



Ministry of Forestry and Research

Forestry *News*

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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.

Our dried specimens are back



SI National Herbarium officers at USP lower campus, Fiji preparing specimens for repatriation.

More than twenty-five thousand (25,000) dried plant specimens' - flora and fauna belonging to Solomon Islands have safely returned after decades of safe keeping at the South Pacific Regional Herbarium (SPRH), Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Lower Campus, Laucala, Fiji.

Relocated to Fiji in the late 90's, the arrangement was agreed to and signed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Solomon Islands Government together with the South Pacific Commission (SPC) under the

South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources (SPRIG) project, giving the South Pacific Regional Herbarium (SPRH), at the University of the South Pacific (USP) the role for their safe keeping since.

These dried plant specimens are collections since the establishment of the Solomon Islands National Herbarium during the Solomon Islands British Protectorate (SIP).

Its relocation was solely because the building accommodating these specimens was partially destroyed in



Sawn timber export update with Utilization

Total Veneer & Sawn Timber Export By Volume

Sawn Timber Export Volume (m ³)
Total= 1,822.612

Timber Species Export By Volume

Species	Volume
Kwila	107.091
Rose wood	715.265
Teak	34.400
Vitex	965.856
Total =	1,822.612

Timber Export Volume By Destination

Country	Volume
Australia	502.32
Malaysia	232.605
New Zealand	849.899
Phillipines	179.156
Vanuatu	58.632
Total=	1,822.612

NOTE:

There is no export of veneer in the second quarter of year 2025. Thus there is no available data compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Our dried specimens are back

the 90's and the dried plant specimens were not properly maintained and stored under the required herbarium storage conditions.

That is the reason these dried specimens were taken to Fiji for safe keeping, until such time that Solomon Islands now have the proper herbarium and the facilities available.

Welcoming the specimen's arrival in an issued statement, Forestry Permanent Secretary Richardson Raomae commended the successful repatriation of the dried plant specimens, noting the very significance these specimens have for the country in terms of academic and research purposes; and most of all to keeping accurate track record of the country's flora and fauna as indeed very important.

He also acknowledges the commitment shown by the responsible officers especially the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden staff within the Ministry of Forestry and Research since undertaking this very important national initiative, making sure that all processes from the start until the specimen's arrival in the country runs smoothly.

"This is a milestone achievement as one of the priorities of the Solomon Islands Government under Ministry of Forestry and Research, and I must commend those whom have played significant roles on their part in both countries – Fiji and Solomon Islands.

"It's no easy feat maintaining specimens to a certain required standard, and also preparing to moving such highly fragile specimen back and forth; that cooperation shown through shared knowledge and understanding is indeed invaluable.

"From initial consultation and work



planning, verification and equipment purchase, specimen processing, packaging and data-basing, container loading and fumigation to the actual repatriation by shipping," added the Forestry Secretary.

