Brief report of the Initial SWoCK project Awareness and Consultation Trip

Date of Travel: 5th - 10th /08/011
Date of Report: 11th /08/011
Location: Choiseul Provincial Head Quarter (Taro)
Travelling Officer: Jacob Zikuli

Objective of the Trip

to conduct an initial awareness and consultation activities with relevant provincial government leaders, administrators, heads of division and non-governmental stakeholders in Choiseul province on the implementation of the SWoCK project.

Introduction

The awareness and consultation trip to Choiseul was originally scheduled to take place from the 4th – 7th of August. However, due to whether condition throughout the Solomon islands which disrupted all schedules on that day, flight to Choiseul on the 4th of August was cancelled and re-scheduled at 1:30 pm, Friday 5th of August.

During the trip, provincial leaders and groups were contacted. The trip provides an opportunity for PMU officer briefly explain to the provincial leaders, administrators and other stakeholders the whole concept and nature of the project and how it will be implemented in their respective provinces. The awareness and consultation also helps positioning the project well with local governments and those that will directly involve in the implementation of the project.

The awareness and consultation activities took four days. During the awareness and consultation, following activities were conducted.

Activity undertaken during the trip includes:

- courtesy call to the provincial secretary and Premier explaining the purpose of the trip including proposing contact times, venue and stakeholders invited for the programme awareness,
• conducting awareness presentation to relevant provincial government leaders and officers on the programme,
• conducting individual consultation with heads of divisions (Agriculture, Environment divisions, women Development Division) and NGOs that may directly or indirectly involve in the implementation of the program activities. Sharing knowledge and learning experiences, networking and established mechanism that have been established and can be used to leverage and support SWoCK project implementation in target areas,
• discussion with provincial advisors on established provincial level mechanism, plans and systems that can be used to support proposed SWoCK programme structures and planned activities implementation,
• Discuss with individual groups on the possibility of establishing the provincial climate change steering committee (PCCSC).
• Identifying and defining costs of other practical issues in the implementation of the project activities in target areas (i.e. Fuel cost, OBM hire, accommodations) etc. from provincial centre to target wards.

The Choiseul Provincial leaders’ awareness trip was successfully conducted. With the help of the Provincial Secretary (PS) and Clerk to Assembly, the proposed activities were carried out. Prior to the arrival of the SWoCK project officer, the premier has already issued a notice to heads of division and provincial executives on the proposed awareness for all leaders to attend on Friday 5th. However, due to flight delay the proposed awareness was rescheduled on Tuesday 9th. On Monday 8th and Wednesday 10th the SWoCK project officer conducted the individual consultations and meetings with heads of division on the programme concept. The individual consultation provides an opportunity for one to one open discussion on issues that could be considered in the implementation of the SWoCK programme at provincial and community level. A brief minutes of each consultation/awareness and schedules are provided in the attached Annex.
## Annex 1

### Schedules and Minutes of each consultation/awareness with Choiseul Provincial Leaders and stake Holders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th/08/11</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Depart for Choiseul</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Curtsey call at provincial headquarter (PS &amp; Premier) Conduct initial arrangement and discussion for the awareness and consultations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th/08/11</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Conduct individual consultations with divisions that may be directly involved in the implementation (Agriculture Division, PGSP international and local Advisor, Women’s Development Division)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Identify and define practical costs that may involve in the implementation of the project activities in target areas.</td>
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<td>9th/08/09</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Conduct awareness presentation to provincial government leaders and heads of division.</td>
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<td>Consultation with Provincial Government Representative</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Continue one to one consultation with other key stake holders: Provincial council of Women, Provincial Climate change Officer (TNC/PG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th/08/11</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Continue one to one consultation with Agriculture Division</td>
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<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>One to One Discussion with Fisheries Division</td>
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<td>Brief Discussion on the establishment of the Provincial Climate Change Steering Committee- PCCSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th/08/11</td>
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<td>Return trip to Honiara</td>
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Minutes of Consultations and Awareness

5th /08/011

*Courtesy call at the Premier’s Office.*

SWoCK project manager calls in at the provincial government house -Choiseul for a courtesy call upon arrival. Had a brief meeting with the PS to discuss arrangement for the initial awareness and consultation. Due to the disruption of SWoCK project officers’ flight schedule on Thursday, earlier arrangement for provincial leaders to meet project officers on Friday has been cancelled. However, a new notice was re-issued by the provincial secretary to provincial government executives, Heads of Division, environmental officers and NGOs to attend the project awareness on Tuesday 9th. A venue for the provincial leaders’ awareness (The Choiseul Provincial Women’s center) was selected for the awareness. During the courtesy call brief discussion with the Premier and PS, both leaders have made it clear that they will not be able to attend any awareness on Monday and Tuesday with other leaders since they have already have other appointments and invitation to attend to. Though they have not attended, Both the PS and Premier have pledge their support and looks forward for future collaboration with the MECDM / UNDP and other implementing agencies in the implementation of the SWoCK programme activities.

