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& Marine Res

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OUR MISSION:

To provide effective services that facilitate sustainable management and development of our land and aquatic resources for the benefit of the nation.

OUR VISION:

A sustainable future that contributes to the socio-economic development of the nation.



Proceedings of the 1st Solomon Islands resource management symposium: A decade of learning

2–6 October 2017



ecological
Solutions (Solomon Islands)

SICCP
Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership

SINU
Solomon Islands National University

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

WorldFish

Proceedings of the 1st Solomon Islands resource management symposium: A decade of learning

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Front cover: Tommy Esau and Esau Kekeubata present the activities of Kwaina'a'isi Cultural Centre in East Kwaio.
Back cover: Mbokonavera Community High School dance group performs during the closing ceremony.

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List of abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ACMP	Arnavon Community Marine Park
AMNH	American Museum of Natural History
BDM	<i>bêche-de-mer</i>
BSP	Bank of the Southern Pacific
CBO	community-based organization
CBFM	community-based fisheries management
CBRM	community-based resource management
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CFMP	community fisheries management plan
COYES	Coalition of Youth Environmental Sustainability
CTI-CFF	Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security
EAFM	ecosystem approach to fisheries management
ECD	Environment and Conservation Division
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EOI	expression of interest
ESSI	Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands
FAD	fish aggregating device
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KAWAKI	Katupika, Wagina and Kia women's group
KIBCA	Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association
LLCTC	Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Chiefs
LMMA	locally managed marine area
MECDM	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MOFR	Ministry of Forestry and Research
MPA	marine protected area
MSSIF	<i>Mekem</i> Strong Solomon Islands Fisheries
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NFD	National Fisheries Development Ltd.
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NPOA	National Plan of Action
NRDF	Natural Resources Development Foundation
OKRONUS	Oibola, Kona, Radefasu, Oneoneabu, Ura and Sita (Langalanga Lagoon)

OWSI	OceansWatch Solomon Islands
PEBACC	Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change project
R2R	ridge-to-reef
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
SBD	Solomon Islands Dollar
SFI	French Ichthyological Society
SICCP	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership
SIDT	Solomon Islands Development Trust
SIELA	Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association
SINM	Solomon Islands National Museum
SINU	Solomon Islands National University
SIRA	Solomon Islands Rangers Association
SOP	standard operating procedure
SNRAS	School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program
TDA	Tetepare Descendants Association
TMMECA	Tuvaruhu and Mataniko Multi-Ethnic Community Association
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UQ	University of Queensland
USD	United States Dollar
USP	University of Southern Pacific
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Introduction

From 2 to 6 October 2017, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)—in collaboration with Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands (ESSI), the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and WorldFish—organized the first Solomon Islands resource management symposium in Honiara. The symposium brought together more than 300 representatives from ministries, provincial governments, civil society organizations, women's and youth groups, and communities from all over the country to share experiences on natural resource management. Over four days, more than 60 presentations were given.



The symposium opened with presentations from MECDM, MFMR and the Ministry of Forestry and Research (MOFR). The second day of the symposium highlighted the progress that was made over the past 10 years in the implementation of community-based resource management (CBRM). On the third day, Solomon Islands National University (SINU) in partnership with ESSI hosted a forum on species conservation. On the fourth day, a number of case studies celebrated the achievements of communities in the sustainable management of natural resources and highlighted a number of common challenges and problems. The symposium closed with a public exhibition and festival at the Solomon Islands National Museum (SINM).

This report summarizes the main outcomes of the symposium. It provides a short description of, and a link to, every presentation. The aim of this report is to capture the spirit of five amazing days in which communities, conservationists, scientists and government officials from all parts of the country came together to discuss environmental threats and identify potential solutions—a milestone for the emerging environmental movement in Solomon Islands.



Participants at the Solomon Islands resource management symposium.

Day 1: Setting the scene: Environmental governance and policy

The first day of the symposium was hosted by the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) of the MECDM at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara.



1.1. Keynote address

Samuel Manetoali, minister, MECDM

Solomon Islands is richly endowed with natural resources and species. Yet, there are inherent geophysical, climatic and economic vulnerabilities because of the country's location and its connections to the global economy. The national economy is based on the extraction and export of a few natural resources. However, these resources are currently being used with little or no regard at all for the social and ecological impacts.

Over the past 10 years, our country has made significant progress in conserving nature. Sustainable use of natural resources, protection of the environment and combating the adverse effects of climate change are important policy objectives of the government. The National Development Strategy 2016–2035 emphasizes the need for sustainable natural resource management. Access to scientific information is essential to achieve these policy objectives.

The State of the Environment Report (1993, 2008) compiles all information about Solomon Islands' environment and natural resources. However, the country's information management systems and research capacity are weak. Gaining access to secondary data sources and grey literature (reports by NGOs and donor agencies) and ascertaining the credibility of this information for decision-making are a major challenge. The MECDM through the ECD will soon be working on the next State of the Environment Report. It is only through collaboration, partnership and information exchange that we can use the country's natural resources wisely and better protect our environment.

[Link: Speech by Samuel Manetoali](#)

“ Our livelihood, culture and customs are steeped in and based on nature.

— Samuel Manetoali ”



Samuel Manetoali.

1.2. Ministry of Forestry and Research

Vaeno Vigulu, permanent secretary, MOFR

Timber is the country's main export product, with an average of 2.2 million m³ per year of round logs exported over the past six years. However, current harvests are five to six times the allowable cut per year. Forest cover declined from 90% in the 1990s to 78% in 2015, and the MOFR expects a steep decline of round log exports in five years' time. The average volume of logs exported has declined from 3.7 m³ per log to 2.8 m³, though round log exports peaked in 2016, and 2017 is expected to be similar.

Logging is a major threat to flora and fauna of local and international significance. Buffer zones and protected areas are increasingly harvested, as people need cash. The MOFR aims to stimulate the harvesting of forest resources at a sustainable rate with fair returns to landowners and the government. It also aims to increase replanting and care for the environment, including

the promotion of all protected areas, and to ensure Solomon Islands receives a fair return on the export of round logs that reflects true international market value.

The Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act of 1969, amended in 1996, regulates the timber industry. Other important regulations are (1) the Forest Regulations of 2005 and (2) the Revised Solomon Islands Code of Logging Practice (revised in 2002). There is a need to review the Forestry Act. The ministry aims to reduce reliance on logging and focus instead on reforestation, nontimber forest products, bioprospecting and the REDD+ initiative.

[Link: Presentation by Vaeno Vigulu](#)

“ *Logging in Solomon Islands is seen as a sunset industry. Our challenge is to make it a sunrise industry.*

— Vaeno Vigulu **”**



Participants listen to the presentation of Vaeno Vigulu.

1.3 Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Ferral Lasi, undersecretary, MFMR

The mission of the MFMR is to provide effective services to facilitate the sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquatic resources for the benefit of the nation. Offshore fisheries generate 275 million SBD per year for the national government. In 2017, the European Union lifted the yellow card, ensuring the continuous export of tuna. Bêche-de-mer is another important commodity that generates revenues for the country.

“ A certain percentage of the annual offshore fisheries earnings should be allocated to support community-based resource management. This will make both inshore and offshore fisheries of equal standing in the ministry, and will make people aware of their importance.

— Willie Atu **”**

1.4 Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology

Joe Horokou, director, MECDM

The MECDM is responsible for sustainable environmental management in Solomon Islands. It aims to provide an enabling environment for the socioeconomic development of the country through the application of necessary safeguards with regard to sustainable use of natural resources. The ECD is responsible for the enforcement of (1) the Environment Act of 1998, (2) the Wildlife Protection and Management Act of 1998 and (3) the Protected Areas Act of 2010.

“ Logging operations always have to go through an environmental impact assessment before the Ministry of Forestry can issue a license.

— Joe Horokou **”**



Joe Horokou addresses questions from the audience.

1.5 Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership

Senoveva Mauli, chief executive officer, SICCP

The SICCP aims to link local conservation efforts to national and international initiatives through networking, communication, research and education. The SICCP functions as a network of community-based organizations (CBOs) in Solomon Islands, such as the Tetepare Descendants Association (TDA), Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA) and Mbiche and Zaira communities in Western Province. The SICCP's role is to raise and disseminate funds, support governance, build capacity and link researchers to CBOs. Communication is crucial for this partnership. The aim is that over the years CBOs will become self-reliant and can apply for and manage their own funds.

[Link: Presentation by Senoveva Mauli](#)

“ SICCP functions as a bridge, linking communities to international donors.

— Senoveva Mauli **”**

1.6. Community-based resource management

Delvène Boso, country director, WorldFish

Communities in Solomon Islands are highly dependent on natural resources for nutrition, livelihoods and culture. CBRM is the national strategy to manage natural resources. This is particularly important, as 85% of the land is owned by the people. Although the Solomon Islands Constitution does not specifically use the words "community-based natural resource management," it recognizes the tenure rights of communities.

