Solomon Islands	Agriculture	and Rural	Transforma	ation Pro	ject
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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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Prepared by Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project Description

- This report presents a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in preparation for the Solomon Islands Agriculture and Rural Transformation (ART) project (P173043). MAL will implement the project in three provinces, namely Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Makira, in the Solomon Islands.
- In the Solomon Islands, Agriculture is the only sector where most rural households or families are involved. Be it in farming to meet their basic food needs, as a household income source for meeting other requirements such as education and access to other essential social services or to buy other basic goods. By supporting this sector, albeit, in only three of the country's provinces (Malaita, Guadalcanal, and Makira), the proposed Bank-funded activities will reach most people in these three provinces. For many rural households/families, their only income source is through the production and marketing of garden food crops, cash crops like cocoa, coconut, and small livestock such as piggery and poultry. A few households raise cattle for local protein consumption. A high percentage of children under the age of five in the Solomon Islands experience growth stunting due to a lack of or limited protein supply in the local diet. Most people get their protein intake from fish, other seafood, and green vegetables; however, fish/seafood is scarce, especially for people who live in the Islands' interior. There is a need to increase meat production as a protein source for the local diet, and the ART Project is designed to address that gap.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the movement of imported food supplies in an unprecedented way. The imported food supplies include rice stocks and other imported meats such as beef, chicken, pork, lamb, imported livestock feed, and hatching eggs. With rice being a staple in the local diet in all the urban populations, export restrictions or quota exports imposed by the main rice exporting countries could affect supplies adversely. During the Covid crisis, SIG has encouraged all Solomon Islands households to invest in food security initiatives by growing their vegetables and root crop gardens to remain self-sufficient should the Covid pandemic prolongs. The ART Project comes at the right time to provide financial and technical assistance to rural households for food security and diet improvement.
- The ART project aims to assist the MAL in its efforts to increase food production and provide improved market access in selected commodities and value chains, enhance institutional capacity, and in the event of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, to provide an immediate response to the Eligible Crisis or Emergency. The project will support the smallholder farmers of the Solomon Islands in improving their livelihoods and income opportunities by engaging them in selected value chains through Agribusiness Partnerships and by creating productive infrastructure. The project will also develop the capacity and services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to improve the agriculture sector and support the smallholders in their partnership with private enterprises as lead partners. The project comprises the following components (see also the PAD):

Component 1: Food Production and Agribusiness Investments (US\$ 10.4 million)

Component 2: Institutional Capacity Development (US\$ 2.6million)

Component 3: Project Management (US\$ 2.0 million)

Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (US\$ 0 million)

1.2. Project Location Overview

■ The ART project will be implemented in Guadalcanal (including the capital city of Honiara), Makira, and Malaita, with a total population of 424,875 people. About 90 per cent (383,916 people) of the total population is with agricultural holdings. Of these populations, 123,616 people (60% women) are directly involved in farming and livestock activities as their primary incomes. The Project direct beneficiaries would be around 3,000 people directly involved with farming/production and/or trading and technical service provision to the farmers. The project will identify and select wards in Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Makira provinces during the project implementation.

1.3. Summary of Potential Environment and Social Impacts

■ Potential environmental and social impacts of the project, which are part of the stakeholder engagement activities, are summarized in Table 1.1:

Table 1.1: Summary of Potential Environment and Social Impacts

Typology	Activity	Potential Impact	Source/cause of Impact
(i) Productive Infrastructure and small infrastructure	For Agriculture: • Mini feed mills to process harvested feed crops: 1 - 2 tons capacity per day • Renovating or establishing existing or new Field Experimentation Stations For Livestock: • Construction or upgrading of pig and poultry sheds and night shelter; poultry nest-boxes for hens to lay eggs and hatch chicks; small-scale poultry hatcheries; pig farrowing crates to reduce piglet mortality; • Construction of pig slaughter slabs1, to be located in strategic pig production areas, to facilitate the hygienic off-the-ground slaughter For Agriculture and Livestock: • Storage assets, housing management assets, mobility assets (Vehicle, Boat, etc.) around the agriculture commodity and livestock-specific value chains. • Rehabilitation or construction of existing/new offices • Feeder road or footpaths on existing footprints to avoid land acquisition and related resettlement impacts.	 Damages or loss of vegetation cover and trees Loss or degradation of valuable natural/ecological resources Degrade existing landscape Solid Waste generation Wastewater generation Chemicals, hazardous wastes generation Dust, air pollution Noise and Vibration Social disturbance to the local community such as traffic/transportation, water supplydemand, community meetings events/etc. Safety risk to community and Workers' health and safety. 	Natural resources, such as water, are used. Energy/fuel supply is needed. There is safety risk during operation. Waste and wastewater will be generated Site clearance Mobilization of construction tools, equipment, vehicles, plants, materials, workers Concrete mixing, materials preparation Excavation, backfill Extraction of aggregates (sand gravel, etc.)

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		Slaughtering	
		livestock can result in waste	
		spills, introduce enteric	
		pathogens, and	
		excess nutrients	
		that can runoff	
		into surface	
		waters or leach	
		into groundwater resources,	
		potentially	
		contaminating	
		groundwater	
(ii) Agricultural	For Agricultura.	resources.	
(ii) Agricultural and livestock	For Agriculture:Seeds, planting materials cultivation and	 Impact on health and 	 Resources are used
production,	harvesting tools, processing equipment, honey	safety of	Cultivation
farming, and	extractors, and harvesting tools	project-affected	Livestock
product	Production of feed crops; insect-protein feed	communities,	production
processing	production equipment	particularly	Products are
	 Increased use of agro-industrial byproducts For livestock: 	regarding the safe use and	created, • Raw materials
	Chicken and pig feeds will be formulated by	handling of	Processing
	piloting feed producing units using locally	pesticides and	o Troccssing
	available materials	chemical	
	Crossbreeding sows for semi-commercial farms	fertilizers	
	to improve weight gain	Water contamination	
	 Improved feeds, using cassava and other available feedstuffs 	from	
	Feed crop production (cassava, high-protein	inappropriate	
	beans)	use of	
		agriculture	
		chemicals • Environmental	
		pollution from	
		biodegradable	
		and non-	
		biodegradable	
		solid waste from	
		agriculture activities	
		Animal feed	
		(e.g., cassava)	
		competing with	
(iii) Tochnical	a The formation Number and Characters	human food	a Tooksiss!
(iii) Technical assistance	 The formation, Nurturing, and Strengthening of New Producers Organizations (POs) and 	 TA activities as they would not 	 Technical services,
and capacity	Business Plan Development for POs	cause any	including
building	Food Production and Agribusiness Grants to	adverse	awareness
	nurture and strengthen Producer Organizations	environmental	training and
	(POs)	impacts.	capacity
	Capacity Building and Extension service training during pre-production, production, processing		strengthening, are expected
	during pre-production, production, processing, value addition, transportation, and marketing		to focus on
	Working Capital cost for Productive		sustainable
	infrastructure/tools/equipment		farming

•	Repair and maintenance of machinery such as Coconut oil mill, cocoa drier, etc. will be borne by the Producer Organization Training of Trainers (ToTs) for MAL staff, Training of Community Resource Persons (CRPs), participating farmers, or PO members. Training for the CRPs who will provide extension services at the doorstep of farmers. The E&S risk management skills shall be integrated into these training materials as much as possible. The hiring of Young Professionals from FAFF, SINU and/or from other recognized universities in the region to fill vacant positions in extension Internship of diploma and degree students of FAFF, SINU for project requirement Veterinary and husbandry support services and Good Livestock Management Practice to POs, including support on basic protocols, standard	practices, thus unlikely to cause negative socioenvironmental impacts.
	-	

1.4. Purpose of Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

- The Solomon Islands Agriculture and Rural Transformation Project (or the Project) is prepared under the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF). As per the Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10 on Stakeholders Engagement and Information Disclosure, MAL provides stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information and consults with them in a culturally appropriate manner free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation.
- The overall objective of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to define a program for stakeholder engagement around the project, including public information disclosure and consultation throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines how MAL will identify and communicate with stakeholders; and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about the project and any activities related to the project. The involvement of the local population is essential to the success of the project to ensure smooth collaboration between project staff and local communities and to minimize and mitigate environmental and social risks related to the project.

2. REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Solomon Islands Requirements

2.1.1. Constitution of Solomon Islands

■ The Constitution and environmental regulation (2008) broadly support public participation. The Constitution provides for protection against discrimination. The Environment Regulations 2008 requires ensuring public involvement in any prescribed development; and specifies that any person may comment on an EIS, but do not specifically require that women's participation must be ensured.

2.1.2. Public Consultation

Stakeholders' consultation, public disclosure, and grievance redress are less well covered in national regulations. The Environment Act 1998 and the Environment Regulations 2008 do not seemingly mandate public participation at the screening and scoping stages. While many of the above documents require disseminating information to the general public and confirm the right to make complaints, the resulting regulatory framework is only partly consistent with World Bank's policies for investment projects. First, there is no clear indication that public disclosure should occur before decision-making in investment projects. Second, existing legal instruments do not specify entry points that would allow for handling grievances and complaints. In this environment, international donor-funded projects have supported enhanced stakeholder engagement, but their approaches might need to evolve in the near future. International projects have relied intensively on facilitation by external consultants to implement public consultation processes.

2.2. Work Bank Requirements and Gap Analysis

- The World Bank Environmental and Social Standard (ESS 10) on Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure recognizes "the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrowers (e.g., MAL) and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice." Specifically, the requirements set out by ESS10 are the following:
 - Borrowers will engage with stakeholders throughout the project life cycle, commencing such
 engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that
 enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design. The nature, scope, and
 frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportionate to the project's nature and scale
 and its potential risks and impacts.
 - Borrowers will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders. Borrowers will provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation.
 - The process of stakeholder engagement will involve the following, as set out in further detail in this ESS: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.
 - The Borrowers will maintain and disclose as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received, and a brief explanation of how the feedback was taken into account, or the reasons why it was not." (World Bank, 2017: 98).
 - Borrowers will prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportionate to the project's nature and scale and its potential risks and impacts. The SEP has to be disclosed as early as possible and before project appraisal. The Borrowers need to seek stakeholders' views on the SEP, including identifying stakeholders and the proposals for future engagement. If significant changes are made to the SEP, the Borrowers disclose the updated SEP. According to ESS10, the Borrowers should also propose and implement a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the project's environmental and social performance promptly. Table 2.1 provides a summary of the policy gap pertaining to stakeholder engagement.

Table 2.1: Summary of Policy Gap Related to Stakeholder Engagement

ESS10	National Regulations	Gap	Gap-Filling Measure
- Engage with	- Engage with	- Not include mandatory	- Follow the Principles
stakeholders throughout	stakeholders, public	provisions for	and requirements for

stakeholder engagement the project cycle, with disclosure, and stakeholder meaningful consultation; grievance redress are or information engagement, timely disclosure of less well covered in disclosure in project information disclosure, relevant, national regulations. preparation and grievance redress understandable, and While many of the mechanism in the SEP accessible information; above documents -Discussion on and ESS10 requirements complaints handling but - In the future, amend consult in a culturally require disseminating appropriate manner, information to the does not explicitly the Environment Act mandate a project GRM involving: general public and 1998 and the Stakeholder confirm the right to Environment identification and make complaints, the Regulations 2008 to analysis; resulting regulatory require public Stakeholder framework is only partly consultation at the engagement planning; consistent with World scoping and screening • Disclosure of Bank's policies for stages of EIA and set out information investment projects. procedures. Consultation with First, there is no clear stakeholders; indication that public Addressing and disclosure should occur responding to before decision-making grievances in investment projects. • Reporting to Second, existing legal stakeholders instruments do not specify entry points that • Establish a project would allow for handling **Grievance Redress** Mechanism grievances and complaints. • Maintain, and disclose as a part of the ESA a record of stakeholder engagement.

3. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

3.1. Lessons Learned on stakeholder engagement from RDP II

- Key lessons learned on stakeholder engagement under the RDP and RDP II projects which apply to the ART project include:
 - The participatory community consultation approach leads to too diffuse services to significantly impact the commercial production of any one crop. Overall, women tend to be included in community-driven development (CDD) projects such as RDP and RDP II. However, they are more successful when sufficient emphasis is placed on women gaining access to the same level of productive activities as men. Information lacks whether female rural enterprise owners were identified, supported, or targeted in RDP activities. They should have been committed to advancing the interests and livelihoods of women. Therefore, while RDP projects were saving women time and involved them in various training and activities, the question remains whether the project contributed to transforming their roles sustainably and substantially.
 - Community procurement can increase community ownership and reduce costs for a village small-scale infrastructure program; however, it needs accompanying practical features.
- Furthermore, the fundamental concerns—raised during the stakeholder consultation for RDP II preparation—are also applicable to the project:
 - The use of firewood to dry cocoa and copra and the issue of smoke- effect on quality should be considered for improvement by introducing hybrid driers using solar and other improved technologies where possible.

- Firewood is getting difficult to source in many communities, so introducing woodlots of fast-growing species should reduce the pressure on forest harvesting and cocoa and copra drying and home use.
- The re-use of cocoa fermentation residues in the production of agricultural or non-agricultural byproducts should be investigated and considered to reduce any environmental concerns.
- The pesticide registration committee revamped in MAL must be supported to ensure that
 pesticide management and enforcement controls are effective, especially when
 commercialization pressures could force farmers to take a short cut without adequate
 environmental considerations.
- The use of more integrated farming systems on coastal plains and existing plantations and croplands should be emphasized to reduce pressure for land use on slopes.
- The issue of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) should be monitored to ensure that they
 are not introduced into the SI. Regulation of GMOs is through the Ministry of Environment,
 Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
- The promotion of commercialization must be monitored not to jeopardize the smallholder garden livelihoods dependent on open-pollinated crops. Note should be taken of effective smallholder cropping systems like 'king cropping' and should promote smallholder participation in annual and other field crops' commercialization.
- The shelter is an essential consideration in agriculture recovery efforts. It is a primary need for
 the self-actualization of affected communities before fully participating in agriculture recovery.
 It is crucial in tree resource-poor communities such as in the Guadalcanal plains where
 vegetation cover is mostly grassland. Recommended encouraging farmers to plant trees species
 for building materials.

3.2. Summary of National Consultation

- The SI ART project will work in three provinces, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira. During the design of the project, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAL) has developed the following ESF instruments:
 - Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
 - Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
 - A Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
 - Labour Management Procedure (LMP)
- The draft ESMF, ESCP, LMP, and SEP instruments were publically disclosed on MAL webpage: https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-agriculture-and-livestock on 14 December 2020. Based on the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), the first, high-level consultation with relevant ministries of the Solomon Island Government took place on 22 January 2021 from 9:00 am to 12.00 pm MAL's Livestock Building conference room. The second, provincial consultation was held on 29 January 2021 with Guadalcanal Province and Honiara stakeholders in Honiara. The third set of consultations were held in Malaita Province on 23 February 2021 starting with a courtesy call to the Malaita Provincial Government. The fourth set of consultations were held in Kirakira on 17 March 2021 also beginning with a courtesy call to the Makira Ulawa Provincial Government. The purpose of the consultations is to collate feedback to improve the qualification of the application of the ESF instruments namely ESMF, ESCP, LMP, and its Annexes and on the SEP as an integral part of the environmental and social due diligence process. The consultative feedback, such as the application of the national legislation and screening potential environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts were integrated into the relevant ESF instruments. Minutes of the consultations can be found in Annex 3 of this SEP.
- The outcomes of the 6 meetings reflect the type of audience's present. The government ones focuses more on the governance and policies side of the project while the onces conducted with the provincial stakeholders which were dominated by local farmers showed keen interest on the project design and how they are going to be eligible for funding from the project and their need for capacity building. But all the consultations show enormous support for the project, especially the fact that it promotes food security, nutrition and sustainable income. The participants have uttered their willingness to learn and manoeuvre through the ESF instruments, which are a new thing for MAL related activities.

4. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

■ Cooperation and negotiation with the stakeholders throughout the project development often require the identification of persons within the groups who act as legitimate representatives of their respective stakeholder group, i.e., the individuals who have been entrusted by their fellow group members with advocating the groups' interests in the process of engagement with the project. Community representatives may provide helpful insight into the local settings and act as main conduits to disseminate the project-related information and as a primary communication/liaison link between the project and targeted communities and their established networks. Verification of stakeholder representatives (i.e., the process of confirming that they are legitimate and genuine advocates of the community they represent) remains an essential task in establishing contact with the community stakeholders. The legitimacy of the community representatives can be verified by talking informally to a random sample of community members and heeding their views on who can represent their interests in the most effective way.

- Project stakeholders² are defined as individuals, groups, or other entities who:
 - are affected or likely to be affected directly or indirectly, positively or adversely, by the project
 (also known as 'Project-affected parties') because of actual impacts or potential risks to their
 physical environment, health, security, cultural practices, well-being, or livelihoods; and
 - may have an interest in the project ('Other interested parties'). They include individuals or groups whose interests may be affected by the project and who can influence the project outcomes in any way.

