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Solomon Islands

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Evaluation of the Performance of the Veterinary Services

Report

World Organisation for Animal Health | PVS Pathway

PVS EVALUATION REPORT OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

26 June 2023 – 3 July 2023

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List of acronyms, abbreviations and/or special terms

ACIAR	**Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research**
ASF	**African Swine Fever**
ASGIP	**Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan**
AUD	**Australian Dollar**
EPA	**European Partnership Agreement**
BSI	**Biosecurity Solomon Islands**
CDA	**Cattle Development Authority [later named the Livestock Development Authority (LDA)]**
CEMA	**Central Export and Marketing Authority**
CVO	**Chief Veterinary Officer**
DFAT	**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**
DST	**Deputy Secretary Technical (MAL)**
EU	**European Union**
FAO	**Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations**
FSFSNP	**Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition Policy**
GDP	**Gross Domestic Product**
GIS	**Geographic Information System**
HCC	**Honiara City Council**
HPAI	**High Pathogenicity Avian influenza**
IFAD	**International Fund for Agricultural Development**
INFOSAN	**International Food Safety Authorities' Network**
IT	**Information technology**
KGA	**Kastom Gaden Association**
LDA	**Livestock Development Authority (formally CDA)**
LVSD	**Livestock Production and Veterinary Service Department**
MAL	**Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock**
MCILI	**Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration**
MFMR	**Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources**
MHMS	**Ministry of Health and Medical Services**
MOA	**Memorandum of Agreement**

MOU	**Memorandum of Understanding**
MOFT	**Ministry of Finance and Trade**
MSG	**Melanesian Spearhead Group**
MTDP	**Medium Term Development Plan**
NARDC	**National Agriculture Research & Development Centre**
NDC	**National Disaster Council**
N-DOC	**National Disaster Operations Committee**
NDS	**National Development Strategy 2016-2030**
PHAMA	**Pacific Horticulture and Agriculture Market Access Project**
PIC	**Pacific Island Countries**
PICTA	**Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement**
PIFON	**Pacific Islands Farmer Organisation Network**
PPP	**Public Private Partnership**
SI	**Solomon Islands**
SI$	**Solomon Islands Dollar**
SICCI	**Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
SIG	**Solomon Islands Government**
SINSO	**Solomon Islands National Statistics Office**
SINU	**Solomon Islands National University**
SPC	**The Pacific Community (formerly The Secretariat of the Pacific Community)**
SPS	**Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
TBT	**Technical Barriers to Trade**
USD	**United States Dollar**
VS	**Veterinary Service(s)**
VPH	**Veterinary Public Health**
VPP	**Veterinary para-professional**
VSB	**Veterinary Statutory Body (see WOAH Code definition)**
WOAH	**World Organisation for Animal Health**
WOAH PVS	**WOAH Performance of Veterinary Services Evaluation Tool**
WHO	**World Health Organization**
WTO	**World Trade Organization**

Acknowledgements

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PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.1 Introduction

Following a request to WOAH from the Government of Solomon Islands, an evaluation of the Veterinary Services based on the *WOAH PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services)* methodology was conducted on 26 June – 3 July 2023 by a team of two independent WOAH certified PVS evaluators.

The evaluation began with meetings with the Deputy Secretary (Technical) and Directors of the Livestock and Veterinary Services Department and Biosecurity Solomon Islands Director, senior staff of these Departments and private sector representatives in the headquarters of the Livestock and Veterinary Services Department, followed by meetings with officers in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology.

The WOAH PVS Team visited sites and institutions (public and private sector) in the cities and rural areas of Solomon Islands and discussed relevant matters with government officials, private sector veterinarians, livestock producers, traders, consumers, and other stakeholders.

The mission concluded in the King Solomon's Hotel, Honiara, with a closing meeting involving officers from the Livestock and Veterinary Services Department and Biosecurity Solomon Islands and other stakeholders at which the overall findings of the evaluation were discussed.

For those with less familiarity with the Solomon Islands, background information is provided in summary in Appendix (1) including a country map, geographical and climate information, human demographic data, livestock demographic data, animal and animal product trade data and general economic data.

I.2 Key findings and recommendations of the evaluation

I.2.A Human, physical and financial resources

Findings:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) exercises its mandate as the Veterinary Authority in Solomon Islands through two departments: the livestock and veterinary services department (LVSD) and the Biosecurity Solomon Islands Department (BSI). There is an overlap of functions between these two departments. The Chief Veterinary Officer office is at the LVSD. MAL-LVSD has two posts for veterinarians, but these posts have not been filled since 2018. Field work is conducted by livestock officers from LVSD with assistance in the provinces from extension officers whenever necessary and from BSI when joint field visits are conducted due to disease outbreak investigation. The LVSD funds many livestock production activities using donor funds to establish joint programs and private public partnerships with stakeholders of the livestock industry.

Due to the small and geographically dispersed human population the cost-of-service delivery is high. This, and the chronic underfunding of MAL, severely impacts field operations due to the lack of transport, fuel, and supplies and officers operating from poorly maintained rented facilities with limited furniture and equipment.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) is the competent authority for post slaughter food safety and medicines. MHMS exercises regulatory control for these through the National Referral Hospital, the Pharmacy Division, and the Environmental Health Division. Coordination between MAL and MHMS is weak. The Food Safety System is fragmented as regulatory oversight is provided by the MHMS, MAL, and local provincial and city council governments. It is understood that meat inspection, if it was conducted, would be the responsibility of MAL. Regulatory oversight of agricultural food establishments is poor.

Fish, mostly tuna, is exported to the EU. The EU conducted an audit in 2017 to evaluate the control systems in fish products exported to the EU. The MHMS through its Veterinary Public Health Laboratory conducts the testing and certification for tuna exports. Aquatic animal health was beyond the scope this mission. This sector given its economic importance and development would benefit from a PVS evaluation mission for aquatic animals.

There is a sound structure to manage emergencies, with the chair of the emergency response being the Ministry that triggered the emergency. Funds to deal with sustained response to animal health emergencies may not be readily available. Australia is an important economic partner, and the Solomon Islands' main development partner.

Recommendations:

- It is important to clarify roles and responsibilities between LVSD and BSI especially with disease surveillance, early warning, and response.
- Review existing legislation on animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare and regulate division of responsibilities between MAL's LVSD and BSI and between MAL and the government agencies responsible for Public Health, Conservation, Fisheries, Disaster Management, and the Environment.
- While foreign volunteer veterinarians and local veterinarians periodically provide short term veterinary oversight it is crucial for MAL to have veterinarians in permanent positions. Two - three veterinarians should be permanently employed, placed in both LVSD and BSI, and offered adequate salaries and benefits. One veterinarian may be placed in Malaita Province.
- Estimate the number of VPPs needed to perform the basic activities in the domain of the VS (including animal health, veterinary public health, animal health, and any other possible sector).
- Request WOAH membership to strengthen the veterinary services. WOAH membership will provide access to the PVS Pathway to support Solomon Islands with legislation, gap analysis (to estimate human, financial and physical resources), and a closer understanding of compliance with international standards for veterinary services provision, including for trade.
- Start a plan of veterinary supervision: VPPs performing clinical services, conducting inspections at slaughter and processing (meat, dairy, fish) establishments as well as biosecurity officers conducting border control activities.
- Establish a continuing education program for veterinarians and VPPs.
- Increase staff and train abroad the employees of the Environmental Health Division and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for inspection of import-export, processing, and distribution of animal products.

- Supply LVSD and BSI offices with basic communication and IT equipment and develop the IT system to improve data communication, management, analysis, and reporting.

I.2.B Technical authority and capability

Findings:

Although Solomon Islands has a favourable animal disease status, the post-COVID economic recovery, the projected increase in export markets and the upcoming Pacific Games in November 2023 increases the risks of disease introduction. The lack of permanently employed veterinarians severely affects MAL's compliance with international standards in animal health. It is also the main limitation affecting the technical capacity of MAL.

There is no veterinary diagnostic laboratory. There is no ongoing disease surveillance program, and most disease diagnoses are done through the occasional targeted disease surveys conducted through projects. The most recent survey was conducted by MAFF in November 2022.

A risk analysis unit at the MAL or dedicated staff responsible for risk analysis presently do not exist and risk management and risk communication, procedures and protocols are not developed.

Quarantine and border control is implemented by Biosecurity Solomon Islands which has more resources (staff, funds) relative to LBVD, particularly for plant health where most of the expertise is found. Most animal products sold in Solomon Islands are imported from Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Fiji, and USA. Local meat products, table eggs, or honey are not readily available. Animal feed is imported from Papua New Guinea by Papua New Guinea feed companies located in Solomon Islands.

Epidemiological surveillance is poor and is constrained by irregular budgetary allocations. It appears from the animal health surveys conducted by mostly Australian investigators that bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis has been eradicated from the Solomon Islands. Endemic diseases such as leptospirosis and blackleg in cattle are controlled through vaccination. The lack of veterinarians is a great constraint to an early warning system for transboundary animal disease threats such as African Swine Fever as detected in the neighbouring Papua New Guinea.

Regarding Veterinary Public Health, most animal slaughter is done at home or on slaughter slabs. There is only one poultry slaughter facility (in Honiara). Meat inspection falls under MAL, but no inspection is done. There is a tuna processing facility in Noro, Western Province. The Public Health Laboratory performs the export testing for this facility including managing samples for residues testing. The MHMS has not published any AMR national country plan.

Animals are not identified nor is there any regulation requiring animal identification. Tracing of animal products relies on company policy rather than on government regulatory control. Although animal welfare is listed as one of the functions of the LVSD nothing is being done in animal welfare. In the main cities dog population control is through use of poisoned baits when budgets allow. Increasingly, city councils are facing public outcry against the use of poison for dog control.

Recommendations:

- Laboratory: build a small laboratory in the short term to conduct basic tests (parasitology, serology), store laboratory and field supplies and conduct sample preparation for referral to reference laboratories. A trained laboratory technologist should be hired. There is need to promote and develop field veterinary capacity to collect and submit samples.
- Risk analysis should be used in establishing biosecurity requirements for quarantine facilities, intensive farms, slaughterhouses, and other production establishments.
- Provide specialized training for BSI border officers, preferably on-site overseas attachments for training in physical and identity checks at the borders and international veterinary certification. Increase the capacity for physical and identity checks of the consignments at the borders.
- Conduct an animal population census especially for the species of interest: cattle, pigs, and poultry.
- Improve the sensitivity of passive surveillance, to detect as soon as possible any incursion of ASF, HPAI and other transboundary animal diseases as well as food-borne diseases, exotic disease agents and emerging diseases. Prepare a statutory instrument for notifiable diseases, prioritise the diseases and conduct a strong campaign to disseminate awareness of the mandatory notification of diseases and syndromes to all relevant stakeholders involved in animal production and health. Ensure an immediate and effective response to notifications received.
- Conduct a national ASF disease simulation exercise, including all necessary stakeholders, to supplement the recent regional desktop exercise at regional level facilitated by the FAO.
- Veterinary Public Health: through the One Health approach strengthen the coordination and collaboration between Agriculture, Health, Fisheries and Environment. Define the roles of each party; ensure the construction of slaughterhouses; ensure ante and post mortem inspection of all slaughtered animals (of all species) in the cities. Establish an agricultural surveillance programme for AMR.

I.2.C Interaction with stakeholders

Findings:

Communication with stakeholders is done through the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, and Local Government (provincial and city council), as appropriate. Solomon Islands being a group of islands with poor internet connectivity and costly inter- and intra-island travel, national stakeholder consultation is difficult. Hence most consultations are done within Honiara.

Official representation and international collaboration include membership in SPC, WTO and CODEX with country representation for SPC, FAO and WHO. The relevant Solomon Islands competent authority participates in policy-setting meetings and other activities of these organisations.

Accreditation, authorisation, or delegation programmes are not in place even though there is recurrent use of private veterinarians, whether nationals or from donor

agencies. These veterinarians, though informally appointed, function as MAL officers. The Biosecurity Act 2013 allows for delegation of functions.

A form of joint partnership is developed using donor funds to empower livestock entrepreneurs such as progressive livestock farmers and companies.

The Honiara Veterinary Clinic established in 1993 is the only Veterinary Clinic in Solomon Islands. There are two other retired national veterinarians beside the recent Australian graduate national veterinarian, owner of Honiara Veterinary Clinic. Besides these veterinarians, clinical service is provided by livestock officers who can perform basic treatments such as parasite control and lancing abscesses.

Recommendations:

- Encourage livestock producers to organise themselves in provincial and national associations that democratically represent their interests, by working with farm leaders, or providing seed funding for industry elections etc.
- Develop a government-industry multi-stakeholder advisory body on animal health, including LVSD, BSI and other government agencies (Health, Environment), livestock industry representatives, plural private sector (SPC, WHO, etc) and civil society.
- Strengthen the participation of the private sector (NGOs, Churches) to deliver animal health services to livestock farmers along with services and programmes to strengthen the livestock industries.
- Develop legal framework for accreditation within MAL.
- Consider placing a veterinarian in Malaita Province or where greatest need exists outside of Guadalcanal Province and Honiara.

I.2.D Access to markets

Findings:

Animal Health legislation is scant and outdated except for the Biosecurity Act 2013 and its subsidiary Biosecurity Regulations 2015 which address import risk analysis, border controls, internal quarantine, and emergency preparedness. There is no legislation on animal production food safety, epidemiological surveillance, animal welfare, animal feed, veterinary medicines and biologicals and animal identification and traceability. Biosecurity Solomon Islands takes a strong stance enforcing border quarantine.

International harmonisation improved when the Solomon Islands Government enacted the Biosecurity Act 2013 and modernised Public Health, Fisheries, and wildlife statutory instruments for compliance with international obligations. As a member of SPC Solomon Islands has been actively collaborating on legislation, guidelines, and protocols with a view to providing the conditions necessary to allow for intra- regional trade of animals and animal products within the South Pacific space. Due to high costs, limited markets, a lack of strategic investment in agriculture and manufacturing, and bureaucratic regulations, there is very little inter-regional trade.

Solomon Islands has poor reporting history with WHO and WTO and was delinquent in submitting annual reports to CITES. Solomon Islands is not a WOAH member and is hence under no obligation to notify disease occurrence to WOAH.

Recommendations:

- WOAH membership would provide access to a PVS veterinary legislation support mission to review and assist with developing animal health and welfare legislation.
- Revise existing and draft new food safety legislation in line with WOAH and *Codex Alimentarius Commission* standards. Improve implementation of veterinary public health legislation (food safety, meat inspection). New legislation should include food safety and animal health as priority components of Solomon Islands regulation mandate. This clarity is needed both for national and international audiences such as collaborating veterinary services and international trade partners.
- An approach to consider would be to develop Memoranda of Understanding with relevant competent authorities designating trained LVSD staff as authorised officers.
- Ensure trained and qualified staff to implement changes in responsibilities and new legislation.
- MAL should continue to participate in regional harmonisation (SPC, Australian and New Zealand) initiatives and adopt any new legislation with effective stakeholder engagement.
- Create certification criteria and a list of approved export certifying officers.
- Develop an internal programme for audit of certification programmes.

Table 1: Summary of WOAH PVS evaluation results

	Result
I. HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES	
I.1.A. Staffing: Veterinarians and other professionals	**1**
I.1.B. Staffing: Veterinary para-professionals	**2**
I.2.A. Competency and education of veterinarians	**NA**
I.2.B. Competency and education of veterinary paraprofessionals	**2**
I-3. Continuing education	**2**
I-4. Technical independence	**3**
I-5. Planning, sustainability and management of policies and programmes	**2**
I-6.A. Internal coordination (chain of command)	**3**
I-6.B. External coordination (including the One Health approach)	**2**
I-7. Physical resources and capital investment	**1**
I-8. Operational funding	**1**
I-9. Emergency funding	**2**
II. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY	
II-1.A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis	**2**
II-1.B. Suitability of the national laboratory system	**1**

II-1.C. Laboratory quality management systems	**2**
II-2. Risk analysis and epidemiology	**1**
II-3. Quarantine and border security	**2**
II-4.A. Passive surveillance, early detection and epidemiological outbreak investigation	**1**
II-4.B. Active surveillance and monitoring	**1**
II-5. Emergency preparedness and response	**2**
II-6. Disease prevention, control and eradication	**1**
II-7.A. Regulation, inspection (including audits), authorisation and supervision of establishments for production and processing of food of animal origin	**1**
II-7.B. Ante- and post mortem inspection at slaughter facilities and associated premises	**1**
II-8. Veterinary medicines and biologicals	**1**
II-9. Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use	**1**
II-10. Residue testing, monitoring and management	**2**
II-11. Animal feed safety	**1**
II-12.A. Premises, herd, batch and animal identification, tracing and movement control	1
II-12.B. Identification, traceability and control of products of animal origin	**1**
II-13. Animal welfare	**1**
III. INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS	
III-1. Communication	**3**
III-2. Consultation with stakeholders	**2**
III-3. Official representation and international collaboration	**2**
III-4. Accreditation/authorisation/delegation	**1**
III-5. Regulation of the profession by the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)	**1**
III-6. Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes	**2**
III-7. Veterinary clinical services	**2**
IV. ACCESS TO MARKETS	
IV-1.A. Veterinary Legislation: Legal quality and coverage	**2**
IV-1.B. Veterinary Legislation: Implementation and compliance	**2**
IV-2. International harmonisation	**2**
IV-3. International certification	**2**
IV-4. Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements	**2**
IV-5. Transparency	**1**
IV-6. Zoning	**NA**
IV-7. Compartmentalisation	**NA**

NA: Not Applicable

PART II: CONDUCT OF THE EVALUATION

At the request of the Government of the Solomon Islands, the Director General of WOAH appointed an independent WOAH PVS team consisting of Dr Victor Gongora (Team Leader), Dr Sloboden Chokrevski (Technical expert), and Dr Elva Borja (Observer) to undertake an evaluation of the veterinary services of Solomon islands. The evaluation planned for 26 June – 3 July 2023 was carried out on 29 June – 4 July due to airline flight problems.

The evaluation was carried out with close reference to the WOAH standards contained in Chapters 3.1., 3.2., 3.3. and 3.4., and in other chapters as relevant, of the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the Terrestrial Code), using the WOAH *PVS Tool* (7th edition, 2019) to guide the process. Relevant Terrestrial Code references are referenced for each Critical Competency in Appendix .

This report identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the veterinary services of the Solomon Islands referenced to the WOAH standards. The report also makes some general recommendations for actions to improve performance.

II.1 WOAH PVS Tool: method, objectives, and scope of the evaluation

To assist countries to establish their current level of performance, form a shared vision, establish priorities, and carry out strategic initiatives, WOAH provides an evaluation tool called the WOAH Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (WOAH PVS Tool[1]) which comprises four fundamental components:

- Human, physical, and financial resources
- Technical authority and capability
- Interaction with stakeholders
- Access to markets

These four fundamental components encompass 45 Critical Competencies, for each of which five qualitative levels of advancement are described. For each Critical Competency, a list of suggested sources of verification was used by the WOAH PVS Team to help determine the level of advancement.

A glossary of terms is provided in Appendix 2.

The report follows the structure of the WOAH PVS Tool incorporating the descriptions and levels of advancement for each Critical Competency.

The objective and scope of the WOAH PVS Evaluation includes all aspects of the veterinary domain relevant to the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the quality of Veterinary Services.

[1] Available at v17419-PVSTool.indd (woah.org)

II.2 Context of the evaluation

II.2.A Availability of data relevant to the evaluation

A list of documents received by the WOAH PVS Team before and during the PVS Evaluation mission is provided in Appendix 6. All documents and pictures listed in Appendix 6 are referenced to relevant Critical Competencies and provide material evidence for the levels of advancement and related findings.

Table 2 provides an overview of the availability of the main categories of documents or data needed for the evaluation, considering the requirements set out in the WOAH Terrestrial Code.

Table 2: Summary of data available for evaluation

Main document categories	Data available in the public domain	Data accessible only on site or on request	Data not available
→ **Animal census:**			
o at 1st administrative level	X	X	
o at 2nd administrative level			X
o at 3rd administrative level			X
o per animal species		X	
o per production systems			X
→ **Organisations charts**			
o Central level of the VS	X		
o 2nd level of the VS		X	
o 3rd level of the VS		X	
→ **Job descriptions in the VS**			
o Central levels of the VS		X	
o 2nd level of the VS		X	
o 3rd level of the VS		X	
→ **Legislations, regulations, decrees …**			
o Animal health and public health	X		
o Veterinary practice			X
o Veterinary statutory body			NA
o Veterinary medicines and biologicals		X	
o Official delegation		X	
→ **Veterinary census**			
o Global (public, private, veterinary, para-professional)		X	
o Per level		X	

○ Per function		X	
→ **Census of logistics and infrastructure**		X	
→ **Strategic plan(s)**	X		
→ **Operational plan(s)**		X	
→ **Activity reports**		X	
→ **Financial reports**		X	
→ **Animal health status reports**	X	X	
→ **Evaluation reports**		?	
→ **Procedures, registers, records, letters …**		X	

II.2.B General organisation of the Veterinary Services

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) provides overall control and direction of Veterinary Services, but functions are split between the Livestock Production and Veterinary Services Department and the Biosecurity Solomon Islands Department. The Livestock Department is responsible for disease surveillance, the provision of livestock health advice and services, slaughtering and processing regulation, and animal welfare. The Biosecurity Department is responsible for import risk analysis, border inspection, quarantine, emergency animal disease preparedness and trade-related functions.

The Veterinary Authority is the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL). Its services are organized and implemented under executive authority of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock. The Minister is assisted by a 3-member Team of Senior Executive Managers which includes the Permanent Secretary who performs the role of chief executive officer, and two Deputy Secretaries. They exercise managerial oversight of work programs formulation, implementation, and including supervising a Team of six (6) Department Directors who together with the three executive managers form MAL senior management team. Seventeen (17) Heads of Specialist Units make up the team of subject specialist managers overseeing the various Divisions and Unit's service delivery operations. The 6 Departments, 17 Divisions and 7 Units (including the small band of Field Extension Officers in the provinces) perform 6 Core Functions which together forms the scope and depth of services offered. The Livestock and Veterinary Services Department manages regulatory requirements for monitoring animal health, slaughtering, and food (meat) safety standards and the Biosecurity Department safeguards animal health and protection through quarantine and border control. This department also facilitates agriculture commodities trade through export commodities testing and certification. The Agriculture Extension and Training Department is responsible for Food Security and Livelihoods, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plans in consultation with NDOC Chair Livelihood Committee (DST MAL).

MAL has one Chief Agriculture Officer stationed in each of the 9 Provinces. The larger provinces – Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Western Provinces have additional support staff, but work is often constrained by lack of transport, infrastructure, and resources.

MAL has four major program development themes.

Program 1: Governance, Knowledge Management, and Innovation

Program 2: National Food and Nutrition Security

Program 3: National Livestock Development Program

Program 4: National Crop Development Program

Veterinary services at MAL are provided by the Livestock Production and Veterinary Services Department (LVSD) and the Biosecurity Solomon Islands Department (BSI), previously the agriculture quarantine department. There is an overlap of functions and roles between LVSD and BSI. This is a cause for confusion.

Livestock Production and Veterinary Services Department

The Livestock Production and Veterinary Services Department consist of four units: Livestock Research, Development, Extension, and Animal Health and Disease. The department is responsible for:

- Policy and Regulation on National Animal Health and Production services.
- Livestock development and extension services in all nine provinces.
- Breeding and distribution of livestock and dissemination of information.
- Monitor /surveillance on National Animal Health.
- Conduct research and provide farmer-based animal health and production solutions.
- Conduct research for further use/domestication of indigenous animal species.

