



NATIONAL CAPACITY SELF-ASSESSMENT PROJECT



NCSA REPORT 2008



Prepared by Nesta L Leguvaka & Milton Keremama

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Source: MAPQUEST: World Atlas
<http://atlas.mapquest.com>

Acronyms

AUSAID	Australian Aid
BD	Biodiversity
CC	Climate Change
CCD	Climate Change Division
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative
DAL	Department of Agriculture and Livestock
DME	Department of Mines and Energy
CBO	Community Based Organisation
ECANSI	Environmental Concerns Action Network of Solomon Islands
ECD	Environment & Conservation Division
EU	European Union
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
MEAs	Multi-Lateral Agreements
MET	Ministry of Education & Training
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment Project
NDC	National Disaster Council
NECDAP	National Environmental & Capacity Development Action Plan
NGO	Non Government Organisation
PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change
POWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
RAMSI	Regional Assistance to Solomon Islands
SD	Sustainable Development
SICHE	Solomon Islands College of Higher Education
SIEA	Solomon Islands Electricity Authority
SIFMPPII	Solomon Island Forestry Management Project Phase II
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SILMMA	Solomon Islands
SNC	Second National Communications Project
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific
WWF	World Wide Fund

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The staffs of UNDP, both the sub-country office in the Solomon Islands and the Fiji office have been instrumental in the facilitating of funds and monitoring of the whole project. They have also helped with the disbursement and payment of funding requests, financial reporting as well as facilitating the Annual Tripartite Project Reviews which is an important component of the project.

Global Environment Facility for providing funding for such important projects such as the NCSA. Without such fundings and aid from the members of the GEF, least developed countries like Solomon Islands would not be able to take stock of the environmental problems and gaps and may pose bigger problems not only for its people but for developed countries as well.

The members of the Technical Working Group have been very accommodating and have provided the necessary support and tasks that were requested of them over the course of the project life. With the ideas, information, suggestions, discussions and questions rendered have helped to shape and direct the project. Without your backing, the project would not be where it is now and not with an action plan that truly reflects the needs that this country has in the environment and capacity sectors.

And lastly, mention should go to the Minister, Permanent Secretary, Directors and Staff of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Meteorology for the continuous input, support and direction needed to have this very important project completed.

The Project Implementation Unit would like to thank you for the generous contributions one way or the other you have rendered. Your contributions will continue to be reflected in the future decisions our leaders will take to make sure that our environment is soundly looked after for the good of the future generations of our beloved Solomon Islands.

Objectives of the NCSA Report

The NCSA Resource Kit states that the NCSA Report is:

1. To provide a summary of all NCSA findings and document the process by which they were reached, including stakeholder participation;
2. To communicate NCSA conclusions to the following groups and promote their on-going involvement in NCSA implementation, monitoring and evaluation:
 - High-level officials, including politicians and senior managers;
 - Key stakeholders and opinion-makers; and
 - Potential partners and donors, including the GEF, other bilateral, regional and multilateral donor organisations, both government and non-government.

Executive Summary

The National Capacity Self- Assessment Project [NCSA] is a national project of the Solomon Islands Government funded by the Global Environment Facility [GEF]. The Department of Environment and Conservation of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology is responsible for the execution of the project and UNDP the Implementing agency.

The main objective of the project is to carry out a series of assessments to determine the gaps within the environmental and capacity arenas and to produce an action plan aiming at countering the gaps identified in the assessments.

Solomon Islands like many developing nations across the globe are signatories to the Rio Conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) but have not delivered some of the obligations that the country acceded to in the Conventions. Thus the vision for this whole NCSA exercise is to assess and identify the gaps and plan actions to counter the gaps that exist within the environmental and capacity agenda in Environmental Management in the Solomon Islands.

