Solomon Islands Government

INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION

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INTRODUCTION

Solomon Islands comprises a scattered archipelago of 994 islands combining mountainous islands as well as low lying coral atolls within a tuna-rich and potentially mineral-rich maritime Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of 1.34 million square kilometres. The land area of 28,000 square kilometres with 4,023 kilometres of coastline is the second largest in the Pacific after Papua New Guinea. The highest point in the country, Mt Makarakomburu is 2,447m above sea level and is the highest peak in the insular Pacific. There are six main islands, Choiseul, New Georgia, Santa Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal and Makira, which are characterized by a rugged and mountainous landscape of volcanic origin. Between and beyond the bigger islands are hundreds of smaller volcanic islands and low lying coral atolls. All of the mountainous islands of volcanic origin are forested with many coastal areas surrounded by fringing reefs and lagoons.

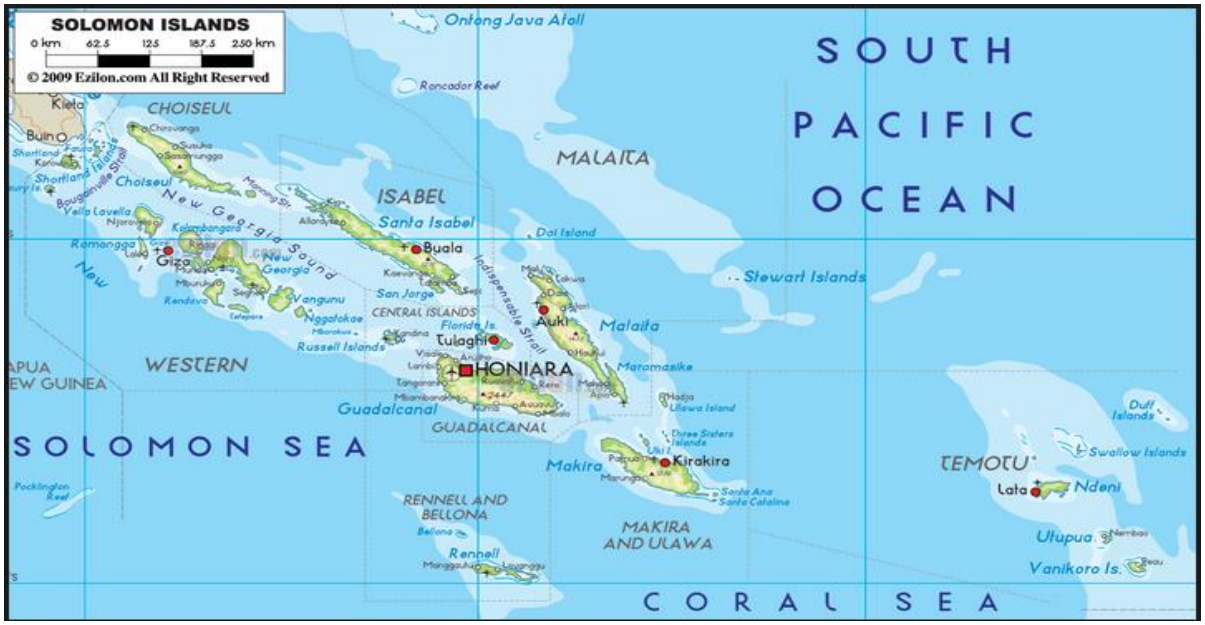

Figure 1: Map of Solomon Islands

The islands are grouped into three different major “geological provinces“; the Pacific Geological Province (including Malaita, Ulawa and North Eastern part of Santa Isabel island); Central Geological Province (Makira, Guadalcanal and the Florida Islands, South-Western part of Isabel and Choiseul) and; the Volcanic Geological Province (New Georgia, Russell Islands, Shortland Islands and North Western tip of Guadalcanal and Savo). Guadalcanal is the largest island and the only one with a significant area of grassland and rich alluvium soils. Most of the islands have highly weathered soils of low fertility with pockets of fertile areas mainly on volcanic islands and river valleys.