The department's core function is managing regulatory requirements for managing animal health, slaughtering, and food (meat) safety standards; breeding, multiplication and distribution for smallholder and commercial genetics; undertaking research, and documentation of findings to support training, extension advisory support to farmers on animal diseases and pest control and promote mutually beneficial public-private sector partnerships. The department is also responsible for relevant regulations, including the Pure Food Act 1996 and the Cattle Development Authority Act 1983.

A major focus of the department is breeding-stock development, multiplication, and distribution. There are cattle multiplier farms in Guadalcanal, Western Province and Malaita, and the department distributes chickens, eggs, and pigs to support commercialisation of smallholder livestock systems in urban and peri-urban communities. Similarly, the department provides materials for beehives and distributes bees to farmers. To address rural livelihoods and food security, the department also provides poultry and pigs at community and farmer levels.

Biosecurity Solomon Islands Department (BSI)

BSI is responsible for maintaining effective biosecurity to protect the country from pests and diseases, controlling pests and diseases that may enter the country, negotiating market access requirements for agricultural goods being exported and facilitating trade in compliance with international standards.

The Department of Biosecurity has the mandate to protect the country against pests and diseases, and to facilitate trade in and out of the country. This mandate is operationalized in six strategic actions: border control; pest and disease surveillance; agricultural market access and trade; efficiency of pre-export procedures; capacity-building plan; and infrastructure, transport, and staff housing. The department works with exporters at ports (Honiara and Noro) and airports (Honiara and Munda), as well as freight and mail-handling centres, to enhance efficiency of pre-export procedures, such as inspection and certification of pets and canned tuna. In line with these responsibilities, it also addresses market access through supporting sanitary and

phytosanitary standards. Planned activities include development of a market access and trade facilitation strategy and improvement of the efficiency of pre-export procedures.

The legal mandate for the Department of Biosecurity rests with the Biosecurity Act 2013, Biosecurity Regulations 2015 and regional and international conventions and agreements including those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO. The department has made significant progress in increasing imports from markets, for example, Australia and New Zealand. It has also strengthened surveillance of pests and diseases with support from SPC and IFAD. There is a need for clearer identification of responsibilities for surveillance between BSI and the Department of Livestock. Biosecurity programmes are implemented in collaboration with field staff from extension services focusing on pest management, and the Environmental Health Department focusing on food safety.

The new opportunities and challenges facing BSI include addressing major pest threats affecting farmers, such as the Giant African Snail which was first detected in 2016; strengthening border control, especially illegal crossings at the border with Papua New Guinea (threat of introducing ASF); increasing efficiency and effectiveness of entry-exit procedures; and working on disaster preparedness for a National Emergency Response Regulation, which would bring together multiple departments, such as those for forestry, fisheries, environment, as well as MAL. This Regulation would support inclusion of slow onset disasters in the framework of the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster – a national disaster coordinating unit targeting agriculture and food security.

II.2.C Animal disease occurrence

Information on animal disease occurrence from the WOAH website

The Solomon Islands is not yet a WOAH member country. From 2005 to the present, only one six-monthly report was submitted in 2019, in which almost all the diseases were reported with the occurrence code “No information”. In addition, no immediate notification has been submitted.

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia was diagnosed clinically in 1912, and the entire affected herd was slaughtered. The Solomon Islands is considered free of this disease. Solomon Islands has never reported Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease, Rabies, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza.

A recent survey in November 2022 and follow up sampling in 2023 confirmed the presence of virulent variant Infectious Bursal Disease in poultry.

Table 3: Disease status of the country

DISEASE	SEROLOGY*	NOTES
Rabies	Negative	
Brucellosis	Negative	Free since 1986 after extensive testing and slaughter of reactors. In 1998 tested cattle, pigs and goats

Tuberculosis	Negative	Extensive testing and slaughter of reactors. Last confirmed case slaughtered in 1979.
Aujesky's Disease	Negative	
Transmissible gastroenteritis	Negative	
Porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome	Negative	
Bovine viral diarrhoea	Negative	Further study recommended
Bovine anaplasmosis	Negative	
Johne's Disease	Negative	
Trichinosis	Positive	
Leptospirosis	Positive	Cattle, goats, horses, and pigs. Serovar Hardjo most prevalent.
Toxoplasmosis	Positive	Goats. Endemic
Bluetongue	Positive	
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis	Positive	
Enzootic bovine leucosis	Positive	
Theilariasis	Positive	*Theileria buffeli? Results inconclusive*
Babesiasis	Positive (B bovis)	Further study recommended
Avian Infectious bronchitis, Infectious Laryngotracheitis, Avian encephalomyelitis Marek's Disease	Positive	Further study to determine if Infectious bursal disease is present
Avian *Salmonella pullorum* Reovirus Egg drop syndrome 76	Negative	In 1988 survey
Avian Mycoplasmosis M gallisepticum	Not tested in 1998	In the 1988 survey 2 of 50 samples were positive for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*

M synoviae		antibodies, and 1 of 50 positive for *Mycoplasma synoviae*.

*Data taken from 1998 study. Updates are shown in the Notes column.

Bee diseases

The Asian honeybee (*Apis cerana*) was discovered in 2003 on Guadalcanal and Savo, Solomon Islands. An Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) study in 2012 provides an overview of bee disease status in the Solomon Islands. In 2012 honeybees in Solomon Islands were found to carry the microsporidian pathogen *Nosema ceranae*, Kashmir bee virus and a Java strain of the parasitic mite, *Varroa jacobsoni*. European honeybees were found to be relatively disease-free, compared to honeybees in other regions. They carry *N. ceranae*, and evidence suggests they have recently acquired this parasite from the Asian honeybee. European honeybees in the Solomon Islands also carry sacbrood and chronic bee paralysis viruses, but are free of *Ascosphaera apis* (the cause of chalkbrood disease), *Melissococcus plutonius* (the cause of European foulbrood disease), *Paenibacillus larvae* (the cause of American foulbrood disease) and the parasitic mites *V. destructor*, *A. woodi* and *Tropilaelaps* spp. The European honeybee colonies in the Solomon Islands are also invaded by low numbers of adult female *V. jacobsoni*, which spread from the Asian honeybee colonies. These mites do not harm the colonies, as they are unable to reproduce on the European honeybee brood.

The cane toad (*Bufo marinus*) was also found to be a serious pest of managed European honeybees throughout the Solomon Islands.

II.3 Organisation of the evaluation

II.3.A Timetable of the mission

Appendix 4 provides a list of key persons met; the timetable and a map of the mission and details of the facilities and locations visited by the WOAH PVS Team and Appendix 5 provides the air travel itinerary of team members.

II.3.B Categories of sites and sampling for the evaluation

Table 4 lists the categories of sites relevant to the evaluation and the number of each category of sites in the country. It indicates how many of the sites were visited, in comparison with the suggested sampling framework ("ideal" sampling) recommended in WOAH PVS Manual.

Table 4: Site sampling

	Terminology or names used in the country	Number of sites	"Ideal" sampling	Actual sampling
GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES OF THE COUNTRY				
Climatic zone				
Topographical zone				
Agro-ecological zone				
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION OF THE COUNTRY				
1st administrative level	*Provinces, capital city*	10	4	3

2nd administrative level	*Constituencies*	50		
3rd administrative level	*Wards*	183		
4th administrative level				
Urban entities	Honiara, Auki, Gizo, Kira Kira	4	2	2
VETERINARY SERVICES ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE				
Central (Federal/National) VS	MAL Headquarters (2 offices) in Honiara.	2	2	2
Internal division of the central VS				
1st level of the VS	LVSD, BSI	2	2	2
2nd level of the VS	MAL provinces, Honiara	10	4	3
3rd level of the VS	-			
Veterinary organisations (VSB, unions…)	Poultry Farmers Association, Pig Farmers Association	2	2	2
FIELD ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK				
Field level of the VS (animal health)	Provincial offices in Gizo, Munda, Auki, Noro, Buala, Lata, Taro, Tulagi, Kira Kira, Tingoa.	10	4	1
Private veterinary sector	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	1	1	1
Other sites (dip tanks, crush pens….)	Research and extension farms (pigs) in Honiara, Auki, Buala, Hakama, and Gizo.	5	2	1
VETERINARY MEDICINES & BIOLOGICALS				
Production sector	None			
Import and wholesale sector	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	1	1	1
Retail sector	Agrovet stores			4
Other partners involved	Projects, Churches, NGOs			0
VETERINARY LABORATORIES				
National, Regional and local labs	None			
Associated, accredited and other labs	None			
ANIMAL AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS MOVEMENT CONTROL				
Bordering countries	Papua New Guinea (sea)			
Airports and seaports border posts (Primary)	Henderson International Airport, Honiara Seaport Noro Seaport Munda Seaport	4	3	2
Main seaport border posts	Honiara Seaport Noro Seaport Munda Seaport	3	1	1

Minor seaport border posts	Ballalae, Gizo, Nusatupe, Tulagi, Shortland Island – Kulitanai Bay , Nendo – Graciosa Bay	6	2	0
Quarantine stations for import or export				
Internal check points	None			
Live animal markets	None			
Zones, compartments	None			
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS				
Export slaughterhouses	None			
National market slaughterhouses	None			
Local market slaughterhouses	None			
Slaughter areas/slabs/points				
On farm or butcher's slaughtering sites				
Processing sites (milk, meat, eggs, etc)	None			
Retail outlets (butchers, shops, rest.)	3 butcheries	3	2	3
TRAINING AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS				
Veterinary university	None			
Veterinary paraprofessional schools	None			
Veterinary research organisations	None			
STAKEHOLDERS' ORGANISATIONS				
Agricultural Chamber / organisation	-			
National livestock farmers organisations	None	0		
Local livestock farmers organisations	Poultry and pig farmers associations	2	2	2
Other stakeholder/consumer organisations	Livestock Development Authority	1	0	0

PART III: RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION & GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

This evaluation identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the veterinary services, and makes general recommendations, across the four main fundamental components of the PVS tool:

FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS	
1.	HUMAN PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
2.	TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY
3	INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS
4.	ACCESS TO MARKETS

The activities of the Veterinary Services are recognised by the international community and by WOAH Members as a 'global public good'. Accordingly, it is essential that each country acknowledges the importance of the role and responsibilities of its Veterinary Services and gives them the human and financial resources needed to fulfil their responsibilities.

This WOAH PVS Evaluation examined each Critical Competency under the 4 fundamental components, listed strengths and weaknesses where applicable, and established a current level of advancement for each Critical Competency. Evidence supporting this level included interviews and field observations associated with the mission, and also documentary evidence, as listed in Appendix 6. General recommendations are provided where relevant.

The current level of advancement for each Critical Competency is shown in cells shadowed in grey (15%) in the table.

III.1 Fundamental component I: Human, physical and financial resources

This component of the evaluation concerns the institutional effectiveness and sustainability of the VS as demonstrated by the levels of human, physical and financial resources available and their efficient application. It comprises fourteen Critical Competencies:

Critical Competencies:

Section I-1	**Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services (VS)**
	A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualified)
	B. Veterinary paraprofessionals
Section I-2	**Competency and education of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals**
	A. Veterinarians
	B. Veterinary paraprofessionals
Section I-3	**Continuing education (CE)**
Section I-4	**Technical independence**
Section I-5	**Planning, sustainability and management of policies and programmes**
Section I-6	**Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services**
	A. Internal coordination (chain of command)
	B. External coordination (including the One Health approach)
Section I-7	**Physical resources and capital investment**
Section I-8	**Operational funding**
Section I-9	**Emergency funding**

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 1-7, 9 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/Independence/ Impartiality/Integrity/Objectivity/Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards/Human and financial resources.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial/Administrative/Technical.

Points 3 and Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance/In-Service training and development programme for staff.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-5 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services/National information on human resources/Financial management information/Administration details/Laboratories engaged in diagnosis/Performance assessment and audit programmes.

I-1 Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services (VS) *The appropriate level of staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and technical functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.* **A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualified)** *The appropriate level of staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and other professional functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively*	**Levels of advancement**
	1. The majority of positions requiring veterinary or other professional skills are not occupied by appropriately qualified professionals.
	2. The majority of positions requiring veterinary or other professional skills are occupied by appropriately qualified professionals at central and state/provincial levels.
	3. The majority of positions requiring veterinary or other professional skills are occupied by appropriately qualified professionals at local (field) levels.
	4. There is a systematic approach to defining job descriptions and formal, merit-based appointment and promotion procedures for veterinarians and other professionals.
	5. There are effective procedures for formal performance assessment and performance management of veterinarians and other professionals.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) provides overall control and direction of Veterinary Services through two of its six departments: the Livestock Production and Veterinary Services Department (LVSD) and the Biosecurity Solomon Islands Department (BSI). LVSD is responsible for disease surveillance, the provision of livestock health advice and services, slaughtering and processing regulation, and animal welfare. BSI is responsible for import risk analysis, border inspection, quarantine, emergency response and trade-related functions.

Although the LVSD has a post for a chief veterinary officer and a senior veterinary officer. These posts have been vacant since July 2018. BSI has no veterinarian on staff and does not have a post for a veterinary officer. There is presently an Australian veterinarian attached as a volunteer (February – August 2023) under the Australian Volunteers Program funded by Australian Aid. This veterinarian was placed with LVSD to build local veterinary and biosecurity capacity ahead of the 2023 Pacific Games to be held in Solomon Islands, 19 November – 2 December 2023. There is a private veterinarian in Honiara who does veterinary work for MAL upon request. One or two other retired national veterinarians are also resident in Solomon Islands.

At Headquarters in Honiara there is a Director and a Deputy Director in LVSD and BSI. The provinces have a Chief Agricultural Officer (Principal Field Officer) who administratively supervises the animal health workers, livestock officers and extension officers.

Solomon Islands has had at least four nationals trained as veterinarians overseas. It is noted that salaries of state and official employees are lower than in the private sector, such as private farms or food processing establishments. It is difficult to attract and recruit young employees and to retain them as MAL employees.

Strengths:

- Veterinary services activities in MAL (LVSD and BSI), Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

- On-going Australian assistance with volunteer veterinarians.

Weaknesses:

- No permanently employed veterinarians currently within the Solomon Islands government.
- Local veterinarians employed in the past resigned due to better remuneration packages in the private sector.

Recommendations:

- Employ at least two veterinarians creating reasonable work conditions and remuneration. packages for veterinarians. One veterinarian may be posted in Malaita Province.
- Consider policy to send young graduates to study veterinary science overseas and have a career path for them when they return.
- Engage expatriate veterinarians in the short term.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

I-1 Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services (VS) **B. Veterinary paraprofessionals** *The appropriate level of staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary paraprofessional (according to the WOAH definition) functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.* *This covers WOAH veterinary paraprofessional categories having trained at dedicated educational institutions with formal qualifications which are recognised by the government or the VSB.*	**Levels of advancement**
	1. The majority of positions requiring veterinary paraprofessional skills are not occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.
	2. Some positions requiring veterinary paraprofessional skills are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications. There is little or no veterinary supervision.
	3. The majority of positions requiring veterinary paraprofessional skills are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications. There is a variable level of veterinary supervision.
	4. The majority of veterinary paraprofessional positions are effectively supervised on a regular basis by veterinarians.
	5. There are effective management procedures for formal appointment and promotion, as well as performance assessment and performance management of veterinary paraprofessionals.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

At Headquarters there are 5-6 livestock officers who perform animal health duties. Each province has 1-2 livestock officers depending on the province. Malaita Province which is the province with the most livestock has three livestock officers' posts but one (bee duties) has retired and another one is due to retire. This leaves only 1 livestock officer. Although staff increased for LVSD from 13 in 2010 to 31 in 2020, there are still vacant posts for animal health workers. There were 23 animal health workers (trained as paravets) at the time of the mission. There is also a need for support/auxiliary staff.

MAL Extension Officers (Field Officers) perform animal health functions in provincial offices in support of livestock officers and where a dedicated livestock officer is not employed. Malaita Province, for example, has 23 extension officers. These extension officers (of which there are more than 100) often have not received extensive para veterinary training.

According to the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community (SPC, formerly South Pacific Commission) "the paravet is the eyes and ears of the veterinarian at the community level. A paravet is not a qualified veterinarian but he is responsible for providing animal health care and animal production advice to people in their communities".

Strengths:

- Livestock officers in all provinces with more in larger provinces (Guadalcanal, Malaita, Western Provinces).
- Experienced Livestock officers with veterinary clinical skills.
- Extension officers support field work.

Weaknesses:

- There is no specific training provided to the livestock officers (e.g. meat inspection, sample taking etc.).
- No veterinary supervision hence MAL's VPPs do not comply with WOAH's definition of veterinary paraprofessional who must be "under veterinary supervision".

- Experienced VPPs are being lost through retirement and policy of “letter of retirement” being given to those of retirement age rather than continuing employment.

Recommendations:

- Commit funding for provincial field work and farm visits.
- Review staff list and needs for livestock officers and extension officers to determine workforce needs for more VPPs.
- Employ two veterinarians at Headquarters to supervise livestock officers and extension officers when performing animal health duties.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E23, E36.

I-2 Competency and education of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals *The capability of the VS to effectively carry out their veterinary and technical functions, as indicated by the level and quality of the qualifications of their personnel in veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional positions.* **A. Veterinarians** *This references the WOAH recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') to assure National Veterinary Services of quality, and WOAH guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum.*	**Levels of advancement**
	1. The veterinarians' knowledge, skills and practices, are of a variable standard that allow only for elementary clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
	2. The veterinarians' knowledge, skills and practices are of a uniform standard sufficient for accurate and appropriate clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
	3. The veterinarians' knowledge, skills and practices are sufficient for all professional/technical activities of the VS (e.g. surveillance, treatment and control of animal disease, including conditions of public health significance)
	4. The veterinarians' knowledge, skills and practices are sufficient for specialised technical activities (e.g. higher level epidemiological analysis, disease modelling, animal welfare science) as may be needed by the VS, supported by post-graduate level training.
	5. The veterinarians' knowledge, skills and practices are subject to regular updating, and are internationally recognised such as through formal evaluation and/or the granting of international equivalence with other recognised veterinary qualifications.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Not applicable as no veterinarian currently employed by MAL or any other government agency. The private local veterinarian is a recent 2023 graduate from James Cook University in Queensland, Australia. The other national veterinarians were trained in Australia and New Zealand.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Recommendations:

- Explore opportunities for foreign veterinary training for Solomon Islands' nationals, including incentives to return to the national VS.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6):

I-2 Competency and education of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals B. Veterinary paraprofessionals *This references the WOAH Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals and WOAH Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Positions requiring *veterinary paraprofessional* skills are generally occupied by those having no formal training or qualifications from dedicated educational institutions.
	2. The training and qualifications of those in positions requiring *veterinary paraprofessional* skills is of a variable standard and allows for the development of only basic competencies.
	3. The training and qualifications of *veterinary paraprofessionals* is of a fairly uniform standard that allows the development of some specific competencies (e.g. vaccination on farms, *meat* hygiene control, basic laboratory tests).
	4. The training and qualifications of *veterinary paraprofessionals* is of a uniform standard that allows the development of more advanced competencies (e.g. blood and tissue sample collection on farms, supervised *meat* inspection, more complex laboratory testing).
	5. The training and qualifications of *veterinary paraprofessionals* is of a uniform standard and is subject to regular evaluation and/or updating.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Employment requirements for Livestock Officers include having a Diploma in Agriculture from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). The Diploma is a two-year course. The students have limited practical livestock exposure as the University does not have a livestock farm. Thus, new employees for the LVSD are based at Headquarters for 6 months to gain field experience before being deployed to the provinces.

In Malaita Province the Livestock Officer has a BSc having completed three years of the Animal Husbandry Course at Fiji's National University. An additional year on veterinary science used to be offered by this University but this course is no longer available.

SPC is currently offering an online paravet course across the region, which can be adapted for national level via the train-the-trainer concept for various training modules.

Strengths:

- Some livestock officers with formal para-veterinary training.
- Livestock officers with much veterinary paraprofessional experience.
- SPC online veterinary paraprofessional Training Course available.
- Biosecurity officers receive ongoing training.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of specific training for veterinary paraprofessionals.
- Experienced veterinary paraprofessionals are being lost through retirement and policy of "letter of retirement" being given to those of retirement age rather than continuing employment.

Recommendations:

- Review staff list and needs for livestock officers and extension officers to determine workforce needs for more veterinary paraprofessionals.
- Review the livestock health components of the two year Diploma of Agriculture course offered by SINU for alignment with both the WOAH day one competencies and model curriculum for veterinary paraprofessionals, and address gaps accordingly.
- Conduct in-country veterinary paraprofessional training using the SPC modules.
- Initiate meat inspection training of selected livestock officers.
- Contact the Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific (SAFE Pacific) project for possible funding of the in-country course.
- Provide resources for online courses: laptops, internet access.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E23, E36.

I-3 Continuing education (CE) *The capability of the VS to maintain, update and improve the knowledge, attitudes and skills of their personnel, through an ongoing staff training and development programme assessed on a regular basis for relevance and targeted skills development.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no access to veterinary or paraprofessional CE.
	2. The VS have access to CE (internal and/or external training) on an irregular basis but it does not take into account needs, or new information or understanding.
	3. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed and sometimes updated, but it is implemented only for some categories of veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals.
	4. The VS have access to a CE programme that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, and is implemented for all categories of veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals.
	5. The VS have up-to-date CE that is implemented or is a requirement for all relevant veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals and is subject to dedicated planning and regular evaluation of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

MAL's Corporate Services Department addresses formal and skill-based training and further education of its workforce. The training available includes those offered through projects or through the various international organisations and NGOs.

SINU's Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries offers Diploma and Bachelor programs in Agriculture. There are plans to develop a Diploma level course in animal health.

As there is no veterinary school in the South Pacific persons must go outside the region (Australia, New Zealand) to acquire veterinary degrees.

SPC has an Introductory veterinary paraprofessional training course which is now available online in the virtual training platforms of SPC and FAO.

Strengths:

- A complete SPC online introductory veterinary paraprofessional training course will become available, as well as supplementary courses from FAO virtual learning centre, Charles Sturt University (Australia) and APCOVE (a consortium of more than 40 veterinary epidemiologists across the Asia-Pacific region).
- Three LVSD livestock officers are trained trainers for the paraveterinary course delivered by Charles Sturt University (Australia) but no in country training has yet occurred.

Weaknesses:

- Currently no LVSD livestock officers are trained trainers for the SPC introductory Veterinary Paraprofessional Course, and this is not currently being delivered in Solomon Islands (other SPC countries targeted in 2023).
- There is no structured obligatory continuous education training to maintain, update and improve the knowledge, and skills of MAL personnel.
- Online training constrained by variable internet access and limited access to computers in the provinces.

Recommendations:

- Conduct in-country Para veterinary training using the SPC modules.
- Train selected livestock officers in meat inspection.
- Contact the Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific (SAFE Pacific) project for possible funding of the in-country course.
- Create a VSB or equivalent body that would address the registration and continuing education requirements for VPPs in line with WOAH's competency guidelines for VPPs.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E23, E36, E41.

