

**Inception Meeting Report**

**UN CTCN TA Project for Solomon Islands (2022-2023)**

**(UNEP/CTCN, MECDM Solomon Islands, KEI)**

**28 February 2023**

**Honiara**

## **I. Background**

### ***Introduction***

Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) is much crucial subject for the sustainable development in the South Pacific region. It is known that almost 100 per cent of Pacific islanders live in coastal areas and depend on associated land and marine coastal resources for their livelihood. These coastal areas, providing many ecosystem services that support human wellbeing, cover coral reefs and reef flats, mangrove swamps, wetlands, coastal littoral forests, and rocky and sandy beaches that are home to numerous coastal flora and fauna species. Ongoing degradation of coastal resources<sup>1</sup> and the damage from regular extreme climate events is causing much concern to those involved in climate change adaptation and addressing resulted loss and damage.

Solomon Islands' economy is based on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, which together account for around 40 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). About 80% of the population live on low lying coastal areas and continue to rely on the subsistence economy with supplementary income from agriculture, forestry and fishery. It was on this background that the government of Solomon Islands submitted a request for technical assistance for ICZM planning from the UN CTCN, hosted by UNEP.

This TA will support the formulation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management policy framework to protect the mangroves through Ecosystem based adaptation solutions. The ICZM policy formulation will be a dynamic, multidisciplinary, and iterative process to promote sustainable management of coastal zones. It seeks over the long-term, to balance environment, socio-economic, cultural, and recreational objectives; reduces ecosystem degradation; and conserves and maintains existing ecosystems from potential climate change impacts; it involves local communities or stakeholder's participation in decision of sustainable environmental management.

ICZM policy framework aims to:

- ✓ Promote integrated planning and coordination of coastal developments across the various sectors.
- ✓ Promote sustainable economic development to secure livelihoods of coastal communities.
- ✓ Conserve the coastal and marine resources and environment for sustainable development.
- ✓ Manage environmental risks associated with changes in shoreline and climate.
- ✓ Develop capacity in research and education and enhance stakeholder awareness and participation in sustainable resource management.
- ✓ Establish effective institutional and legal frameworks for implementation of the ICZM policy.
  
- ✓ Protect the mangroves through Ecosystem based adaptation solutions.

Following kick-off meeting and bilateral consultations last year at COP27, NDE SI and Korea Institute decided to co-organize an inception meeting on 28 February in Honiara with the support of UN CTCN.

### ***Meeting Objective***

The main objective of the inception meeting is to build a stakeholders' group to implement ICZM planning with its roles and responsibilities. Participants will share their respective views and approaches to ICZM and identify the scope of their contribution as a part of the ICZM platform to be developed following the planning process.

### ***Meeting Structure***

The inception meeting is co-organized by MECDM SI (NDE) and KEI (TA provider). It is structured as a half-day stakeholders' workshop. To facilitate fruitful outcomes, NDE SI and KEI will host additional informal/bilateral

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<sup>1</sup> This includes unsustainable harvesting of coastal fishery resources, degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass beds, increasing solid waste, and groundwater pollution from human and animal waste.

consultations with national and local stakeholders between 27 and 28 February 2023 in Honiara.

Opening of the meeting invite the remarks from the representatives of NDE, UNEP/CTCN and KEI. Participants will introduce themselves with expected roles. The session 1 begin with brief framing and introductory presentations on the background, perspectives of the project and implementation strategy by NDE and KEI. Then participants will discuss their roles and responsibilities on the ICZM planning process.

The session 2 provide a stock-take of the policies, legal and institutional resources to support ICZMP, followed by an introduction of the existing technological solutions for ICZM platform building stage. The closing will wrap-up the main result of the meeting and follow-up actions to be taken by attended stakeholders coordinated with NDE and KEI.

