

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This is the Ministry of Forests and Research 2011 Annual Report. It highlights the main functions, activities and achievement for 2011 Annual Work Programme. The report present sections that covers the background description of the forest in Solomon Islands, the main functions and developments and the future potential areas for contribution to the national, economy, environmental benefits, wood flow enhancement and maximization of forest resources to the state and people of Solomon Islands. Another section also describes the future outlook for the forestry sector in the Solomon Islands.

Chapter One provides the introductory part of the report, it contains the Introduction and general background of the Forest sector.

The Policy directives and National objectives are outlined in Chapter Two of this report. Chapter Three detailed the management and organizational arrangements. The main functions and activities of the Divisions and Sections are presented from Chapter Four to Seven with the corresponding achievement for the 2011 report period.

Chapter Eight and Nine discussed the difficulties, challenges faced and encountered by the Forestry Sector and the current facts and trends as observed. The recommendations for considerations to improve and enhanced productivity and competence in the future are listed in the last chapter. This report aims to provide as much as possible the real issues and situation of the Forestry Sector. It also highlights the alternative subsector development options as the way forward.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Solomon Islands is a double chain archipelago in South-West Pacific located between longitude 155° and 170° and latitude 5° to 12° south. It consists of 990 islands with a total land area of 28,000 square kilometers. It is a tropical country with plenty of sunshine and a hot humid climate with high precipitation between 3,000 to 5,500 mm per annum. Temperature fluctuates between 24°C to 34°C, all year round. It has a population of 500,000 with 85 % live in the rural areas.

Solomon Islands has a very rich vegetation cover (tropical rainforest) covering some 88% of the total land area and constitute to about two million hectares of which only 30% is considered to be commercial forests. It consists of six main vegetation types, namely *(a)* Grassland and other non-forest areas, *(b)* Saline Swamp forest, *(c)* Freshwater Swamp and Riverine forest, *(d)* Lowland rainforest, *(e)* Hill forests and *(f)* Montane forest.

These vegetation types has constituted about 5,000 of plant species some of which are found only in our forest, others have significant cultural, traditional, construction, artifacts and medicinal properties. There are also species that are important to maintain natural forest state and resilience to adverse climatic extreme conditions. The forest, apart from providing wood and wood production, serve other important functions such as, wood for energy, non wood forest products, recreation, watershed conservation, biodiversity conservation and the sequestration of Carbondioxide from the atmosphere.

The Forests in Solomon Islands is owned by the people and has been associated with Land, traditions, customs and livelihood. People have depended on the forest for their livelihood and will continue to benefit from these resources for their livelihood in the future. The sad fact is the rapid deforestation and degradation due unsustainable logging, commercial agriculture and infrastructure development. There is urgent need to establish appropriate policies and management framework to promote and implement sustainable Forest Management initiatives to ensure the continuous benefit is accrued in perpetuity.

CHAPTER TWO

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 POLICY STATEMENT

The policy goal as stated in the National Coalition for Reform and Advancement (NCRA) Policy Statement is the harvesting of forest resources at a sustainable rate with fair returns to landowners and the government by maximizing revenue through export duty and sustaining the GDP growth particularly in the rural areas. Promotion of a reforestation program for customary smallholders and diversification program which encourages the implementation of a comprehensive downstream processing strategy will be addressed to try and minimize the likely adverse impacts on the economy once commercial logging wood flow and export revenue falls.

2.2 VISION

To become a highly respected forest agency with the professional competency to manage the forest resources of Solomon Islands in perpetuity.

2.3 MISSION

The Mission of the Ministry of Forestry and Research is to promote, conserve, investigate and manage the nation's forest resources for the optimal of all stakeholders and the environment.

2.4 MISSION

To facilitate and promote a better management of natural forest logging, industrial and smallholder plantation industries to ensure landowners and the Solomon Islands Government continue to receive optimal benefits from the utilization and uses of its resources.

2.5 NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- a) Review the 2004 forestry bill to ensure a holistic management and transparent approach towards sustainability to achieve a better balance in the pecuniary and social benefits for both the landowners and government.
- b) Implement the National Forest Plantation Development Programme to assist local communities to undertake reforestation activities.
- c) Monitor and Ensure compliance of logging practices with the Code of Logging Practices and license conditions as well as the Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act;
- d) Promote downstream processing and marketing system of eco-timber for both local and export by local sawmill owners.
- e) Monitor the extent and quality of National Forests
- f) Review of all license to establish validity;

- g) Proper monitoring of shipments of round logs, international log prices and provide advice to Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury on Determine Value of round logs accordingly;
- h) Update databases for log export, sawn timber and licensing;
- i) Promote and Assist small scale plantation and where possible ensure reforestation of logged areas is mandatory for companies;
- j) Establishment and management of demonstration plots at identified areas
- k) Liaise with other sector ministries and relevant stakeholders to explore mechanism for Solomon Islands to participate and benefit from carbon trade opportunities.

2.6 LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The Functions of the Ministry are derived from the following Acts of Parliament:

1. Forest Resources and Timber Utilizations Act and Regulations
2. North New Georgia Timber Corporation Act 1979

To be responsible for the Statutory Authorities that directly deals with the functions of this Ministry. The only Statutory Authority currently under the Ministry's portfolio is:

1. North New Georgia Timber Corporation

There were several other regulations that have been identified to be drafted and implemented. These should address key areas where gaps and weakness were observed. These regulations include;

- Solomon Islands Timber Marketing Board,
- Forest Plantation and reforestation.
- Forest Conservation and Protection.
- Forest identification and Certification.

2.7 NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Solomon Islands, is also a member and party to the National. Regional and International agency and conventions and is obligated to fulfill requirements and standards.

1. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
2. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
3. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
4. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
5. Conservation International (CI)
6. United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)
7. Convention for Biodiversity Conservation (CBD)
8. Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)
9. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

CHAPTER THREE:

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 STRUCTURE AND MANPOWER

The Ministry of Forests is supported by an administrative section headed by the Permanent Secretary, as the Accounting Officer and two Undersecretaries. The Ministry in its long term vision aims to attain a highly professional capacity to address the needs and requirements expected to drive this very important sector forward with a new approach into Reforestation and downstream processing.

The current level of Logging operations, Sawmilling and Reforestation resulted in an increase in the manpower for 2011 to undertake effective management of the Timber Industry with more emphasis on Plantation development and Reforestation.

It has been observed in the past, that Ministerial capacity was inadequate to fully implement government policies and programs, due to insufficient workforce and Logistic support. As a result in the 2010 Establishment, there is an increase in the number of staff as well as the coverage of areas and locations that officers are posted to be stationed. Under the 2011 establishment and manpower listing, the MoFR has a total of 172 established posts, 13 non established posts. This totaled to 183 positions. (36 posts are still vacant posts). These officers are decentralized to cover all 8 provinces in 15 outstations. The 51 FEO are stationed in 51 sub-regions in communities and villages.

Division		Units	No	Vacant	Filled	
Corporate Services	15	MoFR HQ	7	0	7	
		Admin	5	1	4	
		Account	3	1	2	
Forestry HQ	1	Commissioner	1	0	1	
NHBGD	9	Directorate	3	0	3	
		Nat. Herb	3	1	2	
		Botany	3	0	3	
FRMTSD	13	Directorate	2	0	2	
		Policy Planning	4	1	3	
		Licensing	4	0	4	
		Enforcement	3	0	3	
FIUD	56	Directorate	1	0	1	
		Operations	45	7	38	
		Utilization	7	0	7	
		Economics	3	0	3	
FPDRD	59	Directorate	2	0	2	
		Hon	9	1	8	
		Provinces	48	5	43	
		Village based Extension	19	19	0	
Sub Total	172		172	36	136	
NON - EST	11	HQ Hon	11	6	5	
Grand Total	183		183	42	141	

Significant effort and achievement is observed in the personnel and establishment unit. Compliment is given to the hard working staff in the Corporate Services Division as well as Divisional Heads in putting

effort and prioritizing the manpower establishment as well other staff welfare and development matters. The number of officers recruited and promoted increased and these would improve officer's performance and productivity.

The below tables summarized the staff development activities and achievements.

1 New Appointment 2011

	NAMES	POST	GRADE	DIVISION	
1	Barton Gamese	Range Officer	L6/7	UDSPD	
2	Arnold Titiulu	Range Officer	L6/7	UDSPD	
3	Gabriel Kaula	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	UDSPD	
4	Tina Asiamane	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	UDSPD	
5	Benol Ngiloaia	Senior Forester	L7/8	FPDRD	
6	Ronnie Toidoro	Range Officer	L6/7	FPDRD	
7	Freda Manibili	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	FPDRD	

2 Advertised and Recruited Posts

	NAMES	POST	GRADE	DIVISION	
1	Jack To'ona	Clerical Officer	L4/5	Admin/Accounts	
2	Alex Maekai	Assistant Accountant	L4/5	Admin/Accounts	

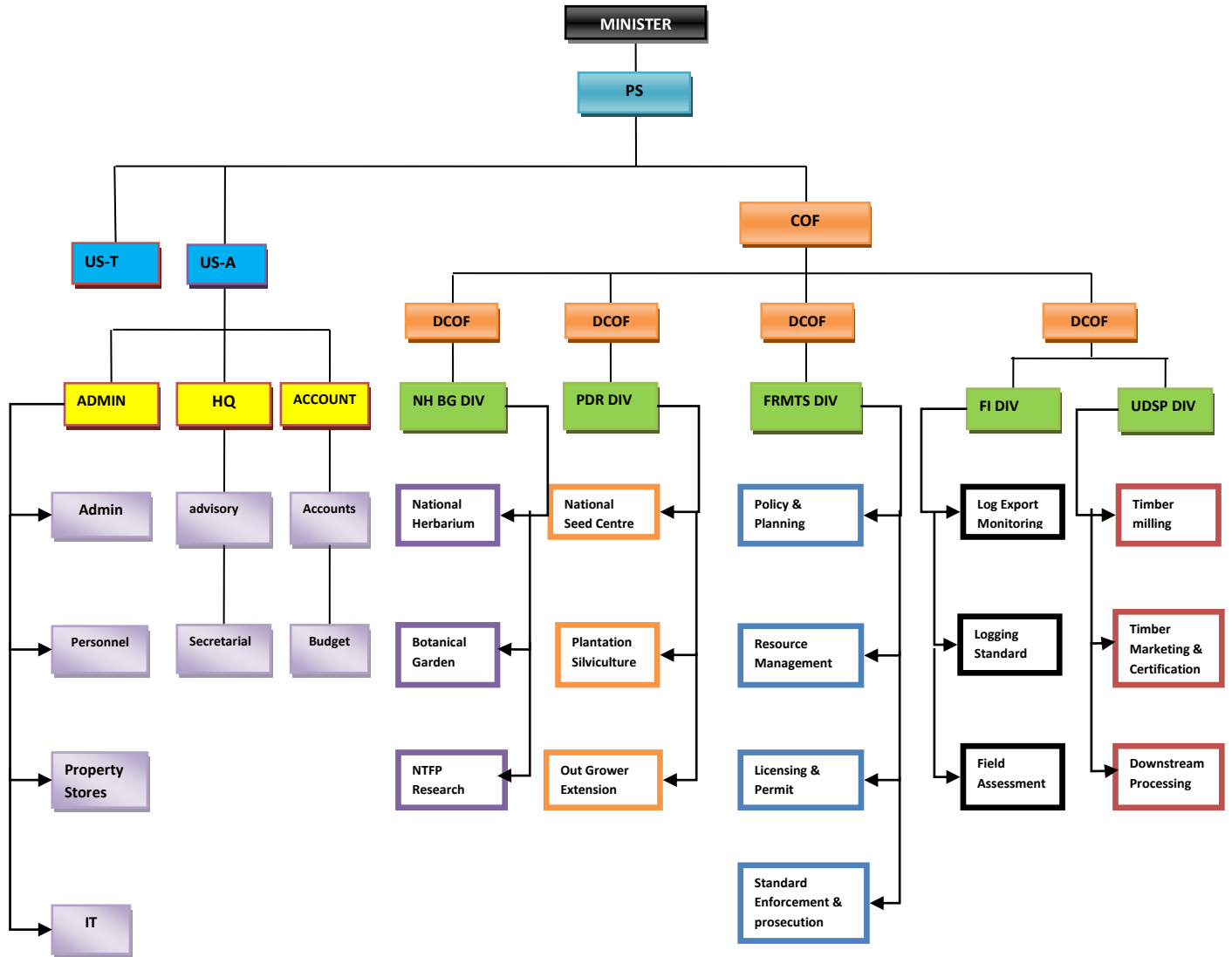
3 Confirmation

	NAMES	POST	GRADE	DIVISION	
1	Joseph Tavuata	Senior Forester	L7/8	UDSP	
2	George Bena	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	FPDRD	

4 Officers Promoted in 2011

	NAMES	POST	GRADE	UNIT / DIVISION	
1	Reeves Moveni	Commissioner	SS3	HQ Forestry	
2	Fred Pitisopa	Dep Commissioner	SS1	NHBGD	
3	Richard Raomae	Dep Commissioner	SS1	FPDRD	
4	Tommy Tagili	Chief Forester	L10/11	ECM - FID	
5	Maeli Ri'inou	Chief Forester	L10/11	OP - FID	
6	Wallen Hite	Chief Forester	L10/11	ECF – FRMTSD	
7	Lawrence Pongo	Chief Forester	L10/11	FPDRD - GP	
8	Cyril Mounu	Senior Forester	L7/8	OP - FID	
9	Leslie Aulelea	Principal Forester	L8/9	ECM - FID	
10	Sylvia Irofia	Senior Forester	L7/8	ECM - FID	
11	Christina Kangitagi	Range Officer	L6/7	OP - FID	
12	Florence Lenga	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	OP - FID	
13	Catherine Pongo	Range Officer	L6/7	FPDRD	
14	Lilly Ramo	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	FPDRD	
15	Grace Puke	Senior Forester	L7/8	FPDRD	
16	Joy Vunagi	Forest Ranger	L5/6	FPDRD	
17	Hapilyn Vagala	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	FPDRD	
18	Edwin Awa	Senior Forester	L7/8	FPDRD	
19	Panteleon Madu	Range Officer	L6/7	FPDRD	
20	John Mauni	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	FPDRD	
21	George Bena	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	FPDRD	
22	Allan Yapella	Ranger Assistant	L4/5	FPDRD	
23	Coleman Vuke	Senior Accountant	L7/8	ADMIN/ACC	

MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RESEARCH 2011 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



3.1.2 Work Stations

The MoFR headquarter is located at Lengakiki ridge, West Honiara, where the Headquarter, Admin and all Divisional heads are located. Workstations are located in all eight provincial headquarters, seven outstations and 51 sub-regions throughout the country. The National Research and Seed Centre is located at Munda and Poitete in the Western Province.

	Work provinces	Stations	Total	Provincial Distribution
1	Guadalcanal/ HQ	Honiara	73	73
2	Central	Tulagi	2	2
3	Malaita	Auki	5	11
		Malu'u	3	
		Afio	3	
4	Makira	Kirakira	9	9
5	Temotu	Lata	6	6
6	Isabel	Buala	7	9
		Allardyce	2	
7	Western	Gizo	6	34
		Munda	11	
		Poitete	8	
		Seghe	7	
		Alu	2	
8	Choiseul	Taro	5	9
		Pangoe	4	
		Total	153	153
	8 provinces	15 Stations		

CHAPTER FOUR

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Introduction

The approved structure for 2011 establishment for Ministry of Forestry and Research is divided and headed by four (4) Deputy Commissioners. The Forest Resource Management, Technical Services and Licensing Division (FRMTL) is an existing Division under the Ministry of Forestry and Research and is one of the approved four(4) Division's to be headed by a Deputy Forest Commissioner.

This Division is responsible for the management and execution of certain delegated responsibilities of the forest resources in the country. The coverage of responsibilities under the Forest Resource Management, Technical Services and Licensing Division is divided into three (3) specific sections with key areas. These are the Policy Planning and Technical Services Section, Enforcement Section and the Licensing Section.

The Division is mandated to achieve the Policy Strategies of the Government within the delegated responsibility and competency to manage the forest resources of Solomon Islands in perpetuity by ensuring that future generations of Solomon Islands continue to receive maximum advantage with higher returns from their resource.

The Division's role is important in ensuring sustainable management of the forest resources are in equilibrium for provision of Services and also to ensure that beneficiaries are appropriately rewarded. The division's roles involve the planning and policy section which is responsible for the inventory data records, mapping, application assessments, and coordination of local and international forestry data. The Licensing section is responsible for licensing records application and processing. The Enforcement section which is tasked with the research and preparation of requested documents for legal representation for the commissioner and ministry in general.

4.1. POLICY PLANNING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION

4.1.1 Policy and legislation

Policy interpretation and implementations on priority strategies was completed and submitted based on the current NCRA government Forestry policies.

4.1.2 Review of Draft Forests Bill.

The strategic activities pertaining to reviewing of the draft forestry bill was slow to eventuate. This is due to the fact that responsible authorities mandated to head this task is not functioning. Possible setbacks could be the political will and financial budget implications.

The Division has submitted a budget bid to cater for the required activities towards revision of the forestry bill this year for 2012 work program. This budget bid submission will cater for the initial preliminary consultation costs which are anticipated to begin in 2012.

- (a) Cost of Consultation with relevant stakeholders such as Provincial Resource Owners, Provincial Governments, Forest Industries, Non-Government Organisations and relevant government agencies and Ministries is expected to begin in 2012 work program if this budget bid submission is approved.

Mechanisms to drive these programs need to be initiated and strengthened to tap expected outcomes. Political support and stability to engage national interest. A reform in the legal framework to enable provisions in strengthening this sector is a need to address.

4.1.3 Monitor extent and quality of the Nation's forests

As one of the core functions of the Policy Planning and Technical Services section it strives to improve the quality and quantity of needed data of the country's forest resources and provide effective coordination in both National and international commitments to address national forest issues. The following are the work achievements for the first, second and third quarter for 2011.

- (a) Completion of MAR-PSP design and Plot establishment for Malaita and Guadalcanal Pilot Regions in January. First establishment and assessment work completed.
- (b) Biomass data lab preparation and assessment and recordings in February. All Biomass Data were completed and inputted in computer.
- (c) Documentation of field report in January Report submitted to counter part in FAO HQ Bangkok, Thailand.
- (d) Data Input and Analysis of MAR-PSP records in March-July. Data analysis Completed. Documentation of Technical report to be completed for Malaita & Guadalcanal.
- (e) Maintain indicative FRIS report with appropriate estimates for resource owners and the Stakeholders. Trend noticed in the resources size as demand escalates but plotter and printer not functioning since May.
- (f) National Forest Type classification amended and completed in August-September. Report Completed and available for review.
- (g) Engage in appropriate training. Mr.T.Titiulu and Fred Pitisopa went abroad for a training in September/PNG as part of standardising a National Vegetation Classification type. A Budget submission is still underway for submission to the EU ACP FORNET for field Training of Solomon Islands Forestry Officers in the country scheduled for early next year 2012.

4.1.4: Prepare and implement detail Forest Assessment designs for Monitoring and Management purposes in re-entry logged over areas.

Submitted a design for the Kongulae water catchment in July but was reserved for further notice and work was contracted with another group.

Preparation of actual field work

- Carry out detail forestry inventory programs in areas affected. When the need arise, a specialist team is deployed to undertake all necessary work activities.

4.1.5: Maintain and develop forestry information systems

- Review of forestry information systems (SOLFRIS). Daily achievements include update GIS data Input, Re-entry Logged Over areas data input and all daily milling and logging applications.
- Continue all routine checking of all submissions under application process in the ministry and recommendations made to respective Division's and Sections when requested.
- Collaborative work with licence section on logging concession areas under felling licence for 2011 is done and completed and updated in the Mapping computer record for the 1st, 2nd & 3rd quarter.
- Produce a summary report on National Facts & Estimates using data from the system in September. Report completed for 2011 and copies can be printed upon request.
- Arrangement with IT personnel to fix main GIS SolFris desktop and Lap top computers done and restored in July.
- GIS programme to check Form 1 Submissions prepared in September. All submission digitized and updated since beginning of September 2011.
- Supply of information to stakeholders.
- Support with forest data information through consultation with Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology and Disaster.
- Provision of forest data for various research institute (Dr. Tarsius Tara)
- Provision of forest data through a collaborative analysis with Ramsi Project through Ross Andrewarther on updating the 2006 Resource Inventory information with recent Satellite Images in 2010 & 2011.
- Continue to provide forest information for SICHE students, Secondary School and Primary School students on daily basis.
- Advices are also given to students requesting information for educational purposes.

