

# PRINCIPLES OF NETWORKING



## BACKGROUND

- Solomon Islands is comprised of one of the most biologically diverse archipelagoes on the planet
- Its rainforests and coral reefs host numerous endemic species, and it is considered a global biodiversity hotspot
- Yet, Solomon Islands is also a developing country
- The growing challenge is to meet local and national development aspirations in an environmentally sensitive manner that promotes sustainability and protects ecosystem services



# Rationale

In previous meetings and workshops held in the Western Province which are organized by the provincial government and other NGOs, participants echoed the importance of team work and of working together in partnership.

- Symposium on community based resource management march 2014
- Western province After Action Review (AAR) workshop, June 2015
- Provincial partnership meeting organized by the Western Provincial planning department ,10<sup>th</sup> august 2015
- Western province strategic planning workshop 25-28 April 2016



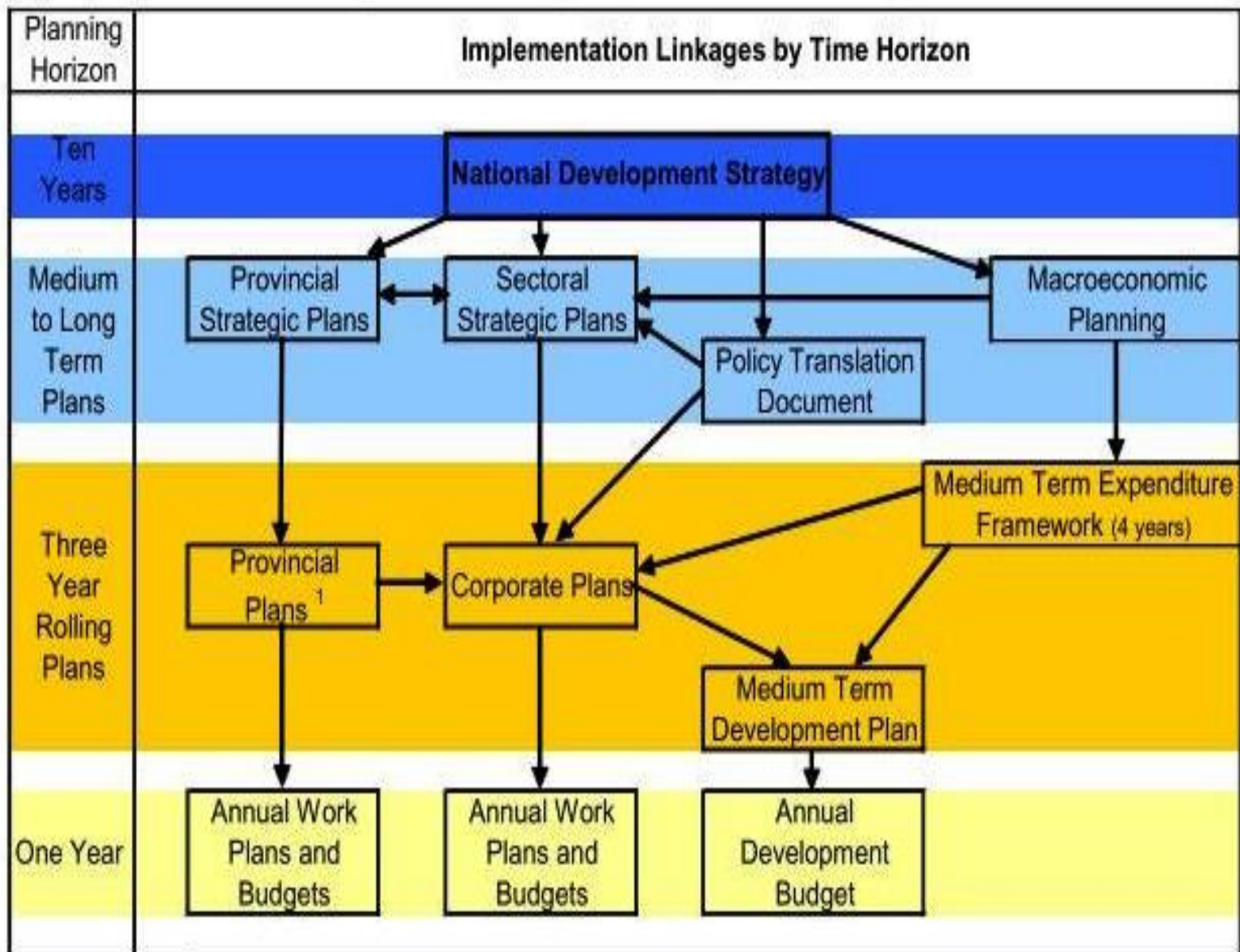


In June 2016, WorldFish received a grant from critical ecosystem partnership funding (CEPF) under strategic direction profile 4 in which to support and increase local capacity in the western province to serve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society through partnership

# Inception meeting - To solidify society and provincial government partnership

**Tinokae Conference Room, Gizo  
18th of August 2016**





<sup>1</sup> Provincial Plans are funded through the Corporate Plan of the MPGIS

## The following objectives guide the meeting;

- Introduced the WorldFish CEPF funded project and aligned efforts to build a coalition to complement provincial government plan, structures and policies.
- Update key environmental stakeholders on the WPG strategic planning meeting workshop and to update on the 3 years planning Document;
- Inform key stakeholders to support natural resource management and development initiatives in Western Province , this include input and update the NDS 10 and 11 on the Western Province strategic document and also the 3 years planning document
- From above, plan how the coalitions to promote learning amongst partners.



## Workshop1 -Learning Lessons from Networks and Coalition

WOMEN CENTRE CONFERENCE ROOM, GIZO

9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> November 2016



Figure 2. Representatives of different networks who attend the meeting

