



# Sustainability Matters

*Driving Growth and Resilience in Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal and Central Provinces' Tourism Sector*

OCTOBER 2025





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IFC works with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) on the Accessing Land for Tourism Investment Facilitation (ALTIF) project, part of MCC's 2022–2026 Solomon Islands Threshold Program, that builds on the foundational work in Western Province conducted by IFC between 2017 and 2021. This partnership aims to facilitate private sector investment in tourism in the country, create jobs, and boost the local economy.



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**Citation:** International Finance Corporation. 2025. Sustainability Matters: Driving Growth and Resilience in Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal and Central Provinces' Tourism Sector. International Finance Corporation, Washington, D.C., USA.

# Acknowledgments

This report was produced by IFC's ESG Advisory Program led by Kate Lazarus, Senior ESG Advisory Lead; Eva Rossi, Senior ESG Upstream Lead and Sophia Tamot, Sustainability Specialist from the ESG Sustainability Advice & Solutions (CEG) Department, with oversight from Justin Pooley, ESG Manager, CEG Department.

This Environmental and Social Diagnostic Study of Tourism in Guadalcanal and Central Provinces (ESDS) received funding support and collaboration from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), under the Accessing Land for Tourism Investment Facilitation (ALTIF) project led by Tourism Specialist Becky Last, with support from Shihab Ansari Azhar and Eldine Devesi. Special recognition goes to our consultant company GHD for conducting the study and providing its valuable research contributions and subject matter expertise. Special thanks goes to Sophia Tamot for coordinating the project, Eldine Devesi for on-the-ground support and coordination as well as team members, including Smiley Giobauta, Felicity O'Neill and Upasana Pradhan Shrestha for their support. The team thanks all stakeholders and participants who were interviewed and took part in the focus group consultations in Solomon Islands. The team expresses gratitude to the peer reviewers, including Guy Dutson, Becky Last, Ellen Maynes, Sameer Singh, and MCC for their invaluable insights. We also thank our editor, Simon Drought and our designer, Karmen Karamanian of red k. Strategy & Design.



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# Abbreviations and acronyms

Term	Definition
<b>ALTIF</b>	Accessing Land for Tourism Investment Facilitation
<b>CBRM</b>	Community-Based Resource Management
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 2019
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>ERW</b>	Explosive Remnants of War
<b>E&amp;S</b>	Environmental and Social
<b>ESG</b>	Environmental, Social and Governance
<b>ESDS</b>	Environmental and Social Diagnostic Study
<b>ESIA</b>	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GBVH</b>	Gender-based violence and harassment
<b>GFDRR</b>	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
<b>GIIP</b>	Good International Industry Practice
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation
<b>IFC PS</b>	IFC Performance Standards
<b>IWDA</b>	International Women's Development Agency

Term	Definition
<b>Km</b>	Kilometer
<b>LMMA</b>	Locally Managed Marine Area
<b>MCC</b>	Millennium Challenge Corporation
<b>MCT</b>	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
<b>MMA</b>	Marine Management Area
<b>MOFR</b>	Ministry of Forestry and Research
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>PS</b>	Performance Standards
<b>SEAH</b>	Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
<b>SIG</b>	Solomon Islands Government
<b>SINSO</b>	Solomon Islands National Statistics Office
<b>SITHP</b>	Solomon Islands Threshold Program
<b>SPREP</b>	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
<b>SUMA</b>	Special and/or Unique Marine Area
<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded Ordnance
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund
<b>WWII</b>	World War II (two)

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# Executive Summary

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE ESDS

The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) has recognized that tourism offers a pathway for broad-based economic growth, industry diversification, and inclusive development. The SIG, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Accessing Land for Tourism Investment Facilitation (ALTIF) project, together with the private sector and development partners, is promoting a coordinated approach to strengthening tourism investment in Solomon Islands.

The ALTIF project sits under the MCC's Solomon Islands Threshold Program (SITHP). The provinces of Guadalcanal and Central have been identified as the highest-potential regions after Western Province for expansion of tourism investment. This selection is based on their existing tourism infrastructure and upward trends in visitor numbers, coupled with community support and the appeal of their respective tourism assets, such as natural and cultural features.

Whilst there are clear opportunities for tourism to act as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth, strategic tourism sector documents recognize barriers to attracting and sustaining investment for tourism in Solomon Islands.

As such, International Finance Corporation (IFC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) and two on-the-ground partners, DT Global and Tetra Tech, is delivering the ALTIF project from January 2022 to January 2026 to enhance the enabling environment and address key sectoral, systemic, and market challenges to facilitate private sector investment in tourism.

This Environmental and Social Diagnostic Study (ESDS), as one of the actions under the broader ALTIF project, was prepared to undertake a landscape-level assessment of the environmental and social (E&S) and natural hazard risks associated with potential tourism development across the study corridor and sites identified as having high potential for tourism.

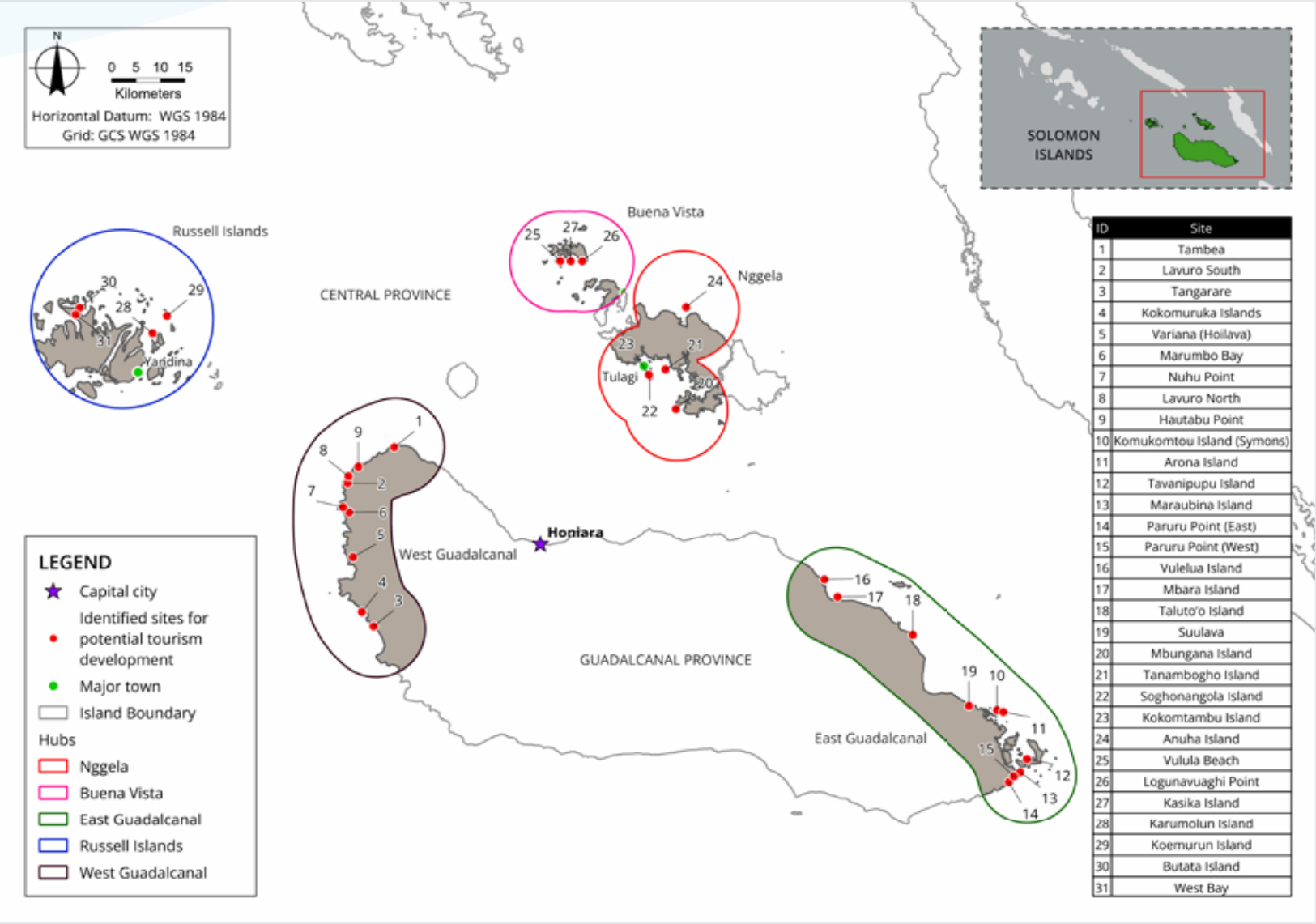
The purpose of this ESDS is to inform key stakeholders of the landscape-level E&S and natural hazard risks and opportunities for tourism development across the study corridor and the 31 individual sites identified in Guadalcanal and Central provinces.<sup>1</sup> The focus areas of this study were the West and East Guadalcanal regions, Nggela Islands, Buena Vista Islands, and Russell Islands.

<sup>1</sup> The 31 sites were shortlisted through the ALTIF project following detailed analysis of each site's land tenure, access and tourism potential. See Section 1.1 of the main ESDS report Sustainability Matters: Driving Growth and Resilience in Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal and Central Provinces' Tourism Sector for further details.



*Solomon Islands. @Tourism Solomons*

Map 1: Overview of the study corridor and identified potential tourism sites in Guadalcanal and Central Provinces, Solomon Islands



## STUDY USE AND METHODOLOGY

This ESDS report provides guidance for the SIG, at both national and provincial levels, to enhance the investment environment and support the growth of tourism as an industry. The ESDS is also a resource for stakeholders – including donors, business groups, non-government organizations (NGOs) and communities – to identify constraints and opportunities, and to consider recommendations for inclusive and sustainable tourism development that maximizes benefits for local communities.

Developers and investors can also use this study to plan tourism development projects, activities or establishments by referring to the identified individual site risks, along with the broader risks and opportunities at contextual and corridor levels. The study sheds light on key business considerations, including access to land and natural resources. It also explains the social and cultural context of operating a tourism business in Central or Guadalcanal Province. This will allow potential investors to plan the scale and nature of their proposed business and where this fits within the broader tourism market.

The following key steps were taken to develop this ESDS:

- **Desktop review of existing information and Geographic Information System (GIS) data:**

The review examined information on the general environmental and social (E&S) conditions in the study corridor within the Guadalcanal and Central Provinces and nationally, including the country's legal and political framework. This included gathering available GIS data, previous environmental and ecological assessments and social research and reporting.

- **Inception plan:** Information gaps were identified to inform the approach to research, site assessments and stakeholder consultations.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Following the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan that identified key informants for the study, targeted consultations were undertaken to understand the opportunities and risks for tourism development in Solomon Islands, particularly the study corridor.
- **Site visits:** Visits to each identified site were conducted to collect primary E&S data through walk-over field assessments and consultations with community members.
- **Analysis of findings:** A review of all data was undertaken to consider both the opportunities and risks of tourism development in the study corridor and at each site within the national context.
- **Risk assessment:** This assessment characterized the key E&S and natural hazard risks and developed measurement criteria for each aspect. Measurement of mapped and collected data against the relevant risk assessment criteria produced ratings ("high", "moderate" or "low") for areas along the corridor and for each of the 31 identified sites.
- **Recommended actions:** Actions for both the SIG and potential tourism investors/developers are provided at contextual and corridor levels, considering both the risks and opportunities to realize development of sustainable tourism.

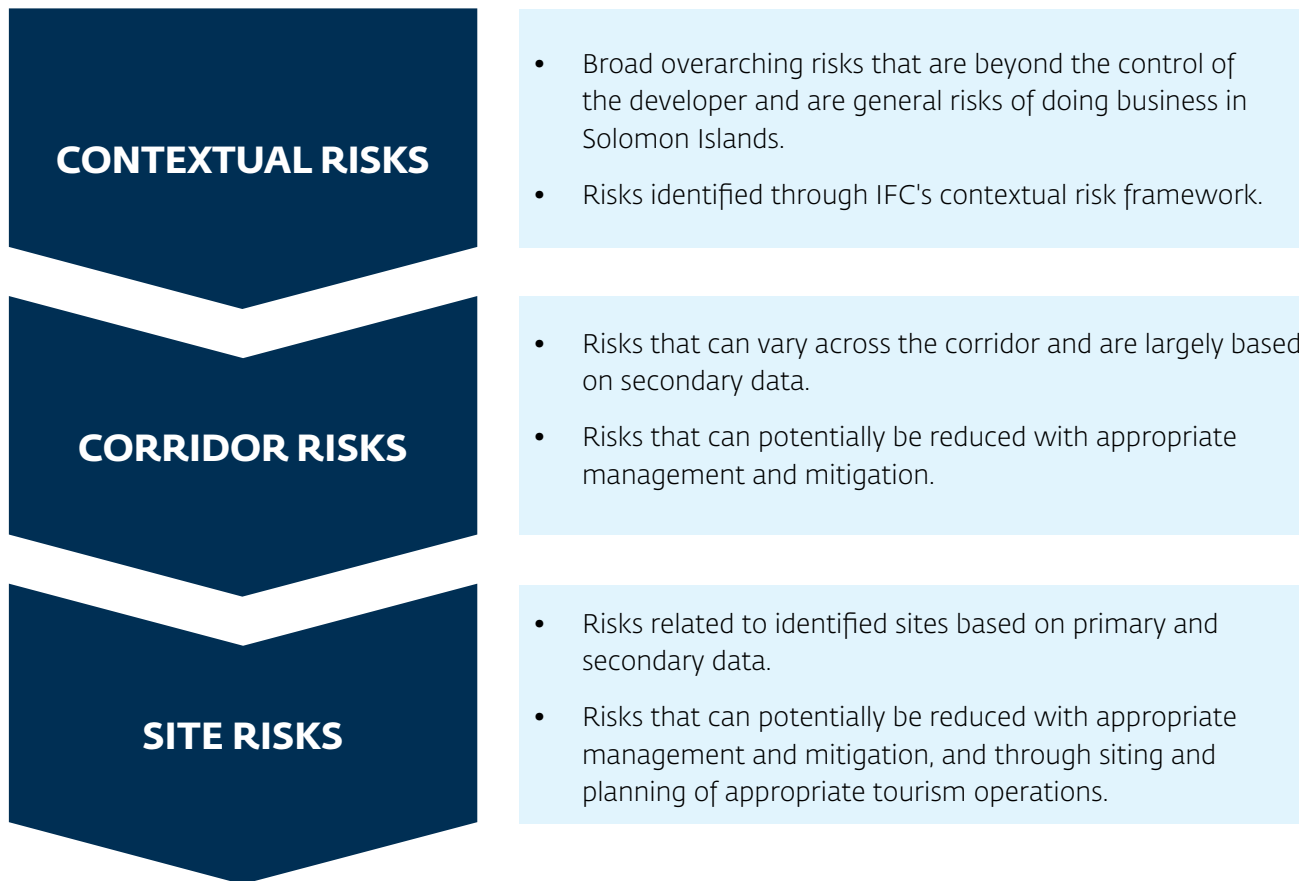


*Solomon Islands. ©World Bank/EAP*

## RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The risk assessment was undertaken at three levels as shown in Figure 1, with the risk assessment methodology guided by IFC's Environmental and Social Performance Standards (IFC PS).

**Figure 1: Risk Assessment Methodology Framework**



### Contextual risks

Contextual risks refer to those in the external environment (at country, sector, or subnational levels) that an investor does not control, but which could negatively impact a project or private sector entity's ability to meet IFC's PS. The study team used IFC's Contextual Risk Framework to assess each country-level risk in relation to the tourism sector. Data pertinent to contextual risks was collected and validated during stakeholder consultations and site visits.

### Corridor risks

Corridor risks relate to E&S and natural hazard risks that occur across the study corridor. Measurement of corridor-level risks was primarily based on national and provincial data with information supplemented by findings during the field assessments. Risks were categorized based on environmental, social and natural hazard indicators and where possible, mapped spatially using GIS to present "low", "moderate" and "high" ratings.

### Site risks

Potential E&S and natural hazard risks were identified through stakeholder consultations and field surveys, supplemented by secondary data. Site risks were assessed through a multi-criteria analysis, based on qualitative and semi-quantitative data. A linear scale of 1–10 was utilized to categorize the risks into "low", "moderate" and "high" ratings (1–3 low risk, 4–6 moderate risk, 7–10 high risk).

## BASELINE DATA

Baseline data is presented for Solomon Islands and the study corridor. Given the geographic spread of the corridor, some data is presented according to hubs within the corridor, namely West Guadalcanal, East Guadalcanal, Nggela, Buena Vista and Russell Islands. The following sub-section provides a summary of the baseline data that reflects the current situation in relation to tourism opportunities and risks.

### Tourism in Guadalcanal and Central Provinces

While the tourism industry is in its infancy nationally, it presents significant opportunities particularly through nature-based experiences that harness the unique biodiversity of Solomon Islands. Both Guadalcanal and Central Provinces offer highly sought-after tourism experiences. The culture of Solomon Islands is also a rich asset that can be showcased to visitors, with benefits flowing to communities promoting traditional art, music, food, and warm hospitality.

In Central Province, key attractions include historical sites and unique diving attractions, including famous WWII wrecks, reef dives, pinnacles and drop-offs. The island of Tulagi also has a rich history and heritage with its previous status as the capital of the British Protectorate from 1896–1942.

The West Guadalcanal region is rich in historical and cultural sites and has strong potential for marine activities, such as scuba diving to view its diverse marine life, and famous WWII wreck-diving sites at Iron Bottom Sound to explore.

East Guadalcanal is known for its turquoise waters, scenic islands and coastal areas. However, there are accessibility challenges for East Guadalcanal, with a land dispute over the customary land portion of Marau Airport resulting in the suspension of flights since January 2022.<sup>2</sup> It was reported during consultations that the disputing parties have signed a memorandum of understanding to resolve the issue, with the SIG highlighting the integral benefits of this infrastructure to the broader community. It is expected to re-open sometime in 2024.

One key issue raised during stakeholder consultations was limited government funding for the tourism sector in Solomon Islands compared to similar Pacific Island destinations. This places a constraint on the development of a unified and cohesive vision with the appropriate resources for implementation.

### Political context and legal framework

While Solomon Islands has coherent government structures, legislation and law enforcement, customary ways of life continue to play a significant role in various sectors in the country, particularly in terms of land tenure, ownership and utilization of land and natural resources.

The SIG has gazetted and implemented various policies, legislation, and strategies relevant to tourism development, as outlined in Appendix B of the main ESDS report Sustainability Matters: Driving Growth and Resilience

in Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal and Central Provinces' Tourism Sector. However, the country faces several challenges pertaining to land tenure, administration and ownership, with varying perceptions of land title legitimacy fueling disputes over some sites. The Constitution states that customary land ownership should take precedence over commercial-related transactions, with these rights protecting tribes, local communities and families. This presents a challenge to the SIG and potential tourism investors. To address this development challenge, ongoing customary land registration and accessible disclosure of land title status to interested parties is recommended, along with dispute management mechanisms to strengthen investor confidence.

Further risks in the legislative environment include the following:

- The Labour Act contains restrictive employment clauses relating to women working in the evenings and allows employment of children aged 12 years.
- Gaps in provisions for equal pay for equal work by women and people with disabilities.
- Opaque definitions and limited grievance mechanisms to address sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) and limited reporting and monitoring of incidents within workplaces.

<sup>2</sup> See Section 3.2.2.1 of the main ESDS report Sustainability Matters: Driving Growth and Resilience in Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal and Central Provinces' Tourism Sector for further details of a land dispute between local landowners and the airport trustee. See article at: <https://sbm.sb/airlines-suspends-services-between-honiara-marau-due-to-land-dispute/>

## Natural hazards and climate change

With its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and within the cyclone belt, Solomon Islands is highly prone to natural disasters. Under the World Risk Index, it is considered the second most at-risk country globally based on its high exposure to natural hazards and relatively low coping capacity (UNDRR, 2023).

Between 1940–2020, a total of 36 significant disasters have impacted Solomon Islands, with the greatest proportion of losses linked to storm and flood events from extreme weather or cyclones. Tropical cyclones bringing destructive winds and intense rainfall occur on average up to twice a year in Solomon Islands.

Climate change is likely to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities to natural hazards and create further challenges for economic development and social well-being. Solomon Islands is known as one of the countries with the greatest exposure and vulnerability to climate change (GFDL, 2018). Sea level rises are a major concern given the number of communities living on coastal or low-lying areas, with 65 percent of people living within a kilometer of the coast (Australia Pacific Climate Partnership, 2021). Ocean acidification is predicted to continue because of climate change, with coral bleaching events forecast to increase (World Bank, 2021).

## Unexploded ordnance

The Pacific War became a major theatre of WWII that covered a large portion of the Pacific Ocean, particularly Solomon Islands. With the outbreak of WWII hostilities

in Solomon Islands between Allied and Japanese forces, both sides established military bases and logistical hubs throughout the region. Several such sites were either lost or changed hands during fierce battles.