Table 1: Annual Summary of Log Export Production from 1994 – 2008

Year	Guadalcanal	Western	Isabel	Malaita	Choiseul	Makira	Central	Total
1994	15,400	403,100	50,100	41,300	80,900	26,900	0	617,700
1995	55,100	392,200	102,700	38,400	88,400	40,300	19,900	737,000
1996	76,500	457,800	81,200	37,900	87,500	31,000	34,000	805,900
1997	75,200	284,800	126,100	12,300	83,000	11,500	16,700	609,600
1998	99,900	234,500	130,200	4,500	89,100	11,600	17,000	586,800
1999	21,800	397,700	82,600	13,100	35,700	23,100	41,900	615,900
2000	14,100	322,900	101,300	17,700	44,100	16,100	5,100	521,300
2001	0	282,300	167,400	34,100	8,200	1,500	15,900	509,400
2002	0	357,300	171,800	17,400	21,000	7,200	9,500	584,200
2003	0	471,000	188,500	0	46,000	19,300	14,100	738,900
2004	0	625,000	144,300	20,000	113,200	35,200	30,600	968,300
2005	9,800	725,000	93,600	50,200	76,400	77,500	34,300	1,066,800
2006	9,756	807,867	94,478	50,189	76,382	77,511	34,318	1,150,501
2007	115,160	727,707	234,963	114,599	205,856	181,720	3,000	1,583,005
2008	147,275	465,819	245,594	102,244	125,216	198,168	50,060	1,334,376
Total	639,991	6,954,993	2,014,835	553,932	1,180,954	758,599	326,378	12,429,682
Average	36,791	353,828	120,385	27,796	78,730	50,573	21,759	826,504

Source: Ministry of Forestry & Research Planning Section GIS SolFris Data, 2011

Table 2: Export Figures from 2009-2010

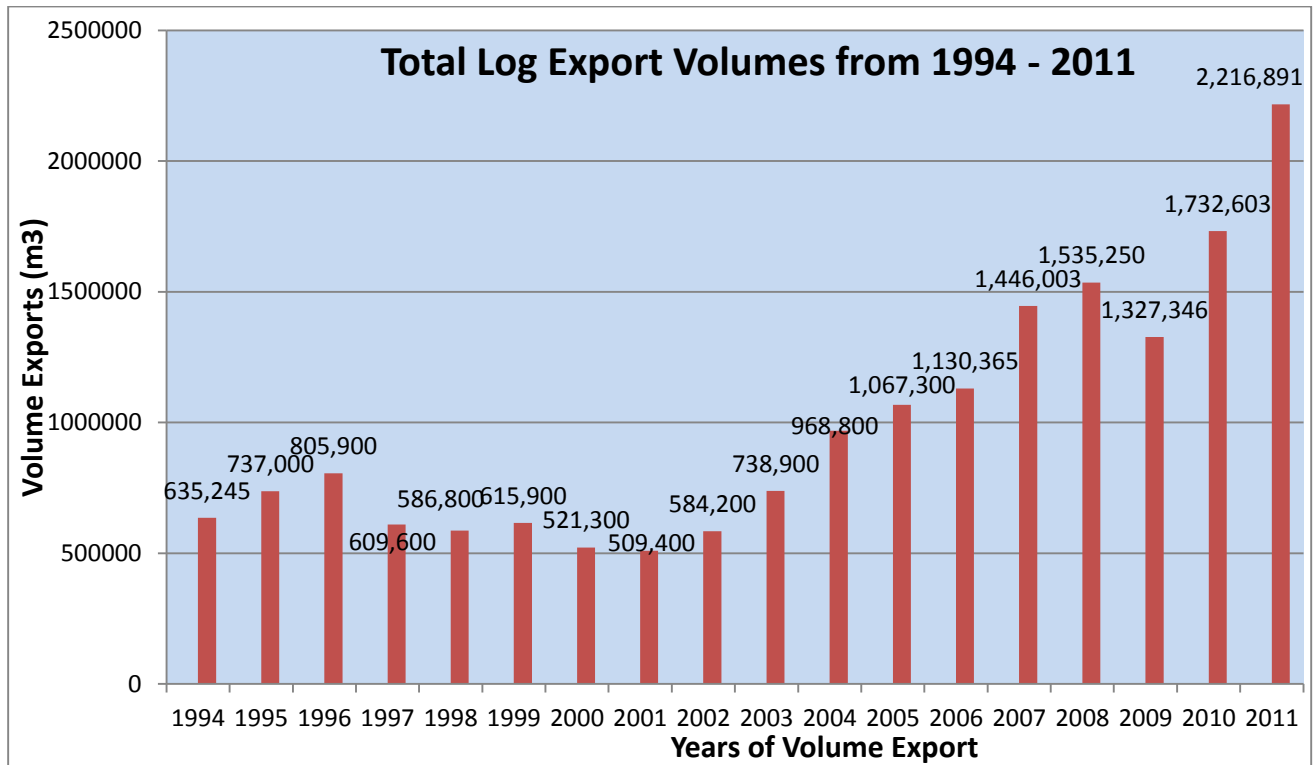
The national export figures for 2009 & 2010 are shown below:

Export Year	Volume Exported
2009	1,064,445
2010	1,732,603
Total	2,797,048

Source: Ministry of Forestry & Research Marketing & Economics Export Data, 2011

The above period over a span of 16 years shows a total of 15,226,730 million cubic meters of round logs has been exported.

Figure 1: Illustration of the total annual Log export volume from 1994 – 2010 trends.



Source: Ministry of Forestry and Research /CBSI Export Data Records

4.1.6: Estimates of the remaining merchantable forest area

The extraction made for the figures below is to show some corrections that were done on data for Malaita and Temotu Province. The minor error and alterations should now provide a basis for the remaining merchantable forest areas that are target production zones in the future. The estimates does not include logged over areas in 2003/6 updates, expired concession areas and valid logging license concession areas. Thus, those committed for production will continue to deplete under logging operations during the period of license validity.

Table 3: Estimated Remaining merchantable forest area suitable for logging & downstream processing

PROVINCE	2006 Assessment Update (M ³)	Commercial Forest Yield M ³ /Ha	FRIS Update (M ³) Remaining Merchantable Volume		Remaining Merchantable Areas (Ha)		Merchantable forest area by Slope Category
			2010	2011	2010	2011	
Guadalcanal	481,200	12	238,218	238,218		16,204	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						2,453	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						1,522	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						6,502	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
Sub-Total					26,681	26,681	
Choiseul	2,573,000	31	1,756,783	897,760		28,960	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						40,231	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						13,229	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						15,995	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					98,477	98,415	
Western	2,079,000	42	1,487,947	1,380,634		22,117	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						16,680	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						5,242	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						2,196	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					49,544	46,235	
Malaïta	751,400	26	652,912	817,032		11,730	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						17,524	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						15,763	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						15,322	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					52,372	60,339	
Makira	487,200	28	178,571	178,114		1,655	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						5,921	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						2,120	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						4,712	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					14,628	14,408	
Isabel	1,190,700	21	849,078	754,090		21,590	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						13,030	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						16,200	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						10,200	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					70,556	61,684	
Central	279,300	49	203,677	203,677		2,105	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						2,418	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						2,018	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						462	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					7,003	7,003	
Temotu	509,532	46	469,724	469,724		10,439	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						11,941	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						4,543	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						3,457	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					30,380	30,380	
Rennel	466,703	14	442,333	373,941		21,417	Commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						4,363	Commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
						6,943	Semi-commercial forest 0-15 deg slopes
						2,949	Semi-commercial forest 15-30 deg slopes
Sub-Total					49,963	35,672	
Grand Total			6,279,243	4,627,459			

(a) Estimates on Excluded Zones

Excluded zones in this report cover areas above 400m asl and greater than 30 degree slopes. The combination of the above zones gives an area of 1,115,813 hectares. There are assumptions that disturbance of forest cover by logging could have occurred in some areas in the past.

Mangrove forest nationwide accounts for about 49,805 hectares but it will decline since the estimate is based on original FRIS data from the 1994 National Forest Inventory (NFI) forest typing.

Table 4: Indication by area of the Excluded zones

Zones	Area	Year	Remarks
400m+ asl	519,145	1994	Require update on forest cover
>30deg slopes	596,481	1994	Require update on forest cover
Mangrove	49,805	1994	Require update on forest cover

Source: Ministry of Forestry & Research Planning Section GIS SolFris Data, 2011

(b) :Recommendations

- Need quality satellite images for better capture of recent logged over areas and forest cover.
- For consistency of the figures and estimates reference is made to the 2006 updates.
- Data gap as noticed in 2006 is included to represent Renbel and Temotu Province.
- Input of new logging areas and approved logging plans by license Number.
- All database file to have a field file on license number for relations to improve analysis and coordination.
- Engage a consultant to create a database for license Section, Marketing, Operation & Planning Section (either Network or separate database) on selected programs.
- Review to be done after 3 years but continue with data input every year.

(c) Summary of Report update

The reference figure from 2006 update is still used as a guide to estimate other quantities of forest timber resources that are of immediate concern to us. The committed merchantable forest under the current valid logging license holds an estimate of 9,594,345 **cubic meters of export volume**. Some of these stocking are already exported over the period of validity within the valid concession areas. The longest valid period from the year of issue to 2011 has contributed a lot in the log export industry. Log export record from 1994-2010 is **15,226,730 cubic meters**.

Under Valid logging license concession area, it has a gross land area of 843,625 hectares but the excluded areas were deducted to give a loggable forest area of 309,495 hectares. The 2006 update excluding Temotu and Renbell Province has a national estimate of **7,841,800 cubic meter** of untouched loggable forest. The current update with the inclusion of the two provinces justified that the 2006 figure should be

about **8,818,035 cubic meters**. The remaining merchantable forest area has a growing stocking of **4,627,459 cubic meters**.

4.1.7: Joint Field Assessment operations on Harvesting Plans

- (a). Continue on daily basis support services for field Assessment of Proposed activities out in the field for justification purposes by respective sections and office of the commissioner.
- (b). Contributed in the auditing analysis of Annual harvesting Plans for 2011/12 for screening committee's recommendations.
- (c). Contributes to the screening committee assessment on questions of boundary demarcations and validity.

4.1.8: Maintain International links and Obligations

One of the core functions of this section is to coordinate Ministry of Forestry and Research international Workshops/Conferences appropriate. However, as of last year this function was slowly diverted to respective divisions and other individuals within the Ministry as focal points. It is hoped that with the diversion of focal points to related divisions and individuals it will better serve the ministry in identifying the rightful officers to attend international workshops and conferences in the future.

The active involvement of respective division's staff for appropriate training and international workshops and conferences or trainings must be advocated as a country commitments in the forestry sector and taken as a development appraisal for ministry officers knowledge for the future of the Ministry of Forestry and Research improvement rather than a stock pile for filing away. It is therefore important that there should be divisional encouragements for more participants in appropriate international links. Terence Titulu and Fred Pitisopa attended 2 weeks course in PNG on Forest Classification. A budget for in country training is underway for financial input from the EU ACP FORNET project which is scheduled for early 2012.

4.1.9: Coordination of integrated planning and budgeting process

- (a) Contributing to negotiation of budget submission for 2012.
- (b) Coordinate preparation of Ministry of Forestry and Research Annual work Plan for 2011.
- (c) Compilation of the Ministry's Corporate Plan 2011-2014.
- (d) Coordinate Ministry of Forestry and Research 2010 annual report compilation for submission.
- (e) Coordination and compilation of the Ministry of Forestry and Research Manpower Establishment Revision for 2012 for submission.
- (f) Contributes to drafting the Ministry of Forestry and Research World Environment and Meteorological Day Celebration Speech held at Botanical Gardens 2011.
- (g) Coordination of the Divisional sections Budget compilation, Quarterly Reports, Office expenses, stationeries and reports for HOD's monthly meetings.

4.2: LICENSING SECTION

4.2.1: Periodic activities:

- Assess and register new licence application.
- Monitor timber rights process.
- Monitor compliance of licence conditions.
- Review of licensing files and cancelled licenses files archived.
- Filing correspondences into designated files.
- Monitor and updating licensing data base information.

4.2.2: Periodic achievements Summary

- Received (75) milling applications
- Processed and issue- thirty three (33) milling licenses.
- Milling under applications-twenty two (22)
- Renewed- twenty three (23) existing milling license.
- Suspend Milling License- Nil (0) & Cancelled Milling License- Nil (0)
- Reject or cancel milling application –Nil (0)
- Expired Milling License- Two Hundred & seven (207)
- Received Form 1 application- Fifty seven (57).
- Endorsement of Form 1 application – Forty Nine (49).
- Form 1 Application pending- Nil (8)
- Process and issue - Twenty (20) felling license.
- Extend the license duration of – Eighteen (18) existing felling license.
- Expired Felling Licenses - Nil (0)
- Suspend License/Operation- Nil (0)
- Cancelled current Felling License –Nil (0)
- Cancelled or reject Form 1 applications- Nil (0)
- License overlaps and discrepancies minimal
- 2010 & 2011 licensing data entry continue.
- Reviewing of operational and non-operational licenses continue.
- Compiling License information/statistics for stakeholders continue.
- Files tracking system implemented.
- Cancelled licenses/files identified and archived.

4.2.3: Issues and constraints:

- Continued licensing files and correspondences gone missing
- A notice written by PS E.Kingmele dated 14/04/2008 ref: MOF 2/10 advising Forestry officers and Public at large of procedures to remove files were not even complied with.
- Officers demanding timber rights documents without approval from superiors.
- Closed files to archive.

4.2.4: Planned activities for final quarter (Oct' to Dec 2011):

- Upgrade licensing database.
- Review all operational and non-operational licenses.
- Continue filing documents.
- Continue register new license applications.
- Continue check timber rights process and monitor license conditions.

- Review and crack down on unsustainable cut on both existing and new license quotas

Table 1: Current type of felling Licenses in from January – September 31st 2011.

Location	Foreign Owned Licenses	Local owned Licenses	Total Existing Licenses
Malaita	0	35	35
Western	19	34	53
Choiseul	8	6	14
Isabel	22	13	35
Guadalcanal	11	12	23
Makira	1	19	20
Central	2	2	4
Temotu	0	1	1
Renbel	0	3	3
Total	63	125	188

Source: Ministry of Forestry & Research Licensing Section Data, 2011

Figure 2: Graph illustration of the current Foreigner Vs Local Licensee By location In Solomon Islands from January – September 31st 2011.

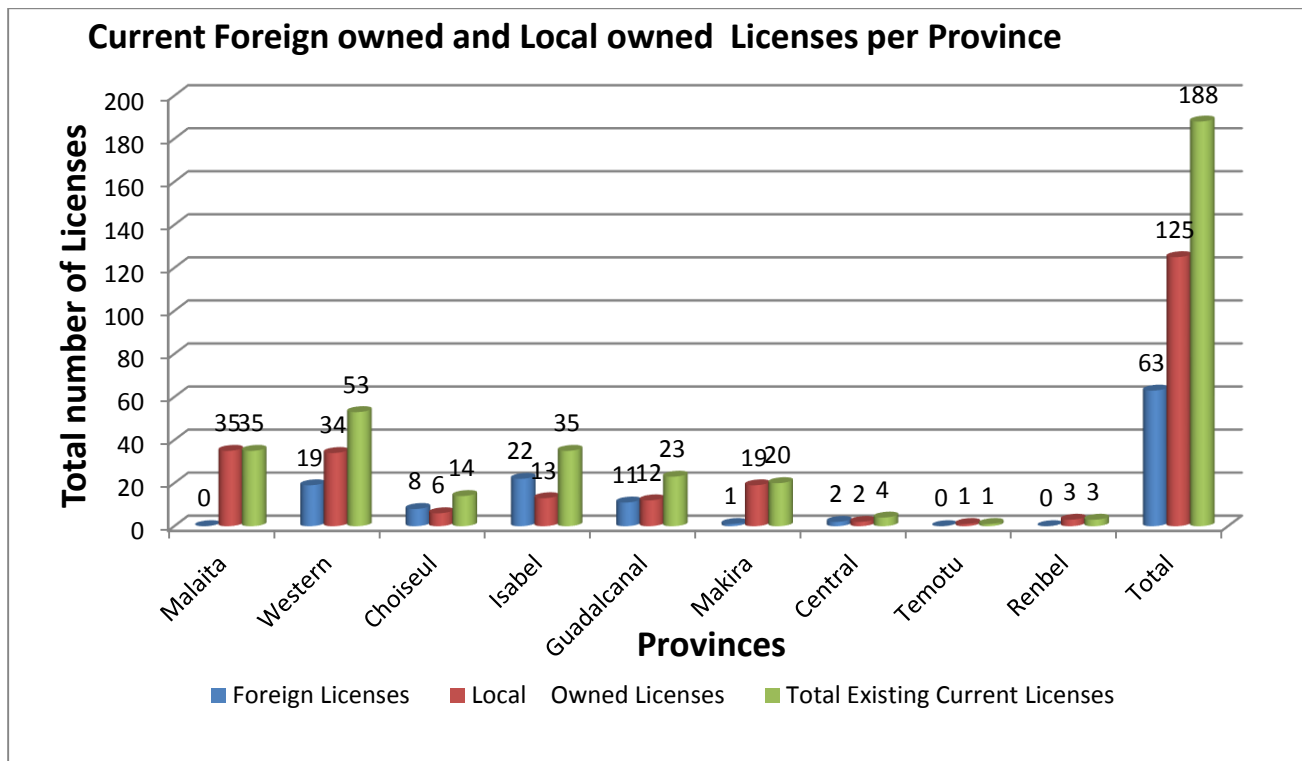


Table 2: Indication of felling license issued and licenses extended from January 31st to September 31st 2011.

Location	New License issued 2011	License Extended 2011	Total Licenses
Malaita	2	1	3
Western	4	9	13
Choiseul	1	3	4
Isabel	7	0	7
Guadalcanal	2	1	3
Makira	4	3	7
Central	0	1	1
Total	20	18	38

Source: Ministry of Forestry & Research Licensing Section Data, 2011

Figure 3: Number of new felling licenses issued and Renewed per Province from January to September 31st 2011.

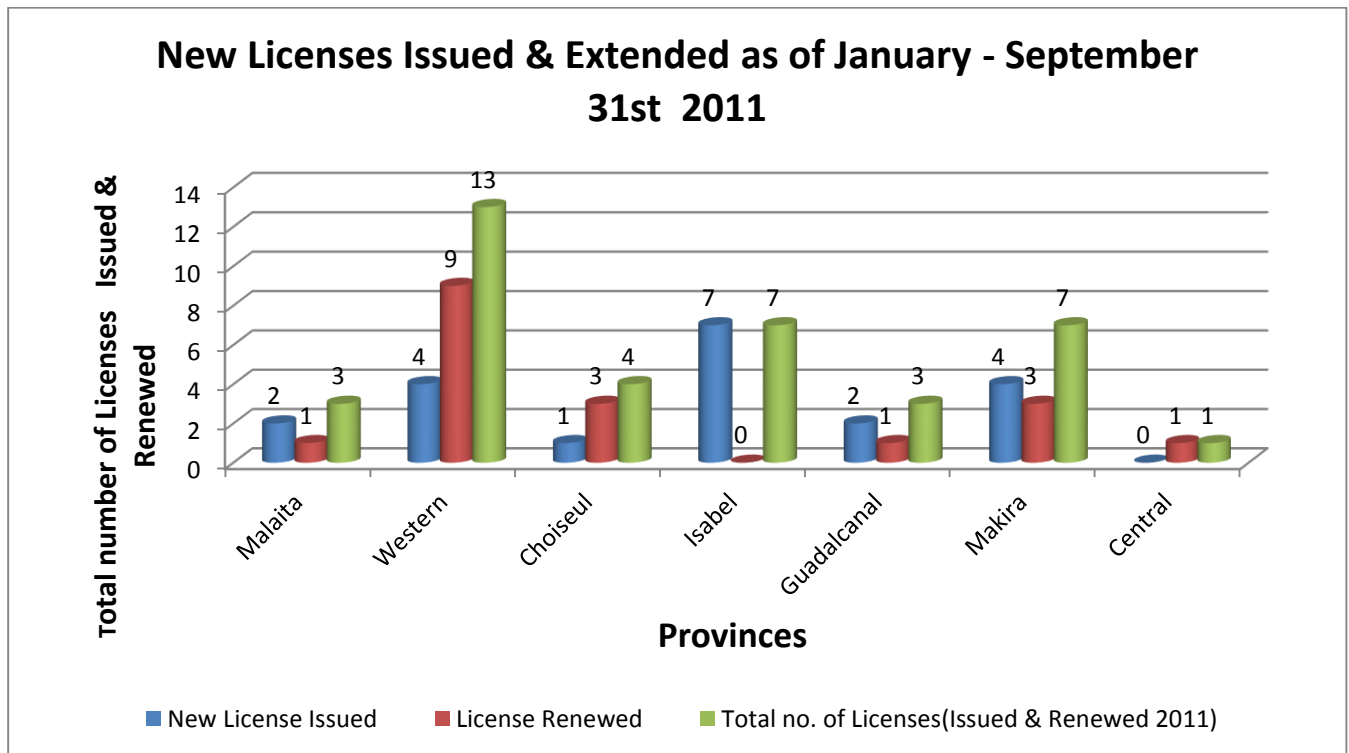
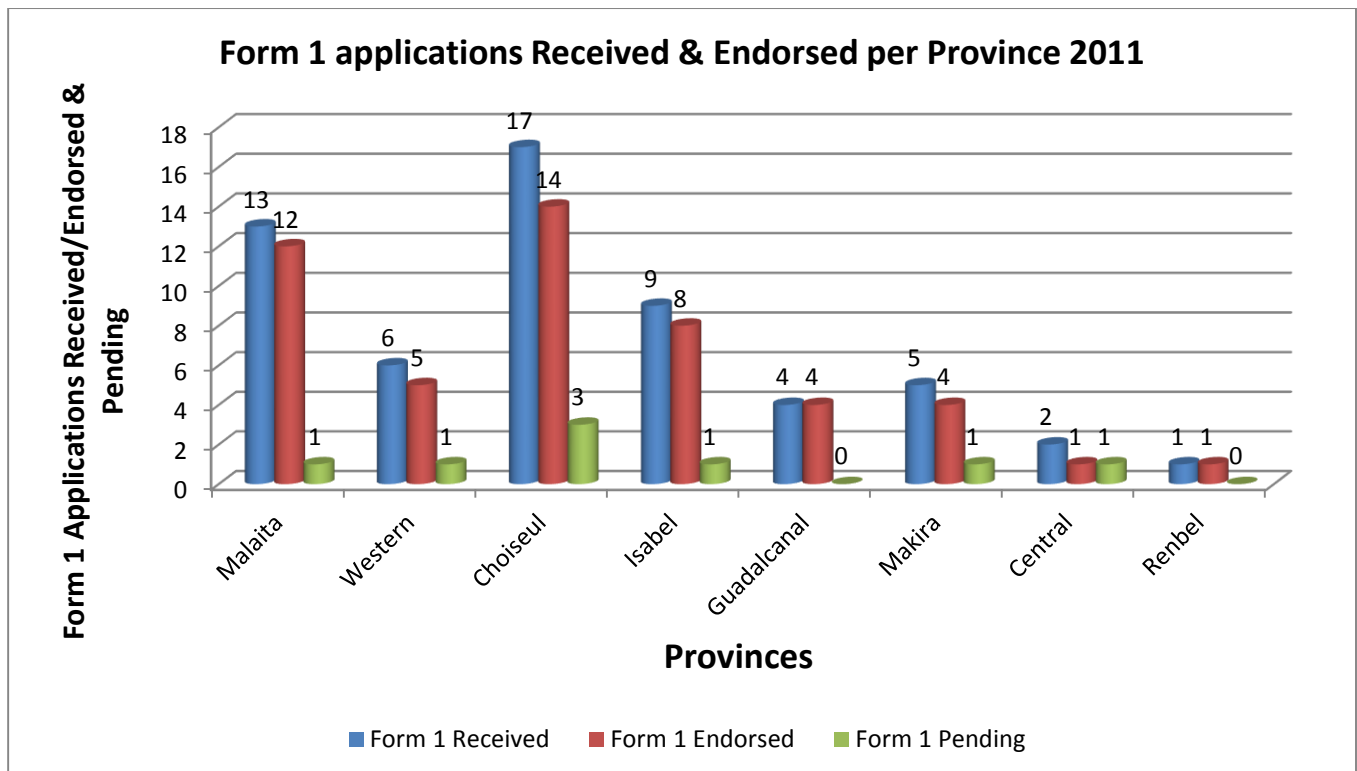


Table 3: Total number of Form Received/Endorsed and Pending per Province for 2011.

