategically links to FPIC requirements for REDD+ and has generated significant interest from a number of countries in the region (copies provided to Governments of PNG, Vanuatu and Fiji). Importantly the program did enable community members to have informed participation in discussions about REDD+</p> <p>The final printed version of the manual and the 2 x animated films¹ are very well designed and presented and available in hard copy or online: www.livelearn.org/resources/climate-change-and-community-based-redd-education-manual and, www.livelearn.org/projects/redd-pilot-project</p>
<p>4. Mechanisms to focus REDD+ finance to support sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of investment options identified for sustaining REDD+ finance • Quality of governance model for REDD+ funds at the community level 	<p>The majority of effort was directed to identifying the means to obtain REDD+ finance, e.g. appropriate certification standard, methodology, project type etc.</p> <p>A draft manual has been prepared to support development and governance of indigenous landowner managed cooperatives for REDD+. The majority of funding for this manual was funded through Live & Learn co-finance. <i>Refer to Appendices #6 for draft version</i></p>

¹ Development of the second animation "Ready for REDD?" was delayed when the animation artist had a motorcycle accident. It is over 70% at the time of writing this draft report, and is expected to be complete by the end of the project

Expected outputs	Indicators	Notes on achievement
<p>5. Property rights and land tenure issues identified and solutions offered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for available and appropriate carbon property rights / land tenure instruments 	<p>Consultant Siobhan McDonnell worked efficiently and provided high quality inputs according to the TOR</p> <p>An analysis of laws was undertaken and was presented in three parts: (i) An analysis of land and property laws of relevance to REDD in the Solomon Islands; (ii) an analysis of forestry laws of relevance to REDD in the Solomon Islands; and (iii) an analysis of laws concerning 'incorporation' relevant to the establishment of a community based governance arrangement to manage a REDD project. <i>Refer to Appendices #7 for the legal study report</i></p> <p>The report contains key findings and recommendations, such as the specific options for land tenure arrangements associated with the operation of a REDD+ scheme in the Solomon Islands. The PIN document and methodology contain suggestions for securing carbon rights, however further work though piloting the approach is recommended</p>

4.2 Timeliness of completion of activities

- All activities were completed efficiently from the time of activity commencement until completion
- Commencement of some activities was delayed due to reasonable circumstances relating to workload and availability of consultants (consultants negotiated new timelines with Live & Learn in advance). The work-plan originally submitted was in retrospect unnecessarily over ambitious, and allowed plenty of scope for change without impact on outcomes (as per the inception and mid-term project reports). The roll out of activities was completed efficiently and delays in activity implementation did not create a delay in overall project completion. In particular, it was not necessary to undertake Activity 1 (MRV) and Activity 3 (Land tenure and carbon property rights) early in the project, as they were not pre-requisites for other activities to commence.
- The delivery of the second animated film “Ready for REDD?” (part of the Climate Change and REDD+ Education Program) was delayed due to the animation artist having a serious motorcycle accident. The film was well progressed when this occurred, but production was put on hold pending his recovery. The Film is completed by the project extension deadline.

4.3 Reasons for deviating from planned inputs and activities

- The only major deviation from planned inputs and activities was a change to the field site / target community, which in retrospect had a significant positive impact on the project. The site was changed from Padezaka (Choiseul Province) to sites within the neighbouring community of Sasamunga and approximately 40 km away at Nggoreabara. The site change occurred prior to any fieldwork being undertaken and only effected activities that had a fieldwork component. There were no budget implications because of the proximity of the new sites to the original site. The positive impact to the project was due to the new relationship formed with Natural Resources Development Foundation when selecting the new sites, and the increased availability of data about the new sites in compared with the original. A very detailed explanation and rationale for the change was provided within the inception report (*see Appendices #8*)



Participants at the Ngorambara Education and Planning workshop

5. Evaluation of Outputs

The main material outputs produced were as follows:

- Research of Aspirations and Perceptions Study & Report
- Research and Report into the status of REDD+ 'Readiness' in the Solomon Islands
- Solomon Islands Law and implications for design of a REDD+ Pilot Activity: A briefing paper
- Climate Change and REDD+ Education Manual (development and pre-test implementation)
- *Climate Change Everyone's Business* Animated Film
- *Ready for REDD?* Animated Film
- Choiseul Pre-feasibility Assessment
- Choiseul PIN Development Module
- MRV Methodology Design & Report (Pacific REDD+ IFM-LtPF Methodology)
- REDD+ Education and Planning Workshop

