**SOLOMON ISLAND TRAINING WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING DECISION MAKING IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**KING SOLOMON HOTEL, HONIARA**

**18th to 22nd MARCH 2024**

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Solomon Islands, part of the diverse and ecologically rich Pacific region, face unique environmental challenges. These challenges are amplified by the country's reliance on natural resources, the increasing pressures of development and the ever-increasing impacts of climate change. The islands' extensive coastal and marine ecosystems are of global significance but remain vulnerable to various environmental impacts.

In response to these challenges, the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Program of SPREP is organizing a capacity building workshop in the Solomon Islands, following a request from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, and Meteorology (MECDM). The training workshop focuses on broader environmental management aspects, such as biodiversity conservation and the effective use of environment management tools namely (Environmental Assessments, Geospatial Information Systems and Data Management Systems) to support effective environmental management. This initiative is integral to strengthening the Solomon Islands' capacity in environmental governance by improve environmental and social risk management and to enhance decision-making processes for sustainable coastal and marine biodiversity management.

This training workshop designed to empower local authorities, regulatory agencies and stakeholders in the Solomon Islands to effectively navigate and administer environmental management tools and processes to ensure responsible development that aligns with environmental conservation goals. The training integrates EIA, GIS and data management processes to bolster build capacity in the use of these essential tools and to raise awareness on the importance of data collection, storage, management, and analysis, essential for informed environmental decision-making.

The training workshop aligns with Solomon Islands national strategies and policies, including the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016-2035, which emphasizes sustainable environmental management and the conservation of biodiversity. The workshop also supports the implementation of the National Environmental Management Strategy and Solomon Islands' commitments under various international environmental agreements.

The initiative is supported through the Pacific BioScapes project, the ACPMEAs3 project and the EREPA project.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THE TRAINING WORKSHOP**

1. Deliver a technical working session to MECDM EIA officers to enhance the understanding EIA principles and tools (regional/national EIA process, GIS)
2. To raise awareness on management initiatives contributing to safeguarding biodiversity in the Solomon Islands.
3. To strengthen the importance of good quality GIS spatial data (collection, storage, management, analysis) to support MEAs monitoring and reporting for informed environmental decision making.
4. Raising awareness on the Solomon Island national environmental data portal and the link to Pacific Environment Portal (PEP), how it can be used in environmental assessments.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP**

1. Improved access to and better analysis of environmental data to support informed decision making.
2. Strengthened engagement and co-ordination between stakeholders involved biodiversity conservation and environmental management in the Solomon Islands.
3. Enhanced capacities to meet national obligations under multilateral environmental agreements.
4. Established monitoring and centralized reporting of key environmental stressors to support improved conservation outcomes.
5. Improved capacity for monitoring and knowledge of environmental stressors leading to better conservation outcomes.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

1. **Government Ministries and Staff:**
   * Staff from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, and Meteorology (MECDM).
   * Staff from other relevant governmental agencies, such as the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Infrastructural Development.
2. **Local Conservation Organizations:**
   * Members of local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) engaged in environmental conservation and management activities.
3. **Provincial Council Representatives:**
   * Officials from provincial councils who are involved in local environmental governance and policymaking in the provinces and city councils.
4. **Other Relevant Stakeholders:**
   * Academics, researchers, and practitioners involved in environmental management and biodiversity conservation.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS TRAINING MISSION**

1. **SPREP Team:**
   * Puta Tofinga (Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer)
   * Ivan Diarra (Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment Technical Officer)
   * Lagi Reupena (Environmental Data Officer)
   * Vani Koroisamanunu (Environmental GIS Specialist)
   * Kasaqa Tora (Spatial Analysis Specialist).
2. **SPREP Coordination:**
   * **Overall Coordination:** Lead the planning and execution of the training workshop, ensuring alignment with the BioScapes, ACPMEAs3, and EREPA project objectives.
   * **Logistics and Resources:** Coordinate logistical aspects, including travel arrangements for trainers, catering and training delivery.
3. **Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, and Meteorology (MECDM) and Governmental Agencies:**
   * **Participant Mobilization:** Organize participants from various government ministries and staff, including the Ministry of Forestry, and the Ministry of Infrastructural Development.
   * **Logistical Support:** Assist as necessary with local arrangements, such as venue, accommodation, and catering.
   * **Field Trip Coordination:** Facilitate practical sessions and field visits and recommend field trip sites.
   * **Collaboration:** Include local conservation organizations, provincial councils, and other relevant stakeholders in training activities.

**Workshop program:**

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| **DAY ONE: MONDAY 18/03/24** | | | |
| **Time** | **Presentation/Exercise** | **Speaker/presenter** | **Moderator** |
| 9:00am – 9:05 am | Opening formalities |  | Ivan Diarra |
| 9:05am – 9:10am | Opening prayer | MECDM |  |
| 9:10am – 9:20am | Welcome Remarks by MECDM | MECDM |  |
| 9:20am – 9:30am | Remarks by SPREP | Director Jope Davetanivalu |  |
| 9.30am – 10.00am | Introduction:   * Participants * Training objectives & structure * Housekeeping matters | Puta Tofinga |  |
| 10am -10.30am | **MORNING TEA AND GROUP PHOTO** | | |
| 10:30am -11.00am | Overview of SPREP and the role of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Programme. | Puta Tofinga |  |
| 11.00am – 11.20am | Overview of MECDM (structure, programs, projects on biodiversity conservation and environmental management etc.) | MECDM |  |
| 11.20am – 11.40am | The Solomon Islands logging code of practice and permitting process. | Ministry of Forestry |  |
| 11.40am – 12.00pm | Presentation from Ministry of Infrastructure on the Environmental and Social Safeguards. | Ministry of Infrastructure |  |
| 12.00pm – 12.20pm | EREPA project | Cathy Unga - Solomon Island EREPA Co-ordinator |  |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | **LUNCH** | | |
| 1.30pm – 1.50pm | Presentation from Wildlife Conservation Society on Initiatives in the Solomon Islands. | Chris Manepolo – WCS Co-ordinator |  |
| 1.50pm – 2.10pm | Presentation from The Nature Conservancy | Simon Vuto |  |
| 2.10pm – 2.30pm | Presentation from Honiara City Council (Environment programs/initiatives) | Honiara City Council Representative |  |
| 2.30pm – 3.30pm | Group exercise on Data Management | SPREP - Ivan Diarra and Puta Tofinga |  |
| 3.00pm – 3.30pm | **AFTERNOON TEA** | | |
| 3.30pm – 4.00pm | Group exercise on Data Management | SPREP - Ivan Diarra and Puta Tofinga |  |
| 4.15pm – 4.30pm | **RECAP AND CLOSURE OF DAY 1** | | |