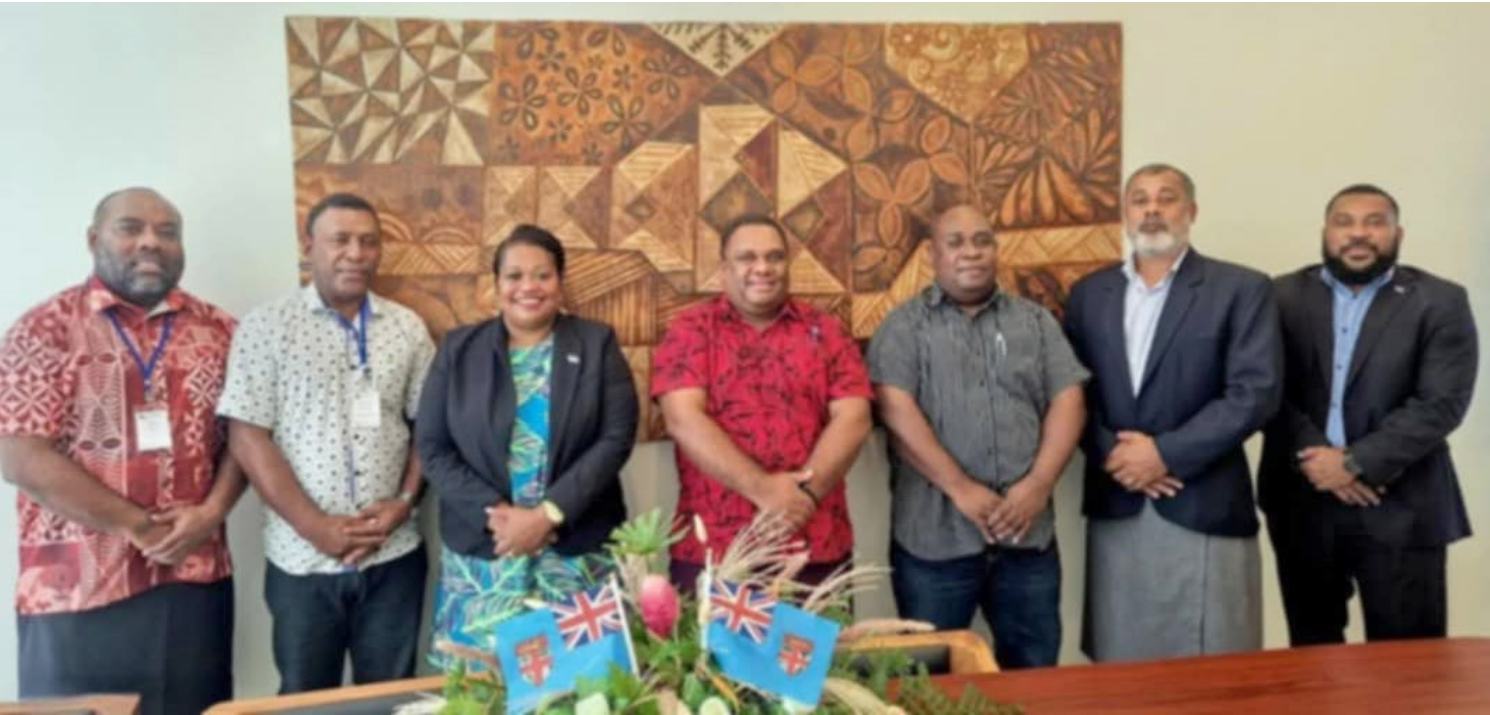
Mr Raomae says it has not been an easy task bringing back the country's very own dried plant specimens after decades, but it is also a relieve to see them safely back to the sole custodians to this unique plant specimens.

Thus, the Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Forestry and Research with in-depth gratitude to the South Pacific Regional Herbarium (SPRH), Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), at the University of the South Pacific (USP) sincerely acknowledge their tremendous commitment since.

And the South Pacific Commission (SPC) under the South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources (SPRIG) project for stepping in the dire times Solomon Islands faced as a country back then, acknowledges the Forestry Secretary, Richardson Raomae.



Forestry Secretary attends Regional Research Symposium



Ministry of Forestry and Research (MoFR) Permanent Secretary, Richardson Raomae is currently attending the regional research symposium, coincide with the 4th Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAf), and the Pacific heads of Agriculture and Forestry (PHOAFS) held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

The Regional research symposium brings together Agriculture and Forestry research experts who shares research work on various areas in the two sectors (Agriculture & Forestry).

PS Raomae is an observer in the symposium event, and is a member to the Regional Research agender peer review team representing Solomon Islands to assess priority research needs for pacific island countries.

In a statement from Nukualofa, PS Raomae said his participation in the regional research review is indeed an opportunity for him to share our national research needs

as research information is crucial for growth in both the Agriculture and Forestry sector.