All of the above outputs were delivered to a high standard within the project period

5.1 Efficiency in the production of outputs (cost and process)

- All outputs were delivered within the project period¹ and within budget.
- Several activities demonstrate the strong value proposition of NGO work, as the level of outputs generated from some activities arguably significantly exceeds what could have been achieved with the available budget according to 'normal' commercial rates. In particular, the rates for the following were significantly discounted and/or involved some pre-agreed pro-bono service delivery:
 - Development of animated films
 - Assessment of Solomon Islands Law and Implications for Design of a REDD+ Pilot Activity*
 - Research and Report into the status of REDD+ 'Readiness' in the Solomon Islands
 - MRV Methodology Design & Report (significant existing IP was provided for free)

*With respect to the contract to assess Solomon Islands Law and implications for design of a REDD+ Pilot Activity, the level of work undertaken by consultants was beyond the budgeted amount provided. However the consultants were happy to undertake the work at very reasonable rates and hence stay within budget. However, on reflection the results would have benefited from two changes (i) Increased budget to enable more time for data collection and analysis, (ii) Provision for fieldwork to assess how legislation is used in practice. We note that the later point has been addressed in subsequent work undertaken by Live & Learn funded through GIZ / SPC.

¹ The project was extended to the 31st December 2012

5.2 Effectiveness of outputs

Overall, the activities led to the desired outputs and these were effective in contributing to the project outcome.

- The Research of Aspirations and Perceptions (RAP) Study & Report established strong relationships with the target communities and the partnering organisation NRDF. The RAP informed the implementation of subsequent activities, for example by identifying knowledge gaps and misconceptions that needed to be addressed through the education program.
- The Research and Report into the status of REDD+ 'Readiness' in the Solomon Islands enabled Live & Learn to coordinate activities with other stakeholders, in particular SPC/GIZ regional REDD program and the UNREDD National REDD programme, both of which had recently commenced. The employee mobilized had just completed a Masters on REDD+ policy in PNG, and was well suited to the task. Evidence of this output leading to improved coordination is; a) decision by GIZ/SPC to provide co-finance towards Live & Learn REDD+ pilot activities in Choiseul, b) invitation from EU REDD to develop an MOU formalizing the link between the pilot activity and the national programme, and c) MOU and subsequent working partnership with NRDF linking protected area management, SFM and REDD+ in Choiseul.
- The research into Solomon Islands Law and implications for design of a REDD+ pilot activity was useful in gaining an understanding of opportunities and risks with regards to options for legally determining carbon rights. The recommendations from the study informed the PIN development and the project Methodology. The consultant used had been working on land law issues in Vanuatu, and was completing a PhD on Pacific Land issues at the Australian National University. She sub-contracted a local Solomon Islands lands lawyer (working through USP) and hence together they constituted a very well qualified team. However, despite the legal situation regarding carbon rights being clarified, implementing activities to clarify the rightful carbon rights holders remains a significant challenge due to deficiencies in the legislation and its implementation, and would require further work.
- The Climate Change and REDD+ Education Manual (and associated animated film) was highly effective in enabling community members at the village level to understand and engage in informed dialogue about REDD+. The informed participation of landowners is a key requirement of FPIC for REDD+, as established by a UNFCCC COP 16 in Cancun, and referred to by most voluntary market standards. This outcome was developed 'in-house,' as Live & Learn is a regional leader in the field of environmental education. The manual is producing significant interest from stakeholders within and outside of the Solomon Islands.

- Sean Weaver of Carbon Partnership, who is a regional leader and technical expert in REDD+, was contracted to undertake the MRV research. Sean was also contracted by SPC/GIZ to develop the Regional Pacific REDD+ Policy Framework, hence was able to ensure that advice provided and methodologies developed are consistent with regional trends and policy. The Choiseul Pre-feasibility Assessment provided the required level of certainty that a REDD+ project would be financially viable in Choiseul within the size constraints of the sites available. The study also analysed various voluntary market standards, and recommended the Plan Vivo standard as most appropriate according to the local circumstances and desired outcomes (particularly poverty alleviation and local benefit distribution). The Choiseul PIN Development Module enabled data to be systematically gathered to build the draft project design, while also identifying specific gaps that could be the focus of future work. The MRV Methodology Design & Report is specifically geared towards potential replication through a 'program of activities' approach, rather than focusing on a one-off project.
- The REDD+ Education and Planning Workshop and associated meetings were highly effective in engaging national REDD+ stakeholders within a forum that also involved village participants. The purpose of engagement was for the pilot activity model to be considered by national policy makers and linked to development of the national REDD strategy. Evidence for effectiveness is: a) the subsequent invitation from UN REDD to develop an MOU formalizing the link between the pilot activity and the national programme, b) post workshop invitation from UNDP Global Environmental Facility to develop a grant proposal tailored towards extending the pilot activity, and c) post workshop invitation for Live & Learn to participate and contribute to two UN REDD national workshops as an NGO representative.



