

SOLOMON ISLANDS

WATER GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME



Final Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

Solomon Islands is an independent country consisting of an archipelago of 992 islands to the north-east of Australia and east of Papua New Guinea. Its capital, Honiara, is only three hours flying time from Brisbane. The population of Solomon Islands, estimated at 533,672 in 2006, is predominantly Melanesian although there are smaller Polynesian, Micronesian, Chinese and European communities. Australia maintains a close relationship with the Solomon Islands. English is the official language of Solomon Islands but Solomons Pijin is the lingua franca for the majority of people. There are 63 distinct languages in the country, with numerous local dialects.

The Pacific Programme for Water Governance project (PfWG) funded by EU and facilitated by SOPAC, aims at implementing water sector reforms in Pacific Island Countries (PICs), particularly on improving water governance. The Solomon Islands was selected in 2005 as one of three Pacific Island Countries, in accordance with PfWG selection criteria, to benefit from the initiative. KEW Consult Ltd, a water consultancy firm, is the consultant for this project and currently working in collaboration with the Solomon Islands Government and SOPAC.

This project duration was 12 months started from January 2006 and its main purpose was to promote the application of effective water governance in institutions, systems, structures and processes in the Solomon Islands through the application of pilot projects and day to day applications. The emphasis was to develop and enhance new and existing water governance initiatives through the selected pilot projects of developing appropriate policy and legislation formulation as well as public awareness programmes.

The project is now completed with the National Water Policy developed and the Water Resource Legislation reviewed in accordance to policy through stakeholder consultations and discussion with the key water stakeholders. Cabinet submissions have been prepared to submit the two important documents for Cabinet endorsement. Government has just approved budget for further awareness of the Policy and Legislation.

This report was prepared by KEW Consult Ltd. in collaboration with Ministry of Mines and Energy and also the key water stakeholders in the Solomon Islands

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The much needed development activities such as logging (especially uncontrolled) which is currently widespread in the country and the traditional slash and burn practices of farming (increased with increased population) have gradually and systematically negatively affected surface water resources quality and quantity
- The present institutional framework for water resources management lacks proper coordination, featuring fragmented control as well as duplication and negligence of functional roles. Issues pertaining to water rights and allocation have been flagged for Government intervention given the situation of customary land rights and ownership of water sources.
- Fundamental to the success of water sector reforms is the level of participation and awareness of the community/stakeholders. Their input at various decision-making levels is warranted to ensure that the management of all the water issues are effective and efficient.
- The relationship between water and population can be summarized as “healthy water means healthy people”. Everyone has the right to access safe and adequate water and good sanitation services.
- Water quality is an issue that may not be easily and effectively dealt with now at the rural areas, but it is one that is of utmost importance in the long term. Water quality analysis in Solomon Islands is a major problem.
- Climate variation poses new threat to this scarce resource. The effect of variation had been seen in several part of the country. The trend of annual precipitation is the main source for recharging freshwater in rivers, streams and groundwater. It is very likely that the river and stream flow is also declining.

- It must be realized that a water resource is dependent on and part of the environment. It cannot be isolated from it, and measure to address the issue of water must be simultaneously done with other environmental issues.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Government:

1. Approve the draft National Water Policy and also the Water Resource Legislation as soon as possible in order to see the sector progresses to the next stage of development.
2. Secure funding to consolidate the Water Sector Committee recommended in the draft Legislation where the Water Resource Division of the Ministry of mines and Energy assumed responsibility as a secretariat that control and manage all the water resources issues in the whole of Solomon Islands.
3. Promote awareness and education of all the Solomon Islands citizens on the importance of water issues, including direct involvement of women and the youths during consultations and decision making. The sector should always work together to promote the valuable and important aspects of water in the country.
4. Empower and strengthen capacity of provinces and outer islands to manage their own water supply schemes. The operation and maintenance service conducting by the Ministry of Health on these rural schemes are currently not economical to manage. Government budget is most of the time not sufficient to keep the operation as it is, in light of deteriorating assets that soon required major replacement in order to keep them.
5. Through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, a Water Benchmarking System should be developed to monitor performances by each provinces water supply schemes and will also enabling performance comparison amongst operators hence promoting conservation of water resource and protecting it from over-extraction

6. Create and request closer relationship with the Financial Institution such as EU, ADB, World Bank etc. to finance water investment projects around the country, especially the rural water supply and sanitation. Promote user-pays and develop a viable arrangement to recover costs of service.

3. REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE AT COMPLETION

3.1. Policy and Programme context, including linkage to other ongoing operations/activities

The water sector can be generally defined or described as a group of institutions that are interrelated through a common interest in water (consumptive and non-consumptive). This includes agencies that develop and manage water resources, provide water supply, wastewater and sanitation services and use significant volumes of water for specific sectoral needs, such as agriculture, electricity and recreational purposes.

The existing legislation in the Solomon Islands that govern and impact on the water sector comprise the following:

Water Resources Management (conservation and development)

River Waters Ordinance 1969: provides measures for watershed control in relation to rivers only and regulates the use of designated river water through permit applications;

Environment Act 1998: provides for the protection, preservation and conservation of the environment, including the prevention and control of pollution to water;

Public Health Ordinance 1970: authorises inspections to be conducted for the regulation of water pollution

Solomon Islands Water Authority Act 1992: the Solomon Islands Water Authority was established under this Act and is currently charged with providing the proper management and development of urban water resources and services and sewerage services in the Solomon Islands.

Environmental Health Act & Provincial Ordinance

Organisations and Functions of the Water Sector

The table below indicates the key organizations and their roles in relation to the water sector in the Solomon Islands.

Organisation	Function
Ministry of Mines and Energy, Division of Water Resources	Responsible for water resources assessment and management: SIWA functions under this Ministry.
Department of Forestry, Environment and Conservation	Responsible for environmental assessment and protection.
Ministry of Health	Water supply in rural areas and supervision of sanitary conditions for the whole Solomon.
Ministry of Provincial Government and Constituency Development	Responsible for water supply in the provincial centers except the urban areas where SIWA operates.
Ministry of Agriculture and Land	Responsible for executing contracts with the land owners for water rights

The performance of the Water Sector examines what and how the sector has contributed towards the social, economic and environmental development of the Solomon Islands. Performance can be measured by developing appropriate indicators that demonstrate how well water sector goals and objectives are being met. Such indicators provide a useful tool in reviewing this policy and its associated programmes. In order for comparisons to be drawn and forecasts made regarding water performance, qualitative and quantitative indicators need to be developed first from a reliable source of data, and thereafter requiring consistent collection.

The indicators discussed in this document show the extent to which the sector has been developed so far to manage water resources, provide basic water and sanitation services, and the quality at which these services are being delivered. While not comprehensive given inadequate data availability, the indicators provide insight into problems and potentials for integrated water resources management.

Water resources is a general term encompassing the concepts of availability (the location, spatial distribution, or natural fluctuations of water); accessibility (given availability, whether people can access it or afford water in adequate quantities); and quality (whether accessed water is free of contaminants and safe for consumption). It also describes water in various forms, such as groundwater and surface water.

Water Resources and Development.

Water resources availability in Solomon Islands varied considerably from over abundance (sizeable rivers and streams on high islands) to scarce water resources in small islands and low lying atolls (rain harvesting and exploitation of vulnerable fresh water lenses). Where there is abundance, the question of quality always prevails.

The much needed development activities such as logging (especially uncontrolled) which is currently widespread in the country and the traditional slash and burn practices of farming (increased with increased population) have gradually and systematically negatively affected surface water resources quality and quantity, a threat to population and communities who are dependent on the water sources affected. This is real and an on-going concern for serious addressing.

In Solomon Islands, most water resources development are for human consumption and personal use, agriculture, industrial and some power generation (hopefully more hydro-power developments as renewable energy source).

Water Resources Management

Management refers to the ability to manage water development in a way that ensures long term sustainable use for future generations. In the Solomon Islands, responsibility for water resources management, including assessment, planning and development, is shared between the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Solomon Islands Water Authority. The present institutional framework for water resources management lacks proper coordination, featuring fragmented control as well as duplication and negligence of functional roles.

Issues pertaining to water rights and allocation have been flagged for Government intervention given the situation of customary land rights and ownership of water sources. Essentially, water resources are controlled and regulated by Government; they are not explicitly declared as state property. This highlights the need for legislation review. There are also pressing concerns pertaining to the adverse effects of climate variability, traditional agricultural practices, deforestation and logging activities on the quality and quantity of water resources. Some efforts made to address these issues are reflected in the country's action plans, primarily targeted at improving the dearth of skills and capacity in overall water.¹ However, implementation is likely to occur over a long-term period.

Community Awareness/Participation

Fundamental to the success of water sector reforms is the level of participation and awareness of the community/stakeholders. Their input at various decision-making levels is warranted to ensure that the management of water resources is effective and efficient. Awareness amongst Solomon Islands' general population is limited, particularly in the rural areas concerning the effects of development, agricultural methods, climate change and natural disasters on water quality and quantity. Ignorance is also apparent regarding the nature of water and its finite state.

The Population Census 1999 revealed a low literacy rate nationwide which further exacerbates the lack of awareness regarding responsible water resources management. Developing and implementing measures for increasing awareness amongst the general users and landowners are critical.

Statistics reveal that there is almost an exclusion of women from the decision-making process in water resources management, notwithstanding their predominant composition as users of water. For effective water governance and management, gender equity in decision-making process is necessary.

¹ National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan 2003-2006 and the Ministry of Mines and Energy Corporate Plan.

Accessibility

Access to water resources, predominantly located on customary land, is hindered by the land owners' demands for compensation and lack of specific legislation.

Human Resource Development

The water resources division of the Department of Mines and Energy comprises hydrology and hydrogeology sections and employs a total of 6 all male technical personnel. Limited specialised skills are available in hydrological assessment and monitoring as well as water resources assessment, development and management. There is a great demand for expertise in this area. In addition, enhanced skills development in policy formulation and review and planning are needed.

Financial Capacity

Various programmes associated with improving water governance and management processes are funded by various donor agencies. However, effective implementation and monitoring activities are hindered by a lack of funds. Government budget estimates for 2006 – 2008 (Corporate Plan 2006-2008) indicate that the water resources division of the Department of Mines and Energy receives less priority over the mines, geology and energy sectors.

Water Supply and Sanitation

The relationship between water and population can be summarized as “healthy water means healthy people”. Everyone has the right to access safe and adequate water and good sanitation services. These essential basic services with appropriate awareness on hygiene can reduce health risks associated with bad water (eg. Diarrhea).

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services attempts to implement this important goal of safe water for health in the rural setting whilst SIWA for the urban setting.

Water Quality

Water quality is an issue that may not be easily and effectively dealt with now at the rural areas, but it is one that is of utmost importance in the long term. Water quality analysis in Solomon Islands is a major problem. Most of the existing laboratories are incapable of analyzing required analysis as specified in the International standards for water quality. Currently, SIWA is treating Honiara water supply system using chlorine. International scientist had linked such treatment of water supply and kidney problem [goldstone]. Deforestation had reduced the quality of water in Solomon Islands. Appropriate land management is very important for all water resources from contamination.

Disaster preparedness

The occurrence of disasters may be considered in two folds. That which is caused by humans interfering with nature or that which is caused by natural means. The vision for disaster preparedness regarding human interference is to make the public aware of the vulnerable state of our small islands with limited water resources. More education particularly rural people not to make selfish decisions regarding land use such as traditional gardening methods, granting of rights for unsustainable logging operations on water sources and other developments that can cause contamination to water. Also, to educate our smaller coral atoll islanders about the problems of sanitation facilities. Wastewater intrusion from sanitation facilities in such communities may be considered a disaster. The RWSS has done some awareness as part of their programme but admitted that what they did is not enough. There must be rigorous campaigning to make the people of such issues.

Climate adaptation

Natural disasters on the other hand are at best of times unavoidable. However educating the public on its effects on water sources and supplies is important. With climate adaptation, the best that can be done now is to provide relevant

adequate information to the general public who may be ignorant on such issues or restricted due to lack of it. Climate variation poses new threat to this scarce resource. The effect of variation had been seen in several part of the country. The trend of annual precipitation is the main source for recharging freshwater in rivers, streams and groundwater. It is very likely that the river and stream flow is also declining. With the increase in temperature, it is expected that evapotranspiration will also increase. Under this trend of historical records, Solomon Islands is likely to face shortages of freshwater in certain parts and low fresh water in the rest of the country.

Dialogue on climate and water

The presence of many low-lying atolls in the country must be acknowledged. These people even at the best of times live with the reality of shortage of water. There is now complain of sea-water intruding into their well and their drinking water now taste brackish water. Any disaster of any magnitude would have disastrous effect on their livelihood.

Advocacy

Awareness is an integral part of any management strategy taken to protect water resources and must be carried out on all sectors of society. Lack of information had been a cause of negligence of people to look after this resource. Perhaps very low literacy rate particularly among the rural populace seems to play a part. However, lack of dissemination of such important informations due to lack of funds and staff plays a major part of it. If this resource is to be protected, this must be an area to start because water resources are on the land owned by the people. People, particularly landowners of water sources must be made aware of the importance of water sources, and the need for protection. People must also be made aware that water is a finite resource and can also become scarce if it is not managed properly.

Political Will

Existing legislation relating to water resources include the Solomon Islands Water Authority (SIWA) Act 1992, the River Waters Act of 1969 (cap 96), the Environment Act (1998) and the Public Health Ordinance (1970). Under these Acts, each government institutions has vested responsibilities to enforce activities ranging from the construction of urban reticulation systems, issue of water permits and licenses, protection of water sources in the areas of operation, protection of the environment from pollution and the supplying of potable water that meets the required health standards. Unfortunately some of them, specifically the River Waters Act are limited to Specific urban water supply catchment areas and offer no protection over a majority of natural streams and catchment areas in the country.

The new Water Resource Act, currently reviewed under this project would enable the government to strengthen a national water policy, which would be promulgated. A draft legislation has already begun in 1997 with assistance from UNDP but continuity in funding the project was the main constraint. In 1998 the Solomon Islands for Alliance for Change (SIAC) government gave approval for the drafting instructions to go ahead. The task came to a halt at the height of the ethnic unrest and the subsequent removal of the SIAC government in 2000.

Community participation

The Rural Water Supply & Sanitation program adopted a mixture of both the "bottom up' and 'top down' approaches in conducting consultations with communities. The national consultation process in general may be stated in a general manner as such.

Environmental understanding

It must be realized that a water resource is dependent on and part of the environment. It cannot be isolated from it, and measure to address the issue of

water must be simultaneously done with other environmental issues. Hence, to understand water, the whole environment must be understood. To protect water, the environment must be protected. Therefore, bad development practices that are harmful to the environment must be avoided if we are to protect the water resources.

Gender balance and equity

It is important to realize that the main users of water are the women. They must be given the chance in the decision making process in the management of water.

3.2. Objectives achieved (overall objective, purpose, result)

The overall objective of the Programme for Water Governance is to mainstream the principles of good water governance into day-to-day applications through pilot projects so as to assist in achieving sustainable water resource management and provision of water services within Solomon Islands.

The goal is to promote the application of effective water governance in institutions, systems, structures and processes in the Solomons. The major focus of this programme is on the development of activities which will act as 'Best Practice' examples for the sector.

The National Task Force selected, decided that the programme should concentrate on the three main activities as follows:

- i. Development of a National Water Policy
- ii. Development of a Water Resource Legislation
- iii. Conduct Awareness on Stakeholder

Although difficulties were noticeable in bringing together stakeholders to discuss the above and also given the recent political unrest activities during the project time period, the above three activities were completed with much emphasis given to development of the National Water Policy

3.3. Activities undertaken

The activities were selected with the assistance of the National Working Group in order to achieve the programme goals and objectives. Much research also were carried out through stakeholder consultations, reviewing of various existing legislation, regulations and policies as well as the interviews with the key stakeholders, not only from within the Water Sector, but other sectors as well.

