

REPORT ON “Gender, equity and social inclusion” in the ICZM Mangrove Plan planning process in Solomon Islands

Second national Stakeholder Workshop on "Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Mangrove Policy Planning

28 May 2024, SINU, Science Lab Conference Room, Kukum Campus.



Veira Talilotu Pulekera

SIG/MECDM support to SINU, CCD/MECDM & KEI

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge the tremendous technical support, provided by the CTCN and the KEI team who has been leading the ICZM and Mangrove Policy development for Solomon Islands. The leadership of Dr Kang Sang and KEI members, demonstrates their expertise in guiding the workshop to achieve key deliverables which were reflected under the national stakeholders workshop at SINU, FAFE in Honiara, on 28th May 2024.

I would like to also extend sincere appreciation for the contributions of the key stakeholders of MFMR, MECDM, MoFR, MID, MCT, MAL, SINU, and presence of relevant stakeholders including government agencies, NGOs and individuals who have contributed in various discussions during the Gender, Mangrove and Capacity building workshop sessions.

Finally to the CTCN and KEI, MECDM, SINU for the great collaborations in the implementation of this workshop into its first initial stage to inform the ICZM management planning processes to develop mangrove policy framework for Solomon Islands.

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

The second National workshop purposely is to refine and review the Policy statement of the ICZM mangrove plan. Thus, streamlining gender, gender equity and social inclusive in Solomon Islands ICZM Mangrove Plan and coordination framework form part of the overall approach towards developing the ICZM Policy Statements. This report also considers a general overview of the Solomon Islands context regarding gender, equality and social inclusion or inclusive participation in a number of developments and government services, and the need for streamlining gender in the ICZM Mangrove planning processes.

Most Solomon Islanders currently lack access to essential services, such as education, employment, markets and other government services, showing high rates of inequality between formal and informal settlements and urban and rural areas(2009 Census). Conflicts over land tenure, tensions between traditional and formal political systems, high youth unemployment and gender inequality add further challenges to improving access. For those living in rural areas particularly there are numerous challenges, including safety issues and risks for women when they travel to access healthcare or markets. Women and persons with disability face significant levels of inequality in Solomon Islands, including low participation in the paid labour force, limited political representation and a high incidence of domestic and gender-based violence. People living with a disability have very limited access to basic services.

The Solomon Islands government has then recognized the need to address gender equality and participation at all level. Solomon Islands Government through its responsible ministries has developed a **Public Service Gender Equality and Social inclusion Policy** in 2020. The draft policy was submitted to Cabinet for its review and approval. The Public Service Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy 2020-2025 (draft), also points out the commitment of the government in addressing gender equity as its national, regional and international obligations in numerous conventions and treaties. .

The National workshop therefore, recognizes the need to involve wider consultation with key stakeholders who have mandates or sectoral authorities over respective sectors to which they have executive and legal authorities. For instance, participation of Ministry of Culture and Tourism plays critical role identifying key natural and cultural sites, which are crucial when dealing with land ownerships, or access and use of mangrove forests, certain areas that include tribal groups or members such as women, youths and children, in particular Provinces and Island groups in Solomon Islands.

Note: This report provides a brief summary of the key outcomes of the second workshop which focuses on Gender Equity and social Inclusion. The first report entitled Gender and Stakeholder Analysis in this regard referred to (social Inclusion), both referenced to gender in this report.

2.0. Purpose of the second National Workshop

The purpose of the Second National workshop is to review and refine the policy statements for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) mangrove Plan and Coordination. Therefore, Key stakeholders were invited to contribute to the development of a comprehensive and actionable ICZM Mangrove Plan that addresses the needs and challenges of coastal ecosystems and communities, and ensure sustainability of our mangrove management strategies.

