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Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) Project Choiseul, Solomon Islands

Fred Siho Patison

PEBACC Inception Workshop

10-11 December

Suva

Fiji





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SPREP-USAID Ecosystem –based Adaptation Project.

- USAID – Funded up September 2012 to September 2015.....extended to December 2015
- Focuses on four sites; Choiseul bay, Sasamuga, Mt Maetambe, South Choiseul - Wagina
- SPREP and LLCTC sign MOU in April 2015 for their partnership in implementing their activities.
- Implemented by SPREP in collaboration through the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (**CHICCHAP**)







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- *EbA definition;*

Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation may include sustainable management as well as conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for governments and local communities.

(CBD 2nd Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change





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Key components of the Choiseul SPREP-USAID EbA Project



2.1 Coordination of Project Delivery

2.2 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

2.3 EbA Planning and Mainstreaming

2.4 EbA Implementation

2.5 Training and Capacity Building on EbA

2.6 Communication and Knowledge Management



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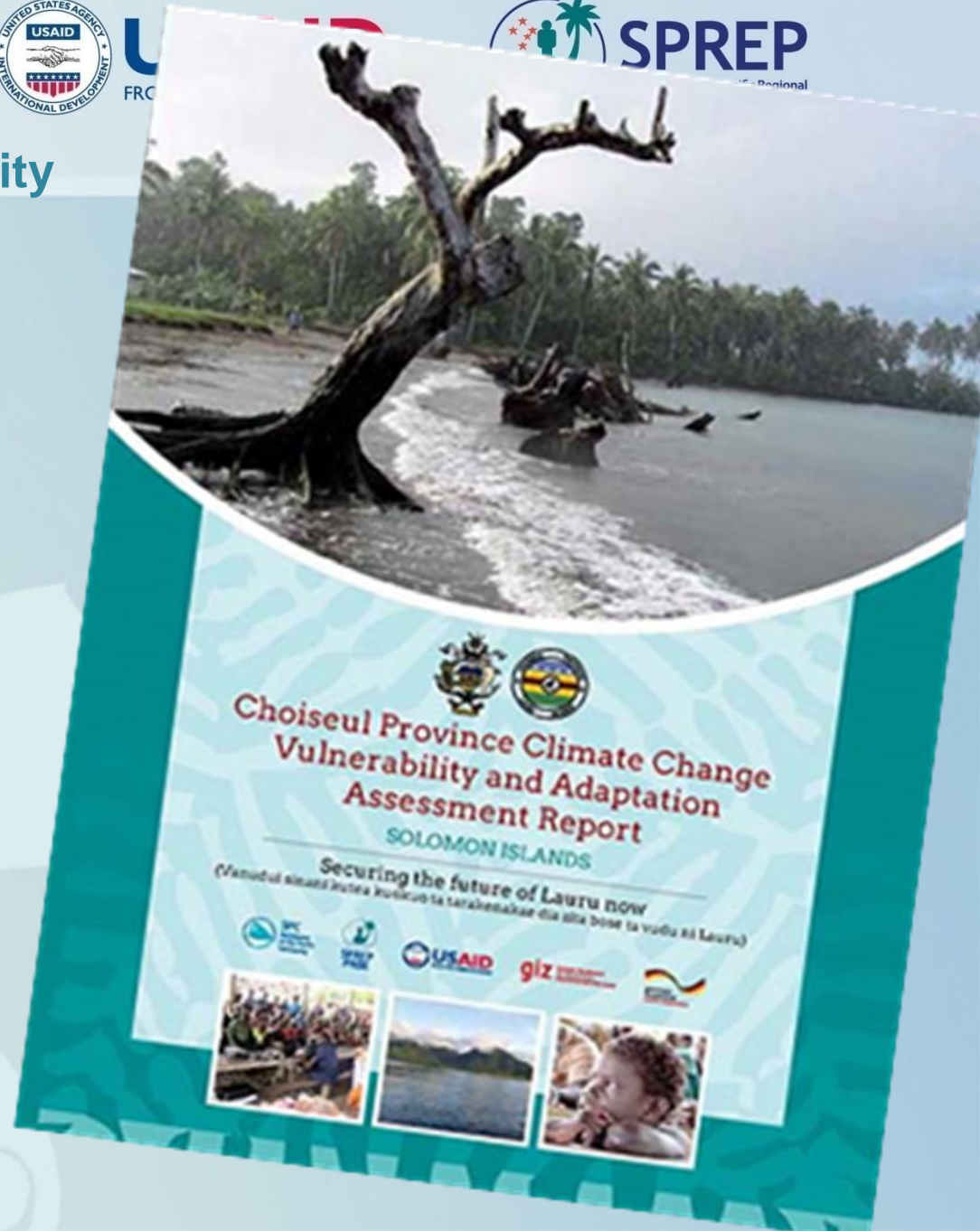


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1. Climate change vulnerability assessment.

