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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

## Half Yearly Report to USAID

**Project: Pacific adaptation to climate change**  
**Project Number: AID - ASIA - IO - 11 - 00002**

### Included in this report:

#### 1. Report on component A: Solomon Islands Ecosystem based Adaptation

Attachment 01 - CHICCHAP - WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Attachment 02 - SPREP\_LLCTC - MOU

Attachment 03 - Modification of Assistance Form

Attachment 04 - EbA Management Plan for Choiseul Bay

Attachment 05 - EbA Management Plan for Sasamuga

Attachment 06 - EbA Workshop - Taro - Sign in sheet

Attachment 07 - Taro ISWM Workshop Report

Attachment 08 - Leokana tribe consultative workshop - Sign in sheet

Attachment 09 - Delegation of chiefs consultation - Sign in sheet

Attachment 10 - National-level review of education publications - Sign in sheet

Attachment 11 - Presentation - Pacific Islands Roundtable on Nature Conservation 2015

## USAID funding report on activities

1st April, 2015 to 1st October, 2015

### A. Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Solomon Islands

#### *Completed activities and outcomes:*

1. Ongoing CHICCHAP program coordination through PAIG mechanism
2. CHICCHAP program review meeting in Choiseul, April 2015 (69 participants)
3. MOU signed with Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community (LLCTC)
4. EbA demonstrations sites in place and currently being monitored at a) Choiseul bay and b) Sasamuga.
5. The nursery at Choiseul bay is being managed by MoFR officers with LLCTC assistant environment officer supported by SPREP.
6. USAID/SPREP nursery at Sasamuga is currently being managed by the community and the extension forestry officer based at Sasamuga is providing support and technical assistance.
7. USAID/SPREP Water storage tanks at Sasamuga have been installed and now providing water services to the Pirini community.
8. Consultation with landowners on the Environment and Climate Change Information Centre, in Choiseul, June 2015 (21 participants)
9. Workshop with delegation of chiefs on the Environment and Climate Change Information Centre, in Honiara, July 2015 (23 participants)
10. Choiseul Bay EbA Management Workshop, in Choiseul, August 2015 (25 participants)
11. National-level review of environmental legal education products for Choiseul communities, in Honiara, July 2015 (25 participants)
12. Invasive species education products produced
13. EbA presentation delivered at Pacific Islands Roundtable on Nature Conservation 2015
14. Media stories released to raise awareness of USAID/SPREP project



## REPORT AGAINST SOLOMON ISLANDS LOG FRAME IMPLEMENTATION:

### *Activity 2.1 - Coordination of Project Delivery*

#### **Partner coordination**

The most recent Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP) partners meeting was held on 17th September in Honiara. Community leaders, project partners, national and provincial government were present. A shared work programme for the last quarter of 2015 was finalised. Outcomes will be provided when approved minutes are made available for release by all partners.

A major CHICCHAP review meeting took place on Taro Island, Choiseul Province between 14-15 April 2015. Discussions took place over two days at the meeting to discuss milestones, challenges and lessons learnt under the CHICCHAP and to identify priority activities for a 2015/2016 work plan.

(SEE ATTACHMENT 01 - Meeting Report)



Photo: CHICCHAP review participants in Taro, Choiseul, April 2015

To assist at project sites in Choiseul on an on-going basis, SPREP and the NGO Luru Land Conference of Tribal Community (LLCTC) have formalised their mutual interests and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

LLCTC is an indigenous organization representing the people of Luru (Choiseul province). Its mission is to unite chiefs, churches and citizens towards a common goal of an enduring, represented and respected Luru land, people and their culture.



A key objective of the MOU is to provide a framework of co-operation between SPREP and LLCTC to support ongoing project activities in Choiseul at currently established and potential future Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) sites in the Province.

**Photo: Signing of MOU with LLCTC in Taro Choiseul, April 2015 (Stuart Chape, SPREP on left and Luke Pitakoe, LLCTC on right)**

As part of the collaboration the USAID/SPREP project will provide funding for LLCTC to hire an locally-based Assistant Environment Officer. This position aims to build capacity and strengthen coordination with LLCTC and Choiseul Provincial Government. The position that is now filled and functioning to provide support to USAID/SPOREP project sites and other environmental initiatives in Choiseul.

**(SEE ATTACHMENT 02 - MOU)**

### **No-cost extension**

Through negotiation between SPREP and USAID, a Modification of Assistance was signed to allow the project to be extended for an additional 3 months. All USAID funded activities will now conclude on Dec 31 and final reporting will be submitted prior to the end of Jan 2016.