4.1. Project-affected Parties

4.1.1. People Residing in the Project Areas

- An essential category of Project-affected Parties (PAPs) is people living in the selected wards within Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Makira provinces. The project activities are not anticipated to require any land acquisition or involuntary resettlement and cause land-use restrictions. The project activities under Component 1 will occur on existing farmland, generally owned by smallholders. The activities under Component 3 will take place on government-owned lands, such as facilities that belong to MAL.
- The PAPs are likely to be affected by temporary, reversible, and manageable disturbances caused by the project's small infrastructure such as dust, noise, solid waste, traffic safety issue, etc. However, the PAPs may also benefit from the project activities such as capacity building for smallholder farmers through improved agriculture extension and/or trading and technical services, which will lead to higher productivity and production, including equitable women representation. Besides, the PAPs may also benefit from project-related employment opportunities.

4.1.2. Producer Organizations, Traders, Processors, and Exporters

■ Since the project is designed around a value chain approach, the second category of important PAPs will be producer organizations, traders, processors, and exporters within the targeted project areas and/or directly or indirectly related to the production of selected smallholder farmers. The PAPs are likely to be affected by disturbances in their day-to-day business routine due to market competitiveness brought about by the project activities. However, the PAPs may also benefit from the project activities such as capacity building, trading and technical services, and value chain infrastructure.

4.1.3. National and Provincial Agriculture and Livestock Network

In the framework of the project, another key category of PAPs will be the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) and its network in the project provinces that are expected to be renewed with additional resources, technical assistance, new technologies, and exposure to international best practices. Livestock and extension sectors are expected to benefit the most from the project investments in upgraded infrastructures and service/research capacity improvements.

4.2. Other Interested Parties

■ The project's stakeholders, other than the PAPs, also include Other Interested Parties (OIPs) such as other Ministries and Government agencies, local government departments, Non-governmental organizations, other business and workers' organizations, other project developers reliant on or in the vicinity of the project and their financiers, press, and media, the general public, academic institutions and other institutions and groups in the communities. Table 4.1 below summarizes the critical categories of OIPs and the respective justification for their interest in the project.

² World Bank (2018). Guidance Note for Borrowers. Environmental and Social Framework for IPF Operations. ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.

Table 4.1: Other Interested Parties and their Interest in the Project

Other Interested Parties	Interest in the Project
Other Ministries and Government Agencies: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Forestry and Research Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Ministry of Infrastructure Development Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Survey Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination Ministry of Finance & Treasury Ministry of Commerce, Industries Labour, and Immigration Ministry of Health & Medical Services Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Education & Human Resources Development Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification Commodity Export Marketing Authority (CEMA)	 Overall: To ensure project compliance with Solomon Island's legislation during production, construction, and operation. Promote economic development Specific involvement in some project-related mitigation measures Responsible for sites of potential archaeological interest that could be affected by the project, and monuments of national interest in the vicinity of the project Responsible for labour and labour management
 Provincial Administration Departments Members of National Parliament (MPs) as representatives of the constituencies Members of Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) representatives of the Wards 	 Protect the rights of inhabitants in the project area Represent the local communities/PAPs, receive and address any feedback, and grievances from them.
Development partners (ADB, DFAT, EU, IFAD, JICA, NZAID, PRCetc.) Non-governmental Organizations:	 Ensure the environmental and social performance of the project is protecting the environment and affected people and complies with international E&S standards
 Business and Workers' organizations: Agri- business Partners', Suppliers of tools & hardware materials 	 Interest in procurement and supply opportunities Interest in potential environmental and social impacts as well as community health and safety

Other agricultural development projects: Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access (PUANA) Stronging Biopic ACIAB FAC	Interested in the outcomes and benefits of ART Interested in collaboration with activities
Access (PHAMA), Strongim Bisnis, ACIAR, FAO, UNDP, SPC IFAD projects, etc.,	 Interest in potential environmental and social impacts as well as community health and safety
 Press and Media: Solomon Star, Island Sun SIBC, TTV and MASI, and social media platforms 	 Inform residents in the project area and the broader public about the project implementation and planned activities
Other Institutions and groups in the communities: churches, Women's associations (Including SI council of Women, WARA)	 Inform residents in the project area and the broader public about the project implementation and planned activities Potential concerns regarding environmental and social impacts Potential educational/outreach opportunities to increase awareness and acceptance of the project
 Academic Institutions (e.g., universities, think tanks, schools) such as SINU, USP, other universities in the region, RTCs names from the APD 	 Potential concerns regarding environmental and social impacts Potential educational/outreach opportunities to increase awareness and acceptance of the project

4.3. Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups

- It is particularly important to ensure that awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement with disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups, who often do not have a voice to express their concerns or understand the impacts of the project, be adapted to take into account such groups or individuals particular sensitivities, concerns, and cultural sensitivities and to ensure a full understanding of project activities and benefits. The vulnerability may stem from a person's origin, gender, age, health condition, economic deficiency and financial insecurity, disadvantaged status in the community (e.g., minorities or fringe groups), dependence on other individuals or natural resources, etc. Engagement with these vulnerable groups and individuals often requires specific measures and assistance to facilitate their participation in the project-related decision-making so that their awareness of and input to the overall process is commensurate to those of the other stakeholders.
- Within the project framework, the vulnerable or disadvantaged groups may include and are not limited to the following: elderly, children, youth, poor households, women-headed households, residents in remote areas, disabled, etc. The vulnerable groups within the communities affected by the project will be further confirmed. The project team will provide special assistance as needed to ensure the marginalized and vulnerable social groups are consulted and able to access services.
- The project will invest in the three provinces in which ethnic minorities (or Indigenous Peoples) are the overwhelming majority of project beneficiaries known for the Solomon Islands. An IPPF and sub-project IPPs are not anticipated since the overwhelming majority of project beneficiaries are ethnic minorities, consistent with ESS7 paras 14 and 15. However, special measures will be integrated to account for any linguistic differences among the local population. The special measures may include using audio and/or visual material such as a simple leaflet to present the project and E&S aspects to the local people. Under the ESS7 paras 14 and 15, none of the circumstances requiring FPIC is present for the project activities.

4.4. Summary of Stakeholder Interest in and Influence over the Project

■ Table 4.2 summarizes the level of interest in and potential influence over the project of the various stakeholder categories identified above. Categories colour-coded in red will require regular and frequent engagement, typically face-to-face and several times per year, including written and verbal information. Categories colour-coded in orange will require regular engagement (e.g., every half-a-year), typically through written information. Finally, categories colour-coded in blue will require infrequent engagement (e.g., once a year), typically through indirect written information (e.g., mass media).

Table 4.2: Summary of Stakeholder Interest and Influence

Influence Inferest		Ability or Likelihood to Influence or Impact the Project				
		High	Medium	Low		
Level of Interest in the Project	High	 People residing in project areas Producer Organizations, Agribusinesses, Traders, Processors, and Exporters National and Provincial Agriculture and Livestock Network Vulnerable and poor household 	 National Ministries and Government Agencies Provincial Departments MPs & MPAs 	Other development partners		
	Medium	 NGOs Press and Media (including social media) 	• Businesses	 Academic Institutions Suppliers of the project materials General Public inside participating provinces Worker's Organizations Other Institutions and groups in the communities 		
	Low			 Other agriculture project developers and their financiers General Public outside participating provinces 		

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

5.1. Stakeholder Engagement Methods

- While the face-to-face meeting is a preferred method of communication, in light of the current COVID-19 situation and local and national advisories, a precautionary approach should be taken to the consultation process to prevent contagion. Where possible and appropriate, the following are some considerations while selecting channels of communication:
 - Avoid public gatherings (taking into account national restrictions or advisories), including public hearings, workshops, and community meetings;
 - If smaller meetings are permitted/advised, conduct consultations in small-group sessions, such as focus group meetings. If not allowed or recommended, make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, if possible;
 - Diversify means of communication and rely more on social media and online channels. Where possible and appropriate, create dedicated online platforms and chat groups suitable for the purpose, based on the type and category of stakeholders;

- Where possible and appropriate, employ traditional channels of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, dedicated phone-lines, and mail) when stakeholders do not have access to online channels or do not use them frequently. Traditional channels can also be highly effective in conveying relevant information to stakeholders and allow them to provide their feedback and suggestions;
- Where direct engagement with project-affected people or beneficiaries is necessary, identify channels for direct communication with each affected household via a context-specific combination of e-mail messages, mail, online platforms, dedicated phone lines with knowledgeable operators;
- Each of the proposed engagement channels should specify how stakeholders can provide feedback and suggestions.
- The stakeholder engagement methods to be employed for the project are presented in detail as the following:

5.1.1. Public/Community Meetings

At the start of the project, the project team will organize project launch meetings in each of the 3 provinces. From then on, Environment and Social Consultants (E&S Consultants) will help organize community meetings/sensitization sessions in the affected wards every quarter throughout the project's lifecycle.

5.1.2. Mass/Social Media Communication

A social media expert (from the project team/MAL) will be engaged on the project to post information on the dedicated Project and MAL Facebook page and communicate with the local population via social media campaigns or tools like WhatsApp throughout the project's lifecycle. Social media channels will be used as much as possible to disseminate information. Social media uses (especially Facebook) appear to be high across users of different ages and backgrounds in project-affected communities where network internet connection is available.

5.1.3. Communication Materials

■ Communication materials such as brochures or flyers will be developed and disclosed to the public before the project activities begin. MAL's Environment and Social (E&S) focal points, in collaboration with the project's M&E team, will ensure the regular update of its website: https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-agriculture-and-livestock/ (at least quarterly) with key project updates and reports on the project's environmental and social performance. The website will also provide information about the grievance mechanism for the project.

5.1.4. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

In compliance with ESS10 requirements, specific grievance mechanisms will be established for the project. Dedicated communication materials (GRM pamphlets, posters, etc.) will be created to help residents and community labourers familiarise themselves with the grievance redress channels and procedures. A GRM guidebook/manual will also be developed and suggestion boxes installed in each affected provincial offices and/or at designated areas at each affected community. A dedicated GRM Management Information System/database is prepared to capture and track grievances received under the project. GRM committees at the MAL HQ and provincial level will benefit from Training on how to receive, respond to, address, and close grievances in line with best international practices. Internal GRM training will also take place for the project team and contractor staff. The MAL website will include clear information on how feedback, questions, comments, concerns, and grievances can be submitted by any stakeholder and will possibly submit grievances electronically. It will also provide information on the way the GRM committee works, both in terms of process and deadlines.

5.1.5. Information Desks

■ Information Desks in each province will provide residents with information on stakeholder engagement activities, construction updates, contact details of E&S focal points/consultants... etc. The E&S Consultants will set up these information desks in the project provinces, in the MAL Provincial office where they can meet and share information about the Project with PAPs and other stakeholders. Brochures and fliers on various project related social and environmental issues will be made available at these information desks.

5.1.6. Citizen/PAP Perception Survey

A perception survey examining citizen's experience and feedback about the project will be carried out twice during the project's lifecycle: once around the mid-implementation phase and once towards the end of the project's implementation. The survey will be incorporated into the project's mid-term and final evaluations.

5.1.7. Training and Workshops

As outlined in the ESCP, training workshops on various social and environmental issues will be provided to the project team and contractor staff and possibly relevant government or non-government service providers. Topics covered will include sensitization to gender-based violence risks.

5.2. Proposed Strategy to Incorporate the View of Vulnerable Groups

■ The project will take extraordinary measures to ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups have equal opportunity to access information, provide feedback, or submit grievances. The deployment of E&S Consultants will help to ensure proactive outreach to all population groups. Training and awareness-raising sessions will be conducted in communities rather than provincial offices to ensure the targeted population's higher participation. Focus groups explicitly dedicated to vulnerable groups may also be envisaged as appropriate.

5.3. Planned Stakeholder Engagement Activities

■ Stakeholder engagement activities need to provide specific stakeholder groups with relevant information and opportunities to voice their views on topics that matter to them. Table 5.1 below presents the stakeholder engagement activities envisaged under the project. The activity types and their frequency are adapted to the main project stages: project preparation and implementation. A more detailed explanation of the stakeholder engagement methods used is included in section 6.2.

Table 5.1: Planned Stakeholder Engagement Activities by Project Phase

Project	Table 5.1: Planned Stakeholder Engagement Activities by Project Phase ect Target Stakeholders Topic(s) of Engagement Methods Location/(Frequency) Responsibilities					
Stage	rarget Stakenoiders	Topic(s) of Engagement	Wethous		Responsibilities	
Preparation	• Project Affected Parties: People residing in the project area; Vulnerable households; Producer Organizations, Traders, Processors, and Exporters; National and Provincial Agriculture and Livestock Network	 Project scope and rationale; Project E&S principles; Grievance mechanism process 	 Public meetings, training/workshops, separate meetings specifically for women and vulnerable; Mass/Social Media Communication-Facebook, WhatsApp; Disclosure of written information-brochures, posters, flyers, website 	 Project launch meetings in provincial offices (one per province); Meetings in affected provinces and wards (quarterly); Survey of PAPs in affected wards (once per ward); Communication through mass/social media (as frequent as needed); Information desks with brochures/posters in affected provinces (continuous) 	MAL (Specifically, E&S Focal Points, E&S Consultants)	
	• Other Interested Parties: Press and media; NGOs; Other businesses and business organization; Workers' organizations; Academic institutions; Other National Government Ministries; Local Government Departments; General public	 Project scope and rationale; Project E&S principles; Grievance mechanism process 	 Meetings; Joint public/community meetings with PAPs; Invitations to public/community meetings 	• As needed	MAL (Specifically, E&S Focal Points, E&S Consultants)	
Implementation	Project Affected Parties: People residing in the project area; Vulnerable households; Producer Organizations, Traders, Processors, and Exporters; National and Provincial Agriculture and Livestock Network	 Project scope and how to participate. Project E&S principles Grievance mechanism process; Health and safety impacts; Employment opportunities; Environmental concerns; Satisfaction with engagement activities and grievance mechanism process 	 Public meetings, training/workshops, separate meetings specifically for women and vulnerable; Individual outreach to PAPs; Mass/social media communication-Facebook, WhatsApp; Disclosure of written information-brochures, posters, flyers, website; Information desks- in provincial MAL offices; Grievance mechanism; Citizen/PAP survey 	 Meetings in Honiara and all affected provinces and wards (monthly/quarterly); Communication through mass/social media (as needed); Information desks with brochures/posters in affected provinces (continuous) 	 The project team, including: Provincial grievance committee E&S focal points E&S consultants 	

- Other Interested Parties: Press and media; NGOs; Other businesses and business organization; Workers' organizations; Academic institutions; Other National Government Ministries; Local Government Departments; General public
- Project information- scope and rationale and E&S principles;
- Coordination activities
- Grievance mechanism process;
- Health and safety impacts;
- Employment opportunities;
- Environmental concerns;

- Public meetings, training/workshops;
- Mass/social media communication-Facebook, WhatsApp;
- Disclosure of written informationbrochures, posters, flyers, website;
- Information desks- in provincial offices
- Grievance mechanism

- Meetings in Honiara and all affected provinces and wards (monthly/quarterly);
- Communication through mass/social media (as needed);
- Information desks with brochures/posters in affected provinces (continuous)
- The project team, including:
- Provincial grievance committee
- E&S focal points
- E&S consultants -

5.4. Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

- MAL has disclosed the draft SEP and other E&S instruments on the MAL website at https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-agriculture-and-livestock/. Project-related environmental and social monitoring reports listed in the above sections will also be announced on the website. Project updates will also be posted on the website. An easy-to-understand guide to the terminology used in the environmental and social reports or documents will also be provided on the website. All information brochures/fliers will be posted on the website. Details about the project GRM will be posted on the website. An electronic grievance submission form will also be made available on the website. Contact details of the Project's E&S focal points and E&S consultants will also be made available on the website. MAL's E&S focal points, with the support of E&S consultants, will update and maintain the website regularly (at least once quarterly). Further, MAL will create a dedicated project Facebook page and a WhatsApp group for PAPs and other stakeholders.
- An indicative strategy of information disclosure is aligned with the Project's ESMF and outlined in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

Project Stage	Target Stakeholders	List of information to be disclosed	Methods and Proposed Timing
Preparation	Project Affected Parties: People residing in the project area; Vulnerable households; Producer Organizations, Traders, Processors, and Exporters; National and Provincial Agriculture and Livestock Network	 Project scope and rationale; Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Grievance Mechanism Environmental and Social Commitment Plan 	 Public consultation (face-to-face or virtual consultations through WhatsApp, Facebook, e-mail, etc.) Meetings specifically for women and vulnerable (if needed) The project website
Prep 2	Other Interested Parties: Press and media; NGOs; Other businesses and business organization; Workers' organizations; Academic institutions; Other National Government Ministries; Local Government Departments; General public	 Project scope and rationale; Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Grievance Mechanism Environmental and Social Commitment Plan 	 Meetings (face-to-face or virtual); Joint public/community meetings with PAPs; The project website
Implementation	Project Affected Parties: People residing in the project area; Vulnerable households; Producer Organizations, Traders, Processors, and Exporters; National and Provincial Agriculture and Livestock Network	 Updated Project's ESF instruments Feedback of project consultations Information about the project's activities 	 Public consultation (face-to-face or virtual consultations through WhatsApp, Facebook, e-mail, etc.) Meetings specifically for women and vulnerable (if needed) The project website

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³ Specific names by MAL team

- Other Interested Parties: Press and media; NGOs; Other businesses and business organization; Workers' organizations; Academic institutions; Other National Government Ministries; Local Government Departments; General public
- Updated Project's ESF instruments
- Feedback of project consultations
- Information about the project's activities
- Meetings (face-to-face or virtual);
- Joint public/community meetings with PAPs;
- The project website

5.5. Future Phases of the Project

■ Stakeholders will be kept informed as the project develops, including reporting on project environmental and social performance and implementing the stakeholder engagement plan and grievance mechanism.

6. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

6.1. Budget Resources

■ A tentative budget for implementing the stakeholder engagement plan over five years is attached in Table 6.1. The stakeholder engagement activities featured below cover a variety of environmental and social issues. The project team will review this plan every six months to determine if any stakeholder classification or engagement changes are required. If so, the plan will be updated, and a new revision will be distributed. The budget will be revised accordingly.

Table 6.1: Estimated budget for Stakeholder Engagement Plan (5 Years)

Stakeholder Engagement Activities	Quantity	Unit Cost (USD)	Times/Years	Total Cost (USD)
Environment and social consultants salaries (2@SBD21,000 ⁴ per month)	2	\$31,500	5	\$157,500
Travel expense for staff/ESCs (cost per year)	1	\$27,000	5	\$135,000
Project Launch Meetings (in 3 provinces)	3	\$8,125	1	\$24,375
Community Meetings/Sensitization (in x16wards, quarterly)	64	\$625	5	\$200,000
Provincial Meetings/Sensitization (in 3 provinces, quarterly)	12	\$2,500	5	\$150,000
Communications materials (pamphlets, posters, PR kits-including design)	1	\$46,875	1	\$46,875
Training workshops on environmental/social issues for contractor/consultants (Honiara and 3 provinces)	4	\$1,875	3	\$22,500
Citizen/PAP perception surveys (4 communities /province)	12	\$4,000	2	\$96,000
Contingency (10%)		\$122,500		\$83,225
Sub-Total: Stakeholder Engagement Activities				\$915,475
Grievance Redress Activities	Quantity	Unit Cost (USD)	Times/Years	Total Cost (USD)
Communications materials (GRM pamphlets, posters)	8000	\$1	1	\$8,000
GRM guidebook/manual	500	\$13	1	\$6,250

⁴ USD1.00 = SBD8.00

Suggestion boxes (in each province and ward)	36	\$38	1	\$1,350
GRM MIS/Database (set-up (700,000 SBD)and annual hosting fee (45,000 SBD))	1	\$115,625	1	\$115,625
Training of GRM committees at the provincial level	3	\$2,750	2	\$16,500
Internal GRM Training for the project staff and contractor staff	4	\$1,875	3	\$22,500
Contingency (10%)				\$17,023
Sub-total: Grievance Redress				\$187,248
TOTAL:				\$1,102,723

6.2. Functions and Responsibilities

■ A project team includes the E&S focal points, and E&S consultants will take responsibility for and lead all aspects of the stakeholder engagement. However, to implement the various activities envisaged in the SEP, the team will need to coordinate closely with other project team members, key stakeholders—other national and local government departments/agencies, the contractors, affected provinces, and PAPs. The roles and responsibilities of these actors/stakeholders are summarized in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Responsibilities of Key Actors/Stakeholders in SEP Implementation

Actors/Stakeholders	Responsibilities		
MAL/PMUMAL's E&S Focal pointsE&S Consultants	 Plan and implement the SEP; Lead stakeholder engagement activities; Transfer all complaints to the GRM Focal Point; Participate in the Grievance Redress Coordinate/supervise of contractors on SEP activities; Monitor of and report on environmental and social performance to the project team and the World Bank 		
Provincial MAL	 Supervise/monitor contractors; Supervise/monitor community resource persons (CRPs); Manage engagement activities during the construction phase; Receive, Manage, and resolve the grievances; Participate in the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee (see Grievance Mechanism Section) They can also advise on national regulations (i.e., health and safety, food safety, etc.) that may be relevant to the subproject activities. 		
Contractors ⁵	 Inform the project team of any issues related to their engagement with stakeholders; Transmit and resolve complaints caused by the construction activities in close collaboration with and as directed by the project team/provincial MAL; Prepare, disclose and implement Labour Management Plan, etc.; Inform local communities of any environmental monitoring, e.g., noise, vibration, water quality monitoring; Announce important construction activities (such as construction signages, road closures, and available alternatives); 		
Other Government Agencies (e.g., ECD, MID, and Ministry of Commerce)	 Monitor Project compliance with Solomon Island legislation; Participate in the implementation of some activities in the SEP; Make available and engage with the public on the project scope 		

⁵ The contractors would not be members of the Grievance Redress Committee but would be called to attend if required for any specific grievance.

7. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM (GRM)

7.1. Objective

- All project-affected communities and external stakeholders in the ART project will have access to a grievance mechanism that will receive, record, and review grievances, fairly and transparently and provide appropriate redress. The GRM deals with issues caused by construction works and any direct or indirect environmental and social impacts either due to the project activities and/or actions by the project team or the contractors employed by the project team. A separate mechanism to address worker grievances is covered in the Labour Management Plan (LMP). All stakeholders will be fully informed of the GRM, including how to submit grievances, the procedure for handling grievances, and the time within which a decision will be reached.
- The design of the GRM employed the following fundamental principle:
 - Openness and transparency The Project will record all complaints submitted, including their
 outcomes and details of time taken to consider and resolve the complaints. A regularly updated
 summary of this record will be posted on the project website. The project will take all complaints
 and view them as opportunities for project improvement.
 - Fairness All grievances will be accepted as submitted in good faith and will be assessed on their
 merits without regard to the complainant's identity or status. All complaints will be evaluated
 objectively in relation to relevant regulations and operational guidelines of the ART project.
 Where applicable, the standards of the World Bank's ESF will be applied to the resolution of
 grievances.
 - Accessibility The Project will make every effort to ensure that all project-affected persons and
 other stakeholders have access to the GRM. To this end, the GRM will accept grievances
 submitted verbally, in writing, by any suitable means of communication. Complaints may be
 made by or on behalf of an individual, an organization, or an institution such as media.
 - Responsiveness and effectiveness The Project will endeavour to process and respond to all
 grievances in a timely and effective manner. Receipts of all submissions will be acknowledged
 within 5 working days. Consideration of valid complaints by the GRM will occur within 30 working
 days, giving time for collecting and examining evidence if required. Additional time may be
 required for negotiation with aggrieved parties, but the resolution should not exceed 45 working
 days.
 - Anonymity and confidentiality Individuals or institutions submitting complaints may request
 anonymity, in which case their names will not be made public. Confidentiality will also be
 observed during the period when the GRM is considering a case (e.g., the source and any person,
 contractors, or entity accused of wrongdoing should be protected).

7.2. Lessons Learned on Complaint Handling Mechanism

- RDP and RDP II projects' experience shows that there were only a few complaints raised by communities, which were handled through consultation with the community to provide solutions to the specific grievance. Complaints on environmental, health, and safety issues such as dust, noise, waste generations, health concerns, safety risks for the public, etc. should be resolved directly by the Project Management Unit's community liaison officer as representative of the Implementing Agency. For straightforward complaints, the community liaison officer could make an on-the-spot determination to resolve the issue.
- According to the Annual Report of RDP II in October 2020, there have been no major environmental and social issues associated with implementing sub-projects, specifically during the last semester. The Community Helpers, with support of the PMU management, have done well in ensuring that all their activities during the implementation of the Sub-project are done following the ESMF procedures. The land has been a significant safeguard concern; however, the risks of land disputes could have eliminated with proper consultation with the rightful stakeholders so far.

7.3. Institutional Arrangements for Grievance Redress Mechanism in ART Project

- MAL will have overall responsibility for the GRM in the ART project. The responsibility will include (i) maintaining a consolidated register of grievances submitted and outcomes, (ii) building capacity and providing support and advice to all implementing agencies, and (iii) directly intervening to support the resolution of a grievance where this becomes necessary. The MAL Project Director will oversee the implementation of the GRM with the assistance of E&S focal points and E&S consultants.
- The project team is responsible for managing the GRM, but many of the project's grievances will likely relate to the contractors' actions and so will need to be resolved by the contractors. The project will establish two levels of committees: national and provincial, as summarized in Figure 7.1.



Figure 7-1: GRM Institutional Responsibilities

- At the national level, the role of the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) will be (i) to periodically review the implementation of the GRM at the provincial level, and (ii) to review progress and, where necessary, make recommendations in the management of any grievances submitted to national level. The GRC will be chaired by the MAL Project Director and should have the following members: MAL E&S Focal Point as a Secretary; Head of Departments: Livestock, Research, Planning, and Biosecurity as a member; and E&S Consultant(s) as a member.
- At the provincial level, the project will establish a Provincial Grievance Redress Committee (PGRC) in each province. The PGRC will be chaired by Provincial MAL Coordinator and should consist of the following members: Provincial MAL Officer as a Secretary; E&S Consultant(s) as a member; a representative of a Project Affected People such as community resource persons as a member; a woman representative of the Project Affected Household (AH) as a member a representative of local non-government organizations (NGOs), taking into account the grievance character, as a member.

7.4. Grievance Redress Mechanism Process in ART Project

7.4.1. Receiving and Recording Complaints

- Project-affected communities and stakeholders may submit grievances by any suitable method, including face-to-face, telephone, or writing. Grievances may be submitted by any person, whether or not that person is directly affected by grievance. Grievances may be submitted directly to the project's province-based staff or provincial MAL office in each province. All grievances notified to the project will be systematically recorded and entered in a consolidated log of grievances. Written grievances will be copied and kept on file.
- If requested, anonymity and confidentiality principle will be observed throughout the GRM process as described in section 7.1: Individuals or institutions submitting complaints may request anonymity, in which case their names will not be made public. Confidentiality will be observed during the period when the GRM is considering a case (e.g., the source and any person, contractors, or entity accused of wrongdoing should be protected).
- All project staff will receive Training on what action to take if they are notified of a grievance. The training will include (i) how to explain the rights of the stakeholder submitting the grievance, the grievance process, and the option of remaining anonymous; and (ii) recording the grievance on a standard form (Annex 1); and (iii) passing the completed grievance form together with any written complaint or other documentary evidence to the Secretary of PGRC.

7.4.2. Processing of Grievances

- On receiving a grievance, the Secretary of PGRC will carry out the following steps:
 - Step 1: Enter the details of the complaint into the consolidated complaints register (Annex 2);
 - Step 2: Copy the updated grievance register to the Chair of the PGRC (at the provincial level) or the MAL Project Director (at the national level);
 - Step 3: Carry out an initial screening review with E&S Consultant(s). Confirm that the grievance is (i) a matter related to the ART project; and (ii) a substantive issue that can be investigated. Grievances that do not relate to the ART project can be passed on to another relevant institution. For grievances that do not relate to a specific matter that can be investigated, a short explanation letter may be most appropriate;
 - Step 4: Prepare a letter (i) acknowledging that the grievance has been received; (ii) notifying the stakeholder of what action will be taken; and (iii) stating the rights of the complainant.

- Screening and acknowledgment of the grievance should be completed within 5 working days upon receiving a complaint.
- The next step is for the Chair of the GRM (at the national or provincial level) to assign the Secretary and/or E&S consultant(s) to investigate the grievance. The investigation may include interviewing the complainant, project staff, and other stakeholders; inspecting physical evidence and documents. All project staff must cooperate with the investigation, including sharing documents where necessary. If the complainant has requested to remain anonymous, the investigator(s) must not do anything to result in the stakeholder's name being revealed.
- The investigator(s) will complete their investigation and report facts to the GRC or PGRC. The investigator(s) does not make any recommendation other than reporting the facts. The GRC or PGRC then meets to review the report and decide what action to take. The decision can be:
 - No action required;
 - Action to redress the grievance; or
 - Raise the grievance from the PGRC to the national GRC because the problem cannot be solved at the provincial level.
- A notification letter will be prepared and sent directly to the stakeholder who submitted the grievance. The institution or individual staff member who recorded the grievance will also receive a copy of the letter.
- Wherever possible, investigation and GRC decision should be completed within 30 days after the grievance was received. If the handling of a grievance cannot be completed within 30 days, the GRC should review and approve an extension of no more than 15 days. The complainant should be notified of the extension of time. A Flow chart of the Grievance Redress Mechanism is presented in Figure 7.2.

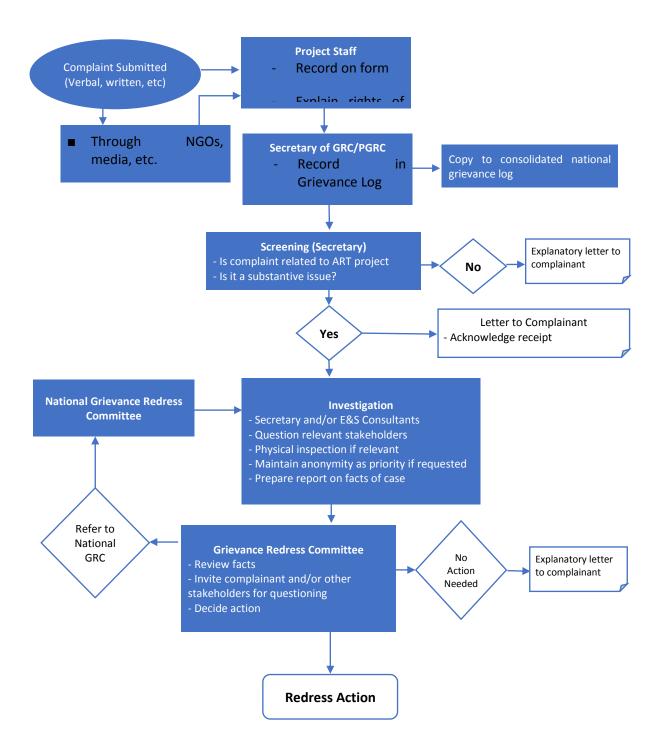


Figure 7-2: Flow Chart of the Grievance Redress Mechanism

7.4.3. Additional Recourses

- 1. Stakeholders who are not satisfied with the decision of the PGRC have the right to take further action, including:
 - Submitting their grievance directly to the national GRC;
 - Submitting their grievance to the courts.

7.5. Workers' Grievance Mechanism

- The project team will require contractors to develop and implement a grievance mechanism for their workforce before starting civil works. The construction contractors will prepare their labour-management procedure before starting civil works, which will also include a detailed description of the workers' grievance mechanism.
- The contractors' workers grievance mechanism will include:
 - a procedure to receive grievances such as comment/complaint form, suggestion boxes, e-mail, a telephone hotline;
 - stipulated timeframes to respond to grievances;
 - a register to record and track the timely resolution of grievances;
 - a responsible department to receive, record, and track the resolution of grievances.
- MAL will monitor the contractors' recording and resolution of grievances and report these to the project team in their monthly progress reports. The process will be monitored by the project team (E&S focal points and E&S consultants).
- The workers' grievance mechanism will be described in staff induction training provided to all project workers. The mechanism will be based on the following principles:
 - The process will be transparent and allow workers to express their concerns and file grievances.
 - There will be no discrimination against those who express grievances, and any grievances will be treated confidentially.
 - Anonymous grievances will be treated equally as other grievances, whose origin is known.
 - Management will treat grievances seriously and take timely and appropriate action in response.
- Information about the grievance mechanism's existence will be readily available to all project workers (direct and contracted) through notice boards, the presence of "suggestion/complaint boxes," and other means as needed.

7.6. Disclosure of the Grievance Redress Mechanism

- The project will ensure that information on the GRM is widely disseminated to stakeholders. Vital information to be shared includes (i) means of submitting a grievance, including names and contact details of MAL point of contact in each province and at the national level; (ii) the process for grievance handling; (iii) the time allowed for handling grievances; (iv) the right to anonymity; and (v) the right to seek redress through other channels. Information should make clear that the stakeholder will not be asked to pay to have their grievance accepted.
- Information on the GRM in English will be posted on the project website. A simple leaflet on the GRM will be prepared and distributed at the provincial MAL office in each province and affected communities. The GRM will be described in public meetings.
- The project will record all complaints and their status updated in internal recordings and on the website. This record will be easily accessible by complainants or interested bodies such as the World Bank to track type, status, timeframe, feedback, resolution of complaints, and summary reports; however, the principle of anonymity and confidentiality may be requested or required under some instances. The information on complaints will be used for the project to improve its effectiveness.

7.7. MAL Contact Information

■ The point of contact regarding grievance management and the local stakeholder engagement activities is presented in Table 7.1 below.

Table 7.1: Point of Contact

Description	Contact Details	
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)	
Main Contact:	Deputy Secretary Technical	
Address:	Honiara, Solomon Islands	
E-mail:	NA	
Website:	https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-agriculture-and-livestock/	
Telephone:	+677 24657 ext. 22143	

Information on the Project and future stakeholder engagement programs will be available on the MAL website and posted on information boards in affected wards in the project area. Information can also be obtained from the Environment Health and Safety consultants.

