

# Mobilising land for the blue economy: evolving practice in Solomon Islands

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Anne-Maree Schwarz (MSSIF Programme) [schwarzamj@outlook.com](mailto:schwarzamj@outlook.com)

Paul Roughan (Pacific Horizons Consultancy Group)

Celsus Talafilu (Policy Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Solomon Islands)

Ferral Lasi (Undersecretary Technical; Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources)



## Content

- Policy space for fisheries development in a blue economy
- Onshore fish processing development on customary land
- The Bina case
- Emerging principles?

# Fisheries in the National Development Strategy

## **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

- Fisheries is a principal sector for revenue, foreign exchange earnings and employment
- Inclusive economic growth; poverty alleviation; resilient and environmentally sustainable development and a unified nation with stable and effective governance and public order

## **MFMR NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY**

- Increase, improve and diversify the benefits that the nation receives from its offshore fisheries resources

## **TUNA PROCESSING INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

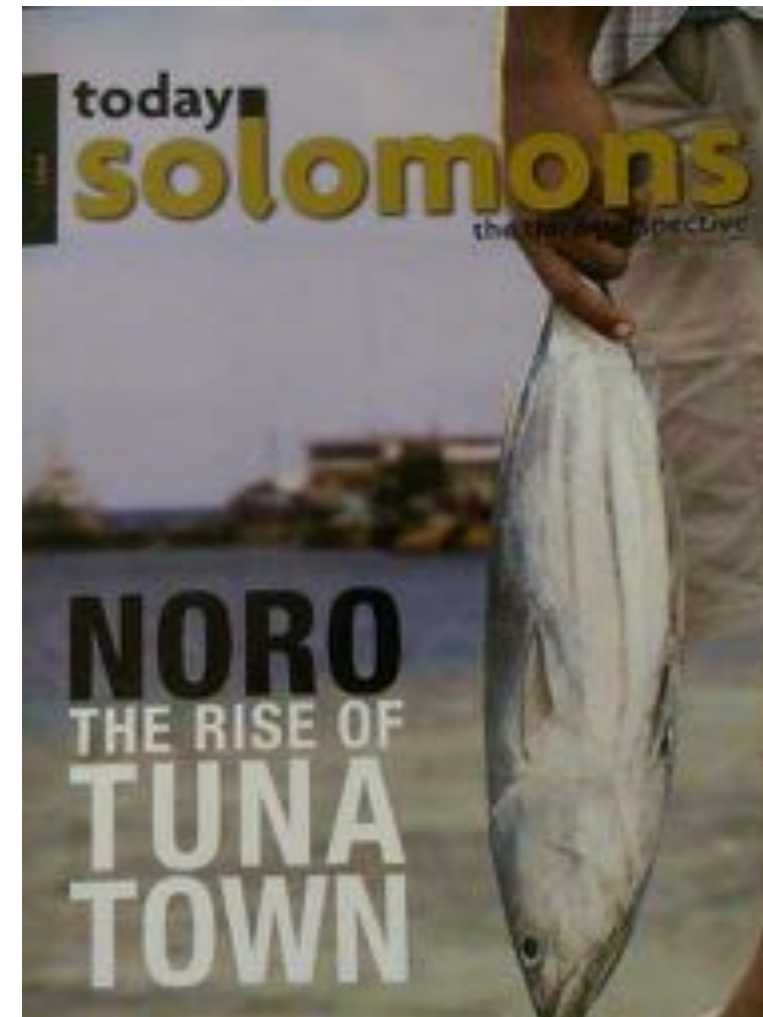
- Encourage onshore processing, and reduce the export of unprocessed tuna



Photograph Francis Pituvaka MFMR

# Fisheries Development in a Blue Economy

- *Sustainable management of ocean resources to support livelihoods, more equitable benefit-sharing, and ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, destructive fishing practices, and pressures from sources external to the fisheries sector (Pacific SIDS 2011)*
- Oceans Policy
- Blue Economy concepts focus on the sustainability–food security– economic development nexus is relevant where reliance on subsistence and commercial fisheries is high
- Onshore fish processing is expected to be a critical plank in Solomon Islands' 'Blue Economy'



# The Bina Case

- Proposed major tuna processing plant on Bina – Talifu customary land
- Expected to directly generate up to 2,000 jobs plus services
- Environment means that Bina has been earmarked for significant development projects for decades
- No significant existing development to build on
- Land had been under litigation for more than 40 years until 2016
- In 2016 –cabinet mandate to MFMR





