A New Zealand Perspective on Forest Financing

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New Zealand is a relatively minor donor on the international scale.

Our views and experience in forest financing is focused on our Pacific region.

New Zealand provides funding for economic development projects in the Pacific region. Forests and forestry play an indirect but key role.

Experience has shown us we need sound process to manage and monitor the limited funds we have available.

Past New Zealand funding of forestry projects in the Pacific focused on creating production forests.

Demands and expectations have changed there are complex challenges for forests and forestry in the Pacific region.
Figure 2.1: Forest cover in the Pacific 2000

Source: FAO forest mapping 2010
Proportions of total forest and tree cover in the PICs by country (GFRA 2010, FAO)
Gaps, Needs and Opportunities in Forest Financing at the National Level

Forest extent and scale/ focus of management across the different nations is highly varied

Typically small communities with forests often have communal owned lands

Some challenges-

• Lack of capacity to develop and enact forest-related policy and governance,

• Multiple demands (agriculture) from lands

• Poor or lacking forest-related data and information
Gaps, Needs and Opportunities in Forest Financing at the National Level

To achieve improved sustainable forest management.

Needs include:

• Effective leadership to encourage partnership, trust and coordination

• Diversifying into high value products and value-adding

• Development and promotion of improved agro-forestry production systems

• Effective land owner and community participation, and

• On-going education, and training in a variety of technical and policy areas
Gaps, Needs and Opportunities in Forest Financing at the National Level

Opportunities:

A range of funding sources such as the GEF and GIZ provide assistance to Pacific countries

Regional organisations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) can assist with working across countries

Potential funding across a broad range of forest-related activities through:

• Aligning the training and data/information work funded under REDD-readiness with the similar requirements under SFM

• Exploring new crops and products from forest and tree resources

• Exploring how other forest-related activities such as invasive species management, soil conservation, eco-tourism and other potential forest-related topics can be drawn into the SFM work