



Photo Credit: Tourism Solomons (David Kirkland)

## 5. Summary of Risks and Recommended Actions

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

Table 14 provides an overview of the key contextual and corridor-level risks applicable to and from tourism development in Western Province and recommended mitigation actions. The SIG and tourism investors and developers can integrate these recommendations in their development plans or strategies to ensure E&S safeguards and business sustainability.

The corridor-level risks are also applicable across the identified sites, with further detail included in the site profiles in appendix D. Where applicable, unique risks on the sites have been noted and recommendations for these are addressed in the profiles.

Only risks relevant to tourism development are included. The following risks have been excluded:

- Security and conflict have limited relevance to tourism development in Western Province. Petty conflict may occur among community members and this is covered under reprisal risk within the matrix.
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate change are discussed further in the corridor section of the risk matrix.

## 5.2 RISKS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS MATRIX

Table 14: Contextual Risks and Recommendations

Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for Government
<b>Social cohesion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local communities, tourism developers, and workers need to be aware of how to operate tourism activities within the local context to ensure developments are culturally sustainable. They also need to mitigate the risk of aggravating internal tensions, discrimination, exclusion from job opportunities, cultural misunderstandings, and disrespectful behaviors, including exacerbation of gender-based violence.</li> <li>Some local community members may have limited skills and/or education for tourism employment. This can limit their ability to access opportunities and result in social-cohesion issues if developments only benefit a part of the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage and involve local communities in the development, giving them jobs where possible. Explore opportunities to develop community-based tourism.</li> <li>Provide training and scholarships to local inhabitants in tourism-related activities.</li> <li>Protect excluded groups and vulnerable parties, such as women, youth, elderly, and minorities, to facilitate their access to employment.</li> <li>Develop and enforce policies against discrimination and gender-based violence, particularly for the workforce and communities in close proximity to any proposed development.</li> </ul>
<b>Labor and workforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to skilled laborers in Western Province is likely limited. They may need to be supplied from other provinces or overseas.</li> <li>Patriarchal views can prevail in some communities, limiting access to tourism jobs for women. They can also be subjected to sexual exploitation and gender-based violence as a result of more tourists and construction and operation workers during development.</li> <li>In Solomon Islands, children as young as 12 may be allowed to undertake some types of work under the Labour Act, which does not align with the International Labour Organization convention setting the minimum age for admission to employment or work at 15 (13 for light work) and for hazardous work at 18 (16 under certain strict conditions).<sup>(32)</sup> This may result in child laborers working in tourism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support local communities and their access to tourism jobs through training. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, for example, has provided training and scholarships in the province through its Australia Pacific Training Coalition. Such programs can help improve the talent pool.</li> <li>Establish a provincial-level Tourism Advisory Bureau to help local communities with interest, queries, or concerns regarding tourism investment. This can protect them from exploitation, encourage their participation and contribution, and create jobs and other earning opportunities for them.</li> <li>Awareness programs and grievance mechanisms for workers and locals can foster trust and collaboration with tourism operators.</li> <li>Recruitment for tourism jobs should support transparency, gender and ethnic diversity, and discourage gender-based violence and exploitation.</li> <li>Encourage tourism operators to employ women and disabled people, and improve the legal and/or judicial systems to encourage the report of abuses to the authorities.</li> <li>The government should also consider increasing the minimum working age to protect children.</li> </ul>
<b>Food security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism development can potentially exacerbate the lack of food security in the province, as local producers may prefer to supply to tourism operations instead of local communities, resulting in higher food prices. As a result, the most vulnerable may be forced to eat less and suffer from malnutrition, hunger, and other health problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government can lead the development of more structured agriculture and aquaculture production systems within the communities and the private sector, including provision of training to small farmers and those with gardens for food consumption. CSOs and NGOs could be involved to deploy training within communities.</li> <li>Monitor hikes in food prices and provide subsidies to the most vulnerable when needed.</li> <li>Create more jobs to reduce unemployment and increase household earnings.</li> </ul>
<b>Health epidemic/pandemic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism can increase the vulnerability of local communities to epidemics/pandemics through the local and international movement of people, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen health screening of tourists at the border, including responses to COVID-19.</li> <li>Enhance Ministry of Health processes to address epidemics/pandemics and the response capacity of health clinics and hospitals even in "normal times."</li> </ul>

