



# **The ARNAVON MARINE PARK**

*a Community-Managed Conservation Initiative*

*Revised*

## **CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**November 2015**

## **Our Vision**

In a unique partnership that crosses community, language, province, and religious borders, the Arnavon Marine Park seeks to strengthen our spirit and cultural links to the environment through the preservation and protection critical habitats and species in the first and longest operating marine protect area within Solomon Islands. We do this in the belief that one of our roles on Earth is to be good stewards and caretakers of the natural gifts that we receive from it and also appreciate the choice that we make today will also affect the lives of those who will come after us.

Realising that the Arnavon Islands are a small and fragile portion of the total bounty given to us by God, we believe that the way that these islands can provide the greatest good for most people is as a reserve in which this complex landscape is protected. By doing so, we envisage the creation of a natural classroom for our youth and others to learn about the natural heritage that belongs to us, our ancestors and our future generations. We undertake this activity in the belief that AMP reflects the respect we have for ourselves, our communities, our country and the natural world and carry out this mission in the services to the people of Katupika, Kia and Waghena.

## Acknowledgments

This **Conservation and Management Plan** (“*the Plan*”) was the culmination of a community-wide consultation undertaken to review the 20-year old **ACMCA** Management Plan first endorsed in 1994. With funding support of The Nature Conservancy (**TNC**), the review was undertaken by a legal consultant, David B Lidimani, in close consultation with the **ACMCA** Management Committee (**MC**), staff of TNC-SI and the local communities of *Kia*, *Katupika* and *Waghena*. Special acknowledgement is therefore accorded to TNC for financial and technical support towards the review culminating in this Plan. We similarly acknowledge the individual contributions of the MC Chairman, Beneteti Iabeta (*Waghena*) and members of the Committee, namely, Rence Zama and Derol Daza Daniel (*Katupika*), Christina Zaku (*Kia*), and, Peter Rabaua, and Riana Mary Tebaia (*Waghena*). Similar acknowledgement is extended to Willie Atu and John Pita of **TNC-SI**, and the **AMCA** Coordinator, Henry Kaniki, for their guidance and oversight of the process.

The compilation of this Plan would not have been possible without the unfailing support of the chiefs, elders and leaders of *Arariki-Kuksin* and *Nikumaroro* (*Waghena*), *Boeboe* and *Posarae* (*Katupika*), and *Kia*. Notable among those leaders were John Rabaua and Tebukeva Mereki of *Waghena*, *Hon* Harrison Benjamin and Chief John Kokoro of *Posarae*, Chief David Akizama of *Boeboe*, and the representatives of *Kia*, namely, Moira Dasipio, Danny Firia, Dickson Motui, Fr Jacob Sida, Fr Daniel Talu, and Chiefs Brownless Zaku, Joel Putu, and Badley Vike. Their respective inputs were fundamental to giving credibility, legitimacy and community perspectives to the recommendations and resolutions of the review that translates into this Plan.

The Management Committee further acknowledges the ongoing support of the National Government through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, & Meteorology (**MECCDMM**), and the Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources (**MFMR**). In similar tone, the respective support of the provincial governments of Choiseul and Isabel are hereby acknowledged. It is envisaged that such support from both levels of government will be enhanced and further strengthened under the new partnership framework. For the multitude of supporters and contributors whose names are not mentioned, *tagio tumas lo yufala!*

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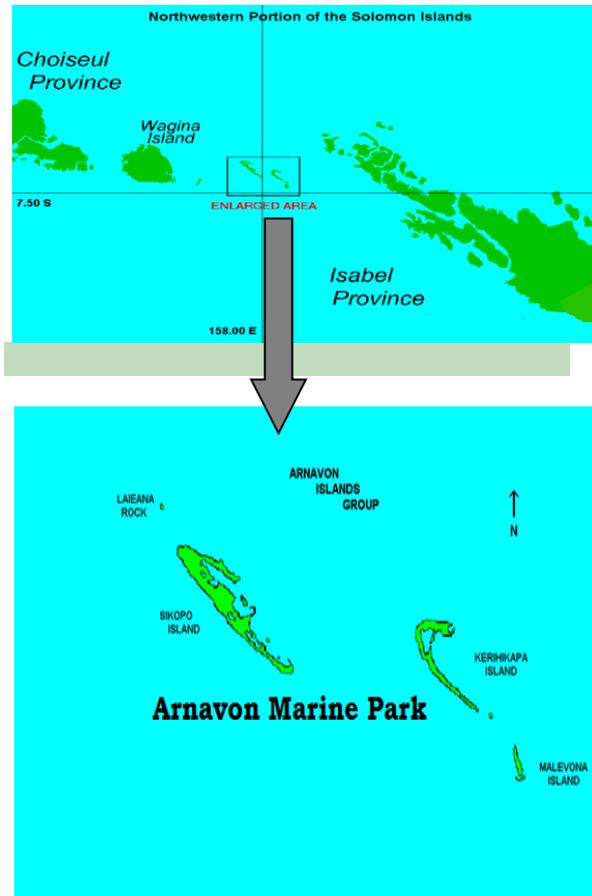
Our Vision  
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Annex 1 **Management Plan 1994-2002**

Annex 2 Draft ***Protected Areas (Arnavon Marine Park) Regulations 2015***

## Location of the **ARNAVON MARINE PARK**



The Arnavon group of islands (islets) is located in the Manning Straits midway between the islands of Choiseul and Isabel. The Group comprised Sikopo, Kerihikapa, and Maleivona Islands with a total marine and terrestrial area of approximately 152km<sup>2</sup>. Being centrally located, the Group is within the area of overlap between the provincial waters of Choiseul and Isabel Provinces.

The islands are State-owned and administered by the Commissioner of Lands. Prior to alienation, the islands were subject to customary claims by tribes in Kia of Isabel, and Katupika of Choiseul. These tribes together with the community of Waghena now constitute the current stakeholders that play a leading role in the management of ACMCA.