Over the past 10 years, several policies and laws have been developed and enacted that directly support CBRM. The Fisheries Management Act of 2015 (Part 4 and Schedule 2) outlines the appropriate process for communities wanting to do resource management. The National Development Strategy promotes community-based small-scale producer activities by providing access to markets and fisheries infrastructure. It also supports community-based initiatives for the sustainable economic development of inshore fisheries, including reducing dependence on wild capture through diversification and introduction of appropriate aquaculture systems. At the regional level, the "new song for coastal fisheries" (also called the Noumea Strategy) was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2015 as a roadmap to improving coastal fisheries governance.

A major challenge is to ensure that CBRM reaches all communities in the countries. The question now is: how do we scale up CBRM initiatives to achieve sustainable natural resource management that contributes to the needs of all Solomon Islanders?

[Link: Presentation by Delvene Boso](#)



Delvene Boso.

1.7 From science to community conservation and biodiversity protection in Solomon Islands

David Boseto, ESSI

ESSI is a group of Solomon Islanders that conducts scientific research for biodiversity conservation. ESSI was involved in biodiversity surveys on Choiseul, Malaita, Kolombangara and Gatake, and is supporting community conservation initiatives throughout the country. Poor governance and the absence of law enforcement form major obstacles for effective resource management. It is essential that the different ministries complement and support each other. All stakeholders, from the communities to provincial and national governments, should be working together in partnership to protect the country's natural heritage.

[Link: Presentation by David Boseto](#)

“ We think that we depend on money. But the truth is that we depend on the very resources that logging and mining destroy. When will we realize that we cannot kai kai selen?

— David Boseto

Discussion

During the open forum, participants highlighted that the implementation of forestry policies is fraught with controversy and leads to confusion and conflicts in communities. Serious concerns were voiced about logging operations, particularly related to the representation of women in timber rights hearings,

illegal logging practices, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and the detrimental ecological impacts. Permanent Secretary Vaeno Vigulu of the MOFR stressed that most of the logging licenses are located on customary land and so this is primarily the responsibility of the landowners and licensees. He also mentioned that there is a need to review the Forestry Act and align the policies and regulations of different ministries and provincial governments. Vigulu acknowledged that corruption in government is a major issue and stressed that major political reforms are needed to address this. Joe Horokou of the MECMD emphasized that the Environment Act is often compromised to address social and development issues.

“ When applying for a logging license, there are four forms to fill in. But when registering a conservation area, it requires 12 forms to be filled in. The ministries need to reconsider this.

— Stephen Sutiagalo **”**



Josef Hurutara.

Questions were also asked about the issuance of a permit by the MOFR to harvest *tubi* (Solomon Blackwood, *Xanthostemon melanoxylon*), the possibility of banning the export of round logs and the possibilities of developing a local value-adding forestry industry. The MOFR is promoting reforestation with high-value species, such as mahogany, and is studying the possibility of improving policies for local milling. It stressed that the world market is very competitive and that therefore Solomon Islands will continue to export round logs.

“ Logging is causing deep divisions between people, between tribes and between families. We are cheating our people. We are cheating ourselves.

— Tom Sotere **”**

Panel session: *Tingting blong mi*

Josef Hurutaru of the MECDM led a panel discussion with Rosalie Masu, Minnie Rafe, Alex Makini and Gordon Lilo, who served as the 11th prime minister of Solomon Islands (2011–2014) and held a number of ministerial posts, including the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Disaster Management (now MECDM). Masu is the deputy director of the Inshore Fisheries Division at the MFMR and co-chairs the National Coordinating Committee for the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), which has been influential in raising the profile of CBRM as a key strategy for conservation and fisheries development. She is also the co-chair of the Ocean12 technical working group. Rafe, based in Gizo, is the community-based fisheries management (CBFM) program officer of the World Wide Fund for Nature-Solomon Islands. Makini is the associate dean of the School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences (SNRAS) and the head of the environmental studies department.

“The ministry should support the provincial fisheries offices to carry out work in the communities. But the provincial fisheries offices don't have any funds.

— Martin Jasper **”**



Participants raising concerns during the plenary discussion.

Day 2: Community-based resource management

The second day of the symposium was hosted by the Inshore Fisheries Division of the MFMR and WorldFish at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara.



2.1. Opening remarks: Progresim community-based resource management for neks 10 yia moa

Rosalie Masu, MFMR

Different terminologies are used to describe CBRM approaches. These include terms such as an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), ridge-to-reef (R2R), marine protected areas (MPAs) and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs). CBRM recognizes the importance of coastal resources for food and nutrition, livelihoods, economic development and culture. It recognizes that 90% of inshore coastal areas are under customary marine tenure. The Solomon Islands National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the CTI-CFF identified CBRM as the national strategy to manage inshore fisheries. The aim is to ensure CBRM services reach at least 50% of all coastal communities by 2020. Recommendations and insights from this session will feed into the MFMR fisheries regulations, the review of the CTI-CFF NPOA, and the Solomon Islands Integrated Oceans Policy.

[Link: Presentation by Rosalie Masu](#)



Rosalie Masu.

2.2. Community-based resource management unit: Current strategies and policies

Assaneth Buarafi, MFMR

The role of the CBRM unit at the MFMR is to (1) have direct contact with communities based on expressions of interest (EOI), (2) provide guidance to partner NGOs and (3) act as a contact point for communities. Since the enactment of the Fisheries Management Act in 2015, the CBRM unit has mainly focused on the development of the standard operating

procedures (SOPs) for the formalization of community fisheries management plans (CFMPs) by the ministry. In addition, the CBRM unit carries out awareness in communities, helps communities develop their CFMPs and collaborates with the research section to carry out baseline surveys. Communities should not feel they have to wait for the MFMR to manage their coastal resources. The MFMR needs to strengthen its collaboration with partners to effectively support CBRM.

[Link: Presentation by Assaneth Buarafi](#)



Assaneth Buarafi.

2.3. The community-based resource management approach: A practical journey

Agnetha Vave-Karamui, MECDM

The vision of the MECDM is to provide a safe, sustainable and resilient environment for the safety and socioeconomic development of Solomon Islands. The ministry consists of four divisions, including the ECD. The ECD has 15 staff whose work it is to implement the Environment Act of 1998, the Wildlife Protection and Management Act of 1998, and the Protected Areas Act of 2010. The 2009 NPOA is the guiding document of CBRM. Since then, the MECDM has worked with 416 communities to conserve 500 sites. Collaboration with communities is key to any management and development intervention in Solomon Islands. This symposium will help the MECDM to review plans and policies as it continues working with NGOs to support provinces and communities in managing natural resources.

[Link: Presentation by Agnetha Vave-Karamui](#)



Agnetha Vave-Karamui.



Greg Bennett with the WorldFish team.

“ Eniting umi duim, mus focus lo pipol.

— Agnetha Vave-Karamui ”

2.4. Principles of networking

Gregory Bennett, WorldFish

To reach conservation and sustainable development goals, coordinated efforts that build on the strengths, experience and resources of multiple partners are required. The status quo of disparate, ad hoc and poorly reported efforts represents a lost opportunity to understand and accelerate improvements to conservation and sustainable development. Western Province hosts the highest density of partners and projects working on the ground in conservation, natural resource management, climate change adaptation and development, but these efforts are uncoordinated. To address this gap, WorldFish aimed to build and strengthen a coalition of Western Province stakeholders to regularly share the outcomes and plans of their activities with each other and the Western Province Government. Out of this project, we have developed a set of five principles for promoting network success in Solomon Islands: (1) creating clear shared objectives, (2) promoting regular communication, (3) sharing expertise and resources, (4) fostering strong leadership and (5) thinking long term. Networks are formed because individuals and groups recognize that the challenges and solutions are more complex than any organization can deliver by itself and that these networks will contribute to a stronger, healthier and self-reliant Solomon Islands.

[Link: Presentation by Gregory Bennett](#)

2.5. Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Chiefs

Jackson Kiloe, Choiseul Provincial Government

The premier started with a quote from a wise man from Choiseul, Reverend Lesly Boseto:

“The land and sea surrounding Lauru are the lifeblood of our people. Our long-term survival and prosperity are untenably linked to the ecological health of our small island. Our ancestors were actively aware of this, and they developed many intricate customs and partitions related to the use of Lauru’s natural resources. Today our island of Lauru is faced with a growing number of threats. Rapid population growth and the entry into the global cash economy have dramatically increased pressure on natural resources. Over the previous decades, commercial logging has changed the physical appearance of Lauru. As we look to the future, we must prepare ourselves for the growing threats of climate change. As Christians, we are obligated to be good stewards of God’s creation. Today more than ever, the people of Lauru must make informed decisions about how to conserve and sustainably develop our natural environment to ensure that our children can enjoy the cultural, social and economic treasures that have defined us as a people.”

