

# PNG REDD+ RBP - Summary

## 1.1. Background

PNG has met all four UNFCCC REDD+ requirements to access Results-based finance ([link](#)) and now proceeds to apply for the REDD+ RBP funding to assist in the implementation of its core REDD+ actions, policies and measures outlined within the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS). The NRS forms the basis for PNG's REDD+ Pilot Program which is intended to support PNG in achieving its REDD+ objectives by providing positive incentives for reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The National REDD+ Strategy is structured in two main components:

**Component 1: REDD+ Actions – Policies and Measures.** This component focuses on specific actions aimed at achieving significant emission reductions. Organized into three interconnected action areas, it takes an integrated approach to tackling both the direct and indirect drivers of forest cover change. Each area features a series of proposed policies and measures that will be led by key sector agencies, clearly outlining the strategic actions necessary for transformative progress.

### **Action Area: Strengthened land-use and development planning.**

- Strengthened and Coordinated National Level Development and Land Use Planning through development of climate and REDD+ relevant development indicators (Department of National Planning and Monitoring) within the national development framework and strengthening of development of national land use policy, planning and legislation (Department of Land and Physical Planning).
- Integrated Subnational Planning through strengthening ward and Local Level Government (LLG) level planning and strategic development planning at provincial, and district level and the linkages between levels of planning.

### **Action Area: Strengthened environmental management, protection, and enforcement.**

- Strengthening climate change legislation, financing, and management (Climate Change and Development Authority)
- Strengthening forest management and enforcement practices (PNG Forest Authority)
- Strengthening environmental management, enforcement, and protection (Conservation and Environment Protection Authority)
- Strengthen access to information and recourse mechanisms (multi-stakeholder action).

### **Action Area: Enhanced economic productivity and sustainable livelihoods:**

- Development of a sustainable commercial agriculture sector: (Department of Agriculture and Livestock, and Department of National Planning and Monitoring) through improvements in guidelines and regulations for sustainable production of commercial products.
- Strengthened food security and increased productivity of family agriculture: (Department of Agriculture and Livestock, and Fresh Produce Development Agency) through strengthening and expansion of extension services and support to rural communities.

**Component 2: REDD+ Coordination and Reporting.** This component is essential for establishing the institutional and technical elements needed to effectively measure, report, and communicate information to the UNFCCC. By doing so, it facilitates access to and management of results-based payments. The structure is built around the four core elements of REDD+: coordination of the National REDD+ Strategy, the FRL, the NFMS, and the SIS.

PNG's NRS provides a number of guiding statements for how the delivery of REDD+ results should be achieved as well as identifying a framework for activities across sectors and actions to support coordination of activities and to monitor and report on results. These are summarized below:

- support a transformational change in the way that the country approaches economic and land use development to enable PNG to achieve a low emission, green development pathway;
- support sector agencies, communities and landholders to take actions in line with the policies and measures described within the strategy through support based on non- carbon indicators of improved forest management;
- be in line with the guidance of the UNFCCC;
- initially focus on reporting emissions and removals related to three of the five REDD+ activities, namely; (1) reducing emissions from deforestation, (2) reducing emissions from forest degradation and (3) the enhancement of forest carbon stocks; and
- require any projects targeting the voluntary carbon market to follow guidelines linked to the national REDD+ development process and UNFCCC guidance.

These actions are also included within PNG's enhanced NDC submitted in December 2020 to the UNFCCC. The NRS recognizes REDD+ as a means for implementation of its NDC where it states that *"the NDC was submitted to the UNFCCC as an indication of PNG's commitment under the Paris Agreement 2016. These lay out a set of actions for addressing GHG emissions across sectors but do not include specific actions within the forest and land use sector, only acknowledging its importance in PNG and the need to develop both accurate estimates of emissions and potential actions."*

**PNG's REDD+ RBP Project** will support the National and targeted Provincial Governments of PNG to implement the National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2027. This will be achieved through specific actions targeting low emission development activities that provide long term sustainable livelihoods for communities, as well as establishment of the coordination, monitoring, reporting and management systems required to ensure transparency of results delivered and the effective management of resources received. The project will contribute to the achievement of the NRS's overall objectives and the country's NDC. The details of the specific actions proposed under these two components are elaborated in Part 2 of this document.