Live & Learn technical advisor / project manager, Robbie Henderson, explaining the REDD+ Project process Ngorambara Education and Planning workshop

6. Evaluation of Outcomes

The desired project outcome was to develop a pilot activity design and models for governance and implementation of REDD+ capable of providing equitable benefits for forest-dependent indigenous people. The project methodology design completed is tailored to this outcome. The prefeasibility study and RAP suggests that if implemented in the pilot communities, the proposed REDD+ project would provide a significant source of income and would be favorable to the local communities over the dominant and unsustainable alternative (industrial scale commercial logging).

The first indicator of Outcome achievement was that the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) endorses implementation of a pilot project that tests the models developed. At present the SIG has not developed the institutional frameworks or policies for REDD+ to endorse projects. However the invitation to develop an MOU with the UN REDD National Programme to develop the pilot activity would strongly suggest that the indicator would be achieved in the future.

The second indicator was that the SIG adopt REDD+ policies, standards and safeguards that support the model. As mentioned above, the SIG has only recently started the development of REDD+ policy, and is yet to adopt policy positions. However the subproject has been successful in generating support for the pilot project, including opening pathways to future financing, and coordinating with other efforts to establish national REDD+ readiness. This could enable Live & Learn to pilot the project model with a clear pathway open to ensure that lessons learned can influence policy on REDD+ standards and safeguards into the future.



Live & Learn Project Coordinator, Bill Apusae (left), in consultations with Sirebe tribe members

7. Major Lessons Learned

7.1 Project design

- More emphasis should be placed on design of Outcome / Output indicators, e.g. using SMART indicators
- Similar projects would benefit from evaluation systems that measure expected and unexpected outcomes, e.g. Most Significant Change (MSC) evaluation

7.2 REDD+

- The ability to legally determine who holds the carbon rights is a significant barrier to undertaking REDD+ in the Solomon Islands. Further work needs to be undertaken in this area to test various options, for example the Protected Areas Act, and Provincial Ordinances
- The main discourse regarding REDD+ is typically led by technocrats (e.g. forest scientists or economists), however significant barriers to implementing REDD+ involve community development concerns, and require different skill sets (e.g. anthropologists to work through land use rights / record genealogies, participatory land use planning, etc)
- Communities have local knowledge regarding land management that is highly relevant. A Community based model for REDD+ (where the community are the project owners) is a good fit with community aspirations
- There is a tension between group size and geographic scale for REDD+. I.e. the larger the project size, the more profitable, but the complexity of carbon rights and land ownership issues increases dramatically with scale. Nonetheless, the subproject found that REDD+ is likely to be viable at relatively small scales (e.g. <6,000 Ha), especially if the baseline activity creates high emissions (e.g. industrial logging).
- Transaction cost of REDD project development could be inhibitory for replication depending on the approach to REDD that is pursued. However a 'Grouped project' methodology (otherwise known as a 'Program of Activities') can reduce transaction costs for new projects linked within a program. For example a methodology need only be validated once rather than multiples times. The program approach has significant potential for scaling up
- Capacity building for national & sub-national actors is needed. It is not surprising that people from villages do not fully understand REDD+, however we have observed that capacity and understanding of all current stakeholders is relatively low. Live & Learn has suggested to national stakeholders that it is worthwhile considering a policy approach of approving REDD+ projects *if* they are certified by pre-approved voluntary market standards (e.g. VCS, Plan Vivo). In effect this could outsource the quality assurance mechanism and may be more efficient than trying to build capacity / replicate these systems in country.

