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Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP)

Final Report



SPC/GIZ Regional Programme Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR)
Suva, March 27, 2018

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Abbreviations

CCCPIR Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region
CHICCHAP Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme

CPG Choiseul Province Government

CPUE Catch per unit effort

ESSI Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands

FAD Fish - Aggregating Device

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

GOA Government of Australia represented by the Department of the

Environment

LLCTC Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community

MAL Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

MDPAC Ministry of Development, Planning and Aid Coordination

MECDM Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and

Meteorology

MFMR Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MID Ministry of Infrastructure and Development

MMERE Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification

MoFR Ministry of Forestry and Research
MoFT Ministry of Finance and Treasury
MoU Memorandum of Understanding

MPA Marine Protected Area

MPGIS Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening

MTDP Medium Term Development Plan (of Choiseul Province)

NRDF Natural Resources Development Foundation
PAIG Partners Advisory and Implementation Group

PIM Provincial Implementation Manager

PSC Provincial Steering Committee
SIG Solomon Island Government

SPC The Pacific Community

SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

TNC The Nature Conservancy

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

USAID United States Agency for International Development

1. Purpose

This final report has been prepared for the Provincial Government of Choiseul, the partners of the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to mark the completion of the 'Strengthening climate change adaptive capacity in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands – A ridge to reef approach' project. The project was implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the People of the United States of America through USAID, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The report highlights the project implementation approach, project results and outputs against the joint CHICCHAP Implementation Plan and the indicators defined in the Agreement between USAID and GIZ, lessons learned and recommendations. The report also outlines the financial and administrative closure activities undertaken by GIZ.

2. Project Overview

The Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP) applies the ridge to reef approach for climate change adaptation interventions in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands. The programme seeks to enhance food security, accessibility to water and climate friendly infrastructures and technologies to support more sustainable livelihoods in the face of climate change.

The approach adopted by the project is an integrated, holistic and programmatic approach that was envisaged with government agencies, development partners and NGOs working in a multi-sector programme in one province of the Solomon Islands to strengthen the resilience of the local population against climate change. Choiseul Province was selected by the Solomon Islands' Government for trialing this approach to integrate climate change responses and development assistance.

In 2012, a Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment was undertaken for 27 communities in Choiseul Province. The assessment recommended that in order develop an effective adaptation response a multi-sectoral and multi-partner approach is required to adequately address the complexity of factors contributing to the people's vulnerability to the impacts of

¹ Brochure. Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme.

² Ibid

climate change, and to their adaptive capacity (Annex 1).³ In 2014, this was followed with a Participatory and Rural Appraisal (PRA) in eight of the 27 communities selected for their vulnerability (Annex 2), namely Malangono, Nuatabu, Pangoe, Posarae, Sasamunga, Sube Sube, Voruvoru and Vurago. This Appraisal strengthened the findings of the V&A and further highlighted the importance to work with existing institutions and systems in the communities to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability when partners exit.⁴

In March 2014, GIZ and USAID signed a grant agreement to implement the project: "Strengthening Climate Change Adaptive Capacity in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands – A ridge to reef approach". The project aimed at contributing to CHICCHAP and was to co-finance the Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme (CCCPIR), implemented by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The <u>overarching project goal</u> was to increase the adaptive capacity of Solomon Island communities and provincial and national institutions to cope with the impacts of climate change and disasters.

The two project objectives were:

- 1. Communities and Government of Choiseul Province are successfully implementing and evaluating climate change adaptation measures.
- 2. A successful approach for coordinated implementation of on the ground climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives that can be replicated in other Provinces and Pacific Island countries is developed.

This aligns to the <u>objective under the CHICCHAP</u> partnership and Implementation Plan:

The resilience of the Lauru⁵ people to impacts from current and emerging threats of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters is sustained and/or strengthened.

The project indicators were:

- 1. At least 2000 stakeholders (50 % of population) in the eight target communities have increased their capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a result of USG assistance;
- 2. Multi-sectoral adaptation approaches (incorporating principles of gender equality and youth development, community driven, cost-effective, bundling of resources and

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³ Choiseul Province Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Report. p. xi

⁴ Participatory Rural Appraisal of eight vulnerable communities in Choiseul Province. p. 1.

⁵ Lauru is the traditional name for Choiseul

- ecosystem- based adaptation) are implemented in at least four wards⁶ in Choiseul Province;
- 3. Experiences and best practices from pilot adaptation approaches at community level in at least two wards on Choiseul are documented and evaluated;
- 4. Climate change issues are integrated into the Provincial Medium Term Development Plan;
- 5. Multiple agencies collaborately implement an endorsed provincial implementation framework on climate change adaptation.

This project was part of the regional SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Programme (CCCPIR), implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) and GIZ on behalf of BMZ. Furthermore, other partners implementing climate change activities in Choiseul agreed to jointly address climate change issues by signing an agreement (Annex 3) and a MoU (Annex 4); thereby forming the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme. CHICCHAP partners are those listed in the MoU plus the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) that joined CHICCHAP in November 2016.

For governance arrangement, the project established the Partners Advisory and Implementation Group (PAIG) (Annex 5) and Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) at the national and provincial levels, respectively (Annex 6). PAIG provides coordination for the implementation of CHICCHAP between various Solomon Island Government institutions and development partners. Furthermore, at the national level, CHICCHAP is guided by the Climate Change Working Group, which is a multi-ministry and multi development partner coordination group co-chaired by the MECDM, and the MDPAC.⁷ PAIG comprised of government ministries and other development partners based in Honiara and overseas, respectively.

PSC was established by the Provincial Government to provide strategic guidance and ownership for CHICCHAP and coordinate programme implementation on the ground. PSC comprised of representatives from provincial divisions and development partners meets in Taro. In the communities, the project utilized existing committees or, in exceptional cases, established new committees where necessary.

USAID and BMZ contributed 1 million USD and 0.5 million USD, respectively towards the project. Initially, the project was to end on 27th of March 2017. However, it was extended to 31st of December 2017 with USAID and BMZ funding continuing until 27th of September 2017 and 31st of December 2017, respectively.