## 1.2 Brief Overview of the Proposed REDD+ Project

The current REDD+ RBP Project was developed based on PNG's National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) which provides the basis for the project's proposed actions, interventions and measures. By providing positive incentives for reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, the REDD+ project aims to address specific actions targeting low emission development activities that will also provide

long term sustainable livelihoods for communities, as well as the establishment of the coordination, monitoring, reporting and management systems required to ensure transparency of results delivered and the effective management of resources received.

The REDD+ RBP Project is structured in the following way (Every output outlined will be implemented over the course of the six-year project):

Component	Outputs	Indicative activities
1.- Increased institutional coordination capacities of national and provincial governments in PNG and in the targeted provinces	1.1 Establish the NSLUP framework for the national and provincial governments	I. Integrate and/or coordinate existing governance systems
		II. Updating of forest policy to consolidate amendments and incorporation of legality standards
		III. Regulation of Small-Scale Timber Operations.
		IV. Development or update of spatially explicit subnational development plans
	1.2 Enhance and strengthen environmental management, protection, and land use regulations for forest authorities and local stakeholders.	I. Application of environmental safeguards at the national and subnational levels
		II. Implement forest management and enforcement practices
		III. Application of PNG's Timber Legality
		IV. Awareness and Training Programs customary landowning groups, private sector and provincial governments, including for environmental monitoring
	1.3 Improve coordination and reporting on the implementation of the NRS, NDC and GHG for the CCAD	I. Fulfilling and enhancing readiness elements such as the FREL/FRL and the NFMS
		II. Benefit-sharing plan development
		III. Establish and Strengthen a Safeguard Information System
		IV. Develop a National Land Use Information System linked with those for PNGFA, CEPA, and agriculture to help provide a clear portal for how land is being utilized

2.- Enhanced economic productivity and sustainable livelihoods of small holders and customary landowning groups in the targeted provinces	2.1 Strengthen Forest landscapes management technical and financial capacities for customary landowning groups	I. Identification of priority livelihoods alternatives
		II. Provide administrative, financial and technical training to the ILG
		III. Create cooperative-managed financial mechanisms
		IV. Tailored technical support to smallholders and customary landowning groups on their production systems / alternative livelihoods
	2.2 Enhance sustainable livelihoods and green economic productivity for customary landowning groups	I. Establishment of Conservation agreements ensuring that sacred sites are effectively protected
		II. Cooperative-managed financial mechanisms
		III. Support to implementation of sustainable agriculture value chain
	3.- Project Management	3.1. Project Management
II. Mid-Term Evaluation		
III. Final Evaluation		

*Benefit Sharing Distribution Guidelines*

Following the BSD guidelines the proceeds will be shared according to the following criteria:

Government 40%	National Government: 20% Provincial Government: 5% District Government: 5% LLG and Wards: 10%
Communities 60%	ILGs, LO Companies or Associations, Groups, Community Trusts

*Selection of Targeting Provinces*

Due to the limitation of the funds, the project will focus the implementation of direct actions on six targeted provinces<sup>1</sup>: West Sepik, East Sepik, Western, Hela, Chimbu and West New Britain. The provinces targeted were selected under a prioritization process which identifies a set of variables to balance principles of effectiveness and equity among all the provinces:

- Rewarding provinces with high performance in reducing emissions (REDD+ Results).
- Recognizing values of forest beyond carbon, based on forest landscape integrity index, a continuous index of forest condition as determined by the degree of anthropogenic modification.
- Considering provinces that may have higher risk of deforestation and forest degradation because of anthropogenic pressure, based on the population density.

To calculate the average ranking for province prioritization different weights were allocated as follows:  
 $Average\ Ranking = (0.6 \times R_{(ERs)}) + (0.2 \times R_{(FLII)}) + (0.2 \times R_{(PD)})$

Where:

- *Average Ranking* are the final ranking prioritizing provinces
- $R_{(ERs)}$  is the ranking corresponding to the Emission Reduction achieved by province
- $R_{(FLII)}$  is the ranking corresponding to the Forest Landscape Integrity Index
- $R_{(PD)}$  is the ranking associate to the Population Density

The targeted provinces cover an area of 214.62 km<sup>2</sup> (46.5% of the country's total area), emissions reduction in the provinces during the period 2014-2016 were 29.1 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>. The combined estimated population in 2021 is 3.1 million people (26% of PNG population).