32 ILO, Minimum Age Convention, C138, 26 June 1973.

Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for Government
<p><b>Political risks and governance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transparency and accountability issues leading to corruption are possible in Solomon Islands. This may allow investors and developers to circumnavigate requirements and/or compliance with environmental and social permitting.</li> <li>• Insufficient enforcement with little consequence related to the requirements of legislations such as the <i>Environment Act</i>, the <i>Protected Areas Act</i>, and the <i>Fisheries Management Act</i> can result in developments with adverse effects on the social and natural environments. There are also no requirements related to the assessment of cumulative impacts of development and no environmental guidelines for tourism development; for example, guidelines on the appropriate development type for a particular environment have yet to be developed.</li> <li>• Limited capacity to undertake reviews and approve submitted EIAs can lead to the overlooking of some development impacts during planning, with consequences resulting from project construction, operation, and maintenance.</li> <li>• Lack of consistency between legal provisions can cause confusion for developers on the management and/or protection of resources. For example, the status and designations of marine protected areas are inconsistent in the <i>Fisheries Management Act</i> and the <i>Protected Areas Act</i>, potentially leading to damages and loss of biodiversity in protected areas.</li> <li>• Limited protection of the marine and terrestrial environments across the study corridor may diminish natural resources and biodiversity for the communities and future tourism amenities. For example, within the corridor, there is only one fully gazetted protected area, while others have limited to no legal status. Customary fishing rights are unrestricted within the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2015</i>.</li> <li>• Traditional <i>tabu</i> areas are not afforded any legal weight to support their protection. This may cause frustration among community members trying to protect/manage these areas and result in the eventual loss of resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase transparency initiatives and tighten regulations to tackle corruption.</li> <li>• Develop consistent, countrywide standards and requirements for the development of tourism projects and infrastructure. Provide indication for local permitting and facilitate investors in accessing business-related information on the websites of relevant ministries.</li> <li>• Incorporate a vetting process to grant tourism-business permits only to high-quality investors/developers. Companies should demonstrate a track record of environmentally and socially sustainable operations and their directors and associates should pass satisfactory background checks for character and integrity.</li> <li>• The government should develop cost-recovery policies by collecting fees—when necessary—for business permits, approvals for EIA and environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA), building permits, compliance monitoring, disbursements of vehicle/boat-running costs, communications, and staff per diems and accommodation related to such permitting and approvals. This will provide budget support and resources to enable more effective compliance monitoring and conservation. Fiduciary control should be strengthened simultaneously to ensure that the recovered fees are returned to appropriate government departments and not reallocated to other government priorities.</li> <li>• Strengthen policy frameworks in Western Province, particularly tourism policies and fisheries and environmental ordinances.</li> <li>• Improve the MECDM's E&amp;S capacity to conduct and review EIAs/ESIAs that are in line with national legislations and international good practices. This includes building technical capacity and increasing resources for staff and equipment.</li> <li>• Increase the statutory obligations for compliance monitoring of EIA/ESIA mitigations and associated management plans.</li> <li>• Strengthen policies on the sustainable use of natural resources, including fisheries, forests, and water.</li> <li>• Update regulations on pesticides and fertilizers with detailed application guidelines considering the needs of different sectors; for the tourism sector, stringent regulations are required to avoid the risk of toxic-chemical runoff into water resources or the marine environment.</li> <li>• Tourism-development policies and legislations should fully align with the requirements of other sectors, such as the <i>Fisheries Management Act</i>, the <i>Protected Areas Act</i>, and the <i>Forests Act</i>.</li> <li>• Update the legal designations of all protected/managed areas to provide clarity of requirements across all legislative options and remove inconsistencies between the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and the <i>Protected Areas Act</i>. Empower appropriate government agencies to take enforcement actions.</li> <li>• Registration of protected marine areas will likely improve the marine resources for local communities. Encourage sustainable fishing and harvesting of such resources in customary fishing rights under the <i>Fisheries Management Act</i> and support enforcement to ensure compliance.</li> <li>• Improve capacity building in local communities by working with NGOs and CSOs to increase the number and size of gazetted protected areas, which will enhance enforcement and control of activities inside the areas.</li> <li>• Put in place natural and social-environment safeguards when developing the Western Province Tourism Development Plan. Improve capacity building of the provincial government to ensure proper implementation of the plan.</li> </ul>

Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for Government
<p><b>Natural hazards</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has limited capacity and resources to implement early warning systems for natural disasters, including floods and tsunamis, and execute emergency and evacuation procedures in a timely manner to protect the community.</li> <li>There is no hazard mapping across Western Province to give guidance to developers for appropriate development in hazard-prone areas.</li> <li>Access to land and natural resources will be limited in the event of natural disasters, leading to potential water and food shortages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve capacity building, training, and budgetary support for the NDMO to design early warning systems and better procedures for responding to disasters.</li> <li>The NDMO and private operators should prepare communities, particularly those in remote areas, and tourism facilities to cope with natural disasters through training.</li> <li>Upskill staff in emergency response, preparation, scenario planning, and first aid.</li> <li>Foster better coordination between departments within the MECDM to enhance planning as well as information management and dissemination.</li> <li>Encourage tourism operators to develop a disaster-risk-management plan for their tourism establishments and local communities. They should work with the NDMO to put in place an emergency response and evacuation plan for their staff and customers and train them on its implementation, bearing in mind any language and cultural barriers for foreign guests.</li> <li>The Western Provincial Government can work with telecommunication providers to improve the cellular network in emergencies.</li> <li>Invest in scenario planning and emergency-response infrastructure, such as evacuation centers, boats, warehousing, and logistics planning.</li> <li>Design buildings and structures that can withstand natural hazards and build tourism facilities that can serve as emergency shelters for tourists, workers, and local communities.</li> </ul>

Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for Government
<p><b>Access to land and natural resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social disputes can occur because of land claims, causing delays in development. Lack of clear provisions on the management and mitigation of conflicting land claims among tribes or locals can discourage tourism developers who need long-term land lease for tourism projects.</li> <li>• Some tribes have not registered their marine and terrestrial land-ownership rights, so developers may have trouble identifying land that is under customary use with no claims or legacy issues. This creates uncertainties in tourism investment due to the lack of legal titles and potential disputes with local communities.</li> <li>• Claims on landownership or resources, including forest products, food sources, water supplies, or tourism amenities such as reef snorkeling and diving, forest hiking access, and reef surf break access anchoring, can be made even on registered land.</li> <li>• Perceived customary ownership of reefs may generate conflict as tourist numbers increase. Customary owners and tourism operators may reach different agreements, resulting in varying benefits. Many villagers assume they have ownership or stewardship of the reefs and some of them protect their reefs from fish poaching and spear diving. Some may request fees for anchoring, snorkeling, diving, or swimming. When tourist numbers increase, this, if left unregulated, can become a source of conflict.</li> <li>• The Commissioner of Lands uses paper land titles, which increases the complexity of record keeping, with the risk of loss in the event of a fire or other natural disasters and possibility of misplaced records and clerical errors.</li> <li>• While compensation procedures for land access are well regulated and known, the compensation rates specified in the Land &amp; Titles Act (amended in 2016) are outdated, which means people may not be compensated properly considering replacement costs, including inflation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the processes and procedures for promptly addressing land claims and land disputes.</li> <li>• Digitalize the land registry for registered, surveyed, and customary lands and/or customary rights holders, including rights to fishing grounds, water sources, reefs, and forests. A searchable land register managing landownership, land titles, land-use rights, and related transactions will improve transparency and management, reducing the time needed to solve potential conflict over land.</li> <li>• Improve the landowner identification system so that benefits from the developing projects can be shared more broadly. The strengthening of customary landowner records may allow them to benefit more, through potential lease agreements, from development.</li> <li>• At the planning stage, tourism developers should (i) develop better stakeholder consultation and a grievance-redress mechanism to reduce risks of project delays and negative public reaction, and (ii) avoid physical and economic displacement; when this is not possible, minimize and mitigate the impacts by considering offering compensation and assistance to both formal and informal users of the land and resources.</li> <li>• The uptake of registering or surveying land may speed up if there is improved access to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey in Western Province providing more guidance and education. The provision of dispute resolution services may defuse tension between communities claiming ownership or user rights of the same parcel of land.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of negotiated settlement and align compensation rates for land and restriction to land use and/or natural resources, such as fishing ground, considering the impact on livelihood, replacement costs (for example, the market rate plus transaction costs and inflation), and alternative access to natural resources.</li> <li>• Enhance capacity building, training, and budgetary support for land reform in the SIG and Western Provincial Government.</li> <li>• Review examples of customary-land registration in other parts of the Pacific, such as Fiji, consult local communities in Solomon Islands, and tailor the process for their needs.</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of the community dynamics and protocols to access sites and fees for accessing them, particularly those under customary use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reprisals</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reprisal is a high risk for tourism development, with historic examples affecting tourism operators in Western Province.</li> <li>• Some tribes have registered their land, allocating the plots among different families. Trustees representing the tribe are responsible for managing and/or coordinating the development of customary land, but tourism projects may cause conflict within the tribe if there is no consensus on how the land will be developed or how benefit will be shared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement and participation in any tourism development will improve the management of reprisal and associated conflict risks. Some successful examples in Western Province are job creation, cultural village-immersion experiences, community-based tourism projects that enable greater benefit-sharing, and access fees for dive sites and jungles.</li> <li>• The national and provincial governments should improve and implement formal dispute-resolution processes on customary land to help resolve conflicts.</li> </ul>