In the Course of the Project, three stock take Reports were undertaken covering the three Focus Areas on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation. Follow-up assessments were done on the same three focus areas and as a result three Thematic Assessment Reports were published. A Cross-cutting Report was then published which highlighted the gaps and constraints that were common across the three different thematic areas. Finally, a National Action Plan was then drawn up in which suggested actions were recommended and targeted at countering the gaps that were highlighted in the previous assessments.

With the Assessments that were carried out, it was highlighted that there were issues that were common in the three different focus areas and these include:

- Poor governance;
- Ineffective legislation and policy framework;
- Institutional, technical and capacity weaknesses;
- Lack of public awareness & information sharing for sound environmental management & decision making;
- Lack of scientific knowledge of and research into Solomon Islands environmental issues including sustainable development, impacts of climate change and biodiversity;
- Lack of mainstreaming environmental considerations, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development across government programmes;
- Poor technology transfer and development;
- Gaps in human capacity and development; and
- Limited access to financial mechanisms and lack of financial and economic incentives

It was also highlighted that the environmental problems were exacerbated by other contributing factors that continues to underpin the management of resources as well as the environment in the Solomon Islands. This includes our scattered geography, fast growing population and our traditional owned land tenure system.

1:0 Introduction

1.1 National context and sustainable development challenges

Latest estimates for Solomon Islands total population now sits at 600,000 living in the nine provinces of Malaita, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Western, Makira, Choiseul, Temotu, Central and Rennell Bellona. Rural population accounts for 85% of this population who rely heavily on their natural resources for both consumption, agricultural and development purposes. The remaining percentage accounts for those that live on the urban areas. Although the urban population who accounts for 25% of the total population of the nation reside in the urban areas, there is still strong evidence that there is high dependency and reliance on produces from the rural areas thus still pose a high threat on our resources, biodiversity and food security.

Richly blessed with both marine and terrestrial resources that are prone to being exploited due to increasing demand for cash as societies divert to cash economy and the need for basic necessities even in the rural areas, Solomon Islands is in dire need of having a population that not only views resources as money sources but that the protection and management of those resources is of paramount essence to their very own existence too.

Solomon Islands is a country that relies very much on its natural resources for its revenue. Infact, there is urgent need to deviate from relying heavily on natural resources and explore other means of generating income for the government such as service industries like tourism which have not been fully assessed and accessed although there is the potential with our natural beauty, diverse cultures and historical past that can be fully marketed to the outside world. Also there is a need to delve into more manufacturing industries to alleviate the pressure placed on our natural resources.

The management of these resources had been and may likely to cause rift in the families, communities and societies and if not managed properly may be likely to contribute to the downfall of the livelihood of the people of Solomon Islands as 85 per cent of the population are rural based and depend largely on these very land and resources for their basic survival. With the customary land tenure system here in Solomon Islands, negative impacts are emerging, families and clans fight for rights to lands when developments take place on their customary lands. This in the long run might pose a bigger social problem for the government and the communities to deal with.

Solomon Islands like other developing countries needs to have its institutional, systemic and individual capacities properly assessed, not only in the environmental related sectors but in all aspects of the government and the non government organisations' mechanisms to ensure that proper management of the country's limited resources are well managed under well versed officers and with laws and regulations that are not in conflict with sustainable practices and needs that ensure people's livelihoods are long term and meaningful.

1.2 National Sustainable Development and Environmental Management Agenda

The Environment Agenda in the Solomon Islands takes a low priority in both the National and Provincial Governments development plans until recently. It is often considered as a non profit making area thus financial allocation priorities are often awarded to Ministries and Departments that are considered profitable like the ministries of Mines, Forests and Fisheries. This has impacted on the performance and outputs from the Environment and Conservation Division who is responsible for implementing and executing most of the environmental activities in the country. Resources needed for the Department are often very limited, logistic needed for assessments are often overlooked and neglected; number of staff allocated to the department is low and thus activities and work programs often slow and non progressive.

