



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

AUDIT REPORT

OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

“Solomon Islands need more urgent, planned and sustained action to protect communities vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion”.

Reported by:
Office of the Auditor-General
P O Box G18, Honiara



INTOSAI
Working Group
on Environmental
Auditing

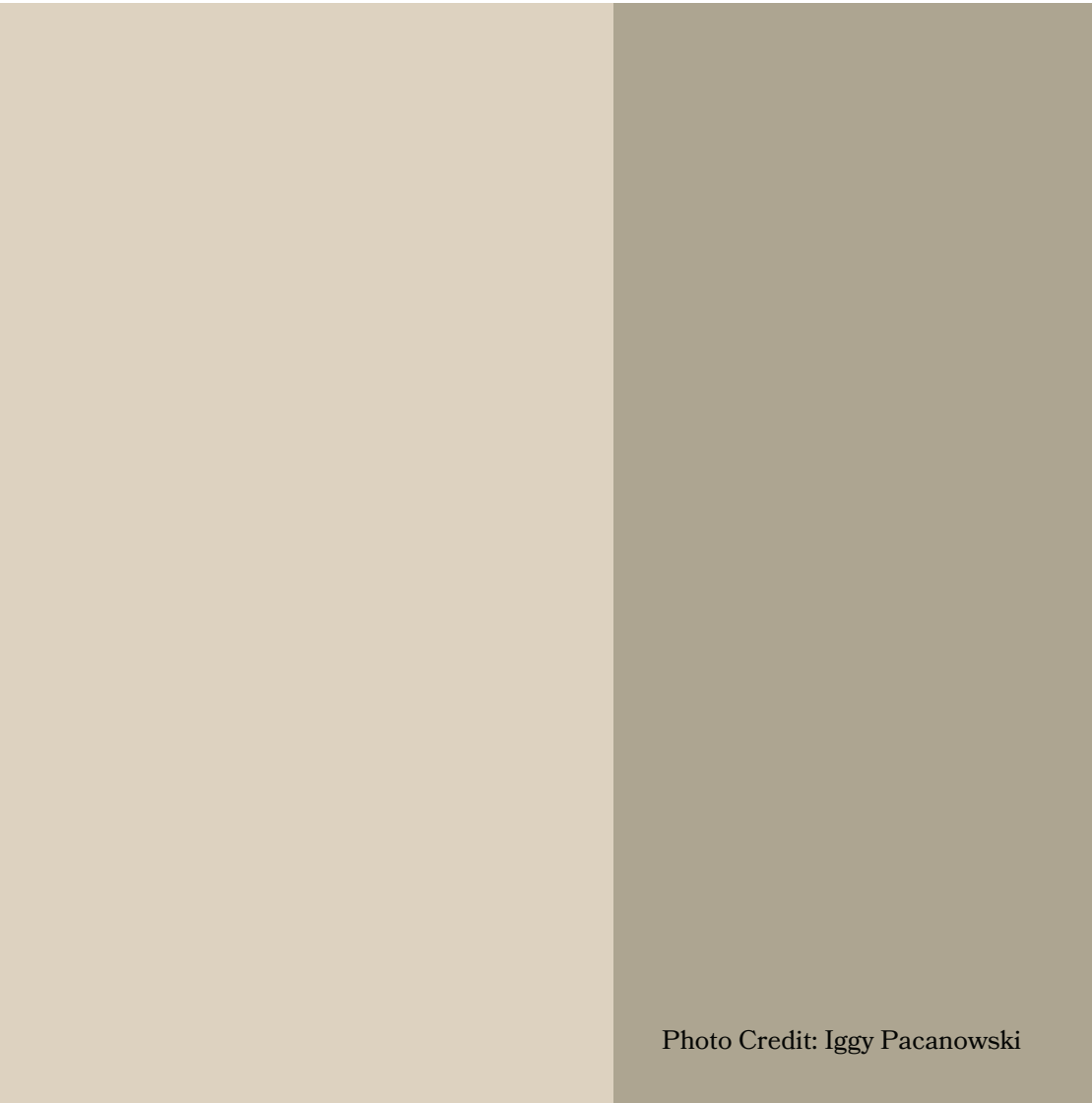


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Auditor General's Overview

It gives me great pleasure to table our audit of the Solomon Islands climate change adaptation actions to address the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion, through the implementation of the Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation programme (SICAP) by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM). Given the importance of climate change impacts to both our country and the region, I had approved this collaborative audit to support Government engagement into addressing climate change risks and to build capacity in my Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) in an area that will remain of significance in the future.

My office undertook this audit as part of a global cooperative audit known as the Climate Change Adaptation Actions (CCAA), which is coordinated by two organizations within the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) namely the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) and the INTOSAI working group on Environmental Audit (WGEA).

Under this initiative, 48 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) participated in the CCAA audit in one of the four areas - implementing climate change adaptation plans or actions, disaster risk recovery, water resources management and sea level rise and coastal erosion. Nine SAIs in the Pacific region participated in the CCAA project, along with SAIs from Europe, Africa, Asian, the Caribbean, South America and Canada. The IDI, WGEA and Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) have supported my auditors in conducting our audits. The goal is to contribute to the development of the country's adaptation efforts through our audits.

Our key findings point to the need to take proactive measures that gives priority to areas that are most vulnerable to sea level rise. Adaptation measures will also require substantial funding and Solomon Islands needs more urgent, planned and sustained action to protect communities vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

I urge the Ministry to make more efforts to secure additional Ministerial funding and to prioritise working on requirements to access international climate finance to fund its assessment

and adaptation efforts including resettlement plans to mitigate potential impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion to our communities.

It is my hope that our recommendations will assist the government and the Ministry involved to strengthen its adaptation efforts. I intend to do a follow up of findings and commitments made in future audits of the Ministry.

I would like to acknowledge my audit team for their hard work and including the support from IDI, WGEA and PASAI for their assistance during this audit. I would also like to thank all the staff from MECDM for their assistance and support during our audits.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Teika Dennis', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

David Teika Dennis
Auditor-General

22 September 2025

Part 1 - Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Solomon Islands has conducted this audit as part of a global cooperative audit initiative known as the Cooperative Audit on Climate Change Adaptation Actions (CCAA).
- 1.2 Nine SAIs in the Pacific region are taking part in the CCAA project, along with SAIs from Europe, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, South America and Canada. The IDI and WGEA have supported the SAIs in conducting their audits.
- 1.3 The SAIs whom have completed and published their audits in 2025 will contributed to producing a global overview report prepared for presentation to international stakeholders and events including the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in November 2025. As well, a regional overview report will be prepared about the results of the CCAA audits in the Pacific region.
- 1.4 Given the impact of climate change to coastal inhabitants affects a large majority of Solomon Island population, OAG selected an audit of whether our country through the mandated Government Ministry (MECDM) had effectively implemented suitable adaption activities to mitigate sea level rise and coastal erosion risks to vulnerable communities.

Solomon Islands Climate change adaptation program (SICAP)

- 1.5 The overall objective of SICAP was to contribute to climate change adaptation and reduction of vulnerability of communities living on low-lying atolls, artificially built islands and other low-lying coastal areas in Solomon Islands. Our Audit objective is “To examine whether the climate change department implementation of the Solomon Islands Climate Adaptation programs (SICAP) provide effective adaptation activities to support communities most vulnerable to rising sea level and coastal erosion”.
- 1.6 Most Solomon Islands communities live along the coastline, including in isolated low-lying atolls and artificial islands are vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal erosion. Sea level rise

and coastal erosion increase the vulnerability of communities, affecting agriculture and food security, water supply and sanitation, housing security, infrastructure and human health.

- 1.7 The Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SICAP), developed in 2014, was the primary climate change adaptation initiative to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. SICAP was to be delivered in the context of the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016-2035 and the National Climate Change Policy 2023-2032. SICAP is one of an on-going programmes inclusion in a five-year Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) in the Development budget. On-going programme are defined as multi-year programmes which already been approved by the standards committee (Ministry of Development Planning and Aid coordination) for the MTDP, five-year term plan with annual budget adjustments to reflect government priorities.
- 1.8 The project was approved with a total programme cost SBD\$30,317,000. One of the main objectives of SICAP was to contribute to climate change adaptation and reduction of vulnerability of communities living in low-lying coastal areas. Inside the MTDP it sets out budget allocation, proposals descriptions and the program framework, that includes design summary, Performance targets, reporting mechanism and assumptions risks for the rolling out of SICAP. It also includes programme outcome, and performance targets. These targets are also used to examine whether SICAP implement effective adaptation activities to support communities most vulnerable to rising sea level and coastal erosion. In summary, SAI Solomon Islands has concluded its audit with the following summary of findings:

Finding 1. The Ministry has made limited progress through SICAP in assessing the risks to communities vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

- 1.9 Under the on-going SICAP medium-term plan from 2017-2023 a total of \$8.5Million, funding was provided for climate change adaptation, including conducting vulnerability assessments, identifying adaptation options and implementing adaption measures. The Ministry established the Climate Change Division to deliver these activities and measures.