### *Tentative Program*

<b>Tuesday, 28 February 2023</b>	
08:45-09:00	Arrival of the Participants/Registration
09:00-09:30	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks (5 min., by MECDM SI)</li> <li>• Welcome remarks (5 min., by UNEP CTCN)</li> <li>• Introduction of the Participants (15 min., by all)</li> <li>• Introduction of Inception Meeting (5 min. by KEI)</li> <li>• Group photo</li> </ul>
09:30-10:30	<p><b>Session 1. Orientation</b></p> <p><i>The session will have presentations from NDE SI and PM KEI on the background, implementation process and expected outputs of the project in support of the establishment of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) plan to protect the mangroves through ecosystem based adaptation solutions for Solomon Islands.</i></p> <p><i>The presentations will be followed by a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of national and local stakeholders including relevant line ministries, authorities and communities to the ICZMP.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background and Perspectives of the Project (by NDE SI, 10 min.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• national circumstances &amp; motives of the project request</li> <li>• expected outcomes and perspectives from the government of SI</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introduction of Implementation Plan &amp; Outputs (by PM KEI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation strategy with tentative roles and responsibilities of stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion on the Roles and Responsibilities of the National &amp; Local Stakeholders (led by PM, remarks by all participants)</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	<p><b>Session 2. Stock-take of the existing policies, legal instruments and technological solutions for ICZMP</b></p> <p><i>The session will have presentations from relevant stakeholders on their existing mandate and policy program regarding respective component of the ICZM Planning. KEI will introduce also existing and available technological solutions to support the establishment of ICZM platform.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock taking presentations from national and local stakeholders (by ministry, agency and community) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministries: MECDM, Agriculture Forestry, Fishery, ...</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introduction of technological solutions (by KEI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning with GIS tools</li> <li>• Climate change monitoring/assessment system</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICZ management system</li> <li>• Discussion on the establishment of ICZM platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy to overcome the institutional challenges and barriers</li> <li>• Ways to link with the global and regional support programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:15-12:45	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap-up &amp; follow-up schedule (led by NDE SI and KEI)</li> </ul>
12:45-13:35	<b>Business lunch, hosted by NDE SI &amp; KEI</b>

**Contacts for coordination and local logistics:**

Mr. Thaddeus A. Siota, NDE SI at [TSiota@mecdm.gov.sb](mailto:TSiota@mecdm.gov.sb) (office 677 24006)

Dr. Sang In KANG, PM KEI at [sikang@kei.re.kr](mailto:sikang@kei.re.kr) (mobile, 82 10 4840 1555)

**II. Check list for policy framework**

<p><b>ICZM policy framework aims to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Promote <b>integrated planning and coordination of coastal developments across the various sectors.</b></li> <li>✓ Promote sustainable economic development to secure <b>livelihoods of coastal communities.</b></li> <li>✓ Conserve the <b>coastal and marine resources and environment</b> for sustainable development.</li> <li>✓ Manage <b>environmental risks associated with changes in shoreline and climate.</b></li> <li>✓ Develop <b>capacity in research and education</b> and enhance <b>stakeholder</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Awareness and participation</b> in sustainable resource management.</li> <li>✓ Establish <b>effective institutional and legal frameworks</b> for implementation of the <b>ICZM policy.</b></li> <li>✓ Protect the <b>mangroves through Ecosystem based adaptation solutions.</b></li> </ul>
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➤ **“integrated” planning & coordination of coastal developments “across the various sectors”**

1. What sectors need to be integrated in planning & coordination?

1. Urban(city)/rural(village) planning: land-use, road & transport, natural reserve, etc

- Ministry of infrastructure and development (MID) \_

- Ministry of mines, energy and rural electrification (MMERE) \_ water resource division

2. Community development

- Ministry of women, youth and children affairs (MWYCA) \_

- Ministry of **culture** and tourism (MCT) \_

3. Environment management: solid waste, waste water & sanitation

- Ministry of environment climate change disaster management and meteorology (MECDM)