Following the estimations of the "Papua New Guinea REDD+ Finance and Investment Prospectus (RFIP 2020)", the investment required to protect PNG's native forests is about US\$100 million per year, for the next 10 years. Therefore, the Government is seeking other opportunities to access RBF (e.g. LEAF Coalition).

### 1.3 Means to ensure the compliance of environmental and social safeguards

The project is equipped with the following tools to ensure respect of environmental and social safeguards:

- The Environmental, Social and Management Framework (ESMF): ESMF contains measures and plans to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse risks and impacts. This ESMF ensures that the sub-project/activities are screened and assessed and that appropriate management measures are in place prior to implementation. This ESMF is aligned with GCF and FAO environmental and social safeguards standards and policies and with relevant guiding principles including Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) where applicable. **Please identify in the table in Annex I potential adverse impacts that may arise from the implementation of the indicative activities.**

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<sup>1</sup> The final number of provinces will be defined once the country get the assessment of the scorecard from the GCF, thus the amount of eligible results and the amount of payments. PNG has submitted close to 17 million of tCO<sub>2</sub> eq for the results period 2014-2016.

- The Gender Action Plan (GAP): The GAP included in table 3 below, seeks to address existing gender barriers and gaps by proposing gender-responsive actions to be taken during the Project's execution. The GAP also proposes indicators to measure and track progress on those gender actions/measures. This will allow for monitoring the extent to which gender outcomes are being achieved during the project implementation and enable adjustments where necessary. **Please provide your views and relevance of the indicators on the GAP in Annex II**
- The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM): The GRM of the RBP Program will allow those that have a complaint or that feel aggrieved by the project to be able to communicate their concern, complaints and/or grievances through a transparent and fair process. The Complaints Register and GRM set out in this RPB Project will provide an accessible, rapid, fair and effective response to concerned stakeholders, especially to vulnerable groups who often lack access to formal legal channels. While acknowledging that many complaints may be resolved promptly, the GRM outlined in this ESMF promotes the mutually acceptable resolution of issues as they arise. **Please provide comments on the GRM included in the Annex III.**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicative activities</b>	<b>Potential Adverse Impacts</b>
1.- Increased institutional coordination capacities of national and provincial governments in PNG and in the targeted provinces	1.1 Establish the NSLUP framework for the national and provincial governments	Integrate and/or coordinate existing governance systems	
		Updating of forest policy to consolidate amendments and incorporation of legality standards	
		Regulation of Small-Scale Timber Operations.	
		Development or update of spatially explicit subnational development plans	
	1.2 Enhance and strengthen environmental management, protection, and land use regulations for forest authorities and local stakeholders.	Application of environmental safeguards at the national and subnational levels	
		Implement forest management and enforcement practices	
		Application of PNG's Timber Legality	
		Awareness and Training Programs customary landowning groups, private sector and provincial governments, including for environmental monitoring	
	1.3 Improve coordination and reporting on the implementation of the NRS, NDC	Fulfilling and enhancing readiness elements such as the FREL/FRL and the NFMS	
		Benefit-sharing plan development	
		Establish and Strengthen a Safeguard Information System	

	and GHG for the CCAD	Develop a National Land Use Information System linked with those for PNGFA, CEPA, and agriculture to help provide a clear portal for how land is being utilized	
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<b>Component</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicative activities</b>	<b>Potential Adverse Impacts</b>
2.- Enhanced economic productivity and sustainable livelihoods of small holders and customary landowning groups in the targeted provinces	2.1 Strengthen Forest landscapes management technical and financial capacities for customary landowning groups	Identification of priority livelihoods alternatives	
		Provide administrative, financial and technical training to the ILG	
		Create cooperative-managed financial mechanisms	
		Tailored technical support to smallholders and customary landowning groups on their production systems / alternative livelihoods	
	1.2 Enhance and strengthen environmental management, protection, and land use regulations	Establishment of Conservation agreements ensuring that sacred sites are effectively protected	
		Cooperative-managed financial mechanisms	
		Support to implementation of	

	for forest authorities and local stakeholders.	sustainable agriculture value chain	
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Annex II - Validation Gender Action Plan (GAP)