I-4 Technical independence *The capability of the VS to carry out their duties with autonomy and without undue commercial, financial, hierarchical and political influences that may affect technical decisions in a manner contrary to the provisions of the WOAH (and of the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).*	Levels of advancement
	1. The technical decisions made by the VS are generally not based on scientific considerations.
	2. The technical decisions consider scientific evidence, but are routinely modified based on non-scientific considerations.
	3. The technical decisions are based on scientific evidence but are subject to review and occasional modification based on non-scientific considerations.
	4. The technical decisions are made and generally implemented in accordance with scientific evidence and the country's WOAH obligations (and with the country's WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).
	5. The technical decisions are based on a high level of scientific evidence, which is both nationally relevant and internationally respected, and are not unduly changed to meet non-scientific considerations.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The Solomon Islands, like other Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), given its generally favourable disease status and island geography, prioritises disease prevention through strong, technically independent biosecurity and border controls. Import conditions, developed with external assistance, are all aligned to regional standards. Field interviews of BSI and LDVS staff showed a strong focus on upholding biosecurity and related legal measures. As an anecdote BSI at the international airport denied import of risk goods by a Member of Parliament (MP) stating that the MP made the rules and signed it so it was their duty to comply with his legal mandate. Staff informed the team that they follow the law even when faced with Wantok demands: "Outside office, we wantok; in this office not wantok". (Wantok is the local word for reciprocal relationship of favours between kin and community members).

There has been pressure to import animal products from non-Pacific exporting countries such as Brazil. These have been declined due to the lack of risk analysis capacity.

Low VS salary levels do increase the risk of conflicts of interest and a lack of technical independence in areas such as land and sea border controls and if the need arose for livestock movement restrictions.

There is no widely known legal provision for VS staff to declare conflicts of interest as part of their work.

Strengths:

- Determination of MAL staff to provide technically independent services regardless of limited human, technical and financial resources.
- Staff with integrity.
- Updated Biosecurity and Environment Health regulations help with transparency and technical independence.

Weaknesses:

- The absence of appropriately paid and permanently employed veterinarians is a constraint for making technical decisions.
- Decisions may be adopted according to experience and available resources, and not necessarily considering scientific approach and risk analysis.
- Apart from Biosecurity and Environment Health legislation there is no other modern legislation in the veterinary domain.
- Staff performance not well recognised.
- Low salary levels reduce staff motivation, may lead to loss of qualified specialists, and may increase risks of conflicts of interest arising.
- No widely understood provision to declare conflicts of interest as part of working in the civil service, including the VS.

Recommendations:

- Review need for legislation in the veterinary domain. WOAH membership would provide access to a legislation mission.
- Consider developing and implementing VS conflict of interest provisions such as the widely known requirement to actively declare conflicts of interest when dealing with particular issues.
- Recognise staff for work well done enforcing regulations.
- Pay staff appropriately.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E27, E48, E61.

I-5 Planning, sustainability and management of policies and programmes *The capability of the VS leadership and organisation to develop, document and sustain strategic policies and programmes, and also to report on, review and evolve them, as appropriate over time.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Policies and programmes are insufficiently developed and documented. Substantial changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the VS frequently occur (e.g. annually) resulting in a lack of sustainability of policies and programmes.
	2. Some basic policy and programme development and documentation exists, with some reporting on implementation. Sustainability of policies and programmes is negatively impacted by changes in the political leadership or other changes affecting the structure and leadership of the VS.
	3. There is well developed and stable policy and programme documentation. Reports on programme implementation are available. Sustainability of policies and programmes is generally maintained during changes in the political leadership and/or changes to the structure and leadership of the VS.
	4. Policies or programmes are sustained, but also reviewed (using data collection and analysis) and updated appropriately over time through formal national strategic planning cycles to improve effectiveness and address emerging concerns. Planning cycles continue despite changes in the political leadership and/or changes to the structure and leadership of the VS.
	5. Effective policies and programmes are sustained over time and the structure and leadership of the VS is strong and stable. Modification to strategic and operational planning is based on a robust evaluation or audit process using evidence, to support the continual improvement of policies and programmes over time.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The Agriculture Sector Growth Strategy & Investment Plan 2021-2030 as well as the previous Solomon Islands National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2019 (SINALSP) and MAL's Corporate Plan of 2015-2019 and 2021 - 2024, are in strong alignment with key existing public governmental policies and development plans. Chief among them is the National Development Strategy 2016-2035 (NDS) and the related Medium Term Development Plan 2016-2020 (MTDP), which translates the long-term development objectives of the NDS into medium-term development strategies with specific priority programs under each strategy and budget plans for individual ministries. The current MTDP includes thirteen priority programs that address the agriculture sector and formed the basis for budgetary allocations to MAL for 2016-2020. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has a Corporate Plan 2021 – 2024 and there is a review of this plan available. Within this plan period, MAL has prioritized the promotion of public-private partnership by encouraging farmers to form Farmers Associations which will be assisted to convert to commercial farming in close cooperation with and supported with government funded investment. This commitment is in line with Government's redirected policy focus on boosting support for agriculture commodities export businesses, and investment in down- stream processing of food commodities as substitute for food imports.

Additional investment to the sector will flow in from the two aid donor funded projects – the World Bank (WB) funded Solomon Islands Agriculture and Rural Transformation Project which targets food security and agricultural commercialisation and institutional capacity development;

and South Korean Government assistance to reform core MAL organization functions structure and service delivery systems and processes, to boost industry productivity and the quality of support services to farmers and industry.

Strengths:

- Key up-to-date policies which are reviewed in place.
- There is a draft MAL LVSD revised structure proposal.

Weaknesses:

- Implementation of policies constrained by Solomon Islands Government budgetary resources for infrastructure, equipment and supplies and transport.
- Insufficient staffing to implement policies.

Recommendations:

- Develop an animal health strategy, policy or plan which clarifies roles between BSI and LVSD and sets objectives and performance targets. This should be reflected in the proposed LVSD re-structure currently being considered.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E3, E7-8, E14, E24, E42, E56, E75.

I-6 Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services **A. Internal coordination (chain of command)** *The capability of the Veterinary Authority to coordinate their mandated activities with a clear chain of command, from the central level (the Chief Veterinary Officer or equivalent), to the field level of the VS, as relevant to the WOAH Codes (e.g. surveillance, disease control, food safety, emergency preparedness and response).*	Levels of advancement
	1. There is no formal internal coordination and the chain of command is not clear.
	2. There are internal coordination mechanisms for some activities but the chain of command is not clear.
	3. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for some activities, such as for export certification, border control and/or emergency response.
	4. There are formal, documented internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for most activities, including surveillance (and reporting) and disease control programmes.
	5. There are formal and fully documented internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for all activities, and these are periodically reviewed/audited and updated to re-define roles and optimise efficiency as necessary.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

MAL's organisational structure is headed by the Minister who is assisted by three Senior Executive Managers which includes the Permanent Secretary (CEO), and two Deputy Secretaries. These supervise six Department Directors who together with the three executive managers form MAL senior management team. Seventeen (17) Heads of Specialist Units make up the team of subject specialist managers overseeing the various Divisions and Unit's service delivery operations.

BSI provincial staff answer to their respective Biosecurity Director while livestock officers come under the Director of Agriculture in the provinces who answers to the Director of Extension Services at Headquarters. BSI officers manning large ports of entry also have a port supervisor.

Strengths:

- Organisational structure with supervisors in place.
- MAL staff in provinces and BSI in primary and secondary ports of entry.

Weaknesses:

- MAL's provincial staff may be answerable to other government agencies, for example, city councils and provincial councils.

Recommendations:

- Improve MAL organization structures and functions clarity, streamline systems and process for efficient and effective services delivery.
- Improve levels of leadership, coordination and supervision of staff, particularly junior staff, in LVSD, ensuring recruitment and promotion is merit-based.
- Define administrative and technical chain of command for provinces.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36, E41, E59.

I-6 Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services B. External coordination (including the One Health approach) *The capability of the Veterinary Authority to coordinate its resources and activities at all levels with other government authorities with responsibilities within the veterinary domain, in order to implement all national activities relevant to the WOAH Codes, especially those not under the direct line authority of the Chief Veterinary Officer (or equivalent).* *Relevant authorities include other ministries and Competent Authorities, such as government partners in public health (e.g. zoonoses, food safety, drug regulation and anti-microbial resistance), environment (e.g. wildlife health), customs and border police (e.g. border security), defence/intelligence (e.g. bio-threats), or municipalities/local councils (e.g. local slaughterhouses, dog control).*	Levels of advancement
	1. There is no external coordination with other government authorities.
	2. There are informal external coordination mechanisms for some activities at national level, but the procedures are not clear and/or external coordination occurs irregularly.
	3. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding) for some activities and/or sectors at the national level.
	4. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements at the national level for most activities (such as for One Health), and these are uniformly implemented throughout the country, including at state/provincial level.
	5. There are external coordination mechanisms for all activities, from national to field, and these are periodically reviewed and updated to re-clarify roles and optimise efficiency.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

BSI needs to liaise for border security with the Customs and Excise Division, the Immigration Division of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Commerce, Labour and Immigration (this Ministry also responsible for CITES), and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. At the two ports the team visited there was good relations among these agencies. At the international airport the team saw both Customs and BSI manning the arrivals X-ray machine. However, little involvement was seen of the Environmental Health Department of Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) for food safety. BSI handled all the food importations.

LVSD needs to liaise primarily with MHMS for food safety including meat inspection. Meat inspection has been non-existent since 2000. Very little coordination with other government agencies was seen at central level. MHMS has involved MAL in the formulation of AMR policies. The collaboration in the provinces between LVSD and the Environmental Health Department is stronger.

Strengths:

- Good collaboration at Ports of Entry.
- Improved collaboration with relevant public agencies in the provinces.

Weaknesses:

- Weak linkage with MHMS at central level.

Recommendations:

- Use the One Health initiatives (AMR, zoonoses, food safety) to strengthen collaboration with MHMS with assistance from the One Health Quadripartite Bodies (WOAH, WHO, FAO, UNEP).
- Strengthen collaboration with Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (aquatic animal health competent authority).
- Maintain the strong collaboration at Ports of Entry including the Shepherd Islands (border with Bougainville, Papua New Guinea).
- Explore with WHO national contact a WOAH/WHO national bridging workshop.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

I-7 Physical resources and capital investment *The access of the VS to functional and well-maintained physical resources including buildings, transport, information technology (e.g. internet access), cold chain, and other necessary equipment or structures. This includes whether major capital investment is available.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no or unsuitable physical resources at almost all levels and maintenance of existing infrastructure is poor or non-existent.
	2. The VS have suitable physical resources at national (central) level and at some state/provincial levels, but maintenance, as well as replacement of obsolete items, occurs rarely.
	3. The VS have suitable physical resources at national, state/provincial and some local levels but maintenance, as well as replacement of obsolete items, occurs irregularly.
	4. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels and these are regularly maintained. Major capital investments occur occasionally to improve the VS operational infrastructure over time.
	5. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels (national, state/provincial and local levels) and these are regularly maintained and updated as more advanced items become available. Major capital investments occur regularly to improve the VS operational capability and infrastructure.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

MAL livestock production infrastructure which supported cattle breeding farms, pastureland, feed mills, slaughterhouses, meat outlets and associated research equipment and breeding animals were destroyed during the ethnic tensions of 1998-2003. MAL lacks the necessary infrastructure including offices, staff houses, research and training facilities, biosecurity facilities, laboratories, as well as mobility and information and communications technology (ICT) capabilities needed to deliver services to farming communities, collate data and undertake reporting. The COVID-19 pandemic with its serious impacts on the economy has also slowed improvement of MAL's infrastructure and recovery of the livestock industry.

The LVSD building in Honiara is a rented building. The LVSD has changed office location in Honiara many times. Daily power failures limit productivity. There is an office for the Chief Veterinary Officer (presently used by the volunteer veterinarian) but it has only a chair and desk. Similarly, the livestock office in Malaita's Department of Agriculture building has only desks and chairs. These officers have no computers and internet use is personal and on their mobile telephone. BSI has better offices with equipment and supplies.

Funding is the biggest constraint. While government subventions are available based on annual budgets, disbursements are not timely or may not happen.

Strengths:

- BSI has some barely adequate offices.
- Funding other than government subventions are available.

Weaknesses:

- LVSD has inadequate offices.
- Poor maintenance of buildings.

- Very basic IT equipment and absent software to support import-export data collection, reporting and communication between offices.
- No evidence of sustainable funding to maintain new or existing equipment, fleet and facilities.
- Lack of equipment and supplies.

Recommendations:

- Improvement of MAL's infrastructure has to be accompanied with national and provincial infrastructure investments, especially in the areas of transport, market infrastructure, slaughterhouses, warehousing and cold storage, electricity, and mobile phone coverage.
- Providing IT equipment and basic software to support communication between different levels and units of MAL.
- Maintain strong ties with funding agencies through timely submission of deliverables.
- Consider cost recovery such as charging fees for services (for example, registration, certification and inspection of slaughter plants and meat shops, drugs revolving fund for LDVS).

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

I-8 Operational funding	Levels of advancement
The ability of the VS to access operational resources adequate for their planned and continued activities (e.g. salaries, contracts, fuel, vaccines, diagnostic reagents, personal protective equipment, per diem or allowances for field work).	1. Operational funding for the VS is neither stable nor clearly defined and depends on irregular allocation of resources.
	2. Operational funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, but is inadequate for their required baseline operations (e.g. basic disease *surveillance*, disease control and/or veterinary public health).
	3. Operational funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, and is adequate for their baseline operations, but there is no provision for new or expanded operations.
	4. Operational funding for new or expanded operations is on a case-by-case basis, and not always based on *risk analysis* and/or benefit-cost analysis.
	5. Operational funding for all aspects of VS activities is generally adequate; all funding, including for new or expanded operations, is provided via a transparent process that allows for technical independence, based on *risk analysis* and/or cost-benefit analysis.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Economic recovery in Solomon Islands has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the November 2021 civil unrest, the food and fuel crises driven by the war in Ukraine as well as the allocation of resources to support preparations for the upcoming 2023 Pacific Games and national elections. Inadequate funding or lack of funding in some cases have left provincial MAL officers with limited capacity to undertake core activities such as farm visits, livestock extension work, and border biosecurity work. Supporting MAL to undertake these activities will be critical in the lead up to the Games, which will see increased movement of people and goods into the country.

WOAH supported MAL with in-country costs of the PVS mission.

Strengths:

- A basic MAL budget is guaranteed by the Solomon Islands Government.
- Provinces can access funding through MAL, ward grants, constituency support from respective Parliament members and NGOS and church groups.
- The Pacific Games provides opportunities for extra funding for MAL.
- Willingness of donors to assist with operations as needs arise.

Weaknesses:

- Agriculture is one of the key sectors of this economy supporting almost 80 percent of the people in the rural areas and accounts for almost 16 percent of the Gross Domestic Product yet compared to other sectors accounts only for 1.5 percent of the Government budget.
- Low salary levels reduce staff motivation, may lead to loss of qualified specialists.

Recommendations:

- Explore all possible efforts to increase funding of veterinary activities of MAL to a sustainable level.
- Conduct risk benefit and/or cost-benefit analyses of investments in new or expanded operations, for example, slaughter facilities and meat inspection.
- Regularise disbursement of funds committed to field operations.
- Strengthen access to funds within provinces.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E7, E9, E20, E37-40.

I-9 Emergency funding	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to access extraordinary financial resources in order to respond to emergency situations or newly emerging issues, as measured by the ease with which contingency and related funding (i.e. arrangements for compensation of producers in emergency situations) can be made rapidly available when required.	1. No emergency funding arrangements exist.
	2. Emergency funding arrangements with limited resources have been established, but these are inadequate for likely emergency situations (including newly emerging issues).
	3. Emergency funding arrangements with limited resources have been established; additional resources may be approved but approval is through a political process.
	4. Emergency funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established; their provision must be agreed through a non-political process on a case-by-case basis.
	5. Emergency funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established and their rules of operation documented and agreed with interested parties.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

There is a National Disaster Council (NDC) under the Ministry for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. The Minister with lead responsibility for a disaster would declare any associated state of emergency, on the advice of the NDC, and subsequently chair of the NDC for the duration of the emergency; for animal disease related disasters, it would come from the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and for pandemics and human disease-related incidents this advice would come from the Minister of Health and Medical Services.

Following a declaration of a 'state of disaster' from MAL, the NDC assumes control, directs financial allocations through MAL's Minister, where payments are then authorised and paid through the Ministry of Finance. All donor funds received during a 'state of emergency' are paid into the NDC either through the consolidated accounts or direct to the NDC account.

Strengths:

- Solomon Islands receives strong support from the Pacific Partnership which is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission.
- International and regional organisations accessible for emergency funding.
- Provincial funds may be made available for emergencies.

Weaknesses:

- Funding may not be immediately available to address the emergency.
- Funding, when made available, may be inadequate.
- Insufficient financing for the emergency fund, for example the lack of a compensation programme hampers collaboration of farmers for the early detection of dangerous infectious diseases.

Recommendations:

- Initiate discussions between MAL and NDC on the possibility of an emergency animal disease incursion such as ASF and socialise what might be required in terms of funding and services (roadblocks, etc.) in the event of an outbreak.
- Establish clear pathways for emergency funding from the different agencies and donors specific to responding to the risk of an emergency animal disease including understanding the procedures involved to access funds.
- Establish capacity at LVSD and BSI to recognise triggers for the declaration of "state of disaster" and requirements to access further funding form government.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6) E6, E8-9, E11, E51.

III.2 Fundamental component II: Technical authority and capability

This component of the evaluation concerns the authority and capability of the VS to develop and apply sanitary measures and science-based procedures supporting those measures. It comprises eighteen Critical Competencies.

For all sections of this chapter, the Critical Competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas.

Critical Competencies:

Section II-1	**Veterinary laboratory diagnosis**
	A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis
	B. Suitability of the national laboratory system
	C. Laboratory quality management systems (QMS)
Section II-2	**Risk analysis and epidemiology**
Section II-3	**Quarantine and border security**
Section II-4	**Surveillance and early detection**
	A. Passive surveillance, early detection and epidemiological outbreak investigation
	B. Active surveillance and monitoring
Section II-5	**Emergency preparedness and response**
Section II-6	**Disease prevention, control and eradication**
Section II-7	**Animal production food safety**
	A. Regulation, inspection (including audits), authorisation and supervision of establishments for production and processing of food of animal origin
	B. Ante- and post-mortem inspection at slaughter facilities and associated premises
Section II-8	**Veterinary medicines and biologicals**
Section II-9	**Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Use (AMU)**
Section II-10	**Residue testing, monitoring and management**
Section II-11	**Animal feed safety**
Section II-12	**Identification, traceability and movement control**
	A. Premises, herd, batch and animal identification, tracing and movement control
	B. Identification, traceability and control of products of animal origin
Section II-13	**Animal welfare**

Terrestrial Code References:

Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance.

Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.

Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis.

Chapter 6.11. on Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General Organisation/Procedures and standards.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health/Export/import inspection.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene/Zoonoses/Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines/Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.

Sub-point f) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Formal linkages with sources of independent scientific expertise.

Points 2, 5, 7 and 8 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources/Laboratories engaged in diagnosis/Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls.

Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animals.

Chapter 6.3. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.

Chapter 6.4. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.

Chapters 6.7. to 6.11. on Antimicrobial resistance.

Chapter 7.1. on Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare.

Chapter 7.2. on Transport of animals by sea.

Chapter 7.3. on Transport of animals by land.

Chapter 7.4. on Transport of animals by air.

Chapter 7.5. on Slaughter of animals.

Chapter 7.6. on Killing of animals for disease control purposes.

References to Codex Alimentarius Commission standards:

Code of Hygienic practice for meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005).

Code of Hygienic practice for milk and milk products (CAC/RCP/ 57-2004).

General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969; amended 1999. Revisions 1997 and 2003).

Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/GL 77-2011).

Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005).

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis *The authority and capability of the VS to effectively and efficiently use accurate laboratory diagnosis to support their animal health and veterinary public activities.* **A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis** *The authority and capability of the VS to access laboratory diagnosis in order to identify and report pathogenic and other hazardous agents that can adversely affect animals and animal products, including those relevant to public health.*	**Levels of advancement**
	1. Disease diagnosis is almost always conducted by clinical means only, with no access to or little use of a *laboratory* to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	2. For major animal *diseases* and *zoonoses* of national importance, and for the food safety of animal products, the VS have access to and use a *laboratory* to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	3. For animal *diseases* and *zoonoses* present in the country, and for animal *feed* safety and veterinary AMR surveillance, the VS have access to and use a *laboratory* to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	4. For animal *diseases* of zoonotic or economic importance not present in the country, but that exist in the region and/or that could enter the country, the VS have access to and use a *laboratory* to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	5. In the case of new and *emerging diseases* in the region or worldwide, the VS have access to and use a network of national or international reference laboratories (e.g. an WOAH or FAO Reference *Laboratory*) to obtain a correct diagnosis.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

There is no veterinary diagnostic laboratory. In the past the LVSD had an animal health laboratory with a livestock officer trained in basic laboratory procedures in Australia and in Dangerous Goods Regulations courses from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) certified. Samples of suspect cases of transboundary animal diseases such as ASF and HPAI are sent to WOAH's reference laboratory – ACDP (Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness) in Victoria, Australia. Most samples are submitted to laboratories in Australia and Fiji, periodically, when disease surveys are taken. A disease survey was held in Guadalcanal in November 2022; the last survey prior to this was in 2016.

The National Public Health Laboratory of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services is designated to perform laboratory tests of food in collaboration with the Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health. Regardless of the several attempts to arrange a meeting and visit, the laboratory staff was unavailable during the mission and no evidence on any testing was gathered by the mission. The staff at the Environmental Health Division reported that samples are rarely or almost never sent to this laboratory due to insufficient reagents and equipment of the laboratory.

For export of tuna to European Union countries, samples are sent to accredited laboratories in New Zeeland for bio residues and heavy metals while samples for microbiology and chemistry testing are sent to accredited laboratory in Fiji. The testing is financed by the Environmental Health Division.

Strengths:

- Accessibility to reference laboratory (daily flights to Australia).
- IATA certified staff in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.
- The Pacific Community (SPC) offers in Fiji IATA dangerous goods training for laboratory personnel.

- Laboratory technologists from the Honiara Referral Hospital Laboratory and the National Public Health Laboratory are IATA certified.
- Potential for clinical diagnosis of the Honiara veterinary clinic as well as basic rapid diagnosis tests.
- Export testing for export of tuna fish.
- Recent animal health surveys with samples collected and sent to high quality laboratories (e.g. ACDP, Australia) have taken place.

Weaknesses:

- No veterinary diagnostic laboratory.
- Sampling material including coolers and ice packs and sample processing not readily available.
- Limited passive surveillance and farm visits due to financial constraints
- Transportation of samples is problematic due to the insufficient and obsolete vehicles and sea vessels.
- Animal health surveys seem to have been largely externally driven and delivered, with limited local staff experience reported in sampling and packaging.

Recommendations:

- Re-install the Animal Health Laboratory with a trained laboratory technologist for sample processing and basic laboratory diagnostic capability (starting with basic parasitology and microbiology).
- IATA certification for person in charge of laboratory room.
- More funding for extension officers and livestock officers to conduct farm visits.
- Explore possibilities for procurement of rapid tests for establishing suspicion or primary diagnosis that can be performed by the Honiara clinic or some by the farmers.
- The food industry should look into the establishment of basic microbiology and chemistry laboratories. There are existing inexpensive testing machines for industry that can help them control the safety and quality of their products.
- Develop long term strategy for establishing laboratory for diagnosis of basic diseases including bee diseases as well as for testing of food of animal origin. It can be in collaboration with university, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, and private sector.
- Explore possibilities to procure new vehicles and vessels by MAL or through donors and projects.
- Ensure sufficient local learning takes place via externally driven animal health surveys, including in sample collection and packaging capacity of local staff.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E2, E25, E32, E46.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis B. Suitability of the national laboratory system *The sustainability, effectiveness, safety and efficiency of the national (public and private) laboratory system (or network), including infrastructure, equipment, maintenance, consumables, personnel and sample throughput, to service the needs of the VS.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The national laboratory system does not meet the needs of the VS.
	2. The national laboratory system partially meets the needs of the VS, but it is not sustainable, as the management and maintenance of resources and infrastructure is ineffective and/or inefficient. Laboratory biosafety and *biosecurity* measures do not exist or are very limited.
	3. The national laboratory system generally meets the needs of the VS. Resources and organisation are managed effectively and efficiently, but funding is insufficient for a sustainable system, and limits throughput. Some laboratory biosafety and *biosecurity* measures are in place.
	4. The national laboratory system generally meets the needs of the VS, including for laboratory biosafety and *biosecurity*. There is sufficient sample throughput across the range of laboratory testing requirements. Occasionally, it is limited by delayed investment in certain aspects (e.g. personnel, maintenance or consumables).
	5. The national laboratory system meets all the needs of the VS, has appropriate levels of laboratory biosafety and *biosecurity*, and is efficient and sustainable with a good throughput of samples. The laboratory system is regularly reviewed, audited and updated as necessary.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

There is no veterinary diagnostic laboratory. There is a food safety laboratory, the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in Honiara, that provides microbiological testing for local food and water. As the laboratory is not accredited no testing is being done for exports. The team could not visit the NPHL despite repeated attempts to contact the NPHL.

