

# **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

## **COUNTRY PRESENTATION ON**

**Challenges and Opportunities related to Forest  
Biodiversity and Climate Change (including  
biodiversity-related aspects of pilot and  
demonstration activities on REDD+)**

**HORTPARK**

**15 – 18 MARCH 2011**

**SINGAPORE**

**i. Overview of Forest Cover of Solomon Islands**

**ii. Challenges to Forest Biodiversity**

**iii. Opportunities for Forest Biodiversity  
Conservation**

**iv. Status of & Implications for REDD+ and  
Climate Change**

## **i. Overview of forest biodiversity**

- **Vegetation cover for Solomon Islands stands at 2 million hectares**
- **The assessment includes non-commercial forest and cleared areas, unlogged commercial natural forest, logged over commercial natural forests and plantations**
- **Solomon Islands rainforest ecoregion is included in the Global 200 list and ranked in the highest category of Globally Outstanding.**
- **Solomon Islands forests vegetation is recognized as one of the world's great Centres of Plant Diversity**
- **This is a reflection of the significance of the biodiversity of the country**
- **Major vegetation types identified in Solomon Islands are coastal strand vegetation, riverine**

**forests, lowland forest, montane forest and non-forest communities**

**ii. Challenges to forest biodiversity**

- **Major threats to biodiversity are:**
  - **Logging**
    - **288, 200 hectares have already been logged**
    - **Total commercial forest is expected to be exhausted by 2015 due to increased log production**
  - **Inappropriate land use practices (commercial plantations, etc)**
    - **Plantation cash cropping for coconut, cocoa, oil palm**
    - **Plantation forestry**

- **Over exploitation of natural resources**
  - **Forest degradation**
- **Loss of forest biodiversity is compounded by natural disasters, population increase, invasive species and climate change**
- **Major constraints to addressing the threats are lack of financial support, insufficient capacity, conflicts generated by land tenure system, insufficient and weak legislation and political instability**

### **iii. Opportunities for Forest Biodiversity Conservation**

- **Mainstreaming of policies and legislation,**
- **Ecosystem based approach to natural resource management,**
- **Species conservation,**
- **Protected areas system,**
- **Human resources and capacity building,**
- **Financial resources**

**iv. Status of and Implications for REDD+ and climate change**

- **Solomon Islands is among UNFCCC Parties being selected for REDD+ readiness program**
- **Presently the program is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology**
- **Institutional arrangements or supportive institutions for REDD+ implementation yet to be finalized**
- **REDD+ could benefit from the Ecological Gap Analyses conducted for Solomon Islands as part of CBD's Program of Work on Protected Areas in developing environmental safeguards**

- **REDD+ could benefit from newly enacted Protected Areas Act 2010 in terms of biodiversity conservation**
- **REDD+ requires mainstreaming of policies across relevant sectors for it to be successful**