Solomon Islands is a country endowed with rich terrestrial and marine resources. It is one of the countries in the Pacific that enjoys an accessible responsibility to a number of terrestrial and marine resources some of which need urgent actions to protect. In terms of plant diversity in rainforest ecoregions, Solomon Islands has been described as one of the world's great centres of plant diversity. And lately, Solomon Islands has been added to the countries, Philippines, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea which form the Coral Triangle, comprised of countries that have the highest marine biodiversity in the world. Solomon Islands boast the second highest number of flora and fauna behind Papua New Guinea. This information not only underpins the richness of our biodiversity but the responsibility that is placed on the people and the government of Solomon Islands for proper management of the natural resources.

The need to focus on the notion of sustainability and proper management of the environment and the resources can not be over mentioned in the Solomon Islands. The forest sector repeatedly reports of gross harvesting of trees and loss of money and revenue through illegal and dubious dealings. With proper and hard-line leadership the current trend of loss would be avoided thus leading to the government and more especially the resource owners receiving their fair share of harvesting the forests.

Non Government Organisations have been quite vocal about the need for sustainable harvesting of the resources. This has led to some awareness and researches being done to help gauge and support the need for proper managing of resources as vital for communities who rely very much on the resources.

1.3 Commitment to Global and Regional Environmental Agendas on Climate Change, Conservation of Biological Diversity and Combating Land Degradation

Solomon Islands is a signatory to a number of Multi-Lateral Agreements [MEAS] including a number of United Nations Rio conventions. The NCSA Project focuses on three main environmental conventions; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). Although the focus is on these conventions there are a number of cross-cutting issues that share the same sentiments and issues with other Agreements and steps have been taken in the whole process of the project to capture the issues and gaps related to those Agreements but not necessarily come under the three United Nations Conventions.

1.3.1 Climate Change

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology recently established a Climate Change Division (CCD) within the Ministry to oversee the climate change issues in the country. The Division is currently recruiting officers for both the Division and the Climate Change Projects in the country.

The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) is near completion and it should provide the urgent adaptation actions the requirements for the vulnerable communities and sectors.

The Second National Communication project is currently recruiting personnel and the project is just about launched. This provides the vehicle for reporting the climate change issues and actions the country does to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) is just about to be completed and has worked closely with the NCSA Project team for feeding of information and areas that need the inputs of the NCSA Project.

1.3.2 Biodiversity

Biodiversity Issues in the Solomon Islands continue to rise as resource harvesting continue to rise. From logging, focus is now on mining which will continue to underpin the issues of biodiversity loss.

National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) Document is currently being developed. It should provide the actions necessary for addressing biodiversity issues in the country. This NBSAP is a mandatory requirement under the UNCBD Obligations.

Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), a political initiative by leaders of Indonesia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, east Timor and Solomon Islands is currently being undertaken by the Environment & Conservation Division. This project aims at conserving the seascapes and marine areas within the sea areas of the countries.

Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA) is another project currently being implemented in the Environment & Conservation Division. It aims to gauge actions to better establish, manage and protect areas of biodiversity significance in the country.

1.3.3 Land Degradation

Large Agricultural developments including plantation farming coupled with subsistence farming practices against the backdrop of high population have contributed considerably to land degradation and unsustainable land management practices. This has implications on some communities' food security and the need for proper management of land in our country and especially in the urban areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has just completed the National Action Plan (NAP) and this should pave the means for actions and programmes that should counter land management issues that is prevalent in the Solomon Islands.

Sustainable Land Management project is currently being implemented in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

2.0 NCSA - Purpose, approach, stakeholder participation and outputs

2.1 Purpose and approach

The whole purpose of the NCSA Project is for a baseline assessment of the capacity gaps and constraints in the Institutional, Systemic and Individual levels and an action Plan to counter those gaps be drawn up for implementation to ensure proper and better management of our resources and the environment.