Strengths:

- Food safety laboratory in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.
- Certification (microbiology and residues testing) in process for fish exports to the EU.

Weaknesses:

- No veterinary diagnostic laboratory.
- Limited collaboration between MAL, Environmental Health Division and National Public Health Laboratory.

Recommendations:

- Re-install the Animal Health Laboratory with capacity to process samples for referral and conduct serological tests (ELISA) and PCR once expertise is gained.
- Develop a sample submission protocol especially for shipments from provinces.
- Employ a trained laboratory technologist for sample processing and basic laboratory diagnostic capability.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E2, E32, E46.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis C. Laboratory quality management systems (QMS) *The quality and reliability of veterinary laboratory testing servicing the public sector VS as assessed by the use of formal QMS e.g. having a dedicated quality manager and quality manual. This includes, but is not limited to, attainment of ISO 17025 accreditation and participation in proficiency testing programmes.*	Levels of advancement
	1. No *laboratories* servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS.
	2. One or more laboratories servicing the public sector VS, including the major national animal health reference *laboratory*, are using formal QMS.
	3. Most major *laboratories* servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS. There is occasional use of multi-laboratory proficiency testing programmes.
	4. Most of the *laboratories* servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS, with regular use of multi-laboratory proficiency testing programmes.
	5. All the *laboratories* servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS, which are regularly assessed via national, regional or international proficiency testing programmes.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

ISO 17025 certification was an output of the project, “Strengthening the capacity of the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) to provide services in support of market access for Solomon Islands fish exporters”, funded by the World Trade Organisation Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF) from September 2017 to July 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented this achievement. However, the QMS at the NPHL was strengthened.

Strengths:

- Assistance for ISO 17025 certification through the EIF Solomon Islands Enhanced Capacity for Agriculture Trade project under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade.
- ISO 17025 assessment of the NPHL can be done through International Accreditation New Zealand.
- QMS in place at the NPHL.

Weaknesses:

- No veterinary diagnostic laboratory.
- Absence of a national accreditation regime.
- Laboratory strengthening in QMS mostly project driven.

Recommendations:

- Obtain ISO 17025 certification of the NPHL.
- MoU with NPHL and MAL re sample processing for international laboratory submission.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E25, E32, E46, E70.

II-2 Risk analysis and epidemiology *The authority and capability of the VS to base its risk management and risk communication measures on risk assessment, incorporating sound epidemiological principles.*	Levels of advancement
	1. *Risk management* and *risk communication* measures are not usually supported by risk assessment.
	2. The VS compile and maintain data but do not have the capability to carry out *risk analysis*. Some *risk management* and *risk communication* measures are based on *risk assessment* and some epidemiological principles.
	3. The VS compile and maintain data and have the policy and capability to carry out *risk analysis,* incorporating epidemiological principles. The majority of *risk management* and *risk communication* measures are based on *risk assessment*.
	4. The VS conduct *risk analysis* in compliance with relevant WOAH standards and sound epidemiological principles, and base their *risk management* and *risk communication* measures on the outcomes of *risk assessment*. There is a legislative basis that supports the use of *risk analysis*.
	5. The VS are consistent and transparent in basing animal health and *sanitary measures* on *risk assessment* and best practice epidemiology, and in communicating and/or publishing their scientific procedures and outcomes internationally.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The use of risk analysis and risk management in the activities of the MAL is relatively new and not applied in line with WOAH recommendations. A risk analysis unit at the MAL or dedicated staff responsible for risk analysis presently do not exist and risk management and risk communication, procedures and protocols are still not developed. Nevertheless, risk analysis is conducted by the Scientific Operations Division of the Biosecurity Department, mostly for plants and plant products. There is no clear separation between officials responsible for assessing risk, and those responsible for risk management or risk communication.

Given the inadequate capacity in risk analysis especially for animals and animal products to safeguard biosecurity, imports are from historical trading partners as these are deemed to be safe: Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Import conditions are derived from those used by other countries, notably Australia. The exception is recently permitted imports of poultry meat from USA, under unclear import risk analysis procedures.

Within MAL there is no trained personnel with a detailed job description assigning responsibility for science-based risk analysis for relevant issues. Decisions at all levels of MAL are adopted mostly according to experience and available resources, and not in consideration of a scientific approach and risk analysis.

Cattle were imported from Vanuatu in 2011 and 2013. Cattle were to also be imported from Fiji but this did not materialise due to concerns over the bovine tuberculosis status of the herds.

Given Australia's report of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Victoria in 2020 temporary import bans were placed for the state of Victoria. Bans have also been placed for pork products except for few approved importers importing meat from Australia only with strict importation rules.

Strengths:

- Import bans based on basic risk assessments.
- Proposed import of cattle from Fiji did not materialise due to health status concerns.
- Biosecurity Act 2013 contains provisions to perform import risk analysis.
- The web site of the BSI of MAL (www.biosecurity.gov.sb) has basic information and required documents for importers, exporters, and travellers.

Weaknesses:

- Most risk analysis trainings for BSI staff are for plant pest risk assessment. The Biosecurity training in April 2023 was on plant pest risk assessment principles.
- Limited capacity for risk analysis as relevant to animal health.
- The Team found no evidence of risk analysis on which imports conditions should be based.
- Risk assessment, risk management and risk communication are not done as independent activities.
- There is no cooperation or communication concerning epidemiological situations with neighbouring countries, nor the adaptation of import risk analysis based on changing disease status e.g. US HPAI status for chicken meat imports.

Recommendations:

- Establish a risk analysis unit with dedicated staff responsible for carrying out risk analysis in line with WOAH guidelines. Relevant staff should be trained to perform qualitative and quantitative risk analysis, have clear job descriptions, and provided with appropriate resources for full implementation of science-based risk analysis procedures.
- Employment of an epidemiologist at MAL.
- Training on risk analysis on animal pathogens, diseases and infestations.
- Risk analysis should be used in establishing biosafety requirements for quarantine facilities, intensive farms, slaughterhouses, and other production establishments.
- Tools should be developed for risk communication within the MAL as well as with interested parties such as traders of animals and their products (e.g., through website, newsletter etc.).

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

II-3 Quarantine and border security *The authority and capability of the VS to operate to prevent the entry of diseases and other hazards of animals and animal and veterinary products into their country.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS cannot apply any type of quarantine or border security procedures for the entry of *animals*, animal products and veterinary products with their neighbouring countries or trading partners.
	2. The VS can establish and apply minimal quarantine and border security procedures, or the VS only apply quarantine and border security procedures effectively at some official entry points via *border posts*.
	3. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures based on import protocols and international standards at all official entry points via *border posts*, but the procedures do not systematically address illegal activities relating to the import of *animals*, animal products and veterinary products.
	4. The VS can establish and apply effective quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address legal pathways and illegal activities (e.g. through effective partnerships with national customs and border police).
	5. The VS can establish, apply and audit quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address all risks identified, including through collaboration with their neighbouring countries and trading partners.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Quarantine and border security falls under the Biosecurity Solomon Islands Department (BSI) BSI, a department under MAL, was created by the Biosecurity Act 2013 and whose functions were formerly under Solomon Islands Quarantine Agricultural Services. There are 15 officers servicing the primary and secondary ports of entry: airports and seaports. These staff are responsible for clearing all incoming vessels and aircrafts (pets, food, waste), cargoes and passengers to ensure all imports are free of risk materials.

Primary Ports of entry: Seaports: Honiara, Noro; Airports: Henderson (International), Munda.

Secondary Ports of entry: Seaports: Gizo, Graciosa Bay, Shortland Harbour (Kulitanai Bay), Tulagi; Airports: Ballalae, Graciosa Bay, Nusatupe

One BSI officer covers the Honiara Post Office. Two officers at the headquarters are responsible for market access issues such as reception of import requests and issuing of import permits.

The maritime border between the western Solomon Islands (Shortland Islands, Western Province) and Bougaineville in Papua New Guinea is very porous and poorly monitored. Foreign Ships servicing up-country mining and forestry camps can potentially by-pass designated ports for quarantine and health inspection and proceed directly to their provincial destinations. These ships may transport live and frozen poultry and sometimes dogs and cats.

The team visited the two Honiara ports – the airport and seaport. Staffing was adequate and managed well. Staff were seen exercising their function with diligence but were not able to assess compliance with import sanitary conditions.

There is an Australian-funded Biosecurity Development Program that aims to strengthen Biosecurity Solomon Islands to carry out pest and disease prevention, surveillance, and control; and improve market access and trade facilitation. The program is delivered through the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Animals and animal products imported into Solomon Islands include cattle (from Vanuatu in 2011, 2013), and beef and poultry meat and eggs.

Strengths:

- Modern Biosecurity Act 2013 and Biosecurity Regulations 2015.
- Workforce: The Biosecurity Regulations 2015 designates 45 officers as Biosecurity Officers.
- Dedicated staff at the points of entry. Main tasks of the border staff are well defined with developed procedures and instructions.
- Good process flow at ports of entry (Honiara).
- Funded Solomon Islands Biosecurity Development Program (SIBDP).
- Informative web site of the BSI (www.biosecurity.gov.sb).
- Thorough check list of forbidden and controlled products for the passengers at the points of entry.

Weaknesses:

- Staff at Honiara ports have no specific training on the border control of animals and animal products.
- Policy of letters of retirement versus extension of employment beyond retirement age is causing unfilled vacancies.
- Maritime border of Shortland Islands with Papua New Guinea porous and poorly monitored.
- Controls at the points of entry are focused on passenger control and personal baggage instead of control of consignments of animal products – though this may be appropriate based on risks, depending on the IRA process and source country disease status.
- Consignments of animal products are entering only by document check at the borders. Identification and physical as well as laboratory check is not performed, and BSD staff is not trained and equipped to perform it.
- Lack of facilities for physical checks of the consignments, as well as quarantine and isolation capacities for live animals.
- Lack of rendering or incineration facilities at the borders and protocols for destroying of unsuitable risk consignments.
- No records or databases of rejected consignments, animals that died during transport, procedures for safe destruction of material seized, or the number of samples sent to veterinary laboratories.
- Lack of communication and communication equipment to record and report data on export- import of consignments of animals and animal products. The BSD and MAL are still not computerised and do not use IT for communication, data collection and analysis.
- Lack of formal and informal communication and exchange of information by the BSD officers and border officers of the neighbouring countries.

- Porous border with Papua New Guinea (PNG) with uncontrolled passing of animals and animal products by small vessels. This is particularly important due to the recent outbreak of African Swine Fever in PNG.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen border control at the Shortland Islands harbour.
- Provide specialized training for BSI border officers, preferably in-situ international for physical and identity checks at the borders and international veterinary certification.
- Increase the capacity for physical and identity checks of the consignments at the borders.
- Reduce the BSI staff from passenger checks at the entry points and re-assign to the consignment checks.
- Supply border control offices with communication and IT equipment and develop the IT system for all entry points, to improve data communication, management, and reporting.
- Provide vehicles for MAL to improve mobility for performing quarantine and border security.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E15, E26, 57, E59, E 60.

II-4 Surveillance and early detection *The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of their animal populations, including wildlife, in a timely manner.* **A. Passive surveillance, early detection and epidemiological outbreak investigation** *A surveillance system based on a field animal health network capable of reliably detecting (by clinical or post mortem signs), diagnosing, reporting and investigating legally notifiable diseases (and relevant emerging diseases) in a timely manner.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have very limited passive *surveillance* capacity, with no formal disease list, little training/awareness and/or inadequate national coverage. Disease *outbreaks* are not reported or reporting is delayed.
	2. The VS have basic passive *surveillance* authority and capacity. There is a formal disease list with some training/awareness and some national coverage. The speed of detection and level of investigation is variable. Disease *outbreak* reports are available for some species and diseases.
	3. The VS have some passive *surveillance* capacity with some sample collection and laboratory testing. There is a list of *notifiable diseases* with trained field staff covering most areas. The speed of reporting and investigation is timely in most production systems. Disease *outbreak* investigation reports are available for most species and *diseases.*
	4. The VS have effective passive *surveillance* with routine laboratory confirmation and epidemiological disease investigation (including tracing and pathogen characterisation) in most animal sectors, and covering producers, markets and slaughterhouses. There are high levels of awareness and compliance with the need for prompt reporting from all animal owners/handlers and the field VS.
	5. The VS have comprehensive passive *surveillance* nationwide providing high confidence in the *notifiable disease* status in real time. The VS routinely report *surveillance* information to producers, industry and other stakeholders. Full epidemiological disease investigations are undertaken in all relevant *cases* with tracing and active follow up of at-risk establishments.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI) operates a toll-free hotline and also has an online disease reporting form on its website, https://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/. The website also states that every person in Solomon islands has a legal obligation to report any new pest and disease to BSI. Section 67 (1) of the Biosecurity Act 2013 empowers the Director of Biosecurity to declare a disease by Order in the Gazette as notifiable. However, no such declarations were seen. The Biosecurity Regulations 2015 under section 14 declares that all diseases, infections, and infestations listed on the World Organisation for Animal Health website (as updated regularly) and that are not already present in Solomon Islands are Regulated Pests and Diseases. A regulated pest or disease means a pest or disease whose importation is prohibited or restricted or is under official control. According to section 67 the Director may by Order in the Gazette declare the pests and diseases that are notifiable and the manner of notifying such pests and diseases to the Director.

In 2010, a Food Animal Biosecurity Network (FABN) was established between Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands (hereafter defined as “FABN countries”), with the aim of “delivering enhanced animal health field and laboratory capability to the Pacific islands, particularly in the area of animal disease surveillance, to allow assessment under OIE guidelines for trade in animals and animal products”. In 2013, a Food Animal Biosecurity

Network (FABN) was successfully set up between Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands (SI). The network implemented disease surveillance training to enhance capacities for animal health workers in the countries enabling them to identify animal diseases, collect samples, process samples appropriately and send samples to reference laboratories in the Pacific Island community and to reference laboratories in Australia for analysis. Samples were submitted in 2016 and in 2022 as part of surveys conducted by external teams, for example, from SPC and Australia.

A 2015 study (Understanding Pig and Poultry Trade Networks and Farming Practices Within the Pacific Islands as a Basis for Surveillance) showed that most farmers never ask for veterinary care, never engage in laboratory testing and do not report when their animals show clinical signs. The team believes this to still be the case in 2023.

There are records of MAL following up on reports of mortality in animals to rule out TADS. Mortality in 21 pigs were reported in April 2021 in East Central Guadalcanal. MAL officers determined clinically that the mortality was not due to ASF but to poor husbandry practices. In 2010 poultry mortality in seven villages in Temotu Province was investigated with negative results to Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease. The team visited a pig farmer in the Malaita Province. This pig farmer had a pig with a large mammary abscess of three weeks duration. This was not reported as the farmer thought the pig would get better on its own.

Strengths:

- Regional surveillance networks (FABN and PHOVAPS).
- Extensions officers and livestock officers in all provinces. Most of these officers have received Para veterinary training and will occasionally visit sick animals but generally will only provide basic advice regarding hygiene and husbandry, mould toxins etc. It is uncertain if an exotic disease would be successfully reported.
- Combined investigation of disease reports by BSI and LVSD.

Weaknesses:

- Farmers often may not report that animals are sick.
- Poor response to reports in the provinces due to budgetary and transport constraints.
- Most diagnosis of disease are clinical.
- No surveillance based on ante- or post-mortem inspections of animals slaughtered.
- No compensation programme to encourage disease reporting.

Recommendations:

- Training of extension officers and livestock officers in the provinces in disease recognition and sampling.
- Strengthen farmer awareness of TADS and reporting of sick animals.
- Budgetary allocations to provincial livestock and extension officers for field work.
- Consider developing some form of slaughter establishment surveillance.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E13, E41, E57.

II-4 Surveillance and early detection B. Active surveillance and monitoring *Surveillance targeting a specific disease, infection or hazard to determine its prevalence, measure progress in disease control or support the demonstration of disease freedom (with passive surveillance), most often in the form of pre-planned surveys with structured sampling and laboratory testing.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no active *surveillance* programme.
	2. The VS conduct active *surveillance* for one or a few *diseases, infections* or *hazard*s (of economic or zoonotic importance), but the *surveillance* is not representative of the population and the *surveillance* methodology is not revised regularly. The results are reported with limited analysis.
	3. The VS conduct active *surveillance* using scientific principles and WOAH standards for some *diseases, infections* or *hazard*s, but it is not representative of the susceptible populations and/or is not updated regularly. The results are analysed and reported to stakeholders.
	4. The VS conduct active *surveillance* in compliance with scientific principles and WOAH standards for some *diseases, infections* or *hazard*s which is representative of all susceptible populations and is updated regularly. Results are routinely analysed, reported and used to guide further *surveillance* activities, disease control priorities, etc.
	5. The VS conduct ongoing active *surveillance* for most significant *diseases, infections and hazards* and apply it to all susceptible populations. The results are routinely analysed and used to guide disease control and other activities. The active *surveillance* programmes are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they meet country needs and WOAH reporting obligations.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

There is no active surveillance program in Solomon Islands. Animal disease surveys are periodically undertaken by SPC and Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The most recent survey was in 2022 in the Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces. This survey confirmed the presence of Infectious Bursal Disease in poultry. The disease survey provided training to MAL staff to strengthen their disease surveillance skills. Surveys were also done in 2016 (in collaboration with DAFF) and 1998 (in collaboration with SPC). There is a report on a 1998 animal disease survey done by SPC. The results of this 1998 survey are reported in the document "Animal Health status of Solomon Islands" along with those of previous surveillance activities, notably in the 1960s and 1970s.

Strengths:

- Good animal health status of Solomon Islands.
- SPC and DAFF conduct periodic surveys.
- Placement of veterinarians at LDVS through the Australian Volunteers Program.

Weaknesses:

- Budgetary constraints to field work.
- Dependence on Australian volunteers' program.
- Lack of identification and registration of animals.

Recommendations:

- Develop a list of notifiable diseases.
- Maintain active Biosecurity Register where obliged to record all occurrences of notifiable disease notified. Analysis of this can help form diseases for active surveillance disease reports.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E2, E5.

II-5 Emergency preparedness and response *The authority and capability of the VS to be prepared and respond rapidly to a sanitary emergency threat (such as a significant disease outbreak or food safety emergency).*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no field network or established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency threat exists or the authority to declare such an emergency and respond appropriately.
	2. The VS have a field network and an established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency threat exists but lack the legal and financial support to respond effectively. The VS may have basic emergency management planning, but this usually targets one or a few diseases and may not reflect national capacity to respond.
	3. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergency threats, but the response is not well coordinated through an effective chain of command. They have national emergency management plans for some exotic *diseases*, but they are not updated/tested.
	4. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies through an effective chain of command (e.g. establishment of a *containment zone*). The VS have national emergency management plans for major exotic *diseases,* linked to broader national disaster management arrangements, and these are regularly updated/tested such as through simulation exercises.
	5. The VS have national emergency management plans for all diseases of concern (and possible emerging infectious diseases), incorporating coordination with national disaster agencies, relevant *Competent Authorities*, producers and other non-government stakeholders. Emergency management planning and response capacity is regularly tested, audited and updated, such as through simulation exercises that test response at all levels. Following emergency events, the VS have a formal 'After Action Review' process as part of continuous improvement.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Part IX of the Biosecurity Act 2013 deals with biosecurity emergencies and provides the necessary legal framework to respond to sanitary emergencies. There is on the BSI website a toll-free number (131) to report a pest or disease also providing a relevant online reporting form.

MAL has extension officers and livestock officers in all nine provinces and Honiara. These officers can respond to disease notifications and through the chain of command alert the MAL in Honiara as to suspicion of TADs and the need for technical assistance.

BSI through the Minister of Agriculture can declare a biosecurity emergency (valid for six months. The biosecurity emergency declaration also allows BSI to consult and liaise with the National Disaster Management Office. MAL provides emergency support through its Biosecurity Emergency Coordination Centre.

Strengths:

- Biosecurity emergencies have been declared in the past though for plant health emergencies: coconut rhinoceros beetle.
- Experience in control of infestations: giant African snail.
- National African Swine Fever Action Plan 2022 available with guidelines on surveillance, response and biosecurity.
- Strong donor support available.
- MoU with the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus Program (Phama Plus) on ASF preparedness and response.

Weaknesses:

- Inadequate financing leads to inconsistent and weak implementation of control measures.
- No compensation programme.
- Limited transportation, communication, and IT infrastructure.

Recommendations:

- Have a national HPAI contingency plan as for ASF.
- Have equipment and supplies in store in the event of an animal disease emergency.
- Strengthen links with a regional animal health reference laboratory – e.g. the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong, Victoria or the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) in New Zealand.
- Beyond instructions in various decrees, these need to be expanded to become contingency plans to be useful. A manual of such plans should be compiled and subject to peer review. Once in place such plans should then be the basis for simulation exercises.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E5-6, E11-12, E21, E51, E58.

II-6 Disease prevention, control and eradication *The authority and capability of the VS to control or eradicate nationally important diseases present in the country, such as through a combination of vaccination, domestic movement control, establishing containment zones, biosecurity measures (including farm biosecurity), isolation and/or culling/stamping out.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no capability to implement animal disease prevention, control or eradication programmes.
	2. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas or populations, but with little or no epidemiological, risk-based planning or evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.
	3. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for some priority *diseases* in some areas or populations. There is variable epidemiological, risk-based planning and evaluation of efficacy and efficiency, with limited progress towards programme goals.
	4. The VS implement national prevention, control or eradication programmes for priority *diseases* with a high level of epidemiological, risk-based planning, and continual evaluation of efficacy and efficiency. They have or are progressing towards WOAH official recognition of disease control programmes for relevant diseases. They can demonstrate some progress towards programme goals in reducing or eradicating disease.
	5. The VS implement national prevention, control or eradication programmes for all priority *diseases* with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency consistent with relevant WOAH international standards. They can demonstrate clear progress towards programme goals in reducing or eradicating disease, including achieving or progressing towards official recognition of freedom from relevant diseases.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

MAL eradicated bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis through test and slaughter. The disease eradication program for bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis was completed in 1986. The Solomon Islands was declared provisionally free of brucellosis in 1985, and of tuberculosis in 1986.

The Asian honeybees (*Apis cerana*) were first detected in 2003.This bee also introduced the varroa mite (so far found harmless to European bees) and the microsporidian pathogen Nosema ceranae. Studies showed that the Asian honeybees was well established in many parts of the Solomon Islands hence a fipronil-based method for suppressing Asian honeybees has been recommended rather than control and eradication.