8. MONITORING AND REPORTING

8.1. Involvement of Stakeholders in Monitoring Activities

The project provides several opportunities to stakeholders, especially Project Affected Parties, to monitor certain aspects of project performance and provide feedback. Each PGRC in the 3 affected provinces will allow PAPs to submit grievances and other types of feedback. Citizen/PAP surveys at the project mid-point and end stages will also allow PAPs to provide feedback on project performance. Furthermore, frequent and regular community meetings and interactions with the project staff, especially the Environment and social consultants, will allow PAPs and other local stakeholders to be heard and engaged.

8.2. Monitoring Reports

■ During the project implementation, MAL, with the support of E&S consultants, will prepare semi-annual and annual summary reports on the environmental and social performance of the project for submission to the project management and the World Bank. These reports will include an update on the implantation of the stakeholder engagement plan and grievance management. The annual reports will be disclosed on the MAL website and made available in the MAL's provincial offices and/or the local government offices in the affected provinces. Besides, the project team will prepare Incident Notifications for the World Bank, if and when required. Table 8.1 proposes a comprehensive set of indicators related to SEP performance at this stage.

Table 8.1: Proposed SEP Indicators to be Included in Progress Reports

Engagement with PAPs:

- Number and location of formal meetings with PAPs
- Number and location of informal meetings with PAPs
- Number and location of community awareness-raising or training meetings
- Number of men and women that attended each of the meetings above
- Number, location, attendance, and documentation of the meetings held with the authorities and communities or other stakeholders
- For each meeting, number and nature of comments received, actions agreed during these meetings, status of those actions.
- Number and nature of engagement activities with other stakeholders, disaggregated by category of stakeholder (Governmental departments, NGOs)
- Issues raised by NGOs and other stakeholders, actions agreed with them, and those actions' status. Minutes of meetings will be annexed to the six-monthly report
- Number and nature of project documents publicly disclosed
- · Number and nature of updates of the project website
- Number and categories of comments received on the website

Grievance Redress Mechanism:

- Number of grievances received, in total and at the provincial and national levels, on the website, disaggregated by complainant's gender and means of receipt (telephone, e-mail, discussion)
- Number of grievances received from affected people, external stakeholders
- Average time of complaint's redress process, disaggregated by gender of complainants and categories of complaints
- Number of GRC meetings and outputs of these meetings (minutes of meetings signed by the attendees, including the complainants to be annexed to the report)
- Number of grievances which have been (i) opened, (ii) opened for more than 30 days, (iii) those which have been resolved, (iv) closed, and (v) number of responses that satisfied the complainants during the reporting period disaggregated by category of grievance, gender, age and location of complainant.
- Trends in time and comparison of number, categories, and location of complaints with previous reporting periods

Workers Grievances:

- Number of grievances raised by workers, disaggregated by gender of workers and worksite
- Profile of those who lodge a grievance (gender, age, worksite), by category of grievances.
- Average time of complaint's redress process, disaggregated by gender of complainants and categories of complaints
- The trend in time and comparison of number, categories, and location of complaints with previous reporting periods

8.3. Reporting back to Stakeholder Groups

■ MAL, through the support of E&S consultants, will report back to PAPs and other stakeholder groups, primarily through public meetings in project-affected provinces and/or communities. Minutes of meetings will be shared during subsequent public meetings. Feedback received through the GRM will be responded to in writing and verbally, to the extent possible. SMS and phone calls will be used to respond to stakeholders whose telephone numbers are available. Key Project updates will be posted on MAL's website. Social media (primarily through the Project Facebook page and a WhatsApp group for PAPs and other stakeholders) will also be used to report back to different stakeholders.

Annex 1 GRIEVANCE RECORD FORM

SOLOMON ISLANDS AGRICULTURE AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT RECORD FORM FOR NOTIFICATION OF ANY PROJECT RELATED GRIEVANCE

Note: Any ART project staff member who is notified of a grievance must record the grievance on this form, either immediately or as soon afterwards as possible

Ward:			
Province:			
Name of the Complainant:		Gender: Female	. Male
Contact details of complainant (telephone,	e-mail, physical address	as relevant):	
Does the complainant request anonymity:	Yes No		
Date and time of receiving grievance			
Grievance Method: Phone call Fac	e-to-face verbal	Writing	Other
Grievance recorded by (name/ position)			
Describe the grievance as fully as possible	below:		

Has the complainant been informed of his/her rights? Yes / No Has the complainant been informed of the process's next steps, and how long will it take? Yes/No

Annex 2 **GRIEVANCE REGISTER**

Province:
Ward:

Form	Name of Complainant	Main Issues/ Problems in	Date of Receipt	Received by
Number		the Complaint		7

Annex 3 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES

Annex 3.1 Solomon Islands Government Key Ministries

[Pick the date]	1		lace: Livestock Office Conference oom, Ministry of Agriculture	
Meeting called by	Ministry of Agriculture			
Type of meeting	Stakeholder Meeting			
Presenters	Mark Johnson and Andrew Melanolu			
Note taker	Marista Kapini			
	Names	Designation	Company	
	Ethel Frances (EF)	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	
Attendees (16)	Andrew Melanolu (AM)	Director Extension	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	
	Mark Johnson (MJ)	Intl. Consultant for Component 2	RDP	
	Marista Kapini (MK)	National Consultant for SI-ART	r WB	
	Mr. Gabriel Manetiva (GM)	Acting Director	Ministry of Rural Development	
	Mrs. Ivory Akao (IA)	Deputy Director Insho	re Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Research	
	Mr. Erick George (EG)	Deputy Secretary Technical	Ministry of Commerce	
	Dr. Lazarus Neko (LN)	Supervising Permanen Secretary	Ministry of Health and Medical Services	
	Mr. Vaeno Vigulu (VV)	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Forestry and Research	
	Edward Danitofea (ED)	Chief Environment Officer	Ministry of Environment	
	Mr. Philip Riogano (PR)	Senior Environmental Officer	Ministry of Environment	
	Mr. Moses Tepai (MT)	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	
	Mr Steven Paukari (SP)	Director Culture	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	
	Gabriel Hiele (GH)	C2 Manager	RDP	
	William Okekini (WO)		RDP	
	Mr. Patterson Siliota (PS)	Acting General Manag	ger CEMA	

Apologies (5)	Mr Bunyan Sivoro	Director Tourism	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
	Mr. Stanley Waleanisia	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey
	Mrs. Zamira Rau	Protection & Social inclusion officer & NDOC National Protection Committee	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
	Mr. Roy Mae	Supervising Permanent Secretary	Min.NDPC
	Mr. James Bosamata	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

Order of Meeting

1	Opening Prayer	Marista Kapini	WB National Consultant for ART Project
2	Opening Remarks	Ethel Francis	Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary
3	Introductions	All Participants	
4	Presentation	Mark Johnson	International Consultants RDP
		Andrew Melanolu	Director for Livestock Division and MAL ES
			Focal Points
5	Comments/Questions and	All Participants	
	Answers		

Meeting Notes:

Item		Action by	Due Date
A	Opening Remarks		
	 EF opened up by thanking all the participants for their presence and reminding the government officers that they are the representative of the people. EF briefly introduced the background of SI-ART also stating that the project will take on the Agriculture Component of RDP. She also stated that the pre-approval stage of the ART project and the requirement that the safeguard instruments of the project must be disclosed for all stakeholders and the public to view and make contributions to further improve them. She encouraged the participants to comment toward the instruments to ensure that they are well represented and that the ultimate implementation of the safeguard instruments and the project itself is effective and successful. She emphasized the importance of all government ministries' functions and roles to be felt in the development and implementation of the project. 	EF	
В	Agenda		
	 1. Background of SI-ART Project (Presented by Mark Johnston) Question: (MT) What stage is the project currently in? Response: (MJ) Pre-approval stage Question: (MT) Is this project only for smallholders? Response: (MJ) Beneficiaries including PO, small holder farmers and MAL. 		

■ <u>Comment</u>: (MT) It would be useful to determine how this project will contribute to the country's GDP.

Response: (MJ) Noted

Question: (MT) Why beef not included in the project?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) Beef has a longer breeding term. Additionally, majority of the livestock farmers look after Chickens and Pigs

■ <u>Comment</u>: (SP) To ensure effective monitoring of all subprojects, only those smallholders who have been registered should receive funding from the project.

Response: (MJ) Agreed with the comment and said that there are lot more detail of the project design that can be read from the instrument documents and the Project Appraisal Document (PAD). The project will only work with POs who have been registered as a charitable group under the charitable Act for food security producer groups or if it is an agribusiness group to be registered as a corporative under the Company's Act etc. MAL through the project will strengthen the group's functions. These groups must have bank account to be eligible for funding. Also added that should the PO require funding support for any agricultural activities must show their commitment by depositing 10% of the total amount of the activity cost.

Question: (IA) Under Objective 2 of the ppt stated "poverty alleviated across the whole of the Solomon Islands". How does the project propose to alleviate poverty across the whole of SI since the project areas are only in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) Noted. In the long term, this objective can be achieved. However, the two objectives are the national government objectives based on the NDS. SIART is contributing to that objective.

■ Comment: (VV) wanted to know what the road map is for the project. If it is going to fund 2 project area first as pilot areas and after the lessons learned from the first 2 areas commences implementation in the 3rd project area. As this is what MOFR does through a JICA project. Additionally, will the project only fund the first phase of the project and stop?

Response: (MJ) It is not yet clear on the road map with this project though WB has indicated that there will be more investments in the future. But the project will fund the PMU and other project operation cost within MAL HQ and the provinces.

Question: (EG) Will the project have a project steering committee (PSC) considering the fact that there will be activities that are cross cutting.
 He added that PSC can bring in valuable information to the project and

would provide a platform where other parties can find their fit into the project and avoid duplication of activities.

Response: (MJ) Yes there will be a PSC set up for the project, but the composition is still unknown.

Comment: (EG) commented that this project will certainly promote the development of the private sector in the country and added that the project should consider using and working with existing organisations in the provinces that have already been formally registered and have all the necessary organisational structure in place. Such organisations would have better knowledge of the context of the project area and the existing resources that the project can utilise in the respective project areas.

<u>Response</u>: Agreed with the comment and added that by working with existing organisations in the provinces, we are not replicating activities. MJ added that WB would also be interested in the fact that we strengthen the existing organisation making them sustainable.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (EG) This project will really support local industry though providing import substitutes such as poultry products and livestock feed etc.

Response: (MJ) That is exactly the intention of the small stock program. To try and reduce imports by increase production. Currently, imported products are cheaper than home grown products. Another issue is that locally grown chickens and pigs are currently not hygienically slaughtered, and hotels and restaurants are hesitant to pay for them. The project will try to change that through establishing a hygiene slaughter lab in the 3 province that the project will be operated in.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (EG) Once Ministry of Commerce can identify potential agribusiness, the Ministry can support them, and help with linking them to the potential markets.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) Agreed and emphasised the importance for MAL and the Ministry of Commerce to work more closely together.

- Comment: (LN) Agreed that MAL and the Ministry of Commerce should find ways where they can synergise in this project where agriculture should focus solely on production and commerce on the commercial side of things.
- <u>Comment</u>: (MT) This is a very important project and wishes that this project has been implemented already. It is important that this project promotes food security and nutrition considering the problems that artificial foods have caused to many people in the country. This project can benefit the future generation in terms of diet and nutrition.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (LN) Agreed that this project is very important for the country. It addresses two important issues; (1) Food Security and (2) Nutrition.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) The food security objective of the project will also address food nutrition though the word nutrition is not specified in the project objective.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (LN) The USD 15M investment is quite a large investment and would take a good number of years to pay it all off which would also put pressure on the future generation to do so.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) According to MOFT, the investment will be 50% investment and 50% grant.

■ <u>Comment</u> (LN) For such a large investment, it is important to have indicators to measure its performances and successes and with that have baseline indicators. Does the project have them?

Question: (LN) The Governor General in his new year's message said that "we need the youths should become job creators not job seekers" Does the project have any special attention for youths and women?

<u>Comment</u>: (LN) The presentation needs to show the organisational structure for the project implementation.

Response: (MJ) There is more information about the project design and the project organisational structure which is well defined through the undersecretary technical in MAL. The draft PAD can be shared for additional reading on the details of project design, how the project is planned to be implemented, organisational structure, youth and women involvement and indicators of performance.

Women and youth engagement are highly encouraged and active in the project through food producing. More POs will be women led through women's groups than men led POs. Through savings clubs these women groups are developed. With regards to indicators there a whole of them but there should be 50 % women involvement in most of the activities including those recruited as young professionals as extension officers. Youth also have a fair bit of emphasis with one part of the PO's responsibility is to increase mechanisation of tools and is planned to have youths trained up on the repair and maintenance of these equipment's so that they can provide that service to the PO's as an example.

2. ESF Instruments (Presented by Andrew Melanolu)

(a) ESMF

 <u>Comment</u>:(ED) Environmental Act only purposely for major project that poses a significant threat to the environment and people. For this case, it is not feasible for smallholders to perform EIS for their small holding activities. In such cases, it is advisable to work with environmental health divisions in the provinces. However, the EIS process will be triggered in the case where the activities potentially have adverse effect on the environment and the people.

Response: (MJ) The project will not fund any activities that would cause significant, negative or adverse effects to the environment and threatens people's health and safety. But for all the sub-projects there will be a E&S screening checklist developed that can be used by MAL safeguard staff or even the extension officers and the small holders themselves to perform the E&S screening for the proposed project as part of its approval process. The potential E&S impacts identified will be minimise through identification of appropriate mitigation measures as outlined in the ESMF Chapter 6.

Comment: (VV) In response to the fact that MAL has no set guidelines on Agricultural activities operating near river systems and waterways, PS for MOFR indicated that MOFR has guidelines that categorise rivers into classes and have allocated buffer zones for the different types of river systems.

(VV) added as an example that Kolombangara Forestry Planation Limited (KFPL) in the Western Province uses <u>herbicides</u> to control weeds. But they have employed buffer zones between the plantation edges and the river systems to avoid washing of the chemicals into the rivers and coastal environments. VV recommends that MAL must employ buffer zones on its various activities to avoid polluting or causing sedimentation of river systems and eventually the coastal environment.

<u>Comment</u>: (ED) also adding to this topic of buffer zones and revealed that GPPOL who also use herbicides have buffer zones between the palm oil plantations and the waterways. MAL can liaise with GPPOL for guidelines as well.

<u>Response</u>: (AM) acknowledged the importance to regulate MAL's activities and the use and handling of chemicals especially those that have been distributed to the rural areas through previous projects such as the Rice Program implemented with the Taiwan Farm. He added that to this date the chemicals are still stored in the provinces. He asked that MECDM advice MAL to safely <u>disposal off the chemicals</u>.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (SP) There may be competition for land spaces with land owning groups who decide to register their lands as Conservation Areas.

Response: (MJ) This project is not about developing new lands for agriculture rather it strives to make the existing agriculture lands to be more productive. For example, current yield for cocoa for small holders per ha is about 300kg. The project will strive to increase the yield per ha up to 1 ton. MJ also added that the project will not acquire any new lands for the project as it will only work with PO that already own an existing agricultural area.

Response: (ED) Clarified that lands that already been disturbed will not be qualified to be considered a protected area. Also, areas can be protected only if landowning groups corporately decide to do so and to follow through all the formalities under the Protected Areas Act.

Comment: (ED) Apart from the Solid Waste Management Strategy, MECDM is currently developing a Liquid Waste Management Strategy that would be useful for this project in the future when the strategy is finalised. However, for liquid waste from livestock, the national environmental health guideline will be a useful tool to manage the effluents.

Response: (MJ) The project will ensure that pig pens and slaughter slabs have septic tanks to hold effluents that discharges from these activities. Direct disposal of waste on to the environment will not be allowed.

■ Comment: (ED) The Wildlife Act may not be relevant for this project and can be deleted from the list of Acts in the ESMF legal framework section.

(b)Labour Management Plan

- Comment: (MJ) On the labour minimum age requirement, the project will strictly only employ people 18 years old and over (PMU etc). This is not applicable to PO and contractor who can employ people between the age of 15 18yrs considering that the work they do is not hazardous and dangerous and does not interfere with their education. Smallholder farmers can have their children under 12 years accompany them to farms as indicated in the SI Labour Act.
- <u>Comment</u>: (WO) There will be a lot of work getting inventories and monitoring of the sub-projects in the provinces. In terms of adequate human resources, the project needs to employ enough local staff to be on the ground do these works. It would be difficult to depend on international consultant to do these works.

Response: (MJ) Agreed that there will be people on the ground to keep inventories and monitor sub projects. The LMP has detail all the number of personals in the PMU that will look after the different aspects of the project during the implementation of it. In the province level MAL Agriculture Extension team will be responsible for monitoring of sub-projects. The project will also build capacities of the MAL staff to perform their responsibility toward the project effectively. There is also an internship program that this project will fund that would allow new graduate to work in the fields under the supervision of MAL staff. So there will be adequate human resources to manage all the subprojects.

(c) Stakeholder Engagement Plan

■ <u>Comment</u>: (SP) MAL must also hold similar meetings in the provinces about the project, project design and how it will be implemented so that people can understand what this project is about and the prerequisites to for eligibility for funding and other possible involvement.