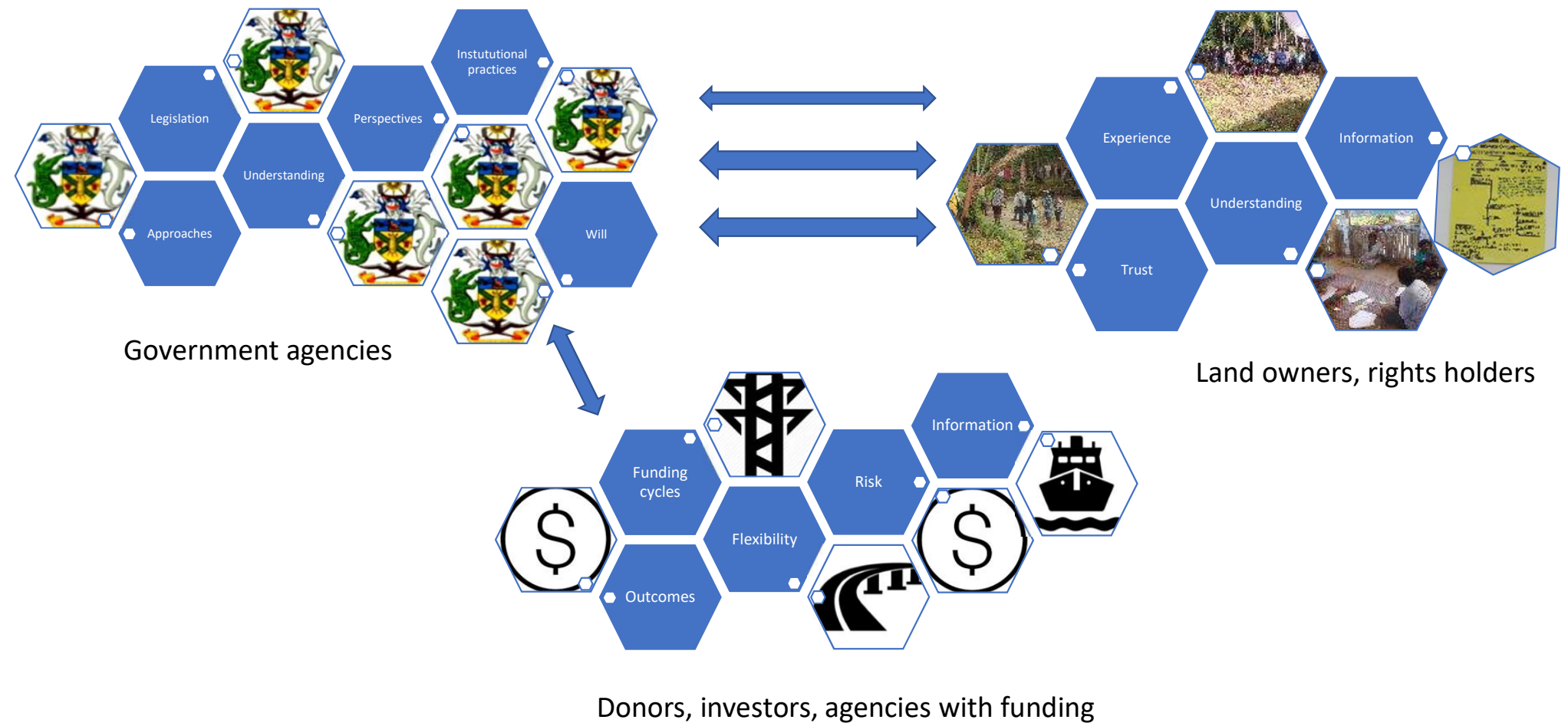
# Bina as a project

- A staged strategy to settle land, fund supporting infrastructure and attract an investor.
- A land holding entity development process
- Use kastom to empower people
- A Statutory Trust arrangement
- Articulating the interests of the beneficiaries / behaviour of trustees
- Incremental progress since 2016 in buy-in, understanding, willingness to compromise



Photographs  
Francis Pituvaka  
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# Making sense of things



# Lessons from Tina being contextualised for Bina

## **Project cycles**

- The titling process creates milestones, the milestone is no longer land acquisition
- Embed appropriate settlement and land holding entity development processes into the development timeline and resource them appropriately.
- Include reflection on local successes and approaches at an early stage of a new venture

## **Partnerships and 'teams'**

- Build a common vision amongst government and donors at the same time as amongst landowners/beneficiaries

## **Models /best practice to adopt a Blue Economy**

- Aim to create spaces where good governance and equitable distribution of benefits can happen
- Document cases and lessons to have a tangible tool for government agencies to coalesce around; to be able to present as a project planning tool for donors and to build consistent messages for land owners and beneficiaries
- Before a model can be developed there is a need for greater institutional understanding of what is required to establish equitable and sustainable land holding entities and partnerships for development
- A challenge is to elucidate principles and to find a way to package learning for use as a tool for development





Tangio tumas

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