



The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project Project Progress Report

Reporting Period **From:** 1st January / 2016 **To:** 30th June / 2016

1. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

National Project Code & Title:	"Towards better management and appreciation of dugongs and seagrass habitats in Solomon Islands" (SB 4 – 2125)		
	"Implementing National Awareness, Management and Recommending Policies for Dugongs and Seagrass Conservation in the Solomon Islands" (SB2)		
Project Partner(s):	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP)		
Location (country, region/ district and commune/ city/ village/ region etc.)	Solomon Islands		
Of which areas under protection (please indicate the name and size of protected areas or locally managed marine areas, if applicable)	N/A		
Project start date	15 th July 2015	Project intended completion date	31 st September 2018

2. PROJECT PROGRESS

2.1. Narrative of project progress during the past semester by Project Activity¹

MARCH 2016: Project Coordinator Employed and SICCP's Seagrass & Dugong Project Team Assembled.

A key requirement of the SeaGong Project was fulfilled when the Project Co-ordinator (Corzzierrah Posala) was recruited in March. The Project Co-ordinator is based in Honiara where his primary roles are to provide overall organization, management and reporting on project activities. The Project Co-ordinator together with SICCP's Marine Scientist (Alec Hughes) and an Australian Volunteer International (AVI), volunteer (Steve Dutton) who is currently attached with SICCP, form the core of SICCP's SeaGong team with the latter two based out of SICCP's Munda Office. Working closely with Project Coordinator, the Marine Scientist's role with the SeaGong project is to provide guidance and technical assistance to partner community-based organisations in Western Province to ensure that the field activities outlined in the SB4 component can be implemented successfully.

SB4_Output 1.1_Activity 1.1.1

APRIL 2016: West Parara Seagrass Survey and Training (Identification of Seagrass Species).

A five-member field team comprised of SICCP, Roviana Conservation Foundation (RCF) and Tetepare Descendants Association (TDA) staff undertook an introductory and scoping trip to West Parara Island in April. While at West Parara, the team conducted Seagrass Watch training with representatives from communities residing along the north-western coastline of Parara. This was the first community-focussed training delivered by SICCP through the SeaGong project. Due to community commitments by other members the training was delivered to a mostly female group. During the 3-day field trip, survey sites were established and a tentative plan put in place for these sites to be surveyed twice a year by the team of trained volunteers. During this exercise eight (8) different seagrass species were identified.

While conducting the training, SICCP staff became aware of the presence of dugongs and seagrass in neighbouring Rarumana. Therefore, a scoping visit was undertaken to meet with community elders at Rarumana to see if they would be interested in partaking in the SeaGong project. The Rarumana lagoon has wide-spread seagrass beds and is home to several dugong. It was decided at this meeting that SICCP and RCF should return in July and discuss the project with the broader community of Rarumana.

¹ Briefly describe progress made during the previous six months highlighting major outcomes/benchmarks achieved during the period.

SB4_Output 1.1_Activity 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3**MAY 2016: North Kolombangara Seagrass Survey Training (Identification of Seagrass Species) and LMMA consultation. Marovo scoping visit.**

During the month of May, an introductory trip was undertaken to the North of Kolombangara to survey seagrass sites and we conducted a seagrass identification training as done on West Parara. SICCP, TDA and KIBCA staff provided Seagrass Watch trainings. While on site, the team also facilitated discussions on the formation of a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) committee that would be in charge of plans to formalise the establishment of a LMMA that would include seagrass and other coastal habitats that are frequented by the resident turtle and dugong populations. A follow-up LMMA meeting has been proposed for August 2016. A scoping trip to the Marovo Lagoon was also carried out to identify potential seagrass sites at Chubikopu and Akara-Takuti Communities. During this scoping trip, questions regarding the importance of seagrass meadows and the life history of dugongs were highlighted during the village discussions.