He further added that out of the 49 research topics identified in the region through hearing pacific voices and regional research peer review consultations, four (4) key areas are cross cutting topics that needs both national and regional attention.

They are, food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and forestry systems, climate change and enablers & tools.

Apart from these main events, PS Raomae also attended various side events at the Pacific week of agriculture and forestry, sharing progresses in the forestry sector in light to Solomon Islands status, the challenges as well as calling on regional countries to do more in terms of joint research, data sharing and capacity building.

He is also part of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry meeting that continue to deliberate on development and implementation of regional strategies for growing Pacific agriculture and forestry.

PS Raomae has also been engaged in several bilateral meetings to advocate for Solomon Islands' Forestry interests and strengthen cooperation with regional partners.

One such bilateral meeting was with counterparts from Fiji. The meeting fosters on key specific areas that both countries have common interests on that can become pathway for partnership on forestry.





Round log export update with Forest Industries

The below table shows round log export by provinces for the second three months of 2025, the total figures in the columns are of estimated volume.

Round log export volume by Province

Province	Estimate Volume (m ³)
Choiseul	37,860.000
Guadalcanal	16,102.000
Isabel	46,356.826
Makira	29,000.000
Malaita	11,344.117
Western	86,450.000
Total =	227,112.943

Round log export volume by Destination

Destination	Estimate Volume (m ³)
China	220,912.943
Vietnam	6,200.000
Total =	227,112.943

Round log export for second quarter 2025 shows that 97% of the total round log exports goes to China markets and 3% to Vietnamese markets.

NOTE:

There is no export of plantation round logs in the second quarter of year 2025. Thus there is no available data compared to the first quarter of 2025.



News in brief

JICA SFRM extends model to Isabel



The JICA Sustainable Forest Resource Management Project in partnership with the Ministry of Forestry and Research has extended its model to Jigale community in Isabel Province.

SFRM model was first piloted at Falake community on Malaita and Kumoniboli community on Guadalcanal province respectively.

Details to be featured in the third quarter issue.

Eight Officers attend bamboo seminar in China



Eight forestry officers have attended a two weeks seminar on Technological Innovation of Bamboo as a substitute for plastic initiative for developing countries.

This batch of officers attended the seminar in China, with intention to look, learn and experience China's evolving technology on adding value to whatever raw materials resources.

Specific emphasis on bamboo with other related resources like timber and others.



Students partner in creative recycling of wastes, promotes waste reduction; prevents littering

National Honiara Botanical Gardens welcomed the students from St. John School for the activity creating the awareness posters using small pieces of plastic snack wrappers of littered rubbish, to promote waste reduction and prevent littering.

This activity was proposed by Ms. Yumeno Fujii, a JICA volunteer working in the Environment and Climate Change Division of the Isabel Provincial Government.

She had developed environmental learning activities of "Rubbish Art" in several schools in Isabel Province in the last six months.

Ms. Kotomi Yoshida, a JICA volunteer working at St. John School, also have sympathy about an importance of waste management.

She came to the NHBG leading her students and helped them to feel free to express their emotion on their own art during the activity.

The artworks are now displayed in their school's compound, telling the students' messages such as "I want to keep my village clean" and "I love nature" to the other students and the parents as well.

Forest Utilisation and Downstream processing training in China



A total of eleven forestry officers are currently undergoing two months intensive training on forest utilisation and downstream processing in China.

The Seminar on Forest Utilization and Downstream Processing for Solomon Islands is a piloted training prepared and geared towards the specific needs of Solomon Islands and its natural forest resources.

Specific focus for this training eyes value adding on timber products as the sector embarks on policies to transform the forestry sector to generate more reliable and sustainable benefits from the country's natural resources.

The idea is to work towards reducing the negative environmental impacts of logging, increasing revenues from forest production, benefiting local communities, and developing regulatory framework that promotes a greater balance between utilising forests for both logging and non-logging purposes.