## 1 Development of the Plan

The review and development of this Plan was done in compliance with the requirements of the Protected Areas Act 2010 and the Protected Areas Regulations 2012. It thus involves the following process (in chronological order):

- (a) Desk review of the *1994 Management Plan* (as revised in 2002) and aligning the same with the *Protected Areas Act 2010*, *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*, *Environment Act 1998*, *Environment Regulations 2008*, *Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998*, *Wildlife Protection and Management Regulations 2008*, *Fisheries Management Act 2015*, and relevant provincial ordinances.
- (b) Consultation on review scope and concepts with TNC Honiara staff and ACMCA Management Committee prior to embarking on community consultations.
- (c) Conduct face-to-face community consultations with the three (3) stakeholder communities of Kia, Waghena and Katupika from 26-29 August 2015. Villages or sites at which meetings, informal consultations and visits were done included Nikumaroro and Arariki-Kuksin on 26<sup>th</sup>, Boeboe and Posarae on 27<sup>th</sup>, Arnavon Project site on 28<sup>th</sup>, and Kia on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

## 2 Scope of the Plan

The scope of this Plan is dictated by AMP's status as an established and internationally recognized conservation program that has been operated for more than 20 years to date. With such operational status, this Plan is therefore tailored to meet legal requirements for declaration as a protected area under the new legal regime. To that end, the Plan will build on and, where necessary, address gaps and shortfalls of the *1994-2002 Management Plan* ("the **1994 Plan**") as revised in 2002. In a nutshell, the scientific and conservation aspects of ACMCA have been adequately covered in the **1994 Plan** appended as **Annex 1** to this Plan.

The key issues forming the scope of this Plan are **(i)** legal protection, **(ii)** future governance, **(iii)** financial sustainability and **(iv)** community development. The scope was thus designed to reflect the successes thus far of the conservation objective since inception of the program, and the need to diversify to accommodate changing circumstances and community perceptions. The scientific and conservation component of the program as detailed in the *1994 Plan* will be maintained, adapted and or transformed into site-specific regulations. This Plan will therefore complement and not totally supplant the *1994 Plan*. Thus, unless considered redundant or outdated, certain parts of the 1994 Plan will continue to apply or form the background and baseline data to this Plan.

### 3 Boundaries & Future Expansion

The core area for declaration is comprised within a slanted rectangle formed by straight lines bounded from the following bearings or coordinates:

- 158.04973° S**
- 157.91527° W**
- 157.96727° N**
- 158.09642° E**



Given the Arnavon Group is exclusively under ownership of the Crown, no boundary agreement is necessary for purposes of Part 3 of the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*. The cooperation of the

local communities of Kia, Katupika and Waghena, and the provincial governments of Choiseul and Isabel has rendered it easier to establish the current boundaries.

There is prospect to increase size of the area by the following:

- (a) Westward expansion of the boundary to capture the Haycock Islands and lagoon on the eastern tip of Waghena.
- (b) Eastward expansion to capture Pisuana, Malakobi, and Barora group of islands on the north-western tip of Isabel.

While the corridor of open waters on both sides may be subject to little or less rigorous conservation measures, minimal control over the same is somewhat necessary to create buffers against pollution to the coastlines, for instance, from transiting ships. The ultimate goal however is to bring the islands and lagoons under the conservation and management regime of the *Arnavon Trust*.

#### **4 Present & Future Threats**

There are both natural and human causes that pose a threat to the physical landscape of the area and conservation efforts in general. Natural threats are attributed to climate change and sea level rise which led to coastal erosion. The latter is noticeable with the gradual loss of littoral vegetation and sand embankment that should otherwise protect and stabilize the shoreline. Such threat is most noticeable at the monitoring station frontage at Kerihikapa as well as the turtle nesting strip.

While conservation objectives have been achieved to a large degree, poaching remains an ongoing threat. The presence of rangers does minimize but not necessarily eliminates the problem. With only three (**3**) rangers deployed at any given time, patrols and coverage of the entire area on a frequent and regular basis is rather limited. More so, with limited manpower, rangers are often subjected to physical threat and abuse by poachers. This is exacerbated by remoteness of location and the total absence of prospects of rapid response and back-up. Effective monitoring and *policing* for poachers is further compounded by the spread of the three islands (*Sikopo, Kerihikapa and Maleivona*). It needs to be noted that rangers operate out of

Kerihikapa's single station. The management will thus explore possibilities of re-establishing the former outpost on Sikopo with possibilities of setting up a mini one at Maleivona with effective communication links. Alternatively, where funding permits, utilization of remote-controlled surveillance technology may allow for *Sikopo* and *Maleivona* to be monitored from the station at *Kerihikapa*. This will drastically reduce the man hours necessarily spent on surveillance and foot patrols.

## **5 Protected Area - Law & Policy**

The *Arnavon Community-Managed Conservation Area* will be re-branded *The Arnavon Marine Park (AMP)* upon declaration under the *Protected Areas Act 2010*. It will be managed by the AMP Management Committee (**AMPMC**) appointed pursuant to the Act. The functions, mandates and powers of AMPMC will be as prescribed in the Act, *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*, and such site-specific regulations to be developed. Further, the AMPMC will apply best conservation practices and standards as recognized internationally or as enunciated in multilateral environmental treaties and conventions.

## **6 Protected Area Category**

As per the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*, five (5) categories recognized under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) Protected Area Classification Scheme were prescribed, namely, **(a)** Nature Reserve, **(b)** National Park, **(c)** Natural Monument, **(d)** Resource Management Area, and **(e)** Closed Area.

In deciding the relevant category, certain factors were taken into account by the stakeholders. Thus, the AMP (former ACMCA):

- (a) is a unique success story recognised nationally, regionally, and internationally;
- (b) is Solomon Islands' first and longest marine conservation area;
- (c) offers a rare opportunity as a natural or living marine laboratory for research and education;
- (d) is remotely located with minimal adverse and regular

- human contact; and,
- (e) is the most important rockery for hawksbill turtle in the Western Pacific.

It was therefore resolved that the *Arnavon Marine Park* will be declared and gazetted as a *Category A* protected area, thus, **NATURE RESERVE** albeit renamed and modelled as a park. Akin to a trading label, the name was adopted for purposes of promotion and *branding*. Management principles applicable to both a nature reserve and a park as described in the *PA Regulations* will be harmonised and applied.