Location	F1 Received	Form 1 Endorsed	Form 1 Pending
Malaita	13	12	1
Western	6	5	1
Choiseul	17	14	3
Isabel	9	8	1
Guadalcanal	4	4	0
Makira	5	4	1
Central	2	1	1
Renbel	1	1	0
Total	57	49	8

Source: Ministry of Forestry & Research Licensing Section Data, 2011

Figure 4: Graph illustration indication of no of Form 1 received Versus No of Form 1 endorsed by locations from January – September 31st 2011



4.3: ENFORCEMENT SECTION

4.3.1: Introduction:

The Enforcement Section report covers the whole period for the three (3) quarters from January to September 31st 2011. The specific areas that were covered by this report are as follows:

1. Verbal consultation with public clients
2. Daily correspondences reply and advice delivery to clients
3. Formal field investigation and monitoring assessment over dispute issues
4. Compilation and Preparation of affidavits for Commissioner's defense for High Court cases.
5. General Administrative issues e.g. promotion, A.G. Liaison & etc.

4.3.2: First Quarter:

The summary table 4, represents clients we have dealt with in the first quarter of the year from January-March 2011. As we go down to the second and third quarter of the year, you will find that the number of cases increases because of proper recording of clients attended to by enforcement section. In the first quarter there was low record of attendance because no proper recording were done on clients. For the first quarter, the cases we recorded total up to twenty six (26) cases.

Table 4: Incoming/Outgoing Correspondences

Months	Incoming/Outgoing Correspondences	Verbal Consultation	Field Consultation	File Defense for COF
Jan	0	0	1	0
Feb	6	0	1	0
Mar	18	0	0	0

5.3.3. Second Quarter:

The second quarter starting from April-June of this year 2011, we have recorded a total No. of seventy-five (75) cases.

Table 5: Second Quarter Incoming/Outgoing Correspondences

Months	Incoming/Outgoing Correspondences	Verbal Consultation	Field Consultation	File Defense for COF
April	5	0	0	0
May	21	24	1	0
June	18	5	0	1

4.3.4: Third Quarter:

The third quarter starting from July-September of this year 2011, we have recorded a total number of fifty-three (53) cases. So the grand total No. of cases for the first three quarters of this year 2011 is one hundred fifty-four (154) cases altogether.

Table 6, shows the summary of all the clients attended for the last three (3) quarters.

Table 6: Second Quarter Incoming/Outgoing Correspondences

Months	Incoming/Outgoing Correspondences	Verbal Consultation	Field Consultation	File Defense for COF
July	8	10	0	1
August	10	0	2	0
September	16	6	0	0

4.3.5: Other related achievements of Enforcement Section

- (a) Field investigation assessment over illegal logging operation under Taido Zone 3 license had been detected and ceases operation until to date.
- (b) Encroachment claim by LR 684 owners, have been investigated and assessed but finding proves no field encroachment were made, except for harvesting plan overlapped. So a new harvesting plan was finally resubmitted and approved.
- (c) Clients' satisfaction with information provision to their queries and doubts.
- (d) Miss Sereima had been promoted from Assistant Forester (Ranger) L4 to Forester L6.
- (e) Attendance to sensitive issues in the field e.g. IAFDP issue of trespass at New Valley logging (May 18th 2011) where land owners threaten to burnt down Camp and Machines but was resolved.
- (f) All correspondences dealt with above.
- (g) Plot establishment in the Southern Region of Malaita Province.
- (h) Other advices given to clients with regards to logging in Solomon Islands.
- (i) All field tours made to the different Provinces

4.3.6: Recommendation:

- (a) Need for further training on fraud & investigation techniques and other training enhancement for Enforcement Officers e.g. Public Service courses.
- (b) Prioritize Forest Regulations Educational awareness programs to Forest stakeholders.
- (c) Need for touring schedules for enforcement officers to tour all Provinces covering all logging operations under dispute.
- (d) Need for separate photocopy machine for Enforcement Section and telephone extension to avoid going to and search of the above two things.

- (e) Effective Monitoring of License Terms & Conditions should be reactivated for compliance and application of requirement on the Forest Industry.
- (f) Formal affiliation with other Ministerial Enforcement Bodies and Agencies to further enhance law enforcement and application.
- (g) Forest Act should be reviewed or Amended to accommodate current forest loopholes maneuvered through by loggers.
- (h) Effective random Checks as being carried out in the past must be reactivated to help enhance revenue capture for SIG & Resource owners.
- (i) No short cut of timber rights process should be entertained e.g. using of previous form 2 and form 4, for new licenses.
- (j) All licenses reaching natural expiry dates should not be renewed.
- (k) Logistic support is still another hindrance to effective and efficient monitoring and surveillance.

4.3.7: Conclusion:

The enforcement section still requires a lot of work to do especially in the field of touring and investigation. This is to ensure that all matters and issues agreed or disagreed upon are dealt with amicably to avoid guess work on our part as facilitators of the timber industry.

4.3.8: General Issues of the Forest Resource Management and Technical Services Division.

- Current Division Budget Limitation in addressing Work Programs
- Promotion/Confirmation of officers slow to progress
- Disciplinary Issues
- Division's Allocation of Vehicle took whole year to address and is still an outstanding issue.
- Anticipation of approval of Division's 2012 Budget Bids to reflect work programs.

CHAPTER FIVE

PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT AND REFORESTATION DIVISION

Introduction

The National Forest Plantation Development program (NFPDP) is a Government initiated program aimed at promoting small scale holder forest plantation establishment throughout the country as a practical approach to address the decline in wood flow as a direct result from unsustainable harvesting of forest resources through large scale logging activities over the past 30 years. Overuse of forest resources is destroying it in such a way as to ensure that the hardest impacts are the poorest and the largest part of the population. The collapse of this industry will also eliminate it as an income source to the government. This is especially significant given that it is the single largest revenue source for the government. Overuse of the forest through logging is a disaster that has already begun. The NFPDP is a function mandatory under the Forest Development & Reforestation Division of the Ministry of Forest & Research aimed at;

Economic effect

- Stabilize government revenue from improved forest plantations
- Provide income to resource owners from commercial thinning of forest plantations as well as income from forest plantation sales.
- Contribute to the economic growth of Solomon Islands

Technical effects

- Improving services to resource owners through capacity building in forestry plantation establishment and management.
- Improving the capacity of the ministry of forest and research to manage the national forest plantation development program.
- Improving systems of collection of high quality genetic seeds for higher quality timber to maximize value of timber produce in forest plantations in the Solomon Islands.

Social and environmental effects

- More Rural income
- Better Health
- Improved lifestyle
- Better education
- Foster natural forest regeneration and improvement of degraded areas

A major challenge in Solomon Islands in terms of forest development and reforestation is that to produce quality timber, a strict regime of establishment and maintenance of timber plantations is required. To produce timber that will be of use, specific silvicultural techniques of spacing, pruning and thinning are required. To implement these techniques requires technical knowledge. With the situation of the majority of timber plantations need to be established by landholders on customary land, ensuring adequate technical knowledge and capacity of landholders to establish and manage quality timber plantations is a major challenge.

If rural landholders do not have access to the information of the silvicultural techniques required, and they do not carry out required practices such as implementing the correct spacing, pruning and thinning of

their plantations, it is likely that their plantations will produce timber of very low volume, grade and value.

The report highlights developments as well as identifies weaknesses that must be considered to progress and advance the program to the next level.

5.1 POLICY OBJECTIVES & IMPACT

5.1.1 POLICY OBJECTIVE

The Policies of the Government support Forest Development & Reforestation. The Government also emphasizes the importance of development at the village level to;

- Assist Forestry Research institution so that they could identify and regulate the use of appropriate endemic species in reforestation projects, and to develop and supply improved planting materials of proven tree species for reforestation to small holders
- Make available technical advice and other forestry service to rural communities to assist them in managing the commercial use of the resource, as well as to transfer skills and technologies to them
- Promote Reforestation in Rural areas throughout the country

The core strategic objectives of the policies would enhance the following associate stakeholders;

National

- Increase future timber resources in SI
- Stabilize and increase revenue
- Decrease reliance on Natural Forest for timber use

Sector

- Increase capacity of FD to implement reforestation activities with resource owners
- Increase timber resources
- Increase seed quality
- Provides high quality timber from forest plantations, a future potential value added timber products to industries.

Provincial

- Increase service provided at Provincial level
- Increase forest development at Provincial level

Community

- Communal participation in long term development, a future potential source of income and wood supply to meet domestic needs and provides skills for livelihood options.
- Access to Forest Plantation Silviculture technical information
- Promotion of Quality Forest Plantations of high value and maximize return.

Key strategies of the National Reforestation Program

	Extension, Training & Education	Research, Development & Technical
Small Holder Plantation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development & broaden of extension service at Village level. • Contract employees based at village level (currently 53 officers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Silvicultural management systems for small holder plantation. • Tree breeding and quality seed supply
Industrial Plantations	Develop links with industrial growers, potentially throughout growers scheme	Investigate scope for industrial plantation companies to market small holder wood (nucleus estate model)
Government Plantations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update inventory of government plantations. • Develop management strategies for government plantations
National Forest Management	Develop village based extension training to understand and support natural regeneration in logged forest areas	Develop guidelines/models for sustainable management of natural forest management in logged areas.

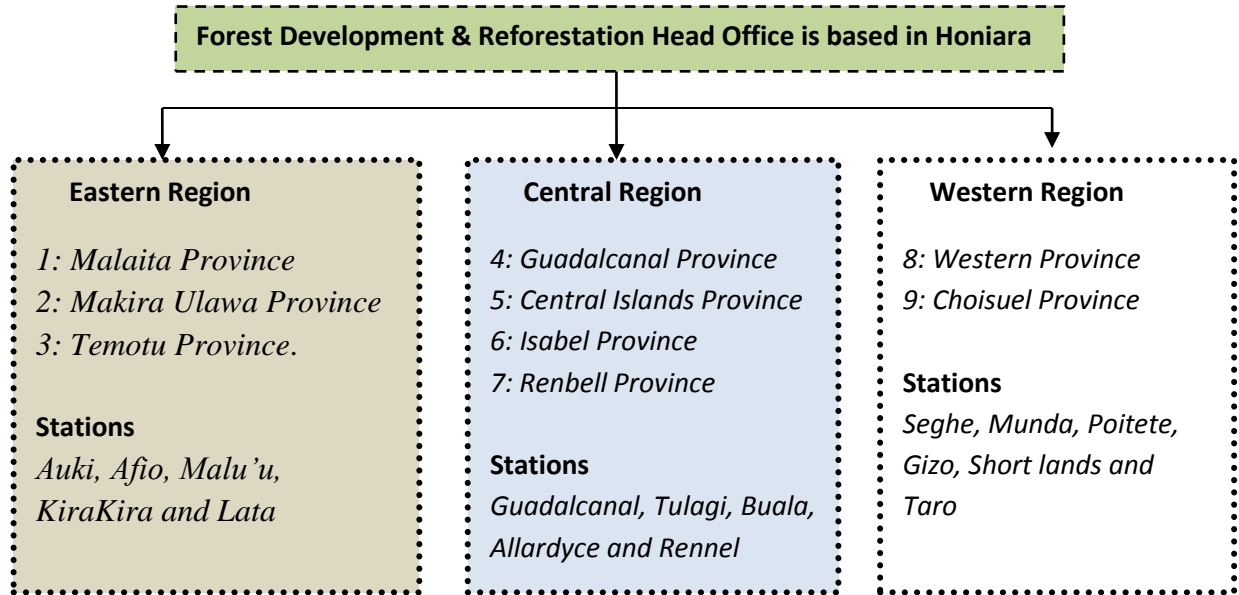
Long term vision

1. The future of Solomon Islands forest and timber industry will depend heavily on production from both small and large-scale plantations, owned and operated by families, communities and commercial enterprises.
2. Timber plantations are long-term investments that need consistent long-term support from national and provincial Government through appropriate policies on taxation, extension services and public infrastructure.
3. Smallholder plantations should form part of a balanced set of family and community economic activities bringing a mix of short-term and long-term benefits.

5.2 CURRENT DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

REGIONAL ZONATION OF PROVINCES

All provinces have been zoned according to geographical locations for effective and efficient administration and coordination of field activities; the regional zones are as follows;



5.3 VILLAGE BASED EXTENSION NETWORK AND ZONES

The village based extension network consist of graduates from the school of Forestry and those with vast knowledge in forestry, they resided in sub regions in each province and carry out forestry extension work to villages in their sub regions mainly on Plantation silviculture, trainings, nursery establishment and monitoring of forest plantations, currently, we have a total of 53 village based extension officers stationed in 53 sub regions across the country. *Boxes* below give the detail listing of the sub regions by provinces;

Malaita Province (sub-regions) East Are'are, Odou, Buma, South Malaita, Dala, Okwala, Northwest, Atori, Malu'u, West are'are, and Buma

Central Islands Province (sub-regions)

Boli (big Gela), Tulagi, Hogo (small Gela) and Russel

Guadalcanal (sub-regions) Longu, Vatalena, Sahalu, Reko, Tawandui, Savulei, Malango, Moli, Aola and old Selwyn

Choisuel Province (Sub-regions)

Loloko, Voza, Sisiata, Ohgo and Qevala

Western Province (sub-regions). Ranonga/simbo, Batuna, North new Georgia, Meripoint, South Vella, North Vella, and Rendova Tetepare

Makira Province (sub-regions).

Tawaraha, Pamua, Narame, and Ulawa,



The Reforestation Extension Network contains both FD staff and Forestry Extension Officers (FEOs) who are currently employed directly by Ministry of Forest and Research through the Forest Development & Reforestation Division on contract basis. The FD staffs who are involved in the Network, are based in their Provincial FD offices, and contribute to the Reforestation activities with landholders throughout areas in their Provinces. These people work in close collaboration with the VFEO (Village based Forestry Extension officers staff who are based in the rural areas throughout the Province. People that are recruited are from the local area that can utilize their knowledge of local area, as well as utilize their language skills and farmer network. An advantage of this is it also minimizes accommodation expenses, which substantially minimize the overall running costs of the Solomon Islands Reforestation Program. Both pictures depicted extension officers working in their respective sub regions in the western Province.

Small Scale Reforestation Activities

This is the real growth opportunity in the Solomon Islands, as large areas of land are available and people can see the value in investing time and effort into tree plantations so as to achieve future benefits. The Forest Division is concentrating on encouraging people to plant high value species such as Teak and Mahogany. Just in this year to date, more families have been assisted by the Forest Department to plant trees for an area around 300hectares spread across the country. It is hoped that this rate can be maintained, building a significant resource that can generate future wealth and benefits for the people of the Solomon's. KFPL and EPPL are also increasing the establishment of higher value species and this will assist by providing a resource controlled by single operators that will attract future buyers into the country.

Encouraging resource owners to invest in planting trees is not easy as the pattern of priorities in rural setting focuses mainly on agricultural development (short term derived benefits) making the work of field officers not that easy but with the continuous support from successive governments in allocating more funds and resources to the program, a breakthrough has become eminent.

5.4 PLANTATION UPDATES

Provincial Updates

The measure of the success of the program is based on the ability to increase the current number of plantations established on annual basis and the quality of woodlots established. The annual planting (areas in hectares and by species) is based on updates from provincial forestry annual reports. The 2011 annual planting indicates a growing trend of farmers increasing their existing wood lots as well as new farmers

pursuing replanting activities. There is a significant increase in the 2011 annual planting compared to the 2010 plantings. The total hectares planted in 2010 is **186.5** hectares whilst this year (2011) a recorded planting of **347.0099** hectares, though the target of 500 hectares has not been met, this indeed is a significant increase; Temotu province recorded the highest establishment with **143.4** hectares with swim as the dominant species, followed by Malaita with **91.7** hectares with teak as the dominant species. Swim has been the dominant species established this year

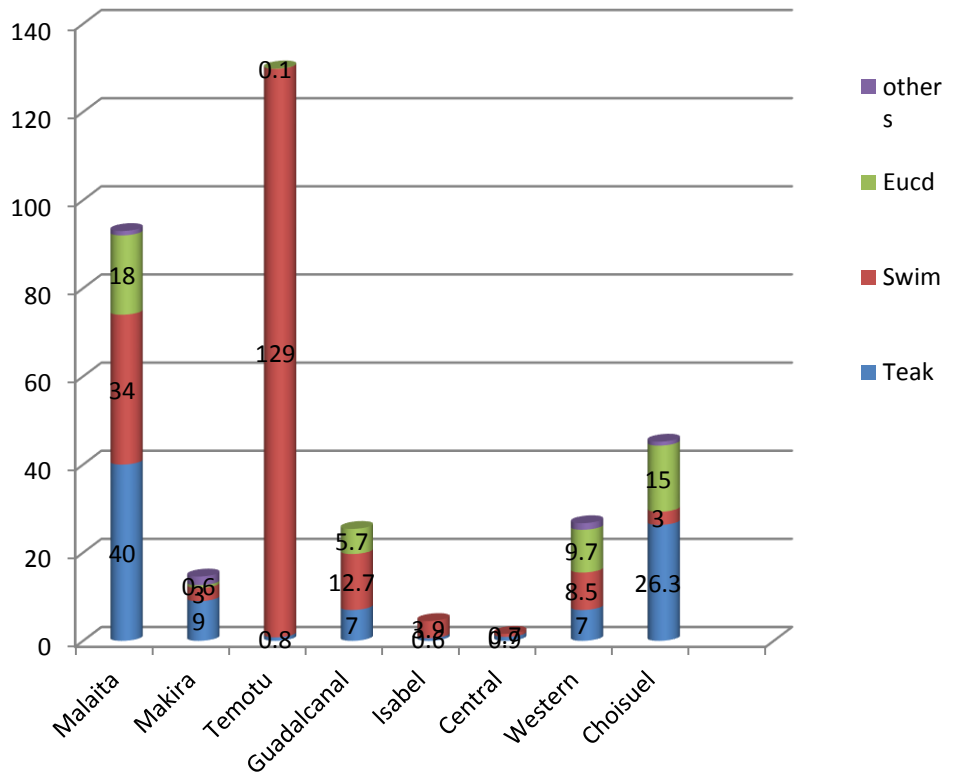
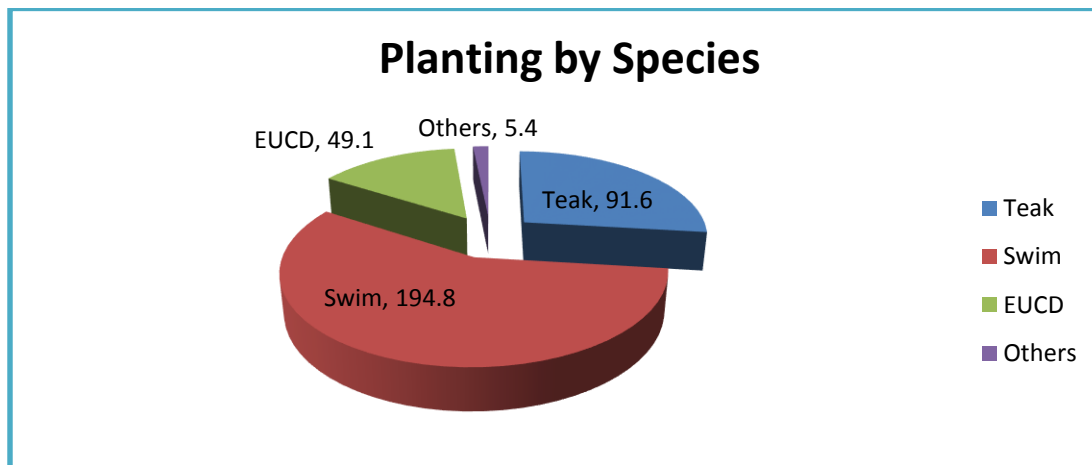


Figure 1: Plantation established by provinces (hac) and by species- total of 347.099 hectares

Species Update

Plantation establishment by species indicates Swietenia macrophylla dominating this year’s planting with a total of 194.8 hectares, 57 % of the total planting than teak of 91.6 hac (27%) of the total planting, followed by Eucalyptus and other species.

