

Spatially Integrated Approach to support a Portfolio of Livelihoods



Key details

Location

Solomon Islands

Duration

Start Jun 2021

End Jun 2024

Budget

AUD 248,458

Commissioned organisation

James Cook University

Partners

Ecological Solutions Foundation Solomon Islands; James Cook University; WorldFish Center

Project Leader

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ACIAR Research Program Manager

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Program

Fisheries

Project code

FIS/2020/111

Overview

This project aimed to establish the strengthened networks, integrated governance and policy, and diagnostic framework to implement an **Integrated Livelihoods Approach**.

Livelihood improvement projects are often sectoral, missing cumulative impacts and feedback between sectors and livelihoods. They also tend to focus on individuals and households, missing broader-scale diversification opportunities and outcomes. This small research activity aimed to address these limitations by establishing an Integrated Livelihoods Approach (ILA) to guide scientists, practitioners and decision-makers engaged in livelihood improvement project planning and assessment to achieve three desired outcomes in Pacific coastal communities: (1) a fair and just society, (2) sustainable natural resource use, and (3) resilient livelihoods. The initial framework for the ILA was developed via a workshop hosted by Dr Amy Diedrich from James Cook University and Dr Hampus Eriksson from WorldFish/ANCORS, held in Townsville, Australia, in November 2019. The workshop drew on the expertise of a scientific panel of twelve experts in Pacific livelihoods with research interests related to key industries operating in the Pacific Islands

The ILA provides an approach to diagnose and help navigate interrelated and cumulative impacts, trade-offs and co-benefits of interacting livelihood activities



occurring in spatially defined coastal areas.

Participatory and interdisciplinary research, integrated governance, negotiation, trust-building, ongoing conflict management, and cross-sectoral and political engagement are central to the ILA.

This project established the mechanisms for achieving the strengthened networks, integrated governance and policy, and improved planning required to implement an ILA in the Western Province, Solomon Islands, with the potential to scale up to other locations.

Outcomes

- Developed comprehensive spatial models to aid in livelihood planning.
- Identified key areas where diversified livelihood strategies can be most effective.
- Enhanced community engagement and participatory planning processes.
- Improved economic outcomes for target communities through strategic resource allocation.
- Provided actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to support sustainable livelihoods.

- Completed the policy analysis and key informant interviews (see above). These were delayed due to COVID lockdowns and civil unrest in Honiara. Interviews have been transcribed and the policy integration report is pending the inclusion of this qualitative data.
- Final training activities associated with the 'decision-support toolkit' are now anticipated to take place in 2023 and it is expected that they will be completed on or close to planned project completion.



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Summary of outcomes to date

2021–22

- Engaged 9 national and provincial level decision-makers representing key livelihoods sectors (fisheries, tourism, agriculture, forestry, and planning and development) in a Project Steering Committee and conducted key informant interviews with all of them to determine their views on the current level of integration and livelihoods support provided by national level policies. Also engaged 3 partner communities in Western Province.