

**FINAL**

**United Nations Development Programme  
Country: SOLOMON ISLANDS  
Project Document**

**Project Title:** Coordination of International Observers for the 2010 Solomon Islands National Elections

**UNDAF Outcome(s):** Pacific Island countries develop and implement evidence-based, regional, pro-poor and National Sustainable Development Strategies to address population, poverty, economic exclusion issues, stimulate equitable growth, create economic opportunities and promote sustainable Livelihood

**Expected CP Outcome(s):** Pacific Island Countries demonstrate and uphold the Forum Principles of Good Leadership and Accountability.

**Expected Output(s):** Improved capacity of national parliaments and government institutions and systems to enable the efficient and effective performance of oversight, accountability, legislative, representative functions and roles including improved capacity for equitable representation and participatory democracy through civic and human rights education

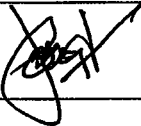
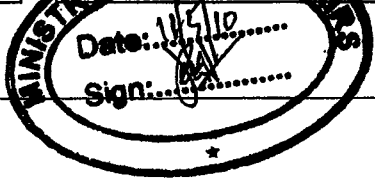
**Executing Entity:** UNDP

**Implementing Agencies:**


**Brief Description**

The Purpose of this project is to contribute to the Government of Solomon Islands' efforts to ensure a free, fair and transparent national election in 2010, through technical assistance and the coordination and facilitation of the deployment of international observers. This project is expected to play a major contribution to the conduct of the 2010 national elections.

<b>Programme Period:</b> Four (4) months	<b>Total resources required</b> USD 517,718
<b>Key Result Area (Strategic Plan)</b> Democratic Governance	<b>Total allocated resources:</b> _____
<b>Atlas Award ID:</b> _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular USD 200,000</li><li>• Other:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Donor _____</li><li>○ Donor _____</li><li>○ Donor _____</li><li>○ Government _____</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Start date:</b> 15 May 2010	<b>Unfunded budget:</b> _____
<b>End Date</b> 14 September 2010	<b>In-kind Contributions</b> _____
<b>PAC Meeting Date</b> _____	
<b>Management Arrangements</b> DIM	

Agreed by (Government) \_\_\_\_\_  

Agreed by (UN/DPA): \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by (UNDP):  14/5/10

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## **I. SITUATION ANALYSIS**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Solomon Islands is an archipelago of nearly 1,000 volcanic and coral islands, of which 347 are inhabited. It covers an area of 461,000 square kilometres, of which only 28,446 sq km is landmass. Most of the inhabited islands are volcanic and mountainous, and transportation logistics are often complex and access can be difficult.

Solomon Islands achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1978. It is now a constitutional monarchy under Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State, represented in Honiara by the Governor General and a Westminster-style parliamentary government under a Prime Minister selected from among their numbers by the 50 Members of Parliament. Under the National Constitution elections are required to be held every four years under a first-past-the-post electoral system. There are significant differences in the size of the 50 constituencies, ranging from a low of 2,345 registered voters in Malaita Outer Islands to a high of over 30,000 in East Honiara.<sup>1</sup>

Past elections in Solomon Islands have produced a high turnover of MPs—often close to 50 percent. The forthcoming election is likely to produce similar results.

One of the crucial components of the elections process is the selection of the Prime Minister. This process is usually referred to as the 'second election' and takes place when all the winning candidates return to Honiara from their respective provinces. In 2006, violent civil unrest took place after the selection of the Prime Minister. Rioting occurred in several places in Honiara, and much of the Chinatown area was burned. In preparation for the 2010 elections, the Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP) and RAMSI are closely monitoring the pre-election security and political developments in Guadalcanal, Honiara City, Malaita and Western Province. Security related issues concerning the elections will be the main responsibility of the RSIP with strong support to be provided by RAMSI.

### **1.2 Government Priorities**

One of the priorities of the Solomon Islands Medium Term Development Strategy is Public Sector Development which has a sub-focus on electoral reform. A number of systemic weaknesses have been identified in the planning and conduct of national elections. These are not dissimilar to those found in other fragile states and highlight limited capacity, lack of institutional independence and weaknesses in the electoral system itself. The MTDS identified the need for a longer-term electoral strengthening programme to correct the weaknesses and restore full functionality to the Electoral Commission (SIEC), and set an objective for the effective conduct by the SIEC of the 2010 election.

