Solomon Islands Water Sector Adaption Project
(SIWSAP)
Quarterly Report

Country: **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Period Covered: **July – September 2015**

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Section 1: Summary of overall Project Progress

Implementation in the third quarter of this year has been satisfactory. A number of factors challenged implementation in this quarter including the absence of a Chief Technical Advisor, the newness of staff to UNDP processes and procedures particularly in terms of procurement, and slow turnovers and procurement responses to big ticket items, quick fixes, stationaries and communication equipment for provincial officers and PMU. The SIWSAP Project Manager, Gloria Suluia has been slowly returning to the office and will be fully on board beginning October 20 from her maternity leave. Since her return, she has been very active and has been pushing very hard for procurement to move forward with many of our big ticket items and our V&A Assessment mission.

SIWSAP has a total of four interrelated outcomes and outputs covering the areas of policies and plans, existing climate resilient water management, additional climate resilient water management, and governance and knowledge management. The majority of activities carried out and items procured are mainly under the first three outcomes.

Outcome 1: Formulating, integrating, and mainstreaming water sector-climate change adaptation response plans in the water-related sectors as well as broader policy and development frameworks.

- The project recruited a Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment team consisting of a Team Leader, Climate Scientist, WASH expert, GIS expert and a Cost Benefit Analyst.
- The CC VA Assessment Team Leader has visited two of SIWSAP's pilot sites, namely Gizo in the Western Province and Santa Catalina in Makira-Ulawa Province. *Annex 1*
- The Team Leader in consultation with the SIWSAP-PMU planned out the first CC VA Assessment mission for the full team for November. The mission will include missions to Tuwo, Tigoa, Taro and Ferafalu.

Outcome 2: Increasing the reliability and improving the quality of water supply in targeted areas.

- With the exception of Tuwo, all Provincial Officers with support from Government partners, have completed a full assessment of their sites immediate and urgent water needs and all assessments have been documented in reports and TORs.

Pilot Site	*Quick Fix Interventions*
Taro	Enhancement and rehabilitation of existing water catchment and storage.
Gizo	Installation of water tanks at the market place in Gizo Township; refurbish water supply pipes from Leoko source surpassing through Titiana village to Gizo Township's water storage tank; installation of rain gauge to monitor rainfall; and installation of sediment filtration system for the Leoko intake. Building of a separate tank in the market area for the disabled people will also be explored.
Renbel	Sanitation and rain water harvesting assessment for New Place Provincial secondary School (NPSS) in Tigoa township.

Santa Catalina	To set up rainwater catchment systems (RWCS) for the school, clinic and church; build additional RWCS in the highly populated zones to cater for their water demand; and establish a water management framework through exercising rules for water takes such as per capita/day target measurements and establish continuous monitoring of reservoir to adjust water takes/allocation to last until replenishment of rainfall events.
Ferafalu	Rehabilitating the old groundwater well; testing of water quality in the Ligeo well and groundwater assessment.
Tuwo	An initial assessment to ascertain the priority needs i.e. a survey of natural wells for rehabilitation.

Outcome 3: Investing in cost-effective and adaptive water management interventions and technology transfer.

- Installation of rain gages at three sites – Gizo, Ferafalu and Tuwo.
- Assessment and compilation of material list for water supply systems, including culverts for hand dug wells and rain water catchment systems at Tuwo, Tigoa, Taro, Gizo, Ferafalu, Santa Catalina.

After the rain gauge installation, Rural Water and Sanitation Hygiene boys with Deputy Director for Water Resource Division - Ministry of Mines Energy and Rural Electrification. Photo: Tema Wickham, PO-Gizo

SIWSAP-Gizo Provincial Officer Tema Wickham with WRD Deputy Director Isaac Lekelalu and the RWASH Gizo officers. Photo: Tema Wickham, PO-Gizo

Outcome 4: Improving governance and knowledge management for climate change adaptation in the water sector at the local and national levels.

No activities were delivered under this outcome.

Project Management

Most activities for this quarter focused on recruitment process of the Climate Change Vulnerability & Adaptation Assessment Expert Term and the Water Sector Adaptation Officer.

1. **Recruitment:**

Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Expert Team		
Team Leader	John Taylor	Will be responsible for the overall design, assessment, consultation, documentation, and presentation/communication of the Water Sector Vulnerability Assessment and Water Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plans at national and 6 provinces. The Team Leader will also advise, train, coordinate, monitor, manage, and consolidate inputs from team member comprising of national and international expertise and government officials to ensure that Vulnerability Assessment and WS-CCA plans are developed in a participatory and technically rigorous manner, and communicated effectively to key stakeholders including national

		and local decision-makers, vulnerable groups, and the international community.
Climate Scientist	NIWA/Andrew Tait	Analyse available information on current and future change of climate (rainfall, drought, sea level rise and extreme events) and will provide climate change projections and impact assessments utilizing a wide selection of climate models and scenarios.
Water and Sanitation Hygiene Specialist	Dale Young	Assess vulnerability of water infrastructure / sources (quality and quantity) to current and future climate; propose adaptation options from technical perspective (in line with water safety and security plans, if appropriate) in light of V&A - to be further analysed/combined with economic CBA.
GIS Specialist	Joy Papao	Will be responsible for leading the spatial analysis of vulnerability and adaptation options in the 6 pilot sites and at the national level. The GIS Specialist will also be responsible for providing data and developing thematic maps (nationally and for province (and if relevant community)) for V&A (including social, environmental, and economic dimensions), with particular focus on water sector. The Specialist will capture and present information provided by experts and/or gathered in field spatially (through development of thematic maps), regarding exposure, sensitivity and vulnerability (i.e. hot spots) at provincial (with community-level information if available).
Gender & Livelihood Specialist	Sabrina Regmi	Carry out a gender analysis to understand the dynamics of gender differences across a variety of issues critical for achieving adaptation as well as building resilience to climate change. On the basis of the information collected as part of the gender analysis, the Specialist will identify and design a specific and discreet gender component above and beyond gender mainstreaming aspects which will address climate change adaptation in the project's main sectors.
CBA Specialist	Alexander Borde	
PMU Post		
Water Sector Adaptation Officer	Joshua Torren	

