



# Climate Resilient Honiara

## Making communities less vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks

Solomon Islands is considered to be one of the world's fastest urbanizing countries. The capital, Honiara, located on the northwestern coast of Guadalcanal, is the major centre of economic activity and as such, attracts increasing numbers of youth and adults from other islands seeking employment. The city has a growing urban footprint and is the only settlement exceeding 10,000 inhabitants. This large movement of people is overstressing the urban development and planning capacity of government entities, resulting in rapid unplanned urbanization and associated growth of informal settlements and a lack of adequate infrastructure.

### Climate change vulnerabilities

Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Solomon Islands are amongst the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Honiara's coastline is vulnerable to sea level rise and lacks sufficient natural or artificial defences against the increasing intensity of storm surges and cyclones, resulting in loss of habitats and livelihoods. With a topographically difficult terrain and limited urban infrastructure, the rugged hills and valleys are facing increased occurrences of landslides due to higher frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall. Particularly at risk are the residents of informal communities. The

settlements most vulnerable have been identified as Aekafo, Kukum Fishing Village, Ontong Java, Gilbert Camp, and White River.

### Project objective

In line with and in support of the Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan, the overarching goal of this project is to enhance the resilience of the city and its inhabitants to current and future climate impacts and natural disasters, putting a particular focus on pro-poor adaptation actions that involve and benefit the most vulnerable communities in the city and a special emphasis on youths, women, girls, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

The project will engage across all spatial scales with resilience actions and capacity building at city, ward, and local community levels. A combination of actions and capacity building across spatial scales ensures that actions are not stand-alone but are integrated into a resilience action plan for the city and hence more likely to be sustainable in the longer term. Important outcomes of this multi-level approach are improved institutional arrangements and working relationships between all stakeholders involved.



### SENSITIVITY

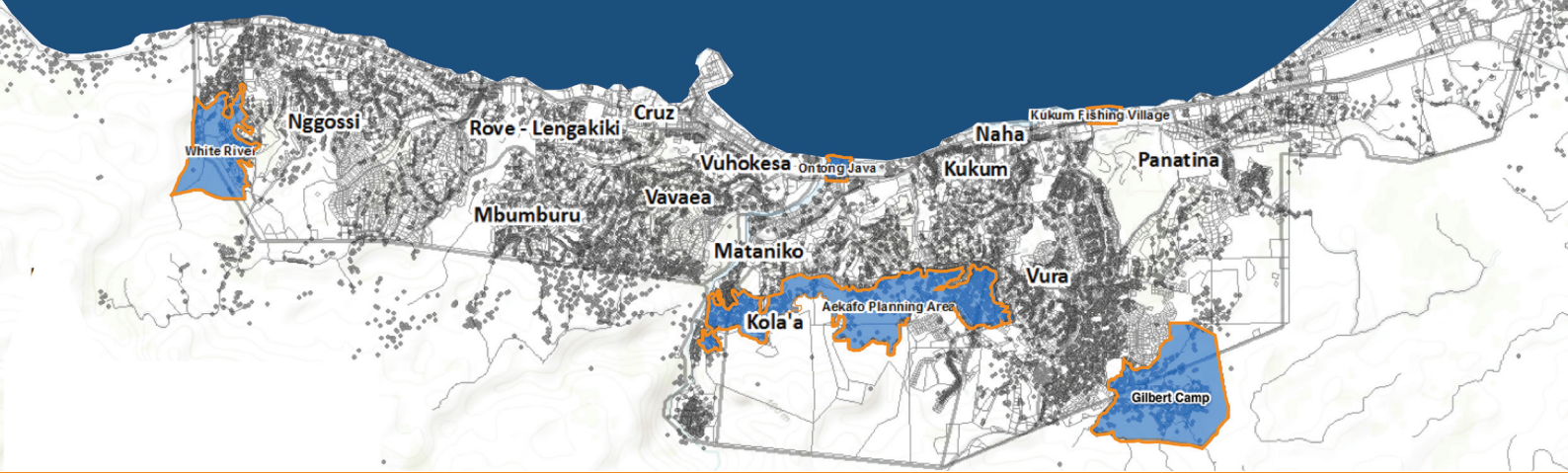
- 30% of inhabitants live in informal settlements, this number is expected to grow to 50% by 2025
- 58% of dwellers is under 25 and youth unemployment is high
- Limiting and hazardous terrain restricting urban infrastructure

### EXPOSURE

- Increase in air- and surface sea temperature (0.7°C - 4°C)
- Lack of natural or artificial defenses from storm surges / cyclones
- More frequent and intense extreme rainfall
- Sea level rise
- More frequent very hot days and nights
- Increase in ocean acidification and coral bleaching

### VULNERABILITY

- Lack of support to and adaptive capacity of informal communities
- Assets of most vulnerable destroyed, for example due to land slides
- Loss of aquatic and agricultural livelihoods due to weather and ecosystem changes
- Impacting health especially among the most vulnerable, elderly, children, women etc.



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Components

### Outputs

1

Community level

Strengthening local awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes, capacity to locally implement, and increased adaptive capacity through **community level actions**

- Community Climate Action Plans for White River and Gilbert Camp informal settlements
- Community profiling of hotspot case studies
- Scoping and feasibility studies for actions in each hotspot community
- Implementation of resilience actions in each hotspot community

*Supporting implementation of prioritized resilience actions in vulnerability hotspot communities*

2

**Community level capacity strengthening** for local awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes and capacity to locally implement

- Training in support of community profile self-assessments
- Awareness and capacity development support, workshops related to key issues

*Strengthening the capacity of local communities to respond to climate change and natural hazards*

3

Ward level

Strengthening local awareness and capacity to implement, increasing ecosystem resilience and adaptive capacity through **ward level actions**

- Women-focused climate risk communications program
- Climate Change as part of education for youth and children
- Ecosystem-based adaptation options
- Climate resilient community spaces (productive open spaces and evacuation centres)

*Supporting the implementation of resilience actions that target women, youth, urban agriculture and food security, and disaster risk reduction.*

4

Reducing local risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses through **ward level capacity strengthening**

- 'Planning for Climate Change / DRR knowledge' training for resilience officers
- Pilot best practice participatory approach in climate action planning
- Assessment of land administration options for peri-urban locations

*Strengthening the capacity of ward officials / councils to lead climate change adaptation and DRR planning activity, in support of increased urban resilience.*

5

City level

Reducing risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses through **city-wide governance and capacity strengthening**.

- Capacity Development Needs Assessment
- Climate adaptation resilience officer, multi-stakeholder steering group, support for regular meetings
- Partnership networks, provide support for increased participation
- Policy and stakeholder mapping, whole-of-govt. review (building codes, land use)

*Strengthening institutional arrangements at the city-level to respond to climate change and natural disasters through mainstreaming activities and improved partnerships*

6

Raising awareness, safeguarding project transparency, and ensuring access to project results for replication through **Knowledge Management, Advocacy and Communications**

- Climate change training and knowledge exchange
- Advocacy materials
- Knowledge sharing platform
- Project learning mechanism

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