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) established by the Constitution consists of three members, with no provisions for a full time staff. In the past elections, particularly in 2006, in the run-up to the elections the SIEC was supported by short-term staff hired to work in the Electoral Commission Office, as well as by a team of external Advisers provided under an Australian aid programme through RAMSI.

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<sup>1</sup> The information contained in this section is based on the figures of 2006.

To strengthen the fundamental democratic process a proposed Electoral Strengthening and Support Programme was developed with RAMSI. Aside from critical issues raised on Electoral Law and Policy, there are a number of improvements that needed to be done through legislative and administrative reform, including consideration of issues raised at consecutive elections such as:

- Improving counting processes to enhance secrecy of the vote; review of candidate
- Nomination and withdrawal procedures to avoid 'sham' candidates and intimidation;
- Assuring voters intentions are upheld, and;
- Enabling administrative and operational consistency and effectiveness in regard to the conduct of the polling process – both from the voter's and the candidate's perspective.

Together with RAMSI, the Government designed a five-year Electoral System Strengthening Programme (ESSP), which began in November 2008.

### **1.3 UN and UNDP Assistance**

In December 2009, the Government of Solomon Islands requested the United Nations to provide it with technical election assistance, including coordination of election observers for the parliamentary elections of the country, to be held in mid-2010.

In light of the previous experiences in providing electoral support to Solomon Islands and given the importance of the upcoming elections in the country, the Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, as Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities, in January 2010 informed the Government of Solomon Islands that the Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) viewed this request positively.

The United Nations has experience in providing electoral assistance to Solomon Islands. In 2001, the Government invited the United Nations to observe its parliamentary elections. The UN determined that as per practice and particularly given the time constraints as well as fiscal shortages, a credible observation mission would not be feasible and instead deployed an Election Expert Monitoring Team (UNEEMT). In 2006, upon request of the Government, the United Nations coordinated international observers for the parliamentary elections; DPA/EAD, in cooperation with UNDP, deployed an Election Observation Coordination Team (EOCT) for this purpose.

In 2006, DPA/EAD coordinated the international elections observers under a project which was fully funded and implemented by UNDP. DPA/EAD provided technical assistance, prepared the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the team and helped recruit its members who were mandated to develop and implement a plan for a coherent and coordinated deployment, observation and reporting by international observer delegations. Forty-four (44) observers from the Pacific Islands Forum, the Commonwealth, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the United States were coordinated by EOCT's programme.

### **1.4 Recommendations of Past Monitoring Exercises**

Although international observers had made a large number of recommendations following the elections of December 2001, most were not implemented by 2006 and many of them, together with many of the recommendations made in 2006, are yet to be implemented. The recommendations were:

- Making the Electoral Commission a permanent body;
- Improving the voter registration system;
- Redrawing constituency boundaries;
- Reviewing the role of parties and the use of candidate symbols;
- Intensified voter education;
- Encouraging greater participation by women;
- Equal access to broadcast media for candidates;
- Preventing abuse of government and donor resources;
- Tighter oversight of campaign spending;
- Extended time for electoral complaints;
- Developing a system of early or absentee voting;
- Better control of access to the polling station and ballot boxes (no unauthorized persons, better seals);
- Improved transport and communications to ensure faster counting and reporting of results; and
- Improved secrecy of the vote by replacing the system of multiple boxes with a single ballot box.

In 2006, the Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) reported that there was an incidence of higher voter registration as compared to the population figure including massive vote buying practices such as: funding transportation of voters; cash payments to voters; and non-cash payments (goods) to voters. The added recommendations were:

- Amendment of the law to ensure that any ballot paper where the voter's intention is clear shall be counted as a valid vote.
- Given difficulties experienced by illiterate voters, the options of allowing the voter to make his/her intention clear through the use of the thumbprint marking on the ballot paper, or of allowing illiterate voters to bring a family member to assist them to cast their vote rather than relying on the assistance of the Presiding Officer should be considered.
- The transparency of results counting could be strengthened by providing a running tally of the results on a public board inside the counting centre.
- All election documents could be printed in both English and Pidgin.
- Stipulated distances from the polling station should be set, in order for consistency in the prohibition of campaign materials, campaigning and candidates within the polling boundaries.
- The training curriculum and practice for electoral officials could be reviewed in order to identify possible improvements to ensure familiarity with election procedures and regulations.
- The Electoral Commission should ensure that polling stations are easily accessible to the voters and that the exact location of polling stations be communicated to voters in a timely manner before the Election Day.
- The first-past-the-post voting system often results in successful candidates winning their seats with a very small percentage of the vote. The Government of Solomon Islands may wish to consider alternative voting systems which will provide greater accountability of candidates to the electors and equitable representation of all communities.

