



# CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE ISLAND OF TETEPARE

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with the assistance of **Friends of Tetepare and**  
**WWF South Pacific Program**  
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This strategy is the result of a Skills for Community Based Conservation Workshop conducted as part of the World Wide Fund for Nature's Solomon Islands Community Resource and Conservation and Development Project in June 1997. The workshop was attended by 24 descendants of the people of Tetepare who departed the Island c1850. It follows an initial workshop in November 1996 facilitated by WWF South Pacific Program.

The strategy is strongly based on the outputs of these workshops and to this extent, the contribution of Niva Aloni, John Aqorau, Mary Bea, Kido Dalipada, Tennet Dalipada, Darald Galo, Elaine Galo, Matthew Garunu, Tui Kavusu, Katalulu Mapioh, Isaac Molia, Julie Poa, Glen Pulekolo, Kenneth Roga, Peter Siloko, Sara Siloko, Pitrie Sute, Medos Tivikera and Bili Vinajama must be recognized. Any misrepresentation of fact, opinion or intentions expressed by workshop participants is solely the error of the author.

In the absence of published information on Tetepare, this strategy has relied heavily on workshop participant information and reports and records provided by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Forest, Environment and Conservation as well as the excellent and unpublished archaeological work of Kenneth Roga (Western province, Division of Culture, Environment, Tourism and Women).

The foundation laid by Kath Means, Seri Hite and Lorima Tuke of WWF in conducting the November 1996 workshop, assisting in June 1997 workshop and their support in preparing this strategy is gratefully acknowledged.

However, it is the Friends of Tetepare who, through its Chair Isaac Molia and Coordinator Kido Dalipada, deserve most credit for this initiative. Without their foresight and contribution, Tetepare might not be in a state to merit the preparation of this strategy.

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**Section B: Planning Context** gives information on the events which led to the preparation of the Strategy. It also provides background to legal and policy matters which affect the planning process, historical and human resource information and the nature of tourism in Solomon Islands which is seen by descendants as an appropriate use for Tetepare.

**Section C: Natural and Cultural Resources** summarizes information on the resources of Tetepare discovered during the research and participatory planning component of the planning process.

**Section D: Analysis** identifies the value and significance of resources, as well as their potential for conservation and sustainable use.

**Section E: Strategic Directions** outlines the goals and objectives of the strategy.

**Section F: Appendices** gives additional information which may be necessary to assist a reader in understanding recommended strategic directions and actions as well as constraints to, and tools for, implementing the strategy.

## ACRONYMS

asl	Above sea level	TCSP	Tourism Council of the South Pacific
BP	Burns Philip Company	TDC	Tetepare Development Company Ltd – a Solomon Islands company funded by the foreign owned Goodwill Company
DBSI	Development Bank of Solomon Islands	TOLOA	Tetepare Original Land Owners Association
DCETW	Western Province Division of Culture, Environment, Tourism and Women – PO Box 36 – Gizo – Western Province – Solomon Islands	WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
FoT	Friends of Tetepare – PO Box 184 – Honiara – Solomon Islands	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature, South Pacific Program – PMB, GPO – Suva – Fiji
MFEC	Ministry of Forest, Environment and Conservation – PO Box G24 – Honiara – Solomon Islands		WWF Solomon Islands Community Resource Conservation and Development Project – PO Box 21 – Gizo – Western Province – Solomon Islands
RAC	Rendova Area Council	EIA	Environmental impact assessment
SolFRI	Solomon Islands National Forest Resources Inventory		

## SECTION A: STRATEGY PREPARATION, PROCESS AND PRINCIPLES

### Project objectives

The project was to develop a strategy to manage growth and resource use of the Island of Tetepare for a sustainable future. This involves:

- protecting natural and cultural assets;
- diversifying resource use and focus;
- bringing benefits to descendants, the local community and the island of Tetepare; and
- giving direction to potential sustainable development projects, especially ‘eco’ and ‘culture’ based tourism services.

### Project approach

To achieve objectives, the following studies were considered necessary:

- Investigation of natural and cultural assets and opportunities for sustainable development projects on Tetepare.
- Clarification of employment needs generated from the opportunities.
- Investigation of market niches and marketing implications for each attraction type.
- Investigation of ways to co-ordinate the delivery of tourist services.
- Investigation of education and training needs to deliver a quality experience.

### Project outcomes

It was expected also that the strategy would result in:

- definition of the existing and potential resources for sustainable development;
- the identification of eco-cultural related business opportunities;
- the identification of areas for improvement in existing services within the Western Province; and
- the identification of skills required to capitalize on opportunities.

### Strategy development process

Desk and field research and analysis provided the background for strategy development. Strategic directions were developed during workshops with Friends of Tetepare and descendants of Tetepare.

### Guiding Principles

This strategy is based on eight guiding principles founded on the concept of sustainable development. All decisions and actions affecting the Tetepare environment must be evaluated against these principles.

- **Conservation or resources:** The primary principle and *raison d'être* for this strategy is the protection, restoration and presentation of the Tetepare environment and the management of its natural and cultural resources for sustainable use.
- **Quality:** All actions must be implemented to the highest standard possible, measured against best practice in business operations, economic management, service provision, and social and environmental protection.
- **Precaution** (The precautionary principle): To minimize risk to the environment and the potential for adverse effects on present and future generations, decisions will be made with caution and with the ability to reverse their effect, especially when uncertainty exists.
- **Community decision-making:** Tetepare descendants as the traditional landowners must be involved in the management process and empowered to make key decisions that affect the future of the Island.

- **Benefits to descendants and intra-community equity:** The descendants and local community must be the prime beneficiaries from any use of Tetepare resources. Benefits and opportunities for personal growth which stem from the use of natural and cultural resources must be available to all members of the Tetepare community.
- **Intergenerational equity:** Development will be facilitated and permitted only if it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- **Access to information:** Descendants, local communities and government must have access to adequate information for informed decision making, education and environmental interpretation.
- **A global perspective:** Decisions affecting the natural and cultural values of Tetepare at a local level must recognize that they may affect the welfare and interests of communities in surrounding areas, the province, and at a national and international level.

## Definitions

Many terms used in this strategy include a meaning derived from the Guiding Principles. The definitions attempt to make this meaning explicit.

**Access** is an amenity which results from the presence of transportation linkages and the accessibility provided by ease of product purchase.

**Amenities** are the facilities and services required by tourists. They include accommodation and sustenance, as well as transport and facilities at the site. No matter how attractive a destination might be, its potential for tourism is limited unless amenities are provided.

**Attractions** are the physical resources or developments that provide the setting for recreation experiences and are the prime factor in drawing tourists to a destination. The attraction may not be the sole focus of attention and interest when on site. For example, people may visit Tetepare to see *tambu* sites, yet they will gain greater satisfaction if other nature and culture experiences accompany the primary objective. For ecotourism, the remoteness, or the perceived remoteness and undeveloped state of the environment, contributes to the attraction of a destination.

**Community** includes all people who live within a region and are likely to be influenced by development activity. The local community is of prime consideration in planning because its living environment and social fabric may be altered by development.

**Conservation** is the protection, presentation, maintenance, management, sustainable use and restoration (the wise use) of natural and cultural resources.

**Culture** is a distinctive body of customs, beliefs and social institutions that characterize separate societies. Culture is also used when referring to human behavioral characteristics which stem from familial, social, racial, national and other groupings of humanity.

**Cultural heritage** is anything that is passed from one generation to another.

**Cultural resources** are material manifestations of culture, such as buildings, artifacts and traditional crafts as well as natural resources, speech and ideologies. The terms **natural heritage** and **historic heritage** are often applied to particular cultural resources, such as items that are valued by a group of people.

**Descendants** are those people whose ancestors left Tetepare c1850 and now reside throughout Solomon Islands, mainly in communities on surrounding islands.

**Ecological sustainable development (ESD)** is using, conserving and enhancing community resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.

**Ecotourism** is ecologically sustainable tourism that is sensitive to environmental characteristics and fosters environmental and cultural appreciation and brings significant benefits to local communities.

**Ecotourism developments and services** are those parts of the ecotourism product that:

- focus on environmental characteristics rather than the facility or service itself;
- have a low impact, using design and technology to reduce or avoid impact;
- offer services which increase client appreciation of the environment; and
- are appropriate and concordant with the environment in which it occurs.

**Ecotourism operators** are managers of ecotourism developments and services that:

- promote conservation and respect for local cultural traditions;
- avoid environmental damage or culturally inappropriate action; and
- educate and inspire visitors, through participation, to appreciate the importance of nature conservation and the protection of cultural integrity.

**Ecotourism products** involve activities, facilities and services that cater to the education and experiential expectations of visitors, and allow interaction with the natural and cultural attributes of the area. Whereas attractions are the initial draw card, activities are the critical components for promoting and encouraging extended stays.

**Environment** includes all aspects of the surroundings of people (natural, cultural and constructed) that affect them as individuals or as social groups.

**Market niche** is the latent and unfulfilled demand that exists for a particular service. A market niche is most easily exploited commercially if competition from other areas is minimal for the same market. It is a function of:

- the resources, features or attractions;
- the activities possible based on these features, and
- the market that is available for undertaking the activities.

**Resource managers** are those responsible for the care and management of the resource. Their primary function is to provide for and sustain the range of values and uses that a particular resource offers. For Tetepare the descendants are the principle resource managers.

**Sustainable development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED 1987:43).

**Tourism support facility and service providers** are those who offer services upon which other industry sectors depend. Included are government agencies which provide planning, infrastructure and public utilities; educational institutions which foster and enhance quality service; as well as those who provide transport, accommodation, catering and a myriad of other necessities for a viable tourism industry.

**Tourist products** consist of all elements involved in the visit to a region. They include expectations (influenced by the region's image), the journey to and from the destination, the stay at the destination, as well as services and facilities used.

## SECTION B: PLANNING CONTEXT

### Tetepare Island

Tetepare is a 120 square kilometre (approx.) island, southeast of Rendova Island. It represents about 2.3% of the land area of the Western Province. The island is about 27km long and 7km wide and lies at 9°30'N, 158°34'E in the Solomon Islands. It is separated from Rendova Island by the Balfour Channel and from New Georgia and Vangunu Islands by the Blanche Channel. Most of Tetepare has an elevation of less than 200m with the highest point being 357m asl. Fringing reef lies along the south of the island.

The island is uninhabited, except for visits by workers to the copra plantation on its western tip. In the 19th century several tribal groups lived in villages scattered across the island but mainly on the northern, leeward side. They relied on fishing, gathering of rainforest products and tending small garden plots. In the mid 1800's these inhabitants fled the island, spreading throughout Marovo Lagoon, north to Roviana Lagoon and to the islands of Rendova, Kolombangara and Simbo. A century and a half later many descendants still revere Tetepare as the home of their ancestors and a place of great spiritual significance. Low habitation has kept the island's rainforests and reefs in good condition; a strong contrast to nearby islands where swelling populations and intensive logging threatens local forest and marine environments.

All of Tetepare, except for a small copra plantation lease, remains under customary tenure of the descendants of the original inhabitants. Despite being geographically dispersed, descendants maintain contact with the island and have worked to pass on knowledge of tribal lineages and descent from Tetepare. Traditionally in Solomon Islands, those who have inherited primary roles as speakers for the land are known as 'trustees'. For Tetepare, trustees are not unequivocally recognised by descendants.

Descendants and others living nearby have maintained a low level of island use for pig hunting and fishing throughout this century. The abundance and diversity of resources have made Tetepare a reliable harvesting ground and it is kept as an area of particular importance for major feasts or celebrations. Since descendants (with affiliations to other tribal groups) are dispersed, and in the absence of recognised trustees, no guidelines exist for major resource use decisions or for managing or using the island's natural resources. There is no requirement for descendants to obtain permission for small-scale infrequent use of the island.

### Environmental threats

Over the last decade there have been dramatic changes in Solomon Islands' society and economy. An important force in this change is the intensive harvest of natural resources, particularly rainforest logging. Rural landholders and the owners of this natural wealth have moved rapidly from a subsistence to a cash economy relying on and desiring to exploit resources for cash and material benefits.

Since 1992 intensive timber harvesting has escalated throughout the country, sparing no community from the pressure of timber negotiations or the reality of logging impacts. Tetepare is no exception. In the 1990's some descendants have taken advantage of the lack of organised landholder management and have begun selective extraction of high value timber such as rosewood. This opportunistic logging is *ad hoc*, and could be very destructive if it continues and increases without management.

More threatening is a growing interest to commercially log the island. In the mid 1990s the Tetepare Development Company (TDC) obtained the support of some elder descendants as trustees, and through them applied to the Government for timber rights on the island. In 1995 the TDC requested a 100 000 cubic metres per annum (approx.) license over Tetepare to establish a timber harvesting operation.

### Friends of Tetepare

When logging was first proposed, some Tetepare descendants favouring island protection, became concerned that the operation would not employ selective felling measures and would degrade the island's conservation values. In 1995 they successfully challenged and delayed the approval of a logging agreement by putting forward trustees in opposition to the TDC. In 1996 the Friends of Tetepare (FoT) was formed under the Charitable Trusts Act.

FoT aims to work with descendants to develop an integrated conservation and sustainable development strategy for Tetepare. It is FoT's view that the strategy would include some low impact use for cash and subsistence benefit. However, it would have the primary goal of maintaining the area's biodiversity, the integrity of the resource base and the island's cultural and historical significance. It is envisaged that a plan of management would be prepared with Tetepare descendants for the conservation of the area (part of FoT's constitutional objects). Only appropriate development options would be considered (e.g. low impact ecotourism, the establishment of a scientific field research and education centre). Revenue derived from development activities would be shared by descendants.

FoT members include descendants and representatives of different locations, living in Honiara as well as rural towns and villages, who volunteer time to work in support of the conservation of Tetepare. FoT has begun liaison with descendants through village-based volunteers and has prepared a newsletter to widen support. Although newly established, FoT activity is:

- developing dialogue about Tetepare's future between a wide group of stakeholders;
- informing descendants of alternative development paths and options;
- reminding descendants of the cultural values of the island and the sociocultural changes occurring in their lives generally;
- organising, increasing and consolidating support among descendants and outsiders for the island's conservation.

For most FoT members, community resource conservation and sustainable development is a forgotten or new concept, especially within Solomon Islands' consumer and economic rationalist society. They admit to a need for training and technical support to achieve their constitutional objects. To bring about constructive change requires members of FoT to be able to clearly understand and articulate the costs and benefits of conservation and sustainable development to stakeholders, and what these terms mean when applied to Tetepare. FoT also requires new skills to bring disparate groups of people together with very diverse aims and help them to establish, negotiate and implement a common vision for the island.

## WWF involvement

As the aims and the approach of FoT fit within the framework of WWF South Pacific's programme of Community Resource Conservation and Development in Solomon Islands, WWF offered assistance in this area. In November 1996, WWF organised and facilitated a workshop for FoT members, formally introducing the principles of conservation and sustainable development and the process of establishing an integrated conservation and development strategy for Tetepare. The workshop was organised through WWF's 'Skills for Community-based Conservation' project funded by the Australian Department of Environment, Sport and Tourism.

This Conservation Strategy for the island of Tetepare is one output from a WWF organised and facilitated workshop conducted in June 1997 and attended by FoT members and community representatives and descendants of Tetepare.