- 1.10 SICAP medium -term plan includes performance target for the Ministry, through its Climate Change Division, to carry out vulnerability assessments for all provinces by 2025. The Ministry is yet to assess 110 proposed communities for vulnerability to climate change. As of 2024, a total of 157 sites were assessed and standard reports were available online for nine provinces, leaving the risks to vulnerable communities not assessed. The Ministry has indicated that this is due to a lack of funding and resources. The Ministry is responsible for mobilising resources for adaptation initiatives, however there is little evidence that it has requested the necessary funding and resources to undertake this task.
- 1.11 While many communities are distant and hard to access, the Ministry has not prioritised vulnerability assessments for the communities most at risk from sea level rise and coastal erosion. Some communities that have not had a vulnerability assessment are requesting government assistance as their homes are sinking, their livelihoods disrupted and community infrastructure damaged due to climate change and sea level rise.

Finding 2: The Ministry has not prioritised adaptation actions for sea level rise and coastal erosion in the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and SICAP

- 1.12 The National Climate Change Policy recognises the impact of sea level rise and coastal erosion on the Solomon Island population and SICAP includes an objective to resettle people as a response to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change. However, the Ministry is yet to develop a formal plan with specific measures to address the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion for vulnerable communities. The Ministry indicated several performance targets through SICAP medium-term plan implementation, such as National Climate Change strategy on relocation, strengthen provincial governance arrangement for climate change coordination at the provincial level and vulnerability and risk assessment, but there is no formal plan/policy managing the response to sea level rise and coastal erosion adaptation.
- 1.13 The Ministry has achieved some milestones in support of climate change actions, such as updating of the Solomon Islands National Climate Change Policy 2023, greening the environment for schools, and some water catchment projects. However, significant proposals to support adaptation options are incomplete. For example, the SICAP medium term

development plan specified developing a climate change bill and this bill has not been forthcoming to date. Also, the Ministry is yet to develop an approved Solomon Islands resettlement plan.

- 1.14 The lack of vulnerability assessments and approved resettlement plan in place from the Ministry leaves many communities open to risks from sea level rise and coastal erosion. Also lacks of specific proposals, and measures to address the impact of Sea level rise and coastal erosion adaptation plan, and the absence of a timeframe for action, also means that there is no urgency plan for managing the response to sea level rise and coastal erosion over the coming years. Even with vulnerability assessment, resettlement plan or sea level rise and coastal erosion plan, communities will still be open to risks from sea level rise and coastal erosion. However, having these assessments and plans would be a critical step in helping to manage these risks.
- 1.15 The Ministry's policy framework such as the Solomon Islands National Climate Change Policy 2023 – 2032 to provide the necessary provisions to address sea level rise.
- 1.16 In addition, the Ministry has not effectively coordinated institutional efforts across national and provincial levels, despite coordination being called for in the medium-term plan. The Ministry should work on this, to link their work to the provincial centres and the communities. This is important to sustainably implement the workplan of the Ministry at the communities and to really understand the possible adaptation measures, as well as efficient use of limited resources.

Finding 3. The Ministry has not reported on progress and has not been proactive in secured funding to implement SICAP and measures to adapt to sea level rise and coastal erosion.

- 1.17 Monitoring and reporting are important parts of project and programme implementation. They identify challenges and opportunities for remedial measures, including changing

resource allocation or securing additional resources where needed. The Ministry has not carried out sufficient monitoring and reporting of SICAP. It has been unable or unwilling to provide mandated biannual reports and annual implementation reports to this audit for most of the fiscal years requested. The limited reports available on SICAP and its medium-term plan provide an incomplete view of progress, outputs that have been achieved, and work that is incomplete.

- 1.18 This audit reviewed the budget for the Ministry for fiscal years 2018 to 2023 under SICAP. The audit found that the Ministry used most of the funds on the operation of its Climate Change Division rather than on adaptation measures. Limited progress reporting and the allocation of available funds to operational costs rather than programme objectives may hinder the Ministry's ability to obtain the additional resources required to implement adaptation measures to address the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- 1.19 Further, as a developing country, Solomon Islands needs to gain accreditation status to access available international Green Climate funding. It was noted in the Solomon Islands Roadmap for improving Access to Climate finance document stated that, the delays in policy reforms, unclear governance structures and a lack of human resources for mobilisation of climate finance have hindered efforts to date to scale efforts to support resilient development. Given that the National Designated Authority is currently operational, the Ministry to work on relevant policy reforms to support MoFT's goals of accreditation application to GCF, to attain Direct Access Entity (DAE) and other financial institutions thereafter.

Finding 4. There is no funding for SICAP going forward, meaning that there is no program for sustained action to adapt to climate change, including the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

- 1.20 The lack of action by the Ministry in securing funding for climate adaptation has contributed to discontinued funding for SICAP. Funding for adaptation has not been included in the 2025 Development budget. This means that the Ministry will need to source funds for its Climate Change Division elsewhere and that any current activities in the program will be suspended.

- 1.21 The Ministry has not developed a clear plan for sustained action to adapt to climate change, including to address the risks from sea level rise and coastal erosion affecting livelihoods and economic sectors.
- 1.22 The Ministry has not adequately assessed and addressed the risks to communities across the Solomon Islands from sea level rise and coastal erosion as intended under SICAP. This leaves some communities exposed to unabated safety hazards and loss of their livelihoods. There is a need for urgent reassessment of Solomon Island climate change adaptation plans to ensure that they are aligned with climate change risks to communities, and that there is sustained action to effectively adapt to the risks, including the risks from sea level rise and coastal erosion, where needed.
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Recommendation 1:

Updates the SICAP to ensure that it is effectively focused on the most significant climate change risks to Solomon Island communities, including completing the remaining vulnerability assessments of at-risk communities from sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Management Response:

Assessments have been done for 157 communities using the Solomon Islands Integrated Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation (SIIVA) methodology. These assessments were supported by various organisations including the National Government under its SICAP budget. Other organisations that support this activity include, NAP Global support, USAID, DFAT, IOM, Governance for Resilient Development in the Pacific (GOV4RES) and others Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Reports Inventory CCD Geospatial and Research.

Recommendation 2:

Develop and publish a five-year climate change plan that includes effective actions to address significant climate change risks, including sea level rise and coastal erosion;

Management Response:

CCD together with the whole MECDM earlier this year has held discussions to developed its MECDM Cooperate Plan 2025 -2030 that will guide the Ministry moving forward into the future. The draft document is with the MECDM Cooperate services for compilation

Recommendation 3:

To prioritise this climate change plans and sets achievable timeframes.

Management Response:

Once our Cooperate plan is finalised then each year annual work plans are developed to reflect the priority activities to be implemented in a particular year depending on the allocated budget from the national government.

Recommendation 4:

Establish Climate change body with workable framework to effectively coordinate arrangement for institutional, and stakeholder engagement at the national, provincial and community level for sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Management Response:

The division had commenced consultation on the climate change round table as well as thematic working groups. TOR for these groups have been developed and shared with the different stakeholders for comments. This is envisaged to effectively coordinate arrangement for institutional and stakeholder engagement.

Recommendation 5:

Established data and proper coordination between Ministry, NGOs & other regional & international relevant partners in the country.

Management Response:

The climate change division has a geoportal (CCD Geospatial and Research) which is managed by the GIS Unit which has all the dataset as well as maps and sites of communities that has been assessed. In addition, CCD/MECDM has launched the integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (iMRV) system that supports data collection, with a particular emphasis on the reporting, verification, and monitoring of climate actions under the National Determined Contribution (NDC) framework.

Recommendation 6:

To scale up efforts to prioritise key actions to strengthen adaptation initiatives and clear time frame for completing them. Including, allocate sufficient resources to complete the Vulnerability assessments, National climate change bill, relocation plan strategy and National Adaptation Plan.

Management Response:

Most of the recommendations highlighted are currently work in progress. Funding support for assessments have already been secured from DFAT and MFAT, Support for CC policy paper was secured with MFAT under the Climate Finance Capacity Support programme (CFCSP). On relocation there is a National Planned Relocation Guideline document. A standard operating procedure (SOP) is in finalisation stage. The work is currently been supported by IOM through funding support from Korean International Cooperative Agency (KOICA). On the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) CCD/MECDM is working with GGGI to develop the NAP as well as the NAP Investment Plan.

Recommendation 7:

Ensure reports are developed for the purpose of progress on specific programmes and related activities; and also, to ensure transparency of SICAP.

Management Response:

MTDP reports are submitted to MNPDC as the SIG lead ministry and on biannual basis, however CCD do not have any SICAP budget for 2025 thus no reports were produced for this year.

Recommendation 8:

Regularly monitors and publishes annual reports on the progress and success of implementation of its climate change actions, using appropriate performance indicators, and takes action to adapt and improve implementation, where needed.

Management Response:

These activity needs to be improved from MECDM as well as CCD. More so budgets need to be allocated for regular monitor of programs at the community level.

Recommendation 9:

Explore ways to increase budget for the Climate Change Division to be able to implement programmes and make proactive plans that specifically address sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Management Response:

This activity will be challenging especially exploring ways to increase budget from the National Government due to competing government priorities. However, MECDM can negotiate for funding support from its partners to support adaptation activities on the ground

Recommendation 10:

Works with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (Climate Finance Unit) to prioritise addressing relevant policy reforms to meet international funding requirements and secure funding, including available international funding.

Management Response:

This activity is currently ongoing given that MECDM is the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as the Operational Focal Point for Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Recommendation 11:

Effectively coordinates national and provincial government climate change adaptation actions, including actions to adapt to sea level rise and coastal erosion, that are sustainable over time.

Management Response:

MECDM and MPGIS under the IEDCR project is currently working on developing Provincial adaptation strategies for the provinces.

