



Solomon Island's Report

*Regional workshop for Asia and the Pacific on ways
and means to promote the Sustainable production
and use of Biofuels*

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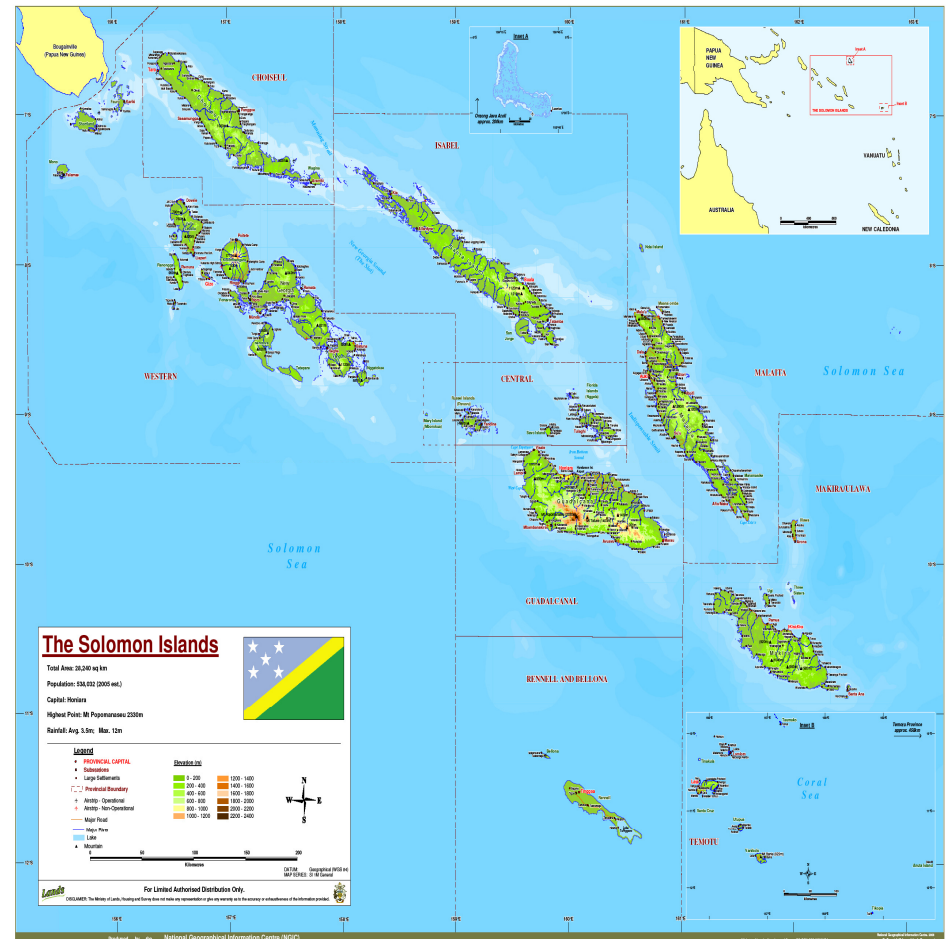
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I. Brief Overview of Solomon Islands

- An archipelago(group of islands) in the southwest Pacific (approx. 992 islands)
- Land area:27,556 sq. km
- East of Papua New Guinea and Nth East of Australia
- population of 552,438(2006) -(mostly dwell on or near the coast)
- Climate: Tropical monsoon. (wet & dry season)
- Ethnic groups (2002): Melanesian 93%, Polynesian 4%, Micronesian 1.5%, other 1.5%.

Map of Solomon Islands



2. Socio-economic Situation

- Dual economy, (cash economy & subsistence economy).
- Both dependent on utilization of the natural resources creating strong inter-relationship between environment, economic development and society.
- The country's natural resources directly support the economic well-being/ livelihood of the village communities and the country's formal economy.
- Natural resources: Forests, fish, agricultural land, marine products, & gold.
- GDP (December 2007): \$270 million
- 85% of the country's population depend on subsistence economy thus, makes environment particularly important to the well-being of Solomon Islanders





3. Brief Background of Biofuel production in Solomon Islands

Background of Biofuel(Coconut Oil) production in SI



2009 Production is proving to be successful for rural communities maintaining constant supply and management remains the biggest challenge.