## Legal Framework and Obligations<sup>1</sup>

### International obligations

As a signatory to a number of international conventions the Solomon Islands Government is obliged to address a wide range of environmental issues. In addition, many of these conventions are relevant to the future use, development and management of Tetepare. These are summarised in Table 1 and outlined in Appendix 1.

**Table 1: International conventions relevant to management of Tetepare**

Convention	Topic
• Principle 21 of the Stockholm Declaration (1972) and Principle 1 of the Rio Declaration	Human right of development and responsibility to conserve nature
• SPREP Convention (1986)	Marine pollution and protection of coastal areas
• Apia Convention (1976)	Protected areas and customary rights
• World Heritage Convention (1972)	Recognition and management of areas of universal cultural and natural heritage value
• Biodiversity Convention (1992)	Conservation of biological diversity
• Forestry Principles of the Earth Summit (1992)	A non-binding code of conduct for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all forest types

### Solomon Islands' Constitution

The Solomon Islands Constitution vests natural resources with the people and government (preamble to the constitution). Customary law is acknowledged, but over-ridden where it is inconsistent with the constitution or an Act of Parliament. However, the Parliament is required to 'have particular regard to the customs, values and aspirations of the people...'

*Kastom* is the major land management devise to ensure wise use of resources. For Tetepare, the absence of resident descendants and their integration into other tribal groups means that *kastom* has been significantly broken. The system of tribal chiefs and trustees is unclear and the social system for land use decision-making that reflects the wishes and aspirations of descendants is confused. Recent events relating to timber rights show that the existing situation is subject to manipulation without consultation with traditional owners.

<sup>1</sup> Appendix 1: Environmental Law Relevant to Tetepare outlines statutes relevant to the management of Tetepare.

The Brundtland Report<sup>2</sup> gave a framework for achieving economic and social development with environmental protection. Sustainable development was defined to include sustainable economic growth, ecological sustainability and environmental protection. Kastom law and lore in the Solomons is based on ecologically sustainable principles. However, the growth of consumerism and the technology to alter vast areas of land has often led to traditional land ethics and kastom being abandoned or not considered. In this context, social and cultural traditions need to be supported by legislation. This is particularly the case for Tetepare where descendants no longer live on the island and hold affiliation with other tribal groups as well as to the land of their ancestors.

For Tetepare, law and particularly environmental law is needed to:

- clarify traditional ownership relationships and support kastom;
- ensure ecological matters are considered along with development;
- ensure ecological and social impacts of a development proposal are considered;
- protect valued elements of the Tetepare environment; and
- ensure the wishes of descendants are reflected in land management decisions.

### Provincial Government

The National Government has devolved certain responsibilities to Provincial Governments established in line with Constitutional powers<sup>3</sup>. In doing so the Parliament and thus Provincial Government must consider the role of traditional chiefs. For Tetepare, the absence of a recognised chief system makes this requirement difficult.

Powers devolved to Provincial Government are given in Table 2 and outlined in Appendix 1. These have particular relevance to the future use and management of Tetepare.

**Table 2: Responsibilities of Provincial Government relevant to Tetepare**

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comment</b>
• Trade and industry	Licensing of professions, trade and business
• Cultural and environmental matters	Local crafts, historical remains, protection of fauna
• Transport	Coastal shipping, provision of harbours, roads and bridges
• Agriculture and fishing	Animal husbandry and management of fresh and marine fisheries
• Land and land use	Codification of customary law and registration of rights and physical planning
• Local matters	Waste disposal, parks, markets
• Local government	By-laws for area and town councils
• Rivers and water	Control and use, pollution and provision of water supply
• Liquor	
• Finance	
• Housing	

### Land tenure

Customary land tenure is the basis for land management, including use of flora and fauna. Traditional practices include seasonal bans on hunting and fishing, prohibition on killing and eating particular species, the exclusion of outsiders for communal territories (Eaton 1988:47) and rotation of areas for resource exploitation. Customary land ownership also embraces a spiritual relationship and a sense of individual and group identity (Boer 1993). All natural products (except minerals) and decisions relating to the land and its use are within the domain of landowners<sup>4</sup>. The agreement of landowners for use of customary land and its products is therefore essential. This equally applies to marine resources<sup>5</sup>.

Disputes over customary land are dealt with by Local Courts<sup>6</sup>, with appeals going to Customary Land Appeal Courts<sup>7</sup>.

### Specific relevant legislation

While customary ownership of Tetepare primarily dictates land use matters, Table 3 presents instruments with the potential to affect decisions made by descendants.

<sup>2</sup> WCED 1987:43

<sup>3</sup> Provincial Government Act 1981.

<sup>4</sup> Land and Titles Act 1970 and the Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act 1969.

<sup>5</sup> Fisheries Act 1972.

<sup>6</sup> Local Courts Act 1973.

<sup>7</sup> Land and Titles Act 1976.

**Table 3: Legislation and policy relevant to Tetepare**

Act or policy	Provisions	Area of influence
<b>Solomon Islands legislation and Policy</b>		
Environmental Health Act 1990	Delegates to Provincial Government	Community health
The Fisheries Act 1972	Provides for the sustainable management of fisheries and regulation of catch	Fisheries management
	Fisheries Regulation regulate harvest and pollution from marine sources	Fisheries management
Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act 1969	Sustainable management of forest resources 1977 Amendment defines owners of timber rights	Timber industry. Local Area Council
	1994 Amendment provides for deciding timber rights, environmental protection, sanctuary establishment	Local Area Council Environmental protection Protected areas
	1990 Amendment details the process of gaining timber rights on customary land.	Provincial Government Local Area Council
	Environmental regulation of industry	Commissioner
	Protection of some species	Landowner rights
	Reservation of catchments	Environmental protection
Income Tax Act 1965	1991 Amendment gives tax incentive to Solomon Islanders for tourism development	Investment Tourist operators
The Investment Act 1990	Provides for the potential requirement of an environment impact assessment	EIA Provincial government
Land and Titles Act 1970 preservation orders	Provides for preservation orders over any land with heritage value.	Heritage preservation
Protection of Wrecks and War Relics Act 1980	Restricts access to and interference with WWII relics	Heritage preservation
Public Health Bill 1990	Provides for control of public health issues	Community health Tourist operations
Research Act 1982	Requires government permission for research.	Research Tourist operations
Tourism Development Plan 1991-2000	Policy for environmental impact assessment including consultation.	Tourist operations EIA
Wild Birds Protection Act 1914	Provides for the establishment of reserves	Protected areas
<b>Western Province Ordinances and Policies</b>		
Provincial powers	Regulation & management of fresh and marine fisheries	Fisheries management
Business Licence (Amendment) Ordinance	Licences only granted to businesses which confirm with policy.	Business management Tourist operations Fishery management
Coastal and Lagoon Shipping Ordinance 1991	Provisions to control marine pollution and erosion of shorelines	Pollution control Environmental protection
Draft Tourism Policy	Policy on tourism development	Tourist operations
Environmental Management Ordinance 1991	Provides for the requirement of an EIA, a business licence and pollution control.	Business management EIA Environmental protection
Policy on the Environment	Endorses the formation of protected areas	Protected areas
Preservation of Culture Ordinance 1989	Provides for the protection of cultural places and their assessment	Heritage preservation

## Cultural and Recent History<sup>8</sup>

### The people of Tetepare

While few people currently live on Tetepare, descendants of those who fled the island c1850 now live on adjacent islands and at times return to their customary lands to hunt and fish. Kastom stories can still be told, and the many *tambu* shrines bear witness to the rich culture that thrived on the island before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>8</sup> This history is based on notes provided by Llyod Hodge and prepared by R G Hodge, the manager and later owner of the Tetepare plantation as well as information contained in the draft archaeological report by K Roga.

Like their Western province neighbours, the people of Tetepare were fierce warriors, with a distinct language and unique spiritual and cultural beliefs. The name of the island means 'fighting pig' or 'wild boar'. Other place names reflect the Tetepare dialect. Pigs and possums featured in sacrificial rituals to powerful spirits, while 'iguanas', crocodiles and sharks bore the spirits of ancestors and were protected as *tambu* animals. Tribal priests had the power to summon sharks to offer sacrifices or test the bravery of young men.

The people lived by shifting agriculture and hunter-gathering. They drew from the forest's wild plant foods, its fauna and a marine fare of fish, molluscs, crustacea and turtles. The presence of (non-ritualised) human bone material on the island suggests they were also cannibals but hardly for sustenance reasons, given the abundance of food. The community's rich culture is evidenced by shrines, well-crafted kastom money and jewellery, special work areas, dance areas and burial rituals. There was also time for war, with villages secured by stone and coral walls, and guarded by lookouts.

When the 'big sick' came, oral history<sup>2</sup> tells of the arrival of a war party from Rendova who landed unopposed to find Tetepare vacant and many unburied dead. The absence of the large canoes suggested that the people had fled the island. A dominant supernatural being normally benign to the people of Tetepare was blamed for the decimation of the population and fears existed that the spirits ill-will would spread beyond the island.

People from Rendova occasionally established villages on Tetepare near what is now known as Livutana, only to depart fearful that the angry spirit of Tetepare would again bring harm to human kind on the island. To the time of European settlement, the island remained uninhabited.

### **Post European contact**

Around the end of the 19th century the British trading and agriculture company Burns Philp showed an interest in leasing Tetepare. After negotiations with residents of Rendova they were successful in gaining a crown lease over the island. Between 1910 and 1918 around 52 000 coconut palms were planted at the westerly and southern coastal end of the island. By 1940, copra yields from the plantation were the highest from all properties in the Western Province (around 300 tons per year). Seventy-three workers were employed to work the plantation and tend the cattle and pigs which supplied breeding stock and food. The plantation was abandoned during World War II. Towards the end of the war New Zealand forces occupied the area. Destroyed ships lie beneath the water surface near the western point of Tetepare as well as the central leeward coast.

In 1949 the colonial government bought the Burns Philp lease and re-let it to KINDERGARTEN H Dalrymple-Hay on an annual basis. R G Hodge was employed in 1951 to manage the plantation. He found the site over-grown but brought the plantation into production and erected temporary buildings and made 1.5 miles of tramway serviceable. Hodge departed Tetepare in 1952 and was followed by a succession of managers. In March 1961 he returned to find the plantation much as left it, except some roads had been re-opened and the rail-line removed.

The plantation area was surveyed (1128 acres) with the balance of the island reverting to the Crown. Hodge replaced and upgraded most of the old buildings and cleared the regrowth from over 600 acres of the original plantation.

In 1970 Hodge bought the lease cheaply in recognition for his commitment to the property and was granted a 69-year lease. Workers were recruited mainly from Guadalcanal and Malaita although a group from Rendova leased 150 acres of plantation with the intention to purchase. By 1972 copra prices had fallen and plantations around the Province began to close. There was labour unrest, yet Hodge went into debt to continue production. In 1965 part of the lease reverted to the Commissioner of Lands, the balance was taken over by the Development Band of Solomon Islands.

Today, the work of the Friends of Tetepare reveals that ten major tribal groups exist who are descended from the original inhabitants of Tetepare. Two tribal groups are associated with Baeni, Hovoro, Ramata, Duvaha villages; two are associated with Bareho and Viru, two with Michi, Sasagana and Chubikopi; and four with Penjuku, Bili and Sombiro.

In 1976 the first call for an alternative future for Tetepare was proposed. The Land Resources Survey recommended Tetepare become a conservation area. Though to 1994 four similar proposals were advanced, as well as the Western Province's adoption of a policy to encourage the community to declare Tetepare a protected area.

A proposal to log Tetepare was proposed in 1994, around the same time that a Forest Resource Inventory recommended the island be excluded from logging and made a conservation zone. In 1995 the logging proposal was rejected by the Rendova Area Council, largely due to the action of individual descendants of Tetepare. Shortly after, these people established the Friends of Tetepare to oversee the long-term protection of the Island.

The future of Tetepare remains uncertain.

### **Population and services in Western Province**

Solomon Islands has a population of around 360 000 (1993) and expected to reach 500 000 in 2001. Around 85 000 live in the Western Province (112 000 by 2001)<sup>9</sup>. Forty percent of people over 14 years are receiving some cash income, largely from

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<sup>9</sup> ACIL et al 1995



primary production (65%). The timber and fishing industries are the major employers. Tourism is largely confined to the Marovo Lagoon area, though dive operations exist in Provincial centres.

Gizo and Noro are the major population centres. Several airstrips are scattered around the province with Munda (north New Georgia), Seghe (south New Georgia), and Gizo (Ghizo Island) being the busiest. Gizo also has a deep-water port. Air access to Tetepare is via Seghe or Munda as no strip exists on the nearest populated island (Rendova).

The villages on Rendova (based on the 1984-85 survey of village resources<sup>7</sup>) have fewer than 200 households and few services. Access is by boat and medical services are limited. There is little paid employment. The communities hold strong Christian religious affiliations and pidgin is widely spoken with some English.

### **Subsistence in Western Province**

Land is cultivated on a rotational basis - approximately two years of cultivation and around two years left fallow. In most cases cultivated land is cut from regrowth forest. Garden plots average less than 3000 square metres. Crops grown include:

Staple foods           Pana, taro, yam, kumara, cassava, bananas, sugarcane, pineapple, peanut, pumpkin, corn, beans, shallot, cucumber, slippery cabbage.

Common plants       Tomatoes, cabbage, chilli, snake bean, eggplant, pepper, ginger, melon, pawpaw.

Less common plants   Bread fruit, lettuce, cutnut, five corner, garlic, guava, mango, osi, soursop, ngali nut.

Protein comes primarily from the sea and includes a variety of fish, turtle, clam, trochus, bech-de-mer, crayfish, crabs and dugong. This is supplemented by pig, flying fox, kandora, freshwater fish, wild birds and occasionally crabs, lizards, freshwater shrimp and shellfish. While tanks are common in villages there remains a strong dependence on streams for drinking water.

### **Forest use in the Western Province**

Forests provide building materials, firewood, canoes, tools, handicrafts, medicines, food and many non-plant resources. A small and often occasional cash income derives from the sale of live birds, reptiles, butterflies and other insects and orchids as well as coral and shells. A large proportion of the Province has been or is proposed to be logged. Some villages in the area report a scarcity of forest products as a result of logging. Materials considered most scarce are flooring, canoe wood, hunting materials, carving timber, cane, and thatching. Villages with experience of forest logging report soil and stream damage followed by a reduction in building materials and wildlife, disturbance of *tambu* sites and damage to gardens. Land disputes are a common result of logging along with concern about social change.

The nearest local villages to Tetepare are situated on the coast of Rendova Island. Villagers live in wooden framed houses, with timber and bamboo screens and thatched or corrugated iron roofs.

### **Development on Tetepare**

Tetepare descendants acknowledge that some (types of) development could:

- increase the level of education within nearby communities;
- improve communication and transport;
- improve the cash economy and paid employment;
- increase community services; and
- foster conservation of land and marine resources.

However concern exists about:

- young men becoming influenced by the lifestyle of visitors;
- restriction of traditional use (recent);
- loss of natural and cultural values of the island;
- only unskilled labour positions being made available to local communities; and
- future management isolating local communities from input into the management of their traditional lands.