Figure 2: 2011 plantings by different species



Summary of plantings by small holder (year 2000- 2011)

Figure 3 below summed up small scale plantation establishment since year 2000-2011 in hectares, there is a significant increase in plantation establishment from the lowest establishment in 2008

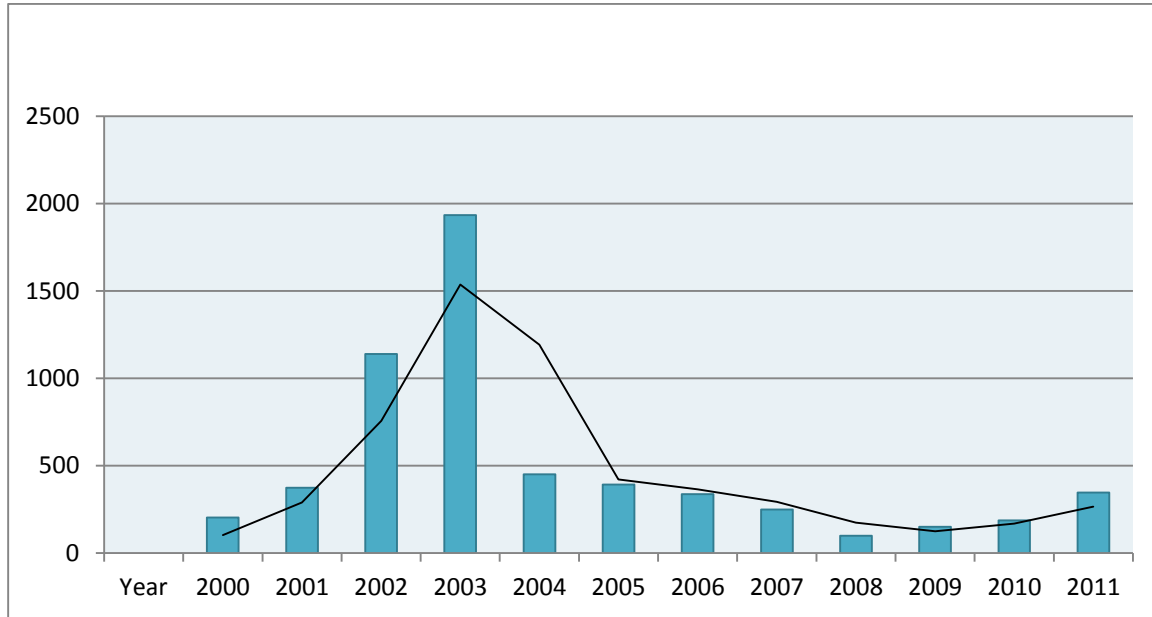


Figure 3: Annual planting from year 2000- 2011 in hectares

Industrial Plantation update

Large scale plantation establishment has been promoted by KFPL (Kolombangara Forest products Limited) and Eagon Resources Plantation Development Company, KFPL establish on Kolombangara Island in the western province whilst Eagon Forest Plantation Development operates at Arara in New Georgia and Choiseul Province. Summary of plantations established by both companies are as follows;

EPPL- Arara (New Georgia) to 2010

ERDC- Choiseul Province

Species	hectares
Camb	800
Eucd	6,484
Gmea	1,700
Swim	415
Tecg	799
Terb	1,611
Others	191
Total	12,000

Species	Hectares
Acam	175
Camb	249
Eucd	2,336
Terb	293
Others	138
Total	3,191

KFPL- Planting updates to 2010

Species	Area (Ha)
GMEA	4,957
EUCD	4,112
Teak	605
Swim	568
ACAM	155
Mix	1,122
Tercal	18
TERB	14
Camb	544
CEDO	74
Balsa	51
others	50
Total	14,354

5.5 Teak Marketing

The significant component of the plantation development program is “**Marketing**”, This office is currently working with SPC to develop a grading rule for plantation species that will be used to harvest teak as well as other forest plantation species; currently the document is available after consultation with appropriate stake holders and will set the basis for further grading of plantation species. Other marketing opportunities is to sell locally, Thinned teak logs from a plantation in Makira has been sold locally to private business houses, this is a sign that we can also sell forest plantation logs locally especially during the commercial thinning. The picture depicted harvesting of thinned teak logs being sold locally by one of the out growers. SPC also assisted the FDRD to comply with the Joint country strategy mainly in quality control (maintaining plantations to produce quality wood/timber) through the out-growers training, 10 trainings were conducted and one in the western province with village based extension officers in the Western & Choisuel provinces.

Marketing of thinned-teak trees has also been facilitated by SPC as part of the plantation quality control. Four (4) containers of teak thinned products were exported by Eco-timbers in 2011. Facilitation of future markets is still progressing well, the FD will work closely with SPC to facilitate markets for out-growers though one of the overwhelming difficulties is the isolated location of small scale plantations in the country.

Another problem encountered is the attitude of the people, when they heard teak export, they talk of millions of dollars without working out the real value of the logs taking into account, transport cost, production costs, export, logistics & infrastructure. Future trainings will put more emphasis on the “real value of logs”.

5.6 SEED SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

Seed supply and distribution is an important component of the reforestation program, without good quality seeds, there would not be plantations established; Forestry stations ;(Poitete and Munda) continue

to play an important role in maintaining existing seed orchards and processing of seeds which has been distributed to all provinces to supplement reforestation activities; The continuous high demand for quality seeds acerbates more pressure on the division to increase its seed collection. The summary of seeds processed and distributed during the reporting year is as follows; Table 1: Seed collection from Poitete

Table 1: Seed collection summary- Poitete Forestry Station

Month	Species	Seed stands	Grams/ kg
January	Vitex	Natural Forest	25g
February	Fluggea	L45	700g
	EUCD	L36	60g
March	Eucd	L 36 & L 80	1600g
April	Albizia	Natural Forest	450g
	Teak	L 44	35kg
May	nil		
June	Swim	Vanga	28kg
	Teak	L 39	78kg
July	Swim	L 80	81kg
	Teak	L 39	122kg
August	Teak	L 38	57kg
	Teak	L 39	126kg
	Swim	L52	14kg
September	Gmea	Montrose plot	3kg
	Canarium	L 38	31 kg
October	nil		
November	nil		

Summary total: Teak- 418kg Swim: 123kg Eucd: 1669 grams; others: 1,236 grams

Seed Distribution by Provinces

Seed distributed to all provinces during the year is based on seed received from Poitete and Munda forestry stations; approximately, more than 400 kg of seeds of major plantation species were distributed to the provinces; Table 2 summed up distribution to provinces by species;

Table 2: Seed Distribution by provinces

Name of Province	Name of Species			
	Teak	Swim	Eucd	Others
Malaita	49 kg	29 kg	264 g	200g
Guadalcanal	20 kg	19 kg	52 g	
Western	232.5 kg	12 kg	250 g	
Renbel	1.5 kg	1 kg	Nil	
Central	0.5 kg	10 kg	32 g	
Choiseul	10 kg	10 kg	102 g	
Makira	3 kg	12.5 kg	5 g	
Temotu	9.25 kg	5.75 kg	40 g	
Isabel	19.25 kg	9.75 kg	95g	
Total	345 kg	109 kg	840 g	200g

Main seed users today

The three main plantation growers of mahogany and teak in the Solomon Is. are Solomon Is. Forestry, KFPL and EAGON. There are an increasing number of landowners (mainly at the family level) in all provinces who are planting small plots of both species in clearings and logged areas. The division through Poitete and Munda offices also supply seeds directly to KFPL, more specifically teak, more than 150 kg of teak were supplied during the reporting period. KFPL is increasing its teak plantation plantings there will continue to rely on FD for teak seed supply.

5.7 TREE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ensuring that high quality material of the selected species is available for planting has become an important requirement to meet the demand created by village growers throughout the Solomon Islands. The Forestry Division sees this potential resource as important for the future and wants to ensure that the material being planted will give the best return with the highest quality in the future. This can only be achieved by having an improvement strategy in place that will allow progressive development of genetic resources ensuring that only the best improved seed is used at any point in time.

EAGON and KFPL, who are the largest commercial growers in the Solomon Is., also have the same objective but, independently, do not have the resources to implement individual improvement programmes. The Division continue to maintain existing seed orchards, clonal seed stands and progeny trials, the tree improvement program that has been done by the SIFMP is still in phase/stage 1. Arrangements have been done to get David Spencer to do the selection and thinning of the plots during the first quarter of 2012 respectively. To date, only teak has reached the progeny stage whilst EUCD and SWIM are still in progress,



5.8 CURRENT ESTABLISHED NURSERIES & CAPACITIES

Nurseries are source of planting materials to supplement field plantings to out growers. In the past, out growers were given seeds and have the responsibility to raise seeds on their own. This makes it difficult and unreliable to predict field planting from the quantity of seeds issued since the tracking of individual farmers is costly. The Forestry now embarks on establishing permanent central nurseries where farmers will be issued with seedlings rather than seeds. This will be easy to track and the reliability of predictions will be closed to accurate. Table 3 below gives an indication of the current operational nurseries and the estimated stock and hectares.

Table 3: Distribution of Nurseries and current stock

Province	No. of Nurseries	Capacity	Status
Malaita	3 (1 permanent)	3,590	Operational
Makira	1 (fly nursery)	1564	operational
Guadalcanal	2 (fly Nurseries)	1,600	Operational
Temotu	2 (fly nursery)	2,500	Operational
Santa Isabel	2 (fly nurseries)	2,100	
Central Islands	6 (fly nurseries)	4,500	
Western	1 permanent (poitete)	6,000	Operational
Choiseul	1 permanent nursery	5,216	Operational
Total	128	27,070	

Doma Forestry Nursery

Work is currently in progress to establish the permanent nursery at Doma on West Guadalcanal, the nursery upon completion will hold a capacity of more than 100,000 seedlings ranges from commercial plantation species, local species and fruit tree species. This will supply all provinces upon request but mainly the central region which consist of Guadalcanal, Central Islands, Isabel and even other provinces.

5.9 CAPACITY BUILDING

Resource owners Training

Resource owners training is a significant component of the capacity building; the trainings range from informal (onsite training) and formal (workshop basis). The trainings are based mainly on Forest Plantation Silviculture (nursery techniques and management, Maintenance, Pruning & thinning operations). Scheduled trainings were normally affected by delay of processing training imprests. In 2011; total number of trainings offered to out growers was less than that in 2010. Logically, more imprests were released in 2010 than in 2011, this has been the main contributing factor. Table 4 summed up all trainings conducted by provincial forestry extension officers in all provinces.

Table 4: Trainings offered to Out-growers

Province	Type of Training	Total Training	Total Participants
Malaita	Workshop/Awareness	10	145
Western	FEO- Technical Training (1wk)	1	21
Makira	Awareness/short training	5	56
Temotu	Awareness/workshop	10	156
Guadalcanal	Workshop & awareness	4	86
Central Islands	Awareness/ workshops	5	54
Isabel			
Choisuel	Workshops	5	60
Renbell	awareness	3	15
Total		43	593

Staff Training

This is a significant undertaking which normally undermined by lack of funds though requests were made in advance. Training programs were developed; funds were requested but never facilitated by relevant authorities. Trainings offered to forestry officers are in table 5

Table 5: Trainings offered to Forestry Extension officers

Training	Institute	Date	No. Officers
Staff Orientation	Honiara	July	4 (new recruits)
On-Job Training	FDRD	Aug (1 week) Gizo	21 officers

Workshops

A number of workshops national; workshops were attended during the year with other line ministries and stake holder agencies. Table 6 presents national workshops attended.

Table 6: National workshops organized and attended

Type of Training	Institute	Aim of Training	Participants	Date
Climate Change	MECM	Project implementation status	16	Feb/2011
CDO induction	Provincial Govt	Forestry Project updates	56	April/2011
Climate change	MECM	Stake holder consultation	24	Oct/2011
Agro-forestry	ACIAR	Agro-forestry Syllabus	18	Nov/2011

International Trainings/Workshops

Table 7: Overseas workshops attended

Name	Institute	Duration	Training details
R.Raomae	Tanoa International Hotel (Fiji)	19-21 st Jan	Preparation of the SI Forest Genetic Resources report.
R.Raomae	Tanoa International Hotel (Fiji)		
R.Raomae	KOICA- South Korea		Forest Management & Research

6.10 DOMA FORESTRY CENTER

A total of 10 hectares of land has been acquired from Guadalcanal provincial government in 2010; this is located on West Guadalcanal a site currently facilitated for Guadalcanal provincial town ship. The division sees it fit to rehabilitate and strengthened its research functions which currently downgraded. Genetically improved seed sources confine mainly in the western province will be replicated in doma. The station will also serve as the Guadalcanal provincial forestry office accommodating Reforestation officers and Forest operation officers; in developing the site, initial ground work already started with erection of the 280m chain link fence and the building of the nursery shed. Other major developments such as building of staff houses, office blocks and work on seed sources will follow suit

TIMELINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMA RESEARCH CENTER

The main activities planned for the establishment of Doma forestry station is summed up below;

Plans	10	11	12	13
Negotiations with Guadalcanal Provincial Government for acquisition of land				
Facilitation of appropriate provincial fees and demarcation of land boundary				
Employment of Doma casual workers (signing of 1 year contract)				
Building of Nursery fence & Nursery Shed				
Building of office & Staff Houses				
Establishment of Research plots				
Establishment of Forest Lab				

5.11 COLLABORATIONS

The Division during the reporting year engaged in some collaborative activities with outside agencies namely; ACIAR program and the KOICA Reforestation project and SPC joint country strategy.

ACIAR

The current Project that is run in collaboration with The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) has been implemented since July 2008.

The Project aimed at Improving Silvicultural and Economic out come for Community timber plantations in the Solomon Islands. It is a four year Research Project which will end in April 2012. There after a proposed project that will look into the possibility of assisting out growers on Marketing of Teak thinning products is the next focus.

Objective of the Project.

The Project looked at the problem of Tree farmers not willing to thin their Teak Plantations. For this reason there are three options which the Project focuses its attention

1. Set up Thinning Trials on existing Community Plantations to compare the effects of thinned and non-thinned Plantation to show the outcome in the hope of convincing the farmers to thin their plantations.
2. Interplant Flueggea Flexuosa a local durable tree with Teak as Agro Forestry system. (Also looks at Thinning options) A better way to grow Teak.(only thin flueggea and leave teak spaced out as thinning of flueggea progress
3. Establish Nelder Trials of Teak and Flueggea for better spacing option
4. Look at the nutrient intake of both Teak and Flueggea
5. Flueggea being a durable timber species has the potential for poles and fence post should overseas market is available. Locally it is a valuable species for house construction.

Forestry officers in Munda, Poitete and Auki work collectively and closely with ACIAR to establish, monitor and assess plots established in various locations on Malaita & Western province.

KOICA (Korean Overseas Cooperation Agency

A reforestation proposal was submitted for additional funding to implement other components of the program such as the capacity building (overseas technical trainings), support to small scale holders through tool supply, equipping of the division with adequate resources and establishment of 10 hectares of afforestation trial on Guadalcanal grass land. The first feasibility assessment has already been made, a second and final detail assessment is expected during the first quarter of 2012 after which formalities will be made.

SPC- Joint Country Strategy

According to the SPC-Forestry joint country strategy, the following areas were identified for joint implementation;

- Capacity building in Forestry extension workers
- Formulation of legislation proposals for forestry plantation development
- Rehabilitation of degraded areas and
- Tree improvement programs.

Much of the above activities are yet to be established though few trainings on forest plantation quality control were conducted under the joint agreement strategy.

5.12 OUT-GROWERS SUBSIDY SCHEME

The 2011 out grower's subsidy has been recommended by the cabinet in April 2011 to be managed or paid to political constituencies. The scheme has been in the past, a sole responsibility of the Ministry of Forest and Research under the Forest Development & reforestation Division function. The cabinet decision on this fund has received wider public criticism on fear of politicizing disbursement by MPs. Most MP's received subsidy funds of a maximum of \$80,000 per constituency. An independent evaluation of the impact of the scheme will be produced later. Table 8 presents subsidy process by constituencies. The accounts department report will present an accurate subsidy actually processed.

Table 8: Summaries of out-growers subsidy scheme payment of each constituency by provinces for 2011.

Province	Constituency	MP	Total Recipients	Tool	Cash	Total	Remarks
Malaita	Lau Mbaelelea	Walter Folotalu			\$77,000.00	\$77,000.00	Received
	Beagu Asifola	David Tomme			\$80,000.	\$80,000.00	Received
	West Are'Are	John Maneniaru		\$35,031.20	\$44942	\$79,973	Received
	Small Malaita	Rick N Hou			\$98,530	\$98,530	Received
	East Malaita	Manaseh Mealanga			\$80,125	\$80,125	Received
	Central Kwara'ae	Jackson Fiulaua			\$80,282	\$80,282	Received
	West Kwara'ae	Sam Iduri			\$46,200	\$46,200	Received
	East Are'Are	Andrew Hanaria			\$25,470	\$25,470	Received
	Fataleka	Steve Abana			\$80,000	\$80,000	Processed
	North Malaita	Jimmy Lusibaea			\$49,400	\$49,400	Processed
	East Kwaio	Stanley Sofu			\$47,760	\$47,760	Received
	Auki Langgalala	Mathew Wale		\$61,213.60	\$18,785	\$80,000	Pending
Makira	East Makira	Alfred Ghiro			\$80,000	\$80,000	Pending
	West Makira	Dick Hamori			\$80,000	\$80,000	Received
	Centrak Makira	Hypolite Taremae			\$80,000	\$80,000	Processed
Temotu	Temotu Nende	Commings Astone			\$80,142	\$80,142	Processed
	Temotu Pele						
Guadalcanal	N.East Guadalcanal	Dr.Derek Sikua			\$51,74400	\$51,74400	Received
	North Guadalcanal	Martin Sopage			\$46,328	\$46,328	Processed
	West Guadalcanal	Moses Garu			\$80,000	\$80,000	Still on Process
Isabel	Gao/Bugotu	Samuel Manetoali			\$51,74400	\$51,74400	Still on Process
	Hograno/Kia/Havulei	Selwyn Riumana			\$80,000.34	\$80,000.34	Received
	Maringe/Kokota	Varian Lonamei			\$40,748.00	\$40,748.00	Received
Honiara	Central Honiara	John M Fugui			\$80,000	\$80,000	Pending
Central	Ngella	Mark Kemakeza		\$74,919.50	\$4,800	\$79,719.50	Processed
Western	Rannogga	Charle Sigoto	8		\$28,800	\$28,800	.
	Shortland	Chris Laore	12		\$23,800	\$23,800	Received
	Gizo/Kolombangara	Gordon D Lilo	32		\$47,800	\$47,800	Received
	West New Georgia	Silas Tausinga	58		\$174,170	\$174,170	Not return
	Marovo	Synder Rini	37		\$80,000	\$80,000	Not return
	South New Georgia Rendova/Tetepare	Danny Phillip	70		\$81,240	\$81,240	Received
	North Vella	Milner Tozaka	2		\$2,400	\$2,400	Processed
	North New Georgia	J D Tausinga	10		\$80,000	\$80,000	Processed
Choiseul	South Choiseul		10		\$16,560	\$16,560	Application not return
	East Choiseul	M Sogavare	8		\$80,000		Processed
	North West Choiseul		28		\$37,050	\$37,050	Processed

5.13 FORESTRY EXTENSION RADIO REACH OUT PROGRAM

The Forestry Extension Radio reach out program was designed to get appropriate information as much as possible to a wider community. It was evidenced that even with the current manpower, much of the services more especially technical information did not reach a lot of remote communities. The program focused mainly on the importance of tree planting and the important operations that must be done to promote quality forest plantations. According to feed backs, a lot of farmers appreciated the program as much of the technical information's are broadcasted on the SIBC 15 minutes weekly radio program: A total of 12 episodes has been broadcasted by the Division.

5.14: LOGISTIC SUPPORT

Logistic support has been one of the key developments during the reporting year. A lot of outstation offices lack or have insufficient needed resources to assist in implementing stations work program over the past years. There were significant developments in terms of equipping outstation with appropriate resources. The summary of logistic distribution to outstations can be seen in *annex 2*

5.15: Fuel Distribution to Outstations.

There were two mass disbursements of fuels to all outstations. The work of forestry extension officers covers wider areas and sub-regions and constant fuel supply is and will be an important component of support given to outstations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Extension Program:

The promotion of small holder plantation establishment can only be effective thru information dissemination, regular field visits, training of out-growers and continuous technical back up from the Forestry Department. The current plan of action is directed towards this phenomenon but unless in house adhoc and inconsistencies are sorted out, this will still be an ongoing issue. The program has seen all these and accounted for in its planning initiatives but mobility of staff to implement much of the programs is still affected by lack of adequate financial support.

Village based extension officers must be supported financially if they can be of any help to the program- They have been placed in very remote geographical situations and carry out official duties in isolation. Support to FEO's during the reporting period is a setback; imprests were raised and were sidetracked by accounts officers placing higher priority on other areas of interest.

FEO Network

This has been one of the best and effective approaches to the reforestation community work as most of the village based officers were placed in a smaller region (sub-region) and concentrates on assisting out growers in their sub-regions. These people are well versed with the area, people, and language. If this

network can be supported logistically and financially from time to time, much of the activities would have been achieved. Budgets were allocated for their mobility but again they are not prioritized when it comes to disbursement of funds by officers of the Accounts Department. Budgets were submitted on quarterly basis according to work plans but were left unprocessed most of the time.

Subsidy Payment

The introduction of the out growers subsidy scheme has an impact on the establishment of new areas, again, the decision to have its management channeled thru political constituencies must be evaluated and inconsistencies identified for better utilization of these funds in the future.

Reforestation imprest payments

Much of the field activities in the provinces would have been achieved should all funds requested through imprest system were facilitated by appropriate sections. Most of the field imprests submitted were either ignored or kept aside by the Accounts section even though submissions were done during the first quarter of the year. When it comes to processing of Reforestation field imprests, this is least considered. The basis of selection of priority imprests by relevant authorities must be made known as most prioritized payments are made to non- functional components within the organization that does not achieved practical aims of the entire organization. The division strongly recommends prioritisation of field imprests and the neutrality of appropriate officers when it comes to disbursement of funds in the future. The Division must achieve its aims so as the entire Ministry therefore individuals responsible for processing of payments must ensure that processing of needed funds must be made in time.

Absenteeism

This has been a major issue contributing to setback in some significant areas of development. Senior officers tend to stay away from performing key official duties from time to time. This is a serious issue that the top managers within the entire organization must address. I recommended transfer of officers to other non-functional divisions who continue to absent from work without justification. Non-functional team players must be replaced if the team is going to win games.