This action plagued the region with explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO) that failed to function as designed, or abandoned explosive ordnance left behind or dumped by one of the parties to the armed conflict. The ESDS highlights areas of significant risk, particularly in the northwest area of Guadalcanal and in Central Province, particularly the Nggela corridor, Tulagi harbor, Tanamboghu Island and the Russell Islands.

## Environment and biodiversity characteristics

Solomon Islands, an archipelago located in the southwest Pacific, consists of volcanic and smaller coral islands. Guadalcanal Province is a volcanic island with mountainous areas located on the northern side of the San Cristobal Trench. Central Province comprises Russell Islands, Nggela Islands (Nggela Sule, Nggela Pile, Sandfly), Buena Vista Island and Savo Island. Solomon Islands has a hot and humid tropical monsoon climate with significant and widespread rainfall.

Solomon Islands has globally significant biological diversity and endemism, which is a significant drawcard for tourists. However, its rich marine and terrestrial biodiversity is under pressure from anthropogenic disturbances, such as overexploitation, habitat destruction, invasive species, poor waste and sanitation management and climate change.

Identified ecological value within the study corridor includes:

- **Key Biodiversity Areas:** Areas of international conservation importance, including sites on Guadalcanal Island, West Pavuvu and Nggela Islands.
- **Terrestrial Protected Areas:** Komarindi conservation area is a government-managed protected zone within 50km of the study corridor in West Guadalcanal.
- **Managed Marine Areas (MMA) and Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA):** There are 10 MMAs and seven LMMAs in the East Guadalcanal Hub, 10 LMMAs in West Guadalcanal Hub, nine LMMAs in Russell Islands, two MMAs and five LMMAs in Buena Vista Hub (incorporating Buena Vista and Sandfly), and one MMA and seven LMMAs in the Nggela Hub.
- **Terrestrial Ecology:** Forest cover in Solomon Islands spans a range of vegetation communities from mangrove and coastal forest to lowland forest, hill forest and montane cloud forest communities (MEHRD, 2008). Flora and fauna biodiversity is high, with many endemic species (WWF, 2005).
- **Aquatic Ecology:** Across the study corridor, streams and rivers flow from the higher points of the islands to the coast and provide freshwater ecosystems for fish and crustaceans. Aquatic ecological values are under significant threat from uncontrolled siltation from anthropogenic activity (SPREP, 2019).

- **Marine Ecology:** Solomon Islands is part of the Coral Triangle, a marine area in the western Pacific Ocean that hosts more than 2,000 species of reef fish and six of the seven marine turtle species. The Coral Triangle is known as the center of the world's marine biodiversity (WWF, 2024). Special and/or Unique Marine Areas (SUMA) within the corridor include the West Guadalcanal Marine Area, Marau Sound, Russell Islands, and the area between Russell Islands and Guadalcanal Province. Green, hawksbill, leatherback and loggerhead turtles are known to occur within the corridor, with nesting sites identified. Rich coral reefs border the Western Guadalcanal Hub. The Eastern Guadalcanal Hub has a high density of key environments for habitat and biodiversity. Nggela Islands has extensive lagoon and reef systems amongst raised coral atoll islands to the north. Russell Islands is also an area with high biodiversity value.
- One important aquatic consideration is the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), which is known to occur in the study corridor. This is both an environmental, health and safety-related issue, as crocodiles are a protected species, but human-crocodile interactions are a risk to both local communities and tourism operations. In Guadalcanal, it is estimated that up to 37 sub-adult crocodiles and 25 adults are present within the study corridor, with around 165 sub-adult crocodiles and 92 adults within the Central Province study corridor.

## **Socio-economic characteristics**

### ***Population demographics***

At the time of the 2019 Census, the population of Guadalcanal Province was 154,150 people (males - 51 percent and females - 49 percent), with a population density of 29 people per square kilometer. In Central Province, the population was 30,326 (females - 51 percent and males - 49 percent). The median age for both provinces was 21 years. Eleven percent of the national population who is five years and over, is recorded as having at least one form of functional disability (SINSO, 2023).

Across Solomon Islands, Christianity is the main religious faith, and more than 95 percent of the population in both provinces is of Melanesian descent. Other ethnic groups include Polynesians, Micronesians, Chinese and Europeans, with small populations in both provinces. The majority (90-95 percent) of the population in Guadalcanal and Central Provinces is Indigenous to the area. The larger settler communities in the Guadalcanal Province are located near northwest Guadalcanal Province and Marau Sound, while the larger settler communities of Central Province reside in Yandina (SINSO, 2023).

### ***Gender equality, and disability inclusion***

Solomon Islands is traditionally a patriarchal society, with decision-making processes and leadership roles typically considered the responsibility of men. Even in matrilineal parts of Solomon Islands where women hold the rights to land, women can be excluded from decision making and primarily

considered to be responsible for domestic and caregiving roles. This is gradually changing with the introduction of the cash economy<sup>3</sup> and improved access to education.

Gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH) remains a significant risk for women in Solomon Islands, with 64 percent of women reporting abuse at the hands of a partner or family member (IWDA, 2018). GBVH is correlated to industries that attract migrant workforces, particularly the logging industry (U.S. Department of State, 2023). Consultations highlighted that SEAH is also linked to logging activities in or near communities.

According to 2019 Census data, literacy rates for men and women, although still disproportionate, are not vastly different. In Guadalcanal Province, 80 percent of women are literate compared to 82 percent of males. In Central Province, 81 and 85 percent of females and males, respectively are literate.

Women continue to encounter gender-based disparities and inequality in society, impacting their ability to participate equally in various aspects of life. Women actively participate in political, civil, economic, and church activities. However, they remain marginalized in decision-making processes (Equal Rights Trust, 2019) and are poorly represented in leadership roles. National legislation also limits women's participation in the labor force, with the Labour Act prohibiting women from working at nighttime except in management or hospitality sectors. Although tourism operators are likely to qualify for this

<sup>3</sup> Cash economy in this context is the movement from home-based duties to small businesses such as gardening, market stalls or in some cases paid employment opportunities through formal or informal sectors. The growth in these opportunities provides women with more access to financial security.

exemption, this may not cover businesses within the supply chain. The risk of GBVH may be heightened at night when women travel to and from work.

People with disabilities also face additional barriers to equal participation in society. Discrimination against people with disability in Solomon Islands starts prior to people reaching working age, occurring as early as primary school. Data collected by UNICEF shows that only 2 percent of children with a disability attend primary school, which limits opportunities later in life (Gwao, 2022). Accessing the workplace is also challenging. Analysis conducted by the economic development program Strongim Bisnis<sup>4</sup> identified that the main barriers affecting people living with disabilities in Solomon Islands were levels of basic skills, mobility and stigma depending on the level and type of disability, communication capacity, and undeveloped social skills (Gwao, 2022). Physical barriers to participation are compounded by attitudinal barriers, with stigma an obstacle to workplace inclusion (CARE, 2020). There is no specific legislation that protects the rights of people with disabilities from workplace exclusion and discrimination, although there has been progress on the policy front with the launch of the National Disability Inclusiveness Development Policy 2022–2031, which sets a vision for equal participation in the country's development.

### ***Infrastructure and services***

In Guadalcanal, sites close to Honiara have access to infrastructure, however, this is limited in more remote and isolated areas. The two commercial airports in the Guadalcanal Province are Honiara International Airport and Marau Airport, with the latter currently closed due to a dispute over customary land on-site.

Honiara has good road connections to nearby settlements, but conditions are poor in many parts of West Guadalcanal. Accessibility is particularly an issue for the East Guadalcanal Hub, with sites only accessible by boat until Marau Airport reopens.

Outside of Honiara, access to grid electricity is minimal, with communities relying on solar, generators, and firewood. Rural communities use rainwater, groundwater wells and springs as their primary sources of water, while only 32 percent of households in Guadalcanal Province have access to improved sanitation. There are no formalized waste collection services or sanitary landfills in the study corridor, with communities burning and burying waste at community designated areas.

There are 40 health facilities in Guadalcanal Province outside of Honiara, the majority of which are nurse aid posts and rural health clinics which provide basic clinical services and essential trauma care, but are intermittently staffed and lack basic supplies and equipment.

A national survey of health facilities indicated that most of these facilities operated without proper water and sanitation, electricity and basic medical equipment. A serious shortage of clinical equipment and medical supplies, and the use of old and poorly maintained equipment was noted in the last comprehensive study of rural health facilities (WHO, 2015). This situation appears to remain acute with clinics reportedly in urgent need of upgrades, repair or renovation (Short, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic added further strain on the country's fragile health system, with approximately 26,000 recorded cases of coronavirus disease and 199 deaths recorded to date (Worldometer, 2024).

Many areas in Central Province are remote and isolated with limited infrastructure. There are no commercial airports, and road networks are limited. Boats are the major source of transportation. Rainwater, wells, and springs serve as primary water sources, and electricity is limited. Only 9 percent of the population has improved sanitation systems. There are no sanitary landfills or proper waste management systems in the area. There are 22 health facilities in the province, 17 of which are nurse aid posts and rural health clinics, and four are area health clinics. There is one provincial hospital in Tulagi. The facilities encounter similar challenges regarding infrastructure conditions and medical supplies as those highlighted in the national survey.

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<sup>4</sup> Strongim Bisnis is an initiative funded by the Australian Government, partnering with SIG and the private sector to empower sustainable business growth. <https://www.strongimbisnis.com.sb/>

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

The assessment findings are presented at contextual, corridor and site levels. Along with documenting risks, it is also important to consider the opportunities that tourism can present for inclusive economic development.

## CONTEXTUAL LEVEL RISKS

Detailed information on contextual risk<sup>5</sup> is presented in Section 4.1 of the main report, with key risks depicted in Figure 2. The red shaded boxes depict high risks, and yellow boxes highlight moderate risk. For Food Security and Health, this risk was rated moderate in the 2021 ESDS report<sup>6</sup>, but is now assessed as high risk in Solomon Islands. Conversely, the 2021 study rated Reprisals as high risk, but is now assessed as moderate risk.

Figure 2: Overview of contextual risks



<sup>5</sup> Contextual risks, from a private sector perspective, are defined as risks in the external environment (at a country, sector, or sub-national level) that a project developer does not control, but which could negatively impact a project's or the private sector's ability to meet IFC's E&S requirements.

<sup>6</sup> The 2021 ESDS covered Western Province in Solomon Islands, with the same methodology and framework applied to this ESDS for Guadalcanal and Central Provinces.

### **Workplace Exclusion and Discrimination (high risk).**

Workplace exclusion and discrimination can lead to social unrest and undermine economic growth for all. Inequalities in Solomon Islands are rooted in histories and traditions, with the traditional *wantok* system of community kinship creating cultural strength in some respects, but also emphasizing and exacerbating differences. Gender discrimination is widespread, impacting women's ability to participate equally in various aspects of life, particularly in leadership and decision-making processes. People who experience disability in Solomon Islands regularly experience exclusion and discrimination based on their disability. The tourism industry is not immune from this risk, but offers potential to provide opportunities to address workplace discrimination through inclusive employment and supply chain policies and practices.

### **Deforestation and Other Threats to Natural Resources (high risk).**

Some 78 percent of land in Solomon Islands is covered by forests providing a drawcard to tourists. Unsustainable commercial logging and illegal logging can negatively impact the visitor experience and erode the reputation or image of Solomon Islands as a destination. Unsustainable commercial logging is the primary driver of deforestation in Solomon Islands. Deforestation has far-reaching consequences, affecting both biodiversity and the well-being of rural communities.

### **Government Capacity in Protected Area Management (high risk).**

As a country with diverse and abundant natural resources, management of conservation outcomes is particularly challenging amidst rapid industrial practices, such

as logging and industrial fishing. Balancing environmental protection with pressure for economic development is identified in key SIG policies seeking to improve sustainability of resource management and protected area management. However, resourcing and capacity constraints are a significant challenge. Tourism investors and operators can potentially play a role in addressing this risk, leveraging the natural features of a protected or locally-managed area, and collaborating with the SIG and communities to strengthen efforts to conserve natural assets.

**Food Security and Health (high risk).** The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that one-in-10 Solomon Islanders are undernourished, and 12.7 percent of the population live below the poverty line (FAO, 2021). Malnutrition and obesity are serious issues, with food scarcity and unbalanced diets linked to underlying poverty and urbanization. Although tourism could potentially increase local demand for produce, it could also reduce food availability or affordability for local communities through preferential supply of goods such as vegetables, fruit and fish to tourism operators.

**Reprisals Risk (medium risk).** Reprisals are considered any act of retaliation by an individual or group. Solomon Islands has a history of reprisals, including throughout the "Tensions" that led to widespread civil unrest in the 1990s. During consultations, stakeholders and community members emphasized that ongoing and genuine engagement with local communities was critical to reducing the risk of reprisals.

**Labor Policies (medium risk).** Children as young as 12

years old can legally enter into formal employment in Solomon Islands, and in some informal industries it is even younger. This poses a risk for tourism investors who may, either directly or indirectly, utilize child labor as part of their operation or supply chain. Solomon Islands has occupational health and safety legislation, which outlines requirements for keeping people safe at work.

### **Access to Basic Infrastructure and Services (medium risk).**

Most people across Solomon Islands face limited access to basic services and infrastructure, particularly those living in rural areas and people with additional needs, such as people with disabilities. Limited services and infrastructure present challenges for tourism operators, potentially increasing upfront development costs or safety risks for guests required to travel by boat to Honiara for evacuation or to access medical care. Although tourism could increase pressure on infrastructure, development of the sector could potentially drive demand for improvements in power, internet, waste, sanitation, water utilities, hospitals, and airports.

**Rural-Urban Disparities (medium risk).** People living in rural areas of Solomon Islands experience disparities compared to those in urban areas, including access to infrastructure, employment, education, and housing. The tourism sector provides an opportunity to deliver benefits to rural communities, as tourism sites are more likely to be developed in areas outside of urban centers, creating opportunities for employment, business development, and training.

**Gender and Social Inclusion (medium risk).** Gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH) is a common

issue experienced by women in Solomon Islands. Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) also remain a prevalent issue, with women and children living in rural areas particularly vulnerable. Whilst tourism provides workplace opportunities for women, gender equity is not always reflected in leadership positions. Marginalized groups, including people living with disability, are often excluded from participation in work and social engagement. Tourism enterprises can provide increased opportunities for women and people living with disabilities through employment and procurement practices, and through inclusive design principles.

**Illegal Hunting and Wildlife Trade (medium risk).** The global wildlife trade targets rare species. With the high level of endemism in Solomon Islands, this increases the risk of illegal hunting and trade. Hunting of some species is illegal in Solomon Islands, but inadequate protection and under-resourcing of compliance and monitoring activities hinders efforts to protect wildlife from over-exploitation. Wildlife hunting can create impacts for tourism operators, particularly those offering nature-based experiences, such as diving and snorkeling. Declines in species diversity and abundance reduces the quality of the tourism experience and can erode the reputation of a country in the eyes of visitors who place a high value on wildlife. Tourism can provide economic benefits for nature conservation, with activities focused on wildlife – such as bird watching or turtle tours – providing incentives to protect species.

## CORRIDOR RISKS

The interpretation of corridor data by level of risk (“low”, “moderate” and “high”), indicates both challenges and opportunities. For example, a healthy coral reef system that provides important habitat for biodiversity must be protected from the human impacts of tourism development. A higher risk rating informs a developer or investor of the need to consider ways to protect the reef system from harm. However, the reef ecosystem also presents an opportunity not only as a tourism drawcard, but as a way to enhance conservation outcomes through increasing livelihood opportunities such as reef tourism based on protecting, enhancing and showcasing natural values. Creating alternative incomes through tourism can present an incentive to cease more destructive practices such as overfishing or live coral exports. Corridor-level risk ratings must, therefore, be interpreted as flagged issues rather than ‘no-go’ development zones.

### Environmental risks

#### *Terrestrial biodiversity*

Low-risk areas are locations with modified habitats that have low biodiversity and limited ecological value, including urban and village, cultivated or monoculture sites (for example, oil palm and copra plantations or plantation forestry blocks). The Russell Islands Hub, Buena Vista Hub, and the northern end of the East Guadalcanal Hub were mapped as low risk for terrestrial environment indicators.

Moderate-risk terrestrial areas are associated with previously logged areas away from the coast, larger offshore islands with some level of occupation and resource use exhibiting

a moderate to high level of environmental condition and integrity. This means that environmental indicators, such as water quality and terrestrial biodiversity, are in reasonable condition as logging generally has been historical (more than 10 years in the past). Forests have been allowed to regenerate without further interference. These areas may provide key resources and habitat to threatened species and provide important ecosystem services. The West Guadalcanal Hub, Nggela Hub, and the southern end of the East Guadalcanal Hub were mapped as moderate risk for terrestrial environment indicators.

High-risk terrestrial areas are those with high ecological values, such as important ecosystems or habitat, which require sustainable natural resource management or protection. No corridor areas were assessed as high risk for terrestrial biodiversity.

Low- to moderate-risk sites present an opportunity for tourism development to co-exist with existing land uses. This can also result in enhanced terrestrial biodiversity outcomes through preserving, enhancing or creating habitats and working with communities to address risks, such as invasive species.

#### *Marine biodiversity*

The vast majority of low-risk marine areas included within the study corridor are open ocean areas, which are not likely to incur significant impacts from tourism development. Reef systems that are highly damaged from fishing pressures, coral extraction and other intensive resource uses are also classed as low risk.

Regarding marine environment indicators, low-risk areas are not within close proximity to Special and Unique Marine Areas (SUMA) and Marine Managed Areas (MMA).

Moderate-risk marine areas are primarily associated with coral reef systems of smaller island conglomerations, particularly in reef systems of the Russell Islands in Central Province and fringe reefs of Guadalcanal Province. Areas of moderate risk are in proximity to SUMAs or MMAs, such as the West Guadalcanal marine area, Marau Sound and the northern coast of Russell Island which hosts a SUMA around Pavuvu Island and contains important green and hawksbill turtle nesting areas. Areas in proximity to MMAs – including Marau Sound, the northwest edge of Nggela Islands and Buena Vista Islands – indicate a need for sensitive development to protect marine biodiversity.

Areas in the corridor mapped as high risk for marine biodiversity are within Marine Protected Area (MPA) or MMA areas, or locations centered on reefs of outstanding known (and published) biodiversity values. Notable areas are highlighted in Marau Sound and sites within the West Guadalcanal Hub.

Moderate- and high-risk sites for marine biodiversity also indicate strengths from a tourism perspective. Thriving marine eco-systems provide coral reefs and seagrass meadows to support diverse marine life, presenting outstanding opportunities for marine-based tourism experiences. Tourism ventures can also enhance conservation efforts through collaborating with the SIG and local communities, particularly those with a Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) plan in place.

#### ***Presence of estuarine crocodiles***

Crocodiles are likely to be present in several areas of the corridor, presenting environmental and social risks. They are highly mobile, and human-crocodile interactions risk fatality or serious injury. For tourists, knowledge of habitats and ways to mitigate risk are likely to be poor. Understanding presence and management options through collaboration with SIG and accessing local knowledge are important mitigations for tourism operators.

#### **Social risks**

##### ***Presence of people and livelihoods***

The majority of sites are located within or near existing villages, although some small island sites are more remote. The presence of people presents a resettlement risk, and coconut plantations and gardens present the risk of livelihood disruption or loss. Proximity to communities offers access to a pool of labor, with communities benefiting from jobs, training, and income generation opportunities. However, these opportunities must be carefully balanced with the need to ensure there is no impact on food security at a local level. Lack of local skills can also drive an influx of migrant workers into an area, disrupting social cohesion. Prioritizing local livelihoods, where possible, can reduce the risk of conflict.

Tourism development can bring social and economic benefits to women and men, but can also exacerbate existing disparities. To widen the distribution of benefits, support of enterprise opportunities should consider social inclusion for vulnerable groups, such as people living with disabilities.

The presence of people and livelihoods is relatively homogenous throughout the study corridor.

#### ***Proximity to infrastructure and access to services***

Infrastructure is a significant constraint for tourism development in the study corridor. As was demonstrated by the closure of the Marau Airport at the time of the study, lack of accessibility can completely change the viability of tourism enterprises. The road network is also underdeveloped or in poor condition, with road access from Honiara only available to half of the West Guadalcanal Hub, while the East Guadalcanal Hub is completely cut-off. Most identified sites throughout the study corridor rely on boat access. This lack of proximity to accessible transport options needs to be considered a risk, particularly in the case of medical or natural disaster evacuation. There is also a risk associated with transport safety, with a large proportion of the study corridor reliant on boat transport through open water posing a risk to life, particularly in bad weather.

Electricity is limited throughout the study corridor, with scant options for grid connections. Therefore, investors need to consider self-sufficient energy sources such as solar, batteries, and generators. This increases capital investment costs, although lowers risks for rising energy prices and grid unreliability. Access to telecommunications varies across the corridor. Sanitation services are poor, particularly in Central Province. Access to water resources is generally uniform, with communities relying on a combination of ground water, rainwater harvesting and river water. Any tourism investment will need to consider water resources at a local level and plan water use and infrastructure in alignment with availability, while limiting impacts to community water sources.