With an extension of 3 months, the Assistant Environment Officer position can continue to provide the support and oversight that is required for the community-managed EbA sites in Choiseul to be successful and sustainable at a stage when replanted vegetation is at its most vulnerable.

**(SEE ATTACHMENT 03 - Modification of Assistance)**

**Completion of Activity 2.1 - 95%** - *Governance support to established coordination structures is ongoing.*

### **Activity 2.2 - Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment**

Vulnerability assessment activity has been completed. Please see previous reporting to USAID for further details. This document is available online at: <http://www.sprep.org/publications/ecosystem-based-adaptation-and-climate-change-vulnerability-for-choiseul-province-solomon-islands-synthesis-report>



**Completion of Activity 2.2 - 100%.**

### **Activity 2.3 - EbA Planning and Mainstreaming**

The USAID/SPREP Ecosystem Ecologist Consultancy is supporting Provincial Government and land owners to create EbA Management Plans for Taro/Choiseul Bay and Sasamuga. Land owner consultation is still underway to enable the Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment management planning to be completed.

#### **Sasamuga and Choiseul Bay (Taro)**

New management plans developed by the USAID/SPREP project identify a number of priority climate change-related issues and proposes EbA activities that can be incorporated into an integrated approach to adaptation for the 1) Taro and Choiseul Bay area and 2) Sasamunga, on the southern side of Choiseul Province. These plans provide:

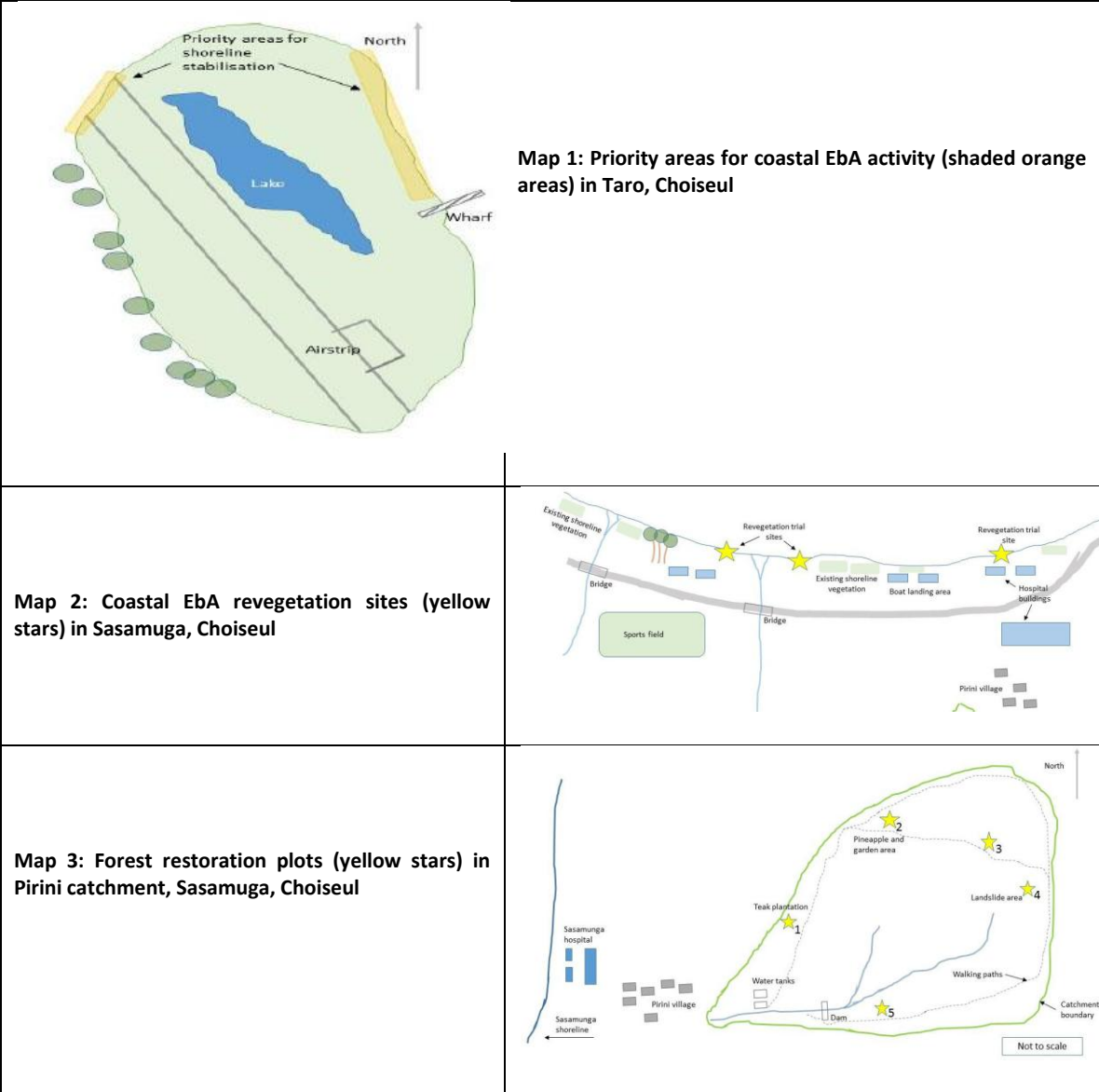
- Background to these specific locations and the expected impacts of climate change on the local environment and communities. Priority issues associated with climate change are identified.
- Summary of each priority issue, the associated ecosystem services that could be impacted, and the proposed EbA activities.
- Implementation plan for the proposed activities over the coming 2 years including the likely organisations involved and an indication of the resources required.