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⁶ The term ward could be best described as district

⁷ Grant Agreement for CHICCHAP, p.9

3. Implementation Approach

Based on the V&A conducted in 2012, eight vulnerable communities were identified to implement project activities: The PRA conducted thereafter with each community considered traditional knowledge, thereby guiding the selection of appropriate integrated interventions and collaborative and synergetic approaches for implementation. The proposed integrated approach was scrutinized and reviewed by the implementing partners and PSC who used criteria that captured crosscutting climate change issues. The Choiseul Province Assembly endorsed agreed interventions, with implementation proceeding thereafter. Implementation was undertaken in a collaborative and complementary way to accommodate the different project purposes and objectives of each of the partner's projects. Partners produced the common CHICCHAP Implementation Plan for overall coordination and monitoring with specific work plans for the different projects.

GIZ recruited ten staff in Choiseul Province to assist in the overall coordination of CHICCHAP's implementation and to implement and monitor the USAID/GIZ implementation plans. The project staff was composed of: 1 Provincial Implementation Manager, 1 Development Worker, 1 Senior Agriculture Officer, 1 Fisheries Officer, 1 Forestry Assistant, 1 Finance and Administration Assistant, 1 Messenger/Boat Driver, 1 Senior Planning Officer and 2 Forestry Interns. The Senior Planning Officer was seconded to and embedded in the Planning Division of Choiseul Province and had undertaken activities relating to the development planning of Choiseul Province. The positioning of the Senior Planning Officer aimed at supporting the integration of CHICCHAP into the Province's governance and planning process. This officer was after the end of the project absorbed by the Provincial Government.

The Provincial Implementation Manager (PIM) doubled as GIZ Project manager and as CHICHAP implementation manager

The Implementation Agreement (Annex 3) and the MoU (Annex 4) signed between CHICCHAP partners stipulated responsibilities of partners to jointly implementing the Programme, and to achieving the goals and implementation strategies as outlined for the parties in the Work Plan. The MoU is not legally binding.

The project collaborated with CHICCHAP partners in carrying out activities in Choiseul; e.g. implementing climate change adaptation interventions in the field jointly with villagers, assisting in organizing and facilitating PAIG and PSC coordination meetings, assisting in the coordination of CHICCHAP partners, conducting practical demonstrations, trainings, organizing and attending meetings, and conducting awareness talks in communities and schools.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

At monthly intervals, staff meetings were held for internal planning, steering and monitoring. Furthermore, PAIG meetings and PSC meetings that normally convened twice per year and quarterly, respectively, ensured overall coordination and monitoring of the CHICCHAP Implementation Plan.

An inauguration workshop for CHICCHAP had been held in Taro on January 28 - 30, 2013. A second workshop to review milestones, challenges and lessons learned and to identify priorities for the post 2016 CHICCHAP Implementation Plan was conducted on April 13 - 14, 2015 in Taro (Annex 7). At both workshops, majority of participants came from the communities in Choiseul. The workshop highlighted key factors for CHICCHAP going forward. These included:

- acknowledgement from partners that there needs to be stronger support through a dedicated team and resources for the CHICCHAP Office in Taro;
- strengthened engagement between the Partners Advisory Implementation Group (PAIG),
 Provincial Steering Committee, communities, extension officers in Taro, and CHICCHAP coordinators/officers based in Taro;
- consistent and accurate messaging of the role of partners working under CHICCHAP;
- regular reporting to communities on progress, challenges and achievements;
- a need for projects to coordinate trainings that are aligned to provincial and community needs;
- regional and international agencies/project have to work with the Lauru Land Conference Tribal Council (LLCTC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on community engagement given the NGO's long standing history of working with communities in Choiseul; and
- document and widely disseminate the achievements, lessons and the governing mechanisms under CHICCHAP.

Similar needs were revealed during the CHICCHAP capacity development workshop held in November 2016. Communities also shared the same sentiment during field trips to the project sites.

CHICCHAP (and the project) subsequently strengthened their communication with communities, Provincial Government and line ministries in Honiara, and LLCTC became a formal CHICCHAP partner.

The SPC/ GIZ CCCPIR provided quarterly reports to USAID Manila. A USAID representative undertook visits to selected project sites. Her visit to Choiseul coincided with a PAIG meeting and PSC meeting in which the USAID representative was able to learn about the coordination and collaboration of CHICCHAP.

In early October 2017, the CHICCHAP approach was evaluated. The evaluation included visits to the two communities Sasamunga and Voza in Choiseul and consultations with CHICCHAP partners in Honiara and Taro in the Solomon Islands as well as in Suva, Fiji. The first draft report has been shared in March 2018 with CHICCHAP partners, and the final report is expected in due course.

5. Project Results

This chapter reports on the results based on the joint CHICCHAP Implementation Plan (in the following referred to as CHICCHAP) and the agreed indicators in the Grant Agreement for the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme between GIZ and USAID (in the following referred to as USAID).

5.1 Provincial Implementation Framework

USAID-Indicator 5: An endorsed provincial implementation framework on climate change adaptation is implemented collaboratively by multiple agencies.

The CHICCHAP Coordination Committee (CCC) and PAIG that were already established at the start of this project developed and endorsed a provincial implementation framework on climate change adaptation with assistance of the project.

Upon signing the CHICCHAP MoU, partners inserted their activities into the multi-year implementation plan. The plan has programme outputs linked to national development policies on climate change adaptation, mitigation, mainstreaming and policy development, and sustainable natural resource management. Each partner inserted his or her respective activities under the relevant outputs. Partners then carried out their respective activities based on their project timeline, seeking assistance from other partners if required. Some activities, like information dissemination had been undertaken together by all partners. The implementation plan was and (continues) to be discussed and updated during the regular meetings of PAIG. With the PIM having been employed by SPC/GIZ CCCPIR, the project played the lead role in coordinating activities, and ensuring the implementation plan is being updated for submission to the Provincial Government. At regular intervals, partners were contacted regarding their planned activities to ensure on- time flow of information. Additionally, the implementation plan also served as a tool to monitor and evaluate progress of the programme.