The Seminar programs are being supported and sponsored for by the Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of China (MOFCOM); and is organized by the National Academy of Forestry and Grassland Administration (NAFGA).

An addition eight (8) other officers are also attending similar seminar on Technological Innovation of Bamboo as a substitute for plastic initiative for developing countries.

Forestry Permanent Secretary, Richard Raomae in commending the opportunity given by the Republic of China (PRC) under its embassy in Honiara says this is a timely undertaking since the forestry sector is turning its focus on downstream processing and value adding as one of the Government for National Unity and Transformation (GNUT) Policy priorities.

The Ministry is keen to achieving the priority policies under the Government for National Unity and Transformation (GNUT) whilst at the same time touching the

very lives of our resources owners under the initiative not to damage their environment but with full utilisation of adding value.

He adds in overall these training opportunities is in line with

the Ministry's National Forest Policy in addressing a number of issues including non-timber forest products.

We anticipate that these trainings will sure upskill our forest officers to a broader innovative idea on value adding that will help drive the Ministry's implementation of this program, the Forestry Permanent Secretary further adds.

"As frontliners working with communities acquiring such innovative knowledge will assist in promoting utilisation of non-wood forest products such as bamboo and rattan to better use."

"These officers are middle managers and with this rare opportunity, I am very optimistic that they will have acquired something valuable to contribute to the country in implementing mandatory government policies and in particular Ministry's cooperate plan and the national Forest Policy going forward.

"Under similar training and seminar arrangements, three senior forestry officers have completed their two weeks training on wood processing and sustainable utilisation technology recently are now back in the country.

"This training covers a wide range of technical aspects of wood utilisation and to be able to acquire knowledge on the current status and development trends of the wood industry, especially learning from China's logging management systems and other wood technology aspects is a bonus to the ministry and the forestry sector.

"This will sure be beneficial for timber production in the Solomon Islands, and the timber industry as well," PS Raomae highlighted with optimism.

Officers attending the seminar trainings in China are being selected from the various technical departments within the Ministry of Forestry and Research.

With aim that these trainings will pave way forward to addressing numerous issues on downstream processing especially on adding value on timber products and also hiccups surrounding the plastic waste problem in the country by using bamboo as a substitute.



Licenses updates with Licensing

Felling Licenses Status	N0.#
Felling Licenses Issued	3
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	34
New Approved Application	28

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.



Capacity building on display plants maintenance



Forestry officers including grounds men at the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden (NHBG) have received capacity building training on display plants maintenance through Japanese International Corporation Agency's (JICA) assistance.

Training was facilitated by JICA's Volunteer at the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden, Mayumi Nishiki who is an expert instructor on plants growth specifically on botanical gardens. She shared invaluable skills and knowledge to the participants.

The training focuses mainly on display-plants maintenance, especially on the various pruning methods and how to maintain plants and trees within any botanical garden.

This is in accordance with the Government of National Unity and Transformation (GNUT) policy priorities in ensuring to upgrade and support the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden to strengthen research related work and upkeep of botanical garden to ensure the preservation of plant species for future generations.



Forestry Permanent Secretary, Richardson Raomae acknowledges JICA for the initiative undertaken to enhance those responsible officers and leading the pathway to achieving one of the key government's policy priorities.

"Such capacity building training is very essential, and an opportunity for the Ministry to capitalise on to further improve our very own botanical garden to fully serve its intended purpose."

Trainer, Mayumi Nishiki says a botanical garden is a public space for recreation, a facility for the purpose of scientific research, conservation and learning through education, thus proper displaying of plants is a vital function of botanical gardens in fulfilling its roles.

In this instance, the Honiara Botanical Garden whilst plays host to some of the very unique flora and fauna of Solomon Islands, the display-plants component is missing, she adds.

"Those plants growing in the display area are becoming 'too natural' rather than being displayed. 'Display' is one of vital functions of botanical gardens to showcase the plant's character and specialities to visitors.