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3.0. SECOND NATIONAL ICZM WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Points for consideration concerning gender and social inclusion (GESI) in the ICZM mangrove planning and coordination discussions on policy statements (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 & 5.5)

3.1.POLICY STATEMENT 5.1. Integrated Planning and Coordination is mangroves

There are several factors we have to consider, including the people, types of stakeholders (national, provincial, community), and associated habitats;

Summary Notes

People-all people (men, women, children, youth, including people with special needs)

- Regular consultation with resource users (awareness, knowledge sharing), with regards to peoples' interest.
- Moreover, there is also the encouragement to create and utilize community setup to create entity to cater for tourism benefits for the community.

Stakeholders – All stakeholders cover all sectors including the following below;

- National,
- Sub-National
- Provincial
- Private Sector
- Community

Associated Habitats (tourism sector promotes preservation)

- Considering other ecosystems and habitats like seagrass ecosystems, mudflats and seagrass included
- Code of Logging Practice for (Critical Habitats) should also be taken into consideration
- Mangrove Mapping is also important to define the disturbed and undisturbed area
- MID representative Also added that compliance is a main mandate that MID has to work with through the development concept, in regards to development processes. They are mindful to the concept of developing ecosystems like mangrove. EIA has to be carried out (as emphasized by George H, to safe guard important ecosystems.

3.2. POLICY STATEMENT 5.2 Sustainable Economic Development (Livelihood)

Summary notes:

- For this point we are looking at who are direct users of mangrove resources. This involve the people/community (resource owners/users) especially women. The important audience here also is women.
- Important form of food security (this ecosystem supports and supplies the source of protein)
- Under this heading we are considering sustainable practices (as part of the strategy). Which also brings us to take into account CBRM



Figure 1: Dr Seno Mauli, leading group discussion on policy statement 5.1& 5.2. Photo (Veira,2024)

Dr Seno Mauli, leading group discussion on Policy Statement 5.1 Integrated Planning and Coordination, 5.2 Sustainable Economic Development, with representatives from MFAET, MFMR, SPREP PACIFIC BIOSCAPES,

3.3. POLICY STATEMENT 5.3 Sustainably Managing the ecosystem

Summary notes:

- It's the ecosystem and the people – which give the layouts and how do we utilize the resource. An important point was raised by ECD Colleague Mr Geoffrey M, regarding resource owners and users, (landowners) our current laws does not have a law that governs resource below high water mark, there may be contest when it comes to discussing the marine area and its accessibility.
- It looks into enhancing biodiversity, protecting it and managing ecosystems. Waste Management should also be considered within this section to ensure that waste issues are properly managed.



Figure 2: Mr George H of SINU leading discussion on policy statement 5.3 Photo (Veira, 2024)

Mr George H, of SINU, leading discussion on policy statement 5.3 Conservation of Mangroves, Coastal and Marine Environment (Ecosystem), with representatives from SINU, MECDM-ECD, MID

3.4. POLICY STATEMENT 5.4: Environmental Risk Management

Summary Notes:

- Under this heading people should be made aware, ensuring that actions are present to mitigation and adapt to environmental risks, example relating to climate change risks and potential impacts.
- Professor Kang also explained that environmental risk comes in two ways Direct human influence and degradation and Indirect Impact includes sea level rise and fossil fuel burning over the years and its consequences.
- Factor in awareness on impacts of climate change through the policy statement.
- Example of how information is shared down to the community level. As explained by CCD Director, includes IDA project under CCD – sits under MPGIS each ward or province have climate change and resilient officers at provincial levels. With that structure, most of the developments that will happen, these officers will inspect these proposed projects in ensuring they are risk informed. And also SOLKAS Project (which will work in 52 wards). This is also part of Education Awareness and research



Figure 3: Director CCD leading group discussion on Policy Statement 5.4.

Photo (Veira, 2024)

Director CCD, Mr Thaddaeus Siota, leading the group discussion on Policy Statement 5.4. Environmental Risk (i.e. Climate Change, DRR), with representatives from MECDM, SPREP MACBLUE PROJECTS, IUCN EREPA PROJECT, MoFR, SINU, MAL

3.5. POLICY STATEMENT 5.5 Education Awareness and Research

- Research (academic research and scientific knowledge) and it will also take us into research
- Mangrove Mapping and collecting data should be encouraged as part of the activities.
- Make sure individuals also learn them at an early age so they become familiar with the topic on mangrove and become aware of it.