SPC/GIZ CCCPIR assisted other agencies in carrying out their activities as the project has the advantage of having resources on the ground. The boats and outboard engines of the project were used free of charge by partners for field trips to their community sites. The project office

provided space for partners that were transiting in Taro when on field trips in Choiseul. Additionally, the office assisted in conveying information of partners to the Choiseul Provincial Government.

In addition, the CHICCHAP Implementation Plan itself targets strengthening governance in Choiseul and the project supported its implementation (see table 1).

Table 1. CHICCHAP Output 1: Governance structures and leadership skills strengthened in Choiseul

No	Actions	Indicator	Results achieved and facilitated by the Project
A1.1	Strengthen partnerships with Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Communities (LLCTC) to implement CHICCHAP activities	At least 2 collaborative activities within the context of this plan are completed each year with LLCTC.	 Participated in the information dissemination activity during LLCTC Annual General Meeting in Vurago in 2016 Contributed to LLCTC Environment Meeting and LLCTC Executive Meeting in July 2017 and October 2017, respectively
A1.2	Identify and address barriers that may prevent communities and government implementing adaptation strategies	PAIG and Steering committee work through barriers as required.	 PAIG Chair liaised with Ministry of Public Service regarding recruitment of an Environment Officer for Choiseul despite the freeze on recruitment by the Solomon Islands Government. PAIG requested SPC to continue work on CHICCHAP Implementation Framework despite of the SPC USAID project having ended. This resulted in the successful completion of the evaluation of the CHICCHAP approach by SPC ISACC⁸ and continuation of work on the Framework. PSC requested discount prices on shipping transport of empty cans to Honiara for recycling purposes. This resulted in free transport granted on MV. Vatate (boat name)

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 $^{^{\}rm 8}$ Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change

A1.5	Strengthen linkages between national MPS, provincial MPAs and Community leaders - presentation of CHICCHAP and V&A assessment to MPs	MPs and their CDOs consult CHICCHAP on the disbursement of funds	o Courtesy calls to Member of Parliament for South Choiseul and Member of Parliament for North West Choiseul who assured to support activities (the free transport of empty cans on MV.Vatate is an outcome of this).
A1.6	Capacity building of divisions of provincial government to absorb CHICCHAP activities	Ongoing resources secured from CPG	 CPG provided resources for organising information dissemination activities at Posarae and Ogho in 2016 and 2017, respectively. CPG provided resources for organising commemoration & clean up of Taro during World Environment Day, World Oceans Day and Coral Triangle Day in 2017.

5.2 Resilience of the Lauru People and Communities

<u>USAID-Indicator 1</u>: At least 2000 stakeholders (50 % of the population) in the eight target communities have increased their capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change because of United State Government assistance.

To achieve this indicator, the project carried out interventions in Choiseul Province, specifically in the eight communities Nuatabu, Malangono, Pangoe, Posarae, Sasamunga, Subesube, Voruvoru and Vurago. The project later on also worked in Mboeboe community upon the request, and interest of the community to be involved in the activities. The total population size comes to approximately 4,000.

The project directly benefited 1,651 individuals and among these 866 males and 671 females (see table 2 below). With the average household size of five (Census 2009), it can be assumed that all families in all eight communities benefit in one or the other way.

Table 2. Number of direct project beneficiaries

Village	Total population	110	ds backyard gardening, contour a		ontour and
			Male	Female	Total ⁹
Malangono	no data	no data	51	43	121
Mboeboe	186	32	20	31	56
Nuatabu	165	39	45	22	73
Pangoe	988	210	64	28	107
Posarae	228	45	35	57	106
Sasamunga	912	190	221	201	452
Subesube	143	18	115	132	253
Voruvoru	366	56	126	48	179
Vurago	452	93	189	109	304
Total	3440	683	866	671	1651

The interventions addressed the three main sectors of agriculture, coastal fisheries and agroforestry. These included village consultations, trainings, studies, demonstration sites establishment, setting up community nurseries and back yard gardens, deploying Fish - Aggregating Devices (FAD), engaging in the process to set up Marine Protected Areas and awareness raising.

The demonstrations include: contour lines, nurseries, backyard gardens, agroforestry models and a biogas digester.

Contours have effectively supported gardening on slopes and lead to enrichment of the degraded soil. Six contour demonstration sites were established to display the importance of contour lines. In Posarae, an area adjacent to the contour site experienced a landslide, but the contour area remained well intact. Additionally, at the contour site the once red soil had turned brownish black due to the build-up of nutrients from organic matter. The A-Frame method was used for establishing contour lines along the slope. Vetiver Grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*) was planted on the lines to prevent soil from being washed away during heavy rains. *Gliricidia sepi*um cuttings were planted at one-meter distance along the lines to add nitrogen to the soil and to stabilize it. 39 contour line gardens were established in seven communities and resulted in reduced soil

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⁹ The data is not always disaggregated into males and females, therefore the total may exceed the sum of males and females

erosion, improved soil and more space for gardening. The contours drastically reduce the run-off of nutrients and soil during rain. Furthermore, they prevent landslides and contribute to building resilience against adverse effects of heavy rain combined with degraded slopes.

The nurseries established by the project provided seedlings and cuttings of planting materials for backyard gardens of individuals. The backyard gardens have enabled farmers, especially women, to access food within the vicinity of their houses, thereby having more time for other household chores.

Seedlings of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), were resourced from the Provincial nursery and distributed to individuals interested in planting trees. Various gardening tools were distributed to all communities alongside the establishment of nurseries to support the agriculture and forestry activities. Through practical demonstrations, skills in the effective use of these tools were developed in communities. Educational materials like DVDs, books, booklets were distributed to schools and communities.