Health system infrastructure is also a risk for tourism in the study corridor. Whilst the network of nursing posts and rural health clinics is well established, facilities are intermittently staffed and do not have necessary levels of medical equipment and supplies to manage life-threatening situations. Often buildings, themselves, are in poor condition. Medical evacuations must be considered in tourism planning, along with having adequate supplies and first aid responders on-site to manage a medical emergency of a guest or staff member. With malaria and dengue fever already present in the corridor, other infectious diseases such as COVID-19 place increasing pressure on inadequate medical services. Tourists can exacerbate these risks by increasing demands on services.

Waste management services are not in place across the study corridor, with communities self-managing waste through dedicated burning and burial areas. This creates a challenge for tourism, as environment-friendly waste disposal services are not available. Investors and operators will need to consider on-site solutions such as waste avoidance, collection for recycling (and transport back to Guadalcanal), on-site utilization of organic waste as animal feed or compost feedstock, and waste disposal options for residual waste.

Tourism can be a catalyst for improved services through increased demand, which may facilitate additional

investment in an area. There are also options for private investment in infrastructure to improve services, such as telecommunications and water supply.

### ***Access to land and natural resources***

Land use and tenure within the study corridor poses a significant risk for tourism development. Accessing customary land or natural resources on land or the marine environment can be a complex process. As is the case for the 31 identified potential tourism sites, focusing on land parcels that are registered and not under customary titles is one aspect of mitigating risk.

However, even when there is secure land tenure through a registered title, this does not prevent disputes if there are differing perceptions of title legitimacy. Hence, it is important to undertake appropriate consultations with legitimate community leaders and landowners to firstly map traditional practices and perceptions of land ownership. Indigenous terrain mapping<sup>7</sup> is one tool that can provide this framework in a respectful and comprehensive manner from the outset.

### ***Community cohesion***

In the corridor assessment, a risk rating was not assigned for Indigenous people as approximately 95 percent of people living within the corridor are Indigenous to that area.<sup>8</sup>

Although the local community can benefit through earning income from tourism, opportunities and benefits may not be distributed equitably, exacerbating existing tensions or creating new disputes. This risk is heightened in areas of the corridor where the logging industry has attracted settlers to an area and created ongoing tensions.

Community bodies that have authority for resource management, such as village development or Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) committees, can provide a mechanism for collaboration to support local development. To mitigate the risk of dispute over access to natural resources, such as diving on reefs or walks through villages, tourism investors and operators must understand and then integrate local visions and by-laws. Having clear protocols in place also prevents individuals making unauthorized demands for fees from tourists, which can create confusion and result in a diminished visitor experience.

During the stakeholder engagement phase of the study, community-based tourism was raised as a potential model with merit for effective community partnerships and harnessing support for local tourism ventures. Potential investors may consider integrating community-based tourism elements into their business model where feasible.

7 The practice of Indigenous terrain mapping can de-risk complex land situations and build effective foundations for the development of sustainable projects in Solomon Islands. This tool has been successfully utilized by the Indigenous Knowledge Institute in Solomon Islands, that used this process for the Western Province once selected tourism sites were shortlisted, to provide advice on customary land tenure and cultural sensitivities.

8 In Solomon Islands, more than 95 percent of the population is made up of Indigenous peoples (Minority Rights Group, 2018). According to the 2019 Census, 98.2 percent of the population is Melanesian in Guadalcanal Province, and 95.7 percent in Central Province.

**Presence of cultural heritage**

*Tabu* or sites of cultural heritage are present across the corridor particularly in Tulagi, West Russells and West Guadalcanal, but their protection and maintenance is challenging given the lack of site registration and cultural heritage mapping. These sites and artefacts present an opportunity for tourism as part of historical WWII treks or site visits, which will require carefully designed consultation processes with communities in line with good international industry practices.

**Potential for UXO**

UXO risk is high in the Russell Islands, the southern coast of Nggela and the northern part of West Guadalcanal. However, even on sites where the risk is low or moderate, caution must be exercised. Information will continue to be developed through the UXO risk assessment work of the Halo Trust, an NGO, alongside the Solomon Islands Police Force in 2024 and 2025.

Potentially fatal consequences could result from tourism developers not undertaking vigilant UXO clearance during construction. It is possible to mitigate UXO risk through clearance work. However, in areas of high risk, ongoing vigilance and education to raise awareness of guests is an important component of risk mitigation.

**Natural hazard risks**

Solomon Islands is highly prone to natural disasters. This means tourism investors need to consider adaptation and resilience as part of infrastructure design and operational considerations.

Figure 3 (GRDRR, 2020) provides the results of an online risk assessment tool called ThinkHazard! undertaken by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery in 2020 as part of its country assessment for Solomon Islands. Building resilient infrastructure is important for sustainability and can provide additional benefits, such as the demonstration of effective siting and construction methods as well as the provision of safe shelter for staff, their families and broader community during a natural hazard event.

**Figure 3: Overview of natural hazards in Solomon Islands from ThinkHazard!**



**SITE RISKS**

The ESDS undertook site assessments to highlight environmental, social and natural hazard risks through assigning “low”, “moderate” and “high” ratings. However, the ratings indicate challenges and opportunities. A high-risk rating flags the need for caution in relation to ecological features, social issues or natural hazards. However, the ratings can also flag unique features such as coral reef systems, forest, cultural features, or community livelihoods that can be a tourism drawcard if siting, design and consultations take these risks into account. A moderate- to high-risk rating does not mean ‘no-go’ for development, but spotlights issues that need to be considered from the outset.

The environmental, social and natural hazard assessments of the 31 identified sites are presented in the section [Site Profiles](#) of this report and summarized in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3.

**Table 1: Summary of environmental risks at site level**

Risk	Rating	Number of sites	Description
Terrestrial biodiversity	Low	12 sites	There are limited constraints associated with development in these low-risk terrestrial environments, with land generally already cleared through plantations, logging and/or settlements.  Tourism provides an opportunity to enhance terrestrial biodiversity through habitat protection, enhancement or restoration.
	Moderate	17 sites	Sites of moderate risk indicate existing terrestrial values on-site providing biodiversity and ecosystem services. Sites with a moderate rating indicate that features, such as healthy coastal and secondary growth forest, are present. This adds to the value of the site and the tourism experience.
	High	2 sites	Two high-risk sites (Mbungana Island and Kokomuruka Islands) contain valuable terrestrial biodiversity with remnant primary forest on both, and sago palm wetlands and saltmarsh on Mbungana Island. Both sites contain high-value terrestrial biodiversity, but it is limited to a portion of the overall title area. If infrastructure can be sited away from the high-risk zone, it may not preclude tourism development and even feature these areas as an asset.
Marine biodiversity	Low	9 sites	There are few environmental constraints associated with development within or adjacent to low-risk marine areas considering the pre-existing impacts from fishing, coral harvesting, or impacts from logging or run-off from settlements. There is an opportunity to collaborate with the local community in marine environment restoration projects to restore marine eco-system health and build tourism appeal.
	Moderate	12 sites	Moderate-risk marine sites are relatively intact despite resource utilization activities and other impacts from settlements. The moderate-risk rating indicates that tourism developments need to consider siting, infrastructure design and activity controls to minimize impacts to the marine environment. The rating also indicates an opportunity, not only as a tourism drawcard, but to enhance conservation outcomes through increasing livelihood opportunities such as reef tourism.
	High	10 sites	High-risk marine sites are important biodiversity areas, located within or adjacent to a SUMA or MMA. There are five sites in West Guadalcanal, with a number hosting nesting habitat for turtles, one site in East Guadalcanal, four sites in Russell Islands.  The high-risk rating informs a tourism investor of the need to consider ways to protect the marine eco-system from harm, particularly through siting, design and responsible management of construction and operational impacts. Management of marine-based tourism must provide oversight to ensure a 'do no harm' approach. The high risk also flags a significant tourism potential and presents an opportunity to leverage tourism as a mechanism to enhance conservation outcomes collaborating with the community to protect, enhance and showcase natural values.

**Table 2: Summary of social risks at site level**

Risk	Rating	Number of sites	Description
<b>Presence of people</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>20 sites</b>	<p>These identified sites have no permanent human occupation. Some sites may have some structures located on-site, but do not house a permanent population and are only used for temporary or short-term stays as people transit through the area.</p> <p>The risk of resettlement is considered low for these sites, with limited impacts from development. It should be noted that the lack of population on-site presents a challenge for sourcing a local workforce. Consultations would need to occur with the nearest village to confirm workforce availability and capacity.</p>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>7 sites</b>	<p>These sites have a permanent population of up to 50 people, with up to 10 houses, buildings or shelters in one discrete area of the site.</p> <p>There may be some resettlement required and residents may be impacted by development.</p> <p>Tourism could be developed if local communities' land use and traditional livelihoods are considered, and disruptions are avoided or minimized. Tourism developers could also benefit the local population by prioritizing local employment, resources, and services.</p>
	<b>High</b>	<b>4 sites</b>	<p>These sites have a large permanent population of more than 50 people with communities on-site for at least one generation. Tourism development on these sites may lead to resettlement and potentially conflicts relating to land use and access. The four sites in this category are all located in West Guadalcanal.</p>
<b>Presence of livelihoods</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>12 sites</b>	<p>These sites are not used for gardening or plantations by owners, occupiers, or nearby communities. Instead, they accommodate low-visibility activities such as hunting, harvesting or collection of natural resources.</p>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>19 sites</b>	<p>These sites may feature gardens and crops that support a person, family or community, but there is still space to allow development with limited impacts on these areas and corresponding livelihoods they support.</p> <p>On these sites, tourism can be developed considering the local communities' land use and/or traditional livelihoods, to avoid or minimize its effects on their way of life. There are opportunities associated with livelihood activities on-site, particularly gardening and fishing, resulting in access to fresh produce for tourists and income generation for communities.</p>
	<b>High</b>	<b>No sites</b>	<p>These sites are largely covered in crops and gardens and there is limited space for development that would not cause impacts. Tourism development on these sites would likely require removal of crops that people in the surrounding community rely on. As such, it would be important for investors to work with communities to ensure the impacts are managed carefully.</p> <p>No sites were categorized as high-risk from a livelihoods perspective.</p>

Risk	Rating	Number of sites	Description
Potential for UXO	Low	17 sites	Low-risk sites are those with no confirmed UXO discoveries, or documented WWII occupation of sites or battlefields. They include West Guadalcanal Hub sites down the west coast from Nuhu Point, the East Guadalcanal Hub area below Aola Bay, and most of the northern part of Central Province. These sites are unlikely to have UXO, but appropriate due diligence prior to ground disturbance remains appropriate.
	Moderate	6 sites	The sites rated as moderate risk do not have documented history of UXO findings from the Solomon Islands Police Force or historic records of significant WWII activity. However, the sites are within 10km of sites flagged as high risk, and as such require cautious development. These sites include Vulelua Island and Mbara Island near Aola Bay, and sites situated on the southern side of Nggela Islands. Whilst there have been no reported discoveries in Solomon Islands Police records, this is related to level of development and ground disturbance on-site. Therefore, it cannot be assumed there is no UXO present, and a thorough risk assessment is required prior to development.
	High	8 sites	The sites rated high risk have confirmed UXO discoveries on or in the immediate vicinity of the site or are situated in areas with documented WWII battles, including multiple bombings and heavy fighting. Sites in West Guadalcanal Hub closer to the northern coastline and the Russell Islands group are assessed as high risk, with developers advised to undertake site-based assessments and clearance work prior to development. It is also advised that tourists are informed of an appropriate response if suspected UXO is sighted.
Presence of cultural heritage	Low	22 sites	<p>Sites ranked as low risk have no known cultural heritage sites (either <i>Tabu</i> sites, WWII historic sites, graves or other <i>Kastom</i> significance) connected to them.</p> <p>Tourism development generates an opportunity to improve the awareness and management of cultural heritage and should undertake heritage surveys with local communities for the identification and preservation of artefacts and sites.</p>
	Moderate	7 sites	<p>Moderate sites are those where cultural heritage sites have been identified, but are sparse. Hence, any impacts are likely to be completely avoided during the construction and operation of any future tourism operation. Siting of infrastructure is important, with design informed by respectful local dialogue.</p> <p>A strong cultural heritage creates an opportunity for tourist engagement, particularly with livelihood activities.</p>
	High	2 sites	<p>Sites ranked high are those with several cultural heritage sites. Hence, there would be limited space to develop around them, or tourism development impacts would be difficult to avoid or mitigate. As such, there is a risk associated with potential loss and damage to sites of cultural significance and conflict with local communities.</p> <p>In one high-risk site, Vulula Beach, there is a <i>Tabu</i> site where women are not permitted, which may present a constraint for tourism. Another site at Tambea features graves at a coastal area where a previous resort was located.</p>

**Table 3: Summary of natural hazard risks at site level**

Risk	Rating	Number of sites	Description
<b>Coastal vulnerability</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>6 sites</b>	These sites are in sheltered locations with some elevation. There is no evidence of coastal erosion.
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>20 sites</b>	The majority of sites are categorized as moderate risk. There is no evidence of erosion, and some protection from fringing reef systems. However, parts of the coastal site or island are more exposed, with some exposure to erosion through storm surges or rising sea levels.
	<b>High</b>	<b>5 sites</b>	Low-lying coral sand islands with little elevation are high-risk sites. These sites are already showing some signs of coastal erosion. These more exposed sites are located in parts of East Guadalcanal and the West Russells.
<b>Sea level rises</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>8 sites</b>	Low-risk sites have higher ground levels with only a small portion less than 1m above sea level. These sites allow for retreats and shelters in case of storm surges and sea level rises.
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>19 sites</b>	Moderate sites are likely to experience the effects of sea level rises, but can still provide occupants some options to retreat. Infrastructure design needs to consider adaptation in the design phase.
	<b>High</b>	<b>4 sites</b>	High-risk sites are mostly low-lying and coastal with a large proportion of land vulnerable to sea level rises. Risks of inundation and damage from exposure to sea water during storm surges or flooding events, potentially impacting buildings and causing human injury. Design of infrastructure must take future sea level rises into account.

For each site, the weighted scores were aggregated to provide a total risk rating score for environmental, social and natural hazard risks for the 31 sites, along with an overall combined risk rating (as presented in Table 4).

**Table 4: Combined risk ratings for each identified site**

ID	Hub	Site Location	Environmental	Social	Natural Hazards	Overall
1	West Guadalcanal	Tambea	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
2	West Guadalcanal	Lavuro South	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate
3	West Guadalcanal	Tangarare	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
4	West Guadalcanal	Kokomuruka Islands	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
5	West Guadalcanal	Variana (Hoilava)	Low	Moderate	Low	Low
6	West Guadalcanal	Marumbo Bay	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate
7	West Guadalcanal	Nuhu Point	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
8	West Guadalcanal	Lavuro North	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
9	West Guadalcanal	Hautabu Point	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
10	East Guadalcanal	Komukomtou Island (Symons)	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
11	East Guadalcanal	Arona Island	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
12	East Guadalcanal	Tavanipupu Island	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate
13	East Guadalcanal	Maraubina Island	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low
14	East Guadalcanal	Paruru Point (East)	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
15	East Guadalcanal	Paruru Point (West)	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
16	East Guadalcanal	Vulelua Island	Low	Low	High	Low
17	East Guadalcanal	Mbara Island	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low
18	East Guadalcanal	Taluto'o Island	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate
19	East Guadalcanal	Suulava	Low	Low	Moderate	Low

ID	Hub	Site Location	Environmental	Social	Natural Hazards	Overall
20	Nggela	Mbungana Island	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
21	Nggela	Tanambogho Island	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
22	Nggela	Soghonangola Island (Double Island)	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
23	Nggela	Kokomtambu Island (Double Island)	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
24	Nggela	Anuha Island	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
25	Buena Vista	Vulula Beach	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low
26	Buena Vista	Logunavuaghi Point	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
27	Buena Vista	Kasika Island	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
28	Russell Islands	Karumolun Island	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
29	Russell Islands	Koemurun Island	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate
30	Russell Islands	Butata Island	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
31	Russell Islands	West Bay	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

The results are:

**Environmental Risk Rating:** 8 sites low risk, 23 sites moderate risk, no sites high risk.

**Social Risk Rating:** 19 sites low risk, 11 sites moderate risk, 1 site high risk.

**Natural Hazard Risk Rating:** 9 sites low risk, 19 sites moderate risk, 3 sites high risk.

**Combined Risk Rating:** 14 sites low risk, 17 sites moderate risk, no sites high risk.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

It is recognized that contextual risks are likely to impact tourism investors and developers. But, they are more effectively addressed at a national level, with potential assistance from donor partners. The corridor assessment allows analysis at a landscape level to provide investors, the SIG and stakeholders with information on constraints and opportunities.

It also provides information on the appropriate sitings and locations of enabling infrastructure and tourism sites, based on the environment, social and natural hazard findings.

At the site level, the assessments provide initial information to aid investment decisions, flag risks early on, and highlight opportunities.

Along with the presentation of risks, recommendations are presented for the SIG and developers to consider as pathways to address the identified risks. A summary of recommended mitigation measures is provided in Table 5. Refer to Section 6 of the main report for detailed recommendations.

**Table 5: Summary of recommended actions to address each risk area**

Risk	Recommended Actions for Government	Recommended Actions for Developers
<b>Environmental Risks</b>		
<b>Terrestrial environment</b>	Mitigate risks through suitable permit conditions. Enhance oversight and monitoring compliance capacities of relevant government departments. The Ministry of Forestry and Research (MOFR) to work with partners to seek ways to strengthen livelihoods that do not overexploit forestry resources. Enable collaboration between relevant agencies to build capacity and systems to address biodiversity loss.	Select sites that avoid high biodiversity risk or implement protection zones around high-value biodiversity areas on-site. Where unavoidable, design and implement mitigation measures in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to minimize construction and operational impacts. Consider using native species in landscaping to enhance habitat. Engage local communities on conservation and restoration projects to enhance biodiversity and community goodwill.
<b>Marine environment</b>	Continue to strengthen Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) mechanisms, engage local communities and enhance the understanding of marine ecosystem threats. The MOFR to seek collaboration with tourism partners to strengthen community-based efforts in marine conservation.	Site selection after considering risks to marine biodiversity. Design and implement mitigation measures in the ESIA to avoid negative impacts on the marine environment. Incorporate traditional knowledge and management where possible and appropriate. Consider collaborating with local communities and tourists to undertake conservation works, including rehabilitation, restoration, and monitoring of marine biodiversity. Consult and collaborate with a CBRM committee if established. Educate guests on not impacting marine activities.