<b>A. Fair and equal participation by all stakeholders affected by the RBP project</b>				
<b>Specific Objectives:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To ensure equal gender participation in capacity building efforts</i></li> <li>• <i>To ensure that consultations are conducted through culturally appropriate, gender-sensitive mechanisms</i></li> <li>• <i>To ensure that training and capacity-building efforts are delivered in a gender-responsive way</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Gender responsive Actions</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Link to RBP proposal</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Mainstream gender into the design and implementation of all awareness raising, consultative, and capacity-building activities	# of planning/methodological documents integrating gender aspects into the design of events/activities	Outputs 1.2, 2.1, 2.2	Y1-Y6	Gender Specialist
Promote equal representation and engagement of men/women in participatory events/activities.	Male-female ratio in events' participation # of women's groups represented	Outputs 1.2, 2.1, 2.2	Y1-Y6	All project staff
Take affirmative measures to solicit and promote the perspectives of women in stakeholder engagement processes and participatory activities	Record of male/female interventions during events	Outputs 1.2, 2.1, 2.2	Y1-Y6	All project staff
Deliver gender-responsive, culturally appropriate and accessible training and capacity-building materials, considering the gender digital gap and differing	# of training materials integrating gender aspects and adapted	Outputs 1.2, 2.1, 2.2	Y1-Y6	Output leaders and Gender specialist

access rates of youth and remote communities to information and digital systems.				
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## B. Strengthened capacities and benefits for women and vulnerable groups in forest landscape management and sustainable livelihoods

### Specific Objectives:

- *To ensure that people in PNG, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from equitable and participatory access to opportunities/services that improve livelihoods and protect natural resources.*
- *To ensure equal gender participation in technical and financial capacity building efforts*

Gender responsive Actions	Indicator	Link to RBP proposal	Timeline	Responsibility
Build financial and technical capacity of women, and youth from customary landowning groups on local production systems / alternative livelihoods	# of women received training # of young people received training	Outputs 2.1, 2.2	Y1-Y3	Output leaders and Gender specialist
Consider gender-specific forest needs in the definition of production systems, sustainable livelihoods, and sustainable agriculture value chains	# of economic opportunities integrating gender-specific needs	Outputs 2.1, 2.2	Y3-Y6	Gender specialist
Generate benefits for women and other relevant vulnerable groups through inclusive economic opportunities and productive mechanisms.	# of women engaged in production systems, financial mechanisms, productive schemes, etc. # of people (marginalized, vulnerable) engaged in production systems, financial	Outputs 2.1, 2.2	Y3-Y6	Output leaders and Gender specialist

	mechanisms, productive schemes, etc.			
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### C. Gender considerations integrated into planning & information systems

#### Specific Objectives:

- To ensure that gender-specific needs are considered in planning systems.
- To ensure that gender-related data and information is generated and accessible in information systems

Gender responsive Actions	Indicator	Link to RBP proposal	Timeline	Responsibility
Mainstream gender into the design of land use and development planning instruments at national and sub-national levels, as relevant.	# of land use plans integrating gender considerations # of development plans integrating gender considerations	Outputs 1.1.,	Y2-Y6	Output leaders and Gender specialist
Mainstream gender into the design of information and reporting systems such as the Benefit-Sharing Plan, Land Use Information System, Safeguards Information System, as relevant.	# of information systems integrating gender considerations	Outputs 1.3	Y1-Y5	Output leaders and Gender specialist
Provide women, and other vulnerable people with the appropriate training and information to facilitate the use and access to planning instruments and information systems	# women, young and other vulnerable people received training to use/access planning instruments and information systems	Outputs 1.1, 1.3	Y1-Y6	Output leaders and Gender specialist
Generate sex-disaggregated data and/or gender specific data/information through key	# of information systems generating sex-disaggregated and/or gender-specific data and information	Outputs 1.3	Y1-Y5	Output leaders

information management systems, as possible.				
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## Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The project considers mechanisms through which affected parties can raise concerns, grievances, feedback in an efficient, unbiased, transparent, timely and cost-effective manner. A grievance redress mechanism has been included in this ESMF and it is described as follows.

