



CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



SOM19
2019

THE 19TH SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

Country Report:
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SOLOMON ISLANDS

Ronnelle Panda

Assistant Secretary Policy and Planning
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE | [DATE OF THE EVENT]

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The background of the slide is a photograph of an underwater scene. In the foreground, a large sea turtle with a patterned shell is swimming towards the right. In the background, a scuba diver is visible, illuminated by a bright light, swimming away from the viewer. The water is dark blue, and the seabed is covered in coral and other marine life.

Country Focal Points 2023-2024

WORKING GROUP	FOCAL POINT	AGENCY
National Coordination Committee	Trevor Maeda Principal Conservation Officer	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
Seascape	Trevor Maeda Principal Conservation Officer Fredrick Dotoh Senior Conservation Officer	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
EAFM	Faye Siota Deputy Director Inshore Fisheries Peter Husi'au'ana Kenilorea (Alternate) Chief Fishers Officer	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
MPA	Peter Husi'au'ana Kenilorea Chief Fisheries Officer Trevor Maeda (Alternate) Principal Conservation Officer	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
TSWG	Mr David Aram Principal Fisheries Officer Rose Babaua (Alternate) Chief Conservation Officer	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
CCA	Marlchom Row Senior Climate Change Officer	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology

WORKING GROUP	FOCAL POINT	AGENCY
FRWG	Vincent Maesiki Financial Controller	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
MEWG	Nelly Kere Chief Program Officer	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
	Martha Nonone M& E Officer	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
IRC	Karl Kuper Deputy Secretary Corporate Services	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
	Ronnelle Panda Assistant Secretary Policy and Planning	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
WLF	Nelly Kere Chief Programme Officer	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
CT Atlas	Reginald Rueben Chief GIS Officer	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
	Ronnie Posala Fisheries Officer	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
CTMPAS Nomination Committee		

A close-up photograph of a white flower with a purple insect, possibly a fly or a beetle, perched on its center. The petals are large and have a distinct ribbed texture. The background is dark, making the white petals and the purple insect stand out.

Country Profile

Country Profile

Biophysical profile: The Solomon Islands is a double-chained archipelago of approximately 990 islands. The country's total land area is only 28,000 (km²) and its oceanic area is vast , totaling 1,340.000 (km²)

- Coral reefs coverage: total coral reef area is 3,591 (km²)
- Coral diversity: 485 coral species to 76 genera observed in Solomon Waters and from the recent NatGeo Pristine Seas Science Expedition have discovered the largest single coral colony in the world at Three Sisters Island, Makira Ulawa Province, East Solomon Islands.
- Fish diversity: 1,019 fish species belonging to 82 families
- Marine mammal diversity: 8 whale species, 9 dolphin species, 1 dugong species, 5 species of turtle and one species of crocodile
- Mangrove: 32 species and occupy a total area of 65,000 ha
- Seagrass: 10 species and occupy 10,000 ha.
- Other threatened species of concern: sea cucumber, sharks and invertebrates



Country Profile

Socio-economic profile:

- Demographic: 756,673 in 2024, a 2.19% increase from 2023
- Male-female ratio: 105 males per 100 females
- GDP: 2203.18 USD (2023)
- Number of community living on the coastal zone: 80% of the population lived in around 4000 coastal communities around the nine provinces.
- Number of fisherfolk: 90% of men engaged in fishing and half of all women. Most rural fishers fish for local consumption and also sell for income at the rural areas and in urban areas.



Country Profile

Government profile:

NPOA Focal Areas:

Engagement of community and provincial government, Effective dialogue and decision making,
Capacity building for community base resource management

Policy and strategic management plans implemented, Education, Awareness, Data utilization,
Climate change adaptation at the coastal scale, Gender equity, Special management (Honiara
coastal management plan)

Large-scale ecoregions (Seascapes)

Regional engagement

Departments in charge for conservation activities:

- Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
- Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources

National trust fund related to conservation:

- Drafting instructions already prepared for a Protected Areas Trust Fund

Technical Working Groups' Progress/ Accomplishments Towards NPOA

Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

Relevant regulations for EAFM:

- Fisheries Management Act 2015
- Fisheries Management Regulations 2017
- Fisheries Management (Prohibited Activities) Regulations 2018