Risk	Recommended Actions for Government	Recommended Actions for Developers
<b>Social Risks</b>		
<b>Social cohesion</b>	<p>Confine tourism developments to registered land free of formal or informal disputes over land ownership. Ensure consultations with communities take place through processes that are locally acceptable. Prevent or resolve conflicts through proactive dialogue where differing views of title have been identified. Strengthen community by-laws to improve community governance structures.</p>	<p>Seek community participation, engagement and consultation with surrounding customary landowners and community leaders starting from early planning stages. Use Indigenous terrain mapping as a tool to understand traditional resource management, leadership and decision-making structures, and inform benefit-sharing frameworks. Explore opportunities for potential joint ventures with local communities.</p> <p>Conduct a security risk assessment of the operating environment to prepare for and respond to public and private security risks.</p>
<b>Rural-urban disparity</b>	<p>Consider introducing targets for tourism operators to meet local employment thresholds, including in low-skilled or unskilled roles.</p> <p>Support local communities and their access to tourism jobs through training, including scholarships to national or international training opportunities to improve local skills and capacity.</p>	<p>Where possible, procure goods and services locally if they meet the quality and quantity required by the project. Encourage local communities to produce goods for sale to tourists, avoiding competition with existing providers. Encourage visitors to buy local products and support the local community. Offer 'village tours' for tourists to engage with local communities in a culturally sensitive manner and purchase locally, if possible, with attention to those most vulnerable.</p>
<b>Gender and disability inclusion</b>	<p>SIG to continue to promote the business case for women in leadership positions, advocating ESG principles for businesses to mitigate risks.</p> <p>SIG to facilitate collaboration between tourism investors and NGOs working to improve social inclusion (considering disability, sexual orientation and gender) from early planning stages through to implementation.</p> <p>Strengthen capacities of law enforcement bodies to prosecute persons engaged in SEAH of children and women and improve social frameworks and oversight of companies who bring migrant workforces into communities. Support industry codes of conduct and improved grievance mechanisms to reduce rates of SEAH.</p> <p>Continue to work with stakeholders to strengthen the broader safety net for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Understand barriers to inclusion of women and people with disabilities and identify ways to address them in collaboration with local communities. Implement targets and policies to promote inclusive employment and protect against SEAH and discrimination. Support leadership opportunities for women and people with disabilities. Use local knowledge gleaned to inform the design of inclusive tourism-related facilities.</p>

Risk	Recommended Actions for Government	Recommended Actions for Developers
<b>Social Risks</b>		
<b>Presence of people and livelihoods</b>	<p>Work with tourism investors to avoid development of tourism facilities on land used for living or commercial purposes, minimizing resettlement and impacts on livelihoods. If impacts are unavoidable, consider applying IFC Performance Standards in addition to national law, and good international industry practice (GIIP). Collaborate with the private sector to support investment in alternative livelihoods, including employment and business opportunities if affected. Work with communities to support by-laws around any access fees to prevent <i>ad hoc</i> charging by individuals within the community.</p>	<p>Conduct an early and complete review of a site and engage the local community early to confirm site use before development decisions. Avoid resettlement or development in areas relied on for livelihoods. If unavoidable, undertake resettlement and livelihood-restoration planning, implementation, and monitoring in close consultation with communities. Maintain communities' access to natural resources used as a source of income and/or livelihoods wherever possible. Prioritize access to employment and procurement opportunities for project-affected people. Follow applicable IFC Performance Standards, in addition to national law and GIIP.</p> <p>Any adverse impacts on Indigenous peoples shall be avoided at the project design and site selection phase. The effectiveness of impact avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures is enhanced if the points of views of Indigenous peoples on matters that affect them are taken into consideration and form part of project decision-making processes. In the special circumstances described in paragraphs 13–17 of PS 7, the client's engagement process will ensure the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the affected communities of Indigenous peoples.</p>
<b>Presence of infrastructure</b>	<p>Work with stakeholders to re-open Marau Airport as soon as possible. Prioritize the upgrade of infrastructure like roads, hospitals, clinics, jetties and ports to align with timeline of priority sites identified for tourism development. Understand limitations of clinics in proximity to tourism sites and use the opportunity to work with tourism operators in the vicinity to strengthen capacity of rural health clinics to serve communities and tourists. Plan and realize improvements to maritime infrastructure and maritime safety standards.</p>	<p>Prioritize sites with enabling infrastructure for access or develop self-sufficient and safe means of transport.</p> <p>Devise appropriate site-specific plans for maritime safety, medical treatment, first-aid and emergency evacuations, and contingencies for poor weather events.</p> <p>Decrease pressure on infrastructure by considering project designs for self-sufficiency (power, sanitation and water supply) and consider ways to facilitate safe access to tourism infrastructure as part of development planning.</p> <p>Develop tourism infrastructure and facilities that consider accessibility for all.</p>
<b>Potential for UXO</b>	<p>Continue to work with Halo Trust to undertake detailed UXO surveys, and progress UXO clearance work in priority sites. Ensure findings are well communicated with communities and key stakeholders, including project developers and tourists. In addition, the community shall be given access to accurate UXO mapping as soon as available.</p>	<p>Hire experienced UXO specialists to conduct due diligence and detailed risk assessment on the presence of UXO at potential development sites. If the study shows a high likelihood of UXO, surveys should be undertaken to identify its type, quantity, location, and clearance techniques. Appropriate procedures should be in place if discoveries are made during construction work, including 'stop work' orders.</p>

Risk	Recommended Actions for Government	Recommended Actions for Developers
<b>Social Risks</b>		
<b>Presence of cultural heritage</b>	Ensure developers have a 'chance find procedure' in place as part of permit conditions. The process for recording and protecting sites of cultural heritage to be identified and developed in collaboration with NGOs/CSO and local communities, avoiding removal or damage to cultural artifacts and WWII relics.	<p>Work with local community, including Indigenous people and minorities and relevant NGOs/CSOs, to identify and preserve any cultural heritage sites and related access and discuss appropriate utilization if allowed for tourism experiences. Ensure cultural practices are observed by all those involved in tourism development activities including contractors/ subcontractors, staff and tourists.</p> <p>As any cultural heritage, art, music may be culturally sensitive, conduct an assessment of potential risks and rewards by consulting with relevant communities prior to use or naming of project sites and pieces of equipment. A cultural heritage management plan may be required to ensure management of key sites identified during the assessment for preservation.</p>
<b>Presence of estuarine crocodiles</b>	Finalize and implement national saltwater crocodile management and harvest monitoring plans. Increase community and tourist awareness on potential hotspots.	Seek local advice to understand the likely hotspots for crocodiles and local knowledge for mitigation of associated risk. Increase awareness amongst those involved in tourism development activities, including contractors/ subcontractors, staff and tourists for risk, especially near crocodile hotspots.
Risk	Recommended Actions for Government	Recommended Actions for Developers
<b>Natural Hazard Risks</b>		
<b>Coastal vulnerability/ sea level rises</b>	Undertake coastal inundation and tsunami risk mapping. Develop and implement appropriate strategies to address risk through community vulnerability assessments and plans. Incorporate ecosystem-based and community-based adaptation measures where possible.	Select sites less vulnerable to sea level rises. Undertake coastal vulnerability assessments to inform infrastructure design and account for climate change impacts.
<b>Natural hazards</b>	Strengthen the disaster response capacities of the National Disaster Management Office.	Understand the natural hazard risks of the area. Design and build infrastructure that accounts for these risks.

## MONITORING

It is recommended that the MCT take a lead role in the oversight of actions. Whilst the recommended actions are through multiple stakeholders within the SIG, it would be worthwhile for the MCT to analyze progress across all actions on an annual basis. This would provide a measurement of progress, along with highlighting constraints. The monitoring could also inform ongoing planning for the tourism sector.

It is recommended that monitoring of progress include an annual analysis in coordination with the MCT national office, and engagement of MCT officers at provincial level to track the following:

- Number of existing tourism investments within the province.
- Number of proposed and new tourism investments within the province, including their status (early investigation, EIA and development application, design, construction, operation)
- Annual tourism sector survey to identify constraints, risks and opportunities as seen by industry stakeholders. Surveys will also solicit feedback on the use and uptake of various tourism-related materials made available to investors such as site profiles (in this report), amongst others.
- A tourism sector survey to seek data on policies, activities and attitudes related to inclusive workplace and procurement practices, social license and benefit sharing, and environmental safeguards and conservation.

To discuss annual findings and feed this into ongoing strategic priorities, it is recommended that the MCT initiate an annual tourism workshop in Guadalcanal and Central Provinces to discuss findings with key stakeholders from tourism businesses, relevant government ministries, NGOs, and community-based organizations.

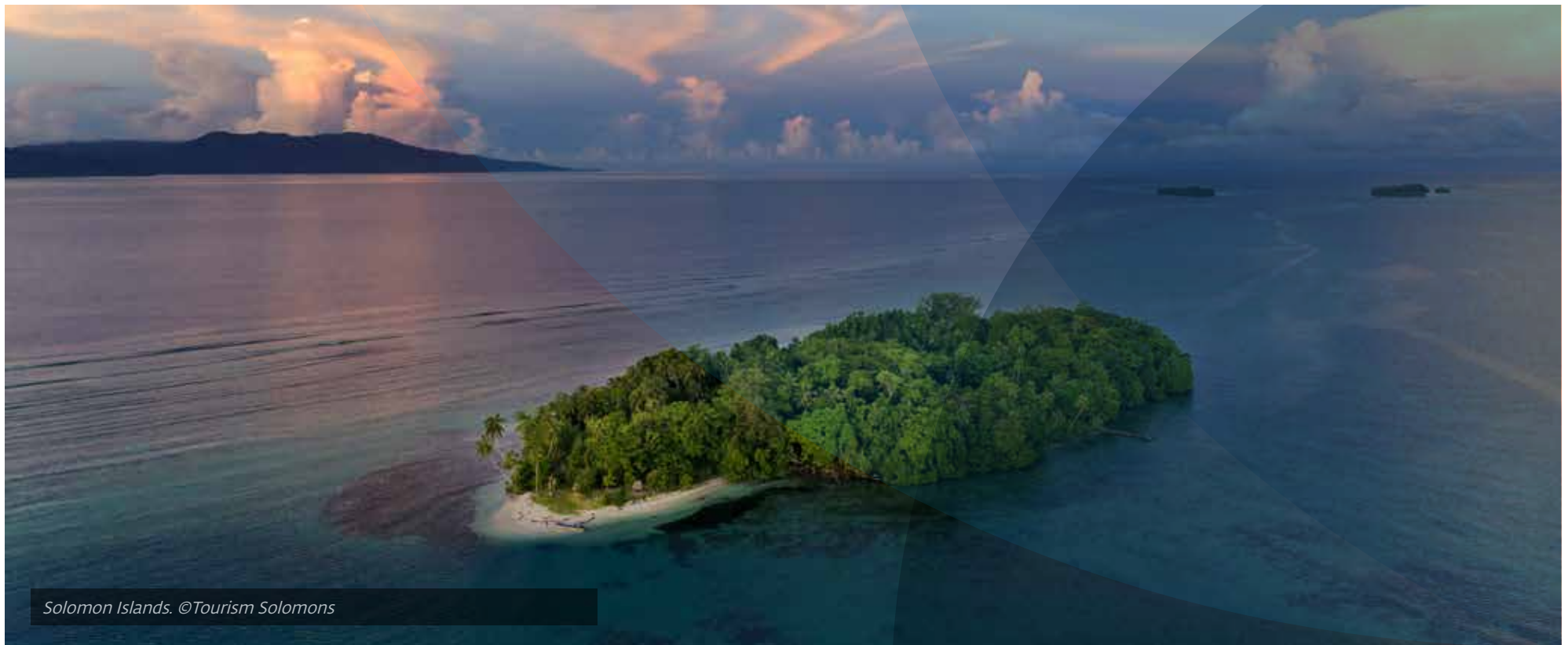
## CONCLUSION

This study reinforces Solomon Islands' potential to capitalize on its unique biodiversity found nowhere else, and its thriving local culture. Developing carefully planned tourism infrastructure and activities has significant economic potential. This is especially the case if efforts are made to bolster local livelihoods, promote inclusion and enhance ecosystems to extend benefits. Efforts to protect and rehabilitate forests and coral reefs can be enhanced if local communities can derive value from the protection of these natural assets. In this way, tourism can have a positive impact on ecosystems rather than adding cumulative impacts to existing threats. However, if the bulk of tourism development in Solomon Islands does not follow good international industry practice, this could result in significant cumulative impacts with adverse physical and social implications for Solomon Islands as a destination and a tourism industry.

Well-planned tourism development, including accessible infrastructure and utilizing sustainable materials and resources, has significant potential. However, this relies on appropriate investment by the SIG. With the right resourcing and a cohesive approach to support the tourism sector, there is high potential to develop Solomon Islands into a leading eco-tourism destination in the region.



*Solomon Islands. ©Tourism Solomons*



## Site Profiles

# Key to Identified Site Profiles

**Site Identifier #** used for referencing and data management. Site Profiles are numbered 1-31. Please see Indicator map on each profile for site locations within Central and Guadalcanal provinces.

**Parcel Identifier** is provided by the Commissioner of Lands, Solomon Islands Government as indicated on the Site title.

Site name and location in province

Indicative location of the site

**Rating determined by combining all site ratings (see the methodology on next page for more details)**

## Rankings:

- Low risk (Green) = Limited environmental or social impacts anticipated.
- Moderate risk (Orange) = Some management of social and environmental impacts required.
- High risk (Red) = Significant management of social and environmental impacts required.

## Environmental, Social, and Natural Hazard Risks:

These are rated from 1 - Low (Green) to 10 - High (Red)







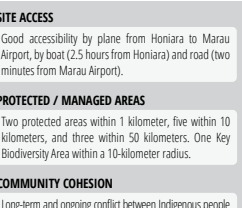

Site ratings are based on several assessment methodologies. Please refer to the next page for details of the ratings.

## Potential for UXO:

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) is present throughout various parts of Solomon Islands due to it being a battleground in WWII. Mapping of UXO areas is limited, however details of battle areas and military encampments are well documented. This includes data from the police documenting and responding to UXO discoveries.

## Cultural Heritage/Tabu sites:

This is generated from interviews with site occupiers/owners, and desktop studies.

<b>SITE IDENTIFIER #:</b> 14 <b>PARCEL IDENTIFIER:</b> 222-002-0038		<b>Paruru Point (East)</b> East Guadalcanal		<b>LOW</b> <b>OVERALL RISK RATING</b>													
<b>SITE</b> 		<b>SITE DESCRIPTION</b> <p>Paruru Point (East) has limited settlement within the boundary, and a small settlement to the southwest of the site with approximately 50 families living on customary land. Consultations indicated that those remaining on the Paruru Point (East) title were slowly transitioning to the nearby settlement. Long-term and ongoing conflicts between Indigenous people and settler communities were reported in this area, which had been ongoing for more than 20 years and at times led to violent conflict in the area. Currently, there is physical separation between Indigenous people and settler communities living in Marau Sound, with a large police presence in Marau to manage potential conflict should it arise. Communities consulted during site visits also indicated that the presence of the logging industry and associated non-resident workers had led to increased social risks. This included children allegedly engaged in labor practices at logging sites as well as young women and girls facing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) from logging workers.</p> <p>The soil is fertile, with several gardens on-site (mostly potatoes), particularly along the internal road running parallel to the western boundary. The neighboring community reported social cohesion as evidenced by current work with World Vision drafting by-laws for community governance. The community expressed optimism regarding tourism as it had experienced benefits in the past and wished to diversify from fishing, copra and create more employment opportunities for women. Snorkeling, bushwalking, and cultural tourism were viewed as high-potential opportunities.</p> <p>Reefs along the coast are shallow and provide good coastal protection, with the site 1-2 meters above sea level. The community reported climate-related impacts, such as increased coastal flooding. This has led to some people relocating further inland. There is a creek that runs through the site and into the sea along the middle of the southern coastal boundary. The terrestrial ecology is highly disturbed, but with some secondary forest and healthy coastal vegetation. Given the prevalence of logging activities along this area of the coast, coral reef systems have been impacted by sedimentation.</p>		<b>SITE LOCATION</b> 													
<b>LAND CLEARANCE FOR POTATO FARMING</b> 		<b>NEIGHBORING SETTLEMENT</b> 		<b>CREEK FLOWING INTO SEA</b> 													
<b>COASTAL AREA</b> 		<b>ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Terrestrial biodiversity</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marine biodiversity</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>		Terrestrial biodiversity	4	Marine biodiversity	2	<b>SOCIAL RISKS</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Presence of people</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presence of livelihoods</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Potential for UXO</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presence of cultural heritage</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>		Presence of people	4	Presence of livelihoods	5	Potential for UXO	2	Presence of cultural heritage	3
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<b>COASTAL AREA</b> 		<b>NATURAL HAZARD RISKS</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Coastal vulnerability</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sea level rise</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>		Coastal vulnerability	6	Sea level rise	5	<b>PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS</b> Two protected areas within 1 kilometer, five within 10 kilometers, and three within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within a 10-kilometer radius.									
Coastal vulnerability	6																
Sea level rise	5																
<b>CO-ORDINATES</b> -9.85341114, 160.8309513		<b>SITE AREA (ha)</b> 3.9		<b>SERVICES AVAILABLE</b> Mobile coverage is available. Solar in use by the neighboring community, but grid connections are planned. Groundwater available, but no sanitation.													
<b>CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE</b> Three houses on-site and beach shelters.		<b>DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC</b> Marau Area Health Center (5 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (110 kilometers).		<b>OTHER SITE RISKS</b> No other site hazards noted.													
<b>CURRENT LAND USE</b> Multiple gardens, particularly potatoes. Approximately three houses and shelters.		<b>DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT</b> Marau Airport (1 kilometer), but closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Direct road access available.		<b>ADJACENT LAND USE</b> Settlement southwest of the boundary, home to approximately 50 families.													
<b>SITE ACCESS</b> Good accessibility by plane from Honiara to Marau Airport, by boat (2.5 hours from Honiara) and road (two minutes from Marau Airport).		<b>COMMUNITY COHESION</b> Long-term and ongoing conflict between Indigenous people and settler communities in the area. To address the issue, community building and strengthening efforts are underway.															

**Site photos:** These photos were taken during site visits. To respect the privacy of site occupiers, we have not included photos of people or houses without their consent. Credit: GHD.

**Co-ordinates:** Geographic co-ordinates system expressed in Latitude and Longitude decimal degrees.

## Current Land use and Current Occupation of site:

Based on site observations, aerial photos and interviews with occupiers. Where possible, buildings used for purposes other than residential have been excluded and noted separately.

## Distance to nearest Hospital or Clinic:

Measured from public hospitals, rural health clinics and well-established private facilities. Nurses' stations have not been included (due to their limited available services).

**Services Available:** Any services noted on-site are listed including: telecommunication reception, grid power, on-site water sources or public transport to the site (ferry dock nearby or known bus routes).

**Site Access:** Provides details of any access options to the site, either by land or sea. If no direct access is provided, it is currently only available by boat to shore, either a beach or area clear of coastal vegetation (mangroves).

Road/track access is established using aerial photographs and limited mapped roads and tracks provided by Solomon Islands Government.

Site maps are color coded to show areas that may be higher risk for development due to environmental or social reasons.

Lower risk areas = green    Moderate risk areas = orange    Higher risk areas = red

Note: All information will have to be updated during further site-specific studies, such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, to determine comprehensive environmental and social risks.

# Weighting and Measurement of Environmental, Social, and Natural Hazard Risks

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS	WEIGHTING	MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUE	RATING		
	40%		LOW (SCORE OF 1 – 3)	MEDIUM (SCORE OF 4 – 6)	HIGH (SCORE OF 7 – 10)
Terrestrial biodiversity	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site observations</li> <li>IUCN/IBAT databases where relevant</li> <li>Where available, information based on discussions with species experts, local biodiversity specialists, or communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly disturbed/modified environment</li> <li>Represents low ecological value</li> <li>Examples include active coconut plantations, residential/or housing areas, agricultural land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderately disturbed environment</li> <li>Examples include former or abandoned coconut plantations with heavy secondary growth forest or former logged areas with strong secondary growth present</li> <li>Threatened species may be present</li> <li>Within 10km of Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively undisturbed environment, such as primary forest with relatively limited impact from human activities</li> <li>Threatened species likely to be present.</li> </ul>
Marine biodiversity	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site observations of reef directly adjacent to site</li> <li>Presence of informal marine management areas, such as Community-based Management Areas (CBMA)</li> <li>Information based on discussions with communities and fisheries officers</li> <li>IUCN/IBAT databases where relevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine areas close to urban centers</li> <li>Ecosystem health compromised through pollution and/or over-fishing</li> <li>Shallow reef areas with no adjacent deep water</li> <li>Visibly stressed marine environment</li> <li>Low ecological diversity and health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine ecosystems relatively intact</li> <li>Some evidence of human impact</li> <li>Areas less than 5km from nearest village</li> <li>Moderate extent of reef, mangroves or seagrass with visible indicators of stress or impact</li> <li>Areas where adjacent land use (for example, logging) will likely impact marine ecosystem health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive seagrass beds in good health</li> <li>Well established and healthy mangrove areas</li> <li>Healthy reef ecosystems with wide fish diversity (little impact from fishing)</li> <li>Extensive reef systems with documented rich biodiversity</li> <li>Threatened species are likely to be present</li> <li>Feeding areas for significant numbers of sea turtles</li> <li>Sea turtle nesting areas</li> <li>Sea bird roosting or nesting areas.</li> </ul>
SOCIAL RISKS	WEIGHTING	MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUE	RATING		
	40%		LOW (SCORE OF 1 – 3)	MEDIUM (SCORE OF 4 – 6)	HIGH (SCORE OF 7 – 10)
Presence of people	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of people provides information on the presence of housing and structures, and potential for resettlement</li> <li>Site observations</li> <li>Discussions with communities</li> <li>Aerial photos.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No known communities, families or individuals occupying or using the site for living purposes (excluding caretakers)</li> <li>Nearest community is over 10km from the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 10 houses, buildings or shelters in one discrete area of the site</li> <li>Moderate size permanent population (less than 50 people)</li> <li>Nearest community is over 5km from the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 10 houses or buildings or shelters scattered throughout the site</li> <li>Large permanent population (more than 50 people)</li> <li>Nearest community is within 5km of the site.</li> </ul>
Presence of livelihoods	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of gardens or crops on site</li> <li>Presence of fishing or livelihood activities based on marine or terrestrial resources</li> <li>Site observations and review of aerial photos for used or unused gardens/crops</li> <li>Estimate area based on aerial and Land Use PacGeo layer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No presence of resources or activities used as a source of income of livelihoods on site or on nearby reefs</li> <li>No formal boat landing or storage located on site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abandoned cropping, plantation or gardening land, or less than 30 percent of site occupied by crops or gardens</li> <li>Small reef located nearby used for subsistence or artisanal fishing</li> <li>Area used for collection of one resource (eg. firewood or shells)</li> <li>Boat landing may be present but not regularly utilized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crops/gardens occupying 30 percent of site or more</li> <li>Large or multiple reefs located adjacent to site used for commercial, subsistence and artisanal fishing</li> <li>Area used extensively for collection of multiple resources</li> <li>Large or frequently used boat landing.</li> </ul>
Presence of cultural heritage	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data from site visits documenting areas of site that are used for family graves, WWII relic or battle sites, cultural sites</li> <li><i>Tabu</i> or <i>Kastom</i> sites or animist sites that are considered important by local community</li> <li>Includes traditional resource collection areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No historical or cultural sites confirmed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One site identified of unknown, low or moderate significance to community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than one site identified of unknown, low or moderate significance to community or one site of high significance to community.</li> </ul>
Presence of UXO	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UXO likelihood of presence based on WWII battle histories, and studies undertaken to assess UXO risk</li> <li>Data from police unit documenting and responding to UXO discoveries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No records of UXO located in the area</li> <li>No recorded conflict within the immediate vicinity of the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No records of UXO identified, but the site is within 10km of known battlefields, occupied sites, training areas, or sunken warships; where there is a moderate possibility that UXO may be encountered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed UXO discoveries in vicinity of the site</li> <li>Historical documentation of battles in WWII includes multiple bombings and heavy fighting</li> <li>An area is also considered high risk if it was an occupied site which was subject to intense conflict and multiple air raids or is recorded as an area with ammunition dumps.</li> </ul>
NATURAL HAZARDS	WEIGHTING	MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUE	RATING		
	20%		LOW (SCORE OF 1 – 3)	MEDIUM (SCORE OF 4 – 6)	HIGH (SCORE OF 7 – 10)
Coastal vulnerability	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site observations</li> <li>Evidence at site observations of erosion</li> <li>Percentage of site within 50m of shallow to medium depth reef</li> <li>IUCN/IBAT Reef Mapping</li> <li>Aerial photos.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sheltered locations, within lagoon or island group. Unlikely to be affected by storm surges</li> <li>No evidence of erosion</li> <li>60 percent or more of site perimeter surrounded by shallow or medium depth reef.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somewhat sheltered from storm surge. Exposed location within lagoon environment</li> <li>No evidence of erosion</li> <li>30-60 percent of site perimeter surrounded by shallow or medium depth reef.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reef fringe islands, exposed to weather events, low elevation above sea level</li> <li>Evidence of erosion</li> <li>Less than 30 percent of site perimeter surrounded by shallow or medium depth reef.</li> </ul>
Sea level rise	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-quantitative: Percentage of site over 1m above sea level based upon site observations and aerial photos.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70 percent or more of site area more than 1m above sea level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30-70 percent of site area over 1m more than sea level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30-70 percent of site area less than 1m above sea level.</li> </ul>

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 1

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 190-002-0002

# Tambea

## West Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is relatively low-lying, approximately 1.5-2 meters above sea level. It features a sandy beach with a fringing reef offering storm surge protection. Local residents expressed concerns about rising sea levels, with minor damage evident on the concrete base of the Japanese War Memorial located on the northwestern coast. The site was previously a popular tourism resort with around 24 bungalows. Remnants of a swimming pool, building foundations, and jetty are visible. The original resort was burnt down during ongoing tensions between the Indigenous and settler communities during 1998–2003. However, it is unclear if this was a reprisal or a casualty of the broader civil conflict. More recently, the burning down of a leaseholder's building within the last decade may point to ongoing disputes. Some interviewed residents perceived the site to be on customary land, despite it being registered as a Fixed-Term Estate title.