The approach by which the NCSA Project advanced with was with close collaboration with the Line Ministries, Non-Government Organisations and Community-Based Organisations as well as the Provincial Governments. The result has been an ongoing input, advice and direction where all those stakeholders that had participated in the course of the project had contributed to. This has led to a cross-sectoral contribution to the reports.

2.2 Stakeholder participation

A Stakeholder list was drawn up right at the inception of the project. Consideration surmounted to those organizations, departments, divisions that was thought to have an interest or stake in the NCSA purpose and objectives. Confirmation of participation was sealed during the inception workshop which was held at the outset of the project implementation. This was to have the project introduced to the stakeholders. Key stakeholders as well as those that had interest in capacity building were invited to the inception workshop in which the project objectives was introduced and processes explained and outlined with the links to other existing projects highlighted. NCSA TWG Consists of most of the stakeholders if not all.

2.3 NCSA Project Outputs

The project outputs are captured in this matrix and they include:

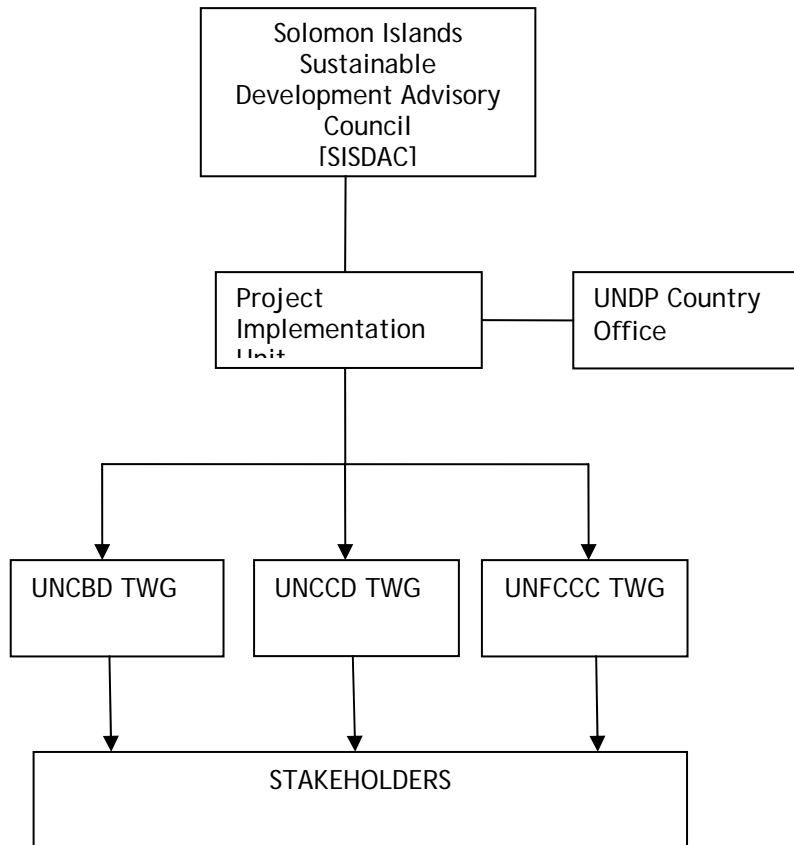
NCSA Components	Projected Outputs
Inception	An inception report produced
Stock Take	3 stock take reports produced [Biodiversity, Climate Change & Land Degradation]
Thematic Assessments	3 Thematic Reports produced [Biodiversity, Climate Change & Land Degradation]
Cross- Cutting Analysis	1 report produced
Action Plan Document	1 report produced
Terminal Report	1 report produced
Monitoring & Evaluation	1 report produced

