

Key Organizations and their role in relation to water sector in the Solomon Islands

Organization	Functions
Ministry of Mines, Energy & Rural Electrification, Water Resource Division	Responsible for water resources assessment and management: SIWA functions under this ministry
Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Meteorology	Responsible for environmental assessment and protection
Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening	Responsible for water supply in the provincial centers except the urban areas where SIWA operates
Ministry of Health and Medical Services	Water supply in rural areas and supervision of sanitary conditions for the whole Solomon Islands.
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Responsible for executing contracts with the land owners for water rights



Policy Questions

1. What are/should be the rights and obligations of landowners in regard to water and taking water?
2. What should be the rights and obligations of commercial and public utility water users?
3. How should water management activities be funded?
4. What should be the principals to guide the development of fees and charges?
5. What should be the principles to guide compensation?



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SOLOMON ISLANDS PROGRAM FOR WATER GOVERNANCE

Provincial Consultation
Water is everybody's
business



Water Resource Division
Ministry of Mines & Energy,
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Health RWSS

Introduction

Water resources availability in Solomon Islands varied considerably from over abundance to scarce water resources in small islands and low lying atolls. However, development activities such as uncontrolled logging which is currently widespread in the country and the traditional slash and burn practices of farming have gradually and systematically negatively affected surface water resources quality and quantity, a threat to population and communities who are dependent on the water sources affected. This is real and an on-going concern for serious addressing. Therefore, effective water governance (policies and legislations) is required to control, manage and protect the water resources and environment.

Current Water Setup

a. Water Resource Division

- ◆ Assessment of water resources,
- ◆ Identification and mitigation against natural hazards such as floods,
- ◆ Establishment of policies and legislation for the sound management and administration of water resources in the country to ensure safe and clean water is provided to the people of Solomon Islands
- ◆ Responsible for statutory authorities that directly deals with water resources
- ◆ Execute government plans and policies related to water resources
- ◆ Establish and upgrade national capacity in hydrology and water resources assessment for improved water related services to rural and urban communities
- ◆ Establish legal framework in management and administration of water resources in Solomon Islands.

b. Solomon Islands Water Authority

- ◆ to control, regulate, develop, manage, conserve and utilise urban water resources in the best interests, of Solomon Islands;
- ◆ to formulate national policies relating to the control and use of urban water resources;
- ◆ to ensure that the water supplied for consumption meets the prescribed water quality standards;
- ◆ to ensure that water resources allocated for urban water supply are properly managed, distributed, allocated and used in ways which are consistent with proper water management practices;
- ◆ to provide water and related services to meet the needs for users in a commercial manner consistent with the overall policies of the Government.
- ◆ A reliable, safe and sustainable water and wastewater services for all urban areas.

c. Rural Water Supply & Sanitation

- ◆ To collate Provincial annual construction plan and seek funding
- ◆ Manage and liaison with Provincial offices for all functions pertaining to projects
- ◆ Projects initiation to proposal stage
- ◆ Seek funding for projects
- ◆ Procurement to completion of implementation
- ◆ Manage development and execution of community awareness program
- ◆ Arrange training programs to meet required needs
- ◆ Formulate environment health act
- ◆ Disseminate rural water supply information

Water Resources legislations

1. The government has expressed an intention of developing a water law to focus on the management of water resources.
2. Separate law is needed for specific water services such as water supply, sewerage, energy, drainage, irrigation, etc....

Laws on Water Resources

1. Rights and obligations related to water
2. Taking water and access to water
3. Protection of water bodies and water resources
4. Minimization of droughts and flood damage
5. Measures for management and protection of water resources e.g. planning, licensing
6. Accountability and reporting to government

Existing Policies:

1. River Water Ordinance 1969
2. SIWA Act 1992
3. Environment Act 1998
4. Land and Titles Act
5. Public Health Ordinance 1970
6. Forestry Act 1998
7. Mines and Mineral Act
8. Water Supply Act
9. Draft Water Resource Act

Water Governance Program deals with:

- ◆ Policy and legislation
- ◆ Water resource management
- ◆ Cooperation with international and regional organizations
- ◆ Drafting and formulation of a new water resource policy and legislation
- ◆ Community awareness, education and consultation.