



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

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

NEWSLETTER



April 2020: Corporate Plan 2020-2022 Completed; Japanese Experts Temporarily Returned to Japan

In late April — after the Project handed over the Corporate Plan 2020-2022, which the Project support finalized, to the Ministry of Forestry and Research (MOFR) — all Japanese experts of the Project temporarily returned to Japan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the absence of the Japanese experts, the Project activities continued to be implemented by MOFR staff and Project staff in Solomon Islands, in accordance with instructions given remotely by the Japanese experts.



Corporate Plan 2020-2022 was
finalized

May 2020: Consultation on FIMS; Agreement on Detailed Activity Plan of Pilot Sites

A consultation was held to determine the specifications of a map to enhance the content of the Solomon Islands Forest Information Management System (Sol-FIMS) with the MOFR via web conference. MOFR staff and Project staff conducted activities at both of the Komuniboli and Falake pilot sites, including the “Formal agreement on Detailed Activity Plan”, “Reconfirmation of Agroforestry areas”, and “Collection of information on pilot activity profiles”.

June 2020: Agreement Livelihood Improvement Plan at Pilot Sites; Review of Project Activity Plan

Both communities of the Falake and Komuniboli pilot sites, MOFR staff, and Project staff agreed on a Livelihood Improvement Plan for the pilot sites. In addition, a web conference was held with the participation of the Project’s director, manager, staff, and Japanese experts to review the Project Activity Plan taking into account the impact of COVID-19.

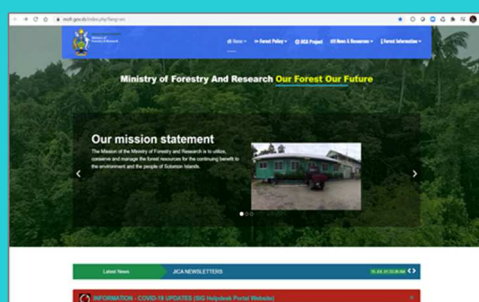
July 2020: Announcement of Komuniboli Pilot Site Activity Plan; Official Release of SolGeo-FIMS

MOFR staff and Project staff presented the Activity Plan for Agroforestry and the other livelihood improvement activities at the Komuniboli pilot site. In addition, at a web conference held on July 17, MOFR staff and Project staff agreed to officially release the Forest Information Management System (SolGeo-FIMS), the development of which the Project supported, and launch the MOFR website.

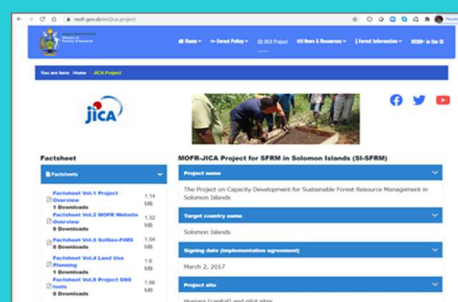
Solomon Islands MOFR website pages:

<https://www.mofr.gov.sb/> (Includes SolGeo-FIMS link for Ministry operations)

<https://www.mofr.gov.sb/index.php/en/jica-project> (JICA Project Information)



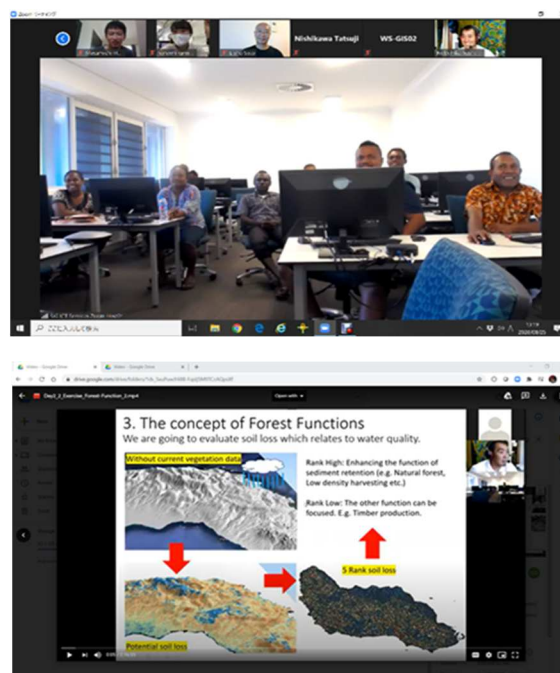
Screenshot of MOFR website



Special page for JICA Project information

August 2020: Announcement of Falake Pilot Site Activity Plan; 1st Online Training Conducted