	 Response: (MJ) Noted. Next sets of consultation will be for stakeholders in Honiara and the provinces. Comment: (ED) The list if stakeholders for the project should include the Water Resource Division of MMERE. They may have guidelines on working near rivers and flood zone areas. 	
	(MT) Want the comments and suggestion made by the stakeholders in the meeting to be considered and integrated into the final project design and safeguard instruments.	
	Response: (MJ) Emphasised that the stakeholder meetings are exactly to disclose all the up to date information about the project and to allow collaborative inputs from the stakeholder to shape the outcome of the safeguard instruments and project designs. The aim of the project is to be effective, does not pose harm to the environment and people and to be sustainable.	
	(d) Environment and Social Commitment Dlan	
	(d) Environment and Social Commitment Plan No specific comments on the ESCP.	
C	Actions	
	a. Send PAD to the SIG Ministry Stakeholders for their background	MJ
	information on the project.	
		MK
	b. To <u>include Environmental Health Act</u> in the list of relevant acts in the ESMF.	MJ
	c. To include a side on the project organisation structure before the next	1713
	meeting on 29 Jan 2020	MAL
	d. To develop a guideline for MAL on buffer zones near water ways. May develop one based on MOFR and GPPOL guidelines.	
	Meeting Close Meetin	ng Duration
	Time: 12.45pm	3 hrs

Key Outcomes of the Meeting.

- The project is seen to be very important and relevant for the country in addressing 2 of the main issues relating to food; (1) Food security and (2) Nutrition.
- MAL need to develop its own E&S guidelines to safeguard its activities. Comments were made by both MCT and MOFR that their Ministries have environmental guidelines for their operations. MAL being a food agency need to have one.
- Want more contributions or comments from the various stakeholder meetings for improving the project designs and safeguard instruments.
- The need for more close working relationship between MAL and Ministry of Commerce and other Ministries in such projects.

Meeting Photos (SIG Ministries)
Figure 1: MAL ES
Focal Point Andrew Melanolu presenting the ESF instruments to the SIG participants



Figure 2: SIG particpants



Signed Participant List (SIG Ministies)

SI ART PROJECT

CONFIRM LIST OF REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRIES & CEMA

NO.	NAMES	POSITION TITLE	MINISTRIES	SIGN IN		
1	Mr. Gabriel	Acting Director	Min.Rural	1		
	Manativa		Development	Cpune yes		
2	Mr. Ivory Akao	Deputy Director Inshore	Min.MFMR	1 8000		
3	Mr. Sylvester Tiki	Chief Infrastructure Officer	Min.PGIS			
4	Mr. Stanley	Permanent Secretary	Min.Lands,			
	Waleanisia		Housing and			
			Survey			
5	Mrs. Zamira Rau	Protection & Social				
		inclusion officer & NDOC	Min.WYCA			
		National Protection				
		Committee				
6	Mr. Erick Gorge	Deputy Secretary Technical	Min.Commerce	The same of the sa		
7	Dr. Lazarus Neko	Supervising Permanent	Min.HMS	MR),		
		Secretary		14-0/a		
8	Mr. Vaeno Vigulu	Permanent Secretary	Min.Forestry	· June		
9	Mr. Roy Mae	Supervising Permanent	Min.NDPC	45		
		Secretary				
10	-Mr. Philip	-Chief Environment Officer				
	Riogano		Min.Environment	10		
				ALLYY		
11	-Mr. Edward	-Senior Environment				
	Danitifea	Officer		September 1		
12,	Mr. James	Deputy Secretary	Min.EHRD			
	Bosamata					
13	Mr. Patterson	Acting General Manager	CEMA			
	Siliota			X		
13	Mr. Moses Tepai	-Deputy Secretary	Min. Culture and	Dit: 11		
			Tourism	X 1/2		
1514	Mr. Steven	-Director Culture rep	-	/		
0.04	Paukari					
1614	Mr. Bunyan	-Director Tourism				
	Sivoro					
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	Marista Kapini - Nutronal WB Afagini					

Marista Kapini - Netronal Longultant WB

Annex 3.2 Guadalcanal Province and Honiara Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

[Pick the date]	Time: 09:00am – 12:00pm Place: Nat			tional Museum Auditorium	
Meeting called by	Ministry of Agriculture				
Type of meeting	Stakeholder Meeting				
Presenters	Mark Johnson and Andrew Melanolu (Also Program MC)				
Note taker	Marista Kapini				
	Names	Designation	1	Company	
	Ethel Frances (EF)	Permanent S	Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	
Attendees (43)	Andrew Melanolu (AM)	Director Ex	tension	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	
	Mark Johnson (MJ)	Intl. Consultant for Component 2		RDP	
	Marista Kapini (MK)	National Co for SI-ART	onsultant	WB	
	Johnathan Benosi (JB)	Farmer		Kolokarako Community	
	Michael Alafa (MA)	Administrat	or	Telekom	
	Benjamin Ngaovaka (BN)	Farmer			
	Stephen Gapu (SG)	Chairman		Tasikala	
	David Rosalio (DR)	Farmer/ Chi	ief	JLR Enterprise	
	Joana Rosalio (JR)	Farmer		JLR Enterprise	
	Vincent Mulekopa (VM)	Chairman		LPCS Cooperation	
	James Goloni (JG)	Chairman mes Goloni (JG)		LKTIA	
	Daniel Gela (DG)	DNA Agro	Link		
	Ireen Nanau (IN)	Farmer		Tasimboko	
	Patrick Nanau (PN)	Farmer		Tasimboko	

Peter Naitora (PN)	Farmer	
Lonsdale	Farmer	MB Farm
Joash Meshac (JM)	Farmer	
Ronny Sony(JS)	Farmer	
Joseph Kaora (JK)	Farmer	
Christopher Talu (CT)	Farmer	
Risen Mane (RM)	Farmer	
Laban Mynie (LM)	Farmer	Malatoha Farm
Jennifer Tugunao (JT)	Farmer	Private
Robert Uma (RU)	Builder/Farmer	
Rose Orimae Ma'abe (ROM)	Farmer	
Fred Attu (FA)	Farmer	
Andrew Buga (AB)	Farmer	
Shane Tutua (ST)	Processor	Solagro
Joseph	Extension Officer	MAL
Chris Toitoona (CT)	Farmer	
Ronnie Maxwell(RM)	Farmer	
Mathew Walo (MW)	Farmer	
David Sade Mark (DSM)	Farmer	
Christopher Haikau (CH)	Civil Engineer	
Joyleen Miti (JM)	Farmer	
Branden H (BH)	Surveyor	
Samuel Onorio (SO)	Farmer	
Lyn Vavozo (LV)	Farmer	
Solomon Simata (SS)	Farer	
John Napthali Nai (JNN)	Farmer	
Taracisius Taragaluna (TT)	Farmer	
Doni Keli (DK)	Farmer	Processing
Cyrilla Ngele (CN)	Farmer	Masuha Association
Jennifer Keli (JK)	Farmer	Processor
Edwin Koveke (EK)	Farmer	
Serah Kuri (SK)	Farmer	

Order of Meeting

1	Opening Prayer	Lottie Vaisekavea (LV)	Program Manager, RDP
2	Opening Remarks	Ethel Francis	Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary
3	Introductions	Presenters	Due to the large number of attendees, participants address themselves when they ask questions or make comments
4	Presentation	Mark Johnson Andrew Melanolu	International Consultants RDP Director for Extension /MAL ES Focal Points
5	Comments/Questions and Answers	All Participants	
6	Closing Prayer	Don	Farmer

Meeting Notes:

Meeting	Notes.		
Item		Action by	Due Date
A	Opening Remarks		
	 EF opened up by thanking all the participants for responding to the meeting notice that was being placed in the newspapers and attended despite the wet weather. Also thanked the MAL Team for the effort for organizing the meeting. Mentioned that this is the second of a series of meetings that will be held on the disclosure of SI-ART ESF instruments, the first one being with SIG Ministries. EF briefly introduced the background of SI-ART it being a partnership between SIG (MAL) and WB. (EF) WB requires that wider consultation and information disclosure must take place on all the safeguard instruments that has been put together for the project which would enable the public to be well aware of the various project components and stages and be able to provide inputs for the further improvement of the documents and to ensure the effective implementation of the project. She added that what is going to be presented today are outcomes of the already comprehensive consultation that took place with key stakeholders in Honiara and the provinces, including local farmers, small holders, agribusinesses etc. Additionally, these are constructed based on lessons learned from other WB funded projects such as RDP. She encouraged the participants to comment toward the instruments to ensure that they are well represented and that the ultimate implementation of the safeguard instruments and the project itself is effective and successful. She emphasized the importance for the participants to ask questions and provide views on how best this project can work in the communities. 	EF	
В	Agenda		
	 1. Background of SI-ART Project (Presented by Mark Johnston) Comment: (MJ) Clarified that the project would only be implemented in 3 provinces including Guadalcanal (Honiara), Malaita and Makira. GP is the first province to be consulted with regarding the safeguard 		

instruments, Malaita and Makira stakeholders will be met within February.

- Comment: (MJ) Clarified that PO can include farmer association that must be formally registered under the Charitable Act to be eligible for project funding. Agribusinesses and other more commercial oriented group must be formally registered under the Company's Corporate Act to be eligible for support from the project.
- <u>Comment</u>: (DR) Farmers are an important stakeholder as they are the producers and the project must place more emphasis to strengthen them.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) Part of the project design under the project Component 1 also has an emphasis on strengthening POs to ensure they are effective and sustainable.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (MA) I understand that the Producer Component of the project is about producing quality products. If we want to market our produces, we must have quality products that meet the market requirements. One of the issues that producers are faced with is the fact that we do not have enough local market.

Response: (MJ) Producers can link better to the market as a group to meet the required quantity. The markets always set the required quality standards. Another practice that local farmers must change is with loyalty issues to buyers. Farmers seemed to move from one buyer to another looking for the best price and intern affects the supply of produces to a certain market. This must be properly regulated to protect both buyers and producers.

(MJ) added that apart from just growing food, the project is also looking at ways to process foods to ensure that they can store for longer periods.

Comment: (JB) Seeing that the project will support local farmers through POs it is often a challenge for us local farmers to form a PO let along meet the requirements to register ourselves under the Charitable Act. Additionally, we would have challenges applying for the project support due to our inability to properly read and write. What can be done to support us to help us to be eligible for the project?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) The project can provide the necessary support to help get group of interested farmers to register yourselves as PO under the Charitable Act. During the project implementation, there will be extension staff mobilise that can work directly with farmers in the communities and provide the necessary support.

Question: (PN) Is the project going to be similar to RDP? Also, regarding the formation of farmer's association or POs, this would require a constitution under the Charitable Act. This would be difficult for us to come up with. Will the project support us to craft the constitution?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) Yes, part of the project is to support farmers to form POs and meet all the requirements and governances.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (PN) Many associations have failed because of mismanagement of funds and lack of transparency. How can this be avoided in this project?

<u>Response</u>: (AM) The constitution that associations and POs have are meant to ensure that rules are kept and transparency is maintained in the group. If there is any case where there is a breach of the constitution then it is the responsibility of the other group members to hold the person to account.

<u>Response</u>: (LV) The key to have a successful PO is relationship. Need to build good relationships within POs.

■ Comment: (DK) Thanked MAL for this project and confirmed accessing the safeguard documents through the agriculture website. Also asked that MAL to commit to a more comprehensive research on the following: (1) state and key players in Agriculture sector nationally including small drivers and (2) the overall impacts if CC on agriculture and particularly on the small drivers.

(DK): We also as local farmers do not know the requirements to be eligible to have our products market overseas, if the project can support us in this.

(DK): Asked that MAL through the project help us farmers to fully utilise our resources including land tenure. Teach us how to preserve our food appropriately for marketing purposes.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) Acknowledges the comments. MAL through its extension works ensures that the agriculture sector is thriving. But regarding the project, it covers food processing and market linkages.

■ <u>Comment</u>: (SG) POs are required to come up with at least 10% of the total project cost before being eligible for project funding or support. For local farmers, we always do not have ready capital and this might prove difficult for us. Can the 10% be reduced or can the 10% be in kind, such as contribution local materials and labour?

Response: (MJ) Acknowledges that the comment is noted and explained that the 10% is for the whole group not individual farmer. MJ explained that this would also give an indication of the POs commitment to do something meaningful through the support of the project.

Comment: (VM) agreed that projects working with associations or POs would do well. However, he highlighted a gap that MAL must address. He explained that there are no agriculture extension staff stationed in Lambi (GP substation) where farmers around there can approach to seek adivse. Currently they have to travel far to come to Honiara MAL to receive the necessary advises. This gap needs to be filled up to ensure that farmers receive the necessary support they need.

Response: (AM) Acknowledged that MAL extension services have not been active for some time now due to some political changes that had happened to Guadalcanal Province. Guadalcanal currently have only 13 active MAL extension stations. Another contributing factor to the limited extension staff in the communities is the fact that there is no accommodation to house the MAL staff in the communities. However, that being said, the project will also cover strengthening of the extension services through the internship program where young graduates can work under the extension program in the communities while being mentored by the MAL extension staff.

Question: (JT) stated that she was one of the consultants who carried out consultation in the provinces for the SI-ART for the project design. She noticed that aquaculture is missing in the current project design presented though it was a need for communities inland and at weathered coast (south Guadalcanal) as important source of food security and income.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) The comment is noted. He explained that if POs from those areas include aquaculture as their project of choice to address food security in their communities then that can be considered by the project even if it is not currently spelled out in the project designs.

- Comment: (AM) It has been a practise with local farmers to keep changing crops to get high selling price. For example, in west Guadalcanal, coconut farmers are chopping down their coconut plantation to make room for Noni. But the thing that farmers do not understand is that buying prices fluctuates and can either grow from strong to weak at any time. Farmers should just stick to their original commodity and add on another commodity. This project will ensure that farmers will be provided with informed decisions.
- Comment: (MS) This project provides an important platform for a partnership between farmers, MAL and (SIG) and WB. This partnership will improve the capacity of farmers.
 - 2. ESF Instruments (Presented by Andrew Melanolu)
 - (a) ESMF

- Comment: (DK) said that farmers are informal actors whose impacts are very minimal and should not be put in the same scrutiny as major developers such as GPPOL and the logging industry.
- Comment: (DK) the safeguard instruments sound difficult for any lay person like us to follow and can be perceived more as a stumbling block to the progress of agriculture through this project. But I encourage my fellow farmers who are present in this meeting to be willing to learn and work with the instruments.
- Comment: (AM) contributed that Ministry of forestry has code of appropriate logging practises that can be used to measure activities against and hold loggers accountable for malpractices. MAL has no guidelines to guard its activities. There is no standards for farming near waterways that are highly prone to flooding.
 - (b) Labour Management Plan
- Comment: (DK) On child labour, the project must be specific on how it defines child labour and the type of works that would qualify it as child labour. This is because in the communities and our cultural ways we may not consider as child labour certain works performed by children. Small holders are usually family-owned and depend on family members to carryout relevant tasks.
- Response: (MJ) clarified that child labour is when children are forced to work for income rather than going to school.
- Comment: (MJ) On the labour minimum age requirement, the project will strictly only employ people 18 years old and over (PMU etc). This is not applicable to PO and contractor who can employ people between the age of 15 18yrs considering that the work they do is not hazardous and dangerous and does not interfere with their education. Smallholder farmers can have their children under 12 years accompany them to farms as indicated in the SI Labour Act.
 - (c) Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- <u>Comment</u>: (AM) This is the second of a total of 4 stakeholder consultation held for the disclosure of the ESF instruments.
- Question: (JB) How will we channel our grievances through when the project will be implemented because it will happen?

Response: (MJ) The complete process of the GRM will be developed and communicated to the public. But the communities can raise their concerns through the extension officers which can then be resolved and closed out immediately or brought up to MAL PMU and refer to

the appropriate party to have the grievances resolved. Bu general understanding that not everybody will be happy. (d) Environment and Social Commitment Plan No specific comments on the ESCP.	t there is a
Meeting Close	Meeting Duration
Time: 12.00pm	3 hrs

Key Outcomes of the Meeting.

- Farmers are excited that this project will be focused on small holders and producers.
- Farmers expressed their need for more capacity building to improve their product quality, processing and storage.
- Farmers really need support from the project on the governance aspect of things.
- Call for the MAL extension services in the communities to be active
- Want more communication from MAL to help farmers make an informed decision.

Stakeholder Meeting 2 Photos-Guadalcanal Province and Honiara Stakeholders

Figure 1: Andrew Melanolu introducing MAL PS before her opening remarks.



Figure 2. Mark Johnston presenting the background and project design of SIART.