**Photo: Existing natural mangrove regeneration near Taro airstrip.**

The proposed EbA activities use two main strategies. Firstly, improving the health of existing ecosystems that provide key ecosystem services, such as protection from storm surge. This is primarily done via the management or removal of activities that degrade those ecosystems. The second approach is to restore biodiversity into key areas to support ecosystem services that are not currently provided.

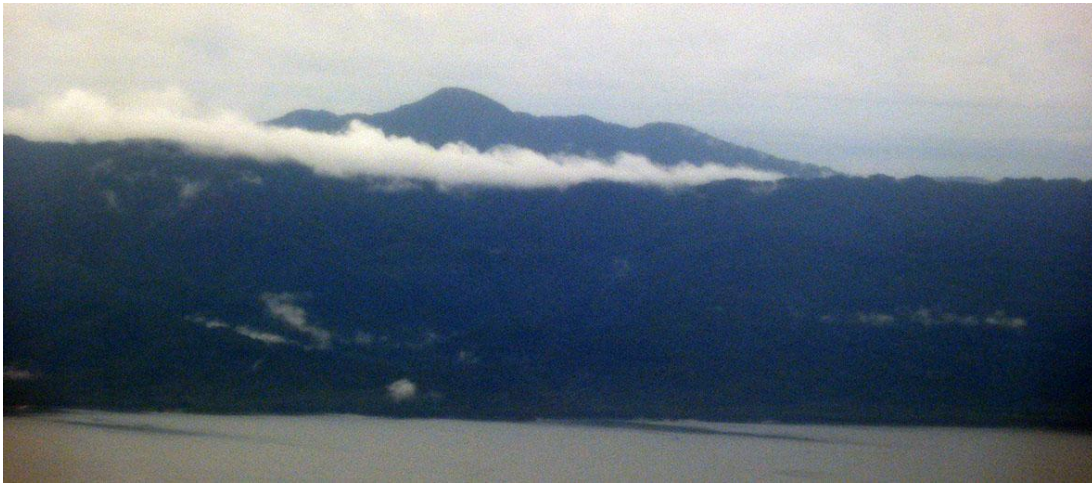
The following priority areas designate where revegetation activities are currently taking place under the USAID/SPREP project at Choiseul Bay (Taro) and Sasamuga:



(SEE ATTACHMENT 04- EbA Management Plan for Choiseul Bay)  
 (SEE ATTACHMENT 05 - EbA Management Plan for Sasamuga)

**Mount Maetambe and Kolombangara River Catchment**

The USAID/SPREP project has initiated Mt Maetambe landowners consultations in collaboration with LLCTC and Ecological Solutions (both CHICCHAP members) and provided support for the completed baseline biodiversity assessment (see previous reporting for details).



**Photo: Mount Maetambe is the main catchment for numerous villages on both Northern and Southern coastlines of Choiseul Province**

Ongoing landowners consultation is required to designate the Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment as managed areas. Due to the sensitive legal nature of landowner identification, this process will require more time beyond the USAID/SPREP project. SPREP is collaborating with Ecological Solutions of Solomon Islands (ESSI) to formulate a Management Plan for the site with support through the CEPF funds. Fortunately ongoing work by SPREP and other CHICCHAP partners in Choiseul can ensure these consultations continue with other funding sources (such as PEBACC, the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change project which is implemented by SPREP and funded to 2019).

