THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS PROJECT
IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME (SAP) FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Third Multipartite Review (MPR-3)
5-9 July, 2004
[Apia, Samoa]

Fourth National Coordinator's Meeting (NCM-4)
5-7 July 2004

Solomon Islands
NARRATIVE REPORT

Summary of key outputs (June 2003 to June 2004)

- Selection of Marovo Lagoon as Project Site and Chea and Billy Passage as Project Communities.
- Establishment of community project coordinating committee for Billy and Chea.
- Development of a log frame of activities for community engagement, participation and project scoping and development.
- Participation of Patrick Mesia, Nelly Kere and Kenneth Bulehite at the Training of Trainers Workshop in Port Vila, Vanuatu.
- Completion of the Review of Environment and other Natural Resources Legislation and regulation in Solomon Islands.
- Completion of a day workshop of legislation and regulation in Solomon Islands, Commonwealth Youth Programme Centre, Honiara.
- Participation of Kenneth Bulehite at Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Forum and Train Sea Course: Economic for Community Based Environment and Development Project in Pacific Islands.
- Two students have been awarded with IWP Scholarship: Julia Manioli, UPNG, Marine Science; David Lidimani, USP, Law.
- Pre-assessment of community's situation: Billy and Chea.
- Collaboration with University of Queensland, SOPAC EU: Reducing Vulnerability in Pacific Island States, TNC and UNESCO for Traditional Knowledge Project.
- Recruitment of Patrick Mesia and Nelly Kere as Community Facilitator Trainers.
- Submit a cabinet paper on the progress work on the implementation of International Waters Programme.
- Develop a Guideline for Community Participatory Problem Analysis in Chea and Billy Communities.
- Undertake PPA, Solution Tree and Resources Mapping with the communities.
- Identification of various interested stakeholder in Marovo lagoon and respective communities.
- Collect socio-economic baseline information and data.

General Overview of IWP Project, objectives, and activities for 2003/2004

International Waters Programme is a regional initiative that aims to address the root causes of the degradation of the integrated coastal watershed through out the region. It is implemented in the

Solomon Islands by the Department of Forestry, Environment and Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources.

The initial activities of the programme are to establish a project site in which lessons can be learned and expanded to develop 'best management practice policy and in the implementation of sustainable management of resources in Solomon Islands.

The aim of the project is address the root causes of the degradation of the coastal waters through implementation of various types of programme and projects by targeting the sustainable coastal fisheries.

The National Task Force of the International Waters Programme Solomon Islands selected Marovo Lagoon as the pilot project site and Billy Passage and Chea as the communities out of 35 communities that had expressed their interest to participate with the International Waters Programme Solomon Islands.

The lesson learned from implementing the programme in Marovo Lagoon and the communities will provide an excellent avenue for expansion of the programme. There are interesting lesson learned on the approaches when dealing with communities.

Along with learning lesson from community engagement and participatory activities and implementation of the programme, it also aim to develop local capacity on various level of technical skills for community facilitator trainers and increase knowledge on specific research skill.

Specific activities and achievements 2003/2004

Communications
Maintaining of information sharing with the community was one of the major issues for communication the IWP Solomon Islands had to deal with. Even through there are avenues provided to the community to use it was not utilized, especially with the two way radio system. The two way radio system is the same radio that is also used by the People First Network to set up rural based email station.

The programme maintains the normal ways of increase community awareness through maintaining visit and conducting meeting with the community. Meetings were the communication strategy used to encourage flow of information between project office and communities.

It is now proposed as part of the awareness to the government, a cabinet paper of the progress of work will be submitted to the cabinet twice a year and also likewise to the Western Provincial Assembly.

First issue of the IWP Solomon Islands Newsletter was also produced late last year. IWP Solomon Islands received several encouraging comments from readers of the newsletter.

Politician in Marovo lagoon were also informed and were kept in the loop about the project. This is to help them become aware about activities that are occurring within their wards or constituency.

Root cause analysis/PPA

A Community Facilitator Trainer Patrick Mesia was engaged in October 2003, to begin working on the materials for the Facilitator Workshop and Problem Participatory Analysis (PPA).

May 2004, Nelly Kere was recruited as Community Facilitator Trainers on 3 months contract to assist Patrick Mesia to organize Facilitator Workshop and did a Problem Participatory Analysis in Chea and Billy Passage Villages.

In June 2004, the Facilitator Workshop and PPA were conducted both in Chea and Billy Passages. They are now preparing report about the workshop and undertake project scoping from the PPA and solution tree. The outcome of the project scoping will be discussed with the communities through community consultation process.

University of Queensland had shown interest on the outcome from project scoping and hoping will be co-financing some of the project activities.

