

# Defined vision and mission with guiding principles

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Abbreviations

MoFR	Ministry of Forestry and Research
MECDM	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MID	Ministry of Infrastructure and Development
MWYCA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MEHRD	Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development

## 1. Introduction

The mangrove ecosystems in the Solomon Islands are vital resources, found in sheltered coastal bays and along river mouths. The Solomon Islands are home to 40 different species of mangroves. These mangrove ecosystems play a crucial role in supporting food security, livelihoods, and the lives of Indigenous coastal communities.

Over 85% of the land, including mangroves, is under customary land tenure (McDonald 2006), meaning that Indigenous people or local tribes govern the activities carried out on their land, including mangroves. Livelihoods are supported by tribal ownership of land, and all customary landholding group members have the right to access resources for subsistence or income generation (Wairiu 2006). However, granting access by customary land systems complicates the capacity-building mechanism for resource management in the communities.

Despite the importance of mangroves in these communities, there are no registered protected areas for mangroves in the Solomon Islands (Albert and Schwarz 2013). Nonetheless, the government recognizes the ecological, economic, social, and cultural significance of its mangrove ecosystems and is committed to their protection, management, and conservation to adapt to the impacts of climate change and enhance the food security of Indigenous coastal communities.

However, mangroves are significantly threatened by climate change and human-induced activities. The national mangrove policy aims to protect and conserve the Solomon Islands' mangrove ecosystem through sustainable and integrated management as a means of adapting to the impacts of climate change.

This policy aligns with and helps implement existing national, regional, and international policies and commitments related to mangrove ecosystems in the Solomon Islands.

Table 2. Existing regulations related to Mangrove in Solomon Islands

Related legislation and guidelines.

Solomon Islands Constitution – The Independence Order (1978) –
Environment Act (1998)

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Related legislation and guidelines	Related policies and documents
• Solomon Islands Constitution-The Independence Order (1978)	• East Rennell, World Heritage properties (1998) <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Act (1998)</li> <li>- Environment Regulation (2008)</li> <li>• Protected Areas Act (2010)</li> <li>- Protected Area Regulation (2012)</li> <li>• Wildlife Protection and Management Act (1998)</li> <li>• Wildlife Protection and Management Regulations (2008)</li> <li>• Fisheries Act (1998)</li> <li>• Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act (2000)</li> <li>• Fisheries Management Act (2015)</li> <li>• Mines and Mineral Act (1997)</li> <li>• Rivers Waters Act (1996)</li> <li>• Environmental Health Act (1980)</li> <li>• Consumer Protection Act (1995)</li> <li>• Biosecurity Act (2013)</li> <li>• Provincial Government Act (1997)</li> <li>• Town and Country Planning Act (1979)</li> <li>• Honiara City Act (1999)</li> <li>• Customary Land Records Act (1994)</li> <li>• Charitable Trusts Act (1964)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logging and mining prohibited in protected areas<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• National Development Strategy 2016-2035</li> <li>- National vision: “Improving the Social and Economic Livelihoods of all Solomon Islanders”.</li> <li>• Solomon Islands Community Based Coastal and Marine Resource Management Strategy 2021 – 2025</li> <li>• Solomon Islands National Ocean Policy (2018)</li> <li>• Solomon Islands National Information Strategy to Empower All Communities to Better Manage their Marine Resources (2015)</li> <li>• National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016 – 2020</li> </ul>
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**Draft Mangrove mapping –**

- **To be updated when validated.**

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reddplussolomonislands.gov.sb/index.php/resources/related-legislation/protected-areas-act-2010.html>

## **2. Policy framework for ICZM mangrove plan in Solomon Islands**

### **3. Vision**

A resilient, sustainable, and integrated mangrove ecosystems for the Solomon Islands.

### **4. Mission**

To protect and conserve the Solomon Islands mangrove ecosystem through sustainable and integrated ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, specifically safeguarding the mangrove ecosystem health along the coastal zone to build ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change and human induced activities.

To define and strengthen integrated ecosystem-based adaptation at local and national level to effectively address the challenges posed by climate change, geo-hazards, and human induced activities (Geo-hazards).

- Include livelihood options/opportunities.

### **5. Policy objectives**

The mangrove policy's specifically objectives are to:

1. Promote and recognize the importance of protecting and conserving mangrove ecosystems, ecosystem services, and communities as a means of adapting to impacts of climate change.
2. Promote, recognize and acknowledge that protecting and conserving mangrove ecosystems as a means of recognizing Indigenous coastal communities' conservation and resource management efforts.
3. Strengthen integration, and coordination to support and empower local Indigenous coastal communities build alliances for the protection, conservation and management of mangrove ecosystems.

### **6. Guiding principles**

The mangrove policy adapts core values and principles in accordance with relevant national, regional, and international treaties and policies set forth within the Solomon Islands Constitution.

