



Ministry of Forestry and Research

# Forestry *Sius*

First Quarter 2025, Issue No. 20

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## Welcome aboard...

This is the official Newsletter of the  
Ministry of Forestry and Research,  
published and distributed on a  
quarterly basis.

## Forest Secretary: Forest and Food are crucial



LEAD BY EXAMPLE:  
PS Richardson Raomae plant-  
ing a sour-soup fruit-tree to  
mark 2025 IDF

Forest and food are indeed crucial to the survival of humanity, as well as the entire forest ecosystem and as custodians we, humans have a responsibility to ensure it is sustainably managed and are not being overexploited.

Forestry Permanent Secretary, Richard Raomae highlighted in commemorating International Forest Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This year's theme is – "Forests and Foods".

He says forest plays one of the very important roles in complimenting the very means of providing food for us and off course, the bigger picture of food security.

"Forests through its ecosystem cycle

decomposes and eventually forms the rich nutrients top soil, it also holds the biggest reservoirs of underground water that continues to sustain agricultural subsistence farming.

"Likewise, forests help maintain the good soil fertility making sure our foods are harvest at its highest yield.

"More so forest has provided us its essential service through provision of household materials and fuel wood, used for cooking ever since our ancestral days. And so, it is very important that we do not unnecessarily cut our forests."

The Permanent Secretary adds on the other hand, forests ...[continue page 2](#)



## Sawn timber export update with Utilization

### Total Veneer & Sawn Timber Export By Volume

| Volume (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|--------------------------|
| 6,175.93                 |
| 10,228.827               |
| Total= 16,944.757        |

### Timber Species Export & Veneer By Volume

| Species         | Volume     |
|-----------------|------------|
| Akwa (Taun)     | 36.206     |
| Kwila           | 74.669     |
| Rose wood       | 8687.13    |
| Vitex           | 1430.822   |
| Total =         | 16,944.757 |
| Veneer          | Volume     |
| Company (Eagon) | 6,715.93   |
| Total =         | 6,715.93   |

### Timber Export Volume By Destination

| Country     | Volume                  |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Australia   | 460.051m <sup>3</sup>   |
| China       | 20.402m <sup>3</sup>    |
| Malaysia    | 231.234m <sup>3</sup>   |
| New Zealand | 135.227m <sup>3</sup>   |
| Phillipines | 266.464m <sup>3</sup>   |
| Vanuatu     | 75.449m <sup>3</sup>    |
| Total=      | 1,188.827m <sup>3</sup> |

### Veneer Export By Volume Destination

| Country | Volume   |
|---------|----------|
| Korea   | 6,715.93 |

# Forest and Food are crucial



PS Raomae delivering his key note address to marking 2025 International Forest Day

have played significant role in our economy; its industries operation has provided for revenue generated in our country through round log, veneer and sawn timber.

Whilst these are all important roles forests play, we as custodians to these resources must step up to the call to properly manage our forest resources sustainably going forward.

In doing so it is paramount that as custodians, we must see into how best a balance between cutting forests and planting forest; thus, if you cut one tree replace it with five trees, elaborated PS Raomae.

Mr Raomae further adds with these crucial roles, the significance of marking forest day around the world yearly on 21<sup>st</sup> March shows that we are not alone on the struggle to sustainably manage the worlds forest resources.

Solomon Islands is blessed with enormous forest resources and it is being identified as one of the fastest tree regrowth rate regions in the world, an advantage to us.

Even so, we cannot neglect our efforts to ensure we sustainably manage our forest resources for our children and children's children.

He then urges the students, "the presence of you students in

commemorating this day is a way forward, as youths you must know your surroundings including forest.

"Understanding forest's importance is crucial at your age as you will be the advocates in the years to come."

The one-day International Forest Day was marked at the Botanical Garden.

In attendance are students from Mbokona and Tamlan who participated in various activities including a clean-up campaign around the garden, tree planting, information session and quizzes.

The students joins together with staff of the Ministry of Forestry and Research including other partner stakeholders such as JICA.