The perspectives have developed from the growth of a cash economy particularly tourism in the Province which has stimulated a number of business enterprises. These include accommodation, food and transport services. A number of individual, family and community based businesses have been established. Three appear to be the most responsive to meeting the Province's ecotourism demand. However, without the development of substantial tourism support services and extensive investment in facilities and infrastructure, expansion of the tourism industry to Tetepare may be constrained.

### **Skills of the community**

The skills of the local community have traditionally been towards subsistence farming, fishing and collection of marine products. Most of the Rendova community has attended primary school but there are few with higher education or specialist resource or business management training. This limits their ability to respond to the demands of expanding business (tourism) opportunities and the pressures that would be placed on the island.

## Implications for this strategy

Tourism is emerging as a potentially important growth industry. The Provincial economy must shift from a logging and 'cottage' manufacturing base to one of a service based economy. The outlook for the economy, without tourism or a major manufacturing industry, is slow growth.

Industry is primary production based, with most other businesses supporting these industries. Thus, a readily available source of managerial expertise is not available.

There is a low-income level for the Province suggesting a lack of capital for tourism investment. However, small, individual, family or community based businesses may be developed if supported with business and service training.

Skills of the available workforce are not directly of use to expanding tourism. However, practical experience in ecotourism related activities is likely to exist and with training, could form the initial labour source for development of a 'boutique' tourism product.

There is a need for training of the Provincial community to cater for visitors. Development of managerial skills for tourism growth is a priority.

## Tourism Trends<sup>10</sup>

Because (eco)tourism offers potential as an appropriate and sustainable land use option for Tetepare a review of the existing tourism industry is warranted.

### Visitation

Tourism in Solomon Islands is largely undeveloped and based on small-scale accommodation and diving operations. Despite a rich cultural heritage this potential tourism attraction is poorly developed. In 1994, about 12 000 people visited Solomon Islands. At current rates 20 000 visitors can be expected by the year 2002. Only 31% of these visitors arrive for holiday purposes (7000 by the year 2002). This represents only 1% of the total tourist visitation to Pacific island states.

### Tourist Profile

The typical holiday tourist to Solomon Islands has the following characteristics:

- they are between the ages of 25 and 44 (53%) and it is their first visit (74%);
- they travel alone or with their spouse (89%) and are free independent travellers (82%);
- they gained information on Solomon Islands through travel agents, general reading or the Solomon Islands Tourist Authority (57%);
- half of the holiday visitor (48%) will also visit other countries, mainly Fiji, Vanuatu or Papua New Guinea (44%);
- they will stay in large hotels (41%) and guesthouses (30%)<sup>11</sup> for an average of 9.4 days with 50% staying fewer than 7 nights;
- half (48%) will take organised tours, most preferring to make their own arrangements<sup>10</sup>;
- they will visit museums, places which exhibit crafts and Marovo Lagoon;
- they are attracted by the history of Solomon Islands, diving opportunities, the climate and lifestyle of the country, as well as its natural and cultural assets;
- they will consider their holiday experience to be good to excellent (85%) and facilities and services adequate to good;
- they will spend about S\$200 per day mainly on accommodation and meals (48%).

### Infrastructure

Tourism expansion requires a long-term commitment to the establishment and maintenance of infrastructure. This must focus on basic services such as improved transport systems, diversification of accommodation especially in gateway centres, appropriate waste disposal systems, securing reliable fresh water supply and the establishment of social, health and welfare services. This is relevant to Tetepare's tourism future but more so for the likely gateway centres of Munda, Seghe and Gizo.

### Issues and Implications

The existing visitor market is internationally based.

Based on expenditure, the existing market is at the lower socio-economic end of the spectrum, however this is likely to be a function of pricing and little opportunity to purchase local products and services. Such groups are responsive to budget accommodation, self catering and camping - services currently offered.

Budget accommodation is likely to best service the existing market.

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<sup>10</sup> Solomon Islands Visitor Survey (1995); a more detailed summary of tourism trends is given in Appendix 3.

<sup>11</sup> Probably due to lack of services.

## SECTION C: NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Natural Resources of Tetepare

#### Geomorphology

Three different geological provinces are involved in the geology of Solomon Islands:

- the Volcanic Geological Province which results from the movement in the India-Australia crustal plate and the Pacific plate;
- the Pacific Geological Province, formed on the Pacific crustal plate; and
- the Central Geological Province, formed on a detached part on the India-Australia plate.

The Western Province (including Tetepare) forms part of the volcanic geological province, which partly explains why the biota differs significantly from other areas of the nation. The Province is geologically active and experiences high rates of upward earth movements and seismic activity. With its high rainfall and erodible rock types, the area exhibits high erosion rates, with many streams turbid despite the rainforest covering.

Unlike neighbouring islands, Tetepare is composed of sedimentary rocks which generally form rolling hills and ridges to 357m. The island has been uplifted in the southwest forming steep ridges falling to the southern coastline with low slopes and raised coral benches on the northern coast. Handsel and Wall (1975) classified Southern Rendova and Tetepare as a distinct physiographic region. Tetepare's 11880 hectares is made up of:

- |                   |                  |                      |               |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| • sediment ridges | 10080 ha (84.8%) | • fluvial deposits   | 396 ha (3.3%) |
| • sands           | 384 ha (3.2%)    | • estuarine terraces | 212 ha (1.8%) |
| • reef terraces   | 684 ha (5.8%)    | • swamps             | 124 ha (1.0%) |

The Solomon Islands National Forest Resources Inventory (SolFRI) (ACIL et al., 1995) rated all of Tetepare (save for the area immediately adjoining the coast) in the highest category of susceptibility to deterioration based on the land's:

- high inherent susceptibility to deterioration;
- high degree of seismic activity; and
- high erosivity of climate.

The SolFRI also identified on Tetepare:

- 50m strips each side of streams and rivers;
- areas of highly erodible soils and/or steep slopes over 30 degrees; and
- 200m surrounds of major coastal wetlands and swamps;

as being environmentally sensitive areas.

Such areas occur around:

- the ten northward flowing and two southward flowing streams of the island;
- the central elevated areas and southern coastal areas of the island; and
- on the lowland coastal fringe in the south of the island.

These environmentally sensitive areas account for around 40% of Tetepare.

#### Implications

The varied landscape has the potential to facilitate a diverse range of recreational activities. In addition, the terrain forms a contrasting and aesthetic backdrop to the serene oceanic surroundings, resulting in an attractive setting for both visitors and residents. These characteristics are valuable attractions for tourists. However the character of the landscape limits the potential for activities which significantly modify terrain characteristics.

#### Vegetation

The flora of Solomon Islands is rich with endemic species and nowhere else in the world is speciation and population variation between islands so marked (Diamond 1976). *Ficus novae-georgia* is reported to be unique to New Georgia Island. In the absence of any detailed studies of the flora of the Province, it is likely that more endemic species will be found (ACIL et al., 1995). The size, remoteness from the larger landmasses of the Western Province, and the contrasting geophysical character of the Island suggest that endemism and population variation will be particularly marked at Tetepare.

The SolFRI (ACIL et al., 1995) placed Tetepare within the Sedimentary Ridges Environmental Domain. Sedimentary forms of bedrock with red and brown clays and loams characterise this domain. It covers about 7% (34 7444 ha) of the Western Province with Tetepare being about 2.5%.

What the SolFRI described as 'hills rainforest' covers almost all of Tetepare. The forests are largely in a natural state, though there are signs of disturbance by shifting agriculture consistent with a previously large and active population (Tegler, 1994). These types of forest form the bulk of the commercial forest resource of Solomon Islands. Of the 301 000 ha of hills rainforest in the Province, 15% has been logged. The virgin forests of Tetepare represent about 4% of the remaining unlogged hills rainforest in the Province and around 30% of the unlogged forest on the sedimentary ridge environmental domain.

The community is complex in composition and structure and hence tends to exhibit high biodiversity. Canopy trees include akawa (*Pometia pinnata*), malakona (*Buchanania arborescens*) arakoko (*Gmelina moluccana*) and vasa (*Vitex cofassus*) with fig (*Ficus spp.*) emergents.

Along the raised coral platforms of the northern coastline akawa and vasa dominate with La'usi (*Celtis latifolia*). Understorey trees include mamalade (*Alangium javanicum*) and kakala'a (*Myristica fatua*).

The southern coastline supports undisturbed beach forest dominated by u'ula (*Intsia bijuga*), akawa, ba'ula (*Calophyllum kajewskii*), one-one (*Heritiera littoralis*) and figs.

A small area of lowland rainforest occurs in the southeast extremity of Tetepare. These communities occur on flat land, often associated with fresh-water swamps. This complex community has been a target for conversion to coconut plantations and agriculture throughout Solomon Islands.

The SolFRI identifies the 'primary undisturbed tall forest' of Tetepare as an ecologically significant area in the Western Province because of its physical, environmental and anthropogenic factors that give rise to unusual, rare or endangered species or ecosystems (ACIL et al., 1995). It is the only area of the sedimentary ridges environmental domain so identified.

## Fauna

Studies of the fauna of Tetepare are all but absent: records relying on incidental sightings and studies of individual species in a regional context. Never-the-less, given more than 100 years without human habitation, the geophysical character of the island within the Western Province and the island's isolation, it seems reasonable to predict that Tetepare will prove to be a veritable biological 'lost' or 'new' world.

## Birds

Diamond (1976) first recorded Tetepare whit-eye (*Zosterops tetiparia*), identifying a different population (appearance, behaviour and song) from that on New Georgia and the nearby Rendova Island. Along with the other white-eyes of the New Georgia Islands it is possibly the best example of species evolution to be found.

In addition the Kolombangara pied warbler (*Phylloscopus amoenus*), Richard's monarch (*Monarcha richardsi*), Kolombangara pied monarch (*Monarcha browni*) and the yellow-vented honeyeater (*Myzomela eichhorni*) are endemic to the islands of the Province (ACIL et al., 1995) and likely found on Tetepare.

## Non-avifauna

Solomon Islands has one of the world's richest bat (*Chiroptera*) and rat (*Muridae*) faunas. In the Western Province, 15 mammal species have been recorded including four that are considered to be endangered (Flannery, 1990). Pigs, rats, flying fox, cuscus, estuarine crocodile, iguana (goana), lizards and geckos, turtle, freshwater fish and prawns and coconut crabs are known to exist on the island.

## Invertebrates

Butterflies of the Family Papilionidae (birdwing and swallowtail) are common within the Rendova-Tetepare area. This family is particularly sought after by collectors because of their size and striking colours. The following commercial species have been identified on Tetepare (Turner 1997): *Omithoptera victoriae rubianus*, *Ornithoptera priamus urvillianus*, *Papilio ptolychus*, *Graphium sarpedon isander*. In addition, *Papilio bridgei*, *P. Ulysses*, *P. Fuscus*, *Graphium codrus*, *G. Mendana*, *G. Agamemnon*, *G. Hicetaon* and *Pachliopta polyduras polydaemon* have been recorded on Rendova Island. Some of these species can be sold for up to US\$40.00 per pair of male and female. Of significance for the butterfly fauna is the high degree of variation in the same species between islands.

## Proposals for the protection of ecological values

Since 1976 the whole of Tetepare has been proposed as a protected area by numerous studies, because of its environmental values (Land Resources Survey, 1976; Diamond, 1976; Dahl, 1980; SPREP, 1985; Maruia Society, 1991). In response to these proposals, the Western Province in its environmental policy encourages the community to declare Tetepare a protected area.

The most recent and technically detailed (SolFRI, ACIL et al., 1995) study proposed Tetepare as one of only eight areas for conservation management based on:

- the principal aim of protecting habitats of endemic and rare species;
- preserving self sustaining landscape units;
- the protection of a few large reserves which generally include more species than many small fragmented reserves;
- a broad cross-section of forest types and land systems being represented;
- including as much undisturbed forest as possible.

The report highlighted ‘the unusual opportunity to protect a complete forested tropical island landscape’.

## Archaeological Resources<sup>12</sup> of Tetepare

The archaeological record of a cultural place can often be a chronicle of a dead culture and society. This is not the case with Tetepare. While the culture and society that left such a rich heritage on Tetepare in the 1800’s has change and merged with others, continuous association with the island has been retained through *kastom* and the awe and mysticism still held by both descendants and no descendants. The archaeological record on Tetepare is the unwritten history of a warrior people who live within those descendants who still recognise the island as their traditional land.

Tetepare’s forests hide and protect a wide range of archaeological and *tambu* sites in the form of occupation sites, clan boundary markers, burials or skull storage places and natural markers that symbolise and commemorate ancestors and events which live in *kastom* stories. All areas are relatively rich in artefacts.

In surface exploration of less than half the island, over 85 *tambu* site features were surveyed (Roga, 1994). These sites will be given ‘Protected Places’, status under Part III, Section 5 in the Western Province Preservation of Culture Ordinance, 1989. The types of site are presented in Table 4. The survey is continuing but constrained by funding.

**Table 4: Location, type and number of *tambu* site surveyed on Tetepare (adapted from Roga, 1994)**

Site type	Location						
	Siokodi	Hokata	Barora	Weather coast	Raro	East Tetepare	Memisenggo River
Village site	1		1				
Village wall	1	1				3	
Entrance area	1	1					
Feast area	1						
House foundation						2	
Nut husking area		1					
Work area		1					
Women’s work area				2			
Dance area		1					
Rest area		1		1			
Lookout		1		1		2	
Meeting place		2					
Fortress					1		
Fortress entrance					1		
Rock shelter		1					
Shrine	1						
Village shrine		1					
Hunting shrine	1						
Fishing shrine					1		
Burial shrine	7	6	5	1	3	8	
Wall and burial mound			1				
Burial mound			1				
Sacred site	3	4	2		3		

The extent of the occupation sites is given by the following statistics: Village (Siokodi) - 1000m x 500m; constructed walls - 1.5m high x 67m long; feast area - 16m x 9m.

Artefacts recorded on-site include:

- **Household objects** - grinding stones, sharpening stones, rock tables, stone bowls;
- ***Kastom* money** - complete, broken and incomplete money, jewellery, arm rings, filing stone;
- **Weapons and tools** - stone club?, stone axe, basalt mallet, tapa cloth stone, uta stone axe, Tuma fo (*kastom* cloth) preparation stones; and
- **Human remains**

Since 1994, 25 *kastom* stories have been recorded from Lokuru, Rendova. FoT are continuing this work throughout the Western Province.

<sup>12</sup> This discussion is based on the preliminary draft of surveys undertaken by KINDERGARTEN Roga, Provincial Archaeologist, Western Province Division of Culture as part of the Solomon Islands National Archaeological Sites Survey Program. The survey was funded by Western Province, Australian South Pacific Cultures Fund, Youth Challenge Australia and TOLOA.

Tetepare would appear to be a genuine archaeological treasure, an in-situ museum of Solomon Island's past, of no less value to the world than the ancient structures and artefacts of Egypt, but made more valuable by being a living museum with links to descendants.

## SECTION D: ANALYSIS

### Values of Tetepare

The value of Tetepare and its natural and cultural resources stems from its intrinsic and extrinsic qualities. The significance of natural and cultural resources depends on the number and groups of people who value the area and its resources. Based on information available, an assessment of Island values and their level of significance is presented in Tables 5 and 6. Significance is estimated based on the number and scope of communities that hold that the value ascribed exists.