Skill overseas trainings

The Ministry at present does not have a training program for officers. Those that are responsible for manpower development & training often ignore a very significant aspect of staff development through training and skill equipping. This function has appropriate officers in place to mandate but to date nothing foreseeable has been done. If we expect officers to perform well in their capacity and to achieve quality outputs, then continuous staff development and Training must be a priority.

Staff Promotion

More than 12 officers have been promoted during the reporting period. This is a positive approach to get the officers motivated. Well done.

Data Base system

The out growers data base system that was established by the former SIFMP II has been out of service for sometimes. The GIS data base system will be more convenient for tracking down of plantations. The process to install a GIS data base system will be assessed for the possibility of adoption. A separate funding will be requested for this development.

Budget Viaments

Any future viaments of approved budgets must be agreed upon by the Head of Division. This is to ensure proper justification of diverted transactions and the need to transfer payments. Even internal viaments from one sub-head to another must be done prior to consultation with appropriate authorities.

IPAM Training.

Short courses offered by IPAM are very relevant to staff development interms of skill and knowledge equipping. List of officers submitted for such trainings were done well ahead of training schedules. Not a single officer was able to attend the 2011 IPAM trainings. This training has been facilitated by the Planning section with the Human Resource manager. The Division recommends effective communication link by relevant sections especially the HRM section to ensure that officers attend such trainings.

CHAPTER SIX

FOREST INDUSTRIES AND UTILIZATION DIVISION

6.1 Utilization and Downstream Processing Section

Executive Summary

The 2011 Downstream Processing Project has more or less achieved its mandated objectives but the delay in the approval of the funds has resulted in not fully achieving our work program especially in monitoring activities.

- ❖ Assistance to Resource owners has been fully implemented. All members of parliament received payments for equipments for their constituencies by December 2011.
- ❖ 29 Rural Training Centre's and Community Learning Centre's have their funding applications approved and payments raised but only 17 of this applications has been funded while one has been partly funded'
- ❖ A total of 48 participants attended two training workshops were carried out at Buala and Lata but the third planned workshop for Western Province has been postponed for the New Year as funds were only received during the Christmas week.
- ❖ Assistance to Value Added Timber Association to assist with freight costs has only been received in the last week of December and this will be implemented in the New Year.
- ❖ Timber yard was identified through the normal tender procedure but payment could not be processed on time.
- ❖ 16 radio programs were aired on SIBC by the Utilization Division. The 15 minutes radio programs were aired on Sundays and repeated on Wednesdays.
- ❖ 12 containers of sawn timbers were exported during the year to Australia and New Zealand markets and 4 containers of teak thinning have been exported to India with the assistance of the South Pacific Community and Lagoon Eco Timbers,
- ❖ Monitoring tours were only made to Western, Central, Choiseul, Renbel and Isabel Provinces.
- ❖ No substantial work done in relation to Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC). SPC under FACT have however carried out trainings with Resource Development in Gizo. Chain of Custody forms (CoC and verified Legal Origin forms (VLO) have been developed and tested.
- ❖ Support given to Rural Training Centre's is making a difference to the recipient RTCs in their practical training, improvement of infrastructure and income generating. The objective for this assistance to the Rural Training Centre's is being accomplished.
- ❖ In general recipients of portable mills under the project are making a difference to their communities either by making wood available to build better houses, providing employment and providing cash flow in the rural areas.
- ❖ Recipients of carpentry and furniture tools are been utilized to build better homes, there is availability of good furniture in the rural areas while the recipients are engaged in small business to generate income for their families or communities.

- ❖ Training is making a difference to saw millers. The timber products sold to VATA by those who are trained are of high quality than those not trained.

INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the achievements of the Downstream Processing Project for 2011. The Cabinet decision was to allocate all Downstream Processing Project equipments through the Members of Parliament so that there is equitable distribution of these equipments to all the constituencies. This has resulted in the eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) initially approved for the Project being shared equally between the 50 constituencies with each receiving \$160,000.00. The Project has other components which needed to be addressed so a contingency warrant was applied for and was further given three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00).

Work on the implementation of the project actually has not progressed as planned. The Downstream Processing Project was not approved until the first week of July. This has been frustrating for the Utilization Division as there were no funds available for the early implementation of the project to meet the annual work program. Further to the above the contingency warrant was not available until the month of November making it impossible for the Utilization Unit to meet its mandate.

6.1.1 PROJECT FUNDING 2011

Following the Cabinet Conclusion to equally share the initial approved eight million dollars to the 50 constituencies and an additional three million dollars under contingency warrant, there was also need to rearrange funds to meet the other components of the project. The table below shows how much fund has been allocated to each of component of the Downstream Processing Project in 2011. As will be noted from the table, monitoring which is one of the most important component of the Project was given limited funds as funds were not available on time to meet the work program coupled with limited staff in the first nine months of the year.

DSP Funding for 2011.

Use of Funds	2011	2012	2013	2014	Remarks
Portable mills to Forest Resource owners	\$8,000,000	\$3,500,00	\$3,500,00	\$3,500,00	Members of parliament to determine equipments for their respective constituencies.
Assistance to Rural Training Centers	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	1 mill and chainsaw for Central province RTC. Other RTC's to apply for funding through their coordinator.
Assistance to Value Added Timber Association	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	VATA to use funds to purchase timbers for export from saw millers including plantation Teak for export and subsidize freight costs.
Training	\$500,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	3 x 2 weeks x 24 participants training workshop per Province
Marketing	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	For purchase of equipment and

					materials for export
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$350,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	Visit each Province twice During the year
Timber Yard	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	Purchase of timber yard and fencing including timber shed and docking saw, Rip saw.
SIBC Radio Programs	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	15 minutes program on Wednesdays every week
Program me Total	\$11,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000	

6.1.2 NCRA FOREST POLICIES

The election of Danny Philip’s and now Gordon Darcy Lillo’s National Coalition of Reform and Advancement Government last year sees a change in the Forest Policy from that of CNURA. *The Coalition fully acknowledges the forest sector as a key contributing sector in the country’s development process. It provides substantially to GDP growth, government revenue through export duty and job creation, especially in the rural areas. However the government is very concerned about the current unsustainable logging in the country and the likely adverse impacts on the economy, if current trends continue unaddressed. Under the Coalition’s diversification program, it will encourage private existing investors to participate in implementing a comprehensive downstream processing strategy.*

Under 5.1.4 (g) of this new Forest Policy, the Utilization Section is mandated to **“Promote a country-wide production and marketing system of eco-timber for both local use and export by the local sawmill owners. Ensure only indigenous Solomon Islanders are involved in the production of eco-timber in the country”**.

To realize and put this policy into workable strategy it will mean the following:-

- a. Establish a Timber yard in Honiara and Noro with re sawing, machining, kiln drying, and treatment plant and saw doctoring equipment.
- b. Assist Village Eco Timber Enterprises (VETE) to carryout Forest Management trainings with resource owners in the Provinces.
- c. Assist Value Added Timber Association (VATA) with its current marketing efforts.
- d. Carryout Utilization training workshops in the Provinces on sawing techniques and timber grading.
- e. Assist Resources owners and Rural Training Centers with milling equipment and downstream processing tools so that graduating students are properly trained and have the practical know how of using the available tools in the timber industry.
- f. Assist all sawmills license holders with identification hammers for tracking of timber source. This will ensure that only legal timbers from license source can be sold both locally and overseas.

The NCRA government policy signals the need to expand the Utilization Unit to be able to have the capacity to fully implement and carry out its mandated functions. Currently the Utilization is marred with only 9 full time staff which covers the whole country. Apart from the normal functions, the Utilization Unit also manages the implementation of the Downstream Processing Project.

The Utilization Divisions Corporate Plan to be reviewed early 2012 to reflect the expansion need to expand our operation to the Provinces so that assistance is available to our saw millers.

6.1.3 WORK PROGRAM

In ensuring that the project objectives are met and the project components are implemented a work program has been designed with a time frame. Below is the approved work program for 2011:-

WORK PLAN 2011					
Expected outcome	Allocated Funds	Strategy	Activity	Time Frame	Performance indicator
Sustainable Forest management training	SPC to fund	Arrange training programmes	1. Identify unlogged forests 2. Select participants 3. Arrange training venues 4. Lease with SPC/ VETE for training	January to December	Trainings carried out and FSC forms Developed
SIBC Radio Programmes	\$50,000	Record programmes	1. Record Programmes and SIBC airs programs	July to December	Programmes Aired on SIBC.
Assistance to RTC	\$1,000,000	Arrange with Coordinator of RTC'S	Receive project applications PICC to select successful applicants Arrange procurement of equipment	April to December	Tools distributed
Procurement of Mills and distribution to successful applicants	\$8,000,000	Arrange Purchase of equipment	Submit payments to the Treasury and monitor progress to ensure equipments are purchased. Tender for Additional equipment. MP's to submit applications	June to December	all equipment distributed by MP'S by the end of December
Training in utilization	\$500,000	Arrange training programme	Prepare budget and submit to Finance for funding. Printing of training manuals	July to December	Reports on Training Printed manuals available for training
Project Monitoring	\$350,000	Visit of Recipient of project funding	Prepare budget and submit to Finance for funding. Arrange logistics and visit all Provinces	July to December	Touring Reports and imp rest retirements
VATA funding	\$500,000	Arrange Payment	Submit payment for treasury Division	January to December	Funds are available and used to subsidize transport costs
Marketing	\$100,000	Contact resource owners	1. Purchase sawn Timbers 2. Grade, pack and export 3. Purchase of Marketing equipment and materials	February to December	Reports on container shipments

License Monitoring	Part of Project Monitoring	Visit Mills	Visit all mills and advise on need to have milling license Also period checks on timber sales in Honiara and the provincial centres.	January to December	Reports produced after checks
TIMBER YARD	\$500,000	Liaise with Lands Division	Identify site. Have architected to draw plans and cost estimates. Advertise for contractors	April to December	Yard build and used

6.1.4 UTILIZATION UNIT STAFFING

The Utilization Section is a relatively small unit and has only six staff members to implement the Downstream Processing Project while at same time carryout other Utilization duties as may be directed from time to time by the Permanent Secretary or Commissioner of Forests. The resignation of the Marketing Officer at the end of 2010 has now left the Division with only five staff members for nine months of the year. This has resulted in reallocation of Kathleen Bule to act as the Senior Marketing Office and at the same time taking on the position of Senior Forester of the Eastern Region.

Four new Forestry Utilization staff was recruited in September and October to assist the Division in doing Marketing and Monitoring work. During the last quarter of the year these officers has undergone extensive practical training in timber grading and field monitoring of sawmills and logging companies in the Provinces visited. Officers were also trained on grading of plantation Teak logs (*Tectona grandis*) for export of teak thinning. At the same time these officers were given the opportunity to settle in their new jobs as well as study the Forest and Timber Utilization Act.

Under the newly approved Ministry of Forests and Research structure the Utilization Division will now be headed by a Director while the second in charge will be a Chief Forester. Work on the new structure is now progressing. This new arrangement is necessary as Utilization work will increase significantly in the future as logging operations are scaled down due to the current unsustainable harvesting. Below is the table of the current Utilization Staffing and their respective positions:-

NAME	POSITION	LEVEL	COMMENTS
Julius Houria	Chief Forester Utilization	10	Confirmed
Stephanie Rikoi	Principal Forester Training	8	Promoted
Joseph Tavaota	Senior Forester Central Region ie Guadalcanal, Central, Isabel and Renbel Provinces	7	Confirmed
Tony Rex	Senior Forester Western Region ie Western and Choiseul Provinces	7	Confirmed
Kathleen Bule	Logistics	4	Confirmed. Acting Senior Forester Eastern Region
Bato Kaotokolo	Range Officer	6	New Recruit

Anold Titiulu	Range Officer	6	New Recruit
Gabriel Kaula	Ranger Assistant	4	New Recruit
Tina Asiamane	Ranger Assistant	4	New Recruit

6.1.5 SIBC RADIO PROGRAM (\$50,000)

Funds for radio programs were paid to the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation and a year's program has been signed. The fifteen minutes Program is aired on every Sundays at 6.45pm and repeated on Wednesdays at 6.45pm. The Ministry uses this program to inform and educate the public of current issues and developments. The Utilization Section has carried out seventeen (17) radio programs during the year as per table below.

SIBC Radio Programmes

DATE	PROGRAM	PRESENTER
5/06/11	International Timber Markets	Gideon Bauro
12/06/11	Development of Market for Teak in India	Gideon Bauro
19/06/11	Grading rules for Teak Thinning	Gideon Bauro
26/06/11	Harvesting Plan of Teak at Balasuna	Gideon Bauro
3/07/11	Forestry Pruning	Gideon Bauro
10/07/11	Pre-harvest inventory of teak plantations	Gideon Bauro
17/07/11	FSC Certification in the Solomon Islands	Gideon Bauro
24/07/11	Possible future Export of Teak	Gideon Bauro
31/07/11	Coconut wood as alternative for timber	Gideon Bauro
13/11/11	Introduction to the Utilization Division	Stephanie Rikoi
20/11/11	Downstream Processing Project Update	Stephanie Rikoi
27/11/11	Utilization Unit Training Programs	Stephanie Rikoi
04/12/11	Value Added Timber Association Update	Stephanie Rikoi
11/12/11	Marketing and Exporting Procedures	Stephanie Rikoi
18/12/11	Timber Grading	Stephanie Rikoi
25/12/11	Wood Drying	Stephanie Rikoi

Other Divisions within the Ministry are also been given time to put on programmes to be aired on SIBC. The time is also used to send out Ministry service messages so as to save funds.

6.1.6 TRAINING (\$500,000)

Two Coco wood (Coconut Wood) training workshops were funded by the South Pacific Community under FACT was conducted at Alurigo Plantations on West Guadalcanal by a specialised firm from Fiji. The two workshops were coordinated by Gideon Bauro of SPC Honiara office. The training workshops were mostly for the Women but interested individuals plus officers of the Utilization Division also attended. Coco wood can be used as an alternative timber where trees are not available. There is also a niche market for Coco wood timber in France and the United States. With a lot of senel palms in the country this needs to be developed so that mature coconut palms are not cut to waste.

The Utilization Division has initially planned to carry out three by two weeks Utilization Workshops during the year but was only able to deliver two. The funds for the third workshop were only received after Christmas so this workshop will be carried out in the New Year. Some of the funds for this workshop are yet to be received. Table below shows the dates of the Utilization Training Workshops

NO	DATE	TYPE	VENUE	NO OF PARTICIPANTS		TOTAL	WORKSHOP PRESENTER
				Males	Females		
1	15/08/11 to 26/08/11	UTILIZATION TRAINING WORKSHOP	Buala Isabel Province	24	0	24	Stephanie Rikoi
2		UTILIZATION TRAINING WORKSHOP	Lata Temotu Province	18	6	24	John Still Menive

The Utilization Division has decided to include women in their training workshops following consultants report on a survey carried out on sawmills in Papua New Guinea that the most successful sawmills are those managed by women. Gender equality is also taken into consideration. The Training workshop has certainly been beneficial to the saw millers. This is noticeable in producers selling their timbers to VATA. Those that are trained know:-

- The exact volume of the timber that are being sold.
- Are able to calculate the value of their timbers.
- Timbers being sold meets export requirements compared to those not trained which often results in a lot of reject timbers.
- Sizes of timbers cut are very accurate and meets export standard.
- They have been able to correctly calculate their freight costs.



Lata Participants learning Timber Grading and Field Stacking of Timbers for air drying

6.1.7 FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION (FSC)

The South Pacific Community under FACT also funded three workshops at Leona, Vellalavella in the Western Province on Forest Stewardship Council Certification (FSC) principals. The workshops were contacted by Richard Laity and assisted by Forester Gideon Bauro. The Natural Resource Development Foundation (NRDF) based in Gizo and 4 other counterparts are ready for FSC in the near future. A consultant for FACT, Richard Laity developed forms for Chain of Custody (CoC) and Verified Legal Origin (VLO) forms were tested by our officers. Small changes need to be made and hopefully this should be accepted and used in the New Year. Chain of custody and Verified Legal Origin forms are used to trace timbers to its origin. This form needs to be used for all FSC certified timbers. It is expected that the first communities under Natural Resource Development Resource will be certified in 2012.

6.1.8 ASSISTANCE TO FOREST RESOURCE OWNERS (\$8,000,000)

Funds allocated to assist forest resource owners were evenly distributed for all the constituencies to ensure that the equipments are fairly distributed. Each constituency was allocated \$160,000.00 to purchase sawmilling equipment, carpentry or furniture tools. Only Small Malaita Constituency applied for furniture or carpentry tools as well as some milling equipment while the others either applied for Lucas Mills or Chainsaws and frames. Funding of equipments for constituencies has totaled \$8,554,000.00. The slight over spending under this component of the project is because costs of portable mills are \$204,000.00 compared to only \$160,000 allocated to each consistency. Below is a table showing the allocations:-

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT MILL ALLOCATIONS

NO	APPLICANT	CONSTITUENCY	EQUIPMENT	CONTACT DETAILS	PROVINCE	SUPPLIER
1	DANNY PHILIP	RENDOVA/VONAVONA	30 HP LUCAS AND CHAINSAW	SIMON PETER C/- PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE	WESTERN	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
2	MANASSEH MAELANGA	EAST MALAITA	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	GABRIEL ROCKSON PHONE 74886432	MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
3	JAMES TORA	ULAWA/UGI	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	JAMES TORA PHONE 7494157	MAKIRA AND ULAWA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
4	JACKSON FIULAU	CENTRAL KWARA'AE	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	DAVID MAEFUNU PHONE 7481451	MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
5	DAVID DAY PACHA	SOUTH GUADALCANAL	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	DAVID DAY PACHA	GUADALCANAL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
6	SETH GUKUNA	RENNELL/BELLONA	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	SETH GUKUNA PHONE 7495394	RENBEL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
7	MILNA TOZAKA	NORTH VELLA LA VELLA	8 CHAINSAWS ONLY	LAWRY BOB PHONE 7495783	WESTERN	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
8	STEVEN ABANA	EAST & WEST FATALEKA	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	STEVEN ABANA PHONE 7496690	MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
9	MARTIN SOPAGE	NORTH GUADALCANAL	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	MARTIN SOPAGE	GUADALCANAL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
10	LIONAL ALEX	SOUTH VELLA LA VELLA	7 CHAINSAWS AND FRAME	JEFFREY KIPILI PHONE 7521553	WESTERN	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
11	MARTIN KEALOE	MALAITA OUTER ISLANDS	7 CHAINSAWS AND FRAME	MARTIN KEALOE	MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
12	SAM IDURI	WEST KWARA'AE	8 CHAINSAWS ONLY	NICHOLAS LAUA	MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
13	COMMIS MEWA	TEMOTU NENDE	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME	PHILIP TUPLO	TEMOTU	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
14	RICK HOUENIPWELA	SOUTH MALAITA	FURNITURE TOOLS	JOHN KELESI PHONE 8457631	MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS

15	VARIAN LONAMEI	MARIGNE KOKOTA	7 CHAINSAWS AND FRAME	AVIX MANEHAVA	ISABEL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
16	WALTER FOLOTALU	LAU/BAELELEA	8 CHAINSAWS 3 FRAME	CHANIEL FAKAIA	MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
17	DR JOHN MOFFAT FUGUI	CENTRAL HONIARA	7 CHAINSAW 7 FRAME	JOHN SUIMAE 7508395	HONIARA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
18	CHARLES SIGOTO	RANNOGGA SIMBO	7 CHAINSAWS AND 8 FRAME	WILSON TINCARIA SOSOPU 7558099	WESTERN	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
19	JOSEPH ONIKA	EAST CENTRAL GUADALCANAL	CHAINSAW AND FRAME		GUADALCANAL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
20	HYPOLITE TAREMAE	CENTRAL MAKIRA	CHAINSAW AND FRAME	CHRIS MAUKI 7455394	MAKIRA AND ULAWA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
21	CHRIS LAORE	SHORTLANDS	7 CHAINSAWS & 7 FRAME	7504761	WESTERN	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
22	GORDON DARCY LILO	GIZO/KOLOMBANG ARA	7 CHAINSAWS & 7 FRAME	KEN VAVE 7466787	WESTERN	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
23	JOB T TAUSINGA	NORTH NEW GEORGIA	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME		WESTERN	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
24	MARK KAMAKESA	NGELLA	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME		CENTRAL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
25	MOSES GARU	WEST GUALDALCANAL	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME		GUADALCANAL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
26	ELIZAH DOROMAUNA	SOUTH CHOISUEL	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME		CHOISUEL	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
27	MATHEW WALE	AOKE LANGALANGA	7 CHAINSAW AND FRAME		MALAITA	DISCOUNT AUTO PARTS
28	ANDREW HANARIA	EAST AREARE	CHAINSAWS AND FRAME	BASIL WASIA 8435774	MALAITA	JQY
29	SELWIN RIUMANA	HOGRANO KOTOVA KIA	8 CHAINSAWS ONLY	EDWIN ERO	ISABEL	JQY
30	SAMUEL MANETORI	GAO BUGOTU	12 CHAINSAWS 10 FRAME	EDDIE KOTI	ISABEL	JQY
31	PETER SHANEL AGOVAKA	CENTRAL GUADALCANAL	8 CHAINSAWS ONLY	CHANEL QYPSON 7509578	GUADALCANAL	MULTI TRADE HOLDINGS
32	S. RINI	MARAVO	CHAINSAWS & FRAME	RINI 7494129	WESTERN	MULTI TRADE HOLDINGS
33	MARTIN MAGGA	TEMOTU PELE	CHAINSAW AND FRAME	BRIAN MAGGA 7590455	TEMOTU	MULTI TRADE HOLDINGS
34	ALFRED GHIRO	EAST MAKIRA	LUCAS MILL	GEORGE KUATA 7456909	MAKIRA & ULAWA	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
35	NAMOSON TRAMP	WEST HONIARA	30 HP LUCAS AND CHAINSAW	BRIAN TAUPIRI PHONE 26031/7495551	HONIARA	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
36	JIMMY LUSIBAEA	NORTH MALAITA	30 HP LUCAS MILL	FAIGA RONNY 7452609	MALAITA	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
37	BRADDLEY TOVOSIA	EAST GUADALCANAL	30 HP LUCAS AND CHAINSAW	BADDLEY TOVOSIA MOF PHONE 24215	GUADALCANAL	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
38	DICKSON MUA	SAVO/RUSSELLS	30 HP LUCAS	DICKSON MUA PHONE 7496631 / 7492417 CDO	CENTRAL	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
39	CONNELLY SANDAKABATU	NORTH WEST CHOISUEL	30 HP LUCAS	CONNELLY SANDAKABATU MAL	CHOISUEL	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
40	DICK HA;AMORI	WEST MAKIRA	LUCAS MILL 30 HP	GEORGE H KUATA PHONE 7456909	MAKIRA AND ULAWA	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
41	MANASSEH SOGAVARE	EAST CHOISUEL	30 HP LUCAS	LESLIE GALOMOLA PHONE 8495484	CHOISUEL	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE
42	FORAU CLAY	VATUD	30 HP LUCAS	CHRIS ASHLEY PATTY PH 7477390	TEMOTU	TIMOL ENTERPRISEE LIMITED
43	DAVID TOME	BAEGU/ASIFOLA	LUCAS MILL	GEORGE EGE PHONE 8502499	MALAITA	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
44	JOHN MANENIARU	WEST AREARE	LUCAS MILL	JIMMY MANEWAI	MALAITA	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
45	STANLEY SOFU	EAST KWAIO	LUCAS MILL	HILLARY WEMANI	MALAITA	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
46	PETER TOM	WEST KWAIO	LUCAS MILL	THOMAS MISIBINI	MALAITA	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
47	BODO DETTKE	NORTH WEST GUADALCANAL	LUCAS MILL	JAPHET 7491337	GUADALCANAL	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
48	SILAS TAUSINGA	WEST NEW GEORGIA	LUCAS MILL		WESTERN	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
49	DOUGLAS ETE	EAST HONIARA	LUCAS MILL		HONIARA	TIMOL ENTERPRISE LTD
50	DR DERECK SIKUA	NORTH EAST GUALDALCANAL	10 CHAINSAWS	EZEKIEL ALFRED 7459636	GUADALCANAL	YSATO

6.1.9 VALUE ADDED TIMBER ASSOCIATION (VATA) ASSISTANCE (\$500,000)

The Value Added Timber Association held its Annual General Meeting at the end of June 2011 and presented its Annual and Financial Reports. An election for new officer bearers was conducted and the following has been elected as their Executive:-

Peter Hauia	President
Eric Tema	Vice President
Augustine Rose	Secretary
Bekery Zonga	Treasurer
Douglas Tahea	Member
Moffat Baega	Member
Elizabeth Kousihora	Member

At that meeting the members also approved a transport allowance of \$70 be paid to members when attending Executive meetings. Sitting allowance for the Executive was not considered due to the Association is currently supported by the Solomon Islands Government.