The country is situated within the earthquake belt or “Ring of Fire“ which makes it extremely vulnerable to the effects and impacts of earthquakes. A major earthquake measuring 8.1 on the Richter scale occurred in the Western Province in 2007 causing a major tsunami that affected the Western and Choiseul provinces and causing 52 deaths and scores missing. About 40,000 people were affected. Many islands have subsided whilst a few have been uplifted a few metres. Extensive damage was experienced throughout the two provinces costing hundreds of millions of dollars. The country and many communities and individuals

are still recovering from this double disaster event.

Climate

Solomon Islands climate is tropical, though temperatures are rarely extreme due to cooling winds blowing off the surrounding seas. Temperature is the least varied of climate parameters with daytime temperatures fluctuating between 25°C to 32°C. The rainy season occurs between November to April and the dry season from June to October during the year. Most islands have a mean annual rainfall of 3,000 to 5,500 mm with two-peak rainfalls during the year. The highest rainfall recorded in Solomon Islands is an annual average of 8,304 mm at 430 m above sea level at Koloula on Guadalcanal (Hansell and Wall 1970). Daily rainfall of over 250 mm is normal. High rainfall intensity events occur during tropical storms and often result in flooding of most river systems. The highest recorded rainfall of 281mm over a 12 hour period was recorded in 2009 resulting in destructive flooding and loss of lives. More recently the highest recorded daily rainfall of 318mm was recorded in April 2014 causing widespread flooding and damage to property, infrastructure and loss of 23 lives along the Mataniko River, Central Honiara. Rainfall trends vary across the country and are influenced by geographic differences.

Demographic characteristics

Solomon Islands has 28,400 square kilometers of land, with a population of 598,860 (September 2015 estimate). Solomon Islands has a population density of 21 people per square kilometre. The capital and largest city is Honiara, with a population estimated at 67,000. There are no other cities with a population of more than 10,000 in the country.

Most people in Solomon Islands are ethnically Melanesian (94.5%). Other large ethnic groups include Polynesian (3%) and Micronesian (1.2%), with a few thousand ethnic Chinese in the country. There are 70 living languages in Solomon Islands with Melanesian languages spoken mostly on the main islands. While English is the official language, just 1-2% of the population speaks English.

Ninety two percent of the population is Christian, with major denominations including the Anglican Church of Melanesia (35%), Roman Catholic (19%), South Seas Evangelical Church (17%), United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (11%), and Seventh-day Adventist (10%). The rest of the population adheres to Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Baha'i faith, and “Kastom”.

Around 80% of the national population live on low lying coastal areas. The capital city of Honiara is the only major area of economic activity and attracts increasing numbers of youth and adults per year from other islands seeking employment and income. Urban migration is estimated at 4% and with the current rate of growth the national population is expected to double by 2020.

The Solomon Island’s Human Development Index (HDI) was 0.510 in 2011, and is one of the lowest in the Pacific, and it ranked 142 out of 187 countries (UNDP, 2011). On the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a range of social indicators show that the country is likely to meet Goal 2 (Achieve universal primary education) and Goal 5 (Improve maternal health). Females still have less access than males to secondary and tertiary education while women have poor access to health and family planning services in the rural areas. According to the ADB (2010) much of the improvement in the HDI was the result of significant overseas financial and technical assistance, with aid levels increasing from 22% of GDP in 1990 to 66% of GDP in 2005. An analysis of household income and expenditure data collected in 2005/06 shows that situations of hardship and poverty is rising with 11% of the population experiencing difficulties in acquiring basic needs.

Economy

The bulk of the population depends on agriculture, fishing, and forestry for at least part of its livelihood. Most manufactured goods and petroleum products must be imported. The islands are rich in undeveloped mineral resources such as lead, zinc, nickel, and gold. Prior to the arrival of The Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), severe ethnic violence, the closing of key businesses, and an empty government treasury culminated in economic collapse. RAMSI's efforts to restore law and order and economic stability have led to modest growth as the economy rebuilds.

In its 2014 annual report, the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) reported that the Solomon Islands economy showed a lot of resilience in 2014 to recover from the negative fallouts from the April 2014 floods and the closure of Gold Ridge mine in the second quarter. Therefore growth for 2014 was revised upward from 0.9% to 2.0% but was down against pre-flood projection of 3.7% as a result of improvements in key non mineral sectors combined with the swift expenditure adjustments both from the national government and its development partners. Favourable external developments in particular rising prices for major export commodities and falling energy prices later in the second half of the year also supported the economic recovery.