Indigenous communities live on and adjacent to the site, with four clusters of houses (total of 15) on the land, with coconut trees, subsistence and market gardens. There is a cemetery further inland, with five graves of members of a customary landowner family. With WWII battle history and ordnance discovery in the area, there is a high risk of UXO. This site has a high-risk rating for social criteria given potential for conflict and risks related to the presence of cultural heritage and UXO, indicating efforts may be required to mitigate these risks.

There is a small river running through the site. With a moderate to high level of disturbance, the landscape is dominated by secondary forest and coconut plantations. Birds present include the Coconut lollykit, Solomon kokatu, and Redknot imperial pigeon. Population growth has contributed to ecological degradation, with the river showing signs of pollution from settlement and upstream logging. Coastal species are present, along with invasive species and weeds. The marine environment is a sandy bottom coastal area with offshore reefs utilized for fishing and diving. Tambea is located close to the West Guadalcanal Marine Area (Special Unique Marine Area). Halophila decipiens is the rarest species of seagrass in Solomon Islands and only recorded in Tambea, making it a priority for protection during any site development.

SITE LOCATION



RIVER NEAR TAMBEA MARKET



COASTAL AREA



GRAVES NEAR BEACHFRONT



JAPANESE WAR MEMORIAL



CO-ORDINATES

-9.253922294, 159.6872357

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

15 occupied dwellings in four clusters. This presents resettlement risks.

CURRENT LAND USE

Villages with dwellings, gardens and a cemetery. A small market next to the river sells local garden produce and fuel.

SITE AREA (ha)

12.95

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Visale Rural Health Clinic (2 kilometers). The nearest hospital is located in Honiara (60 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (50 kilometers) via road.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Good mobile phone coverage.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Communities located on higher ground, 50-100 meters from boundaries in each direction. A primary school located near the site.

SITE ACCESS

Road access, approximately 1.5 hours from Honiara. Boat access approximately 1 hour from Honiara.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Five protected areas within a 50-kilometer radius. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers, and two within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Some history of conflict between Indigenous groups, settler groups and foreign workers. Different perceptions of land tenure are evident.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	3
Marine biodiversity	8

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	7
Presence of livelihoods	6
Potential for UXO	8
Presence of cultural heritage	8

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	5
Sea level rise	4



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 2

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 190-005-0002

# Lavuro South

## West Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

A large land parcel intersected by one road towards the coastal boundary of the site and elevated 2-3 meters above sea level. The site is protected by an inshore reef system with no visible signs of coastal erosion. The long sandy beach is attractive and suitable for diving and snorkeling, with the reef accessible 200-300 meters from shore. An established beachside picnic area towards the northern boundary is used for recreation and ceremonies, with evidence of a recent wedding party visible during the site visit.

The marine environment hosts healthy and abundant seagrass. Green turtles are known to lay eggs in the sand, while local residents reported good fish stocks and diversity. The site contains coconut plantations and regrowth secondary forest, providing a habitat corridor for birds such as the Whistler, Coconut lorikeet, Solomon's cockatoo, and Red-knobbed pigeon observed during the site visit. There is a healthy mangrove forest, approximately 0.5 hectares in size, along with coastal species. Plantation remnants include hundreds of coconut trees. Also present are mango trees and a protected Butterfly tree, contributing to the area's ecological richness. Invasive species and weeds are present. A limited proportion of the site has trees or gardens connected to livelihoods.

Small populations, Indigenous families rather than migrants, currently reside on site with around 15 dwellings along the road in four locations. This presents resettlement risks, although the land parcel is large. Settlement on and near the site is low density. There are differing perceptions of land tenure. Consultations indicated ongoing cultural conflicts and a diminished cultural governance structure. The local school was reportedly closed due to tensions between family groups. Interviewed local residents viewed tourism positively, but were opposed to the arrival and settlement of non-local workers. With documented UXO discoveries and removals by Solomon Islands Police, there is a high risk of UXO.

### SITE LOCATION



### MANGROVE FOREST



### PICNIC INFRASTRUCTURE



### HEALTHY SEAGRASS



### COASTAL AREA



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	4
Marine biodiversity	8

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	6
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	8
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	4
Sea level rise	3

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.319526497, 159.6016897

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Approximately 15 households, but more reportedly moving onto the site.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Residential areas, gardens, coconut plantations and copra production. An area is used for recreation and ceremonies to the north of the site.

### SITE AREA (ha)

300

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Veranaaso Nurse Aid Post (2 kilometers). The closest hospital is in Honiara (75 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (65 kilometers) via road.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone coverage. Limited utilities, with no power or sanitation services. Freshwater access from a well, up to 2 kilometers' walk away.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

The village of Mangakiki is located near the southern boundary, with approximately 400 residents. Primary and secondary schools are located in Lambi Village.

### SITE ACCESS

Accessible by road 2.5 hours from Honiara, although some sections are rough. There is good boat access with four passages through the reef system.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Five protected areas within a 50-kilometer radius. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers, and one within 50 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Limited cooperation between tribal groups, which has led to tensions in the past. Some lack of agreement over land tenure.



SITE IDENTIFIER #:

3

PARCEL IDENTIFIER:

202-002-0011

# Tangarare

## West Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**  
**OVERALL RISK RATING**

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

Tangarare is a largely flat site with no evidence of coastal erosion or runoff into the ocean. The site is elevated 2-3 meters above sea level. The land title is held by the Catholic church, and those associated with the church make up a large proportion of the site's residents. Residents reported past historical conflict between customary land ownership and the church, which was resolved. No current conflicts were reported.

The settlement area of approximately 500 people is growing at the encouragement of the church and is well-established with schools, clinics, and services on-site. The current tenants and senior leaders of the church expressed an interest in tourism development, having establishing bungalow-style accommodation in 2020 towards the northern boundary in the center of the site, and identifying surfing and diving as potential attractions. The church is historically significant as the original ministry in Guadalcanal. Livelihoods in the village are primarily focused on copra, fishing, farming, nursing, and teaching. Residents could provide a potential labor pool and tourism training would be valued, particularly for secondary school graduates. However, unless development is in partnership with the community, tourism presents resettlement and livelihood risks. Communities consulted during site visits indicated that neighboring logging activities and non-resident workers have allegedly led to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment of women in the area. There were also reports of children engaged in labor practices at logging sites for low wages to support families.

A shallow-moderate depth reef system provides coastal protection to approximately 60 percent of the site. Logging activities have created some sedimentation and runoff. Outside the settlement area, the site is dominated by moderately disturbed secondary growth forest, healthy coastal vegetation, coconut plantations, and isolated mangroves along the river. Rain and banyan trees provide habitat for hornbills. The black sand beach is a known nesting site for leatherback turtles. A Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) plan is overseen by Tangarare and a neighboring community with support from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Community rangers, who undertake marine management and monitoring, reported healthy reef systems, seagrass, and diverse fish stocks. Any development must be in consultation and alignment with CBRM aspirations. No UXO discoveries have been documented within the site or surrounding vicinity. But, with multiple bombings and heavy fighting during WWII, there remains a substantial risk of UXO in the area.

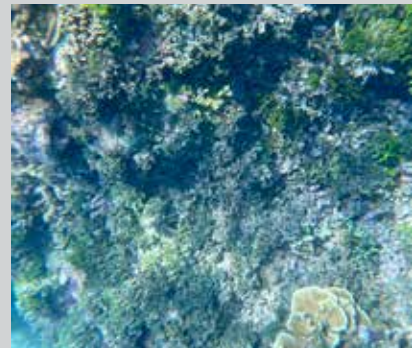
### SITE LOCATION



### COASTAL RECREATION AREA



### HEALTHY SEAGRASS AND CORAL



### VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE



### ESTABLISHED GARDENS



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	3
Marine biodiversity	7

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	8
Presence of livelihoods	5
Potential for UXO	6
Presence of cultural heritage	6

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	4
Sea level rise	4

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.583367758, 159.6493005

### SITE AREA (ha)

77.47

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Clinic on-site. Closest hospital in Honiara (110 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (100 kilometers) via boat only.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Good water resources. Reliance on solar power. No mobile phone tower.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

Crocodile hazard with two fatalities in the past two years.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Farming, forestry with logging activities.

### SITE ACCESS

Only accessible by boat, around 1.5 hours from Honiara. The road to this area is not passable.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two Key Biodiversity Areas within 10 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Historical land disputes, but no current conflicts. Reported issues with alleged sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment of women and children in the area.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Two small settlements and one large village. Three schools (two primary and one high school), church, gardens, sports field.

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Large village, with approximately 500 people.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 4

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 202-001-0001

# Kokomuruka Islands

## West Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The site has unique tourism value due to its natural beauty, with the land parcel comprised of two small islands (Kokomuruka Islands) at approximately 3 and 8 hectares and a larger mainland section of approximately 37 hectares. The two islands are close to the mainland, and have a sheltered passage. Although parts of the land title are low-lying, the site is largely protected by reef, with minor erosion evident on the coastal side. A fringing reef provides some coastal protection from the east. However, the islands have some inherent vulnerability as they are only 1-2 meters above sea level.

While the land is registered as a Fixed-Term Estate, people interviewed reported a lack of clarity around the land tenure arrangement for those living on-site. Despite this, interviewed stakeholders viewed tourism training and work opportunities positively and stated that no conflict around land tenure was expected. However, it will be important to undertake detailed consultations and seek clear agreement as a prerequisite for development.

The islands contain intact primary forests with trees, including vitex and rosewood. The islands host unique terrestrial habitats in good condition providing a bird habitat. The mainland presents lower development risk, having been previously cleared for plantations.

The unique marine environment is located at the end of the West Guadalcanal Marine Area (Special Unique Marine Area), with a healthy reef system, diverse fish and seagrasses providing an important marine habitat. Past unsustainable fishing practices led to a depletion of stocks, prompting a community-imposed fishing closure for four years, with stocks recovering since reopening in 2021. The mainland river, carrying a high sediment load, has some impact on the coastal reef system.

The two islands have limited capacity for development given their size, and the impact development would have on the unique environmental attributes. Overall, a strategic approach favoring mainland development and low-impact island activities is recommended for sustainable management.

SITE LOCATION



BOAT LANDING AREA



TWO SMALL ISLANDS ON TITLE



CLEAN WATER/GOOD MARINE HEALTH



APPROACH TO ISLAND



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	7
Marine biodiversity	5

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	3
Presence of livelihoods	1
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	4
Sea level rise	5

CO-ORDINATES

-9.557168852, 159.627737

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Two people, two houses, and one storage area on-site. A small settlement is present on the eastern side of the mainland site.

CURRENT LAND USE

The islands are used for recreation and fishing. Banana trees and a small garden tended to by three households from one family (one on the islands and two from the mainland).

SITE AREA (ha)

48.02

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Tangarare Area Health Center (15 kilometers), while the nearest hospital is in Honiara (105 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (95 kilometers) via boat only.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services. No phone connectivity. Solar power is utilized, but inadequate. Fresh water is available at a mainland site (groundwater).

OTHER SITE RISKS

Crocodiles present in the river that runs to the east of the title boundary on the mainland.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Logging. Closest community is Tangarare.

SITE ACCESS

Accessible by a 20-minute boat ride from nearest road access point (Lambi Village). Some technical navigation through the reef is required.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Five protected areas within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Lack of clarity on land tenure, but no conflicts described. People local to the area currently occupy and care for the site.



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 5

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 190-006-0001

# Variana (Hoilava)

## West Guadalcanal

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is characterized by low-lying terrain along the beach, contrasting with a hilly inland topography. There is no evidence of coastal erosion, with reefs to the north providing protection. The site includes a camp with seven structures (houses and sheds) situated close to the coast, with clusters of around 20 houses towards the southern end accompanied by gardens and old coconut plantations covering less than 20 percent of the site. There is a burial area at the northern segment of the site. During logging on the site in 2020, there was a nightclub and liquor shop to service logging company employees, both of which are now closed. Waste from the liquor shop remains on-site. A community cooperative holds the land title, with locals reporting a good governance structure. However, communities consulted during site visits also noted ongoing tensions with the logging industry and concerns raised about alleged sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) in the area. Specific issues identified include young women and girls allegedly facing SEAH from the labor force, and children working at logging sites for low wages to support their families. Tourism was viewed by the community as a positive opportunity for women to engage in the workforce.

The site is heavily impacted by extensive logging, with a substantial portion of the site now transformed into grassland and regrowth. Impending logging of the title area inland from the site raises concerns about potential future deforestation. A log pond remains on-site for ongoing logging activities, contributing to significant runoff and sedimentation from the steep terrain. Approximately 1 hectare of primary forest remains on steeper slopes, although it is vulnerable to future logging. Coastal vegetation is largely disturbed and varies in quality.

Human activities have affected marine biodiversity, leading to poor reef diversity and diminished fish stocks. Despite the area being part of the West Guadalcanal Marine Area (Special Unique Marine Area), an important biodiversity zone, at a localized level there is a lower risk of impacts from tourism due to the pre-existing damage. There may be an opportunity for any tourism development to collaborate with reef conservation and restoration efforts.

SITE LOCATION



COASTAL AREA



LIQUOR SHOP FROM LOGGING PERIOD



OLD PLANTATION AND REGROWTH



REGROWTH AND INVASIVE PLANTS



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	1
Marine biodiversity	2

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	7
Presence of livelihoods	6
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	4

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	4
Sea level rise	3

CO-ORDINATES

-9.456799744, 159.611485

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Around 100 people living across the site, with seven structures at the northern end and 20 at southern end of the site.

CURRENT LAND USE

Night club and liquor shop now closed after logging in the area. Gardens used by numerous families in north of the site.

SITE AREA (ha)

668

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Tangarare Area Health Center (5 kilometers), with the nearest hospital in Honiara (90 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (80 kilometers) via road to Lambi Village followed by boat access.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No phone coverage. Solar and generator power is available, while water is gravity fed from the creek.

OTHER SITE RISKS

Crocodiles known to be present in the estuarine river.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Primary school on the southern boundary.

SITE ACCESS

Accessible with a 20-minute boat ride from nearest road access point (Lambi Village).

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two Key Biodiversity Areas within 10 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Community represented by a cooperative that holds deed to the land title. Some historic conflict over logging, with concerns about alleged SEAH of women and children in the area.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 6

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 190-004-0003

# Marumbo Bay

## West Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

Marumbo Bay has a distinctive tourism feature with its surf break near the shore, offering a unique attraction for visitors and local board rider clubs. The coastal area is low-lying, approximately 1.5 meters above sea level, gradually rising inland into a generally flat terrain. There is no visible coastal erosion, although some sand erosion occurs during river flooding adjacent to the title.

The reef is situated approximately 1 kilometer offshore. The Marumbo community, approximately 1 kilometer from the site, comprises around 400 residents, with a high proportion of young people and children. Customary land is situated to the south of the river and freehold land to the north. Small housing clusters are spread along the coast, with a maximum of 10 houses with small and more extensive gardens further inland.

The site exhibits relatively low terrestrial biodiversity values due to a coconut plantation still in use after around 50 years. Each family is allocated an area within the plantation to harvest coconuts. Scattered coastal species are present in moderate condition, including *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Scaevola taccada* as shrubs and *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, such as beach vines. Notably, there are no mangroves. There is a high presence of Mission grass (*Pennisetum polystachion*) within the plantation and along the coast.

Marumbo Bay is a nesting area for leatherback turtles, although locals are known to harvest eggs for food. There is potential to strengthen conservation through tourism, especially focused on the protection of turtles.

### SITE LOCATION



### RIVER MOUTH ADJACENT TO SITE (EROSION THROUGH RIVER FLOODING)



### SECONDARY GROWTH FOREST



### COCONUT PLANTATION



### BLACK SANDY BEACH



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	2
Marine biodiversity	7

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	4
Presence of livelihoods	6
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	4
Sea level rise	3

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.369609378, 159.6003372

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Around 30 people live in family groups on-site in 10 dwellings.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Some existing tourism, focused on surfing. Plantations also in use.

### SITE AREA (ha)

203.1

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Lambi Rural Health Clinic (5 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (80 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (75 kilometers) via road.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

No power, telecommunications or sanitation services. Groundwater wells available.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

High waves. Good for surfing, but a potential hazard for inexperienced surfers and swimmers.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Marumbo community, located 1 kilometer south of the site, is home to 200 people. A school and church are present, with customary land south of the river.

### SITE ACCESS

Accessible by road, around two hours from Honiara. No boat access due to waves.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two Key Biodiversity Areas within 10 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

No conflicts reported.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 7

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 190-004-0002

# Nuhu Point

## West Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

Nuhu Point is overseen by provincial authorities and maintained by a caretaker living on the point. The site is an aesthetically appealing coastal enclave. Two distinct beaches feature on either side of the point: one characterized by black sand serving as a prime location for surfing and a nesting site for turtles, while the other features white sand and a healthy reef system, making it a potential destination for snorkeling. The juxtaposition of white and black sandy beaches is valued as a unique natural feature by the local community. The site is potentially susceptible to rising sea levels, particularly on the point itself, where inundations occur at high tides at the lowest lying part of the site. The surrounding reef system provides some protection, and there is limited coastal erosion.

The majority of the land parcel is dominated by an old coconut plantation and secondary forest. The ecosystem at the point itself is in good condition and includes potential primary forest. Any development would be advised to avoid impacting this small pocket of remnant forest. The presence of butterflies and small bird species was noted. The nearby Nuhu community significantly enhances the area's potential for cultural tourism.

Despite encountering a degree of pollution from maritime activities, the site maintains a coral reef in reasonable condition. The site is 2-3 meters above sea level and the reef provides some protection from storm surges. The area is frequently used as a stopover point for boats traveling up from Tangarare to the capital Honiara. This presents additional economic opportunities for tourism operations, including informal trade and the selling of arts and crafts.

### SITE LOCATION



### WHITE SANDY BEACH



### CARETAKER'S HUT AND LANDSCAPING



### FOREST AT THE POINT



### MANGROVES AND COASTAL ECOLOGY



### CO-ORDINATES

-9.363719334, 159.5931831

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

One family (two adults and one child) live on the point.