2. In the case of the coastal mangrove protection planning, what sectors need to be considered in addition?
  4. Mangrove forest protection
    - Ministry of forest and research
  5. (Mangrove related) inshore ecosystem conservation
    - Ministry of fisheries and marine resource (MFMR) \_
    - Ministry of environment climate change disaster management and meteorology (MECDM)
    -

Q1. What are the existing policies, plan and programmes (PPP) for the planning of these sectors

- ✓ List of documents on existing PPP (to be provided by the ministries relevant)

Q2. 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 (to be provided by the ministries relevant)

Q3. Do these PPP have any component relevant to the (eco-system based) protection of the mangroves

- ✓ If yes, the details of the component (to be provided by the ministries relevant)
- ✓ If not, what kind of (gap closing) amendment or revision do we need to introduce in each of sectoral PPP? (to be provided by the ministries relevant)

➤ **livelihoods of coastal communities.**

1. What are the **main revenue sources** for the livelihoods of coastal communities?

6. Tourism
  - Ministry of culture and tourism (MCT)
7. Agriculture
  - Ministry of **agriculture** and livestock
8. Forestry
  - Ministry of forest and research \_ forest and planning division
9. Fishery
  - Ministry of fisheries and marine resource (MFMR)

Q4. Does any data base of the revenue sources for the livelihoods of coastal communities?

- ✓ If yes, the details of the metadata of that database (to be provided by the ministries relevant)
- ✓ If not, what kind of raw data collection and (relational) data base work do we need to support ICZMP (views or proposal to be provided by the ministries relevant, or by the national statistics office)

Ref: National Statistics Office

Q5. 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 (to be provided by the ministries relevant or by the stakeholders)
- ✓ If not, what kind of additional work need to be implemented during this project implementation (views or proposal to be provided by the ministries relevant, or by the

national statistics office)

➤ **conservation of coastal and marine resources and environment**

Q6. What are the **main resources and environmental challenges in coastal & marine eco-systems?**

10. Coastal ecosystem

- Ministry of forestry & research (MCT)
- Ministry of environment climate change disaster management and meteorology (MECDM)
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11. Marine ecosystem

- Ministry of fishery and marine resource
- Ministry of environment climate change disaster management and meteorology (MECDM)
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➤ **Environmental risks associated with changes in shoreline and climate**

Q7. What are the expected climate change impacts in coastal ecosystem including shorelines?

12. Climate change risks

- Ministry of environment climate change disaster management and meteorology (MECDM)
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Ref: <https://www.reddplussolomonislands.gov.sb/index.php>

➤ Develop **capacity in research and education** and enhance **stakeholder awareness and participation in sustainable resource management**.

Q8. What are the roles of Academia, NGO and Community groups in **research & education** as well as **stakeholder awareness?**

13. Research and education

- Ministries
- SINU \_  
focusing on Satellite imagery, ICT/GIS, Web based management system, ...

14. Public awareness

- NGO
- Community groups

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

Q9. What are the existing **institutional and legal frameworks** relevant to the mangroves?

15. List of laws, regulations and decisions providing legal mandate for the PPP (to be provided by the ministries relevant)

- Ministry of environment climate change disaster management and meteorology (MECDM)
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Ref: <https://www.mofr.gov.sb>

“Final report on the project titled establishment of action plan for forest resources management of the Solomon Islands” 2015.09

➤ Protect the **mangroves through Ecosystem based adaptation solutions.**

Q10. What are the concept and practices of existing **Ecosystem based adaptation solutions?**

16. Benchmarks

- Ministry of environment climate change disaster management and meteorology (MECDM)

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√ It is expected, at the Inception Meeting, participants from Ministries, Academia and Groups could provide an overview on their existing policy and programmes relevant to the ICZMP for the protection of the mangroves and communities, as well as recommendations to improve the project implementation process.