Figure 3: David Rosalio, a coconut producer from Lambi, west Guadalcanal opening the Q &A

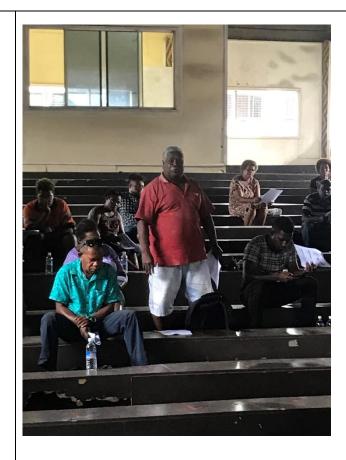


Figure 4: Guadalcanal Province and Honiara participants



SI ART -ESMF PUBLIC CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

Date: 29-Jan-21 Venue: Meseum Auditorium LIST OF PARTICIPANT

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Newspaper Notice for GP and Honiara Consultation

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK P.O. BOX G13, HONIARA

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock together with the World Bank are developing the Solomon Islands Agriculture and Rural Transformation Project (SI ART) with the key Project Development Objective to;

"Increase household food production and provide improved market access in selected commodities and value chains, and in the event of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, to provide an immediate response to the Eligible Crisis or Emergency."

SI ART Scope: To achieve the above objective, the Project was designed to have 4
Components to it as outlined below:

Component 1: Food Production and Agribusiness Investments
Component 2: Institutional Capacity Development
Component 3: Project Management
Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component

The SI ART project will work in three provinces, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira. During the design of the SI ART, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed, and is now disclosing the following draft project safeguard instruments for comments:

- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
 Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
 A Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

- Labor Management Procedure (LMP)

The complete documents can also be accessed and viewed through the SIG portal under MAL webpage: https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-agriculture-and-livestock/.

The SI ART project design and the safeguard instruments will be disclosed at a public meeting on the 29th January 2021 from 9:00 am to 12.00 pm at the Museum Auditorium for those in Guadalcanal and Honiara, all interested stakeholders and producer groups are invited to attend. More information can be obtained from the MAL Extension Department, Honiara.

Please confirm your attendance with Rose MAL HQ phone 22143 or Grace MAL Extension phone 25031 by the 27th January.

Similar meetings will be held in Malaita and Makira in the near future at dates to arranged.

Solomon Star, Monday 25 January, 2021 5

Annex 3.3 Malaita Provincial Government Courtesy Meeting Minutes

[Pick the date]	Time: 08.30am – 9.30 pm		: Premiers Office		
Meeting called by	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock				
Type of meeting	Courtesy Meeting				
Presenters					
Note taker	Marista Kapini				
	Names	Designation	Company		
	Randol Sifoni (SF)	Deputy Premier	Malaita Provincial Government		
Attendees (8)	David Tuita (DT)	Deputy Provincial Secretary	Malaita Provincial Government		
	Ledley Diudi (LD)	Provincial Farm Manage	Malaita Provincial Government		
	Dennis Frank Tafea (DFT)	Malaita Chief Field Officer	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestoc		
	Andrew Melanolu (AM)	Director Extension	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestoc		
	Mark Johnson (MJ)	Intl. Adviser for Component 2	RDP		
	Gabriel Hiele (GH)	Component 2 Manager	RDP		
	Marista Kapini (MK)	National Consultant for SI-ART	WB.		

Meeting Notes:

Item		Action by	Due Date
Α	Opening Remarks		
	■ SF welcomed the visiting team and informed everyone that both the premier and the PS are away on provincial duties.	DFT	
В	Agenda		

- Purpose of visit and SIART Project Background.
- MJ outline the objective of the visit to Malaita Province and have all the visiting team to introduced themselves.
- MJ introduced the SI -ART project as a WB funded project in partnership with SIG through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. As part of the design phase of the project is the development and disclosure of the project's safeguards instruments. Stakeholder consultation is necessary to gather contributions and comments from stakeholders on the ESF instruments to ensure that they are relevant to the context of province and to ensure the effective implementation of the project.
- SI-ART is a follow on from the agriculture part of RDP and will be implemented in Malaita, Guadalcanal (including Honiara) and Makira. It is 15M USD funded project over a 5-year period.
- The objective of the project is to address food security. The project will work with Producer Organisation comprise of farmers to improve food security.
- For commercial related activities, the project will again work with POs looking at products such as copra, coconut oil, cocoa, honey etc.
- The project will construct a slaughterhouse and look at ways to prepare food for livestock which should help the livestock industry in the SI.

MJ added that the provincial government will be involved in the provincial activities. The province will sign a MOU with MAL and funds will be channelled through a provincial MAL SI ART account for implementation with the Provincial Secretary as the authorising officer and a signatory to the account

- MJ went on to say that WB is also adamant that it makes sure that its project complements existing projects on the ground and not duplicating them.
- SF responded saying that Malaita Province current government's Agriculture sector objective is in line with what is being presented by MJ and expressed that the MPG has been doing its utmost best to assist farmers in Malaita. SF also said that the project shows an understanding of the fact that food security is an important aspect of the province and the fact that a large part of the economy in the province is driven by the agriculture sector.
- SF went on to expressed regret that MPG funding support from SIG has been slashed by 40% this year which would affect its functions and support to the various sectors in the province including Agriculture.
- SF added that assistance from MAL extension service in the province is very critical to rescue the provincial Agriculture Program.
- On the subject of RDP's future in the province, GH clarified that RDP is due to close completely in February 2022, but the agriculture

	component of the RDP is winding up now. The SIART will continue the	 	
	agriculture component of RDP as a standalone project.		
	■ LD expressed happiness with the proposed construction of a slaughter by the project and the fact that the it will identify market for local agriculture products. He went on to see that for livestock farmers, animal feed is very important and glad that under the project, local feeds will be produced.		
	Question: SF asked if the project will support those at the coastal areas and atoll islands that have no land mass who are more vulnerable and desperately in need of food security?		
	Response: (MJ) That may be a bit complicated due to issues with land availability for agriculture, but this is noted and will be looked at.		
	■ AM informed the meeting of the redirection policy of the government that is triggered due to the economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Here, SIG will focus on activities that would produce revenue in short periods.		
	■ AM also express sympathy with the reduced grant from SIG but mentioned there might be some good news as well. There are 2 developments budgets that will come into effect in May that focus on two provinces including Malaita and Western Province due to their proximity to the international Port. The development funds will focus on products such as Kava, Noni, Casava and Taro.		
	■ AM stated that Malaita Province has the highest approved project from MAL in 2020 for farmers. The funding support shall be disbursed soon.		
	■ AM added that SIART will have an internship program that will support the MAL extension services with additional staffing over the course of the project. MAL aims to have at least one extension service officer per ward depending on MAL's financial status. AM call on MPG to work closely with MAL extension service team in Malaita to ensure that the farmers are supported well.		
	■ MPG hopes that the SI ART project can start soon.		
С	Actions		
	Meeting Close Meeting D	uration	
		1 hr	
	Time: 9.30a,	1111	

- Malaita Provincial Government (MPG) are happy that the SI ART Objectives are in line with Malaita Provincial Plans for the agriculture sector in the province.
- Call for a close collaboration between MAL Extension team and MPG Agriculture team to support the farmers in the province and develop the agriculture sector.
- MPG wants the MAL extension team to be strengthened.
- MPG happy with the prospect of the project supporting the development of animal feed locally. This would help in the sustainability of livestock industry in the province.

Annex 3.4 Malaita Province Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

[Pick the date]	Time: 09:30am – 2:00pm	Place: Malaita Provincial Assembly Meeting Room, Malaita Province			
Meeting called by	Ministry of Agriculture ar	nd Livestock			
Type of meeting	Stakeholder Meeting				
Presenters	Mark Johnson and Andrey	w Melanolu			
Note taker	Marista Kapini				
	Names	Designatio	n	Company	
A 1	Dennis Frank Tafea (DFT)	Malaita Ch Officer	ief Field	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	
Attendees (50)	Andrew Melanolu (AM)	Director Extension		Ministry of Agriculture and Livestoc	
	Mark Johnson (MJ)	Intl. Adviser for Component 2		RDP	
	Marista Kapini (MK)	National Consultant for SI-ART		WB	
	Joses Naumani (JN)	Virgin Coconut Oil Producers		Fiu, Central Kwara'ae, W2	
	John Seluala (JS)	Cocoa Farmer		Maoa, West Kwaio, W28	
	Ledley Diudi (LD)	Malaita Provincial Farm Manager/ Former Chief MAL Extension officer Rice Farmer		Auki, Auki Langalanga, W1	
	Jonathan Malai (JM)			Tatarabebe, Auki Langalanga, W1	
	Sale Bua (SB)	Cocoa Farmer/ Livestock Feed Supplier		Auki, Auki Langalanga, W1	
	David Buaga (DB)	Cocoa Farn	ner	Falau, Baelelea, W6	
	Celement Basi (CB)	Root Crop and Vegetable Farmer		Rade, Auki Langalanga, W30	
	Eddie Sui (ES)	Chairman Arabala School Farm		Arabala, Central Kwara'ae. W29	
	Russel	Market Vendor		Rade, Auki Langalanga, W30	

Gloria Siwainao (GS)	Environmental Health	Auki, Auki Langalanga, W1
Mercy Environment (ME)	Food Safety & Quality Control	Auki, Auki Langalanga, W1
Fred Tofuto'ona (FT)	Coconut/ Piggery farmer	Loulana, West Kwaio, W27
Bruno Taelamo (BT)	Piggery Farmer	Baolo, West Kwaio, W28
Selson Ulasi (SU)	Taro Farmer	Aufasu, Central Kwara'ae, W29
Betty Maeta'a (BM)	Taro Farmer	Malawe, Central Kwara'ae, W29
Genesis Lae (GL)	Conokukufu Cattle Project	Maoa, West Kwaio, W27
Caleb Wilson (CW)	Farmer	Fuku, Central Kwara'ae, W29
Timothy Samani (TS)	Agriculture Extension	Malu'u, North Malaita, W8
Aloysious Gwea (AG)	Root Crop Farmer	Kwao, West Kwara'ae, W4
Jackson Ometa (JO)	Root Crop Farmer	Kwao, West Kwara'ae, W4
Manford Kezato (MDK)	Poultry and Crop Farmer	Malaita Outer Islands
Ledley Diudi (LD)	Agriculture Officer	Malaita Provincial Government
Monica Lafisi (ML)	Farmer	Aiabu, West Kwara'ae, W3
Rose Lafisi (RL)	Farmer	Aiabu, West Kwara'ae, W3
Stephen Frank (SF)	Piggery Farmer	Gwaele, West Kwaio, W27
David Sautalau (DS)	Piggery Farmer	Bubusua, West Kwaio, W28
Christian Billy (CB)	Cocoa Farmer	Namona'aho, West Kwaio, W29
George Hoatamauri (GH)	Kava Farmer	West Are' Are, W 24
Rose M Iro (RMI)	Tourism	Malaita Provincial Government
Rose Mata (RM)	WDD	Malaita Provincial Government
Sophia Firimae (SF)	Tourism	Malaita Provincial Government
Moses Rouhora (MR)	RDP	Malaita Province
Jimmy Walton (JW)	Farmer	Bola, W2
Michael Mani (MM)	Piggery/ Taro Farmer	Belimanu, West Kwara'ae, W4
Bobby Kalafiu (BK)	Cocoa Farmer	Fa'alau, Lau/Baelelea, W6
Labu Toito'ona (LT)	Piggery	Kona, Cetral Kwara'ae, W29
Joshua Indu (JI)	Piggery/Cocoa Farmer	Central Kwara'ae, W29
Johnley Omeagaro (JO)	RDP	Malaita Province
Anthony Kutu (AK)	Mauri Association	Aiabu, West Kwara'ae, W3

Margaret Arii (MA)	Cocoa Farmer	Central Kwara'ae
Adam Gere (AG)	Cocoa Farmer	Central Kwara'ae
Augustine Naumai (AN)	Virgin Coconut Oil Producer	
Alick Maeaba (AM)	Cocoa Farmer	Central Kwara'ae, W29
Koney Atu (KA)	Farmer	Fataleka, W14
Eddie Tatalu (ET)	Farmer	
Daniel Raomae (DR)	Farmer	

Order of Meeting

1	Opening Prayer	Manford Kezato	Farmer, Malaita Outer Islands
2	Welcome Remarks	Dennis Frank Tafea	Malaita Chief Field Officer
3	Introductions	Presenters	Due to the large number of attendees,
			participants address themselves when they ask
			questions or make comments
4	Presentation	Mark Johnson	International Consultants RDP
		Andrew Melanolu	Director for Extension /MAL ES Focal Points
5	Comments/Questions and	All Participants	
	Answers		
6	Closing Prayer		Farmer

Meeting Notes:

Item		Action by	Due Date
A	Opening Remarks		
	 DFT welcomed all participants including farmers and other interested stakeholders thanking them for responding to the meeting notice despite the long journeys some of them had to make to Auki from their respective villages. DFT also welcomed the visiting team from MAL, RDP and WB who will facilitate the consultation meeting. He encouraged the participants to provide comments and ask questions regarding the presentations. 	DFT	
В	Agenda		
	 Background of SI-ART Project (Presented by Mark Johnston) MJ began the presentation by explaining that the presentations aim to get across to the participants the key points of the ESF instruments that have been developed and disclosed through MAL's website and Malaita MAL office for public viewing. He emphasised the importance for the participants to provide contributions to ensure that the ultimate implementation of the instruments and the project itself is effective. 		
	■ <u>Comment</u> : (MJ) Clarified that the project will only be implemented in 3 provinces including Guadalcanal (Honiara), Malaita and Makira.		

- <u>Comment</u>: (MJ) Clarified that PO can include farmer association that must be formally registered under the Charitable Act to be eligible for project funding. Agribusinesses and other more commercial oriented group must be formally registered under the Company's Corporate Act to be eligible for support from the project.
- Question: (Russel) Is this the same project that we had consultation on in November 2020 which was also a WB 15M USD project to be implemented in 3 same provinces (Malaita, Makira and GP)? In that consultation, it was mentioned that the project will work with PO's or farmers associations which since that consultation, associations have been formed believing that the project will start in March 2021? Is that the same project that this consultation that we are having now is about? The start date of the project that was mentioned today was proposed for either Oct 2021 or beginning of 2022. We just need clarity to be sure that we are talking about the same project here and not two different projects.

Response: (MJ) Yes, it is the same program. In the consultation in 2020, it was thought that the project will start in March 2021, but now it is foreseen that the project will start in October 2021 but if not then next year.

■ Question: (George H) Of the total project money, any specific amount allocated for each of the 3 provinces?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) No, no specific amount of money has been allocated for the 3 provinces.

Question: (George H) Has this type of project design being implemented in other countries or was it designed specifically for Solomon Islands only?

Response: (MJ) This project is designed specifically for SI.

■ Comment: (George H) Please explain the equity of 10% that POs must show evidence of before eligible for funding support from the project.

Response: (MJ) The project design is still in the making but the 10% equity is to show the PO's commitment to do something meaningful through the project support. The process on how the equity is to be registered is still being created.

<u>Comment</u>: (ES) It has always been a practise in the past that lead farmers tend to benefit more from MAL and other donor funded projects than farmers on the ground. Tools and seeds that were supposedly for farmers in the communities usually don't arrive. Response: (MJ) Every associations must have the governance component to it including a committee and constitutions that looks after all the processes of that association. Every resource that the association has or need to acquire must go through the committee. With the SI ART project, the lead farmer is one that the association or PO will elect. The PO will provide the farmer will some form of allowance to carry out work that would benefit the PO and the community. The lead farmer is not employed either by MAL nor WB. The project will support PO to set up their governance systems.

Question: (MDK) How many projects has been rolled out under this project and how many has been completed so far?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) The SI ART has not yet been rolled out. It is in its appraisal stage and these consultations are important to get contributions from its stakeholders before all the required safeguard instruments can be finalised and the designs confirmed for implementation.

Question: (LD) What is the recommended number of members within an association. In the last consultation (in Nov 2020), it was proposed that 15 farmers per PO is a manageable size?

Response: (MJ) There are no specific number set as a rule for membership. It is all dependent on the size of the subproject type. A manageable size of membership is important too.

- <u>Comment</u>: (LD) There are farmer's associations around in Malaita but there has always been issues and rift within the associations. We really need support and training on the governance of the associations/POs.
- Comment: (LD) It has always been a fact that many farmers and associations have benefited from projects as such in the past but once the project ends, the farmers cannot sustain their activities and most of the subprojects could not continue. Sustainability of farmers' activities is very important. Things like setting up market linkages would be one way of sustaining the farmers. The Malaita Provincial Government is looking to boost the livestock industry in the province and the proposed establishment of a slaughter slab and research into local animal feed would greatly help and sustain the livestock farmers in the province. Farmers are always willing to work. They need market for their produces and affordable animal feed. Currently, the cost of imported animal feed are very high and farmers cannot sustain their business in the current state.
- <u>Comment</u> (LD): Here in Malaita, small holders work better as a family because they have the same interest. I feel that when farmers who are

mostly unrelated come together as POs, there will be diverse interests thus will cause internal problems.