Activities organized/attended related to EAFM:

- Review of the Provincial Fisheries Ordinances
- Supporting communities to develop their Community Management Plans
- CBRM Awareness Programs_ Roll out of SOLWATA BLO UMI Program
- Launching of Fisheries Regulations Toolkit
- Workshop to review all Inshore Fisheries Management Plans

Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

- Challenges:
 - Lack of understanding on EAFM
 - Focus of national priority
 - Funding to support EAFM activities
 - Remoteness of some of the Islands



Marine Protected Area

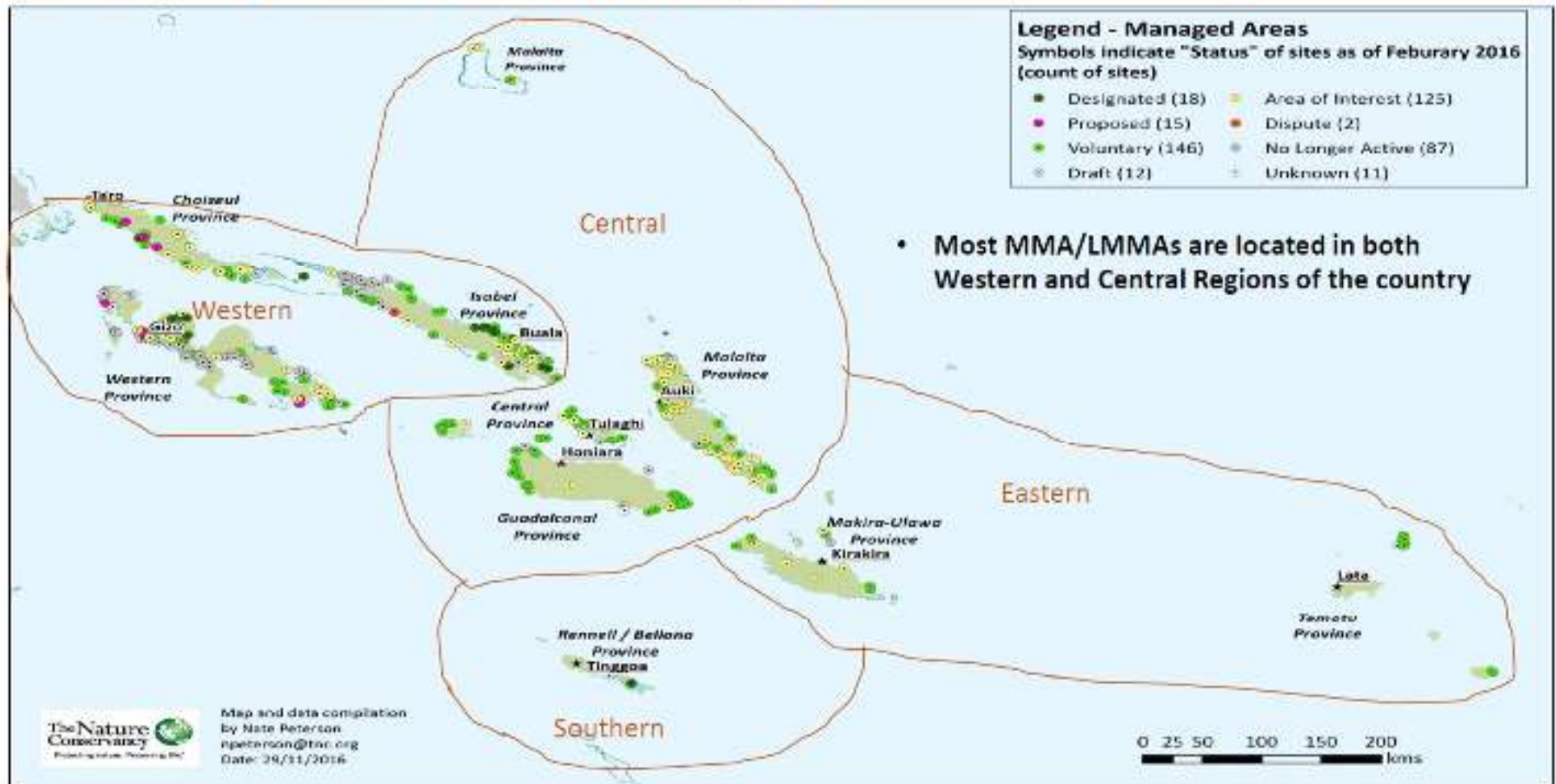
MPA gazetted: Arnavon Marine Conservation Area