### CURRENT LAND USE

The point and northern beach area are popular rest sites for boat travelers, while the inland area is used for gardening.

### SITE AREA (ha)

83.4

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Lambi Rural Health Clinic (6 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (80 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (72 kilometers) via road.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Groundwater and freshwater available near the river. Patchy mobile phone coverage. No power or sanitation services.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

The Nuhu community is located inland near the road, with five houses and 20-25 residents.

### SITE ACCESS

Accessible from Honiara by road (two hours) and boat (1.5 hours).

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two Key Biodiversity Areas within a 10-kilometer radius.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Described as a close community with no known issues.

### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	4
Marine biodiversity	7

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	2
Presence of livelihoods	2
Potential for UXO	5
Presence of cultural heritage	4

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	5
Sea level rise	6

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 8

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 190-005-0001

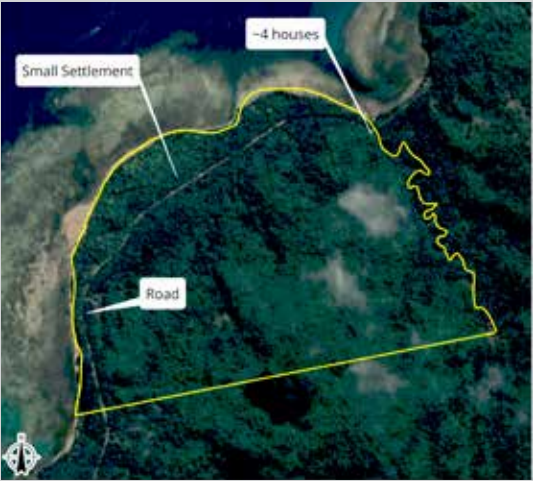
# Lavuro North

## West Guadalcanal

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

This site has minimal incursions due to challenging topography characterized by steep hills and dense forests. The terrain rises sharply from the coastline and is fringed by a shallow to medium-depth reef providing protection from storm surges. No coastal erosion was evident. The steep terrain and dense secondary forest make development of the site challenging. Despite potential difficulty accessing the area, there is tourism potential given its sweeping coastal views. There is a growing population on-site, with small clusters of housing appearing along the road. These dwellings were recently established and are primarily families relocating from Honiara.

The site experienced logging activity in 2022, but it was limited due to the inaccessibility of some parts of the site. There is a healthy presence of native trees, and coastal species such as *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Scaevola taccada* as shrubs, and *Ipomoea pescaprae* as beach vines. There are pockets of mangroves present. The site provides good habitat for wildlife, with pigeons sighted during the field assessment.

The coastal area is sandy with seagrass and in relatively healthy condition. The reef system is part of the West Guadalcanal Marine Area (Special Unique Marine Area), known for its biodiversity and habitat qualities.

Although there are no records of UXO present, it remains close to historical WWII battle areas and, as such, is viewed as having moderate risks of UXO.

### SITE LOCATION



### COASTAL AREA



### COASTAL PLANTS



### SEAGRASS



### SECONDARY FOREST



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	4
Marine biodiversity	6

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	4
Presence of livelihoods	2
Potential for UXO	5
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	1
Sea level rise	2

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.307072486, 159.6032678

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Eight dwellings and two additional structures, accommodating 40-50 people.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Limited use due to topography, very steep hills and dense forest.

### SITE AREA (ha)

158

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Veranaso Nurse Aid Post (5 kilometers). The closest hospital is in Honiara (72 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (64 kilometers) is accessed by road.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone coverage. No power, sanitation services nor groundwater wells.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Previous forestry activity.

### SITE ACCESS

Around two hours' drive from Honiara.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Five protected areas within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers, and one within 50 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Residents, largely settler groups, have recently moved into this area.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 9

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 190-011-0001

# Hautabu Point

## West Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

This site is owned by the Church of Melanesia, settled in the early 1900s, and features a secondary school (Selwyn College) located on the eastern border, a monastery along the hills adjacent to Konjuku stream and another monastery above the point. Approximately 70 percent of the site is positioned 1 meter above sea level, but it suffers from poor drainage during heavy rain. Periodic flooding is experienced, particularly on the school grounds and the river area near the nun's community, closing the school up to twice a year. As the site is already exposed to a degree of vulnerability, the risk rating is placed in the moderate rather than low range. The majority of terrain is hilly, and there are no signs of coastal erosion. The coastline benefits from protection provided by a reef located approximately 30-50 meters from the site, with around 60 percent of the coastal border within this protective range. While climate change impacts (notably river-related flooding) were discussed with school staff, sea level rises were not perceived as an immediate threat. The site draws visitors from the capital Honiara for recreational activities, including picnics, diving, snorkeling, and fishing. There are bins and signage in place, and regular beachfront and roadside clean-ups are undertaken. The church community on-site has a majority of members aged 20-30 years. Elderly residents are moved to church aged-care facilities in Honiara as the site contains stairs and steep walking paths. Selwyn College is a well-respected school, with ex-students having expressed an interest in tourism development to generate an income stream. The school board is supportive, but also mindful of its priority as an educational institution. It is interested in hospitality training opportunities.

The landscape is characterized by hills and well-established landscaping. There are mature trees such as teak (*Tectona grandis*), *Acacia auriculiformis* and *Gmelina arborea* planted by the church community many years ago. Due to the highly modified environment, wildlife habitat and corridors are limited. Coastal vegetation is well-established. Recognized as a turtle egg-laying site, older community members reported a noticeable decline in turtles and discussed concerns about eggs being taken as a food source. The marine area faces challenges from dynamite fishing outside the reef, impacting fish stocks and coral health. Despite the well-managed picnic area, marine litter is likely due to the site's popularity. Reported discoveries and disposal of UXO by Solomon Islands Police indicate high UXO risks in this area.

### SITE LOCATION



### PICNIC FACILITIES



### COASTAL AREA



### LANDSCAPING AND SPORTS FIELD



### COLLEGE GROUNDS



### CO-ORDINATES

-9.289520018, 159.6213247

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Around 50 brothers and 50 nuns in separate community areas, with 950 students (40 percent female) and 70 staff at the college.

### CURRENT LAND USE

A Church of Melanesia site, with a college and residential facilities for nuns and brothers. Also a popular coastal picnic area.

### SITE AREA (ha)

89.88

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Veranaso Nurse Aid Post (1 kilometer). The closest hospital is in Honiara (67 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (59 kilometers) via road.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Rainwater and groundwater are sourced for freshwater. Power and sanitation, along with mobile phone connectivity available.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Residential and subsistence farming. Previous logging adjacent to the site.

### SITE ACCESS

Around two hours' drive from Honiara.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Five protected areas within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers and one within 50 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Strong cohesion and governance demonstrated. Previous incursions by informal settlers resolved through dialogue.

### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	3
Marine biodiversity	5

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	9
Presence of livelihoods	2
Potential for UXO	8
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	5
Sea level rise	4



**SITE IDENTIFIER #:** 10

**PARCEL IDENTIFIER:** 207-001-0003

# Komukomtou Island (Symons) East Guadalcanal

**LOW**  
OVERALL RISK RATING

## SITE



## SITE DESCRIPTION

Komukomtou Island (also known as “Symons Island”) is an uninhabited small island with no infrastructure. It is low-lying with an elevation from 0.5-2.5 meters above mean sea level. The island has sandy beaches and a fringing reef system that provides some level of protection from storm surges. There is little coastal erosion present, which may indicate that the island is subject to storm surges. There are no gardens and approximately 10 coconut trees, some of which have died due to age. The island is used as a transit point for boats, with people temporarily stopping to fish and camp overnight.

The site contains secondary forest in healthy condition with good diversity and coastal vegetation, including *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Scaevola taccada*, and *Ipomoea pes-caprae*. Bird species identified on the site include willie wagtails, kingfishers, and red-knobbed imperial pigeons. Mangroves are present on the island and would benefit from conservation and expansion.

Six marine managed areas, or *Tabu* sites, are located within 10 kilometers of Komukomtou Island (Alite, Kere hira/Niuhoa, Niuhoa, Nu'u Marere, Simeruka and Wahere). Reefs surrounding the island are suitable for in-shore snorkeling and in moderately good health. There are signs of over-fishing with limited fish diversity and abundance. Seagrasses present are in good health and provide habitat.

Research suggests that no fighting occurred in East Guadalcanal during WWII. This is supported by the absence of any known or documented UXO discoveries in the region.

## SITE LOCATION



## APPROACH TO LOW-LYING ISLAND



## COASTAL PROTECTION



## CORAL



## HEALTHY COASTAL FOREST



## ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	2
Marine biodiversity	4

## SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	1
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

## NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	6
Sea level rise	6

## CO-ORDINATES

-9.737202498, 160.7952323

## CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

One shelter on-site. No occupation.

## CURRENT LAND USE

Temporary use for overnight camping and fishing.

## SITE AREA (ha)

10

## DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Totogo Rural Health Clinic (10 kilometers). Nearest hospital in Honiara (100 kilometers).

## DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (21 kilometers), but was closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Reached via the road to Manikaraku jetty followed by boat access (17 kilometers).

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone connectivity. No other services are available.

## OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

## ADJACENT LAND USE

Forestry and settlements along mainland coast either side of the land parcel location.

## SITE ACCESS

Accessible by boat, two hours from Honiara.

## PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Six protected areas within 10 kilometers, four within 50 kilometers and one Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

## COMMUNITY COHESION

Unknown.

SITE IDENTIFIER #:

11

PARCEL IDENTIFIER:

207-001-0002

# Arona Island East Guadalcanal

**LOW**  
OVERALL RISK RATING

## SITE



## SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is surrounded by a reef system similar to that of neighboring Komukomtou (Symons) Island, but more exposed to weather systems. It shows clear signs of storm damage and coral bleaching, as well as low diversity and abundance of fish species. There is some seagrass present. At 1-2 meters above sea level, the island is relatively exposed.

There is no infrastructure on the island aside from two small shelters. The site is used as a stopover for boat travelers.

The terrestrial landscape is healthy secondary and coastal forest, with approximately 20 coconut trees. Common bird species on the island include kingfishers and willie wagtails. There was limited evidence of coastal erosion, with the fringing reef system providing good protection of the island. However, the site is low-lying and vulnerable to sea level rises. Parts of the island feature sandy beaches, particularly on the southwest where boats approach the island. One Marine Managed Area and *Tabu* site was identified within 1 kilometer (Alite), with a further five located within 10 kilometers (Kere Hira/Niuhoa, Niuhoa, Nu'u Marere, Simeruka and Wahere).

Research suggests that no fighting occurred in East Guadalcanal during WWII. This is supported by the absence of any known or documented UXO discoveries in the region.

## SITE LOCATION



## APPROACH TO LOW-LYING ISLAND



## COASTAL PROTECTION



## CORAL



## HEALTHY COASTAL FOREST



## ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity

4

Marine biodiversity

2

## SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people

1

Presence of livelihoods

1

Potential for UXO

2

Presence of cultural heritage

3

## NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability

7

Sea level rise

6

## CO-ORDINATES

-9.74031594, 160.8068607

## CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Two shelters on-site. No occupation.

## CURRENT LAND USE

Site is used for recreation, fishing and a rest spot for boat travelers.

## SITE AREA (ha)

12

## DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Totogo Rural Health Clinic (10 kilometers). Nearest hospital in Honiara (100 kilometers).

## DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (21 kilometers), but was closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Reached via the road to Manikaraku jetty followed by boat access (15 kilometers).

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone connectivity. No other services are available.

## OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

## ADJACENT LAND USE

Forestry on the mainland. The closest settlement is Marau, located approximately 13 kilometers southeast of the island.

## SITE ACCESS

In good weather, a two-hour boat journey from Honiara or 45 minutes from Marau Settlement.

## PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

One protected area within 1 kilometer, five within 10 kilometers, and four within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

## COMMUNITY COHESION

Unknown.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 12

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 222-001-0004

# Tavanipupu Island

## East Guadalcanal

MODERATE

OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The island was originally cleared for a coconut plantation in the late 19th century. A portion of it was developed by foreign nationals in the 1970s as a high-end dive resort and eco-lodge, before it was sold to a new owner from Hawaii, who managed the resort from 2008, with ownership of the property transferred to Solomon Islands National Provident Fund (SINPF) in 2017. SINPF remain the current owners of the property and business assets. The business suffered after the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of Marau Airport, with the financing bank taking it over. The resort is currently leased to a foreign national with other businesses in Honiara, but not operational at the time of site visit and its reopening is dependent on the resumption of flights to Marau Airport. During site interviews it was reported that when operational, the resort directly employed up to 50 local people, with an equal gender split, with benefits flowing more broadly into the community via cultural tourism and purchases of local produce and handicrafts. Recycling systems, conservation programs, and medical care benefits flowed to local communities. The site was protected from reprisals during conflicts due to the positive perception of the facility. Interviewed community members were in favor of tourism development benefits flowing back into the communities, including jobs for local people and sourcing of goods and services. The 10 guest bungalows are structurally sound, but in disrepair. The site needs significant re-investment to refurbish the resort assets across the island prior to the planned re-opening. There is a low UXO risk.

The terrestrial ecology is highly altered with established timber species, mature coconut trees, and landscaped gardens making the site appealing. Coastal vegetation is healthy and includes established mangroves. The site is sheltered and has fared well in previous cyclones. There is no evidence of erosion. The coral reefs around the island are in healthy condition, demonstrating the conservation benefits of utilizing reefs to be a tourism drawcard. Coral, seagrass, and fish are abundant and diverse. At 1-4 meters above sea level, the island is relatively sheltered from storm surges.

The resort has a strong history of harnessing social and environmental opportunities to create a unique tourism experience.

SITE LOCATION



EXISTING BUNGALOWS



MANGROVES



DIVERSE AND HEALTHY CORAL REEFS



HEALTHY CORAL AND SEAGRASSES



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	5
Marine biodiversity	8

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	2
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	3
Sea level rise	4

CO-ORDINATES

-9.826580452, 160.8502235

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

10 guest bungalows, kitchen/laundry, meeting area, bar/restaurant and additional huts. Currently buildings not in use – only caretaker living on site.

CURRENT LAND USE

Resort.

SITE AREA (ha)

14.979

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Marau Area Health Center (5 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (110 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (4 kilometers by boat), but airport was closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Reached via the road to Manikaraku jetty followed by boat access (3.5 kilometers).

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Good mobile coverage. Water and sanitation systems available for guest facilities. Previously solar with generator backup for electricity. Now generator only.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

The closest community is Marau Station, with 200 residents (mainly settlers) and surrounding Indigenous communities.

SITE ACCESS

Five kilometers from Marau Station (approximately 10 minutes by boat) with two jetties and one helipad on the island.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

One protected area within 1 kilometer, eight within 10 kilometers, and one within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

The cohesion is directly related to social license, with communities understanding what good practice is from previous managers. To date, the resort is viewed as safe.



SITE IDENTIFIER #:

13

PARCEL IDENTIFIER:

222-005-0001

# Maraubina Island

## East Guadalcanal

**LOW**  
 OVERALL RISK RATING

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

Maraubina Island is close to Paruru Point and frequently accessed for picnics, fishing, and recreation by local communities. Near the boat landing beach, the understorey has been cleared within the secondary forest to utilize the site for picnics. The site appears frequently used, with some rubbish evident. In addition to picnics, there is evidence of the site's use for firewood collection, with stockpiles stored along the coast. The island is sheltered with surrounding flat rocky reefs. There is no evidence of coastal erosion, despite the site being relatively low-lying, with approximately 35 percent at less than 1 meter above sea level.

A long-term and ongoing conflict between Indigenous people and settler communities in the local area was reported, although Maraubina Island is uninhabited. However, this potential background of local conflict needs to be considered as a part of the consultation and development process. There is a low risk of UXO.

The site is dominated by secondary forest, with healthy coastal plant communities, including *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Barringtonia asiatica* and some mangroves on the northern tip which offers good coastal protection. Bird species located on-site include kingfishers, willie wagtails, starlings, and coconut lorikeets.

The reef is in a relatively healthy condition, with moderate fish diversity and abundance. Given the proximity to reef systems in Marine Managed Areas, the risks of further impacts to reefs from tourism development and operations have been reflected in a moderately high-risk score.

### SITE LOCATION



### CLEARED UNDERSTOREY



### COASTAL PANDANUS TREES



### BOAT LANDING AREA



### INSHORE CORAL REEF



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	3
Marine biodiversity	6

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	4
Sea level rise	7

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.850581052, 160.8379728

### SITE AREA (ha)

2.1

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Marau Area Health Center (5 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (120 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (2 kilometers), but was closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Reached via the road to Manikaraku jetty followed by boat access (1 kilometer).

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Adequate mobile phone coverage, but no other infrastructure or services available.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Close to Marau Station, home to approximately 500 people, featuring primary and secondary schools, churches, police, government services and a health clinic.

### SITE ACCESS

Three-minute boat trip from Marau Station.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two protected areas within 1 kilometer, five within 10 kilometers and three within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Reported long-term and ongoing conflict between Indigenous people and settler communities in the local area.

### CURRENT LAND USE

The island is used for recreation, firewood collection and reef fishing.

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No occupancy of the island.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 14

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 222-002-0038

# Paruru Point (East)

## East Guadalcanal

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

Paruru Point (East) has limited settlement within the boundary, and a small settlement to the southwest of the site with approximately 50 families living on customary land. Consultations indicated that those remaining on the Paruru Point (East) title were slowly transitioning to the nearby settlement. Long-term and ongoing conflicts between Indigenous people and settler communities were reported in this area, which had been ongoing for more than 20 years and at times led to violent conflict in the area. Currently, there is physical separation between Indigenous people and settler communities living in Marau Sound, with a large police presence in Marau to manage potential conflict should it arise. Communities consulted during site visits also indicated that the presence of the logging industry and associated non-resident workers had led to increased social risks. This included children allegedly engaged in labor practices at logging sites as well as young women and girls facing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) from logging workers.

The soil is fertile, with several gardens on-site (mostly potatoes), particularly along the internal road running parallel to the western boundary. The neighboring community reported social cohesion as evidenced by current work with World Vision drafting by-laws for community governance. The community expressed optimism regarding tourism as it had experienced benefits in the past and wished to diversify from fishing, copra and create more employment opportunities for women. Snorkeling, bushwalking, and cultural tourism were viewed as high-potential opportunities.

Reefs along the coast are shallow and provide good coastal protection, with the site 1-2 meters above sea level. The community reported climate-related impacts, such as increased coastal flooding. This has led to some people relocating further inland. There is a creek that runs through the site and into the sea along the middle of the southern coastal boundary. The terrestrial ecology is highly disturbed, but with some secondary forest and healthy coastal vegetation. Given the prevalence of logging activities along this area of the coast, coral reef systems have been impacted by sedimentation.

### SITE LOCATION



### LAND CLEARANCE FOR POTATO FARMING



### NEIGHBORING SETTLEMENT



### CREEK FLOWING INTO SEA



### COASTAL AREA



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	4
Marine biodiversity	2

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	4
Presence of livelihoods	5
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	6
Sea level rise	5

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.85341114, 160.8309513

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Three houses on-site and beach shelters.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Multiple gardens, particularly potatoes. Approximately three houses and shelters.

### SITE AREA (ha)

3.9

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Marau Area Health Center (5 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (110 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (1 kilometer), but closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Direct road access available.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile coverage is available. Solar in use by the neighboring community, but grid connections are planned. Groundwater available, but no sanitation.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Settlement southwest of the boundary, home to approximately 50 families.

### SITE ACCESS

Good accessibility by plane from Honiara to Marau Airport, by boat (2.5 hours from Honiara) and road (two minutes from Marau Airport).

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two protected areas within 1 kilometer, five within 10 kilometers, and three within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within a 10-kilometer radius.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Long-term and ongoing conflict between Indigenous people and settler communities in the area. To address the issue, community building and strengthening efforts are underway.



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 15

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 222-002-0039

# Paruru Point (West)

## East Guadalcanal

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

Paruru West, adjoined to Paruru East, has limited structures. Three houses appear recently constructed, however, they were unoccupied at the time of the site visit. The site also has four shelters, two sheds, and some aged infrastructure from a previous coral harvesting business. Marau Station borders the site and is home to approximately 200 families, with the parcel actively used for gardening and storage of boats. Marau police station is located adjacent to the site, with a police boat also in storage.

There is long-term and ongoing conflict between Indigenous people and settler communities in the area. Consultations indicated that such tensions had been ongoing for more than 20 years and have led to violence. Currently, both parties live at separate sites in Marau Sound, with a large police presence to manage potential conflict should it arise. Communities consulted during site visits indicated that the logging industry active in the surrounding area and presence of non-resident workers had allegedly led to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), with young women and girls living at home with families in the area reportedly vulnerable.

The site is environmentally degraded, with refuse found in proximity to the community. The beachfront is low-lying and coastal erosion is evident, particularly at the northern and southeastern coastal boundaries where the elevation is less than 2 meters above sea level. Sediment run-off into the coastal area from logging activities has impacted reefs. The coastal side, particularly further south, has more intact ecology with healthy coastal plant communities. In contrast, inland and the northern side are more degraded due to the incursion of human activities. Inshore and fringing reefs have been impacted by a previous coral harvesting business. However, the beach has good amenities and potential for tourism with the community in proximity to provide a workforce.