Objectives;

1. To assess (quantitatively and qualitatively) provincial vulnerability, given the impacts imposed by climate change and non-climate change factors on sectors and systems .
2. to assess and identify measures to reduce vulnerabilities and improve the AC of Choiseul communities;
3. to identify the four or five most suitable communities for demonstration of RCR and EbA adaptation approaches.



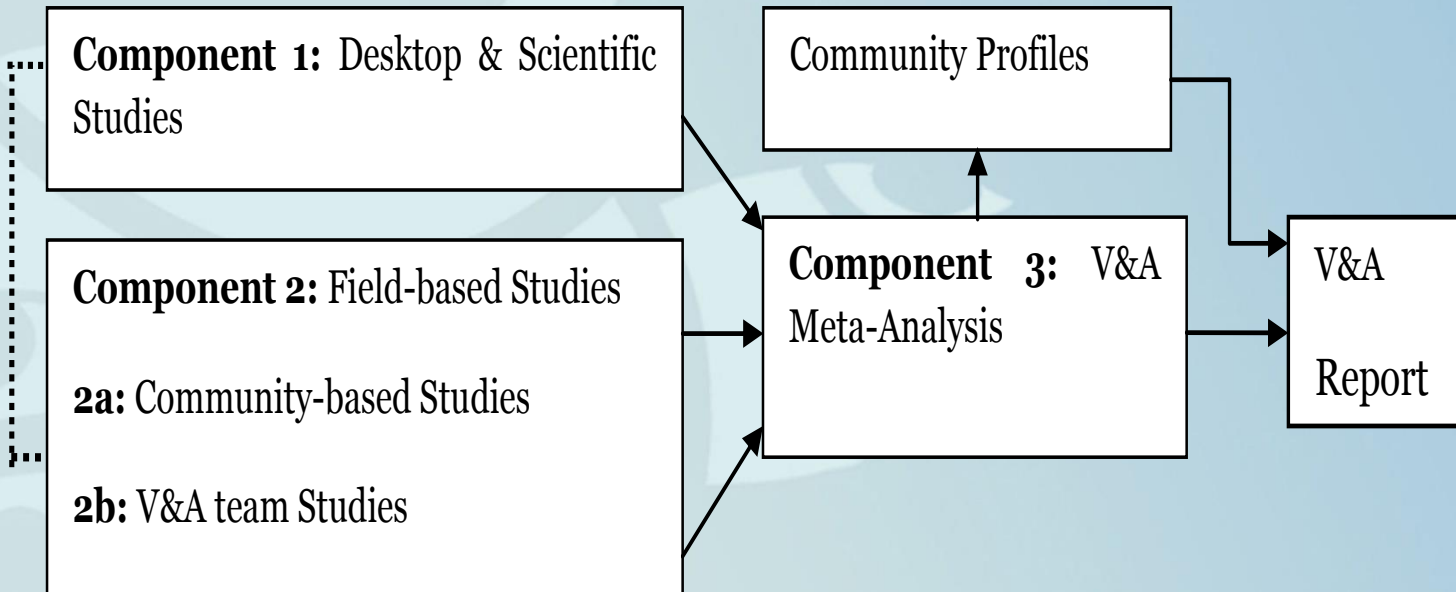


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The assessment is undertaken in three components;



Communities visited in Choiseul

Molevanga



- 28 Villages selected – 2 from each of the 14 wards.