CBRM is part of our culture. Most natural resources are customary owned, so provincial governments have to work with resource owners. The Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Chiefs (LLCTC) was established long before the provincial government was set up. The LLCTC is made of more than 300 tribes in Choiseul. The LLCTC helps to address issues in the communities and is regarded by the people of Choiseul as the true government. In 2003, the LLCTC and the Provincial Government of Choiseul signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to develop R2R conservation plans with communities. This partnership has resulted in 20 marine conservation areas and 10 terrestrial



Jackson Kiloe.

conservation areas managed by communities. The role of government and NGOs is to support these communities, particularly by building capacity.

“ Solomon Islands is a country made up of communities. Issues have to be addressed at the community level.

— Jackson Kiloe

2.6. History of the Arnavon Community

Marine Park

Henry Kaniki, Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP)

The Arnavon Islands are made up of three small islands: Sikopo, Kerehikapa and Maleivona. These are the largest nesting ground for hawksbill turtles in the Pacific. On 11 May 2017, the Arnavon Islands became the first marine park to be registered under the Protected Areas Act. Research activities on hawksbill turtles started in the 1990s. Over the past 20 years, this has evolved into an integrated conservation project managed by communities, in partnership with NGOs, provincial governments and ministries. Community participation and local ownership were of paramount importance in this long journey.

[Link: Presentation by Henry Kaniki](#)

2.7. Scaling up community-based resource management

Duta Kauhiona, MFMR

The main focus of CBRM is raising awareness in coastal communities on how to manage natural resources. The main challenges faced by the ministry are (1) a lack of good educational material, (2) frictions caused by logging operations and (3) the high costs of visiting communities. These challenges can be mitigated by disseminating information during community trips, public events and through provincial fisheries officers and NGO partners. It is crucial to reach out to all coastal communities in Solomon Islands. This can be done by collaborating with partners and by using innovative technology such as mobile phones.

[Link: Presentation by Duta Kauhiona](#)

“ The days of old men establishing tambu sites is gone; today's generation needs guidance.

— Dura Kauhiona

2.8. The community-based resource management light-touch approach on Malaita

Grace Orirana, WorldFish

In Solomon Islands, CBRM is the national strategy to manage coastal fisheries. Throughout the country, NGOs have supported communities to implement CBRM. However, it has become clear that engaging one village at the time is not a feasible strategy. It is essential to develop more efficient and cost-effective approaches to spread CBRM to ensure that 50% of Solomon Islands' coastal areas is under improved management by 2020, the target identified in the NPOA of the CTI-CFF. The "light-touch approach" uses only a few, infrequent site visits to engage communities in CBRM. These communities subsequently act as core sites to inspire and spread information to surrounding communities using existing, informal networks. Building the capacity of women and youths is essential for CBRM. Provincial governments and the media can play a supporting role by disseminating information to communities. The active support of the national government is necessary to address external threats, especially logging. For CBRM to succeed, it is essential to enforce existing environmental legislation.

[Link: Presentation by Grace Orirana](#)

“ The standard model for facilitating CBRM is not cost-effective. We tend to focus on small, isolated communities with strong customary governance—precisely those areas where resource management efforts are least needed.

— Grace Orirana **”**



Grace Orirana.

2.9. Considering gender in community-based resource management

Helen Teioli, WorldFish

Women play an important role in coastal fisheries; however, they tend to be marginalized from efforts to manage natural resources. There is an urgent need to create space for women to participate in, contribute to and benefit from CBRM. Key findings from a recent study carried out in Malaita and Western Province showed that women face greater restrictions than men in access to information, support services, decision-making processes and resources. The National Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy 2016–2020 recognizes that women and men are equal partners in the development of Solomon Islands and places gender equality at the heart of economic and social progress. To improve CBRM, we have to adopt a "gender-transformative approach."

[Link: Presentation by Helen Teioli](#)

“ Samtime ufa man no letim mifala woman for no makim decision. Hem na big problem nao yia.

— Esther Lodu **”**

2.10. Ridge to reef conservation planning: Lessons from the field

Willie Atu, TNC

R2R is a planning tool that links conservation action across the landscape—from forests to rivers, estuaries, mangroves, seagrass meadows and coral reefs. R2R conservation aims to support communities and government in making right decisions on how to use resources, particularly related to logging. As such, R2R approaches are a component of CBRM. TNC is using a R2R approach in Choiseul and Isabel. This work culminated in the declaration of the ACMP as a protected area on 11 May 2017 under the Protected Areas Act—the first park of the country!

[Link: Presentation by Willie Atu](#)

“ Logging forms a major threat to our marine environment.

— Willie Atu **”**

2.11. Marine protected areas and ecotourism: The Tetepare Descendants Association experience

Allan Tippet, TDA

Tetepare Island is the largest, uninhabited lowland rainforest island of the Pacific. The island functions as a "natural supermarket" for the descendants. In 1995, logging companies wanted to harvest timber on the island. In 2002, the TDA was formed. It developed a conservation program in partnership with donors, NGOs and the Solomon Islands Government, which includes (1) monitoring (trochus, coconut crab, seagrass, green turtle and leatherback turtle), (2) enforcement of existing environmental legislation, (3) scientific research and (4) ecotourism. The TDA offers incentives for communities, such as scholarships. Its main challenges are (1) a lack of funding, (2) lack of communication because of its isolation and (3) weak governance. The aim is to register Tetepare Island as a protected area under the Protected Areas Act, but this process cannot be rushed.

[Link: Presentation by Allan Tippet](#)

“ *Sapos u garem wanfala ples wea u harvestem resources but then u markim moa wanafa area insaed and u say bae this fala area bae mi leavim, bae no harvest. Hem nao meanim protected area.*

— Allan Tippet **”**

2.12. Community-based fisheries co-management

Minnie Rafe, WWF

The WWF aims to enhance coastal fisheries livelihoods in Western Province using a community-based fisheries co-management approach. The process starts when a community sends an EOI to the WWF. In most cases, the WWF deploys a fish aggregating device (FAD). The problem with FADs is that they do not last long. Communities should therefore establish a fishers association to generate funds to replace the FADs. Despite limited funds and limited staff, results are promising. To enable effective fisheries management, it is essential to devolve power and resources to provincial governments.

[Link: Presentation by Minnie Rafe](#)



Minnie Rafe.

2.13. Closing remarks: Moving forward with community-based resource management

Rosalie Masu, MFMR

Much progress has been made over the past 10 years in supporting CBRM in Solomon Islands. Laws and policies were developed that explicitly aim to support communities in managing their resources in a sustainable way. The MECDM and MFMR now have well-trained staff, information on resource management is reaching more people and communities are actively sharing lessons. Provincial networks have emerged that enable more effective communication between the ministries, NGOs and provincial governments.

Still, this session highlighted that much remains to be done. At the national level, ministries have to play a more active role in enforcing existing legislation, particularly in minimizing the negative ecological and social impacts of logging. At the provincial level, provincial governments have to ensure that provincial development plans support CBRM. This requires building the capacity of provincial governments, investing in the provincial networks and improving collaboration between NGOs and provincial governments. At the community level, it is essential to create opportunities for women and youth. This implies that ministries and NGOs have to invest more in communication, education and public awareness, using innovative technology wherever possible. Enabling communities to learn from each other and share what works is another priority. These points will be taken into consideration in the review of the NPOA of the CTI-CFF.

Day 3: Species conservation

The third day of the symposium was hosted by SINU, ESSI and the IUCN Oceania at the *windwind haus* of the Kukum campus.





Vice Chancellor Basil Marasinghe gives his words of welcome.

“ Greed inflicts serious damage on the environment and makes us more vulnerable to natural disasters.

— Basil Marasinghe **”**

3.1. Opening remarks: The future of all species is in our hands

Patrick Pikacha, ESSI

The stories told by the indigenous people of Solomon Islands should never be underestimated, and incorporating this local ecological knowledge into science is very important. A successful example of this is the work of Tyrone Lavery on the vika (*Uromys vika*) (section 3.7). In the coming years, ESSI will work on the conservation of two frogs that are primarily threatened by logging: *Palmatorappia solomonis* and *Litoria lutea*.

[Link: Presentation by Patrick Pikacha](#)



Patrick Pikacha.

3.2. Species diversity and human health

Prem Rai, SNRAS, SINU

Biodiversity and human health are interconnected. Millions of species have lived with humans for a long time, and each is dependent on the other. New diseases are emerging all the time. Nature remains a mainstay of medicines today: half or more of the prescribed medicines come from natural sources, directly or indirectly. We can find new medicines in the seas, forests and mountains. Our survival and sustenance depend on protecting and preserving species, natural habitats and the world around us.