- Response: (MJ) The POs will have a governance system that would ensure that the POs runs smoothly and fairly to all members within it.
- Comment (SF): I am a newcomer in the farmers group and want to engage in something that would help me to earn revenue. With that I am happy about this project. In the colonial days, the government had been very active in reaching out to farmers in the communities. But since then, many projects that have come through the communities have not been sustainable. We want this project to really reach the community level and the necessary support from MAL available to the communities as well. We would want to see that this program is successful and beneficial to the nation.
- Comment (): This project design to work with PO is the right approach. It brings together like-minded local farmers and promote capacity building in relevant areas. For livestock farmers, the main issue is with livestock feed cost which are currently very high. We ask that MAL must step in to support farmers in ensuring that feed cost are affordable. This is a very serious issue and we ask that MAL take notice of this and quickly step in.
- <u>Comment</u>: In the past the MAL extension services have been very effective where MAL staff actually visit and stay in the villages over a period of time working with people and providing advice on appropriate farming methods and so on. This is not the case now. We no longer have trust on MAL and whatever they are promoting. We also have trust issues within our own association because we believe only certain members are benefiting from MAL.
- Comment (BT): The villages are the root of agriculture development. We have experience will MAL over a long period of time since 1978 and we know when they have been effective in their work and can feel their absence in the communities which is what is currently happening. Since then, farmers associations in the communities constantly have disputes since we do not have the constant support from MAL. The important thing that MAL must take note of and the project to is to link the local farmers with available resources from MAL including training, market information, technology and more.
- <u>Comment</u>: (GH) If the project ends after 5 years, the government must be ready to take on responsibility to support the farmers to ensure work are sustainable. This proviso (post project) must be included in the project design.

<u>Response</u>: (AM) In the past MAL's project, there has always been no plan to sustain projects after they end. However, this SI ART project is a timely one which also contribute to national economic recovery.

- <u>Comment</u>: (AM) MAL is the key player here that can ensure that the project is effective. The government must strengthen MAL to ensure that it is equipped to effectively support farmers in the Solomon Islands seeing that Agriculture is the back born of the country. The agriculture sector is only as good as the MAL extension services. If this service is weak, the agriculture sector will also be weak. The government must fully resource the MAL's extension team to perform their work effectively in the communities.
- Comment: Its about time that we farmers in Malaita change our thinking and approach things differently. We need to improve. We have been moving around over the years changing our products looking for good returns and market. It is time we change. This project can only do so much. It is our responsibility to take ownership to develop the agriculture sector in this province.
- <u>Comment</u>: Can you give an example where this project design has worked effectively in another country which would give us confidence in this?

<u>Response</u>: (AM) The design of this project is based on lessons learned from other projects that MAL has implemented in the past including RDP.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) This project may have elements to it that have been implemented in other countries in the region and in Asia. But MAL has ensured that the project is contextualised to SI.

- <u>Comment</u>: (Russel) MAL is the link between farmers and the support from this project. MAL extension team must be strengthened.
- Comment:(Russel) All projects are good; I think it is us who need to change our thinking and utilise well the support that we will receive from the project.
- Question: (MJ) Can I ask you all, how can we make the project sustainable?

<u>Response</u>: For us livestock farmers, I think we need to have more consultation with the MAL livestock team to determine a flow of processes from farm to market.

<u>Response</u>: Malaita Provincial Government has to take up the complete responsibility to develop and grow the agriculture sector in Malaita

and not to be dependent on the Solomon Island Government. If SIG cannot fund the Agriculture Extension Program, why not the province take on the responsibility.

- <u>Comment</u>: We the farmers need to have consultation with the provincial government to discuss policies surrounding the agriculture sector in Malaita.
- <u>Comment</u>: I think at this stage the project design has been established following the consultation that occurred in November 2020.

<u>Response</u>: (AM) All the contributions given are important and will be taken board by the project and MAL.

- Comment: (LD) According to the fund allocation, the 3M allocated for PMU over 5 years of project implementation may be quite small. PMU is the one responsible to ensure that the project is implemented effectively in the communities and that all safeguard requirements are met. In Malaita, the PMU must be equipped with adequate resources including transportation and enough extension staff to enable them to visit the farmers in the communities at different parts of the province. Currently, Malaita Province MAL office only have one vehicle to cover the whole province. Boats that Malaita MAL owns are no longer seaworthy. If the PMU is not adequately resourced, how can the project be effectively implemented.
- <u>Comment</u>: (BM): The presentation is very clear. People have to take ownership to develop the agriculture sector in our province and not to rely on the national government. Though it will be a challenge, we have to face things head on.
- <u>Comment</u> (JN): Technical assistance that the project will provide is very important for us.
- Comment: (GH) Areas that we see that the project must address include;
 (a) Sustainability of the project (b) Governance aspect of the POs (c)
 Land Tenure (d) Technical support.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) With regards to Land Tenure, the project will not acquire new land. POs will work on their respective lands on their sub projects.

2. ESF Instruments (Presented by Andrew Melanolu)

(a) ESMF

No Specific comments on LMP (c) Stakeholder Engagement Plan No Specific Comments on SEP (d) Environment and Social Commitment Plan No specific comments on the ESCP.	
C Actions	
C Actions	
Meeting Close Meeting Duration	
Time: 2.00pm 4.5 hrs	

Key Outcomes of the Meeting.

- Farmers express the importance to strengthen the MAL extension team that can work directly with farmers in the community as a way to ensure success of the project.
- Farmers needing assistance with the establishment of PO's governances.
- Farmers hoping that the project can help in establishing market for their produces.
- Livestock farmers expressed their frustration about the high cost of imported animal feed and are hoping that the project will assist with the development of local feeds that are affordable to farmers.
- Farmers wants the province to take more ownership in developing the agriculture sector in the province.

Stakeholder Meeting 3 Photos-Malaita Province Stakeholders

Photo 1: Mark Johnston presenting the SIART project design



Photo 2: Andrew Melanolu presenting the SIART ESF Instruments.



Photo 3: Par of the meeting participants.



Signed Participant List for Malaita

	lo Farmers' Name	Di	JASULT	AION WORKSHO	OP ON 2021
1	1	Place	Wards	Con	2021
2	Joses Naumani		- au us	Constituency	Enterprises or program
3	John Selijala	Fiu	2		involves. / SIGNATUTE.
	Ledley Dind:	Maoa	27	Central Kwara'ae	Continue
4	Hon. Claudio To'es	Auki	1	West Kwaio	Cocoa Farmer
5	Citalles Fox	Busi'l	28	Auki langalanga	Poultry farmer
6	Jonathan Malai	Fiu	2	West Kwaio	Coconut farmer
7	Sale Bua	Tatarabebe	1	Central Kwara'ae	Cocoa farmers
8	Francis Tofilu	Auki	1	Auki langalanga	Rice farmer
9	David Buaga	Auki	1	Auki langalanga	Cocoa farmer / L/s feed copply
10	Sam Hiuri	Falau	6	Auki langalanga	Quality meat supply
11	Clement Basi	Maeviulen	29	Baelelea	Cocoa farmer
12	Brown Fono	Rade	30	Central Kwara'ae	Root/ vegetable farmer /
13	Eddie Sui	Auki	1	Auki langalanga	Root/ vegetable farmer
14	Sereh Geli	Arabala	29	Auki langalanga	Arania cocoa export Ltd
15	Russell	Surabuta	30	Central Kwara'ae	Chairman Arabala school Farm
16	Gloria Siwainao	Rade Aekoa	30	Auki langalanga	Resort / food crops farmer
17	P .	Auki	01	Auki langalanga	Market vendor 3m
18	Marcus Freda Kovana Rose	Auki	01	Auki langalanga	Environmental fealth
19	Mercy Environment	Auki	01	Auki langalanga	
20	Joshua Idu	Alafe	2	Auki langalanga Central Kwara'ae	Food Safety & Quality Controllin
-	Paul Iniga	Kwao	4	West Kwara'ae	LS &cocoa trading
21	Caleb Willison Lau	Fuku	29	Central Kwara'ae	Root crops farmer
22	David Kosia	Toae	28	West kwaio	Piggery / cocoa farmer
23	Rodney Sam	Manaere	5		Pineapple farmer
24	Jabfrus Sa	The state of the s		West Fataleka	Coconut crushing mill
25	John Ioka	Jothan / Kwaibaita	17	East Kwaio	Piggery farmer V
26	Fred Tofuto'ona	Loulana	27	West Kwaio	Coconut / piggery farmer
27	Esther Sisifiu	Maeana	28	West Kwaio	W/ group leader / root crops
28	Bruno Taelamo	Baolo	28	West Kwaio	Piggery farmer
29	John Sala	Busurata	29	Central Kwara'ae	Kava / vegetable farmer
30	John Ulasi	Aufasu	29	Central Kwara'ae	Taro farmer
31	Harrington Junior	Rako	29	Central Kwara'ae	Cattle farmer
2	John Thomas	Surabuta	30	Auki langalanga	Food crops farmer
3	Steven Abaeta	Gwale	27	West Kwaio	Coconut farm
	Levi	Aufasu	29	Central Kwara'ae	Taro farmer
	Selson Ulasi	Aufasu	29	Central Kwara'ae	Taro farmer State Meson
		Malawe		Central Kwara'ae	Taro farmer
	Betty Maeta'a			West Kwaio	Konogugufo Cattle project
	Genesis Lae	Maoa	20	0 - 1- 010 1	SAGE:
3	Caleb Wilson	Fuku	29	Central Rua	Agriculture Extension
9 -	Tumothy Samani	Malyu	3	North Malaita	Spart Cana FACIATION
) /	A LOYSIOUS GWY	a Kwao		VEST KWARAAK	ROOT CROP FARMER
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SI ART Consultations Auki 23 Feb 2021

Name,	Occupation/position		
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3			10-400

Annex 3.5 Makira Ulawa Provincial Government Courtesy Meeting Minutes

[Pick the date]	Time: 9.30am – 10.30 am	Place:	Place: Provincial Office Meeting Room			
Meeting called by	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock					
Type of meeting	Courtesy Meeting	Courtesy Meeting				
Presenters						
Note taker	Marista Kapini					
	Names	Designation	Company			
	Hon. Julian Maka'a (JM)	Premier	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
Attendees (12)	Hon. Richard Fagarh (RF)	Minister of Natural Resources	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	Hon. Jimmy Riunga	Minister of Lands	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	Hon. Rock Wa'o	Minister of Commerce	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	Hon. Davis MaeMae	Minister of Works	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	James Taeburi	Provincial Secretary	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	Douglas Kuper	Minister of Finance	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	Mark Johnson (MJ)	Adviser for Component 2	RDP			
	Simon Baete	RDP	RDP			
	Petra Urahora	MAL Officer	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	Michael Tanisapa	MAL Officer	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government			
	Marista Kapini (MK)	National Consultant for SI-ART	WB			

Apologies	Andrew Melanolu	Director Extension Services	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
	Banabas Kega	Director Livestock	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Meeting Notes:

Meeting Item		Action by	Due Date
A	Opening Remarks	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	■ The Premier welcomed everyone who were present in the meeting. He	JM	
	went on to say that that they MUPG is looking forward to hear what the		
	visiting team has to say and eager to hear how the project (SIART) can		
	work together with the Province.		
В	Agenda		
	Purpose of visit and SIART Project Background.		
	MJ conveyed apologies of two MAL Directors (Extension and Livestock) who were supposed to be part of the visiting team but could not board the flight to Kirakira		
	■ MJ then outlined the objective of the SIART team visit to Makira Province and reminded everyone that a consultation was held in Kirakira around November 2020 on the same project that purposely to introduce the project to its stakeholders but also to gather inputs to influence the design of the project to ensure it is suitable to the context.		
	■ MJ recapped that the SI -ART project as a WB funded project in partnership with SIG through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The project amount is 15M USD over a 5-year period.		
	■ MJ also stating that SI-ART is a follow on from the agriculture component of RDP and will be implemented in Malaita, Guadalcanal (including Honiara) and Makira.		
	■ (MJ) A key part of the project design phase is the development and disclosure of the project's safeguards instruments. The instruments have been drafted and the copies of them uploaded to the MAL website for public viewing. As part of disclosing the documents, this visit to Kirakira is purposely to conduct a Stakeholder Consultation with the project stakeholders in Makira to introduce the ESF instruments and presenting the key components of the documents. The aim of the consultation is also to gather contributions and comments from the stakeholders on the instruments to ensure that they are relevant to the context of province and result in the effective implementation of the project.		

- (MJ) The project will work with Producer Organisation comprise of farmers to improve food security for both livelihood and commercial purposes.
- (MJ)For commercial related activities, the project will work with POs looking at products such as copra, coconut oil, cocoa, honey etc.
- MJ added that one component of the project is productive infrastructure which is to improve an existing or to develop new facilities for farmers. MJ asked the MUPG if they can suggest areas of importance, such as office building, storage sheds, better marketplaces.
- MJ clarified that apart from a good project proposal, WB is adamant that there are no land disputes. It is better to develop in government land for any productive infrastructure. In addition, WB will be keen to know who will run and manage the infrastructure to ensure that it is useful and sustainable.
- The project has been delayed but should begin implementation toward the end of this year in the new year ahead.
- The project will operate a bit like RDP where funds will be channelled through an account in the province for implementation after signing an MOU with MAL. Like RDP, the PS will be the signatory.
- Project will also be recruiting young professional as interns to be mentored by MAL senior staff. The intern will be stationed in the field.

Comments and Questions

- JM started by saying that SIART is one of the opportunities that his province fully welcome and embrace. He went on to say that Makira has a lot of commodities such as coconut, cocoa, banana, cassava etc which could capitalise on the support from the project. In fact Makira is the second highest cocoa producer in SI
- Question: (JM)Will the project fund agriculture research centres in Makira? We need facilities here that farmers can train at. We used to have a research centre at Arosi that grew onions.
 - <u>Response</u>: (MJ) There will be such centre in Tenaru and Ringi under MAL but there have not been any talks about having a research centre here in Makira under this project.
- Comment: (JM) MUPG policy is to establish growth centres around the province with 6 areas already identified. These are government lands.
 We can have research centres or any productive infrastructure there.
- Comment: (JM) One of the most important infrastructure that will serve well the local farmers and buyers is anything that would assist them to transport their products with ease to Honiara Markets. Anything from a wharf to a proper storage facility that keeps the products fresh. There

	Time: 9.30a,	1 hr	
Meeting			
	Provide copies of the SIART ESF Instrument Hard Copies to MUPG.	MJ	
С	Actions Provide conics of the SIAPT ESE Instrument Hand Conics to MIRC	MI	
	Response: Yes, we will get the MAL office here to print copies if the documents for you. They can also share with you the soft copies for the documents.		
	much dependent on the proposal they submit. Question: Can we have copy of the project documents?		
	Response: (MJ) First of all POs must be registered either under Charity Act for livelihood opportunities or under corporate Act for agriculture commercial activities. Any contributions that PO needs to give will very		
	Question: We would want to know what the requirements would be to be eligible for project support?		
	Response: (MJ) It depends but around 50 for food producers and 40 for agribusinesses.		
	Question: (JM) What number of members are we looking at per PO?		
	■ Comment: Government owns land at the Huro area. There is a plan to relocate all the provincial housing quarters to that site. RSIPF police housing are already there. A new marketplace may be needed there in the future.		
	■ <u>Comment</u> : The province needs an agriculture office that will provide a conducive environment for staff to work in. The MUPG will secure an area for this office.		
	■ <u>Comment</u> : It is a concern for the province that snails and rhinoceros beetles have arrived in Makira (around Waimapuru area) brought in by the loggers. This is a threat to the provincial agriculture sector.		
	■ Comment: The project must fund infrastructure that will be useful in the long term not things that are already in the province which will be a waste of money.		
	■ Comment: There are Virgin Coconut Mills in the province, but the issue is that the operational cost to run the mills is very high and the profits from this venture is very small. There needs to be other buyers for the oil to ensure that the prices are competitive. So far there is only one buyer.		
	■ <u>Comment</u> : (JM) SIG has made a promise that Makira will host the national cattle centre.		
	is no wharf in Kirakira but there is a ramp that is still being constructed. A wharf may come after that.		

Key Outcomes of the Meeting.

- Makira Ulawa Provincial Government (MUPG) welcomes the project and looking forward to a close partnership between the province and the project
- MUPG is happy that the SI ART Objectives are in line with Makira Provincial Plans for the agriculture sector in the province.
- Under the Productive Infrastructure, MUPG requested for a new Agriculture office. They also added that anything that would facilitate timely transportation of products from Makira to the markets in Honiara would help farmers in the province. Appropriate storage facilities and knowledge on how to process produces to a more stable form to allow longevity is what they need considering the transportation issues they experience in Makira.

