



**Solomon Islands Water Sector Adaption Project  
(SIWSAP)  
Quarterly Report**

Country: **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Period Covered: **October – December 2015**

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Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Section 1: Summary of overall Project Progress

Implementation in the final quarter of 2015 has been satisfactory. A number of achievements were made namely; the issuance of contracts to carry out construction works for quick fixes in Gizo, Santa Catalina and Tuwo; the successful recruitment of the Water Sector Adaptation Officer, Water and Sanitation Specialist and the GIS Specialist, the fielding of the Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment (CCV&A) team to the various pilot sites; and the completion of a Household Survey on 'Exposure' in all pilot sites. The Project Manager is now fully on board from maternity leave, and with the recruitment of the Water and Sanitation Specialist, technical backstopping to the PMU in the absence of the Chief Technical Advisor is slowly coming into place.

Besides its achievement, the project continues to encounter challenges with the procurement of its big ticket items. The slow turnover of big ticket items such as the Automatic Hydro meteorological Stations, ground water equipment, desalination and water filtration systems, and the man pack series transceivers is causing frustrations amongst government counterparts as well as communities in the pilot sites. Furthermore, failure to realizing these big procurement items in the final quarter has contributed directly to the overall delivery of the project against its annual target for 2015, which is less than 50%. The PMU will continue to work closely with procurement colleagues and key government counterparts to address bottlenecks hampering the quick turnaround of much needed equipment. Not to mention, the cumbersome process of UNDP's procurement system further contributes to prolong the process. Where possible, the project will in future explore the possibility of utilizing the government procurement system to avoid major delays. Another challenge faced during the reporting period is the bad weather condition which impedes travel to remote sites such as Tuwo during the rolling out of the CCVA in November 2015.

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. Necessary ground work to commence activities under outcome 4 has kicked off during this quarter.

Overall project expenditure during the last quarter (October to December 2015) amounts to USD321,196.96.

### ***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 has successfully recruited the Water and Sanitation Specialist and GIS Specialist in October 2015. These are the last two consultants to join the Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment (CCVA) team.
- A CCVA team was fielded in November 2015 for three (3) weeks comprising of the: Team Leader (international), Water and Sanitation Specialist (international), GIS Specialist (local), Climate Scientist (international), and the Gender and Livelihood Specialist (international). This mission was crucial in gathering relevant and accessible data from each of the pilot sites through desk top review, Focus Group



Discussions and Household Surveys. The CCVA covered Taro, Santa Catalina, Tuwo, Ferafalu and Tigoa. Gizo in the Western Province and Santa Catalina in Makira-Ulawa Province were visited during the kick off meeting in September 2015, hence not covered under this mission.

- A debriefing with key stakeholders was conducted at the end of the mission (early December 2015) highlighting key findings; to name a few; 1) lack of ownership (need to ensure that the CCVA and AP processes involve high levels of community participation); 2) very little is understood about climate change and shared public goods, such as water supply (people think of it as a limitless resource); and 3) a need to connect resilience with institutional structures and policy. It is envisaged that the first draft report of the CCVA will be ready for circulation to key partners by early January 2016 before finalization.
- A household survey questionnaire on ‘exposure’ was trialed in Ferafalu, North Malaita, by the CCVA team prior to been rolled out by the SIWSAP team in all pilot sites in early December 2015. The survey was completed by mid-December and all data collected were collated by Provincial Officers and forwarded to the Team Leader for further analysis.
- Total actual expenditure for this outcome during the quarter stands at USD40,450.64



*A separate discussion session with women on gender related matters particularly in the management of water resources as well as sanitation and hygiene during the CCVA in Ferafalu, North Malaita. Photo: Ruth Ramoifuila, Technical Communication and Community Engagement Officer (TCCEO), SIWSAP.*



*The rolling out of the CCVA assessment in Taro, Choiseul Province. As part of data gathering, the SIWSAP team together with local partners did an assessment of the water supply system on mainland Choiseul Bay where Taro residences resort to in times of extreme water shortages. Photo: Joy Papao, GIS Specialist, SIWSAP.*



*The Provincial Officer (Mr Mannesh Irofimae) for Makira/Ulawa Province and the Technical Communication and Community Engagement Officer(TCCEO) (Ms Ruth Ramoifuila) conducting the Household Survey on 'Exposure' in Santa Catalina, Makira/Ulawa Province. Photo: Joy Papao, GIS Specialist, SIWSAP.*