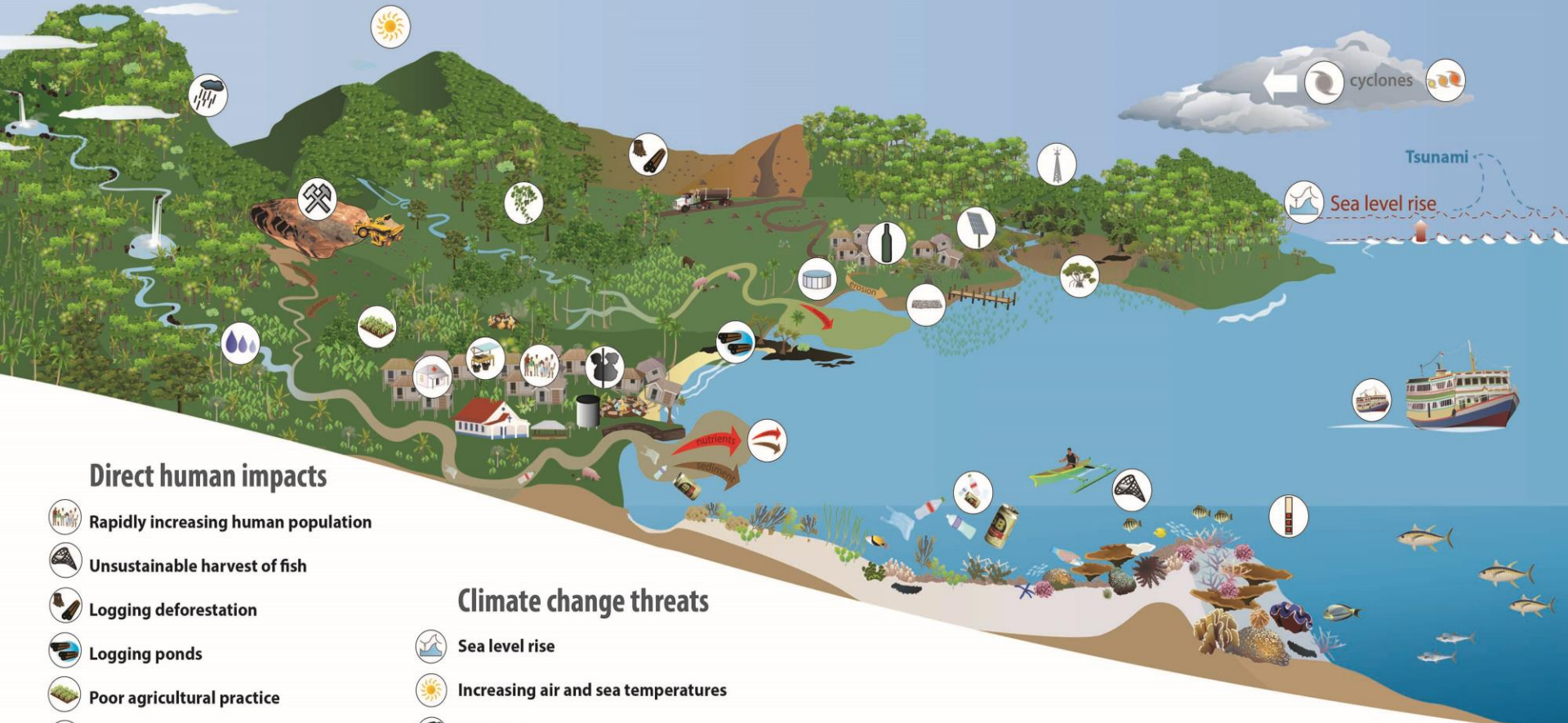
- A village selection process involved 10 people making recommendations.

- Community specific results and suggested adaptation responses were included in individual community profiles.



Choiseul Province and people face many threats

For more information, please contact: Mr. Paul Donohoe (SPREP Ecosystem based Adaptation officer) pauld@sprep.org



Direct human impacts

- Rapidly increasing human population
- Unsustainable harvest of fish
- Logging deforestation
- Logging ponds
- Poor agricultural practice
- Mangrove removal
- Inappropriate coastal defences
- Proposed mining operations
- Invasive species
- Nutrient and sediment flow
- Inappropriate rubbish disposal

Climate change threats

- Sea level rise
- Increasing air and sea temperatures
- Rainfall increases
- More intense tropical cyclones
- Ocean acidification

Natural disasters

- Cyclones and tsunamis
- Drought

Infrastructure needs

- Limited access to fresh water
- Lack of infrastructure
- Distance to markets
- Limited basic services
- Limited energy generation

Social challenges

- Reduced self reliance
- Cultural transition
- Gender inequities
- Foreign logging workers