#### Intrinsic values

Intrinsic qualities are those that inherently exist in a resource and do not require modification for the value to be realised. Intrinsic values can often be objectively assessed and hence the significance level attributed to them can gain widespread agreement.

**Table 5: Intrinsic values and significance of natural and cultural resources**

Large 'flower symbols' indicate expected level of significance. Small flowers symbolise possible level of significance.

International	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸	Of importance to people of more than one nation.
National	🌸🌸🌸🌸	Of importance to people of more than on province.
Provincial	🌸🌸🌸	Of importance to people of more than tribal group.
Local	🌸🌸	Of importance to people of more than one village community.
Familial	🌸	Of importance to the people in a family or village community.

Characteristic	Values based on intrinsic qualities of the resource	Significance
<b>Feature</b>		
Tetepare island	Largest uninhabited island in the tropical South Pacific.	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Largest undeveloped and natural island in Solomon Islands and the tropical South Pacific.	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
Geomorphology	Sedimentary island within the volcanic geological province of Solomon Islands	🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Unmodified diverse landforms	🌸🌸🌸🌸
Vegetation	Large area of intact and naturally sustainable hills rainforest on sediments.	🌸🌸🌸🌸
	High biodiversity (?)	🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Endemic and endangered species.	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Representative sample of a threatened plant community	🌸🌸🌸🌸
Fauna	Endemic species	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Rare and endangered species	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Rare and commercial butterflies	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
Marine area	Largely unexploited and unpolluted maritime area	🌸🌸🌸🌸
Archaeology	High incidence of intact <i>tambu</i> sites	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	High incidence of pre-colonial artefacts	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
History	Presence of war relics	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Example of early colonial plantation	🌸🌸🌸🌸
<b>Process</b>		
Geomorphology	Example of earth forming processes	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Example of island forming processes	🌸🌸🌸🌸
Biological	Example of earth's evolutionary processes	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Example of island biogeography principles	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Examples of speciation	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
Archaeological	Example of how the Tetepare lived prior to colonization	🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸
<b>Combinations</b>	Hills rainforest on sediments	🌸🌸🌸🌸
	Undisturbed terrestrial ecosystems sustain marine resource	🌸🌸🌸

#### Extrinsic values of Tetepare

Extrinsic qualities are those that rely on human perception of the resource and often require modification or use of the resource for its value to be realised. Perception of value is usually culturally based. Extrinsic values are judged by personal, social and cultural perspectives, and are therefore inherently subjective. Thus the significance level attributed to extrinsic values is always subject to conjecture. Nevertheless, the value of Tetepare as the traditional land of ancestors is highly significant in the Solomon Islands context and clearly acknowledged in the Constitution's recognition of customary ownership for its cultural

and sociological value and sense of identity it confers to descendants. This is clearly the most significant extrinsic value of Tetepare and probably the most important.

**Table 6: Extrinsic values and significance of natural and cultural resources**

Large 'flower symbols' indicate expected level of significance. Small flowers symbolise possible level of significance

International	☼☼☼☼☼	Of importance to people of more than one nation.
National	☼☼☼☼	Of importance to people of more than on province.
Provincial	☼☼☼	Of importance to people of more than tribal group.
Local	☼☼	Of importance to people of more than one village community.
Familial	☼	Of importance to the people in a family or village community.

Characteristic	Values based on extrinsic qualities of the resource	Significance
Tetepare Island	Cultural identity stemming from customary lands of descendants	☼☼☼☼
	Cultural identity stemming from spiritual links of descendants	☼☼☼☼
	Recreational use	☼☼☼
Land resource use	Land use for gardens	☼☼☼
Vegetation use	Timber use for canoe trees	☼☼☼
	Timber use for rosewood supply	☼☼☼
	Timber use for commercial logging	☼☼☼☼
	Plant use for subsistence	☼☼☼
	Plant use for medicines	☼☼☼
Fauna use	Pig hunting for subsistence	☼☼☼
	Fauna use for subsistence	☼☼☼
	Fauna use for supplementary cash income	☼☼☼
Marine product use	Fishing for subsistence	☼☼☼
	Fishing for cash income	☼☼☼

### Tourism Opportunities<sup>13</sup>

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world (expected to double in size by the year 2005<sup>14</sup>), with nature-based tourism representing a significant share of this market, especially in the Asia-Pacific. Tetepare can share in this growth if it can establish a clear identity to entice visitors who seek the attractions and services that the Island and region can offer - a market niche. For Tetepare, the quality of its natural and cultural resources<sup>15</sup>, the growth of ecotourism and the absence of competition provide a market opportunity that can be productively and sustainably exploited. Ecotourism has the potential to:

- act as an incentive for conservation and protection of the integrity of local culture;
- support conservation by strengthening environmental awareness and commitment through increased understanding and appreciation of nature;
- bring the benefits of tourism, without negative social and environmental impacts;
- diversify the economic base of local communities through sustainable development; and
- increase cross-cultural understanding through social interaction.

It is for these reasons that participants at the workshop identified ecotourism as the principle future use for Tetepare.

### Attractions

Tetepare and the surrounding region have the natural and cultural features to become one of the most popular ecotourism destinations in the South Pacific. This is due to:

- the tropical maritime climate;
- the rich fringing reef and nearby atoll communities;
- the unique status of the forests, largely untouched by humanity for a century and a half;
- significant fauna and flora;
- exceptional cultural resources and an associated living tradition; and
- restricted access, maintaining an element of discovery.

A tourism opportunity exists with each of these attractions, along with obligations and constraints allied with tourism product development. Obligations relate to the principles of best practice, while constraints exist in access, a lack of trained staff, infrastructure and capital to develop these. The development of appropriate facilities and activities is necessary to ensure the area is perceived as an attractive holiday destination. By presenting and marketing a high quality experience which is unique to the Province and Solomon Islands, the industry can capture an appropriate share of the market.

<sup>13</sup> Analysis of tourism in Solomon Islands' and potential businesses is given in Appendix 3: Tourism Profile.

<sup>14</sup> World Tourism and Travel Council, 1992

<sup>15</sup> Literature and information provided by workshop participants was used to compile Appendix 3: Ecotourism Assets

## Visitor characteristics and activities

For tourists who may be interested in visiting Tetepare, it is possible to identify two groups.

1. Visitors wanting to see features in the quickest, most convenient way. If appropriately marketed, such tourists will have Tetepare on their list of 'must see' places.
2. Visitors wanting to experience local environments and cultures, spending more time on the island, learning about its features and often mixing with the local community.

Solomon Islands is yet to realise its potential as an ecotourism destination. It offers few tourism products, and undeveloped opportunities for boating, fishing, snorkelling, diving, hiking and interaction with cultural groups. Investment is needed to expand appropriate activities to attract and hold ecotourists. An additional international flight a week will more than double the existing tourism levels.

## Marketing

Solomon Islands has a small holiday market based on an Australian and American clientele. Relatively cheap accommodation and airfares are available through Solomon Airlines and other international airlines. These make Honiara an accessible and affordable tourist destination. However, there are few tourist facilities available, restricting tourism growth, especially mass tourism. While this limits rapid growth, it provides opportunities to develop and market a sustainable product distinct from that offered by other Pacific nations - one that matches the ideals of ecotourism. This product can attract a premium, sustain cultural identity and restrict the impacts of massive social change.

The Solomon Islands' Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Aviation has a modest marketing campaign and does not aggressively promote tourism activities available within the nation. Strategically, it is appropriate to maintain and slowly build a marketing campaign in association with product development. However, if Tetepare is to succeed as a tourism location some emphasis must be given to developing Honiara (and Seghe/Gizo) as a tourism focus centres, and Marovo as a differentiated ecotourism product.

With air and seaport facilities, Seghe and Gizo are the access hubs for Tetepare. With a variety of tourism resources nearby, the ability to stimulate growth is high. However, tourism growth will be constrained unless adequate information is available to tourists on experiences available, and provision is made to meet visitor expectations. Since Honiara and to a lesser extent Seghe and Gizo would focus on constructed attractions, there is potential for co-operative marketing of Tetepare (and Marovo) because markets, tourism opportunities and services offered are complementary and not overly competitive.

## Education and training

Tourism benefits can be maximised through appropriate visitor behaviour and the provision of effective resource management and service to clients. While increasing visitor awareness of local environmental and social conditions is important for sustainable tourism, skilled local persons involved in tourism is also integral to maximising tourism benefits.

## Visitor requirements

Generally tourists require information, access, sustenance, shelter, security and experiences. These equate directly with:

- promotion and interpretative services;
- transportation to the selected destination and site;
- food and beverage services;
- accommodation;
- health services; and
- opportunities to interact with the chosen destination.

The level and type of service supplied tends to determine the market attracted to a destination. For ecotourists, interpretative services are essential. They include:

- pre-visit information so that visitors can make a choicer on where they will visit<sup>16</sup>;
- orientation upon arrival and confirmation that the visit decision has been a wise choice<sup>17</sup>;
- opportunities to experience and learn about eco/culture resources;
- opportunities to acquire mementos which facilitate positive recollection of experiences.

While many of these services are currently absent in Solomon islands, with training and initial capital investment, suitable services can be rapidly developed.

Reasonable access to the Western Province exists. However, there are constraints to expansion especially in providing reliable and safe access to Tetepare. This limits the opportunity to develop a number of ecotourism experiences.

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<sup>16</sup> How tourists access the destination, where they stay, costs involved and where and how bookings can be made.

<sup>17</sup> Orientation will include the location of places of interest and where their human needs can be met.



Existing food service is adequate but could benefit with greater diversity, especially if overnight stays are to expand. Local communities can benefit from providing fresh fruit, vegetables and fish for use in accommodation centres.

Tourists require a diversity of accommodation types to suit financial capabilities and the overall desired experience. Accommodation within the Western Province complements its natural and cultural settings. However, by providing a wider range of accommodation at Provincial townships a greater number and variety of visitors can be served.

Health services are poor around Tetepare. While this should not overly constrain tourism growth, staff require first aid training and suitable emergency transport to medical centres.

Ultimately, tourists seek experiences. Services must provide an educational perspective along with a high quality, interactive recreational experience. Within this context, visitors usually require efficient and friendly service and a choice of day and night time activities.

It is towards providing these services that training is needed. In addition there is the need to upgrade skills in tourism management, e.g. Hospitality, financial and visitor management.

### **Skill levels within the existing tourism industry**

FoT members recognise the need for additional training, reflecting its absence in Solomon Islands for the specific needs of tourism. There is a low level of skill relevant to tourism within the public and private sectors. At best, the industry is staffed by people competent in basic operations and service but unskilled in modern visitor and business management. Skill levels in local communities are limited for facilitating the expansion of tourism and no system exists to encourage a high standard of tourism service. Such training would not only provide a high level of visitor service, but also enable local communities to be part of and contribute more knowledgeable to defining their tourism future, thus a suite of certificate and associate diploma courses would be of value to the tourist industry.

### **Tourism business opportunities<sup>18</sup>**

There is a lack of appreciation in Solomon Islands of the range of services that local communities and businesses could develop to better cater for tourists, while retaining the ambience that makes the Province and Tetepare so attractive. Opportunities for tourism-based business exist at both the Provincial and island level and their development would contribute to expanding the province's image as an ecotourism destination.

#### **Provincial services**

Provincial services are those that can be provided from towns and to a lesser extent from village communities. They require a high level of capital investment and a high turnover of clients for success. Their establishment on remote islands will be difficult in the short to medium term. However, they are essential to support tourism activities on Tetepare and to attract more resource exploitative activities away from the island. Potential services include accommodation, water based activity services, arts, crafts and food outlets.

#### **Tetepare and local services**

Local services are those that can be operated out of Tetepare and Rendova. They require relatively low levels of capital and can provide early cash returns with potential for expansion. Potential services include food services, hiking based tours, accommodation, village stays, community based fishing, water based activities, arts and craft outlets.

#### **Wildlife Utilisation Opportunities**

##### **Subsistence use - Hunting and collecting of terrestrial resources**

No species of terrestrial fauna is hunted on a regular basis. Pigs are hunted intermittently on Tetepare for subsistence, especially for feasts and special events. Flying fox, possums, some bird species, coconut crabs and freshwater fauna are also taken. The take appears to be sustainable given the infrequency of catch effort. The impact of pigs on native flora and fauna is unknown. However, given the experience of other lowland rainforest areas, it is expected that pigs will be having a significant effect on ground flora and fauna and possibly adding to sedimentation of streams. Further, a large pig population is likely to impact on significant cultural structures and artefacts through attrition.

Regular reduction of pig numbers is likely to be desirable to protect the natural and cultural values of Tetepare. Clarification of impacts and the size of a sustainable harvest (population control) are also desirable. Clarification of other fauna taken and the sustainability of the take are needed especially if hunting pressure is to increase.

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<sup>18</sup> Appendix 3: Tourism Business Opportunities outlines potential Provincial and Tetepare based tourism businesses.

Occasionally wild foods and medicine plants are collected for subsistence use. This traditional practice appears to be sustainable at existing and possibly expanded levels. A management plan for the island might consider the establishment of a totally protected area as a management strategy.

Currently, there appears to be no impediment to this practice but may require management or at least interpretation should tourism be brought to Tetepare.

#### **Subsistence use - Hunting and collecting of marine resources**

A variety of marine organisms are taken for subsistence and minor cash sale, including fish, green snail, crayfish, beche-de-mer, trochus and turtles. While subsistence use of these animals appears sustainable, reports suggest that some areas are being depleted.

Given the international significance of many turtle species, monitoring and management of take is desirable. A variety of fishery management techniques exist that can be applied to ensure the sustainability of these resources, including size restrictions, bag limits, closed seasons and exclusion zones. A total ban on commercial take within the immediate surrounds of Tetepare has been proposed.

#### **Farming**

Small gardens are created on the northern (leeward) side of Tetepare. These are maintained traditionally, largely by residents of Rendova. Current levels of forest clearing for gardens appear to be sustainable and possibly support the growth of pioneer species.

At current levels, no alteration of subsistence farming practices appears necessary. However, expansion of subsistence farming, particularly associated with settlement of Tetepare, has the potential to threaten natural values. Management of this use may be necessary in the future.

#### **Timber harvesting**

A small number of tree species are harvested for subsistence use including canoe manufacture and carving. Take is confined to accessible areas and in recent years a decrease in suitable species and size of trees has been experienced.

The replanting of species with traditional value in accessible and disturbed locations is recommended to ensure their availability in the future.

#### **Income generating use**

Few terrestrial resources are currently used to generate cash income. However, a small amount of trade occurs in food products and from the sale of carvings made from selectively logged timber.

No change in current practice regarding minor commercial exploitation of terrestrial resources appears necessary, other than replanting of key timber species and the monitoring of take. Management is likely to be needed in the future.

Commercial exploitation of marine resources is of concern. Some target species are reported to be in low numbers.

Community based fishery management is recommended for the commercial take of marine resources. Provincial by-laws to exclude non-community commercial take in the vicinity of Tetepare is also recommended.

#### **Trade in wildlife**

There are currently (1996) six vertebrate exporters of wildlife in Solomon Islands. Eighty percent of reptile and frog exports go to the USA, 11% to Europe and the balance to a variety of countries. This small industry exports 10688 individuals annually (Table 7). Export of bird species is largely based on the parrot like birds (Table 7). Major markets are South Africa (67%) and Europe (31%).