VATA membership has increased over the years but a lot of members have failed to renew their annual membership fees. Our register have show about a total membership to date is **860 members** but most have not renewed their membership because they do not have machines to mill timber. Below is the table of actual registered members for 2009 to 2011.

Membership by Provinces

PROVINCE	2009	2010	2011
CENTRAL	0	4	8
CHOISEUL	2	5	14
GUADALCANAL	10	21	21
HONIARA	24	25	46
MAKIRA	1	17	9
MALAITA	14	15	29
RENBEL	1	1	3
TEMOTU	7	1	7
WESTERN	2	6	24
ISABEL	4	16	6
TOTAL	65	111	167

Note : Membership has increased from 2009 to 2011 by more than 100%.

This year VATA has been assisted with **\$500,000**. These funds were only paid to the Association during the last week of December and therefore were not used during the year as was planned. These funds will be used to assist saw millers freight costs to Honiara so that they maximize revenue from their forest resources. In the meantime freight rates from the Provinces are being determined so that freighters do not use the opportunity to extort money from the Association by claiming extraordinary freight rates. The suggested freight rates are stipulated in the table below:-

ZONE	PROVINCES	FREIGHT RATES
1	Guadalcanal, Malaita, Central, Isabel	\$800/M ³
1	Guadalcanal/Truck Transport	\$300/M ³
2	Western, Makira, Renbel	\$900/M ³
3	Choiseul, Temotu, Western/Shortland Islands	\$1000/M ³

As usual these funds will be audited and attached to the 2012 Annual Report. This is to ensure the funds are used for the purpose for which it was given.

Anyone can sell sawn timber to the Association if they have a valid sawmilling license. They can also be members of the Association on payment \$50.00 VATA membership fee.

VATA SAWMILLS

The 3 VATA sawmills are currently been hired to members at \$600 per day of operation Records of working days are kept by VATA operators managing and operating the mills. The rates charged are well below current commercial rates of \$1,500 per day. The saw mills were last year used by members in Isabel, Guadalcanal and Western Provinces.

The members hiring the mills have benefited from their operations both financially and with wood being available to build better homes. This is especially true for the member from Isabel who hired the mills to cut timber for her house and only sold timber to meet her operational and labor costs.

The table below is those allocated the mills in the past year.

Name	LOCATION	PROVINCE	COMMENTS
Y. Diana		Isable	Cut timber for housing & sale
P. Hauia	West Areare	Malaita	Cut timber for sale
G. Luiramo	West Kwaio	Malaia	Cut timber housing
Choe Intergrated	Marovo	Western	Cut timber for sale
Miriano Puru	Lambi	Guadalcanal	Cut timber for sale
Peter Sufimao	Lambi	Guadalcanal	Cut Timber for sale

SUMMARY OF TIMBER PURCHASES IN 2011.

Only two Provinces did not sell timbers to VATA in 2011. Renbel which do not have the species current exported by the Association and Makira & Ulawa Province which supplied all its products to TOP TIMBERS because they were cutting larger sizes of timber which are not required by VATA. Below is the Summary of the purchases during the year by Provinces:-

PROVINCE	NO OF GROUPS	VOLUME SOLD M ³	VALUE \$
Malaita	17	54.715	\$160,258.24
Guadalcanal	27	101.981	\$312,063.30
Isabel	7	40.736	\$126,660.50
Western	9	23.356	\$70,552.20
Temotu	3	15.308	\$62,939.89
Central	2	1.537	\$3,856.99
Choiseul	2	1.041	\$3,204.70
Total	67	215.320 M³	\$739,535.82

6.1.10 MONITORING (\$400,000)

Three areas of monitoring are carried out by the Utilization Section.

(a) Monitoring of 2010 major Project Equipment

1. Vilorae Community Project - Western Province

John Zoti is currently managing the Peterson Mill which is based on Parara Island. Timbers milled are been sold at Gizo in the Western Province.

2. Madau Forest Products - Temotu Province

Jero Lano is supervising the Peterson Mill which operating on Santa Cruz near Lata Provincial Centre. Timbers mill are sold in the Provincial capital while the family uses some of the product to build and repair family houses.

3. Nama'a Sawmilling Project - Malaita Project

Winch Koti has so far made two sells during the year to VATA. He was also contracted to cut timber for the new market and wharf development in Auki, Malaita Province.

4. RTA Milling Project - Guadalcanal Province

Mill has not been visited during the year.

5. Tiana Timber Milling - Central Province

When mill was visited during the year it was still packed under the recipients residence. He was issued with a memo that the mill will be retrieved if not operational by December 2011. Decision will be made if mill is not operational by our next tour to the project.

6. Toriki Tribe Milling - Choiseul Province

Operating and cutting timbers mostly for housing and local sales

7. Tovolea Sawmilling Project - Isabel Province

Mill is operating successfully and has made several Sales to VATA during the Year. A report prepared by the owner is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

8. Vai Agiki Development Milling Association - Renbel Province

The milling operation is based on Rennell Island. Currently cutting timbers for local sale.

9. Mato Milling Project – Makira Province Cutting timbers for local sale as well for their proposed housing program.

(b) Monitoring of Carpentry and Furniture Equipment

Recipients of furniture and carpentry tools are performing as expect. Permanent and semi permanent buildings are been build in the rural areas. Furniture such as chairs, tables are being available in the rural areas at reasonable prices. Owners of equipment are employing and training youths and there is improvement of cash flow in the areas of operation. Below is an example of one of the recipients of the 2011 projects.

(c) Monitoring of Timber Exports

During 2011 no request has been made to the utilization Unit to check on the containers of timbers exported. The Unit however has been continuously asked by the Commissioner of Forests to verify the prices of timbers exported so that these are not undervalued. This monitoring process also ensures that transfer pricing does not take place. VATA export prices has been used to determine the export price for each species and any export price that is \$500/m³ below VATA export price, we normally ask the exporter to renegotiate their prices with the overseas buyer.

(d) Monitoring of the 20% Processing by Logging Companies.

All logging companies are required under their Licenses to mill 20% of their Annual Quota. This year the Utilization Unit in consultation with the Commissioner of Forests and the Deputy Commissioner of Forest Industries and Utilization has approved that the only companies having a minimum of two portable mills to have their annual harvesting plans approved. It was also resolved that the Companies to mill 20% of their monthly production rather than 20% of the annual quota. This is because a lot of logging companies are not harvesting their annual quotas. Tour reports of Renbel, Isabel, Western, Makira and Choiseul Provinces have noted that all logging companies are now starting to comply. Few companies that are not complying have been issued with compliance memos. Most of the bigger companies have set up static band saw mills in the capital and are barging logs to be processed in Honiara. The current companies that has mills setup in Honiara are:-

- a. Oceania Trading Company which owns the Goodwood sawmill at Ranadi.
- b. Omex company which owns a sawmill at Lungga.
- c. Earthmovers group of companies which has a sawmill at Foxwood.

6.1.11 ASSISTANCE TO RURAL TRAINING CENTRES (\$1,000,000)

The following Rural Training Centre's have received assistance under the Downstream Processing Project in 2011.

NO	RTC	CONTACT DETAILS	PROVINCE	EQUIPMENT	VALUE
01	TABAKA	PRINCIPAL 7443257	WESTERN	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$22,000.00
02	TETEANA CLC	FRANCIS WEHI 7406432	MAKIRA	FURNITURE TOOLS	\$18,177.30
03	SHEPI CLC	PETER TAHU 8475889	MALAITA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$13,765.00
04	TOROA CLC	JERIAL MAE	MAKIRA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$23,793.40
05	TAKWA CLC	JOHN DAU	MALAITA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$20,000.00
06	ASIMANA	PETER BOBOGENI 8458929	MALAITA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$17,386.96
07	DON BOSCO	FR. JOSEPH 36553	GUADALCANAL	FURNITURE TOOLS	\$54,900.00
08	KAOTAVE	NICOLAS RUHIA 7568664	GUADALCANAL	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$12,480.00
09	SEGHE	KEVA BSA	WESTERN	FURNITURE TOOLS	\$19,955.00
010	AFUTARA	PETER SAFUE	MALAITA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$24,950.40
011	MADAKOLA'A CLC	LOYD TORIBAEO 8419375	MALAITA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$25,000.00
012	BISHOP KOETE	JOHN KUMAKANA	CENTRAL	MILL AND CHAINSAW	\$17,386.96
013	SA'A CLC	PRINCIPAL 7426639	MALAITA	HAND TOOLS FOR CARPENTRY	\$29,000.00
014	BORO'ONI RTC	SATCLIFF NAVO 7494890	MAKIRA	GENERATOR / ELEC TOOLS	\$30,000.00
015	MANA'ABU	HENGRY TABUSU 8471445	MALAITA	CHAINSAW	\$20,547.45
016	VATU RTC	PRINCIPAL 7478022	GUADALCANAL	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$32,250.00
013	SAEKA CLC	BEN TUKAE 7457715	CHOISEUL	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$22,996.60
		TOTAL			\$404,559.52

These Projects were approved for funding in 2011 but were not funded due to under staffing in the Accounts Section in the Ministry. These projects will be funded in 2012.

NO	RTC	CONTACT	PROVINCE	EQUIPMENT	VALUE
01	NAVOTE RTC	JUDAH WAPIRA RADIO 30612	MAKIRA	CARPENTRY & FURNITURE TOOLS	\$29,003.10
02	LAURU RTC	NAPTHALY PITAKANJI 7547440	CHOISUEL	GENERATOR & ELECTRIC PLANE	\$20,350.00
03	DVIT RTC	VICTORIA RIKIMA 8481401	GUADALCANAL	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$32,700.00
04	ST ANNE RTC	SISTER REBECCA 7430996	WESTERN	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$31,441.00
05	TEBAIEHA RTC	JOB MAUI 7413174	RENBEL	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$31,615.50
06	TAYLOR	JOHN CHUKU	GUADALCANAL	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$19,843.50
07	TARI	BARNABAS NIXON ELI	GUADALCANAL	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$24,810.00
08	AIRAHU	JOSIAH MAESUA 7480778	MALAITA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$27,901.20
09	ARARAT	REXSON MANOFAFA 74775390	MALAITA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$24,766.30
010	ACOMA CLC	PETER MAESIBORA 7521672	MAKIRA	CARPENTRY TOOLS	\$25,000.00
011	NUNURA	MARETA RAUNIHA	GUADALCANAL	FURNITURE TOOLS	\$32,000.00
012	BISHOP KOETE	JOHN KUMAKANA	CENTRAL	MILL AND CHAINSAW	\$204,000.00
Total					\$503,430.60

6.1.12 RTC EQUIPMENT MONITORING

Monitoring of Equipments and tools received by Rural Training Centre's are done by visits done by our officers and by Principals of the Rural Training Centre's reports which are send to us through their Coordinator. We have also have reports from the Coordinator when he visits all the Rural Training and Community based Training Centre's throughout the country.

In summary the benefits received by the recipient Rural Training Centre's are as Follows:-

- ✚ Availability of proper furniture and carpentry for student for when doing practical training. Graduating students from the Rural Training and Community based Training Centre's are equipped not only with theoretical knowledge but also has the practical know how on the uses of the tools.
- ✚ The tools and equipment are being used to improve the Rural Training Centre's infrastructure. There are new buildings being elected while the old buildings are being renovated.
- ✚ The tools are being used to generate income for the Rural Training Centre's. Furniture's made are being sold while RTCs are being contracted to build houses in communities close to them. While students are exposed to real work situation and gaining valuable work experience the RTCs has financial income from the contracts.

The only project that failed to meet its objective is the Peterson Mill allocated to Kautave RTC. It seems the former Principal and his associates are using the mill for their own benefit and not for the RTC benefit. My office is currently in contact with the SSEC Education Authority and the Coordinator of the Rural Training Centre's to have the issue resolved. We might however need police assistance to retrieve the mill.

6.1.13 MARKETING

This is one of the components of the project which we can say has achieved the work program. Value Added Timber Association has been the main support of the Downstream Processing Projects marketing efforts. The funds used are a \$200,000 grant given to VATA in 2010. The money has been used as a revolving fund. Timbers were purchased from suppliers and exported. Payment for the exported timber is used to again purchase timbers for export. The main buyer of Timbers Exported by the Value Added Timber Association is South Pacific Timbers in New Zealand.

It will need substantial capital input for sawmill owners to export on their own taking into account operational costs, carrying costs, transport cost to wharf, freight costs, transport costs in Honiara and export costs. Sawmill owners will also need to have a timber yard in Honiara. Further to this markets needs to be sustainable, this means continuous supply of timber on time to meet buyers demand.

Taking the above into consideration, the option is to use VATA to export on behalf of the saw millers. VATA purchases timbers from both members and non members as long as they are Solomon Islanders.

Timber prices paid by VATA compared to that of TOP TIMBERS and HATANGA is in the table below:-

SECIES	TOP TIMBERS	HATANGA	VATA	PRICE DIFFERENCE %
ROSEWOOD (LIKI)	\$3,800/m ³		\$4,500/m ³	15.56%
KWILA (U'ULA)	\$3,500/m ³		\$4,200/m ³	16.67%
VITEX (VASA)	\$2,600	\$2,500/m ³	\$3,400/m ³	23.53%
TAUN (AKWA)		\$1,500/m ³	\$2,500/m ³	40%

Note: **VATA prices are after 10% commission & 10% export charges are deducted.**

The Marketing component of the Project should be sustainable if a Timber Yard with facilities are made available to VATA. With regards to funds available to assist with freight costs is a way of assisting saw millers to have their business successful. It encourages people to sustainably harvest their forest resources to maximize returns to them. When the Government does this, it encourages resource owners to stop their forests from unsustainable logging practices. This is one measure the Government is taking in addressing the unsustainable logging of our natural Forests while at the same time meeting its policy on sustainable forest management. Subsidy payments while it benefits our saw millers it also assists the transport operators.

6.1.14 RECOMMENDATIONS

- All recipients of DSP project funding to submit by yearly reports to this office as has been practiced by the Rural Training Centre's.
- CDO of each constituency to submit acquittals of project recipients by the end of each year to this office.

CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude this report by simply saying that from the field reports the comments received from the public at large the Downstream Processing Project objectives are being met. The recipients of the project equipments are making a difference in their communities by building permanent houses, having good furniture's at reasonable price while there is a much better cash flow in their respective communities.

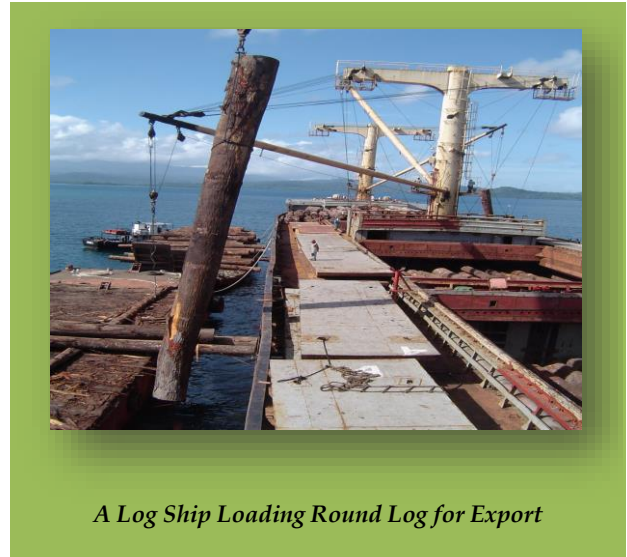
On that same note there is improved quality of timbers from trained operators as well as saw millers receiving much better price for their sawn timber.

6.2 ECONOMICS AND MARKETING SECTION

The Economics and Marketing Section deal with the administration and coordination of timber exports, in collaboration with other Government Agencies. It is manned with three staff members, headed by a Chief Forester and directly supervised by the Deputy Commissioner of Forest, Forest Industries and Utilization Division. The office is stationed at the headquarter office in Honiara.

6.2.1 Round Log Export for 2010

Timber harvesting through Logging and round log export constitute the major single forest industrial development in the Forestry productive sector. Logging has continued to be the main timber utilization practice engaged and adopted for the development of the Timber Industry. The Forest Regulation continues to encourage, processing and facilitation of logging activities and allow Resource Owners' participation through the Timber Right acquisition process for the extraction of timber in customary commercial forests. Though, woodflow predictions and scenarios indicated a decrease trend in logging activities and round log export from 2010 onwards, it was not reflected in the real activities and development on the ground.