Recommendation 12:

Allocate funding for Climate change adaptation measures in the 2026 budget to reflect its national priority and consider similar Programme plans to carry on with the work that SICAP left.

Management Response:

CCD will push to have its 2 Development Budget (SICAP and LCE) reinstated in 2026, unfortunately it was diverted in 2025 financial year. We will continue to integrate climate change activities into our development budgets, ensuring dedicated funding for both mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

Conclusion

- 1.23 The Ministry has not been effective in delivering adaptation activities to support communities most vulnerable to rising sea level and coastal erosion. It has achieved some milestones in support of climate change actions, such as updating of the Solomon Islands National Climate Change Policy 2023 and carried out some work in water catchments, greenery schools and improved communications facilities for isolated communities.
- 1.24 However, it is yet to carry out vulnerability assessments for most at risk communities and those that were proposed. Adaptation measures required substantial funding and proactive plans, the Ministry to make effort to secure additional Ministerial funding and to prioritise working on requirements to access international climate fundings to fund its assessment and adaptation efforts to sea level rise and coastal erosion. It has also not planned for resettlement in response to sea level rise, even though this was an objective of the SICAP. OAG acknowledged that it will be a combined effort and requires resources and expertise.

Abbreviation

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CCAA	Climate Change Adaptation Audit
CCD	Climate Change Division
CoA	Chat of Accounts
COP30	30th United Nations climate Change Conference.
DAE	Direct Access Entity
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GNUT	The Government of National unity and transformation
IDI	International Development Initiative
INTOSAI	International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
MECDM	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology
MDPAC	Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination
MNPDC	Ministry of National Planning and Development coordination.
MTDP	Medium-Term Development Plan
MoFT	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Actions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan.
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NDA	National Designated Authority
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
PASAI	Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions.
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathway
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SAI	Supreme Audit Institution
SICAP	Solomon Islands Climate Adaptation Programme
SIIVA	Solomon Islands Integrated Vulnerability Assessment
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
UNFCCC	United Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UN	United Nation
WGEA	Working Group on Environmental Auditing

Part 2 - Introduction

- 2.1 The Solomon Islands Office of the Auditor has conducted this audit as part of a global cooperative audit initiative known as the Cooperative Audit on Climate Change Adaptation Actions (CCAA). The CCAA audit is coordinated by two organisations within the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), namely the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) and the INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA), have supported the SAIs in conducting our audits.
- 2.2 Under the initiative, 48 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) undertook a CCAA audit during 2024 in one of four topic areas – implementing climate change adaptation plans or actions (SDG13), disaster risk recovery, water resource management, and sea level rise and coastal erosion
- 2.3 This audit is guided by ISSAI and good governance principles, with the theme arising from (INTOSAI) WGEA work plan on climate, biodiversity and the green economy. Under the UN global agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs), these initiatives were also attributed to the need that are particularly relevant to the Pacific region (SDGs 13 to 15), relating to climate action and biodiversity on land and below water. With the theme “Sea Level Rise and Coastal Erosion” the SAI Solomon Islands identified as high risk in terms of impact of climate change in the Solomon Islands.
- 2.4 The audit is in line with the Auditor General’s strategic priorities which aims at improving governance, monitoring activities and ensure responsible agencies are accountable in the process.
- 2.5 Since the inception of the programs, there is still gap and challenges facing the Ministry through its Climate Change Division in implementing its mandated role on climate change adaptation actions, planning and implementation. The impacts of sea level rise remain evident in low lying communities and atolls despite funds allocated towards addressing them and other funding opportunities presented from development partners, NGOs and country talks.

Background

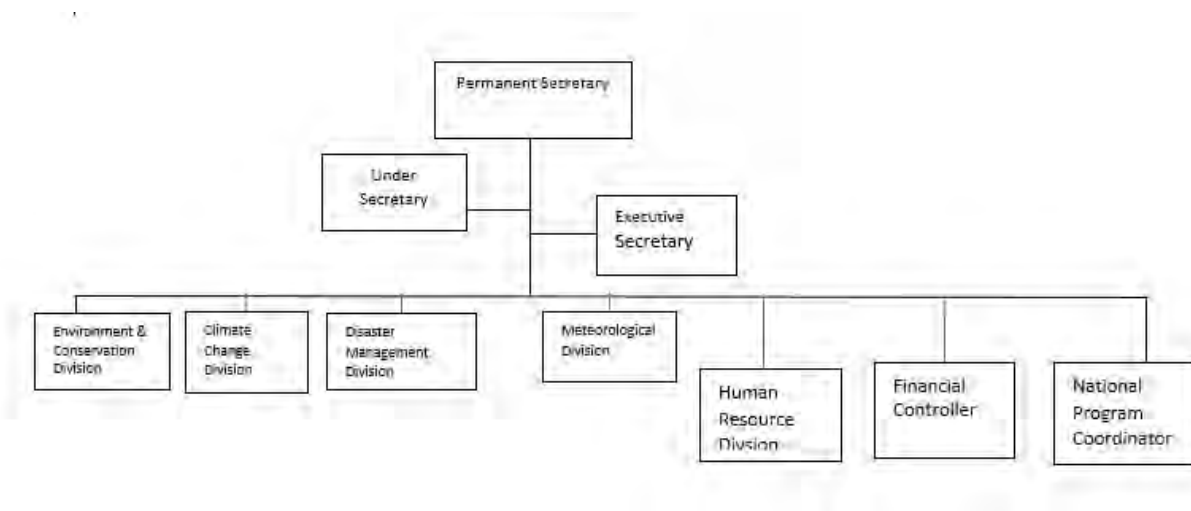
Mitigating the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion

2.6 The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) is the leading agency that oversees environmental impacts relating to climate change. The Climate Change Division (CCD) within the Ministry is responsible for:

- monitoring vulnerability to the effects of climate change
- mobilising resources for adaptation and mitigation initiatives
- research and information dissemination activities
- leading the delivery of international obligations and commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Pacific Islands Climate Change Framework.

Below figure shows the organisation structure for MECDM, including its divisions.

Figure 1. Organisation Structure for MECDM



2.7 The Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation programme (SICAP) was the main initiative to implement adaptation strategies to address sea level rise and coastal erosion between 2013 and 2023. The overall objective of SICAP was to reduce the vulnerability of communities living on low-lying atolls, artificially built islands and other low-lying coastal areas in Solomon Islands. The program was designed specifically to resource adaptation activities and

intervention across the country, including the resettlement of people due to the impacts of climate change.

- 2.8 Solomon Islands Climate change adaptation program and approved by the Ministry of Development planning and aid Coordination (MDPAC) which now “The Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination (MNPDC) on the 14 November 2013, total to \$30,317,000. The initial allocation in 2017 to 2021 was SBD500,000 to SBD 1.5M annual budget allocation from 2019 to 2023.

Table 1 Shows the annual budget allocation from 2017-2023 from the approved total program and the actual amounts.

Year	Appropriation	Actuals
2023	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 17,547.00
2022	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 732,274.30
2021	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 257,561.08
2020	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 554,050.00
2019	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 1,245,615.25
2018	\$500,000.00	\$ 425,595.00
2017	\$500,000.00	\$ 965,509.00
	\$8,500,000.00	\$ 4,198,151.63

- 2.9 OAG noted in the SICAP Medium-Term plan that there are number of outlined outcomes along with performance targets and some of these key outcome targets & activities are critical steps in managing the risks of sea level rise and coastal erosions. Example would be the overarching framework of the Climate Change Division, Climate Change legislation, resettlement plans, country vulnerability assessment, establishing provincial governance arrangement for climate change coordination at the provincial level and vulnerable communities becoming resilient to impacts of climate change.
- 2.10 The policies or national document sighted to have aligned to SICAP and the MTDP include National Climate Change Policy 2012, Solomon Island National Adaptation Programme of Action 2008 (NAPA) and National Development Strategy 2015-2035. With this National

Adaptation Programme of Action 2008, the SICAP take into account the identified urgent and immediate needs and concerns of Solomon Islands, relating to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. The Solomon Islands National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) was developed through consultation across ministries, stakeholder and communities covering various sector of the economy with vulnerability analysis on risk from impacts of climate change.

The Solomon Islands are at risk from sea level rise and coastal erosion

- 2.11 The Solomon Islands are the third-largest island country in the Pacific, after Papua New Guinea and Fiji. The Solomon Islands have a coastline of 9,880 km and the second largest provisional Economic Exclusion Zone in the Pacific at 1,589,477 km². It comprises a total reef area of approximately 5,750 km² and a total mangrove area of 642 km².
- 2.12 The country is composed of about 1000 islands divided into nine provinces, which differ in environment, population density and culture. In addition to this heterogeneity, there are three levels of governance over the oceans, which include customary, provincial and national. Approximately 80% of the land is customary land which includes foreshores, reefs and land between low- and high-water marks. This gives villagers control, ownership and rights to use of resources within the customary area. Customary rights are acknowledged by authorities and in some national and provincial laws.



(<https://www.istanbul-city-guide.com/solomon-islands-map.asp>)

- 2.13 Marine and coastal ecosystems provide benefits for all people in the Solomon Islands. These natural resources need to be managed sustainably to maintain their economic and social benefits in the long. Around 65% of the population lives less than one kilometres from the sea that heightened risks of land loss and communities' vulnerability to the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion¹. Climate change affects Solomon Islands and its natural resources, including low agricultural productivity, food shortage and pressure on land due to rising sea level and coastal erosion. This needs to be properly dealt with to manage the risks.

