



THE PROJECT ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

A TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FUNDED BY THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA), WHICH IS HIGHLY RELEVANT AND NECESSARY FOR REALIZING THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF SOLOMON ISLANDS. THE PROJECT FOCUSES ON THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND RESEARCH (MOFR), STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING MOFR'S SKILLS AND STRATEGIES, SO THAT MOFR WILL BE ABLE TO PLAN, IMPLEMENT AND PROMOTE A MORE BENEFICIAL SUSTAINABLE FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN SOLOMON ISLANDS.

NEWSLETTER



March 2021 : Long-Term Experts Return; Online Training on Forest Information Management Tools Conducted

On 2 March 2021, two long-term experts, who had been evacuated temporarily to Japan due to the COVID-19 pandemic, returned back to the Project Office of the Ministry of Forestry and Research (MOFR) (Note 1). Moreover, the short-term expert team conducted online trainings on pilot site monitoring methods using forest information management tools, and proposed new technologies to the

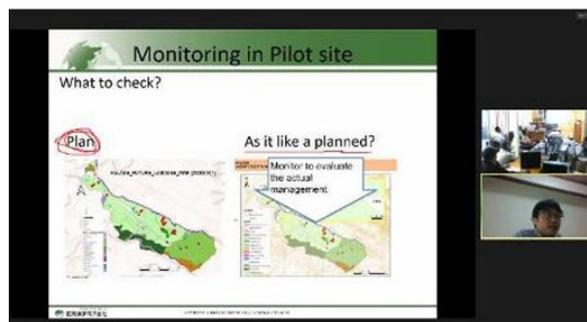


Project staff meeting when the long-term experts returned back to the Project Office

MOFR. Agroforestry and livelihood improvement (pig farming) activities were followed up on by the Project staff members at the pilot sites in Falake and Komuniboli.¹

April 2021 : Held the 7th JCC Meeting and the Non-Timber Forest Products Seminar

The 7th Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting was held to review the progress of the Project activities and the planned future activities. The Project staff and Technical Support Committee (TSC) members, together with a long-term expert who had not visited Komuniboli for almost a year, visited the Komuniboli pilot site to follow up on the support for forest management activities, Agroforestry (pest control) activities, and livelihood improvement (pig farming) activities. The Project also held a seminar on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in conjunction with the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which attracted a lot of attention from within Solomon Islands.



A session of the Online Training on Forest Information Management Tools



The 7th JCC meeting at the IT center



Agroforestry activities in Komuniboli after the pest control countermeasure



Joint seminar with Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry to showcase NTFPs

May 2021 : Held 7th FS-TWG Meeting; SFRM Promotional Video Completed

After one year and four months, the Forest Sector-Technical Working Group (FS-TWG) meeting was held, at which donors and stakeholders in the forest sector shared information on their activities.

¹ The Project consists of two long-term experts who work in Solomon Islands and a short-term expert team that works in Japan and sometimes travels to Solomon Islands.

Project staff and TSC members implemented the forest management activities and Agroforestry activities, and filmed a promotional video at the pilot site. Furthermore, the promotional video for Sustainable Forest Resource Management (SFRM) was completed.

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/sisfrm> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmyWt9VE-W4>

Forestry's 2021 redirection priority highlighted

FORESTRY Secretary DEL ROSARIO, Jr. said that the Department of Forestry (DOF) has been working with partner agencies, including the Department of Agriculture (DA), to ensure that the country's forest resources are managed sustainably and equitably.

He said that the DOF is currently in the process of developing a new forest management plan, which will be implemented in 2021. This plan will focus on the sustainable management of the country's forest resources, including the protection of the environment and the promotion of agroforestry activities.

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Newspaper coverage of the 7th FS-TWG meeting



Shooting the SFRM promotional video

June 2021 : Further Boosting of Pilot Activities on Pilot Sites

The long-term experts, TSC members, and Project staff worked at the pilot site to provide guidance on sawmilling, clearing (removal cutting of non-target species), and nursery design, facilitating the Agroforestry activities and promoting piggery construction, which is one of the pig farming activities. Community members carried out their assigned pilot activities, and both pilot sites became more and more active.

July 2021 : Furniture Making, Forest Management, and Agroforestry Training at Pilot Sites



Nursery construction in progress: Crimping bed (in the front) and repotting bed (in the back)



Lumbering with a portable sawmill

Long-term experts, TSC members, and Project staff carried out trainings on furniture making, forest management, and Agroforestry, followed up on the pig farming activities at the Komuniboli pilot site, as well as training on furniture making, forest management, and Agroforestry, and followed up on the pig farming activities at the Falake pilot site.²



Weeding at the Agroforestry plots



Wood gluing with clamps during the Furniture Making Training

August 2021 : Held Exchange Trainings and the 8th FS-TWG Meeting

Exchange trainings were organized in which Komuniboli Community members visited the Falake pilot site and Falake Community members visited the Komuniboli pilot site. Furthermore, the communities shared their insights into each other's pilot activities and a sense of collaboration between the communities was developed. The 8th FS-TWG meeting was held to allow donors and stakeholders to share information on their activities. A new project vehicle was also delivered to the MOFR, and it was deployed at the Auki Forest Management Office in Malaita Province.