Students with staff planting fruit trees



## Ministry of Forestry and Research

### Easter Message



The Honourable Minister, Hon. Makario Tagini, Permanent Secretary Richard Raomae, management and staff of the Ministry of Forestry and Research, wish to extend their warmest Easter season's greetings to;

His Excellency, The Governor General Reverend David Tiva Kapu & Lady Kapu, The Honourable Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele and Madam Manele, Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition Group, Leader of the Independent Group, Honourable Members of Parliament, Members of the Provincial Government, the Dean and Excellency Heads of Various Diplomatic Corps, Stakeholders, Development Partners, Leaders from Various Groups including NGO's, Business Houses and Church Groups, friends and all good citizen of Solomon Islands.

The Ministry wishes you ALL the warmest Easter greetings as we all make reflections in our life's and the renewal of love and happiness!!

EASTER IS A STRONG CONVICTION OF CHRIST JESUS'S VICTORY OVER DEAD. HIS RESURRECTION SYMBOLISES THE INTERNAL LIFE THAT IS GRANTED TO ALL OF US WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.

HIS RESURRECTION GAVE US IRREFUTABLE PROOF THAT HE WAS REALLY THE SON OF GOD AND THAT HE HAD CONQUERED DEATH ONCE AND FOR ALL.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus, let us reflect on our past, embrace the good deeds we've achieved and learn from our mistakes with renewed hope, love, peace and prosperity.

Let us also remind ourselves that at such times, our forests with its biodiversity have been created as a sustainable resource for our benefit and the benefit of our future generations.

In this regard, we will continue to be as stewards in the management through partnership and collaboration with all stake holders and our resource owners for better and improved forestry services that will benefit all now and, in the years, to come.

As we continue to work together hand in hand, in advancing our beautiful nation Solomon Islands towards peaceful co-existence and economic prosperity.

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE BORN AGAIN IN YOUR HEARTS. MAY EVERY SPHERE OF YOUR LIFE BE ENLIGHTEN WITH HIS LESSONS AND DIVINE WISDOM.

ALLELUIA! JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN.  
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

HAPPY  
EASTER



# Round log export update with Forest Industries

Round log export volume by Province

| Province    | Estimate Volume (m³) |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Central     | none                 |
| Choiseul    | 54,200.000           |
| Guadalcanal | 26,472.121           |
| Isabel      | 69,959.039           |
| Makira      | 53,800.000           |
| Malaita     | 9,207.545            |
| Renbel      | none                 |
| Temotu      | 13,500.000           |
| Western     | 92,860.000           |
| Total =     | 319,998.705          |

Round log export volume by Destination

| Destination | Estimate Volume (m³) |
|-------------|----------------------|
| China       | 312,698.705          |
| India       | none                 |
| Korea       | 1,300.000            |
| Vietnam     | 6,000.000            |
| Total =     | 319,998.705          |

This table shows round log export of Plantation species

| Company                      | Estimate Volume(M³) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Eagon Pacific Plantation Ltd | 16,500.000          |
| KPPL                         | 22,000.000          |



## Officers Refresher Training on SOLGEO-FIMS

Staff of the Ministry of Forestry and Research have underwent a refresher training on SOLGEO-FIMS.

SOLGEO-FIMS is a designed digital platform that serves as a storage for the relevant documents within the ministry.

It particularly focuses on the daily work flow of the ministry, with exception that it tries to intergate digitising the current manual work flow into a digital one.

JICA under the Sustainable Forest Resource Management Project have initially built this for the ministry in early 2020.

All divisions within the ministry have took their turn to attend this refresher training and are hopeful to put into better use to enhance the smooth running of the organisation.

## Aust, NZ support timber sector

Solomon Islands sawn timber exporters have demonstrated their strong commitment towards industry sustainability at the Solomon Islands Sawn Timber Knowledge Forum in Honiara.

Co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand and the Solomon Islands Timber Processors and Exporters Association (SITPEA), the event celebrated progress towards certification for Solomon Islands sawn timber.

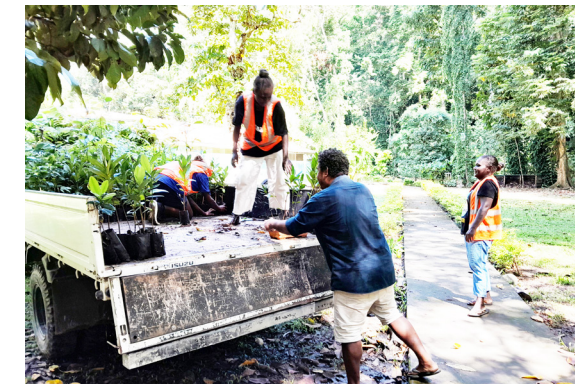
The sawn timber industry promotes sustainable forestry practices, creates local jobs, and through SITPEA supports the livelihoods of approximately 9,000 rural households connected to SITPEA's member network.