Previous audit on Climate Change

- 2.14 Solomon Islands Office of the Auditor General undertook an audit in 2013 on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The focus was on food security under a project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture: Pacific Adaptation on Climate Change (PACC). This programme was piloted in three communities in Malaita outer Islands, currently facing sea level rise and coastal erosion. Some of the followings are general findings:

¹ Ride, 2023. <https://www.usip.org/publications>

- There was no action plan
- No effective coordination and monitoring of actions on the pilot project site to manage adaptation
- Incomplete actions and no plan or funding from the government for sustaining change.

After completing this report OAG noted that many of these findings remains in this report.

Audit Objective

2.15 This audit examined whether the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology's implementation of the Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SICAP) was effective in delivering adaptation activities to support communities most vulnerable to rising sea level and coastal erosion.

2.16 The overall objective of SICAP was to contribute to climate change adaptation and reduction of vulnerability of communities living on low-lying atolls, artificially built islands and other low-lying coastal areas in Solomon Islands.

Audit Scope

2.17 The audit focused on objective four of the SICAP to address the impact of rising sea level and coastal erosion on vulnerable communities and infrastructure. The audit also considered activities under the National Adaptation Programme of Actions and other policies related to climate change adaptation that supported the implementation of SICAP. The audit focused on adaptation initiatives for resettlement of vulnerable communities experiencing the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

2.18 The audit assessed the Ministry's implementation of SICAP against the following cross-cutting themes:

- governance, including decision making, funding and coordination of activities

- effectiveness in meeting programme objectives and achieving the intended outcomes
- inclusiveness of activities to address climate change and the impacts on vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The audit scope covered the fiscal years 2018 to 2023. This period includes COVID-19 related delays between 2020 and 2021.

Methodology

In doing this audit, the audit team used a number of information collection and analysis methods including:

- a. Examining documents relating to SICAP, including relevant legislation, policies, approved programs, annual work plans, NAPA 2008, articles published online, UNDP-Solomon-Islands roadmap for improving Access to climate Finance and public spending 2022-2027, previous audit reports including the Solomon Islands Office of the Auditor General previous audit report on climate change, annual work plans and other relevant reports.
- b. Interviews with responsible officials at the implementing Ministry, community representatives, Western province Environmental Officer and other relevant stakeholders.

Part 3 - Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1. The Ministry has made limited progress through SICAP in assessing the risks to communities vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

1.1 The Ministry will not meet the SICAP target to complete vulnerability assessments for all sites in the provinces by 2025

- 3.1 SICAP in its medium-term development plan, under its area and locations, clearly stated that the programme will be undertaken in country and targeted all the provinces that do not have vulnerability assessment to the impacts of climate change. The Ministry 's Climate Change Division uses the Solomon Islands Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (SIIVA) tool that includes assessment of climatic and non-climatic factors and documentation of vulnerability and adaptation options for risks identified. It provides adaptation options and recommendations for different impacts of the sea level rise and coastal erosions.
- 3.2 This is purposely to ascertain the kinds of impacts climate change will have on sectors and different communities. Defining level of understanding for better decision making on the kinds of impacts and counter-acting measures for adaptation could be well made.
- 3.3 Funding for vulnerability assessment was provided through the SICAP and the Ministry is responsible for assessing the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change in every province across the Solomon Islands. Completing vulnerability assessments across all provinces would have provided a comprehensive understanding of the Solomon Island's susceptibility to climate change and disaster risk to better inform decision making and adaptation action. Vulnerability assessment are the critical assessments with critical first step in understanding and managing risks but communities are still vulnerable if the adaptable actions are not implemented.
- 3.4 After SICAP was approved in 2013 with four output areas under the program, efforts have gone into dividing up kinds of resources each of the output areas will attract. The Ministry run

through the whole of chat of account (CoA) and make relevant CoA codes that matched activities under the four outputs. After setting of the department resources from appointment of officers to output four which is really on the issue to test out a resettlement case. The setting up of the resources for this program goes from 2015 to 2017.

3.5 In 2017-2021 on going SICAP medium term plan, along with the establishment of resources for the Climate Change Division, and setting up design summary, performance targets, reporting mechanisms and risks. One of its outputs is to ensure vulnerability and risks to climate and non-climatic factors in selected provinces are assessed and documented with the performance target of completing vulnerability assessments for all sites in the provinces by 2025.

3.6 Most Solomon Islands communities live along the coastline, including isolated low-lying atolls and artificial Islands that are vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal erosion. However, the Ministry is yet to assess most communities for vulnerability to climate change. As of 2024, a total of four assessment reports were provided to OAG that we regarded as completed in three of the nine provinces, leaving the risks to vulnerable communities in most provinces not assessed.

Table 2. Shows communities, province assessment done and adaptation options and Recommendations.

Assessed Communities/Province	Year	Provinces	Possible pressing issues risk identified	Adaptation options & Recommendation
Rawaki community	2023	Western Province.	-Northern & Southern sections of the community are the high risk are to projected sea level rise -Dwelling houses and livelihood assets located within these sections of the community would be impacted by a 1-metre projected sea level rise	- The assessment identifies area exposed and will be at risk to projected sea level and coastal inundation. 82 buildings are at risk on the northern and southern sections of Rawaki coastal area. No proposed recommendation it

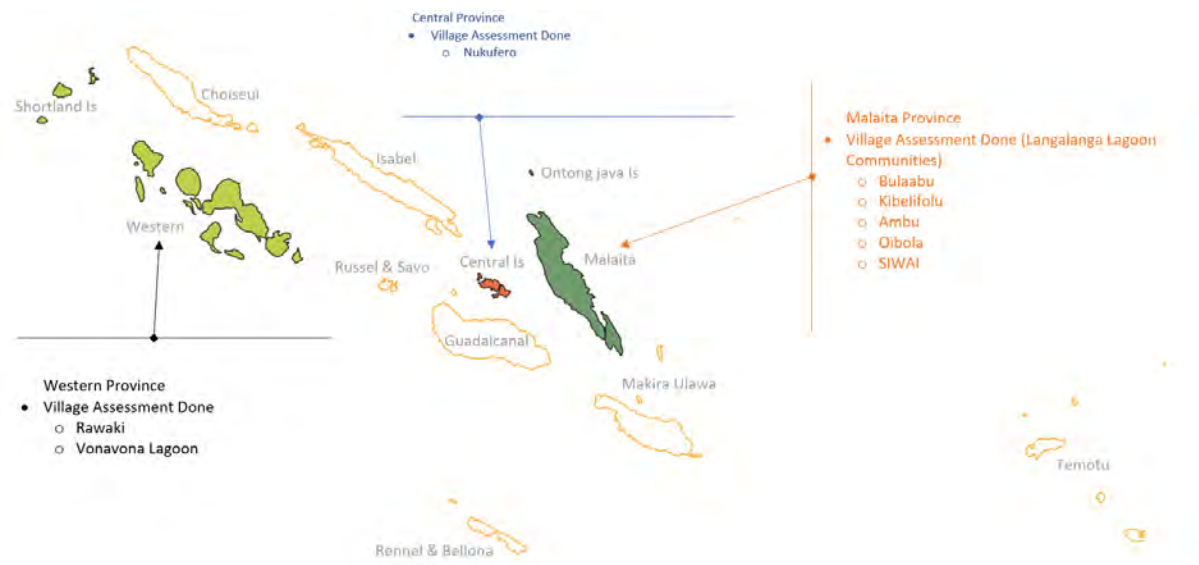
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			by 2090 based on RCP 8.5, which is 65 years from now.	might considered with the Rawaki & Vonavona.
Nukufero Community SIIVA summary Report	May 2022	Central Islands	Vulnerability Issues -Coastal Health and infrastructure.	-Constructing proper seawall to protect the coastline -Financial awareness and Training should be conducted -Water catchment should be protected by enforcing buffer zone -Sanitation should be supported by responsible authority
Rawaki & Vonavona	May 2023	Western Province	-Deteriorating of water infrastructure.	-Water security issue is of top priority for any intervention -Maintenance of community water reticulation system Improve agriculture farming / fisheries Training and capacity in food preservation Backyard farming Capacity on coastal resource management Shoreline protection-soft and hard infrastructure -Nature base protection Mangrove Planting Income or revenue generation initiatives Storage and preservation facilities Market access (OBM) -Solid waste management training and community awareness
Langalanga Lagoon Communities.	2024	Malaita Province	-Security of place-inadequate protection	1.Water Security and Watershed Health

Bulaabu Kibelifolu Ambu Oibola SIWAI			of homes and the place where their community is located continuously changing -Food security -food quality and quantity reduced and continues saltwater intrusion and severe storms have threatened the food production- -Coastal Health	2.Security of Place and Coastal Health 4. Food Security 5.Income security and community health
Six Villages Included - Externally funded (Report Received after the report was shared with the Ministry)	2013	Choiseul Province	-sea level rise is undermining ground water due to saltwater incursion- Coastal base vulnerability. -Coastal erosion -Shoreline recession -Waves overtopping into the village -Salt-water intrusion in the well -Removal of coastal vegetation	-Investment to protect existing water resources -Measures to minimize damage to village infrastructure. -Community housing and infrastructure planning. -Mangrove restoration/reforestation to protect against storm surge and coastal inundation. -Adaptation to sea level rise (migration of mangrove) protection of beaches and islands from wave erosion. -Create 25m buffers around river banks & reforest with natives & mangroves at the river mouth & sea connects.