MAL has never reported TADS in poultry and pigs hence there is no need for control programs other than control of helminths. A pathogenic variant form of infectious bursal disease (IBD) in poultry has recently been confirmed.

Strengths:

- Solomon Islands has an excellent animal health status with the only known WOAH listed disease infectious bursal disease of poultry. Therefore, there is little need for endemic disease control programs as relevant under this CC.

- Experience with the use of movement control. Movement controls were implemented in the past to prohibit movement of cattle from the Russell Islands and the Shortland Islands and movement of cattle prohibited into Malaita and a statutory designated area of Guadalcanal.
- SPC, Australian and New Zealand institutions are available to assist with implementation and evaluation of programmes if they became required.
- MoAs signed with private sector (for example, the Reach Consultancy Firm) for the routine vaccination of cattle.

Weaknesses:

- Financial resources not readily available.
- No active control programs initiated by MAL.

Recommendations:

- Conduct a disease prioritisation analysis to determine priority diseases for surveillance and emergency planning especially in cattle, pigs, poultry and honeybees. Alternate: Review the "regulated" diseases (WOAH listed diseases) to determine priority diseases to include in a gazetted list of notifiable diseases notifiable within 24 hours and those that are reportable within a month.
- Education of beekeepers on management of the Asian honeybee.
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis to implement vaccination control programme for IBD.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E2, E10, E12-13, E16, E18, E21, E30, E41, E44, E53, E56, E72.

II-7 Animal production food safety	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to assure the safety of food of animal origin for domestic and export markets. **A. Regulation, inspection (including audits), authorisation and supervision of establishments for production and processing of food of animal origin** *The authority and capability of the VS to establish and enforce sanitary and food hygiene standards for establishments that produce and process food of animal origin, including slaughter, rendering, dairy, egg, honey and other animal product processing establishments.* *Includes the regulation, initial authorisation of establishments, and the ongoing inspection of establishments and processes, including the identification of and response to non-compliance, based on HACCP principles. It includes external coordination between Competent Authorities as may be required.*	1. Regulation, authorisation, and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards. 2. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards in some selected premises (e.g. export premises). 3. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards in large premises supplying major cities and/or the national market. 4. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards for premises supplying the national and local markets. There are some reports of dealing with non-compliance. 5. Regulation, authorisation, inspection and audit of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises. There are documented cases of the identification and effective response to non-compliance.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The food safety system is fragmented as many public agencies are involved: central government (the Food Safety Unit within the Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services), local government which includes nine provinces administered by elected provincial assemblies, and the city of Honiara, administered by the Honiara City Council. The National Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition policy (FSFSNP) 2019-2023 states that there is no evidence available as to the safety of foods provided or consumed in Solomon Islands. The National Public Health Laboratory provides services for local water companies and other requested public services such as foodborne disease outbreaks.

The Pure Food Act (1996) enforces regulations pertaining to the processing, packaging and inspection and the import and export of foods and is administered by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. Under this Act the Minister of Health has the power to appoint staff of LVSD as meat inspectors. There has been no meat inspection done by LVSD since 2000 and most of the meat inspectors on staff are now retired.

The Pure Food (Food Control) Regulations 2010, made under the Pure Food Act, deal with a wide variety of matters relative to food quality and food hygiene. The matters regulated include food importation and sale, packaging and labelling, compliance with standards of the Codex Alimentarius, food additives and foreign substances in food, breast-milk substitutes, maximum level for contaminants and residues, good hygienic practices and general hygiene requirements, design and cleansing of food premises, use of potable water in food, microbiological examination, HACCP, and inspections. Under these Regulations proprietors of

premises are to establish food safety plans based on HACCP. The plan needs to be made available on demand to a health inspector.

The Environmental Health (Public Health) Regulations made under the Public Health Act but deemed to be made under the Environmental Health Act 1980 which repeals the Public Health Act, make provision with respect to food safety and hygiene, provision and protection of water supplies, sewerage and sanitation and the prevention of pollution.

The testing of canned tuna fish intended to export to EU countries is managed by the Environmental Health Division and it is outsourced to accredited laboratories in New Zeeland and Fiji. There are full records and reports for all testing performed by those laboratories. A total of four Division officers on the production site are signing the export certificates.

Strengths:

- Solomon Islands Agricultural Sector Growth Strategy and Investment Plan 2021 – 2030 envisages the development of domestic scale abattoirs, mini-slaughterhouses, and meat processing facilities around the country and the establishment of at least two related veterinary or meat inspector positions.
- LVSD staff can be appointed as meat inspectors under the Pure Foods Act.
- Investments by some private food producers for processing food of animal origin.
- Private sector meat processing plant in phase of introducing HACCP system.
- The Environmental Health Division is familiar with certification procedures for export of canned tuna fish.
- Possibility for outsourcing food safety laboratory testing to accredited laboratories abroad.

Weaknesses:

- No official slaughter facilities.
- Out-dated food safety legislation, not in compliance with WOAH and Codex Alimentarius Commission international food safety standards.
- The MAL, except for meat inspection, does not have authority to establish and enforce sanitary standards for establishments that produce, process, and distribute food of animal origin, this sits with other health or municipal agencies.
- Lack of access to in-country laboratory testing for food safety.
- Lack of specific training of the staff for inspection of food of animal origin, nor related establishments, both in Environmental Health Division and in Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- Absence of formal and informal communication between Environmental Health Division and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock regarding food safety.
- No monitoring of food borne diseases and there is a lack of communication and collaboration between MAL and MoH in this area as well.
- The concept of traceability of the products of animal origin ‘from stable to table” is not known to the officers and terms “food security” and “food safety” are confused.
- Nonexistence of a central registry and non-unified codification of the establishments producing food of animal origin.
- No capacity of the staff responsible for registration and approval of establishments and no possibilities for specialised training in the country.

Recommendations:

- The Solomon Island Government to conduct a study to explore the public and/or private funding of the construction of hygienic slaughter facilities in Honiara and other major cities (Auki, Gizo) and mini slaughter units at Gozoruru, Dokudola, and Aluta.
- Revise existing and draft new food safety legislation in the field of food safety in line with WOAH and *Codex Alimentarius Commission* standards.
- The new legislation should include food safety and animal health as priority components of its regulation mandate. This clarity is needed both for national and international audiences such as collaborating veterinary services and international trade partners.
- The terms “food safety”, “veterinary service” and “animal health” should be prominent in the web sites of agencies within MoH and MAL, to reflect its duties and tasks of different services and trading partners in other countries.
- To staff and train abroad the employees of the Environmental Health Division and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for inspection of import- export, processing, and distribution of animal products.
- To increase the capacities of the responsible agencies for registration and approval of establishments producing products of animal origin as well as for drafting legislation, construction, and hygiene standards, creating registration and approval procedures, keeping a central register of establishments, gathering and analysing data, etc. Legislation and standards should match the food safety risks applicable to various facilities in terms of scale and size of the facilities and markets impacted.
- Provide training on food safety and hygiene standards for the relevant personnel at all levels of MoH and MAL, particularly providing specialised training for officers involved in meat inspection and the registration and approval of establishments.
- Produce public awareness campaigns for food safety and labelling of food products of animal origin for consumers.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E17, E19, E54-55, E61-62.

II-7 Animal production food safety **B. Ante- and post-mortem inspection at slaughter facilities and associated premises** *The authority and capability of the VS to implement and manage the ante-mortem inspection of animals destined for slaughter and the post-mortem inspection of carcases and meat products at slaughter facilities and associated premises, including to ensure meat hygiene and safety, and for the collection of information relevant to livestock diseases and zoonoses.* *This includes standards relating to veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional supervision and inspection, and protocols applied for ante- and post-mortem inspection findings, based on HACCP principles. It includes external coordination between Competent Authorities as may be required.*	**Levels of advancement**
	1. Ante- and post-mortem inspection is generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards only in selected premises (e.g. export premises).
	3. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and the major abattoirs in the larger cities and/or producing *meat* for distribution throughout the national market.
	4. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards for all slaughter facilities producing *meat* for export, national and local markets.
	5. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises (including municipal, community, and on-farm slaughtering and distribution) and are subject to periodic audits.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

There are no medium to large scale slaughter facilities in Solomon Islands and there is no information regarding the slaughter of local cattle in the Solomon Islands. All cattle and beef are assumed to be slaughtered on-farm with meat delivered to or collected by the buyer. It may enter the ceremonial market or possibly be used for other local consumption purposes. All beef sold through the formal retail outlets is imported from Australia, New Zealand, or Vanuatu. On-farm slaughtering would be done with basic facilities and limited hygienic conditions. There are three meat shops or butcheries in Honiara (Bulk Shop, Sullivans and Meat Lovers).

Strengths:

- Meat shops in Honiara that can be inspected, including whether there is local slaughter supply (product traceback).
- Under the Pure Food Act (1996) the Minister of Health appoints staff of LVSD as meat inspectors.

Weaknesses:

- Limited meat inspection capacity at LVSD.
- Little inspection by Environmental Health Division.

Recommendations:

- Undertake a comprehensive supply chain study for meat and milk products within Solomon Islands, from farm to fork. This should cover livestock marketing, local

slaughter and milk collection practices and establishments, local meat and milk marketing practices, and animal health and food safety risks associated.

- Develop initial proposals for registration and inspection of slaughter and milk processing facilities, based on the findings of the above study.
- Develop staffing and training plans in animal product hygiene and inspection to implement the registration and inspection arrangements to address risks for meats, eggs, dairy.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E17, E19, E36.

II-8 Veterinary medicines and biologicals	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to regulate veterinary medicines, and biologicals, in order to ensure their quality and safety, as well as their responsible and prudent use, including as medicated feed. *This includes the marketing authorisation/registration, import, manufacture, quality control, export, labelling, advertising, distribution, sale (includes dispensing) and use (includes prescribing) of these products.*	1. The VS cannot regulate veterinary medicines and biologicals.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over the import, manufacture and market authorisation (registration) of veterinary medicines and biologicals to ensure their safety and quality, but cannot ensure their responsible and prudent use in the field.
	3. The VS exercise effective regulatory and administrative control for the market authorisation of veterinary medicines and biologicals and have some capacity to regulate to ensure their responsible and prudent use in the field, including reducing the risk from illegal imports.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of all aspects of veterinary medicines and biologicals, including market authorisation, responsible and prudent use in the field, and reducing the risks of illegal distribution and use.
	5. The control systems for veterinary medicines and biologicals are regularly audited, tested, and updated when necessary, including via an effective pharmacovigilance programme.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The MHMS regulates medicines though its National Pharmacy Services Division. Veterinary medicines and biologicals are regulated by the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, the Dangerous Drugs Acts, and the Biosecurity Act 2015. An import permit from Biosecurity Solomon Islands is required for biologicals. The importation of controlled drugs requires a permit from the Attorney General.

Most, if not all, veterinary medicines and biologicals are imported by Honiara Veterinary Clinic, the “go to” pharmacy for MAL and farmers. Outlets selling veterinary medicines would obtain these medicines from Honiara Veterinary Clinic. Food and drugs regulations do not have provisions for drugs for animal use only for human use.

Strengths:

- MAL, agrovet stores and farmers purchase veterinary medicines from Honiara Veterinary Clinic and seek their advice on the use of the veterinary medicines.
- Few importers of veterinary medicines and biologicals.

Weaknesses:

- MAL has no mandate for regulating the use of veterinary medicines and biologicals.
- BSI issues import permits for biologicals but there is no registry for biologicals.
- There are no controls on the use of veterinary drugs.
- Any medicines requiring veterinary delivery or prescription? Any controls on dangerous or recreational veterinary anaesthetics or opioids? Any provisions relating to withholding periods to address residue risks? Assume no to all above but good to mention.

Recommendations:

- Develop a PPP with Honiara Veterinary Clinic to supply veterinary drugs to MAL.
- Prepare enabling regulations targeting the safe marketing and use of veterinary medicines and biologicals.
- Support for the update of Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Dangerous Drugs Act and Pharmacy Practitioners Act.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E10, E36.

II-9 Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Use (AMU) *The authority and capability of the VS to manage AMR and AMU, and to undertake surveillance and control of the development and spread of AMR pathogens in animal production and animal origin food products, via a One Health approach.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS cannot regulate or control AMR and AMU, and have not developed or contributed to an AMR action plan covering the veterinary domain.
	2. The VS are contributing or have contributed to a national AMR action plan. The action plan has initiated some activities to collect AMU/AMR data or control AMR e.g. awareness campaigns targeting *veterinarians* or farmers on the prudent use of *antimicrobial agents* (antimicrobials). The use of antimicrobials for growth promotion is discouraged.
	3. The VS have defined a national AMR action plan in coordination with the Public Health authorities and other stakeholders, and are implementing some AMU/AMR surveillance and regulations. The use of antimicrobials for growth promotion is prohibited.
	4. The VS are implementing a comprehensive AMR action plan based on risk, including AMR surveillance of the most important pathogens for animal health or food-borne diseases, the *monitoring* of AMU, and the prudent use of antimicrobials in *animals* (especially the use of critically important antimicrobials). The use of antimicrobials for growth promotion does not occur.
	5. An effective national AMR action plan covering the veterinary domain is regularly audited, reviewed and updated by the VS with the Public Health authorities and other stakeholders, using the results of AMU/AMR surveillance. The scale and type of antimicrobial usage in *animals* poses minimal risk of AMR and alternative solutions for the control of diseases in *animals* are being implemented.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara is the lead government agency for AMR. An Antibiotics Guidelines document was developed in 2015 and a National AMR Action Plan was developed in 2021. There is no evidence of any animal health related inputs into either the Guidelines or Action Plan documents.

Strengths:

- WHO country office in Solomon Islands.
- Combat-AMR project for capacity building and training activities on AMR.
- Recent training (March 2023) of NRH staff on antimicrobial stewardship.

Weaknesses:

- No veterinarian or other qualified staff member at MAL to deal with AMR or represent MAL and animal health in the national AMR committee, and therefore no animal health inputs.

Recommendations:

- Employment of a veterinarian (or other professional with qualification in pharmacology, food safety, bacteriology, or laboratory diagnosis) to input on with food safety and One Health issues including AMR.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E4, E54-55.

II-10 Residue testing, monitoring and management *The capability of the VS to undertake residue testing and monitoring programmes for veterinary medicines (e.g. antimicrobials and hormones), chemicals, pesticides, radionuclides, heavy metals, etc. and respond appropriately to adverse findings.*	Levels of advancement
	1. No residue testing for animal products is being undertaken.
	2. Some residue testing is being undertaken, such as for research or pilot purposes and/or it is conducted only on specific animal products for export.
	3. A comprehensive residue *monitoring* programme is conducted for all animal products for export and some for domestic consumption based on limited *risk analysis*. Documented protocols exist for preventing residue risks (e.g. withholding periods for veterinary drugs) and for responding to breaches of Maximum Residue Limits.
	4. A comprehensive residue *monitoring* programme is conducted for all animal products for export and domestic consumption based on *risk analysis*. Effective protocols both reduce residue risks and respond to breaches of Maximum Residue Limits, including traceback and follow up.
	5. The residue *monitoring* and *risk management* programme is subject to routine quality assurance and regular evaluation/audit.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

To export tuna to European Union countries, samples are sent to accredited laboratories. Residue testing is done for the National Public Health Laboratory at the Cawthron Institute and Asure Quality in New Zealand and Institute of Applied Science in Fiji. The testing is financed by the Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

Strengths:

- Residue testing done for fish products for export.
- Established residue testing pathways using overseas laboratories.

Weaknesses:

- No testing capacity within SI.

Recommendations:

- Training of NPHL staff on health certification systems and food safety assurance systems.
- Develop testing capacity within SI over the longer term.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E73.

II-11 Animal feed safety	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to regulate animal feed safety e.g. processing, handling, storage, distribution and use of both commercial and on-farm produced animal feed and feed ingredients. *This includes feed safety risks such as swill feeding, feeding by-products, ruminant feed bans, the use of antimicrobials in feed, as well as managing risks of microbial, physical and toxin contamination of feed.*	1. The VS cannot regulate animal *feed* safety.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over animal *feed* safety.
	3. The VS exercise regulatory and administrative control for most aspects of animal *feed* safety.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of animal *feed* safety.
	5. The control systems are regularly audited, tested and updated when necessary.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Currently there are no commercial stock feed mills in the Solomon Islands and industrial feed must be imported from Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Local products and by-products (e.g. fish meal, copra meal) are readily available and can be used locally to formulate industrial feed.

There are no legal regulations on the use of animal feed. Biosecurity Solomon Islands regulates importation of animal feed as “plant material”.

Strengths:

- Feed ingredients from local products and by products readily available.
- An established stockfeed distribution channel.

Weaknesses:

- No feed mill.
- No awareness or controls on swill feeding of pigs.
- No expertise within MAL for feed formulation, manufacture, and use.
- No declaration on the packages of animal feed.

Recommendations:

- Encourage the establishment of community based mini-feed mills in strategic provincial production areas.
- Train MAL officers on feed formulation, manufacture, and inspection of feed mills.
- Training of larger producers on on-farm feed formulation.
- Feed should be produced and imported to address animal health risks and according to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Truth in Nutrition Labelling and should be regulated by Government. The risk of introducing ASF via feed or swill imported from neighbouring PNG should be carefully considered.
- Declaration of the composition of feed should be regulated as mandatory.

- Given the risk of ASF incursion from neighbouring PNG consider developing awareness campaigns and exploring controls on swill feeding of pigs, particularly as part of an emergency response to the growing risk of an ASF incursion.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1m E36, E53.

II-12 Identification, traceability and movement control A. Premises, herd, batch and animal identification, tracing and movement control *The authority and capability of the VS, in coordination with producers and other stakeholders, to regulate the identification of animals, to trace their history and location(s), and to control domestic movements for the purpose of animal disease control, food safety, trade or other legal requirements under the VS mandate.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to regulate the identification of *animals*, either individually, by batch, or by premises, or to trace and control their movements.
	2. The VS can identify some *animals* by premises or location and control some movements, using traditional methods, and can demonstrate the ability to deal with a specific problem (e.g. to trace sampled or vaccinated *animals* for follow up, or to prevent theft).
	3. The VS implement a system for *animal identification, traceability* and movement control for specific animal sub-populations (e.g. for export, at borders, specified *zones* or markets) as required for traceability and/or disease control, in accordance with international standards.
	4. The VS implement appropriate and effective *animal identification, traceability* and movement control procedures for some animal species at national level, in accordance with international standards.
	5. The VS carry out periodic audits of the effectiveness of their identification, traceability and movement control systems. They have been demonstrated as effective in dealing with a problem (e.g. tracing a disease *outbreak*, residue or other food safety incident).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Besides authority for movement control MAL has no other legal instrument to establish an animal identification and traceability system. Moreover, MAL has no allocated financial, human, technical and material resources for this. Besides identification, for the purposes of animal movement control, animals are not accompanied by relevant documents (movement document, health certificate or passport). Animals can enter markets without accompanying movement documents.

There is no perceived need for animal identification and traceability as no formal market or processing sector exists for local animals. The sale of local cattle and pigs is largely for ceremonial use or local consumption. Moreover, the national herd for cattle and pigs is small. An agricultural survey was conducted in 2017. This survey showed 43,156 livestock holdings which represented 40% of the total agricultural holdings. The size of the national cattle herd is unknown, but it is estimated to be between 3,000 and 8,000 head even though the 2017 agricultural census showed a total of 321 beef and dairy cattle.

Strengths:

- Legal authority for movement control.

Weaknesses:

- No national animal identification system or program exists.
- Little perceived need for animal identification and traceability.

- The control of animal movement documents is not regulated and practiced in the country and animals and animal products can move freely without being accompanied by any kind of document.
- Lack of legislation for animal identification and movement control, including slaughterhouse(s), markets, and pastures as critical points of control. The traceability of animal products is also missing in regulations.
- Illegal movement of animals by vessels on the border with Papua New Guinea is impossible to control due to absence of animal identification.
- Absence of any international technical assistance with experience in implementation of a national system for animal identification, traceability, and registration.

Recommendations:

- Sensitisation of farmers on the benefits of a national animal identification system for cattle.
- Undertake an initial study to consider benefit-cost and first steps in animal identification for carefully selected sub-populations of cattle or pigs.
- The importance of animal farming and production for the country and the number of livelihoods directly or indirectly depending on it, require gradual establishment of a basic, step-by-step system of animal identification in Solomon Islands.
- External technical assistance for an initial feasibility or benefit-cost study for animal identification and traceability.
- All farmers' holdings and livestock markets must be registered and recorded, without which it will be impossible to establish traceability of animals.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E31, E36, E74.

II-12 Identification, traceability and movement control B. Identification, traceability and control of products of animal origin *The capability of the Veterinary Authority, in coordination with Competent Authorities (such as food safety authorities) and other stakeholders as appropriate, to achieve whole-of-chain traceability, including the identification, tracing and control of products of animal origin for the purpose of food safety, animal health or trade.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS do not have the capability or access to information to identify or trace products of animal origin.
	2. The VS can identify and trace some products of animal origin, by coordination between *Competent Authorities*, to deal with a specific problem (e.g. high risk products traced back to premises of origin).
	3. The VS have implemented procedures to identify and trace some products of animal origin, in coordination with *Competent Authorities*, for food safety, animal health and trade purposes, in accordance with international standards.
	4. The VS have implemented national programmes enabling them to identify and trace all products of animal origin, and respond to threats, in coordination with *Competent Authorities*, in accordance with international standards.
	5. The VS periodically audit the effectiveness of their identification and traceability procedures, in coordination with *Competent Authorities*. The procedures have been demonstrated as being effective for traceback and response to a relevant food safety incident (e.g. foodborne zoonoses or residue incident).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The MAL does not have authority and capability to establish and enforce whole-of-chain traceability, including the identification, tracing, and control of products of animal origin for the purpose of food safety, animal health or trade.

There is no national requirement for traceability of food products. Companies are required to possess an annual business licence to operate. The licence can be obtained from the Honiara City Council or the relevant provincial authority in the provinces. Food processing businesses need to be also registered by the Registry of Companies (Company Haus) of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration (MCILI). A requirement for licensing of a food processing business in Honiara is the identification of products and traceability in place for product recall.

Solomon Islands has the Pure Foods Act 1996 and food control regulations which mandate food safety requirements such as HACCP and food recall. The Department of Environmental Health of the MHMS is the competent authority for food safety and enforces the application of HACCP by exporting plants.

Th team visited Bulk Shop sausage processing plant. They have a quality control officer and they indicated that they want to develop a food safety plan based on HACCP.

Strengths:

- Need for annual registration of food processing companies.
- Technical assistance for proprietors of premises from local public agencies: MHMS, Food Technology Unit, MCILI.
- Legal framework in place.

- Technical assistance from PHAMA Plus.

Weaknesses:

- No evidence of food safety plan based on HACCP certification of processing plants.
- The concept of traceability of food products of animal origin is not present in the country.
- There is no legislation regulating traceability of products of animal origin.
- The labelling of products of animal origin is not enforced. They can be produced, transported, and distributed without requiring veterinary documents or identification such as meat stamps.
- Lack of public and consumer awareness of the importance of labelling and traceability of animal products.