√As a benchmark for ICZMP, we can take the case of Belize:

- ✓ Guidelines for Developing a Coastal Zone Management Plan for Belize, A.R.G Price and A.P. Heinanen, IUCN, 1992
- ✓ Guidelines for integrated coastal zone management, Jan C. Post and Carl G. Lundin, *Editors*, ESD, 1996
- ✓ The National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Belize, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), Belize, 2003
- ✓ Belize Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute(CZMAI), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery, the Environment & Sustainable Development, 2016,

√As to the forest management action plan, we can take the stock from KOICA-Ministry of Forestry and Research SI project outputs (2014-2015):

- ✓ Final report on the project titled establishment of action plan for forest resources management of the Solomon Islands”, KOICA, National Forestry Cooperative Federation Korea (NFCF), Ministry of Forestry and Research (MFR), 2015.09,
- ✓ Education Program for Reforestation, MFR, 2015
- ✓ Enhancement of Forest Information & Statistics in Solomon Islands, KOICA, NFCF, 2015
- ✓ Strategies for and Direction of Strengthening Forest Legal System in the Solomon Islands, KOICA, MFR, NFCF, 2015
- ✓ User manual for a Web-based forestry management system, <https://www.mofr.gov.sb>

[ 23 FEB 2023, by KEI]

### III. Outcomes

- ✓ *Following the opening session, 2 sessions were adjusted into 1 presentation sessions and 2 group discussions.*

## Structure of the Inception Meeting (half day, 09:00~, 28 Feb. 2023, revised)

- ▶ Opening (led by NDE SI)
  - opening remarks from MECDM SI, UNEP/CTCN
  - introduction of the Participants, and a group photo
  - introduction of the inception meeting (by KEI)
- ▶ Presentations
  - p1. background & perspectives of the CTCN ICZMP for SI (by NDE\_SI)
  - p2. task analysis and adjustment of initial implementation after a bibliographic analysis (by KEI)
  - p3. stock-take of the existing policy framework on inland ICZM (by MFR)
  - p4. stock-take of national(inland and marine) perspectives of ICZM (by ECD MECDM)
  - p5. introduction of technological solutions for ICZM & climate change (by KEI)
- ▶ Discussions in 2 Groups
- ▶ Closing
  - wrap up with key take-ways and next work schedule

### ✓ *During the presentation session, 5 meeting materials were presented:*

1. *Background and Perspectives of the Project (by CCD MECDM/NDE SI)*
2. *Task analysis and adjustment of project implementation (by PM KEI)*
3. *Stock taking presentations on inland ICZM (by FRMTSD MFR)*
4. *Stock taking presentation on national perspectives (by ECD MECDM)*
5. *Introduction of technological solutions (by PM KEI)*

### ✓ *After 2 parallel group discussions, moderates presented main outcomes of the discussion*

### ✓ Feedback from group 1 discussion

#### Roles and responsibility of National & local stakeholders

- National Government; Law & regulation, Policies and strategy plan, technical and financial resources, capacity development, knowledge management , standard and guidelines, monitoring
- Provincial Government; Ordinances, monitoring, awareness, Technical support, development plans
- NGO partners; Research, technical support, information sharing i.e. awareness, capacity building
- Institution; Research, Data collection & management, analysis,
- Community; Management plan, monitoring enforcement of rules

#### Strategy for overcoming institutional challenges

- Integration of program, co group or working group (NCC or task force)
- Data base or portal
- Policy guidelines, road map
- Focal point

#### Ways to link with regional and global initiatives

- Focal point
- Data hub
- Funding
- Regional partners i.e. IUCN, UQ

#### Demarcation of mangrove ecosystem

- National mangrove map
- Classification of mangrove Forest types or profile

✓ **Feedback from group 2 discussion**

Roles and Responsibilities of Ministries, NGOs / Stakeholders to map or demarcation of mangroves

- The Ministry of Forestry- can do mapping and demarcation of mangroves in the Solomon Islands
- The Ministry of Forestry also explained that the demarcation must be enforced and monitored regulation of protected species and ecosystems/ identification of mangroves species, threatened etc
- The Ministry of CCD- supplement work can be done through the vulnerability assessment.
- The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) can help map out mangroves through the use of GIS and also using baseline data to identify mangrove areas, species etc

Strategies to overcome Institutional barriers

- There needs to be a well explained and clear mandate and coordination between stakeholders and ministries, as there might be over lap
- Establish integrated platform which can integrate stakeholders come together /Task force and assigned work
- Continuous meetings and update on work done on the ground relating to mangroves and work and processes.