- The meeting brought together stakeholders from the various organisations that support the idea of working in partnership in implementation Natural resource management and sustainable development in Western Province only



Table 1. The 8 networks when it was established and their missions

	<b>Network</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Mission</b>
<b>National</b>	Development Services Exchange (DSE)	1984	To strengthen effective NGO coordination. This will be achieved through advocacy, collecting and sharing information, capacity building and enhancing relationships with members and stakeholders. This will ensure that accredited, accountable and transparent NGOs and community organizations are working toward equal and sustainable development.
	Solomon Islands Locally Managed Marine Areas (SILMMA)	2003	To help communities manage/conservate marine resources to maximize benefits and ensure food security by sourcing funds, facilitating, coordinating and providing information, building capacity and empowering partners through traditional and scientific approaches.
	National Coordination Committee	2009	Established as a mechanism to coordinate and promote country-level implementation of the national and regional Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) plans of action.
<b>Provincial</b>	Gizo Environment Livelihood Conservation Association (GELCA)	1998	To protect, conserve and manage the species and their habitats within the Gizo Conservation and Protected Areas to help ensure food security, cultural identity and income for future generations
	National Development Resources Foundation (NRDF)	2004	To help people in Solomon Islands recognize the value of natural resources. This will be accomplished by actively supporting and engaging in sustainable natural resource management opportunities to improve and secure the social and economic future through sustainable forest management and livelihood programs
	Malaita Province Partnership for Development (MPPD)	2012	To build a strong partnership and collaborative effort to oversee the implementation of programs and projects that are significant for meaningful development in Malaita Province.
<b>Community</b>	Tetepare Descendants Association (TDA)	2002	To protect and manage Tetepare Island and its resources.
	Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA)	2008	To protect Kolombangara Island's rich marine and forest biodiversity and to educate, promote and encourage sustainable management of natural resources through viable economic (livelihood) and social ventures for communities.