Recommendations:

- Meat shops and processing plants in Honiara be assisted to develop food safety plan based on HACCP. These Plans should be audited annually.
- Create a strategy for the development of a system of identification and traceability of products of animal origin that will also define the legal authority and responsibility among responsible institutions and create a clear chain of command and reporting for inspection and safety of animal products.
- Add new provisions for identification and traceability of products of animal origin to the food safety legislation.
- Carry out a public awareness campaign for establishment of traceability and control of the food chain “from farm to fork” that will include all participants from farmers to consumers.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

II-13 Animal welfare *The authority and capability of the VS to legislate and implement the animal welfare standards of the WOAH as published in the Terrestrial Code.* *This requires consultation and coordination with Competent Authorities, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders, as appropriate.*	**Levels of advancement**
	1. There is no national legislation or regulations on *animal welfare*.
	2. There is limited national legislation or regulations on *animal welfare* covering some of the WOAH standards, with limited stakeholder or public awareness.
	3. The national *veterinary legislation* (including laws and regulations) on *animal welfare* cover most WOAH standards, with some awareness programmes and implementation, but are in conformity with international standards in only some sectors (e.g. for the export sector).
	4. *Animal welfare* programmes, supported by suitable *veterinary legislation*, are being implemented in conformity with relevant international standards and are applied to most sectors and species with stakeholder and public awareness. Documented compliance programmes, including consequences of non-compliance are available.
	5. *Animal welfare* programmes, supported by suitable *veterinary legislation*, are being implemented in conformity with relevant international standards. Comprehensive national programmes are applied to all sectors and species with the active involvement of stakeholders. The *animal* welfare programmes, including non-compliance issues, are subject to regular audit and review, with documented cases of responding effectively to non-compliance.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Apart from the Animals (Control of Experiments) Act there is no legislation on animal welfare. Responsibility for animal welfare falls under MAL's LVSD and the Environmental Health Division of the city councils. There are no animal welfare organisations in the country. The team noticed stray dogs in Honiara and Auki. There were no stray livestock seen along the highways. The farms visited had small numbers of livestock. There are no animal welfare requirements relating to slaughter, including home slaughter.

The Honiara City Council registers dogs and carries out dog control operations through irregular trapping and disposal of stray dogs, often in response to a community request. The City Council's website states that this program is ineffective. Auki's Environmental Health Officer informed the team that no dog controls have been done in the past two years and that city residents complain about dog control through shooting and poisoning so they are considering alternatives such as Fiji's Catch, Neuter and Release program.

Strengths:

- City council bylaws to control stray dogs.

Weaknesses:

- No animal welfare legislation.
- No animal welfare organisation in the country.
- No animal welfare awareness or communications in the country.

Recommendations:

- Initiate the drafting of animal welfare legislation, preferably with external support, based on the WOAH standards covering key areas such as slaughter, land and sea transport, on farm welfare, animal experimentation, companion, and stray animal control.
- Even in the absence of animal welfare legislation, consider initiating a targeted animal welfare survey and awareness campaign for animal handlers on farms, transporters, pet owners, etc.
- City councils to collect data on number of stray dogs toward animal welfare.
- Promote neuter clinics through international organisations liaising with the Honiara Veterinary Clinic and LVSD.
- Assign animal welfare responsibilities to a MAL officer.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E29.

III.3 Fundamental component III: Interaction with stakeholders

This component of the evaluation concerns the capability of the VS to collaborate with and involve non-government stakeholders including the private sector, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (including consumer organisations) in the implementation of programmes and activities. This also includes relevant state-owned enterprises, research institutions, universities and other training establishments.

Critical Competencies:

Section III-1	**Communication**
Section III-2	**Consultation with stakeholders**
Section III-3	**Official representation and international collaboration**
Section III-4	**Accreditation/ authorisation/ delegation**
Section III-5	**Regulation of the profession by the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)**
Section III-6	**Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes**
Section III-7	**Veterinary clinical services**

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7, 9 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards/Communication.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation on WOAH activities.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 4, 8 and Sub-point g) of Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details/Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls/Sources of independent scientific expertise.

Chapter 3.3. on Communication.

Point 4 of Article 3.4.3. on General principles: Consultation.

Article 3.4.5. on Competent Authorities.

Article 3.4.6. on Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.

III-1 Communication	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to keep non- government stakeholders aware and informed, in a transparent, effective and timely manner, of VS activities and programmes, and of developments in animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health. *This competency includes communication with all non-government stakeholders, including industry groups/associations (such as livestock farmer, meat sector, dairy sector and trading groups), as well as relevant NGOs and the general public, such as via communication campaigns and the media, including social media.*	1. The VS do not inform stakeholders of VS activities and programmes.
	2. The VS have informal communication mechanisms with some stakeholders (e.g. with the larger commercial livestock or related companies).
	3. The VS maintain a dedicated and specialist communications function which communicates with stakeholders occasionally, but it is not always up-to-date or pro-active in providing information.
	4. The VS contact point or unit for communication provides up-to-date information to most relevant stakeholders. This information is aligned with a well-developed communications plan, and accessible via the Internet and other appropriate channels targeted to the audience, and covers relevant events, activities and programmes, including during crises.
	5. The VS have a well-developed communications plan, and regularly circulate information to all relevant stakeholders, well targeted to the audience via the full range of communications media, including social media. The VS regularly evaluate and revise their communications plan.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The PVS Opening Meeting had the participation of representatives from the Solomon Islands Pig Farmers Association, the Solomon Poultry Farmers Association, and the Honiara Veterinary Clinic. Team members were able to visit with the poultry association and the Honiara Veterinary Clinic.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has a website (https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-agriculture-and-livestock/) and a facebook page. The Biosecurity Department has its own website, as well (https://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/). The Biosecurity Department has already been reaching out to stakeholders and the general public on biosecurity risk and measures for the 17th Pacific Games which will be held in the Solomon Islands during November and December 2023.

Strengths:

- The 17th Pacific Games is providing opportunities for communication with stakeholders relating to biosecurity risks.
- Good media coverage of outreach with stakeholders and departmental activities (LVSD and BSI).
- MAL has its Famas Kona radio program on Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation.
- Brochures and signs available.

Weaknesses:

- Most outreach in Honiara and Guadalcanal Province; other provinces not as strong and depend on Extension staff of the Ministry in the provinces.

- The LVSD, unlike BSI, does not have a dedicated website. The MAL website only comprises one page and only covers mandate and departmental responsibilities, rather than any more detailed communications on specific animal health policies or programs.
- Other relevant government agencies also do not have their own websites operating under their parent ministry website, for example, National Public Health Laboratory, CITES.

Recommendations:

- Develop a website for LVSD, or at minimum more detail on updated activities on its part of the MAL website.
- Improve communication with the provinces and intra-province.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock website (https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-agriculture-and-livestock/) and facebook page. The Biosecurity Department website, (https://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/).

III-2 Consultation with stakeholders	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to consult effectively with non-government stakeholders on VS policies and programmes, and on developments in animal health and food safety. *This competency includes consultation with all non-government stakeholders, including industry groups/associations (such as livestock farmer, meat sector, dairy sector and trading groups), as well as interested NGOs and members of the public.* *Unlike communication (CCIII-1), consultation is two way and should involve mechanisms that not only inform, but actively seek views of consulted parties, for consideration and response.*	1. The VS have no mechanisms for consultation with non-government stakeholders. 2. The VS maintain informal channels of consultation with some non-government stakeholders (e.g. only the larger commercial livestock or related companies). 3. The VS hold formal consultations with non-government stakeholders, usually represented by industry groups or associations. 4. The VS regularly hold workshops and meetings with non-government stakeholders, who are organised to have broad representation, such as through elected, self-financed industry groups or associations. Consultation outcomes are documented and the views of stakeholders considered and occasionally incorporated. 5. The VS actively consult with all non-government stakeholders, including representatives of smaller producers, regarding current and proposed policies and programmes, developments in animal health and food safety, and proposed interventions at the WOAH, Codex Alimentarius Commission, WTO SPS Committee, etc. The consultation results in improved, better adapted activities and greater stakeholder support.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The Biosecurity Act 2013 mandates consultation with stakeholders (section 83 (1). Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI) has two divisions (operations and scientific operations) with both divisions conducting the necessary consultations with their applicable stakeholders, for example, importers and exporters for operations and market access stakeholders for the scientific operations division.

Consultation with animal health stakeholders outside of biosecurity, such as for animal health surveillance and emergency response under the responsibility of LVSD is done with the assistance of external parties such as the PHAMA Plus project, SPC country office, FAO among others.

Strengths:

- Well-develop outreach within BSI.
- A range of farmer associations exist for coordinated consultation.

Weaknesses:

- Outside of BSI with its trade stakeholders, including for the Pacific Games, the government including LVSD has limited engagement with the private sector on animal health.
- Difficult to convene national meetings due to travel and funding constraints.
- Limited engagement with stakeholders outside Guadalcanal Province and Honiara.

Recommendations:

- Develop a multi-stakeholder advisory body on animal health, including LVSD, BSI and other government agencies (Health, Environment), livestock industry representatives, plural private sector (SPC, WHO, etc and civil society.
- Use of international organisations to help convene national consultations.
- Strengthen industry associations at provincial and national levels through funding and organisational support.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): The Biosecurity Department website, (https://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/).

III-3 Official representation and international collaboration *The capability of the VS to regularly and actively participate, coordinate and provide follow-up on relevant meetings and activities of regional and international organisations including the WOAH, Codex Alimentarius Commission, WTO SPS Committee, WHO, FAO and Regional Economic Communities.*	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS do not participate in or follow up on relevant meetings or activities of regional or international organisations.
	2. The VS sporadically participate in relevant meetings or activities and/or make a limited contribution.
	3. The VS actively participate in the majority of relevant meetings and activities, and provide some feedback to national colleagues.
	4. The VS consult with non-government stakeholders and take into consideration their opinions in developing papers and making interventions in relevant meetings and in following up on meeting outcomes at national or regional level.
	5. The VS consult with non-government stakeholders to provide leadership, to ensure that strategic issues are identified, and to ensure coordination among national delegations as part of their participation in relevant meetings and follow up on meeting outcomes at national and/or regional levels. The VS collaborate internationally by sharing information and assisting to build capacity where appropriate.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Both LVSD and BSI are represented in the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) Network. Officers from the Livestock Department, MAL participated in WOAH's The Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway Orientation Training Workshop held in Fiji, March 2023.

The Codex Contact Point and the SPS Enquiry Point sits within the MHMS.

Solomon Islands is a member of WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) but is not currently a member of WOAH.

Strengths:

- SPC membership and support for regional harmonisation and training (paravet training).
- WOAH's commitment for continued collaboration with PHOVAPS.

Weaknesses:

- MAL has its VS divided between two departments (LVSD and BSI) with overlapping functions hence who represents the VS may be confusing.
- Poor coordination between government agencies.

Recommendations:

- Consider exploring WOAH membership, particularly given the neighbouring threat of disease incursion e.g. ASF from PNG.
- Ensure participation in priority meetings and events of regional and international organisations, but also considering time taken away from in-country work and complex flightpaths.

- Consider also including an agriculture WTO SPS Enquiry Point at MAL as in the past.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E68.

III-4 Accreditation/ authorisation/ delegation *The authority and capability of the public sector of the VS to accredit/ authorise/ delegate to private sector or NGO expertise (e.g. private veterinarians and laboratories, animal welfare NGOs), to carry out official tasks on their behalf, usually via a formal agreement (i.e. public-private partnership).*	Levels of advancement
	1. The public sector of the VS has neither the authority nor the capability to accredit/authorise/delegate to the private sector or NGOs official tasks.
	2. The public sector of the VS has the authority or capability to accredit/authorise/delegate official tasks to the private sector or NGOs, but there are currently no accreditation/authorisation/delegation activities.
	3. The public sector of the VS develops accreditation/ authorisation/ delegation programmes for certain tasks using formal agreements, but these activities are not routinely reviewed.
	4. The public sector of the VS develops and implements accreditation/authorisation/delegation programmes using formal agreements, and these activities are routinely reviewed to maintain standards and manage performance.
	5. The public sector of the VS carries out audits of its accreditation/authorisation/delegation programmes, in order to maintain the trust of their trading partners and other stakeholders.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

While MAL has no formal accreditation process it does have many Memorandums of Agreements as well as memorandums of Understanding with the private sector, but these do not include regulatory functions. The Honiara Veterinary Clinic is used by animal owners to access veterinary drugs (including livestock), sometimes via referral by government livestock officers, but there is no formal agreement. Moreover, the MAL does not have any mandate for accreditation.

Strengths:

- LVSD accredits private sector to produce genetics on behalf of MAL.
- Volunteer veterinarians function as MAL officers when on attachment at MAL.
- The National Public Health Laboratory uses referral laboratories to undertake routine analyses to meet European Union market requirements for fish exports.

Weaknesses:

- Neither the BSI nor LVSD has the legal mandate to accredit or delegate to the private sector or the plural private sector.

Recommendations:

- Develop formal delegation agreement for foreign volunteer veterinarians, as required, and for the veterinarian at Honiara Veterinary Clinic relating to drug supply and provision of veterinary oversight to livestock officers in the absence of MAL veterinary officers.
- Develop accreditation capability within MAL.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

III-5 Regulation of the profession by the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) *The authority and capacity of the VSB to effectively and independently maintain educational and professional standards for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.* *Regulation includes licensing or registration of those veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals that meet educational standards, and the ongoing oversight of their professional competence and conduct.*	Levels of advancement
	1. There is no *VSB*.
	2. The *VSB* regulates *veterinarians* only within certain sectors of the veterinary profession and/or does not systematically apply educational standards or disciplinary measures.
	3. The *VSB* regulates *veterinarians* in all sectors of the veterinary profession setting educational standards and applying disciplinary measures.
	4. The *VSB* regulates *veterinarians* in all sectors and some *veterinary paraprofessionals* in a transparent manner. It has defined one or more specific categories of *veterinary paraprofessional* and their qualifications for initial and ongoing registration.
	5. The *VSB* regulates and applies disciplinary measures to *veterinarians* and *veterinary paraprofessionals* in all sectors throughout the country. *Veterinarians* and *veterinary paraprofessionals* are required to undertake continuing education to maintain their professional registration.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

There is no VSB in the Solomon Islands. There are at least three private veterinarians, a strong dependence on foreign volunteer veterinarians, and many VPP on staff.

At the present time the focus should be on ensuring government veterinary positions are occupied by overseas qualified (and registered) veterinarians, and that veterinary paraprofessional positions have standard educational qualifications with respect to animal health and animal production food safety e.g. such as a relevant university qualification (e.g. agriculture or food safety) supplemented by the SPC paravet course.

Strengths:

- Strong body of VPPs within MAL and in private organisations operating in Solomon Islands.

Weaknesses:

- No permanent veterinarian in the public service.
- 2-3 national veterinarians (overseas trained) in the country.

Recommendations:

- At the present time the focus should be on ensuring government veterinary positions are occupied by overseas qualified (and registered) veterinarians, and that veterinary paraprofessional positions have standard educational qualifications with respect to animal health and animal production food safety e.g. such as a relevant university qualification (e.g. agriculture or food safety) supplemented by the SPC paravet course. At present there are insufficient qualified veterinarians in the country to consider setting up an independent, national VSB, as per the WOAH standards.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

III-6 Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes *The capability of the VS to develop joint programmes (public-private partnerships) with producers and non-government stakeholders to deliver animal health, veterinary public health, food safety and/or animal welfare outcomes.*	Levels of advancement
	1. Producers and other non-government stakeholders do not participate in joint programmes.
	2. Producers and other non-government stakeholders are informed of programmes by the VS and informally assist the VS in programme delivery in the field (e.g. industry groups helping to communicate the programme with their membership).
	3. Producers and other non-government stakeholders formally participate with the VS in the delivery of joint programmes and advise of needed changes and improvements.
	4. Representatives of producers and other non-government stakeholders actively partner with the VS to plan, manage and implement joint programmes.
	5. Producers and other non-government stakeholders contribute resources and may lead the development and delivery of effective joint programmes with the VS. They also actively participate in their regular review, audit and revision.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The LVSD has established many joint programs with stakeholders especially in the months leading to the upcoming Pacific Games 2023 in the Solomon Islands. There are projects to increase livestock production. The team visited three such programs in Guadalcanal: a livestock farmer (cattle, goats, pigs and poultry), a poultry hatchery and a processing plant project. In these programs LVSD provides funding and equipment allowing the use of land and facilities.

Strengths:

- Government policy to increase livestock production and market access.
- Entrepreneurs ready to partner with MAL.

Weaknesses:

- Most partnerships are Honiara based, with the focus on livestock production and not livestock health.
- Funding inadequate to maintain strong oversight of partnerships.
- Limited veterinary technical assistance (presently only have Australian volunteer veterinarian (February – August 2023).

Recommendations:

- Maintain oversight and strengthen technical assistance to PPP farmers.
- Secure services of a veterinarian for PPPs.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6):

III-7 Veterinary clinical services *The availability and quality of veterinary clinical services to meet the needs of animal owners, including their access to animal disease or injury diagnosis and treatment.*	Levels of advancement
	1. There are no/few clinical services provided from either the public or private sector.
	2. Clinical services are available to animal owners in some areas but the quality and coverage (i.e. access to qualified *veterinarians* and/or *veterinary paraprofessionals*) is highly variable.
	3. Clinical services are available to most animal owners via the public and/or private sector. In rural areas this is delivered mostly by *veterinary paraprofessionals* with some formal training and some veterinary supervision – but providing only basic clinical diagnosis and treatment.
	4. Clinical services are available to all animal owners via an efficient network of veterinary clinics, including in rural areas, serviced by qualified *veterinarians* assisted by *veterinary paraprofessionals*. Diagnoses are generally made prior to treatment, including with supporting laboratory tests where appropriate and professional standards are maintained by a well-functioning VSB.
	5. Clinical services are available to all animal owners through qualified *veterinarians*, with appropriate facilities, diagnostic equipment and treatments, and the opportunity for specialist referral if required.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The LVSD provides a clinical service to farmers through its livestock officers stationed in the provinces. These livestock officers may be assisted by extension officers. Most of the livestock officers have undergone some veterinary paraveterinary training especially with the SPC. They may carry very basic drugs such as anthelminthics but will refer to the Honiara Veterinary Clinic for other drugs.

There is only one veterinary clinic in the Solomon Islands – the Honiara Veterinary Clinic. This clinic was established in 1993 by a national and today it is being managed by his daughter. There are 2 other veterinarians one being a retired LVSD veterinarian in Malaita Province.

Strengths:

- 2-3 national veterinarians.
- Trained livestock officers providing basic clinical services, often with referral to a private clinic for drugs as needed.

Weaknesses:

- No veterinary supervision of livestock officers' clinical services.
- Diagnosis is clinical as no laboratory support.
- Limited opportunity for clinical visits outside of Honiara and Guadalcanal.

Recommendations:

- Encourage national veterinarians to be more active in the field through accreditation and public private partnership agreements.
- Consider placing a veterinarian in Malaita Province or where greatest need exists outside of Guadalcanal Province and Honiara.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E1, E36.

III.4 Fundamental component IV: Access to markets

This component of the evaluation concerns the authority and capability of the VS to provide support by demonstrating the overall integrity of its animal health and veterinary public health system to access, expand and retain regional and international markets for animals and animal products.

Critical Competencies:

Section IV-1	**Veterinary legislation**
	A. Legal quality and coverage
	B. Implementation and compliance
Section IV-2	**International harmonisation**
Section IV-3	**International certification**
Section IV-4	**Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements**
Section IV-5	**Transparency**
Section IV-6	**Zoning**
Section IV-7	**Compartmentalisation**

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health/Export/import inspection.

Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation in WOAH activities.

Points 7 and 11 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Membership of the WOAH.

Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.

Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.

Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures.

Chapter 5.3. on WOAH procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

Chapters 5.10. to 5.13. on Model international veterinary certificates.

IV-1 Veterinary legislation *The effectiveness of veterinary legislation (including laws and regulations).* **A. Legal quality and coverage** *The authority and capability of the VS to develop and update veterinary legislation, to ensure its quality and coverage of the veterinary domain.* *This competency covers the quality of legislation considering the principles of legal drafting, its impact, and suitability for implementation.* *This competency includes formal collaboration with expert legal drafters and lawyers, other relevant ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas of the veterinary domain. It also includes consultation with stakeholders that may affect or be affected by the veterinary legislation.*	**Levels of advancement**
	1. *Veterinary legislation* is lacking, out-dated or of poor quality. The VS do not have the authority or capability to develop and update *veterinary legislation*.
	2. *Veterinary legislation* covers some fields of the veterinary domain. The VS, working occasionally with expert legal drafters and lawyers, have some authority and capability to develop and update *veterinary legislation*.
	3. *Veterinary legislation* covers most fields of the veterinary domain, including those fields under other Competent Authorities. The VS, working in formal partnership with expert legal drafters and lawyers, have the authority and capability to develop and update national *veterinary legislation*, including via consultation with stakeholders, to ensure its legal quality and applicability.
	4. *Veterinary legislation* covers the entire veterinary domain. The VS have the authority and the capability to develop and update *veterinary legislation* at national (and sub-national where relevant) level – using a formal methodology which considers international standards, consultation with stakeholders, legal quality and applicability, and regulatory impact.
	5. *Veterinary legislation* comprehensively covers the entire veterinary domain. The VS regularly evaluate and update *veterinary legislation* at national (and sub-national where relevant) level, with reference to ongoing effectiveness and changing international standards and science.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

There is a modern Biosecurity Act 2013. This Act provides for biosecurity measures in relation to imports and exports and provides for administration of biosecurity control and biosecurity emergencies. The accompanying Biosecurity Regulations 2015 guide implementation of the Biosecurity Act 2015. CITES was ratified in 2007 and the Wildlife Protection and Management (Amendment) 2017, a category one legal instrument, fully implemented the Convention's provisions.

Key pieces of legislation in the veterinary domain under MAL domain include:

The Agriculture and Livestock Act (1935) as amended in 1996, the Bee Industry Act (1995) as amended in 2006 and the Livestock Development Authority Act 1977, covering all aspects of livestock production and the commercial development of related products. The Biosecurity Act 2013 repealed the Agricultural Quarantine Act (1982) as amended in 1996. There are regulations in the Biosecurity Act 2013 which overlap with regulations in the Diseases of Animals Act (1917) as amended in 1996. Statutory instruments under other government ministries include the Pure Food Act 1996, to control safe use and trade of food products and the Pure Food (Food Control) Regulations 2010; the Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998, to ensure compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). There are no legal instruments for meat inspection, veterinary medicines, animal feed and animal welfare.

Strengths:

- Modern Biosecurity Act 2013 and implementing subsidiary legislation of 2015.
- Pure Foods (Food Control) Regulations 2010 recommends the application of HACCP principles and includes some food standards.

Weaknesses:

- No legislation on meat inspection, veterinary medicines, animal feed and animal welfare.
- Veterinary domain functions within MAL divided between BSI and LVSD with much overlap.
- BSI strong on plant health and plant quarantine measures but weak in animal health.

Recommendations:

- Consultation to review veterinary domain functions in BSI and LVSD to address overlap and redundancy including reviewing enabling legislation.
- Consultation to develop an animal health bill proposal including veterinary public health, disease control and animal welfare in line with international standards.
- Consider as secondary priorities developing legislation on traceability, animal feed safety and veterinary drugs.
- WOAH membership and request for veterinary legislation support mission.
- Create meat inspection unit with enabling regulations for meat inspection.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E26, E 28 – 33, E 35.