8th /08/011

*Meeting with the PGSP International and Local Advisor. (Mr. Raj Krishna and Basilio Solevudu)*

PGSP programme in Provinces focuses on following Areas:

- Helping provincial government workers understand and expand their roles,
- support provincial government to ensure that PG resources commensurate with their responsibilities in terms of budgeting, development activities,
- and supporting local development capacity of the provincial government, in terms of finance, mechanism and procedures, resources and training, infrastructure, monitoring and evaluations.

PGSP advisors also pointed out the need to encourage local farmers grow traditional crops for food. It was noted that people around Taro area have enough stock of Conbeef Taro, also noted that people have now adapted the culture of engaging into commercial logging activity to earn money for imported foods, however, logging does not offer enough funds to rural communities. Only few people are benefiting from it.

Conbeef taro is one of the main staple foods for Choiseul and people should be encouraged to plant. Now a lot of people go into consuming rice as it is cheap and easy to cook. Rice now becomes the staple food for some families. The problem now is that though people consume rice as the main staple food, rice farming is now an issue. There is not enough land for major rice farming if people want to plant rice. There is a need to do some kind of training and planning to support rice farming if it has to become an option for food security.

Rural communities should be encouraged to go into agro forestry activities, natural forest conservation, plant tree crops, and multi-cropping farming activities. Integrated farming activity could also be an option for many
Income generating activities should be encouraged. Fisheries should form one of the main livelihood activities in Choiseul. People should be supported with fishing facilities and equipment such as deep freezer to support this plan. Fisherman could sell fish locally, to neighboring Bougainville Islands, Honiara and Gizo. Currently, the facilities have no proper equipment to support fisherman and are under-utilized.

PGSP is currently working on capacity development programs to support communities. Such as income generating activities, community planning, and electrification. Rural electrification will have a lot of benefit for the communities in terms of Health, Education, income generating activities. It makes life easier for mothers to support family livelihoods.

Suggestion for Food security program is to increase income generating capacity of communities. Such things as Micro-finance or community seed fund can be established to support rural farmers’ income. Such funding should be accessed by community groups-women’s groups, farmers, and clubs.

Several committees have already been established in the province beginning this year. This was the initiatives of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) operating in remote areas of Solomon Islands provinces including Choiseul province. SWoCK project is encouraged to utilize these committees to support on ground activities other than establishing another mechanism. These following committees are established:

- Village development committee
- Ward development committee
- Provincial planning development committees
- Technical planning budgeting committee.

These committees are slowly functioning. The provincial Government, rural communities and RDP are learning and monitoring how these committees function at different level and can be improved. The idea of establishing the provincial climate change steering committee to support SWoCK project is good, however, this committee should fit in with the current provincial planning and technical budgeting committee. PGSP is encouraged to also utilize existing established village and ward committees on any of their rural development programme.

Meeting with the Women’s Development Division Administrator (Ms. Helen Nowak)

Choiseul Province Women’s Development Division is a division that provides support to the Provincial council of women. The divisions focus mainly on leadership and empowerment of Choiseul women through, provision of skill trainings and financial support. At the provincial level, Women’s Development Division works closely with the provincial council of women through programme support and training. At the village level the women’s division works with women’s organization through capacity building and programme support. Women’s groups established at the provincial and village level have been encouraged to register their groups, however, only few have been registered with the women’s division. Few challenges that women’s group have encountered are:

- Lack of knowledge and skills to develop proposal to access community livelihood funds
- Lack of recording skills and knowledge on financial management
- Limited participation in rural community projects
Meeting with the Acting Head of Agriculture Division (Mr. Mark Biloko)

Several Agriculture officers in the provinces have been aware of the SWoCK project. This was done by their responsible heads of department and PS from Honiara. Few issues highlight in the discussion and may need consideration are:

- Logistic support equipment / facilities are not adequate to support officers to be placed in the provinces and this may need to be considered by the PMU/UNDP. In Choiseul there are only 3 available OBM used to support activities in fifteen wards in Choiseul. Agriculture now rely on RDP planned programmes sharing cost and OBM to deliver services for rural farmers. SWoCK project need to consider this if there’s a plan to establish officers in the provinces.

- Other issues raised in the discussion includes the need for a contingency budget for SWoCK project officers in the province to cater for office set up, project site visit and monitoring.

- Cross cutting issues such as food security and health also needs to be considered when implementing activities in SWoCK project. Currently Choiseul Agriculture division collaborate with the medical division on food security to address malnutrition problem in the province. This activity helps community people to identify alternative land protein foods during shortage of fish supply.

Practical costs in project activity implementation in the target areas (from provincial centre to target wards).

One of the main activity during the trip is to identify costs that may be involve during the implementation of activities in target sites. This will help implementing partners when travelling to specific sites to carry out planned activities. The following costs are identified.