It is not clear yet how many of the above recommendations will have been implemented before the 2010 elections. The major change implemented in the 2006 elections, however, was the adoption of a single ballot box system, to replace the previous system in which voters were given a generic ballot and then told to place it in the ballot box for their preferred candidate.

The electoral law makes no explicit provision for access to polling or counting stations by observers or other non-officials. However, in 2006 the SIEC developed a clear procedure to issue credentials for officials (red badges), guests (peach), media (orange) and international and domestic observers (green). All Returning Officers and Presiding Officers were instructed accordingly.

The process of selecting the Prime Minister ('second election') has been severely criticized in the past by international observers due to its lack in transparency and its impact on the overall credibility of Solomon Islands election process. Some international observers have been of the view that allowing access for international and domestic observers to this process would contribute to the transparency and credibility of the overall process.

### **1.5 Current Reforms Initiated**

In July 2009, the National Parliament passed an amendment to the Constitution to increase the number of the Electoral Constituencies to a maximum of seventy (70) from the current fifty (50). Following this, the Constituency Boundaries Commission was tasked by the Solomon Islands Government to review the number of constituencies taking into account the number of inhabitants of each constituency, the distribution of the population, the means of communication and ethnic affiliation. In March 2010, the Commission presented its report to Parliament, recommending the creation of seventeen (17) new constituencies. However, to date it is still not clear whether the Government will implement the recommendations in the current term, as there are financial and economic implications to consider, and that Cabinet is reportedly split over this particular issue.

In April 2010, the Parliament also passed a bill, entitled the National Parliament Electoral Provisions (Amendment) Bill 2010, to amend the voter registration process in order to reduce the number of duplicate registrations and improve the quality of the voter register. This will be achieved through:

- The empowerment of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) to direct and instruct electoral registration officials in the conduct of their duties so as to ensure greater consistency and homogeneity in the voter registration process across the country;
- Enabling and requiring SIEC to check for duplicate registrations across constituencies, and to submit objections to registrations that appear to be duplicate;
- Making consequent revisions to the forms in the second schedule to the Act;
- Revising the time periods specified in the law in order to enable the different elements of the voter registration process to occur at the same time throughout the country, and to enable cross-constituency checks.

Another objective of the amendment bill is to make small adjustments to the polling process to embed the 'single ballot box' system of voting, by explicitly empowering SIEC to direct electoral officials and therefore to ensure greater consistency in the polling process across the

country, and allow for more than one ballot box to be used during the day of polling within each polling station, if one becomes full.

These reforms have been initiated as a result of the need to have a Voter Registration centralized database system that contains the details of all legally registered voters, thereby improving its accuracy and integrity.

The bill is being viewed as progress, although it is important to take note that some needed reforms reportedly either came too late or were not considered at all. For example, applicable timeframes to the current voter registration are too short, given the difficulties and expenses for transport and logistics in Solomon Islands, particularly for the remote and outlying provinces and islands. The amendment bill did not go through in time to apply to the voter registration process currently on-going for the coming election. Other needed reforms, too, were not considered by Parliament, including: (1) allowing voters waiting in line at a polling station before 5pm to vote—currently, the polling station must close at 5pm even if voters have been waiting in line before that time; and (2) improving the secrecy and safety of votes by, for example, checking to make sure that the correct number of ballot papers is in the ballot box before beginning to count votes.

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## **II. STRATEGY**

### **2.1 Rationale**

As reflected from the analysis of the 2006 elections and facts stated above, the establishment of a strong and effective coordination mechanism for international observers by the United Nations, as requested by the Solomon Islands Government, will be an important component of ensuring that elections are carried out successfully in a fair, free and transparent manner. A United Nations Elections Observer Coordination Team (UNEOCT) will be based in Honiara to coordinate all activities relating to international observers, from June – August 2010 (for a period of about 60 days).

Although the political environment is relatively stable in comparison to 2001 and 2006, the situation is still fragile and combustible.

Solomon Islands Government—supported by the various political parties and in partnership with donors and other stakeholders—is implementing electoral reforms with grassroots and traditional leadership involvement.<sup>2</sup> The widely publicized public consultations in Honiara and the provinces have facilitated informed decision-making, and have provided an avenue for diverse viewpoints to be heard.