# News in brief

## Forestry supports tree planting at Blood Ridge

The Ministry of Forestry and Research has provided more than 700 seedlings from its Botanical Garden to rehabilitate Bloody Ridge.

The initiative is a collaborative from various institutins & organisations, with SINU Forestry Faculty and the Ministry taking the lead together with residence of Bloody Ridge. Tree planting was done during the marking of the International Forest Day this year 2025 on March 21<sup>st</sup>.



# Solomon Islands Independent Forest Association in the making

Solomon Islands is working on establishing a national independent forest association for all forest work levels, forest stakeholders, local tree out-growers, forester retirees including whoever comes to interact with our forests or have keen interest working in any related forest career is in the marking.

This initially follows decades of local anticipation, until the Secretariate of Pacific Commission (SPC) paves way for its initial birth with technical support from Forest Australia (FA) at a consultation in Honiara.

Speaking at the consultation's opening, Solomon Islands Forestry Secretary, Mr Richard Raomae pointed out that although the initial idea has been long time coming, the timing now is even more crucial.

With the expansion of the various forest related working fields together with the increasing trend of forest graduates in the country, it is timely that we help grace both the forest academics and local experts.

Moreso, it is even more important such an independent body be formulated to creating a platform to be the voice on issues of concerns which will be a bonus for a

conducive and healthy partnership with the government and other forestry stakeholders, he adds.

A consultation team of three – SPC's Programme Leader, Sustainable Forests and Landscapes, Land Resources Division (LRD) Mr Jelesi Mateboto and Landscape Management Technician, Loraini Baleilomaloma-Kasainas-eva. Including Fellow of Forestry Australia, Graham Wilkinson were in the country for the consultation meeting.

SPC's Programme Leader, Sustainable Forests and Landscapes, Land Resources Division (LRD), Mr Mateboto made highlights on the background of the initiative as a pacific driven plan in trying to gather pool of pacific forest professionals current and those retired.

He also expresses that whilst SPC member countries are establishing their respective associations, SPC is also eying a Pacific Network for Forestry Professionals which is why they visit Solomon Islands for the consultation meeting.

Forestry Australia's, Graham Wilkinson underscores their support for and commitment with SPC on this pacific initiative, noting the difference in terms of

increasing technology uses in forestry as a challenge for the Pacific Island Countries.

On this, he insists Forestry Australia (FA) will be supporting the development of the PNFP by making its services and resources available under a five-year program of sponsored memberships of (FA) for forestry professionals from Pacific Island Countries.

That is under the Pacific Network of Forestry Professionals (PNFP) which will be developed by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with Forestry Australia (FA) to share information and resources for the continuing professional development of forestry professionals within the Pacific.

Solomon Islands after the consultation meeting has formed an interim executive and its committee members, purposely to deliberate on the formalities needed, making sure an ongoing working group is kicking the initiative off ground.

The Interim committee is comprised of representatives from various groups including forest academic rep, government forester rep, forest industry rep, community forester rep, Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Forestry student rep and NGO forester rep.





## Licenses update with Licensing

| Felling Licenses Status            | N0.# |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Felling licenses issued            | 4    |
| Felling licence amended            | 4    |
| Show-caused                        | 16   |
| Suspended of operation order       | 2    |
| Suspended order of felling licence | 6    |
| Notice to suspend                  | 3    |
| Milling Licenses                   |      |
| Renewed                            | 30   |
| New Approved Application           | 35   |

### NOTE:

Rows two (2) to five (5) for the felling licence is reflected from statistic report from January to June 2025. Data present is not reflected in quarters, thus the same figure can be seen in first quarter newsletter and second quarter newsletter respectively.