MUPG Courtesy Meeting Group Photo



Annex 3.6 Makira Ulawa Province Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Pick the date]	Time: 11am – 4:00pm	Plac	ce: MUPG Chamber
Meeting called	Ministry of Agriculture an		
ру Гуре of meeting	Stakeholder Meeting		
Type of fileeting	Stakeholder Wieeting		
Presenter	Mark Johnson		
Note taker	Marista Kapini		
	Names	Designation	Company
Attendance (75)	Rev. Stanley Mamany	Farmer	Ugi Kabbo
teeridance (73)	Hon. Joe Calvin Takeli	Ward Member	MUPG
	Moses Oli	Farmer	Pakera Enterprise
	Henry Haga	Farmer	T GRETA LITTER PRISE
	Camuel Gapu	Farmer	
	Francis Vori	Farmer	
	Pita lamae	Teacher	
	Peter Usumae	Teacher	
	Harvey Oli	Farmer	Pakera Enterprise
	Norris Tako	Farmer	Takera Enterprise
	Francis Wehi	Farmer	
	Alphonsus Hagai	Farmer	
	George Atkin	Reporter/Form Press Secretary PM	
	Claudius Tako	MSH	SSEC Office
	Ambrose Siau	Farmer	3320 Office
	John Haku	Farmer	
	Hubert Mono	Copra Farmer	
	Moses Rahesi	Father	
	Michael Seni	Farmer	
	Aaron Kuata	Farmer	
	James Haga	Farmer	
		Ward Member,	/
	Hon. Silas	Farmer	
	Lloyd Atitete	Farmer	
	William Riki	Farmer	Makira Banana Grower Association
	Stanley Angisi	Farmer	
	Sandas	Farmer	
	Irene S		
	Francis Siwa	Farmer	
	Mary Siwa	Farmer	
	Robert Wote	Farmer	

Hazel Keni	Coconut Crushing Mill	
Kathleen Rebi	Coconut Crushing Mill	
Daniel Danagu	Farmer	
Roselyn Punia	Farmer	
Julia Tau	Farmer	
Caroline Fititei	Solomon Power	
Beauty Ha'amori	Teacher	
Joseph Merimo	Farmer	
Peter Odo	Teacher	
Barnabas Tolei		BMCS Farming Group
Joshua Hosanau	Nursing	
Sazu		
Paul Mau		Nanamu
Charles	Officer	MAL
Charles Tatahu	Farmer	
Luz Kosimua		LUKASCO Group
Silas Laulifia	PFO	Fisheries
Kingsley Taro	Farmer/ COM Rep	
Margaret Taro		
Annie Rafeasi	TL/RDP	Makira
Ellison Roy Haga	Kava Farmer	
Matiu Nialenai	Cocoa Farmer	
Thomas Waro	Cocoa Farmer	
Leonard Nahu	Cocoa Farmer	
Hon. Terrence Riitau	Ward 7 Member	MUPG
Andrew Higa	Ward 12 Member	MUPG
Alphonsus Punia	Agriculture	MAL
<u> </u>	Extension	
Peter Baewai	Assembly Office	
Osbert Lalahu	WV	
Gray Nako	Cocoa Farmer	
James Wamae	WV	
Duddley	WV	
Josephine Harunari	Agriculture Extension	MAL
Hon. Melchezedek Kira		
Jonah		
Gabriel Ngaritola		MAL
Claudine	Farmer	
Tegna Goreti	Farmer	
Joyce	Accommodation owner	
Rodger	Transport Business	
Lawrence Haga	Cocoa Farmer	
Michael	Cocoa	
Christopher Tara	Coconut Farmer	
Simon Baete (SB)	Component 2	RDP
Petra Urahora	Extension	MAL
Michael Tanisapa	Extension	MAL

Marista Kapini (MK)	Local safeguards	WB
Mark Johnston (MJ)	Advisor	RDP

Order of Meeting

1	Opening Prayer	Pastor	
2	Welcome Remarks	Alphonsus Punia (AP)	MU Chief Extension Officer
3	Introductions	Presenter only	Due to the large number of attendees, participants address themselves when they ask questions or make comments
4	Presentation	Mark Johnson	International Consultants RDP
5	Comments/Questions and Answers	All Participants	
6	Closing Prayer		Farmer

Meeting Notes:

Item		Action by	Due Date
Α	Opening Remarks	,	
	AP welcomed all participants including farmers and other stakeholders, acknowledging the good turnout. AP thanked the participants for responding to the meeting notice despite the long journeys some of them had to make to Kirakira from their respective villages.	АР	
	AP also welcomed the visiting team from MAL, RDP and WB who will facilitate the consultation meeting.		
	■ He encouraged the participants to provide comments and to ask questions regarding the presentations.		
В	Agenda		
	1. Background of SI-ART Project (Presented by Mark Johnston)		
	■ MJ began by acknowledging the great turn out.		
	(MJ) The project is still in the phase to be approved. The project should be implemented later in the year or early next year.		
	■ MJ added that the project is a follow on from the Agriculture Component of RDP.		
	■ He reminded the meeting that a consultation was held late 2020 on the same project.		
	■ MJ explained that the meeting at hand aims to get across to the participants the key points of the ESF instruments that have been developed and disclosed through MAL's website for public viewing. He emphasised the importance for the participants to provide contributions to ensure that the ultimate implementation of the instruments and the project itself is effective.		

- MJ recapped that the SI -ART project is a WB funded project in partnership with SIG through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The project amount is 15M USD over a 5-year period.
- The project will be implemented in Malaita, Guadalcanal (including Honiara) and Makira.
- MJ went through the details of the project designs and followed by the ESF instrument presentations.

Comments and Questions

Question: Will the project fund infrastructures such as storage sheds and cool rooms?

Response: This can be funded if this is PO's needs.

Question: For POs is there a criterion that POs must meet apart from contribution of equity?

Response: (MJ)Yes. PO can include farmer association that must be formally registered under the Charitable Act to be eligible for project funding. Agribusinesses and other more commercial oriented groups must be formally registered under the Company's Corporate Act to be eligible for support from the project. Commercial oriented group must also have bank account. Proposals received from POs will go through screening before selection. Not all proposal shall be accepted.

■ <u>Comment</u>: The current issue with commodities such as copra and cocoa is that the prices are too low. People are now moving away from these products and to new commodities such as Noni. Can these new commodities be considered under the project?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) New crops can be considered for support under the project including any crops promoted by the government. But WB currently sees Kava as a narcotic and will not support it.

<u>Response</u>: (SB) Cocoa and coconut has established markets thus the emphasis being placed on them. Other new commodities may not have well established markets but still can be considered.

■ <u>Comment</u>: How to you select communities to work with? Working with communities can be very challenging.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) The selection depends on POs either as food producers or agribusinesses depending on the food security indexes. Also agreed that working in communities can be a challenge. Therefore, project roll out will be done slowly to ensure works are done properly, structures are in places and that MAL are upskilled to facilitate the project roll out.

Question: I understand that there will be activities (or study) to improve breed and production under the project. What about older plantations that needs to be rehabilitated, will the project cover those as well?

<u>Response</u>: The project will fund whatever the POs need. If their priority is to rehabilitate older plantations, then that will be supported. But the program will not dictate what POs should do.

■ <u>Comment</u>: Markets always require certain breeds or species of products. Has there been any studies done on the whole chain (farm to market) on products such as cassava, etc that WB has considered under this project?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ)Value chain can only work for Makira if there are storage and freezing facilities that due to the fact that it is far from markets. Also, no value chain study has been done for Makira for this project.

Question: Why does the project choose to operate in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira?

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) The decision to operate in these 3 provinces is simply because they have higher agriculture production compared to the other provinces.

Comment: It was stated in the presentation that infrastructures such as roads and jetty's will not be funded under this project as they are the responsibility of the Ministry of infrastructure Development (MID). I think this is a mistake. These infrastructures are important to link farmers to the market. MID has their own plans and will not necessarily priorities our needs. Can this decision be revisited and bring back the roads and jetty into the project?

Response: (MJ) This decision made by the PS of Finance.

Question: Access is very important for us farmers. What is the process where farmers can follow to apply to MID for the development of access roads from our farms? <u>Response:</u> We do not have an answer to that question. That can be raised directly with MID.

■ Comment: I want emphasise the importance of road access for farmers. We are not happy with the decision to remove transportation infrastructure from this project and to come under MID. There is a MID office here in Kirakira which have done nothing even to improve the existing road network. We cannot expect them to develop new accessway for farmers. Is there anyway to push our case to WB and SIG to reconsider this decision? This will disadvantage the women yet again.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) We are taking notes of your comments. The decisions on this will be made on a higher level.

Response: (SB) We have to also consider the fact that the available funds will be shared among the 3 provinces. We have to prioritised what is really important to us. From experience in RDP, the project would normally fund half a kilometre of access road which may not be near enough of what we needed for an access road yet eat up a lot of cost. We must decide between an incomplete accessway or activities that promote food security and improve livelihoods. Let us leave the road component to the rightful ministry to deal with.

Question: What is the recommended size of the producer groups?

<u>Response:</u> (MJ) It depends but around 50 for food producers and 40 for agribusinesses. But there is no definite number.

Question: (JS) Is this program an introduced concept or adopted concept. It is my opinion that we decide on the designs that is relevant for Makira.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) This program is adopting what has already been done before here in the Solomon Islands including Makira. I also agree that Makira must decide for themselves on how they further the agriculture sector in the province.

■ Comment: We were excited when we heard that this project is going to be funded by WB. Can this USD 15M be increased to cater for the 3 provinces? Another suggestion I have is to allocate this money only to active and effective farmers that will ensure that there is a return from this investment. Otherwise I fear that it would just be like throwing the money into the ocean. We are also keen to see the reports on the

outcome of previous projects with similar designs to see their effectiveness.

Question: (GA) I know that in the 1960s one of the main focus here was to raise cattle for export. What is the focus in this project? Food Security?

Response: (MJ) The focus here is for both food security and commerce.

■ Comment: This project is a milk and honey for farmers. But we also need proper transportation infrastructure to accompany this project. Can MAL ask other donor for additional support to cater for this other wise it is not complete, and most subprojects may end up no sustainable and even further handicap our businesses. Secondly, we highlight the importance of the project office to be located in Kirakira close to the farmers so that timely support can be provided to the POs. Thirdly, can the project support exporting of products not just productions? Finally, at the end of the day, it is the expectation that farmers can eventually stand on their own thus the project must also empower farmers though appropriate training.

Response: (MJ) This is just one of the projects that MAL has and cannot cater for everything that you require. Secondly, yes a project management unit will be set up here in Kirakira agriculture office. Thirdly, this project supports whatever the POs apply for in terms of activities. Finally, training will be conducted for POs through their lead farmer who is someone elected by the PO. The lead farmer then takes back the knowledge to his PO and train them locally in the communities.

■ Comment: Appreciate the awareness by the visiting team. Farmers here are keen to receive capacity building and food security opportunities etc. Can the USD 15M be distributed equally among the 3 provinces? We fear that the 2 bigger provinces will take everything from us. Also, I want to re-emphasise the need to have the PMU office here in Kirakira.

<u>Response</u>: Though it has not locked in yet, it was earmarked that the money may be spilt 3 way based on population. On the location of the PMU office, yes, there will be one in all the 3 provinces furnished with technical staff. Only the finance team will be centralised and stationed in Honiara to ensure the ease to purchase materials.

Question: I think this project is well designed. I am just concerned if this program will address the agricultural needs for the respective 3 provinces which are not the same? Secondly, whom does this project focus to assist? consultants, lead farmers or just a selected few? I fear that the people on the ground will not benefit from this project. I say

this because local farmers will have difficulties setting up POs and the relevant governances.

Response: (MJ) As mentioned in my presentation, this program is designed to support both livelihood and commercial farmers through their respective POs. The designs came about from studies and consultations done in the three provinces and the government and stakeholders. When the project rolls out, there will be support provided to new POs and existing ones. On the case of lead farmers, they are individuals chosen by POs not MAL. If the lead farmer does not perform, you have the right to remove them and chose another individual to represent the PO.

<u>Response</u>: (SB) Makira is one of the biggest recipients of RDP and the same process of RDP will apply in this project including the screening process. This project cannot be politically influenced.

■ Comment: I do not agree with the 10% equity that farmers have to come up with when applying for project support. I doubt that farmers in the village level can afford this amount.

<u>Response:</u> (MJ) The 10% equity is introduced in this project to ensure the seriousness and commitment of a PO to do the activity.

■ <u>Comment:</u> I don't like the fact the project prefers to work with POs. Through this arrangement, only the lead farmers will benefit based on previous experience. It is better to work individually, as we will have more control over our activities and resources management wise.

Response: (MJ) Normally people work individually at their own farms. The PO is set up to access funding and support including training based on the PO's objectives. The governance of the PO should spell out how the group will operate.

■ Question: Where is the market for new commodities considering the fact that even markets of well-established commodities such as cocoa and copra are struggling.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ)The current focus of the project is on domestic markets. But it is also important to look into down processing to convert the products into a more stable form before marketing.

Question: Is there through the project any incentives for buyers of commodities? I am talking about hard cash that buyers can tap into to buy commodities knowing that production is seasonal. This would ensure both farmers and buyers security.

<u>Response</u>: (MJ) Agree that for many buyers, lack of working capital is a real issue.

- Comment: I am here speaking on behalf the women. Activities through the project to promote food security for domestic need is very important. This will enable our families and especially our young children to eat healthy foods. Currently we depend heavily on imported foods. Even our boarding schools are feed our children with rice and noodles which is very unhealthy for them. We need to consider seriously food security and nutrition. We always tend to look more on profits rather than food and nutrition which is not a good thing. Through activities on food security we can appreciate more the local foods that we have such as the 105 species of bananas that we have in Makira.
- Comments: I represent institutions and faith-based organisations. Is there any partnership between the project and schools? Majority of the farmers' children are in schools. Teachers area useful resources that the project can tap to disseminate information about the project and other MAL's agenda.

2. ESF Instruments (Presented by Mark Johnston)

<u>(a) ESMF</u>

■ Question: What are the appropriate processes we must follow to acquire land to work in that us under dispute?

<u>Response</u>: On land disputes, the project will not support activities on any disputed lands.

Question: What are the social and health risks experienced from RDP? Also note that GAS and CBR has now been observed in the Waimapuru area. How can this be addressed?

Response: (MJ) RDP has been vigilant to not support projects that affects the social, health, environment and livelihoods of the people through screening processes and implementation of mitigation measures. RDP projects are small with minimal or temporary impacts. On the issue of GAS and CBR, it is the responsibility of the Biosecurity team of MAL to work with communities to eradicate the pests not this

	project. This project, however, will not support activities that would aid the spread of this pest to uninfected areas.						
	(b)Labour Management Plan						
	Question: What are the labour rates we must adopt for those we employ to work on our farms.						
	Response: On labour rates, you can use the ones stipulated in the labour act or what has been described in your labour ordinance when it applies to the rural areas.						
	(c) Stakeholder Engagement Plan						
	No Specific Comments on SEP						
	(d) Environment and Social Commitment Plan No specific comments on the ESCP.						
С	Actions						
	Hard copies and soft copy of the ESF instruments to be placed at MAL Kirakira office.	MJ					
Meeting	Meeting Close Meeting Duration						
	Time: 4 pm	5 hrs					

Key Outcomes of the Meeting.

- Farmers welcomed the project and looking forward to its implementation
- Farmers expressed the need to have PMU office to be in Kirakira.
- Farmers needing assistance with the establishment of PO's governances.
- Farmers hoping that the project can help in establishing market for their produces.
- Farmer encourage other farmers to appreciate the importance of food security and nutrition for their families and to not always prioritise profits.
- Farmers wants the province to take more ownership in developing the agriculture sector in the province.
- Farmers hoped to get a fair share from the project funds considering that Malaita and Guadalcanal are larger provinces.
- Farmers unhappy with the removal of roads and jetty's from the project support.

Stakeholder Meeting 3 Photos-Makira Ulawa Province Stakeholders

Photo 1: Makira Chief Extension Officer said the opening remark.



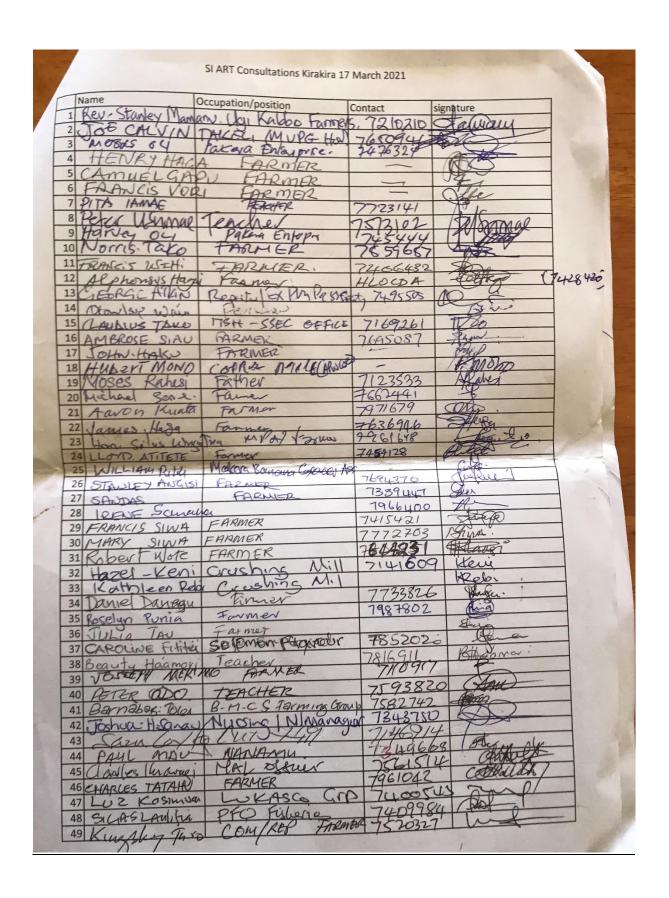
<u>Photo 2</u>: One of participants making comments after the presentation



<u>Photo 3:</u> Mark Johnston during questions and answers time.



Signed Participant List



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4		SI ART Consultations Kirakira 17	7 March 2021	
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