There are still several issues however that could present challenges and make the environment fragile. Some of these issues relate to the current fiscal environment and others to the political impact of the perceived lack of progress on the so-called “bona-fide demands” of the people of Guadalcanal, which include the development of a federal state system, land ownership, compensation for the people of Guadalcanal who were killed by settlers from the other island provinces, and the allocation of funds/resources from the national level to provincial governments. The increasing number of unemployed youth in Honiara is a concern for peace and stability. Local observers have referred to this issue as a ‘powder keg’, not only in view of the forthcoming elections, but also for the economic challenges faced by the country.

The Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP) and RAMSI, in view of the forthcoming elections, continue to monitor closely security and political developments in Guadalcanal, Honiara City, Malaita and in the Western Province. There is a concern over the possibility of voter intimidation in some areas.

One of the suggestions<sup>3</sup> from the UN’s 2006 observation project is the need to keep some international observers in-country following the election in order to observe the so-called “second election”, where the Prime Minister is chosen in Parliament. This recommendation was further discussed with the Solomon Islands Government, as currently this process—by law—is closed.

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<sup>2</sup> People Survey 2009 Report and PG reports.

<sup>3</sup> UNEAD Election Observer Coordination Team, Parliamentary Elections Solomon Islands Final Report, 2006, p10

Subsequently, the Solomon Island Government, through the Ministry of Home Affairs, agreed for the International Observers to be in-country during the conduct of the "second election" or the Prime Minister selection. However, only selected representative from the International Observers team will extend their stay for additional two (2) weeks to observe the said event. Each agency/country will select a representative for the "second election". Although, the international observers are not allowed inside the Parliament chamber their highly visible presence in the country will be a statement of support from the international community to ensure a fair and peaceful election process.

## **2.2 Current Election Processes**

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) is a three-member body with a constitutional mandate. The Speaker of the National Parliament is the Chairperson and there are two other members who are appointed by the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission. The SIEC is supported by the Solomon Islands Electoral Office under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The role of the SIEC is limited to the conduct and management of National Elections.

To implement the elections, ten Election Managers are appointed (one for each of the nine Provinces plus Honiara City), 50 Returning Officers are designated (one for each constituency), a number of Assistant Returning Officers and other polling staff, and a Presiding Officer and two Polling Assistants for each of the approximately 1,000 polling stations. Most Electoral Managers and Returning Officers are normally public officials; Presiding Officers and Polling Assistants are either public or provincial officials.<sup>4</sup>

Voter registration for the 2010 elections is scheduled to finish on 9 June 2010. There is an ongoing voter registration validation process being conducted for 2 weeks in April 2010. In the 2006 elections, the final list showed 342,137 voters registered, although this list was not cross-checked to ensure the elimination of duplicate entries.

## **2.3 UN coordination of international observers**

Since 1992 the United Nations has been offering and providing assistance for the coordination of election observers. The primary goal is to contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of an election observation effort. Coordination of observers is distinct from the actual observation of elections by the UN, which requires a mandate by the UN Security Council or the General Assembly. *When coordinating international observers, the United Nations does not make, participate or associate itself with any statements on the quality of the elections; its public comments, if any, would be limited strictly to the conduct of its own coordination efforts.*

Solomon Islands law does not have any express provision for the participation of national or international observers, although provision is provided for the Presiding Officer to allow into the polling station "any other person who in his opinion has lawful reason to be admitted".<sup>5</sup> A similar provision is provided for persons who can be present for the counting of votes. This

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<sup>4</sup> For the first time in recent experience, the staff and arrangements for the 2006 election were entirely funded by the Solomon Islands Government from within the regular budget, instead of relying on external aid. All materials used to conduct the election -- from ballot boxes and voting booths to ballot papers and announcement forms -- were procured in-country, except for the indelible ink used to mark citizens who had voted, which was purchased in India.

<sup>5</sup> National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act (1996), Section 39 (2)



lack of specific provisions for the participation of national and international observers should, therefore, not be an impediment to the deployment of observers provided that Presiding Officers are properly instructed and briefed.

UN coordination teams provide information on the electoral process and the operational plan that can be useful for observers in arranging their deployment and they can also recommend certain deployment patterns under the clear understanding that they accept no liability or other legal responsibility for those who act on its advice. This is based on the assumption that, as in 2006, EOCT will only cover international observers (and not the domestic ones).