A Log Ship Loading Round Log for Export

The 2011 Round Log Export Data presents a very interesting figure that was not expected by the wood flow scenario and prediction. The Volume of timber export as round log increased to the total estimated volume of **2.182 Million Cubic Meters (Actual 2.049. Million Cubic Meters)** This is the highest volume ever exported in any one year, it is an increase of 22% from 2010 (1.780 Million cu.m) export data. This is an interesting achievement and there must be drivers and developments in the sector and stakeholders that stimulates and enable the increase of exported volume. The main drivers were, Increase in the Log Prices, Increase logging concessions including re-entry, harvesting smaller sized logs, harvest above 400 m asl, improve climatic conditions suitable for timber extraction and better reporting and monitoring

2011 Monthly Log Export

	Estimate		Actual		Duty		MPC	
	Volume Cu. m	Value US \$	Volume Cu.m	Value US \$	Paid SBD \$	Exempted SBD \$	Issued	Cancelled
Jan	113,073	10,902,430	115,009.063	10,844,393.61	19,623,644.91		45	3
Feb	150,321	14,492,489	136,819.731	13,870,008.110	24,191,194.68		55	0
Mar	164,347	15,928,442	160,517.863	15,023,212.83	28,805,960.48		58	3
Apr	179,119	17,805,009	172,333.287	16,493,275.11	31,414,947.91		59	4
May	212,511	20,552,843	208,188.793	20,338,062.74	38,741,820.14		71	0
Jun	217,018	21,528,685	211,143.420	20,414,432.52	34,642,611.44		90	3
Jul	160,204	15,448,892	148,185.050	13,931,693.02	25,089,080.86		65	5
Aug	180,333	16,852,928	152,163.843	14,078,353.59	23,798,671.05		73	6
Sep	179,033	17,960,536	168,440.565	16,449,822.03	29,117,529.99		70	0
Oct	201,061	21,762,560	195,741.530	20,957,661.02	36,802,977.61		72	1
Nov	225,204	23,547,512	193,819.886	20,280,201.64	32,424,818.03		82	0
Dec	200,380	21,248,420	186,985.721	19,702,029.21	31,960,093.61		81	2
Total	2,182,604	218,030,746	2,049,348.752	202,383,145.43	356,613,350.71		821	27

2011 Log Export by Province

Province	Estimate		Actual		Duty	
	Vol Cu. m	Value US \$	Vol Cu. m	Value US \$	Paid US \$	Exempted US \$
Central	4,000	399,188	1,606.349	153,924.27	296,379.140	0.00
Choiseul	136,019	14,896,205	143,745.940	15,859,251.15	29,138,137.94	0.00
Guadalcanal	149,161	15,876,157	136,153.358	14,093,296.670	26,603,909.78	0.00
Isabel	759,563	73,164,515	713,598.158	68,509,415.79	124,341,190.68	0.00
Makira	207,900	21,951,225	201,617.324	21,025,165.130	36,352,227.61	0.00
Malaita	147,880	16,717,294	139,110.409	15,134,369.170	27,498,675.12	0.00
Renbel	28,500	3,019,620	29,975.555	3,172,478.480	5,905,969.29	0.00
Western	749,580	72,006,541	683,541.659	64,435,244.770	106,476,861.15	4,092,318.50
	2,182,604	218,030,746	2,049,348.752	202,383,145.43	356,613,350.71	4,092,318.50

Breakdown of Total Volume Exported from Western Province

TYPE	ESTIMATE		ACTUAL		DUTY	
	VOLUME (M ³)	VALUE (US\$)	VOLUME (M ³)	VALUE (US\$)	PAID (SI\$)	EXEMPTED
Plantation	99,602	8,806,548	85,309.912	7,169,005.39	0.00	4,092,318.50
NNGTC	158,500	15,550,272	157,506.416	15,018,487.29	27,437,414.67	0.00
Special Permits	63,771	6,841,836	51,231.121	5,423,799.66	8,954,521.32	0.00
Natural Forests	427,707	40,807,886	389,494.210	36,823,952.43	70,084,925.16	0.00
(Licence Area)						
Total:	749,580	72,006,541	683,541.659	64,435,244.77	106,476,861.15	4,092,318.50

6.3 OPERATION SECTION

Introduction

The operation section is an extremely important section within the Ministry of Forestry and in the economy of the Solomon Islands. They spread around the country with ten (10) stations. Its function is firstly to enforce and implement the Forest Resources and timber Utilisation Act and secondly to monitor logging operations to:

1. Ensure compliance with the logging Code of Practice;
2. Ensure an appropriate collection of due revenues from log exports

And to advise and assist forest dependent communities, local Government, NGOs and the timber industry to implement forest policy locally

KEY ACTIVITIES	1 st QUARTER	2 nd QUARTER	3 rd QUARTER	4 th QUARTER	Remarks	
Annual Report, Corporate plans, work plan	Preparation of plans was done in January & February as well as setting work plan target.	Distribution of Annual Reports, Corporate plan, work plan to out stations	Station prepare work to implement and achieve target			
Manpower / recruitment/ promotion/ transfers				Submission of promotion reports for 15 officers 4 received promotions	9 staff report still around	
Training / Workshops	On the job training by mentoring	On the job training by mentoring	On the job training by mentoring	1 officer attended workshop in Papua New Guinea		
Screening of Annual Harvesting Plan	Annual Harvesting Plan received - Approved - Pending -	Annual Harvesting Plan received - Approved - Pending -	Annual Harvesting Plan received - Approved - Pending -	Annual Harvesting Plan received - Approved - Pending -	Total Annual Harvesting Plan received - Approved - Pending -	
Log ship monitoring	Total no of Ships – 143 For 10% check 25 (17%) out of 143 ships was checked. For 100% check 1 out of 143 ships was checked	Total no of Ships – 195 For 10% check 28 out of 195 ships was checked. For 100% check 5 out of 195 ships was checked	Total no of Ships – 167 10% check – 20 100% check - 0	Total no of Ships – 203 10% check – 10 100% check - 0	Total no of Ships – 708 10% check – 83 (11%) 100% check -6 (0.1%)	Total of 762 log ships recorded out of which 24 was plantation and 23 from NNGTC concession. Note that no monitoring on plantation and NNGTC log shipments
Auditing logging performance against Code of logging practice	Number of Audits made – 14 Average Score – 73%	Number of Audits made – 10 Score – 69%	Number of Audits made – 10 Score – 77%	Number of Audits made – 15 Score - 71	Total Number of Audits made – 44 Score – 72%	No Auditing was conducted on all logging operation Under NNGTC Act concessions

(a) Monitor Log Shipments

Conduct 10% and 100% checks on logs before loading. During the report period a 10% percentage check (sampling) of 708 log ships' cargo was achieved representing 11% percentage of the total log ship. Also a 100% percentage check of 1 log ship was achieved, representing 0.1% percentage of the total log ships. Officers also did scaling to check on the volume and species to determine true value of logs. Most scaling figures recorded was below (+) or (-) 5% difference ,ranging between -2.5% to 3.1%, which is within the acceptable allowable error range.

Commissioning and Decommissioning of coupes were also undertaken. This function was delegated to field officers and assessed after the annual harvesting plan has been approved. Plans are approved by Forestry field officers conducting assessment on the field after requirements of Solomon Islands Code of Logging practice is satisfied. Entry into new coups were undertaken only after the current operated coup were assessed were all rehabilitation work required under the code had been satisfied. All submissions received are assessed for either opening or closing.

(b) Manage Timber Harvesting Operations

Assessment of Timber harvesting applications and ensure all logging licensed concession that operated outside of their required concession area are advised and plans amended before approval was granted.

The Operation officers also ensures Logging operations complied with the Standard logging Agreement and in instances where no compliance have identified the companies were warned and suspended until the breach was remedied and rehabilitated

The Division also undertook awareness and Public relation duties to logging complaints and disputes where necessary and possible this is best done during timber Right awareness with Provincial executives and during timber right hearing with resource owners.

CHAPTER SEVEN

NATIONAL HERBARIUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

The National Herbarium and Botanical Garden Division exists as an implementer of Solomon and Overseas joint researches and studies which would lead to greater understanding and knowledge about the uses of the forest resources and why protection, conservation and studying of these forest resources and their ecological biodiversity is so important.

Besides, the Division is also responsible in the collection and preservation of the plant specimen and information for the identification of their botanical names and their potential uses.

Its policy, Visions, Missions and challenges are as written and outlined below:

7.1 POLICY, VISION AND MISSION

7.1.1 POLICY STATEMENT

Ensure the sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment and successful adaptation to climate change.

7.1.2 VISION STATEMENT

Naturalized Environment (aesthetically appealing/display) and secured social and economic interest and secured forest genetic resources at all times.

With these, the division envisions to become one of the top National Herbariums and Botanical Gardens in the South Pacific.

7.1.3 MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and promote a place for recreation and biodiversity conservation, education and research to encourage sustainable utilization and appreciation of the country's plant genetic resources – the basis of life on earth.

7.2 CHALLENGES OF THE DIVISION

In line with the Goals, Vision and Mission, the identified challenges to be addressed in the short term, medium term and long term plan include:

7.2.1: Our destiny:

What we want the Herbarium and Botanical Garden to be like in years to come.

7.2.2: Our focus

Our focus must be clear to meet the needs of the public, the researchers and the visitors through excellence, relevance and communication.

7.2.3: Our Science Priority:

To get the best balance between our scientific actions and the reaction of the affected subjects to meet the changing needs of living human generations.

7.2.4: Financial Security:

Become less dependent on public purse and become (to some extent) self reliant by selling own products and services.

7.2.5: Our People:

Meet the needs and wants of the people of Solomon Islands and the staff of the division.

7.2.6: Our world:

Promote conservation and strengths of Ethno-botanical and Traditional ecological knowledge and resources to the world.

7.2.7: Working together:

Seize the opportunity to work with the local communities and other Government Agencies, NGO's, Researchers and the international Institutions.

7.2.8: Water Management.

Manage the available water in the garden to get some benefits out of it and to ensure it does not cause inconveniences.

7.2.9: Our Garden

Get the garden to become a national heritage for conservation, preservation, research, recreation, education and entertainment purposes.

7.3 Specialized functions of the Division

The management functions of the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden Division can be classified into several specialized components such as.

1. Herbarium Management
2. Botanical Garden Management
3. Forest Ecology
4. Forest Research
5. Ethno-Botany, Dendrology/Botanical Studies
6. Animal Sciences (e.g. Entomology, Herpetology, Avifauna, Mammal studies, etc.)
7. National Forest Conservation programs
8. Non-Timber Forest Products
9. Investigate into Carbon and Environmental Services Rent

7.4: Set of Tasks for the NHBG Division.

The set of tasks of the division as stipulated in the medium term development strategies (2009-2013) include:-

- a. Revitalize the National Botanical and Herbarium functions of identifying of various species availability and storage for reference purposes.
- b. Continue to assist with the facilitation of applied research on plants in Solomon Islands.
- c. Liaise with SPC and USP to bring back Herbarium species from Suva, Fiji back to the country.
- d. Forest Research programs.
- e. Research and Promotion of Non Timber Forest Products.
- f. Investigate into Carbon and Environmental Services Rent.
- g. National Forest Inventory Program.
- h. Conservation of biodiversity.

7.5: Staffing and casual workers’ structure

In the first three quarter of this year 2011(January to September) this division is short of working staffs after some of its staffs left for other jobs last year. The division left with only a limited number of staffs to carry out all its exhausted activities planned for this year. With this the Director (now Deputy Commissioner) of NHBG did direct recruitment of new staffs to fill up vacant positions of Director, Chief Forester, Herbarium Principal and Botanical Garden Principal late this year and now only the Director post still vacant. Currently the total number of staff plus casual workers is Sixteen (16).

7.6: Baseline Budget and Expenditures.

The Budget provided for the Division to implement its derived plan of actions from the Government Policy this year 2011 was only two hundred and ninety eight thousand, three hundred Dollars (\$298,300.00) which is not much when distributed to certain voted expenditures such as Office expenses, Fuel, Air and Sea Freight, Staff travel and transport, Capital expenditure, Botanical Garden and Herbarium, Material and equipments, Repairs and Maintenance, Training courses, and Researches.

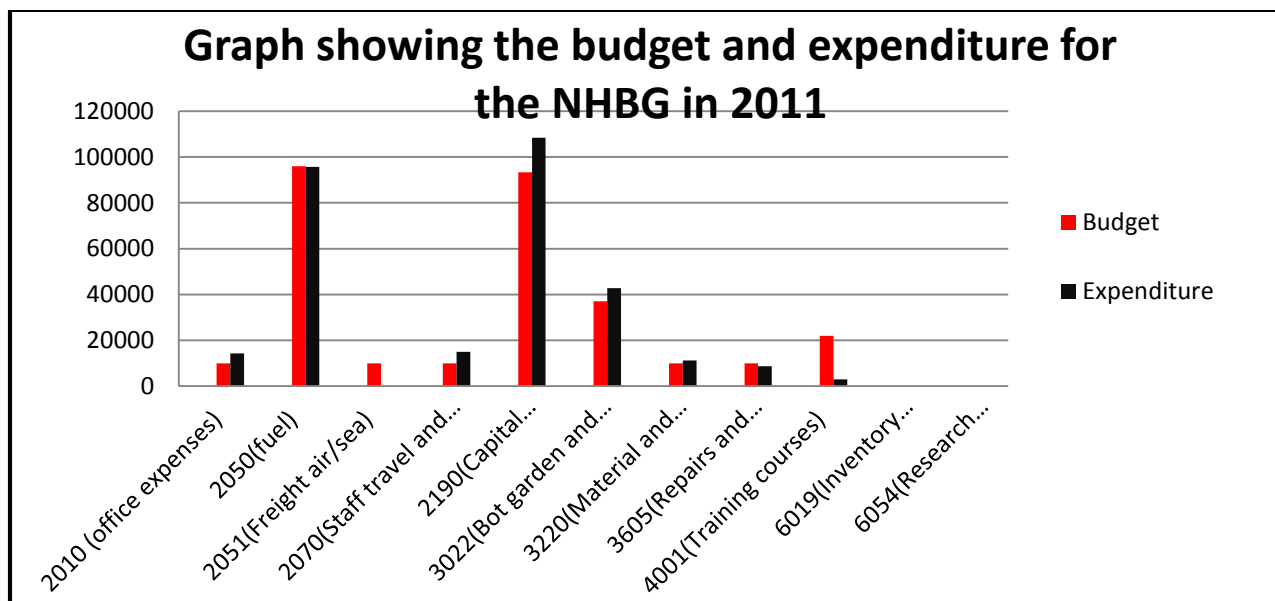
The fact that the budget is not enough is evident when compared to the expenditures as shown in the graph below. Nevertheless, this had been anticipated because there were two votes that have no fund for the year (2011) and that was the “Inventory activities “and “Research activities” See table 1 and figure2 below for 2011 budget and Expenditure per votes.

Table 1 shows the 2011 Budget and Expenditure table for NHBG

Account Code	Description	Budget (\$)	Expenditure (\$)
2010	Office expenses	10,000.00	14,240.2
2050	Fuel	96,000.00	95,660.43
2051	Freight air/sea	10,000.00	0.00

2070	Staff travel and transport	10,000.00	15,015.00
2190	Capital expenditure	93,300.00	108,423.13
3022	Bot garden and herbarium	37,000.00	42,804.33
3220	Material and equipment	10,000.00	11,165.00
3605	Repairs and Maintenance	10,000.00	8,653.35
4001	Training courses	22,000.00	3,000.00
6019	Inventory activities	0.00	0.00
6054	Research activities	0.00	0.00

Figure 2 showing the graph of the budget and expenditure for the National Herbarium and Botanical garden in 2011



7.7: Activities

The activities of the division for 2011 were based on the interpretation of the NCRA Policy from which certain tasks were derived and marked for implementation and accomplishment to make some of the division’s vision come true and mission successful. Contained in this paper are the accounts of those activities as of January to December 2011.

7.7.1: Recruitment of staff

This year 2011 the Division had undergone direct recruitment of staffs to fill in the vacant posts in the NHBG division that was left vacant for quite a period of time now. There are three new staffs that came in to fill the vacant post of Chief Forester, Principal Herbarium and principal Botanical Garden. Addition of this staffs helps boost manpower to execute work loads embedded on existing staffs to perform.

7.7.2: Plant Identification Services

Plant identification means examining and recognizing each particular plant and classifying them into the particular group they belong to down to their individual identity (Family, Genus, Species, Common and Local names). The service on plant Identification is mainly based on morphological analysis requiring parts or whole of the plant for examinations. Botanical knowledge, physical encounter and experiences of staffs with plants significantly aid the process and lift our level of expertise on this specialized area. This kind of service was extended to the general public upon request, and the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) when requesting for the verification of dangerous drugs.

7.7.3: CID - Correspondences:

Although it is not specified in the corporate plan 2010 – 2014, our division is nationally recognized and empowered as a centre for botanical or plant studies and information. Therefore, the division at times assisted the crime investigation division (CID) of the royal Solomon islands police by examining and verifying any plant materials that were suspected to be marijuana or *Cannabis sp* (a common illegal plant drug in Solomon Islands).

This year 2011 the division helped the Police CID in the identification and determination of sixteen (16) cases which were presented and verified by a group of plant experts in the division.

Figure 2 below shows the record summary of all the cases (marijuana or *Cannabis sp*) as of January to December 2011.

Month	CID cases
January	0
February	0
March	1
April	0
May	5
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	1
December	9

Table 2 above showing the number of CID cases identified and determined by the NHBG staff in 2011

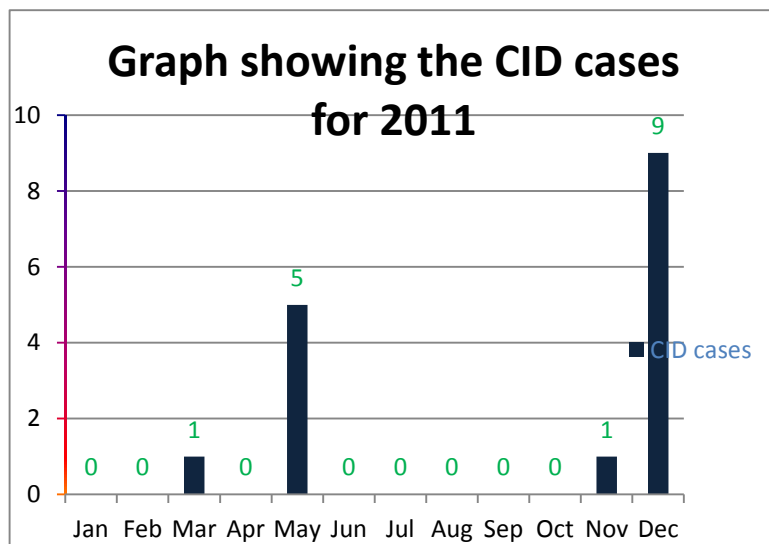


Figure 3 left : showing the graph of the number of CID cases that were identified and determined by staff of the National Herbarium and Botanical garden from January to December 2011

7.7.4: Awareness and training.

Awareness and training was one of the activities that was done this year to visited areas to ensure that a satisfactory level of understanding of the research program, its purposes, activities, and benefits for the local resource owners and the nation as a whole is established with our local research partners particularly the resource owners.

Usually, the training and awareness talk were done prior to the actual research and inventory program is carried out but that was not the case for this year 2011. Instead, this year's awareness talk and research expeditions were done simultaneously due to limited budget which means training of our local partners was done at the same time when the actual research program was carried out in their respective areas and provinces which include Guadalcanal, Makira, and Malaita.

7.7.5: Public Correspondences on Plant ID and other Specialized Areas

Other Specialized areas that the division assisted the public through education were identified as: Forest Ecology, Plant Sciences, Forest Economics & Valuations, Botany and Ethno botany. Most forestry student from the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) who were doing their plant identification assignment and few plant enthusiasts were served through at least one of the mentioned specialized area.

Typical assistance includes plant identification, provision of technical information, offering of advisory services in and outside of official hours. In addition to that, the Division contributed significantly towards the SICHE SNR particularly in the forestry discipline by conducting theory and practical sessions.

7.7.6: Development Project



NHBG workers constructing nursery beds and arranging of plants in nursery beds

There are no major Development projects occurring this year but only the continuation of the upgrading of nursery site from last years project was carried on to this year, like constructing temporary nursery/standout beds with waste timbers supplied by Mr. Steven Veno (Omex Ltd), potting and nursery of ornamental plants and arranging of plants out in the nursery beds.

7.7.7: Social, Recreational and Educational activities.

The botanical garden had been seen as the place to be by members of the public who came into the garden as individuals, groups or even schools and did their activities that include a mere walk, site seeing, end year functions, weddings, researches and even promotional programs on local and cultural music. For this year, there were various social, recreational and educational activities held at the botanical garden vicinity such as birthday party, Ministry of Forestry end year party, there were also wedding cruises that visit the

garden to take souvenir photos of their remarkable day. Also the 2011 World Environmental day was held at the botanical garden vicinity giving the chance for the NH&BG division to excel to the public to know more about the important role of the NH&BG division in the documentation and conservation of natural biodiversity. There were also numerous visits from various schools ranging from primary level to tertiary level visiting the garden for educational purposes.



2011 World Environmental Day held at the Botanical Garden



SICHE Student during their field excursion at Botanical Garden with Forest ranger Mr Peter Kosui.

7.7.8: Normal routine activities

Maintaining office and staff standards, monitoring specimens, procuring tools and equipments, attending to public questions, filing information and doing things as instructed by supervisors are part of the division's daily activities and these made part of this year overall activities.

7.7.9: Research expeditions with MBK

The research expeditions done during the year was a continuation of the research program undertaken through a signed memorandum of agreement by the Makino Botanical Garden from Japan and the Honiara Botanical Garden of our Government (Solomon Islands) through the Ministry of Forestry.

The aim of the research expedition is to collect any plant that is being locally used by our custom doctors as medicine to restore health and to have them go through scientific analysis to determine their scientific names and their true medicinal properties and information where they will be published and kept as Government property for future information and knowledge. Information on activities and data collected are mentioned below;

7.7.9.1: Expedition Formalities

Before the arrival of the MBK research team in the Solomon Islands, officers from the NH&BG in advance liaise with Provincial Authority for research consent in their respected provinces and then liaise

with tribal land owning group of that province to give the research team permission to conduct research in the customary land. Moreover, upon the team’s arrival they have to liaise with Customs and Excise Department, claimed for exemption from import duty, this was for the tools and equipments carried by the Research team from Makino Botanical Garden (Japan). After they liaise with Forestry Extension Officers for arrangement of accommodation, transportation and other required information.

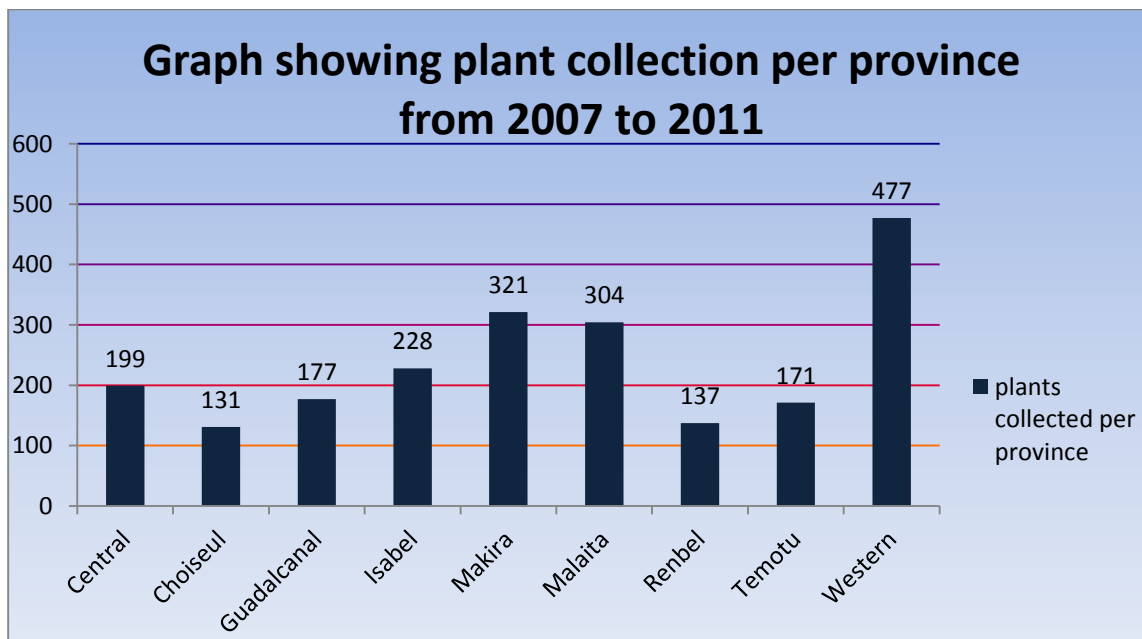
7.7.9.2: Plant Inventory

For this year alone, two research expeditions were carried out with Makino Botanical Garden (MBK). The first one begun on the 23rd August 2011 and ended on the 23rd September 2011. Provinces covered during the expedition include Guadalcanal province, Makira province, and Malaita Province. The second expedition was on October where Dr Watanabe and his TV crews from Japan set out to Rennell and Bellona province doing video shooting of the various important and indigenous plant species and the traditional knowledge of plants. To date since 15th September 2007 to October 2011, eight research expeditions have been carried out within the country by Makino Botanical Garden in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry through the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden Division. The ninth expedition is only the video shooting by Dr Watanabe and his TV crews from Japan to Renbel province. The total number of plants being collected since the year 2007 to 2011 is now on two thousand, one hundred and forty five (2145) plants some of which came from the same species which were repeatedly collected during each of the eight expeditions.