SB2_Output 2.2_Activity 2.2.4, 2.2.5, Output 3.3_Activity 3.3.1, 3.3.1**JUNE 2016: World Environment Day in Honiara - School Awareness in Munda and Community Awareness in Vavanga.**

In the month of June, SICCP produced and disseminated information on seagrass and dugongs as part of the World Environmental Day celebration event that was held in Honiara. In addition, SICCP through the project component SB2 provided an informative and lively awareness on the basic ecology and feeding habitats of dugongs through a public drama performed by recent graduates from the School of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands National University.

SICCP's Munda team and local CBO partners (RCF and TDA) in the activity delivered seagrass and dugong presentations in a high school at Munda. These were well received and school staff has requested that more environmental awareness sessions be organised for the next half of 2016. A further awareness session was also delivered to Vavanga Community (South Kolombangara) by SICCP staff. The two presentation generations (seagrass and dugong) generated quite a bit of interest and were followed by plenty of questions seeking to clarify aspects of the dugong life history, ecology and movement patterns. This visit was followed-up with a training session in Seagrass Watch monitoring that the Vavanga community plans to include as part of their coastal habitat monitoring program that they will be starting soon. While the Seagrass Watch training was being conducted with the womenfolk of Vavanga a REEF BLITZ activity was organised with primary school children who are currently on holidays. This involved taking out primary school children for a day on the reef flats (next to seagrass habitats), where a total of 37 different invertebrate species were identified.

Also in the month of June SICCP organized up-skilling training workshop for rangers affiliated within SICCP's network. This training helped rangers to understand fundamental essentials of being a ranger and provides basic training on skills useful to a ranger. Most of

the rangers who attended the training are from the sites allocated for seagrass and dugong conservation project sites.

2.2. Project implementation progress²

SB4

Outputs & Activities ³	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
SB4_Output 1.1 Governance structures for community involvement in conservation and monitoring of dugong and Seagrass ecosystems established or strengthened in target areas.			
Activity 1.1.1: Conduct introductory trip to communities at Kolombangara, Roviana, Tetepare/Rendova, Marovo and Vanikoro and hold awareness sessions and gauge perceptions on the management and conservation of seagrass & dugong through LMMAs.	July 2016	80%	Introductory trips to Marovo, Roviana and Kolombangara were successful in terms of awareness and local perception on conservation of seagrass meadows and setting up LMMA at the allocated sites. The intensity of awareness at each site differs according to the sites governance structures and understanding of conservation and associated activities.
Activity 1.1.2: In consultation with communities determine if any existing governance structures exist, types of fishing activities, importance of certain habitats (e.g. seagrass) to fishing activities, community concerns or hopes about their fisheries and what the community's management goal is.	October 2016	50%	No issues addressing this activity as most sites visited are aware of the importance of seagrass habitats.

² Information provided in “Quarterly Expenditure Report” should be in line with output/activity progress reported in this table.

³ Outputs and activities as described in the project proposal or in any updated project revision. Expand table as necessary.

Outputs & Activities ³	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
Activity 1.1.3: Where required, establish seagrass and dugong management committee to lead discussions (development) and implementing of dugong management plan.	July 2016	50%	In establishing the seagrass and dugong management committees further consultations to these communities are need to further clarify the objective and purposes of implementing the dugong management plans.
Activity 1.1.4: Hold at least three management planning workshop with respective partner communities to discuss the various approaches and tools available and how these can be used to help communities achieve their management goals.	March 2017	0%	N/A as activity will be conducted in the next three quarterly periods.
Activity 1.1.5: Development of LMMA management plan and implementation	December 2016	0%	N/A as activity will be conducted in the next half year period.
Activity 1.1.6: Assess whether or not management plan is working and adapt as necessary to improve effectiveness.	December 2017	0%	N/A as this activity will be conducted at the end of 2017
SB4_Output 1.2 Capacity developed for community-based stewardship (conservation and monitoring of dugongs & seagrass)			
Activity 1.2.1: Development of monitoring plans that supports the objectives of seagrass/dugong conservation within the LMMA plans	October 2016	0%	N/A as this activity will be conducted in the next half year.
Activity 1.2.2: Purchase of relevant survey equipment (e.g. Seagrass Watch	August 2016	75%	Purchasing of equipment was slow as equipment was acquired overseas (Australia) and purchasing was