### SITE LOCATION



### NEW COASTAL DWELLING



### RUBBISH DUMPED AT THE NORTH END



### COASTAL AREA



### COASTAL EROSION



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	2
Marine biodiversity	1

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	3
Presence of livelihoods	5
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	5
Sea level rise	4

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.851858977, 160.8329093

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Four shelters, two sheds and three houses are present.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Gardens, access tracks along the coast, residential.

### SITE AREA (ha)

10.15

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Marau Area Health Center (5 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (110 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (1.5 kilometer), but closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Direct road access available.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile coverage is available. No water or sanitation on-site. Grid potential after Paruru East is connected.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Adjoins Marau Station on the northern boundary, home to around 500 people. It also features primary and secondary schools, churches, police, government offices and a health clinic.

### SITE ACCESS

Easy access if Marau Airport re-opens (closed at the time of research due to a land dispute). An internal road (three minutes from Marau Airport) and by boat (2.5 hours from Honiara) also provide access.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two protected areas within 1 kilometer, five within 10 kilometers, and three within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Historical conflicts between Indigenous and settler communities.



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 16

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 193-002-0002

# Vulelua Island

## East Guadalcanal

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

Vulelua Island is uninhabited, with no infrastructure or gardens. There are some remnants of small buildings, including two concrete slabs and two pits or old septic tank structures. As a popular boat stop site, some rubbish was evident. The island is low-lying, but benefits from some coastal protection from an in-shore reef system around its entire perimeter.

There is evidence of storm damage on the northeast and east of the island, with felled trees and erosion visible. Approximately 70 percent of the site is 1 meter above sea level. Vulelua Island is a high-risk site for natural hazards, flagging that adaptation measures may be advisable in the siting and design process to reduce this risk.

The site features secondary forest and intact coastal vegetation in good condition, with species such as *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Scaevola taccada*, and *Ipomea pes-caprae* present. The understorey has been cleared for a picnic area and firewood collection.

The inshore reef is rocky and exposed, although there is some potential for snorkeling. Logging activity on the mainland has contributed to sedimentation in the area.

While there is a low risk of UXO given the absence of any documented UXO discoveries in the region, it is important to note that like all sites in the corridor, this does not mean there is no risk at all.

### SITE LOCATION



### INSHORE/PROTECTIVE REEF SYSTEMS



### EROSION ON NORTHEAST SHORE



### BOAT LANDING AREA AND MAINLAND



### SEPTIC TANK



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	4
Marine biodiversity	3

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	2
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	7
Sea level rise	7

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.49766446, 160.4771825

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No dwellings or inhabitants. Ruins of an old building present.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Recreation, primarily as a rest site to break up boat travel.

### SITE AREA (ha)

1.52

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Seve Nurse Aid Post (10 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (50 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (55 kilometers). Access is via boat.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone connectivity. No other services available. There is a decommissioned septic system on-site, but no evidence of freshwater sources.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Logging, with Aola the closest community.

### SITE ACCESS

Boat access, approximately two hours from Honiara.

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Five protected areas within 50 kilometers and one Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

No known community cohesion concerns.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 17

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 205-002-0001

# Mbara Island

## East Guadalcanal

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The site was previously owned by a foreign national who built a house and jetty and had plans to construct a bridge connecting to the mainland. Ruins of this house are still visible on the island. Reportedly, the previous owner is buried near the house, although no marked grave was identified during the site visit. No gardens or fruit trees were visible on-site. People use the site for picnics and overnight accommodation, often arriving the night before to access the market in Aola Village.

Surrounded by narrow reef flats, with low amenity value and limited biodiversity, the island is primarily composed of coral sand and is elevated 1-2 meters above sea level. Erosion was observed on the northern shores. The vegetation consists of mature secondary growth lowland coastal forest, with pandanus and cycad plants common in the understory. During the site visit, a pair of megapodes was sighted and it appeared that local communities had been harvesting megapode eggs, as there was evidence of nest excavation.

Research suggests that no fighting occurred in East Guadalcanal during WWII, which is supported by the absence of documented UXO discoveries in the region.

SITE LOCATION



TEMPORARY SHELTER



COASTAL EROSION



SECONDARY GROWTH FOREST



SECONDARY GROWTH FOREST



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	6
Marine biodiversity	3

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	1
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	6
Sea level rise	5

CO-ORDINATES

-9.529545021, 160.5012359

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No occupants. Three shelters and remnants of previous buildings are on-site.

CURRENT LAND USE

People often stay on the island while waiting for markets to open. Also a popular site for picnics.

SITE AREA (ha)

2.63

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Seve Nurse Aid Post (4 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (50 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (57 kilometers). Access is via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone connectivity available. No other services. Previous house had sanitation and water systems.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Aola Village sits close to the island. Adjacent land is primarily used for logging, along with cultivation of market gardens.

SITE ACCESS

The site can be accessed by boat within 2 hours from Honiara or Marau Station.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Nine protected areas within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer, and one within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

No known community cohesion concerns.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 18

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 206-002-0001

# Taluto'o

## East Guadalcanal

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

The island is characterized by low-lying coral sand composition, sitting approximately 1 meter above sea level, with surrounding shallow tidal reef flats. The reef has been impacted by fishing and other human activities, including evidence of giant clam consumption and water quality degradation. Patchy seagrass is present in some areas. While no permanent occupants were found on the site, shelter structures and old fire pits suggest temporary accommodation, likely used by fishermen. Additionally, the engraving of names on several trees suggest the island is frequented by young people from nearby villages.

The island's exposed location makes it susceptible to inundation during storm surges, as indicated by coastal erosion observed on the northern shore. Taluto'o Island is rated a high-risk site for natural hazards, flagging that adaptation measures may be advisable in the siting and design process to reduce this risk.

The environment is moderately disturbed, with evidence of vegetation clearance and the presence of invasive plant species, leading to low species diversity. One Key Biodiversity Area lies within 1 kilometer of the site, known as the Guadalcanal Watersheds.

Research indicates that no fighting occurred in East Guadalcanal during WWII. This is supported by the absence of any known and documented discoveries of UXO in the region.

### SITE LOCATION



### SHELTER STRUCTURE



### COASTAL EROSION



### EXAMPLE OF DEGRADED HABITAT



### OLD JETTY STRUCTURE



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	4
Marine biodiversity	4

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	3
Presence of livelihoods	2
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	8
Sea level rise	7

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.599134012, 160.6393627

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No occupants. Some evidence of temporary stays and fire pits.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Recreation and a temporary transit stop during boat journeys.

### SITE AREA (ha)

0.2

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Totogo Rural Health Clinic (10 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (70 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (40 kilometers), but was closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Access is via boat.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone connectivity, but no other services available.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

Site exposed to storm surges.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Coconut plantation adjacent on the mainland.

### SITE ACCESS

The island is accessible by boat from Honiara (1.75 hours).

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Nine protected areas within 50 kilometers and one Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

No known community cohesion concerns.

SITE IDENTIFIER #:

19

PARCEL IDENTIFIER:

206-004-0001

# Suulava East Guadalcanal

**LOW**  
OVERALL RISK RATING

## SITE



## SITE DESCRIPTION

This former coconut plantation, established during the colonial era, is still utilized by the local community. Some replanting is evident, with the site dominated by secondary growth forest. A stream runs through the southern portion of the site, and may be subject to flooding as it appears to be low-lying and swampy in some areas. The northern shore is impacted by coastal erosion.

Indigenous communities are known to live in Korai settlement, approximately 2 kilometers from the site, while migrant settlement communities working in the logging industry also live in proximity to the site. Residents utilize the site as a key access track throughout the day to access the local market and schools. Those consulted on-site were not positive about potential tourism development and workers moving into the area. Respondents were concerned that tourism could have similar impacts on the community as had logging, the primary employer in the area. Logging operations and a load-out dock are located near the site, which limits the aesthetic appeal for the tourism sector. Communities consulted during site visits indicated that the logging industry and presence of non-resident workers had led to alleged incidences of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). Young women and girls living at home with families in the area were reportedly more vulnerable to SEAH from the logging workers. There were also reports of children engaged in labor practices at logging sites for low wages to support families.

Shallow reef flats, with occasional patches of seagrass, are located near the site. Fringing reefs, however, are of limited biodiversity value due to impacts from fishing and other human activity. Three Marine Managed Areas are located within 10 kilometers (Alite, Kere hira/Niuhoa, Niuhoa), while one Key Biodiversity Area lies within 10 kilometers of the site (Guadalcanal Watersheds). The site is generally 1-2 meters above sea level.

Research suggests that no fighting occurred in East Guadalcanal during WWII. This is supported by the absence of known and documented discoveries of UXO in the region.

## SITE LOCATION



## SECONDARY GROWTH IN COCONUT PLANTATION



## EROSION ON THE NORTHERN COASTLINE



## ACCESS TRACK



## BEACHFRONT



## ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	3
Marine biodiversity	2

## SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	2
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

## NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	6
Sea level rise	6

## CO-ORDINATES

-9.729397799, 160.7440197

## CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No occupation of site.

## CURRENT LAND USE

Former colonial era coconut plantation. Now primarily used as an access track between communities, connecting nearby villages to markets and critical social infrastructure.

## SITE AREA (ha)

188.074

## DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Totogo Rural Health Clinic (15 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (90 kilometers).

## DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Marau Airport (25 kilometers), but was closed due to a land dispute at the time of research. Access is via boat.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services available. Stream on the southern portion is a potential freshwater source.

## OTHER SITE RISKS

Large shallow reef makes boat landing challenging. Some parts of the site may be prone to flooding as the area is low-lying and a stream passes through the site.

## ADJACENT LAND USE

Logging activity nearby the site.

## SITE ACCESS

The site is accessible by boat around 1.75 hours from Honiara.

## PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Three protected areas within 10 kilometers, and seven within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

## COMMUNITY COHESION

There are issues related to logging activity nearby, including risks of SEAH.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 20

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 181-006-0001

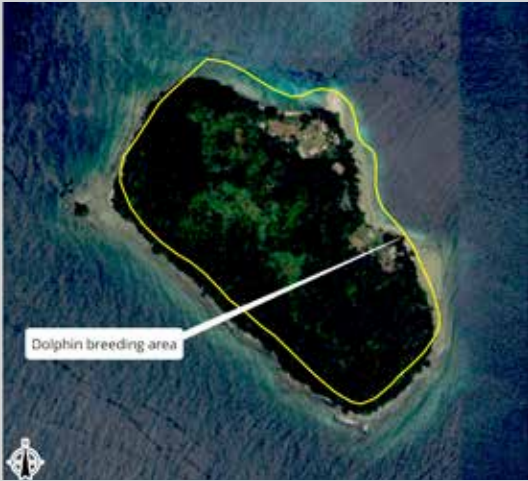
# Mbungana Island

## Nggela

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

Owned by the United Church of Solomon Islands, this site boasts significant aesthetic appeal. Positioned on the southwest side of the island, there is a valuable forest area comprised of primary forest, sago palm wetlands and a salt marsh, all in healthy condition. While this part of the site requires conservation efforts, other areas could potentially be developed without impacting this biodiversity. Although the terrestrial biodiversity risk rating remains high, it is acknowledged that tourism development is still possible with appropriate siting and mitigation measures. The island is approximately 30 meters above sea level at its highest point. While no UXO discoveries have been documented within the site and surrounding vicinity, the UXO risk remains moderate due to proximity to active sites during WWII. The coral reef surrounding the island is in reasonable condition, characterized by good coral health and diversity. However, evidence of overfishing is apparent, leading to the limited presence of fish and diversity. The risk to the marine environment varies from low to moderate, depending on the location of any development on the island. One Key Biodiversity Area (Gela) is located within 1 kilometer of the site.

Current residents interviewed were generally supportive of potential tourism ventures if aligned with their theological teachings and community purpose. An education facility on the island is currently exclusive to male students. The site comprises approximately 15 structures, including kitchens, dormitories, houses, a church, an administration building, and classrooms, some of which are more than 40 years old. About 70 people associated with the church reside on the island, though they are not Indigenous to the area. In a separate part of the site, 10 residents from a family occupy land with three additional dwellings and operate a dolphin breeding operation in the bay, currently housing two dolphins in captivity. A previous dispute with Solomon Islands Government in relation to the dolphins in captivity has made the residents guarded, expressing reluctance to allow visitors onto the site. This poses a potential risk to tourism, considering the unfavorable view toward dolphin breeding in captivity among a significant portion of the tourism market. Thus, careful consideration is needed regarding the compatibility of the dolphin breeding operation with potential tourism endeavors.

SITE LOCATION



SALT MARSH/PANDANUS SWAMP



DWELLING STRUCTURES



HEALTHY SECONDARY GROWTH FOREST ON SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE SITE



GARDENS



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	8
Marine biodiversity	5

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	6
Presence of livelihoods	3
Potential for UXO	5
Presence of cultural heritage	5

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	4
Sea level rise	4

CO-ORDINATES

-9.183976438, 160.2044556

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Some 15 structures on one section of the island, with a further three in a second cluster.

CURRENT LAND USE

Church mission, tertiary theological education, and dolphin breeding.

SITE AREA (ha)

40

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Tulagi Hospital (10 kilometers). health clinic (8 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (32 kilometers). Access via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile connectivity, solar and water systems in place to service the church and school.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Small villages are located close to the island where a primary school is located.

SITE ACCESS

Accessible by boat from Honiara within 1.5 hours.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Nine protected areas within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer, and one within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

There has been tension between church community residents and the family running the dolphin breeding.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 21

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 181-001-0005

# Tanambogho Island

## Nggela

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

This island was significantly negatively impacted by WWII, and several war relics remain scattered across the island. The land title is held by an Indigenous family through a well-governed trust. The trust reportedly holds positive views regarding tourism, seeing it as an opportunity for the local community to develop. Currently, the island is frequented by local communities for picnics and features temporary accommodation. Additionally, several people from the capital Honiara travel to the island each month for prayer under an informal arrangement with the titleholders, who indicated this would cease if development occurred on the island, flagging the need for dialogue on this issue.

Part of a three-island cluster, Tanambogho and its neighbors boast high aesthetic value. Although the neighboring islands were previously utilized for dolphin breeding and trade, this operation closed years ago. The terrestrial biodiversity of the site is limited, with the exception of an intact mangrove salt marsh lagoon in the northwest corner that could be conserved with appropriate siting of tourism infrastructure.

Shallow fringing reef flats dominate the western and southern sides of the island. The reef is not considered to have high biodiversity value, displaying limited diversity and signs of human impacts.

Tanambogho Island served as a seaplane base for the Japanese during WWII, where heavy fighting with the United States Marine Corps took place. Discoveries of war relics have been documented on the island by the Solomon Islands Police EOD Unit, rendering it a high-risk area for UXO.

SITE LOCATION



FORMER WWII BUNKER



RIDGE VIEW



REGENERATING FOREST



MANGROVES ON-SITE



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	5
Marine biodiversity	4

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	3
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	8
Presence of cultural heritage	6

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	5
Sea level rise	6

CO-ORDINATES

-9.111258, 160.184650

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Two temporary shelters on-site.

CURRENT LAND USE

Used for prayer visits and temporary accommodation.

SITE AREA (ha)

5.22

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Tulagi Hospital (5 kilometers). Taroaniara Health Clinic (10 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (38 kilometers). Access via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile connectivity, but no other services available.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Small villages present on nearby islands.

SITE ACCESS

Accessible by boat from Honiara, around 1.5 hours away.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Nine protected areas within 50 kilometers, with a Key Biodiversity Area each within a 1- and 50-kilometer radius.

COMMUNITY COHESION

No community cohesion issues reported.

SITE IDENTIFIER #:

22

PARCEL IDENTIFIER:

181-001-0001

# Soghonangola Island (Double Island)

## Nggela

**LOW**  
 OVERALL RISK RATING

### SITE



### SITE DESCRIPTION

The site represents a highly modified environment, boasting good elevation and thus presenting low risk in terms of climate change impacts. Currently, it is owned by a local company in the process of constructing a small-scale casino on-site.

Accommodation facilities to support the casino have been completed with two guesthouses. However, consultations indicated that the land title was perceived by some community members to have been acquired without consent, leading to a lack of acceptance within the community regarding the casino development. While the titleholders occasionally visit the site with guests, there is no permanent population on the island – only temporary construction workers from other provinces. On the southern tip of the island, a WWII gun has been preserved.

According to community members interviewed on-site, miscommunication between the owner and site stewards resulted in the clearance of a significant proportion of remnant vegetation. Bird species observed on-site included the Oriole Whistler, Willie wagtail, and Beach kingfisher. Additionally, a Pacific black skink was sighted during the field visit.

The reef on the northern side of the island displays good biodiversity and health, extending about halfway down the east coast of the island. It showcases high biodiversity, with well-developed and healthy corals such as *Acropora* spp., *Oulophyllia crispa*, and *Pocillopora verrucosa*, among others. A diverse array of fish was observed, including large schools, apex predators and reef fish. The location is relatively sheltered and approximately 20 meters above sea level at its highest point.

While no UXO discoveries have been documented within the site and its surrounding vicinity, the UXO risk remains moderate due to its proximity to Tulagi, Tanambhogo, Ghaome, and Gavutu Islands, all of which were highly active sites during WWII.

### SITE LOCATION



### WWII RELIC



### ACCOMMODATION



### REEF



### REGROWTH OF FOREST AFTER CLEARING



### ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	2
Marine biodiversity	6

### SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	2
Presence of livelihoods	2
Potential for UXO	6
Presence of cultural heritage	4

### NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	3
Sea level rise	3

### CO-ORDINATES

-9.123892274, 160.1562432

### SITE AREA (ha)

8.094

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Tulagi Hospital (5 kilometers).

### DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (36 kilometers). Access is via boat.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile connectivity, power, water and sanitation services available.

### OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

### ADJACENT LAND USE

Tulagi, the administrative capital of Central Province, is located nearby.

### SITE ACCESS

Accessible by boat from Honiara (around 1.5 hours).

### PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Nine protected areas within a 50-kilometer radius. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers and two within 50 kilometers.

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Differing perceptions over the legitimacy of the land title has created potential for conflict within the community.

### CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No permanent occupants. Three accommodation facilities, two guesthouses, one caretaker house and picnic shelters on-site.

### CURRENT LAND USE

Currently used for weddings and group bookings. There is a casino currently under construction.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 23

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 181-001-0002

# Kokomtambu Island (Double Island)

Nggela

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

This island is connected through low-lying sand banks to Soghonangola Island, home to an under-construction casino and tourism facility. Kokomtambu Island serves as a venue for celebrations, ceremonies and gatherings, featuring picnic tables and some gardens at a low-lying area. However, since the new owners took over the land title and began construction on the casino, local communities have ceased utilizing the area for picnics and recreation, leading to tension regarding the land title. Some local community stakeholders interviewed perceived the land as acquired by a party previous to the casino developer without the consent of the local people, resulting in a negative view of the development among some locals.

The island hosts mangroves, including the Large-leafed orange mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*) and the Tall-stilted mangrove (*Rhizophora apiculata*), essential for habitat preservation and coastal protection. Preservation of these mangroves is crucial, and any infrastructure should avoid impacting them. The reef surrounding the island is generally contiguous with Soghonangola, sharing comparable coral and fish biodiversity, which adds recreational value for tourism. The site is approximately 20 meters above sea level at its highest point.

The Key Biodiversity Area of Gela is within 10 kilometers of the site. Despite a limited bird population on the island, species spotted include Finsch's Pygmy Parrots and Red-knobbed imperial pigeons.

Although no UXO discoveries have been documented within the site and its vicinity, a risk still exists due to its proximity to Tulagi, Tanambhogo, Ghaome, and Gavutu Islands, which were active sites during WWII.

SITE LOCATION



CEREMONY AREA



REEF ON NORTHERN SIDE OF ISLAND



DRYING OF SHELLS COLLECTED BY LOCALS



SUBSISTENCE GARDENS



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	3
Marine biodiversity	6

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	6
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	3
Sea level rise	3

CO-ORDINATES

-9.121018891, 160.1548617

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Toilet block and outdoor kitchen.

CURRENT LAND USE

Site used for social gatherings, weddings and livelihoods (shell collecting).

SITE AREA (ha)

1.21

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Tulagi Hospital (5 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (35 kilometers). Access is via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mobile phone connectivity. Toilet block provides sanitation.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Tulagi, the administrative capital of Central Province, is located nearby.

SITE ACCESS

Accessible by boat from Honiara (around 1.5 hours).

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Nine protected areas within a 50-kilometer radius. One Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers, and two within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Differing perceptions over the legitimacy of the land title has created potential for conflict within the community.