[Link: Presentation by Prem Rai](#)

3.3. Choiseul expedition

David Boseto, ESSI

An expedition was conducted in Choiseul by a group of scientists and conservationists. Biological inventories were carried out for plants, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, freshwater fish and birds. Many rare and uncommon species were recorded and collected. The Choiseul pigeon or kovojo (*Microgoura meeki*), the symbol of Choiseul, was not recorded, so it should be considered extinct. Likewise, the Bougainville monkey-faced bat (*Pteralopex anceps*), the Bougainville giant-rat (*Solomys salebrous*) and the Poncelet's giant-rat (*Solomys ponceleti*) were not encountered during the expedition. As stewards of our customary lands, we have to look after our resources.

[Link: Presentation by David Boseto](#)

“ Biodiversity is the basis of life in our islands.

— David Boseto **”**

3.4. Birds

Robert Moyle, Kansas University Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum

Solomon Islands has a more restricted range of bird species than any other country in the world. Birdlife International identified a critical knowledge gap on birds in Solomon Islands. Very little known is about birds in Solomon Islands because surveys are difficult and expensive. The main threats to birds in the country are habitat loss and invasive species, such as cats, dogs and rats.

[Link: Presentation by Robert Moyle](#)

3.5. Frog survey on Ranongga and Vella Lavella Ikou Tigulu, ESSI

There are 25 species of frogs and toads officially described for Solomon Islands, including two endemic species: the Malukuna webbed frog (*Cornufer malukuna*) and the squeaking ground frog (*Cornufer desticans*). Little is known about the distribution of frog species. In a recent frog survey on Ranongga and Vella Lavella, six new frog species were recorded on these islands. The main challenges for frog surveys are taxonomic identification, bad weather and misunderstandings within communities. It is important to consult communities in advance and involve local scientists and students in the surveys.

[Link: Presentation by Ikou Tigulu](#)

3.6. Night raiders of Solomon Islands: Feeding ecology of the endemic Solomons flying fox

Corzzierah Posala, SICCP

There are 24 fruit bat species in Solomon Islands (and Bougainville Island), 17 of which are endemic to the country. The Solomon flying fox (*Pteropus rayneri*) occurs throughout the archipelago. The species is a major pollinator and distributor of certain plants and seems to feed in both disturbed and undisturbed forest areas. This data could be used as a baseline to develop species conservation plans.

[Link: Presentation by Corzzierah Posala](#)



Corzzierah Posala.

3.7. Phantoms in the forest: The lost and found Solomon Islands giant rats

Tyrone Lavery, University of Queensland (UQ)

Very little is known about the giant rat species in Solomon Islands (genus *Solomys*, *Uromys* and *Melomys*). The *Uromys vika* is a critically endangered species. It was recently discovered and described after its habitat was destroyed by logging.

[Link: Presentation by Tyrone Lavery](#)



Tyrone Lavery.

3.8. Satellite tagging of hawksbill turtles

Simon Vuto and Rick Hamilton, TNC

Satellite tagging in Solomon Islands has been carried out in the Arnavon Islands by TNC and the MECDM for a number of years now. There are four main aims for tagging the turtles: (1) improving conservation action, (2) identifying migration corridors, (3) determining nesting sites and (4) raising awareness. To raise awareness, a turtle art competition was held in various schools in Solomon Islands.

[Link: Presentation by Simon Vuto and Rick Hamilton](#)



Rick Hamilton.

3.9. Freshwater fish: Solomon Islands River Cling Gobies

Holland Piokera, ESSI

Surveys on freshwater fish and prawns were carried out in Choiseul, Kolombangara, Ranongga, Vella Lavella and Guadalcanal by the French Ichthyological Society (SFI) from 2014 to 2016. Exactly 118 freshwater species were recorded, including six new fish and four crustaceans. Wildlife management strategies must be based on sound scientific assessments.

[Link: Presentation by Holland Piokera](#)



Holland Piokera, Patrick Pikacha and David Boseto.

3.10. Squaretail coral grouper: Fish spawning aggregations

Alec Hughes, Coastal Marine Management

The squaretail coral grouper (*Plectropomus areolatus*) is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. The species is the highest selling grouper in the Honiara fish market, with Western Province being the main source. The species is often caught during spawning. Fish spawning aggregations are predictable in space and time, and therefore often targeted by fishers. However, fish spawning aggregations are vulnerable to overfishing. In the past, this had limited impact as only few fishers were allowed to fish in these spots, knowledge was kept secret and relatively small amounts of fish were harvested for local consumption. But nowadays, fishers use better gear and harvest a lot of fish that is transported and sold in urban markets (e.g. Honiara). In many areas, fish spawning aggregations have become open access. Fish spawning aggregations are important for both biodiversity and food security, so they need to be protected. There is a need to raise awareness, collect reliable information, set up no-take zones and fishing seasons, and ban the sale of groupers during certain periods. In this, CBRM has an important role to play.

[Link: Presentation by Alec Hughes](#)



Alec Hughes.

3.11. Community-based responses to protect biodiversity in East Kwaio

Tommy Esau and Esau Kekeubata, Kwaina'a'isi Cultural Centre

Traditional ecological knowledge and practices have been lost in many areas of Solomon Islands. However, the people of East Kwaio are still maintaining their traditions and practicing their ancestral religion. The Kwaina'a'isi cultural center in East Kwaio is documenting local ecological knowledge in booklets and videos. It works together with communities, researchers and other stakeholders to conserve biodiversity.

[Link: Presentation by Tommy Esau and Esau Kekeubata](#)



Tommy Esau and Esau Kekeubata pose with friends.

3.12. Solomon Islands National Museum's Natural History Collection Strategy

Tony Ahikau Heorake, SINM

The SINM was officially established as a cultural institution on 6 June 1969. During the civil crisis, Solomon Islands experienced both economic and political ruin: the museum was looted and artifacts were sold to overseas buyers and art dealers. In 2013, the Solomon Islands Government launched a national cultural policy known as the Solomon Islands National Policy Framework Blong Kalsa, which opened a new chapter in the development and reinvigoration of the country's cultural heritage. Around that same time, the initial draft of the museum's Natural History Collection Strategy was developed. The purpose of the Natural History Collection Development Strategy is to set out the priorities for developing the museum's collection over the medium to long term in order to (1) document the diversity of life in Solomon Islands, (2) provide access to this information to the general public and (3) educate and promote the value of natural history collections to a broad audience.

Currently, the SINM houses a relatively small collection of natural history specimens (perhaps less than 1% of the biodiversity of Solomon Islands), consisting of stuffed birds and mammals, skeletal remains of butterflies, and wet specimens.

[Link: Presentation by Tony Heorake](#)



Tony Heorake.

3.13. National perspectives on species and wildlife management

Josef Hurutara, MECDM

Species management plans are an important tool to facilitate the recovery of threatened species, the protection of endemic species and the management of commercial species. National legislation protecting species and ecosystems include (1) the Forestry Act, (2) the Fisheries Management Act 2015, (3) the Protected Areas Act 2010, (4) the Wildlife Protection & Management Amendment Act 2017 and (5) the Environment Act 1998 (under revision). Other government policies relevant for species management include (1) the Solomon Islands National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016–2020, (2) MECDM corporate plan 2018–2020, (3) MFMR strategy 2017–2019 and (4) MOFR corporate plan. The MECDM encourages NGOs, communities and other stakeholders to form partnerships to conduct research and to improve the conservation and management of species.

[Link: Presentation by Josef Hurutara](#)



Josef Hurutara.

3.14. Checklist of the ants (*Hymenoptera, Formicidae*) of Solomon Islands, a new survey of Makira Island and recent studies on invasive ants

John Fasi, SINU

Ant research in Solomon Islands was first carried out by A. Forel in 1910. Over the years, other authors have contributed to the knowledge on ants in the archipelago. SINU reviewed the taxonomic names of ants and conducted an ant survey on Makira in 2008. The research suggests that Solomon Islands supports at least 237 ant species and subspecies.

[Link: Presentation by John Fasi](#)

“ Tingting blo mi umi putim more powers go lo province to have more power to enforce what needs to be done for protectim oketa resources blo umi.

— **John Fasi** “

3.15. Harvest rates and long-term management of ngali nuts (*Canarium indicum*) in Solomon Islands

Edmond Bate'e, UQ

Commercial logging and land clearing for agriculture is leading to a decrease in ngali nut trees in Solomon Islands. This research aims to investigate if the harvest of ngali nuts is sustainable or not. Surveys were carried out in Malaita and on Gatakae. Initial results show that the ngali nut supply is lower than demand, which has been caused by human population growth and commercial logging. There is a need to plant more trees and prevent unnecessary deforestation.

[Link: Presentation by Edmond Bate'e](#)

3.16. Flying fox status, island size and logging in Solomon Islands

Diana Fisher, UQ

There are 25 species of flying foxes in Solomon Islands. Research shows that small mammals, particularly bats, often tolerate selective logging. However, island endemics with small ranges are vulnerable to habitat loss and hunting, especially ecologically specialized, sedentary species. Over the past 25 years, we studied the effect of logging on flying foxes in Western Province. Logging was associated with a decline of two restricted range endemics: *Melonycteris fardoulisi* and *Pteralopex taki*. With a 75% decline in 25 years, the conservation status of *M. fardoulisi* could be downgraded from Least Concern. On the contrary,

four other bat species are doing better, and their conservation status could be upgraded.