Outputs & Activities ³	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
kits)			determined by disbursement of project funds.
Activity 1.2.3: Conduct training workshops with goal of establishing a pool of trained individuals within each CBO that capable of carrying out monitoring activities.	September 2016	25%	No problems faced as project team aims to conduct training in the next quarterly period. So far a female representative from Tetepare was involved in training a group of individuals from other sites.
Activity 1.2.4: Active monitoring program taking place at each project location.	March 2018	0%	This activity takes place over the later part of 2016, 2017-2018
Activity 1.2.5: Knowledge sharing & community feedback (awareness sessions).	June 2018	20%	N/A as activity is spread out over the project duration
SB4_Output 1.3 Integrated community management plans (conservation and monitoring of dugong and seagrass ecosystems) developed and piloted			
Activity 1.3.1: Review of the current Management Plan	January 2017	0%	N/A as activity is yet to be conducted
Activity 1.3.2: Consultation of the Integrated Community Management Plan Draft	October 2017	0%	N/A as activity is yet to be conducted
Activity 1.3.3: Develop and implementation of Integrated Community Management Plan	February 2018	0%	N/A as activity is yet to be conducted
SB4_Output 3.1 Critical knowledge gaps (dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) identified and surveys initiated/			

Outputs & Activities ³	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
completed			
Activity 3.1.1 Examine maps/satellite/aerial imagery of selected sites for potential seagrass and dugong conservation	September 2016	0%	N/A as activity will be conducted between July-September 2016.
Activity 3.1.2 Design survey including questionnaire to collate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) associated with seagrass and dugong threats and management.	July 2016	100%	N/A
Activity 3.1.3 Carry out LEK surveys within the SICCP network for at least 4 sites to identify knowledge/sites/status.	December 2016	0%	N/A as activity is proposed for August-November 2016
Activity 3.1.4 Conduct rapid ecological assessments at selected sites for seagrass meadows and dugongs existence and populations	July 2017	0%	N/A
Activity 3.1.5 Analyze data of surveyed area and provide recommendation for the selection of Locally Marine Managed Areas.	August 2017	0%	N/A
SB4_Output 3.3 Good practice guidelines for dugongs and seagrass ecosystems conservation developed from project experience			
Activity 3.2.1 Working with MECDM and Partners, collate and store datasets obtained from seagrass and dugong	October 2017	0%	N/A

Outputs & Activities ³	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
surveys.			
Activity 3.2.2 Working with National Partners, conduct a workshop to compile lessons learnt on awareness campaigns on seagrass and dugong information	April 2017	0%	N/A
Activity 3.2.3 Identify and develop a Guide on Good Practices Guidelines for Dugongs and Seagrass Ecosystems at the surveyed sites	January 2018	0%	N/A
Activity 3.2.4 Provide recommendations to developing a Dugong Management Plan for the Solomon Islands	March 2018	0%	N/A
Activity 3.2.5 Provide recommendations of seagrass and dugong conservation to the wider Solomon Islands audience through media avenues	July 2018	0%	N/A

SB2

Outputs & Activities ⁴	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
SB2_Output 2.2 Awareness raising and social marketing programs contributing to more sustainable practices (subsistence and small-scale artisanal fishers) in target areas			
Activity 2.2.1: Work with National Partners (TNC, WCS, WFC, WWF) to identify and compile existing documentation (bronchures, pamphlets, posters) promoting sustainable practices	December 2016	0%	N/A as activity will start in August.
Activity 2.2.2: Interview communities and analyze existing documentation to identify knowledge gaps in seagrass and dugong	December 2016	0%	Activity is yet to be conducted but documentation of knowledge on seagrass and dugong and seagrass.
Activity 2.2.3: Create and disseminate locally relevant educational and social marketing materials documenting of seagrass habitats and dugong within SICCP network and the wider Solomon Islands	i December 2016 ii November 2016 iii November 2016	100% 50% 0%	
Activity 2.2.4: Conduct social marketing campaigns on seagrass and dugong information at respective partner sites	November 2016	0%	N/A as activity is yet to be conducted
Activity 2.2.5: Working with Partners (TNC, WFC, WWF, WFC) conduct awareness talks through Drama & Puppet plays at selected schools	i October 2016 ii June 2017	30%	This activity will still continue

⁴ Outputs and activities as described in the project proposal or in any updated project revision. Expand table as necessary.

