

**ADVOCATING FOR GENDER INCLUSION IN NATURAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS**

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Most of the islands in the Solomon Islands are patrilineal in culture. Most, if not all, decisions regarding land tenure belong only to tribal male members. Women in patrilineal cultures rarely have a say regarding tribal land tenure, including decision-making for the management of natural resources projects such as protected area establishment projects and livelihoods projects.

Most terrestrial resource management projects face this challenge. Current legislation, including the Protected Areas Act 2010, also does not guide gender inclusivity.

Lessons learnt from our experiences in protected area establishment projects and livelihood projects have guided our work and recommendations to include women, youth, and people with disabilities in management committees and community-based organisations. These include considerations regarding choice of venues, management committees, group discussions, and ranger membership. Outcomes include consideration in the choice of venues that allows women and girls to freely attend protected areas meetings and workshops, increased inclusion of women, youth and people with disabilities representatives in management committees, increased understanding of the importance of including vulnerable groups of people in such committees, allowing and making space and time for such vulnerable groups to voice their inputs and concerns and the inclusion of females as rangers.