

# Solomon Islands



## 1. General Information

Population <sup>*1</sup>	480,442 (July 2001)
Population Density [/km <sup>2</sup> ] <sup>*1</sup>	17 (July 2001)
Languages <sup>*1</sup>	Melanesian pidgin in much of the country is lingua franca, English spoken by 1%-2% of population
Ethnic Groups <sup>*1</sup>	Melanesian 93%, Polynesian 4%, Micronesian 1.5%, European 0.8%, Chinese 0.3%, other 0.4%
Climate <sup>*1</sup>	Tropical monsoon; few extremes of temperature and weather
Land Area [km <sup>2</sup> ] <sup>*1</sup>	28450

### Comments for General Information <sup>\*1</sup>

The UK established a protectorate over the Solomon Islands in the 1890s. Some of the bitterest fighting of World War II occurred on these islands. Self-government was achieved in 1976 and independence two years later. Current issues include government deficits, deforestation, and malaria control. The government type of Solomon Island is parliamentary democracy. Solomon Islands is an archipelago, consisting of double chain of six large islands and many other smaller ones. The economy of Solomon Islands is based on the natural resources of the country: fisheries, forestry and agriculture.

## 2. Economy

GDP [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	900 million (2000)
GDP-per capita [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	2,000 (2000)
Imports [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	152 million (1999)
	Plant and equipment, manufactured goods, food and live animals, fuels, chemicals
Exports [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	165 million (1999)

	Timber, fish, palm oil, cocoa, copra	
Composition of Sector (Ratio to GDP) <sup>*1</sup>	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	50% (1995)
	Industry [%]	3.5% (1995)
	Service [%]	46.5% (1995)

### Comments for Economy <sup>\*1</sup>

The bulk of the population depends on agriculture, fishing, and forestry . Many manufactured goods and petroleum products must be imported. The islands are rich in undeveloped mineral resources such as lead, zinc, nickel, and gold. Deliveries of crucial fuel supplies (including those for electrical generation) by tankers have become sporadic due to the financial reasons. The lack of technical and maintenance staff threaten telecommunication .

### 3. Energy

Electricity	Electricity production [kWh] <sup>*2</sup>		30 million (1999)
	Electricity consumption [kWh] <sup>*2</sup>		27.9 million (1999)
	Electricity <sup>*2</sup> - production by source		Fossil fuel: 100%; hydro: 0%; nuclear: 0%; other: 0% (1999)
Energy Resources	Production <sup>*2</sup>	Oil	0
		Coal	0
		Gas	0
	Consumption <sup>*2</sup>	Oil	1 (thousand barrels per day)
		Coal	NA
		Gas	NA

### Comments for Energy <sup>\*7</sup>

According to the limited information source, the heavy burden of imported fossil fuel to the economy and the crucial oil delivery system by the tankers are major problem that has prevented from the social development. Under the current situation, the development and comprehensive utilization of the renewable energy could be the clue to be independent on the imported fossil fuel. This is the time to change the strategy for the sustainable development.

### Introduction of Renewal Energy Use <sup>\*3</sup>

To improve the current situation of heavy reliance on fossil fuels, Solomon Islands government has decided to increase development and utilization of renewable energy sources through national and regional efforts and international cooperation, specifically to increase technology and investments in mature renewable energy technologies.

4. Water

Precipitation <sup>*4</sup>		3,027.9 mm (Average from 1961 to 1990)	
Internal renewable Water Resources <sup>*4</sup>		44.7 cubic kilometers	
Population with Access to Improved Water Supply <sup>*4</sup>		71%	
Total Water Withdrawal <sup>*4</sup>	NA	Industry [%]	20
		Domestic [%]	40
		Agriculture [%]	40

Comments for Water<sup>\*6</sup>

The water issues in Solomon Islands are as follows:

- Less of effective protection and management of the water resources
- Less of appropriate technologies for water supply and waste water treatment
- Less of maintenance of water supply system

5. Environment and Pollution

CO <sub>2</sub> Emission <sup>*5</sup>	Total metric tons	161 (1996)
	Metric tons per capita	0.41 (1996)

Comments for Environment<sup>\*1</sup>

- Deforestation.
- Soil erosion.
- Much of the surrounding coral reefs are dead or dying Soil erosion from overgrazing, industrial development, urbanization.

References

\*1 <http://www.caia.gov/caia/publications/factbook>

\*2 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>

\*3 <http://www.sopac.org.fj>

\*4 <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>

\*5 <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov>

\*6 Issues raised by NGO's working in the Water Sector in the Pacific, June-July 2002

\*7 Energy and Sustainable Development – Pacific Regional Submission to the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9)

Information

<http://www.solomons-island.com>