Data Collection and Initial Visit

Programme activities for Solomon Island Water Governance project commenced with a visit to the Solomon Islands by the KEW Consult Ltd. Project Specialist, Ms Veronique Provo, to collect important water related data and initiate dialogue with relevant Government stakeholders in the water sector. The host organisation was the Department of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources.

Various related Acts were collected and reviewed after this first visit which also initiated regular communications with the key stakeholders in the Solomon as an effort to streamline all the possible weaknesses and strengths of the water sector in the country (Refer to Appendix A for the complete report of the visit)

Key Water Stakeholder Tour to Samoa:

The above initial visit/assignment was followed by a 4 day observational/water study tour to Samoa, involving a delegation of Government Heads of 3 distinctive water organisations, namely Mr Robinson Fugui, Director of Environmental Health, Ministry of Health, Mr John Waki, General Manager of Solomon Islands Water Authority and Mr Charlie Bepapa, Director of Mines, Energy and Water, Ministry of Natural Resources. The Water Study Tour was a result of the volatile events that took place following the general elections in Honiara in April, which precluded the ability of the consultant to travel to Honiara to engage in consultation with key stakeholders over water policy and regulatory issues.

The outcome of the study tour however was positive, particularly as Samoa has already made significant progress in enhancing its water governance processes and

systems and lessons could be learnt from their experience. A working group for the governance programme, involving the three S.I delegates was duly established to further advance the aims of the SIWG programme. (Refer to Appendix B for the complete report of the Study Tour)

Programme Coordinator

Because of the need to give emphasis on communication amongst the stakeholders and also awareness, it was proposed to employed a local Programme Coordinator to assist in implementing the programme activities not only during the project timeframe but also after the project especially on conducting and coordinating activities of awareness, not only in Honiara but all the other provinces and outer islands.

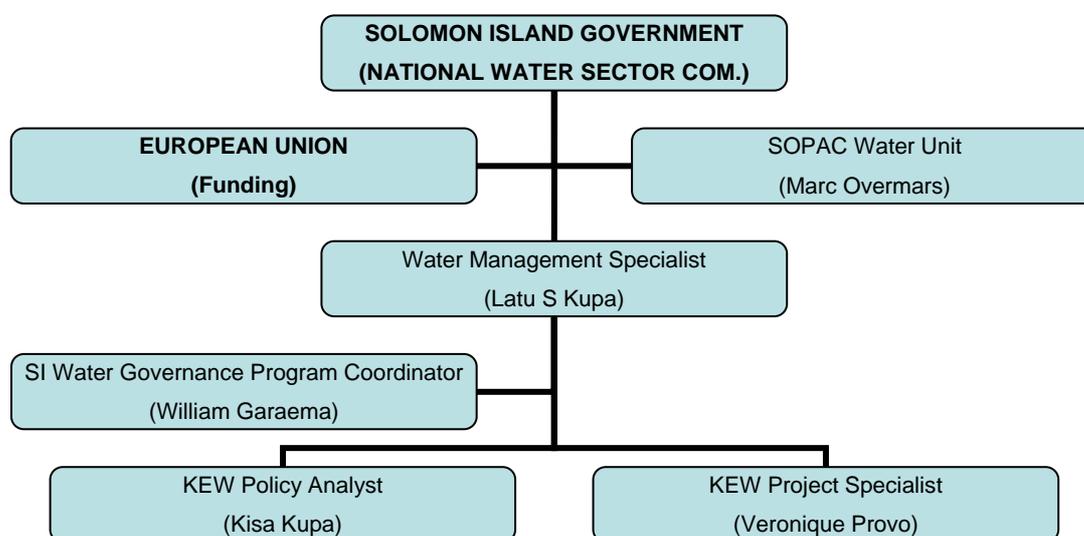
The position was funded from the existing contract as initially employed by KEW Consult Ltd. during the project timeframe and was agreed that will continue to be funded by the Solomon Islands Government after the project to ensure continuation of awareness for all the water issues across the whole country, especially promoting conservation of resources and protection of catchment.

The Programme Coordinator was appointed by government on August and was since paid by KEW Consult until December 2006. This position is currently financed by the Solomon Island government through the Water Resource Department

Final Consultations:

Further consultation was held in November with wider stakeholders and follows on from the consultation meeting that was held in September with Government and NGO stakeholders during the time of the SOPAC meeting in Honiara. That meeting was hosted by SIWA and drew out various issues relating to the draft policy. Now that the SIWG programme is drawing to a close, the major challenges that remain is for the consultation and awareness programmes to continue with the assistance of William Garaema, Programme Coordinator, who was recruited specifically to coordinate consultation and awareness programmes on the draft policy and legislation and maintain a close link with KEW Consult. It is hoped that more funds would be secured to ensure that the draft policy and legislation are finalised after effective country-wide consultation has been achieved.

3.4. Resources and budget used



Budget of US\$38,000 was allocated for the implementation of the project to include consultancy fees, workshop costs, recruitment of local personnel, logistics, travelling and also accommodation and conducting consultations

Majority of the travelling budget was utilised for the Stakeholders Study Tour to Samoa and four consultancy trips to the Solomon Islands

3.5. Assumptions and risks (status/update)

Assumptions and risks	Outcomes
Political instability	<p>During the project timeframe, Solomon Islands went through some very hard and memorable times of their political set-up. After the General Election in April</p> <p>2006, there have been a lot of uncertainties and impacted directly on the implementations of this project. Schedule consultations and assignments were postponed or even cancelled.</p> <p>Four times during the project period that a responsible Minister was replaced and posed difficulties in securing Government's</p>

	<p>commitment on approving appropriate mandate and legislation.</p> <p>Agreement was already granted by the third Minister that he will submit the Water Policy and Legislation into Cabinet, however there is now another delay as the new Minister requires briefing</p>
Health improvement remains a priority for Government	Health is still a priority.
The government continue to support at higher political level the water sector reform.	Water sector reform is still a priority. The Water Committee is however now set but still requires political recognition
Land dispute	<p>Land dispute is a major risk for any development in the Solomons. The Final Consultation involving major land owners saw the need to be more proactive on these type of issues and also start including landowners from the outset of any water project. Their contribution is more valuable.</p> <p>A lot of awareness and educational suggestion by the land owners during the final consultation and it is best to continually include them well before design phase</p>
Cyclones	No cyclone hit Solomons during the project timeframe.
Earthquakes and Tsunami	Two earthquakes were felt in the Solomons during the project timeframe but there were no damages. No Tsunami
Flooding	No floods during the project period
Drought	In 2006, a minor drought affected the water resources at the end of the dry season and few complaints received by SIWA during this period because of water rationing
Public response to meters	Meter acceptance is still a challenges for the general water development in the provinces and the rural areas. The awareness programme was developed to ensure positive response to meters introduction.

Local contractors' capacity	<p>There is a need to develop the capacity for the local contractors to enable sustainability of water development projects in the future.</p> <p>Because Govt is not yet in the position to outsource water development, the private sectors is very much minimal at this stage.</p>
Affordability of the service	<p>During the project period, people complaints about the cost of water supplied by SIWA, however the willingness to purchase spring water bottles is not a problem although much more expensive than SIWA</p> <p>The rural water supply is still free at the moment and Provincial Government together with Ministry of Health are subsidising these services to ensure proper maintenance to water assets</p>

3.6. Management/coordination arrangements

This project was fully financed by European Union through SOPAC. The implementing agency for the project is the Ministry of Mines and Energy with main input also provided by both Solomon Island Water Authority and the Ministry of Health

A National Task Force was set-up to supervise and approve the orientation and course of action of the project. It was composed of representatives of the Director of the Water Resource (Chairman), the General Manager, Solomon Island Water Authority, and the Director for Environmental Health, Ministry of Health.

KEW Consult Ltd. consultancy firm was tasked to implement the project.

3.7. Financing arrangements

The Government of Solomon Islands contributed to the project through budget allocations and SWA contributed to its implementation through its own resources by providing staff, equipment and other resources for activities including project management, public awareness and land negotiation.

3.8. Key quality/sustainability issues

We are confident that the project outcomes and results will be sustained after external funding ends. The following key elements for sustainability have been identified:

3.8.1. Ownership of objectives and achievements by project beneficiaries

The project beneficiaries acknowledged, through the various consultations held during the project, their appreciation of the project as it is bringing very positive attitude amongst the stakeholders. However, it is important to continue awareness activities and to put the emphasis on some major water development projects to also include the rural areas and giving emphasis on sanitation issues as well.

3.8.2. Ownership of objectives and achievements by the Water Resource Division

The ownership of objectives and achievements by the Water Resource Division management through its involvement in the project design and implementation has been good. However, the consultant has sometimes felt a lack of resource in terms of sufficient staffing to ensure implementation after the project period is an area that requires further attention

4. LESSONS LEARNED

4.1. Policy and programme context – including institutional capacity

Because the islands are all so scattered, it was not possible with budget and timing to achieve any wider consultation to even include the village communities at the grassroots' level. It is important that budget allocation is sufficient to always include the policy consultations in the rural areas. These are often overlooked when considering budgetary for policy development. This project was definitely one example of insufficient budgetary resources and unable the consultations to reach the rural areas. Although at the end, representatives of the provinces whom are resided in Honiara for work purpose were contacted and also were able to attend the final consultation, it is still very essential and important for ownership of policy to conduct consultation at the villages/rural areas.

Travelling around each island is difficult by land because the road infrastructure does not reach other remote villages in the rural areas and other provinces. Even Guadalcanal alone where Honiara is located, it is difficult to travel, by vehicle, around the island. The only viable means of transportation is by small hired motor-boat.

4.2. Process of project planning/design

Women were not always consulted on consultation and it was very encouraging during the final consultation to even included the participation of women. This is also why it is important to always allow extending consultation the rural areas to even include women and children participation.

It can not be over-emphasise the need to plan and design these projects properly to consider the aspects such as the following:

- The distance between each islands and the provinces to include proper consultations at the village level, including such expenses like transport allowances, insensitive for wider participation
- Participation of women and children on all the main consultations

-
- Inclusion of water issues in the school curriculum and provide a kind of awareness protocol/strategy to encourage and also promote participation of politician during their own districts consultations
 - Unlike other pacific islands, Solomon Island does not yet have the benefit of easier road infrastructure access in other islands and especially towards the rural provinces. Therefore proper timing is also very important for implementation phases

4.3. Project scope(objectives, resources, budget, etc)

It was evident that the project scope requires the wider participation by all the stakeholders including those in the rural areas and provinces, outer islands. As mentioned above, budget allocations to fund travelling and conducting workshops at the outer islands were under-estimated and as result, consultations were only restricted in Honiara.

Although the Government through the National Task Force members assisted the project all along, their limited and restricted budgetary allocation was always a hindrance. Other activities that were also vital to the awareness programme, such as radio and television educational programmes, development of promotional materials were not possible again because of lack of funds

4.4. Assumptions and risks

Out of all the risks, the major one that impacted on the implementation was the unpredictability of the political movement in the Solomons during the project period. It was difficult to cage the political culture and as result hard to identify better and clear direction of the water sector in the future.

The National Water Policy as well as the Water Resource Legislation were completed and all ready to be submitted to Cabinet, but were delayed again because of the recent change of Minister. The consultant also assisted the Ministry in the preparation of required Cabinet papers.

4.5. Project management/coordination arrangements.

The project was well managed by the Ministry of Mines and Energy through the Director of Water Resources, Charlie Bepapa. It was realised later the need to recruit a local counterpart as a local Project Coordinator to concentrate entirely on delivering awareness and education contacts with the wider stakeholders, ensuring communication amongst the sector is sustainable

However, still the institutional arrangement of the sector is fragmented and government need to give strong commitment in order to see water as a priority sector, the involvement of the land owners as well should always be consider as an important aspects of any consultation regarding water related issues. This will minimise unnecessary delays on any project implementation stages.

It was also learnt that Government still see minerals more important than water at this stage because of the view point that water will always be there. Unfortunately, there is still growing concern that water resources is continue to be reduced.

4.6. Project financing arrangements

Apart from funds available through the project consultancy, there was only very limited available from Government to conduct any other awareness programmes. It is very important that more funds are available from both Government and other financial institution to implement a more consolidated and wider community education and awareness campaign.

4.7. Sustainability

The project and especially the motivation, sustainability of the overall Sector will depend entirely on how government see the water resource. This should always be acknowledged as a most important aspect of an economic development in the country, even more important than minerals in long term.

It is encouraged at this point that Government should prioritise WATER as a separate Sector of economic development and focus in motivating stakeholders to discuss issues and implement essential development projects especially at the rural area water supply and appropriate sanitation system

The appreciation of water development by the public can only be earned when government put in place these essential policies and start investing on physical works development, either through re-current budget or outside funding assistance through the European Union Water Facility or 10th EDF. It is also equally important that the Financial Agencies such as EU, ADB and also World Bank sees the need in the country and pro-actively move forward to assist rather than taking a “sit-back and wait” type of approach to resolve the growing concerns of the environmental health issues in the remote areas.

APPENDIX A: Initial Visit to Solomon Island Report

1. Purpose of the visit

The purpose of this assignment was to collect the existing documentation relating to water sector in the Solomon Islands. This includes legislation on water and sectors impacting on it, studies, reports and data.

2. Programme

As the only photocopying machine available in the building was not functioning and no electronic copy of the documents was existing, I had to scan all the documents collected which occupied most of my time in the Solomons.

Tuesday 17	First meeting with Charlie Bepapa. Localization of documents.
Wednesday 18	Documents collection and scanning.
Thursday 19	Documents collection and scanning.
Friday 20	Documents collection and scanning. Meeting with SIWA
Monday 23	Documents collection and scanning. Meeting with Ministry of Health
Tuesday 24	Departure from the Solomon islands.

3. Solomon Islands Water Sector Overview

The provision of water supply services in Honiara covers 69.6% of the population and about 50% of the population have access to piped water nationwide.

3.1. Current water sector structure

Ministry of Natural Resources – Department of Mines and Energy	Responsible for water resources assessment and management.
Ministry of Natural Resources – Department of Forestry, Environment and Conservation	Responsible for environment assessment
SIWA (under department of Mines and Energy)	Established in 1992. responsible for water supply and sanitation in urban areas: Honiara, Auki, Tulagi and Noro.
Ministry of Health	Water supply and sanitation in rural areas. Coordinate and assess demands coming from provincial governments. Compile demands into a document and look for funding.
Provincial governments-Water Units	Water supply in rural areas. Assess villages demand and transmit a request to the Ministry of Health. Design, implement and maintain water schemes.