Twenty-eight agroforestry models were established for land owning individuals by planting timber trees together with varieties of fruit trees. In this model, the spacing between trees can be used for gardening meaning the limited space of land can provide for short-term needs through the production of food. Similarly, the long term needs are catered for by the economic gain expected in future from the timber trees, benefit from varieties of fruit trees that provide fruits throughout every season (one followed by the other), better nutrition and food security.

Coastal erosion is reduced in Sasamunga and Subesube as 135 and 73 coastal trees, respectively, have been planted. In Sasamunga, the trees were planted as part of the 'adopt a tree' activity whereby one tree is to be maintained by 2-3 schoolchildren for a period of 8 weeks. During this period, the children conducted weekly measurement on the height of the trees to determine the growth of their trees over time. The activity aimed to teach children the importance of planting trees and to strengthen their ownership. Community members adopted the idea of nurseries from demonstration sites by establishing family nurseries in their backyards. This is a positive step going forward in terms of adaptation as knowledge and skills, for adaptation to climate change impacts on agriculture and forestry activities were increased through establishment of nurseries in all nine communities. However, while the communal nurseries were to be used mainly to grow tree seedlings and vegetable crops, the trees in most nurseries over grew because villagers were not proactive in selecting sites for planting trees. Thus, other than with the vegetable crops, the transplanting of trees from the nursery was minimal, where not done through the project. Furthermore, the owners of the land on which the nurseries were established sometimes denied access to nursery by community people. In such cases, the community members were not comfortable to use the nursery. However, while disputes over land ownership prohibited accessibility to project nursery people recognized the importance of nursery and chose to construct their own.

Food security and incomes have increased and diets enhanced through the establishment of backyard gardens. 49 backyard gardens were established for interested farmers in the communities and providing easy access to varieties of food. An integrated approach on backyard garden was undertaken whereby varieties of crops were planted in the limited space for gardening. Composting was encouraged alongside the backyard gardens so nutritious soil from the compost can be added to the gardens thereby providing relevant nutrients for the crops.

Community members were trained in the establishment of backyard gardens together with integrated gardening, crop rotation, composting, cutting tubers of root crops for multiplication of planting materials, nursery techniques for vegetables and the development of contour lines and gardens. In forestry the trainings included the establishment of nurseries and green houses, cutting line and measurement for agroforestry, cutting of roots of overgrown trees at nursery and transplanting tree seedlings to the field.

On the long run, contours will improve the soil due to increased nutrients from buildup or organic matter. People will have more access to land for gardening thereby increasing food productivity into the future. Agroforestry models will provide the much-needed wood for firewood and timber for construction of houses. The fruit trees integrated in the model will also provide food. All trees will be of economic benefit as the timbers and fruits may be sold for income.

In the marine and fisheries area, the project facilitated Mangrove Management Plans for the different communities of Choiseul Province with the James Cook University in Australia. In June 2016, fieldwork was done and in May 2017, extensive Mangrove Management Plans for 10 communities were handed over to the partners. The management plans indicate activities for each community to undertake towards managing their mangrove resources sustainably.

The process for establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPA) was started in all communities. Awareness on MPAs was raised and biological reef surveys conducted. The reef surveys showed that marine resources are declining. The results were presented to the communities.

To increase fish catch and reduce the pressure on the reefs, six fish-aggregating device (FAD) were deployed. The communities benefited from the FADs. In Voruvoru, the fishermen noted that although the FAD marker was removed, fishing around the FAD location still proved to be very effective and has provided fishermen with high abundance of pelagic species around May to July. Eventually all six FADs were destroyed (see lessons learned in chapter 6). The six communities requested new FADs to be redeployed. Additional communities of Mboeboe and Sasamunga also requested for FADs. The MFMR and other partners had been informed on the requests as a way going forward on this activity.

Twenty-nine males and two females have attained skills on new fishing techniques that can be used for fishing (at the FAD) and sea safety measures when out fishing in the sea. Other fisheries related trainings included data collection on catch per unit effort (CPUE) from fishing at the FADs, the construction of rafters using bamboos and biological reef surveys.

Awareness raising was constantly carried out to inform people about climate change impacts and the importance to apply relevant strategies to withstand the impacts thereby building resilience for future impacts.

Building up the communities' capacities to adapt to the impacts of climate change through contours and agroforestry models in terms of accessing timber, fruits and nuts will take a few years. However, the communities' resilience to landslides is enhanced and food productivity through FADs (temporarily, see table 3 and chapter 6), back yard gardening, demonstration sites and nurseries is already improved today.

A more detailed description of results in the different areas follows in tables 3 to 7 below against the actions, outputs and indicators of the CHICCHAP Implementation Plan.

Table 3. CHICCHAP Output 2: Livelihoods Supported Through Healthy Ecosystems

No	Actions	Indicator	Results achieved by the Project
A2.1	Develop Ridge- Community- Reef (R-C-R) management plan	1 R-C-R Management Plan completed	Nine Mangrove Management Plans developed by the project that can complement an overarching R-C-R Management Plan.
A2.2	Development of management plans for established Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) for sustainable coastal fisheries	Established LMMA (recorded in the Choiseul ridge to reef conservation plan) have management plans in place	The project communities did not have LMMAs established, but taboo zones. The communities Subesube, Vuraqo, Pangoe and Voruvoru were supported in the process to setting up Marine Protected Areas.

A2.3	Introduce and assess the viability of inshore Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) as a means to reduce fishing pressure on reefs and improve fish availability in areas presently experiencing reduced fish catches	At least 3 inshore FAD installed and tested + improved reef fish population on reefs near installed FADs	In 2015, five submerged and one floating surface FADs were deployed in six communities (Subesube, Vurago, Voruvoru, Pangoe, Nuatabu, and Posarae). People reported they could catch more pelagic fish. As the fishing pressure on the reefs is increasing, the reef fish population is not improving but still declining. Reef surveys were carried out and showed a poor condition of the reef close to the community. In 2016, all FADs went missing (see lessons learned below).
A2.4	Protect, maintain and rehabilitate mangrove and coastal vegetation	At least 280 metres of 7 communities revegetated with mangroves and other coastal species by 2015	A survey on all the mangroves in Choiseul Province and subsequent management plans was developed for nine communities during May 2016 to October 2017. The project was about to end and therefore did not plant mangroves. The surveys and management plans were presented and handed over to the CPG, the communities and CHICCHAP partners for further action.