2007 massive earthquake/tsunami affected KPSI DME units infrasture and operations in Western/ Choiseul province

2006 KPSI installed 13 village-level virgin coconut oil (VCO) units in four Provinces & won gold medal from (APFED)

2004 . Est. of KPSI ltd that uses DME technique—uses VCO on tractors)

In 2002, the Government removed CEMA monopoly, deregulating the marketing of copra(13 new license exporters) . Solomon Tropical Products est. & operates Tinytech cold press mills.

In 1999, RIPEL and CEMA began to encounter serious cash flow problems.This was the result of a combination of factors. (civil unrest, major industrial dispute, fall in price)

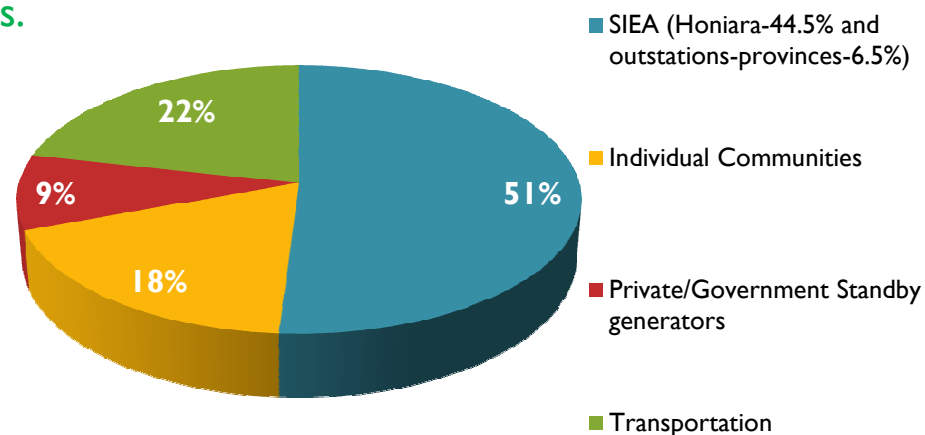
Mid 1990's the government took over Levers Plantation Limited (LPL) under a new company entity called Russell Islands Plantation Limited (RIPEL), and CEMA became a major shareholder in the new company.

1990s, the Commodities Export Marketing Authority (CEMA) est. crushing mills in 6 provinces

Energy Situation in Solomon Islands

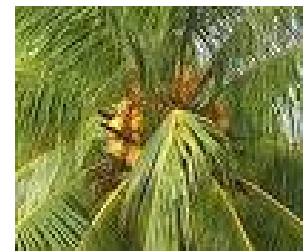
- >80% of popln lives in rural areas and have no access to electricity
- The landed price of fossil fuel is climbing up every year
- SI imports, on average, 4,150 kiloliters of fossil fuel in a month. Of this capacity, SIEA consumes 2,126 kilolitres per month, which is 51% of the total oil import. 6.5% of this is used by SIEA outstations in the provinces.
- Individual communities with stand-alone generators and other end uses kerosene for cooking and lightings have an average consumption of 390,000 L per month (this includes petrol, diesel and kerosene). This figure accounts for 18.4% of the total fuel import per month. The balance of more than 32.6% of the import per month is used for private commercial; standby generators; land, sea and air transport. From this, 9% is for private and government standby power generation. The other 21.6% is for transportation.

Fossil Fuel Usage%



Current Situation

- The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) is one of the participating PICs in the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) and one of the activities in its 2009 Work Plan and Budget is a – Bio-fuel Development and Expansion project.
- The SIG through the Energy Division of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, in its Policy statement has outlined that it would venture into developing and expanding the bio-fuel sector as an alternative to providing electricity to the population of the Solomon Islands .
- More than 80% of the popln lives in rural areas and have no access to electricity.
- Coconut Oil (CNO) is the bio-fuel that would be dealt with in this activity. The goal of the project is to establish that CNO is technically and economically viable to be used for power generation in the Solomon Islands (both in rural and urban areas).
- It is the SIG's Government's plan to look for alternative, cheaper and environmentally friendly form of fuel to be use as partial substitute for imported fossil fuel.
- A draft Biofuel policy Framework: Policies and strategies have been developed however it is yet to be finalised.