- Fuel Cost: SBD18.50 (Taro Sasamugga RTN 70 ltrs), Taro Wagina 240 ltrs
- Top up mix 2 stroke oil: SBD80.00 per liter
- OBM Hire cost: SBD800.00 per day, maximum SBD1000.00
- Accommodation: SBD200.00 - SBD500.00
- Rural Accommodation: SBD150.00
- Workshop Venue rural: SBD100 - 300 per day
- Workshop Catering group: SBD5000.00 fixed amount. Catering group to provide food, eating utensils, etc.

9th/08/011

Awareness presentation and Consultation with provincial government leaders and heads of division.

A general awareness was conducted for the provincial government leaders on the project concept on Tuesday morning session. This was conducted at the Provincial Council of Women house. The presentation focus on the objectives of the SWoCK project, how and where it will be implemented, and who will be involved in the implementation of the project. Emphasised during the presentation also is expectations from provincial government leaders and divisions in supporting this project during its term. Questions regarding the duration of this project, specific planned activities to be implemented and how this project could involve other divisions were asked and clarified during the presentation. An issue raised during the presentation also is why and certain sites have been targeted in this project and if possible other areas impacted by climate change apart from current identified sites could also be considered during the duration of the
project. Heads of division and provincial leader representatives presented during the awareness have welcomed the government’s initiatives in addressing food security issues as one important area to address in climate change.

Further consultation discussion was conducted with a provincial government executive member after the presentation. Following issues were discussed:

The status of the Climate Change officer based in Choiseul Province. The current officer is supported by TNC / Laruu land Conference and Tribal Community (LLCTC) and his role is to support any provincial government climate change programmes in the province.

The issue of project sites was also discussed. There was suggestion if project sites could be spread to other constituency instead of having them in one constituency only. Following provincial Leaders have attended during the awareness session:

- Hon William Sualalu - Minister of Education and Training
- Nelson Kere - Chief Fishery Officer
- Mark Biloko - Chief Agriculture Officer
- Davis Pitamama – Chief education Officer
- William Timper – Director of Nursing
- Nathan Kiloe – Senior works officer
- Helen Jane Nowak – Women development officer
- Christopher Makoni – Clerk to Assembly
- Malcolm English – Legal advisor Choiseul province
- Basilio Solecvudu – UNDP local Advisor Choiseul
- Gideon Solo – Climate Change Officer (TNC/Province)
- Mr. Raj Krishna – UNDP international Advisor

**Discussion with Provincial Council of Women (Ms. Nelly)**

A discussion with the Provincial Council of Women –PCW Administrator highlighted the following:

- The PCW has fifteen wards around Choiseul
- Each ward has each own executives – Ward president, wise president, secretary, treasurers
- Women’s ward council work to support women’s group in their respective wards in terms of skill training, plan development and workshops.

**Discussion with TNC/LLCTC Climate Change Officer (Mr. Gideon Solo)**

The discussion with Choiseul province Climate Change Officer highlights the following:

- The role of the climate change officer is to provide advice and support to the province on climate change issues and programmes. Apart from this role, the climate change officer links Laruu Land Conference of Tribal Community, (an indigenous NGO of Choiseul province) with provincial government in terms of the LLCTC climate change programmes.
- Currently the officer is supported by TNC and province.
- The CCO scope of work focus mainly on supporting community site based conservation projects, conducting awareness and skill training for communities on conservation, environmental managements and planning.

With already established climate change officers in Choiseul province, it may be a possibility to widen the CCO scope of work and include SWoCK project activities. This is a matter to be
discussed with the project technical group and PMU in relation to establishment of provincial based environmental officers.

10th /08/011
Discussion with Fisheries Division (Mr. Nelson Kere)
- The Choiseul Province fisheries centers were established to support fishermen earn incomes for their livelihood needs.
- Two fisheries centers were established in Choiseul.
- These facilities are not functioning effectively due to lack of equipment and inadequate provincial government budgets to support fishermen in respective villages.
- Fish depletion in coastal communities is now impacting rural communities. People now have to paddle far in order to catch fish. Impact of climate change on reefs contributes to the depletion of fish. This has impacted on communities’ diet and income.
- Most communities affected by climate change in Choiseul live on costal area and depend also on fish as one of their diet. It was suggested that the SWoCK project should also consider marine resource management as part of food security activities.

Brief Discussion on the establishment of the Provincial Climate Change Steering Committee- PCCSC
A brief discussion with the Heads of division: the Women’s Development Division, provincial council of women, Agriculture division, and provincial climate change officer and provincial minister for education on establishment of the Provincial Climate Change Steering Committee - PCCSC was conducted. The representatives have agreed on the idea of establishing such committee, however, it was suggested that the priority now is to develop and outline the main function of such committee. Equally important also is to quickly establish a provincial base environment officer which will facilitate and liaise with stake holders throughout the process of establishing the PCCSC.