Figure 4: Ms Lovelyn of SINU leading group discussion on Policy Statement 5.5

Photo (Veira, 2024)

Ms Lovelyn of SINU leading group discussion on Policy statement 5.5 CB, Education, Awareness, Research (local center, ward), with representatives from MoFR, MCT, SINU

The discussions for Education and Awareness and Research also aligns with existing ministerial divisions or research units which are responsible for research , particularly those sectoral dealing directly with forest resources such as Forestry Division, the National Herbarium, for species identifications, and distributions of Mangrove in Solomon Islands.

Ministry of Culture and Tourism also promotes those pristine and cultural significant areas that also include scenic areas for tourism purposes.

4.0. DISCUSSION

Significant points raised during Policy statement discussions (outcomes) include but were not limited to these areas, as Gender is cross cutting, and streamlined within respective systems proposed by responsible ministries for all 24 Ministries of Solomon Islands Government. In the discussion session, there are two important points raised by the stakeholders regarding gender and social inclusion or stakeholder participation for ICZM Mangrove plan framework in Solomon Islands

The first point generally raised is to include people centred as one of the principles for the Policy Framework. It should also capture inclusivity besides gender alone, to include youths and children and all other groups. There is also critical requirement for donor requirements for future initiatives to support mangrove, will also look for GESI and Inclusive initiatives (especially with communities) it has to be properly defined within the document.

The second important point is a general suggestion to include gender as another principle in the Mangrove Policy. Since all Governmental and organizations also observe the mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion- within their work policies.

In addition to those points, one that is seen as one of most significant statement is to strengthen network amongst stakeholders, build through existing government networks and established systems for effective collaborations and promoting “sense of ownership” that is seen as driven by Solomon Islands Government and its people.

It is the mission of Solomon Islands Government to take ownership of the processes of developing any policy, legal instruments or strategic plans that reflect the needs and expectations of the people of Solomon Islands. Thus the ICZM Mangrove Plan is one of the many policies people want to see addresses their social, economic needs, but also aligns to their according to their cultural practices and way of life.

A study conducted by SPC, 2018, through a collaborative effort between the Solomon Islands Government (the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs), the Pacific Community and WorldFish, where a gender analysis seeks to better understand women’s and men’s role in the fishery sector (coastal and aquaculture) in Solomon Islands. In spite of being focused on aquaculture and coastal fisheries, the overall goal of this is to support the mainstreaming of gender across key policies and legislation under the mandate of the ministry, from a gender perspective.

A study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB 2014) suggests that, in 2011, 90% of men and nearly half of all women in rural communities were engaged in fishing. The roles of men and women in coastal fishing communities are shaped by gender norms and relations that determine socially acceptable activities.

Men tend to participate more in reef and offshore fishing, while women often participate in inshore environments, including lagoons and mangrove areas (Govan et al. 2013). Men use more fishing methods, such as using lines and spears, whilst women mainly glean for invertebrates and harvest mangrove products (Weeratunge et al. 2011).

In general, there are certain areas gender has been demonstrated here; they are Gender roles, gender governance and gender engagements.

And according to Solomon Islands Country Gender Assessment report in 2015. It stated clearly that gender equality is a stated priority of the Government of Solomon Islands, and all ministries and sectors share the responsibility for achieving gender equality. Thus, the Public Service Commission has nominated all PS within Solomon Islands government at all government line ministries and agencies must take lead in gender mainstreaming. Government ministries or sectors also developed their gender policies to align their objectives in mainstreaming gender. For instance, the Ministry Fisheries and Marine Resources do have a Gender Implementation Strategy 2011-2014, now out of date.

It can be emphasized again that the people is the central focus of the ICZM Mangrove policy, as Solomon Islands through its responsible Ministries and sectors have ratified and affiliates to numerous regional and International conventions and subject to their obligations through these multilateral arrangements.