MOFR staff and Project staff presented the Activity Plan for Agroforestry activities and the other livelihood improvement activities at the Falake pilot site. In addition, as a response to the impact of COVID-19, for the first time an online training was conducted remotely in the use of SolGeo-FIMS/GIS data planning and forest function assessment to acquire forest management methods using GIS software, as well as in the creation of an Agroforestry record to acquire methods for recording expenses and income and analyzing production costs and sales revenues.

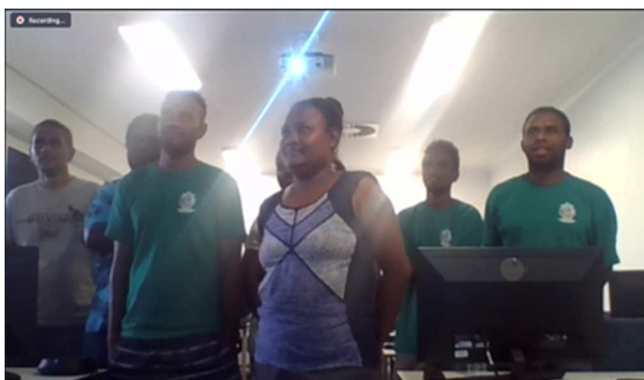


Screenshot of online training participants and a screen view of training content

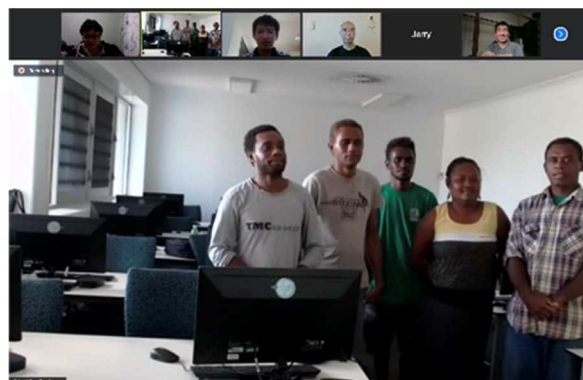
September 2020: Training for SolGeo-FIMS/Website Administrators Conducted; Review of Project Activity Plan

In response to the continuing impact of COVID-19 (the return of Japanese experts to Solomon Islands is expected to be delayed), a web conference was held with the participation of the Project director, Project staff, and Japanese experts to review the Project Activity Plan again.

Remote online training was conducted for administrators of SolGeo-FIMS, released in July, and of the MOFR website, launched the same month.



Website Administration Online Training



System Administration Online Training

October 2020: Timber Harvesting, Leadership, Agroforestry and 2nd FIMS Online Training Conducted

The Project's Remote Sensing/GIS expert remotely conducted the 2nd SolGeo-FIMS online training for MOFR staff. In addition, MOFR staff and Project staff conducted a Timber Harvesting Training and Leadership Training at the Komuniboli pilot site. During the Timber Harvesting Training, community members learned the administrative procedures for obtaining tree falling licenses, safe harvesting methods, efficient sawing methods, and wood drying, as well as getting hands-on practice in harvesting and sawing. During the Leadership Training, community members studied organizational leadership and facilitation, fair revenue sharing, and fair cost sharing. In the onsite training on Agroforestry Record Keeping, community members learned how to record expenses and income, and how to analyze production costs and sales revenue.



Leadership Training



Sawing lumber program for the Timber Harvesting Training

November 2020: Decision on SNS Distribution; Training on Timber Harvesting and Pig Farming Conducted

As part of the development of the Forest Information Tool, a working group has been established within the MOFR to disseminate and publicize the results of Forest Resource Management using social networking services (SNS) such as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. At the same time, the MOFR agreed to distribute the SNS and Project content in a web conference.