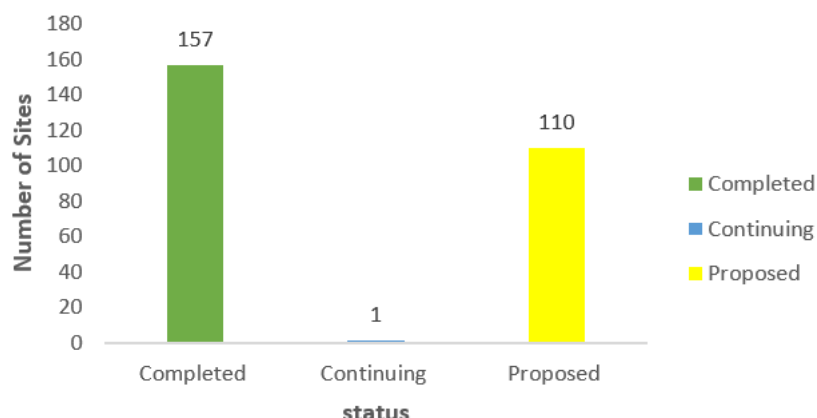
3.7 The Ministry has only provided copies of assessment reports to the Central Islands, Western Province and Malaita Province communities (highlighted in map below). The Ministry's assessments for rest of the provinces including Makira, Temotu, Runnel Bellona, Guadalcanal, Isabel and Choiseul are incomplete and some of the communities in the partly assessed provinces, are currently experiencing sea level rise that threatens their livelihood.

Fig.3 Map of Solomon Islands.



3.8 After we sent the draft report to MECDM for its comment, MECDM provide the link to the integrated Vulnerability Assessment Reports Inventory- CCD Geospatial and Research, which shows a total of 157 assessment sites in the seven provinces using the SIIVA methodology completed and reports were available online. The 110 proposed sites that are yet to be assessed. These assessments were supported by the National Government under its SICAP budget and other externally funded project program partners.

Table 3. Status of Integrated Vulnerability Assessment as of 2024



Source: CCD Geoportal

- 3.9 OAG acknowledges all the external donor-funded project partners for their invaluable support to the Ministry to complete the vulnerability assessment activities and so as funding other related projects within the MECDM.
- 3.10 Table three shows 157 completed sites, 110 proposed sites and one is continuing under another project. From the four sample we have accessed to during the audit (table two) they clearly identify risks and adaptation options and recommendations for all the sites that will enable planning and budgeting decisions.
- 3.11 The Ministry completed a number of vulnerability assessment reports that provide impacts of projected sea level rise and related coastal hazards and adaptation options and recommendations. SICAP however, did not implement any direct-action projects addressing any of the identified risks, but engaged in providing water tanks, greenery projects for better learning environment for schools and improved communication and assessments reports to interested donors, stakeholders and communities that they don't have agreements with.
- 3.12 During the audit the Ministry indicated that this was due to a lack of funding and resources. While many communities are distant and hard to access, there is little evidence that it has requested the necessary additional funding and resources to undertake this task.

- 3.13 Under the Medium-Term Development Plan 2017-2021 for SICAP, the Ministry was meant to undertake vulnerability assessments in every province and vulnerable sites but there are 110 proposed sites that are still outstanding after SICAP phasing out. We have been advised that Choiseul province completed its own vulnerability assessment through external support, without the support of the Ministry, and it will be a learning platform for communities and stakeholders but this report was provided to the audit team after we received the Ministry management responses.
- 3.14 Where vulnerability assessments have not been completed, some vulnerable communities like Lilisiana, through 'Save Lilisiana' Climate Action Committee, are calling on the leaders, supporters and global communities to support them in their work to protect scared graves from rising seas and coastal erosion². Similarly other communities in the Western Province, and Malaita communities, living in the artificial Islands, are now calling on the government for assistance, as their homes are sinking and under water.

OAG recommends that the Ministry:

Recommendation 1: Updates the SICAP to ensure that it is effectively focused on the most significant climate change risks to Solomon Island communities, including completing the remaining vulnerability assessments of at-risk communities from sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Finding 2. The Ministry has not prioritised adaptation actions for sea level rise and coastal erosion in the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and SICAP.

2.1 The Ministry has not provided sufficient adaptation activities in the Medium-term plan through Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

The table below shows the overall SICAP budget that was approved in Medium-Term Development plan.

² [Indepthsolomons.com.sb/lilisiana](http://indepthsolomons.com.sb/lilisiana)

Table. 2 Medium Term Development Plan rollout

Annual Medium-Term Development Plan	Budget
2017-2021	500,000
2018-2022	500,000
2019-2023	1,500,000
2020-2024	1,500,000
2021-2025	1,500,000
2022-2026	1,500,000
2023-2027	1,500,000

- 3.15 The medium-term development plan includes outcome and performance targets that most vulnerable communities in Solomon will become resilient to impact of climate change by 2025. However, the Ministry is yet to develop a plan with specific measures to address the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion or address them for vulnerable communities. Also, the Ministry is yet to develop a plan or mapping vulnerable and risk communities to equally provided with vulnerability and adaptation assessment for all communities including the remote and low-lying Islands and communities.
- 3.16 During reviewing of available policies and legislations across the Ministry, the updated Solomon Islands National Climate Change Policy 2023 – 2032 did not provide any specific provision to address sea level rise and coastal erosion although it provided policy directives but no further plans following the launching of the policy. The previous version of the National Climate Change Policy (2012-2017) also provided directives to address the National Adaptation Programme of Action priority sectors and adaptation needs including impacts of sea level rise and development of the resettlement plan and National Adaptation Plan (NAP).
- 3.17 The audit discovered that the lack of planning and available resources has been delaying such initiatives with limited technical knowledge and expertise available. The National Adaptation Plan is still in progress or readiness but the challenge the Ministry incurs was limited funding and resource capacity. This National Adaptation Plan should provide specific adaptation measures in response to the effects of climate change and sea level rise. The officer interviewed has confirmed that this NAP will address adaptation needs identified in the National Adaptation Programme of Action as well as relevant sectors in the country from

impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion. The officer further adds that developing the NAP is a requirement under the UNFCCC.

- 3.18 The National Climate Change Policy 2012-2017 also highlights that the National Adaptation Plan should address long-term adaptation to climate change and short-term disaster risk reduction about climate variability. Section 8(3) j of the NCCP 2012 noted that risk reduction and vulnerability assessments of rural communities should be undertaken and adaptation actions targeting prioritized vulnerable communities should be implemented. However, most of the risk and vulnerable communities were not selected as well as being in the remote location and not easily accessible to be included. There is no mapping of risk communities and justification on how the Ministry selected communities that are being assessed.
- 3.19 In the medium-term plan (2018-2022) adaptation initiatives were made including vulnerability assessments for selected province but were not completed, and developing a climate change bill was also delayed. The Act could provide policy guidelines to ensure adaptation plans on sea level rise and coastal erosion are developed, prioritised and implemented. Although these initiatives have been made, such as the vulnerable assessments for a few communities, plans for developing resettlement, and the Climate Change bill, the Ministry has made insufficient plans and efforts to address sea level rise and coastal erosion.

OAG recommends that the Ministry to:

Recommendation 2:

Develop and publish a five-year climate change plan that includes effective actions to address significant climate change risks, including sea level rise and coastal erosion;

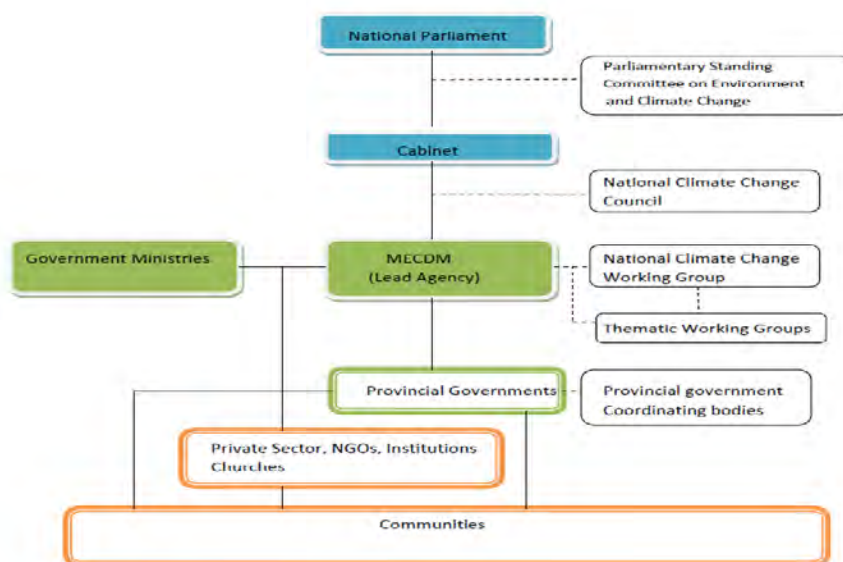
Recommendation 3:

To prioritises this climate change plans and sets achievable timeframes

2.2 The Ministry has not effectively coordinated institutional efforts across national and provincial levels and with other partners for adaptation plan or measures for sea level rise and coastal erosion.

