



*This Project is executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund,
with financing from the GEF, implementation support by UNEP
and technical support from the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat.*

Country presentation: Solomon Islands

2nd Executive Project Steering Committee meeting
1-2 November, 2016
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Project Partners in Solomon Islands



SICCP
Solomon Islands Community
Conservation Partnership



Solomon Islands Project Site



Key national objectives in Solomon Islands



- Develop a resource map of seagrass beds and rabbit fish habitats in North Malaita Lau Lagoon - distributed to the Malaita Provincial government and MECDM.
- Documentation of indigenous knowledge on fauna (including dugongs) associated with seagrass beds in Lau Lagoon - available and disseminated to the communities and public
- Policy brief - inform improved policy for management and development of lagoonal seagrass ecosystems - Government informed of project findings and recommendations.
- Strengthening provincial and national capacity for project implementation by collaborating with Partners and relevant stakeholders at both the community, provincial and national level – capacity building, media awareness and publication
- National level awareness on Dugong and Seagrass Conservation in the Solomon Islands

Project implementation structure



National Project	Implementing Partners	Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Role	Link
SB1/5	WorldFish	strengthen national and provincial capacity for project implementation of the seagrass and dugong work to addresses dugong and seagrass conservation in the Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFC • Partnership (MFMR, MECDM) • Conduct workshops and trainings
SB2/4	SICCP	<p>Towards better management and appreciation of dugongs and seagrass habitats in Solomon Islands (SB 4)</p> <p>Implementing National Awareness, Management and Recommending Policies for Dugongs and Seagrass Conservation in the Solomon Islands (SB2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Education & awareness raising • Research & monitoring • Conservation management
SB3	WorldFish	To overcome existing knowledge barriers regarding the distribution, status and ecology of seagrass ecosystems in the Lau Lagoon, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory mapping • Development of maps • Develop policy brief

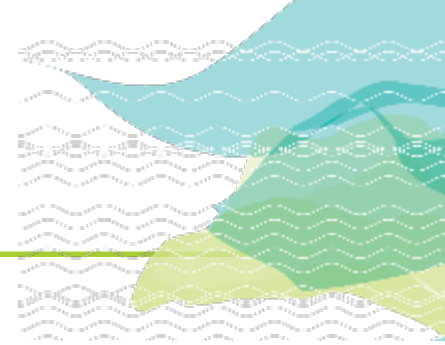
Solomon Islands achievements

SB 1/5

- National Facilitating Committee (NFC)
- National Consultation
- Provincial Consultation
- Community Consultations
- Tracking tool
- Quarterly NFC meetings
- Policy brief
- Media releases



Solomon Islands achievements

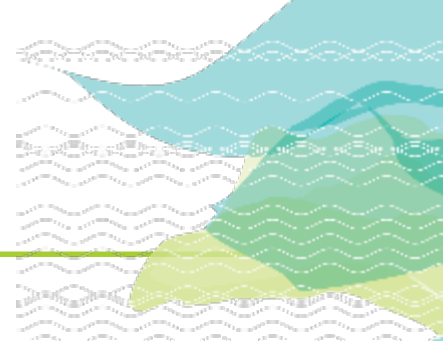


SB2/4



- SICCP Drone – data collection, Western Province
- Seagrass Monitoring training SICCP, Western Province
- Dugong and Seagrass School Awareness – SICCP, Western Province
- Dugong and Seagrass Project Information Booth – World Environment Day, Honiara
- Dugong species posters
- Engagement of drama group – SIEWA
- Identifying new sites in Western and Temotu Province

Solomon Islands achievements



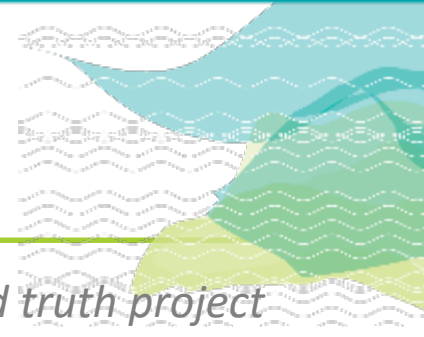
SB3



- Set up of community focal point
- Conducted participatory mapping of seagrass habitat in Lau lagoon
- Digitizing of seagrass habitat map
- Conduct standardized dugong survey in Lau Lagoon
- Visual confirmation of Dugong existence