**Overall objective:** To collectively identify lessons learned from past experiences of working through networks in Solomon Islands, so that future networks may benefit from and usefully apply the insights gained

## Day 1 Objectives – Sharing & Reflection

- To create a sharing and learning culture among members of the workshop and networks in Solomon Islands more broadly
- To reflect on processes that contributed to the successes and challenges of existing networks in the past

## Day 2 Objectives – Learning and Co-production of ‘Lessons Learned’

- To collectively identify common factors that contribute to networks challenges and successes
- To co-develop a set of “lessons learned” for networks in Solomon Islands
- To develop next steps (action plans) for applying these lessons in our networks in the future



# Five principles for network success in Solomon Islands



1

## Create clear, shared objectives

- Develop common goals, terms of reference, work plan, & member roles

2

## Promote regular communication

- Update members via multiple Methods (e.g. face-to-face meetings, emails, Facebook etc.)

3

## Share expertise & resources

- Source technical assistance through network members and shared logistic

4

## Foster strong leadership

- Support, train, and build the capacity of leaders at all levels of the networks

5

## Think long-term

- Create conditions that support the network beyond any single member (e.g. Developing a funding plan)

**Workshop 2 -Mobilizing lessons to strengthen Western Province coalition**  
**WESTERN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, GIZO**  
**12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**



**Figure 3. Representatives of different organization in Western Province**

- Stakeholders from the various organizations meet to develop the TOR of the Network using the lesson learnt document from workshop one, “Five Principles for network success in Solomon Islands” to help guide them.

#### IV. WHAT WILL BE THE NAME FOR THE COALITION?

- ⑥ Western Province Partnership/coalition for Natural Resources Management.
- \* Western Province Coalition for environmental Development.
- \* Western Province coalition for environmental Partners
- \* Western Province coalition for Sus. development
- \* "Coalition" to political/political consultation
- \* Natural Resource Management Support Partnership for Western Province.
- \* Partnership in support for a Sustainable natural resources management and development in WP
- \* WESTERN PROVINCE COALITION FOR NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY.

#### II. WHAT ARE THE KEY FUNCTIONS / ROLES OF THE COALITION?

1. SHARE EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES.
2. TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ACROSS DIFFERENT SECTORS TO SUSTAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROVINCE.
3. TO IDENTIFY RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES/TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES.
4. TO DOCUMENT CURRENT <sup>State</sup> ISSUES OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.
- \* 5. Provide technical assist to Provincial line/ministerial division - where necessary, e.g. in Advisory Board.
6. To improve & strengthen communication & collaboration between Partners & Provincial Govt.
6. Act as a platform for Information Sharing ON environmental / <sup>Dept</sup> Issues
7. Promote & Support Capacity building within the network
8. Advocate clean environment & Sus development
- ? Contribute to Policies
10. Consolidate information from env partners in respect form to executive

#### WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE COALITION?

- To promote a healthy working coalition within W/Prov.
- To strengthen Partnership between the private sectors (NGOs included) & the WPG
- TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NGOs AND GOs FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS.
- FOR WESTERN PROVINCE AND PRIVATE SECTORS WORK TOGETHER IN A PRODUCTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE MANNER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
- \* Coalition to sustain and harmonise environmental impacts in the western province for a Prosperous future.

#### III. WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE COALITION?

- \* ALL ENVIRONMENT NGOs Not restricted to one member for each org
- \* HOD's (WPG)
- \* CBO's
- \* Development partners
- \* Private businesses.
- \* COMMUNITY REFS.
- \* ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.
- \* Youth Group's Rep
- \* Women's Group
- \* Faith based Organisations
- \* Non - ~~Private~~ devolved functions
- \* JANUS.

# TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WESTERN PROVINCE NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (WPNFSE)

## BACK GROUND INFORMATION

With the backing from the Western Provincial Government (WPG) and The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Key stakeholders from various organisations that support the idea of working in partnership in the implementation of natural resource management and sustainable development in Western Province came together in Gizo on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to officially form a network they collectively named it, "The Western Province Network for Sustainable Environment".

The Western Province Network for Sustainable Environment was formed after individuals and groups recognized that the challenges and solutions are more complex than any one organization can deliver particularly to tackle the challenging tasks of environmental management and sustainable development.