- 3.20 The Ministry is responsible for mobilising resources and coordinating adaptation activities at the national and provincial levels as well as coordinating obligation under international programmes for climate change actions. Under SICAP Medium term Development plan, the Ministry and Climate Change Division have established targets to ensure provincial governance arrangement and coordination for climate change is set by 2025. The objective was to have provincial coordination arrangements that would facilitate effective and provincially-driven responses to climate change sustainable development, however, there has been no effective arrangement in place as yet at provincial level or community level
- 3.21 The audit found that there are existing climate change committees where the Ministry and its Climate Change Division is the lead agency in delivering measures for adaptation or climate change issues. For example, the Parliament Standing Committee on Environment and Climate Change, the National Climate Change Council, and National Climate Change Working Group as identified in Figure 2 below. But these are underused and are only active when there is an agenda. The Director of the Climate Change Division has confirmed that there are no fixed schedules, meetings only take place when there is an agenda.
- 3.22 The structure below shows the implementation framework for the National Climate Change Policy 2012 -2017 that provide committees to review and discuss climate change issues affecting the vulnerable communities and infrastructure.

Fig 2. Implementation structure of NCC P 2012- 2017



- 3.23 As there were no copies of any agenda minutes to provide any evidence of any recent climate change committee meetings that adaptation measures such as relocation of vulnerable communities or adaptation measures for sea level rise and coastal erosion was discussed.
- 3.24 The latest Parliamentary standing committee on Environment and climate change round table discussion was held on the 1st of September 2023 and the agenda was on single use plastic regulations.
- 3.25 Climate change loss and damage to the Islands, culture and loss of area that are very important to our people is too valuable to be valued and difficult to put a value to it³. During the world leader priority negotiations on the 20 of November they had approved a decision on the COP27 agenda on loss and damage finance facility, which will compensate small islands developing states. The establishment of a loss and damage finance facility, means that the government has to also work on ensuring Solomon Islands is preparing to access such funding when it is available.

³ Dr. Mataki, 2022. Earth Journalism Network.

- 3.26 ADB study estimated an economic loss up to 4.7% of annual GDP in the SI by 2100 brought on climate linked impacts on agriculture and fishing industries⁴.
- 3.27 The financing need for priority adaptation projects grouped into different areas and priority sectors under National adaptation program of actions (NAPA) and some recent identified priorities the total adaptation cost would be US\$126, 560,000. NAPA covering agriculture, food security, water & sanitation, human settlements & human health, education awareness, low-lying and artificial built-up islands, coastal protection, fisheries & Marines and infrastructure & tourism and waste manage would cost US\$17,250,000. And it is estimated that the total cost of NAPA will be changed upwardly as time passes and it would require further evaluation and costing⁵.
- 3.28 The impact of climate change is huge and the adaptation measures required substantial funding, Walande community, in Malaita province, for example, incurred a total cost of US\$50,000 through Green Climate Funding (GCF) for a seawall at the relocation site to prevent further sea level rise, but the wall is still insufficient as Walande community lack the resources to repair and buttress it⁶. The wall now is nearly submerged at high tide and the community wanted to bolster the sea wall by layering cement on its side and protect the rock, but they do not have the additional US\$25,000 required to complete the task. And the cost of relocation was estimated at US\$23,000 per household.
- 3.29 Given the vast majority of Solomon Islands population lives within 1.5 kilometres of the shoreline⁷, low-lying atolls and artificial Islands, the relocation cost will be more than the government budget. This is an agenda that is worth discussing and allocating resources towards.
- 3.30 As per the interview with the Officer, the Ministry and its Climate Change Division has working on setting up a steering committee in 2018 at the provisional level but was not

⁴ Asian Development Bank, <https://www.adb.org/news>.

⁵ SPREP, 2019. Solomon Islands state of Environment report.

⁶ Human Rights Watch, 2025. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/03/17>

⁷ ADB, 2012. <https://www.adb.org>.

successful because of insufficient available resources. The lack resources is a continuing challenge for the Division in fully executing their roles including priority needs and sectors. The idea was to set up a climate change framework for planning and actions at the community and provincial level; however, it was not workable. The Ministry has failed to provide adequate coordination and strategic planning in relation to climate change and adaptation efforts.

3.31 The Ministry also has not provided adequate coordination and engagement with NGOs and other development partners. The Ministry advised that development partners determined the sites to implement their own projects and the Ministry participated in order to collect data and produce reports. Documentation obtained provide little to no evidence of the Ministry coordinating with stakeholders to implement SICAP. This simply means the Ministry has not been able to fully coordinate with development partners to implement adaptation measures that were recommended in the vulnerability assessments or that have been completed. While the vulnerability assessments were made available to development partners, the Ministry was not effective in influencing these stakeholders or the government to prioritise adaptation measures for these communities.

3.32 In addition, the Ministry and its Climate Change Division reviews its medium-term development plan annually, but does not report on outputs and targets, so it is unclear what is being achieved. There is a need for better review and more coordinated action to ensure that outputs and targets are not deviated from and are met. The lack of coordination is due to inadequate planning and the Ministry's insufficient prioritisation of adaptation measures to address rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

OAG recommends that the Ministry:

Recommendation 4:

Establish Climate change body with workable framework to effectively coordinate arrangement for institutional, and stakeholder engagement at the national, provincial and community level for sea level rise and coastal erosion

Recommendation 5:

Established data and proper coordination between Ministry, NGOs & other regional & international relevant partners in the country

2.3 The Ministry has not able to complete significant targets and adaptation initiatives over 10 years of SICAP implementation.

- 3.33 The Ministry's failure to develop an adaptation action plan to effectively implement the Climate Change Policy directives for NCCP 2012-2017 and National Adaptation Programme of Action result in the delay of completing significant output. The diversion of funding and resources to other national priorities has also had an impact. For example, in 2019 to 2022, resources and funds were re-prioritised to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry's 2023 work plan also stated that the spill over effects of COVID-19 resulted in progressive implementation of development programs such as the SICAP. The Ministry's 2023 CCD annual report also noted that the hosting of the south pacific games in 2023 resulted in almost a complete stall of all payments towards development programmes.
- 3.34 The current National Climate Change Policy 2023-2032 (NCCP) recognises the Ministry's current framework for climate change adaptation, but does not include specific measures to address sea level rise and coastal erosion. As climate change become an emerging issue for Solomon Islands, the government needs to reprioritise efforts to address its fundamental options as most risk communities are calling on the government for assistance and proposing relocation.
- 3.35 Outputs include National Climate Change bill, the resettlement plan, and National Adaptation Plan which have been under discussion for many years, have not been completed. Also, the most at-risk communities not clearly identified with incomplete vulnerability assessments and the lack of a resettlement plan leave communities continue to face the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion. The lack of specific proposals and measures with the absence of a

timeframe for actioning them also means that there is no urgency addressing the impact of climate change risks including sea level rise and coastal erosion.

- 3.36 These existing challenges will continue to impede adaptation initiatives if the government does not prioritise national adaptation efforts to combat or address the impact of sea level rise and coastal erosion. The existing study on relocation and the development of “Solomon Islands: Developing Planned Relocation Guidelines under the support of International organisation of Migration (IOM) has already paved the way for development of the National Relocation Strategy for Solomon Islands. The Ministry’s failure to provide sufficient capacity and resources, and a lack of planned actions during SICAP implementation, means that the significant output required will be delayed with challenges in securing further funding.

OAG recommends that the Ministry:

Recommendation 6:

To scale up efforts to prioritise key actions to strengthen adaptation initiatives and clear time frame for completing them. Including, allocate sufficient resources to complete the Vulnerability assessments, National climate change bill, relocation plan strategy and National Adaptation Plan.

Finding 3. The Ministry has not reported on progress and has not been proactive in securing funding to implement SICAP and measures to adapt to sea level rise and coastal erosion

3.1 The Ministry has not carried out sufficient monitoring and reporting of progress for SICAP

- 3.37 Monitoring and reporting are important parts of project and program implementation. In the case of SICAP and the MTDP, they are essential to enable the Ministry to assess implementation status, including whether the program is being executed to the time and cost planned and whether outputs and targets are being achieved. This includes identifying challenges and opportunities for remedial measures, such as changing resource allocation or

securing additional resources where needed. It also ensures that the program is executed within reasonable cost and at the right time as planned.

3.38 The Ministry had ineffective monitoring and reporting on SICAP. During the audit the Ministry has been unable to provide complete biannual reports and annual implementation reports to this audit for most of the fiscal years requested. The limited reports available on SICAP and its medium-term plan provide an incomplete view of progress and any outputs that have been achieved.

3.39 Not providing this report means the Ministry cannot demonstrate any progress on the outputs or the implementation of progress in the adaptation activities. The Ministry advised that a lot of SICAP documents, including these reports, have been lost over the years as employees in the Climate Change Division changed and due to poor filing during an office relocation. However, this shows that the Ministry does not manage its documents adequately or a continuing challenge for the Ministry and its Climate Change Division

3.40 Moreover, limited reports available on SICAP progress and its medium-term plan provide an incomplete view of progress and means that the project has not been well managed and there is a lack of transparency and accountability for what has been achieved. Reporting of the progress of outputs or activities is also important for interested stakeholders.

OAG recommends that the Ministry:

Recommendation 7:

Ensures reports are developed for the purpose of progress on specific programmes and related activities; and also, to ensure transparency of SICAP.