IV-1 Veterinary legislation **B. Implementation and compliance** *The authority and capability of the VS to ensure implementation of and compliance with veterinary legislation across the veterinary domain through communication, compliance and inspection activities.* *This competency includes formal collaboration with other relevant ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share responsibility for implementation or have mutual interest in relevant areas.*	Levels of advancement
	1. *Veterinary legislation* is not implemented or poorly implemented, and it is not supported by communication, compliance and inspection activities.
	2. *Veterinary legislation* is implemented through some activities of communication and awareness raising on stakeholder legal obligations, but few compliance and inspection activities are conducted.
	3. *Veterinary legislation* is implemented through a programme of communication and awareness raising, and through formal, documented compliance and inspection activities. The VS undertake some legal action (e.g. administrative fines or prosecution) in instances of non-compliance in most relevant fields of activity.
	4. *Veterinary legislation* is implemented across the entire veterinary domain and is consistently applied. The VS work to minimise instances of non-compliance through multiple means, including through targeted communications, incentives and appropriate legal processes. They have documented reports of responding to non-compliance.
	5. *Veterinary legislation* compliance programmes are regularly subjected to audit and review by the VS or external agencies.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The Biosecurity Act 2015 has implementing regulations such as the Biosecurity Regulations 2015 and Prohibition Orders. Prohibition orders were enacted to prevent importation of high-risk animals and animal products for HPAI and ASF.

BSI conducts active market surveillance to detect illegal importation of regulated products. Joint operations are made with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). In February 2021 fines of SI$5000 were levied against 6 companies for illegal importation of plant seeds. BSI Seaport Operations officers intercepted and confiscated in April 2023 concealed meat products from China at Customs Kings warehouse at Henderson.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology developed a category one legal instrument, the Wildlife Protection and Management (Amendment) 2017, to fully implement the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

The Pure Foods (Food Control) Regulations 2010 addresses compliance with the Codex Alimentarius as well as HACCP and inspection of establishments. The regulations also implement provisions of the parent Act relating to the Pure Food Advisory Board.

Other key areas of veterinary legislation either do not exist or are not being implemented including in the areas of animal disease control, animal production food safety, animal welfare, traceability, veterinary drugs and animal feed.

Strengths:

- Joint actions BSI and RSIPF.

- Illegal importations are being detected and offenders fined.
- Manning of BSI ports of entry with adequate staff prioritised.
- Subsidiary legislation implementing parent Acts in biosecurity, environmental health and wildlife protection and management.

Weaknesses:

- Poor coordination between the different government agencies.
- Most areas of the veterinary domain either do not have legislation or it is not being implemented.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen inter-agency collaboration with Health and Environment.
- Maintain strong links with Customs and Police.
- Maintain adequate staffing at ports of entry.
- Maintain active market surveillance to detect illegal importations.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E27, E31, E33-34, E 59-60, E 64-65.

IV-2 International harmonisation *The authority and capability of the VS to be active in the harmonisation of national veterinary legislation and sanitary measures to ensure they take into account international standards, and/or related regional directives or guidelines.*	Levels of advancement
	1. National *veterinary legislation* and *sanitary measures* under the mandate of the VS do not take into account international standards.
	2. The VS are aware of gaps, inconsistencies or non-conformities in national *veterinary legislation* and *sanitary measures* as compared to international standards, but do not have the capability or authority to rectify the problems.
	3. The VS monitor the establishment of new and revised international standards, and periodically review national *veterinary legislation* and *sanitary measures* in response.
	4. The VS harmonise *veterinary legislation* and *sanitary measures*, and can demonstrate a level of alignment with changing international standards. The VS also review and comment on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations, and work through regional organisations, where available, to ensure better harmonisation with international standards.
	5. The VS actively and regularly participate at the international level in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of international standards, and use the standards to regularly harmonise national *veterinary legislation* and *sanitary measures*.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Solomon Islands is a member of SPC and a party to the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus). These agreements assist in the harmonisation of SPS legislation in the South Pacific region strengthening regional economic integration and trade.

A regional biosecurity bill was developed in June 2007 by SPC in partnership with national biosecurity services and international experts. SPC continues to support countries in updating their biosecurity legislation as part of the Pacific Regional Economic Integration Program (PACREIP).

Strengths:

- SPC supports regional harmonisation of SPS legislation.
- Solomon Islands is a member of SPC.
- The SPC Biosecurity Bill 2007 was used in the adoption of Biosecurity Act 2013.
- Awareness of the staff at all levels of MAL for the need and possible benefits of application for membership in WOAH.

Weaknesses:

- Limited legal capacity within MAL.
- Lack of modern legislation in animal health, animal welfare and meat hygiene and inspection.

Recommendations:

- Active participation in SPC, Australia and New Zealand SPS harmonisation initiatives.
- Adoption into national law model veterinary legislation developed through SPC.
- Need to have harmonised legislation in food safety (meat inspection), veterinary medicines and animal feed, animal welfare.
- Explore possibilities and obtain consent of higher decision making entities in Solomon Islands to apply for membership in WOAH.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E22, E49-50, E58.

IV-3 International certification	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to reliably certify animals and animal products, and related services and processes under their mandate, for export, in accordance with national veterinary legislation, international standards and importing country requirements. *This refers to the country's veterinary export certification processes. Issues such as: the legislative basis, format and content of veterinary certificates; who signs certificates and the confidence they have in what they are certifying; and the outcome in terms of meeting international standards and/or importing country requirements to facilitate exportation should all be considered.*	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to certify *animals* and animal products for export. 2. The VS have the authority to certify certain *animals* and animal products for export but are not always in compliance with national *veterinary legislation*, and international standards. 3. The VS develop and carry out certification for certain *animals*, animal products, services and processes for export under their mandate in compliance with international standards. 4. The VS develop and carry out all relevant certification programmes for all *animals*, animal products, services and processes for export under their mandate in compliance with international standards. 5. The VS carry out audits of their certification programmes, in order to maintain national and international confidence in their system.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The Solomon Islands is a country reliant on food imports, particularly for products of animal origin. The Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health is the Competent Authority for the international health certification. This Department issues certificates for tuna exports to the EU, but not for any terrestrial animal or animal product exports as this falls under the mandate of MAL.

BSI has the mandate to negotiate international certificates with other countries, using international standards. BSI has negotiated and signed many bilateral agreements with neighboring countries (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea) and only those countries are eligible to export different animal products to Solomon Islands.

BSI issues a sanitary certificate and biosecurity export clearance, as required by the importing countries for export commodities. The exporter needs to apply for the certificate from BSI with the understanding that the sanitary certificate will only be issued if the article to be exported meets the standards of animal health required by the importing country as certified. Required health certification is issued by the Environmental Health Department of the MHMS.

The certification of export of pets is under the responsibility of MAL in collaboration with Honiara Veterinary Clinic. CITES exports are done in collaboration with the Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and other CITES Management Authorities in Forestry and Fisheries. The most frequently exported wildlife are birds, reptiles and amphibia.

Strengths:

- Officers can be trained to certify international sanitary requirements, for example, officers for fumigation at Solomon Islands Port Authority have sat and passed the Australian fumigation accreditation examination.
- Donor funding available to assist with export certification.

- Established procedure for certification of export of canned tuna fish.
- Familiarity with international veterinary certificates of neighbouring countries.

Weaknesses:

- No veterinarian or veterinary paraprofessional(?) on staff for sanitary certification.
- The only animal product being certified and exported is canned fish (tuna).
- Lack of a list of approved export certifying officers who issue international export certificates.
- Lack of central registers and codes for exporting establishments.
- Absence of animal identification and traceability of animals and products of animal origin.
- Absence of accredited laboratories for resolving possible international disputes.

Recommendations:

- Employ veterinarians or veterinary paraprofessionals to deal with sanitary certification.
- Build veterinary diagnostic laboratory with access to other laboratories in the region.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Environmental Health, Conservation, Fisheries and Forestry agency on export certification.
- Create certification criteria and a list of approved export certifying officers.
- Design detailed instructions (SOPs) for certifying inspectors to ensure full and consistent implementation of all legal provisions.
- Develop an internal programme for audit of certification programmes.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E15, E43, E 45, E49-50.

IV-4 Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to apply flexibility in negotiating, implementing and maintaining equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners. *As a reference, Article 4 of the WTO SPS Agreement states: Member Countries shall accept the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of other Member Countries as equivalent, even if these measures differ from their own or from those used by other Member Countries trading in the same product, if the exporting Member Country objectively demonstrates to the importing Member Country that its measures achieve the importing Member Country's appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection. For this purpose, reasonable access shall be given, upon request, to the importing Member Country for inspection, testing and other relevant procedures.*	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to negotiate or approve equivalence or other types of sanitary agreements with other countries.
	2. The VS have the authority to negotiate and approve equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners, but no such agreements have been implemented.
	3. The VS have implemented equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on selected *animals*, animal products and processes.
	4. The VS actively pursue the development, implementation and maintenance of equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on matters relevant to *animals*, animal products and processes under their mandate. They publish their existing sanitary agreements in the public domain.
	5. The VS actively work with stakeholders and take into account developments in international standards, in pursuing equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

The Market Access Unit under the Scientific Operations Division of BSI at Headquarters is responsible for negotiating the conditions importing countries require for Solomon Islands plant and animal exports.

Solomon Islands and Vanuatu signed a live cattle export agreement in 2011. Two shipments of live cattle took place in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

The Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA Plus) provides practical and targeted assistance to help Pacific island countries such as Solomon Islands manage regulatory aspects associated with exporting primary and value-added products. PHAMA Plus has a country office in Solomon Islands and has been working in Solomon Islands since 2011 to improve market access.

Strengths:

- Market access unit within BSI.
- Cattle trade agreement with Vanuatu.
- Fish (tuna) export agreements with EU.
- Technical assistance from PHAMA Plus.
- Experience within BSI in equivalence agreements in plant health.

Weaknesses:

- Not many agreements for animals and animal products.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen collaboration with BSI's Market Access Unit and PHAMA Plus.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.
- WOAH membership with follow-up request for a PVS Aquatic Mission.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E43, E45, E49-50.

IV-5 Transparency	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to notify the WOAH, WTO, trading partners and other relevant organisations of its disease status, regulations and sanitary measures and systems, in accordance with established procedures, as applicable to international trade.	1. The VS do not notify.
	2. The VS occasionally notify.
	3. The VS notify in compliance with the procedures established by these organisations.
	4. The VS regularly and actively inform stakeholders of changes in disease status, regulations and *sanitary measures* and systems, as applicable to international trade.
	5. The VS, in cooperation with their stakeholders, carry out reviews or audits of their notification procedures.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

As Solomon Islands is not a WOAH member country it has no obligation for disease notification to WAHIS so WOAH has limited data on the Solomon Islands. WOAH's Information Department reports that from 2005 to present, the country submitted only one six-monthly report in 2019, in which almost all the diseases were reported with the occurrence code "No information". In addition, the country has never submitted an immediate notification.

Solomon Islands has poor reporting history with WHO and WTO and was delinquent in submitting annual reports to CITES. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services notifications to WHO on AMR are deficient and WHO does not have Solomon Islands' national AMR country plan.

Solomon Islands is not a WOAH member hence under no obligation to notify disease occurrence to WOAH.

Strengths:

- Membership in WTO, FAO and WHO.

Weaknesses:

- Not a WOAH member.
- Poor notification record with WTO, WHO.

Recommendations:

- Consider membership in WOAH.
- Assign an individual staff member responsibility for disease reporting and notification.
- Access to dedicated computers and internet to compile and submit notifications.

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E66-67; Email from WOAH Information Department.

IV-6 Zoning	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free zones, as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the WOAH (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable). *Where a country has no need for or interest in developing disease free zones and has not initiated such a process, this Critical Competency should be assessed as "Non-Applicable" (N/A).*	1. The VS do not have the authority or capability to initiate the establishment of disease free *zones*.
	2. The VS have identified a geographical animal sub-population or sub-populations as candidates to target a specific health status suitable for zoning.
	3. The VS are implementing *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures* with the intention of establishing a disease free *zone* for selected *animals* and animal products.
	4. The VS have established at least one disease free *zone* of selected *animals* and animal products with collaboration from producers and other stakeholders in alignment with WOAH standards.
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free *zone* and have gained recognition by WOAH and/or trading partners that they meet the criteria established by the WOAH (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Not applicable. While MAL does not presently have the capability to establish disease free zones given the insular nature of the country movements can be restricted into and out of particular islands. Statutory instrument 92 of 1964 for example, restricted the movement of cattle out of the Russel Islands and Shortland Islands and into Malaita and certain designated zones of Guadalcanal.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Recommendations:

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6): E 31.

IV-7 Compartmentalisation	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free compartments in accordance with the criteria established by the WOAH. *Where a country or its relevant animal industries have no need for or interest in developing disease free compartments and neither party has initiated or considered such a process or partnership, this Critical Competency should be assessed as "Non-Applicable" (N/A).*	1. The VS do not have the authority or capability to initiate the establishment of disease free *compartments*.
	2. The VS can identify animal sub-populations as candidate establishments with a specific health status suitable for compartmentalisation, in partnership with interested stakeholders.
	3. The VS, working in close partnership with interested stakeholders, ensure that planned *biosecurity* measures to be implemented will enable the establishment and maintenance of disease free *compartments* for selected *animal*s and animal products.
	4. The VS collaborate with producers and other stakeholders to define responsibilities and undertake actions that enable the establishment and maintenance of disease free *compartments* for selected *animals* and animal products, including a national government certification and accreditation system.
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for disease free *compartments* and have gained recognition by other countries that they meet the criteria established by the WOAH (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 1

Findings:

Not applicable

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Recommendations:

Evidence (as listed in Appendix 6):

PART IV: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Terrestrial Code references for Critical Competencies

Critical Competencies	Terrestrial Code references
I-1.A **I-1.B** **I-2.A** **I-2.B**	➢ Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/Independence/Impartiality/Integrity/Objectivity. ➢ Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation/Human and financial resources. ➢ Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources. ➢ Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body. ➢ Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services/National information on human resources/Laboratory services.
I-3	➢ Points 1, 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/General organisation/Human and financial resources. ➢ Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources. ➢ Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: In-service training and development programme for staff. ➢ Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
I-4	➢ Point 2 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Independence.
I-5	➢ Point 1 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
I-6.A **I-6.B**	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards. ➢ Article 3.2.2. on Scope. ➢ Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Veterinary Services administration.
I-7	➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system: “Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation… than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services”. ➢ Points 2 and 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Administrative / Technical. ➢ Point 3 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.
I-8 **I-9**	➢ Points 6 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Human and financial resources.

	➢ Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial. ➢ Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on Financial management information.
II-1.A **II-1.B** **II-1.C**	➢ Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems. ➢ Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical. ➢ Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Laboratory services.
II-2	➢ Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis ➢ Chapter 6.11. on Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals
II-3	➢ Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. ➢ Points 7 and 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.
II-4.A **II-4.B**	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the Veterinary Services / Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to Veterinary Services / Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including:… or eradication programmes for specific diseases. ➢ Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance. ➢ Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.
II-5	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Sub-point a) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls: Animal health.
II-6	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Sub-point a) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls: Animal health. ➢ Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animal.
II-7.A	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

II-7.B	➢ Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain. ➢ Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health. ➢ Points 2, 7 and 8 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls. ➢ Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection. ➢ Chapter 6.3. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection. References to Codex Alimentarius Commission standards: ➢ Code of Hygienic practice for meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005). ➢ Code of Hygienic practice for milk and milk products (CAC/RCP/ 57-2004). ➢ General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969; amended 1999. Revisions 1997 and 2003).
II-8	➢ Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines. ➢ Sub-point a) ii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and animal welfare and veterinary public health: Assessment of ability of Veterinary Services to enforce legislation.
II-9	➢ Chapter 6.7. on Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance ➢ Chapter 6.8. on Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes ➢ Chapter 6.9. on Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals ➢ Chapter 6.10. on Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine ➢ Chapter 6.11. on Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals References to Codex Alimentarius Commission standards: ➢ Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/GL 77-2011) ➢ Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005).
II-10	➢ Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines. ➢ Sub-points b) iii) and iv) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary public health: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines.

	➢ Chapter 2.2 – Criteria applied by the WOAH for assessing the safety of commodities. References to Codex Alimentarius Commission standards: ➢ Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals (CAC/GL 71-2009) ➢ Glossary of Terms and Definitions (Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods) (CAC/MISC 5-1993) ➢ Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Risk Management Recommendations (RMRs) for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CAC/MRL 2) ➢ Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005) ➢ General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995) ➢ Code of Practice Concerning Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Foods with Chemicals (CAC/RCP 49-2001) ➢ Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/GL 77-2011). ➢ Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005).
II-11	➢ Chapter 6.4. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed. ➢ Chapter 6.10.8 – Responsibilities of animal feed manufacturers
II-12.A **II-12.B**	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals. ➢ Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.
II-13	➢ Section 7 on Animal Welfare ➢ Chapters 7.2., 7.3., 7.4. 7.5., 7.6., 7.9., 7.10., 7.11 and 7.13. on farm animal welfare (including humane on farm, transport and slaughter conditions). ➢ Chapter 7.8. on Use of animals in research and education. ➢ Chapter 7.7. on Stray dog population control. ➢ Chapter 7.12. on Welfare of working equids.
III-1	➢ Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication. ➢ Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details. ➢ Chapter 3.3. on Communication.
III-2	➢ Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication. ➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of

	the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 4 and Sub-point g) of Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details and on Sources of independent scientific expertise. ➢ Chapter 3.3. on Communication.
III-3	➢ Article 3.2.11. on Participation on WOAH activities. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.
III-4	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Article 3.4.5. on Competent Authorities.
III-5	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations. ➢ Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body. ➢ Article 3.4.6. on Veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.
III-6	➢ Points 6 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Communication. ➢ Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. ➢ Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls. ➢ Point 4 of Article 3.4.3. on General principles: Consultation.
III-7	➢ Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance. ➢ Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases. ➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Points 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Veterinary medicines.
IV-1.A **IV-1.B**	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. ➢ Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection. ➢ Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities. ➢ Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary legislation, specifically articles 3.4.3 and 3.4.4
IV-2	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Article 3.2.11. on Participation in WOAH activities.

	➢ Points 7 and 11 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Membership of the WOAH.
IV-3	➢ Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards. ➢ Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. ➢ Sub-point b) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. ➢ Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures. ➢ Chapters 5.10. to 5.13. on Model international veterinary certificates.
IV-4	➢ Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation. ➢ Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history. ➢ Chapter 5.3. on WOAH procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.
IV-5	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/National animal disease reporting systems. ➢ Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.
IV-6	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.
IV-7	➢ Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. ➢ Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation. ➢ Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Appendix 2: Glossary of terms

Terms defined in the Terrestrial Code that are used in this publication are reprinted here for ease of reference.

Animal

means a mammal, reptile, bird or bee.

Animal identification

means the combination of the identification and *registration* of an *animal* individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its *epidemiological unit* or group, with a unique group identifier.

Animal identification system

means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of *establishments* or owners, the person(s) responsible for the *animal(s),* movements and other records with *animal identification.*

Animal Traceability

means the ability to follow an *animal* or group of *animals* during all stages of its life.

Animal welfare

means the physical and mental state of an *animal* in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

Antimicrobial agent

means a naturally occurring, semi-synthetic or synthetic substance that exhibits antimicrobial activity (kill or inhibit the growth of micro-organisms) at concentrations attainable in vivo. Anthelmintics and substances classed as disinfectants or antiseptics are excluded from this definition

Biosecurity

means a set of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of animal diseases, infections or infestations to, from and within an animal population.

Border Post

means any airport, or any port, railway station or road check-point open to *international trade* of *commodities*, where import veterinary inspections can be performed.

Case

means an individual animal infected by a pathogenic agent, with or without clinical signs

Compartment

means an animal *subpopulation* contained in one or more *establishments* under a common *biosecurity* management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific *disease* or specific *diseases* for which required *surveillance*, control and *biosecurity* measures have been applied for the purposes of *international trade.*

Competent Authority

means the *Veterinary Authority* or other Governmental Authority of a Member, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* and the WOAH *Aquatic Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.

Containment Zone

means a defined *zone* around and including suspected or infected *establishments*, taking into account the epidemiological factors and results of investigations, where control measures to prevent the spread of the *infection* are applied.

Disease

means the clinical and/or pathological manifestation of *infection.*

Emerging disease

means a new occurrence in an animal of a disease, infection or infestation, causing a significant impact on animal or public health resulting from:

a. change of a known pathogenic agent or its spread to a new geographic area or species; or

b. previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time.

Epidemiological Unit

means a group of *animals* with a defined epidemiological relationship that share approximately the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogenic agent. This may be because they share a common environment (e.g. *animals* in a pen), or because of common management practices. Usually, this is a *herd* or a *flock*. However, an *epidemiological unit* may also refer to groups such as *animals* belonging to residents of a village, or *animals* sharing a communal animal handling facility. The epidemiological relationship may differ from *disease* to *disease*, or even strain to strain of the pathogenic agent.

Establishment

means the premises in which *animals* are kept.

Feed

means any material (single or multiple), whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended to be fed directly to terrestrial *animals* (except bees).

Hazard

means a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, an animal or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect

International veterinary certificate

means a certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.2. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, describing the animal health and/or *public* health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported *commodities.*

Laboratory

means a properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel under the control of a specialist in veterinary diagnostic methods, who is responsible for the validity of the results. The *Veterinary Authority* approves and monitors such laboratories with regard to the diagnostic tests required for *international trade.*

Meat

means all edible parts of an *animal*.

Monitoring

means the intermittent performance and analysis of routine measurements and observations, aimed at detecting changes in the environment or health status of a *population.*

Notifiable disease

means a *disease* listed by the *Veterinary Authority,* and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of this *Authority*, in accordance with national regulations.

Official Veterinarian

means a *veterinarian* authorised by the *Veterinary Authority* of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of *commodities* and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the *Terrestrial Code.*

Outbreak

means the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.

Risk analysis

means the process composed of *hazard identification*, *risk assessment*, *risk management* and *risk communication.*

Risk assessment

means the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, *establishment* and spread of a *hazard* within the territory of an *importing country*.

Risk communication

Means the interactive transmission and exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions and risk assessors, risk managers, risk communicators, the general public and interested parties.

Risk management

means the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of *risk*.

Sanitary measure

means a measure, such as those described in various Chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, destined to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the WOAH Member from *risks* arising from the entry, *establishment* and/or spread of a *hazard*.

Surveillance

means the systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information so that action can be taken.

Terrestrial Code

means the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code.*

Veterinarian

means a person with appropriate education, registered or licensed by the relevant *veterinary statutory body* of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Authority

means the Governmental Authority of a Member Country, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and paraprofessionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of the animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code in the whole territory.

(Veterinary) legislation

means laws, regulations and all associated legal instruments that pertain to the veterinary domain.

Veterinary paraprofessional

means a person who, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code,* is authorised by the *veterinary statutory body* to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of *veterinary paraprofessional)* in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a *veterinarian.* The tasks for each category of *veterinary paraprofessional* should be defined by the *veterinary statutory body* depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.

Veterinary Services

means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and the WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Code in the territory. The Veterinary Services are under the overall control and direction of the Veterinary Authority. Private sector organisations, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the Veterinary Authority to deliver the delegated functions.

Veterinary statutory body

means an autonomous regulatory body for *veterinarians* and *veterinary paraprofessionals.*

Wildlife

means *feral animals*, *captive wild animals* and *wild animals*.

Zone

means a clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and *biosecurity* measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

Appendix 3: Solomon Islands Country information (geography, administration, agriculture and livestock)

Background information on the Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands is in the south-west Pacific Ocean, northeast of Australia and southwest of Hawaii. The country comprises of an archipelago of 994 islands with a total land area of 28,896 km² surrounded by an exclusive economic zone of 1.34 m km², and over 4,000 km of coastline. There are six major islands: Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira (San Cristobal), New Georgia, and Santa Isabel. The islands vary considerably, from tiny atolls to highly mountainous and heavily dense rain forested islands, with the highest point of 2,310 m at Mount Popomanaseu on the island of Guadalcanal. Flat land is restricted to the coasts and is of limited extent, except in the north-central part of Guadalcanal, which is referred to as the Guadalcanal Plains. Approximately 80-85% of the total land area is covered by natural forest.