The core values and principles that underpin the Solomon Islands ICZM mangrove policy framework emphasizes on:

## **Sustainability**

Ensuring long-term sustainability and viability of the mangrove ecosystems that meets the needs of the present (involves environmental, social, and economic considerations) without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Supporting sustainable mangrove development for coastal communities through an integrated approach such as eco-friendly aquaculture, eco-tourism and recreation, and socio-economic adaptation capacity.

### **Eco-friendly aquaculture**

- Exploring sustainable aquaculture.
- Identifying major risks with respect to aquaculture.

#### **Actions**

- Promoting sustainable alternative livelihoods.
- Implementing sustainable management of mangrove ecosystem.
- Capacity building on sustainable aquaculture.
- Priorities which aquaculture species.
- Emphasizing and practicing minimizing environmental impacts, both physical (air, water and soil) and biological (fauna and flora)

### **Eco-tourism and recreation**

- Develop nature-based tourism industry.
- Establish mechanisms for the sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems.
- Management of culturally significance mangrove ecosystems.

#### **Actions**

- Promoting the sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems by generating income, jobs and business opportunities in ecotourism.
- Developing and implementing eco-tourism and recreation awareness strategy.
- Establishing eco-tourism and recreation mechanisms for information dissemination to the community and stakeholders
- Ensuring proper planning and visitor management to minimize negative impacts on the community.
- Promoting community participation in the mangrove ecosystem through the use of indigenous knowledge an observing cultural services and value.

### **Socio-economic adaptation capacity**

- Resolving mangrove ecosystem use conflicts and enable equal benefit-sharing.
- Promoting multi-sectoral approaches to the management of the mangrove ecosystem and coastal resources.

**Actions**

- Applying ecosystem-based adaptation approach that recognizes the relationships and inter-linkages between all components of the wider ecosystem in addressing coastal zone management issues.
- Ensuring equity in access and use of resources

**People Centered**

Understanding and addressing the needs, rights, and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples, individuals and local communities by emphasizing the importance of prioritizing human well-being and ensuring that policies, programs, and initiatives are designed to benefit people directly.

**Coastal area planning and development**

- Promoting off-shore fishing to reduce pressure on overfishing.
- Preserving, protecting and restoring the integrity of coastal and mangrove ecosystems.

**Actions**

- Developing and implementing site-specific ICZM action plans related to fishery issues.
- Promoting using of traditional knowledge in research and management of coastal and mangrove ecosystems.
- Promoting public and private sector partnerships for the management of marine resources and conservation
- Promoting market-based instruments for ecosystem services payments

**Ecosystem Integrity**

Promoting and maintaining the health, resilience, and functioning of the mangrove ecosystems, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, and minimizing negative impacts on natural systems and ecosystem services.

**Coastal and mangrove areas**

- Co-management of coastal and mangrove ecosystems.
- Awareness and information programs focusing on ICZM.

**Actions**

- Implement existing policies for the supporting sustainable community of Solomon Islands for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Sustain aggressive public awareness campaigns to understand the importance of mangrove areas with key stakeholder groups.
- Promoting the participation of communities and multi-stakeholders in planning and implementation policies related to ICZM.

- Supporting the scaling-up best practices in coastal and mangrove areas management
- Promoting research and monitoring programs in coastal and mangrove areas

## **PROTECTED MANGROVE AREAS SYSTEM**

- Improving sustainable community
- Enhancing policy regulation
- Managing Commercial Fishing.

### **Actions**

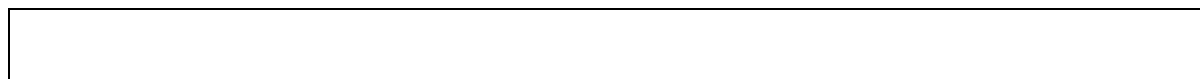
- Increase the technical and management capacity of both management and co-management agencies in order to ensure sound management practices.
- Support local and national initiatives to achieve the Target 3, Convention on Biological Diversity of the marine territory of Solomon Islands
- Advocate for adoption of Mangrove related Regulations.
- Implement mangrove restoration projects as a means to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to ensure the delivery of coastal protection services especially in areas, such as the Malaita of Solomon Islands, which are highly prone to erosion and inundation.
- Supporting an inventory on Solomon Islands' mangrove cover and distribution, which should be updated on a bi-annual basis.
- Identify areas for mangrove conservation.
- Conduct research to better capture the biomass, coverage, spatial distribution and rates of change for mangroves in Solomon Islands and make this information available to support decisions on the issuing of mangrove alteration permits.

## **DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Addressing coastal line change
- Addressing emerging issues affecting the coastal regions.

### **Actions**

- Develop a comprehensive inventory of people and property located within vulnerable coastline.
- Applying best available science-based assessment to reduce disaster risk to climate change.
- Strengthening the regulations guiding development along the coastal line
- conducting mapping and integrated spatial planning



### **Good governance**

Good governance refers to transparent, accountable, participatory, and effective decision-making processes at all levels of society. It involves promoting democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and combating corruption.