2.3.1 Inception

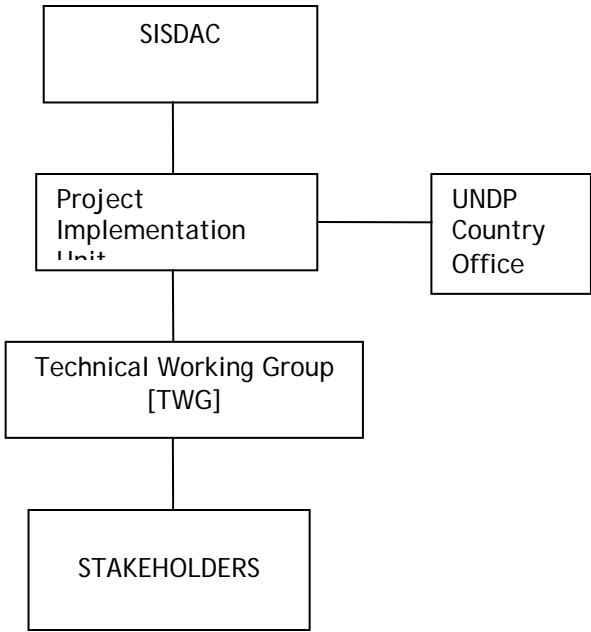
The Inception Component of the NCSA Project took awhile to complete as recruitment processes were adhered to with the recruitment of a coordinator and an assistant to man the project office. This was followed by familiarizing of the project processes by the coordinators and a workshop to formally introduce the project to the stakeholders. Also involved in this process was the formation of a Technical Working Group [TWG] and the setting up of office within the Department of Environment & Conservation.

Initially the NCSA Structure proposed was as follows but then having met and discussed the work load of those present as well as the close interaction and interrelation of the issues in the three Thematic Areas, it was proposed and accepted that the structure be amended and have one Technical Working Group (TWG) to avoid heavy commitment to meetings as well as consistency in the information regarding the three thematic areas for easy cross-cutting assessment. This proved to be fruitful for the project as we were dealing with the same people who had a cross section of the issues prevalent to thematic areas as well as an insight into the issues confined to the three different thematic areas.

Proposed Structure:



Amended Structure



2.3.2 Stock Take Reports

The stock take component of the NCSA Process basically aimed at doing a baseline assessment of work related to the three conventions, UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD, what has been done and what has not been done, by whom and to what extent were some of the questions raised during this component. This was aimed at ascertaining the degree of work carried out in terms of implementing the obligations under the Rio conventions.

The stock take reports were done by both local consultants and international consultants. Given the time the project had at that time, selection was based on both the availability of the consultants to do the work as well as their experience and knowledge of the environment sector and issues in the Solomon Islands as well as confirming to the Stock Take Assessment TOR.

Drafts were distributed to the members of technical Working Group followed by a meeting whereby members of TWG would comment, amend and edit the documents. The draft would then be returned to the consultants along with the suggestions on amendments and comments. When changes are done, the document is again circulated to the TWG for final perusal. It would be considered final if all approved of the report. This was the process that the project team took to ensure that the documents are widely circulated and commented upon to reflect the factual information in the three different thematic areas.

Three stock take reports were produced covering the three different conventions of UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD.

2.3.3 Thematic Assessments

The thematic assessments were done fairly quickly. Following the presentation of the Stocktake drafts in a national workshop to gauge the participants' final views on the draft, the workshop also looked at the issues that were highlighted in the reports and used those issues as the basis for the discussions and work on the Thematic Assessments using the Problem Tree Analysis tool. This was a very successful exercise as the issues were discussed at length to ascertain the causes, the effects and the impacts and then went on to look at the possible actions to counter the issues.

In the ensuing discussions during the thematic assessment a series of capacity and environmental issues some of which has been raised in several sectoral reports were highlighted and that there is evidence that little has been implemented to seriously tackle the issues that are prevalent in the country.

The NCSA Project in its Thematic Assessments of the main Thematic Areas of Climate Change, Land Degradation and Biodiversity highlighted the following issues:

The fact that there is a high vulnerability and low mitigation actions in place was one problem that Thematic Assessments covered. With UNFCCC, highlighted were a range of issues that is posing threats to peoples' livelihood, health and land availability not to mention infrastructure even in places like Honiara.

