REDD-Plus

What is REDD+?

REDD+ is an effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (17.4% in 2004) and increase carbon sequestration in the forestry sector. **REDD+** stands for **R**educing **E**mission from **D**eforestation and forest **D**egradation, **(+)** conservation, sustainable management of forests and carbon stock enhancement.

The UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Conference of the Parties (COP16, Cancun 2010) decision encourages developing Country parties to contribute to reducing GHG emissions in the forest sector by undertaking **REDD+** activities.

REDD+ involves 5 main activity types:

1. **Reducing emissions from deforestation**
   Deforestation is the complete conversion of forest to other land use. For example when forests are completely cleared for agriculture.

2. **Reducing emissions from forest degradation**
   Forest degradation is the long-term reduction of the overall potential supply of benefits from the forest, which include carbon, wood, biodiversity and other goods and services (FAO). For example poor logging practices leave behind degraded forests.

3. **Forest conservation**
   Conserving forests that are under threat from being removed or degraded.

4. **Sustainable management of forests**
   Managing forests better to maintain its ecosystem services (including carbon storage). This includes applying logging practices that do less damage (reduced impact logging) to the forest as compared to destructive conventional logging methods.

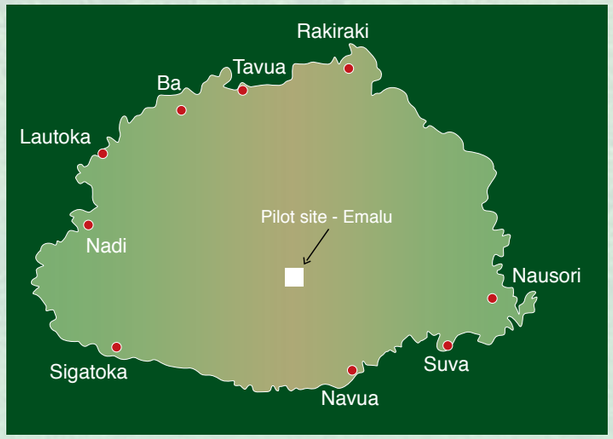
5. **Carbon stock enhancement**
   Enhancing carbon stock by restoring degraded forest areas. An example is putting in more trees in a forest of poor tree stocking. Wherever possible, restoration should take into account the natural forest structure.

The **REDD+** mechanism provides financial incentives for developing countries to implement the above activities instead of "business-as-usual" practices that lead to forest removal and/or degradation.

REDD+ in Fiji

The Fiji REDD+ programme is the action taken by government and stakeholders to guide Fiji through the REDD-readiness phase and to successfully access carbon financing mechanisms. These efforts recognise global efforts in reducing GHGs.

Fiji National REDD+ Pilot site



The land belonging to the Mataqali Emalu of Yavusa Emalu in the Province of Navosa is the pilot site for the Fiji National REDD+ programme.
Pilot site area: 7,347 hectares

For more information contact:
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SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Forests, Climate Change & REDD-Plus

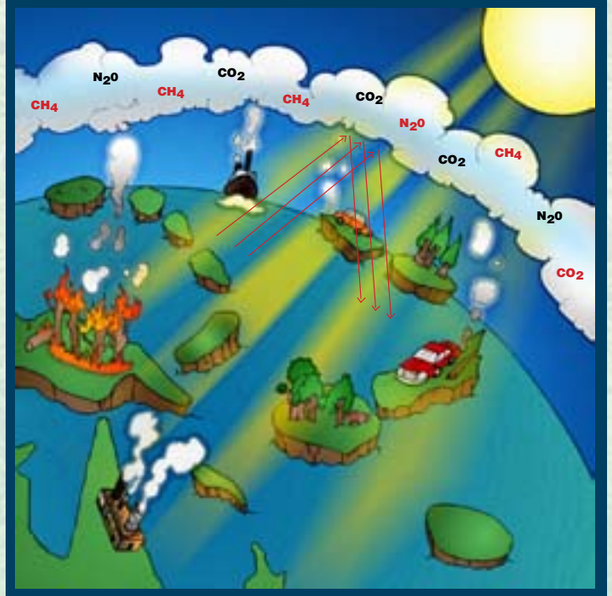
Forests and Climate Change

What is Climate Change?

