



## MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND RESEARCH

### UN CTCN TA Project Inception Meeting for Solomon Islands

#### - Korea Environment Institute (KEI)

The establishment of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan to protect the mangroves through Ecosystem based adaptation solutions

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Honiara Hotel

by : Terence Titiulu

Deputy Forest Commissioner

Forest Resource Management and Technical Services Division

Phone: 24215 or 7537774

Email: [ttitiulu@mofr.gov.sb](mailto:ttitiulu@mofr.gov.sb) or [ttitiulurukale@gmail.com](mailto:ttitiulurukale@gmail.com)



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## Brief Introduction

- Solomon Islands natural forests are classified into these main forest types:
- **Lowland Forests:** Forests on level or nearly level land below 200 m above sea level.
- **Hill Forests:** Forests between 200 m - 600 m above sea level on well-drained soils.
- **Montane Forests:** Forests at higher altitude ridge tops, generally >600 m above sea level.
- **Freshwater Swamp and Riverine Forests:** Forests on land with little relief and impeded drainage.
- **Mangroves and Saline Swamp Forests:** Forests on land subjected to tidal influences such as estuaries and foreshores.



## Brief Introduction cont...

- Forests cover 89.9% of the total land area. The forest structure and species composition varies significantly.
- It is estimated that 51% of the natural forests are comprised by Lowland Forests, 38% by Hill Forests, 10% by Montane Forests.
- Only 1% are Mangroves and Saline Swamp Forests,
- and 0,3 % are Freshwater Swamp and Riverine Forests.
- Solomon Islands has reported mangrove forests of about 37,700 hectares (FAO 2010), although this figure could be higher up to 60,200 hectares, making it the second largest area of mangroves in the Pacific after Papua New Guinea (MESCAL. 2013)



## **Integrated planning & coordination of coastal developments**

- Mangrove forest protection
- Protected area laws can play an important role in achieving protection of certain areas for conservation.
- Solomon Islands currently has large number of small community level based protected areas.
- However these protection means are often weak as they are either established under Provincial ordinances, customary law or for conservation interests alone.
- It is therefore do not give strong legal protection against development landuses such as logging.



### Integrated planning & coordination of coastal developments Cont...

- In Solomon Islands there are some mechanisms under which areas of land can receive legal protection for conservation;
- 1. Declaration of a protected area under the Protected Areas Act 2010.
- 2. Declaration of conservation areas at Provincial Level. Provincial ordinances which allow for areas to be set aside for conservation. The process can be hiccup due to land tenure system.
- 3. Declaration of a Sanctuary: The Minister can declare any land, including customary land, to be a sanctuary under the Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act from which timber must not be removed (Section 44(1) (s); Sch 2). However the land must first be completely acquired, which is unlikely to be acceptable to customary landowners.



## Integrated planning & coordination of coastal developments Cont...

- 4. Declaration of a state Forest: The Minister can declare Public land to be state forest under the FRTU Act (Section 20-23). However, only if land is state owned.
- 5. Declaration of a Forest Reserve: The Minister can declare a forest to be a forest reserve under the FRTU Act, but only for a limited purpose of protecting water resources (Section 24-28).
- Mangrove and tidal areas can be declared a marine protected areas under the Protected Areas Act 2010.
- The Fisheries Act 1998 empowers Provincial Governments to make ordinances to establish and protect marine reserves and to regulate and prohibit the destruction of mangroves.



### Existing policies, plan and programmes (PPP)

- While Solomon Islands does not have a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and management of mangroves, there exists certain **Strategies under the SI NFP 2018.**
- **Relevant Regulations can be drawn from the Recent SI NFP 2018 to address the existing gaps.**
- **Under the SI NFP 2018 are 16 Goals**

### **The SI Forest Policy's Strategies are:**

- **Forest Conservation;**
- **Sustainable Forest Management;**
- **Capacity Development ;**
- **Forest Economy and Markets;**
- **Community Governance ;**
- **Monitoring and Law Enforcement;**
- **Transparency.**



### Existing policies, plan and programmes (PPP) Cont...

- While MOFR does not have a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and management of mangroves, **there exists legal protection under the following;**
- Felling and removal of mangroves from any land for commercial use without a license is prohibited under the the current FRTU Act (Protected Species) regulations 1990.