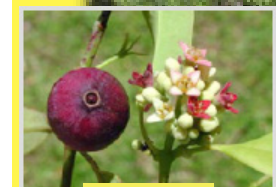
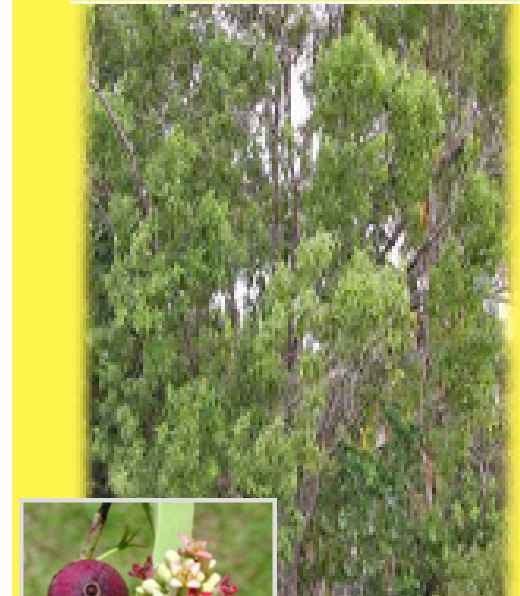
# 2025 International Forest Day marked in pictures



## Your facts corner with Reforestation

- Canarium indicum var. indicum and C. harveyi (canarium nut) Burseraceae (torchwood family)

canarium nut (English), galip nut (Papua New Guinea: pidgin), nangai (Vanuatu), ngali, ngali nut (Solomon Islands)



### Fruit

#### Description In Brief

**Distribution:** Native to eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

**Size:** Typically 20–30 m (66–100 ft) tall with canopy diameter of 15–20 m (50–66 ft) at maturity.

**Habitat:** Lowland, sub humid to humid tropics, very warm temperatures throughout the year, elevation 0–600 m (0–2000 ft), annual rainfall 1800–4000 mm (70–160 in).

**Vegetation:** Widely planted around villages and settlements.

**Soils:** Favors medium to heavy-textured soils of moderate to high fertility.

**Growth rate:** Slow during the first year, 0.6–2 m (2–6.6 ft), but rapid thereafter, often 2.5–3 m/yr (8–10 ft/yr) for the next 5–6 years.

**Main agroforestry uses:** Homegarden, wind-break, mixed woodlot.

**Main products:** Nuts, timber, traditional medicine

**Yields:** Estimated at up to 4–7 mt kernel-intesta/ha/yr (1.8–3.1 t kernel-in testa/ac/yr).

**Intercropping:** Interplanting with crops that can provide rapid returns, such as root crops, banana, papaya, kava, etc., is recommended.

**Invasive Potential:** Minor potential to become invasive.

# Restoring Bloody Ridge in an collaborative effort

The International Day of Forests was commemorated with a large-scale tree-planting event at Bloody Ridge, a site of historical and ecological significance in the Solomon Islands.

A total of 700 trees were planted by students from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) forestry program, staff from the Ministry of Forestry and Research, other stakeholders and local residents as part of an environmental restoration initiative.

The project aims to restore the park to its 1942 landscape, featuring grasslands on the hills and ridges while reintroducing native forests in the valleys and low-lying areas.

The restoration effort aligns with broader

conservation goals, ensuring that the area retains both its historical integrity and ecological health.

Bloody Ridge, a national park and former battlefield from World War II, holds deep cultural and historical significance. By reintroducing native vegetation, the initiative not only enhances biodiversity but also strengthens the site’s role as a natural and historical landmark.

Participants expressed enthusiasm for the project, highlighting the importance of environmental stewardship.

Forestry students from SINU saw the event as an opportunity to apply their studies in a practical setting, while local residents welcomed the effort to revive the park’s natural beauty.

The tree-planting marks the beginning of a long-term initiative to rehabilitate the area.



Deputy Commissioner Reforestation giving his remarks



Various stakeholders who participated in the tree planting at Bloody Ridge

Thank You  
for bearing with us...

ADDRESS

Ministry of Forestry and Research  
Lengakiki Road, P O Box G24  
Honiara  
Solomon Islands

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Communications Officer  
Ministry of Forestry and Research  
Phone: +677 24215  
Email: btheonomi@mofr.gov.sb

For more information and update on Ministry of Forestry and Research, please visit our website  
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