Baseline work

Preliminary baseline work had been conducted at the community; part of the work was the production of the situation analysis report of the each of community. The report will provide the basis for the programme to scope project activities for the communities.

Social information about communities was also gathered through questionnaire survey. The information will yet to analysis.

A Fisheries baseline survey is scheduled for end of August and early September; this is also hope to be inline with IWP Sponsored Student Julia Manioli undertaking Postgraduate studies in Marine Science.

Economic assessments

Increase demand for cash economy drives so many communities and individuals to over harvest resources. The area were oceans becomes are major source for income generating. Over harvesting of certain specific species of marine resources occur. International Waters Programme Solomon Islands will also be looking at the alternative income generating activities to possibly diversify the income generating activities and reduce the over harvesting of resources.

As part of programme for economical assessment of development and environment project, National Coordinator attended a three weeks train sea coast course on Economics for Community Based Environment and Development projects in the Pacific Island States.

Baseline information on the Socio-economical information also been gathered. The questionnaire survey was used to identify various types of income level and activities in within the Community level. This information will also be used, when looking at alternative income generating activities at the project communities.

Action/management plans

Project Development Team (PDT) has been established as a technical subcommittee within the National Task Force to specifically look at the project activities that will be scoped from the PPA and other project identify throughout the process of execution and implementation of the establishment of the programme.

As part of the implementation strategies and encourage community ownership of the project, a Local Project Coordinating Committee were established and its chairperson the community representative to the National Task Force.

Lessons learned

Community Level:

- Community wants to see physical features of the project thus than just meager survey works.
- Community leader that is money minded are very difficult to work or dealt with.
- Lack of communication can create misinformation with the community.
- Lack of respect of elderly by the young generation can be a real impediment for community development project.
- Any form awareness programme can enhance the understanding of the project concept should be encouraged and promoted.
- Open meeting is an excellent tool to create clear understanding with the community and members.
- Training local facilitators is also proving an effective method in working with the community. Facilitating with the community allows community members to sharing their observation and discuss it with others openly thus allow sharing of information.
- There is still lack of confidence on women by some of the elders in the community thus creating barriers to women; therefore women did not wish to participate at workshops and meeting.

National Level:

- Workshop on environment and natural resources related legislation and regulation highlighted that there is lack of coordination amongst all the natural resources sectors in Solomon Islands.
- The approach and structure taken to establish the National Task Force had shown some positive sign with the government department. Similar approach and structure was considered for the implementation of National Capacity Assessment Project in Solomon Islands.

National level policy considerations

During our half workshop on the Environment International Waters Programme Solomon Islands will be physically relocated to Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources; this will allow the programme to work with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources to establish coastal fisheries policy especially with community based sustainable management of coastal areas and marine resources.

However, International Waters Programme Solomon Islands will maintain contact with the Department of Forest, Environment and Conservation, especially the Environment and Conservation Division for the implementation of environment related policy.

IWP Solomon Islands will be submitting a cabinet paper very soon on the issue on community based coastal fisheries management. Customary marine tenure system and ownership will one of the major issues for IWP Solomon Islands. As part of the IWP Solomon Islands is engaging a research student to research on various types of option to effectively implement community based sustainable coastal fisheries.

Monitoring activities

Questionnaire Survey on the type of fish catches by the community members were conducted in April 2004. However, Fisheries Baseline Survey will be conducted towards the end of August.

Socio – economical indicators for the purpose of monitoring changes will also be identified soon as the project scoping is done and socio – economical information collected is analyzed.

Partnerships/co-financing arrangements

Rural Development Trust Fund / University of Queensland Activities:
University of Queensland and Solomon Islands Government signed a Memorandum of understanding for University of Queensland to work in Solomon Islands. The following were some of activities that will done by the team as

- Transect Survey (Terrestrials and Marine) in Marovo Lagoon, which also covers Billy Passage Area.
- Assessment of water quality in Marovo Lagoon around Chea and Billy Passage
- Assessment of life of marine resources in Marovo Lagoon.
- Assessment of community and traditional knowledge from the communities.

Contact: **Dr. Norm Duke,** Project Leader, Conserving the Marine Biodiversity of Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands
Dr. Joelle Prange, Project Coordinator, Conserving the Marine Biodiversity of Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands

SOPAC Activities
The following activities are part of SOPAC EU: Reducing Vulnerability Project in the Pacific Island Developing States:

- Assessment of Water Resources for Chea and Billy
- Survey of Aggregate and beach profiling for Chea and Billy
- Bathymetry survey of Marovo lagoon
- Hydrodynamic Modelling of Marovo Lagoon to investigate the flushing system of the lagoon.
- Assist one student to assess the impacts of logging activities on to coral reefs and marine ecosystem in Marovo Lagoon.