*The SIWSAP GIS Specialist, Ms Joy Papao, undertaking a mapping exercise of community water assets in Santa Catalina during the CCVA. In this pilot site, hand dug wells are the only alternative water sources to rain water. Local residences normally turn to hand dug wells in times of extreme water shortages (e.g prolonged droughts) due to the non-availability of surface water. This well is a fine example of how local communities utilize traditional knowledge and local materials to enhance their resilience and to protect water sources from contamination. Photo: Ruth Ramoifuila, TCCEO, SIWSAP.*

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

- An Early Warning System (Automatic Hydro meteorological Stations (AHS) and Rain Gauges) will be procured through a direct contracting arrangement with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric (NIWA) Research, a Research Institute in New Zealand. These equipment are crucial in developing both an effective community based climate change early warning and disaster preparedness information system for water resource management that is both top-down and bottom-up. As at December 2015 end, the procurement team is awaiting additional documentations to be provided by NIWA. Once in receipt of required documents, the case will be uploaded for the Regional Assets, Contracts and Procurement (RACP) Committee in Bangkok to review.
- Data collected on urgent water needs in all six pilot sites by a joint mission of MMERE technical officers and WRD/SIWSAP Provincial Officers were used to quantify materials required for quick fixes in all pilot sites. Based on these, a public procurement notice was issued in October 2015, attracting a total of



12 potential contractors. As at end December 2015, two contractors were engaged to undertake construction works in Santa Catalina, Tuwo and Gizo. Find below a brief summary on the status of each of the pilot sites' quick fixes.

<i>Pilot Site</i>	<i>Quick Fix Interventions<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Status</i>
<b>Taro</b>	Enhancement and rehabilitation of existing water catchment and storage. This includes repair, replacement and new installation of water capture devices, and water tanks for rainwater harvesting.	A Contracts, Assets and Procurement (CAP) case was submitted to UNDP's Multi-Country Office (MCO) in Fiji in December 2015 for their deliberation. Procurement to address/respond to queries raised by the CAP.
<b>Gizo</b>	For rainwater harvesting (RWH), the MSG Building, Women's Resource Centre, Netball Stadium and Official buildings, Churches and the Gizo Community High School buildings were identified as needing repairs to water capture components; gutters, spouting and down-pipes. Some of these buildings also need additional storage tanks. Similarly, few springs around Gizo town need rehabilitation work. These include ones at Babylon, Malakerava, Banana Valley and the District areas.	A contract was issued to Zenith Engineering and Environmental Services in mid-December 2015. The Contractor has commenced with the procurement of required materials and equipment. Shipment of materials/equipment is proposed for January 2015.
<b>Renbel</b>	Rainwater catchment and groundwater supply improvement were identified as urgent needs in Tigoa to solve the current water problem. Rainwater harvesting will be for the New Place Secondary School. Improvements to the existing groundwater supply will be to cater for the Tigoa township residences.	A public procurement notice for Tigoa failed to attract any submission. Due to the complexity of works in this particular site, an engineering company known for its good track record (doing similar work) from another UN agency (UNICEF) was approached to submit a quotation. Awaiting quotation from the contractor.
<b>Santa Catalina</b>	Set up rainwater catchment systems (RWCS) for the school, clinic and church; build additional RWCS in 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.	A contract was issued to SUBI Construction and Plumbing Company in mid-December 2015. Procurement of materials and equipment currently underway. Shipment proposed for January 2016.
<b>Ferafalu</b>	Two key adaptation measures were identified as urgently requiring attention namely: increase proper storage capacity and roof catchment to capture water, and the rehabilitation of existing wells using culvert and concrete	The recommended contractor was requested to submit a revised quotation after some negotiations, particularly on transportation cost. Once a revised quotation is received, procurement will

<sup>1</sup> Extracted from various Technical Assessment Reports undertaken by WRD Technical Officers and WRD/SIWSAP Provincial Officers in all six pilot sites in late 2015.



	slab to properly secure them. Also need to provide proper hand pump system.	proceed with the necessary paperwork for the issuance of a contract.
<b>Tuwo</b>	Four buildings were assessed and quantified to be addressed urgently. This includes the Tuwo primary school buildings (2), the church building, and John Bakila's residence.	Zenith Engineering and Environmental Services was issued with the contract for Tuwo. Procurement of materials and required equipment currently underway. Shipment proposed for January 2016 depending on the availability of boats.

