

Sustainable Land Management Capacity Building Programme



Project Goal

This project aims to enhance the capacity for integrated and sustainable land and forestry management.

The natural forests of the Solomon Islands are rich in biodiversity and host a large range of unique plants, insect and animal species. Most rural Solomon Islanders rely on these forests to meet their livelihood needs. Forests provide many benefits to the population, including the prevention of soil erosion, protecting water sources and important contributions to food security. Despite these benefits forests are still at risk.

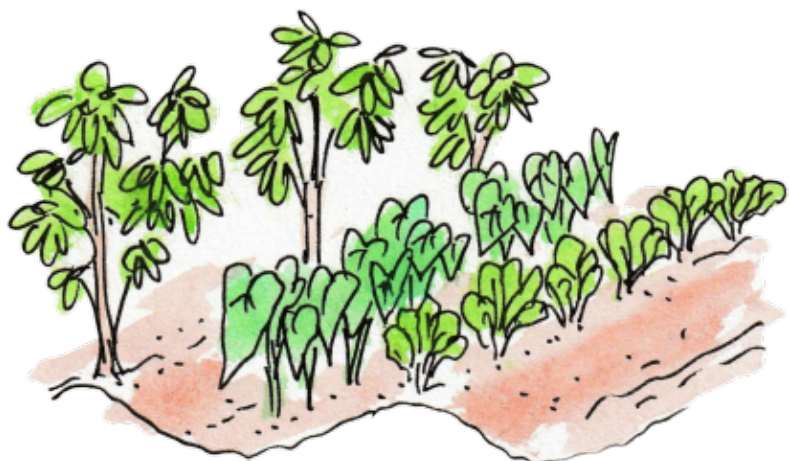
Deforestation, caused by population growth and poorly conducted logging operations, have had negative consequences for communities both socially and environmentally. Soil fertility in the Solomon Islands is declining, with farmers experiencing issues like erosion, poor soil health and plant pests and diseases. These issues are exacerbated by climate change, which is causing more severe droughts, floods and storms.

Project timeline: February 2021 – March 2022

This project is funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Solomon Islands, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, the Ministry of Forests and Research, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.



LIVE&LEARN
Environmental Education



The connection between healthy farmland and healthy forests is essential for preserving biodiversity and creating sustainable livelihoods in the Solomon Islands. The FAO, supported by the Global Environment Facility, embarked on a project to improve sustainable forest management in the Solomon Islands. The project components included (i) development of the terrestrial protected area network, (ii) integrated land management, and (iii) capacity building for the management of forest carbon. FAO engaged Live & Learn to address part of the second component, focussed on the outcome 'poor land-use practices reduced or reversed in and around protected areas.'

In response Live & Learn have been engaged to assess farming land-use practices in and around proposed protected areas in 5 provinces in Solomon Islands and implement training with 200 farmers and agriculture extension officers in sustainable land management.

This work will include the production of multiple resources, involving:

- A Rapid Assessment of Perceptions report based on conversations with selected male and female farmers in the 5 provinces
- Production of sustainable land management training materials, including a farmer manual and an extension leadership manual
- Field training with 200 farmers
- Scoping and writing for sustainable land management curricula modules with the Solomon Islands National University
- Publication of 5 sustainable land management best practice brochures with recommendations will be tailored to the context of project sites.



What is Sustainable Land Management?

Sustainable land management (SLM) involves the use of land, soils, water, animals and plants for production in a way that ensures the long-term productive potential of these resources. Using the land in healthy ways, so that it can continue to be used in the future is a part of sustainable development. SLM is important in countries like the Solomon Islands where commercial forestry threatens biodiversity conservation.

SLM practices are supported by the Solomon Islands government and promoted in policy, government activities, and regulations. These practices can help to increase agriculture productivity, enhance livelihoods and improve the health of native forests. SLM is encouraged by farmers to preserve the health of the land and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The direct benefits of SLM practices include more forests, improved soil fertility and better water quality. Integrating SLM into this project will help farmers and communities adapt to the challenges brought on by climate change and ensure livelihood and food security in the Solomon Islands.