In 1996, eight exporters were dealing in butterflies and other invertebrates. Japan accounts for 80% of the trade with France and USA taking 15% and 4% respectively. All trade is in dead animals (5477 specimens). The birdwing butterflies (Papilionidae) occupy the greatest proportion of the trade. Pairs of these butterflies can bring US\$180 in Japan and US\$100 in the Solomon Islands.

The potential exists to develop a wildlife trade based on the fauna of Tetepare, yet the danger exists that poaching and over exploitation will occur. If a wildlife trade from Tetepare is contemplated it must be based on sustainable principles and best practice management, otherwise the credibility of island management will be lost.

**Table 7. Exports of Solomon Islands fauna**

Species	% of trade (number of individuals)	Species	% of trade (number of individuals)
<b>Birds</b>		<b>Snakes</b>	
<i>Cacatua ducorpsi</i>	13.0	<i>Candoia carinata</i>	7.3
<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	21.7	<i>Candoia bibroni</i>	2.2
<i>Lorius chlorocercus</i>	18.2	<b>Frogs</b>	
<i>Chalcopsitta cardinalis</i>	8.1	<i>Ceratobatrachus guentherii</i>	14.1
<i>Trichoglossus masenna</i>	11.5	<i>Nyctimystes kubori</i>	1.9
<i>Geoffroyus heteroclitus</i>	2.8	<b>Invertebrates</b>	
<i>Charmosyna margarethae</i>	1.2	<i>Ornithoptera victoriae</i>	15.7
<i>Charmosyna meeki</i>	1.1	<i>Ornithoptera priamus</i>	13.4
<i>Rhuticeros pilicatus</i>	0.0	<i>urwilliamus</i>	
<b>Lizards</b>		<i>Ornithoptera allotei</i>	0.0
<i>Corucia zebrata</i>	34.1	<i>Graphium codrus</i>	3.4
<i>Varanus indicus</i>	14.5	<i>Graphium mendana</i>	0.3
<i>Gekko vittatus</i>	22.5	<i>Papilio bridgei</i>	2.3
<i>Lepidodactylus guppyi</i>	0.0	<i>Papilio ullyses</i>	0.4
<i>Eugongylus</i> spp.	2.0	<i>Papilio woodfordi</i>	0.3
<i>Cyrtodactylus pelagicus</i>	0.5	<i>Papilio fuscus</i>	0.1
<i>Cyrtodactylus louisadensis</i>	0.8	<i>Jupiter</i> ssp.	0.6
<i>Tribolonotus schmidti</i>	0.1	<i>Epigenese</i> ssp.	1.2
<i>Tribolonotus blanchardi</i>	0.1	<i>Messilin</i> ssp.	0.2
		Others	14.5

## Rural Production Opportunities

### Coconut products

Copra production was successful on Tetepare between 1910 and the late 1970's. However, alternatives, low prices and transport costs suggest that this would not be viable industry in the immediate future. Re-establishment and expansion of the plantation would likely detract from, and possibly conflict with, tourism opportunities. Nevertheless, the opportunity exists to develop small-scale activity to support subsistence needs and tourism.

Oil production is possible based on the presence of the coconut plantation. A direct Micro Expelling (DME) process has been developed by the Australian National University to by-pass the copra stage of oil manufacture. Locally produced products from coconuts include:

- cosmetics - high grade oil only, with a limited market;
- cooking oil - suited to local use but may need to be deodorised for the non-local market;
- lighting oil - coconut oil alone or with kerosene can be used with modified pressure lamps or wick based lamps;
- soap manufacture - requires initial technical support but enjoys a local 'boutique' market in some tourist centres of the Pacific;
- engine fuel - requires initial technical support but coconut oil can be a diesel substitute.

Coconut cream and the meal by-product of oil production have the potential for use in cooking and as animal feed. The meal product has potential use for supporting hen batteries. In addition the potential exists to create a dried coconut flake and dried tropical fruit product given some expansion of fruit production capability especially on Rendova.

The commercial development of products from Tetepare's coconut plantation is not expected to be a viable option on its own, but could provide a useful community based industry supported by tourism activity.

### Grazing

Remoteness and the probable lack of suitability of soils is the largest constraint to development of a grazing industry. However, dairying and some beef and pork production may be useful to support local subsistence and tourism. Small scale grazing for subsistence use and to support tourism are potentially sustainable activities for Tetepare and Rendova.

### Farming

As with grazing, farming is constrained by remoteness, however the establishment of mixed tropical fruit plantations and expanded vegetable gardens on Rendova and/or Tetepare would greatly assist subsistence and a tourism industry. Increased farming activity would be needed to support tourist activity on Tetepare.

### Bee keeping

There are nearly 250 registered beekeepers in the Solomon Islands producing 35000kg of honey annually. While honey has not been totally accepted into island diet, there is a growing awareness of the product. Honey production has the potential to support subsistence and tourism, although there exists concern that non-native bee species significantly compete with native species. Bee-keeping is recommended for trialing on Rendova only to assure the protection of Tetepare's natural resources.

## **Resource Extraction Opportunities**

### **Commercial forestry**

Notwithstanding the environmental constraints identified in the SolFRI study, the lowland and hills rainforest of Tetepare have the potential to provide the basis for timber production, as evidenced by recent activity to obtain timber rights. Remoteness suggests that any logging operation will need to be based on the removal of a significant proportion of standing timber for viability, with the resultant impacts on the in-situ values of the forest community. This would probably result in a period of in excess of 50 years before commercial logging could be reconsidered. While logging would bring income and royalties to government and some community members, returns are unlikely to significantly benefit all Tetepare descendants and the sustainability of income is unlikely.

Nevertheless, some commercial logging could provide initial investment capital to establish alternative income generating projects. However, it is unlikely that returns will provide sufficient capital and in exploiting timber resources other values will be lost and Tetepare will become the same as most other places in the Asia-Pacific.

Commercial timber extraction does not appear to be a viable and sustainable use of Tetepare's natural resources. It also risks the irreversible loss of highly significant cultural heritage values.

### **Small scale timber production**

Discrete and selective logging may be appropriate use of forest resources provided restoration and value adding can be applied for sustainability purposes and to offset transport costs. Effective management would require greater knowledge of the timber resources and the establishment of on-site milling and preferably a (furniture) manufacturing industry.

Small-scale timber production appears to be a sustainable option given effective management and a value adding support industry.

## **SECTION E -STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

### **A Vision For Tetepare**

Tetepare's natural and cultural assets will be managed sustainably with no evidence of degradation.

The island's community based management will be recognized internationally as a model of best practice for conservation and sustainable development, through its contribution to the protection of a self sustaining natural environment and preservation of valued cultural resources.

Tetepare descendants and local communities will be united in their support for conservation efforts and will clearly benefit from these initiatives.

Tetepare will be a key ecotourism destination in Solomon Islands, renown for the quality of services and experiences provided.

Tourism will be dependant on the conservation of the area's natural and cultural assets rather than conservation being reliant on tourism.

Visitors will be appreciative and protective of the environmental settings which they visit as well as the efforts made to sustain the quality of these settings

Government will be pro-actively supportive of island management, providing assistance and conditions for growth and economic prosperity.

### **Goals**

Using the guiding principles of Section A and towards the achievement of this vision six goals are identified. Strategies are developed to achieve these goals and address issues identified in community workshops and the previous sections.

1. Effective decision-making. To unite Tetepare descendants through a common vision for the island's future, resulting in decision-making structures that represent descendants' aspirations.
2. Protection of values and environmental quality. To ensure the protection of the natural and cultural values of Tetepare and its overall environmental quality through effective resource management techniques.
3. Sustainable use of resources. To foster income-generating activities which are appropriate to the natural and cultural values of Tetepare and sustainably manage these with traditional subsistence use of resources.

4. Ecotourism product and service development. To develop ecotourism opportunities through the provision of economically and environmentally sustainable facilities and services.
5. Provincial support service and infrastructure development. To develop off-island infrastructure and services to support island based income generation activities.
6. Delivery of community benefits. To establish mechanisms ensuring that Tetepare descendants and the local community benefit directly and indirectly from island based commercial activity.

### **Goal 1: Effective Decision Making**

To unite Tetepare descendants through a common vision for the island's future, resulting in decision-making structures that represent descendants' aspirations.

Tetepare descendants are scattered throughout Solomon Islands and have tribal affiliations with other groups. This means that effective decision-making for the future of the island is difficult. Further, many descendants have never visited the island despite having *kastom* links. Effective decision-making requires that all stakeholders are informed of the values of Tetepare and that a culturally appropriate system is available for determining future use of island resources. To achieve this decision-making framework and ensure that the vision for Tetepare is realised, effective partnerships are needed.

#### **Strategy 1.1: Communicate with descendants and other stakeholders**

FoT have commenced a process of informing descendants of the values of Tetepare, gaining *kastom* knowledge and clarifying descendant genealogies. This initiative requires on-going commitment and expansion to include other stakeholders.

##### Issues

- Descendants do not dwell on the island and hold tribal affiliations with other clans.
- Knowledge of Tetepare's resources and their significance is not widely understood and appreciated by many descendants.
- The values of Tetepare are not widely appreciated by the provincial, national and international communities.
- Some descendants claim greater ownership of resources because of current use.

##### Objectives

- To identify descendants of Tetepare.
- To record *kastom* knowledge of Tetepare.
- To create understanding and appreciation of the benefits of conserving Tetepare and balancing protection and exploitation.

##### Strategic action

- 1.1.1 Maintain and expand the existing FoT program of community discussion, education, and consultation.
- 1.1.2 Continue the FoT program of gathering of *kastom* and genealogy information.
- 1.1.3 Commence dialogue with all stakeholders, especially at the local, provincial and national levels.

#### **Strategy 1.2: Establish a culturally appropriate decision making system**

Land use decisions in Solomon Islands are largely determined by *kastom* law. Until all descendants are identified, decisions made regarding Tetepare's future may not really reflect traditional owner aspirations for the island. FoT is identifying and informing descendants of their heritage, thereby facilitating the potential revival of customary processes. However, it is unlikely that true *kastom* practice can be re-established within descendant groups given over a century of dispersal and affiliation with other tribal groups.

##### Issues

- Currently, FoT is not representative of all Tetepare's descendants.
- Most decisions regarding land use of customary lands in Solomon Islands are determined through *kastom* processes.
- Currently, *kastom* decision-making processes do not clearly exist for Tetepare.

##### Objective

- To determine and establish an appropriate land use decision making structure for Tetepare that is consistent with existing legal arrangements and reflects descendant aspirations.

##### Strategic action

- 1.2.1 Devise a decision making structure that reflects *kastom* practice but recognizes the unusual circumstances applying to descendants of Tetepare.
- 1.2.2 Gain descendant consensus agreement to a decision making structure.
- 1.2.3 Gain government recognition to an adopted decision making structure.

#### **Strategy 1.3: Establish partnerships to implement this strategy**

FoT, as the initiator of this planning exercise, is not in a position to implement many of the actions prescribed because of a lack of expertise and human and financial resources. Further, many actions require co-operation between groups and organizations beyond the descendants. Partnerships need to be established with governments, Non-governmental organizations, business and the broader community to realize the vision for Tetepare.

### Issues

- Many actions specified in the Conservation Strategy require the co-ordination input of stakeholders other than FoT and Tetepare descendants.
- Tetepare descendants do not have the necessary resources to implement many of the actions specified in this strategy.
- Tetepare descendants do not have the necessary expertise to implement many of the actions specified in this strategy.
- The international, national, provincial community is likely to have an interest in conservation action relating to Tetepare.

### Objectives

- To gain resources necessary to commence implementation of this Conservation Strategy for Tetepare.
- To develop partnerships necessary for implementing this Conservation Strategy.
- To develop expertise within descendants to make conservation initiatives sustainable.

### Strategic action

- 1.3.1 Communicate how the international community as well as Provincial and National Government can contribute to achieving the conservation of Tetepare.
- 1.3.2 Expand community based conservation initiatives as an indication of descendant's commitment to the conservation of Tetepare.

## **Goal 2: Protection of Values and Environmental Quality**

To ensure the protection of the natural and cultural values of Tetepare and its overall environmental quality through effective resource management techniques.

Tetepare is endowed with a diversity of unspoiled natural and cultural features. While protection of these assets is primarily the responsibility of descendants, visitors to and users of these assets have an obligation to ensure that they are not degraded. Commercial use of Tetepare resources of provincial, national and in this case of international significance, requires a commitment to minimum impact practices and a contribution to ongoing management. This requires an understanding of the extent and nature of resources, plans for sustainable use and an effective system for resource management.

### **Strategy 2.1: Inventory and monitor resources and resource use**

Past studies have suggested that many of the natural and cultural resources of Tetepare are of at least national significance. However, these studies are at best superficial. Effective decision making for sustainable use of resources necessitates a detailed inventory of what exists and what needs to be conserved so that appropriate management arrangements can be put in place. There after, resources and resource use needs to be monitored and impacts evaluated so that adjustments can be made to management.

### Issues

- The status of Tetepare's resources – their location and significance – is ill defined.
- Tetepare appears to have internationally significant natural resource values.
- Tetepare appears to have internationally significant cultural resource values.
- Tetepare is susceptible to exploitive development which can destroy these values.

### Objectives

- To clarify the character, values and significance of Tetepare's resources.
- To obtain baseline data for monitoring the impacts of any change in resource use.

### Strategic direction

- 2.1.1 Clarify the status of Tetepare as a geophysical unit within Solomon Islands and the nature and quality of its non-living features (e.g. water, soils).
- 2.1.2 Inventory terrestrial biota and determine its values, significance and threats.
- 2.1.3 Inventory marine biota and determine its values, significance and threats.
- 2.1.4 Inventory cultural resources and determine their significance and threats.

### **Strategy 2.2: Protect natural and cultural resources**

The forest resources of Tetepare are at risk from exploitive use to the detriment of other values. Sustainable and values-protective use is likely to reduce the threat of destructive and exploitive resource use.

Tetepare possesses an extremely rich and diverse cultural heritage, which is presently inaccessible to tourists. Descendants have expressed the desire for local ecotourism development, which would be based in part on the natural and cultural resources of Tetepare. The natural and cultural resources of Tetepare have the potential to be the basis of tourism. The protection of these resources is vital to realizing this potential.

### Issues

- The terrestrial and marine resources of Tetepare provide subsistence for a small number of descendants and nearby community members.

- The timber resources of Tetepare have been the subject of logging proposals which have the potential to destroy natural and cultural values.
- Some commercial marine resources have been unsustainably exploited.
- Descendants lack familiarity with resource management techniques and constraints.
- The natural and cultural resources of Tetepare have the potential to be the focus of sustainable ecotourism enterprises on the island.

#### Objectives

- To conserve Tetepare's natural resources for sustainable use.
- To protect the cultural resources of Tetepare under a regime of increasing use.

#### Strategic action

- 2.2.1 Develop clear and practical policies on sustainable resource use for Tetepare.
- 2.2.2 Encourage the adoption of the policies in provincial and National plans and where possible, legislation.
- 2.2.3 Prepare a resource management plan for sustainable use Tetepare's terrestrial and marine resources.
- 2.2.4 Establish effective resource management structures.
- 2.2.5 Promote and develop income generating activities that are sustainable (ecotourism) in clear contrast to exploitive and unsustainable development.
- 2.2.6 Monitor the impacts of resource use.