Table 3 (right) shows the cumulative result of plant collected with Makino Botanical Garden per visited province since 2007 to 2011.

Province	Total
Central	199
Choiseul	131
Guadalcanal	177
Isabel	228
Makira	321
Malaita	304
Renbel	137
Temotu	171
Western	477

Figure 4 (below) showing the cumulative result of plant collected with Makino Botanical Garden per visited province since 2007 to 2011



7.7.10: Upgrading the Botanical Garden and the Herbarium

After the ethnic tension the botanical garden was left in ruin and bushes. Work was needed to be done to revive the use of the area. With this, the Solomon Islands beautification group was first given the permission by the Ministry of forestry to set up their office here and starts the cleaning up job. After they left the botanical garden premise in 2009, officers from the NH&BG division moved in and continue reviving the use and upgrading of the botanical garden and herbarium.

This year there were plans incorporated into the annual work plan for the upgrading of the botanical garden and herbarium but since the budget has been exhausted most of the work still awaits financial availability to be accomplished. Nevertheless despite these difficulties officers did their very best in every ways to manage and maintain the image of our country's very important resource by doing everything they can with the limited tools and equipments in store for the up-keeping and maintenance of garden ground like keeping the surrounding lawn tidy and lily pond clean, regular maintenance of the forest treks, tagging trees with their scientific names around the station and continue on with development of the new nursery site.

The only and most important use of the Herbarium that is yet to be revived and upgraded is the containment and preservation of the entire herbarium specimen most of which are still in Fiji waiting to be collected back to the Honiara National Herbarium to be stored and preserved for research and information purposes.

7.7.11: Staff Capacity Building through Training, Field Inventories and Workshops.

Staff capacity building is very important in equipping our staffs with necessary skills in their specialized fields. For this year staffs go through training, going on field inventories with international Researchers and attending workshops for capacity building. Two staffs on training this year are Peter Kosui with IT Solution and Robert Olisae with Solomon Islands College of Higher Education. For field inventory, there was one done in September with Dr Watanabe and team. Three of our staff (Peter kosui, Tofu Patson and Robert Olisae) accompanies the group to three provinces (Malaita, Makira and Guadalcanal) to do plant inventories. The last mean of capacity building is through attending of workshops in country or outside. There were workshops held in the Solomon and outside of the country attended by our officers. These workshops are very important as they correlate to the outlined national policy of the ministry of forestry to be achieved like workshop on carbon trade, conservation of biodiversity to name a few.

7.8: Achievements

What the division is very happy of when it looks back into the past twelve months were the most notable achievements which include;

- Complete constructions of six (6) temporary nursery/standout beds with waste timbers supplied by Mr. Steven Veno (Omex Ltd) plus the potting and nursery of ornamental plants and arranging of plants out in the nursery beds.
- Manage to seize six (6) house-post of vitex, illegal cutting done in the botanical boundary.
- Casual workers recreate new bank accounts, salary on payroll system.
- The National Herbarium & Botanical Garden remains a precious national research asset for students at all levels who have access to its premises, materials and equipment.
- In collaboration with the Dr. Watanabe and the team from the Makino Botanical Gardens, an inventory of the medicinal plants of the Solomon Islands is being compiled from previous surveys conducted throughout Renbel and Guadalcanal Provinces.
- The Division through the Director continued to maintain its International links with other Botanical Gardens.

- The 2012 Budget for the Division was completed and submitted with provisional positive feedback.
- Three new staff has joined the Division to help boost its capacity. This involves the recruitment of two Principal Officers and a Chief.
- The SIMB Collection for the medicinal plants inventory was finally completed awaiting identification and verification processes.
- Pressing of the Sumitomo collection was also completed.
- The increased knowledge of the staff through various training they engaged in.
- The gaining of the favor of the general public who visited the garden and that was achieved through continuous general up keeping of the garden and the vigorous maintenance done to maintain its image.
- Maintaining of Good relationship with the Police, water pumps community, neighbors and the public in general.

It is the division's belief that its achievements were the result of a combined cooperation and efforts of many relevant individuals and authorities within the division, the ministry and the country at large. Without the effort of these individual and authorities from either the government or the private sectors nothing would have been achieved.

7.9: Constraints and Recommendations

Constraints referred to in this paper are the things and happenings that prevented the division from achieving some of its objectives and these include

7.9.1: Budget.

The budget for the operations of the division in the year 2011 was not sufficient enough to accomplish some of the missions of the division as mentioned below;

7.9.1.1: The repatriation of the herbarium specimen from Fiji back to Solomon.

Retrieving our herbarium specimen from Fiji back to the Solomon is a long time plan of the NH&BG division to accomplish. The national herbarium of Solomon Islands has been working collaboratively with the South Pacific Regional herbarium based in Suva, Fiji since the ethnic tension when the specimens were being sent over to Fiji for the safety reasons. However, the National herbarium is now improved and on its way in upgrading to its national standard therefore the specimens from Suva must be returned so that there is a proper databasing and documentation of plant species of Solomon Islands. In consignment of these specimens back to Solomon Islands it is recommended that budget must be increased especially the freight allocation and it must be one of the priorities of the Divisions budget as these specimens are very important for the normal function of the Solomon Islands owned national herbarium which can cater for future research activities in the country.

7.9.1.2: The construction of the third and fourth phases of the nursery project.

The nursery project is a development project that was initiated last year and is still to be completed with the third and fourth phases still stand. The third phase is the construction of stand out beds. At the moment there were temporary beds constructed with waste timber and this are not resilient to weathering and should be replaced with durable timber so that it could last longer. The fourth phase is to build an irrigation system for our plants in the nursery as this plants need better caring when in the nursery and water is very important for their survival.

Also due to limitation to money availability, the division did not manage to purchase polybags to nursery plants and for this reason the nursery section standstill for quite sometimes now. Suggest if the budget be increased for this year to cater for all this demands.

7.9.1.3: Inventory and research activities.

The inventory and research activities are very important in achieving the goals of the division of national herbarium and botanical garden. The activities done during inventory and research include collecting both dead and living specimens as well as chemical samples of the important plants of the Solomon Islands. The research program with the Makino botanical garden has been lapsed, thus Solomon Islands has to take the turn in doing its own inventory and research activities. More plants of the Solomon Islands needs to be documented as well as their traditional environmental knowledge of these plants that should be addressed before losing them as older people might die with the knowledge they have. As Solomon Islands have rich biodiversity of plant species of Solomon Islands should be identified and documented. Consequently, funds must be allocated for these activities and considered to be a precedence area that must be addressed.

7.9.1.4: Botanical Garden and Herbarium Maintenance

Continuous maintenance and up keeping of the botanical garden and herbarium is very important in sustaining the image of this prestigious resource. Like at the moment there were numerous maintenance works that are required to be done but due to the exhausting of this years budget all still lie in idle. This include the maintenance of the orchid house, upgrading of the lily pond, replacing of ground keeping tools, erecting leisure infrastructure like stools around the garden.

The Orchid house and the lily pond is one of the main attractions to the botanical premises and thus upgrading of this facility is important. At the moment the orchid house is still in a run down state and maintenance is needed with the reviving of the orchid plants in there corner. The lily pond also required to be properly constructed.

Up cleaning of the surrounding areas of the botanical garden is also very important as this maintains the attractiveness of the area to the public audience. Prolonging the attractiveness of the botanical garden vicinity we need the ground keeping tools in good working condition. Like at the moment most of the tools are not functioning well and need to be replaced.

Also the construction of leisure infrastructure like stools and tables around the garden lawn was anticipated to be put up this year but to date not a thing was constructed.

7.9.1.5: Casual Worker

Our existing number of casual workers is not sufficient enough to do ground work around the station as obvious around the botanical garden where whenever the other part is been mowed and raked, the other part is left with bushy parts. Therefore, additional casual workers are needed to fill in the gaps as shown in the NHBG organizational structure especially a cleaner for the herbarium to do office cleaning up and assist other workers in other field work when needed. The promotion of a volunteer casual worker is to be considered because of his interest shown to staffs of the NHBG on his commitment to do the required job as well as performing other duties directed by staff members. Also it is recommended that a mature and willing person is to be employed as additional casual worker to help direct the existing immature casual workers in doing the required jobs. Another security must be recruited for the safety of the area around the Botanical garden to keep unnecessary visitors from the NHBG premises during day times. This recruitment will give us a total number of three security officers where they will be rotated from time to time both day and night and uniforms should be provided and must be worn at work. These securities are also important in assisting safety of visitors in and around the Botanical garden area during visiting hours.

7.9.1.6: Communication through internet.

While there had been an improvement in communication with the establishment and installment of a direct phone line, there is still a need for another communication service which will be spelled here as Internet communication service to enable the division to access needed information from internet sources and to allow exchange of information between research partners. Recommend that the internet be installed in the office to help improve the information data which keen researchers may need.

All that was outlined above are constraint encountered by staffs of NHBG and arises because of insufficient money available in the NH&BG budget to accommodate all the expenses of NH&BG division. Recommend if the Ministry of Forestry as well as the Government cabinets take note of all that were mentioned and allocate enough money to our division to cater for the division's requests.

7.9.2: Transportation

Once the vehicle G3387 was assigned for the NH&BG division for office use, but this came to a halt after a horrific accident around the month of October this year when the vehicle went skidding of the road and rolled down to the water pump area with the vehicle damaged. With this existing problem our division found it difficult in efficiently executing duties as consistent transport services is required from time to time in procuring materials, equipments plus doing other official rounds to places outside.



G3387 lying on its side after the accident

7.9.3: Fencing

Originally the botanical garden covers an area of approximately 39.8 hectares but due to advancing settlement encroachment into the botanical garden boundary its area starts now to diminish. This premise is an important asset of the Solomon Government as it holds all the important resources that are of beneficial to all citizens and country as a whole and hence need to be protected. For this reason the containment of this entire area by fencing is of prime important to avoid illegal tree cutting, squatting, controlling other illegal activities and also it can make it easier for management purposes. The fencing of the whole area of the botanical garden has long time been approved by the cabinet with those from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development identified to secure funding and do the erection of this infrastructure. To date we haven't heard of the progress of this proposed fencing update and thus slows our so many work planned for this year and as well as the proposed work plans for next year.

Recommend if the Ministry of Forestry in collaboration with the Ministry of infrastructure and development but a budget for botanical garden fencing of it's own next year or secure fund if possible to quickly put the job in progress for the protection of this area from further degradation and exploitation.

7.9.4: Manpower

As obvious from the NHBG organizational structure the staffs of the division are nearly completely filled however, the director of the division is still vacant and must be filled as soon as possible for the flow of day to day routine of the division. Besides, the sudden illness of the senior herbarium officer has caused inconvenience to the division because he is an expert on plant identification and therefore training must

be considered so that staffs of the national herbarium are trained on the identification of plants. Hence, staff training must be considered and implemented as soon as possible and increase fund allocation for training of staffs of the division on every aspect of what staff needs to know in the section they assigned in.

It is also recommended that the existing casual workers are separated in to different areas of the botanical garden like some of them will be allocated to work in the nursery, some in the orchid area, and some of them in the up-keeping and making sure to rotate them every fortnight. Also the recruitment of new graduates from the Solomon Islands College of higher education and vocational students is required to work in the specific fields such as the nursery and the plant inventory of the entire botanical garden as this will be more convenient for the daily function of the division because these newly graduates have skills in the sense that they are already trained thus training is not required and it is believed that they will be more committed to do the jobs.

7.10: Focuses for 2012.

In the year 2012 our prime focus is on the herbarium facilities which must be made ready to accommodate the entire specimen which will be repatriated from Fiji back to the Solomon Islands National Herbarium in Honiara in the near future. A data base for all the specimens has to be established before the end of the year.

The division also set its focus on the nursery facilities which must be completed especially the sheds, standout beds and the Irrigation system to enable plant caring and propagation in order to maintain sustainability to the candidate plants. The Orchid House must be reconstructed and the flowers tended

Creation of more strategies to ensure that the ruling Policy such as the promotion of the non timber forestry products are materialized according to their interpretations.

And lastly but not the least is the maintenance of services to the public and our daily routine works for the up-keeping of the herbarium and the botanical garden plus the implementation of the management and administrative functions of the division and anything that will be mandated from top.

7.11: Conclusion

In conclusion, the division acknowledges the moral, technical, logistic and financial support of all whom in one way or another contributed to enable the division to achieve some of its objectives. The achievements were surely the result of a good cooperation and we look forward in 2012 for a better understanding, trust, cooperation and achievements for the Division, Ministry and the country as a whole.

CHAPTER EIGHT

CONSTRAINTS AND DIFFICULTIES

In executing the functions and responsibilities of the MOFR through the 2010 workplan, there were constraints and difficulties encountered that affected the expected performances and output. The main constraints and difficulties were:

8.1 Funding availability and processes

The effect of the Economic Crisis had disrupted the performance of the MoFR in executing its functions. The Budget allocation was reduced by 35% resulting in cut in spending especially in logistic to enable mobility and monitoring activities. Also it affected the recruitment process of officers to man the stations and to engage skilled technical personnel (IT officer) in the Administration Section. There were also setbacks in the out-growers extension scheme and subsidy to out-growers, hence resulted in a lower plantation establishment for 2010.

8.2 Technical Skilled Manpower

There was a general weakness in Technical and Management skills and competence in the organization. Management needs to address properly staff issues pertaining to their employment terms and conditions, staff training and development. The Ministry currently has a new upgraded structure which aims to give staff incremental level upgrading which will be based on qualification, experience and merits on performance as means to boost the past saturated systems that was too bureaucratic that staff become frustrated to perform under, making promotion and succession appear unachievable. However, now that the Ministry has a new approved structure that gives an upper level increments, it would be easier to manage promotion, confirmation and to discipline staff who does not adhere to conditions of employment under the Public Service Regulations.

8.3 Logistic and Support

(a) Information Technology

The MoFR lack reliable updated Information Technology system for proper data storage and information dissemination. Also access to information through internet was unavailable. There were large data backlog that need to be stored in safe reliable database. These include the export, license, Inventory, Plantation and timber milling data that needs to be stored in proper database programs.

Most office computers in existence are outdated and thus making an efficient local networking with the Ministry difficult and vulnerable to virus infections on valuable information such as licenses, export database and forest inventory upgrading is not fully utilized and equipped to provide the necessary support services expected to stake holders and international organizations when needed. The Ministry must seriously adopt a multi antivirus software so that information's stored on computers are not malfunctioned.

The anticipated increase in office equipments must be registered so that an inventory record is kept and outdated machines are de-registered and tendered for sale. This registration will ensure that the warranty of those office equipments gives a guideline for purchasing budgets of new equipments.

(b) Office Repair/Space

The state of offices in the Ministry's headquarter and provinces have not been renovated or improved to cater for the increased manpower establishment for 2010. There was minor temporary renovation of office spaces at the HQ and a new administration block extension has been completed. However there is still need for extra office space needed particularly for the Forest Resource Management and Technical Services Division to have adequate space for the Plotter map machine and storage of maps required. Additionally there is a need for extra office space to house the newly established utilization section that looks after the downstream processing unit. Due to the valuable information stored here, it is highly appropriate that office security is seriously improved. Hence, a security house is also anticipated to be included in 2011's budget.

(c) Transportation

Being located on Lengakiki ridge, transportation has been a major setback. It has been quite difficult to ensure that the Ministry is operating normally with staff arriving late at the office due to transportation difficulties. The challenges associated with this office location ranges from late arrival to work by officers, to correspondences reaching us very late. At times, the Ministry is not represented at crucial Meetings due to late arrival of invitations or letters from line-ministries or agencies. Hence, there is either an insufficient vehicle available to mobilize our officers or need for a control measure for the use of Ministry Vehicles in its movement during and after working hours

(d) Fuel

The provincial and sub-stations have field officers to monitor logging activities, ship loading and reforestation activities. These programs were all affected in 2010, due to limited fuel supply. Forestry activities occurred in the forests where sometimes in remote locations, hence need sufficient fuel supply to access these locations. Lack of fuel also affected power supply both in the headquarter and provincial stations.

8.4 Negative Publicity and Pressures

The Forest sector has been continuously been attract critical concerns and interests from the Public and Civil society, Resource owners, media and Environmental agencies and Organizations. Much criticisms and disagreement were raised from the Administration and functioning of the Timber Industry in particular the Logging Sector. The involvement of Asians Contractors acquiring harvesting rights from Resource owners and the Harvesting method and systems, raised a lot of interests and concerns from stakeholders and the Public. Since the Timber Industry is the major single contributor to the Local Economy with high revenue from timber royalties and Export Duty, most attention is focused on the sector.

There frequently arise disagreements between resource owners themselves and between competing contractors, hence resulted in lengthy legal disputes and confrontations. These sometimes lead to criminal activities and conflicts. Given these pressures and disputes, officers were usually forced to perform functions outside the limit of their official and legal responsibilities. They are continually influenced meet their requirements and advantage and were exposed to abuse, harassment, intimidation or even expulsion from their official capacity and functions. This caused a lot of frustration and fear hence affected their performance and conduct.

8.5 Insufficient sound Legislation and Regulation

The Ministry of Forests will revisit the Forests Bill 2004, embarking on wider consultation with stakeholders and public for comments before a cabinet deliberation and approval.

The Bill is anticipated to be presented during the last parliamentary session in 2013 or early 2014. Once this Bill is passed, a public awareness programme will be required to educate and inform stakeholders about their rights and responsibility under the new Act. This activity is scheduled to be undertaken in the first half of 2011 upon budget submission approval.

Some work has been done in this area with the assistance from the Solomon Islands Forest Management Project II but it should be initiated and pursue by SIG.

8.6 Land Ownership and Tenure

The Land Ownership and Tenure system in Solomon Islands has been a hindrance and obstacle to development in the Country. As evident clearly in the Forest Sector especially the Land Acquisition Process for Timber Harvesting, there were numerous disputes and confusion over land ownership and boundaries. This affected that administration and Management of the Timber Industry and also leads to social tensions amongst resource owners themselves. This severely affected the development processes and sharing of benefits to sustain and improve the rural economy and livelihood.

CHAPTER NINE

RECOMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

9.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The MOFR having completed and evaluating the 2010 work-program and activities, identify the following Key recommendations for the future progress in the Management and Development of the Forest as a major Sector in Solomon Islands.

9.1.1 Development of Legislation and Policies for key sub-sectors. These sub-sectors are:

- a. Plantation Development and Reforestation
- b. Forest Protection and Conservation
- c. Research and Development of Non Timber Forest Products
- d. Timber Processing and Marketing
- e. Climate Change including Carbon Technology.
- f. Social Forestry and Recreation

9.1.2 Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

- a. Improvement of Office building and facilities in the HQ and provincial centres
- b. Re-vitalization of the National Research and Seed Centre at Poitete and Munda
- c. Restructure and Improve Manpower Establishment
- d. Promote Training in skill and Technical forestry fields
- e. Installment of proper IT and communication facility and equipment
- f. Procurement and purchase of appropriate technology.

9.1.3 Funding and Financing

- a. Increase funding support from both recurrent and development budget to cater for planned activities and programs especially on Key Development Programs

9.1.4 Support Forestry Sub-sectors that has potential for Solomon Islands development.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| a. Plantation development and Reforestation | Out-growers subsidy scheme |
| b. Timber Milling and Processing | equipment, training, marketing |
| c. Non timber Forest Products | Research, development and Marketing |
| d. Promotion of Biodiversity Conservation | incentives and income generating |

9.2 CONCLUSION

The forest is a crucial significant resource for the existence of life on earth. It not only supports “mother nature”, but also a giver, provider and protector of humankind and biodiversity to their existence for so long, hence become a source of livelihood. Solomon Islands and its people mainly in the rural areas are economic disadvantage hence rely on the extraction and harvesting of the forest to support their livelihood. Development of the forests resource was for economic benefit, was heavily concentrated on the timber industry sub-sector that resulted in overexploitation and overharvesting. Hence, by 2011, it is expected that log export will drastically decline and by 2015, theoretically there would be a complete depletion of all commercial volume with export potential. The impact of this commercial forest depletion has occurred and the Government and resources owners explore and seek alternatives means to replace this deficit.

The best possible options identified, was replanting and reforestation. The MoFR have seriously undertaken this program and have achieved very encouraging progress in this sub-sector. The challenge is the provision of assistance and support from the Government and Resource Owners to participate in the program. Plantations and woodlots have been established in all provinces with Forestry Officers at their vicinity to provide assistance and support.

Other forestry development areas that have huge potential compared to the diminishing logging sector are already identified and in the establishment phases. These are the Timber milling and processing, Biodiversity conservation, social and recreational forestry, non timber forest products and the carbon trade markets.

The outlook for Solomon Islands forestry though gloomy in the next five to ten years, the emerging forest sub-sectors have very high potential benefit to Solomon Islands to replace the sunset logging sector. The main challenge to address is the ownership, commitment and effort to develop and manage the sunrise industries.

Forest is a renewable resource, and with appropriate policies and institutional framework and facilitation can sustain livelihood to perpetuity.

