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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community / Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

KIWA INITIATIVE

Improving livelihoods and food security / Invasive species management in Solomon Islands

BirdLife International

Project coordinator : BirdLife International

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

August 2022 – March 2027

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 350,244

Theme

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

- Biodiversity conservation
- Socio-economic resilience
- Food security

The **East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS)** faces threats from invasive species, habitat degradation, and limited livelihood opportunities, exacerbated by logging, mining and climate change, leading to the need for improved management, biosecurity, and sustainable economic initiatives to prevent unsustainable resource exploitation.
The project aims to **strengthen the capacity of the ERWHS communities to manage invasive alien species (IAS)**, enhance biosecurity, diversify livelihoods, and protect the site's biodiversity through sustainable management and monitoring practices.

Specific objectives:

- Increased understanding of climate change impacts at the ERWHS and **developing local frameworks & governance** to strengthen local conditions for community resilience.
- Effective IAS management, **through control & biosecurity**, as a Nature-based Solution (NbS) approach for restoring ecosystem & strengthening climate resilience at the ERWHS.
- **Diversification of livelihoods** to reduce dependency on natural based livelihoods affected by climate change, and **increased project development capacity, financial management & grant development** to improve access to funding for climate change adaptation.
- Increased awareness, knowledge & application of effective IAS management at local, national & regional level recognized as an essential component of NbS approaches for climate change resilience.

Women of Hutuna Village
M.Ravuso © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

Subregion: ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia

Solomon Islands

The project is implemented in East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS), Rennell Island

Beneficiaries:
The project will benefit 900 indigenous Renellese, who are landowners of the East Rennell World Heritage Site of which about 60% are men and 40 % are women, and reside in 4 villages. This indigenous group of people subsist on food cultivation, fishing and cash income opportunities limited to crop sales and small-scale handicraft production.

Key results to date:

Strengthened community resilience to climate change

- The Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) was conducted to source climate-related vulnerabilities, and the perceived impacts of climate change on ERWHS resources. Upon completion, the findings were shared with MECDM & Renbel Provincial Government. Community-driven solutions & recommendations, integrating traditional knowledge on weathers patterns & climate events will provide opportunities for interventions by the government. In the meantime, partnerships have been established with Kastom Garden Association. An integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA) will be undertaken with the aim of informing locally appropriate adaptation strategies.

Increased community capacity to manage invasive species

- 4 Local Rangers trained 300+ community members including 120 women, in bait replenishment & recording.
- Post-baiting monitoring shows reduced rodent activity within treatment areas, an increase in the average number of birds detected for all 6 endemic indicator bird species, and documented breeding of the Rennell Shrikebill via trail cameras.

Improved financial & economic conditions at the ERWHS

- Establishment of 4 Women's Savings Club in each of the 4 villages is a momentous step in advancing the independence and wellbeing of women in East Rennell. Registration with the MWYCFA & adoption of equitable sharing benefits through their Constitution will enable access to technical and financial support for livelihood development. Currently, Birdlife is undertaking the draft development of livelihoods assessment and market analysis for the ERWHS. The assessment would identify opportunities to diversify and strengthen climate-resilient food systems.

Increased awareness & understanding of IAS management

- Till date, 1000 posters and brochures on invasive species have been distributed to Ward Development Reps. Lessons from the ERWHS project site, the engagement of the Rangers and communities have been shared at the SPREP PRISMMS Meetings, through the INSPIRE PERL Network. The project has a strengthened local capacity for IAS management and supported the development of a biosecurity plan for the Rennel Province - a first for the Solomon Islands.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

"This project really helps us, (...) we try to reduce the impact of rats that indeed spoil our crops, our fruits. (...) As I look back, we see a lot of improvement in our crops. (...) So far our gardens have really improved, our crops at the first place it was damaged by the rodents, now families and a lot of people, they commend us for reducing this".

Mr. George TAUIKA, Local Project Coordinator

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