## **7 Conservation & Management Objectives**

Since its inception, **AMP** (formerly ACMCA) was established with the following objectives:

- (a) To protect the nesting ground and rockery of the Hawksbill and other marine turtles in the Area
- (b) To provide a model for management and sustainable use of natural resources, both marine and terrestrial
- (c) To establish an avenue for long-term monitoring and study of impacts of conservation measures on biological resources of the Area
- (d) To foster greater collaboration and involvement of local communities with national and provincial governments in the planning, management and monitoring process of the Conservation Area
- (e) To promote public appreciation of the value of conservation of biological diversity
- (f) To provide an avenue for monitoring of impacts of climate change on marine life and associated ecological systems.

The above objectives are additional to the applicable management objectives and principles prescribed in the *Protected Areas Act* and *Protected Areas Regulations*.

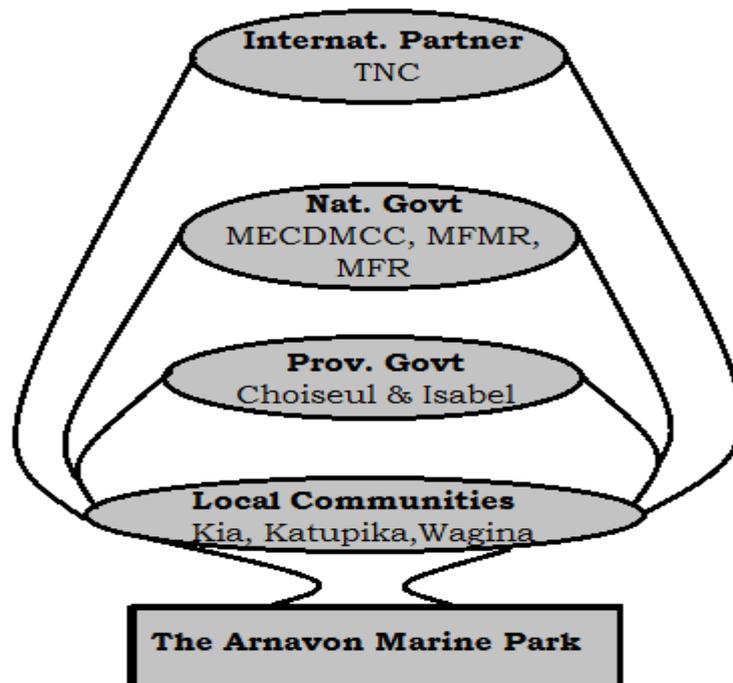
## 8 Administration & Governance

ACMCA has hitherto been under the oversight of the Management Committee comprising the following members:

- (a) 3 representing Katupika community
- (b) 3 representing Kia community
- (c) 3 representing Waghena community
- (d) 2 provincial government representatives (Choiseul and Isabel Province)
- (e) 3 national government representatives (MECDMCC, MFMR & MFR)
- (f) 1 representing TNC

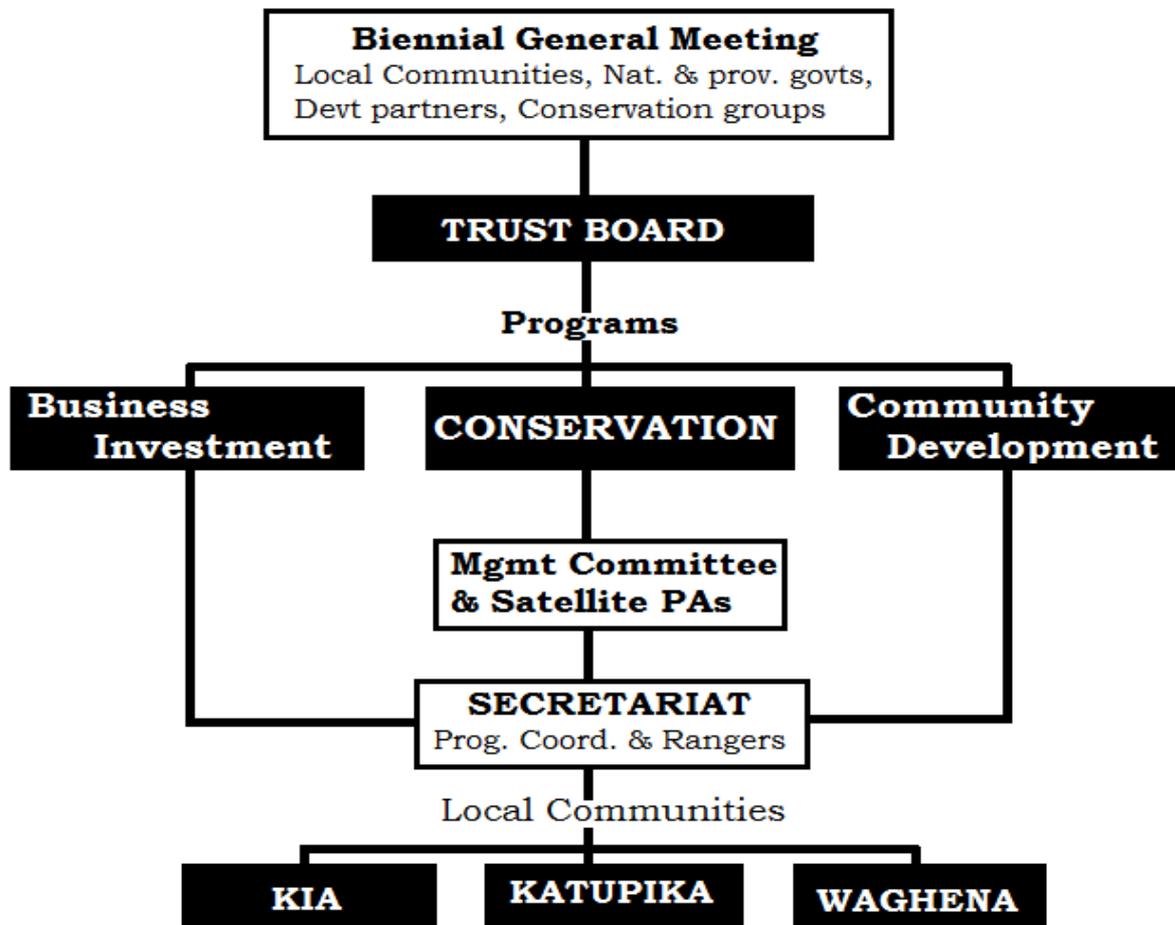
As an established conservation programme, the Committee is exempted under **r.28(1)** of the PA Regulations. TNC as the international partner however commits to comply with the requirements of **r.28(2)** of the *Regulations*. It must be highlighted that the current set up ensures local communities play a greater role in the management of **AMP**.