Table 4. CHICCHAP Output 4: Sustainable Economic Development Promoted

No	Actions	Indicator	Results achieved by the Project
A4.1	Develop land use and resource management plan for the Province, including marine management	Land use and resource use plan developed and distributed to all key stakeholders by 2015	development of the plan (led by UNDP) by attending trainings and

A4.2	Support initiatives for sustainable forestry, harvesting and management, including awareness of logging code of practice, engage private enterprise	Support sustainable forestry practices of at least 1 community	A forestry consultant communicated awareness on the logging code of practice to nine communities.
A4.3.	Review of logging code of practice	Logging code of practice reviewed	The project offered its support to the Government of the Solomon Islands, but it did not result in action.
A4.4	Further improve the capacity of the forestry nurseries to cater for agroforestry and reforestation schemes and support the Forestry Division reforestation programme	Choiseul Bay forestry nursery refurbished and stocked with appropriate seedlings, additional exotic commercial species planted, 8 fly nurseries established	The Choiseul Bay forestry nursery was refurbished and stocked with appropriate seedlings and additional commercial species by 2013 and is functioning up to today Nine flying nurseries were established and were functional in 2014 & 15 (one in each community). However, because there is no communal land the nurseries were set up on individually owned land (no communal land exists). Disputes arose between the landowner and neighbouring farmers who ultimately refused to collaborate. Now, in 2017, the nurseries are overgrown and not functional (see lessons learned)

Table 5. CHICCHAP Output 5: Support Awareness Raising and Education

No	Actions	Indicator	Results achieved by the Project
A5.1	Raise awareness and build capacity to implement natural solutions for building resilience	Communication products produced, workshop held in community	Eight main types of trainings were conducted in the communities and categorised as; agroforestry training, backyard/ integrated garden training, coastal replanting training, contour training, FAD training, Fisheries legislation training, marine resource management training and nursery training. Awareness raising and consultations on the trainings is ongoing. Awareness raising on mangroves is also included. Existing communication products were used.
A5.2	Distribute/Develop climate change materials for schools	Evaluate existing materials, materials distributed to at least 10 schools around Choiseul	The following existing Pacific education materials developed by CCCPIR were distributed to 10 schools around Choiseul. ~ 200 copies of Pou and Miri – Learn about Climate Change ~ 200 copies of Pou and Miri – Learn about Green House Gases - 6 copies of Learning about Climate Change the Pacific Way – a visual and a teacher guide
A5.3	Use a 'train the trainer' approach, with provision of tools, to engage church leaders (or community identified leaders) in communicating key adaptation messages at a community level	Number of community and church leaders trained	Approximately 1,436 community members were trained (826 males, 610 females) and among these approximately 287 church leaders (estimating that 20% of community people are church leaders)
A5.4	Hold awareness raising workshops regarding the provincial fisheries ordinances and other relevant legislation (combine with forestry code of harvesting training)	Awareness workshop held. Communication products distributed	9 trainings on provincial fisheries ordinances such as the Choiseul Province Fisheries and Marine Environment Ordinance and other relevant legislation were held in 9 communities and 2 times at provincial

			level. 36 individuals were reached (23 males and 13 females) during one of the trainings at provincial level.
A5.5	Site visits by community members to adaptation pilot sites of the programme	At least 7 communities adjacent to CHICCHAP pilot sites exposed to adaptation activities carried out in the pilot sites	Popular adaptation pilot sites established by the project are Mboeboe showing a reef and a mangrove conservation area and Posarae showing demonstration models on contour farming. From at least 10 villages that are adjacent to the adaptation sites in the South of Choiseul, community members come frequently to the sites to learn. For instance, communities of Sepa and Boe frequently visited the demonstration site on agriculture interventions in Malangono. Furthermore, a demonstration site on agriculture interventions was established in the backyard of the Project's office in Taro. The demonstration model provides an avenue whereby people of other communities in Choiseul, and other places come to observe the interventions implemented by the project in the communities.
A5.6	Increase community and provincial awareness on the impacts of climate change & climate change variability on food production systems	Training needs, awareness materials and relevant traditional knowledge practices identified and documented	The joint vulnerability assessment done in 27 communities and the PRA done in 8, communities provided all partners with training needs and traditional knowledge practices and these were documented in the respective publications. In all 8 types of trainings, the impacts of climate change & climate variability on food production systems on the land and in the sea were included.

A5.7	Deliver training on integrated	Number of	9 practical trainings on integrated pest
	pest and crop management	persons at the	management were conducted during
		provincial and	the practical training on establishing
		community	inter-cropping, repellent plants and the
		level	use of natural pesticides (for example
		successfully	Barringtonia, Chilly, Soursop).
		complete the	No training material was produced, but
		training +	practical exercises were facilitated.
		information	
		and training	
		materials	
		produced	

Table 6. CHICCHAP Output 6: Food Security Enhanced

No	Actions	Indicator	Results achieved by the Project
A6.1	Pilot improved slope land and water-logged agricultural farming systems	3 community pilots on improved slope land farming +2 community pilot on improved water-logged farming implemented + Improved crop yields from pilot farms	Contour farming systems were established in Posarae, Sasamunga, Malangono, Mboeboe, Nuatabu, Voruvoru (this is similar to waterlogged agricultural farming system, but without drainage. Contour farming systems are better suitable on slope land with high levels of precipitation such as Choiseul).
A6.2	Identify current and future constraints to increased sustainable food production for different agricultural ecosystems	Pilot sites selected that reflect different agricultural ecosystems, PRAs completed and adaptive capacity	The PRAs were completed in 2015 (survey completed in 2014) and current and future constraints as well as adaptive capacities identified. One of the main constraints is the slash and burn practice in agriculture as it destroys the micro ecosystem (soil, organisms, insects, fungus, etc.). This practice was common across all communities.