Under UNCCD three main causes of land degradation were identified, these include unsustainable logging activities, commercial farming and changes to subsistence farming practises. This continues to pose threat to people's food security, land fertility and reusing of land as well as crop yields.

Loss of biological diversity from unsustainable use of forest and marine resources, over exploitation, habitat modification and destruction, introduction of new species and illegal wild life trade were some of the issues discussed under the UNCBD

2.3.4 Cross Cutting Assessment

The cross-cutting draft was done by the same consultants who carried out the thematic assessments. Engaging the same consultants to look at the three different thematic areas and then focusing down on the issues that cuts across the three thematic areas proved to be a worthwhile process, not only cutting down the time needed to carry out this assessment but also provided the needed focus on the issues that cut across the 3 thematic areas. This really pushed the project timeline forward which was a plus for the PMU.

3.0 National Environmental Capacity Development Action Plan

3.1 Purpose of the Capacity Development Action Plan

The *National Environmental and Capacity Development Action Plan 2008 -2010* captures the different actions that when implemented will counter the existing gaps and constraints as identified in the baseline assessments as well as the thematic assessments previously carried out earlier in the project implementation period.

The NCSA action Plan, formally known as the *National Environmental Capacity Development Action Plan 2008-2012 or NECDAP* for short, was the final outcome of the NCSA process.

The involvement and inputs from a wide range of NGO's and government sectors with support from UNDP and SPREP experts and resource personnel over three year period has culminated in the completion of the NECDAP, a document containing appropriate actions for addressing the capacity constraints with regards to the proper management of the environment of Solomon Islands.

The actions if exercised should fulfil the following guiding principles:

- Strengthen and enhance existing environmental mechanisms
- Have a positive affect on community livelihood and builds ownership and commitment
- Address priority obligations in terms of international commitments of national importance to Solomon Islands
- Help to build peace and security in Solomon Islands
- Address low, medium and high priorities over long and short term periods
- Enhance social, economic and environmental status
- Enhance human and institutional capacity
- Strengthen environmental governance

3.2 The Action Plan Matrix - A tool for implementation, monitoring and evaluation

The NECDAP is presented in a matrix for easy referencing. The Actions are being placed under the five different goals not necessarily under the conventions. The NECDAP listed 13 outcomes,

32 outputs and 115 actions spreading over 5 goals, which encompass synergistic and cross-cutting themes that were identified in the NCSA process.

The 5 goals are as follows:

1. Good governance and environmental stewardship at national and provincial level in Solomon Islands.
2. Strengthen research, development and monitoring capacity to address priority environmental issues and institutional obligations.
3. Expand training and education opportunities to increase environmental management capacity.
4. Environment conducive to development and transfer of appropriate technologies.
5. International, regional and national environmental agenda effectively managed and implemented.

Some actions have been mainstreamed into national plans of various government departments and institution and have already been implemented, as some of these activities require urgent attention. Some actions are currently being carried out whilst other actions are yet to be fulfilled as a variety of factors including resources and funding availability may have influenced delay. However, there is expected to be in place assessment at the end of the fifth year to gauge the progress of the activities indicated in the NECDAP.

The NECDAP has not prioritised the actions as the TWG and the stakeholders when deliberating on the priorities in one of the workshops decided that we were not in a position to prioritise the actions as most of the actions were in their own right a priority for the different stakeholders. And that prioritising them might attract misinterpretation of the said priorities to those of the Government of the day's policy programmes.

3.3 Institutional arrangements for implementation of the Action Plan

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Meteorology will play the leading role to have the NECDAP implemented as the Focal Points for UNCBD and ENCBD is with the Environment & conservation Division and the Climate Change is with the Climate Change Division. Also, the Ministry has the underlying role for all environment related issues and developments in the country as covered under the Environment Act 1998.