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| **DAY 2: TUESDAY 19/03/24** | | | | |
| **Time** | **Presentation/Exercise** | | **Speaker** | **Moderator** |
| 9:00am - 9:15am | | Welcome, opening prayer and recap of Day 1 | SPREP | Puta Tofinga |
| 9.15am – 10.00am | | Introduction to GIS and application to environmental management | SPREP GIS (Vani & Kasaqa) |  |
| 10.00am – 10.30am | | **MORNING TEA** | | |
| 10.30am – 12.30pm | | GIS hands on exercise | SPREP GIS (Vani & Kasaqa) |  |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | | **LUNCH** | | |
| 1.30pm – 2.00pm | | The role of data for informed environmental decision making (Link to State of Environment (SOE) and Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) reporting) | Lagi Reupena |  |
| 2.00pm – 3.00pm | | Introduction the SI national environment data portal and link to the Pacific Environment Portal | Lagi Reupena |  |
| 3.00pm – 3.30pm | | **AFTERNOON TEA** | | |
| 3.30pm – 4.15pm | | Introduction the SI national environment data portal and link to the Pacific Environment Portal | Lagi Reupena |  |
| 4.15pm – 4.30pm | | **RECAP AND CLOSURE OF DAY 2** | | |

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| **DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 20/03/24** | | | | |
| **Time** | **Presentation/Exercise** | |  |  |
| 9:00am - 9:15am | | Welcome, opening prayer and recap of Day 2 | Vani | Lagi |
| 9.15am – 9:45am | | Introduction and background on EIA (global, regional, national, processes) | Ivan Diarra |  |
| 9:45am – 10:00am | | Introduce the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the support available to the Solomon Islands on EIA | Daisy Leadbeater |  |
| 10.00am – 10.30am | | **MORNING TEA** | | |
| 10.30am – 11.45am | | Solomon Islands EIA process | MECDM |  |
| 11.45am – 12.00pm | | Introduction to SPREP regional EIA guidelines (purpose etc.) | Puta Tofinga (SPREP) |  |
| 12.00pm – 12.30pm | | **Screening**  Introduction to screening  Application of GIS in screening | Puta Tofinga, Vani and Kasaqa (SPREP) |  |
| 12.30am – 1.30pm | | **LUNCH BREAK** | | |
| 1.30pm – 2.00pm | | Risk assessment in EIA | Ivan Diarra (SPREP) |  |
| 2.00pm – 3.00pm | | EIA screening exercise: Case study on logging | Everyone |  |
| 3.00pm – 3.30pm | | **AFTERNOON TEA** | | |
| 3:30pm - 4.15pm | | Community/Public Consultation in the EIA process | MECDM and SPREP (Puta Tofinga) |  |
| 4.15pm – 4.30pm | | **RECAP AND CLOSURE OF DAY 3 (Vani/Lagi)** | | |

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| **DAY 4. THURSDAY 21/3/23** | | | |
| 9am – 9.15am | Welcome, opening prayer and recap of Day 3 | SPREP- Ivan Diarra |  |
| 9:15am-10:00am | Scoping   * Introduction to Scoping * EIA Terms of Reference * Application of GIS in scoping (baseline, detect changes, critical habitats and species, settlements) * Management of data | SPREP – Puta Tofinga |  |
| 10.00am – 10.30am | **MORNING TEA** | | |
| 10.30am – 11.30am | Scoping practical exercise (development of an EIA terms of reference) | SPREP |  |
| 11.30am – 12.30pm | Compliance and Enforcement   * Solomon Islands compliance and enforcement procedures * Case study/good practices on compliance and enforcement | MECDM and SPREP (Puta Tofinga) |  |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | **LUNCH BREAK** | | |
| 1:30pm-2.30pm | EIA review   * Solomon Islands process on EIA review. * Regional guidelines and tool kit | MECDM and SPREP (Puta Tofinga and Ivan Diarra) |  |
| 2.30pm – 4.00 pm | EIA review practical exercise. |  |  |
| 4.00pm – 4.30pm | * Discuss training and mission outcomes and way forward. * Post Training Evaluation | SPREP |  |
| 4.30pm – 4.45pm | **RECAP AND CLOSURE OF DAY 4 – Puta Tofinga** | | |

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| **DAY 5: FRIDAY 22/3/24** | | | |
| 9am – 9.30am | Assemble, prayer, briefing for field trip | SPREP |  |
| 9.30am – 1.00pm | Field Trip (2 sites)   * Win-Win Mining site * Barana Nature Park |  |  |
| 1.00PM | **RETURN TO VENUE AND LUNCH** | | |