



Fact sheet: Solomon Islands

Climate Resilient Islands aims to strengthen community resilience to the impacts of climate change through nature-based approaches. The programme is working with rural communities in Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, from April 2021 to March 2025. Climate Resilient Islands supports the New Zealand Government's Resilient Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation (RECCA) programme.

Programme outcomes

Communities engaged in Climate Resilient Islands will develop a community resilience profile that reflects their lived experience concerning ecosystems, natural hazards, resilient food systems, market opportunities and priorities for the future.

This profile is the foundation for the communities to determine their priorities and the pathways to strengthened resilience through three interconnected nature-based systems outcome areas:

1. Protection, restoration and maintenance of ecosystems
2. Climate resilient food systems
3. Strengthened preparedness to intensified natural hazards.

The Climate Resilient Islands Programme then provides the following potential pathways for communities:

- Intergenerational Indigenous knowledge sharing

- Protected marine and conservation areas
- Restoration and strengthening of Indigenous resilient local food systems
- Disaster risk reduction and planning
- Access to small grants to strengthen or establish community livelihoods.

Nature-based solutions

Investing in nature creates jobs and brings economic benefits. Nature-based solutions increase the resilience of countries to climate change, help reduce the risk of disasters, protect human health and improve water and food security.

Nature-based solutions include restoration of forests, mangroves and wetlands; coastal restoration programs; creation and maintenance of ecosystems and the sustainable management of land and sea.

Brief rationale for site selection

Participating communities are located in Birao Ward, at the eastern end of Guadalcanal Island, the largest island in Solomon Islands. Although the capital, Honiara, is on the island, much of the island is covered in tropical rainforest. In 2019 there were 4034 people in the ward.

Both forest and marine ecosystems are significant sources of livelihoods. Fishing and gardening/plantation agriculture provide food and income for communities. Mining and logging are significant extractive industries in the area, with neighbouring communities involved in logging, and adjacent areas marked for the expansion of logging.

Climate projections show that Guadalcanal has:

- a high chance of rising temperatures, between 0.8 and 2.1 °C, leading to lower agricultural production, lower fish catches and degradation of reef systems
- a high chance of more heatwaves and days of extreme temperatures
- a high chance of continued rising sea levels of 17-37 cm, leading to more frequent and intense inundation, lower agricultural production and loss of fresh water
- a high chance of heavier rainfall events, with associated flooding
- a high chance of greater tropical cyclone impacts.

Ocean warming and acidification is affecting fish stocks and the sustainability of coral reefs.

The communities selected have strong community governance systems. Logging is impacting some of the communities indirectly, with some local action to prevent logging directly in the community. Conservation measures are already taken in two of the communities to protect local reefs.

Sites/communities	Ecosystem
Poposa	Forest, coast, marine
Niu and Marapa	Island, coastal, marine/reef
Hautahe and Poinoho	Coastal, wetlands, marine/reef
Waimaea	Coastal, forest, marine/reef

Work programme focus

Activities will be guided by the SIIVA (Solomon Islands Integration Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments), which include:

- mending and preservation of community governed ecologies such as forests, mangroves, coastal zones, rivers and wetland environments.
- promoting adaptable food systems, including household food access and food base livelihood (food security).
- catastrophe preparation that assists subnational government plans.

Stakeholders

- Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster management, and Meteorology (MECDM)
- Guadalcanal Provincial Government – Environmental & Conservation office
- Marau area centre administration
- National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

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