8. Replication / Upscaling Potential and Linkage to ADB Operations

- There is significant potential for the REDD+ demonstration project model to be fully implemented in Choiseul (noting that the subproject was largely focused on design). The feasibility study suggests that REDD+ can provide significant financial returns for indigenous landowners. For example, the 11,000 Ha Nggoreambara site could produce potential carbon revenues of US\$ 470,000 annually (based on a conservative carbon price \$6 USD / tonne, and site area of 11,000 Ha). The Plan Vivo certification standard provides a relatively cost effective and achievable mechanism to produce tradable carbon certificates.
- Full implementation of a REDD+ project (to the stage of credit production and sales) is required to test and prove the concept, which would then provide a model and give confidence for further investments from the donor community and potentially private investment.
- A Grouped Project (or program of activities) methodology is available through Plan Vivo and VCS standards. The project could be simultaneously up-scaled and replicated by implementing the pilot activity methodology identified in this subproject. Live & Learn have already consulted with community leaders and stakeholders in East Rennell (Lake Tegano World Heritage Site) and Tetepare Island, which would likely be suitable partners to participate in an expanded program. Furthermore, Plan Vivo has indicated a willingness to consider defining the geographic scope of a grouped project at a regional scale. Hence this subproject could lead to opportunities for REDD replication regionally, with the most logical scope being Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji. Live & Learn is seeking to connect two pilot projects (Vanuatu and Fiji) within this grouped approach.
- The highest priority when developing a REDD Program is to develop and fully implement an inception project, including achieving validation through the chosen Market Standard (e.g. Plan Vivo). Once the methodology is validated it can be replicated, and achieve costs savings due various economies of scale. New 'inception projects' can be introduced within existing Programs – for example projects that have a different project type (e.g. reforestation) and hence require a new Methodology to be validated.
- The Climate Change and REDD+ Education tools developed through this subproject also have scope for replication. They have already been provided to Government stakeholders in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji, where there is interest in them being used by extension officers undertaking community engagement work. The animated climate change film has also been used by a number of NGOs and Government extension officers in the region, and in SE Asia. Further promotion of these resources would likely increase its uptake.

9. Recommendations

- Live & Learn recommends that a phase 2 project “pilot implementation” phase would be a good investment for ADB. The current design phase is not sufficient ensure that a pilot activity will proceed or that the model will be available for replication. It is vital that landowners and stakeholders can see an example of such a project in practice, otherwise we believe that the business as usual activity of unsustainable logging will continue, and will preclude opportunities for REDD+ activities on Choiseul within 3-4 years (due to the current rates of logging).
- Full implementation of a pilot project would support the UN REDD National Readiness Programme in the Solomon Islands, and is supported by the SPC/GIZ regional REDD+ program, and the SPREP ecosystem based climate change adaption project. However although the approach has generated much interest and support there is still a need to identify finance to ensure that it can be fully implemented. UN REDD promotes but does not have funds allocated for pilot activity implementation, and while UNDP (through GEF) has indicated interest in providing funding, and SPC/GIZ and SPREP have provided in-principle support for funding (some funds already committed), these sources alone fall significantly short of the investment that would be required for full implementation of an inception project, which could lead to replication. However they would present a significant source of co-finance to support a larger donor investment.
- Live & Learn also recommends that efforts be made to raise the profile of the resources developed and tested for REDD+ education (manual and the films) through this sub-project. They were designed to fill a ‘gap’ in REDD education resources suitable for engaging indigenous peoples at the village level. They are likely to be of interest to REDD+ project developers and policy makers seeking to engage with indigenous communities within and outside of the Pacific region.

10. List of Appendices

Appendices 1: Report into the status of REDD+ 'Readiness' in the Solomon Islands: Governance, Institutions and Stakeholders

Appendices 2: Research of Aspirations and perceptions: Forests, climate change and REDD+ in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands

Appendices 3: Pacific REDD+ IFM-LtPF Methodology

Appendices 4: Choiseul Forest Carbon Project: Project Idea Note (PIN) Development Module

Appendices 5: REDD+ Planning Workshop Report: Honiara, Solomon Islands

Appendices 6: Building your REDD+ Business (Draft manual)

Appendices 7: Solomon Islands Law and implications for design of a REDD+ Pilot Activity: A briefing paper

Appendices 8: Excerpt from Inception report on site changes

Via web links:

Climate Change and REDD+ Education Manual: www.livelearn.org/resources/climate-change-and-community-based-redd-education-manual

Climate Change Animated Film "Climate Change Everyone's Business": www.livelearn.org/projects/redd-pilot-project

REDD+ Animated Film "Ready for REDD+?": <http://youtu.be/yslceMkJwo> (Note that this is a temporary link, and will be replaced by a permanent link on the Live & Learn website to be advised).