In previous meetings and workshops held in the province organised by the Provincial Government and other NGOs, participants echoed the importance of team work and of working together in partnership. Through a grant from CEPF under strategic direction profile 4 in which to support and increase local capacity in the Western province to serve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society through partnership, the opportunities to build a coalition to complement provincial government plan, structures and policies and to ensure conservation and natural resource management concerns are well recognized.

The network aims to (1) promote environmental and development successes, (2) draw together multiple skill sets, and (3) increase representation and accountability across different scales of decision making, from national governments to local communities in the Western Province.

## GOALS OF THIS NETWORK

- ✦ Act as a coordinating entity for all environmental partners in Western Province.
- ✦ To improve network through effective and efficient use of available resources and support

## VISION STATEMENT

- ✦ To promote a healthy and harmonize working network in Western Province

## FUNCTIONS AND ROLES OF THE NETWORK

- ✦ Share expertise and resources
- ✦ Provide technical assistance to Provincial line ministries/ division where necessary
- ✦ To provide, support and strengthen communication and collaboration between communities, partners and provincial Govt.
- ✦ Act as a platform for information sharing and awareness (i.e. NGOs partners reports)
- ✦ Promote and support capacity building within the network

- ✦ Advocate clean environment and sustainable Development
- ✦ Contribute to Provincial ordinances/policy/ by-laws

## MEMBERS

The preliminary lists of members are as following:

- ✦ Environmental NGOs currently working in Western Province
- ✦ Head of Departments (WPG)
- ✦ Community Based Organizations based in Western Province
- ✦ Development agencies (e.g. SIWSAP)
- ✦ Private businesses (e.g. Dive Gizo and Dive Munda)

## Coordination/Secretariat

The coordination team will be made up of a chairperson and a secretary supported by its members. The team will be responsible for organising quarterly meetings and calling for any special meeting when need arises.

- ✦ The chairperson's role will be held quarterly by a member of the network's member and will be rotated to other members through voting. This is through rising of hands with the majority wins.
- ✦ The officer in charge of the Western Province Department of Environment will hold the secretary role and it is a permanent role. The set-up of the role is tailored purposely to build the connection of the network through the Department of Environment via the Minister of Environment when making submission to the Western Provincial Executive.

Prior to the meetings it is the responsibility of the Chairperson and Secretary to seek venue, logistics and other matters concerning the partnership network.

## Chairperson:

- ✦ Chair partners meetings
- ✦ Ensure that the partnership network is viably function
- ✦ Ensure logistics are available and prepare before conveying meetings
- ✦ Working closely with the Secretary to ensure quarterly reports are completed and submitted to the Department of Environment

## Secretary:

- ✦ Prepare minutes of all meetings
- ✦ Prepare relevant logistics before meetings
- ✦ Disseminate information to all partners and get them informed of upcoming meetings and activities
- ✦ Finalised minutes with chairperson before distributing to all partners

## MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ✦ Attend all quarterly and special meetings
- ✦ Uphold the TOR and live up to the vision and Mission statement of the network
- ✦ Submit reports as required by Secretary

### **Principle 1: Create clear shared objectives**

- Develop common goals, terms of reference, work plans and clear member roles

### **Principle 2: Promote regular communication**

- Update members via multiple methods (e.g. face-to-face meetings, e-mails, Facebook, etc.)

### **Principle 3: Share expertise and resources**

- Source technical assistance through network members and share logistical costs/resources

### **Principle 4: Foster strong leadership**

- Support, train and build the capacity of leaders at all levels of the network

### **Principle 5: Think long-term**

- Create conditions that support the network beyond any single member (e.g. develop a funding plan)

# Sum Up

- Networks have formed because individuals and groups recognize that the challenges and solutions are more complex than any one organization can deliver.
- Networks are formed to tackle the challenging tasks of environmental management and sustainable development.
- By creating clear shared objectives , Promoting regular communication, Sharing expertise and resources, Fostering strong leadership and thinking long-term,
- networks will continue to contribute to a stronger, healthier and self-reliant Solomon Islands.





**Thank you!**