2. Procurement:

- The Project has procured communications equipment for Provincial Officers and for the Communication and Community Engagement Officer. The Project has also procured much needed furniture for SIWSAP Provincial Offices.

- SIWSAP has advertised for procurement of big ticket items such as Man pack Equipment, Water Filtration and Desalination Equipment for its sites.

Section 2: Project progress tracking sheet

The project implementation schedule as per project document is on track.

Section 3A: Project Risks and Issues

3A: Project Risks Matrix

Existing risks/threats identified PRIOR to this quarter

Risk	Level	Mitigation measures	Responsibility
Weather impedes travel to Provinces, in some cases for months. Health and safety concerns with outer islands and drought weather/boat rides. Extreme natural events.	Medium	Avoiding travel during times of the year when the weather is known to be changeable and rough seas. Project have purchase safety kits for boat travel containing lifejackets, satellite phones, other emergency equipment.	PMU, MMERE, MECDM
Large tracts of land under customary ownership could be an impediment to spatial approaches in CC-A IWRM if landowners do not cooperate .	Medium	The IWRM process in formulating CCA plans will undertake consultative and transparent processes, including with landowners. The co-benefits from IWRM through partnerships will be emphasized with landowners. The involvement of landowners in Pilot Committees in the six pilot sites should instill a sense of ownership and enhance their understanding regarding project interventions. This should hopefully enable landowners to allow their resources for project to use.	PMU, MMERE, Provincial Governments, Pilot Committees

3B: Project Issues

Section 4: Lessons Learnt (difficulties occurred and solutions found) and Good Practices (for knowledge sharing purposes)

Issue	**Potential impact on the project, how dealt with and the result.**
Major delays in the procurement of V&A ICs and equipment.	Delays in the recruitment of consultants to undertake a Comprehensive and Participatory Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment on water resources at national level with detailed assessments of the 6 pilot provinces and 12 selected communities have impacted on the capacity of the project to move activities forward during this quarter. The programme and project team have stepped in to assist procurement. All consultants with the exception of one are now on board. Procurement is negotiating with the last consultant on his availability. Also delays in the procurement of crucial equipment such as the ground water equipment have resulted in government technical staff not being able to carry out ground water assessments. As such, assessment teams mobilized during the quarter to the six pilot sites only focused on less technical interventions such as rainwater catchment and storage. The more complex assessment will be carried out once the equipment are procured.
Termination of the Project's Chief Technical Advisor's (CTA) contract	In the absence of the Project Manager (on maternity leave July to October 2015), the termination of the CTA's contract (in late July 2015) meant that leadership at the Project Management Unit was lacking. Having a very new team on board without such leadership has impacted on the mentoring of new staff as well as the timely implementation of project activities. In addressing this gap, the Environment Analyst and Environment Assistant have stepped in to assist the newly recruited Technical Officer Communication and Community Engagement with the day to day management of the project. The Regional Technical Advisor based at the MCO in Suva have also provided much needed technical support during the reporting period.

Section 5: Additional information

Provide please include records of Communication activities (photos, press records, illustrative material), meeting notes, technical documents, publications etc. that support and complement key activities carried out in the quarter.

A press release about the Tuwo water story was sent out national media in Solomon Islands and was featured in major local newspapers and business magazine.

Honiara, Solomon Islands – A photo article on the water story of Tuwo community in Temotu Province has gone live on UNDP's Pacific Exposure website https://undppacific.exposure.co/this-is-water.

For generations, the people of Tuwo community on Fenualoa Island have had to tackle water and sanitation challenges, which has been further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

With the support from national and international partners, this community of 531 people are determined to enhance their resilience through increasing water storage capacity, protecting and managing existing water sources, and embarking on a sanitation campaign through a climate change initiative the Solomon Islands Water Sector Adaptation Project, SIWSAP.

SIWSAP is working with three rural communities and three provincial townships as pilot sites to tackle pressing water and sanitation challenges faced today and in the future as the impacts of climate change become more severe.

The project is led by the Water Resources Division in the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Rural Electrification and is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with financing from the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Least Country Development Fund (LDCF).

The Water Resources Division is also collaborating with the Climate Change Division in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) and the Environmental Health Division in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to implement the Solomon Islands Water Sector Adaptation Project.

"Water is central to all community life but as impacts of climate change becomes more severe, rural atoll communities without a reliable water source such as Tuwo are beginning to experience just how serious these impacts are," said Isaac Lekelalu, the Deputy Director of the Water Resources Division, who is also the SIWSAP Government Focal Point.

"Direct and indirect influences of climate change like longer and more frequent El Nino periods and occurrences of king tides has degraded the community's already limited water resources," said Mr Lekelalu.

"SIWSAP will improve the resilience of water resources to climate change impacts in order to improve health, sanitation and quality of life, and sustain livelihoods in targeted vulnerable areas," he said.