Contact: **Steve Booth**, Project Leader, EU: Reducing Vulnerability in Pacific Island States SOPAC, Suva, Fiji
Donn Tolia, SOPAC National Rep. Director of Geology, Geological Survey Division

The Nature Conservancy: Marine Rapid Assessment Activities

- Conduct a rapid spot marine assessment to assess the status of marine resources in Solomon Islands.
- IWP Solomon Islands has nominated several sites within the project sites that were included in the rapid assessment for the status of marine resources in Solomon Islands.

Contact: **Willie Atu, Programme Manager**, The Nature Conservancy, Honiara, Solomon Islands

UNESCO: Local and Indigenous Knowledge System
Indigenous Knowledge provides the basis for decision making about fundamental aspects every day life. The main activities for this project are:

- Research
- Capacity building.

On this collaboration the project will looked at the Indigenous Knowledge on Customary Marine Tenure System in Marovo lagoon. Detail activities will be further clarified as the implementation stage.

Contacts: **Dr. Douglas Nakashima**, LINKS Project Leader, UNESCO, France

University of Adelaide: Transboundary Environment Governance
A letter from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Conservation had been forwarded to PCU to include Solomon Islands in the research project.

Contacts: **Dr. Marcus Lane**, Researcher, University of Adelaide, South Australia

Capacity building initiatives

Scholarship:
As capacity building initiatives, International Waters Programme Solomon Islands targets three scholarship covers the following areas: Marine Science, Law and Community Development.

Julia Manioli is now at UPNG undertaking Postgraduate Studies in Marine Science; she is expected back in Solomon Islands in July to undertake the research component.

David Lidimani will be leaving for USP Emalus Campus, Vanuatu to undertake a Master of Law early July 2004. His application for admission was deferred to second semester 2004 early this year.

Nego Sisiolo has withdrawn from the Scholarship, however, the Scholarship Subcommittee agree that third will be required and therefore IWP Solomon Islands will advertise again.

Discussion with Reginald Sandy of SOPAC, they are interested to assist Mason Lilopeza to undertake research activities on the impacts of sediment due to logging activities within Marovo Lagoon.

Short Term Training:
Patrick Mesia, Nelly Kere and Kenneth Bulehite participate at the Training of Trainers Workshop, Port Vila, Vanuatu July – August 2003.

Patrick Mesia and Lydon Soga, Billy Community participate at the Fish Aggregation Workshop, Gizo, Western Province.

Kenneth Bulehite attend a Training on Economics for Community Based Environment and Development Project in Pacific Island States

Patrick Mesia and Nelly Kere conducted a facilitator workshop and PPA activities with members from Billy and Chea Communities.

Other activities

Meeting was organized between University of Queensland, SOPAC and International Waters Programme at Boat "Flamingo Bay" to discuss the scope and the approach of each project operating in Marovo Lagoon. The meeting was aimed to iron out areas or activities that may of repetition and duplication amongst the projects and researchers.

International Waters Programme Solomon Islands will be physically relocated to Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources; this will allow the programme to work with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources to establish coastal fisheries policy especially with community based sustainable management of coastal areas and marine resources.

Participate at the workshop for National Self Capacity Assessment in Solomon Islands organized by the Department of Forest, Environment and Conservation and UNDP Sub Office in Honiara.

Appendix A

Updated Summary Table

• June 2003	Attended the NCM3 and MPR in Nuku'alofa, Tonga
• June 2003	Completion of Review of Environment and Natural Resources related legislation and regulation
• July 2003	Selection of Marovo Lagoon as Project Site and Chea and Billy Passage the Project Communities.
• July – Aug 2003	Patrick Mesia, Nelly Kere and Kenneth Bulehite participate at Training of Trainer Training in Port Vila, Vanuatu
• September 2003	Organised a half day workshop for the Review of Environment and Natural Resources Legislation and regulation
• October 2003	Recruitment of Patrick Mesia as Community Facilitator Trainer
• November 2003	Advertisement of IWP Scholarship: Marine Science, Community Development and Law
• November 2003	Visit to the communities and established a community project coordinating committee.
• November 2003	Rama Va'a Visited Solomon Islands to install MYOB software and train National Coordinator and Program Assistant on how to use the software
• December 2003	Short listing of IWP scholarship candidates
• December 2003	Brief meeting with Prof. Simon Saulei, Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies, UPNG
• January 2004	Interview of the short listed candidates for IWP Scholarship
• January 2004	Development of the workshop outline for local facilitators and Problem Participatory Analysis.
• January 2004	Visited the communities to set up communication
• February 2004	NC participates at the Economic for Community Based Managed Environment and Development Project in Pacific Island States, USP, Suva, Fiji.
• March 2004	Work with the Forestry Division to resolve the illegal logging activities in one of the project communities.
• March 2004	Visit the communities to conduct the initial preliminary socio-economical survey
• March 2004	Patrick Mesia and Lydon Sogha from Billy Community participate at the Fish Aggregation Workshop in Gizo, Western Province
• April 2004	Patrick Mesia was harassed by a member of community due to the suspension of logging operation.
• April 2004	Did a brief situation analysis of Billy and Chea communities
• May 2004	Recruitment of Nelly Kere as the second community facilitator trainer.
• June 2004	Conducted a Facilitator Workshop and PPA with Chea and Billy Communities
• June 2004	Visit Billy and Chea communities with a team from SOPAC: EU: Reducing Vulnerability Project and University of Queensland.
• June 2004	Paula Holland visit International Waters Programme Solomon Islands