Outputs & Activities ⁴	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
proximity to study sites and in Honiara	iii May 2018		
Activity 2.2.6: Identify Community champions within the SICCP network and National Partners to be advocates of seagrass and dugong conservation	December 2016	0%	N/A as activity is scheduled for the second half of 2016.
Activity 2.2.7: Conduct Training of Trainers Workshop for these Community Champions on seagrass and dugong conservation	March 2017	0%	N/A
SB2_Output 3.3 Conservation relevant information and guidance (Dugong and Seagrass Ecosystems) developed and implemented			
Activity 3.3.1: Develop educational materials as per awareness campaign strategy	July 2018	25%	A quarter of this activity was conducted.
Activity 3.3.2: Utilize Awareness Materials at National Events such as World Environment Day, World Oceans Day, and Coral Triangle Day for public awareness. Incorporate school competition to coincide with public events	End of Project	On-going	N/A
SB2_Output 4.2 Advocacy Programs and Advocacy Capacity for improved conservation management of Dugongs			

Outputs & Activities ⁴	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
and their seagrass ecosystems developed and implemented			
Activity 4.2.1: Develop an awareness program for local tourism operations together with SIVB and SIRA through the SICCP Partnership Network and beyond	November 2017	0%	N/A as activity is yet to start.
SB2_Output 4.3 Capacity for national and regional networking and contribution to global policy for effective seagrass and dugong conservation in the Indian and Pacific Ocean Basins			
Activity 4.3.1 Identifying and collaborating with national and regional stakeholders	October 2016	0%	N/A
Activity 4.3.2 Conduct two meetings with national stakeholders and partners to review national policies on dugong and seagrass conservation	April 2017	0%	N/A
Activity 4.3.3 Assess national and regional policies for seagrass and dugong conservation	June 2017	0%	N/A
Activity 4.3.4 Provide recommendations to the national government on effective policies for seagrass and dugong conservation	October 2017	0%	N/A
Activity 4.3.5 Provide recommendations for policies to regional partners	January 2018	0%	N/A

2.3. Risk and risk management

Please describe internal and external risks (examples included in brackets) that could affect successful implementation of project activities and the proposed risk mitigation measures.

Risk group	Description	Risk level (Low/ Medium/ High)	Mitigation measures
Project Management (team capacity, internal communication, co-financing, budget, financial management, reporting, etc.)	1. Internal communication within SICCP network. 2. Budget and disbursement of project fund. Disbursements of project funds are allocated in a time period that could affect the implementation of some project activities.	1.Low 2.Medium	1. SICCP will provide a more constant dialogue within the network regarding the project and the associated activities. 2. Some activities will have to be shifted to a later time period to allow funds and finance to cater for activity cost.
Socio-cultural issues (external communications, capacity of and work with stakeholders, cultural aspects)	1.External communication with local partners and stakeholders 2.Capacity of communities	1.Medium 2.Low	1. SICCP will reassess the mode of communications with local partners and stakeholders so that timely output is achieved. 2. Continue with capacity building programs implemented by the Network.
Political risks (Political stability in country, political impacts on the project)	N/A		
Environmental risks (severe weather events/ disasters, natural causes negatively affecting project areas, habitats and species)	Weather events	Medium	Assess high risk project areas to extreme weather events and look for alternative sites. Schedule surveys within months outside of the cyclone season.
Other (please specify) Project Duration	Late implementation of project activities which could affect the project duration.	Medium	Some project activities on the current project schedule will have to be rescheduled to a later date next year. Most activities of SB4 are fitted into the second half of 2016 and will need to be reconsidered for the year 2017.