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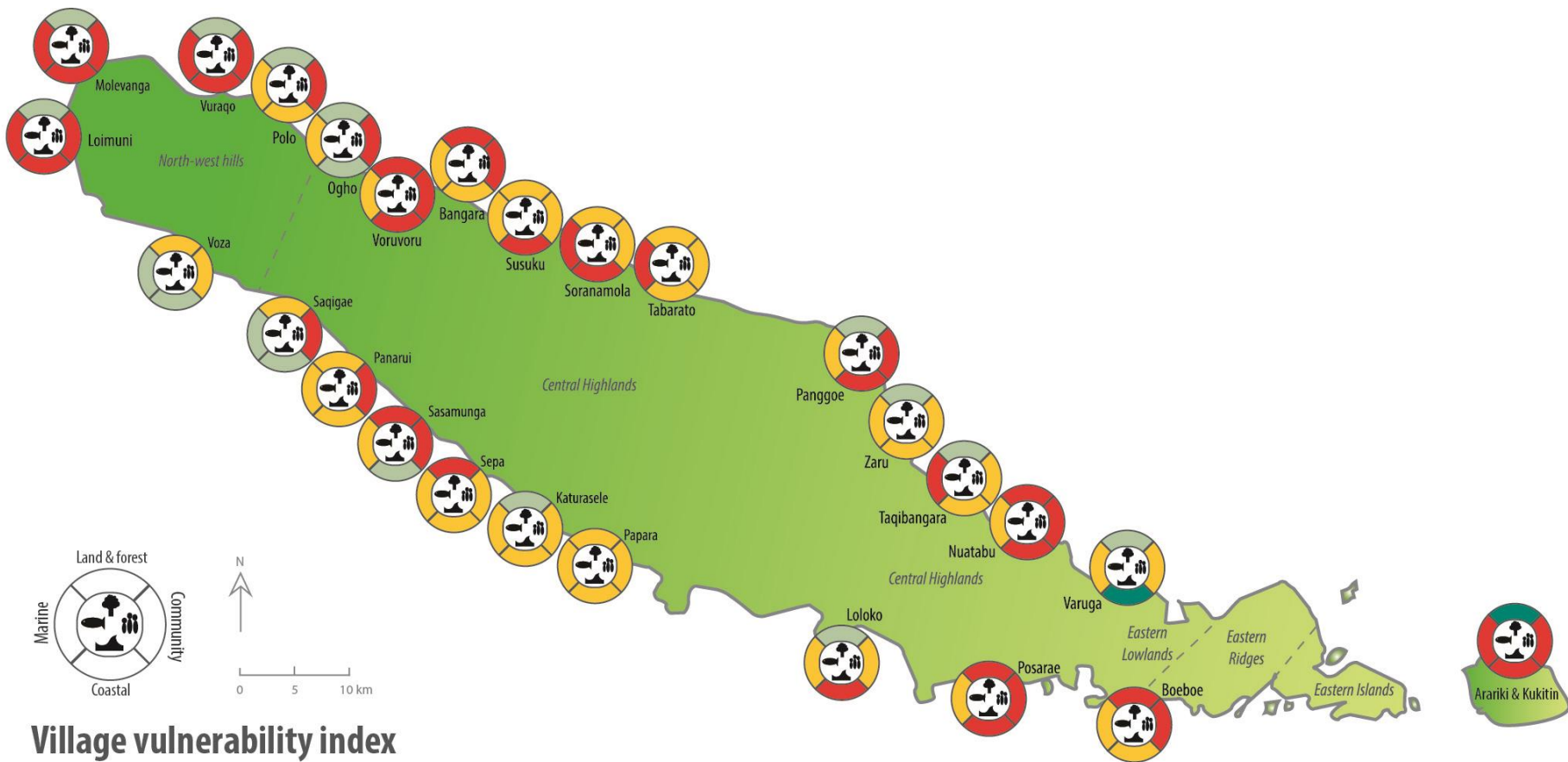
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Key vulnerabilities identified and categorised (**refer to report**)

1. Land and forest vulnerability
2. Marine vulnerability
3. Coastal vulnerability
4. Community vulnerability



Vulnerability assessment summary



These vulnerability assessment results are based on information gathered through visits to 27 communities where facilitated workshops, agricultural, coastal and hinterland assessments were conducted. This information was then further assessed through a literature review of relevant scientific research, recorded data and government legislation related to issues raised in the communities (*see full V&A Report for full description of indicators used to measure vulnerability).



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Climate change vulnerability assessment recommended six major adaptation options;

1. Minimizing damage to village infrastructure
2. Management and protection of inter tidal and coastal areas
3. Increasing food security and livelihoods
4. Protection of water resources
5. Marine and fisheries management
6. Increase disaster preparedness