Domestic economic activities performed much better than previously anticipated in April 2014. Preliminary estimates from the CBSI pointed to an overall growth of 2.0% for 2014, 1.1 percentage points higher than the 0.9% that CBSI projected in April 2014. All sectors except for mineral, manufacturing and utilities sectors recorded positive growths during the year. Surprisingly, logging activities jumped up significantly to a new unprecedented level during the year. This to a great extent temporarily cushioned the contraction in the mineral sector and boosted overall growth for the year supported by positive developments in agriculture, fisheries, communication, construction, and finance sectors.

Leading indicators in the labour market showed modest growth in employment even though some industries found the year challenging. The mineral sector was the hardest hit with about 720 workers driven out of jobs after the closure of Gold Ridge Mining Limited in the second quarter. Industry consultations the Central Bank conducted earlier this year revealed most companies in the non-mineral sectors either retained their staff or employed a few more people despite the economic shocks in the second quarter. This is consistent with trends in the number of superannuation contributors that rose by 12% over the year to 53,796 people even considering the redundancy exercise in the mineral sector.

Production of key export commodities in the economy weakened further in 2014 owing in large part to the closure of the only gold mine in the country. As measured by the CBSI production index, the commodity sector fell by 4% against the previous year. The overall decline was driven by gold which plunged by 15.3% to outweigh the combined gains in the non-mineral index (see Figure 1b). The fall would have been more drastic if logging activities remained low at the same level as in the first half of 2014. Log production increased dramatically to 2,128,000 cubic meters from 1,897,000 cubic meters in 2013, a jump of 5.3 points over the year to 51.3 in the log index. Re-entry into previously logged areas, clear felling activities, and issuance of additional logging licenses contributed to the sharp escalation in the exported log volumes.

The Government suffered a major setback in 2014 following the devastation caused by the April floods and the closure of the Gold Ridge mine. Fortunately, development partners were quick to respond and the government with available fiscal space have cushioned the revenue shortfall and accommodated high unplanned expenditure pressures. These quickly restored affected infrastructures and minimised economic downtime. The Government

recorded a fiscal surplus of $129 million during the year from revenue collections of $3.1 billion and $3.0 billion in expenditures. The surplus was attributed to unexpected increases in revenue particularly from fishing licenses, increased budget support, and expenditure savings most notably in the capital budget.

Despite the cessation of gold production in the Solomon Islands, total exports rose by 5.3% in the first half of 2015 over the same period in 2014, largely reflecting higher exports of bauxite and agricultural commodities.

After parliamentary elections in November 2014, passage of the 2015 budget was delayed to April to give the new coalition government time to incorporate its spending priorities. The resulting 2015 budget provides for total expenditures that is 11.8% higher than the revised 2014 budget, mostly because of higher expenditure on flood recovery. Total revenues and grants are also projected to rise, but by only 3.3%. Fishing license revenue is seen to increase but not enough to offset revenue declines from suspended operations at the gold mine. The government expects to incur a deficit, equivalent to 4.9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), for a second consecutive year and plans to draw down cash reserves to finance the deficit.

Consumer prices have been declining in 2015 following large flood-related price rises last year. Softening international food and fuel prices have contributed. Between January and July 2015, consumer prices were 2.4% lower than in the same period in 2014 driven by reductions in prices for food, drinks and tobacco, and housing and utilities declined. However, core inflation remains positive suggesting that headline inflation will rise in the latter part of the year.

The forecast for 2016 remains unchanged as growth is expected to benefit from planned fiscal expansion.

The domestic economy is expected to be more buoyant in 2015 than the previous year. The interplay between key domestic sectors and global price trends is anticipated to support further recovery. Economic growth is anticipated to increase in 2015 to 3.3% from 2.0% in 2014. In the primary sector, the key drivers are fisheries and agriculture while logging is expected to subside after the significant jump in 2014. The mineral sector, in spite of positive contributions from bauxite exports, would still see a decline in 2015 with the absence of gold. External conditions are expected to improve slightly over the previous year despite expectations that the structural current account imbalance would remain in 2015. Budget support and donor capital inflows are expected to outstrip the current account deficit and boost gross foreign reserves. The export sector however could worsen on the back of anticipated declines from gold and log export receipts while imports are expected to rise modestly. Persistent falling oil prices gives temporary reprieve for the economy in terms of lower fuel import bills at least for 2015.