[Link: Presentation by Diana Fisher](#)

3.17. Santa Cruz ground dove (*vakavakatia*) and invasive species

Ray Pierce, OceansWatch

The *vakavakatia*, or Santa Cruz ground dove, is an endangered species. OceansWatch aims to determine the distribution, threats and conservation measures of the species in its historic range in Temotu. Tinakula offers the best opportunity for saving the Santa Cruz ground dove since the island is rat free. There is a viable population of Santa Cruz ground doves on the island, estimated at 500 individuals. However, invasive ants and plants pose a threat to the population on Tinakula. In addition, it is essential to strengthen biosecurity to prevent rats, snakes, weeds, avian diseases, cats or pigs getting ashore.

[Link: Presentation by Ray Pierce](#)

3.18. Turtle harvest and trade in Solomon Islands

Simon Vuto, TNC

Marine turtles are culturally and socially important species. However, all marine turtle species are endangered. Selling turtles is illegal under Solomon Islands law, but weak law enforcement facilitates illegal harvest and trade. We have no idea if current harvest rates are sustainable. Turtle catches are dominated by juvenile green and hawksbill turtles. Catch rates are very high and most likely unsustainable in some provinces. This study aims to (1) provide an estimate on turtle harvest rates, (2) understand the illegal turtle trade and (3) raise awareness on turtle conservation in Solomon Islands.

[Link: Presentation by Simon Vuto](#)



Simon Vuto.

3.19. Tuna Io Solomon Islands

Marsh Maebiru, MFMR

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), albacore (*T. alalunga*) and bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*) are commercially important species for Solomon Islands. The tuna industry is a key source of revenue for the Solomon Islands Government. In 2015, 61,670 metric tons tuna was caught in Solomon Island waters, valued at USD 223 million.

Currently, there are 10 local and 87 foreign purse seine fishing boats, one local and 91 foreign longline fishing boats, three local and 11 foreign pole-and-line fishing boats, and four foreign light seining fishing boats licensed to fish in Solomon Islands waters. There are five local fishing companies (National Fisheries Development Ltd., SSL, Global, Solong and Solfish), but Soltuna is the only operating cannery in the country, producing 150 metric tons per day and employing more than 2000 people.

Different management measures are in place for tuna, including vessel and license registry, observer programs, catch-and-effort recording, vessel monitoring systems, FADs and closure periods. Tuna is currently not overfished, but the tuna industry is facing several economic challenges. The Fisheries Management Act of 2015 aims to ensure the long-term management of tuna to benefit the people of Solomon Islands.

[Link: Presentation by Marsh Maebiru](#)

3.20. Managing the sea cucumber fishery in Solomon Islands

John Leqata, MFMR

The sea cucumber fishery in Solomon Islands is the country's second-most valuable capture export fishery after tuna and supports a multimillion dollar industry. Sea cucumbers are harvested using various methods, processed into *bêche-de-mer* (BDM) and exported to Asian markets. There is no subsistence use of sea cucumbers. BDM exports peaked in 1992 at 715 metric tons, worth SDB 10 million.

BDM remains an important source of income for many small island communities; however, overfishing is a major threat to the species. Surveys conducted in 2011 and 2012 indicated that sea cucumber stocks are depleted. Management efforts, such as the BDM moratorium, are undercut by political interference.

[Link: Presentation by John Leqata](#)

3.21. Propagation techniques and growth in Isabel: Implications for tubi conservation and rehabilitation

Shane Tutua, SPE Consulting

Tubi (*Xanthostemon melanoxylon*) is a tree species that only occurs in ultramafic soils on Isabel and Choiseul. Commercial use is legally restricted because of its rarity and slow growth, but illegal harvesting is rampant. There is an urgent need to conserve this endemic tree species. The Sumitomo mining company aims to develop methods to rehabilitate and reforest its proposed nickel mining sites. Our results show that *tubi* can be propagated from both seeds and cuttings. Wilding collection and vegetative propagation are potential methods to mass-produce seedlings for rehabilitation purposes. This would require the conservation of original *tubi* stands as sources of planting material.

[Link: Presentation by Shane Tutua](#)

3.22. Wai Hau Conservation Foundation: "Do not see them as they are, but as we are"

Ben Namo, Wai Hau Conservation Foundation

The Wai Hau Conservation Foundation is a CBO located in West Are'are, Malaita. The foundation was established in 2010 to conserve leatherback turtles. Egg poaching, beach erosion and predation by crocodiles are major threats to the turtle population. The foundation is building the capacity of rangers, collecting data, relocating eggs and organizing look-and-learn trips to raise awareness.

[Link: Presentation by Ben Namo](#)

3.23. Dugongs and seagrass conservation project

Ezekiel Leghunau, MECDM, and Ronnie Posala, WorldFish

There is limited data on dugongs and seagrass in Solomon Islands. Previous studies identified 10 species of seagrass in the country. WorldFish conducted a seagrass distribution and density survey in Lau Lagoon, the largest seagrass meadow in the country. The SICCP is working with communities in Western Province to set up LMMA and monitor seagrass using the Seagrass Watch methodology. This work will feed into the national strategy for dugong and seagrass management. The MFMR is currently working on legislation banning the hunting of dugongs for commercial purposes.

[Link: Presentation by Ezekiel Leghunau and Ronnie Posala](#)

3.24. Species recovery plans: Open discussion

Tyrone Lavery, UQ

A species recovery plan (1) summarizes existing available knowledge, (2) identifies threats and (3) proposes conservation actions. Fifteen mammals, five birds, three reptiles, two amphibians and two plants were identified as priority species needing conservation action. Possible conservation actions include (1) monitoring populations, (2) protecting important habitats and (3) controlling invasive species. The question is how to make species recovery plans work in Solomon Islands, where funding for conservation is scarce.

[Link: Presentation on species recovery plans](#)

3.25. United Nations Development Programme's small grants program

Josiah Maesua, MECDM

The United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Global Environment Facility small grants program is open for applications of registered CBOs. Research institutions and NGOs are also eligible to apply. Currently, the focus of funding is on conserving marine biodiversity, specifically in mangrove ecosystems and coral reefs.

[Link: Presentation by Josiah Maesua](#)

3.26. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund investment for species conservation in the East Melanesian Islands hotspot

Helen Pippard, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

The East Melanesian Islands (comprising Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and Manus, New Ireland, New Britain and Bougainville in Papua New Guinea) are one of the most geographically complex areas on Earth. Although the islands are close to the mainland of New Guinea, they have never been connected by a land bridge. Therefore, the fauna and flora of the islands are a mix of recent colonizers and indigenous species derived from ancient Gondwanaland lineages. Baseline surveys were carried out by the University of Southern Pacific, SFI and ESSI. The CEPF has provided grants to conserve globally threatened species in Solomon Islands. Grants were awarded to the Wai Hau Conservation Foundation, UQ, SICCP, OceansWatch, the Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association, WorldFish, KIBCA and the Solomon Islands Rangers Association.

[Link: Presentation by Helen Pippard](#)

3.27. Solomon Islands species research and conservation award

Four individuals were recognized for their efforts protecting species: (1) Willie Atu of TNC, (2) Mary Bea of the TDA, (3) Felix Naitoro of the Wai Hau Conservation Foundation and (4) Agnetha Vave-Karamui of the MECDM.



Felix Naitoro of the Wai Hou Conservation Foundation is recognized for his efforts in species research and conservation in Solomon Islands.

3.28. Photo competition

A photo competition was held on the theme of "celebrating the wildlife of Solomon Islands." The winner was Tyrone Lavery, with his image of the Solomon Islands tree frog (*Litoria lutea*). The winning photographs were featured in the 2018 calendar of ESSI.

3.29. Closing remarks: Lessons from the day and next steps

David Boseto, ESSI

The species forum covered a broad range of topics, including threats to species and community conservation actions. In recent years, much progress has been made in Solomon Islands on generating basic data. There is an urgent need to share this information and engage communities in conservation action, as invasive species and logging remain major threats to species in the country. Next steps include (1) improving the protection of sites, (2) developing species recovery plans, (3) enforcing existing legislation and (4) continued coordination and collaboration with partners. There is also a need to train the next generation of scientists.

[Link: Closing remarks species forum](#)

Day 4: Community initiatives

The fourth day of the symposium was hosted by the SICCP at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara.



4.1. Opening remarks: Zaira Resource Management Area

Green Jino, Zaira

The people of Zaira depend on the land and sea for survival. Like many communities in the Marovo Lagoon, however, Zaira is threatened by the impacts of logging. In recent years, the Zaira community has adopted a constitution, drafted a customary landowner management plan and published a conservation magazine. However, last year logging machines illegally landed in our conservation area.