Appendix B

Meetings

Project sponsored meetings [includes training sessions, conferences etc.]

Date	Meeting	Report available
2003		
June 2003	MPR and NCM 3, Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Travel Report, ECD, DFEC
7 July 2003	2nd Meeting of Scholarship Subcommittee	Minute, ECD, DFEC
10 July 2003	9th National Task Force Meeting	Minute, ECD, DFEC
14 July 2003	9th National Task Force Meeting continued	Minute, ECD, DFEC
July – Aug 2003	TTT 4, Port Vila, Vanuatu	Travel Report, ECD, DFEC
5 Sept 2003	10th National Task Force Meeting	Minute, ECD, DFEC
10 Sept 2003	3rd Meeting of Scholarship Subcommittee	Minute, ECD, DFEC
12 Sept 2003	Workshop on Environment and Natural Resources Legislation and Regulation	Report, ECD, DFEC
10 Oct 2003	11th National Task Force Meeting	Minute, ECD, DFEC
Nov 2003	Meeting at Communities: Chea and Billy	Report, ECD, DFEC
Dec 2003	4th Meeting of Scholarship Subcommittee	Minute, ECD, DFEC
2004		
9 Jan 2004	5th Meeting of Scholarship Subcommittee	Minute, ECD, DFEC
2 – 6 Feb 2004	Pacific Regional Ocean Forum	Travel Report, ECD, DFEC
9 – 27 Feb 2004	Train Sea Coast: Economic for Community Based Environment and Development Project, USP, Suva Fiji	Travel Report, ECD, DFEC
11 March 2004	12th National Task Force Meeting	Minute, ECD, DFEC
22 March 2004	Fish Aggregation Workshop, Gizo, Western Province	Travel Report, ECD, DFEC
29 March 2004	6th Meeting of Scholarship Subcommittee	Minute, ECD, DFEC
April 2004	1st Meeting of Billy Project Coordinating Committee	Minute, ECD, DFEC
April 2004	Meeting at Chea Community	Report, ECD, DFEC
April 2004	13th National Task Force Meeting	Minute, ECD, DFEC
7 – 11 June 2004	Chea: Facilitator Workshop / Problem Participatory Analysis	
14 – 18 June 2004	Billy: Facilitator Workshop / Problem Participatory Analysis	

Reports

IWP Solomon Islands November 2002,
"Review of the Priority Environmental Concerns for Solomon Islands", Technical Report 2002/2, 44 pages
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands,

IWP Solomon Islands January 2003,
"Guidelines and Procedures for Selection of Community to Host International Waters Programme Pilot Project", Technical Report 01/2003, 12 pages
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands,

IWP Solomon Islands April, 2003,
"Summary of Assessment of Expression of Interests to Host International Waters Programme Pilot Project", Technical Report 1b/2003, 42 pages
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands,

IWP Solomon Islands July, 2003,
"National Assessment of Environment, Natural Resources and Relevant Related Legislation and Regulation in Solomon Islands", Technical Report 02 / 2003, 53 pages
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands,

IWP Solomon Islands September 2003,
"Report: Environment and Natural Resources Legislation and Regulation Workshop", Technical Report 03/2003, 59 pages
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands

IWP Solomon Islands November 2003,
"International Waters Programme Scholarship Guide and Application Form", Technical Report, 8 pages
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands

IWP Solomon Islands January 2004,
"Situation Analysis: Pilot Project Site Marovo Lagoon", Technical Report 1/2004, 14 pages
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands, ***Draft***

IWP Solomon Islands April 2004,
"Situation Analysis: Pilot Project Community Billy Passage", Technical Report 1a / 2004,
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands, ***Draft***

IWP Solomon Islands May 2004,
"Situation Analysis: Pilot Project Community Chea", Technical Report 1b / 2004,
Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands, ***Draft***