**Completion of Activity 2.3 - 95%** - Management plans now complete, ongoing support to communities to implement management plans will be provided by USAID/SPREP to 31 Dec 2015.

#### **Activity 2.4 - EbA Implementation**

USAID/SPREP implementation is currently underway at the following sites in Choiseul: 1) Taro Island, 2) Choiseul Bay, 3) Pirini catchment in Sasamuga village, 4) Mount Maetambe and Kolombangara River and 5) Rob Roy Islands.

**SITE 1 and 2 - Choiseul Bay integrated coastal enhancement, water catchment protection and ecosystem rehabilitation site**

To further development and implementation of the plan, the USAID/SPREP Choiseul Bay EbA Management Workshop was undertaken in Choiseul on 6th August 2015. 25 participants were present to review the EbA Management Plan, establish nurseries, transplanting sites and monitoring transects for coastal enhancement in Taro.

(SEE ATTACHMENT 06 - Sign in sheet)



Photo: EbA Management Workshop, 6th August 2015

Technical support is being provided through USAID/SPREP 2 consultancies (Ecosystem Ecologist and Forest Regeneration Specialist) and the following activities have now been completed at Choiseul Bay by USAID/SPREP:

- Completed ecological assessment of Taro Island and identified sites highly threatened by coastal erosion.
- Nursery for coastal plants completed. Initial discussion with Choiseul bay landowners for the protection of Choiseul bay watershed completed.
- Waste audit for Taro township completed in collaboration with MECDM and project partners.



Photo: Nursery of coastal species established in Taro

An Integrated Solid Waste Management Training was successfully undertaken on Tuesday 31st March to Wednesday 1st April, 2015 for Government officers, Non-Governmental Organizations, Private sectors and Community Representatives within Taro, Choiseul Province. A total of 26 participants attended the training.



An executive paper was prepared by the SPREP EbAO and presented to the Choiseul provincial executive for approval of all EbA implementation on Taro Island township. All the recommendations of the executive paper has been formally endorsed by the Choiseul provincial executive. (Attached executive paper)

This program was implemented through collaborative support from the Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Ministry of Forestry and Research (MoFR) , Choiseul Provincial Government (CPG), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (USAID/SPREP) Ecosystem Based Adaptation ( EbA) project and Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management ( J-PRISM) Projects.

**(SEE ATTACHMENT 07 - Taro ISWM Workshop Report)**



Photo: New USAID/SPREP signage in Taro, Choiseul

The following activities are to be completed at Taro/Choiseul Bay by USAID/SPREP prior to 31 Dec 2015:

- Continue coastal enhancement through plant transplanting to revegetation sites
- Coastal trees preservation order ordinance to be initiated with executive approval
- Construct waste bin stands for Taro township

**SITE 03 - Sasamuga EbA integrated water catchment rehabilitation and management**

Through the support of USAID/SPREP, Sasamuga village in Choiseul Province of the Solomon Islands is becoming a notable example of ridge to reef management in the Pacific. Activities are underway across 4 key integrated areas:

<b>RIDGE</b>	Rehabilitate and protect the water supply through replanting and
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	community-led catchment management
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Installation of water tanks to increase on-site water storage from the existing weir to supply community and hospital
<b>COASTLINE</b>	Shoreline stabilisation which includes revegetation as a means of reducing the impacts of erosion and storm surge
<b>REEF</b>	Awareness is being raised regarding a potential locally managed marine area with support from TNC and LLCTC

The following activities have now been completed at Sasamuga by USAID/SPREP:

- Nursery established to provide seedlings for replanting.
- Ecological assessment completed.
- Water tanks purchased and installed.
- Community water management committee established.



Photo: New USAID/SPREP water tanks in Sasamuga, Choiseul

The following activities are to be completed at Sasamuga by USAID/SPREP prior to 31 Dec 2015:

- Completion of reforestation and ecological enhancement in catchment
- Completion of coastal tree planting.
- Designation of marine site and terrestrial sites as protected.