		analysis developed for communities in the pilot sites	Communities in flat land areas and on slope areas were selected which have different ecosystems. In the flat land inter-cropping, crop rotation were promoted and on the slope land contour farming and agroforestry.
A6.3	Assess the viability of aquaculture farming	Assessments completed & documented and proposed interventions trialled in selected communities	The viability of aquaculture farming was assessed in Nuatabu, with the result that it is viable. A freshwater Tilapia farm was proposed utilizing simple technology (digging a hole and instalment of drainage). ESSI agreed to take up this activity. An integrated tilapia, poultry, vegetable aquaculture system was established at the demonstration site behind the project office in Taro and at Pangoe.
A6.4	Training on food processing and preservation	Number of persons at the provincial and community level successfully completing training + information and training materials produced	As part of a bigger training on fisheries, food processing and preservation of fish and seafood was included in Sasamunga. 16 persons were trained (all males: the chief did not allow women to participate; see lessons learned). The project produced training materials on Post-harvest operation for food processing and preservation (Annex 10). (not in agriculture)
A6.5	Distribute climate ready planting material in selected communities/pilot sites	Climate ready crop varieties planted in 13 sites	Taro and sweet potatoes varieties from SPC were planted at Tarakukure Trial Farm on Taro. These varieties were distributed to selected farmers from Subesube area, Sasamunga. The root crop trials and the whole Farm did not continue to operate (see also A.7.3)

Table 7. CHICCHAP Output 7: Appropriate and climate friendly infrastructure & technologies in place

No	Actions	Indicator	Results achieved by the Project
A7.1	Provide technical advice on coastal protection measures including for new township	Technical paper produced and results distributed to communities	Even though no technical paper was produced, coastal protection measures were carried out: Coastal trees were planted along the shores of Mboeboe, Sasamunga and Voruvoru. In addition, the Mangrove Study will eventually contribute to coastal protection in all project communities.
A7.2	Pilot biogas production from pigs' wastes	Biogas digester installed and operational at MAL demonstration farm in Choiseul Bay	A biogas digester based on pig's waste was built at the Tarakukure Trial Farm (Provincial Development Farm) in Choiseul Bay in Taro in 2015. However, it was never used, as the Ministry of Agriculture did not set up the piggery farm as was agreed previously (see lessons learned).

5.3 Integration into Provincial Planning

USAID-Indicator 4: Climate change issues are integrated into the Provincial Medium Term Development Plan.

The climate change section in the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) document was strengthened based on inputs provided by partners. Various CHICCHAP partners provided information and data from the work that they had undertaken. They contributed to consultation meetings with stakeholders at the provincial and community level, verified information provided in the MTDP and commented on the draft MTDP document that is normally shared with stakeholders working in the Province, during the annual updating. The same information was used as baseline information for the section on climate change in the 5-Year Development Strategic Plan 2018-2022, currently in working draft.

PAIG and the Province agree that an action plan will be developed based on the CHICCHAP Implementation Plan for the single policy goal statement on environment and climate change in the 5-Year Development Strategic Plan 2018-2022 of Choiseul Province. The Province is taking ownership of CHICCHAP and that supports the sustainability of CHICCHAP going forward.

Table 8 furthermore reflects the results achieved by the Project against the CHICCHAP Output 9 on strategies to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

Table 8. CHICCHAP Output 9: Strategies to ensure sustainability of programme developed and implemented

No	Actions	Indicator	Results achieved by the Project
A9.1	Align CHICCHAP Implementation Plan with Choiseul Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP)	CHICCHAP appended to current medium term development plan	All activities of CHICCHAP are aligned to the MTDP. Changes to MTDP are updated annually and CHICCHAP partners normally contributed inputs during the updating process.
A9.2	Submit the cabinet paper on Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme	Cabinet paper endorsed by cabinet by June	Cabinet paper prepared by CCCPIR and submitted to SI Cabinet via MECDM had been endorsed by Cabinet.
A9.4	Support from national budget	MECDM allocate funds to support CHICCHAP activities on annual basis till 2015	MECDM has supported CHICCHAP activities during information dissemination activities in 2016 and 2017 by sending representatives from the Ministry. Further, MECDM had produced and provided information brochures relating to relevant CHICCHAP activities all through out.
A9.5	Develop local technical capacity in climate change/environment	At least 2 students from Choiseul complete the Certificate in Environmental Studies at SI National University from 2014 to 2015	2 males and 4 females who had completed forestry (2) and agriculture (4) courses at the Solomon Islands National University and Rural Training Centres, respectively had undertaken work internship with the project.
A9.6	Programme management training for steering committee	Training for steering committee carried out	A capacity development workshop facilitated for CHICCHAP partners in 2016 had Heads of Divisions who are

	members of the steering committee as main target group.

5.4 Multi-sectoral Adaptation Approaches

USAID-Indicator 2: Multi-sectoral adaptation approaches (incorporating principles of gender equality and youth development, community driven, cost-effective, and bundling of resources and ecosystem/based adaptation) are implemented in at least four wards in Choiseul Province.

Multi-sectoral adaptation approaches were utilized in the implementation of activities in four wards. Women and youths were represented in committees in all communities. Women were strongly engaged in agriculture and gardening activities. In the Solomon Islands, gardening is regarded to be a woman's activity. The engagement of women enhanced their gardening skills and knowledge on how to utilize limited resources to attain bigger gains.

Youths were encouraged by elders to take leading roles in all activities. Communities were especially engaged at the beginning of projects as they were heavily participated. The engagement however eventually slowed down through the project implementation. The implementation took a cost-effective approach by ensuring that a team comprising of fisheries, agriculture and agroforestry officers undertake jointly to ensure integrative approaches to climate change adaptation, and also to economize.