Preparations are underway to have the NECDAP endorsed by the Cabinet and launched thereafter.

3.4 Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

4.0 Other benefits derived from implementation of the NCSA Project

Although the NCSA is an enabling project, measures were taken so that capacity gaps that are of urgency are addressed. Trainings on Project Management Cycle including PRINCE 1, Problem Tree Assessments, as well as Log frame Approach were done within the course of the project. Not only were the trainings projected for the project officers and the Technical Working Group Members but other personnel from other Government Ministries and Departments as well as a number of NGOs were also included in the series of trainings. This has deemed very successful by the participants and requests for further trainings of this nature has been requested by some government ministries.

The Action Plan although still in draft, formed the basis for some of the immediate activities that the Environment & Conservation formulated to go towards the Ministry's Corporate Plan 2008-2010. This itself is an achievement as it is a start to the usage of the AP as a document to counter the existing gaps within the Ministry.

The State of the Environment Report for the Solomon Islands is also currently being worked on as a result of the NCSA mentioning it as one of the overdue reports that needs to be done.

Networking for the project eventuated to the members being part of other projects stakeholders. For example, the NCSA Technical working group has been requested to sit as the Advisory Team for both the NAP Project and the SLM Project in the Agriculture Department.

The project has also helped to forge some of the mandated work for the ECD especially in terms of providing information and awareness. In some of the workshops attended by the project officers, roles and functions of the ECD were highlighted as well as the shortcomings were explained as well. This has helped put in perspective some of the misconceptions that certain organizations and individual has about the division.

5.0 Main Environmental Issues, Gaps and Capacity Needs identified in past national reports and through the NCSA Project

5.1 Climate Change

Climate Change is an issue that is of dire threat to the Solomon Islands. Most recently it has become an issue that has taken the forefront in most communities in the country as many of the villages are located on coastal areas and rely very much on the marine resources for both means of food and cash resource commodity. Some communities are clearly seeing the impacts of sea level rise especially on the immediate environment and the marine ecosystems that could further exacerbate the hardship the coastal people have on the impacts of sea level rise.

Directly and indirectly the impacts and effects of climate change and sea level rise will adversely impact on most of the population regardless of where they reside whether it be on the coastal areas or inland. Coastal erosion and sea level rise is evident in the coastal areas, salt water inundation affecting crops inland in low land islands is also evident as well as a change to weather and climatic patterns has impacted on crops thus food security is a serious issue in most islands as most are low lying islands.

5.2 Conservation of Biological Diversity

The need to conserve the biological diversity which in some cases and locations is unexplored can not be over stressed in the Solomon Islands context. Development and extraction of logs have contributed very much to the removal of some of the flora and fauna and in some locations have posed a dire need for restoration of some of the flora and fauna into the local environments.

5.3 Land Degradation

Land Degradation in the Solomon Islands is an issue that is encroaching on the livelihoods of the people especially in the rural areas and in terms of food security, for both the rural and the urban populations. Farmers are reported to have run out of arable land especially for agricultural purposes. This is due to high population density in some areas so a lack of space for more garden spaces thus cultivate same areas for prolonged periods thus less yield.

6.0 Cross-cutting Capacity and Environmental Issues

6.1 Education, Awareness and Training

Education, identified as one key component that needs inter-sectoral management, the need for more trained personnel on the different speciality areas within the environment scene is very evident. With a mass recruitment exercise that the Environment & Conservation Department did in the 2007/8 period it is evident that the Department is starting to function on a better footing.

Awareness is an important component that should be a forefront activity if information is to get to the different stakeholders. The type of information that needs to get to the people, tailored to the different needs of the stakeholders. There is a need to train advocators to give out proper awareness programs.

Training Identified as one key component that needs inter-sector management, the need for more trained personnel on the different speciality areas of the environmental area are very evident. With a mass recruitment exercise that the Environment & Conservation Department did in the 2007/8 period that the Department is starting to function on a better footing.