3.2. Water Function and responsible bodies

Water function	Responsible bodies
Water resources management	Ministry of Natural Resources – Dep. of Mines and Energy
watershed protection	Ministry of Natural Resources – Dep. of Forestry, Environment and Conservation.
Water supply services	Urban areas: SIWA Rural areas: Ministry of Health
Sewerage services	SIWA
Septic tank collection	Operated by Honiara City Council and a private company but shortage of manpower and vehicles so sewage is flooding from tanks into the river.
Storm Water drainage	NA
Hydrology, hydrogeology and water quantity monitoring	MNR, dep. of Mines and Energy.
Water quality monitoring	Ministry of Health SIWA Ministry of Natural Resources
Hydropower generation	Only 2 hydropower plants but are not working at the moment. Most of the power produced by diesel.
Irrigation water (very limited)	Ministry of Agriculture

3.3. Sector outcomes

Field	Comments
National water reform	
National water resource policy	None
National water service policy	None
Effective water sector coordination body	None. There is currently a steering committee in charge with drafting water quality guidelines. Few meetings were held last year, but no output yet.
Effective Water Action Agenda	None
Water resource management	

Existing policy and capacity to collect, coordinate and manage water data among agencies	None. Lack of coordination mechanisms. Each agency is collecting its own data.
River basin management	None
Water quality	Monitored by the Ministry of Natural Resources
Effective water resources and environmental management	The environment Act makes provision for environment impact assessment to be conducted but there is no mean to implement it.
Water service delivery	
Consumption	197 l/c/d for domestic customers in urban areas 334 l/c/d for all customers
UFW	Non revenue water ratio: 42.6%
Access to piped water	Urban: 69.6% Rural: 50%
Access to adequate sanitation	In Honiara, household using septic tank 71% and household with sewer connection: 5%. SI Households by type of toilets: Flush toilet: 12.6% Pour toilet: 7.6% Pit toilet : 2.5% Ventilated improved pit : 0.2% Other: 0.1% No modern toilet or type not stated: 77%
Water related disease	Still need to be collected
Non-revenue water collection	42.6% in urban areas water losses from leakage: about 40%
Collection and treatment of urban wastewater	No water treatment facilities except chlorination disinfections facilities Only Central hospital and the private companies Solbrew and Solomon Tobacco have wastewater treatment plants.
Cost recovery for urban water services	In 2004, SIWA total revenue was SI\$ 17.2 million and expenses (including capital costs), SI\$ 12.3 million. Profit: 4.8 million or 28% of total revenue. Commercial water bills: 60% of income Sewerage income: 10% of total revenue.
Private sector participation in urban	Septic tank sludge.

water services	
Awareness programs in schools and for public	<p>Awareness campaign have been undertaken in areas supplied by SIWA to limit water consumption and inform about billing.</p> <p>It has been said that provincial governments are also conducting awareness session in villages for water conservation and water supply system basic maintenance. More awareness programmes are needed but the lack of funds.</p>

3.4. Challenges and Issues

Theme	Existing tools	Shortcomings	Existing projects
Planning and management of water resources	<p>Legislations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River water's ordinance 1969 - SIWA Act 1992 - Environment Act 1998 - Public health ordinance 1970 - Forest Act 1998 <p>- Draft Water Resources act.</p>	<p>Lack of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ comprehensive water assessment (no reliable hydrological data, no representative national hydrological network, little understanding of hydrology and water resources). ▪ appropriate water resources governance ▪ legislative framework ▪ coordinative approach by agencies involved in water management ▪ River Water's ordinance inadequate as only few rivers are protected under this act. 	<p>Funds from GEF UNESCO for hydrological equipments Hydrological assistant on SOPAC-NIWA hydrology training programme.</p>
Water resources and development	<p>Water catchments declaration.</p>	<p>Logging (especially uncontrolled) and traditional slash-and-burn agriculture have negative impact on surface water resources quality and quantity.</p> <p>Land issues and resources ownership: Major Problem for implementation when water source catchments are on customary land.</p>	
Water quality	<p>Public health Ordinance</p> <p>National Drinking guidelines committee (to review existing quality monitoring practices and establish a national guideline but not completed yet)</p>	<p>Lack of capacity to ensure water analysis in-country</p> <p>Water quality threatened by logging and mining.</p> <p>Environment Act makes provision for PEAR and EIA for any development but there it is not applied due to lack of qualified personnel.</p>	<p>Project funded by JICA for the improvement of water supply and waste water service in Honiara and 4 other centres.</p> <p>Establishment of a national water quality guideline committee.</p>
Island vulnerability	<p>Dialogue on climatic vulnerability and change related to water between govt and NGO attempted</p>	<p>Flooding and droughts</p> <p>No hydrological stations with capability for flood warning.</p>	<p>Awareness programme on hydrology on radio conducted by the National Disaster Management Office</p>

Final Report

<p>Awareness</p>		<p>Low level of literacy Lack of basic water related data to back up awareness programme Women are not included in decision making process for water.</p>	<p>Awareness programme on hydrology on radio SIWA conducted public awareness programme through radio and schools Awareness workshops for government undertaken by ADB, Ausaid and USP but general election in March 2006.</p>
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Final Report

Theme	Existing tools	Shortcomings	Existing projects
Technology			
Institutional arrangements		<p>No national water resources policy</p> <p>No comprehensive water resources legislation.</p> <p>Need for effective coordination of various agencies and stakeholders (NGO, private sector, communities) for water management.</p> <p>Training staff is a problem.</p>	
Finance		<p>Lack of financial resources.</p> <p>Only urban areas supplied by SIWA are commercially viable.</p> <p>Provincial governments lack of qualified staff and funds to properly maintain rural water supply systems.</p>	<p>WB and JICA, financial restructuring of SIWA to improve revenue and sustainability of service in urban area.</p> <p>Billing system for urban areas has just been upgraded with data capture devices for meter reading (before done manually).</p>

4. Documents collected

4.1. Legislation

- SIWA Act, 1992
- River waters acts, 1969
- Environment Act, 1998
- Lands and titles act
- Forestry Act
- Mines and Minerals Act
- Public health Ordinance, 1970
- Water supply act
- Tentative water resources act, draft, 1992

4.2. Strategic papers

- National Economic Recovery, Reform and development plan 2003-2006, Government of Solomon Islands
- Department of Mines and Energy Corporate plan, 2004 (latest report available)
- Ministry of Health Activities report, 2004 (written in October 2005). *To be emailed by Charlie Bepapa.*

4.3. Reports and studies

- Solomon Islands water management and institutional issues, UNDP mission report, 1989
- Study for rehabilitation and improvement of SIWA's water supply and sewerage, JICA, 2005.
- Solomon Islands Population and housing census, 1998

All these documents are saved in the shared files (KEW Project> SIWG)

5. Constraints and issues for the Water Governance project

5.1. Government's involvement

Water is not a priority of the government. It appears that several workshops and training have been undertaken regarding water governance and water resources management targeting government and governmental agencies. Nevertheless, it seems that the IWRM approach is not very well known.

The government agencies representatives, involved in water resources management, met all stressed the need for a comprehensive legislation.

5.2. Lack of resources

Where legislation is existing and provide effective tools, there is a lack of resources to enforce the law. For example, the Environment Act is making provision for EIA and PEAR to be conducted for any development but this is not apply due to the lack of resources (both human and financial). The drafting of a new comprehensive water resources act will not solve water issues, if the law is not applied. Therefore this should be considered as a part of a global water resources strategy supported by adequate funding and capacity building for implementation.

5.3. Fragmented management of water resources

It has been felt that this project is solely seen as a way to complete the long time awaited water resources act, but is not really considered in its entirety which is a set of pilot projects to move towards good water governance. Moreover, it is driven by the department of Mines and Energy under the Ministry of Natural Resources and there is no involvement of other agencies which reflects the fragmented management of water sector. A stakeholders general meeting to explain the goals of this project and possible areas of change should enable better understanding of what can be achieved and ensure this opportunity is fully exploited.

6. Possible target areas for pilot projects

- Policies – setting goals for water sector, water use, protection and conservation.
- Legislative framework – rules to follow to achieve policies and goals (water laws cover ownership of water, permits to use it, transferability of those permits, customary entitlements, regulatory norms for conservation, protection, priorities, and conflict management.)
- Creating an organizational framework – forms and functions (clear demarcation of responsibilities, co-ordinating mechanisms, jurisdictional gaps or overlaps, match responsibilities with authority and capacities for action).

- Awareness - developing awareness for decision makers, water managers and professionals, for regulatory bodies and empowerment of civil society.

ANNEX1: Minutes of the meeting with SIWA

Friday 21st January

Freda UNUSI, Senior Sales and Customers Service Officer (funusi@siwa.com.sb)

John WAKI, General Manager, (jwaki@swa.com.sb)

SIWA started operations in 1994 and is responsible for water supply and sanitation in urban areas, namely Honiara, Tulagi, Auki and Noro.

Land issues

The major problem faced by SIWA is land issues. Resources owners' claims are very high as logging and mining companies are paying high compensations. Legislation makes provision of compulsory acquisition but it's very hard to apply.

John said there is a need for standard procedures for compensation and said the creation of "trustees" like in Fiji could be a good solution to address issues with customary land owner and invest money from compensation fees in funds.

The other problem is land registration and legal ownership. There are many land disputes and it is sometimes hard to identify the owner. In some cases, many tribes and sub-tribes are living along a pipeline leading to having one lease and many sub-lease.

Urban Water supply

SIWA has 8000 customers , all metered but about 1900 meters are not functioning. The undergoing project funded by JICA should address the problem. Average consumption is estimated at 196 litre/capita/day. This good performance is attributed to the water conservation programme which combines awareness and aggressive tariff policy.

Tariff structure:

Domestic rate	1\$ per KL if consumption < 30KL per day 2.42\$ per KL if consumption > 30KL per day
Commercial rate	5.60\$ per KL

UFW represents about 50% of non-revenue water. The JICA project also aims at addressing this issue.

Water Quality

Water quality is regularly checked by the environmental department within SIWA. Water is chlorinated. Water from boreholes is not treated as quality is good. There is a need for a national laboratory under the Ministry of health which should be part of recommendations made by the Committee currently in charge with drafting a Water Quality Guidelines.

Financial

Revenue collection is 100% but this is not including arrears. The revenue is barely enough to cover O&M and capital works. Electricity bills are very high and reducing costs is a priority as well as high leakage.

Human resources

The main problem is staff training but not lack of personnel.

ANNEX 2: Minutes of the meeting with the Ministry of Health

Monday 23rd January 2006

Robinson Stanley Fugui, Director of Environmental Health Department

Ministry of health is responsible for coordinating rural water supply and sanitation at the national level. Water Units of the Provincial governments are operating at the local level.

Provision of water

The village lodge a request to the provincial government that will make a first assessment and transmit water supply requests to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health prioritises demands and document them in one project submitted to donors (EU, JICA, AusAid, NZAid, Canada Aid). Once funds secured, the Water Unit of the provincial government is responsible to implement the scheme and maintain it.

Protection of Rivers is a priority

Communities in rural areas depend on rivers for water supply and the quality of water is affected by logging and mining. It is important to review the existing River waters act as it is only applying to protected rivers.

There is no provision in legislation to fine or prosecute polluters.

Management of rural water supply schemes

Once implemented, most of the rural schemes collapse rapidly due to lack of basic maintenance. Provincial governments are in charge with maintaining the schemes but due to lack of staff and funds for capital works, it is not properly done.

Some provincial governments charge the village for the water supply which provides funds for maintenance. In these villages, the water supply scheme is better maintained as people are more committed to make it work.

Water consumption

Water consumption is high in rural areas but as there is an adequate supply of water, it is not a major problem.

The meeting was cut short as Mr Fugui had an important meeting with the Canadian donor agency.

APPENDIX B: Key Stakeholders Visit to Samoa Report

Introduction

As part of the Solomon Islands Water Governance Programme, a delegation of Solomon Islands representatives came to Samoa for a four day visit from the 16th to the 19th May 2006. Due to some turbid events that occurred in Honiara in April, a public awareness consultation, initially scheduled to be held in the Solomon Islands capital city, was consequently moved to Samoa, given the timeframe for project implementation.

The three delegates, Mr Robinson Fugui, Director of Environmental Health, Ministry of Health, Mr Charlie Bepapa, Director of Mines, Energy and Water, Ministry of Natural Resources and, Mr John Waki, General Manager of Solomon Islands Water Authority visited water related government agencies to discuss common water issues and develop an understanding of the wide sector approach Samoa has adopted for sustainable water management. The visit, that included a one day consultation with the Solomon Islands community living in Samoa and various Government officials, was also aiming at agreeing and confirming the project activities and objectives for the coming months.

Conclusions

One of the problems the project is facing and at a larger scale with regards the water sector in Solomon Islands, is the lack of coordination and cooperation of various agencies involved. This visit to Samoa was an opportunity to bring together three major stakeholders and build a working group to take the leading role as their active involvement is crucial for the successful implementation of this project and beyond, for the move toward a wide sector approach. The visit was a success as it enabled the exchange of views on various issues from different perspectives: rural and urban water supply and sanitation, central and provincial governments, current organization of the water sector; and also the discussion of areas to be targeted by the pilot projects.

From the discussions held during the consultation, the need for awareness and education arose as a major issue from a community point of view. The presentations from the three representatives stressed lack of financial resources, skills and coordination as key areas of need. The need for a water policy and a comprehensive water legislation was also highlighted to be addressed together with land issues.

Consequently, it was decided with the newly established working group to target the following critical areas: water policy and legislation, coordination and awareness. On a medium and long term perspective, Solomon Islands will be able to capitalize on these components to seek for further funding to progressively adopt an integrated sector approach for the effective management of water resources.

Recommendations

The recommendations outlined below are based on the outcome of discussions with the Solomon Islands Water Governance Programme Working Group. For each recommendation, the primary agency and timeframe for implementation is suggested:

- Ensure the newly elected government's support of and commitment to the development of the water sector, particularly as the water sector has been identified as a lesser priority in the Solomon Islands. The Government should take the lead and drive the process. (Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Mines and Energy; ongoing).
- Conduct additional stakeholders consultations in the Solomon Islands (Project Consultant and Working Group, ongoing between June and November 06)
- Recruit a Water Governance Project Officer in the Solomon Islands to ensure the successful implementation of activities and follow-up. This position should be maintained after the end of the project to assist the proposed Water Sector Steering Committee in implementing further water sector developments (Project Consultant, by the end of June 2006).
- Engage a legal adviser to draft the legislation as the project timeframe will only allow for preparing the skeleton outline of the act (Project Consultant, by the end of July 2006)
- Strengthen the sector coordination by setting up a National Water Sector Steering Committee (Project Consultant and Working Group, by December 2006)

MEETINGS WITH WATER RELATED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Meetings were arranged with the main actors of the water sector in Samoa to share experiences and identify common issues.

The delegation had fruitful discussions with the following persons:

- Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure,
Hon. Tuisugaletaua Aveau Sofara
- Managing Director, Samoa Water Authority, Mr Moefaauo Taputoa Titimaea
- CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology,
Tuuu Dr. Ieti Taulealo
- Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) Management Unit.



Meeting with the Water Sector Support Programme Team

The delegation also visited some key water sites, including the three main Water Treatment Plants at Alaoa, Fuluasou and Malololelei, The Hydro Dam at both Alaoa and Afulilo and some hydro generation turbines at Alaoa. Rural water pumping stations at Tiavea as well as the whole rural reticulation system network were included in the site visits.

CONSULTATION “WATER IS PRECIOUS”

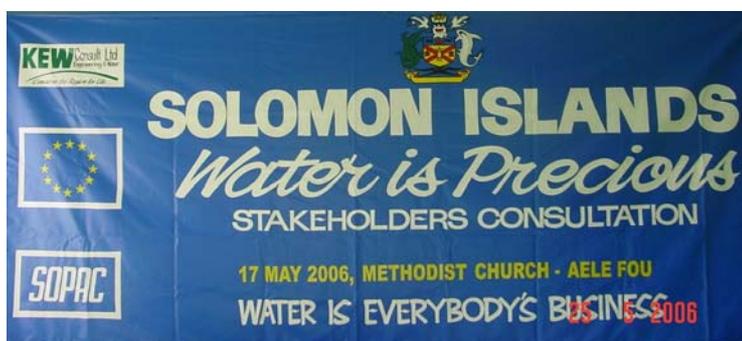


The consultation “Water is Precious” was held on Wednesday 17th May at one of the villages in Upolu, Aele Fou, to bring together the Solomon Islanders currently living and working in Samoa and Samoa water related agencies representatives to discuss water issues in the Solomon Islands from the wide community perspective.

The village of Aele Fou was chosen to host this consultation due to its historical links with the Solomon islanders who arrived in Samoa at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. The event, opened by the Minister of Natural Resource, Environment and Meteorology, the Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga, was attended by 29 persons.

The consultation had a good media coverage as it was covered by several media including the local newspapers, the Samoan Observer and Government newspaper, Savali, as well as two TV channels SBC1 (State Television) and Lau TV (privately owned) (refer to articles in Appendix A).

The presentations delivered by the Solomon Islands delegates offered an overview of the water sector in the Solomon Islands and an insight into rural and urban water supply and sanitation systems and issues. To broaden understanding of the water sector approach and provide the audience with a practical example, a presentation was given on Samoa’s experience.



Consultation Banner “Water is Precious”

Presentations

Presentation “Solomon Islands Water Sector Overview” by Charlie Bepapa, Head of Department of Mines and Energy



The presentation started with basic information about the Solomon Islands.