## What are the legal and institutional instruments in support of the policies plan and programmes (PPP)

- List of laws, regulations and decisions providing legal mandate for the PPP
- Solomon Islands National Forest Policy 2018
- **SI NFP Vision Statement**  
“Forests resources and ecosystems are sustainably and responsibly managed for the benefit and resilience of all Solomon Islanders.”
- Protected Areas Act 2010.
- FRTU Act 1969
- SI COLP 2002



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### Do these PPP have any component relevant to the (eco-system based) protection of the mangroves

- MOFR does not have a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and management of mangroves.
  - However some extend of legal protection is available under the following;
    - Felling and removal of mangroves from any land for commercial use without a license is prohibited under the current FRTU Act (Protected Species) regulations 1990.
    - KOICA – MOFR SI Project 2013 – 2015 Action Plan
- (To be reviewed and Cross Checked)**
- Mangrove and tidal areas can be declared a marine protected areas under the Protected Areas Act 2010.
  - The Fisheries Act 1998 empowers Provincial Governments to make ordinances to establish and protect marine reserves and to regulate and prohibit the destruction of mangroves. ||



Do these PPP have any component relevant to the (eco-system based) protection of the mangroves

- If not, what kind of (gap closing) amendment or revision do we need to introduce in each of sectoral PPP?
- Develop integrated Relevant Legal Regulations under current Policies and Legislations.
- Develop a Stand alone Mangrove Policy and Provisions for legal framework, such as Solomon Islands Mangrove Act.
- Inclusion of Mangrove Management under the current Forest Act review.



## Livelihoods of coastal communities.

- What are the **main revenue sources** for the livelihoods of coastal communities?
- Sale of Poles for Housing Construction.
- Sale of Poles for Wharf/Jetty Constructions
- Sale of Poles for Firewood
- Shells, Crabs, Fish, Mangrove



## **Does any data base of the revenue sources for the livelihoods of coastal communities**

- If yes, the details of the metadata of that database
- Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, 2018.
- Census 2009. Key Social Indicators
- MECDM
- KOICA – MOFR SI Project 2013 – 2015 Action Plan



## **Does any data base of the revenue sources for the livelihoods of coastal communities**

- If not, what kind of raw data collection and (relational) data base work do we need to support ICZMP
- Check with Statistics Office



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Are there Research reports or any analysis on the socio-economic contributions of the mangroves to the livelihoods of the coastal communities in Solomon Islands

- If yes, List of existing documents
  - Mescal Report 2013
  - Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, 2018.
  - Census 2009. Key Social Indicators
  - Ridges to reefs conservation for the Solomon Islands, 2010



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### Conservation of coastal and marine resources and environment

- What are the main resources and environmental challenges in coastal & marine eco-systems?
- Solomon Islands currently has large number of small community level based protected areas.
- However these protection settings are often weak as they are either established under Provincial ordinances, customary law or for conservation interests alone.
- It is therefore do not give strong legal protection against development landuses such as logging.
- Monitoring and Enforcement is weak or either not a priority for mandatory enforcement



## Environmental risks associated with changes in shoreline and climate

- What are the expected climate change impacts in coastal ecosystem including shorelines?
- Ownership of area below the high water mark belongs to the State or Customary Ownership.
- Sea level rise will be an issue of Concern in determining ownership.
- **Lands and Titles Act needs to be amended.**



### Establish **effective institutional and legal frameworks** for implementation of the **ICZM policy**

- What are the existing **institutional and legal frameworks** relevant to the mangroves?
- List of laws, regulations and decisions providing legal mandate for the PPP
- Felling and removal of mangroves from any land for commercial use without a license is prohibited under the current FRTU Act (Protected Species) regulations 1990.
- **Mangrove and tidal areas can be declared a marine protected areas under the Protected Areas Act 2010.**
- **The Fisheries Act 1998 empowers Provincial Governments to make ordinances to establish and protect marine reserves and to regulate and prohibit the destruction of mangroves.**



# Conclusion

- **Tools Needed**



- Improved integrated government Policy developed
- Comprehensive Mangrove Policy developed.
- Financial Support for Inventory capturing Mangrove Livelihood
- Technical Capacity Enhanced



# Questions?