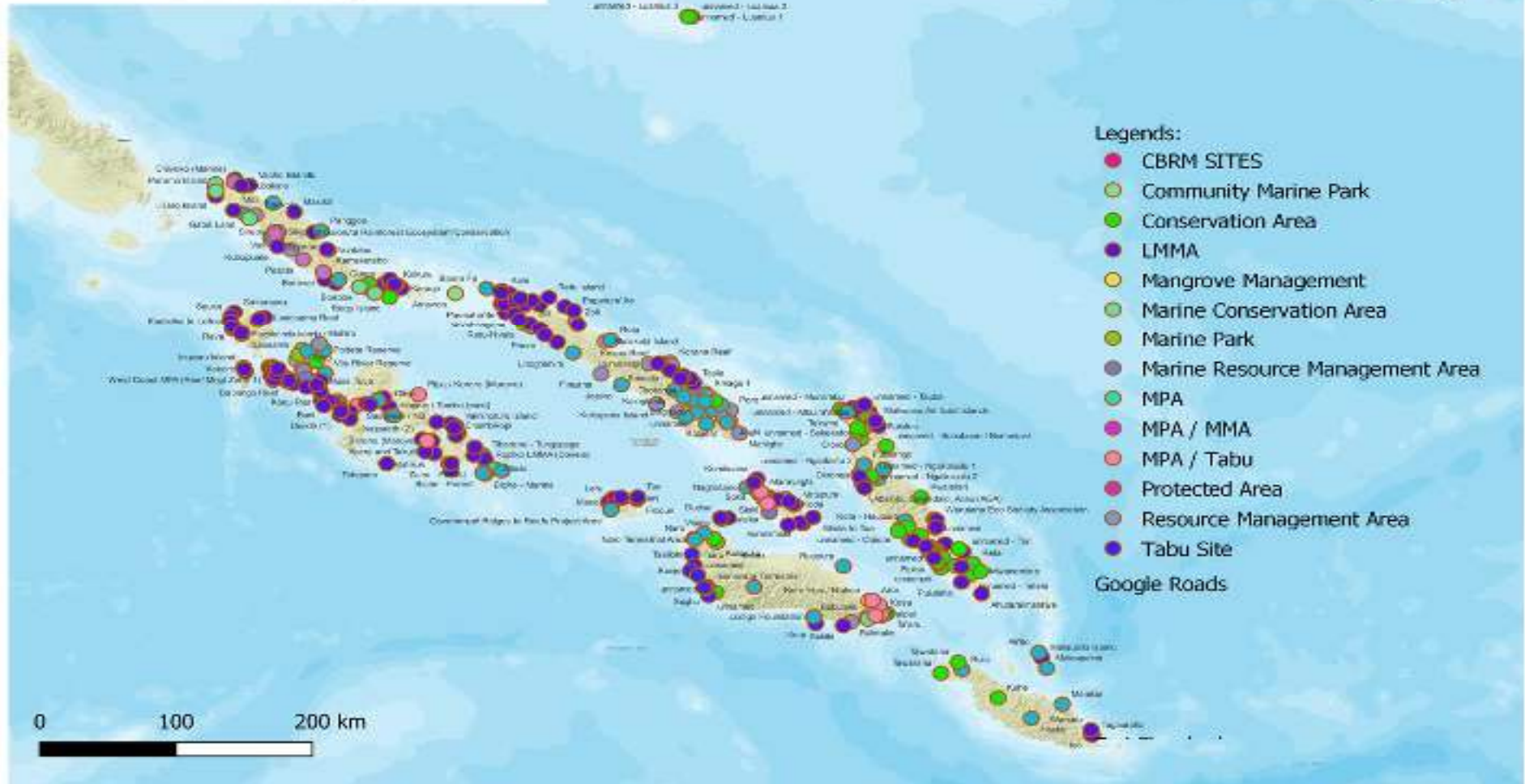
Proposed MPA to be Gazzetted : Kavachi Submarine Volcano



MMA Location & Distribution



Solomon Islands National CBRM Map



Marine Protected Area

Activities organized/attended related to MPA

1. MPA Regional exchange and MPA Technical Working Group
2. Conduct community consultations to establish MPA
3. Conduct Baseline Surveys and Monitoring
4. Management Effectiveness Assessment Guide for MMAs (Draft)



Climate Change Adaptation

Existing vulnerability studies:

- Climate Change Division (MECDM) has conducted Solomon Islands Integrated Vulnerability Assessment on 4 of the 9 provinces of Solomon Islands.
- MECDM in partnership with UNDP & DFAT launched the Climate Digital Transparency System known as the Integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Verification.