### **Goal 3: Sustainable use of resources**

To foster income-generating activities which are appropriate to the natural and cultural values of Tetepare and sustainably manage these with traditional subsistence use of resources.

The resources of Tetepare have had a history of subsistence and commercial use. Commercial use has been centered on marine resources and often been unsustainable, bringing few benefits to local communities and descendants. There is a community desire for improvement in lifestyle. It is likely that pressure to exploit resources will continue unless sustainable resource use and income generating activities can be developed.

#### **Strategy 3.1: Manage and monitor subsistence use of resources**

Subsistence use has led to resource depletion of some items in some years, yet generally appears to be sustainable with management. The existing level of subsistence use is low.

#### Issues

- Subsistence use of Tetepare's marine and terrestrial resources is at a small scale.
- Subsistence use is a *kastom* practice which is supported by FoT.
- Unmanaged growth of subsistence use can lead to resource depletion and loss of conservation values.

#### Objectives

- To ensure sustainable subsistence use of Tetepare resources.

#### Strategic action

- 3.1.1 Develop a community based plan for sustainable subsistence use of Tetepare, possibly including bans on some resources, area and seasonal closures, rotations, limits on take and restoration activities.
- 3.1.2 Prepare a community-based program to monitor and regulate the effect of subsistence use.

#### **Strategy 3.2: Develop, manage and monitor commercial use of resources**

Development of sustainable large scale commercial enterprises based on resource use was not supported in the workshop and is hence beyond the scope of this Conservation Strategy. However, the development of small-scale commercial activity was seen as a viable activity to provide a cash income and contribute to supported activities (ecotourism).

#### Issues

- Remoteness from markets, poor transport, a lack of expertise and financial resources limits the development of commercial activity based on Tetepare resources.
- Specific marine resources have been overexploited in the past, leading to local depletion and collapse of the commercial activity.

#### Objectives

- To maximize the potential for income generation to local communities and descendants based on sustainable use of renewable resources.
- To develop commercial activities that can assist and support the development of tourism products based on Tetepare.

#### Strategic action

As part of resource management planning (Strategic action 2.2.3):

- 3.2.1 Include feasibilities for the use of coconut resource, butterfly farming and sustainable harvesting and exporting of wildlife;
- 3.2.2 Prepare plans for the development of sustainable fisheries;
- 3.2.3 Include programs to monitor the impact of commercial use.

#### **Goal 4: Ecotourism product and service development**

To develop ecotourism opportunities through the provision of economically and environmentally sustainable facilities and services.

The natural and cultural resources of Tetepare provide an opportunity for development of ecotourism products which complement and contrast with those of more developed tourist areas in the Pacific. To facilitate ecotourism activities, there is the necessity to provide:

- accommodation,
- services to cater for human needs, and
- access to ecotourism sites.

#### **Strategy 4.1: Develop ecotourism product and activities**

Tetepare has a dramatic history and culture which is markedly different to other tourism centres. Tourism products can be developed to exploit the growing interest in cultural tourism. Potential products can also be based on the unspoiled natural assets of Tetepare:

- undeveloped forest resources;
- attractive coastal environments and adjacent natural areas; and
- protected waters around Tetepare and adjacent islands.

Management must ensure that the quality of these resources remains, and opportunities are preserved for the development of new tourism products. Realization of the potential lies in:

- emphasising quality before quantity;
- ensuring value for money;
- ensuring authenticity in cultural presentations;
- respecting, preserving and where appropriate, enhancing the Island's natural and cultural attributes;
- ensuring development is in keeping with the local character;
- ensuring environmental protection; and
- providing memorable experiences with the emphasis on involvement and learning.

#### Issues

- Tetepare offers a diverse, undeveloped range of natural environments as a focus for eco/cultural tourism operations.
- The diversity and development status of these environments is a marked contrast to other more well known tourism destinations.
- Rapid growth of visitor numbers can lead to alteration of the island and impact on the integrity of natural and cultural resources and aesthetics (e.g. damage to vegetation, soil compaction and erosion, anchor damage and over fishing, hydrological changes in watercourses, estuaries and ground water, introduction of exotic species).
- Tourism can bring pollution associated with waste which may affect water and air quality as well as biological communities.
- Tourism can impact on belief and value systems of local communities, leading to cultural decline and deterioration in community structure.
- Loss of opportunity to use the island for other purposes (e.g. agriculture, forestry).
- Total revenue generated from tourism may not be sufficient to effectively meet the cost of managing ecotourism impacts.
- The delay between establishing businesses, attracting clients and gaining a financial profit.

#### Objectives

- To establish sustainable ecotourism and cultural tourism services within and around Tetepare based on community led investment.
- To preserve and reinforce the Province's principal tourist focus (i.e. natural environment and cultural resources).
- To promote and share with visitors the distinctive culture of Tetepare with concurrent benefits to descendants and local communities.

#### Strategic action

- 4.1.1 Develop distinctive sustainable tourism activities based on Tetepare's terrestrial and marine environments and their endemic fauna and flora (with the aim of protecting biological diversity and maintaining ecological processes);
- 4.1.2 Develop services to interpret the landscape and Tetepare's natural values;
- 4.1.3 Promote and share with visitors Tetepare's distinctive history and cultural heritage;
- 4.1.4 Develop an effective monitoring system to ensure ecotourism activities and existing Island use are consistent with environmental protection.



#### **Strategy 4.2: Develop local infrastructure and support services**

Ecotourism products require supporting infrastructure for success. Development should be staged to ensure that it is in keeping with environmental and social capacity to respond to related environmental and social change. While ecotourism is rarely dominated by infrastructure, the provision of adequate infrastructure which does not compete with the natural experience is required to enhance visitor enjoyment and minimize human impact. Infrastructure needs to be developed to:

- Increase the capacity of sites to withstand the environmental impacts of tourism by confining tourists to selected areas;
- Increase the social or psychological carrying capacity of a site by concentrating and dispersing visitors to meet visitor perception with desired experiences;
- Provide accommodation and other facilities designed to meet visitor expectations and reinforce the local character of the area to enhance visitor enjoyment;
- Provide additional services required by staff and tourists (medical and security services);
- Offer an educational component through the development of a research and interpretation centre; and
- Minimize impacts by implementing energy and waste management technologies.

#### Issues

- Commercial ecotourism opportunities at Tetepare requiring (semi) permanent structures are constrained by distance from service centres.
- Capital is not available to provide environmentally protective infrastructure.

#### Objectives

- To secure the 'plantation lease' as the centre for development on Tetepare.
- To develop accommodation in keeping with the environmental setting and which reflects the indigenous architecture.
- To develop infrastructure and services to access Tetepare's natural and cultural resources (e.g. walking tracks, boating).
- To provide support services for the developed tourism product (e.g. food, crafts and cultural presentations).
- To attract funding to commence implementing this Strategy.

#### Strategic action

- 4.2.1 Prepare and promote a detailed tourism strategy and development plan for ecotourism development on Tetepare.
- 4.2.2 Develop specific infrastructure and facilities for community and visitor use (e.g. pier for Rendova and Tetepare) while minimizing environmental impacts.
- 4.2.3 Develop accommodation.
- 4.2.4 Develop appropriate, effective and environmentally protective utilities (power, potable water, waste treatment).
- 4.2.5 Construct walking tracks.
- 4.2.6 Provide local boating services.
- 4.2.7 Foster increased food and craft production and the development of authentic cultural presentations.

#### **Strategy 4.3: Marketing and promotion**

The success of a tourism product is related in no small part to its image and knowledge within the target market of services provided. Strategic marketing and promotion are necessary to attract clients and ensure that demand does not outstrip supply. Promotion that does not match the tourism product delivered fosters client dissatisfaction.

#### Issues

- The culture of the Province and specifically that exemplified on Tetepare is not recognized and presented as a valued tourism product.
- A new tourism product has the potential to overly compete with existing products to the detriment of both.

#### Objectives

- To market (and develop) a tourism product on Tetepare which complements and does not overly compete with other products within the Province.
- To faithfully promote the services provided.

#### Strategic actions

- 4.3.1 Develop a marketing strategy as part of detailed tourism development planning.
- 4.3.2 Develop partnerships with complementary tourism products in the Province to jointly market services.
- 4.3.3 Develop partnerships with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Aviation, Solomon Airlines, and major accommodation facilities to market and promote developed tourism services.

#### **Goal 5: Provincial support service and infrastructure development**

To develop off-island infrastructure and services to support island based income-generating activities.

An island management plan and regional tourism strategy are needed to give direction for tourism on Tetepare and regionally. By neglecting a strategic, holistic approach, tourism planning will be *ad hoc* and overly competitive leading to fragmented tourism management and development. The development of co-operative partnerships between descendants, existing tourism

operators and government is needed to realize Tetepare's tourism potential and enhance visitor satisfaction while ensuring the protection and preservation of assets.

This can be achieved by:

- ensuring that the needs to tourism services are incorporated into Provincial and local planning and the decision making process;
- developing and maintaining community involvement in decision making;
- providing accommodation and transport services to support the (eco)tourism industry and control potential impacts; and
- establishing public infrastructure and services to support and respond to increased demand for ecotourism services.

While essential to the success of the Conservation Strategy and its tourism perspective, implementation of the following strategies is beyond the scope of this Strategy. Hence, in the context of the document, strategic actions should be read more as policies rather than actions to be implemented.

### **Strategy 5.1: Regional co-ordination**

The development of partnerships is essential to the development of tourism within Solomon Islands. Given the low level of tourism in the country, national and regional co-ordination is needed to maximize returns from investment and balanced development of the industry. National and Provincial tourism strategies are essential.

#### Issues

- Perception/reality that tourism is not appropriately considered in government planning and actions.
- Lack of co-ordination and co-operation between eco/culture tourist service providers.
- Potential for inappropriate location, design and scale of tourism development within the province surrounding Tetepare.
- The inability to effectively co-ordinate provincial ecotourism services due to the undeveloped status of the industry.

#### Objectives

- To ensure that the needs of ecotourism services are incorporated into provincial and local planning and decision making process.

#### Strategic action

- 5.1.1 Encourage the preparation of national and provincial tourism policies and strategies and support their provisions and their inclusion in all government strategic, development and management plans;
- 5.1.2 Co-operate with tourism agencies involved with planning and marketing for tourism.
- 5.1.3 Support the preparation of consistent planning, design and environmental and business performance standards for tourism.
- 5.1.4 Encourage the preparation of community-based local area plans for (eco)tourism.
- 5.1.5 Support tourist development which compliments the natural landscape features and is appropriate to ethnic considerations of the local community.
- 5.1.6 Encourage the development of regional information and interpretive facilities and serviced for nature and culture based tourism in the Province.

### **Strategy 5.2: Support regional tourism infrastructure development**

The service centres for Tetepare are poorly developed as tourist centres. As a result, the Province does not gain maximum benefit from tourism and any development of tourism products on Tetepare will be constrained.

Accommodation is vital element of the tourism industry. Accommodation services often cater for specific market sectors with minimal sharing of clients and provision of services to increase visitors' stay for a period longer than planned. For Solomon Islands this approach is likely to be unproductive. The promotion of local and provincial attractions by all tourism industry sectors is important for the expansion of tourism. Many of the strategies/actions proposed rely on marketing of tourism products by accommodation centres.

Air is the major public transport services to the Provincial centres of Seghe, Munda and Gizo. To expand tourism within the Province and obtain a share of the adventure market which is strongly ecotourist focused, easily accessible public transport is required.

A minimum level of public infrastructure is needed to enhance the eco-tourism experience while protecting natural and cultural resources. Public infrastructure includes facilities for fresh water supply and reticulation, waste disposal, open space, electricity and phone, as well as social infrastructure, including administrative bodies, information centres, and health and social services.

#### Issues

- Honiara and then Munda, Seghe and Gizo represent the access 'hubs' to Tetepare.
- Accommodation, transport and other tourist facilities at these centres are inadequate to respond to expanding tourism.
- Accommodation proposed at Tetepare is remote from provincial centres, and depends on overnight stays in Provincial centres and efficient transport services.
- Existing public infrastructure is not sufficient to support an expanded (eco)tourism industry.

- There is limited capacity within Provincial government and local communities to fund new infrastructure.
- No framework exists for co-coordinating the development of infrastructure and establishing standards within the Province.

### Objectives

- To foster coordinated delivery of infrastructure and services within the Province, which supports tourism in an efficient, sustainable and where possible a non-competitive manner.
- To foster the creation of a network of diverse and distinctive destinations for tourists.
- To expand ecotourism opportunities through the coordinated provision of accommodation for visitors to the Province.
- To provide transport facilities and service to support the (eco)tourism industry.
- To establish public infrastructure and services to support and respond to increased tourism demand.

### Strategic actions

#### General

- 5.2.1 Develop a diversified tourism industry which will help to sustain the economic growth of the Province.
- 5.2.2 Expand tourism services in Southern New Georgia that contribute to a collective of distinct tourism nodes.
- 5.2.3 Provide additional tourist activities at Rendova (e.g. cultural presentations and craft production).
- 5.2.4 Provide transport services to tourism destinations in an efficient, safe, reliable and ecologically sustainable manner.
- 5.2.5 Promote ecotourism opportunities within the Province through co-operation with accommodation centres.
- 5.2.6 Preserve and reinforce the Province's principal tourist focus (i.e. natural and cultural resources);

#### Accommodation

- 5.2.7 Encourage the development of a wider range of accommodation styles in the Western province.
- 5.2.8 Ensure built structures are designed to meet visitor expectations of the local vernacular.

#### Transport

- 5.2.9 Improve in / out-bound transport services for the province, particularly for Seghe and Gizo.
- 5.2.10 Upgrade transport information services.
- 5.2.11 Develop marketing packages to promote tourism, particularly ecotourism in the Province.

#### Public infrastructure

- 5.2.12 Develop a framework for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure in the Province.
- 5.2.13 Encourage private sector investment in infrastructure to support the development of the Province's tourism services.
- 5.2.14 Establish environmental guidelines and performance criteria to apply to tourism developments within or in close proximity to relatively undisturbed or unpolluted natural environments.

## **Goal 6: Delivery of community benefits**

To establish mechanisms ensuring that Tetepare descendants and the local community benefit directly and indirectly from island based commercial activity.

Maintaining positive community attitudes towards tourism and the activities undertaken by visitors is essential to retaining the image of the Province as a safe and friendly holiday destination. Part of this is reliant on maintaining social and cultural values and ensuring that the benefits and costs of tourism are equitably distributed through the community. Further local communities must be empowered to control the nature and rate of change brought by development.

### **Strategy 6.1: Involve the community in ecotourism**

Local communities can be involved in tourism through providing transportation services, hospitality services, souvenirs, interpretation and conservation programs and with training, the complete range of employment activities needed for a successful tourism industry.

### Issues

- Although tourism may bring economic benefits to descendants, it does not necessarily bring them power to control tourism and use of Tetepare's resources.
- (Eco)tourism can affect the economic and social well-being of local communities.
- The support and involvement of local communities is essential for the success of (eco)tourism.
- Pro-active face to face contact with local community groups will have long-term benefit to (eco)tourism.
- Skills within the community to contribute to a tourism industry are currently poorly developed.

### Objectives

- To develop and maintain community involvement in tourism and delivery of sustainable benefits.
- To ensure visitor satisfaction while encouraging positive attitudes to tourism.