5.5 Publication and Documentation of Experiences and Best Practices

USAID-Indicator 3: Experiences and best practices from pilot adaptation approaches at community level in at least two wards on Choiseul are documented and evaluated.

The project published experiences and best practices, reviewed its achievements and contributed to the overall evaluation of the CHICCHAP approach (led by the USAID ISACC project) end of 2017.

The project published the following publications to document experiences and best practices:

- 1. Choiseul Province climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment report: securing the future of Lauru now
- 2. Participatory Rural Appraisal of eight vulnerable communities in Choiseul Province: Nuatabu, Malangono (Panarui), Pangoe, Posarae, Sasamunga, Sube Sube, Voruvoru, and Vurago, March 2015 / SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region
- 3. Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme Briefing Note

4. Community based mangrove management plan for 8 communities

Other CHICCHAP partners published reports, which also informed this project's implementation.

6. Lessons Learned and Risks

Following best practices, lessons learned and risks were derived from the project's implementation perspective considering the integrative nature of the approach itself and strengthening ownership, coordination and effectiveness.

6.1 Lessons Learned

- Through the signing of MoU, and through the acceptance by communities, the Provincial Government of Choiseul took ownership of the integrated holistic approach.
- The recent evaluation deemed the integrated, multi sector and multi partner programmatic approach timely and CHICCHAP a successful approach as it brought partners together in collaborative partnerships, knowledge sharing and resource pooling, and complemented capacities across the partnership.
- In terms of coordination and partnership, CHICCHAP achieved a certain level of harmonization. However, more harmonization in particular between development partners is required.
- While all CHICCAP partners have signed the Implementation agreement and the MOU, there were differences in commitment. Steps have to be taken to ensure continuous commitment on all parts, also after change of staff.
- Apart of SPC/GIZ CCCPIR, all other participating projects funded by various development
 partners had already been designed previous to the decision of partners to join. However,
 since the fact that the programmatic approach was not included in the original project design
 sometimes created difficulties. In future project planning, programmatic and partnership
 approaches should already be included during the project design phase.
- Collaborative approach also means to share resources be it human or financial. This concept also needs to find its way into project planning.
- A clear communication strategy is needed for visibility and community engagement.
- The management structure for CHICCHAP was adequate, considering the advice and guidance provided by PAIG and the coordination of activities by PSC, supported by the project. The development of a decentralized and harmonized approach to building resilience and sustainable development at province level, is a process that requires careful consideration of steps leading to a situation where the coordination, implementation and monitoring is

ultimately with the government – in this case the PSC. CHICCHAP was the first of its kind at the time it was developed and had as its main innovative strategy the collaboration and harmonization of different projects for the benefit of the Lauru people at its core. Given the limited capacities at PSC level back then, it was logical as a first step to task this project with the overall coordination. After the completion of this phase, it seems now timely to take it further to be fully integrated into the PSC governance structure, planning and monitoring. The project has taken a first step in that direction by posting one staff member within the planning unit of the PSC. This position is foreseen to be incorporated into the national system. The Malaita Province has indicated interest to duplicate the CHICCHAP approach as revealed by PS MECDM in the PAIG meeting on October 2017. In future duplications of the CHICCHAP approach, the national Government should foresee dedicated resources to strengthen the Provincial Government.

- The recent evaluation on CHICCHAP approach noted that CHICCHAP brought partners together in collaborative partnership, knowledge sharing, resource pooling and complemented capacities across the partnership. Furthermore, maintaining good collaboration with provincial partners and stakeholders is important to effectively implement of activities and build the partner's capacities. Therefore, CCCPIR staff regularly took the Provincial Agriculte forestry and fisheries officers with them on field trips This collaboration was especially successfully in fisheries where the project worked together with the Fisheries Division, LLCTC and TNC. This collaboration helped the project to progress setting up Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in communities of Subesube, Vurago and Pangoe However, the capacities of provincial departments to closely collaborate with the project in implementing its activities remained low with the exception of the fisheries department, mainly because the Provincial technical officers had only little resources for field work. In Future, more resources have to be made available by Line Ministries to their respective Provincial officers for field work.
- The set-up of the local office and of the team (national and local experts in project management, agriculture, fisheries, planning and admin/accounting and the international Development Advisor) effectively supported the implementation of activities on the ground in an integrated cross-sectoral Ridge to Reef manner. The local office team were able to analyse the situations of project activities and adjusted accordingly by having undertaken strategic approaches that resulted in the positive outcome of the project.
- Working with 132 champion farmers and with students and youths has proven to be more successful and effective than attempting to work with all members of the community.
 Sustainability of activities may be ensured through this approach as the champion farmers may become knowledge disseminators in the communities and share information with others

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¹⁰ CHICCHAP Evaluation Preliminary Findings, p. 8

who may become interested later on.

- Resilience of the people was strengthened through the various activities that had been implemented in the communities. These activities relate to agriculture, agroforestry and fisheries. While it may be too early to see results of the strengthened resilience, the interest and involvement of people in the activities is an implication on strengthened resilience. The same may be used to predict the sustainability of resilience as a way going forward. Furthermore, interested individuals that have had project staff assisting them in adopting some interventions are considered as 'knowledge bank' in the communities. Community people may consult these 'knowledge bank' for assistance on relevant interventions should interest arise in the future hence sustainability of activities going forward.
- Working with primary schools, students and youths is sustainable as their knowledge and skills will be useful for their future lives in building sustainable and resilient livelihoods. In the future, work with and through schools, Youths and Churches should be intensified.
- Sustainability of activities is ensured in the transitioning of the position of Senior Planning
 Officer into the government system. The transitioning of the position was supported by
 Choiseul Province Government as the position is needed for the Province to meet its
 minimum requirement in the performance under the SIG's system. From the Project's
 perspective, transitioning of the position will ensure that CHICCHAP activities in the MTDP
 are being carried out, even after the Project ends.
- Sustainability on the coordination of CHICCHAP activities may be ensured through the
 recruitment of an Environment Officer for Choiseul Province as resolved by PAIG. According
 to PAIG, the Environment Officer will coordinate CHICCHAP activities and be the focal point
 of CHICCHAP partners in the Province.
- Resilience of the people of Lauru may be further strengthened by ongoing CHICCHAP
 activities. As such, the CHICCHAP Implementation Work plan will be developed into the
 Action Plan on environment and climate change for the Province. The development of the
 Work Plan into the Action Plan is an implication on the sustainability of CHICCHAP activities.
- It is fundamentally important for a project with a focus on provincial level implementation to maintain a good working relationship with the national level line ministries to facilitate progress at local level. Therefore, at least one staff should be embedded within the Government structure in the capital.
- Adaptation is a process and building resilience in some areas, such as agroforestry measures require time. Development partners could consider longer project durations with a minimum of at least 5 years and/or doing ex-post evaluations a few years after the project has been closed. A lack of communal land led to a challenging situation where nurseries were constructed on land owned by individuals. Initially, these individuals agreed that these nurseries would be accessible to all community members. However, overtime the individuals

