

Project #4

Photo: James Hardcastle/ TNC

SOLOMON
ISLANDS
National
Coordinating
Committee



Strengthening Community-based Marine Managed/Protected Areas

Project Duration: 48 months (2012-2016)

Proponent: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) in partnership with Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Objectives: The project aims to build the capacity for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management within MECDM and at key geographic sites. The goal is to acquire the core knowhow in MPA management that will lead to further development of MPA/LMMA in country.

Funding requirement: USD\$2.1 million and the investment request is for USD \$1.9 million

Government Counterpart: The Government should shoulder 10% of the total funding that is mostly aligned to ensure the long-term continuity of these sites after the investment period.

Brief Background: In 2006/2007, the Solomon Islands Locally Marine Managed Areas (or SILMMA) network was launched, linking around 200 participants from current and potential Marine protected areas (PA). Non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and the Ministries of Fisheries and Environment were part of the network from the very beginning.

The Locally Marine Managed areas (LMMAs) model for resource management

and conservation is accepted widely in Solomon Islands as it builds on local and traditional strengths in community based resource management.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology in 2010 legislated protected areas (marine and terrestrial) within its mandates – Protected Areas Act was formalized. This came after the two years Protected Areas Programme within the Environment and Conservation Division, the establishment of the National Plan of Action and the Ridge to Reefs Conservation Plan of Solomon Islands.

However, limited staffing and lack of proper database systems provides challenges for the SILMMA to coordinate MPAs or MMA work at the provincial and community levels.

The project intends to strengthen current initiatives such as the Protected Areas functions within Ministry of Environment, by providing for one permanent MPA staff in the Ministry and ensuring that the selected priority MPA will have a dedicated PA manager to operationalize these important iconic MPA system to international management level standard.

This will reinforce the capacities of the four provinces where 5 sites are located to better manage other provincial Marine protected areas in their province.

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Geographic Areas: This proposal intends to work with five iconic priority geographic areas:

1. Gizo/Vella/Kolombangara (Western Province)
2. Roviana/Tetepare (Western Province)
3. Lau Lagoon (Malaita Province)
4. Luru Protected Areas Network (Choiseul Province)
5. GERUSA Provincial Network (Central Islands Province)

Strategic Approach/ Methodology: The project will use the following strategy to achieve outcomes of the MPA set-up in country:

1. Strengthen MPA program in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. This will build on the Protected Areas function held by the Environment and Conservation Division. This officer will be linked to five MPA managers to be recruited to manage five key Solomon sites.
2. This project will deliver technical trainings on MPA design, monitoring, and effective management that will

be very beneficial for other communities owning MPAs and the NGO practitioners supporting the MPA work in the country.

3. Strengthen linkages to the Solomon Islands Locally Manage Marine Areas (SILMMA) in developing best practices at sites. SILMMA was set up as a social network to coordinate information dissemination throughout the country and to link all partners working on LMMAs. SILMMA is tasked to lead work on maintenance and expansion for new marine protected areas.

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Budget Distribution:

Activities	Total Cost in US\$	Gov't investment	Request
Salaries/ Consultant fees & travel	837,242		
Meeting /Training/Special Events	137,288		
Mapping and Zoning	12,800		
Education Awareness / Mapping and Zonation	16,153		
Equipment/Materials (Establishment Costs)	287,960	90,815	
Monitoring and Surveillance	217,125	58,095	
Construction 5 sites PA office	125,000		
Field Operations	165,505	74,365	
Education and Awareness	16,153		
Institutional Support/Admin.	217,855	58,095	
Professional Services	17,500		
Audits	78,275		
Total	2,112,720	223,333	1,889,386