- Total expenditure for this outcome during the reporting period is USD203,113.06



*A stand pipe in the Malakerava area identified under the quick fixes for Gizo. This is an example of stand pipes requiring urgent attention to prevent water running 24 hours, 7 days a week. This is a popular water source used by business houses in Gizo. Business employees and local residences queue for hours to get water from this stand pipe during peak hours (some till early morning hours). Photo: Joy Papao, GIS Specialist, SIWSAP.*





*A large classroom building in Tuwo community without any water capture devices and water tanks to be supported by the project. Through technical support from RWASH Officers and WRD Officers, estimated rainfall data, roof catchments, and water capture are calculated to determine volumes of rainwater and rainwater tank sizes for such buildings. Photo: David Rauna, PO, Temotu Province.*

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

- An open competitive tender process (international) was facilitated for the procurement of specialized equipment such as desalination and water treatment systems in mid-2015. Equipment comprised of portable water filtration units (Trunz water system, a mobile solar treatment system complete and ready to deploy and Trunz Brackish System 3000 to generate freshwater), and desalination equipment. These are required to address the lack of available water security equipment at the Provincial and community level. Procurement colleagues with support from the PMU are currently addressing comments/feedback from RACP in Bangkok on the first submission. Once approval is granted, a contract will be issued to the recommended bidder.
- A six man pack series transceivers (communication equipment) will also be purchased under the project to be used during disaster periods. This was preferred to satellite phones by the National Disaster Management Office due to their low operational cost, their ability to operate in areas with no



telecommunication facility/reception from Solomon Telekom or Bemobile, and their durability, particularly to withstand harsh conditions. Similar to other equipment, a CAP case is with UNDP MCO for their deliberation and endorsement. The man pack series transceivers will contribute to improve current challenges in the communications of provincial situations and needs during disasters to the national government in Honiara.

- Total expenditure for this outcome amounts to USD13,364.83

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

- A Climate Scientist (CS) was recruited in the third quarter of 2015 as part of the CC V&A assessment team. The Scientist was fielded in November 2015, together with the rest of the CC V&A team to commence work on data collection. A key deliverable of this specialist is the production of a report on a systematic review and analyses of all available scenarios (rainfall, temperature and winds/storms) to assess/quantify the confidence/likelihood of projected changes. These information will assist key stakeholders better understand current and predicted climate change impacts on the water resources of the Solomon Islands. Furthermore, such information will be useful in guiding and informing the implementation of the National Water Resources and Sanitation Policy and ensure that climate change is integrated within national and local level water sector policies.
- Further consultations were carried out with the Environment Health Division (EHD), RWASH team, of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services focusing on sanitation technologies and practices. In particular, how the two parties can work together to provide sanitation services in the various pilot sites while at the same time protect primary and secondary sources of freshwater from contamination. Two of the pilot sites (Tuwo and Ferafalu) are situated on atolls, thus discussions revolved around what sanitation technologies/ approaches would be most appropriate given the limited and unpredictability in water supplies. Zero funding for sanitation based on the new WASH Policy was discussed in detail as well as the Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. A training, targeting ‘Training of Trainers’ for Provincial Officers together with the various Pilot Committee members established in the six sites was proposed for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016. These trainings will help sensitize POs and key committee members on the CLTS concept while concurrently provides EHD with the opportunity to promote the WASH policy at the provincial and community level. The EHD has also invited WRD/SIWSAP for a ‘look and learn’ experience on the successful launching of the CLTS in a highland community in Isabel. The community will be receiving an award for ‘No Open Defecation’. Other areas for collaboration includes the rolling out of the National Sanitation Campaign commencing in 2016.
- Total expenditure for this outcome during the reporting period is USD24,217.52

***Outcome 5: Project Management***

- The project did the receipting of office furniture for all POs in the six sites as well as office stationeries for the PMU.