### **Project level mechanisms for grievance and conflict resolution**

The RBP Program will allow those that have a complaint or that feel aggrieved by the project to be able to communicate their concern, complaints and/or grievances through a transparent and fair process. The Complaints Register and Grievance Redress Mechanism set out in this ESMF are to be used as part of the RBP Project and will provide an accessible, rapid, fair and effective response to concerned stakeholders, especially to vulnerable groups who often lack access to formal legal channels. While acknowledging that many complaints may be resolved promptly, the Grievance Redress Mechanism outlined in this ESMF promotes the mutually acceptable resolution of issues as they arise. The Grievance Redress Mechanism set out in this ESMF has been designed to:

- Be a legitimate process that allows for trust to be built between stakeholder groups and assures stakeholders that their concerns will be assessed in a fair and transparent manner.
- Allow simple and streamlined access to the Complaints Register and Grievance Redress Mechanism for all stakeholders and provide adequate assistance for those that may have faced barriers in the past to be able to raise their concerns.
- Provide clear and known procedures for each stage of the Grievance Redress Mechanism process, and provides clarity on the types of outcomes available to individuals and groups.
- Ensure equitable treatment to all concerned and aggrieved individuals and groups through a consistent, formal approach that, is fair, informed and respectful to a concern, complaints and/or grievances.
- To provide a transparent approach by keeping any aggrieved individual/group informed of the progress of their complaint, the information that was used when assessing their complaint and information about the mechanisms that will be used to address it.
- Enable continuous learning and improvements to the Grievance Redress Mechanism. Through continued assessment, the findings may reduce potential complaints and grievances.

The GRM will be gender- and age-inclusive and responsive and address potential access barriers to women, the elderly, the disabled, youth and other potentially marginalized groups as appropriate to the RBP Program. The GRM shall not impede access to judicial or administrative remedies as may be relevant or applicable and will be readily accessible to all stakeholders at no cost and without retribution. Information about the Grievance Redress Mechanism and how to make a complaint and/or grievance must be communicated during the stakeholder engagement process and placed at prominent places for the information of the key stakeholders.

The broad eligibility criteria for the Grievance Redress Mechanism include:

- Actual or potential adverse economic, social or environmental impact on an individual and/or group of individuals.
- Clearly specified kind of impact that has occurred or has the potential to occur; and explanation of how the program caused or may cause such impact.

- Demonstration that the individual and/or group filing a complaint and/or grievance has authority or sufficient interest in the actual or perceived impact.
- The actual or potential impact has or will disrupt the exercise of any present or future right/authority/interest.

There may also be options available for other parties at the subnational and national level to also raise complaints, but only if they are directly responsible for assisting the customary/traditional landowners or local beneficiaries in the implementation of project activities in the pilot sites that will be defined, especially where it requires their explicit collaboration. This means that the following specific types of entities are able to raise complaints/grievances under the GRM:

- Customary landowners within the pilot sites to be defined
- Locally impacted communities in the pilot sites to be defined
- Local and provincial government authorities from the pilot areas to be defined
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs, NGOs, CBOs) collaborating on the implementation of the project activities in the pilot sites to be defined
- Key REDD+ sector agencies (subnational level government authorities) collaborating on the implementation of the program activities in the pilot sites to be defined
- Private sector/Industry collaborating on the implementation of the of the program activities within the designated pilot sites to be defined

This broad list above is subject to the criteria of 'collaboration' between the key beneficiaries and the supporting/implementing entities mentioned. This to ensure that there is an avenue for grievances arising from the implementation of the RBP Project to be adequately addressed and resolved, where possible, so that it limits the amount of disruptions that are likely to arise. In addition to this, it also ensures that traditional/customary communities, who often have high rates of illiteracy, are readily able to access avenues of justice via these key agencies, where possible. There are already clear frameworks in place to govern this process within the GRM guidelines. All affected local communities should be informed about the ESMF provisions, as well as those refined in the ESMP, including its grievance mechanism and how to make a complaint.

The GRM will be revised and updated in the ESMP, following recommendations of the ESA. Specifically, frameworks and protocols for linking and aligning project-level GRM with existing subnational, national-level and sector-specific systems - which have their own legal or internal administrative divisions/offices that are able to handle REDD+ related matters (excluding those of a specific technical nature, which will need to be referred to the GRM Technical committee). The REDD+ GRM Guidelines also elaborate further on options for leveraging the existing channels at all levels and ensures this process is clear and accessible to all stakeholders.

The proposed REDD+ GRM also identifies the need for a specific internal GRM unit to be housed within the CCDA which will have key links/networks with the key REDD+ sector focal points at all levels. This GRM unit will report directly to the CCDA Board or other interim entity (such as the REDD+ TWC or project management unit) on a periodic basis or as required for special cases.