The water resource division under the Ministry of Mines and Energy is responsible for:

- Implementation of government policies and legislation
- Evaluate water resources
- Undertake hydrogeological activities such as investigation of groundwater, collection of data and analysis).

The issues raised in the presentation are:

- In-adequate policies and legislation
- Lack of coordination and fragmented water management
- Lack of capacity and human resources
- Awareness and low literacy rate
- Lack of funds for the water sector
- Water is a “low priority” for the government
- Data collection and information sharing

The questions raised by Charlie for reflexion:

- What should be rights and obligations of and owners regarding water?
- What should be rights and obligations of commercial and public utilities regarding water?
- What should be the principles to guide the development of fees and charges?
- What should be the principles to guide compensation?
- What should be the water pricing and recovery in rural areas?

Question from Latu: how to address the issue of low literacy rate?

Answer by Charlie Bepapa: It is a major problem especially in rural areas. As water is not in schools curricular, there is a little knowledge in the general public. To address these issues awareness programmes have been developed.

Comment from Eron Kama: There is a need to educate people about land and water to address the issue of land access and compensation, which is a critical issue affecting the water resources management in the Solomon Islands.

Presentation “Solomon Islands Urban Water Management” by John Waki, General Manager of the Solomon Islands Water Authority.

John Waki started his presentation with geographical facts and data to highlight the difficulty of managing urban water as:

- 9 urban centres are scattered on different islands.
- 16% of the population lives in the urban centres which poses the problem of financial viability of the SIWA.
- Small size of urban centres often show most water sources are located on customary land.
- Infrastructure required so large for the small urban population to maintain.



SIWA which is under the Department of Mines and Energy of the Ministry of Natural Resources is managing water supply in 4 urban centres out of 9, namely: Honiara, Noro, Tulagi and Auki. In the other 5 cities, the Provincial Government manages the provision of water infrastructure and supply.

The major issues for urban water management are:

- Poor infrastructure or no basic carrier system in place to manage.
- Economically unviable to take on management of water in all urban centres.
- Management of urban water is fragmented and for some urban centres not done or in existence.

- Most water sources are on customary land and often difficult to access due to dispute over ownership of water.
- All urban centres are separated by sea.
- High operating cost for pumping.
- Management of urban water fragmented & mostly subsidised by national budget.
- No standard management practice applied.

Presentation “Samoa Water for Life: A water sector plan” by Nigel Walmsley

Nigel Walmsley, the Technical Assistance Consultant to the National Authorising Officer for EU-Water Sector Programme in Samoa, explained the process Samoa went through to move towards a sector-wide approach. He emphasised that it is an ongoing process.

He explained that a water sector plan is a living document that should be reviewed on an ongoing basis and involving consultation with all stakeholders.

Question from Hon Ulu Vaomalo Kini (Former Minister of Police & Prison, Samoa):

“What are the main problems and difficulties to implement a policy in the Solomon Islands especially considering the size of the territory?”

Answer by John Waki: It is a major problem considering that it can take several days by boat to reach some islands of the Solomons.

Presentation “Solomon Islands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme”, Director of the Environmental Health, Ministry of Health

The main functions of the Environmental Department for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation are:

- Collate provincial annual construction plans and seek for fundings
- Manage RWSSP materials/supplies and freight construction materials to provincial centres
- Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of the construction program;
- Manage the developments of community awareness programs
- Arrange training programs to meet the required needs

The main issues for the rural water supply and sanitation are:

- Staff shortage and limited training opportunities;
- Lack of funds
- Lack of comprehensive legislation
- Existing Environmental Health Act limited in scope to deal with RWSSP issues/problems.



Presentation by Robinson Fugui

Record of brainstorming session discussions

Theme: Water Resources Management

- Government role: Water is not the main priority in the Solomons from the perspective of the Government. However, the Government role is crucial for driving the process to move towards an integrated water sector approach. There must be strong political will. To address water issues the Government should take a more concerted approach.
- Comments from John Waki: there are water shortages related to catchment issues. To be addressed there is a need for more data (collection focus needs to be strengthened) and awareness programmes.
- It has been questioned why the Solomon Islands Water Resources Act from 1992 is still in draft form. Response: the Act has been submitted to Cabinet, however with change of Government and political unrest over the years it has

been lying idle. The Water Resources Department was trying to revive the draft Act but will wait for the reform programme of the new Government.

- Proper business management skills are needed in the sustainability of water resources management.



Ae-le-Fou Community at the Consultation Workshop

Capacity building and awareness

- It has been stressed by participants that awareness and public consultation are the key to success of policy implementation as it enables ownership of policies. It is crucial to recognize the different but real needs of the people who are expected to take the policies and legislations on board.
- There is a need for awareness in schools from the primary level upwards and to include water issues and education in the schools' curricular.
- Sara (Samoa Water Authority) – Public Relations Unit (PRU) – advice to SIWA – perhaps establish a specific unit for public awareness programmes. Target the younger children – even at preschool level for education. The Bible says “If you love your neighbours you love yourself” need to help each other and support communities for public educations programs. Regarding land ownership issues, Sara explained that PRU is working together with the village pulenuu (mayor) to address these problems. The pulenuu are the ‘gateway’ to accessing the people, including landowners in Samoa.

- Introduction of water metering is a good measure for water conservation but people have to be informed about the reasons for metering water. The message that WATER IS PRECIOUS needs to be convincing and get across to people. From Samoa's experience it seems that water metering is more difficult for people in rural areas to accept. In Samoa, it is cheaper to pay metered water rather than a flat water rate.
- The Community perception is very important and it is crucial to listen to the real needs of the people, not copy or imitate what other advanced countries are doing.
- To prevent people misinterpreting assistance and approaches from NGOs, donor organisations and the government, the people at the grassroots level need to be informed before any work or project is implemented.

Access to water and land issues:

- Land issues is a critical issue for water management in the Solomon islands. For urban water management, the amount of access fees to water sources is a threat to financial sustainability for SIWA. One of the responses to the problem would be to identify and set up a suitable arrangement between the Authority and the community through a consultative process for land access.

Financial sustainability

- Eron Kama, a participant residing in Samoa, stated that Solomon Islanders really need water and people are willing to pay for this service. The issue remains on how to bring the water to the homes. Awareness programmes, education and training are essential for the communities in the Solomons. Appropriate programmes are needed to improve standard of living.

Infrastructure management and technology

- Infrastructure –Technology needs to be appropriate for each island.
- When there is ownership over assets, resources, etc then cooperation in maintenance and protection is improved. A good partnership is needed between the Government and the people. However, there is another issue when giving the villages the infrastructure, then they can abuse the notion

and think that they own the infrastructure and don't need to pay for the water supply.

REVIEW OF PILOT PROJECT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

For the last day of the visit, a debriefing work session was organised at KEW's office to discuss the Consultant's work plan for the coming months and confirm the strategic areas to be addressed by the present project.

The revised work programme for the coming months has been agreed and finalized, as well as the areas to be targeted by the project: policy, legislation, coordination and awareness. The detailed work plan is in Appendix E.

Pilot projects and strategy

Strategic area	Outputs	Strategy
Water policy	Develop a water policy.	Draft a water policy and undertake stakeholders consultations for comments and input to ensure ownership of the document and later successful implementation.
Water legislation	Develop a comprehensive water legislation	Analyze existing legislation and draft the outlines of a comprehensive water legislation for presentation to stakeholders at all level of the society for comments and inputs. Given the project timeframe, the drafting of the full document will be left to a legal adviser to be recruited.
Awareness and community education	Undertake awareness and community education regarding water governance.	Consultations and community education undertaken from May to November 2006.
Coordination of the water sector	Establish a perennial coordination system for the water sector to foster a concerted approach.	Establish a National Water Steering Committee to coordinate the water sector and establish a monitoring system with targets and indicators.

Project implementation arrangements

For the effective implementation of the project, a National Working Group comprising Charlie Bepapa, John Waki, Robinson Fugui has been established to foster cooperation among various agencies involved in the project and facilitate the project implementation.

The possibility of allocating some funds from the project for the provision of a Project Coordinator in the Solomon Islands to coordinate the implementation of the project and assist the Working Group was discussed. It is envisaged that this proposed position would be maintained beyond the timeframe of the project with some governmental funding to pursue efforts towards an appropriate integrated water resources management system and ensure the project's achievements' sustainability.

Given the somewhat constrained timeframe, with regards the legislative component of the project, our objective is to come up with the main points of the legislation and recruit a legal adviser to draft the Act.

APPENDIX C: Honiara Consultations Report

Department of Mines and Energy
Water Resources Division
Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Water Governance Project
EU/SOPAC Project

PROGRESS REPORT

Period: August – December, 2006

Prepared by: William Ramo Garaema

Post: Solomon Islands Water Governance Project Coordinator

Date: December, 2006

Solomon Islands Water Governance Project

Introduction

The European Union (EU) has made funding available for the Pacific region under its Programme for water governance (PfWG). The PfWG comes under the Water Initiative of the European Union, and is governed by the commitments of the Conotou Agreement under which financial support has been provided by EU through SOPAC.

The Solomon Islands Water Governance Programme Coordinator position was funded under the Programme for Water Governance (PfWG). It was for a duration of five (5) from August to December, 2006 as this programme also phased out at the end of December 2006.

Report Period Activities

Work during the entire period was confined to the specified programme coordinator's job descriptions (*See Annex 1*). For instance, general day to day administration of the programme office and liaising with KEW consultant, the land owning representatives and the stakeholders for the subsequent Stakeholders Consultation Workshops that were conducted during the report period.

Stakeholders Consultation Workshops:

Workshop 1

The first Stakeholders Consultation Workshop was held at the Solomon Islands Water Authority's (SIWA) Conference room on 25th. September, 2006. This consultation workshop was chaired by the Director of Water Resources, Mr. Charlie Bepapa.

The **Permanent Secretary** of the **Department of Mines and Energy** did not attend this workshop as he was also attending the **SOPAC meeting** that was held at **Mendana Hotel in Honiara from 20-28 September, 2006**.

The two key speakers at the workshop were **Mr. Latu Kupa and Mrs. Kisa Kupa** of the **KEW Consult Ltd**.

Attending the workshop were participants from government ministries, statutory bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Although this workshop was brief; major issues with regards to water ownership and distribution were discussed and areas of concern were highlighted for further careful considerations.

Workshop 2

Introduction

The final Stakeholders Consultation Workshop for the Water Sector under the Solomon Islands Water Governance Project took place on 10th. November, 2006. at the Quality Motel in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The Workshop Programme and Invitation sample are given in Annex 2.

The workshop programme was conducted as appeared in the programme with the exception of a bit of time delay in the opening for about an hour as we had to wait for the participants to arrive.

Participation

Participation was generally satisfactory, as the workshop was attended by more than 30 participants from government ministries, statutory bodies, non-government organizations (NGOs).and landowning groups.

However; few government and NGO representatives failed to attend. This non-attendance was disappointing as I had sent out the invitations two weeks prior to the Stakeholders Consultation workshop.

It is not clear whether this non-attendance can be interpreted as a lack of interest in the Water Governance issues or whether the timing of the workshop was not convenient for them.

Workshop Proceedings:

Prayer:

The workshop was opened with a word of prayer by Pastor Subu of the Assembly of God Church.

Welcome Address:

A brief welcome address was given by the caretaker Permanent Secretary for Mines and Energy, Mr. Fred Ganate. This was due to the absence of the Permanent Secretary for Mines and Energy from the country as he was in Tokyo, Japan on a government business trip.

The Permanent Secretary then called on the Honourable Minister for Mines and Energy, Hon. Mark Kemakeza to officiate the opening of the workshop.

Honourable Minister's speech:

The Honourable Minister for the Department for Mines & Energy in his speech, he stressed the importance of having proper management and development of water resources in the country in the light of increased mineral and energy sector developmental activities. Besides this, he also stressed the need to properly assess and manage the country's water resources for protection from contamination and over-exploitation. *(The full speech is given in Annex 3)*

Tea Break

Workshop Working Sessions:

INTRODUCTION

Presentations:

“Pacific Water Governance Project Overview”

Latu S. Kupa, Managing Director, KEW Consult Ltd.

WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Presentations:

“Solomon Islands Water Overview”

Charlie Bepapa, Director of Water Resources

“Solomon Islands Urban Water Management”

John Waki, General Manager, Solomon Is. Water Authority (SIWA)

“Solomon Is. Rural Water Management”

Robinson Fugui, Director Environmental Health

“Draft National Water Policy”

Kupa S. Latu, Kew Consult Ltd.

Discussions:

Clarification of national issues and objectives

GROUP DISCUSSION-BRAINSTORMING SESSION, REFLECT ON EXISTING CONDITIONS AND FUTURE

Group 1: Water Resource Management & Institutional Arrangement

Group 2: Technology & Awareness

Group 3: Capacity Building & Finance**Lunch Break****GROUP DISCUSSION CONTINUES****GROUP PRESENTATIONS****PLANERY DISCUSSION****ROUND UP & CLOSURE**

Summary

However; despite the problem of non-attendance by few government ministries and NGO representatives; the final Stakeholders Consultation Workshop was a success. As all the important issues were discussed during the workshop.

This was done by splitting the participants into three (3) groups and giving them topics to discuss and then asking their representatives to present their opinions and recommendations during the round up and closure session of the workshop. These were taken note of as collective opinions and recommendations of the groups by the KEW Consult Ltd consultant, Mr. Latu S. Kupa for inclusion in the Water Policy which he will submit to the SIG Cabinet for endorsement.

Recommendation

Finally however, the other important component of this Water Governance Policy which is yet to be executed but lacks funding is **“Awareness”**. This is to make the key players at the provincial level and even the general public aware of the roles that they should play to make the policy practical.

If this very important component is ignored, then I am skeptical that the policy would attain its aims and objectives. Or else it would be just another piece of document.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that this component be taken into serious considerations and should funds be available; it should be given financial support.