**Table 15: Corridor and Identified-Site Risks and Recommendations**

Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for the SIG	Recommended Actions for Developers
<i>Proximity to infrastructure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public infrastructure in Western Province, including transportation, energy production and delivery, access to water, waste management, and access to health care/health facilities, is limited. They may be inadequate for tourism development and its operations.</li> <li>Pressure on fuel distribution is likely to increase with the development of tourism.</li> <li>Distance from entry ports to tourism activities or/and accommodation may increase maritime accidents/fatalities and add pressure to health facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in infrastructure. Attract private sector investors and consider public-private partnerships where appropriate.</li> <li>Design and enforce guidelines on water usage and conservation at tourist accommodations, taking into account water availability, water treatment infrastructure, and water usage of local communities.</li> <li>Support the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority in developing minimum maritime-safety standards for both local and international tourism operators. Issue business permits only to those who meet these standards to improve the safety of boat transport.</li> <li>Support the Western Province police department in developing the capacity of coast guards to enhance maritime safety and rescue capacity within the corridor.</li> <li>Provide additional support to police coast guard service. An increased budget will be necessary to further improve rescue capacity, including the delivery of training to local entities involved in marine safety.</li> <li>Collaborate with investors, donors, and the community to improve good practices in waste management via the Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>Develop waste-management facilities at the three hubs of Gizo, Munda, and Seghe. This should include a collection service or centralized transfer location to collect and process waste.</li> <li>Consider developing standby “flying-doctor” capability to enhance safety and medical treatment capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select sites that are within the tourism corridor and in reasonable proximity to ports of entry.</li> <li>Devise appropriate maritime-safety precautions and contingency plans for own operations, including training for staff.</li> <li>Develop contingency plans in the event of inclement weather and/or a safety event that requires medical treatment.</li> <li>Support medical-treatment and/or first-aid training and capacity building in local communities.</li> <li>Collaborate on environmental awareness and/or waste management seminars and training for stakeholders.</li> </ul>

Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for the SIG	Recommended Actions for Developers
<p><i>Presence of livelihoods and people/ access to land and natural resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing land plots used by the community as a source of income/livelihood or for living purposes can increase the risk of resettlement and impact on livelihoods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the private sector to encourage investment in Western Province to support alternative livelihoods, such as seaweed and tilapia farming (two current Ministry of Fisheries initiatives) and sea-cucumber farming, if impact on livelihood is unavoidable.</li> <li>Require developers to consider E&amp;S risks when selecting sites for tourism development and integrate the local community into the development plan to avoid or minimize resettlement (economic and physical displacement) and related impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an early and complete review of a site and engage the community to confirm its use before making development decision. Use the ESDS site profiles as a starting point to consider E&amp;S risks and factors in site selection.</li> <li>Avoid development in highly populated areas where the communities live or use as a source of income and livelihood.</li> <li>Identify those impacted by the development and prioritize their access to employment opportunities.</li> <li>Minimize, mitigate, or compensate all of the affected at replacement cost, addressing also impact on livelihood and providing access to natural resources used for livelihood, such as fishing ground, or identify alternative area in consultation with those affected.</li> <li>Devise resettlement and livelihood-restoration planning, implementation, and monitoring in accordance with international good practices. Provide appropriate compensation and assistance to those affected before taking possession of the land and assets required for the project.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Unexploded ordnances (UXO)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some locations may still contain UXO, posing a potential risk for developers in term of costs of clearance and potential injuries/ fatalities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure comprehensive mapping is in place for UXO identification and clearance; the SIG should proactively clear sites following good international industry practices.</li> <li>Develop a digitized record that can be accessed online to disseminate information on UXO presence for communities, developers, and tourists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 presence, then surveys should be undertaken to identify its type, quantity, location, and clearance techniques.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Coastal vulnerability/ sea-level rise</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some identified sites and parts of the corridor are in low-lying coastal areas. Some areas, especially those on exposed western shores, are vulnerable to coastal inundation from storm surges.</li> <li>Some identified sites will be impacted by sea-level rise, which may affect their utility or amenity value.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the resilience of local communities and public and tourism infrastructures from climate-change vulnerabilities.</li> <li>Undertake coastal inundation and tsunami risk mapping.</li> <li>Consider designing engineering coastal protection.</li> <li>Improve coordination between departments within the MECDM to enable better planning.</li> <li>Collaborate with developers and NGOs to protect coastal zones, such as mangroves, salt marshes, wetlands, and sea grass, and increase coastal resilience for tourism developments and communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design tourism facilities to accommodate likely sea-level- rise projections.</li> <li>Select locations that are in less exposed coastal locations.</li> <li>Undertake emergency planning for severe weather events.</li> <li>Support climate-change adaptation planning in the local communities.</li> <li>Support the government in protecting coastal zones.</li> </ul>

Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for the SIG	Recommended Actions for Developers
<p><b>Biodiversity and ecosystem services (marine and terrestrial)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential risks posed by tourism development to biodiversity and ecosystem services across the corridor include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decline in natural resources for local communities, such as reduced fish stocks, wood harvesting for fuel, and forest products</li> <li>Introduction of invasive species that are detrimental to native species through tourism activities</li> <li>Decline in the environment's life-supporting capacity for local communities</li> <li>Influx of supporting workforces and subsequent induced impacts from use of natural resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>A loss of biodiversity can impair the aesthetic, intrinsic, or amenity value of the tourism industry.</li> <li>Monitoring mechanisms for resource management and pollution prevention are not fully addressed in the policy frameworks, such as the Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998 and (Amendment) Bill 2016 and the Protected Areas Regulations 2012.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the MECDM's capacity in EIA/ESIA reviews and support it to implement cost-recovery policies for such reviews to generate more revenue for enhancing its capacity for compliance monitoring.</li> <li>Establish responsibilities and provide budgetary support to the MECDM for compliance and enforcement monitoring against EIAs/ESIAs to ensure there are consequences for poor performance.</li> <li>Collaborate with NGOs and academic/research institutes to undertake additional studies, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape/ecosystem mapping for modified, natural, or critical habitats</li> <li>Land-use classification</li> <li>Detailed studies on critical habitats and the IUCN's Red List in Western Province</li> </ul> </li> <li>Require watershed and topographical mapping in the EIA robust investigations to identify at-risk species and appropriate mitigations measures.</li> <li>Baseline data on local biodiversity and ecosystems will be needed for regular monitoring activities or environmental audits, which should occur during the different stages of tourism projects.</li> <li>The Conservation Department should collaborate with environmental and conservation NGOs to set targets for fully protected marine and terrestrial environments covering a range of ecosystems. Support the department to conduct compliance monitoring and enforcement initiatives for protected areas.</li> <li>Invite the local communities to participate in the E&amp;S compliance of tourism projects in remote areas. Collaborate with NGOs to enhance the communities' capacity to conduct monitoring of E&amp;S risk mitigation of project development in remote areas.</li> <li>To reduce overfishing, work with the Ministry of Fisheries to establish compliance monitoring with the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2015</i> and enforcement of coastal fisheries in the key hub areas of Western Province.</li> <li>Support the Ministry of Forestry and Research in strengthening the requirements of logging permits, compliance, and enforcement monitoring.</li> <li>Develop more stringent biosecurity procedures at the national and provincial levels to mitigate the spread of invasive species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism operators can target the high-value, nature-based tourism niche market to engage in community-based conservation activities.</li> <li>Avoid impact on vulnerable ecosystems, including sea-grass beds, intact reef systems (such as the Saeraghi Reef north of Gizo Island), mangrove forests, and sections of undisturbed coastal and low-land forest.</li> <li>Work with local communities to support and strengthen protected areas in the marine and terrestrial environments.</li> <li>High-risk marine sites should be subject to a detailed environmental and ecological assessment to protect the integrity of the sites. Such sites may support what are defined as critical habitats, which would require additional compliance requirements to meet good international industry practice.</li> <li>Addressing moderate risks will require a combination of detailed EIA/ESIA-level site assessment and subsequent incorporation of findings into a project Environment Management Plan that is compliant with delivering the performance outcomes of international good practice.</li> </ul>