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.1. Please describe activities for monitoring and evaluation carried out during the reporting period.

Examples include: baseline data collection, stakeholder surveys, field surveys, steering committee meetings to assess project progress, peer review of documentation to ensure quality, mid-term review, etc.

Do not include routine project reporting.

Assessment of activities done so far within the months of April – July was used as an indicator to evaluate this report. Implementation of project activities started only in 2016 and consultation/scoping/introductory visits is underway in preparation for field surveys and LMMA committee establishment. The scheduled time-frame for activities was also considered in preparation of this document. Each activity conducted prior to this reporting period was evaluated for this report. Information collected from the introductory/scoping trips was also measured to assess the progress of the project during the reporting period.

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.1. Meetings⁵

Meeting type ⁶	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organised by	No. of participants	Report issued Y/N	Language	Dated
National	Seagrass and Dugong Project – National Facilitating Meeting	Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) (Honiara)	31 st March	Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) SICCP, WorldFish,	Ministry of Environment (MoE)	13	No	N/A	N/A
Training	Rangers Training Workshop	SIDT Building (Honiara)	10 th June	SICCP affiliated community based organizations	SICCP	17	No	N/A	N/A

⁵ Expand table as necessary

⁶ Meeting types: e.g. expert group meeting, project inception workshop, training workshop/seminar, partners consultation workshop, project Steering Committee meeting etc.

4.2. List(s) of meeting participants⁷

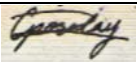

No.	Name of participant	Nationality
	<u>Seagrass and Dugong Project – National Facilitating Meeting</u>	
1	Agnetha Vave-Karamui (MECDM)	Solomon Islander
2	Rosalie Masu (MFMR)	Solomon Islander
3	Delvene Boso (WorldFish)	Solomon Islander
4	Senoveva Mauli (SICCP)	Solomon Islander
5	Lysa Wini-Simeon (IUCN/MECDM)	Solomon Islander
6	Duta Kauhiona (CI/MFMR)	Solomon Islander
7	Peter Kenilorea (MFMR)	Solomon Islander
8	Ezekiel Leghunao (MECDM/ECD)	Solomon Islander
9	Allan Tippet (TDA)	Solomon Islander
10	Alec Hughes (SICCP)	Solomon Islander
11	Berris Suruma (WorldFish)	Solomon Islander
12	Corzzierrah Posala (SICCP)	Solomon Islander
13	Chrisanto Daokalia (WorldFish),	Solomon Islander
	<u>Rangers Training Workshop</u>	
1	Francis Routanis	Solomon Islander
2	Dickson Motui	Solomon Islander
3	Reeves Zama	Solomon Islander
4	Colombus Taylor	Solomon Islander
5	Meloty Sasa	Solomon Islander
6	Laeneck Piziki	Solomon Islander
7	Ray Stalin	Solomon Islander
8	Alfred Homeless	Solomon Islander
9	Willie Muriani	Solomon Islander
10	Reuben Texas	Solomon Islander
11	Eddie Wanunua	Solomon Islander
12	Bartholomew Mae	Solomon Islander
13	Patrick Kekea	Solomon Islander

⁷ Expand table as necessary

14	Vincent Rohoimea	Solomon Islander
15	Raymond Amae	Solomon Islander
16	Derold Timothy	Solomon Islander
17	Selyn Ahiro	Solomon Islander

4.3. Documents, other printed materials, videos, and soft products (such as CDs or websites)

No	Type ⁸	Title	Author(s) Editor(s)	Publisher	ISBN	Publication date
	N/A					

Name of Project Coordinator: Corzzierrah Posala		Name of Project Manager Supervisor: Senovevo Maui	
Signature: 	Date: 22 July 2016	Signature: 	Date: 25 July 2016

⁸ Documents and printed material types: e.g. technical publication, meeting report, technical/substantive report, brochures, media releases, etc.