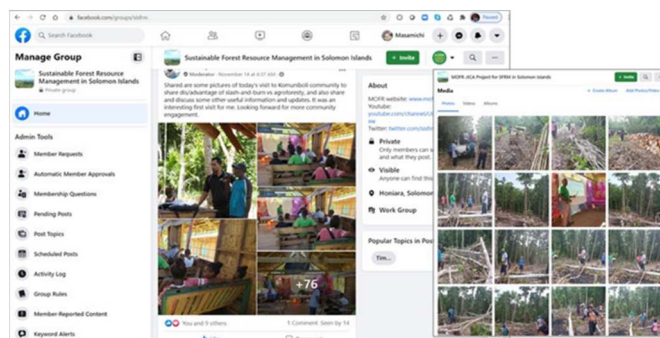
MOFR staff and Project staff conducted a Timber Harvesting Training at the Falake pilot site and a Pig Farming Training as a livelihood improvement measure at the Komuniboli pilot site. An Online Training on Agroforestry Record Keeping was also conducted. During the Timber Harvesting Training, community members learned administrative procedures for obtaining tree falling licenses, safe harvesting methods, efficient sawing methods, and wood drying, as well as getting hands-on practice in harvesting and sawing. In the Pig Farming Training, community members learned how to fatten and manage pigs and how to manage pig health.

SNS of Solomon Islands Ministry of Forestry and Research

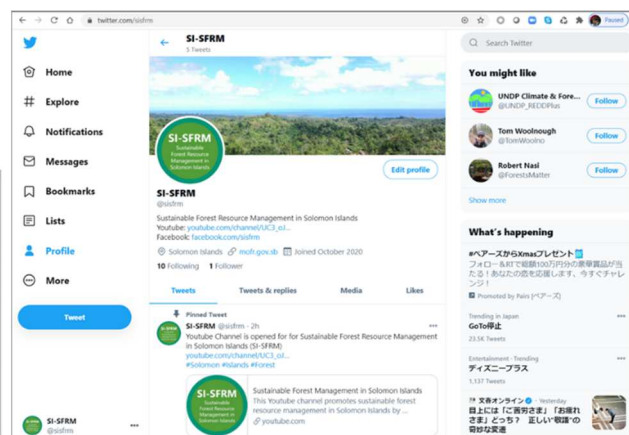
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3_oJjc14Z6E0w0rcqtWRxw

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

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



Facebook group of the Project

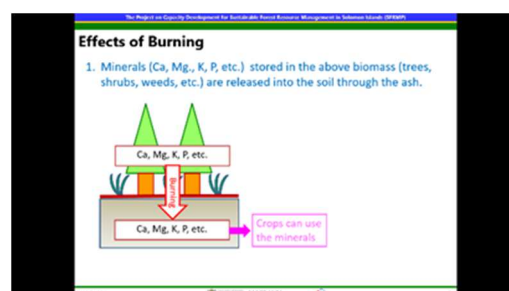


Twitter account of the Project

December 2020: Training on Pig Farming and Agroforestry

MOFR staff and Project staff conducted a Pig Farming Training in the Falake community. Community members learned how to fatten and manage pigs and how to manage pig health.

In addition, an Agroforestry expert conducted an online training on the Impact of Burning on Agroforestry Land Preparation for MOFR staff.



Online training of the Impact of Burning on Agroforestry Land Preparation Online Training



Pig Farming Training



Sawing lumber program for the Timber Harvesting Training

January 2021: High Value-Added NTFP Training; Briefing on Pilot Communities on 2021 Activity Plan

A Market Research and Marketing expert conducted a High Value-Added NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products) Training for MOFR staff. In addition, Project staff explained the Forest Management pilot activities at both pilot sites and held preliminary discussions on the gender survey.



High Value-Added NTFPs Training



Snapshot of discussion at High Value-Added NTFPs Training

February 2021: Survey and Field Training on High Value-Added NTFPs

MOFR staff and Project staff conducted survey and field training on High Value-Added NTFPs at both pilot sites.



Field Training on High Value-Added NTFPs