Climate change is caused directly or indirectly by human activity that changes the composition of the global atmosphere and is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

What causes climate change?

More greenhouse gases are accumulating in the atmosphere due to human activities



Main greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere:
Carbon dioxide (CO_2) – emitted from the burning of fossil fuels (like petrol, diesel, oil) and from removal of forest and vegetation cover.

Nitrous oxide (N_2O) – from synthetic fertilizers, industrial waste and burning fossil fuels.

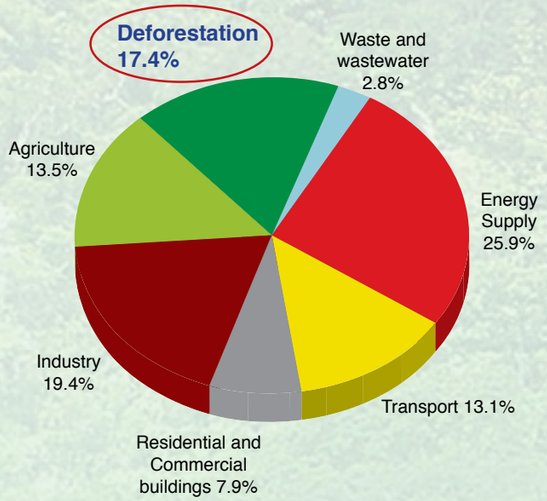
Methane (CH_4) – emitted by ruminant animals (like cattle, sheep, goats), during extraction of fossil fuels, from decaying organic matter (swamps) and waste (rubbish dumps).

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) trap heat in the atmosphere. These gases keep the Earth at a temperature that allows life to thrive on our planet.

However, human activities are emitting more GHGs into the atmosphere. As these gases accumulate in the atmosphere, they trap more heat that increase the earths temperature. This contributes to global warming which brings about changes in our climate.

Forests role in Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calculated that the forestry sector contributes to 17.4% of total anthropogenic (manmade) greenhouse gas emissions in 2004. Most of the 17.4% comes from the removal of forests.



Share of different sectors in total anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2004 in terms of CO_2 equivalent (source: IPCC 4th Assessment Report)

Forests as a carbon sink

Forests mitigate climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Trees take in carbon dioxide to make their food and build new plant cells. This intake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere makes forests a carbon sink. The removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is also termed "carbon sequestration".

We can support the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by increasing forest areas, planting more trees, and by providing a healthy environment for trees to regenerate.

We can help increase carbon sequestration by:

1. **Agroforestry farming** growing crops amongst trees or planting trees with crops. Like planting yaqona and dalo together with trees and other tree crops.
2. **Reforesting** areas where forests have been recently cleared.
3. **Afforesting** areas which has been lying as degraded non-forest lands for a long time (like the talasiga lands).
4. **Planting** in suitable trees in degraded forest areas to restore the forest structure.

Forests as a carbon reservoir

Because plants use carbon dioxide to build their plant cells, forests are like a big container of carbon. Carbon is stored in all parts of a tree, in the plants growing on the forest floor, in organic matter lying on the ground and in the soil.

This carbon storing capacity of forests make it a carbon reservoir or carbon pool.

Forests as a carbon source

The removal of forests will release vast amounts of carbon into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. This makes forests a potentially large carbon source.

We can help **reduce the release of carbon dioxide emitted to the atmosphere by:**

1. Preventing the conversion of forestland to other land use types (like completely clearing a forest area for agriculture).
2. By reducing the degradation and destructive utilisation of our forests (e.g. practice less destructive logging practices).
3. By setting aside valuable forests areas for conservation.