Ridge

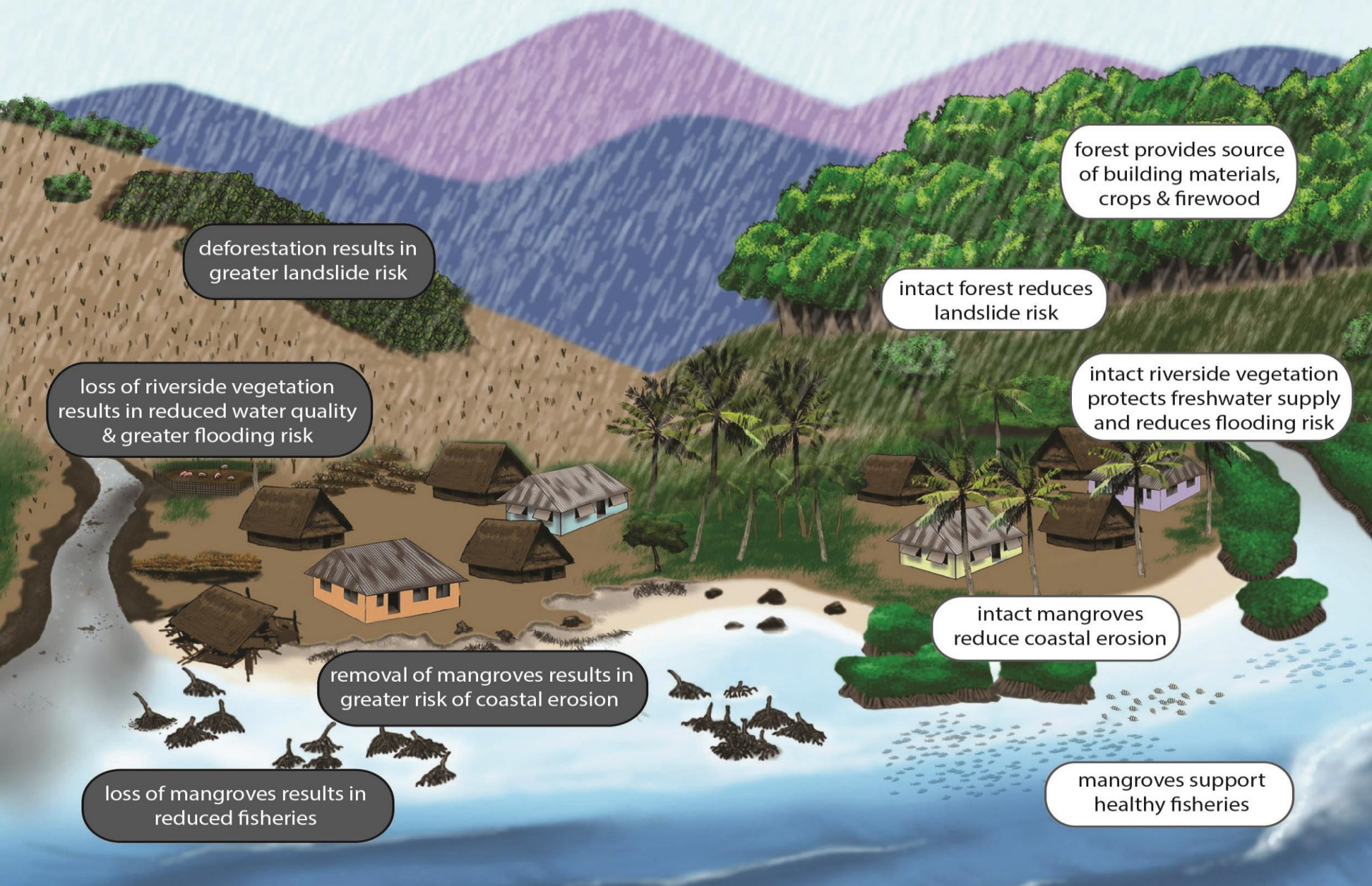
Community

Reef

All adaptation activities focus on Ridge to Reef with the community as the central point.

Village without ecosystem based adaptation

Village with ecosystem based adaptation



deforestation results in greater landslide risk

loss of riverside vegetation results in reduced water quality & greater flooding risk

removal of mangroves results in greater risk of coastal erosion

loss of mangroves results in reduced fisheries

forest provides source of building materials, crops & firewood

intact forest reduces landslide risk

intact riverside vegetation protects freshwater supply and reduces flooding risk

intact mangroves reduce coastal erosion

mangroves support healthy fisheries



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2. Scoping to identify EbA demonstration sites and EbA options

1. Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment
2. South Choiseul – Robroy and Wagina
3. Sasamuga – Prinini Watershed
4. Choiseul Bay – Focus on Taro Island





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3. EbA Implementation





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1. Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment - partnership with ESSI and LLCTC



Mammals – 3
Bats & Flying foxes - 10
Reptiles – 25
Frogs – 18
Birds – 58
Freshwater fish – 50
Freshwater Invertebrates –
25
Flora – 150