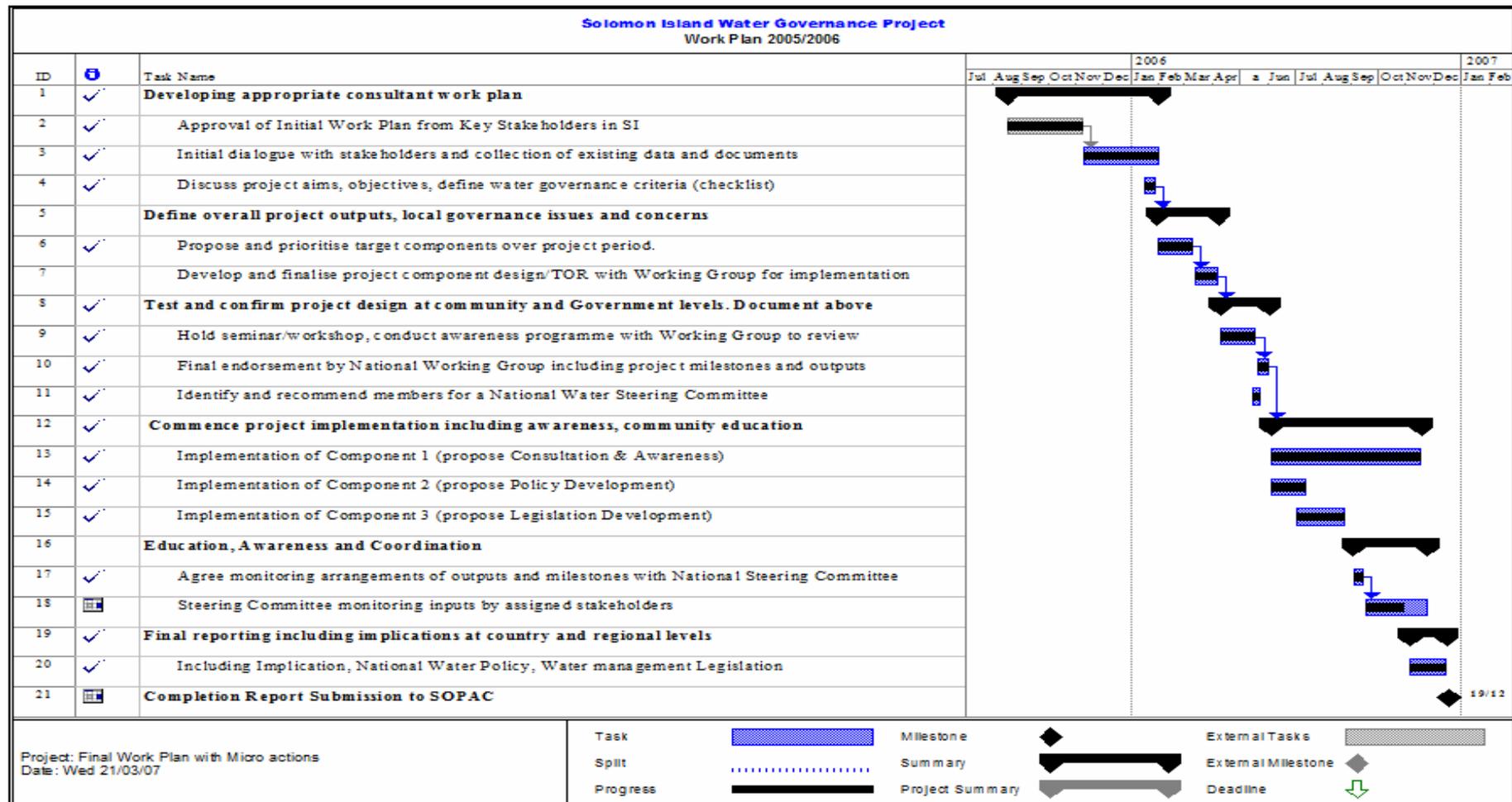
See attached sheets for the planned Future Activities

APPENDIX D: Logframe

Logical Framework			
Narrative Summary	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Overall Objective			
To mainstream the principles of good water governance into day to day applications and pilot projects so as to assist in achieving sustainable water resource management and provision of water services			
Purpose			
To promote the application of effective water governance in institutions, systems, structures and processes in the Solomon Islands through the application of pilot projects and day to day applications			
Results			
Pilot projects initiatives and good water governance principles applied in the Pacific region	Pilot projects completed in 3 Pacific Island Countries and good practices shared regionally	Project completion reports finalized	The principles of water governance can be applied in pilot projects and day to day activities in PICs
Activities			
<p>1. Water governance strategies developed in through multi-stakeholder participatory processes.</p> <p>2. Pilot projects identified, designed and tested with affected stakeholders</p> <p>3. Projects implemented including community awareness and education</p> <p>4. Regional and national co-ordinating mechanisms</p>	<p>1. Strategies completed and agreed with PIC's – outputs, tasks and benchmarks agreed,</p> <p>2. Projects developed and endorsed by stakeholders</p> <p>3. Agreed tasks and activities being undertaken by stakeholders; stakeholder satisfaction surveys; projects physically sighted</p>	<p>Progress reports, reports from meetings, declaration statements, action plans, policies, strategies; community education and awareness materials complete; stakeholder satisfaction surveys of institutional, regulatory and</p>	<p>Different stakeholders provide constructive cooperation and contributions</p> <p>Agreement reached with governments in three Pacific island countries</p> <p>That the principles of water governance can be applied in traditional socio-</p>

<p>established</p> <p>5. Experiences in PICs shared with small island states in the Caribbean region</p> <p>6. Projects reviewed – lessons learned and successful projects recommended for replication</p>	<p>4. Mechanisms in place for improved regional coordination</p> <p>5. Good practices and findings from pilot initiatives disseminated in Pacific region and shared with Caribbean counterparts</p> <p>6. End of project review completed</p>	<p>community change</p>	<p>cultural orders in PICs</p> <p>Budget is sufficient to support necessary activities in communities and government structures</p> <p>That the projects will be sustainable and have the potential to replicated elsewhere</p>
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APPENDIX E: Work Programme



APPENDIX F: National Water Policy

INTRODUCTION

Major global concerns such as water shortages against burgeoning population growth, water pollution and climate variations causing severe droughts, have prompted calls for water sector reforms worldwide. Naturally, the people of the Solomon Islands, as responsible stewards of the environment, have joined the global efforts of addressing such alarming issues through engaging in a comprehensive water sector reform programme of their own. The long-established perception that water is an infinite resource is not consistent with sound stewardship and the need to seriously protect and conserve our environment's precious natural resource for future generations to enjoy is realized in this policy.

Government's proactive stance in ensuring that the water sector is reformed is reflected in the National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan 2003-2006 (Key Strategic Area 4). With the phasing out of that plan, the focus on water sector improvement continues under the current Government and is reflected in its policy framework (May 2006). Effectively, this Water Policy (The Policy) document merely builds on past and continuing efforts aimed at bringing the holistic vision that the Solomons hold of their water into view.

The Policy discusses the current status of Solomon Island's water sector and provides a broad set of strategies, designed to guide the sector's development and focussing on ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the people of SI are met. To this end, the objectives of the Policy will facilitate an enabling environment that encompasses an integrated multi-sectoral approach to sustainable water management.

The Policy addresses in the main the two sub-sectors below:

- i) Water Resources Management
- ii) Water (and Sanitation) Services

VISION

Every Solomon Islander shall have reasonable access to sustainable, adequate, quality water.

MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with all stakeholders, ensure the sustainable development, management and supply of water, wastewater services as well as appropriate sanitation for the benefit of current and future generations of Solomon Islanders.

WATER SECTOR

Definition

The water sector can be generally defined or described as a group of institutions that are interrelated through a common interest in water (consumptive and non-consumptive). This includes agencies that develop and manage water resources, provide water supply, wastewater and sanitation services and use significant volumes of water for specific sectoral needs, such as agriculture, electricity and recreational purposes.

Mandate

The existing legislation in the Solomon Islands that govern and impact on the water sector comprise the following:

Water Resources Management (conservation and development)

River Waters Ordinance 1969: provides measures for watershed control in relation to rivers only and regulates the use of designated river water through permit applications;

Environment Act 1998: provides for the protection, preservation and conservation of the environment, including the prevention and control of pollution to water;

Public Health Ordinance 1970: authorises inspections to be conducted for the regulation of water pollution

Solomon Islands Water Authority Act 1992: the Solomon Islands Water Authority was established under this Act and is currently charged with providing the proper management and development of urban water resources and services and sewerage services in the Solomon Islands.

Environmental Health Act & Provincial Ordinance

Organisations and Functions of the Water Sector

The table below indicates the key organizations and their roles in relation to the water sector in the Solomon Islands.

Organisation	Function
Ministry of Mines and Energy, Division of Water Resources	Responsible for water resources assessment and management: SIWA functions under this Ministry.
Department of Forestry, Environment and Conservation	Responsible for environmental assessment and protection.
Ministry of Health	Water supply in rural areas and supervision of sanitary conditions for the whole Solomon.
Ministry of Provincial Government and Constituency Development	Responsible for water supply in the provincial centers except the urban areas where SIWA operates.
Ministry of Agriculture and Land	Responsible for executing contracts with the land owners for water rights

SECTOR PERFORMANCE

The performance of the Water Sector examines what and how the sector has contributed towards the social, economic and environmental development of the Solomon Islands. Performance can be measured by developing appropriate indicators that demonstrate how well water sector goals and objectives are being met. Such indicators provide a useful tool in reviewing this policy and its associated programmes. In order for comparisons to be drawn and forecasts made regarding water performance, qualitative and quantitative indicators need to be developed first from a reliable source of data, and thereafter requiring consistent collection.

The indicators discussed in this document show the extent to which the sector has been developed so far to manage water resources, provide basic water and sanitation services, and the quality at which these services are being delivered. While not comprehensive given inadequate data availability, the indicators provide insight into problems and potentials for integrated water resources management.

Water Resources

Water resources is a general term encompassing the concepts of availability (the location, spatial distribution, or natural fluctuations of water); accessibility (given availability, whether people can access it or afford water in adequate quantities); and quality (whether accessed water is free of contaminants and safe for consumption). It also describes water in various forms, such as groundwater and surface water.

Water Resources and Development.

Water resources availability in Solomon Islands varied considerably from over abundance (sizeable rivers and streams on high islands) to scarce water resources in small islands and low lying atolls (rain harvesting and exploitation of vulnerable fresh water lenses). Where there is abundance, the question of quality always prevails.

The much needed development activities such as logging (especially uncontrolled) which is currently widespread in the country and the traditional slash and burn practices of farming (increased with increased population) have gradually and systematically negatively affected surface water resources quality and quantity, a threat to population and communities who are dependent on the water sources affected. This is real and an on-going concern for serious addressing.

In Solomon Islands, most water resources development are for human consumption and personal use, agriculture, industrial and some power generation (hopefully more hydro-power developments as renewable energy source).

Water Resources Management

Management refers to the ability to manage water development in a way that ensures long term sustainable use for future generations. In the Solomon Islands, responsibility for water resources management, including assessment, planning and development, is shared between the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Solomon Islands Water Authority. The present institutional framework for water resources management lacks proper coordination, featuring fragmented control as well as duplication and negligence of functional roles.

Issues pertaining to water rights and allocation have been flagged for Government intervention given the situation of customary land rights and ownership of water sources. Essentially, water resources are controlled and regulated by Government; they are not explicitly declared as state property. This highlights the need for legislation review. There are also pressing concerns pertaining to the adverse effects of climate variability, traditional agricultural practices, deforestation and logging activities on the quality and quantity of water resources. Some efforts made to address these issues are reflected in the country's action

plans, primarily targeted at improving the dearth of skills and capacity in overall water.² However, implementation is likely to occur over a long-term period.

Community Awareness/Participation

Fundamental to the success of water sector reforms is the level of participation and awareness of the community/stakeholders. Their input at various decision-making levels is warranted to ensure that the management of water resources is effective and efficient. Awareness amongst Solomon Islands' general population is limited, particularly in the rural areas concerning the effects of development, agricultural methods, climate change and natural disasters on water quality and quantity. Ignorance is also apparent regarding the nature of water and its finite state.

The Population Census 1999 revealed a low literacy rate nationwide which further exacerbates the lack of awareness regarding responsible water resources management. Developing and implementing measures for increasing awareness amongst the general users and landowners are critical.

Statistics reveal that there is almost an exclusion of women from the decision-making process in water resources management, notwithstanding their predominant composition as users of water. For effective water governance and management, gender equity in decision-making process is necessary.

Accessibility

Access to water resources, predominantly located on customary land, is hindered by the land owners' demands for compensation and lack of specific legislation.

Human Resource Development

The water resources division of the Department of Mines and Energy comprises hydrology and hydrogeology sections and employs a total of 6 all male technical personnel. Limited specialised skills are available in hydrological assessment and monitoring as well as water resources assessment, development and management. There is a great demand for expertise in this area. In addition, enhanced skills development in policy formulation and review and planning are needed.

² National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan 2003-2006 and the Ministry of Mines and Energy Corporate Plan.

Financial Capacity

Various programmes associated with improving water governance and management processes are funded by various donor agencies. However, effective implementation and monitoring activities are hindered by a lack of funds. Government budget estimates for 2006 – 2008 (Corporate Plan 2006-2008) indicate that the water resources division of the Department of Mines and Energy receives less priority over the mines, geology and energy sectors.

Water Services

In the context of this policy, the definition for water services includes the provision of drinking water and wastewater services (including sewage treatment and also sanitation requirements) to households and industry.

Water Supply and Sanitation

The relationship between water and population can be summarized as “healthy water means healthy people”. Everyone has the right to access safe and adequate water and good sanitation services. These essential basic services with appropriate awareness on hygiene can reduce health risks associated with bad water (eg. Diarrhea).

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services attempts to implement this important goal of safe water for health in the rural setting whilst SIWA for the urban setting.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure that supports the water services network in the Solomon Islands includes:

Urban:

- 17 water reservoir stations exist with capacities of around 10,000m³ with 1/3 not in use.
- Water transmission pipeline (length?)
- Water distribution pipeline of 122km serves Honiara. PVC pipes make up the majority of the pipeline network.
- Chlorination disinfection facilities are located at water sources
- 4 groundwater bore fields – White River borefield (JICA funded) used only for emergencies

- Konglai Spring source has one high lift pumping station which transfers the biggest volume of water and consumes the largest electric power.
- Domestic and communal septic tanks
- Sewer pipelines connect 12% residents in Honiara
- Small scale sewerage treatment facilities serve a central hospital and a few private companies in Honiara

Assets	Ministry of Health/Provincial Agencies (to be provided)	SIWA for Honiara	Total
Spring Sources		4	4
Groundwater bore fields	Nil	4	4
Water treatment facilities	Nil	0	0
High lift pumping stations	Nil	4	4
Reservoirs (capacity 10,000m ³)	Nil	17	17
Bore supply systems	Nil	5	5
Pipe length (kilometers)	1788	122	1910
PVC		78	78
Polyethylene		9	9
galvanize iron		24	24
Cast iron		12	12
Pipe size (diameter) range:	15-200 mm	13-450 mm	

Service Providers

Water services include the supply of water to domestic and commercial customers and the provision of sewerage systems to parts of the urban population. The Solomon Islands Water Authority (SIWA) currently delivers urban water supply and sewerage system services and products to customers residing within its zoned jurisdiction of operation, while the Ministry of Health provides water supply in rural areas and monitors the sanitary conditions for the whole country. The Ministry of Provincial Government and Constituency Development is responsible also for water supply in the provincial centers apart from the urban areas that are served by SIWA.

Sludge (from septic tanks) collection services are operated by the Honiara City Council and a private company for the Capital.

SIWA Customers

	Honiara	<i>All cities (incl. Honiara, Noro, Auki & Tulagi)</i>
Population in districts supplied by SIWA	66,402	76,831
Served population	49,221	56,094
Served ratio (%)	74	73
Customers	6,510	7,321
Water consumption - domestic customers (l/c/d)	197	168
Water consumption for all customers (l/c/d)	334	276
Water Production (m ³ /day)	25,719	28,751
Sewage Discharged into Sewerage System (m ³ /day)	2,490	2,490

Source: Study of SIWA water supply and sewerage system, 2005, project for improvement of SIWA water supply and waste water service funded by JICA.

Quality of Services

During peak demand periods, approximately 25% of Honiara's water distribution districts suffer from low water pressure, resulting in inability to get water during the day. In the unserved areas within and outside the city boundaries, a significant number of residents, particularly women and children, are still performing the laborious task of drawing water directly from the springs or rivers for their basic needs. Recent reports indicate that customers whose tap water is derived from spring water sources often complain of the water quality after heavy rainfall periods in the corresponding catchment area.

Accessibility

Most people have access to water in the Solomon Islands, however not all are connected to reticulated water. The 1999 Census deduced 60% of households were supplied by SIWA or by the Rural Water and Sanitation Supply Scheme, with only 52% having access to a piped water supply (69.6% in urban areas, 50% in rural areas). Nationwide, 38.1% of the households depend on outside shared piped water, 21.6% on rivers and streams and 16.4% on rain collection. It is noted that these data do not reflect access to "safe" water supply.

There are no sewage or water treatment facilities in the Solomon Islands except for a few small scale treatment facilities for sewage and chlorination disinfections facilities for water. In Honiara, 71% of the households have septic tanks and 5% of the residents are connected to

a sewer pipeline. According to the 1999 census, 77% of total households in the Solomons do not have access to modern toilet facilities.

Human Resources Development

SIWA employs the majority of water services personnel in the sector. There is a demand to increase expertise in the areas of operation and maintenance of water supply facilities and customer management. Private sector participation is minimal.