## **2.4 Detailed Implementation Strategy**

### **Management Arrangements**

*UN DPA/EAD.* To provide overall guidance and technical assistance to the formulation and implementation of the project document for coordination of international elections observers; to undertake high-level coordination with other international actors involved in elections observation; to recommend candidates for expert positions; to provide oversight and technical assistance to the EOCT during its time in Solomon Islands; to provide inputs into project reporting commitments.

*UNDP Solomon Island Sub-office.* To undertake the overall formulation and implementation of the project; to provide resources for the project, and to undertake resource mobilization for the unfunded amount; to select and recruit experts and staff for project positions; to provide technical advice as deemed necessary; to undertake budget planning and monitoring; to source all logistic inputs; to undertake local disbursements; to ensure project reporting commitments are completed.

*Solomon Islands Government.* To issue invitations to the international community to send elections observers; to extend right of passage and courtesies and security as deemed appropriate and necessary to the international observers; in consultation with the Electoral Commission, to provide accreditation as deemed necessary.

*Electoral Commission of Solomon Islands.* To provide reasonable access/information to the international observers on all election-related premises/ activities, in consultation with the government; to provide accreditation as deemed necessary and facilitate the work of the observers.

*Observer Groups/ Countries.* To provide as many qualified observers as deemed appropriate; to agree to the overall coordination of international observers by the United Nations; to provide adequate funding to support their observers; to arrange their boarding, lodging, transport and communication needs; to issue press statements and mission statements from time to time and on conclusion of the mandate; to produce a joint statement if feasible and appropriate and share the contents of reports with the stakeholders.

*Individual Observers.* To abide by the code of conduct; to respect the laws of the land; to undertake observation in a free, impartial and neutral manner; not to interfere with the electoral process in any manner; to follow the deployment plans and schedules of the

mission; to contribute to the production of mission statements and press releases; to elect among themselves, if required, group leaders and deputy leaders.

**Observer Coordination Unit.** To undertake in-country planning prior to the deployment of the observers; to create deployment plans; to source air, water and land transport arrangements (from Honiara to the areas of deployment- before the election day, and from the deployment areas back to Honiara after the election day); to prepare briefing packages and observation tools as required; to arrange briefing and de-briefing sessions; to assist with the preparation and production of mission statements, as deemed necessary and appropriate; as far as practicable, to maintain communication links with group leaders and observers; to provide periodic updates on safety and security.

### Project Deliverable

#### **Output 1: Effective Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in place**

The United Nations Election Observation Coordination Team (UNEOCT/EOCT) will be led by a coordinator (an electoral expert) assisted by a logistics expert and an operations specialist. The basic functions of EOCT will be as follows:

- Providing the observers with necessary information and written briefing packets (including on country profile, electoral law analysis and political analysis).
- Organizing pre-deployment oral briefings (including by inviting electoral, political and security officials) on updated political, electoral and security conditions, aimed at:
  - providing observers with an understanding of the country and the political context;
  - helping observers understand the procedural requirements for conducting the elections;
  - familiarizing observers with what to expect at the polling stations based on provisions in the elections law and related regulations; and
  - ensuring observers understand the logistical arrangements and timetable for the observation effort.
- Liaising with the relevant officials for the purposes of accreditation of international observers and other issues.
- Facilitating the sharing of information and analysis among observer groups to help improve the quality, accuracy and credibility of observer statements and reports.
- Facilitating the production of joint checklists and reporting procedures.
- Providing deployment plans to avoid duplication and to increase the breadth of observation coverage to ensure that a representative sample of the country is covered on the polling day.
- Providing logistical and operational support (flights, accommodation, etc) for the deployment of observers to the polling stations (including through liaising with flight/boat service providers, compiling required logistical arrangements and concluding required logistical contracts with service providers).
- Providing insignia of identification (caps, shirts, etc) for International Observers that are coordinated by the Team.<sup>6</sup>
- Organizing post-election debriefings.

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<sup>6</sup> The UN will bar the use of the UN logo or name in any materials related to observer activities or in any of the observer statements or reports.

- Facilitating the production of a joint statement of the observer group if desired by them.<sup>7</sup>

#### Recruitment of EOCT members

- The operation will start with the recruitment of the members of the team. EAD will help identify appropriate candidates; UNDP will undertake recruitment. This phase may start as soon as the date of the elections is determined.
- The early deployment of the logistics expert would ensure that arrangements are in place before the arrival of the other EOCT members. It would also enable advance work to be done on the complex logistical arrangements required for the coordination of the international observers.

**Output 2:** Awareness on the objectives of the IEO Team in contributing to the protection of human rights and democratic processes.