- The Water Sector Adaptation Officer, Mr Joshua Martin Toren, joined the project in early November 2015.
- The PMU finalised the WRD/SIWSAP Multi-Year Work Plan and the Annual Work Plan for 2016. The Annual Work Plan for 2016 will be tabled for key stakeholders (MECMD and EHD) deliberation during the project's retreat, planned for early/mid-February 2016. The non-availability of key stakeholders in late November/ December 2015 prevented the PMU from engaging them in the compilation of the AWP. The 2016 AWP was comp with support from MMERE.
- All provincial officers (with the exception of the PO for Taro) took their annual leave commencing mid December 2015.
- Total expenditure for project management in the last quarter amounts to USD40,050.91



## 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

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, and 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	PMU, MMERE, Provincial Governments, Pilot Committees



### 3B: Project Issues

Issue	Potential impact on the project, how dealt with and the result.	Update since last quarter
<p>Major delays in the procurement of V&amp;A ICs and equipment.</p>	<p>Delays in the recruitment of consultants to undertake a Comprehensive and Participatory Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&amp;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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Completed.</b> All consultants have now been recruited.</p> <p><b>Ongoing.</b> This procurement is yet to be submitted to RACP. PMU together with the Environment Portfolio team to discuss with Procurement colleagues on what additional support is required to push this procurement forward without any further delay.</p>



	<p>Besides the ground water equipment, major delays have been encountered with the EWS, desalination and water filtration systems, and man pack transceiver series. This has triggered an outcry from key partners. PMU to work closely with procurement colleagues to push this procurements forward without any further delay. Look at option of sourcing additional support if required.</p>	<p><b>New Issue.</b></p>
<p>Termination of the Project’s Chief Technical Advisor’s (CTA) contract</p>	<p>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 has also provided much needed technical support during the reporting period.</p>	<p><b>Completed.</b> The scope of work (TOR) of the Water and Sanitation Specialist (recruited as part of the CCVA) encompasses back stopping technical support to the PMU. This is an interim measure while long term arrangements are explored with key government counterparts.</p>
<p>Delays in rolling out quick fixes in the six pilot sites.</p>	<p>Delays in rolling out quick fixes in the six pilot sites is causing frustration to key partners/beneficiaries. This has the potential to impact on the good relationship and trust already established. PMU with support from the Environment Portfolio team will be working closely</p>	<p><b>New Issue.</b></p>



	with procurement colleagues in fast tracking some of the quick fixes. The delay was attributed to challenges encountered in finalizing the material/equipment specifications.	
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**Section 4: Lessons Learnt<sup>2</sup> (difficulties occurred and solutions found) and Good Practices (for knowledge sharing purposes)**

- Strong rapport, teamwork and respect is important and ensures success to project mission’s objectives.
- Advanced preparation on the how and when of the CCVA Methodology is important to ensure successful outcomes at project sites.
- The CCVA Assessment Methodology and Tools (Surveys and Focus Group Discussion questions & guidelines) should be shared with PMU staff, including SIWSAP Provincial Officers and key government counterparts before rolling out to give ample time for local staff to discuss how to translate certain words into simple terminologies which communities can resonate with.
- Using illustrations and real life examples on exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity is powerful in capturing the attention of the target audience and enhance their understanding on complex concepts and climate change jargons.
- Need to have a systematic way of doing or communicating things in the various pilot sites, particularly in communicating cutting edge knowledge and technology.
- UNDP procurement process is cumbersome. The rigor of the system requires collective monitoring/oversight from the project, Sub-office and the MCO. This is crucial in managing expectations from government counterparts and beneficiaries.
- Advanced preparation for consultants and project staff is necessary. For instance – CCVA Mission workshop or focus group discussion agenda and stationary/printing needs for communities, what to expect when you are in a township or in a village, briefing on traditions/taboo in villages, what support will be provided to consultants by the PMU etc.
- The zoning of the HH survey makes it a lot easier to roll it out and ensure a good coverage particularly in big townships such as Gizo.
- Never undermine the importance of engaging communities in the initial consultation process regarding their own development as this is vital in the actual implementation of activities. Without community buy in, big investment in expensive projects such as the SIWSAP will result in wastage as illegal tapping of water will continue as well as the possibility of damages to water infrastructure is pretty high in pilot sites such as Gizo.

<sup>2</sup> Some of the lessons learnt were extracted/paraphrased from the various BTOR of CCVA missions to the pilot sites in November and December, 2015.







## **Section 5: Additional information**

SIWSAP launches its first ever newsletter capturing key activities for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015. The newsletter is currently undergoing the necessary UNDP clearance before finalization for wider circulation.