Photo: Coastal site at Sasamuga

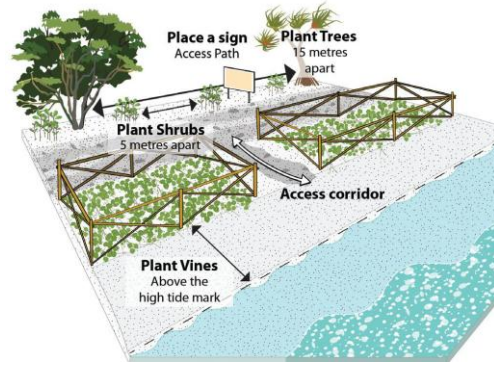


Diagram: Access control and replanting design

#### **SITE 04 - Mount Maetambe and Kolobangara River Corridor**

Implementation at the Mount Maetambe and Kolobangara River Corridor is currently awaiting the outcome of landowner negotiations. Further landowners consultation in collaboration with Ecological Solutions and LLCTC will be necessary. Provincial Government Executive support is considerable due to the benefit of protecting such a large water catchment and ongoing support will be provided externally by CHICCHAP partners including SPREP.

#### **SITE 05 - South Choiseul and Robroy Integrated Forest, Coastal and Marine Environment Management Area**

USAID/SPREP has undertaken two major community consultations in the previous reporting period to establish support for EbA implementation sites and an EbA education centre in South Choiseul .

Two further consultative workshop and a meeting was organized with the Leokana tribe for the Robroy environment and information centre. The consultations are a follow up to the meeting held in March 2015 with the community at Posarae.

- The first consultative workshop was undertaken on the 26th June 2015 in South Choiseul. The Leokana tribe recommending that the SPREP-USAID project support a further consultation meeting involving both Honiara and Choiseul based tribal members and Chiefs.

(SEE ATTACHMENT 08 - Sign in sheet)

- A follow up workshop was organized on the 6th July 2015 in Honiara with a delegation of chiefs from the area. The meeting resulted in members of tribe requesting more time for internal consultation on the project especially with the location of sites and other outstanding issues.

(SEE ATTACHMENT 09 - Sign in sheet)



**Photo: Proposed knowledge and information centre**



**Map: Proposed location in South Choiseul**

The following activities have been completed:

- Initiated community consultation for Robroy Island and nearby marine environment.
- Identified potential site for Environment and Climate Change information centre.

The following activities are to be completed by USAID/SPREP prior to 31 Dec:

- Complete community consultations to ensure consensus is reached by all stakeholders
- Construct Environment and Climate Change information centre with local materials
- Extension of site to include Wagina Island for watershed conservation

**Completion of Activity 2.4 - 85%** -The remaining 2015 project period is to be focused on implementation of key EbA activities .

### **Activity 2.5 - Training in EbA**

#### **Environmental legal education for Choiseul Communities**

USAID/SPREP has developed a range synthesis material from information provided by the Landowners' Advocacy And Legal Support Unit (LALSU) of the Solomon Islands Government Public Solicitor's Office to support environmental legal education in Choiseul Province. There are 6 publications in total:

- The Timber Rights Acquisition Process for Landowners
- Mining Process for Landowners
- Environmental Impact Assessment for Landowners
- Creating A Community Based Organisation and Organising Your Community For Conservation

- How to protect special places on your land and sea under the Protected Areas Act 2010
- The Logging Code of Practice

A National-level review of the educational publications occurred on the 29th of July 2015 in Honiara. Over 25 participants from government, non-government, community, development agencies (including UNDP, SPC, IUCN and TNC) attended and contributed to reviewing all materials. Attendance and participation was very good. This is most likely due to the fact that those who attended would be able to use the resulting publications to support their everyday work.



Photo: National-level review on the 29th of July 2015 in Honiara

(SEE ATTACHMENT 10 - Sign in sheet)

