



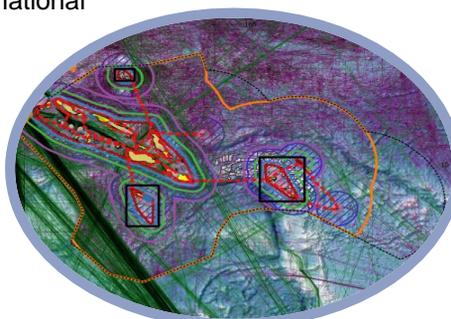
INTEGRATED OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS – THE OCEAN 12 PROCESS

In 2015, the Government of the Solomon Islands through the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet hosted the inaugural National Ocean Summit. The Summit was attended by 12 Ministries who have a vested interest in the ocean and its resources.

The Ministries are:

- **Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology**
- **Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources**
- **Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification**
- **Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey**
- **Ministry of Culture & Tourism**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade**
- **Ministry of Development Planning & Aid Coordination**
- **Ministry of Infrastructure Development (Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Authority)**
- **Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs**
- **Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services**
- **Ministry of Forestry & Research**
- **Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening**
- **As well as: Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

The outcome of the Summit was a joint Communique that recognized the critical importance of the goods and services provided by coastal and marine ecosystems in the Solomon Islands, as well as the overlaps and gaps in marine resource use and management. All ministries pledged their commitment to combine efforts and resources to work jointly towards better management and sustainable use of national marine resources.





INTEGRATED OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS – THE OCEAN 12 PROCESS

2015 The Government of the Solomon Islands through the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet hosted the inaugural Ocean Summit. The Summit was attended by 12 Ministries with a vested interest in the ocean and its living and non-living resources.

2016 – The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources submitted a Cabinet paper based on the Communiqué arising from the Summit, proposing the establishment of an Ocean12 steering committee and a technical working group to progress outcomes of the Communiqué.

2016 - Cabinet endorsed the formal establishment of the 'Ocean12 Steering Committee', now commonly called 'Ocean 12', co-chaired by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology. The Ocean12 consists of Permanent Secretaries representing the 12 Ministries that were present at the inaugural Ocean Summit.

2016 – 4 months later the Ocean12 convened its first meeting. Key outcomes included:

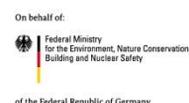
- The establishment of a Technical Working group (TWG) to carry out tasks and actions under the guidance of the Ocean12. It comprises technical officials from the 12 Ministries.
- Cross-Ministerial commitment to promote and implement integrated Ocean Governance (IOG).

2017 – During three meetings held by the Ocean12 TWG, the terms of reference were specified, a national approach to Integrated Ocean Governance was developed, and 11 key aspects of IOG were identified. Five key aspects were prioritized: the joint formulation of a National Ocean Policy, the use of a participatory Marine Spatial Planning process, and the resulting adaptation of national legislation, capacity building and sustainable financing efforts.

2017 – The Ocean12 TWG supported the Solomon Islands delegation to the UN Oceans Conference. In particular, the Ocean12 TWG supported the submission of Voluntary Commitments, aiming to establish a National Ocean Policy and a Marine Spatial Plan by 2020.

2015 - 2018 – The regional MACBIO project supported the Integrated Ocean Governance efforts through a review of relevant legislation and a national valuation of marine ecosystem services. MACBIO assisted the Ocean12 and its TWG in their efforts to identify special, unique marine areas, potential ocean zones, a national consultation strategy and marine bioregions for the Solomon Islands.

2018 – The Ocean12 Chairs (PS Fisheries & PS Environment) endorsed the identified priorities for Integrated Ocean Governance as identified by the Ocean12 TWG and committed to formulate and launch a National Ocean Policy by the end of the 2018.



Further reading: www.macbio-pacific.info/solomon-islands