



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

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

NEWSLETTER



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

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

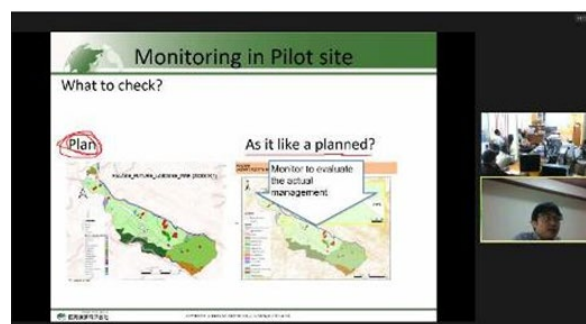


Project staff meeting when the long-term experts returned back to the Project Office

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

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

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



A session of the Online Training on Forest Information Management Tools



The 7th JCC meeting at the IT center



Agroforestry activities in Komuniboli after the pest control countermeasure



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

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

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

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

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

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

Forestry's 2021 redirection priority highlighted



Representatives from the Public Subsidies Office (PSO) and the Forestry Office (FO) met to discuss the 2021 redirection priority of the Forestry Office (FO) and the Public Subsidies Office (PSO). The meeting was held on April 1, 2021, at the PSO office. The meeting was attended by the PSO Director, the FO Director, and several representatives from both organizations. The meeting was chaired by the PSO Director. The meeting agenda included a presentation by the FO Director on the 2021 redirection priority, a discussion on the 2021 redirection priority, and a Q&A session. The meeting ended at 12:00 PM.

Forestry's 2021 redirection priority is to promote the sustainable use of forest resources and to increase the productivity of forest land. The priority is to be achieved through the implementation of the following measures: (1) to promote the sustainable use of forest resources, (2) to increase the productivity of forest land, and (3) to promote the sustainable use of forest resources and to increase the productivity of forest land. The priority is to be achieved through the implementation of the following measures: (1) to promote the sustainable use of forest resources, (2) to increase the productivity of forest land, and (3) to promote the sustainable use of forest resources and to increase the productivity of forest land.



Newspaper coverage of the 7th FS-TWG meeting

Shooting the SFRM promotional video

June 2021 : Further Boosting of Pilot Activities on Pilot Sites

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

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



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



Lumbering with a portable sawmill

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



Weeding at the Agroforestry plots



Wood gluing with clamps during the Furniture Making Training

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

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



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



Newspaper coverage of the 8th FS-TWG meeting



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

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

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

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



Community Chief of Falake; measuring the length of a piglet

Falake pig farmer undergo training



Newspaper coverage of pig farming activity at the Falake pilot site

Forestry says it's keen on copying SFRM model

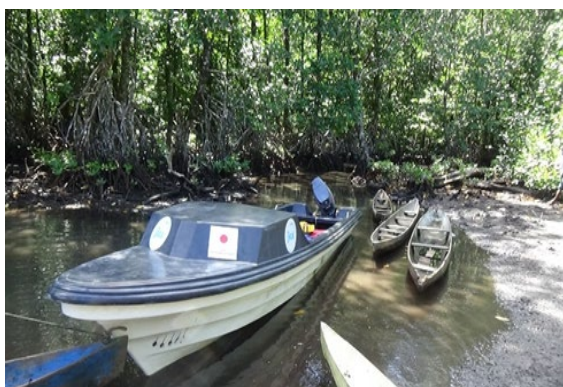


Newspaper coverage of the 8th JCC meeting

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



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



Passing through mangrove forests to reach a potential pilot site community

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



Pruning training at the Komuniboli pilot site

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

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

MoFR opens new forest exhibition room

[illegible]

value of timber, the president's members were encouraged not only to sell lumber for sale, but also to convert into raw materials making from timber out-side.

These some of the products currently on display at the exhibition," says Dr. Theodor.

Dr. Nishikawa also urged the Ministry of Forestry and Research to continue to use the exhibition room to show and promote downstream processing products of Wood Technology Center.

The Ministry of Forestry & Research has also known that the support from JICA and measures that the room will continue to be used to promote downstream processing products for future opportunity in the domestic market.

Inside the Thelma Widdowson Dining room, looking from outside the small glass sliding door into the room. Currently the display are roof fossil specimens from Keweenaw and Cedar co.



Newspaper coverage of the completion of the MOFR exhibition room



Livelihood improvement expert working an the Komuniboli pilot site

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

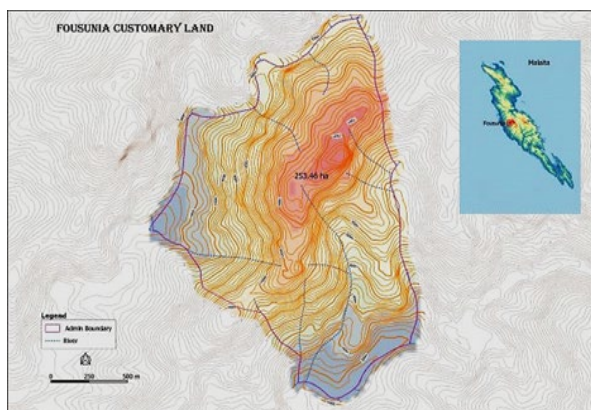


Komuniboli community acknowledged



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

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



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



The TSC meeting in December

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

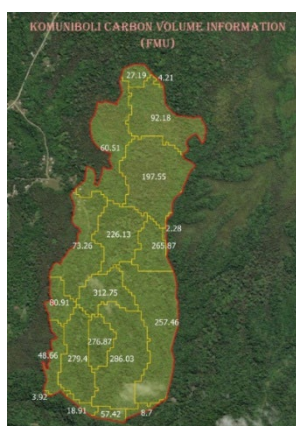
Portable sawmills and chainsaws have been rented to additional pilot sites. The sawmills and chainsaws will be used as part of the forest management activities that will be carried out this year. In the meantime, data on land cover maps, forest resources, and forest roads have been loaded into SolGeo-FIMS,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



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



Additional pilot sites (marked with Mbumba● and Wairokai●)



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



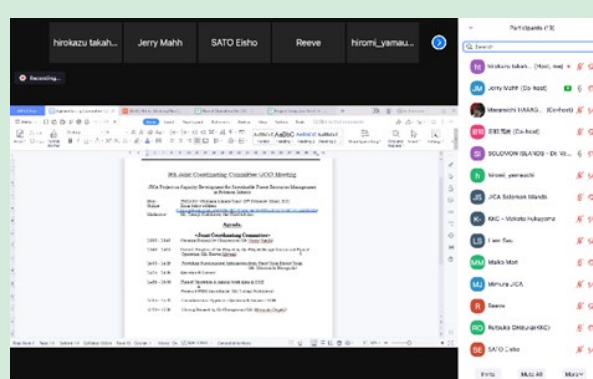
Solomon islands Road Network 2021
Guadalcanal

February 2022 : Project activities stalled due to COVID-19

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



Participating the Online TWG and JCC Meeting from the Project Office



Screen shot of the TWG and JCC Online Meeting

Project Website and Social Network Sites

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

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

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

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