*Diag. 1*  
**ACMCA Partnership Strata**



With the impending diversification of programs to include financial sustainability and community development, the **AMP** will be governed in the future under a trust to be established by deed of trust and perhaps by special statute (Act of Parliament). In a nutshell, the *Arnavon Trust* will oversee or govern three (3) programs which revolve primarily around **AMP**, namely, **(i)** Conservation, **(ii)** Business Investment and **(iii)** Community Development. The Conservation Programme will remain the core function of the *Trust*, while the other two (2) are tailored to support that core program. A transition period of at least two (2) years is envisaged for that changeover and is expected to commence in **2017**. Processes for development and enactment of legislation for incorporation of the *Arnavon Trust* should commence in mid-**2016**. This should be preceded by a study and formulation of a concept paper.

*Diag. 2*  
**Governance Structure**

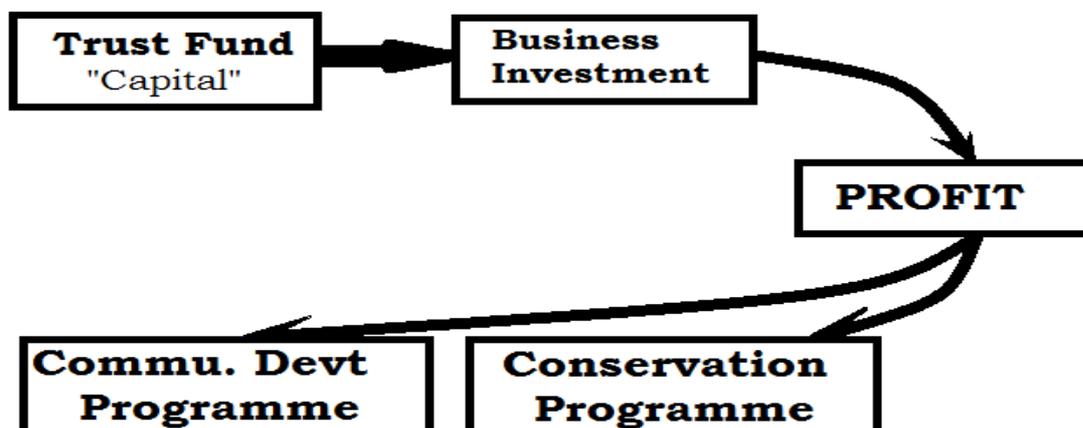


Under the new governance arrangement, there will be a *Biennial General Meeting* convened for Partners every two (2) years to adopt resolutions that govern operation of the *Arnavon Trust*. Such resolutions bind the Board and its subordinate committees as the general meeting is the supreme decision-making body of the *Trust*. The Board delegates its functions to its subordinate committees which carry out actual work on the ground. The current Management Committee will thus be retained, with or without changes, under the core program (Conservation). The Committee will in turn coordinate and supervise the work of sub-committees of satellite protected areas that fall under governance of the *Arnavon Trust*.

## 9 Funding & Financial Sustainability

The principal benefactor of **AMP** (*formerly ACMCA*) thus far is **TNC** which funds both the core (recurrent) budget, and the activities (projects) budget. As of late, investments from a US-based endowment dedicated to ACMCA and managed by TNC has been gradually utilized to supplement the annual budget. But that source alone is inadequate to meet the full cost of the program on a sustainable basis. With **TNC** being the sole or major financier of the conservation program thus far, it can be said that ACMCA remains without *insurance*. It is therefore imperative that options be explored with the aim of establishing mechanisms for financial sustainability in the long term. The option of creating a business arm of the *Arnavon Trust* is thus one to be explored or realized within the transition period.

Diag. 3  
**Financial Sustainability**



There will be established an *Arnavon Trust Fund* which will qualify as a management fund under Part 10 of the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*. The sources of the Fund include those as prescribed in **r.59** of the Regulations, namely:

- (a) Levies and fees;
- (b) Monies received from the Protected Areas Trust Fund established under the Act;
- (c) Grants from the National or provincial governments;
- (d) Income from investments; and,
- (e) Donations and endowments

Fees collected for permits and on-site activities such as eco-tourism will form part of the Fund. Capital for investment will be drawn from the Fund, with revenue generated as profit to be used to support the *Conservation and Community Development* Programs of the Trust.

## **10 Community Development Programme**

As part of diversification, the *Arnavon Trust* will establish a program geared towards initiating, implementing or facilitating activities that improve livelihood in the stakeholder local communities of *Kia, Katupika* and *Waghena*. The program will be tied to the core function of conservation, and established to support community development and livelihood initiatives. It is thus a fulfilment and true reflection of the *Equator Prize* awarded to ACMCA in 2008 under the theme of '**alleviating poverty through conservation**'. Note that it is timely to acknowledge community participation in the conservation program since its inception. An underlying rationale is to boost motivation and *renewed* community support towards conservation efforts in the future.

Funding support for the program will be drawn primarily from income generated by the *Arnavon Trust* through its investment portfolio. Collaborative arrangements or partnerships will be pursued and sealed with donor agencies and development partners within the country and internationally. Avenue for local community input in the management and operation of the program will be established to ensure a sense of *community ownership* of the Programme.