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5.0. CONCLUSION

Gender mainstreaming is about strengthening institutions to advance gender equality.

Further to GENDER EQUITY and SOCIAL INCLUSION mainstreaming in the ICZM Mangrove planning, can be justified that involvement of all governances from across sectors within line ministries demonstrated a general social inclusive approaches, especially at all level of governments, private sectors and down to community level. Where equitable sharing of benefits will ensure sustainable management of resources.

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6.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Definitions and terminology of technical terms or common language such as **gender, equity, and social inclusion** should be clearly developed to streamline **integration** of ICZM Mangrove management in Solomon Islands that will reflect well in Policy Framework and developing implementation guide.
- Gender mainstreaming and social inclusion participation for sustainable use and management of mangrove ecosystems is important for Solomon Islands, given the nature of the country's **complex marine tenure system** and **local governance, diverse population** and **geographical locations**.
- Recommendation that the component of **capacity building** must also complement **gender equity** and **social inclusion**.
- Selected SINOP Principles that potentially can be used to provide guidance in formulating ICZM Mangrove PRINCIPLES-relating to Gender and social inclusion;
 - **Sustainable development**
 - **Integration principle**
 - **Respect and acknowledge customary rights, traditional knowledge and decision-making structure**
 - **Transparent, public participation and public trust**
 - **Gender equity and inclusive**
- Demonstrated **political will** in terms of gender mainstreaming means. A measure of political will is the enactment of policies and legislation referring to gender equality. In this situation integrated governance and framework for development of the ICZM Mangrove Plan and policy processes.

7.0. REFERENCES

ADB (Asian Development Bank). (2015). *Solomon Islands Country Gender Assessment*. Asia Development Bank. Manilla

Gender Implementation Strategy 2011-2014. Ministry Fisheries and Marine Resources. Solomon Islands Government, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Pacific Community. 2018. *Gender analysis of the fisheries sector: Solomon Islands*. SPC, Noumea New Caledonia

Solomon Islands Population and Housing National Census Report. 2009. Solomon Islands National Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands Government, Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Marine Spatial Plan (draft) 2022. Solomon Islands Government, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands National Oceans Policy. 2018. Solomon Islands Government, Honiara, Solomon Islands

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8.0. OTHER RESOURCES–RELEVANT TO ICZM MANGROVE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION- THAT POTENTIALLY STREAMLINED GENDER EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Public Service Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy 2020-2025 (draft)-Submitted for Cabinet review.

MACBIO –resources (<http://macbio-pacific.info/resources>)

- Legal Review legislation, Policies, Strategies and Plans relating to the use and management of the ocean (Solomon Islands)
- Solomon Islands National Ocean Policy
- Marine Bioregions of the Solomon Islands
- Biophysical, Unique Marine Areas of Solomon Islands
- Solomon Islands Marine Spatial Planning process
- Solomon Islands National Marine Ecosystem Valuation

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Annex1: Invitation Letter



**Solomon Islands
Government**

Ministry of Environment, Climate
Change, Disaster Management &
Meteorology



P.O Box 21,
Honiara,
Solomon Islands.



Fax:
(677) 28054
Phone:
(677) 23031 / 23032



www.mecdm.gov.sb

To:

Mr. Veira Talilotu
ECD, MECDM
Honiara

Date: 22nd May 2024

Dear Veira,

RE: Invitation to attend and participate in the reviewing of the policy statements for ICZM and Mangrove Planning and Coordination Workshop (28 May, 2024)

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, through the Climate Change Division is working in collaboration with the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), Korea Environment Institute (KEI) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTNC) is pleased to invite you to a one-day workshop focused on reviewing and refining the policy statements for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) mangrove Plan and Coordination.

Based on the above, and given the importance of your role and the relevance of your sector in this process, your participation will contribute significantly to the development of a comprehensive and actionable ICZM Mangrove Plan that addresses the needs and challenges of coastal ecosystems and communities, and ensure sustainability of our mangrove management strategies in the long term.