Falake residents were welcomed by the Komuniboli Community during the exchange training



Newspaper coverage of the 8th FS-TWG meeting



Newspaper coverage of the delivery of a project vehicle to the Auki Forest Management Office in Malaita Province

² As of July, the long-term experts were limited in traveling due to COVID-19 restrictions and it was only possible to go to Guadalcanal Province; therefore, the TSC members and Project staff provided guidance at the Falake pilot site.

September 2021 : Held the 8th JCC Meeting ; Backed Up the Livelihood Improvement (Pig Farming) Activity

The 8th JCC meeting was held and the JCC members reviewed the progress of the Project activities and the plans for future activities. The Project staff and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL) staff provided active back up for the livelihood improvement activity (pig farming), as there had been a slight delay in the pilot activities. As a result, the activity progressed so much that it felt as if there were no delay.



Community Chief of Falake; measuring the length of a piglet

Falake pig farmer undergo training

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL) through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) has provided training to pig farmers in Falake. The training was held at the Falake Pilot Site and was attended by the Falake Community Chief, Mr. [Name], and other community members. The training was organized by the Falake Pig Farming Project, which is a sub-project of the SFRM project. The training covered various aspects of pig farming, including pig health, pig nutrition, pig breeding, and pig marketing. The Falake Pig Farming Project is a pilot activity of the SFRM project, which aims to improve the livelihoods of the people of Falake through pig farming. The Falake Pig Farming Project is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL) and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF).

Newspaper coverage of pig farming activity at the Falake pilot site

Forestry says it's keen on copying SFRM model

The Forestry Department has expressed its interest in adopting the SFRM model for its own projects. The Forestry Department is a key department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The SFRM model is a community-based approach to natural resource management that has been successful in Falake. The Forestry Department is keen to learn from the SFRM model and apply its lessons to its own projects. The Forestry Department is currently conducting a study to assess the feasibility of adopting the SFRM model. The study is being conducted by a team of experts from the Forestry Department and the SFRM project. The study is expected to be completed in the next few months. The Forestry Department is committed to improving the livelihoods of the people of Falake through natural resource management.

Newspaper coverage of the 8th JCC meeting

October 2021 : Surveyed Potential Pilot Sites; Conducted Pruning Training in Komuniboli; Conducted Forest Information Tool Training



Teaching in a clear-cutting plot for forest management at the Falake pilot site



Passing through mangrove forests to reach a potential pilot site community

After one and a half years, the long-term experts observed the pilot activities in Falake Community in Malaita Province. Also, they visited and surveyed five new potential pilot site communities in Malaita Province. Guavas are planted in the Agroforestry plot at Komuniboli, and as they grow long branches in all directions, the MAL staff and Project staff were trained in pruning and grafting. In addition, the short-term expert team conducted a training on improving the use of forest information tools remotely from Japan, and the usefulness of forest information tools as SolGeo-FIMS was demonstrated.



Pruning training at the Komuniboli pilot site

November 2021 : Completed the Exhibition Room of the MOFR; Livelihood Improvement Expert Returned; Pilot Site Inspection Conducted by the Senior Officials of the MOFR

The exhibition room in the MOFR was completed, with the support of the Project in its renovation. Moreover, the

MoFR opens new forest exhibition room

MINISTRY OF Forestry and Research (MoFR) office now has a new exhibition room for display different and products.

The small area which door exhibition room within the Timber Utilization Division has been generously made possible by the Japanese Governmental Corporation Agency (JICA).

This was sponsored under the JICA Project on Capacity Development for Sustainable Forest Resource Management (SFRM) Project through the support of JICA Resident Office.

The aim of having the exhibition room is possibility to showcase and promote sustainable products produced, one of the key policy areas of the Governmental Office.

Advancement (JICA) will be the primary focus.

SFRM Project Chief Advisor, Dr. Shigeaki Takai, said that the new exhibition room is built solely for the purpose of displaying and disseminating the sustainable products.

He also stated that under the JICA SFRM Project there are two pilot sites, Falake in Malaita and Komuniboli in Guadalcanal which he believes will be the exhibition room.

"These two pilot sites have been engaged in the sustainable forest resource management model activities since 2018 and one of the pilot activities is Forest Information Tools Training which covers sustainable forest management and utilization."

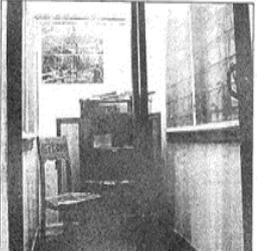
value of timber, the pilot site operators was encouraged not only to sell timber but also to venture into furniture making from timber cut-offs.

"These some of the products currently on display at the exhibition room are:

Dr. Shigeaki also urged the Ministry of Forestry and Research to continue to use the exhibition room to showcase and promote sustainable products produced through the SFRM project.

The Ministry of Forestry & Research has acknowledged the support from JICA and expressed that the room will not only be used to promote sustainable products for future opportunities in the forest sector.