## **11 Research, Monitoring & Education**

The *Arnavon Marine Park* will be enhanced and promoted as a unique or premier living marine laboratory for scientific research and environmental monitoring. Its significance is not only for Solomon Islands but the Western Pacific as a whole. Research and monitoring of the islands' biotic resources, namely, terrestrial flora and fauna, turtle populations, sessile benthic communities, sedentary species and fin-fish will be maintained as ongoing activities of the Conservation programme.

It has been acknowledged that Arnavons strength as an ideal research site is attributed to the absence of human habitation, limited human activity, and minimal terrestrial run-off or pollution from land-based sources. Thus, its marine environment is undisturbed and ideal for purposes including monitoring of natural changes to ecosystems and effects of climate change. Facilities for this purpose should be procured and installed or maintained in the islands for ongoing monitoring.

Further, subject to prior arrangement and compliance with legal requirements, field research by scholars, scientists, and conservationists are encouraged. The Management Committee will prescribe guidelines to regulate the undertaking of field researches by private individuals that are not aligned to key functions of the AMP. It must be noted that by virtue of **r.42** of the *Protected Areas Regulations*, rights to specimen removed in the course of any such research will remain the property of the *Arnavon Trust*. Nor should any such specimen removed without prior consent of the Management Committee.

Organized or prearranged visits by secondary schools provide a unique opportunity for students to learn and acquire first-hand information about nature conservation. The Management Committee ensures that proper facilities for learning are provided to cater for such educational trips.

## **12 Secretariat & Rangers**

The *Arnavon Trust* oversees management of the *Arnavon Marine Park* through the Management Committee which in turn acts

through a Secretariat. The latter is the physical presence of the Trust, and is headed by a Coordinator (or Programme Manager) assisted by such number of staff including Park Rangers appointed under **r.65** of the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*.

Site management, monitoring, and surveillance will be the responsibility of Rangers, who, by virtue of **r.66** of the Regulations have the powers to stop board search seize detain and confiscate. The rangers will also be appropriately trained to qualify for appointment as inspectors and prosecutors under **ss.19** and **20** of the *Protected Areas Act*.

The Rangers will be trained in areas including the following:

- (a) Legal powers and jurisdiction
- (b) Prescribed offences and penalties
- (c) Compoundable offences and procedure for issuing infringement notices
- (d) Prosecution of offenders in Court
- (e) Collection, handling and presentation of evidence

It is envisaged any newly recruited ranger must undertake this training during the 6-month period of probation prior to being confirmed on the job. This also applies to current Rangers.

### **13 Opportunities**

The *Arnavon program* has to date gained international publicity after more than **20** years of establishment as a conservation area. Its international recognition was sealed in 2008 when ACMCA was awarded the *Equator Prize* for alleviating poverty through conservation. ACMCA or *the Arnavons* has since remained synonymous with environmental conservation, and became a brand name or *label* within conservation circles or the *green* movement. Such national and international reputation thus presents opportunities that need to be harnessed or tapped.

#### **(a) Branding “the Arnavons”**

Given the national and international publicity and reputation of the name of the program, *the Arnavons* possesses great potential of being recognised as an eco-label. The ever growing rise of eco-

labelling provides a market that can be tapped into with “the Arnavons” label. It is thus marketable as a trademark label. Property rights in the label will be vested in the incorporated Trust.

The Management Committee will ensure “***the Arnavons***” will be registered as a trademark by mid-2016. Upon being trademarked, the label will be marketed to the business sector under commercial arrangements. Ideal candidates would be eco-friendly manufacturing companies engaging in canning, bottling or packaging of processed natural products such as canned tuna and bottled water.

### **(b) *Eco-Tourism***

Eco-tourism *in situ* presents the greatest potential for the Arnavons given the existence of a niche market attributed to factors including national and international reputation. Under framework of the *Arnavon Trust*, current eco-tourism potential will be harnessed and further developed. Natural attractions of the Arnavons include:

- (i) Pristine environment and rich biodiversity
- (ii) Healthy and diverse coral reefs
- (iii) Hawksbill turtle nesting site
- (iv) Megapode nesting sites
- (v) Archaeological sites traced to headhunting era
- (vi) Migratory corridor of whales

Activities that can be enjoyed in the *Arnavons* include swimming and snorkelling, scuba diving, watching turtle hatchlings, recreational fishing, Megapode egg digging, turtle tagging and rodeo, archaeological site tours, and other leisure activities such as playing beach soccer or volley-ball. Kayaking is an activity of great potential that can also be introduced to the *Arnavons* for recreation. Moreover, being located in the Manning Strait, the *Arnavons* is within the migratory route or corridor of whales and dolphins. Seasonal whale-watching is thus another key activity for future eco-tourism in the Islands.

The *Arnavons* is gradually entering the *radar* of cruise ship operators and agents, having recently hosted some in 2015. Its

strategic location along the transit route for entry into or exit from Bougainville, PNG, renders cruise ship operations the flagship of its eco-tourism potential. Its growing reputation as a favourite stop-over for cruise ships must therefore be further enhanced.

Economic spinoff from cruise ship stopovers can be immense, and poised to increase with the popularity and frequency of stopovers in the *Arnavons*. Artisans, fishermen, traditional masseurs, story-tellers, dancers and entertainers, *motu*-women, tour guides, dive instructors, etc. from neighbouring communities of Kia and Waghena all stand to benefit from that opportunity. Proper coordination by the Management Committee is thus essential to ensuring fair and equitable distribution of benefits between participating communities.

Against the backdrop of such huge potential, it must be acknowledged however that the *Arnavons* is not as yet adequately prepared to absorb the effects of an otherwise burgeoning eco-tourism outpost. On this note, the *Arnavons* was established primarily as a *living marine laboratory* with facilities and safeguards that are not tailor-made for extensive eco-tourism activities. Thus, proactively pursuing an eco-tourism agenda will entail consideration of the following by the Management Committee:

- (a) Capacity of fragile ecosystems to withstand stress and pressure imposed by sustained recreational activities of sizeable human populations at any given time
- (b) Drinking water, sanitation and waste management facilities
- (c) Accommodation for guests including designated camping sites for overnight stays
- (d) Sustainable *local menu* for guest and visitors
- (e) Jetty and anchorage facilities
- (f) Communication and first-aid kits
- (g) Trained or qualified personnel

Within the 2-year transition period, the Management Committee under auspices of the *Arnavon Trust* will liaise with development partners including the *Ministry of Culture & Tourism* for purposes of addressing some of the outstanding issues. Unless and until

they are satisfactorily addressed, strict requirements and limits will continue to apply as safeguards.