Recommendation 8:

Regularly monitors and publishes annual reports on the progress and success of implementation of its climate change actions, using appropriate performance indicators, and takes action to adapt and improve implementation, where needed.

3.2 The Ministry has insufficient budget allocation with limited access to international climate change funding to support its adaptation initiatives.

- 3.41 Funding arrangements are key to program implementation. SICAP is approved through the medium-term development plan under SIG Development budget. Guided by the programme design framework that include various outcome and performance target indicators, Although the programme does not specifically look at these issues, the risks and rising effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion over the years should have been a priority for spending on any adaptation initiatives. Using the SICAP budget as per interview with the officers is not enough to cover its wide scope of responsibility, partly the operations and adaptation efforts being made through the Medium-term development plan. The Ministry had insufficient budget allocation to fully implement SICAP or adaptation actions to address the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and coastal erosion on vulnerable communities.
- 3.42 The allocation of funding in this way also meant that the Ministry did not meet the targets included in SICAP. The Ministry was able to carry out some vulnerability assessments, but advised that the funding was not sufficient to complete all assessments, particularly for communities that are difficult to reach and required additional travel. While Solomon Islands integrated Vulnerability Assessment (SIIVA) results or climate risks identified for some communities, limited funding to address this risk has always hindered the work of the Climate Change Division. Given these existing risks (relating to sea level rise or coastal erosion) and no priority as per the government efforts the affected communities will continue to experience the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion. Most communities who have experienced these impacts everyday have no other option but to continue to experience the rising impacts.

- 3.43 The ongoing assessment for communities is an initiative that needs continuous funding in order to carry them out in most vulnerable communities and to map according to vulnerability in terms of impacts to their livelihood.
- 3.44 In addition, there is no direct outside funding to support SICAP implementation. It is noted that in order to assess and adapt to climate change risks to sea level rise and coastal erosion, significant resources are required, both from the local government and international climate fundings. The Ministry's access to international climate change funding to support its adaptation measures remains a challenge. Solomon Islands is still challenged with the capacity to access available international climate fundings.
- 3.45 It was noted in the 'Solomon Islands Roadmap for improving Access to climate change' document that the delays in policy reforms, unclear governance structures and a lack of human resources for mobilisation of climate finance have hindered efforts to date to scale efforts to support resilient development. At the moment international funds are currently administered by other partners assisting Solomon Islands. However, given that the National Designated authority is currently operational, the ministry to work on relevant policy reforms to support MoFT's goal of accreditation application to GCF, to attain Direct Access Entity (DAE) and other financial institutions thereafter. Working with the Ministry of Finance (Climate Finance Unit), through the working committee, to put together resources to meet international requirements to access funding should be important for Solomon Islands.
- 3.46 The Ministry confirmed that accessing international funding for climate adaptation actions is still a challenge for the country, given the limited capacities where resources such as climate funds, technical experts and capacity development. SIG limited budget and resources alone cannot cater for the effects of climate change effects on sea level rise and coastal erosion, the Ministry need to secure additional international climate funding to support its adaptation measures and planning.

OAG recommends that the Ministry:

Recommendation 9:

Explore ways to increase budget for the Climate Change Division to be able to implement programmes and make proactive plans that specifically address sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Recommendation 10: Works with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (Climate Finance Unit) to prioritise addressing relevant policy reforms to meet international funding requirements and secure funding, including available international funding.

Finding 4. There is no funding for SICAP going forward, meaning that there is no programme for sustained action to adapt to climate change, including the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion.

4.1 Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SICAP) is being phased out without a clear long-term plan for the Ministry to implement climate change adaptation measures.

- 3.47 The Solomon Islands Climate Change Adaptation Programme was funded from 2014 until 2024, with targets to address the long-term impacts of sea level rise on vulnerable communities.
- 3.48 The Government of National Unity and Transformation (GNUT) national priority policy outlines the key objectives and goals to guide national development and progress, aiming to improve the overall well-being of citizens and the nation. Under this policy statement, one of its priorities under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology services GNUT will (c) support climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions to reduce risk and vulnerability, strengthen community, build capacity to plan, anticipate and respond to climate change and its impact to the community, villages and Provinces. This agenda is a government priority, however in mid-2024, the Ministry indicated reprioritisation that the SICAP was no longer included in its development budget, the

redirection plan was not possible to review the analysis of the decision was the best way to support the GNUT policy.

- 3.49 This means that the Ministry will need to source funds for its Climate Change Division elsewhere and that any current activities in the programme will be suspended. The Ministry need to establish arrangements for sustained support of the initiatives but has not requested additional funding for the programme. The OAG noted during the audit that there are no planned sustained actions documented once SICAP was phased out and there is no evidence that the program or its activities will be continued.
- 3.50 The absence of a defined plan for SICAP means there is no exit strategy to complete the programmes targets and support communities. Without a clear plan for sustained action these vulnerable communities in Solomon Islands will continue to be at risk from sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- 3.51 From assessment coverage, information accessibility for most vulnerable communities and opportunities for funding adaptation interventions has not been easy for the Ministry. To achieve such objectives/targets it is important for the lead Ministry and its Climate Change Division to ensure to seek after-phase support arrangements to continue supporting the programme. This to be able to continually sustain the implemented activities or targets until availability of appropriate donor funding.
- 3.52 In general, the Ministry has shown great ownership for the implementation of activities in the SICAP Medium term plan however, the lack of sufficient plans and coordination between the Ministry and provincial governments has provided difficulties to continue implementing the activities at the local level. For example, completing vulnerability assessments in every proposed sites for communities within their provinces. This leaves some communities exposed to unabated safety hazards and loss of their livelihoods on wide range of impacts from sea level rise and coastal erosion. There is a need for urgent reassessment of Solomon Island climate change policies and to develop adaptation plans to ensure that they are aligned with climate change risks that mostly experience by communities, and that there is sustained action

to effectively adapt to the risks, including the risks from sea level rise and coastal erosion, where needed.

OAG recommends that the Ministry:

Recommendation 11:

Effectively coordinates national and provincial government climate change adaptation actions, including actions to adapt to sea level rise and coastal erosion, that are sustainable over time.

Recommendation 12:

Allocate funding for Climate change adaptation measures in the 2026 budget to reflect its national priority and consider similar programme plans to carry on with the work that SICAP left.

Part 4 - Annexures

Annexure 1. The summary of budget allocation and proposed outputs of SICAP 2017 to 2023

Year	Budgets	Outputs	Performance indicator/Targets
2017-2021	3,000,000	1.Provincial governance arrangements for climate change coordination at the provincial level are established and strengthened in all provinces. 2.Vulnerability and risks to climate and non-climatic factors in selected provinces are assessed and documented. 3.Prioritized National Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives are implemented in most highly vulnerable communities. 4.National Climate Change Strategy on Relocation. 5.Review of the National Climate Change Policy 2012-2017 6.An enacted Climate Change Legislation	By 2025, all provinces would have established provincial climate change coordination arrangements that would facilitate effective and provincially-driven response to climate change sustainable development. By 2025, comprehensive Reports on Climate and non-climatic factors (CC Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Reports) in selected provinces documented made available to relevant stakeholders. By 2025, 80% of most vulnerable communities in Solomon Islands should become resilient to impacts of Climate Change. By 2018, a policy guideline document on resettlement is proved and approved by the government. By 2020, a Climate Change Legislation is enacted in the Solomon Islands.
2018-2022	SBD 500,000.00	1.Assessment and documentation of Vulnerability and risks to climate and non-climatic factors in selected provinces	By 2025, comprehensive Reports on Climate and non-climatic factors (CC Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Reports) in selected provinces documented made available to relevant stakeholders.

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		2. Climate Change Act developed and enacted	By 2020, a Climate Change Legislation is enacted in the Solomon Islands.
2019-2023	1,500,000	1.Vulnerability and adaptation assessments completed for Malaita and Central Province. 2. Draft of Climate Bill is available and endorsed by Parliament	By 2025 comprehensive reports on Climate and non-climatic factors (CC Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Reports) in selected provinces documented made available to relevant stakeholders. By 2020, a Climate Change Legislation is enacted in the Solomon Islands.
2020-2024	1,500,000	1.Assessment and documentation of Vulnerability and risks to climate and non-climatic factors in selected provinces. 2. Climate Change Act developed and enacted	By 2025, comprehensive Reports on Climate and non-climatic factors (CC Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Reports) in selected provinces documented made available to relevant stakeholders. By 2021, a Climate Change Legislation is enacted in the Solomon Islands.
2021-2025	1,500,000	1.Communication system for Sikaiana established 2.Hatodea and Marokafo community water harvesting system installed. 3. Green initiative for KGV School towards 2023 games initiated	By 2025, comprehensive Reports on Climate and non-climatic factors (CC Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Reports) in selected provinces documented and made available to relevant stakeholders. Communities of Sikaiana, Hatodea and Marokafo enjoyed the services provided in terms of better communication and safe drinking water in their respective communities The face of KGV school will be uplifted with green initiatives like tree planting and other green initiatives by 2023.
2022-2026	1,500,000	1. Communication system for Sikaiana established 2. Hatodea community water harvesting system installed. 3. Green initiative for KGV School towards 2023 games completed 4. Initial assessment for at least two communities in Reef Islands conducted.	At least two communities in Reef Islands enjoyed the services provided in terms of safe drinking water in their respective communities

2023-2027	1,500,000	1.Green initiative for St Joseph Tenaru School towards 2023 games completed 2. Sikaiana communication system functioning as expected 3.Hatodea community rainwater harvesting system completed 4. Materials and equipment for rainwater harvesting system for at least 2 communities in Reef Islands procured	Saint Joseph Tenaru school will be uplifted with green initiatives like tree planting and other green technologies. Sikaiana community have access to better communication and internet system Hatodea community have access to clean drinking water
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Annexure 2. Shows communities, province assessment done and adaptation options/Recommendations made.