The Ministry of Health employs 93 personnel for the rural water supply operation and maintenance

Charges and Tariffs

The current charge for sewerage services is 50% of the water consumption. In recent years SIWA has been achieving its financial goals on meeting operation and maintenance targets, with commercial water and sewerage bills accounting for 60% and 10% respectively of the total revenue. This is the result of SIWA's revised tariff and billing system in October 2003 and aggressive billing collection methods.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES TO JUSTIFY POLICY INITIATIVES

The issues and challenges identified in the water sector to be addressed can be summarized as follows:

Key area	Water Resources	Water Services
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective water governance is required to control, manage and protect the water resources (includes encouraging sound agricultural practices) and environment ▪ Water resource ownership is a major issue and requires legislation to resolve this by placing this resource in the charge of the State. ▪ The provision of accurate and timely data/information from all service providers to the Department of Mines and Energy needs to be enforced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water services provision for the country is the shared responsibility of three different organizations and this has resulted in variable and inadequate levels of services. • The inadequate wastewater collection and treatment systems threaten ecosystems and public health and therefore need to be addressed. • The need to upgrade infrastructure and improve maintenance of water

		supply schemes are essential.
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources need to be developed to the required levels of competency with an increased specialised knowledge and understanding of water resources within the country.(hydrological assessments etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upskilling in planning, management and technical areas of water services supply and wastewater management in both rural and urban areas is required. The need for improved skills in demand management is accentuated.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funds is a key factor for the inability to implement sound water management functions such as monitoring, assessments and protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is lack of sustainability in cost recovery and non-financially viable operations in rural areas. In urban areas, low levels of cost recovery exist due to high arrears and high leakage in urban areas and energy costs.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technologies change constantly and in order for efficiency in water resources management, appropriate technologies need to be invested in and utilized. Upgrading of water quality equipment and laboratory facilities services is needed to conduct proper monitoring activities pertaining to water quality and quantity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology for water supply and wastewater treatment needs to be sustainable and appropriate. Personnel need to be trained on the use of the technology.
Awareness and Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aggressive public awareness is needed against unnecessary developments including logging activities that causes contamination. Other proactive measures are needed to counter periods of water shortages. ▪ Effective consultation and collaboration with land owners are essential to minimize conflict arising over access to water resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited community involvement in water service planning, management and delivery. • High water loss through leakage and unwise consumer use

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The following objectives have been identified for policy development and are aimed at facilitating an enabling environment that encompasses the principles of good governance, sustainability and accountability.

1. Sustainable water resources management for the sector
2. Universal access to safe and reliable water
3. Increased access to basic sanitation and wastewater disposal
4. Efficient and effective water, sanitation and wastewater services
5. Strengthened financial viability for the water sector
6. Wider public education and awareness on water issues

IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

The following strategies have been identified for achieving the policy objectives.

1. *Sustainable water resources management for the sector*
 - Adopt an integrated sectoral approach for the effective management of water resources (need strong political will and agreement from cross sectors);
 - Develop appropriate institutional framework that supports sound water sector governance (include formulation of coordinating bodies, apex body etc);
 - Develop appropriate legislative and regulatory framework that addresses key issues relating to water conservation, water ownership rights, water allocation and abstraction, water quality protection and monitoring etc;
 - Build up and maintain institutional and technical capacity in water resources development, assessment, monitoring and management
 - Strengthen collaboration between the Government and donor countries for exchange of information, knowledge and skills transfer, etc
2. *Universal access to safe and reliable water*
 - Ensure accessibility and availability of water supply services at most times;
 - Improve and rehabilitate water supply systems, particularly in the rural areas;
 - Ensure compliance with regulation, government policies and international water quality standards;
 - Revise and adopt appropriate water tariff system and pricing strategy for both urban and rural areas, while maintaining affordability element
3. *Increased access to basic sanitation and wastewater disposal*
 - Increase access of the population to basic sanitation services;
 - Plan and implement sanitation and wastewater improvements in both urban and rural areas (includes rehabilitation of existing sewer network);
 - Consider outsourcing or sub-contracting service alternatives to increase access to sanitation services;
 - Strengthen community awareness on sanitation issues

4. *Efficient and effective water, sanitation and wastewater services*

- Ensure ongoing effective consultation with customers to match service delivery with needs;
- Encourage private sector participation in the delivery of water and sanitation and wastewater services, such as meter reading, engage in government or donor-funded projects;
- Develop appropriate wastewater collection and treatment facilities and related services;
- Provide appropriate service standards for quality and safety;
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of water supply and sanitation systems and service provision through sound asset management, appropriate technology, innovative techniques, revised procedures and plans, total quality management principles etc;
- Build human resources capacity to manage, develop and sustain water supply and sanitation services (demand management skills etc);
- Ensure management systems are aligned with best practice use and reuse of water resources;
- Ensure improved public health in the provision of sanitation services;
- Ensure cost-recovery methods are appropriate through the careful transfer of costs of supply and treatment from the provider to the consumer

5. *Strengthened financial viability for the water sector*

- Encourage private sector investment in the water sector
- Increase opportunity for joint venture prospects
- Decrease dependence on foreign aid for water sector development
- Implement active tariff policies to generate sufficient and inflation- proof cashflow
- Develop local capital markets
- Tap into potential sources of grants from international aid agencies

6. *Wider public education and awareness on water issues*

- Enhance public relations between service providers and customers to minimise conflicts over land access and water rights;
- Educate the community/village water schemes to ensure their autonomy in providing and managing safe and reliable water for their beneficiaries;
- Encourage early education for children on the extensive water issues, especially at the primary level.
- Extend awareness campaign programmes to cover churches, NGOs and the chiefly systems on future impacts against unnecessary development such as logging and deforestation in relation to water.
- Enhance community participation and awareness in planning and decision making processes, with particular regard to inclusion of women
- Enhance awareness and capacity in river-basin and watershed management
- Promote Benchmarking on appropriate and relevant water indicators amongst the rural water supply schemes and encourage provinces to share skills and information data

SECTOR REGULATION

The establishment of a regulatory function is necessary for monitoring the implementation of the Water Policy. It shall ensure that this Policy is adhered to with integrity, impartiality and

fairness. This will be effected through strict observance of the provisions of the Acts and Regulations concerned.

The Ministry of Natural Resources shall establish an independent unit charged with the monitoring and licensing functions for the sector. Data collection and analysis for sector performance monitoring will be carried out by this unit.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

Proposed changes in legislation will contain the necessary provisions and flexibility for the implementation of this policy. The Ministry of Mines, Energy will be responsible for administering the legislation and spearheading the continuous review of this policy.

Legislation Review

The Water Resources Bill 2001, which was still in draft form when the project started in the beginning of this year was reconsidered for appropriateness and promulgation after comprehensive review in relation to this Policy. New legislation will unify all water related procedural rules. The revised Legislation "Water Resources Act 2006" is now been finalised and awaiting submission to Cabinet and Parliament.

Expected Benefits of National Water Policy Implementation

Commensurate with effective policy implementation are the expected benefits listed below:

- Improved public health through increased access to quality water-related services;
- Clear and appropriate standards of service;
- Improved levels of cost recovery and financial viability of service providers;
- Strengthened institutional capacity to sustain water resources and services;
- Improved levels of performance and higher system efficiencies;
- Increased stakeholder involvement in water resources management and service provision;
- Greater public awareness of responsible water management and use;
- Adoption of integrated water resources and demand management principles and practice
- Conservation and protection of water catchments areas and water sources.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Ongoing in-depth consultation with water sector stakeholders is essential, in reviewing the Policy at least every two years. Views obtained from consultations shall be noted, analysed and considered during the review process.

The Policy shall be made available for public comment.

APPENDIX G: Water Resource Legislation

WATER RESOURCES BILL 2006

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PART 1</u> PRELIMINARY</p> <p>1. Purposes</p> <p>2. Citation</p> <p>3. Commencement</p> <p>4. Application</p> <p>5. Interpretation</p>	<p>28. Presumptions</p> <p>29. Waiver of State Liability</p> <p>30. Rights Conditional to Waterworks</p> <p>31. Suspension, Modification and Revocation</p> <p>32. License to be Recording</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PART 2</u> ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>6. Appointment of Officers</p> <p>7. Powers of the Minister</p> <p>8. Functions and Powers of Director</p> <p>9. Powers of Inspectors,</p> <p>10. Water Resources Advisory Board</p> <p>11. Functions and Powers of the Board</p> <p>12. Public Utilities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PART 6</u> REVISIONS, VARIATIONS, TERMINATION AND DIMINUTION OF LICENSE</p> <p>33. Revision of Volumes</p> <p>34. Suspensions and Variation</p> <p>35. Variation on Application</p> <p>36. Termination for Breach of a Condition</p> <p>37. Termination or Diminution for Public Purpose</p> <p>38. Termination or Diminution for Non Use</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PART 3</u> RIGHTS IN WATER</p> <p>13. Water Subject to Public Control and Regulation</p> <p>14. Customary Rights and Rights of Occupiers</p> <p>15. Licenses</p> <p>16. Existing Water Uses</p> <p>17. Limitation on Rights to Take or use Water</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PART 7</u> INVESTIGATION, ETC.</p> <p>39. Investigation</p> <p>40. Rights of Entry</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PART 4</u> PROTECTION OF WATER CATCHMENTS, RIVER BEDS AND BANKS AND RECHARGE AREAS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PART 8</u> MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>41. Driller's License</p> <p>42. Information and Records</p> <p>43. Protection of Public Officers</p> <p>44. Suspension, Termination and Abatement of Unauthorized Activities</p> <p>45. Repairs and Restoration of Unauthorized Works</p>

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Water Catchment 19. Planning the Use of Flood Plains 20. Recharge Areas 21. Declaration of Water Control Area 22. Activities Prohibited in Water Control Area 23. Approval of Activities in Water Control Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46. Demolition of Unlawful Works and Stoppage of Diversions and Abstractions 47. Application of Other Laws 48. Enforcement 49. Limitations on Private Property |
|---|---|

PART 5

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

- 24. Contents of Application for a License
- 25. Form of Application for a License
- 26. Procedures for Granting a License
- 27. Objection to Granting of a License

PART 9

**APPEALS, PENALTIES AND
SUPPLEMENTARY**

- 50. Appeals
- 51. Offences
- 52. Offences of Corporation
- 53. Penalties
- 54. Regulations

Schedule

2006 No.**A BILL INTITUTED**

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Assembly of Solomon Islands in Parliament assembled as follows:

PART 1
PRELIMINARY**1. Purposes**

This Act has the following purposes:-

- (a) To provide for the integrated management of the water resources of the Solomon Islands.
- (b) To promote the most efficient, fair and beneficial use of natural water.
- (c) To ensure that natural water resources are available for sustainable use for the benefit of all present and future Solomon Islanders.
- (d) To provide for the protection of natural watercourses and water catchments.
- (e) To provide for the control of activities occurring over or beside waterways or watercourses.

2. Citation

This Act may be cited as the Water Resources Act 2006.

3. Commencement

This Act shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may appoint by the notice published in the Gazette.

4. Application

This Act shall have general application throughout Solomon Islands and shall bind the government of the Solomon Islands and Provincial Governments and Area Councils and Municipal Authorities.

5. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires: -

“**Area**” means an area of land declared under section 21 of this Act.

“**Board**” means the Water Resources Advisory Board established under Section 10

“**Borehole**” means any hole, excavation, drilling or other opening in the ground or any natural or artificially constructed or improved underground cavity which could be used, is used or may be used for the purpose of intercepting, collecting, obtaining or abstracting or using groundwater or for the purpose of disposing of any water or wastes below the surface of the ground, or which extends to an aquifer in the ground.

“**Catchment Area**” means an area of land declared under section 18

“**Customary Land**” means any land (not being registered land, other than land registered as customary land, or land in respect of which any person becomes or is entitled to be registered as the owner of an estate pursuant to the provisions of Part III of the Lands and Titles Act) lawfully owned, used or occupied by a person or community in accordance with current customary usage.

“**Director**” means Director of Water Resources appointed under section 6.

“Domestic Uses” means use of water primarily for domestic purposes in any dwelling house or part thereof and generally for reasonable domestic uses regardless of whether or not they relate to customary rights and ownership.

“Minister” means the Minister of the Government for the time being charged with the responsibility for water resources.

“Ministry” means as the case may require, the Ministry responsible for water resources.

“Land owner” in relation to a registered interest means the person in whose name the interest is for the time being registered; and in relation to customary land, means the person or persons who is or are according to current customary usage, regarded as the owner or owners of the land.

“Natural Water” means all forms of water, including any river, stream, dam, lake, pond, swamp, marsh, canal, whether natural or artificial or other body of water forming part of that water course.

“Person” means individual or organization or companies.

“Public Utilities” means Authorities responsible for water resources related matter, created under their own Act.

“Recharge Area” means any Area as prescribed in section 21

“Waste” includes any matter that, when added to or mixed with any natural water, will contaminate the water so as to change the physical or chemical condition thereof in such a manner as to: -

- (a) Make the water unclean, noxious, or impure; or
- (b) Be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of persons using the water; or
- (c) Be poisonous or harmful to animals, birds, or fish around or in the water; or
- (d) Make the quality of such natural water below quality standard acceptable for human consumption in Solomon Islands

“Water Right” covers water license granted for the proper administration of this Act

“Waterworks” includes any reservoirs, channels, stormwater drains, pipelines, treatment & dis-infection plants, sewerlines, dams, intakes, machinery, equipment, low-level bridge or engineered ford-crossings and apparatus. It also includes any works undertaken which interfere, or are likely to interfere with a designated watercourse

“Water Courses” includes any river, stream, dam, lake, pond, swamp, marsh, canal, whether natural or artificial or other body of water forming part of that water course.

“Water well” means any bore hole, excavation, drill or other opening in the ground or any natural or artificially constructed or improved underground cavity which could be used, is used or may be used for the purpose of intercepting, collecting, obtaining, abstraction or using groundwater.

PART 2 ADMINISTRATION

6. Appointment of Officers

- (1) There shall be appointed for the purposes of this Act: -
 - (a) a Director of Water Resources as an Administrative Head of the Division, and
 - (b) Water Resources Inspectors and such other officers as may be necessary for the due administration of this Act.
- (2) Any appointment made under sub-section (1) shall, if the person appointed is to be a Public Officer, be made in accordance with the constitution but otherwise shall be made by the Minister by notification in writing.
- (3) The Director appointed pursuant to subsection (1) should be the holder of the post of Chief Hydrologist.

7. Powers of the Minister

The Minister may at any time, on the advice of the Board,

- (a) issue,
 - i) water license for users and operators
 - ii) driller's license
- (b) authorize in writing, any public officer to enter upon any land in Solomon Islands, to conduct water resources surveys as the Ministry may consider necessary in the interest of the conservation and best use of natural water
- (c) by notice, direct the holder of any license issued pursuant to this Act to produce records kept for the purpose of this Act
- (d) direct any person to comply with the provisions of this Act or regulations made thereunder
- (e) direct a holder of a license to comply with its terms and conditions
- (f) take whatever measures as may be necessary,
 - i) to protect the health and safety of people of Solomon Islands
 - ii) for conservation purposes with a view to preventing over-exploitation
 - iii) to minimize damage to any land, water, vegetation and animal life
 - iv) to protect area of known sources of recharge of groundwater, water catchment areas prescribed under sections 19 and 21.
- (g) prescribe rates of licenses and method of payment and collection

7. 8. Functions and Powers of the Director

Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Director shall have power, for the purpose of the performance of his functions under this Act-

- (a) To advise the Board on technical aspects of assessment, management and development of water resources
- (b) To receive applications for license and to submit such applications to the Board for consideration
- (c) To conduct or authorize the inspections of any land, buildings and waterworks for the purpose of this Act
- (d) To authorize persons other than holders of licenses to export water samples for the purposes of scientific research or such other purposes as he may deem fit
- (e) To carry out or follow up the decisions of the Board
- (f) To keep and maintain records and database of licenses in such manner as the Minister may require
- (g) To request the co-operation, where necessary, of other Ministries, Public Bodies, and private persons for the better performance of its functions

9. Powers of Inspectors

- (1) Any officer appointed pursuant to section 6 shall, at all reasonable times, for the purposes of this Act may:-
 - (a) enter, inspect and examine any land, buildings and waterworks,
 - (b) examine and make inquiries in respect of:-
 - i) the state and condition of any building and waterworks,
 - ii) the flow or control of water,
 - iii) land use,
 - iv) any prohibited activities referred to in section 22,
 - (c) take water samples for investigation and assessment purposes
 - (d) exercise such powers as are necessary for carrying this Act effectively.
- (2) Whenever an inspector finds, or has reason to believe, that a holder is in breach of any provisions of this Act or regulations made thereunder, he shall bring such breach to the notice of the Director.
- (3) The Director, on being informed of any breach referred to in subsection (2), may take whatever actions he deems necessary in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

10. Water Resources Advisory Board

- (1) There shall be established, for the purposes of this Act, a Water Resources Advisory Board, which shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be responsible for general matters relating to the administration of this Act.