[Link: Presentation by Green Jino](#)

“ Do your best, and leave the rest.

— **Green Jino**

4.2. “Island in the sky”: How communities collaborate with partners to save the last flora and fauna on Kolombangara Island

Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA

Illegal logging threatens the remaining tropical flora and fauna on Kolombangara Island. In 2008, KIBCA was established to promote conservation and sustainable development. The lack of technical know-how and the sometimes unrealistic expectations of communities are major challenges for the association. KIBCA aims to strengthen local governance, increase technical capacity and find alternative ways to finance the association in the future. Collaboration between the government, NGOs and communities is the key to our success.

[Link: Presentation by Ferguson Vaghi](#)

“ In timber rights hearings, no is yes.

— **Ferguson Vaghi**



Ferguson Vaghi.

4.3. Marovo Lagoon conservation efforts

Remmy Papae and Veira Pulekera, SICCP

Logging continues to cause major social, economic and environmental problems in the Marovo Lagoon. The SICCP—which is working in partnership with KIBCA, UQ and the communities of Mbiche and Zaira—is supporting communities in the Marovo Lagoon to raise environmental awareness and develop conservation plans.

[Link: Presentation by Remmy Papae and Veira Pulekera](#)

“ Six times we reported violations to the police, but no action was taken. We have to stop intruders. But it’s not good to take the law into our own hands. Wat nao fo duim?

— **Allan Tippet**



Veira Pulekera.

4.4. Revival of the Kahua Association and its efforts to conserve biodiversity

Eddie Hagasua, Kahua Association

The Kahua Association is working in Makira. The association was registered on 26 October 2005 with the aim to facilitate cooperation between 40 communities in wards 12 and 13. The association was founded on the traditional principles of *hemoti* (sharing together), *herongogi* (asking permission), *hemakuani* (care and respect) and *hekarigi* (discussion). Kahua partners with the SICCP and aims to work together with other partners in the province to save Makira’s unique flora and fauna.

[Link: Presentation by Eddie Hagasua](#)

“

Convincing ting ting blo oketa tribal members hem easy noma, but the challenge mi facim this taem when it comes to educated elites within the tribes yia, mifala contestim ideologies then garem different affiliation although mifala insaed one tribe.

”

— Eddie Hagasua

4.5. Financial inclusion: Women's microfinancing, livelihoods and food security

Salome Topo, WWF

Microfinance empowers women to start their own businesses. The WWF set up a microfinancing livelihood project with women savings clubs in Western Province. The aim is to link CBFM directly with income-generating market activities. Women are trained on how to analyze whether an activity is profitable or not, how to save money, how to use their money wisely and how to become good leaders in their community.

[Link: Presentation by Salome Topo](#)



Salome Topo.

4.6. Case study: Women and microfinancing in Nusatuva

Tambilyn Huka, Nusatuva

Tambilyn Huka became involved in the savings club in Nusatuva supported by the WWF. At first, she received little support from her husband, but this changed when she built a house. Tambilyn then set up a canteen, which now serves the whole community. This enabled her to save a little bit of money, which she is now investing in a bakery.

[Link: Presentation by Tambilyn Huka](#)



Tambilyn Huka.

4.7. Saeraghi seaweed and seagrasses management

Alpha Gelly, Saeraghi

Over the years, harvesting seaweed and seagrasses on Ghizo Island has become more difficult. Women have to travel farther and dive deeper to collect seaweed. The Saeraghi community has created a few basic rules to manage the seaweed sustainably. Women can only harvest and sell seaweed once a week, with a limit of two baskets per harvester, and outsiders are not allowed to harvest seaweed without permission from the management committee. Seaweed harvesting is allowed (opened) for two months and then prohibited (closed) for one month. The Saeraghi community hopes to register its management plan under the Fisheries Management Act.

[Link: Presentation by Alpha Gelly](#)

4.8. Toward the Arnavon Community Marine Park

Annie Galo, John R. Pita, Brian Siama and George Lehe, TNC

This presentation consists of two parts. The first tells the story of the KAWAKI women's group. KAWAKI stands for three communities: Katupika (KA), Wagina (WA) and Kia (KI). The women's group was initiated in 2015 and officially registered in 2017. It aims to support the ACMP to raise awareness on the park and assist the rangers in hosting visitors. The second part focuses on the protection of leatherback turtle beaches in Isabel Province, specifically the Haevo Khulano Integrated Conservation Area and the Sosoilo Leatherback Conservation Area.

[Link: Presentation by Annie Galo, John Pita, Brian Siama and George Lehe](#)



KAWAKI members prepare their theme song.

4.9. Mararo community-based organization

Tony Atitete, Mararo

Mararo is small community located in ward 19 in East Are'are. In 2013, the community set up the Mararo

CBO. Two years later, the CBO launched the Puriasi Mangrove Management Area, which was registered under the Malaita Province Fisheries Ordinance in 2017. The CBO has organized capacity-building programs in 14 neighboring communities in the East Are'are constituency. Challenges for the CBO include (1) a lack of education, (2) the mindset of some people, (3) stealing in the management area and (4) a lack of financial support. In April 2017, a logging company built a log pond right in front of the village.

[Link: Presentation by Tony Atitete](#)

“The Fisheries Management Act has a provision to enforce legislation. But gavmen barava no strong yah.

— Duta Kauhiona ”



Tony Atitete.

4.10. Tiaro locally managed marine area, East Guadalcanal

Tom Sotere, Tiaro

The Tiaro LMMA is located on the west coast of Guadalcanal. Logging is the main threat to the protected area. In response, the community has developed a management plan for Tiaro Bay, while the management committee has developed a specific plan for the harvest of trochus and has negotiated with the logging company to minimize damage to the reefs. One problem for the committee is that there are constant demands from the community to open the management area. The aim is to develop a benefit sharing system, in which money is set aside for the clinic, the school, the church and the management committee.

[Link: Presentation by Tom Sotere](#)

“ Our efforts have led to an increase in fish stock. Fish are now tame and easy to harvest. We now have an intact watershed. We are happy!

— Tom Sotere **”**

4.11 Managing water in an urban setting: Mataniko River

Robert Kaua, Tuvaruhu and Mataniko Multi-Ethnic Community Association (TMMECA)

The TMMECA was established in 1968 when people settled on the banks of the Mataniko River. In April 2014, floods in Honiara severely affected the community. The TMMECA has a subcommittee on health, environment and beautification, which looks after environmental management. The subcommittee organized an R2R cleanup campaign along the Mataniko River. The key challenge is to change people's attitudes on waste management through education and awareness programs.

[Link: Presentation by Robert Kaua](#)

“ CBRM is not a new thing. It is part of our culture and the wisdom of our ancestors: we have been practicing this for a long time.

— Peter Ramohia **”**

4.12 Lake Tegano World Heritage Site, East Rennell

George Tauika, Lake Tegano Management Committee

Rennell Island lies approximately 250 km southeast of Guadalcanal. Lake Tegano, which covers 34,100 ha, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998. It is the only World Heritage Site in Solomon Islands. In 2013, East Rennell was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger as a result of logging and mining activities. In 2017, the government organized a roundtable discussion to address these issues. Several measures were identified, including (1) promoting ecotourism, (2) developing sustainable livelihood projects, (3) banning logging in East Rennell and (4) upgrading airstrips and roads. So far, however, none of these recommendations has been implemented by the government.

[Link: Presentation by George Tauika](#)

“ Effective CBRM does not rely on the premier. It does not rely on the politicians. Hem no reli on oketa policies. Effective CBRM relies on the very person sitting next you: hem nao partner blo iu.

— Jackson Kiloe **”**



George Tauika.

4.13 Reef Islands awareness campaign

Eddie Pae, OceansWatch Solomon Islands (OWSI)

OWSI is working in Temotu Province. Its activities include (1) raising awareness of marine conservation, (2) protecting biodiversity, (3) supporting people's rights and (4) promoting sustainable development. OWSI is implementing a livelihood project focused on producing organic coconut oil. The high cost of traveling is one of the main challenges of working in Temotu.

[Link: Presentation by Eddie Pae](#)

4.14 Community assessment and management of reef fish for food security in Gizo

Jeremy Prince, Biospherics & Murdoch University

Providing science-based management advice is impossible for 90% of global fisheries. We need simple, cost-effective, approaches to inform CBFM. Overfishing is a big problem. Large fish have a high market value, but fish size has been decreasing in recent years across the Pacific. Setting and enforcing minimum size limits for fish, so-called "set sizes," is a solution to overfishing.

