

Photovoice and inter-community dialogue for catchment management in Solomon Islands

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SOLOMON ISLANDS



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Presentation outline

- Acknowledgement + Research Goal
- Key Problems
- Approach to addressing the problems
- Key Findings, Lessons and Achievements
- Recommendations
- Concluding slide



Acknowledgements and research goal

This case study is a research output of the **Water for Women Fund Innovation and Impact grant** led by Plan International Australia in partnership with Earth Water People, the International Water Centre (Griffith University), Live and Learn Solomon Islands and Solomon Islands National University entitled: **Community-to-catchment planning for inclusive, climate-resilient WASH systems in Solomon Islands (C2C)**.

- The research aimed to promote water stewardship at the community level.
- It has done this by developing and testing an approach to facilitate intergenerational and inclusive dialogue within and between communities around catchment management.



Key Problems

- minimal work on catchment management occurring in Solomon Islands
- equitable community (local) and catchment-scale water security not fully supported
- knowledge and attitudinal shifts required relating to community links with catchment care and relevant actions
- weak catchment level relationships and dialogue between communities around catchment health and protection



Approach to addressing the problem

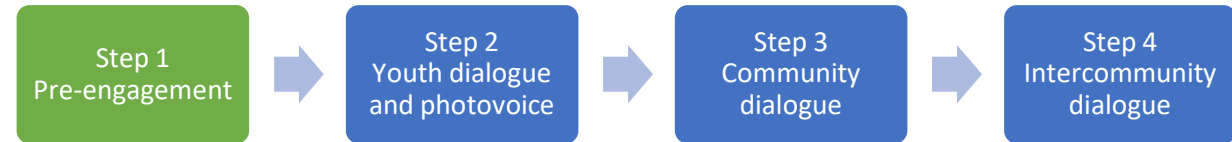
- This study built on research undertaken by Samantha Kies-Ryan. The process was adapted and co-designed in collaboration with project partners.
- Builds on research partners' work on Community-based Water Security Improvement Plan to improve water systems to focus broader on catchment health and protection.
- This research adapts photostory a process “by which people can identify, represent and enhance their community...It entrusts cameras to the hands of people to enable them to act as recorders, and potential catalysts for change, in their own communities.” (Wang & Burris, 1997, pg. 369).



“It’s a good thing that photos were taken and the findings were very good. Now we’re aware that the water source isn’t actually safe, especially in villages where houses are close to the water source/ are crowded... In terms of the photos, it actually shows the reality to everyone including the youths themselves...It really does help those of us in the committee, giving us ideas on how to achieve our goals and redirect our focus on water because most of the time we’re just focusing on the dam, the pipes then to the standpipes fixing leakages and never understanding that the only way the water is functioning as such is because of what actually happens at the catchment area”.

Water Committee Vice Chairman, Verahoia
community

Approach to addressing the problem- continued



- The approach was field tested in two communities in Western Guadalcanal in October 2022. These preliminary findings have been compiled in a case study and implementation guide.