Ways to link with regional and global initiatives

- Research
- CCD- Spatial /GIS mapping
- Established portal to access database on mangrove ecosystems
- SINU- collaborate with other universities on mangrove research, publications reports etc through Projects such as FALAH Projects currently underway between SINU and other Universities. Also get support in terms of advice from mangrove expertise in other universities and also and current work in place in SI. Importantly to also identify gaps and potential for mangrove research in Solomon Islands when in collaboration in order to get support and even financial assistance

✓ **Notes from the inception meeting wrap-up discussion led by NDE SI (Dir. Thaddeus Siota)**

Name	Remarks	Suggested way forward
Hudson Kauhiona (SIIP, former NDE SI)	From the presentations it is clear so much has been done with regards to conservation, community based resources management, ocean etc. There are some existing Policy, Strategy, framework/plans and actions. Generally see minimum space for the existing proposals however we should focus on how best this proposal can best assist where we are at the moment. There are existing portals located here and there.  Some recommendations in her presentation	This TA support can support developing a Hub where everything is located, measured, evaluated so that there is clarity moving forward in terms of knowing, where we are, here we are, and the way moving forward. This will enable clarity in progressing forward with CZM or mangroves. Some short of positioning or clarity is needed. How best should we put this Technical support to make sure that it is useful for us Solomon Islanders. A portal to take stock of what we have and how far we go with it, gaps, challenges and failures.

Henry Kaniki (WWF)	<p>Currently WWF work is not much on mangroves but on Nature based focused on Sea grapes in Western Province.</p> <p>Mangrove is an important ecosystem and we look forward to work with other stakeholders as we move into mangrove projects.</p>	
Agnetha Vave (ECD)	<p>Reflect on MESCAL Project there was a plan to do phase 2 of MESCAL and the intention was to do a Mangrove Policy and an Action Plan for Mangroves.</p> <p>Environment, Conservation Division looks after developments and when we talk about coastal development, Environment Unit (EU) is the regulator for coastal development however one of the ecosystems that is least assessed is the mangrove ecosystem.</p> <p>Environment Unit does not have a check list for assessing mangroves.</p>	<p>This TA can support the existing gap and instead of calling it ICZM I propose should renamed it to focus on mangroves ecosystem approach.</p> <p>Need to have a technical tool to assess mangroves eg. A check list for mangroves for eg. Before a development is to be conducted close/on a mangrove ecosystem it needs to pass certain criteria.</p> <p>Need to have a set policy or framework or codes of conduct to deal with mangroves.</p> <p>Need to have a set of principles, standards, mitigation measures an agreed framework not only for the national government but also for the communities.</p>
Hudson Kauhiona (SIIP) Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program (SIIP)	<p>What we want should not be abstract and obscure (not clear)</p> <p>Coastal zone management is too broad</p>	<p>A proposal would be to take the recommendation from MESCAL to build mangrove policy or a guideline for management of mangroves in line with the regulation from forestry for eg. There should be permits for cutting mangroves</p>
Mary Tahu (SINU)	<p>Research on mangrove is a gap in Solomon Islands as well as having access to data</p> <p>SINU is currently looking into the role of mangrove. SINU is doing research on the decomposition rates and biomass of mangroves.</p> <p>Solomon Islands do not have a specific policy on mangroves</p>	<p>Need to have a data base on Mangroves</p> <p>Develop and implement Policy with regards to mangroves</p> <p>Standards to quantify mangroves</p>
Andrew Nixon (HCC, Honiara City Council)	<p>A lot have been done in country</p> <p>We are in a position to embrace activities proposed</p>	

✓ **Main Take ways**

- Agree that project to be re-focused to mangroves/climate change adaptation and integrated coastal management.
- The focus may be to develop an 'integrated, ecosystem-based [management] [adaptation] framework for mangroves [in the coastal zone/area].