### Strategic actions

- 6.1.1 Establish effective community consultation and participatory planning mechanisms.
- 6.1.2 Initiate steps to expand local community participation in ecotourism.
- 6.1.3 Improve community awareness of tourism in the development of the Province's economy.

- 6.1.4 Develop training programs to promote and provide the skills needed to deliver the tourism related services by individual community members and groups<sup>19</sup>.
- 6.1.5 Identify employment opportunities that draw on the expertise of local communities and give priority to developing local expertise.
- 6.1.6 Develop opportunities for cultural exchange between visitors and residents.

### **Strategy 6.2: Develop local support services**

Community benefits will flow if the community understands the implications of tourism and is in control of tourism development. Benefits to individual members of the community will result from their involvement in the provision of services.

#### Issues

- A variety of tourism industry needs can be provided by local communities with minimal disruption to existing practices.
- The use of such expertise is essential for bringing benefits to local communities.

#### Objectives

- To provide opportunities for local communities to benefit from supporting ecotourism services at Tetepare.
- To maximize the use of community expertise in the delivery of tourism services.

#### Strategic action

- 6.2.1 Define and communicate to local communities the range of items and services needed to support tourism (transport, food, crafts, cultural (village based) activities).
- 6.2.2 Give preference to employing descendants and local community members.
- 6.2.3 To provide incentive for descendants to benefit from and preserve the natural and cultural resources of Tetepare.

### **Strategy 6.3: Upgrade community skills for tourism**

An essential element for developing successful ecotourism products on Tetepare is to upgrade the skills of those who will be involved. Initially awareness development is needed throughout the community on the benefits and potential costs of tourism as well as the needs of tourists and the process of tourism development. Thereafter business and management skills need to be developed to match the services provided.

#### Issues

- Local community awareness of the costs and benefits of tourism is low.
- Management and business acumen relating to tourism requires development.

#### Objectives

- To provide opportunities for local communities to benefit from supporting ecotourism services at Tetepare.
- To develop a skilled industry work force and management to support the ecotourism segment of the tourist industry.
- To increase sustainable employment opportunities within the province.

#### Strategic action

- 6.3.1 Develop and deliver a community awareness program relating to tourism.
- 6.3.2 Develop and deliver resource management and sustainable development training.
- 6.3.3 Develop and deliver detailed tourism management training applicable to a variety of relevant services.
- 6.3.4 Identify tertiary institutions providing tourism training courses that might be appropriate for upgrading the qualifications of selected community members.

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<sup>19</sup> Specific measures are needed at a provincial and national level to ensure local communities have real power in decision-making for local tourism; synchronous with power is knowledge and technical skills.

## SECTION G: APPENDICES

### References

#### Books, articles, etc.

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- Turner, T. 1997 Rendova and Tetepare Report (Butterfly Diversity and Ranching Potential) Unpublished report.
- WCED 1987 Our Common Future, Oxford (Also known as the Brundtland Report)

#### Conventions and legislation

- SPREP Convention 1986 Convention for the Protection of the Natural resources and Environment of the South pacific and Related Protocols
- Apia Convention 1976 Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South pacific
- CITES 1973 Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species
- World Heritage Convention 1972 Convention on the Conservation of Cultural and natural Heritage
- Biodiversity Convention 1992 Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity
- Forestry principles of the Earth Summit 1992 From the United National Conference on Environment and Development

## Appendix 1: Environmental Law Relevant to Tetepare<sup>20</sup>

Act or policy	Provisions
Principle 21 of the Stockholm Declaration (1972) and Principle One of the Rio Declaration	Determine that development is human right which goes with it the responsibility to manage and conserve natural resources for present and future generation (Boer 1992).
SPREP Convention (1986)	Addressed the issues of marine pollution and protection of coastal areas. It places an obligation on Solomon Islands to protect and preserve rare and fragile ecosystems and depleted, threatened or endangered flora and fauna as well as their habitats. The convention supports the establishment of protected areas and the control of activities likely to adversely affect species, ecosystems or biological processes.
Apia Convention (1976)	reinforced the requirement for a system of protected areas. Article 6 confirmed the right of customary use in accordance with customary practice.
World Heritage Convention (1972)	Provides for the recognition of areas of outstanding natural and cultural values. It obliges signatory nations to identify such areas and to manage them in accordance with guidelines established under the convention.
Biodiversity Convention (1992)	Requires the conservation of biodiversity through legal and institutional mechanisms at the national level. It includes a legal responsibility of other nations for private companies impacting on the biodiversity of nations in which they invest. The convention also requires compensation for the extraction of genetic material.
Forestry Principles of the Earth Summit (1992)	A non-binding code of conduct for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all forest types. Community participation, establishment of national forest policies, integration of environmental, social and economic factors and the protection of indigenous rights are key elements of the principles.
<b>Solomon Island Legislation and Policy</b>	
Environmental Health Act 1980	Establishes administration structure for community health including delegation to Provincial Government
The Fisheries Act 1972	Provides for the sustainable management of fisheries, including the use of regulations for the protection of species, establishing closed seasons, catch quotas, prohibition of fishing in specified areas, prohibition on catching certain species in specified area, restrictions on catch methods and equipment used and regulation of fish exports.
The Fisheries Regulations	Regulations apply to size of take for crayfish, trochus, coconut crabs, crocodiles and turtles, disposal of offal, processing plants, fishing within 500m of low water mark and 1 nautical mile of a village. Foreign vessels require the permission of customary owners, Area Council; and Provincial Government to fish over submerged reefs. Provisions to prohibit marine pollution.
Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act 1969 and Amendments from 1970 to 1990	Provisions to regulate the industry
	1977 Amendment provides for the local Area Council to determine who is legally entitled to grant logging rights. Appeals can be made to the Customary Lands Appeal Court.
	1994 Amendment provides for Area Councils to decide timber rights and includes environmental provisions: conservation of river catchments; erosion control; preservation of specified environments, tambu and historical sites. Regulation can be made for replanting, to prohibit the felling of protected trees, to prevent waste, logging within 50 metres of a water course and 400 metres above sea level.
	Power exists to establish forest sanctuaries on customary and government land for conservation of flora and fauna purposes.
	1990 Amendment details the process of gaining timber rights on customary land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developer applies for permit to negotiate with Provincial Executive, Area Council and customary land owners;</li> <li>• with Commissioner consent, the Area Council must meet with the Provincial Executive, customary landowners and developer to determine if owners are willing to sell their timber rights, if owners are legitimate owners, the nature of the timber rights for sale, profit sharing and the Provincial Governments participation in the logging venture;</li> <li>• Area Council provides recommendations to the Commissioner;</li> <li>• if agreement is reached the developer must identify the timber resources to be exploited and areas to be excluded from logging for social and environmental reasons;</li> <li>• the Commissioner recommends the granting of a licence to the Provincial Government.</li> </ul> The Minister can make regulations on disposal of waste, environmental protection, reforestation, banning the taking of specified timber, the level of timber processing.
	Protected Species Regulations 1990 prohibit the felling of mangroves, ebony and ngali nut trees for sale. Rosewood, ironwood, kauri, walnut, canoe tree and rattan must be processed in-country unless specifically exempted. Provides for reservation to conserve water resources. The power also exists with the Provincial Executive <sup>21</sup> and could include a restriction of rights to cut trees <sup>22</sup> .
Income Tax Act 1965	A 1991 Amendment allows Solomon Islanders to apply for a \$100 000 income tax exemption over 10 years for establishing a tourism enterprise. Tax advantages apply to large scale tourism investments.
The Investment Act 1990	Applies to local and foreign investors. Allows for the requirement of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) through the need for approval of the proposal by Provincial and National Governments.
Land and Titles Act 1970 preservation orders	Provision for the Minister to make preservation orders over any land that is considered to be of heritage value. Heritage includes vegetation but is silent on fauna nor does it address non-fixed objects.
National parks Act 1954	Provides for the establishment and management of National parks - not applied.
Protection of Wrecks and War Relics Act 1980	Restricts access to and interference with WWII relics. Western Province is a restricted area under the Act.
Public Health Bill 1990	Provides specially for notifiable diseases, nuisance, offensive trades, mosquitoes, dirty premises, protection of water supply, drains and waste disposal, food and drugs, and buildings and housing.
Research Act 1982	Requires the permission of the Research Application Committee (National Government agency) before undertaking research (broadly defined).
Rivers Act 1969	Provides for equitable and beneficial use but over defined areas - Tetepare is currently not defined.

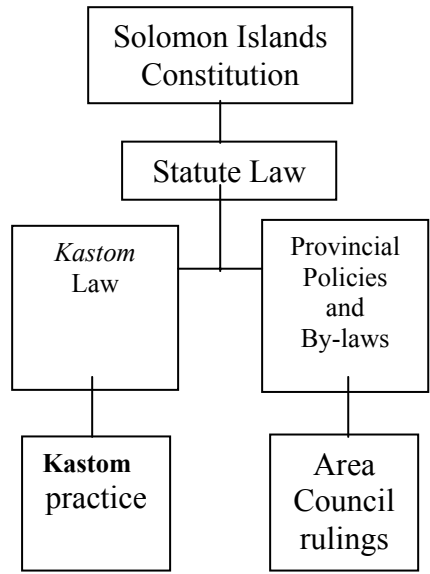
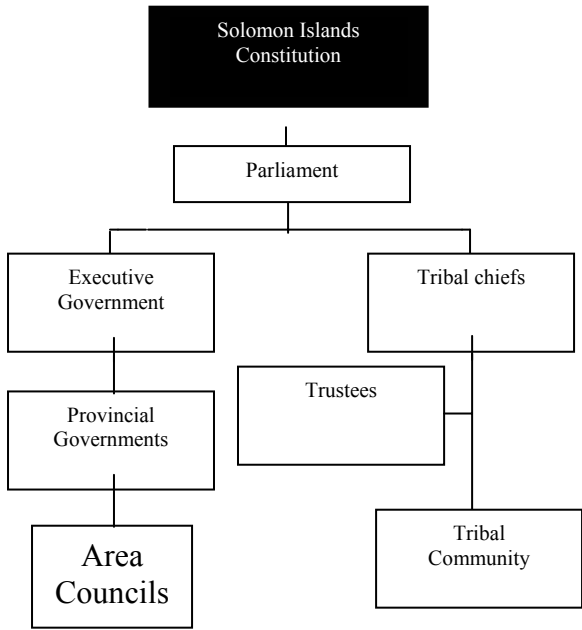
<sup>20</sup> This discussion on the legal framework is based on the work of Ben Boer (1992). It is probable that adjustments to environmental law have been made as a result of that review but have not been included in this Strategy.

<sup>21</sup> Schedule 5 of the Provincial Government Act 1981.

<sup>22</sup> Western Province Policy on the Environment.

Tourism Development Plan 1991-2000	Includes the policy for all tourism development to be subject to environmental impact assessment including consultation.
Town and Country Planning Act 1979	Potential to plan for land management, but applied largely to urban areas only. Provides for planning to protect the interests of communities.
Wild Birds Protection Act 1914	Applies to specific areas - Tetepare is not specified.
<b>Western Province Ordinances and Policies</b>	
Provincial powers <sup>23</sup>	Provincial governments can regulate for the management of fresh and marine fisheries. The area of influence extends 3 nautical miles beyond low water mark.
Business Licence (Amendment) Ordinance	Licences only granted to businesses which conform with policy.
Coastal and Lagoon Shipping ordinance 1991	Provisions to control marine pollution and erosion of shorelines.
Draft Tourism Policy	Policy defines a gradual development process, based on natural, cultural and historical features, small to medium scale of quality, compatible with the cultural and environmental setting, integrated with other services and industries, and sympathetic to landowners.
Environmental Management Ordinance 1991	Provides for the requirement of an EIA for any development and rejection of a proposal. Requires all businesses to have a business licence. Provides for marine and fresh water pollution control.
Policy on the Environment	Endorses the formation of protected areas for the 'education, preservation of species and habitats and natural resources' - none have been established.
Preservation of Culture Ordinance 1989	Provides for the protection of cultural places and their assessment by an archaeologist.

<sup>23</sup> Derived from the Provincial Government Act 1981.





## Appendix 2: Timeline for Tetepare

Date	Event
Pre 1860	Tetepare people live in large communities on the Island
c1860	The island is abandoned because of disease, minate (headhunting warfare), kavori (beach or sea devil magic), or famine.
1894	English trader buys first turtle shell.
1898	Solomon Islands becomes a British Protectorate.
c1900	Burns Philip Co. (BP) negotiate with Rendova people to lease Tetepare. The Crown grants a lease over the island.
1902	Methodist Church arrives in Munda – clothes, tobacco and kerosene introduced.
1910	Coconut planting commences at the north-west tip of the island
1918	Planting is completed (51 784 coconut palms) and includes a 9.5 mile strip on the southern coast at the nearest point to Rendova.
c1940	Plantations yield between 250 and 330 tons per year, the best output from BP's Western Province properties. Cattle and pig provide breeding stock for other BP properties and meat for local consumption. Workforce consists of a manager, assistant and stockman and about 70 Islander workers.
1942	Lease abandoned due to imminent invasion by Japanese.
March 1942	Japanese occupy the Solomon Islands
August 1942	Allied forces arrive.
January 1943	Japanese retreat complete.
c1949	The Crown buys the lease for ,10 000 including derelict buildings for the purpose of re-settling Rennellese. The idea is rejected. An Annual lease is granted to K H Dalrymple-Hay
October 1951	Roy Gilmour Hodge resides and manages the property to December 1952.
1952	Temporary accommodation and a drying facility are erected. A tramway (1.5 miles) is made serviceable. Clearing of scrub infestation is not attempted due to lack of labour.
1953 – February 1961	Plantation yields 265 tons per year including a 6 month period when worker strength averaged 18 men. Four managers in this period re-open some pre-war tracks for tractor/trailer equipment. Tram rails are removed. Accommodation and buildings remain unimproved.
c1960	Last of the original inhabitants of Tetepare dies.
1 March 1961 – 30 September 1970	Hodge is again manager, residing on Tetepare but also managing his property 'Turufie' on Rendova.
1961	Plantation (724.8 ha) surveyed for Lot 1 of LR173 as a Fixed Term Estate along with Lot 3 (10.12ha) as part of Lot 1. Balance of Island reverts to the Crown. 600 acres of plantation cleared of scrub. Temporary buildings replaced including a two-stage dryer and worker club house. Worker accommodation is upgraded. Copra production varies from 207 – 269 tons per yer
19 January 1965	Lot 3 (10.12 ha) registered with the Commissioner of Lands
1969 - 1970	Tetepare copra production declines, Dalrymple-Hay retires to Australia.
1 October 1970	Hodge offered Tetepare Lease for S\$10 000 plus S\$1200 adjustment for plant etc. Lease granted for 69 years. 150 acres of plantation leased to a Rendova group with the view to purchase and resettlement.
1970s	Increasing exploitation of Tetepare resources by people of Rendova, Viru etc.
1971	Copra production increases to 253 tons per year. The workforce is mainly from Guadalcanal and Malaita.
12 August 1971	Labour unrest begins in the Western Province. Problems occur with workforce stability on Tetepare. The inspector (Commissioner of Labour) accuses Hodge of 'holding men against their will'. Hodge strongly denies the accusation. Property production valued at 20 tons/month x \$2000 = \$40 000
31 December 1972	Buildings valued at \$17 570. Copra prices decline.
January 1972	P Solodia, Inspector of the Commissioner of Labour inspects Tetepare. Copra prices continue to decline. Properties begin to shut down.
February 1972	Despite falling copra prices Hodge obtains credit and proceeds with maximising production and employment. He charts a boat for \$1000 to recruit staff.
1974	Agricultural and Industrial Loans Board takes over lease (Lot 1, 724ha)
1976	Land Resources Survey recommends Tetepare becomes a nature reserve. Diamond recommends Tetepare Island becomes a conservation area.
14 April 1978	Lot 1 transferred to the Development Bank of Solomon Islands (DBSI)
1980	Dahl recommends Tetepare Island becomes a conservation area.
1985	SPREP recommends Tetepare Island becomes a conservation area.
1989	Western province Preservation of Culture Ordinance passed
1991	Maruia Society recommends Tetepare Island becomes a conservation area.
1991	Western Province environment policy encourages the community to declare Tetepare a protected area. Last person to have heard the voice of Kaluvesu dies. Logging interests place caveat over Lot 1
1992	Caveat over Lot 1 removed.
1993	Solomon Islands National; Environment Management Strategy produced.
1994	The Tetepare Development Company, funded by the foreign owned company Goodwill, proposes to log Tetepare. Tetepare Original Landowner Association (TOLOA) formed and propose a resettlement scheme after logging. Tetepare tribes around Gatokae dispute the logging proposal.
???	Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) recommend Tetepare as a reserve for forest and birds. A Tegler submits report on Environment Resources of Tetepare.
1995	SolFRI recommends Tetepare Island becomes a conservation area.
24 May 1995	Tetepare Development Company Ltd gain approval to negotiate acquisition of timber rights over Tetepare.
15 August 1995	Rendova Area Council (RAC) co-ordinate a Timber Rights meeting at Lambete (Munda), meeting adjourned.
19 September 1995	Rendova Area Council rejects Timber Right proposal of Tetepare Development Company Ltd. (ex TOLOA)
6 – 7 October 1996	Friends of Tetepare (FoT) formed. RAC revokes decision of 19 September. Premier of Western Province suspends RAC for the revocation and upholds the original decision.
25 November 1996	Resource Planning and Management Workshop.
January 1997	Program by FoT to document Tetepare tribal groups and historical data. First FoT newsletter 'Tetepare Watch' published.
June 1997	Conservation Strategy for Tetepare workshop held.