Details of the Workshop is as follows:

- 1. Date: 28 May – (8:30am – 4:30pm)**
- 2. Venue: SINU, Science Lab Conference Room, Kukum Campus.**

Please confirm your attendance and participate to Ms. Mary Paia (marytahupaia@gmail.com) or Mr. Chris Teva (pitapile@gmail.com).

Thank you,



Barnabas Bago (Mr.)
National Programme Coordinator (PMCU)
For: Permanent Secretary (MECDM)

Solomon Is.

Annex2-Agenda for ICZM Mangrove Plan and Coordination Second National Workshop

Tentative Agenda for ICZM Mangrove Plan and Coordination Second National Workshop

Date: Tuesday 28 May , 2024

Venue: FAFF Conference and lab Building, SINU, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Time	Sessions	Guides	Facilitator(s)
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM:	Registration and Welcome Coffee		All
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM:	Welcome and opening	-	SINU
	Opening Remarks	Director CCD (Mr. Thaddeus Siota)	SINU
	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of the Workshop 	-stocktaking current progress and deliverables of the workshop	SINU & KEI/KU
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Presentation: Map Analysis and Policy Framework		KEI/KU
<u>PF Session 1a</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Map Analysis Results Overview of Current ICZM Policy Framework 	-presentation by prof. Lim (zoom) -presentation by prof. Han and Dr. Choi (zoom)	
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM	Feedback and Discussion		SINU & KEI/KU
<u>PF Session 1b</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open discussion & Initial feedback with Ideas on finalization of Policy Framework 	-comment and proposal to be integrated into the two presentation materials	
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Coffee Break		
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Introduction: Understanding Policy Statements		KEI/KU & SINU
<u>PS Session 2a</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from Policy Framework to Policy Statements Developing a common template for policy statement 	-how to link Policy Framework with sectoral/thematic policy statements -what would be a common template for policy statement, considering implementation guide and technological fact sheets	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM:	Lunch Break		

<p>1:00 PM - 2:40 PM</p> <p>PS Session 2b</p>	<p>Stock-taking Sectoral and Thematic Issues for ICZM Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 presentations to be made by SI officials in charge (15 minutes presentation + 5 minutes comments) A need of Inter-ministerial ICZM consultation process to be installed <p>-short (legal) background and progress/status on each of the 5 themes in the existing plan and policy mentioned in the PF interim report: 5.1: Integrated Planning and Coordination (ICZM) 5.2: Sustainable Economic Development (Livelihood) 5.3: Conservation of Mangroves, Coastal, Marine Environment (Ecosystem) 5.4: Environmental Risk Management (☒ climate change) 5.5: CB, Education, Awareness, Research (local center, ward)</p>	<p>SINU, KEI, SI officials & Experts to be in charge of sector and theme in existing plan and policy</p>
<p>2:40 PM - 2:55 PM</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>	
<p>2:55 PM - 3:55 PM</p> <p>ICZMPF Breakout group session</p>	<p>Understanding “Integrated CZM Policy Framework “</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brain storming on implementation guide and technological solutions for the implementation of priority action or actions in the policy statement <p>-ICZM Policy Framework = framework policy + policy statements + implementation guides + technological solutions + ...</p> <p>-prioritized action or actions in each of 5 sector/themes considering existing policy and plan with action-oriented implementation gaps and technological needs</p>	<p>SINU, KEI, SI officials & Experts</p>
<p>3:55 PM - 4:55 PM</p> <p>ICZMPF Plenary session</p>	<p>Report back and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back of 5 breakout groups (25min) Summary of Key Points and Action Items and Organization of following work <p>-structuring ICZM PF with sectoral and thematic action(s) prioritized</p> <p>-follow-up work on policy statements, implementation guide and technological fact sheets with ‘roles and responsibilities(who do what)’</p>	<p>KEI & SINU,</p>
<p>4:55 PM - 5:05 PM</p>	<p>Closing Remarks and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing Remarks <p>Barnabas Bago PMU</p>	<p>MECDM</p>