Relevant regulations for CCA:

- Review and **launched** the National Climate Change Policy
- Currently working on a draft Climate Change Legislation for SI

Activities organized/attended related to CCA:

- Solomon Islands also participated in the COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

Climate Change Adaptation

Challenges;

- SI is geographically scattered and the most vulnerable communities are located in the most remote areas that make it difficult to implement CCA Interventions.
- National Resilience Development Framework is yet to be developed
- Budgetary constraints (as usual) – Development Budgets from the National government budgetary support.
- Adaptation and mitigation measures are being implemented with mostly support from global funding mechanisms such as Global Environment Facility, Least Developed Country Fund. Project based intervention therefore it can be adhoc basis and lack of continuity of the project activities mostly due to budget limitations from the National government.
- Sustainability of interventions (adaptation and mitigation) in the long term (most are project based)
- Climate change impacts intricately tied to development challenges (e.g. geographical setting, land tenure systems, cultures, socioeconomic hardship)
- There are still gaps in our understanding of climate change impacts therefore need more awareness and work to be done.

Seascapes

- SOMACORE Project
- Pacific Biodiversity Program
- Marine Spatial Planning
- National Ocean Policy Implementation



Seascapes

Challenges:

- Remoteness of the Islands
- Budgetary Constraints
- Threat from unsustainable development practices e.g Logging and Mining



Threatened Species

Activities organized/attended related to protection of Threatened Species:

1. Finalization of Sharks National Plan of Action
2. Deep Saltwater Management Plan Launched
3. Conducting National Assessments



A photograph of an underwater coral reef. The foreground is dominated by a large, brown, branching coral structure. Above it, there are various other coral species, including some with pink and white hues. In the background, a scuba diver is visible, swimming towards the right. The water is clear and blue.

Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

Tools of Monitoring

1. Reports from Officer
2. Rangers
3. Community Representatives
4. Stock Assessments



Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

Challenges:

- Insufficient funding to conduct M&E activities
- Inadequate human resource to conduct to carry out M&E
- SI islands are geographically scattered making it difficult in terms of logistics and financial support therefore it requires a lot of \$\$\$ and planning to conduct M&E

A close-up photograph of a purple spider on a white flower. The spider is positioned in the center of the frame, with its legs spread out. The flower's petals are large and white, with a prominent vein pattern. The background is dark, making the spider and the flower stand out.

Potential Regional Program and Support Required

Potential Regional Program and Support Required

- SOMACORE GIZ project
- MACBLUE GIZ Regional Project
- Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change phase 2
- Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-Scapes Programme (Pacific Bioscapes).
- Coral Reef Rescue Initiative
- Blue Nature Alliance Solomon Islands Engagement Project



An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef. The water is clear and blue. In the foreground, there are large, textured coral structures in shades of brown, orange, and green. A large school of small, dark fish is swimming in the background, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall scene is rich in marine biodiversity.

Story from the Field

Story from the Field

A team of Scientists from the National Geographic Pristine Seas Science Expedition conducted a marine survey on the status of the ocean health in Oct – Nov 2024. They discovered the largest single coral colony in the world. The coral colony is *Pavona clevus* spp. The coral measures: width 34m, length 32m, height 5.5m and its circumference 183m. It is found at Malaulalo, Three Sisters Island, Makira Ulawa Province. It is found within the Coral Triangle Scientific Boundary.



An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is dominated by a large, flat, brownish-orange coral structure in the center. Below it, there's a large, white, textured coral formation. The background is a deep blue, with many small fish swimming around. The overall lighting is dim, typical of an underwater environment.

Thank You

COUNTRY REPORT – Solomon Islands

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