Communities	Provinces	Adaptation options & Recommendation
Rawaki community	Western Province	- The assessment identifies area exposed and that will be at risk to projected sea level and coastal inundation. 82 buildings are at risk on the northern and southern sections of Rawaki coastal area. No proposed recommendation was mentioned, it might be considered with the Rawaki & Vonavona.
Nukufero Community	Central Islands	-Constructing proper seawall to protect the coastline -Financial awareness and Training should be conducted -Water catchment should be protected by enforcing buffer zone -Sanitation should be supported by responsible authority
Rawaki & Vonavona	Western Province	-Water security issue is of top priority for any intervention -Maintenance of community water reticulation system Improve agriculture farming / fisheries Training and capacity in food preservation Backyard farming Capacity on coastal resource management Shoreline protection-soft and hard infrastructure Nature base protection Mangrove Planting Income or revenue generation initiatives Storage and preservation facilities Market access (OBM) -Solid waste management training and community awareness
Langalanga Lagoon Communities . Bulaabu Kibelifolu Ambu Oibola SIWAI	Malaita Province	1. Water Security and Watershed Health -Water catchments should be protected by enforcing buffer zones -Training should also be conducted on basic plumbing skills -Community committee should provide avenue to discuss and solve water crisis issues -Design proper rainwater harvesting system where appropriate 2. Security of Place and Coastal Health -Establish a community disaster management plan and build a proper evacuation centre -Coastal management training and awareness should be conducted by relevant authorities/agencies -Encourage nature-based solution to stabilize foreshore despite erosion -Marine and fisheries agency should encourage and emphasis on MPA & LMMA -Identify proper site for solid waste disposal

		-Proper Consult Land Owners and even Provincial ward Member to define proper community boundaries and seek land owner's approval for possible relocation when necessary 3. Energy Security - Community Committee should consult and seek advice from Solomon Power or other partners, Donors for mini energy supply to cater for the community 4. Food Security - Climate resilient crops to be introduced in the communities -Encourage Climate Smart Agriculture to rural community (s) -Training to be on Farming techniques, farming methods 5. Income security and community health Sanitation best practices should be supported by responsible authority -Pollution/littering to put a stop -Financial awareness and training should also be conducted
Six Villages Included - Externally funded (Report Received after the report was shared with the Ministry)	Choiseul Province	-Investment to protect existing water resources -Measures to minimize damage to village infrastructure. -Community housing and infrastructure planning. -Mangrove restoration/reforestation to protect against storm surge and coastal inundation. -Adaptation to sea level rise – (migration of mangrove) protection of beaches and islands from wave erosion. -Create 25m buffers around river banks & reforest with natives & mangroves at the river mouth & sea connects.

Annexure 3. Audit recommendation response sheet.

Rec . No	Recommendation	Accepted Y/N?	Name & Position of Officer responsible for implementation	Implementation Date	Ministry Comments
1.	Updates the SICAP to ensure that it is effectively focused on the most significant climate change risks to Solomon Island communities, including completing the remaining vulnerability assessments of at-risk communities from sea level rise and coastal erosion.	Accept	Chief Resilience Officer (CRO)- Human Settlement (HS) and Principal Policies & Program Officer (PPPO)	Ongoing	Assessment have been done for 157 communities using the Solomon Islands Integrated Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation (SIIVA) methodology. These assessments were supported by various organisations including the National Government under its SICAP budget. Other organisations that support this activity includes, NAP Global support, USAID, DFAT, IOM, Governance for Resilient Development in the Pacific (GOV4RES) and others Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Reports Inventory CCD Geospatial and Research
2.	Develop and publish a five-year climate change plan that includes effective actions to address significant climate change risks, including sea level rise and coastal erosion.	Accept	MECDM Deputy Secretary Corporate (DSC) and Human Resource Manager (HRM)	Ongoing	CCD together with the whole MECDM earlier this year has held discussions to developed its MECDM Cooperate Plan 2025 -2030 that will guide the Ministry moving forward into the future. The draft document is with the MECDM Cooperate services for compilation

3.	To prioritises this climate change plans and sets achievable timeframes	Accept	Director Climate Change Division (DCCD), Deputy Director Climate Change Division (DDCCD) and all Chiefs	Ongoing	Once our Cooperate plan is finalised then each year annual work plans are developed to reflect the priority activities to be implemented in a particular year depending on the allocated budget from the national government
4.	Establish Climate change body with workable framework to effectively coordinate arrangement for institutional, and stakeholder engagement at the national, provincial and community level for sea level rise and coastal erosion	Accept	Director Climate Change Division (DCCD), Deputy Director Climate Change Division (DDCCD) and Principal Policies & Programs Officer (PPPO)	Ongoing	The division had commenced consultation on the climate change round table as well as thematic working groups. TOR for these groups have been developed and shared with the different stakeholders for comments. This is envisaged to effectively coordinate arrangement for institutional and stakeholder engagement
5.	Established data and proper coordination between Ministry, NGOs & other regional & international relevant partners in the country	Accept	Chief GIS Officer	Ongoing	The climate change division has a geoportal which is managed by the GIS Unit which has all the dataset as well as maps and sites of communities that has been assessed CCD Geospatial and Research In addition, CCD/MECDM has launched the integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (iMRV) system that supports data collection, with a particular emphasis on the reporting, verification, and monitoring of climate actions under the National Determined Contribution (NDC) framework

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6	To scale up efforts to prioritise key actions to strengthen adaptation initiatives and clear time frame for competing them. Including, allocate sufficient resources to complete the Vulnerability assessments, National climate change bill, relocation plan strategy and National Adaptation Plan	Accept	Director Climate Change Division and Deputy Director Climate Change Division.	Ongoing	Most of the recommendations highlighted are currently work in progress. Funding support for assessments have already been secured from DFAT and MFAT, Support for CC policy paper was secured with MFAT under the Climate Finance Capacity support Programme (CFCSP). On relocation there is a National Planned Relocation Guideline document. A standard operating procedure (SOP) is in finalisation stage. The work is currently been supported by IOM through funding support from Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). On the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) CCD/MECDM is working with GGGI to develop the NAP as well as the NAP Investment Plan
7	Ensures reports are developed for the purpose of progress on specific programmes and related activities; and also, to ensure transparency of SICAP	Accept	Chief Resilience Officer-Human Settlement and Chief Resilience Officer (CRO)-Nature Base Solution (NBS).	Ongoing	MTDP reports are submitted to MNPDC as the SIG lead ministry and on biannual basis, however CCD do not have any SICAP budget for 2025 thus no reports were produced for this year
8	Regularly monitors and publishes annual reports on the progress and success of implementation of its climate change actions, using appropriate performance indicators, and takes action to adapt and improve implementation, where needed.	Accept	Project Management Coordinating Unit (PMCU) and Climate Change Division (CCD)	Ongoing	These activity needs to be improved from MECDM as well as CCD. More so budgets need to be allocated for regular monitor of programs at the community level.
9	Explore ways to increase budget for the Climate Change Division to be able to implement programmes and make proactive plans that specifically address sea level rise and coastal erosion	Accept	Project Management Coordinating Unit (PMCU), Climate Change Division (CCD)	Ongoing	This activity will be challenging especially exploring ways to increase budget from the National Government due to competing government priorities. However, MECDM can negotiate for funding support from its partners to support adaptation activities on the ground
10	Works with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (Climate Finance Unit) to prioritise addressing relevant policy reforms to meet international funding requirements and secure funding, including available international funding	Accept	Deputy Secretary Fiscal, Principal Climate Finance Resilience Officer, Director Climate Change Division (DCCD), Deputy Director Climate Change Division	Ongoing	This activity is currently ongoing given that MECDM is the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as the Operational Focal Point for Global Environment Facility (GEF)

			(DDCCD), National Planning Coordinator (NPC)		
11	Effectively coordinates national and provincial government climate change adaptation actions, including actions to adapt to sea level rise and coastal erosion, that are sustainable over time.	Accept	Integrated Economic Development and Community Resilience (IEDCR) Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and Principal Policies & Programs Officer (PPPO)	Ongoing	MECDM and MPGIS under the IEDCR project is currently working on developing Provincial adaptation strategies for the provinces
12	Allocate funding for Climate change adaptation measures in the 2026 budget to reflect its national priority and consider similar Program plans to carry on with the work that SICAP left	Accept	Director Climate Change Division (DCCD), Deputy Director Climate Change Division (DDCCD) and all Climate Change Division (CCD) Chiefs	Ongoing	CCD will push to have its 2 Development Budget (SICAP and LCE) reinstated in 2026, unfortunately it was diverted in 2025 financial year. We will continue to integrate climate change activities into our development budgets, ensuring dedicated funding for both mitigation and adaptation initiatives.



Office of the Auditor-General
P O Box G18, Honiara
Solomon Islands

Telephone: +677 28886
Email: admin@oag.gov.sb
Website: www.oag.gov.sb