[Link: Presentation by Jeremy Prince](#)

“ *The reef is just like the garden. Eventually you reap what you sow.*

— *Jeremy Prince* **”**

4.15 Closing remarks

Peter Ramohia, Malaita Provincial Government

Provincial governments are often bypassed in decision-making processes on natural resource management; logging, for example, is facilitated by the national

government. In practice, provincial governments simply cannot say no to logging, so it is essential to devolve authority over natural resources to the provincial level. At the same time, provincial governments have to improve service delivery and coordination. Conflicts about land are hampering resource management. In Malaita, there are now more than 200 land dispute cases. To address this problem, the Malaita Provincial Government aims clarify and formalize tribal land ownership and strengthen local resource governance. Communities throughout Malaita are involved in CBRM. The *Solomon Star* newspaper and WorldFish have compiled cases from communities in Malaita that are actively managing their resources. It is my pleasure to present the first copies of this publication to all participants of the symposium.

[Link: Malaita Star Issue No. 7](#)

“ *Do not despair. We have a head, a heart and a pair of hands to make things happen.*

— *Peter Ramohia* **”**



Peter Ramohia.

Day 5: Public exhibition and closing

The last day of the symposium was hosted by the Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project of SPREP and the MECDM at the SINM.



Concluding remarks

Melchior Mataki, permanent secretary, MECDM

First of all, let me acknowledge you for your time, tireless efforts and contributions to make this national resource management symposium a success. I know that you shared a lot during the week and learned from each other under the theme "a decade of learning." I know that many of you have come from far and are spending time without your families to attend this symposium. I hope that you have learned something new to share with your people and will continue to encourage them to be good stewards and managers of our resources.

Many issues were raised by the participants of the symposium throughout the week. First, logging forms a major threat to our environment and biodiversity. This should be viewed as everyone's business. The political nature of this problem should not discourage us from supporting rural communities in the protection of their resources. Second, the government has limited capacity to assist communities in conservation programs. Third, registering land or sea under the Protected Areas Act 2010 proves to be a long and complicated process; however, I want to encourage communities to continue to send EOIs for support. Fourth, there is very limited assistance for communities to develop alternative livelihoods. This is mainly a result of the geographic challenges of the country and the government's limited budget. The government will work with NGOs and other donors to ensure that funding is equally disbursed to all CBOs with a conservation focus. Fifth, there are persistent concerns about illegal logging, the issuance of development consents and the conduct of EIAs. The responsible government authorities clearly have to step up and better support existing conservation efforts of communities. But in the end, resource owners are responsible and have to protect their resources. Sixth, on numerous occasions people voiced their concern about the efficiency and effectiveness of state institutions. It is important to see this with a long-term perspective. Much has been accomplished over the past decade: the establishment of the MECDM for example is a huge achievement. We have to see the positive transformations that are occurring and manage our expectations. Finally, the concentration of NGOs and research institutions in Western Province remains problematic. I urge people to work in the other provinces.

Partnerships between government ministries, NGOs, researchers, experts, landowners and communities is important to sustain CBRM and develop alternative

livelihood activities. It is a shared responsibility, but it will only work when communities take the lead and have ownership of the process. During the symposium, we were reminded on several occasions of the importance of involving women in decision-making processes and of investing in the new generation. We should also try to include business and the private sector in our networks. Research should be guided and supported by the national government and, vice versa, research should support government policies. We have to base our legislation and policies on scientific data and facts.

Political support for conservation is essential. The presence of two premiers and several provincial ward members proves that we have that support at the provincial level. The challenge now is to raise this campaign to the national level. It is my hope that you discovered during this symposium new ways to effectively and sustainably manage our natural resources, now and in the future. I wish you all well in your community undertakings and wish you a safe journey to your various homes and islands. I now officially close the 2017 National Resource Management Symposium.

"The social fabric and economy of our country is intricately dependent on nature and its resources."

— Melchior Mataki



Permanent Secretary Melchior Mataki.

[Link: Speech by Melchior Mataki](#)

"Conservation without development is sterile. Likewise, development without conservation is unsustainable."

— Melchior Mataki

CBRM awards

Melchior Mataki presented three awards to John Peter, Tony Atitete, and Tommy Esau and Esau Kekeubata in recognition of their efforts to promote CBRM.

Miss Nature pageant

The MECDM in collaboration with the PEBACC project organized the first Miss Nature pageant at the auditorium of the National Museum. Seven schools participated in the event: Honiara Senior High School, Bishop Epalle Catholic School, Chung Wah School, Woodford International School, Selwyn College, St. Nicolas College and Mbokonavera Community

High School. The objective of the beauty contest was to provide a space for students and youths to share experiences and stories on natural resource management. The contestants put on a striking show and highlighted key environmental messages for Solomon Islands.

“ We need an environment that allows for good and healthy living, an environment free from pollution and harm.

— Miss St. Nicholas ”



Selwyn College dance group.

Appendix 1. Organizing committee

The planning and organization of the National Resource Management Symposium was the collective effort of Wendy Polobeti, Trevor Maeda, Rosemary Apa and Agnetha Vave-Karamui (MECDM), Rosalie Masu, Duta Kauhiona, Assaneth Buarafi and Ivory Akao (MFMR), Senoveva Mauli and Corzzierrah Posala (SICCP), Delvene Boso and Chelcia Gomese (WorldFish), Fiona Rodie-Posala (CEPF), Shannon Seeto (WWF), David Boseto (ESSI) and Fred Pattison Siho (SPREP).



Tommy Esau and Esau Kekeubata receive a CBRM award.

Appendix 2. List of participants

No.	Name	Affiliation
1	Able Parasi	Takataka Eco-Village Conservation Foundation
2	Agnetha Vave-Karamui	MECDM
3	Alec Hughes	Coastal Marine Management
4	Alex Makini	SINU
5	Allan Tippet	TDA
6	Alpha Gelly	Saeraghi
7	Alwin Haron	Mbiche
8	Andre Rubo	ACMP
9	Andrew Hihiirua	Ta'arutona
10	Andrew Smith	WWF
11	Andrew Taraha	TEVCF
12	Anne-Maree Schwarz	Mekem Strong Solomon Islands Fisheries
13	Annie Denwer	ESSI
14	Annie Galo	KAWAKI
15	Apreku Kofi	SINU
16	Aram David	MFMR
17	Arte Loti	Mataniko Rehabilitation Project
18	Assaneth Buarafi	MFMR
19	Backlie Bernard	Lau Lagoon dance group
20	Basil Marasinghe	SINU
21	Ben Bilua	Island Sun
22	Ben Lakwai	Vugana Tripol Land Association
23	Ben Namo	Wai Hau
24	Ben Salepo	Vugana Tripol Land Association
25	Benjamin Waleilia	OKRONUS
26	Benny Paul	Lau Lagoon dance group
27	Beven Aiela	Augowok
28	Bryce Kanarani	KIBCA
29	Carlos Hiro	SINU
30	Cathy Pule	Kakau Tagasagina Clan Association
31	Corona Hite	Chubikopi
32	Chelcia Gomese	WorldFish
33	Chillion Panapasa	MFMR
34	Chris Bone	OceansWatch
35	Christian Ramofafia	MFMR
36	Corzzierah Posala	SICCP
37	Dafisha Aleziru	WWF
38	Danny Moffat	Lau Lagoon dance group
39	David Boseto	ESSI
40	David Hakezama	ESSI
41	David Japhelet	Malaita Provincial Government
42	David Kanto	Hatare
43	Debra Kereseka	MECDM
44	Dei Peter	Qoi Qoi
45	Delvene Boso	WorldFish
46	Diana Fisher	UQ

47	Donald Tahani	COYES
48	Douglas Yee	MECDM
49	Duddley Atu	Mehulio
50	Duta Kauhiona	MFMR
51	Eddie Hagasua	Kahua Association
52	Eddie Hunitara	-
53	Eddie Pae	OceansWatch
54	Eddyson Laulesi	-
55	Eden Boni	KAWAKI
56	Edmond Bate'e	University of Queensland
57	Edward Danitofea	MECDM
58	Elson Junior	Lau Lagoon dance group
59	Enoch Fa'abasu	MECDM
60	Enoch Leti	TDA
61	Eric Melson	Tasiboko
62	Eromae Jimmy	Arakao
63	Errinah Lawrence	Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association
64	Esau Kekeubata	Kwaina'a'isi Cultural Centre
65	Esau Tommy	Kwaina'a'isi Cultural Centre
66	Esther Lodu	Simbo
67	Evan Bulehite	KIBCA
68	Ezekiel Leghunau	MECDM
69	Felix Naitoro	Wai Hau Conservation Foundation
70	Felix Tavana	ESSI
71	Ferguson Vaghi	KIBCA
72	Ferish Rence	KIBCA
73	Ferral Lasi	MFMR
74	Fiona Meke	SINU
75	Fiona Oneia Ma'ahoro	Surairo
76	Fiona Posala	CEPF
77	Francis Pituvaka	MFMR
78	Frax Ramofafia	Naha Community High School
79	Frazer Kavali	MFMR
80	Fred Diau	Lau Lagoon dance group
81	Fred Iro	MFMR, Isabel Province
82	Fred Mamata	East Rennell World Heritage Site
83	George J. Gulaewole	Buloabu
84	George Lehe	TNC
85	George Tauika	East Rennell World Heritage Site
86	Georgina Boiboni	Vualvu
87	Glendel Moses	Tasiboko
88	Gordon D. Lilo	Gizo
89	Gordon Iro	Tavaro
90	Grace Orirana	WorldFish
91	Green Jino	Zaira
92	Gregory Bennett	WorldFish
93	Hara Woltz	AMNH
94	Helen Pippard	CEPF
95	Helen Teioli	WorldFish
96	Hellen Iratapas	-