Key Risk	Risk Description and Consequence	Recommended Actions for the SIG	Recommended Actions for Developers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid waste and wastewater infrastructure typically managed on a site-by-site basis will not be sustainable with further tourism growth, as it can overload the environment and alter the surrounding ecology. Risks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wildlife mistaking waste materials for food, with the materials entering the food chain</li> <li>- Plastics degrading in the environment to form micro and nano plastics, which are shown<sup>(33)</sup> to have deleterious health effects on freshwater and marine organisms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance and education on good self-managed waste management and wastewater management practices for investors and landowners in Western Province.</li> <li>• Consider setting a tourism conservation tax at Gizo, Munda, and Seghe airports after consultation with potential investors and NGOs such as WWF, WorldFish, the Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association, and Wildlife Conservation Society. This revenue can be used to enhance and fund conservation activities in the corridor.</li> <li>• Business permits should be issued to the acceptability of the EIA/ESIA and associated conditions, considering good practice.</li> <li>• Ensure that the marine protected areas are recognized and registered to reduce potential exploitation and damages from increased tourist visits. Local communities can be empowered to help protect and manage these areas. The registry of the protected areas should be available on the MECDM website so that investors can plan their developments without causing damages or disruption to the areas.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cultural heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poorly documented and managed historical and cultural sites, including <i>tabu</i> sites, have led to the damage and loss of important artefacts of interest to the indigenous people and/or other communities.</li> <li>• WWII relics have been lost or damaged.</li> <li>• The provincial government does not have a dedicated office responsible for managing or monitoring cultural-preservation activities.</li> <li>• While local communities are aware of the location of <i>tabu</i> sites, such sites may not be listed in the registry under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. As such, some of the <i>tabu</i> sites have lost their significance, while others were lost to development activities, such as logging.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve data collection and/or mapping of cultural and historical artefacts for preservation purposes, considering also their relevance for indigenous people and the community.</li> <li>• Update ordinances for culturally important sites, including <i>tabu</i> sites, cemeteries, and sites of spiritual significance to local communities. This would include surveying the communities and mapping the location and size of the sites as well as sharing such information publicly.</li> <li>• The provincial government can cooperate with NGOs and research institutes/academia to consult with local communities and enhance their capacity for developing their own registries of <i>tabu</i> sites, which can later be compiled into a provincial registry.</li> <li>• Require developers to have in place a Chance Find Procedure.<sup>(34)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with the government and other relevant parties to identify areas where <i>tabu</i> or cultural sites may be present.</li> <li>• Early and active engagement with local communities including indigenous people to ensure all cultural or historical sites and practices are respected and not affected by development.</li> <li>• Preserve cultural and historical sites and use them for tourism sightseeing if surrounding communities find it acceptable.</li> </ul>

33 Chatterjee and Sharma 2019.

34 A Chance Find Procedure outlines what will happen if previously unknown heritage resources, particularly archaeological resources, are encountered during project construction or operation (IFC Performance Standard 8).