### **(c) Souvenirs & Crafts**

Increasing visitor interest and mass arrivals of tourists aboard cruise ships necessitates the need for establishment of a souvenir shop in the Arnavons. The shop will only specialise in crafts, artefacts, and memorabilia that only bear “the **Arnavons**” or its insignia. Given its relative inaccessibility, setting foot on the Islands is a rare opportunity for most visitors and tourists. Thus, returning home with a piece of “the **Arnavons**” is certainly a milestone achievement for most guests and visitors.

The Management Committee will similarly negotiate arrangements with multiple carvers and artists in the three stakeholder communities of *Kia*, *Katupika* and *Waghena* for initial stock of artefacts. Proceeds from sales will be shared on a percentage basis between the producer and the *Arnavon Trust*. Local crafts for sale to visitors and tourists both onsite and in Honiara must be imprinted or engraved with the “**Arnavons**” label or insignia.

## **14 Zoning**

A zoning scheme will be employed and administered by the Management Committee pursuant to **r.26** of the *PA Regulations*. Such scheme will be necessary for the following purposes:

- (a) turtle nesting sites are protected
- (b) ensuring a stable Megapode population by restricting access to their breeding sites
- (c) spawning aggregates and fragile ecosystems are protected;
- (d) human contact is minimised within areas significant for environmental or ecosystems monitoring

While the core area described in **Section 3** of the Plan constitutes the **AMP**, representative pockets of protected areas outside of that area will be gradually integrated as constituent

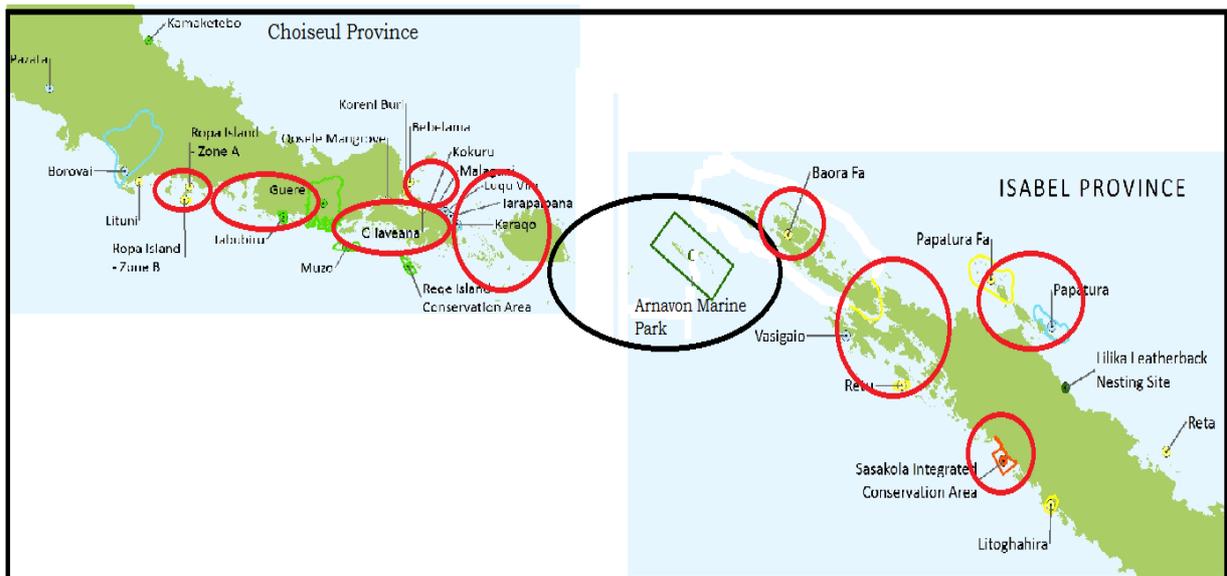
parts of the Conservation Programme of the *Arnavon Trust*. These may or will include:

- (a) the Haycock Islands;
- (b) lagoons and encompassing islands of Waghena and Rob Roy Islands;
- (c) lagoons and encompassing waters of Pisuana, Malakobi, Barora, and Suavanao Islands;
- (d) conservation area of Boeboe; and
- (e) marine protected areas of Posarae

Where applicable, this Plan and, upon gazetting, the *Protected Areas (Arnavon Marine Park) Regulations 2015* will also apply to integrated areas and satellite protected areas of the Trust. The Management Committee will advise the Director of Environment of each and every satellite PA of the Trust. **Diagram 4** describes the future expansion plan of the *Arnavon Trust* under its Conservation Programme. Such expansion incorporates extended boundaries of the core area as well as satellite protected areas located far from the core area.

*Diag. 4*

**Extended boundaries of AMP and network of satellite PAs of the Arnavon Trust in South Choiseul and Northwest Isabel**



The eventual integration of the satellite sites however requires a well-administered zoning scheme for multiple reasons. Firstly, some do not possess the natural qualities comparable to the Arnavons or have their own ecological characteristics. Secondly, the degree to which they are subjected to regular human contact or intervention is high. Thirdly, some of the areas are *natural food-bowls* of dependent local human communities, with resource extraction for subsistence occurring regularly.

Further, while the AMP will be classified as a *Nature Reserve*, it is anticipated that most of the satellite sites will be assigned *Category D* status. Thus, their Resource Management Area status is chosen to reflect the characteristics. Note that the same will be subject to a more rigorous conservation regime. A Zoning Scheme will thus be developed and adopted by the Management Committee within 12 months of adoption of this Plan.

## **15 Rules & Regulations**

The general prohibitions and restrictions prescribed in the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012* will apply to the AMP. Special restrictions with specific application to the protected area will be developed to transform, among others, the current management rules into enforceable regulations. The draft ***Protected Areas (Arnavon Marine Park) Regulations 2015*** is set out in **Annex 2** of this Plan, and will be brought into effect upon promulgation of the Minister of Environment. It is anticipated the special regulations will apply, with such adaptations, to satellite protected areas falling under management of the *Arnavon Trust*.