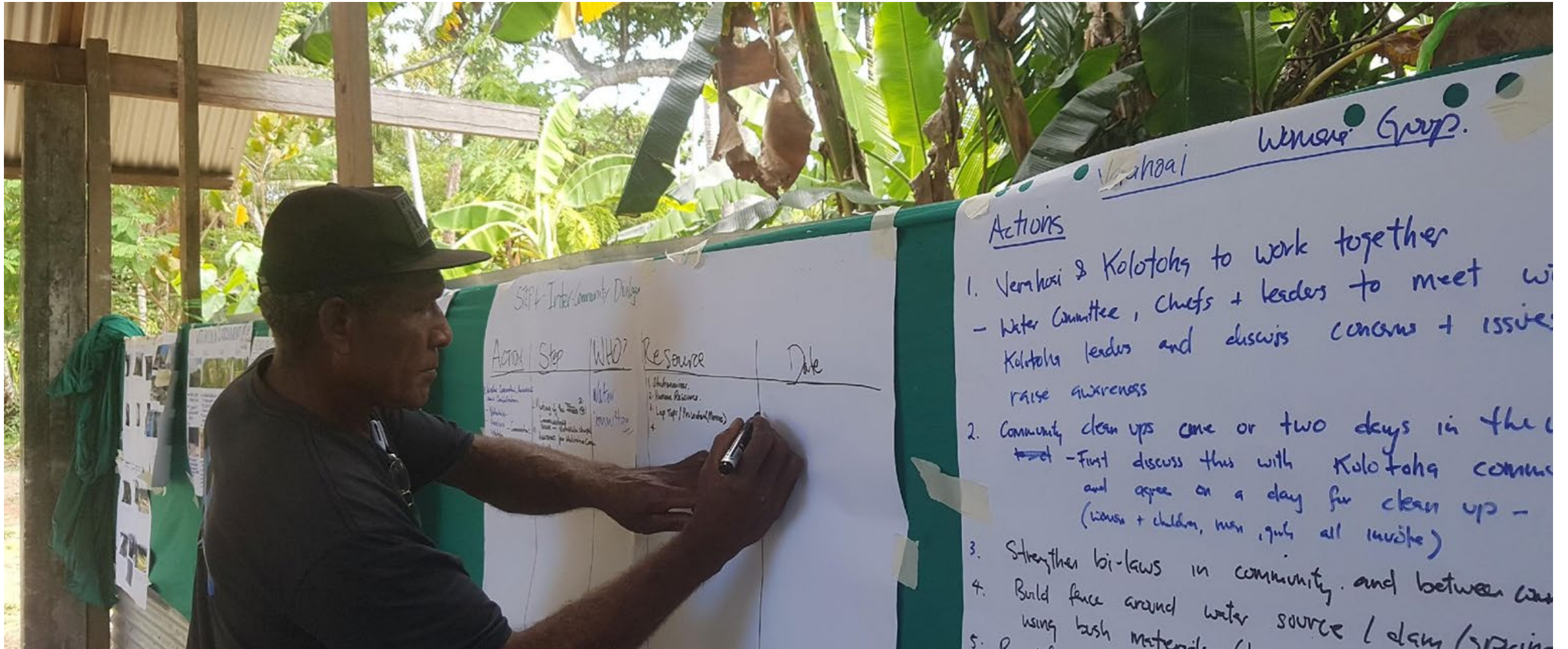


Facilitator Tema Wickham facilitating the inter-community dialogue

Key Findings, Lessons and Achievements

- Youth taking photos of the water catchment changed people's perspectives on their water sources
- The intergenerational conversation gave the community a platform to reflect on their environment, life experience and aspirations
- Further awareness is needed around water security and climate change
- Full women's participation requires further consultation and support
- Photovoice was an effective way to engage youth, but requires support
- The intercommunity dialogue was highly valued but has to be structured
- The risk of conflict should be addressed at the community level through local conflict resolution channels
- Further support and follow up actions are required to translate willingness for action into sustainable outcomes





A community elder writing down catchment management actions during the inter-community dialogue

“It’s the first of its kind to have us two communities coming together to discuss and find solutions to problems concerning water...It does really help us the water committee, for us working with the water committee here collaborating it’s a good thing, they help us solve problems and working towards our goals in terms of water...It’s a milestone for us the water committee. We now realize what our problems are and how we can address it and only by working together we can be able to achieve our aims and goals.”

Water Committee Chairman, Verahoia
community

Recommendations for ways forward



- Partnering with the local leadership is critical.
- Understandings of the catchment can be strengthened and enhanced.
- Power dynamics in the community have to be managed carefully.
- The intercommunity dialogue needs follow up and support.
- It is recommended to work in partnership with the community around conflict management and mitigation.

Thank you – tangio tumas. Get in contact with us!

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