Draft Biofuel Policy

- **Environment and Climate Change**
 - Ensure that the production and utilization of biofuel has minimal adverse environmental impacts.
 - Ensure that no native forests or other natural ecosystems are cleared for biofuel crops, beyond those that have already been cleared for other purposes.
 - Ensure that production and use of biofuel has net neutral or positive impact on the reduction of national greenhouse gas emissions over the short and long term.
- **Agriculture, Land use and Food Security**
 - Ensure that 80% of the smallholder coconut farms and all commercial coconut plantations are rehabilitated.
 - Ensure that appropriate land-use and food security policies are in place with budgetary support for their implementation/cash crops such as coconuts do not displace other food crops when it comes to land allocation.
 - Ensure that research and development of CNO and other vegetable be funded by the state and private sector.
- **Legislation and Regulations**
 - Ensure that appropriate and effective legislations and regulations are in place.

4. Plans, Policy and Legislation related to Biofuel and Biodiversity



- **1. National Energy Policy Framework**
- -Sets out the Gov't policies for the planning and management of the energy sector over the next 10yrs.
- Has 9 strategic areas of which renewable energy, and environment are part of.
- Renewable energy –looks at optimal utilisation of renewable energy resources and promote the use of renewable resources.
- Environment-Preservation of a clean and well-maintained environment and ensures minimal negative impacts of energy production, distribution and consumption on the environment.
- **2. National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan for Solomon Islands**
- This document,- highlighting the extremely high biodiversity of SI & identifies some key threats and barriers to conserving biodiversity and focuses on actions to mitigate potential risks.
- **3. Coral Triangle Initiative**
- CTI is centred around high-level political commitments and proactive implementation by governments of the Coral Triangle area including : Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor-Leste, PNG and SI. Supported and carried forward by private sector, international agency and civil society (NGO) partners,
- the CTI could provide a major contribution toward safeguarding the region's marine and coastal biological resources for the sustainable growth and prosperity of current and future generations.



4. Policy and Legislation related to Biofuel and Biodiversity cont.....

- **3. Wild life protection and Management Act 1998**
 - An act to provide for the protection conservation and management of wildlife in Solomon Islands by regulating the export and import of certain animals and plants; to comply with the obligations imposed upon Solomon Islands under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".
- **4. Environment Act 1998**
 - The Act provides for an integrated system of development control, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and pollution control, including;
 - Prevention, control and monitoring of pollution, including regulating discharge of pollutants to air, water or land and reducing risks to human health, and prevention of degradation of the environment;
 - Complying with, and giving effect to, regional and international conventions and obligations relating to the environment.

5. Solomon Islands Experience



Challenges

- Effect of extreme events like earthquakes and Tsunami that may hamper infrastructure, operation and transport.
- Political instability, poor governance (corruption) and civil unrest affect infrastructure, transport and exports.
- Remoteness/isolation of Islands, lack of adequate infrastructure (e.g. wharf)
- Limited road and sea transport.
- Mismanagement.
- Lack of relevant legislation/regulation for specifically for Biofuels.
- Not enough awareness on the use and benefits of bio-fuels
- There is very little planting of new coconut, most existed ones are over 20yrs old production seems to decline.
- There is very little on-going assistance provided to coconut farmers. No assistance is provided to encourage new plantings/other developments
- Major problems affecting coconut industry is low level of income derived from making copra (fluctuating market price), The time and activities involved in making copra are quite demanding and this discourages a lot farmers, especially the young.



6. Way forward



- Have the Biofuel policy Framework: Policies and Strategies endorsed.
- Develop and establish a legislation that only a Biofuel of certain standard and certified by SIG recognised institution can be considered as the accepted Biofuel for SI.
- Equip The Energy division and related stakeholders with appropriate and up-date equipments/tools for enhancement of Biofuel development and enhancement programme. (secure funding)
- Increase awareness on the production, use and benefits of bio-fuels.
- Secure financial and technical assistance in setting up and managing any Biofuel infrastructures for development of Biofuel.
- The development of strategic partnership between government , private sectors, NGO'S and donors must exist in researching, developing, promoting and supporting the provision of bio-fuel generating electricity in rural areas
- Ensure that all new Biofuel development proposal have to undergo EIA and existed ones monitored by relevant authority. Ensure that no native forests or other natural ecosystems are cleared for Biofuel crops





**Thank you for your
Attention and
Patience**