MITIGATION

INFORMATION ON INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION		
PARTY: Solomon Islands		**DATE: September 2015**
Parameter		**Information**
Period for defining actions		Five year periods. Starting 2020, with reference to 2025 and ending in 2030
Type and level of Commitment		All commitments are premised on: (a) A fair and ambitious agreement being reached, reflecting Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities; and (b) Timely access to international climate change financing, capacity building and technology. Solomon Islands is a LDC SIDS, that will nonetheless commit to reduce emissions by: **12% below 2015 level by 2025** and **30% below 2015 level by 2030** compared to a BaU projection. On the understanding that a global agreement addresses international assistance to access financial and technical resources, Solomon Islands can with international assistance, contribute a further: **27%** reduction in GHG emissions by 2025; and **45%** reduction in GHG emissions by 2030, compared to a BaU projection. **With appropriate international assistance, Solomon Islands can reduce its emissions by more than 50% by 2050.**
Reference year or period		2015. The BaU projection is based on an extrapolation of historic data covering the period 1994-2010.
Estimated, quantified emissions impact		In addition to the carbon storage in the forest and ocean ecosystem, Solomon Islands unconditional contribution will reduce 8,300 tCO_2e annually Solomon Islands' conditional contribution (with international assistance) will reduce emissions by 18,800 tCO_2e annually by 2025, and by 31,125 tCO_2e annually by 2030
Coverage	% of National emissions	INDC covers fossil fuels and forest sequestration. Fossil-fuel use covers more than 95% of the reported national inventory
	Sectors	Energy sector: Power (39%) Transport (61%) Renewable and EE Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry
	Gases	Carbon dioxide only (estimated > 95% of inventory)

INFORMATION ON INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION		
PARTY: Solomon Islands		**DATE: September 2015**
Parameter		**Information**
	Geographical boundaries	Whole of country
Further information, relevant to commitment type		Commitments are in the form of Outcomes and Actions. These are referenced as deviation from Business as Usual projections. BaU projections are based on fossil fuel consumption data for the period 1994-2010, with line of best fit extrapolation to 2030. The projection will be revised to include more accurate information with the Third National Communication and Biennial Update Report.
Intention to use market based mechanisms to meet commitments		Solomon Islands will consider other avenues as well as market based mechanisms to support establishment and operation of a National Climate Change Trust Fund
Land sector accounting approach		Appropriate methodologies drawn from international best practice to quantify sequestration from above 400m contour and forest plantations.
Estimated macro-economic impact and marginal cost of abatement		NE
Narrative supporting the fair-share assessment of the contribution		Solomon Islands is a double chain archipelago of small islands with more than 900 volcanic and coral islands and atolls with a 600,000 inhabitants, small land mass, limited technological, technical, financial and human resources and a small economy. Solomon Islands is a LDC SIDS that is in no way responsible for the unfolding climate change catastrophe, yet it is highly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change. Current (2015) greenhouse gas emissions from Solomon Islands are approximately 20 $MtCO_2e$/year. This is extremely small: representing approximately just 0.01 % of global emissions. Solomon Islands has very low per capita emissions, at just: 1.2 tCO_2 per person in 2015 based on projected emissions for 2015. This is fourteen times less than the average per capita emissions of Australia (16.5tCO_2/capita), and less than the estimated level required to stay below 1.5 ^oC (as compared to 2^oC) of warming, of around 1.5tCO_2e/capita[1]. Thus, any contribution from Solomon Islands is more than fair, and must be considered ambitious, given Solomon Islands national circumstances. With high vulnerability to climate change impacts Solomon Islands has placed equal importance on mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and recognises the need for developing low carbon economy to achieve its sustainable development objectives.

[1] Using 2011 ddata from World Bank, http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx.

Mitigation Status and Context

Greenhouse gas emissions are the result of combustion of imported fossil fuels in the energy sector for:

- Electricity generation;
- Sea transport;
- Land transport;

Actions

Solomon Islands has considered mitigation actions that were currently planned and funded (as the Solomon Islands Contribution), and those that have been identified as technically viable with current technology suitable to the Solomon Islands context (as the Contribution conditional on adequate and timely international assistance), are included in the Table below.