— MoFR Press



Inside the Timber Utilization Division, looking from outside the small glass sliding exhibition room. Currently on display are end forest products from Komuniboli and Falake communities under SFRM Project.

Newspaper coverage of the completion of the MOFR exhibition room

furniture made at both pilot sites was displayed. The livelihood improvement short-term expert returned back to Solomon Islands after one and a half years to provide guidance to both pilot sites, particularly on the review and preparation of business plans for pig farming. The senior officials of the MOFR visited the Komuniboli pilot site to inspect how the pilot activities have been conducted so far. The officials discussed many critical points and gained a much better understanding of the activities and the Project.



Senior officials of the MOFR visited the Komuniboli pilot site



Livelihood improvement expert working at the Komuniboli pilot site

December 2021 : Review of the Community’s Organizational Enhancement by the Short-Term Expert; Summarized TSC Discussions

The short-term expert gave instructions on how to realize better community management through the activity review for enhancing the organizational capacity at the both pilot sites. The timing was good, as the pig farming activities by MOAL staff and Project staff were proceeding at full speed in the communities. At the TSC meeting in

Komuniboli community acknowledged

300 men, women, youths, and children of Komuniboli on Guadalcanal community have been acknowledged for accepting the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) project. It is noted that in being chosen as their community.

Forest Protection Department (FPD) have been leading a team of experts in the Ministry of Forestry and Marine Affairs (MOFA) and MOAL staff have been working in partnership with the community to develop the project.

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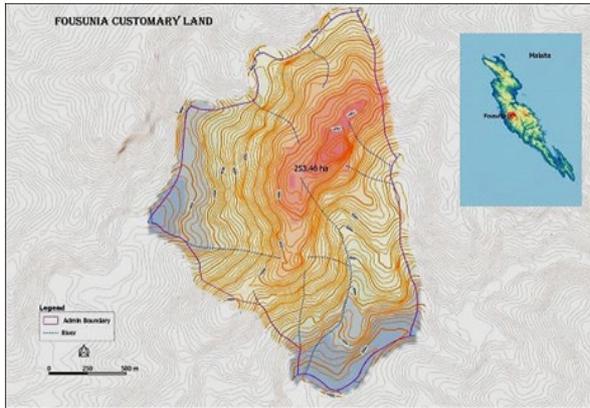
Pig farming activities in the Komuniboli Community

Newspaper coverage of the completion of the MOFR exhibition room



Short-term expert in the review meeting at the pilot site

December, the monitoring based on the Corporate Plan 2020-2022 and Long-Term SFRM Policy frameworks, which have been discussed at monthly TSC meetings, were respectively summarized in reports. A boundary survey and community profiling have also been started at the new additional pilot sites.



Area map based on the boundary survey of the new pilot site



The TSC meeting in December

January 2022 : Rent of Portable Sawmills to the Additional Pilot Sites; Consolidation of SolGeo-FIMS On-Board Data

Portable sawmills and chainsaws have been rented to additional pilot sites. The sawmills and chainsaws will be used as part of the forest management activities that will be carried out this year. In the meantime, data on land cover maps, forest resources, and forest roads have been loaded into SolGeo-FIMS, and these useful data have been compiled.



The portable sawmill transported from the MOFR to the additional pilot site



Additional pilot sites (marked with Mbuma and Wairokai)



Example of forest resource volume: timber volume of the Komuniboli pilot site, and map of the road and forest path data

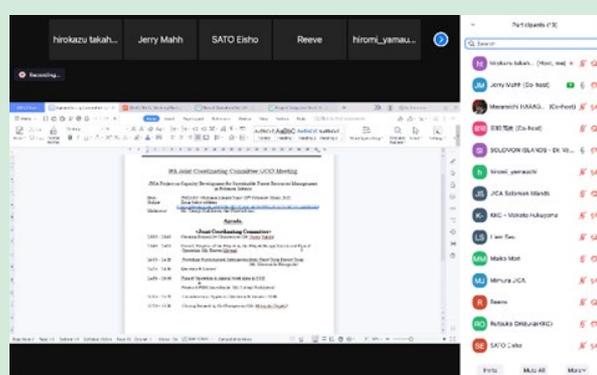


February 2022 : Project activities stalled due to COVID-19

A community-acquired case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, and lockdown measures were applied. As the outbreak continually spread and medical facilities became strained, the Project staff members were forced to work from home or do shift work. The MOFR likewise reduced the number of officers coming to the office for work. After the citywide outbreak, people were unable to leave Honiara; therefore, the Project has been in contact with the pilot site by phone. The 9th Online FS-TWG was held to allow donors and stakeholders to share information on their activities. Also, the 9th Online JCC was held and the JCC members reviewed the progress of the Project activities and the plans for future activities, and discussed amendment of Project Design Matrix.



Participating the Online TWG and JCC Meeting from the Project Office



Screen shot of the TWG and JCC Online Meeting

Project Website and Social Network Sites

MOFR Web-site: <https://www.mofr.gov.sb/en/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sisfrm>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sisfrm>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3_oJc14Z6E0w0rcqtWRxw