- (2) The provisions of the schedule shall have effect as to the constitution of the Board and otherwise in relation thereto.
- (3) The Minister may, after consultation with the Chairperson give the Board such directions of a general character as to policy to be followed by the Board in the performance of its functions as appear to the Minister to be necessary, and the Board shall give effect thereto.

11. Functions and Powers of the Board

The Board has the following functions and powers:-

- (a) to advise the Minister on the issuing of licenses and other matters required under this Act
- (b) to steer a process of water reform and make proposals on major water policy issues
- (c) to review information on water resources and the water sector in general
- (d) to recommend water related investigation programs and projects
- (e) to recommend fees and charges required under this Act
- (f) to respond to activities relating to operations of any water utilities
- (g) to propose mechanism by which water license fees are paid and collected
- (h) to assist in the determination of compensation claims relating to use of water or protection of water catchments or to compensation against commercial use of water
- (i) To advise on or approve national or regional water management measures such as plans, special area controls, guidelines for water abstraction and protection
- (j) to take any action which it deems necessary or desirable to facilitate the functions of the Board
- (k) to inform where appropriate, landowners or land holding groups affected by operations to be carried out, in terms of licenses granted under this Act.

8. 12. Public Utilities

(1)The Government may create autonomous public utilities for the provision of public services based on water. They must be regulated by their acts of creation, and apply water legislation as required by the adequate performance of their functions.

- (2) Public Utilities shall become the statutory authority under the Ministry responsible for water resources. This Ministry represents the public utility at meetings of the Board.

PART 3 **RIGHTS IN WATER**

13. Water Subject to Public Control and Regulation

- (1) All natural water within the territory of the Solomon Islands is hereby dedicated to the use of the people of the country, subject to public control and regulation in the manner hereby prescribed.
- (2) The right to control, protect, use, investigate, manage and administer the water of the Solomon Islands is vested in the Government and shall be exercised on its behalf by the Minister, the Board and the Director in accordance with this Act.
- (3) The provisions of this Act apply to water occurring, existing, or flowing in, into or through registered or unregistered, public, private or customary land. The provisions of this Act apply to any water use or activity of any kind that might affect the conservation, management and development of natural water.

14. Customary Rights and Rights of Occupiers

- (1) Subject to the provisions of section 17,
 - (a) every person who, by custom, is entitled to use natural water for domestic and stock purposes, to irrigate a subsistence garden or for fishing or for navigation only without a license.

- (b) the occupier of any land, his family and employees ordinarily resident on that land shall be entitled to use any water on, adjacent to, or under that land for domestic and stock purposes only without a license.
 - (c) Abstraction of water for domestic uses and fire fighting shall not require any kind of license.
- (2) A person taking water from a water course or lake in pursuance of sub-section (1) may place a permanent installation for taking water in or on the land adjacent to the water course or lake, but shall not build any works obstructing the flow of the water course or lake. Such permanent installation shall not totally obstruct the flow of natural water.

15. Water License

- (1) No one may abstract or divert nor dam natural water without a license issued by the Ministry responsible for water resources. Water for domestic uses shall not require any kind of license.

16. Existing Water Uses

- (1) Any person or companies or organizations diverting or abstracting natural water, at the date of commencement of this Act must, within six calendar months of that date, apply to the Ministry responsible for water resources for a license.
- (2) Provided that failure to make application to the Ministry responsible for water resources entitles the Ministry to either discontinue and halt the use or discharge, or grant and record it ex officio.

17. Limitation on Rights to Take or Use Water

Whenever any water is used pursuant to section 14 or 16 the Director shall have power either generally or in particular cases, by notice: -

- published in a newspaper circulating in the area to which the notice relates;
- published by radio;
- served on the owner or occupier of any land to which the notice relates,

as he sees fit,

- i) in times of actual or anticipated shortage of water, to fix the amount of water which, and purposes for which, such water may be used by any person.
- ii) to define the places from which, the manner in which and the times at which such water may be used or may not be used.
- iii) temporarily or permanently to prohibit the use of water from any sources for such purposes when, in the opinion of the Director, the use of such water would be dangerous to health.

PART 4
PROTECTION OF
WATER CATCHMENTS, RIVER BEDS AND BANKS AND RECHARGE AREAS

18. Water Catchments

The Ministry responsible for water resources controls the use and development of water catchments and riverbanks. Such control may be exercised through regulations, orders, and instructions prescribed by the Minister. Logging, mining and extraction of sand and gravel in water catchments, river banks and river beds may be restricted by the Ministry according to the requirements of catchment management and conservation. These restrictions may only be compensated and paid for if they amount to functional dispossession or transfer of ownership.

19. Planning the Use of Flood Plains

The Minister may declare flood-prone areas to be flood control zones. Flood control zones may only be used and developed in the manner allowed by the regulations, order, or instruction applying therein. No compensation is paid when enforcing regulations based on the risk of floods, except when they amount to functional dispossession or transfer of ownership.

20. Recharge Areas

The Ministry responsible for water resources may restrict the use of, and protect the areas which, are known sources of recharge of groundwater. Restrictions to the use and development of such areas may only be compensated when they amount to functional dispossession or transfer of ownership or shall declare such area as protected area under section 21 or 54.

21. Declaration of Water Control Area

- (1) The Minister may, by order in the Gazette, declare an area to be: -
- (a) Water Catchment; or
 - (b) Groundwater recharge; or
 - (c) Flood control zone

for the purposes of this Act.

- (2) The terms and conditions in respect of the taking water, restoration of land or any other matter in respect of an area declared under sub-section (1) are as prescribed under regulations to be made by the Minister.

22. Activities Prohibited in a Water Control Area

- (1) Subjected to this section, in a water control area no person shall: -
- (a) Carry out logging, mining and extraction of sand and gravel
 - (b) ring-bark, cut down or destroy trees or vegetation; or
 - (c) construct, alter, remove, repair, cleanse or scour a drain, trench or channel; or
 - (d) construct, alter or remove an embankment against a water course or lake; or
 - (e) construct, alter or remove an embankment in such a way as to alter or be likely to alter the course, or in any way impede or be likely to impede the flow or movement of surface water; or
 - (f) sink or construct a water well or water bore hole; or
 - (g) burn off trees, shrubs, plants, grass or foliage; and
 - (h) construct dwelling houses and grazing livestock
- (2) Any activity prohibited under sub-section (1) may be permitted, subject to conditions and in accordance with the provisions prescribed under section 23.

23. Approval of Activities in Water Control Area

- (1) The Director may grant approval to a person a written approval authorizing the person to do, in a water control area specified in the approval, or in a part of a water control area so specified, any activity otherwise prohibited under section 22 (1).
- (2) An approval under this section shall be in force for such period and be subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Director sees fit and as are specified in the approval.

- (3) The powers conferred by this section may be exercised whether or not negotiations have been made for the purposes of section 22 (2) and, if any regulations have been made for the purposes of that sub-section, notwithstanding the provisions of those regulations.

PART 5
APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

24. Contents of Applications for License

- (1) Contents of application for license shall be prescribed by the Director in the form and manner approved by the Minister under regulations to be made under section 54(b).
- (2) Any variation or amendment to contents of an application for license shall be prescribed by the Director and approved by the Minister under regulations to be made under section 54.

25. Form of Application for License

- (1) An application for: -
 - (a) water license; or
 - (b) driller's license, or
 - (c) an amendment or variation of any license under section 35

shall be made to the Director in the prescribed form and manner approved by the Minister; and accompanied by any charge or fee that is prescribed or fixed by the Minister.

- (2) Every application for a license or amendments to a license under section 35, shall be submitted by the Director to the Board which shall advise the Minister as it thinks fit.
- (3) Every license shall be valid for one year from the date of issue and may be renewed on payment of the prescribed charge or fee.

26. Procedures for Granting a License

- (1) No license may be granted by the Minister, unless 60 day's notice of the application therefore or of the intention to do so, and an opportunity to make representations thereon have been given to every person who, in the opinion of the Ministry responsible for water resources is likely to be adversely affected by the granting of such a license.

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to any person who has requested or consented to the license.

- (2) Where the Ministry responsible for water resources considers that it is not possible to give notice to every person required to be given notice under sub-section (1), without involving delay and expense as would be unreasonable in the particular circumstances, the Ministry responsible for water resources may post notices or cause them to be posted in a conspicuous position on or near the land affected.

27. Objection to Granting of License

- (1) Application for the obtaining or renewal of a license under sections 24 and 25 must be made and disposed of in a manner to be prescribed by regulations to be made by the Minister:
- (2) Provided that: -
 - (a) any person wishing to object to the granting or renewal of a license is given an opportunity to do so; and
 - (b) a license is subject to restrictions as to its duration as may be specified in regulations.

28. Presumptions

Where any natural water is diverted or abstracted or any damage is caused in contravention to section 15, the owner or occupier of any land, premise, or building, benefiting from the diversion or abstraction is assumed, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, to have caused or effected the diversion or abstraction as the case may be.

29. Waiver of State Liability

Nothing in the granting of a license is deemed to imply that the quantity of water therein referred to is or would be available, or that the conditions and manners of exercise of the water right are not subject to change according to changes in public needs, policies or circumstances.

30. Rights Conditional to Waterworks

- (1) Where the Ministry has granted a license subject to the construction of works within a specified period, it may, on application and notwithstanding that the period previously allowed may have expired, extend the period for the construction on not more than two occasions.
- (2) An applicant must notify the Ministry in the manner prescribed, in regulations to be made, of the date of commencement and completion of the works. The Ministry, at its discretion, may cause the works to be inspected during construction and on completion by an officer designated by the Ministry.
- (3) No license issued under this section is deemed to imply any guarantee that the works are properly designed or constructed nor supports or justifies any claim of any nature against the government, the Minister or any public officer in connection with such works.

31. Suspension, Modification and Revocation

A license may be modified, suspended or revoked by the Ministry without paying any compensation:

- (a) for any material false statement in the license application
- (b) for breach of any condition of the license;
- (c) for refusal to allow inspection of works;
- (d) to protect natural water;
- (e) to protect public health, public safety or public welfare;
- (f) to protect any commercial, domestic or municipal uses of natural water; or
- (g) due to changes in the circumstances under which the original license was issued.

32. Licenses to be recorded

A license granted by the Minister and any variation, revision, termination or diminution or revocation thereof must be recorded by the Ministry in the manner prescribed in regulations to be made.

PART 6
REVISIONS, VARIATIONS,
TERMINATION AND DIMINUTION OF LICENSES

33. Revision of volumes

- (1) If at any time in any specified area, the quantity of water to which licenses exist is insufficient to satisfy all such licenses and unlicensed domestic abstractions, the Ministry may review the allocation of water in that area, and in so doing they may revise the quantity allowed by any license and the terms and conditions thereof to the use of water in that area, and record such revised quantity, terms and conditions in the register of water licenses and so inform the holders of the licenses.
- (2) Provided that the Ministry has regard to the principle that where full use of the water has been maintained to the extent permitted by a license, no license may be cancelled or reduced except in proportion to all other licenses in the same area.
- (3) Any revised quantity under sub-section (1) shall be according to guidelines of the in-stream or residual flow requirements in an area to be prescribed under regulations to be made by the Minister.

34. Suspensions and Variations

Where in the opinion of the Ministry the supply of water from any source or in any area is or is likely to: -

- (a) become insufficient for the needs of persons using it on account of excessive use, drought, or of an emergency; or
- (b) deteriorate in quality on account of abstraction and diversion in excessive quantities or at an excessive rate.

the Ministry at any time may suspend or vary, by notice to the holders of water licenses, all or any license to divert, abstract or use water from that source, or in that area, for such periods as are deemed necessary, and upon such notice being given by the Ministry, such licenses cease for the period of suspension or are exercisable only as so varied, as the case may be.

35. Variation on Application

The Ministry may, on the application of the holder of a license, terminate or diminish or increase the right granted thereunder or vary any of the terms and conditions thereof as it sees fit.

36. Termination for Breach of a Condition

- (1) Where the holder of a license: -
 - (a) fails to comply with any condition, express or implied, subject to which the license was granted; or
 - (b) diverts, abstracts, or uses water in excess of that authorized or uses water for a purpose not authorized by license; or
 - (c) commits an offence against this law,

The Ministry may by notice in writing addressed to the holder declare the license to be terminated.

- (2) Provided that where the default is one capable of being remedied, the Ministry must first serve on the holder notice in writing specifying the default and requiring the holder to remedy the same within such time as specified in the notice, and if the default is so remedied the Ministry will not declare the license terminated.
- (3) In the case where a breach occurs, the license holder is guilty of an offence on account of his wasteful use or damage caused.

37. Termination or Diminution for Public Purpose

- (1) Where the Ministry deems it necessary or expedient in the interest of the use of water in such manner as to promote the public benefit or the utilization of such water in such manner as to promote the economic well-being of the community, it may give notice in writing addressed to the holder of any license, terminating or diminishing the license granted thereunder to the

extent that the water is required for such public benefit or economic well-being and thereupon the license lapses or is exercisable only as so diminished, as the case may be.

- (2) The holder of any terminated or diminished license shall be eligible to receive as an ex-gratia payment from the Ministry, such sum as the Ministry may determine according to guidelines provided under regulations to be made.
- (3) The holder of any terminated or diminished license shall have recourse from the determination of the Ministry under this section, in the manner provided for.

38. Termination or Diminution for Non Use

- (1) If at any time the Ministry has reason to believe that the holder of a license has not, during the preceding period of twelve months, made reasonable use of the license, it may by notice in writing addressed to such license holder call upon him to show cause why such license should not be terminated, diminished or modified in such respects as may be specified in the notice.
- (2) If within thirty days of the service of such notice no reply is received by the Ministry, it may declare the license terminated, diminished or modified as the case may be.
- (3) The holder of a license upon whom a notice is served may, within thirty days of such service, submit to the Ministry a statement in writing of reasons why the license should not be terminated, diminished or modified as the case may be and has a right to be heard in the matter.
- (4) The Ministry must consider any statement submitted to it and must, if so required, give the license holder an opportunity of being heard in person or by his legal representative, and may thereafter by notice in writing to the holder: -
 - (a) declare the license terminated
 - (b) declare the license diminished or modified in such respects as may be specified in the declaration; or
 - (c) declare the license to be unchanged

PART 7
INVESTIGATION, ETC.

39. Investigation

- (1) The Minister or Director may, by written instrument, authorize a person by himself or by his assistants, employees, agents or contractors, with or without vehicles or machinery: -
 - (a) to enter upon land, on the provisions of this Act to collect, collate and analyze of data concerning the occurrence, flow, characteristics, quantity and use of any water and provide for:-
 - (i) the systematic gauging and recording of rainfall and the volume and flow of natural water.
 - (ii) the construction, operation and removal of gauging, recording and monitoring stations and investigation and monitoring bores.
 - (iii) the sampling and analysis of any natural water.
 - (b) to enter upon any land within a protected area and carrying out such works relating to the use, flow and control of natural water.

