



# **Community Rights and Biodiversity Conservation**



# Challenges SI communities face practicing TK to conserve biodiversity

- Unsustainable harvest of Mangroves threatens vital marine resources
- Traditional Governance needed strengthening and more recognition from the government.
- Sea level rise – climate change

Mangrove wood harvest for firewood, Sulufou. (NIPS 2015)





# cont

- Economic demands, Education, cost of living
- Quick rotation of land in subsistence farming.
- the transition from a subsistence to a market economy has led to chronic over-fishing on the reefs
- Rapid increase in population
- Protected Areas Act does not address indigenous peoples rights at all
- Minister has the power to declare the erection of dams and bridges and diversion of water pipes



# Positive engagement

No logging activities on the main land of Maloa, no road access, landowning tribe (Etagwasu & Maloa) could not consent and are suspicious about any new development on their land

Hageulu collective decision not to allow logging and nickel mining prospecting in the land

CCRI committees are established in the communities

Elders in the communities promote Traditional knowledge and practices and passing knowledge to the younger generation and

Sea weed farming



Sulufou Community leader, preparing seaweed for farming (NIPS 2015)



# cont

- Chiefs and elders promote communal work
- Some customary laws are accepted by the state eg, The fisheries Act recognizes customary usage of marine resources
- Land Act also recognizes customary practices including spoken histories



# National engagement and collaboration

## Traditional knowledge & Cultural Expressions Bill 2014

### Objectives of the Bill

- To provide a legal framework that establishes the creation, protection and recognised of rights in Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture;
- To provide a framework for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage; and
- To provide a framework for the regulation, administration, management and enforcement of Traditional rights in Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture.

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- To provide a framework for Benefit sharing of Resources under the domain of TK. The TKEC Bill of Solomon Islands was formulated in 2014
- The Bill has gone through series of nationwide consultation in 2015, 2016 & 2017.
- Currently the Bill is with the AG's Chamber for further deliberation before it can be table in the National Parliament of Solomon Islands this year 2018.

# SICBDTN

- Solomon Islands CBD Trainers Network established after a national CBD workshop. (facilitated by NIPS)
- An association of Local community groups, Govt ministry reps, Fisheries, Environment and Climate Change, CSO, Local NGOs, community representatives, women representative.
- Aims to work closely with the national CBD focal point and other stakeholders to facilitate a national process and monitor the government on the implementation of the NBSAP and hold the govt accountable for not implementing the NBSAP
- To ensure the inclusion of IPLCs in the 6<sup>th</sup> National report



# Engagement and collaboration at the Pacific Region for CBD post 2020

(1)SPREP - South Pacific Regional Environment Program

Regional organization established by the governments and administration of the Pacific region to look after its environment.

Mandated to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generation

-Membership of 21 Pacific island countries and territories.

(2) PIANGO – Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations

- Membership of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories including NIPS which has just joined.

- established to assist NGOs in the Pacific to initiate action, give voice to their concerns and work collaborately with other development actors for just and sustainable human development.

(3)Regional CBD meeting recently held in May

Was a platform for all stakeholders including IPLCs to engage and share experiences, case studies.

# Recommendations and way forward for the Pacific Region on CBD

- Data collection
- Importance of FPIC before documenting case studies
- The inclusion of IPLCs in national CBD processes, NBSAP
- Encourage community protocols and legitimize community protocols
- Future collaboration within the Pacific Region for CBD 2050
- Also the Pacific Region is looking to emphasis more in marine biodiversity but not giving less concern on the Land and Sea biodiversity



# TAGIO TUMAS!

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