97	Hemah Aquila	COYES
98	Henry Kaniki	ACMP
99	Hensllyn Boseto	ESSI
100	Hikuna Judge	Zaira
101	Holland John	Faith Garden
102	Holland Piokera	ESSI
103	Hubert Haehathe	Haervo
104	Hugh Govan	LMMA Network
105	Ikou Tigulu	ESSI
106	Irish Tenaha	East Rennell World Heritage Site
107	Ivory Akao	MFMR
108	Jackson Kiloe	Choiseul Provincial Government
109	Jan van der Ploeg	WorldFish
110	Janet Paebara	Sirubai Voko Tribe Association
111	Janet Vickers	Vulavu Village Mothers'Union
112	Japhet Agone	MFMR
113	Japhet Aujare	Isabel
114	Jeremy Prince	Murdoch University
115	Jerome Maesaa	MFMR
116	Jethro Kulebe	Vunivatu
117	Jim Damusaru	SINU
118	Joe Horokou	MECDM
119	Joe McCarter	AMNH – Wildlife Conservation Society
120	Joe Milark	-
121	John Fasi	SINU
122	John Legata	MFMR
123	John Limaito'o	Buiano
124	John Mark Osikalia	MFMR
125	John Nika	Arulage Sustainable Resources Management
126	John Pita	TNC
127	Johnson Haro	Baniata
128	Jointly Sisiolo	MECDM
129	Jolene McLellan	Solomon Islands Rangers Association
130	Jonathan Bwairi	Sirubai Voko Tribe Association
131	Josef Hurutaru	MECDM
132	Josiah Maesua	UNDP
133	Judah Viravira	MECDM
134	Kasaa Alafata	Kwaina'a'isi Cultural Centre
135	Keith Pratt	Kalina
136	Kemuel Satu	SINU
137	Kennedy Rohoi	COYES
138	Keziah Saepio	SINU
139	Komo Sale	Lau Lagoon dance group
140	Kristina Fidali	COYES
141	Lazarus Tave	Tiaro
142	Leanne Moses	Ambitona
143	Leedon Soga	-
144	Leila Galo	WorldFish
145	Leva Abel	Tasiboko
146	Lily Wheatley	MFMR

147	Lowson Kuku	Mbicche
148	M. Tsuo linuma	Japan International Cooperation Agency
149	Mae Thomas	Ta'arutona
150	Magret Tavake	Mothers' Union Vulavu
151	Magrette Menapi	MFMR
152	Mahane John	Wai Hau Conservation Foundation
153	Maitaki Thinking Ngiusanga	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
154	Malachi Tetetia	Central Province Fisheries Office
155	Mali Bero	TDA
156	Margaret Batalofo	WorldFish
157	Marsh Maebiru	MFMR
158	Martin Horihu'a	Warutana
159	Martin Jasper	MFMR
160	Martin Rasu	No. 3
161	Mary Bibi	Mataniko Rehabilitation Project
162	Mary Pako	Mataniko Rehabilitation Project
163	Master Brent	Thin Green Line
164	Mathew Isihanua	MFMR
165	Max Timothy	Kwaina'a'isi Cultural Center
166	Max Totorea	Wai Hau
167	Maxwell Ham	Aruligo
168	Melchior Mataki	MECDM
169	Melvin Zama	MECDM
170	Meshach Sukulu	WorldFish
171	Michael Kaiia	Lau Lagoon Dance Group
172	Michael Laumani	MFMR
173	Michael Pauote	Hahorarumu Uru Tribal Conservation Association
174	Michael Tefetia	MFMR
175	Micheal Mamaru Jr.	Kahua Association
176	Milton Kahe	Peava
177	Minnie Rafe	WWF
178	Mitsuo Iznomra	MFMR
179	Moana Tepuke	COYES
180	Morgan Jimaru	SICCP
181	Morris Houahe	Malaita Provincial Government
182	Moses Greg	Tasiboko
183	Moses Pema	ACMP
184	Mosese Steve	MFMR
185	Myknee Sirikolo	National Herbarium, MOFR
186	Nancy Diamana	MECDM
187	Nelson Kere	MFMR
188	Nesi Puia	East Rennell World Heritage Site
189	Newlyn Bana'a	TNC
190	Nicole Lowrey	WWF
191	Nixon Buka	SICCP
192	Patrick Kekea	Solomon Islands Development Trust
193	Patrick Magomoana	East Rennell World Heritage Site
194	Patrick Pikacha	ESSI
195	Patrick Rongomi	Tiaro
196	Paul Hurutarau	Waratana Association

197	Paul Jay	MFMR
198	Paul Ramo	-
199	Peter David	Tahiliu
200	Peter Holcombe	ESSI
201	Peter Kaia	Lau Lagoon dance group
202	Peter Kenilorea	MFMR
203	Peter Kovierove	Wai Hau
204	Peter Ramohia	Malaita Provincial Government
205	Peter Tahiliu	Apuapu
206	Philip Marupa	Kahua Association
207	Prem Rai	SINU
208	Priscillar Pitakaka	MFMR
209	Ray Pierce	OceansWatch
210	Raymond Amae	Lausia Conservation
211	Raymond Hauoro	Wai Hau Conservation Foundation
212	Remina Pati	Fumamato'o
213	Remmy Papae	SICCP
214	Rence Sese	WWF
215	Reuben Sulu	MFMR
216	Reuben Texas Tako	SICCP
217	Rhelstar Sore	COYES
218	Richard Makini	WWF
219	Rick Hamilton	TNC
220	Rieka Kwailai	MFMR
221	Robert Dalisaru	ESSI
222	Robert Kaua	Mataniko Rehabilitation Project
223	Robert Moyle	University of Kansas
224	Robson Hevalao	MFMR
225	Rolland Neio	WorldFish
226	Ronnelle Panda	MFMR
227	Ronnie Posala	WorldFish
228	Rosalie Masu	MFMR
229	Rose Babaua	MECDM
230	Rosemary Apa	MECDM
231	Rudy Bele	ACMP
232	Salome Makaana	-
233	Salome Topo	WWF
234	Saman Elisah	Lau Lagoon dance group
235	Sammy Airahui	MECDM
236	Samuel Hauoro	Mararo
237	Samuel Manetoali	MECDM
238	Scriven Eckan	Simbo
239	Senoveva Mauli	SICCP
240	Seth Kaukae	East Rennell World Heritage Site
241	Shane Tutua	SPE Consulting
242	Shannon Seeto	WWF
243	Siama Brian	TNC
244	Siapu Hugo	SINU
245	Sifo'oni Albert	Lau Lagoon dance group
246	Silas Laulifa	MFMR

247	Simon Albert	University of Queensland
248	Simon Vuto	TNC
249	Slade Ririmae	MECDM
250	Soanika John	Aruilage Sustainable Development Resources
251	Sophie Natu	MFMR
252	Stanley Fana Angouru	Angouru
253	Stanley Maena	Samasodu
254	Stanley Oru	Lau Lagoon dance group
255	Stenneth Ato	MFMR
256	Stephen Sutiagalo	Natural Resources Development Foundation
257	Steven Beven	Agouru
258	Steven Mauni	MFMR
259	Steward Piaitir Allan	Nalta Community High School
260	Sufia John	West Kwaio
261	Tambilyn Huka	Nusatuva
262	Tave Lazarus	Tiaro
263	Teramira Aberaam	KAWAKI
264	Tessa Minter	Leiden University
265	Thomas Mae	Susura
266	Toata Benny	Lau Lagoon dance group
267	Tom Sotere	Tiaro
268	Toma John	Lau Lagoon dance group
269	Tony Atitete	Mararo
270	Tony Heorake	SINM
271	Trevor Maeda	MECDM
272	Tyrone Lavery	Field Museum
273	Vaeno Vigulu	MOFR
274	Vahid Namo	Mai-Maasina Green Belt
275	Veira Pulekera	SICCP
276	Vivian Seku	COYES
277	Wendy Polobeti	MECDM
278	Whitney Kaibule	Chubikopi
279	William Pati	-
280	Willie Atu	TNC
281	Willie Kokopu	MFMR
282	Wilson Saeni	Solomon Star
283	Yasuharu Tamai	MFMR
284	Zania Teika	East Rennell World Heritage Site
285	Zelda Hilly	WWF



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SICCP
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SPREP
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