Sector	Mitigation option	INDC type	Mitigation in 2025 (tCO_2e)	% of 2025 projected inventory	Mitigation in 2030 (tCO_2e)	% of 2030 projected inventory
Energy	Fiu Hydropower	RE	12,220.2	14.7%	24,440.40	11.52%
	Solar Farm	RE	2,036.7	2.5 %	4,073.40	1.92%
	Tina Hydropower	RE	91,244.2	109.9%	319,354.56	150.48%
	Solar Homes	RE	1697.3	2.0%	3,394.60	1.60%
	Mini Hydropower	RE	1303.5	1.5%	4,562.25	2.15%
	Energy Usage	EE	1629.4	2.0%	3258.8	1.54%

Keys: **RE** - Renewable Energy
EE – Energy Efficiency

The conditional Mitigation Actions will require a timely combination of capacity building, technology transfer, and financial support, primarily in the form of grants. Additional mitigation actions may be identified in the future. Below is a brief summary of the activities proposed for off-grid electricity production, with estimates of financial resources required (in USD).

	Renewable	Capacity	Mitigation potentials in tCO_2e [Annually]	Cost Estimate USD	Status
	Hydropower				
1	Luembalele River	190KW	1,065.22	750,000.00	Feasibility Studies completed
2	Huro River	120KW	672.77	550,000.00	Feasibility Studies completed
3	Mase River	1.750 MW	9,811.20	4,000,000.00	Feasibility Studies completed Needs reviewing
4	Sorave River	200 kW	1,121.28	600,000.00	Prefeasibility Studies completed
5	Rori	300 kW	1,681.92	750,000.00	Feasibility Studies completed
6	Vila River	1.210 MW	6,783.74	4,000.000.00	Prefeasibility Studies needed
	Solar				
7	Taro	100 to 200kW	280.32	300,000.00	diesel/solar pv hybrid system
8	Seghe	100 to 200 kW	280.32	300,000.00	diesel/solar pv hybrid system
9	Afio	100 to 200KW	280.32	300,000.00	diesel/solar pv hybrid system
10	Selwyn College	100KW	140.16	150,000.00	diesel/solar pv hybrid system
11	Kakabona Solar Farm	1 MW	1,401.60	4,000,000.00	solar PV grid-connected plant
12	Solar Farm Honiara	1.5 MW	2,102.40	5,000,000.00	solar PV/grid connected system
13	Savo Geothermal	20 – 40 MW	224,256.00	150,000,000.00	Preliminary assessment done

ADAPTATION

Solomon Islands has been working actively on climate change adaptation for 20 years, and with the development of pioneering tools and methodologies that are regarded as best practices regionally and internationally, has made and continues to make a considerable contribution to the global and regional adaptation planning and management process and pool of knowledge on building climate resilience. This contribution is made in the face of severe constraints and challenges confronted by Solomon Islands as a small island developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Country (LDC). For Solomon Islands, as with other small islands developing States and Least Developed Countries, where climate change threatens the very existence of the people and the nation, adaptation is not an option – but rather a matter of survival.

Current climate, projected climate change and related assumptions

The interannual climate of Solomon Islands is basically driven by natural drivers such as the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), the West Monsoon and the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO). The wet season is generally driven by the ITCZ and the West Monsoon resulting in strong north-westerly winds and seas affecting mostly the northern part of the country. Associated heavy and long rainfall periods usually influence agriculture activities in the northern parts of the country during this time. The SPCZ typically drives the weather and the climate of the southern part of Solomon Islands during the dry season where strong southeast trades brings onshore heavy rainfall that disturbs agricultural activities as well.

During an El Nino ocean surface waters over the western Pacific (including Solomon Islands) are usually cooler than normal and warmer than normal from central to eastern of the Pacific. Hence, in most cases, prolonged dry periods could escalate from meteorological drought to agricultural drought in the western Pacific. Solomon Islands experiences drought conditions during El Nino events such as that occurring in 1997 causing water shortages on many islands. The divergence results in nutrient rich waters rising to the ocean surface in the eastern Pacific causing outbreaks in plankton growth which is followed by tuna stocks.

During a La Nina event the opposite seems to happen, where waters over the western Pacific (including Solomon Islands) are warmer than normal hence causing more cloud formation resulting in prolonged and high rainfall periods. Cyclones and high rainfall events are associated with the La Nina periods in the western Pacific. The future of ENSO events is still not clear but it is expected that it will continue to be an important driver of Pacific Islands climate into the future.