## Appendix 3a: Ecotourism Assets

FEATURES OR ITEMS	DESCRIPTION	ACCESS	NOTES AND TOURIST POTENTIAL
<b>Provincial characteristics</b>	<b>The premier tourist region of Solomon Islands</b>	<b>Air to Seghe, Munda and Gizo</b>	<b>Able to build on existing infrastructure and name</b>
Towns	Seghe, Gizo and Munda are the largest towns in the Western Province	Air or charter boat.	Seghe is the most compatible access point for Tetepare.
Villages, natural environments, agriculture activity	Small villages nestled among forested mountains; projecting peninsulas, broken coastlines and fringing coral reefs.	Charter boat	Promote Seghe as the 'gateway' to Tetepare.
Marovo Lagoon	Primary tourist destination in Solomon Islands	Air to Seghe.	Natural marine and terrestrial environments with traditional village communities. Future marketing can build on this reputation.
Name recognition	Existing recognition as an ecotourism destination.		
Traditional crafts	Wood and stone carvings, some 'contemporary' art.	Taxi or tour.	Promotion and consolidation of craft practice and sales with a tourist sales center.
Aesthetic setting	Hills and maritime environments.		Highly aesthetic backdrop to towns and villages.
Markets	Shopping and produce	Pedestrian.	Tourist introduction to local culture. Potential area for co-ordinated arts and craft sales.
Port Gizo	Deepwater port offers ferry or charter boat transport to Tetepare and Rendova.	Charter boat.	Potential as a cruise ship port and charter boat operation.
<b>Regional characteristics</b>	<b>Remote part of the Province</b>		<b>An ecotourism attraction</b>
Rendova Island	Rendova is largely a volcanic island with much of its natural vegetation extensively logged. Villages are small and support services currently few.	Charter boat or canoe.	Rendova forms an ideal setting for ecotourism support services for Tetepare but is undeveloped.
Villages	Small coastal villages exist which could provide a source of staff for any enterprise on Tetepare as well as cultural experiences in their own right.	Charter boat or canoe.	Establish as a major 'gateway' to Tetepare.
Coral reefs	Many quality reefs in clear water are near Rendova. Suited to SCUBA diving and snorkelling.	Charter boat or canoe potential.	Charter fishing and diving.
Tetepare Island	Outstanding marine and terrestrial ecosystems of international significance.	Canoe, potential for charter boat & cruise ships.	Natural and cultural values define the nature of desirable activities.
Island	Uninhabited rainforest island with sandy beaches and fringing coral reefs	Charter boat and cruise ships.	Potential to increase visits – overnight. Increase in visitor numbers will result in a decline in the quality of the ecotourism experience. Potential to upgrade all existing facilities and services.
Wildlife	Potential for unconstrained wildlife appreciation at a close distance.	Pedestrian only.	Species overlap and speciation examples of scientific interest.
Rainforest	Virgin rainforest of scientific interest and value	Pedestrian only.	Highly aesthetic environments of interest to ecotourists.
Coral reef	High quality reefs with diverse soft and hard corals, numerous fish and other marine life.	Charter boat, canoe.	Potential for dive and snorkelling trips (conducted by the local community on Tetepare – training required).
Clear water	An essential element of local aesthetics and the attractiveness of maritime activities.	Charter boat, canoe, pedestrian.	Potential for glass bottom boats and underwater observatories in distinct zones.
Pristine beaches and isolated small islands	Small uninhabited islands located off the coast of Tetepare	Canoe or charter boat.	Potential for the development of community serviced drop off/pick up bush camping service.
Research potential	Potential for an international research station.	Community and private charter boat.	Potential for endorsed research and visitor based monitoring, interpretation. Potential for fund raising.
Cultural artefacts	Numerous artefacts of cultural significance.	Canoe, charter boat and foot.	Guided visitation and interpretation.

## Appendix 3b: Tourism Business Opportunities

The study and workshop revealed a lack of appreciation of services that could be developed to better cater for tourists. The following examples introduce commercial services which would contribute to expanding the Province's image as an ecotourism destination.

### Provincial services

Provincial services require a high level of capital investment and turn-over of customers for success. Their establishment on Tetepare will be difficult in the short to medium term yet will be needed to support tourism activities and to dissuade more resource exploitive activities from the island.

#### Charter SCUBA diving/fishing services

##### **Business description**

Interpretive diving and/or fishing service run by local business

##### **Product or service**

Day and extended charter trips beyond Tetepare or under permit near the Island, high quality interpretive interaction either in the form of oral presentation (charter groups) or written documentation, boats from small (budget) fishing vessels to larger charter boats.

##### **Locations**

Seghe, Gizo, Munda

##### **Market**

Small groups, special interest fishing groups, free independent travellers

##### **Marketing/advertising**

Fishing magazines (international), fishing programs – radio & television (international), tourist information centres (Honiara, Gizo and Seghe)

##### **Business structure**

Small business initiative

##### **Funding requirements**

Medium capital investment

##### **Labour requirements**

Personnel with knowledge and experience of local fishing required for the interpretation service.

Skilled personnel will also be required to service and maintain boats and fishing vessels.

Training in English, small business management and natural resources will be required.

##### **Pre-requisites**

Community permission and willingness to be involved, local government licences and permits, wharf and dock facilities, language training, co-ordinated marketing.

##### **Strengths/opportunities**

Location (protected waters), outstanding marine environments, skilled sailors.

##### **Weaknesses/constraints**

Lack of existing infrastructure and capital, lack of training.

#### Arts, crafts and food outlets

##### **Business description**

Local arts, crafts and memento outlet

##### **Product or service**

Gallery style arts display – show-casing the work of local artists

##### **Locations**

Seghe, Gizo

##### **Market**

Family & friends groups, ecotourists

##### **Marketing/advertising**

Tourist information centres, road signage (local)

##### **Business structure**

Small business – sole proprietor or partnership or community initiative.

##### **Funding requirements**

Low capital investment.

##### **Labour requirements**

Family / community business with local labour on casual basis.

##### **Pre-requisites**

Contacts with local artists (craftspeople).

##### **Strengths/opportunities**

Low capital cost, lack of competition, compatibility with environmental setting, able to grow with visitation.

##### **Weaknesses/constraints**

Seasonality, existing, small market, lack of Provincial image for the service, no distinctive craft product.

#### Water based activity services

##### **Business description**

Non-motorised, marine sports service based at Seghe.

##### **Product or service**

Passive water sports facilities such as wind surfing, surfing and small sailing boat (catamarans) hire plus possibly snorkelling and SCUBA.

##### **Locations**

Seghe, Gizo, Munda

##### **Market**

Family groups, backpackers, resort, sun & surf seekers

##### **Marketing/advertising**

Tourist Information Centres, information (brochures) at regional accommodation establishments, travel magazines (international)

##### **Business structure**

Small business (Sole proprietor/partnership).

##### **Funding requirements**

Low to medium capital investment

##### **Labour requirements**

Single person (possibly extra local part-time/casual staff).

##### **Pre-requisites**

Government licences and permits, SCUBA training to instructor level

##### **Strengths/opportunities**

Relatively low capital cost, lack of competition, suitability of location for passive water-based activities, compatibility with environmental setting and other holiday & ecotourism activities

##### **Weaknesses/constraints**

Competition from other holiday centres, initial capital requirements.

## Accommodation

### Business description

Budget style accommodation to three star.

### Product or service

Quality accommodation facilitating expansion of the existing market – may be hotel style accommodation or self contained units.

### Locations

Seghe, Gizo, Munda

### Market

Family and less adventure focussed segment of tourist market, backpackers (International), ecotourists

### Market/advertising

Tourist information centres, regional tourist publications, special interest magazines (international), backpacker's travel guides (international), airports

### Business structure

Small business/company/family/community based.

### Funding requirements

Medium to high capital investment.

### Labour requirements

Family / community business, with part time/casual local labour.

Training in the full range of visitor services and hotel management.

### Pre-requisites

Appropriate site with access and basic infrastructure (preferably serviced by public transport).

### Strengths/opportunities

Expands current markets, compatible with ecotourism, medium initial capital investment, able to link with complementary services (nature/culture activities), absence of competition in the Province.

### Weaknesses/constraints

Requires service and access opportunities, that are poorly developed.

Seasonality of business, low income generation (for accommodation per se), may require public transport and better infrastructure, competition external to Solomon Islands.

## Local services

Local services have the potential to be operated out of Tetepare or from nearby Rendova requiring relatively low levels of capital investment and initially providing a cash income with the view

## Water based activity services

### Business description

Non-motorised, marine sports service.

### Product or service

Passive water sports facilities such as wind surfing, and small sailing boat (catamarans) hire plus possibly snorkelling and SCUBA.

### Locations

Tetepare and/or Rendova

### Market

Families, backpackers (International), resort, sun & surf seekers

### Marketing/advertising

Information centres (Seghe), brochures at regional accommodation, travel magazines (international), airports (Seghe, Gizo, Honiara).

### Business structure

Small business (sole proprietor/partnership).

### Funding requirements

Low capital investment

### Labour requirements

Can be run by single person with local part-time/casual staff.

### Pre-requisites

Relevant licences and permits, SCUBA training to instructor level

### Strengths /opportunities

Relatively low capital cost, little competition, suitable location, compatible with environmental setting and other ecotourism activities

### Weaknesses/constraints

Competition from other holiday centres and initial capital needs.

### Business description

Interpretive fishing service operated by the local community of Tetepare. This service is likely to be based on visitor

the

Island.

Boats would be the canoes currently used.

### Location

Around Tetepare and Rendova.

### Market

Small groups, free independent travellers

### Marketing/advertising

Tourist Information centre (Honiara, Gizo and Seghe)

### Business structure

Local community initiative

### Funding requirements

Low capital investment. Existing infrastructure

### Labour requirements

Staff with experience of local fishing techniques. English Training.

### Pre-requisites

Community desire to be involved; language training

### Strengths/opportunities

Protected waters, outstanding marine environments, skilled sailors.

### Weaknesses/constraints

Lack of existing infrastructure and capital lack of training

## Accommodation

### **Business description**

Budget style accommodation and village stay experience.

### **Product or service**

Quality accommodation for adventure tourists – may be serviced or self contained units for self catering.

### **Locations**

Tetepare and/or Rendova

### **Market**

Ecotourist, family groups, backpackers (International)

### **Marketing/advertising**

Information centres, regional tourist publications, special interest magazines, travel guides, airports (Seghe, Gizo, Honiara).

### **Business structure**

Small business/company/family/community

### **Funding requirements**

Low to high capital investment

### **Labour requirements**

Community business, supplemented by part time/casual local labour.

### **Pre-requisites**

Site with access and basic infrastructure.

### **Strengths/opportunities**

Matches visitor markets, compatible with ecotourism, medium initial capital investment required, able to link with complementary services (nature/culture activities), absence of competition in the Province.

### **Weaknesses/constraints**

Requires services and access which currently do not exist, seasonality of business, low initial income, requires boat access, competition external to Solomon Islands.

## Island/village stays

### **Business description**

Serviced and catered camping or hut stays in isolated locations.

### **Product or service**

Basic tent or hut accommodation for the adventure market, with servicing and catering supplied by local villages.

### **Locations**

Islands immediately adjacent to villages.

### **Market**

Adventure tourists, couples, small groups, backpackers.

### **Marketing/advertising**

Information centres (Seghe), regional tourist publications, special interest magazines, backpacker travel guides, airports (Seghe).

### **Business structure**

Community based business

### **Funding requirements**

Low capital investment

### **Labour requirements**

Can be run as a community business, providing the 'house keeping' service supplemented by boating and fishing services.

### **Pre-requisites**

Government support. Appropriate sites with access and basic infrastructure. Basic tourism training of local community members.

### **Strengths/opportunities**

Develops ecotourism services and access opportunities which currently do not exist. Seasonality of business. Requires transport to villages & improved transport between islands.

Interpretive hiking tours of Tetepare and Ridge Road to observe local art and craft and traditional lifestyle.

### **Product or service**

Hiking based interpretive service for short/day and overnight hiking.

### **Locations**

Tetepare and Rendova

### **Market**

Ecotourist, specific interest groups, family & friends, backpackers.

### **Marketing/advertising**

Information and accommodation centres, lifestyle magazines, travel guides, advertising in conservation magazines, word of mouth.

### **Business structure**

Small business (Sole proprietor / partnership or local community)

### **Funding requirements**

Low capital investment

### **Labour requirements**

Two operators, centralised booking service, local knowledge of Tetepare and its biogeography, experience in hiking and bush craft.

### **Pre-requisites**

Permits, first aid and emergency strategy, bush camping sites, track system, tracking and camping equipment for hire/sale.

### **Strengths/opportunities**

Low capital cost, little competition, compatibility with environmental setting, able to develop with visitation (part time/casual business)

### **Weaknesses/constraints**

Lack of established identity for this service, high quality service and leader knowledge required, an initial specialised market.