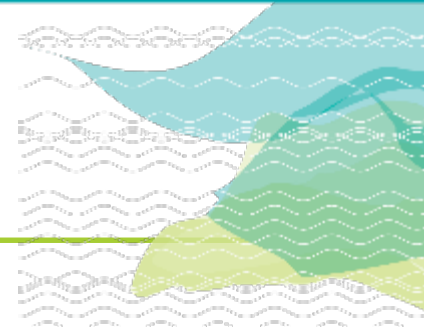


Solomon Islands challenges



- *Seagrass and Dugong datasets at hand is out-dated - need ground truth project sites to get concrete information relating to marine environment.*
- *Policy relating to management of seagrass habitats or dugong species. Information we have acquired to date, will contribute to the development of a Government Policy.*
- *The national government undergoing amendment of fisheries acts – offshore fisheries and inshore fisheries*
- *Through SICCP Project, yet to confirm the mechanism to implement project at sites.*
- *Engaging rangers as work force is our ideal option, being it is compensating their time to do project activities and should minimise expectation from communities.*

Solomon Islands challenges



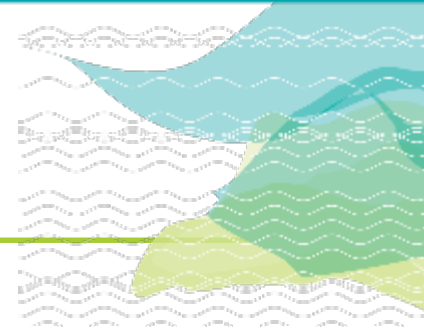
- *Unpredictable weather conditions – November – April*
- *Communication with PCT - queries/questions.*
- Difficulties merging different financial processes of organizations to match reporting processes of project
- Development of National Dugong and seagrass strategy will require inputs from multi stakeholders.
- getting people to understand project purpose takes up lo of time and effort - Seagrass does not play any major important role in people's livelihood, on the other hand, dugong does have some cultural significance

Solomon Islands lessons learned



- *Partners/Stakeholders consultation at our Partner sites are ongoing, and getting these communities to have detailed information of their sites prior to intense implementation.*
- *Sites as stated in our Proposal spans over the Network, and getting through all sites is costly and time consuming. So, to minimise and be more cost effective, we await baseline surveys so we can confirm sites with seagrass and dugong.*
- *Developing synergies between the different National Projects is important so all sites are aware of this as a National Project, addressing national and International targets than just a NGO Project.*
- *We need to inform our respective Provincial Government Authorities, so they can be involved and incorporate these activities in their respective Work Plans.*
- *Very little information available in the Solomon Islands relating to marine environment, outcome of the project will contribute to information database for Solomon Islands.*

Next steps



SB 1/5

- Policy brief
- National symposium (2017)
- Develop National Dugong Management Plan
- Capacity building – effective project implementation

SB3

- Develop map
- Finalization of map features
- Ground truthing
- Conduct lagoon wide awareness on importance of Dugong and seagrass in Lau Lagoon - SIEWA
- Documentation of indigenous knowledge
- Publication of dugong seagrass stories
- Research and survey

Next steps



- **SB 2/4**
- *External Expertise on Dugong tagging/recording*
- *External Expertise on Marketing the Species/communicating the Project in particular the Habitat and Species*
- *conduct cross learning across the region*
- *National Symposium (2017) - SICCP will coordinate with Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands (ESSI) and WorldFish on this event. Through our Partnership Network is that avenue and platform to implement this Project and reach sites beyond our Network.*
- *SICCP prioritized in Phase 1 of Implementation, ensure providing capacity to build governance structure and providing seagrass monitoring training before conducting baseline surveys to obtain detailed information of sites and later proceed to forming the Network of LMMAs of Seagrass and Dugong.*

Photos



Photos



Photos



