

Funding Priorities of the Solomon Islands in the Implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Coral Triangle Initiative

Background

Solomon Islands is made up of around 1,000 islands with 80% of its land and near-shore marine area under customary ownership. Of its population of approximately 750,000 people, close to ~80% are rural dwellers living along the coasts in remote islands thus relying heavily on marine resources for sustenance and livelihoods. Because of the vastness of the ocean areas between islands and the limited financial resources of the national Government, many of these remote areas are without Government services.

The Solomon Islands National Plan of Action (NPoA): People-Centered and Integrated Approach to Implementation

The NPoA for the Solomon Islands focuses on people-centered approaches where communities are both the primary drivers as well as the beneficiaries of sustainable resource management.

Based on the geographical characteristics of Solomon Islands and the lessons learned from natural resource management and development work carried out to date, it is clear that core actions for conservation and food security need to be carried out by communities themselves. It is envisaged that support and advice to communities will be delivered by both national and provincial government, as well as other partners (from the Non-Government and private sectors) through the framework for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM).

Solomon Islands model of Community-Based Resource Management – CBRM+

CBRM+ refers to an approach to community based adaptive management

that incorporates food security, ecosystem approaches to resource management, vulnerability and adaptation planning, as well as protection of key species and habitats. It is designed so as to allow for realistic and achievable delivery of community-identified objectives, in a way that is suited to the characteristics of Solomon Island rural communities.

Our 5 key priorities for investment for transformational outcome for our people are the following:

Project 1: The [Data and Information Center](#) that will provide access to environmental data for government, practitioners and communities in a timely and appropriate format. Located in national and provincial centers, information access at the time and place needed has been a problem identified in many national forums.

This has been an issue for government, planners, institutions and individual researchers alike. Currently, there are no data sharing protocols for sharing of data and information between government and institutions, thus they are difficult to obtain and often limited. Furthermore there is a gap in having access to provincial information from the national arena, and vice versa.

Project 2: The [baseline data on habitats, fish stocks, and national initiatives on marine resource management](#) is very important to the successful implementation of any coastal environment program especially in the Solomon Islands context. To date, there has been no nation-wide mapping on Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) and coastal habitats on seagrass and coral reefs.

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Project 3: We also urgently need to build up the coastal communities' vulnerability profile. The **Vulnerability Profiles** will collect and store data on exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity to inform the national, provincial and community stakeholders on strategic planning for climate change adaptation. Furthermore, the project aims to identify and rank the most vulnerable areas to prioritize resource allocation.

Project 4 aims to **strengthen the Protected Areas functions within Ministry of Environment** and ensure that the five selected priority MPAs will have a dedicated PA manager to operationalize these MPA to international management level standard. This will enable four provinces where the five sites are located to better manage other provincial marine protected areas in their province.

Project 5 will **integrate the Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) into the Education Curriculum**. The target audience for this activity is the youthful population in schools.

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Budget Distribution:

Solomon Islands NPoA Key priorities	Time Frame	Estimated Cost (US\$)		
		Total Funding Requirements	Gov't Allocation	Amount Requested
Theme 1: Support the Management and Implementation of Community Based Resource Management				
Project 1: Community-Based Data & Information Centers (national & provincial level)	3 years	572,479	142,107	430,372
Theme 3: Data and Information management for coordination and decision making				
Project 2: Community-based Resource Management and Coastal Habitats / Inshore Fisheries Stock Mapping	2 years	691,245	99,855	591,390
Project 3: Climate Change Vulnerability & Adaptation Assessment	3 years	349,580	70,391	279,189
Theme 4 : Developing Best Practices in MPA Implementation				
Project 4: Strengthening community-based Marine Managed / Protected Areas	4 years	2,112,720	223,333	1,889,386
Theme 5: Education and awareness raising				
Project 5: Establish CBRM Education and Curriculum Development Programme in Solomon Islands	3 years	292,285	57,725	234,560
GRAND TOTAL		4,018,309	593,411	3,424,897