

GROUP ACTIVITY ON DATA MANAGEMENT

Effective data management is crucial for informed environmental decision-making. However, there are numerous challenges faced in data acquisition, processing, storage, sharing, and analysis in the Pacific region. The goal of this group exercise is to have an open discussion and capture perspectives from the various ministries, agencies and stakeholders represented here on the challenges and potential solutions related to environmental data management in the Solomon Islands.

SUMMARY OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS

	Current Practice/Methods/Tools	Challenges and Gaps	Proposed Solutions/Recommendations
Data Acquisition	Drafting letters, emails, interviews, site visits, GPS, cameras, phones, surveys, questionnaires, Kobo toolbox	Slow response, fear of disclosing information, financial constraints, limited manpower, outdated equipment, resources, capacity	Make follow-up appointments, clear objectives, awareness raising, revamp systems and technology, more resources and equipment, proper equipment like drones

		issues, geographic isolation	
Data Processing	Excel, QGIS, Word, Calculator, GIS software, advanced software (e.g., Python), engaging GIS officers	Lack of GIS specialists, outdated data, power outages, limited storage capacity, lack of technical expertise	Increase GIS capacity within government ministries, review and revise data policies, specify training, budget and funding, capacity building on data processing
Data Storage	Private USBs, hard drives, PCs, external drives, environment portals, shared drives, some data highly confidential	Easy to lose improperly stored data, less storage capacity, working in silos, high confidentiality	Establish centralized data systems, cloud storage, online data portals
Data Sharing & Collaboration	Mostly contracted to contractors, formal requests, workshops, meetings,	Data not provided when required, restrictions on sharing, government policies, lack of	Establish online portals for access, save data through online portal, focal point for data sharing, data policy for data sharing, establish MOU for data sharing, create

	conferences, networking, data within the ministry	MOUs for data sharing, no incentives, high job turnover	incentives for workers, avoid high turnover
Data Analysis	Use of maps, charts, graphs, pictures, consultants	Lack of improvement in capacity, outdated or malfunctioning machinery, lack of expertise, training, multitasking, incomplete and basic information	Improve capacity, new machinery and equipment, proper expertise required, more training, train officials for data assessments

Activity Guide

1. Divide into small groups of 4-6 participants. Nominate a presenter from each group.
2. For each stage of the data management cycle: - Data Acquisition - Data Processing - Data Storage - Data Sharing & Collaboration - Data Analysis, Each group will discuss and fill out the matrix provided on:
 - Current practices
 - Challenges and gaps
 - Proposed/recommended solutions.
3. Guiding Questions:
 - What methods/tools are currently used?
 - What are the key issues or limitations?
 - How can processes/capabilities be improved?
 - What new solutions or approaches could be implemented?
4. Group Presentations (5 mins each):
 - Each group will present the key points from their discussion.
 - Highlight major challenges.
 - Propose practical recommendations.
5. Open Discussion:
 - Share experiences, success stories, lessons learned.
 - Discuss innovative ideas or collaborative opportunities.