- did not allow people to access the nurseries anymore, resulting in their deterioration. For similar future interventions, it is recommended to e.g., work more closely with the churches and schools in the communities and to establish said nurseries on their premises
- Despite extensive efforts of the project, in some trainings, the Village Chief would not allow women to participate as they would not have the time due to their gardening, child and household tasks (for example during the Fisheries training in Sasamunga). There is still a lack of understanding of some traditional leaders on gender equity and the importance of women participation in trainings. Women are very engaged in fisheries activities. However, a project cannot overstep a traditional leader's decision. For the future, it is recommended to keep raising awareness, pointing out practical benefits and trying to align trainings to the timetable of both men and women.
- Setting up MPA's is a longer process than expected. The ownership of a reef is an issue as
 different tribal communities claim to own the same reef. Therefore, the project proposed
 that LLCTC, TNC and Provincial Fisheries Division would continue the activity.
- The floater markers for the FADS were sabotaged so that eventually all FADs vanished, after they had been commended by communities initially as they provided more catch. It is not entirely clear what caused the destructive behaviour and who was responsible for it. One possible explanation is that members of communities that were not part of the project's pilot sites envied the FAD or saw them as potentially depleting their fish resources. Another may be that artisanal fishermen destroyed the FAD because they feared losing their livelihood. FADs make fishing easier: many individuals were able to provide for their own needs and sell the surplus. If FADs were to be deployed again, much broader engagement of all neighbouring communities including all tribal owners and artisanal fishermen is recommended.
- The collection of data on fish caught from FADs is challenging as the commitment of trained data collectors from the community faded over time. There is no real incentive for data collectors to collect data in the longer term as at community level they do not operate as businesses who would have an interest in monitoring their catch. While data on the cost per unit effort (CPUE) is available until the time FADs were destroyed, the data is not sufficient for analysing the effectiveness of the FAD.
- Weak enforcement of Fisheries Ordinance resulted in consistent damage of fisheries related project materials. While the Ordinance provides for penalties against illegal activities, the offenders were mostly not prosecuted. The failure to address such behaviour encouraged the ongoing illegal activities on project activities. Strengthening the enforcement of the Ordinance should help prevent damage on the FADs.

6.2 Risks

The following external risks have been identified during the project's implementation:

While the project and the overall CHICCHAP approach and implementation plan, address the issue of uncontrolled logging and mining, the interest of the communities in easy and quick cash income remains in many cases higher than the interest to manage and earn from natural resources in a sustainable manner. Awareness raising on the short-term benefits against long-term damaging effects of logging and mining should be continued. At national level, relevant legislations remained unchanged during the course of the project.

For ongoing and new projects under the CHICCHAP umbrella, it is recommended to focus even stronger on income generation through sustainable agriculture, agroforestry and fisheries practices.

The use of the mangrove and beach areas as a dumping site and for human waste (defecation) contradicts activities on marine resource management and coastal rehabilitation. As such, waste management activities should be continued to educate people on the proper disposal of wastes. New projects could address the provision of sanitation systems.

7. Finance and Administrative Closure Activities

Financial and administrative closure activities have been successfully completed as follows:

- All consultancy and service contracts have ended and full payments have been made.
- All invoices were paid and acquittals and financial reports submitted to USAID.
- Project assets in good working condition have been handed over to Choiseul Province Government as agreed with SPC (Annex 8). The total purchase value of the assets is 380,000 SBD and included two fibreglass boats, 19 feet Yamaha Ray boat and 23 feet Fibre Glass open boat at 27,000 SBD and 48,000SBD, respectively. The assets include some low value items. Assets that were not in a working condition have been written off (Annex 9).
- Financial and administrative project documents were filed in the SPZ/GIZ CCCPIR Office in Suva.
- Officers of the project, plus interns will end their contracts by 31 December 2017. All salaries, contributions to the National Provident Fund and remaining annual leave days have been paid.
- Technical project reports, field trip reports, meeting minutes are filed in the SPC/GIZ CCCPIR Office in Suva. Summarised quarterly reports are shared with CPG and partners.

8. Conclusion

Overall, CPG, CHICCHAP partners and the National Government supported the project because activities were aligned to the MTDP of CPG and complemented activities of other partners and the fact that the collaborative approach was an initiative of the National Government.

The resilience of the communities had been strengthened. Thus, it can be safely noted that some individuals in the communities are successfully implementing the adaptation measures. Furthermore, the coordinated implementation was deemed a successful approach and had been requested to be replicated in two Provinces in the Solomon Islands.

9. Project Photos



Photo 1: Contour planting in Posarae (credit SPC/GIZ CCCPIR)



Photo 2: Preparation of a backyard garden bed in Malangono (credit SPC/GIZ CCCPIR)



Photo 3: Yam nursery demonstration site in Mboeboe (credit SPC/GIZ CCCPIR)



Photo 4: Teak planting (credit SPC/GIZ CCCPIR)