

Co-planning livelihood futures with small-scale fishing communities through participatory and integrated community engagement



Key details

Location

Solomon Islands

Duration

Start Jan 2025

End Sep 2029

Budget

AUD 3,816,085

Commissioned organisation

James Cook University

Partners

University of New South Wales; Ecological Solutions Foundation Solomon Islands; Solomon Islands National University; Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Solomon Islands; Cawthron Institute

Project leader

Dr Amy Diedrich

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Todd Sanderson

Program

Social Systems

Project code

FIS/2023/122

information, resources and capacity to proactively and autonomously achieve more equitable, sustainable and risk-informed futures through a Participatory and Integrated Planning Approach to livelihood futures.

The rate, scale and interconnectivity of global change processes pose both risks and opportunities for Pacific Island countries. Managing oceans and coasts is becoming more complex as the demands and risks to marine and maritime resources intensify. Innovative and holistic approaches to effective management are needed. Further, siloed management sectors lead to fragmented governance characterised by gaps and unnecessary overlaps in policy. The impact of these is especially detrimental on coastal ecosystems and communities, which are influenced by activities on land, along the coast, and from the ocean.

A previous ACIAR research investment supported ([FIS/2020/111](#)) the establishment of the foundations of the novel Participatory and Integrated Planning Approach. The approach comprises a set of tools and processes to support communities and other stakeholders to make decisions based on a spatially explicit, integrated assessment of multiple risks and hazards (e.g., climate, natural resource extraction). Using this approach, the research will respond to escalating calls in the Pacific region for more integrated approaches to community-based climate change and disaster risk management, while drawing on the strengths and traditions of district, provincial and national levels of government to achieve sustainable island lifestyle and livelihoods.

Research need

The project aims to equip small-scale fishing communities and decision-makers with

Project activities

- Develop, refine and integrate the tools use in the Participatory and Integrated Planning Approach with existing risk-based and spatially informed decision-making processes at multiple scales of governance, specifically, the Integrated Planning Tool (IPLANT) and Marine Spatial Planning.
- Build a deeper understanding of the governance drivers and barriers of local, provincial, national, and international level actors with respect to implementing the Participatory and Integrated Planning Approach – within associated policies, networks, knowledge exchange and decision-making processes.
- Build in-country capacity and skills required to implement and sustain the Participatory and Integrated Planning Approach.
- Support the scaling up of community-informed, risk-based, spatially explicit planning to marine spatial planning.
- Support the development of risk and spatially informed community adaptation planning processes in small-scale fishing communities.



ACIAR

**Australian
Aid** 