40. Rights of Entry

- (1) Any authorized person is, on producing (if so required) some duly authenticated document showing his authority, entitled at all reasonable hours to enter upon any land: -
 - (a) to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act and with any conditions subject to which a license or license has been granted under this Act;
 - (b) to inspect and investigate conditions relating to the quantity and quality of natural water;
 - (c) to install, maintain, read or test any meter required for the purpose of this Act.
- (2) Any person acting under sub-section (1) is entitled to: -
 - (a) take measurements to ascertain the quantity and quality of water abstracted or capable of being abstracted by means of any works;
 - (b) examine records kept for the purpose of this Act;
 - (c) take a sample of any water or other substance which may appear to him as being capable of affecting the quality of natural water.
- (3) Provided that compensation is payable for all damage done and for any land occupied for the construction of works and, in default of agreement, the amount is to be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (4) Any person willfully obstructing an authorized person in the exercise of his powers under sub-sections (1) to (2) or interfering with or damaging any works established or maintained under sub-section (1) is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction.

PART 8
MISCELLANEOUS

41. Driller's License

- (1) No person or companies or organizations may, after the expiration of three months from the date on which this Act comes into effect, for hire or reward, construct, enlarge, alter or caused to be constructed, enlarged, altered or undertaken any works on any water well or bore hole unless he holds a Driller's license as provided by regulations to be made under section 54
- (2) Any person or companies or organizations who acts in contravention of sub-section (1) is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the penalties specified in section 53.
- (3) A driller's license shall be valid for one year from the date of issue and may be renewed on payment of the prescribed fee.

42. Information and Records

- (1) The Ministry responsible for water resources may, by notice in writing served on any person who is the holder of a license or entitled to the possession of any land, require him to keep such records and, additionally or alternatively, to furnish in such form and manner and within such time as may be specified in the notice or as may be prescribed by regulations to be made by the Minister, such periodical or other estimates or returns: -
 - (a) as the Ministry may specify for the purpose of ascertaining the amount or rate of water diverted or abstracted under the authority of a license;
 - (b) as the Ministry may require and specify in the notice for the purpose of ascertaining the amount or rate of groundwater abstracted, a license holder shall furnish the Ministry bore hole information in such form and manner prescribed under regulations to be made by the Minister.
 - (c) relating to such matters as may be prescribed, as matters on which a person may be required to give information as being relevant to the conservation and best use of water in the Solomon Islands.
- (2) Any person required to keep records or to furnish information and estimates under sub-section (1) who fails to do so is, unless he proves that he has reasonable excuse for such failure, guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the penalties specified in section 53 in addition to the suspension or cancellation or non-renewal of his license.

43. Protection of Public Officers

No public officer, inspector or other person authorized under this Act shall be personally liable for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in the performance of functions under this Act.

44. Suspension, Termination and Abatement of Unauthorized Activities.

- (1) The Ministry may order the immediate suspension, termination and abatement of activities upon the terms of section 15 and 22. If abatement is not carried out by the infractor upon request of the Ministry, the Ministry may itself cause the activity or discharge to be terminated and abated.
- (2) The costs and expenses incurred by the Ministry in so doing may be recoverable from the transgressor.

45. Repairs and Restoration of Unauthorized Works

- (1) If in the opinion of the authorities of application of this Act any works are so constructed, maintained, or used or are being so constructed as to constitute a danger to life, health or property, any of them may require any person for the time being enjoying the benefits of those works to carry out such repairs or to effect such additions or modifications to such works or to carry out such demolition or to change the use of the works in such manner as considered necessary, and may by notice in writing suspend any license granted or renewed under this Act, until such requirements have been fulfilled.

- (2) Where within a water control area a person has, otherwise than: -
- (a) in accordance with the regulations made for the purpose of section 22 (2); or
 - (b) in accordance with an approval granted under section 23; or
 - (c) in accordance with a notice under sub-section (3),

constructed, altered or removed a drain, trench, channel or embankment, the Ministry may, by written notice, require the person to: -

- (d) fill in or restore the drain or channel; or
- (e) remove or restore the embankment,

in the time specified in the notice.

- (3) If a notice under this section is not complied with in all respect, the Ministry may cause the work specified in the notice, or the portion of that work that has not been done to be done and may recover the cost of doing that work from the person to whom the notice was given as a debt due by that person to the state.

46. Demolition of Unlawful Works and Stoppage of Diversions or Abstractions

- (1) Any person: -
- (a) who has constructed, enlarged, altered or undertaken or caused to be constructed, enlarged, altered or undertaken any works, canals, or any quarrying operations contrary to the provisions of this Act; or
 - (b) whose license in respect of any such works or operations has been terminated under the provisions of this Act or has otherwise come to an end.

- (2) Any person who causes or knowingly licenses: -
the diversion of surface water or the abstraction of ground water otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

may be required to modify, demolish or remove such works or operations within such period, not being less than twenty days after the service thereof, as may be specified in the notice.

47. Application of Other Laws

Nothing in this law derogates the need to obtain the licenses and authorizations required under the Land and Titles Act, the Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act, the Environment and Conservation Act, the Electricity Act, the Mines and Minerals Act, the Provincial Governments Act, the Town and Country Planning Act, Solomon Island Water Authority Act and the Public Health Ordinance, their amendments and modifications. Provided that the function allocated by the Water Resources Act, are discharged according to its provisions. The River Waters Ordinance is hereby repealed

48. Enforcement

- (1) If any required steps by notice under this Act have not been taken, the authority of application of this Act issuing the order may enter into any land, building and waterworks, and take those steps, and may recover any expenses from the transgressor, according to the procedure for the collection of charges under regulations to be made.
- (2) Provided that the rules of appeals provided in Part 9 section 50 apply.

49. Limitations on Private Property

- (1) Private property, including customary lands, is subject to expropriation and condemnation, assessment and enforcement of servitude and right of way, temporary occupation and limitations as required by the provision of public services and appropriate management and conservation of the water resources of the country.
- (2) Provided that compensation is paid as and when required by the Lands and Titles Act.

PART 9
APPEALS, PENALTIES ETC.

50. Appeals

Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Minister given under this Act may, within three months of the decision, appeal to the Minister, which may confirm, adjust or vary the decision on the advise of the Board.

51. Offences

- (1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of any license or attached to any easement under this Acts, not being a term or condition requiring the payment of compensation, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction before a magistrate, to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.
- (2) Any person who:
 - (a) obstructs any other person in the due exercise of that other person's rights under any license or easement granted under this Act; or
 - (b) obstructs the Director, any inspector or other authorized officer in the due exercise of his powers under this Act,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction before a magistrate, to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

52. Offences of Corporation

Where a corporation is guilty of an offence under this Act, any officer, director, or agent of such corporation who authorized, assented to, or participated in, or by neglect or omission contributed to the commission of the offence, is a party to and guilty of the offence and liable to the penalty provided for the offence.

53. Penalties

Any person guilty of an offence against any provision under this Act for which no penalty is provided elsewhere in the Act, shall be liable, on conviction before a magistrate, to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.

54. Regulations

The Minister may make under regulations generally for the proper carrying out of the provisions and purposes of this Act, and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing may make regulations: -

- (a) prescribing fees for the doing of anything by this Act required or authorized to be done,
- (b) prescribing the procedures for issuing licenses;
- (c) prescribing the protection of catchment and recharge areas, and flood control zones;
- (d) providing for the determination of compensation;
- (e) for the appointment of officials and authorized persons;
- (f) relating the design and standards of materials to be used in construction of waterworks;
- (g) prescribing the methods of recording of licenses;
- (h) prescribing the methods, specification, restrictions of issuing and renewing of licenses;
- (i) prescribing the uses and public control of water resources;
- (j) providing for the construction and abandonment of water well bore holes
- (k) provide for the supply of bore hole information;
- (l) prescribing forms to be used;
- (m) prescribing the form and manner in which fees may be refunded
- (n) provide for control of activities in water control area; and
- (o) prescribing any other matter or anything, which may be, or is required by this Act.

SCHEDULE
(Section 10)**Constitution of the Board**

1. (1) The Board shall consist of the Director who shall be an ex officio member and the following members who shall be appointed by the Minister by instruction in writing, in the following manner, that is to say: -
 - (a) Chairperson appointed by the Cabinet on the advice of the Minister responsible for the water resources.
 - (b) Government Representative as follows:-
 - i) Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines & Energy
 - ii) Representative, Ministry of Health
 - iii) Representative, Ministry of Lands
 - (c) Community Representatives as follows:-
 - i) Representative from NGOs
 - ii) Representative from Chamber of Commerce
 - iii) Representative from Women Council
 - iv) Representative from National Churches
 - v) a representative from the Provincial Government or Town Council.

Provided that, in addition, the Minister shall appoint to sit as members of the Board when it considers an application for the issue of a license: -

- a representative from Area Council.
 - a representative from the Landowner.
- (2) The representatives of each Government Ministries must be chosen by their respective Permanent Secretaries in consultation with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry responsible for Water Resources
 - (3) Their appointment to the Board must be approved by the Minister responsible for Water Resources

Duration of Appointment

2. (1) Members of the Board shall hold office for such period as the Minister may specify in the member's instrument of appointment or, if no period is specified, for a period of four years from the date of appointment and are eligible for re-appointment.
- (2) A member of the Board may at any time resign his office as a member by giving notice in writing to the Minister and the resignation shall take effect on the date specified in the notice or, if no date is specified, on the date of receipt by the Minister of the notice.

Vacation of Office of Member

3. (1) If a member: -
 - (a) becomes permanently incapable of performing his duties; or
 - (b) resigns his office by written notice to the Minister; or
 - (c) is absent, except on leave granted by the Board from all meetings held during six consecutive months in any period of 12 months,

the minister shall terminate his appointment.
- (2) Where an office becomes vacant under sub-section (1) the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with section 5 of the Schedule
- (3) Without giving any prior notice the Minister may, at any time, terminate the appointment of a member for inability, inefficiency, incapacity or misbehavior.

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

4. The Board at its first meeting and thereafter from time to time must elect from amongst its members a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson by majority vote.

Alternate Members

5. (1) For each member appointed under section 1 of the Schedule, there shall be an alternate member who shall be nominated and appointed in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the member for whom he is the alternate.
- (2) In the event of the inability of a member to act as a member of the Board, the alternative member has and may exercise all his powers, functions, duties and responsibilities as a member and this Act applies accordingly.
- (3) Unless the Board otherwise directs, an alternative member may attend all meetings of the Board, but shall not vote on any matter or be counted towards a quorum except where he is attending in the absence of a member for whom he is the alternative.

Meetings of the Board

6. The meetings of the Board shall be determine as: -
 - (a) The Board shall meet at such times and places as the Chairperson determines or as the Minister directs, and in any case not less than four times a year.
 - (b) The Chairperson shall, if requested to do so by not less than four members, call a meeting of the Board as soon as practicable after receiving the request.
 - (c) The Chairperson shall give at least seven days notice of a meeting of the Board to each member.

Presiding

7. The Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

Quorum

8. The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be six of members of whom one shall be the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Board.

Voting

9. (1) The decisions shall be made by the concurrent vote of the majority of the members attending the meeting.
- (2) The person presiding at a meeting of the Board has a deliberative, and in the event of an equality of votes on a question, also a casting vote.

Minutes

10. The Board shall cause minutes of its meetings to be recorded and kept by the Director of Water Resources, and shall forward recommendations and proposals to the appropriate Minister for approval.

Remuneration

11. The members of the Board shall be entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowance) where appropriate as the Minister may, from time to time, determine.

Disclosure of Interest by Members of Board

12. (1) A member of the Board who has a direct or indirect interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Board shall, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the Board.
- (2) A disclosure under sub-section (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board and after the disclosure, the member: -
 - (a) shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Board with respect to that matter; and
 - (b) shall be disregarded for the purpose of constituting a quorum of the Board for any such deliberation or decision.

APPENDIX H: Local Programme Coordinator TOR

TERMS OF REFERENCE
for
PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

SOLOMON ISLANDS PROGRAMME FOR WATER GOVERNANCE

1. Background

The European Union (EU) has made funding available for the Pacific Region under its Programme for Water Governance (PfWG). The PfWG comes under the Water Initiative of the European Union, and is governed by the commitments of the Cotonou Agreement under which financial support is provided by the EU through SOPAC.

2. Project Objectives

The overall objective of the Programme for Water Governance is to mainstream the principles of good water governance into day-to-day applications through pilot projects so as to assist in achieving sustainable water resource management and provision of water services within selected Pacific countries.

For the Pacific component, the goal is to promote the application of effective water governance in institutions, systems, structures and processes in 3 countries in the Pacific. The major focus of the programme is on the development of activities which will act as 'Best Practice' examples within the countries, selected. As part of this, the Solomon Islands was selected as one of the 3 countries, representing a country in its developing stage of water governance.

3. Implementation Arrangements

The executing agency is the Solomon Island's Department of Mines and Energy and has overall responsibility for the management and implementation of the project. A Programme Coordinator will assist the Director of Water Resources in coordinating key aspects of the project to ensure effective and timely delivery of the project outcomes in collaboration with KEW Consult Ltd (The Consultant).

4. Funding Source

The Programme Coordinator position will be funded under the Water Governance Program (The project). Funding will last according to the duration of the Project.

5. Position Description

The Programme Coordinator will help to ensure the smooth operation of the Project and provide proper coordination of key components of the project. Key tasks and duties shall include (but not be limited to):

- ◆ Administer the day to day running of the Programme office - overall administration of the project office;
- ◆ Maintain official Solomon Islands Water Governance Programme records;
- ◆ Plan ongoing budgetary support for SIWG programme through consultation with Director of Water Resources;
- ◆ Organize National Water Steering Committee meetings and SOPAC mission meetings on the direction of the Director of Water Resources;
- ◆ Act as the secretary of the National Water Steering Committee, to keep minutes and distribute them;
- ◆ Provide weekly briefing on project progress to the Director of Water Resources;
- ◆ Produce monthly reports on the progress of water governance programme activities to the Director of Water Resources;
- ◆ Assist in the preparation of quarterly reports for SOPAC/EU and other relevant funding agencies through the NWSC
- ◆ Organise public awareness/stakeholders consultation workshops;
- ◆ Attend relevant meetings, seminars on behalf of the Director of Water Resources;
- ◆ Liaise with relevant organizations (Government, NGO, Regional etc) for water governance matters;
- ◆ Brief Director of Water Resources on relevant matters regarding water governance;
- ◆ Create database for water governance indicators to inform the Government and stakeholders on progress of water sector;
- ◆ Collate information and update database from time to time;
- ◆ Liaise regularly with SOPAC and KEW Consult (the Consultant) on behalf of the NWSC and Director of Water Resources for matters relevant to Solomon Islands Water Governance Programme;
- ◆ Consult with Director of Water Resources and the Consultant on appropriate sub-projects for furthering implementation of SIWG programme;

- ◆ Coordinate the preparation and release of project information to the public as directed by the Director of Water Resources;
- ◆ Undertake other duties as requested by the Director of Water Resources to ensure successful project coordination and implementation

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Generic Competencies:

(Essential)

- Ability to organize information;
- Ability to plan and organize activities to achieve defined targets;
- Ability to propose and plan for financial resources;
- Demonstrated ability to work as a team member

2. Specific Skills/Knowledge:

(Essential)

- Possess computer skills in Microsoft Windows applications – Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint and E-mail; familiarization with Microsoft Project software;
- Ability to analyse data and write reports effectively and in a timely manner;
- Ability to develop a database for water governance/sector indicators
- Demonstrated ability to communicate in writing and orally in the Native language/common dialect and in English;

(Desirable)

- Possess knowledge of Integrated Water Resources Management principles/approach;
- Possess knowledge about water sector reforms in the Solomon Islands;
- Possess knowledge of water-related statutes in the Solomon Islands

3. Behavioural Competencies:

- Demonstrated ability in public relations and dealing with people from all levels of society; (essential)
- Demonstrated leadership ability (desirable)

4. Formal Qualifications:

Minimum qualification of a Bachelors degree in water resource management or related; (essential)

National driver's licence (desirable)

5. Experience:

At least 2 years relevant working experience (desireable)

6. Duration:

The Programme Coordinator will be a contracted position for six (6) months commencing August 2007. Thereafter the Department of Mines and Energy will facilitate for the inclusion of the position into the department establishment as part of Water Resources Division establishment in charge of Inspectorate Unit currently being planned to be established in the division once a new Water resources policy and legislation have been established.