## **16 Enforcement & Penalties**

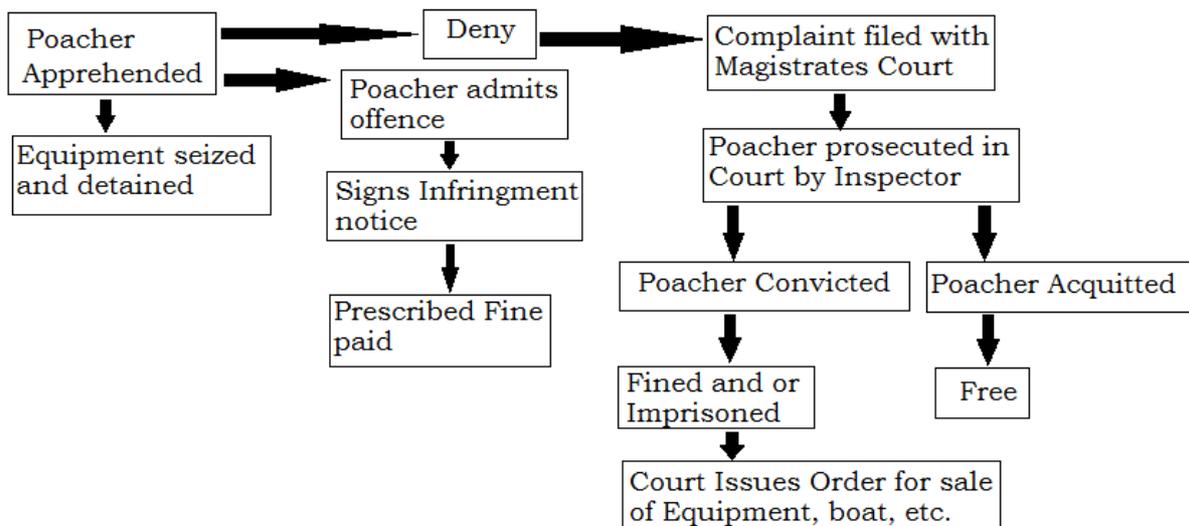
Enforcement of legal restrictions will be carried out by Rangers appointed under **r.65** of the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*. The jurisdiction and powers of the Rangers will be increased through appointment as inspectors and prosecutors under **ss.19** and **20** of the *Protected Areas Act*. Without encroaching into powers of the court, penalties will primarily be in the form of monetary fines.

For accountability purposes, the Rangers will keep records and issue receipts for fines paid pursuant to infringement notices.

Further, the Management Committee will explore legal avenues for the assigning of rights to fines received in respect of AMP to the *Arnavons Trust*. **Diagram 4** (below) provides a basic outline of the stages involved in the enforcement process. It is merely a guide and not exhaustive.

Further, the Management Committee will develop an incentive mechanism to reward rangers that make successful arrests of poachers and offenders. Such incentive will similarly apply to the proceeds of sale of seized equipment used in the commission of an offence under the *PA Act* and regulations. Thus, for each and every fine or proceeds of sale payable to the Trust, no less than **25%** of such will be payable to the Ranger(s) making the successful arrest.

*Diag.4*  
**Enforcement Process**



## 17 Authorised Activities

Subject to specific restrictions and under supervision of Rangers, the following activities have been authorized by the Management Committee:

- (a) Taking or removing any plant (*or part thereof*) or other organism for medicinal purposes by community members of *Kia, Katupika* and *Waghena*

- (b) Taking of Megapode eggs for subsistence use by members of the local communities within the period of June – December each year.
- (c) Line fishing for subsistence use and sports fishing are permissible. Any fish caught during sports fishing should be released into the waters as soon as possible.
- (d) Taking minimal quantities of edible resources not otherwise restricted, strictly for the meals of guests while in the Arnavons. Such edibles include *Alimango*, Alligator, *Kasusu*, crayfish, oyster, eels, mud & sea shells, snails & turbans, *Ke'e*, *Romu*, *Kakadu*, squid, octopus, and coconut fruits.

## 18 Implementation Schedule

This Plan will be implemented through annual work programs of the Management Committee under auspices of the *Arnavon Trust*. The timeframe for implementation of each activity will however depend on the nature of the activity. Identified activities for implementation within the transition period (2016 – 2018) and their corresponding priority ratings are set out in **Table 1**. As a guide, the following *priority rating* is adopted:

**High:** activities considered essential to achievement of the objectives of the protected area and must be undertaken with a degree of urgency

**Medium:** activities considered necessary to achieve the objectives of the protected area but with little or no urgency

**Low:** activities desirable to achieving management objectives but the implementation of which can be deferred pending availability of financial or technical resources

**Ongoing:** routine activities undertaken on an annual basis or those related to future plans for diversification the conservation objective

**Table 1 Activity Checklist for Management Action**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Indicative Timeframe (if applicable)</b>
1	Coastline Rehabilitation and Stabilisation	High	Nov '15 – Jun 2016
2	Anchoring of buoys as AMP boundary markers	High	March 2016
3	Setting up of remote-controlled surveillance equipment on <i>Sikopo &amp; Maleivona</i>	Low	2017-2018
4	Develop and promulgate <i>PA (AMP) Regulations 2015</i>	High	Oct – Nov 2015
5	Conduct legal training for Rangers	Medium	Jan 2016
6	Develop guidelines & rules for conducting of research in the Arnavons	Medium	Throughout 2016
7	Develop Zoning Scheme for AMP and satellite PAs	Medium	Throughout 2016
8	Feasibility study into establishment & operation of the <i>Arnavons Trust</i>	High	Oct - Nov 2015
9	Develop <i>Deed</i> and special legislation establishing the <i>Arnavons Trust</i>	High	Nov '15 – Mar 2016
10	Launch of <i>Financial Sustainability Programme</i> , and the <i>Community Development Programme</i>	Medium	Jun 2016
11	Register the Arnavons trademark	High	Nov 2015
12	Establish the Trust or Capital Fund	Medium	Jun – Nov 2016
13	Finalise AMP's Eco-tourism development plan	High	Jan – Mar 2016
14	Establish basic eco-tourism related infrastructure, including Crafts shop	Medium	Mid-2016 - 2018
	<b>etc.</b>		

## **19 Monitoring, Evaluation & Review**

The AMP will be subject to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the state, health, abundance, and distribution of biotic resources throughout the islands. This is necessary to ensure the vision, conservation objectives and values of AMP are maintained. For that purpose, the Management Committee will revise the research and monitoring program and methodologies earlier carried out under the *1994 Plan*. The program and indicators are revised to reflect the current status and progress of the conservation program in the Arnavons.