"And I believe that through this training, it will sure improve the capacity of the staffs, making the display-plants be more attractive and educational friendly for visitors.

"Moreso serves as the first sight impression at the entrance, inviting visitors to see the natural forest area to discover its value and recognize the value of the forests of Solomon Islands."

Ms Nishiki adds she is optimistic that officers trained under this capacity building will come to understand the purpose of display plants maintenance, grasp the knowledge and skills on display plants maintenance, and continued on to acquire the ability to plan and implement the display-plants maintenance going forward.

Your facts corner with Reforestation

- Alphitonia zizyphoides (toi)
Rhamnaceae (buckthorn family)

doi, doi damu, doi selawa (Fiji); navasvas (Vanuatu); toi (Samoa, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, and Niue); toi, manee (French Polynesia)



Trunk



Fruit



Description In Brief

Distribution: Widely distributed and moderately common in the South Pacific islands.

Size: Typically 20–25 m (66–82 ft) tall at maturity.

Habitat: Tropical, humid, 1800–4000 mm(70–157 in) rainfall, lowland to lower montane forests, 5–700 m (16–2300 ft) elevation.

Vegetation: Wide range of tree species of early successional forest. Soils Very wide range of well drained soil types.

Growth rate: On good sites, 2–3 m/yr (6.6–10 ft/yr) during the first 3–4 years, thereafter reducing to 1–2 m/yr (3.3–6.6 ft/yr).

Main agroforestry uses: Improved fallow, wind-break, woodlot.

Main products: Timber, fuelwood, and traditional medicine.

Yields: Timber yields are estimated at 12–16 m³/ha/yr (172–229 ft³/ac/yr).

Intercropping: Mainly occurs in such systems as a result of natural regeneration.

Invasive Potential: Potentially invasive outside of its natural range.

Solomon Islands aims to get more from its forests



Christina Gabuvai, chief forester at the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden Division under the Ministry of Forestry and Research of the Solomon Islands, recently completed a two-month forestry utilization program at the National Academy of Forestry and Grassland Administration in China.

"In Solomon Islands, forest coverage is around 90 percent, and most of the country's revenue comes from logging, with limited development of downstream products," Gabuvai said.

Logging is the country's largest export, but unsustainable practices have become a growing concern for local communities.

"I joined this seminar because the government of Solomon Islands recognized the importance of this training," she said. "Here, I've gained new ideas and skills, including how to transform timber into value-added products."

The bilateral training program, held from May to July, focused on forest utilization and downstream processing. Eleven

forestry officers from the Solomon Islands took part in seminars covering topics such as wood processing, wood industrial development and ecological poverty alleviation.

As part of the program, the group visited Zhejiang province in East China and Henan province in Central China, where they learned about the local experiences in forest economies, forest management and the wood industry supply chain.

Field trips and cultural visits also gave participants insight into China's historical relationship with forests, according to Gabuvai.

"We learned about China's journey from a hunting society to an agricultural one and then to industrialization, which brought deforestation and land degradation," she said.

She was impressed to see how modern China has learned from its history and now places strong emphasis on environmental protection.

"The idea that 'lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets' was new to me, and it perfectly sums up

forestry," she said. "It's about balancing environmental protection and economic development."

The delegation from the Solomon Islands held in-depth discussions with Chinese experts, exchanging ideas on green development across the Pacific, from combating illegal logging and promoting community co-management models to developing under-forest economies and building disaster early warning systems.

Although China's advances in technology and green energy have inspired her, Gabuvai admitted that applying these lessons back home remains a challenge.

"Given our national conditions, Solomon Islands is a small country and we lack adequate infrastructure," she said.

One takeaway from the program, she added, is the importance of looking beyond logging for profit. "Instead of relying solely on the timber industry, we can also develop eco-tourism," Gabuvai said. "But to do that, we need supporting infrastructure and facilities."

Thank You
for bearing with us...

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