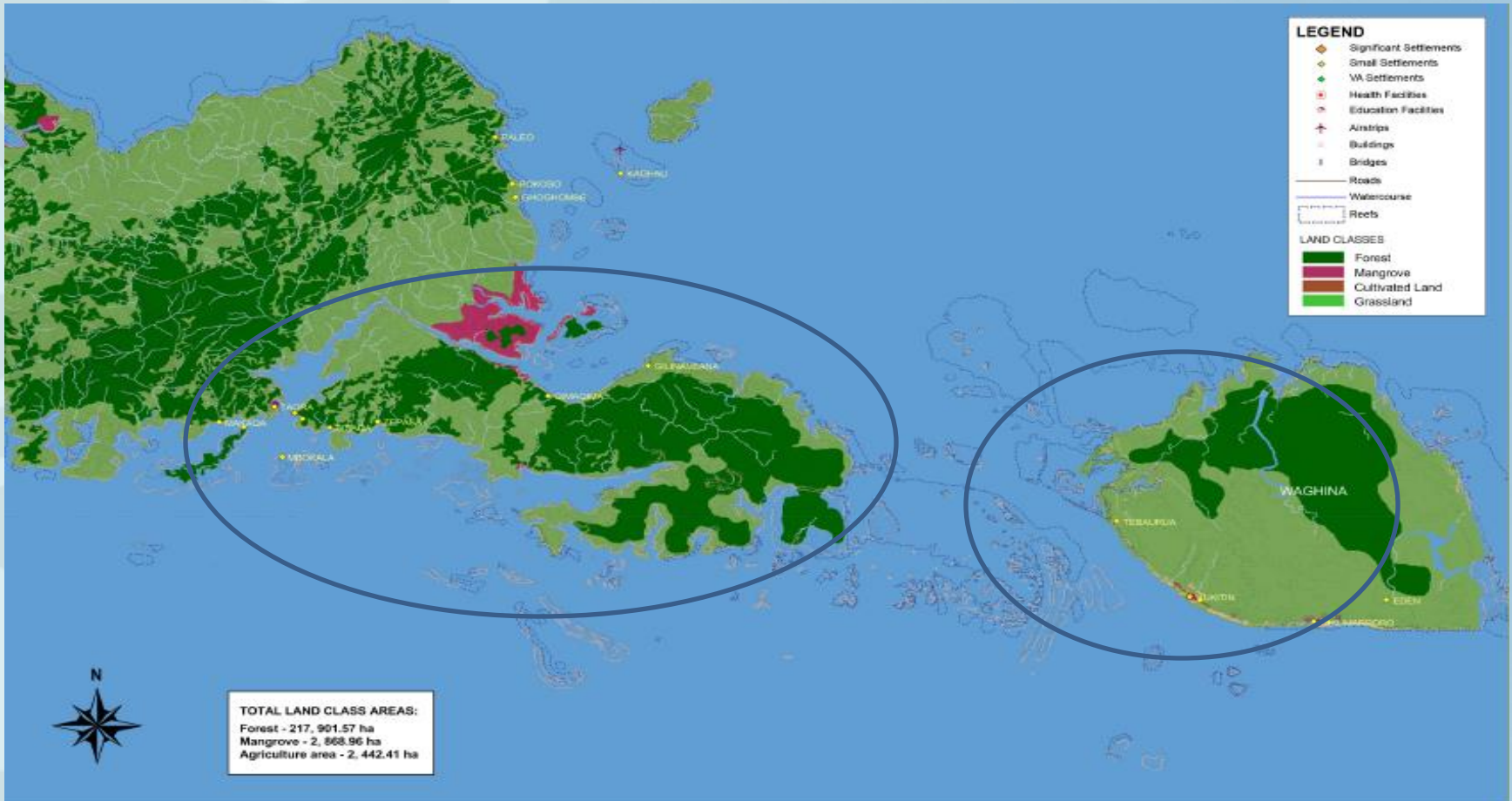


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2. South Choiseul – Robroy and Wagina





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3. Sasamuga Community -Pirini watershed



Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project
Demonstration Site
Sasamuga Village, Choiseul Province
THE PIRINI WATER CATCHMENT FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT
IUMI TUGEDA LUK AFTA OKETA FORESTS WAGA KANI FROM
Implemented by the Secretariat of the Government in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The project is made possible by the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
Choiseul Provincial Government | Choiseul R WASH Programme | Ministry of Forestry and Research
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology | The Nature Conservancy
A collaboration through the Climate Integrated Climate Change Programme (CICCP)





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4. Choiseul Bay – Taro Island



Coastal Processes around Taro



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Active Environment
Exposed and eroded
coastline

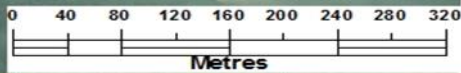
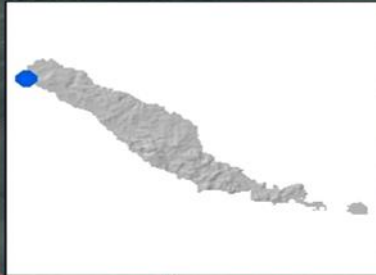