To determine progress with implementation, this Plan will be periodically reviewed every **12** months by the Management Committee, using **Table 1** in **Section 18** as basis for review. Reports of such reviews will be furnished to the Director of Environment annually or whenever requested.

**END**

**ANNEX 1**

**ACMCA Management Plan 1994-2002**

## **Annex 2**

### Draft ***Protected Areas (Arnavon Marine Park) Regulations 2015***

In the exercise of powers conferred upon me by section 24 of the Act, I, \_\_\_\_\_ Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology, hereby make these Regulations.

### **Part 1 Preliminary**

#### **1 Short Title and Commencement**

These Regulations may be cited as the *Protected Areas (Arnavon Marine Park) Regulations 2015*, and shall come into effect on such date as published by notice in the gazette.

#### **2 Interpretation**

(1) In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise-

“Act” means the Protected Areas Act 2010;

“AMP” means the *Arnavon Marine Park*;

“AMPMC” means the Arnavon Marine Park Management Committee;

“Area” means all terrestrial and marine landscape of the islands of Kerihikapa, Maleivona, Sikopo, and their adjoining waters and reefs bounded within the straight lines drawn and joined from the following coordinates: *158.04973°s, 157.91527°w, 157.96727° n, and 158.09642° e*;

“Court” means the Magistrates Court

“local community” means those villages or members thereof comprising and constituting the communities of Katupika, Kia and Waghena

- (2) Unless excluded or specified otherwise, reference to the Area also includes reference to:
  - (a) such extensions to the Area's original boundaries; and,
  - (b) the area of any satellite protected area as defined in the *Conservation and Management Plan 2015*.

## **2 Territorial Application, etc.**

- (1) Without limiting the generality of the provisions of the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012*, these Regulations shall apply to the Area of the AMP.
- (2) In the event of inconsistency between the *Protected Areas Regulations 2012* and these Regulations, the latter shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.
- (3) Unless circumstances render otherwise, these Regulations shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to satellite protected areas.

## **Part 2 Restrictions within the Area**

### **3 Turtles**

- (1) No person shall take or capture and retain or caused to be taken captured and retained for whatever purpose, turtle or turtle eggs from the Area.
- (2) No person shall destroy or caused to be destroyed turtle nests or eggs.

### **4 Black-lip and Gold-lip**

No person shall capture and retain or caused to be captured and retained or takes for whatever purpose, black-lip or gold-lip shell from the Area.

### **5 Bech-de-mer**

No person shall harvest or take and retain, or caused to be harvested taken and retained for whatever purpose bech-de-mer of all specie.

## **6 Trocus**

No person shall harvest or take and retain, or caused to be harvested taken and retained for whatever purpose trocus shell

## **7 Giant Clams**

No person shall harvest or take and retain, or caused to be harvested taken and retained for whatever purpose any giant clam.

## **8 Green snail**

No person shall harvest or take and retain, or caused to be harvested taken and retained for whatever purpose any green snail.

## **9 Shark**

No person shall catch or take and retain, or caused to be caught taken and retained for whatever purpose any shark.

## **10 Kurukuru & Megapode Birds**

- (1) No person shall capture or take and retain, or caused to be captured taken and retained for whatever purpose any *Kurukuru* or Megapode bird or egg.
- (2) Notwithstanding *sub-regulation (1)*, the AMPMC may authorise the taking of eggs by members of any local community or other persons during such prescribed season or for such subsistence purpose.

## **11 Coral**

No person shall harvest or take and retain, or caused to be harvested taken and retained for whatever purpose any live or dead coral.

## **12 Milk-fish, *Vulu* or *Baeawa***

No person shall catch or take and retain, or caused to be caught taken and retained for whatever purpose any milk-fish, *vulu* or *baeawa*.

## **13 Penalty**

Any person who contravenes *regulations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12* of these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding **100'000** penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding **18** months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

## **14 Scuba & Hookah Gear**

- (1) Unless authorised by the AMPMC, the use of scuba and hookah gear for diving purposes is prohibited.
- (2) Any person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding **10'000** penalty units.

## **15 Vegetation**

- (1) Unless permitted by the AMPMC, the removal or cutting of trees and vegetation for whatever purpose is prohibited.
- (2) Any person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding **10'000** penalty units

### **Part 3 Enforcement**

## **16 Rangers**

These Regulations shall be enforced by Rangers appointed pursuant to the Act.

## **17 Infringement Notices**

- (1) A Ranger may issue an infringement notice for the contravention of any of the offences prescribed in these Regulations.

- (2) For purposes of fines payable under infringement notices, the fixed penalties shall be **20'000** penalty units for regulations **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11** and **12**, and **2'000** penalty units for regulations **14** and **15**.

**18 Forfeiture of Equipment, etc.**

- (1) Unless ordered otherwise by the Court, any equipment, canoe, gear, motorised boat or vessel, and such other instrument used in the commission of an offence shall be forfeited to the AMPMC.
- (2) The AMPMC shall exercise sole discretion in determining the manner in which such forfeited equipment, canoe, gear, motorised boat, vessel, or instrument may be disposed of.
- (3) For purposes of clarity, no sale under these regulations shall be valid if entered with the offender or agent associate or servant thereof, or former owner of such equipment, canoe, gear, motorised boat, vessel, or instrument.

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