Observed temperature data by the Solomon Islands Meteorological Services show that annual surface temperature for the western, central and eastern regions of Solomon Islands have increased during the last 30 to 50 years. The range of increase in mean air temperature for most provinces is between 0.14^{o}C and 0.17^{o}C/decade.

A study carried out by the Pacific Climate Change Scientific Programme (PCCSP, 2011) under Australian Government showed that for three emission scenarios (low, medium and high) using 18 Global Circulation Models the temperature in the Solomon islands will increase by 0.2^{o}C (low) in 2030 to 3.3 ^{o}C (high) in 2090. The sea surface temperature (SST) is projected to increase in the next 30 -70 years in Solomon Islands.

Rainfall data analysed to date show that annual rainfall in the three regions (western, eastern and western Solomon Islands) is mostly varied due to the geography of the different islands, their relative position with each other, the direction and duration of prevailing winds and drivers of climate in the Pacific. However, it can be clearly seen that there were sharp declines around mid-1990s for all the three regions. These declines correlated with the severe El Nino event between 1997 and 1998 that affected most parts of the country. The general trends however show that in the central region there was a decrease in rainfall and a slight increase for the western and eastern regions in the past 30-50 years. The rainfall trends show that:

- In the area around the capital city of Honiara a general decline per decade is occurring while the population is growing at a rate of approximately 6% per annum. To ensure adequate water supply for the growing population of the city a robust and well enforced Integrated Water Resource Management strategy and programme needs to be put in place. Conservation and effective management of the forests surrounding Honiara is essential and increasing numbers of bore holes will need to be established over the coming years to supplement the Kongulae water source in the longer term. The proportion of annual rainfall from extreme rainfall has increased significantly which could result in longer drought periods in the dry season and more severe flooding.
- In Auki town, Malaita Province, a decline in rainfall for both the dry and wet seasons is being experienced.
- In Taro Island, Choiseul Province, a similar trend as Auki is emerging. The plan to relocate the provincial headquarters and town from Taro Island to the mainland area of Choiseul Bay is also a good adaptation strategy that needs to be complemented with an Integrated Water Resource Management strategy and programme.

Tropical cyclones pose a serious threat to the people, economy and environment and result in flooding and wind damage in the Solomon Islands. There have been severe floods on Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira and Santa Isabel in recent years with a number of lives lost, and severe damage to agriculture and Infrastructure. In 2002 the remote island of Tikopia was hit by a Category 5 cyclone Zoe.

In the Solomon Islands' region, projections tend to show a decrease in the frequency of tropical cyclones by the late 21st century and an increase in the proportion of the more intense storms. As per Pacific Climate Change Science Program (Australian Government), by the end of this century projections suggest decreasing numbers of tropical cyclones but a possible shift towards more intense categories.

Solomon Islands is highly vulnerable to droughts, extreme rainfall, floods, king tides and sea level rise. Droughts are usually associated with the El Nino phenomenon. The 1997/98 El Nino caused severe drought conditions in many parts of the country and one of the major prolonged droughts occurred in the eastern part of the country in the Temotu province in 2004 causing food and water shortages. Another major problem associated with extremely high rainfall or prolonged rainfall is the big decline in the yields of sweet potato, the main staple crop in rural areas, due to increased vegetative growth and decline in the growth of tuber. Flooding can also occur as a result of a combination of factors, including king tides, areas associated with low atmospheric pressure, and rising sea levels. In 2008 king tides struck northern Choiseul, Ontong Java and other parts of the country. These came in the form of high swells never before experienced in the islands. The tides caused more coastal erosion, considerable damage to coral reefs, coastal inundation, pollution of water sources and damage to coastal infrastructures.

Statement of current and near-term adaptation planning and action

The Climate Change Policy (2012-2017) which is linked to National Development Strategy (2011-2020) provides a policy framework for developing and describing ongoing and planned actions (changes in institutions, modified policies and measures, major projects/programs, planning processes, and financial investments) using international and country resources .