Current inlet
Depositional Environment

Current movement and
sediment Transport

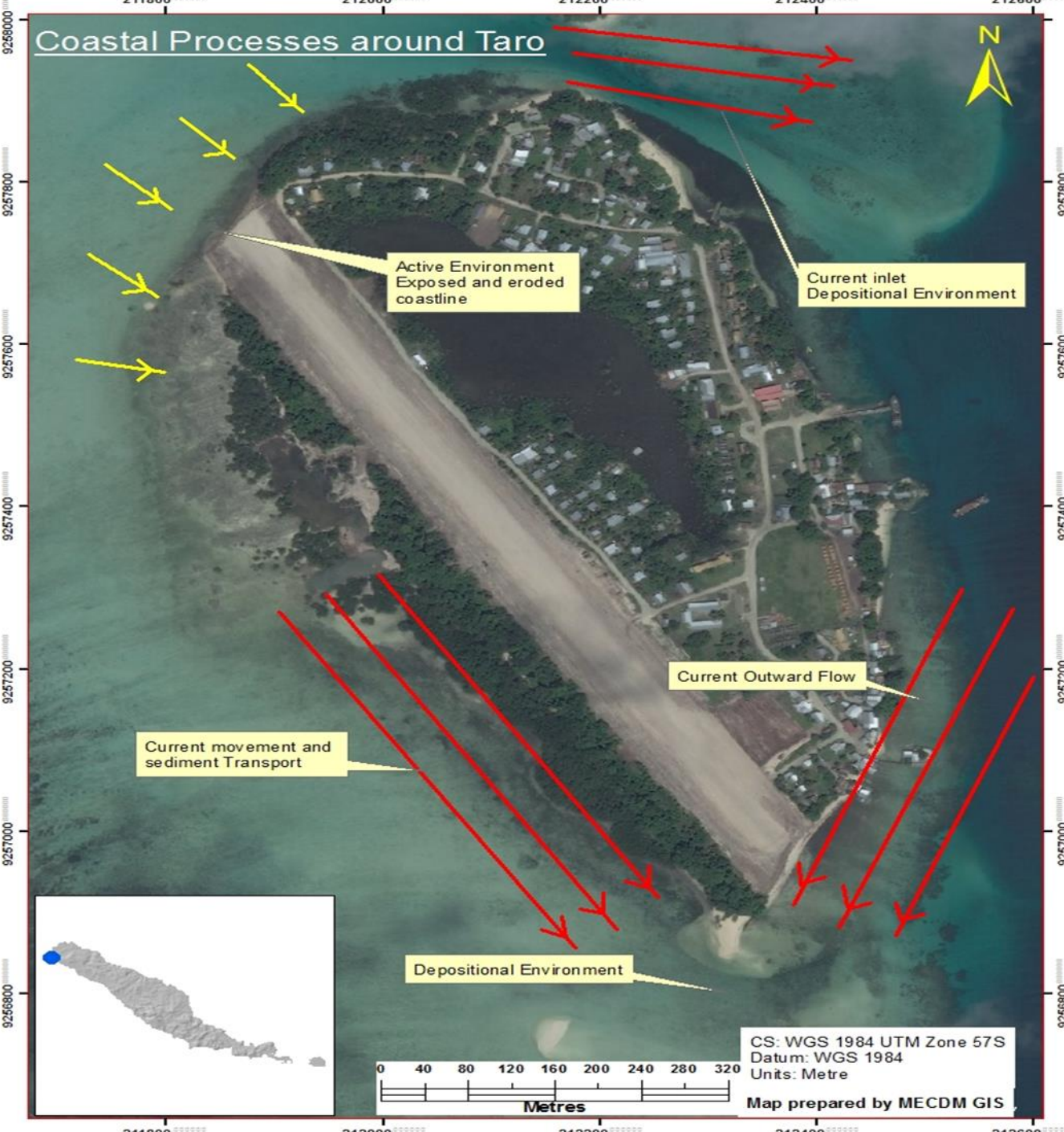
Current Outward Flow

Depositional Environment



CS: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 57S
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Metre

Map prepared by MECDM GIS





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EbA options;

1. Coastal Protection and Enhancement
2. Ecosystem health and resilience
3. Watershed Protection for Choiseul Bay





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Other components

- Mainstreaming
- Training and capacity building
- Communication and awareness

How to protect special places on your land and sea under the Protected Areas Act 2010

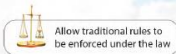
What are protected areas?

Many communities already have traditional protected areas or tambu sites on land and sea, and have a great deal of knowledge about managing these areas and their resources.

Protected areas can be set up to conserve nature and wildlife and to allow the sustainable use of resources to meet the livelihood needs of local communities, and customary owners. Legally protected areas can help to support the traditional system, especially for serious infringements (when people break the rules of a protected area), and can provide a tool to formalise and enforce rules and community rights.

How will my community benefit from a Protected Area?

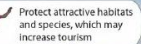
Establishing a legal Protected Area can help a community to protect areas of their land and sea, for current and future generations:



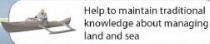
Allow traditional rules to be enforced under the law



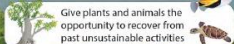
Improve food security for the local community



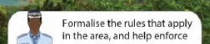
Protect attractive habitats and species, which may increase tourism



Help to maintain traditional knowledge about managing land and sea



Give plants and animals the opportunity to recover from past unsustainable activities



Formalise the rules that apply in the area, and help enforce serious infringements

The Timber Rights Acquisition Process for Landowners

Who owns the trees?
The trees on customary land are owned by the customary landowners.

What is logging?
Logging is when somebody cuts down a tree, or takes timber away from any land, for the purpose of selling it. Logging is illegal in the Solomon Islands unless you have a Logging Licence from the Commissioner of Forest Resources under the Forestry and Timber Rights Utilisation Act. Logging is also illegal in the Solomon Islands if the logging company has not done an Environmental Impact Assessment, and obtained a development consent from the Ministry of Environment.