The members of the Election Observation Coordination Team will be deployed to Honiara at least seven weeks prior to the election day. In this phase the team will:

#### Conduct of preparatory activities

- Establish the logistics required for their own operation (including establishment of the coordination support office, hiring local employees, leasing vehicles, etc.).
- Establish contact with local officials, resident diplomatic representative, Chairman and members of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC), civil society, church leaders, police officials, regional organization representatives and other stakeholders.
- Link with domestic observer groups, which will be composed of civil society organizations.
- Prepare a plan for the deployment of international observers through assessing the situation—including by pre-deployment site visits<sup>8</sup>.
- Conclude binding agreements with service providers for transportation of the observers to their areas of deployment.
- Make the necessary arrangements for organizing a two-day orientation briefing for the international observers after their arrival to Honiara<sup>9</sup> and before their deployment to the polling stations. This is aimed at providing the observers with general information about the country and with specific information concerning the electoral system (relevant legislation as well as the Election Manual and other materials prepared for Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, and candidates and the Code of Conduct for Observers, detailed maps of each Constituency showing as many polling station locations as possible), the candidates, and the constituencies where they will be deployed<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> All measures need to be taken so that the UN will not be misperceived as having direct involvement in the substantive observation. Neither the UN nor the Government will oblige any observer group to participate in the coordination effort. The UN will not render an opinion on the electoral process or otherwise seek to influence observers' findings or statements.

<sup>8</sup> EOCT will pay pre-deployment site visits to the areas where observers are supposed to be deployed and will develop a precise plan for deployment. It will also study and arrange for the best way to transport the observers to their respective areas of observation.

<sup>9</sup> All Observers will be asked to arrive in the capital at least four days prior to election day, to ensure adequate time for orientation briefings before they will be deployed to their assigned sites on election day.

<sup>10</sup> To prepare for this essential part of the Observation, the EOCT will need to seek information, documents and other resources from a number of sources, including the Electoral Commission, the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau, the National Museum and Archives, etc.

#### Awareness raising on the purpose of the IEOs

- Liaise with relevant officials for the purposes of accreditation of international observers and other issues.
- Design a unique logo for the operation that will be featured on all press releases, weekly circular messages, EOCT vehicles, and uniform shirts which will be provided as identification to all International Observers.
- Determine the number and origin of the international observers, and establish early and regular contact with them through a series of periodic circular messages to ensure horizontal information-sharing among all interested players<sup>11</sup>.

**Output 3:** Facilitate participation of communities in the democratic process by ensuring a conducive environment in the polling areas.

*Electoral Constituencies.* Solomon Islands consist of 50 electoral constituencies distributed across an archipelago of more than 900 islands. In 2010, there will be 1,000 polling stations to handle the approximately 350,000 voters. The archipelago is far-flung, with Choiseul in the northwest (3 seats) around 500 kilometres from Honiara, and the Santa Cruz islands (also 3 seats) lying 600 kilometres in the other direction.

*Coverage.* Ideally observers should be present in all provinces. In practice this will depend on the number of observers who arrive and logistical arrangements. The purpose of a coordinated deployment of all International Observers is to ensure coverage of “a representative sample” of the country’s Polling Stations. The international observers will be deployed to as many of the nine Provinces of the country as possible.<sup>12</sup>

#### *Deployment*

##### Members of the National Parliament election

- Observers should be deployed in teams of two. Logistics arrangements will have to take into account not only deployment to the areas of observation but transportation within these areas. The latter will require both vehicles and boats. This phase will last several days and covers the deployment of observers to their point of observation and return to the base at Honiara after counting.
- The Observers will be deployed at their designated areas of observation at least 48 hours prior to voting to enable them to get their bearings on-site, meet appropriate local officials, and plan their schedule for observation of the Opening, Voting and Closing. EOCT will coordinate the deployment of the observers outside Honiara by air, sea or land.<sup>13</sup> Retrieval of the Observers will take place one or two days after the Election Day, depending on the circumstances.

<sup>11</sup> These circulars can be distributed as often as possible by e-mail to international observers, diplomatic and non-governmental recipients in Honiara, as well as in Suva, New York, etc. Each edition should cover Election Arrangements, Political Activity, Observers, Logistics and Security issues, and EOCT Activities.