### **Monitoring of mangrove areas along coastal areas**

- Enhancing good governance.
- Enhancing Forestry management.
- Control the coastal development.
- Enhancing policy regulations, including enforcement regulations.

#### **Actions**

- Develop a centralized data repository for Solomon Islands on ecosystem health and human use activities within the coastal zone.
- Facilitate data accessibility among government agencies and non-governmental organizations for monitoring ecosystem services and human use impacts on the coastal area.
- Enhancing forestry management, including enforcement regulations
- Monitoring of logging activities
- Develop a long-term national strategy for the scientific monitoring of the health of critical habitats, including but not limited to reef, seagrass, mangroves, and coastline dynamics.
- Prepare annual report to analyze trends and changes in the mangroves area along the coastal zone

### **Gender and Social Inclusion**

This principle highlights the importance of addressing inequalities and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, disability, or other characteristics, have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from development processes.

### **Ecosystem based Adaptation.**

Adapting to the impacts of climate change through the protection, conservation, and management of mangrove ecosystems considering gender sensitivity and social inclusion.

## **7. Strategies**

The policy aims to balance economic development, environmental protection, and social well-

being in coastal areas. This is crucial for ensuring the sustainability of these valuable ecosystems with emphasis on planning and management of mangroves ensuring clear coordination and communication mechanisms within and between government, community, and other stakeholders.

The strategies to achieve the policy objectives includes;

**Policy objective One:**

Promote and recognize the importance of protecting and conserving mangrove ecosystems, ecosystem services, and communities as a means of adapting to impacts of climate change.

**Strategies:**

- I. Engage a wide range of stakeholders in a participatory planning process.
- II. Establish finance mechanism for Mangrove ecosystem conservation and protection.
- III. Conduct comprehensive mapping and assessment of mangrove ecosystems to identify their extent, condition, biodiversity, and ecosystem services they provide.
- IV. Incorporate climate change adaptation strategies into mangrove ecosystem protection and conservation efforts, such as restoring natural coastal buffers, enhancing resilience to sea-level rise and storm surges, and integrating mangroves into coastal defense infrastructure.
- V. Support research and innovation to enhance understanding of mangrove ecosystems and develop new technologies and approaches for their conservation and restoration.

**Policy objective two:**

Promote, recognize and acknowledge that protecting mangrove ecosystems as a means of recognizing Indigenous coastal communities' conservation and resource management efforts.

**Strategies:**

- I. Develop plans that address multiple objectives such as conservation, sustainable development, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.
- II. Develop communication strategies to raise awareness about the importance of mangrove ecosystems and the objectives of the ICZM Mangrove Plan.
- III. Engage in outreach activities to disseminate information, educate stakeholders, and promote public participation in planning and coordination efforts.
- IV. Adopt an integrated coastal zone management approach that considers the interconnectedness of cultural, social, economic, and environmental factors in coastal management.

- V. Ensure that mangrove ecosystem protection and conservation is integrated into relevant policies, plans, and regulations at the local, and national levels.

**Policy objective three:**

Strengthen integration, and coordination to support and empower local Indigenous coastal communities build alliances for conservation and management of mangrove ecosystems.

**Strategies:**

- I. Build capacity of stakeholders in terms of planning and coordination efforts.
- II. Promote and encourage knowledge sharing between stakeholders and communities.
- III. Engage a wide range of stakeholders in a participatory planning process.
- IV. Establish mechanisms for coordination and collaboration among different levels of government and across sectors.
- V. Establish mechanisms for resolving conflicts and addressing competing interests among stakeholders resulting in mutually acceptable solutions.
- VI. Adopt an ecosystem-based approach to mangrove ecosystem management that considers the integrity and interconnectedness of mangrove ecosystems with other coastal and marine ecosystems.
- VII. Develop monitoring programs to track changes in mangrove ecosystems over time and assess the effectiveness of management measures.
- VIII. Build the capacity of local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to effectively manage and conserve mangrove ecosystems.

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**Annex**

Potential implementers for ICZM Mangrove Plan in Solomon Islands

		Implementer												
		Public sector									Province level	Community Sector	Academic	NGOs
		MFR	MECDM	MFMR	MID	MHMS	MEHRD	MWYCA	MAL					
Land use change	Forestry	+++	+++						++		+	+	+	
	Mining		++	+++						++	O	+	O	
	Energy		+++									O	-	
	Environment	++	+++	+++							++	+	+++	
Coastal development	Sea-wall, Reclamation		+++								+	O	+	
Agriculture									+++		++	++	++	
Infra-structure	Harbor, port				+++							O	O	

Fishing/Fisheries				+++							+	++	++
Gender							+++					++	+++
Others	Aqua-culture			+++								+	+
	Policy regulation											O	O
	Health					+++						+++	+++
	Educa-tion						+++					+++	+++

+++ : Significant High implementing

++ : High implementing

+ : Implementing

O : Moderate implanting