What is timber?
When trees are cut down, the wood is called timber.

Who is a licensee?
The Licensee is the person who has the Logging Licence. The Licensee could be anyone, but it is usually someone from the Solomon Islands.

What Are Timber Rights?
Timber rights are the rights to log trees, and to do other activities on land related to logging.

What Is The Timber Rights Acquisition Process?
If someone wants to log trees on customary land, they must go through the timber rights acquisition process under the Forestry and Timber Rights Utilisation Act. This means they must negotiate with the landowners, and make a Standard Logging Agreement with the landowners.

What is a logging company?
A Logging Company is the company that actually logs the trees on customary land. The Logging Company could be anyone, but it is usually a foreign-owned company. The Licensee often makes an agreement with the Logging Company called a Technology and Management Agreement. This means that the Logging Company works for the Licensee.

The mining process for landowners

What are minerals?

Minerals are things like gold, silver, copper and nickel. Minerals are part of the earth and they form naturally in the ground over millions of years. They can be worth a lot of money.

Who owns minerals?

Minerals are owned by the people and the government of Solomon Islands. Landowners control the right to access land and all customary landowners have a right to have a say in how their land is used. The government controls the right to give out rights to minerals within the land. The rights the government can give out are known as Reconnaissance Permits, Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases.

What is mining?

Mining is a complicated process involving several different steps. The first step is looking for minerals, and this is called reconnaissance or prospecting. Because valuable minerals do not exist everywhere, large areas of land usually need to be explored before valuable minerals are found. When valuable minerals are found, the next step is to develop the mine shaft and start digging the minerals out of the ground. The minerals are then processed and often exported. Once the valuable minerals are used up, the last step is to close the mine down.

If a mine is developed it can last for a very long time and can be very disruptive to land. Mining can also have a big impact on the environment. It is very important for you to get legal advice if any company is talking to you about prospecting or mining on your land.



Environmental Impact Assessment for Landowners

What is the 'environment'?
The environment is everything around you, both natural and man-made. It includes trees, water, and even our culture and economy.

What is 'development'?
Development includes many things but the main types of development for the more remote areas of the Solomon Islands are logging and mining.

What are 'environmental impacts'?
When someone decides to do any kind of development (like logging or mining) it changes the environment. Sometimes it makes it better, and sometimes it makes it worse. Every change that development causes to the environment it is called an environmental impact.

What is 'environmental impact assessment'?
Environmental impact assessment (or EIA) means predicting all of the environmental impacts that will be caused by a development (eg logging or mining).

What is an 'EIA report'?
An EIA Report is an Environmental Impact Assessment report. It describes all of the environmental impacts that a development (like logging or mining) is likely to cause.

Who needs to make an EIA report?
The developer must make an EIA Report before they start the development. For logging, the developer is the logging company. For mining, the developer is the mining company. This means that every logging company and every mining company must make an EIA Report before they can start logging or mining.



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The cover features a large photograph of a tropical beach with turquoise water and a person in a small boat. Below this are three smaller images: a community meeting, a banana plantation, and a damaged wooden structure. The text at the bottom reads "Climate Change Adaptation Plan Choiseul Bay Township - Solomon Islands" and includes the Australian Aid logo and the Solomon Islands coat of arms.

Climate Change Adaptation Plan
Choiseul Bay Township - Solomon Islands

Australian Aid

The cover has a grey background with a faint floral pattern. It features the text "CHOISEUL PROVINCE MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012-2014" and "July 2012". It also includes the coat of arms of the Solomon Islands and the Choiseul Province logo, which is a circular emblem with "CHOISEUL PROVINCE" at the top, "LAURU ISLANDS" at the bottom, and a central design with horizontal stripes and a bird.

CHOISEUL PROVINCE
MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2012 - 2014

July 2012



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Summary EbA Implementation Process

Summary EbA Implementation Process

1. Climate change
vulnerability
assessment

2. Scoping to
identify EbA
demonstration
sites and EbA
options

3. EbA
implementation

4. EbA monitoring
and management

Baseline Ecological
Assessments
and
EbA Management
Plans

2.1 Coordination of Project Delivery

2.2 Climate Change Vulnerability
Assessment

2.3 EbA Planning and Mainstreaming

2.4 EbA Implementation

2.5 Training and Capacity Building on
EbA

2.6 Communication and Knowledge
Management



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Some lessons learned;

- Partnership is critical as EbA implementation requires a multiple technical inputs from a broad range of experts. Eg. Foresters, ecologist, coral reefs experts and mangroves experts.
- EbA results takes time and are long term and thus require a more long term approach.
- EbA demonstrates the importance of protecting the broader ecosystems whilst sustaining livelihood.
- EbA implementation is costly and takes time when operating in isolated areas.



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Thank you

Questions?

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