<sup>12</sup> In 2006 observers were deployed in 7 provinces out of 9, plus all three districts in Honiara City. [Temotu Province (3 Constituencies) and Rennell-Bellona (one Constituency) were not observed in light of their distance from Honiara and the relatively small population (14,079 and 3,155 registered voters, respectively, out of 342,000 total).] The 22 teams of Observers coordinated by the United Nations in 2006 were able to observe the Opening at 23 Polling Stations and the Closing at 22 (of which 13 were different than at the start of the day). Depending on logistic complications Observer Teams were able to visit between 7 and 12 polling stations in the ten hours between Opening and Closing. During the day, the IO’s were able to visit and prepare checklists on 175 Polling Stations (about 22 percent of the 810 nationwide – a few were visited twice) in 27 districts, which total roughly 69 percent of the registered voters in all 50 Constituencies.

<sup>13</sup> In 2006, 15 teams of observers, out of 22, were deployed to sites outside Honiara by air – on three fixed-wing charter flights to Malaita & Isabel, Western Province and Choiseul, and to Makira, and on four helicopter flights to Central Province, southern Malaita, and the extreme southeastern corner of Guadalcanal.

- The UN may need to provide transportation assets—in particular, aircraft—during deployment. The organization of these assets will be a key feature of UN preparatory activities. The fundamental issues affecting election logistics in the Solomon Islands are the topography of the country and the lack of infrastructure, which combine to make travel and communications complicated and costly.<sup>14</sup>

#### Prime Minister Election

- Selected International Observers will be deployed in a designated area within the National Parliament compound at least 4 hours before the arrival of the newly elected members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament and stay until the new Prime Minister has been officially declared.

#### *Debriefing (post-polling and conclusion).*

- This phase will encompass the debriefing of observers and the issuing of a joint statement if that is desired by the international observers. The statement as noted above would not be made in the name of the United Nations.

#### Closing phase of the operation

- This phase, which may last up to 15 days beyond the end of the second election and would also involve the shutting down of the coordination support office and the closing of the project.
- **Facilitation to SIG for the Conduct of Lessons Learned workshop.** The International observers will be invited to participate in the said workshop to be conducted by the SIG.

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<sup>14</sup> EOCT relied mostly on aircraft, both fixed- and rotary-wing, for initial deployment in the 2006 experience. Once the Observers arrived in their area of responsibility, in many cases travel to polling stations were only possible by four-wheel drive vehicles, given the scarcity of paved roads, or by motorized canoe along short stretches of protected coastline.

### III. RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

<p><b>Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Solomon Islands Demonstrates and upholds the Forum Principles of Good Leadership and Accountability and SOI is aware and protects human rights and makes available to claim them</b></p>				
<p><b>Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicators: % of population with knowledge of democratic and human rights;</li> <li>▪ Baseline: Limited national capacities for civic education.</li> <li>▪ Target: Solomon Island Communities and people are understanding and exercising their democratic and human rights.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Applicable Key Result Area (from 2008-11 Strategic Plan):</b> Democratic Governance</p>				
<p><b>Partnership Strategy</b> : UNDP Direct Implementation (DIM)</p>				
<p><b>Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID)</b> : 2010 Observer Coordination</p>				
INTENDED OUTPUT	ANNUAL OUTPUT TARGETS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	INPUTS (US\$)
<p><i>Output: Solomon Islands government and relevant stakeholders have the capacity to ensure free, fair and transparent elections.</i></p> <p><i>Baseline: SIG Medium Term Strategy 2008 – 2010 identified electoral reform as a priority for Public Sector Development.</i></p> <p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of polling stations observed by international observers</li> <li>▪ Number of polling stations where Polling Staff follow the procedures indicated</li> <li>▪ % of polling stations where free, fair and transparent voting observed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EOC Team established</li> <li>▪ At least 45 international election observers in the 2010 National Parliament Election are mobilized</li> <li>▪ Identification of deployment sites prioritized</li> <li>▪ EOCT contribute to dissemination of systems and procedures as part of preparatory activities for the arrival of the IEO Team</li> <li>▪ Relevant stakeholders and communities are aware of the IEOT purpose.</li> <li>▪ IEOT are aware of the updated election procedures</li> <li>▪ IEOT upholds election integrity by providing support to impartial observation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 1: Effective Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in place</b></p> <p>Activity 1.1: Recruitment of the Project Management Team</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Establishment of office for the EOCT</p> <p><b>Output 2: Awareness on the objectives of the IEO Team in contributing to the protection of human rights and democratic processes.</b></p> <p>Activity 2.1: Conduct of preparatory activities</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Conduct of awareness raising on the purpose of the IEOT</p>	<p>UNDP</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>UNDP</p>	<p>242,075.00</p> <p>35,000.00</p> <p>206,773.60</p>