**IV. Follow-ups & interim conclusion**

- **Following the inception meeting, NDE SI and KEI had a consultation (at the 58<sup>th</sup> UNFCCC SBs meeting at Bonn June 2023) on how to proceed with the main take ways**
  - NDE SI suggested to select 2 mangrove sites interested in the project and having no problems related to customary land tenure system. The selection process is still going on as of 10 July 2023
  - As recommended in the suggestion of the wrap up and main take ways, NDE SI and KEI agreed to proceed toward a development of 'integrated, ecosystem-based adaptation management framework for mangroves in the coastal zone/area'.
  - KEI proposed that such EbA management framework could be better supported by Web-GIS based hub portal, which could be further discussed with local stakeholders and experts including SINU.
- **The above mentioned issues will be taken during the second mission to Honiara in August/September depending on the result of the site selection and after a preparatory review on the design of the integrated platform of 'ecosystem-based adaptation management framework [eg. Web-GIS based integrated portal/hub] for mangroves in the coastal zone/area'.**

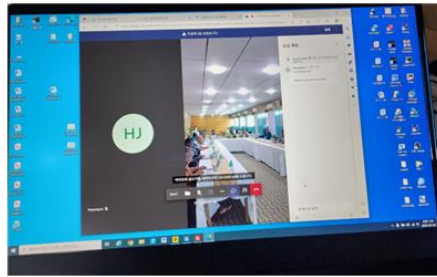
✓ **Participants lists**

- Mr. Ho-yeong Jo, CTCN LO (remote)
- Dr. Sang In KANG, KEI
- Dr. Melchior Mataki, Executive Secretary of MECDM
- Mr. Thaddeus Siota, CCD MECDM, NDE SI
- Mr. Terence Titiulu, FRMTSD MFR
- Ms. Agnetha Vave-Karamui, ECD MECDM
- Mr. Malachi Batee, CCD MECDM
- Mr. Reginald Ruben, CCD MECDM
- Nancy Dimana, CCD MECDM
- Mary Tahu, SINU
- Mr. Andrew Nixon, (Honiara City Council)
- Mr. Hudson Kauhiona, Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program (SIIP)
- Mr. Henry Kaniki, WWF
- ...

✓ Photos



□ setting of the meeting room



□ connection to CTCN LO Incheon



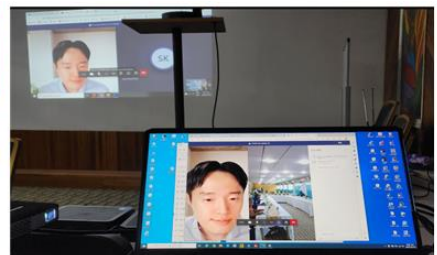
□ Introduction of the inception meeting



□ group photo



□ opening remarks\_permanent secretary



□ opening remarks\_CTCN LO Mr. H. Jo



□ presentaion 3 ECD MECDM



□ presentation 4 FRMTSD MFR



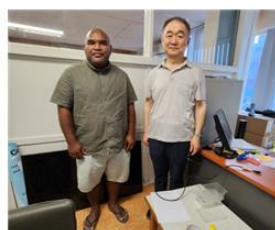
□ report back of group discussion 1



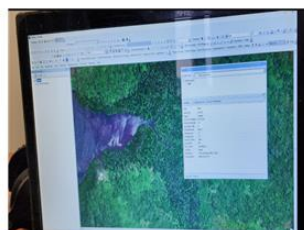
□ report back of group discussion 2



□ reception



□ follow-up meeting



□ mangrove mapping CCD MECDM