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 24

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 169-005-0001

# Anuha Island

## Nggela

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

Anuha Island has high aesthetic appeal. The Anuha Island Resort was established in 1984 and operated as a successful tourism venture. It previously featured a small airstrip used by the resort's private plane operating transfer flights from Honiara. The resort was viewed positively by most of the nearby community in Rara, as those consulted for the study recalled the economic benefits of having a tourism operation nearby. However, a land ownership dispute in 1988 resulted in the venture being burnt down in an alleged act of reprisal. Community members are hopeful that tourism could be reestablished in the future. The community currently uses the island for picnics, recreation, temporary accommodation, along with fishing, firewood collection, and gardening. A former airstrip was located at the southeastern corner of the island.

The island has mixed biodiversity values, including mature secondary growth, a lowland coastal forest, a sago palm wetland, and an extensively cleared central area. The southern portion of the site, south of the wetland, would be more suitable for development as it has a habitat with lower biodiversity value. The fringing coral reef is in poor condition and heavily impacted by human activities, including overfishing and dynamite fishing, as confirmed by the local community. The corals are visibly damaged in many places. Coral appears in poor health, with low fish abundance and diversity. Significant conservation and preservation activities would need to be undertaken to restore the health of the reef, and this is likely to take many years. One Key Biodiversity Area was identified within 1 kilometer (Gela). The fringing reef provides protection from storm surges and has an elevation across much of the islands, approximately 60 meters at its highest point.

Research suggests that no fighting occurred north of Nggela Sule during WWII, and this is supported by the absence of any known and documented discoveries of UXO in this area.

SITE LOCATION



SAGO PALM SWAMP/WETLAND



FISHERMAN'S SHELTER



CLEARED GRASSLAND LOOKING TOWARDS SECONDARY GROWTH



SUBSISTENCE GARDENS



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	6
Marine biodiversity	4

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	3
Sea level rise	3

CO-ORDINATES

-8.99733374, 160.2230239

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Two temporary shelters on the island.

CURRENT LAND USE

People use the island for overnight fishing camps, picnics, fishing, gardening and collection of materials (such as firewood).

SITE AREA (ha)

290

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

There is a local health clinic at Kaliala Village on Nggela Sule (10 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Tulagi (30 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (90 kilometers). Access is via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services currently. However, previously had power (mainly generators), water sources and sanitation.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Small villages located close to the island.

SITE ACCESS

Is three hours by boat from Honiara, but was once accessible from Honiara by plane using the airstrip on the island.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Seven protected areas within a 50-kilometer radius. One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Tourism operations ceased after infrastructure was destroyed in an alleged act of reprisal as a result of a land dispute.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 25

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 168-001-0001

Vulula Beach

Buena Vista

LOW

OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The area has good elevation and no evidence of coastal erosion. The aesthetic value for marine tourism is low, with shallow reef flats and seagrass beds, while the reef has limited biodiversity value. The beach has appeal, but rubbish was visible. There is an Indigenous community located adjacent to the site, comprised of one family group. There is a significant cultural (*Tabu*) site near the river within the site boundary, only accessible by men and this would need to be protected. Women would not be able to venture anywhere close to the site for fear of reprisal, placing a high cultural risk on the site.

Nearby communities use the site for walking, camping, and gardening. There are remnant plantations and a betel nut crop. Consultations indicated differing perceptions over the land title. The area was utilized during the coconut plantation era, with the expectation the land would be returned to Indigenous people once it was no longer required for plantation operations.

Stakeholders reported that instead, the land was sold to two nationals. This perception has the potential to cause conflict for tourism development. Despite this, the community members interviewed living in the nearby village were positive about potential tourism, if the cultural heritage site was respectfully managed.

The site has strong secondary growth forest near the coastline, extending to cleared grassland on the hills away from the shore. The highest point of the site is approximately 30 meters above sea level, as the hills rise sharply from the beach.

SITE LOCATION



SEAGRASS BEDS



SECONDARY GROWTH FOREST



COASTAL AREA



FIREWOOD COLLECTION



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	5
Marine biodiversity	3

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	3
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	8

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	3
Sea level rise	3

CO-ORDINATES

-8.912651987, 159.9920624

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

One large hut for gardening and camping.

CURRENT LAND USE

People use the site for walking, camping, gardening, collecting firewood, and accessing other villages.

SITE AREA (ha)

6.7

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Olevuga Rural Health Clinic (15 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Tulagi (30 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (55 kilometers). Access via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services or fresh water sources available.

OTHER SITE RISKS

Crocodile hazard was reported with sightings in the coastal area.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Small villages and plantations.

SITE ACCESS

Accessible by boat (around 1.5 hours from Honiara).

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Two protected areas within 10 kilometers, and nine within 50 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Differing perceptions of land title could create potential for conflict.

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 26

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 169-004-0001

# Logunavuaghi Point

## Buena Vista

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is low-lying, 1-2 meters above sea level, with some evidence of coastal erosion. The community utilizes a large proportion of the site for gardens, but does not occupy it. Instead, it uses the site for access from the village to gardens scattered throughout the area. The nearby local community comprises about 600 people, with a variety of ages and mostly Indigenous to the area. Consultations indicated there were some differing perceptions over the legitimacy of the land title. The area was utilized during the coconut plantation era, with the expectation the land would be returned to Indigenous people once no longer required. Stakeholders reported that instead, the land was sold to three nationals, who remain as the current title holders. Local people interviewed felt that the land should be returned to them. The community includes a school and church, with tourism was viewed as a positive employment opportunity that could potentially link in with the school for training opportunities.

The site is moderately modified with sizeable areas of healthy secondary forest. These include Calophyllum inophyllum, Barringtonia asiatica, Scaevola taccada as shrubs, and Ipomea pes-caprae as beach vines.

In the marine environment, there are some seagrass beds along with shallow reef flats not of high value for tourism, but important habitat. Small branching and brain corals are heavily affected by coral bleaching, with algae growth covering much of the dead coral. Sand and reef flats extend out to the drop-off. The site has two Marine Managed Areas (Maravaghi, Salavo) within 10 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area was identified within 1 kilometer of the area (Gela).

No UXO discoveries or recorded WWII conflict within the immediate vicinity of Buena Vista.

SITE LOCATION



FORMER COCONUT PLANTATION WITH SECONDARY GROWTH



STREAM LOCATED ON SITE



GARDENS



SHELTER



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	6
Marine biodiversity	4

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	2
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	5
Sea level rise	6

CO-ORDINATES

-8.913010084, 160.0324204

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

One large hut used for gardening, with foundations of an old plantation building.

CURRENT LAND USE

People use the site as an access route and for gardening.

SITE AREA (ha)

32.7

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Olevuga Rural Health Clinic (15 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Tulagi (30 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (60 kilometers). Access via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services available. On-site stream offers potential freshwater resource.

OTHER SITE RISKS

Crocodile hazard was reported with sightings in the coastal area.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Coconut plantations and gardens, one large village with a school and church.

SITE ACCESS

The site is accessible by boat (1.5 hours from Honiara).

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Three protected areas within a 10-kilometer radius and eight within a 50-kilometer radius. One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Different perceptions on the legitimacy of the land title have the potential to create conflict. Nearby community is cohesive and has good governance.



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 27

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 169-007-0001

Kasika Island

Buena Vista

MODERATE

OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The area is relatively low-lying, mostly 1-2 meters above sea level with the southern end rising to 15-20 meters. Several people live on the island in seven households, potentially presenting resettlement issues. The site is occupied by an Indigenous community, with interviewed members stating they were open to tourism, but only if the cohesive community environment was not disrupted, such as by nightclubs or casinos. An appropriate form of tourism was seen by local community members consulted during the site visit as a good opportunity to share and celebrate culture, as well as provide employment opportunities for women. With no church or school located on the island, residents travel to nearby islands to attend these services. There is a small graveyard on-site which would need to be protected, and extensive cropping across the site.

Kasika Island is a modified environment due to human activities. There are some areas of secondary growth forest on the southern sides of the islands, and weeds were identified on-site. The site has two Marine Managed Areas (Maravaghi, Salavo) within 10 kilometers. One Key Biodiversity Area was identified within 1 kilometer of the area (Gela). The reef is highly impacted from overfishing, with only small reef fish species present. There is low coral diversity adjacent to sandy shoals.

No known UXO discovery nor WWII conflict reports have been made within the immediate vicinity of Buena Vista.

SITE LOCATION



DWELLINGS



BOAT LANDING



WELL USED TO SUPPLY VILLAGE AND GARDENS



GARDENS



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	3
Marine biodiversity	3

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	6
Presence of livelihoods	5
Potential for UXO	2
Presence of cultural heritage	5

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	6
Sea level rise	5

CO-ORDINATES

-8.912522, 160.009747

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Seven households present on-site.

CURRENT LAND USE

People live on-site (approximately 25 people).

SITE AREA (ha)

12.6

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Olevuga Rural Health Clinic (15 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Tulagi (30 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (58 kilometers). Access via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Solar and generator for power, rainwater collection and groundwater well for freshwater.

OTHER SITE RISKS

Crocodile hazard was reported with sightings in the coastal area.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Small villages on nearby islands.

SITE ACCESS

Accessible by boat, approximately 1.5 hours from Honiara.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Three protected areas within a 10-kilometer radius and eight within a 50-kilometer radius. One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Island occupied by one cohesive family group.



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 28

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 177-006-0004

# Karumolun Island

## Russell Islands

**MODERATE**

**OVERALL RISK RATING**

**SITE**



**SITE DESCRIPTION**

The island is moderately low-lying, 2-3 meters above sea level, with evidence of coastal erosion on the western flank. The Indigenous community, who reside in Yandina, utilize the island for camping, picnics and firewood collection, particularly from a large die-back area. In the early 2000s, there were tensions between settler communities and plantation operators over wages and working conditions. This culminated in a strike in 2003-2004 that resulted in reprisals and violent conflict, with plantation operators withdrawing workers from the area. Today, there remains ongoing tensions between former plantation workers (who have become settlers on company-owned lands) and plantation company management (although the company is no longer operational).

The island is highly modified as a former coconut plantation with *Allocastraria verticillata* (drooping she-oak) widely distributed throughout the site. Secondary growth forest includes *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Scaevola taccada* as shrubs, and *Ipomea pes-caprae* as beach vines.

The reef system on the western side of the island appeared to be heavily overfished. In contrast, the reef on the eastern side was in good health with high fish diversity and abundance, dominated by reef species such as Pomacentridae (Damselfish family), Labridae (wrasses) and Mullidae (goatfish family). It is unclear why there was a visible difference between the two reef areas. There are some seagrass beds on the western side of the island, with juvenile fish present. One Key Biodiversity Area (West Pavuvu) is located within 10 kilometers of the site. This area is recognized as a Special Unique Marine Environment and contains green and hawksbill turtle nesting areas and has a rich biodiversity.

During WWII, Russell Islands were occupied by Japanese and Allied forces and subject to Japanese air raids. Mapping of Solomon Islands Police Force EOD Unit points to numerous reported UXO discoveries or call-outs documented throughout the entire island group.

**SITE LOCATION**



**WWII RELIC**



**BEACH AND SHE-OAK TREES**



**PANDANUS DIE BACK, POSSIBLY INUNDATION**



**PANDANUS DOMINATING FORMER COCONUT PLANTATION**



**CO-ORDINATES**

-9.04497941, 159.2433306

**CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE**

No occupation or no visible structures.

**CURRENT LAND USE**

Camping and picnicking, firewood collection from trees, particularly from an area with die-back.

**SITE AREA (ha)**

50

**DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC**

Clinic in Yandina (12 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (100 kilometers).

**DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT**

Honiara Airport (100 kilometers). Access via boat.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

No services or water sources.

**OTHER SITE RISKS**

No other site hazards noted.

**ADJACENT LAND USE**

Yandina, the main settlement in Russell Islands, is in close proximity to the island and 20 minutes by boat.

**SITE ACCESS**

Boats from Honiara take 1.5 hours and 20 minutes from Yandina, although the voyage from the capital can be exposed to rough seas.

**PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS**

Four protected areas within 50 kilometers and one Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

**COMMUNITY COHESION**

Historic and ongoing tensions between the settler community and former plantation operators.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS**

Terrestrial biodiversity	5
Marine biodiversity	7

**SOCIAL RISKS**

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	8
Presence of cultural heritage	3

**NATURAL HAZARD RISKS**

Coastal vulnerability	7
Sea level rise	5



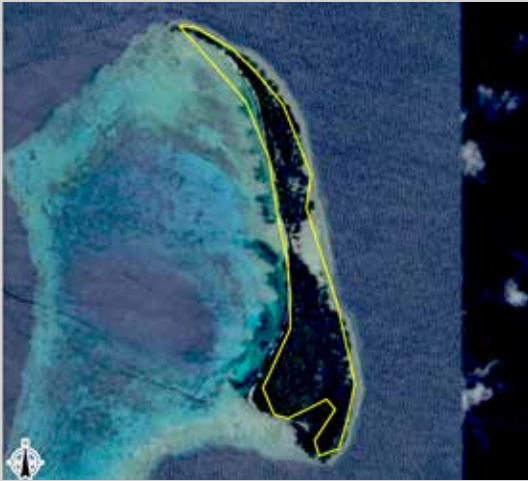
SITE IDENTIFIER #: 29

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 166-001-0001

Koemurun Island  
Russell Islands

MODERATE  
OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

This island has high aesthetic appeal. Long golden sandy beaches offer high tourism potential. The local Indigenous community in Yandina settlement utilizes the island for camping, fishing, and collecting firewood. There are at least three structures on the island used for temporary accommodation.

It was noted that a large part of the island, 1-2 meters above sea level, is exposed to the elements and storm surges. Koemurun Island is rated a high-risk site for natural hazards, with adaptation measures in the siting and design process an important consideration for risk reduction.

There are ongoing tensions between settler communities and plantation companies in the area that have triggered conflict and reprisals. Conflict remains unresolved, despite the plantation companies ceasing operations. This may have an impact on tourism operations in the area, especially the attitudes and availability of workers.

The shallow reef flat on the southern side is in reasonable condition, but not likely to host high biodiversity or recreational value. A potentially invasive, unidentified brown filamentous algae was observed on the western shores in patches. On the western side, there is an attractive sheltered sandy bay. Extensive seagrass beds are present and would need some level of protection as they likely contain foraging habitat for dugongs and turtles. To avoid impacting this area, a tourism venture may consider using appropriate siting and design measures to avoid and mitigate impacts. The eastern side is an exposed shore with reef flats. Extensive mangroves and saltmarsh are found at the southern end, providing high habitat and biodiversity value. One Key Biodiversity Area (West Pavuvu) is located within 10 kilometers of the site. This has been identified as habitat for a range of species and includes at least 11 nesting beaches for hawksbill and green turtles.

WWII history and Solomon Islands Police Force EOD Unit reported discoveries or call-outs highlight the significant UXO risk for the entire Russell Islands group.

SITE LOCATION



COASTLINE



CAMPGROUND



POSSIBLE INVASIVE FILAMENTOUS ALGAE



MANGROVE WETLAND ON SOUTH OF SITE



ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	5
Marine biodiversity	7

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	1
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	8
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	7
Sea level rise	8

CO-ORDINATES

-9.013446978, 159.2698735

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No permanent occupants. Four partial structures present.

CURRENT LAND USE

Camping, fishing, and primarily firewood collection.

SITE AREA (ha)

43

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Yandina Area Health Care Center (10 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (100 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (100 kilometers). Access via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services or fresh water sources available.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Yandina, in close proximity to island, is the main settlement in Russell Islands about 20 mins by boat.

SITE ACCESS

Boat access from Honiara (around 1.5 hours). Potential for rough seas.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

Four protected areas within 50 kilometers and one Key Biodiversity Area within 10 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Historical and ongoing tensions between settler communities and plantation companies may present some risk.



SITE IDENTIFIER #: 30

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 165-003-0001

Butata  
Russell Islands

MODERATE  
OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

The island was cleared to develop a coconut plantation, which is still utilized for copra today. There is a copra drying facility on-site, and areas where vegetation has been cleared to fuel the dryer. There are two partial shelters located at the northern part of the island, used by local fishermen during the week. The nearby Indigenous community members interviewed during the site visit were positive about potential tourism development. It was noted there are attractive dive sites in the nearby area, currently only accessible to tourists on live-aboard dive boats, which offer limited benefits to local communities. Accommodation on the site would mean positive economic benefits for communities and promote local culture.

The island has strong secondary forest growth, including *Calophyllum inophyllum* and *Barringtonia asiatica*. However, it is apparent that the local community selectively harvests timbers from the island. Red-knobbed imperial pigeons are common on-site. The eastern shore is more exposed, with sandy beaches on the western shore. Shallow reef flats are present with some coral, but not of high biodiversity value. The site has one Key Biodiversity Area in its proximity, West Pavuvu within a 1-kilometer radius.

This has been identified as habitat for a range of species and includes at least 11 nesting beaches for hawksbill and green turtles. Given the proximity to this important area for biodiversity, the risk of tourism impacts on the marine environment is rated moderate to high. The island is 1-2 meters above sea level, but relatively sheltered from storm surges.

With numerous reported discoveries or call-outs for UXO documented throughout the Russell Islands, the UXO risk is high.

SITE LOCATION



COPRA DRYING SHEDS



HAMMOCKS



BEACH WITH SEAGRASS BEDS



SECONDARY GROWTH FOREST AND TIMBER HARVESTING



CO-ORDINATES

-8.995845, 159.119299

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

No occupants. Copra drying shed and two shelters.

CURRENT LAND USE

Livelihoods, such as copra, shell collecting, timber milling, camping and fishing.

SITE AREA (ha)

6.07

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Pepasala Rural Health Clinic (2 kilometers) or Yandina Area Health Care Center (33 kilometers). The nearest hospital is in Honiara (120 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (115 kilometers). Access is via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services or water sources available.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Nearby communities have dwellings, school, clinic, and accommodation facilities.

SITE ACCESS

Boat access from Honiara (around 1.5 hours), potential for rough seas.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer, and one within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

No known community cohesion issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity

4

Marine biodiversity

8

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people

2

Presence of livelihoods

6

Potential for UXO

8

Presence of cultural heritage

3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability

6

Sea level rise

5

SITE IDENTIFIER #: 31

PARCEL IDENTIFIER: 165-002-0010

# West Bay Russell Islands

**MODERATE**  
OVERALL RISK RATING

SITE



SITE DESCRIPTION

West Bay was part of a coconut plantation. Despite the plantation company discontinuing operations, it still holds the land title and has permitted people to live there. The occupants are from outside the local area, who traveled to Russell Islands to work in the coconut plantation prior to its closure. From site interviews, this has reportedly caused tension with local Indigenous communities, who feel the land should have been returned to them. There are currently three households and about 15 people living on-site. Occupants travel to other nearby villages by boat to access schools, markets, and health clinics. Tourism was viewed positively, and current occupants of the site hold diving certification and recognize opportunities in the diving industry.

As a former coconut plantation, there is some secondary growth but limited terrestrial biodiversity value, with the exception of a salt marsh located on the northwestern side of the peninsula. Bird species observed include Red-knobbed imperial pigeons, Coconut lorikeets, Brahminy kites, Herons, and Ospreys. The peninsula is sheltered from storm surges and was generally 2-3 meters above sea level.

The reef shows signs of overfishing. The site has one Key Biodiversity Area (West Pavuvu) in its proximity, within a 1-kilometer radius. This puts the area very close to important marine biodiversity habitat, particularly turtles and cetaceans. As such, the marine risk rating is high.

During WWII, the Russell Islands were occupied by both Japanese and Allied forces and subject to Japanese air raids. Mapping of Solomon Islands Police Force EOD Unit indicates there have been numerous reported UXO discoveries or call-outs documented throughout the entire island group.

SITE LOCATION



BEACH LANDING POINT FOR PLANTATION WORKERS



BEACH



COCONUT PLANTATION REGENERATION



MANGROVE SALT MARSH (HIGH BIODIVERSITY VALUE)



CO-ORDINATES

-9.028945, 159.092084

CURRENT OCCUPATION OF SITE

Three dwellings are present.

CURRENT LAND USE

Some 15 people live on the site with subsistence gardens.

SITE AREA (ha)

867.1

DISTANCE TO NEAREST HOSPITAL / CLINIC

Clinic across the bay (Pepesala Rural Health Clinic (3 kilometers), or in Yandina. The nearest hospital is in Honiara (120 kilometers).

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AIRPORT / PORT

Honiara Airport (115 kilometers). Access is via boat.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

No services or fresh water sources available.

OTHER SITE RISKS

No other site hazards noted.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Small community with a market and school.

SITE ACCESS

Boat access only from Honiara (three hours), but rough seas are possible.

PROTECTED / MANAGED AREAS

One Key Biodiversity Area within 1 kilometer, and one within 50 kilometers.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Since the establishment of the plantation, the site has been occupied by settlers. Although operations have ceased, the plantation company allowed settler families to remain on site, causing tensions with local Indigenous people.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Terrestrial biodiversity	4
Marine biodiversity	8

SOCIAL RISKS

Presence of people	4
Presence of livelihoods	4
Potential for UXO	8
Presence of cultural heritage	3

NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Coastal vulnerability	5
Sea level rise	4


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