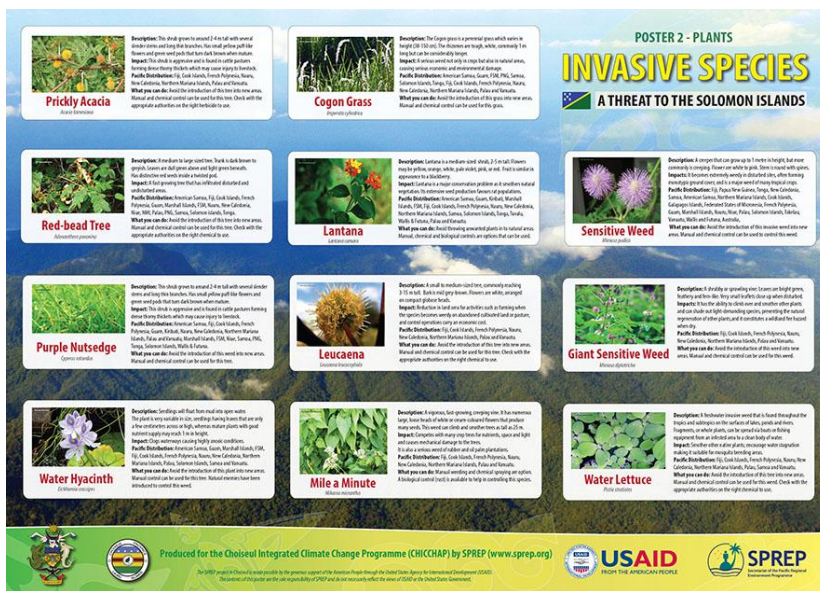
Due to the input of this review, the publications can now be utilised beyond Choiseul in educational activities through the entire Solomon Islands. Following approval for release by the SPREP Communications Unit, these publications will be shortly available at [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org).

### **Invasive Species Identification Education Products**



Following a visit to Choiseul by the SPREP Invasive Species team, a range of animal and plant species were identified that pose a threat to Choiseul and another provinces of the Solomon Islands. To allow identification of these species, two posters have been produced by USAID/SPREP.

Poster 1: Animals (left)



Poster 2: Plants (left)

### Training for local counterparts in EbA activities

All USAID/SPREP project activities in Choiseul are utilising on the ground assistance from National and Provincial Government staff, local NGOs and community members. Technical assistance though the Ecosystem Ecologist and Natural Forest Regeneration specialists will continue to benefit all of these agencies as they collaborate in both field work and collaborative planning exercises.



**Completion of Activity - 90%** - Legal education materials to be published for training in protected area planning and resource management once Government approval is issued. Training activities are ongoing within project implementation activities and planning processes.

### ***Activity 2.6 - Communications and Knowledge Management***

#### **Pacific Islands Roundtable on Nature Conservation 2015**

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, the mechanism for improving the collaboration and coordination of organisations working on nature conservation in the Pacific, met between the 9th and 10th of July, 2015 in Suva, Fiji.

Over the course of the two day meeting, the topics and issues discussed included critical and emerging issues, the critical role of conservation in achieving sustainable development, funding and financing opportunities to support the implementation of objectives of the Framework. There was also a sharing of information, experiences and lessons learnt from local community, national and regional levels – such as the work undertaken by SPREP. The SPREP EbA Officer used this opportunity to present lessons learnt from the USAID/SPREP project in Choiseul.



Lessons learned;

- EbA implementation requires a multiple technical inputs from a broad range of experts. Eg. Foresters, ecologist, coral reefs experts and mangroves experts.
- EbA results takes time and are long term and thus maintaining community support require a programmatic approach.
- EbA can contribute to the overall goal of increasing countries PA through the management and protection of the broader ecosystems and linkages to sustaining livelihood.

**Image: Lessons learned from EbA Presentation at Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, 2015**

**(SEE ATTACHMENT 11 - Full Presentation)**

**Media Releases**

News and information from USAID/SPREP activities in Choiseul have been distributed via media release, the SPREP website and in the SPREP newsletter. Two recent releases include:



***Remote communities come together to***



***From Ridge-Community-Reef with USAID and***



***review 2 years of working in Choiseul***

<http://www.sprep.org/biodiversity-ecosystems-management/remote-communities-come-together-to-review-2-years-of-working-together-in-choiseul>

***SPREP in the Solomon Islands***

<http://www.sprep.org/biodiversity-ecosystems-management/from-ridge-to-community-to-reef-with-usaid-and-sprep-in-the-solomon-islands>

**Knowledge Management**

Materials generated by the USAID/SPREP project are being made publically available at <http://www.sprep.org/usaid> to ensure long term accessibility and sharing. The SPREP Information Resource Centre is also providing archival services to ensure all project reporting, materials and key publications are stored in perpetuity.

***Completion of Activity 2.6 - 95%*** - Communication of milestone projects events for national and regional audience will continue into the next reporting period as they occur.

**KEY EVENTS OF THE NEXT THREE MONTHS (October 2015 - December 2015)**

- Publish and distribute EbA Management Plans
- Complete implementation of EbA activities at all selected sites
- Support communities to maintain EbA implementation sites
- Disseminate community environmental and invasive species education materials