

Necessity of NFI in Solomon Islands


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Promoting and Strengthening
Multi-purpose National Forest Inventory System
In the Asia Pacific region in connection with climate change

A Status of NFI policy
to mitigate climate change


Necessity of NFI in Solomon Islands

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Presentation Outline

1. Background of Solomon Islands
2. Forest Composition
3. Merchantable volume summary
4. Major Export Commodity
5. Natural Forest Depletion
6. Future Wood flow predictions
7. Status of Deforestation & Degradation
8. Strategies to reduce Deforestation & Degradation
9. Gaps of Inventory Data in the Country
10. Suggestions for Strengthening NFI
11. Why NFI is necessary for Solomon Islands




Background Information

- Total land Area = 2,334,900 Ha
- 90 % of land covered by Natural Forest
- 87% of land area under Customary Ownership
 - 9% is Government land & 4% Private land
- Population (2008) = 580,000
 - Melanesian, Polynesian, Micronesian, Chinese and others



Background Information Cont

- 80% of Population live in rural areas and depend extensively on Subsistence farming.
- Comprises 992 Islands
- 70 languages and various dialects
 - English official Language
- Shipping becomes main transportation and becomes uneconomical route




Forest Composition

- Six major forest Stratification types
 - Saline Swamp Rainforests
 - Fresh water Swamps and River site
 - Lowland rain forests
 - Hilly Forests
 - Upland Forest Hills
 - Non – Forest and other lands



Forest Composition Cont

- Virtually only 278,221 ha of total forest area is available as commercial forest when;
 - Excluding forests above 400m a.s.l and Conservation areas.
- However

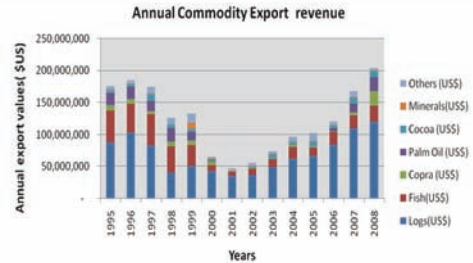


Summary of merchantable volumes for unlogged natural forests with export potential

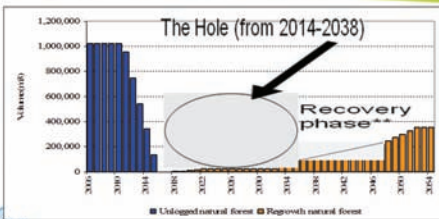
Province	National Inventory update 2006	
	(m3/ha)	(m3)
Gundalcanal	12	481,200
Western	42	2,079,000
Isabel	21	1,190,700
Choiseul	31	2,573,000
Makira	28	487,200
Malaita	26	751,400
Central	49	279,300
National 2006		7,841,800
Revised 2009	2,981,253m3 exported in 2007 & 2008	

Source: URS (2003 and 2006) and CBSI 2007 and 2009

Annual Major Export commodity in Solomon Islands

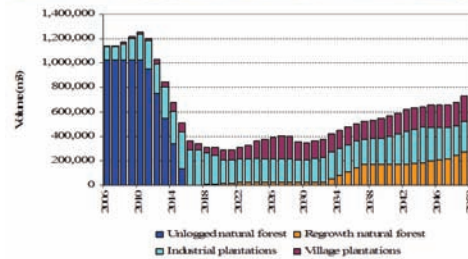


Natural Forest depletion Predictions updated for 2006



Source: FMP and FD National forest Assessment update 2006

Combined future wood flow scenario based on 2006 forest inventory updates



1. Current Situation of Deforestation and Degradation

> Change of Forest Area (1,000ha)

- 1990 = 2324
- 2000 = 2268
- 2005 = 2241



> Main causes of Change

1. Commercial Logging
2. Small Scale milling operations
3. Subsistence farming



1. Current Situation of Deforestation and Degradation (cont)

> Change of Growing Stock (m3/ha)

- 1990: 218.5
- 2000: 213.2
- 2005: 210.7

> Main causes of Change

1. Regeneration low
2. Commercial growing stock reduced due to poor harvesting operations and Unsustainable harvest



2. Strategy to reduce Deforestation and Degradation

➤ Strengthening Forest Policies

- Establishment of long-term Planning
 - Forest Act and Regulations amended to support Forest Policies
 - Enforcement of Other related Acts incorporated
 - National Reforestation programme now in place
- Enactment of Forest Laws
 - Current Forest Act does not support policies
 - Enforcement and monitoring of Code of logging and regulations and Environmental Act 2008



2. Strategy to reduce Deforestation and Degradation

➤ Enforcement of Forest Administration Organization.

- ❖ Central government
 - Effective budget system to support services
 - Training and Technology for Field data collection
- ❖ Local government
 - Include budget for forestry administration
 - Creation of alternative forest uses for income



3. Gaps on National Forest Inventory

- Inventory 1995, 2003 and updated 2006 is no longer relevant due to intensive forest Deforestation.
- Policy and Legislations outdated and inconsistent
- Implementation System of NFI in Ministry of Forestry is not given as a priority as indicated.
 - ❖ **Example;**
 - Ministry of Forestry and Research (includes Recurrent and Development Budget)
 - Staff: 184 Budget (2010): USD\$4 million



4. Suggestions for promoting and strengthening NFI System

➤ Government Forest Policy

- Forest Policies incorporated in Forest Act
- Organization structure indicative
- Financial Resources input from
 - National Government policy for data update
 - International Assistance needed



5. Why NFI is necessary and essential for Solomon Islands¹

- **Forest Resource Management**
 - Determination of Sustainable Allowable cut
 - Reliable Field data of commercial timber
 - Forest Development and Forest Uses
 - Determination of Forest Value available
 - Research and Mapping Records
 - Identification of Conservation Sites
 - Environmental Assessment Determination



Thank you