6.2 Knowledge Management

There is no doubt a lot of local knowledge is available in the Solomon Islands but not coordinated thus recorded for the purpose of making sure that such information and knowledge is recorded and stored. This was highlighted not only the Thematic Reports but also in the series of workshops and meetings that were held.

6.3 Mainstreaming Environmental Management

Based on the findings and reports in the Stocktake and Thematic Assessments as well as the discussions that there needs to be a coherent mainstream of environmental management in the country. There is evidence that different sectors are doing their 'business as usual' activities and programs not including environment consideration in their activities. This was highlighted in the provinces as lack of information

6.4 Resource Mobilization

The Resource Mobilisation Strategy includes the responsible monitoring mechanisms thus have means of verification, means of intervention, performance indicators and assumptions.

6.5 Research and Technology Transfer

There is concern that researches done here in the Solomon Islands is not coordinated properly especially between the MECM and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources.

6.6 Waste management

Waste Management Issues are addressed in an adhoc sectoral based activities thus holistic coordinated activities are not done leading to many excellent activities short lived and short

termed. In most cases, NGOs take on waste management projects but funding runs out, the efforts are abandoned thus most of the time activities are left incomplete. It would be viable and long term for the Government to take the lead to managing waste issue in the Solomon Islands. With the recruitment of more officers in the ECD, waste management effort initiatives like the National Waste Management Strategy recently drawn up with funding donors like JICA and SPREP.

7.0 Lessons Learnt from the NCSA Project

7.1 Implementing the various stages of the NCSA Project

The PIU had to make necessary adjustments to the suggested processes and procedures to cater for the needs of the project given the time frame we had as well as the members of the TWG who in their own capacity as Directors within the Government and Managers of NGOs had little time to focus on extra tasks.

7.2 Technical assistance and back-stopping

UNDP Country Office has been very encouraging with the support that the NCSA Project has sought.

The financial arrangement that the project office and the UNDP Office is such that works well but needs frequent updating to enable both offices to keep track of expenses and expenditures. This arrangement in which the funding is being looked after by the UNDP Accounts relieves the task of the project assistant as the task that the office does is raising requests, the processing is done by UNDP so less task for the Project Office.

UNDP Staff especially those at the Environment Section has been very supportive and has provided the necessary advises and backstopping needed by the office. This is shown tremendous achievement of the project in the outputs that the office has put out.

SPREP since the inception of the project has been providing consistent backstopping to the project, from inception right to the closure of the project. Without this kind of support such projects like NCSA will not last, will not be able to deliver the expected outputs and make efforts meaningless for funding bodies.

Some lessons that the project team would like to share include:

1. That management training is done to both the project Team and the stakeholders and those responsible for monitoring the project to ensure consistency and that those involved in the project knows the different management skills that the project undertakes.
2. Also with some of the assessments, same consultants could undertake the assessments under one contract. This not only ensures that the assessments are consistent but can be delivered as one output saving time from advertisements, contracting and following up different consultants working on the different assessments.

8.0 Recommendation

With the need to manage the resources in a sustainable manner, with the need for proper legal and social responsibility of our resources the NECDAP should provide a comprehensive tool to direct the responsible ministries, organisations, institutions and individuals to be responsible. The NECDAP should be a document that just about any manager, director should use should they wish to take positive and responsible actions to bridge some of the gaps that exist in our environment and capacity sectors.

9.0 Conclusion

The NCSA Project is viewed as one of the successfully implemented GEF projects and this was achieved largely due to the input and support of a lot of individuals, institutions, organisations and ministries. This indicates that a lot of people place a lot of importance on our environment the same of support should be assigned to such national projects that have importance and relevance to the betterment of our country.

10. References

1. National Environmental Capacity Development Action Plan, 2008
2. NCSA Cross-Cutting Document, 2007
3. NCSA Thematic Assessment Reports, 2006
4. NCSA Stocktake Reports, 2006

