

REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

Please complete each section below.

1. Contact Details

Please provide the following contact details:

<i>Name of individual or group submitting initiative</i>	PACIFIC ISLANDS RAINFOREST FOUNDATION
<i>Name and position of primary contact</i>	PHILIP GERLACH CHAIRMAN AND ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
<i>Email address</i>	tahilapasifika@connect.com.fj
<i>Alternate email address</i>	phil@tahilagroup.com
<i>Phone number</i>	+679 - 9923462
<i>Fax number</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mailing address</i>	P.O. Box 4781 Samabula Suva Fiji

2. Name of Initiative

Pacific Rainforests Status and Biodiversity Audit

3. Background and Rationale

You may consider: What is the issue being addressed by this initiative? What are the causes of this issue? Are there relevant studies that have been carried out to support the issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

Our aim is to create a complete and accurate picture of the state and status of Pacific Island rainforests by undertaking the first ever comprehensive endemic species audit. The aim of Program 003 is to produce a qualitative and quantitative audit of the state of rainforests across the Pacific Islands. Although there has been a range of reports produced that are specific to regions or areas over recent years many of these are now 'out of date' and their relevance questionable. No assessment of the state of rainforests in the Pacific Islands has been undertaken and no audit of the impact of uncontrolled logging has been commissioned. There has been no major audit of the Pacific's forestry and agroforestry with a demonstrated ability to sequester carbon dioxide and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Audit Scope

The scope of the audit would not, however, include assessment of REDD+ performance indicators

related to measurement of de-forestation or degradation or the determination of the greenhouse gas emissions avoided as these would be the subject of separate audit processes being conducted by other consulting firms contracted through the PIRF at a later stage.

Verification Indicator

4. Description

Please provide a brief overview of this initiative. Try to address the following: Does this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region? What makes this initiative of importance to the Pacific region as a whole? Who would implement this initiative? Who are the main beneficiaries? Are regulatory or legislative changes required at the national level to implement this initiative? How would the initiative be funded? Has this initiative been carried out previously? What are the key risks in implementing this initiative? Are there any complementary projects and programmes currently active? What is the proposed timeframe for this initiative? How would the initiative be sustained over the proposed timeframe?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

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5. Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives

Briefly describe how your initiative supports the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. These can be found in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism document or in the submissions guideline document.

Please limit your response to no more than 500 words

The verification audit would be carried out to allow for an open and transparent process that would seek to ensure the ability of stakeholders to provide comments to the verification team freely and in confidence if they wished, which Governments cannot achieve.

- 1: Transparent and effective multi-stakeholder consultations continue and evolve.
- 2: Participation of all affected and interested stakeholders at all stages of the REDD+/LCDS process.
- 3: Protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- 4: Transparent and accountable oversight and governance of the financial support.
- 5: Initial structure for the Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM).
- 6: Continuing development of a national inter-sectoral system for co-ordinated land use.
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- 8: Continuing stakeholder consultation on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).
- 9: Measures by the Government to work with forest dependent sectors to agree on specific measures to reduce forest degradation.
- 10: Mapping of priority areas for biodiversity in the Pacific

6. Additional Information

Please provide or attach additional information in support of this initiative.

Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages.

Study Areas

South East Asia and Pacific Islands have 25 percent of the world's tropical rainforests; The Pacific includes the significant rainforests of PNG, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands; Cook Islands' tropical moist forests; Fiji's tropical dry forests; Fiji's tropical moist forests; Tuamotu's tropical moist forests; Tonga's tropical moist forests; Society Islands' tropical moist forests; Samoa's tropical moist forests; Marquesa's tropical moist forests; Tahiti and Moorea and Tubuai tropical moist forests. The South Pacific islands of Fiji and Samoa were once clothed in tropical moist and dry forests, including rainforests on the higher islands. Forests' relative isolation, large size and complex topography and unusual biogeographic history have all contributed to the archipelagos' highly endemic biota. Over half of the vascular plant species are endemic with many single-island and single-site endemics.

Audit Schedule and Methodology

- Base line research - desk top including past regional reports and mapping using GPS and other support techniques.
 - Field assessments - site visitations and relevant party consultations.
 - Stakeholder consultations.
 - Final assessment.
 - Report drafting, peer review and publication of findings.
- his program would be undertaken through a MOU with FNU.