		Activity 3.4 Allocate resources for security and other related Administrative Cost		
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**IV. ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>(Indicators, Indicators, Indicators, Indicators)</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>(Activities, Activities, Activities, Activities)</i>	INTERVAL						UNDP	PLANNED BUDGET
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6		
Output 1: Effective Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in place <i>refer to RRF</i>	1.1 Recruit Election Observation Coordination Team								
	1.1.1 Develop/Approve TOR								
	1.2.1 Conduct of Recruitment								
	1.3.1 Hiring of 3 International Staff and 4 local staff	X	X	X	X			UNDP	171,375.00
	1.2. Establish the Office for EOCT								
	1.2.1 Allocate resources for logistics and communication								
	1.2.2 Allocate resources for equipment support	X	X	X	X			UNDP	70,700.00
	2.1 Conduct of preparatory Activities								
	2.1.1 EOCT site visit to provinces								
	2.1.2 Orientation to the TEAM	X	X	X				UNDP	28,000.00
Output 2: Awareness on the objectives of the IEO Team in contributing to the protection of human rights and democratic processes <i>refer to RRF</i>	2.2 Awareness raising on the purpose of IEO.								
	2.2.1 Orientation with the media group								
	2.2.2 Orientation with civil society groups		X	X				UNDP	7,000.00
	3.1 Support for IEOT travel			X	X			UNDP	99,689.00
Output 3: Facilitate participation of communities in the democratic processes <i>refer to RRF</i>	3.2 Support IEOT on pre and post election monitoring				X			UNDP	22,324.00
	3.3 Facilitate post election debriefing and analysis						X	UNDP	23,719.80
	3.4 Allocate resources for security and other related Administrative Cost	X					X	UNDP	61,040.80
	<i>refer to RRF</i>								
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>		X					UNDP		33,869.40
<b>Output 4: GMS (7%)</b>		X					UNDP		
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>									



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## **V. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Project will be directly implemented (DIM) by the UNDP. Therefore, all UNDP financial and operations procedures and rules will apply as per the DIM procedures.

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## **VI. LEGAL CONTEXT**

This document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA [or other appropriate governing agreement] and all CPAP provisions apply to this document.

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner.

The implementing partner shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) Assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document".

## VIII. Monitoring Framework And Evaluation

### Quality Management for Project Activity Results

<b>OUTPUT 1: Effective Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in place</b>		
<b>Activity Result 1 (Atlas Activity ID)</b>	Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	Start Date: May 2010 End Date: Aug 2010
<b>Purpose</b>	Effective Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	
<b>Description</b>	1.1: Recruitment of the Project Management Team 1.2: Establishment of office for the EOCT	
<b>Quality Criteria</b>	<b>Quality Method</b>	<b>Date of Assessment</b>
Project completed in timely manner	End-of-Project report	Sep 2010
<b>OUTPUT 2: Awareness on the objectives of the IEO Team in contributing to the protection of human rights and democratic processes</b>		
<b>Activity Result 2 (Atlas Activity ID)</b>	Preparatory Activities and Awareness Raising	Start Date: Jun 2010 End Date: Jul 2010
<b>Purpose</b>	Effective preparation for and public made aware of purpose of election observation	
<b>Description</b>	2.1: Conduct of preparatory activities 2.2: Conduct of awareness raising on the purpose of the IEOT	
<b>Quality Criteria</b>	<b>Quality Method</b>	<b>Date of Assessment</b>
Observer logistics readied	Direct Observation	Jun 2010
Public/SIG sensitized to IEOT	Direct Observation	Jun 2010
<b>OUTPUT 3: Facilitate participation of communities in the democratic processes</b>		
<b>Activity Result 3 (Atlas Activity ID)</b>	Participation in the democratic processes	Start Date: Jul 2010 End Date: Sep 2010
<b>Purpose</b>	Effectively facilitate the free and fair participation of communities in the democratic processes	
<b>Description</b>	3.1: Support to IEOT travel 3.2: Additional logistics support to IEOT on election day 3.3 Post-election de-briefing, analyses, workshop/s 3.4 Allocate resources for the EO/Administrative cost	
<b>Quality Criteria</b>	<b>Quality Method</b>	<b>Date of Assessment</b>
Free and fair participation in election	Direct Observation	Jul-Aug 2010
SIG post-election activities supported	Post-election IEOT reports	Sep 2010