Statement of adaptation gaps, barriers and needs

Institutional challenges relating to high staff turnover rates in senior executive positions, limited sector specific training, and a lack of clarity on internal roles and responsibilities in some sectors hampers national efforts on adaptation. Adaptation knowledge sharing, coordination and collaboration among ministries as well as with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector, faith-based organisations and development partners is less than adequate in the Solomon Islands. There needs to be a focus on development of knowledge, skill levels to address capacity gaps with regards to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction throughout Solomon Islands society, particularly in the outer islands and among marginalised populations.

There is need to translate the climate science and predicted impacts into messages that support action by Solomon Islanders. “Kastom” barriers also hamper awareness and action as with very limited capacity at the community level to undertake local level vulnerability mapping, adaptation planning and the implementation of priority adaptation interventions.

Financing needs for priority adaptation interventions

Some adaptation projects have been grouped into thematic areas linked to the priority sectors established in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as well as some recently identified priorities. The total adaptation cost would be US$126,650,000; NAPA would cost US$17,250,000 covering agriculture and food security, water and sanitation, human settlements and human health, education awareness and information; low-lying and artificially built-up islands; waste management; coastal protection; fisheries and marine resources, infrastructure development and tourism. However the total cost of NAPA will have changed considerably upward and therefore will require further evaluation and costing. Other priorities identified through the national communication process would cost additional US$109,400,000. It is expected that a considerable portion of the necessary financing will be provided in the forms of grants from the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund, and from various bi-lateral climate change programs.

Addressing gaps in national, sector and community-level adaptation and climate resilience programs

It is the intention of the Solomon Islands Government that a community-based vulnerability mapping, adaptation planning and management approach (tied to direct access to financing for community-based resilience-building projects) be employed on a whole of island basis that will build capacity in vulnerable villages for localised adaptation actions which represents a critical contribution to the implementation of adaptation.

The Solomon Islands Government will establish the institutional structures and strengthen capacities at the community level in order to support the country-wide implementation of community-based vulnerability mapping and adaptation planning, and the community-based design and implementation of priority resilience measures through direct access to financing for such measures.

Innovative financing approaches and operations

Based on lessons learned and best practices from Small Island Developing Sates (SIDS), the Government will investigate the viability of, amongst other measures: (i) setting aside the valued added tax charged for fuel; (ii) charging carbon levies; and (iii) charging fees for climate change research undertaken in the country. Such fees and charges will be used to establish and finance a national climate change trust fund for priority climate change measures**.**

The Solomon Islands Government intends to build national capacity to facilitate direct access to international climate change financing including the Green Climate Fund so as to ensure that financing for climate resilience is country-owned and directed towards priority national needs and community-based adaptation plans and mitigation measures.

Based upon lessons learned from other SIDS, Solomon Islands will seek assistance under the "Readiness" program operated by the Green Climate Fund to establish the necessary legal, institutional and fiduciary management framework and accredit the National Implementing Entity (NIE) needed to facilitate direct access, thereby reducing dependence upon intermediary agencies for the design and implementation of priority adaptation and mitigation interventions.

The Solomon Islands Government will strengthen measures to improve donor collaboration on climate change adaptation and mitigation programming, and will establish the mechanisms for improved coordination amongst government agencies in the design and implementation of priority adaptation and mitigation programs and projects as defined under NAPA and the national communications.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), as the coordinator and entry point, for climate change programming engagement with all development partners, will ensure that all projects funded by external sources support the implementation of NAPA, community adaptation programmes and mitigation measures. In the exercise of this function and responsibility, MECDM shall ensure that international climate change programming supports the implementation of NAPA and community-based adaptation programmes and mitigation measures.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The effective implementation of the adaptation and mitigation measures in Solomon Islands' INDC is conditional upon and will depend on the accessibility, availability and timely provision of financial resources, technology and capacity building support.

EQUITY

The Solomon Islands is a small contributor to the greenhouse gas emissions by any measurable indicator and yet it is at the frontline of the wrath of climate change and sea level rise. Solomon Islands has a right to develop its economy and improve the well-being of its population. Thus Solomon Islands contribution towards limiting the global temperature to below 1.5^0C relative to pre-industrial levels provides a moral imperative as a global citizen. The government has embarked on a number of actions which will result in increasing the use of renewable energy technologies, improving energy security and reduction of GHG emissions. However, the main focus for long term sustainable development still remains the issue of addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and its consequent sea-level rise.