The Solomon Islands has a tropical monsoon climate with a relatively high and uniform temperature, high humidity, and abundant rainfall. Temperatures fluctuate between 25ºC and 32ºC during the day and some degrees less during the night. The mean annual rainfall is estimated at 3000 mm to 3500 mm, ranging from 1500 mm to 5000 mm. The dry season is from April to November and the north-west monsoon season from November to April, with a tendency of reduced rainfall during February, when the equatorial trough is furthest south.

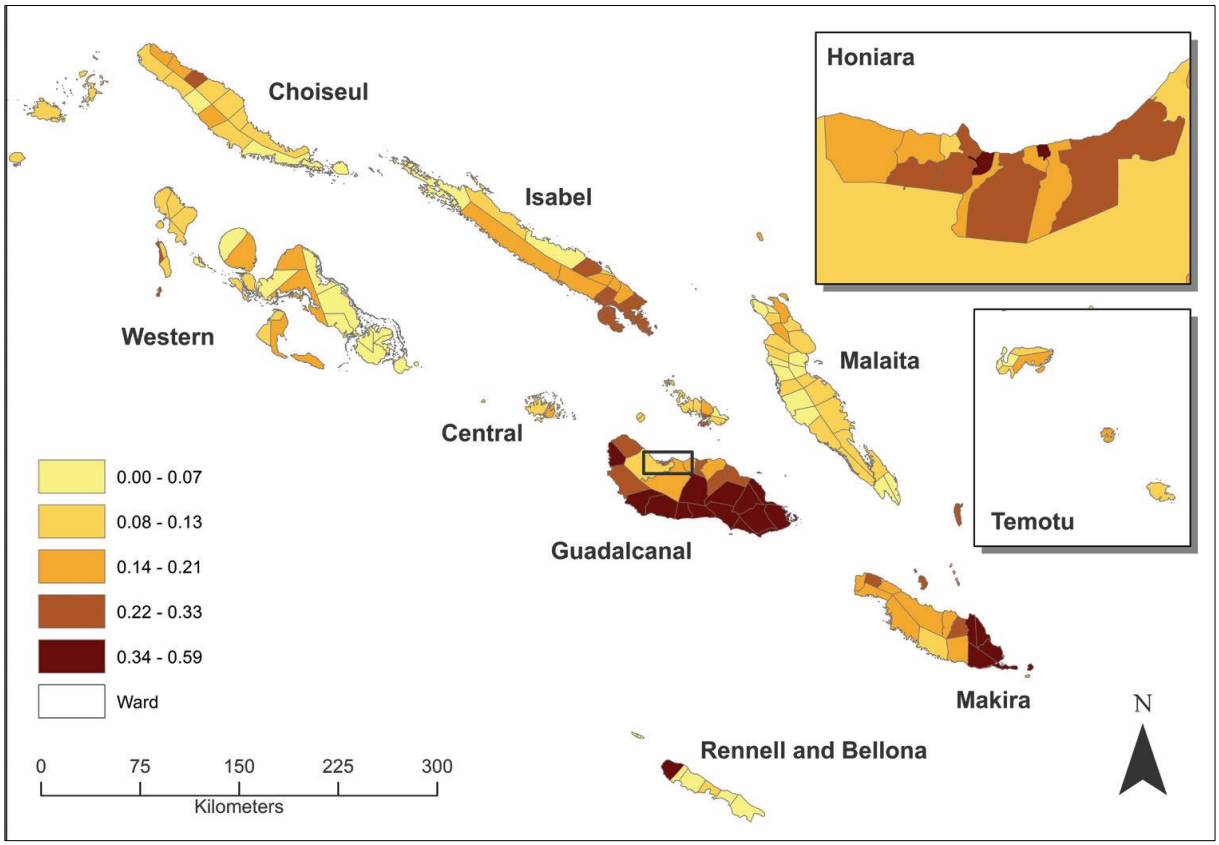
The provisional population count of the 2019 National Population and Housing Census is 721,455 with a population density of 24 people/km². Honiara is the most highly concentrated area with a population density of 5,950 people/km² which is three times the size recorded in the 1999 census. The proportion of the urban population continues to increase since 1976, from 20% in 2009 to 26% in 2019. In 2019, Honiara comprised of two-thirds of all urban residents, excluding residents in the adjoining urban areas of Guadalcanal. Urban areas include Honiara, the capital, and all provincial administrative centres, except for Rennell-Bellona. Populations are highly dispersed across a vast double archipelago of islands. Most of Solomon Islands' population are ethnically Melanesian (94.5%) and predominantly Christian. Other large ethnic groups include Polynesian (3%) and Micronesian (1.2%), with a few thousand ethnic Chinese in the country. There are 70 living languages; Solomon Islands' Pijin is one of the three Melanesian pidgins and is generally considered the national language.

The mountainous terrain of the larger islands creates highly isolated communities, some of which are relatively large. Inter-island transport and communication services are inadequate, and the road networks on most islands are very limited.

Solomon Islands is currently a unitary state with two levels of government, national and provincial. In 1981, with the passing of the Provincial Government Act, seven Provinces were created: Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira- Ulawa, Temotu, Isabel, Central and Western provinces. In 1991, Choiseul separated from Western Province and Rennell Bellona from Central Province which brought the number of Provinces to the present nine. Although not a formal structure of governance, kinship or "wantok" networks and obligations have a profound impact on local political activity and governance. Melanesian cultural obligations to kin are fundamental to the identity of most Solomon Islanders, are foundational to social cohesion and economic life and so are experienced as an asset and a valuable form of social capital.

MAP of Solomon Islands

Poverty map based on the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey.



Source: Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, Poverty Maps Brochure 2018.

84% of Solomon Islanders live in rural areas with limited access to infrastructure and services. Agriculture is the foundation of livelihoods in the country. Agriculture consists of three sub-sectors: subsistence smallholder farming, commercial smallholder farming and a commercial sub-sector, including plantations. Subsistence agriculture is the predominant occupation of the rural population. Livestock is an important component of subsistence production, and animals are kept by 75% of rural households. Pigs and chickens are the dominant species. Chickens are kept in villages in low input–low output systems whereby they scavenge for feed but are occasionally fed to prevent them from becoming feral. Cattle and goats are kept by a small number of households.

From late 1998 to mid-2003, Solomon Islands was badly affected by civil unrest known as the 'ethnic tension'. Although the conflict was centred around Guadalcanal, other provinces were affected by losses of employment, businesses, and properties in Honiara, and by the general disruption to the economy and breakdown of law and order. The agriculture sector was badly affected by the ethnic tension. However, many of the problems in the agriculture sector preceded the ethnic tension.

Table 5: Data summary for geography, agriculture, and livestock

Geographic features

Climatic and/or agro-ecological zones	Rainfall (mm/year)
Coastal strand vegetation	
Riverine forest	
Lowland forest	
Montane forest	
Seasonal dry forest	
Grassland	

Topography	Km^2	%
Total area	28,900	100
Pasture lands		
Arable land	1,116	4
Forest	26,050	85-90
Wetlands/deserts		
Highlands		

Demographic data

Human population		Livestock households/farms	
Total number	721,455	Total number	
Average density / km^2	24	% intensive	
% of urban	26	% agro-pastoral (mixed)	
% of rural	74	% extensive	

Current livestock census data

Animals species	Total Number	Intensive production system (% or no.)	Mixed production system (% or no.)	Extensive production system (% or no.)
Cattle	8,000			
Pigs	120,000			
Poultry	349,991			
Goats	20,222			
Horses	2,441			

Source: LVSD 2023

Animal and animal product trade data 2018

Animals and animal products	Average annual import		Average annual export	
	Quantity	Value USD	Quantity	Value
Beef	555	$2.9 m	None	
Chicken meat	4,137	$12.7 m	None	
Pork	204	$546,000	None	

Mutton	-	$267,000	None	
TOTAL	4,896	$16.4 m		

Source: MAL Corporate Plan Review 2023

Economic data

National GDP	USD $1.63 b (2021)
National budget	USD $436 m (2023) MAL: 1.5% of national budget
Livestock GDP	Not available
Economic value of livestock population	Not available
Annual public sector contribution to agriculture	USD $7.1 m (2020)
Annual budget of the Veterinary Services	USD $0.76 m

Appendix 4: Timetable of the mission; sites/ facilities visited, and list of persons met or interviewed

Opening meeting

Date: 28 June 2023

Asses-sor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	Person(s) met and interviewed	Position	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Victor Gongora	Honiara - National level	MAL	Michael Ho'ota (Mr)	Deputy Secretary	I-IV
Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara - National level	FAO	Nichol Nonga (Mr)	Consultant	
	Honiara - National level	FAO	Barney Keqa (Mr)	Consultant	
	Honiara - National level	IFAD	Petrona Havirae (Ms)	Consultant	
	Honiara - nationwide	Honiara Vet Clinic	Joyce Anita (Ms)	Veterinarian/Owner	
	Honiara	SIPFA	Paul Dancy (Mr)	Farmer	
	Honiara	Solomon Hatchery	Jimson Dlieni (Mr)	Manager	
	Honiara	MAL - Biosecurity	Leon Boso (Mr)	Biosecurity Officer	
	Longa	Foodwork Supplier	Tony Tepe (Mr)	Manager/Director	
	Tenaru	SIPFA	David Suata (Mr)	Secretary	
	Honiara	MAL - Biosecurity	Samuel Hone (Mr)	Biosecurity Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Lucy Marion Keni	Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Joseph	Intern Student	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Arimah Tai	Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Jane L. Billy	Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Oben Manarea	Chief Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Serah Kuri (Ms)	Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Fred Naedda (Mr)	Intern Student	
	Honiara - National level	MAL - Biosecurity	Francis Tsatsia (Mr)	Director Biosecurity	
	Honiara	MAL - Biosecurity	Crispus Finai	Deputy Director - Biosecurity	

	Honiara - National level	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	Honiara - National level	MAL - Livestock	Ricky Wate (Mr)	Director Livestock	
	Honiara - National level	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
		WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
		WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Asia-Pacific	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer / WOAH Consultant	

Field visits, meetings and interviews

29-Jun-23

MAL Office Honiara

Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	LVSD Office - Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Mr. Ricky Wate	Director for Livestock	**I-IV**
	LVSD Office - Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	LVSD Office - Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Banabas Kega	Previous Director Livestock	
	LVSD Office - Honiara	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	LVSD Office - Honiara	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	LVSD Office - Honiara	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	

29-Jun-23

Bulk Shop Warehouse, Honiara

Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	Bulk Shop	Alison Ho'ota	Quality Assurance Officer	II-2, II-7.A, II-12.B

Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	Bulk Shop	Jalia Gamboa	Inventory Supervisor	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	Bulk Shop	Alice Mary	Administratio n	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	Bulk Shop	Humphrey Hou	Processing Supervisor	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	Bulk Shop	David Upwe	Human Resource Supervisor	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	Honiara Processing Plant/Warehouse	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	
29-Jun-23					
SINU - Agriculture Facility					
Assessor(s) Dr Victor Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewe d**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	SI National University	Peter Mahoa (Mr)	Lecturer - Forestry	I-3, II-1, III-2
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	SI National University	Carlos Hiro (Mr)	Lecturer - Forestry	
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	SI National University	Lawrence Atu (Mr)	Agriculture Head of Department	
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	SI National University	Patterson Giza (Mr)	Lecturer - Agriculture	

	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	SINU - Agriculture Faculty	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	
Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Ranandi Industrial, Honiara	Farmset Agricultural Supply	Colito Ceredon	Branch Manager	II-2, II-11, IV-4
	Ranandi Industrial, Honiara	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	Ranandi Industrial, Honiara	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Ranandi Industrial, Honiara	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Ranandi Industrial, Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	Ranandi Industrial, Honiara	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	
29-Jun-23					
Honiara Veterinary Clinic (Private)					
Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	Honiara Veterinary Clinic - Private	Joyce Anita (Dr)	Owner	III-1, III-7

Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	Honiara Veterinary Clinic	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	
30-Jun-23					
MAL Office, Environmental Health Dept., Private Farmer - Piggery					
Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora	Auki, Malaita	Environmental Health Div	Gloria Ripiapu (Mrs)	Management	I - IV
	Auki, Malaita	Local Town Council - Environmental Health Div	Hazel Fania (Ms)	Environmental Officer	
	Auki, Malaita	MAL - Malaita	Frank Omelanga	(CFO) Chief Field Officer	
	Auki, Malaita	MAL - Livestock	Carlos Fa'alimae	Livestock Officer	
	MAL - Adaliya Farm, Malaita	David Suata (Mr)		Stockman	
	Auki, Malaita	MAL - Livestock	Nelson Bofelo	Livestock Officer (Retiring)	
	Auki, Malaita	Private farmer (backyard)	Rosemary Mae	Private farmer (backyard)	
	Auki, Malaita	Private farmer (backyard)	Johnathan Malai	Private farmer (backyard)	
	Auki, Malaita	Farmers Corner Agriculture Supply	Lady seller	Agriculture supply owner	
	Auki, Malaita	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Auki, Malaita	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	

	Auki, Malaita	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	
Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara	BSI Head Office	Crispus Funai Deputy Director	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	CC: II-2, II-3, II-7, IV -3
	Honiara	BSI Head Office	Luke Kiriau Market Access officer	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	CC: II-2, II-3, II-7, IV -3
	Honiara	Envirionmental Health Division Ministry of Health	Patricia Soqoilo Chief Inspector	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	I-5, II-1, II-7, IV-3
2-Jul-23					
Airport - MAL Biosecurity Office					
Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara International Airport	MAL - Biosecurity	Moana Kelly	Biosecurity Supervisor	I-6.B, II-1, III-2, III-7
	Honiara International Airport	MAL - Biosecurity	Lady Officer 1	Biosecurity Officer (Confiscation)	
	Honiara International Airport	MAL - Biosecurity	Gentleman Officer 1	Biosecurity Officer (Inspection)	
	Honiara International Airport	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	Honiara International Airport	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara International Airport	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara International Airport	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	Honiara International Airport	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	

2-Jul-23					
Private Farms around Honiara					
Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Alligator Creek, Guadalcanal	Private farmer	Silas	Private Farmer (multi-species)	II-III
	Honiara	Private farmer	Lady Farmer 1	Private farmer (Bee - backyard)	
	Guadalcanal	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Guadalcanal	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Guadalcanal	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	Guadalcanal	MAL - Livestock	Mr. Ricky Wate	Director for Livestock	
	Guadalcanal	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	
3-Jul-23					
Airport - MAL Biosecurity Office					
Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Biosecurity	Lionel Laora	Officer in charge	I-6.B, II-1, III-2, III-7
	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Biosecurity	Sosimo Raiahoa	Biosecurity Inspector	
	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Biosecurity	Jordan Larvea	Biosecurity Inspector	
	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Biosecurity	Nathan Tara	Biosecurity Inspector	
	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Biosecurity	John Iko	Biosecurity Inspector	
	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Biosecurity	Catherine Vigimana	Biosecurity Inspector	
	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Biosecurity	Steward Teoga	Head of Operations	

	Honiara - Seaport	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
	Honiara - Seaport	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara - Seaport	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara - Seaport	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	
3-Jul-23					
Poultry Hatchery and Slaughterhouse					
Assessor(s)	**Location & Jurisdiction**	**Institution – Agency – Group - Association**	**Person(s) met and interviewed**	**Position**	**Activities and CC Relevance**
Dr Victor Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara	Poultry Cooperative - Incubator & Hatchery	Jimson Difeni	Private stakeholder - Poultry Hatchery	II-1V
	Honiara	Poultry Cooperative - Incubator & Hatchery	David Suata (Mr)	SIPFA - Secretary	
	Honiara	Foodworks Supplier (Poultry Slaughterhouse)	Tony Tepe	Private Stakeholder - Slaughterhouse	
	Honiara	WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara	WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Mr. Ricky Wate	Director for Livestock	
	Honiara	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer	

MAP OF SOLOMON ISLANDS INDICATING PROVINCES AND CITIES VISITED THE MISSION BY THE TEAM (I.E. INCLUDING SPLITTING OF THE TEAM FOR TRAVEL TO THE FIELD)

Closing meeting

Date: 4 July 2023

Asses-sor(s)	Location & Jurisdiction	Institution – Agency – Group - Association	Person(s) met and interviewed	Position	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Gongora, Dr Sloboden Chokrevski	Honiara - National level	MAL	Michael Ho'ota (Mr)	Deputy Secretary	I-IV
	Honiara - National level	FAO	Nichol Nonga (Mr)	Consultant	
	Sinu Kukum	SINU	Lauene Aku	Head of Dept	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Serah Kuri	Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Robert	Intern Student	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Oben Manarea	Chief Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Fred Naedda (Mr)	Intern Student	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Lucy Marion Keni	Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Ariman T.	Agriculture Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Jane L. Billy	Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Steve Hank	Principal Livestock Officer	
	Honiara	MAL - Livestock	Erol Stewart Harley	Senior Livestock Officer	

	Ranadi Industrial Zone	SIPFA	Francis Solo	Member	
	Tenaru	SIPFA	David Suata (Mr)	Secretary	
	Honiara - National level	MAL - Biosecurity	Francis Tsatsia (Mr)	Director Biosecurity	
	Honiara	MAL - Biosecurity	Crispus Finai	Deputy Director - Biosecurity	
	Honiara - National level	MAL - Livestock	Joseph Ialebe (Mr)	Deputy Director	
	Honiara - National level	MAL - Livestock	Ricky Wate (Mr)	Director Livestock	
	Honiara - National level	MAL - Livestock / DAFF	Nigel Gillan (Dr)	Volunteer Vet	
		WOAH	Victor Gongora (Dr)	PVS Expert	
		WOAH	Sloboden Chokrevski (Dr)	PVS Expert	
	Asia-Pacific	WOAH	Elva Borja (Dr)	PVS Observer / WOAH Consultant	

Appendix 5: Air travel itinerary

Assessor	Date	From	To	Flight no.	Departure	Arrival
Dr Victor Gongora						
	23/06/2023	Belize	Houston, USA	UA 1405	12:45 pm	4:23 PM
	23/06/2023	Houston, USA	Los Angeles, USA	UA 1627 (Flight delayed)	9:45 pm	11:45 PM
	24/06/2023	Los Angeles, USA	Nadi, Fiji	FJ 811 (new flight as missed flight day before)	12:05 am	6:00 AM (26/06/2023)
	28/06/2023	Nadi, Fiji	Honiara	PX 85	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
	04/07/2023	Honiara, SI	Nadi, Fiji	PX	3:00 PM	7:00 PM
	04/07/2023	Nadi, Fiji	San Francisco, USA	FJ 870	10:15 PM	6:38 AM
	05/07/2023	San Francisco, USA	Houston, USA	UA 2315	12:40 am	6:38 AM
	05/7/2023	Houston , USA	Belize	UA 1408	10:03 AM	11:03 AM
Dr Sloboden Cohrevski	23/06/2023	Skopje	Istanbul	TK 1006	8:15 PM	10:45 PM
	24/06/2023	Istanbul	Singapore	TK 054	2:10 am	5:50 pm
	26/06/2023	Singapore	Port Moresby	PX 393	8:35 PM	5:15 AM 25/06/2023
	27/06/2023	Port Moresby	Honiara	PX 080	7:30 am	10:50 AM
	05/07/2023	Honiara	Port Moresby	PX 085	11:30 AM	12:50 PM
	06/07/2023	Port Moresby	Singapore	PX 392	2:50 PM	7:20 PM
	17/07/2023	Singapore	Istanbul	TK 055	11:30 PM	5:25 AM 18/07/2023
	18/07/2023	Istanbul	Skopje	TK 1003	7:25 am	7:50 am
Dr Elva Borja	25/06/2023	Nadi, Fiji	Honiara	PX 85	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
	04/07/2023	Honiara, SI	Nadi, Fiji	PX	3:00 PM	7:00 PM

Appendix 6: List of documents used in the PVS evaluation

E = Electronic version H = Hard copy version P= Digital picture

Ref	Title	Author / Date / ISBN / Web	Related Critical Competencies
	PRE-MISSION DOCUMENTS		
E1	*BASELINE DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF A PVS MISSION*	Questionnaire completed by Dr Nigel Gillan, LVSD	**FC I-IV**
	MISSION DOCUMENTS		
E2	*The Animal health Status of the Solomon Islands*	Martin T and Epstein V/1999/982-203-665	**II-I.A, II-I.B, II-4.B, II-6**
E3	*Provincial Governance Information Paper, Solomon Islands*	Cox and Morrison, AusAID, 2004	**I-5, I-11**
E4	*2021 TrACSS Country Report on the Implementation of National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – Solomon Islands*	WHO, 2021	**II-9**
E5	*Boost for Solomon Island's African Swine Fever preparedness*	Phama Plus Program, 28/05/2023	**II-4.A, II-5**
E6	*5th National Report on the Implementation of the Convention of the Biological Diversity*	*Ministry Of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology, March 2014*	**I-9, II-5**
E7	*2023 Financial Policy Objectives and Strategies*	Solomon Islands Government, Budget Paper: Vol 1, 2023	**I-5, I-8**

E8	*Crisis Assessment:* *Solomon Islands*	*United Nations: Committee for Development Policy, 29 March 2023*	**I-5, I-9**
E9	*Approved* *Recurrent Estimates*	Solomon Islands Government, Budget Paper: Vol 2, 2023	**1-8**
E10	*A review of the nature of the beef cattle industry in the Solomon Islands with emphasis on soil fertility factors influencing pasture production in selected farms*	Simon Iro Sefa, MSc Thesis, Massey University, 2012	**II-6, II-8**
E11	*Disaster Risk Reduction in the Solomon Islands, Status Report*	*United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, 2023*	**I-9, II-5**
E12	*Report on Giant African Snail in Solomon Islands*	*Report to the Solomon Islands Market Access Working Group, PHAMA, 19 May 2011*	**II-5, II-6**
E13	*Control of Asian honey bees in Solomon Islands*	IBN: 978 1 921962 76 9 ACIAR, June 2012	**II-4.A, II-6**
E14	*Stocktake Analysis* *Of The Agricultural Sector In The Solomon Islands*	FAO, 2020. Apia. https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9940en	**I-5,**
E15	*Application For Sanitary Or Phytosanitary Certificate* *And Biosecurity Export Clearance*	Biosecurity Solomon Islands, 2023	**II-3**
E16	*Project Completion Report* *Of The Beef Cattle Development Project, Solomon Islands*	Asian Development Bank, September 1984	**II-6**

E17	*National Food Security, Food Safety And Nutrition Policy 2019 – 2023*	*Government of Solomon Islands, Ministries of Health and Medical Services, Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and Education and Human Resources (MEHRD) 2019*	**II-7.A, II-7C**
E18	*The Solomon Islands Beef Industry*	*Country report for ACIAR Project LS/2018/102, January 2019*	**II-6**
E19	*National assessment of the Solomon Islands food system*	*FAO & University of Wollongong. 2023. Honiara, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4175en* *The*	**11-7.A, II-7C**
E20	*GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT* *2003 – 2017*	*Government of Solomon Islands* *Statistical Bulletin: 5/2020*	**I-8**
E21	*Gov't bans imports of poultry products from Australia*	BSI Editor / Tuesday, 25 August 2020 https://www.solomontimes.com/news/temporary-ban-on-imports-of-poultry-products-from-australia/10148	**II-5, II-6**
E22	*Harmonisation of biosecurity laws in the Pacific*	SPC Policy Brief 13/2010	**IV-3**
E23	*The paravet training program*	SPC, *Animal Health and Production* *Land Resources Division*	**I-2.B, I-3**
E24	*Solomon Islands Country strategy note*	IFAD, Document Date: 12-Dec 2021 Report No: 5973-SB	**I-5**
E25	*Strengthening The Capacity Of The National Public Health Laboratory To Provide Services In Support Of Market Access For Solomon Islands Fish Exporters*	FAO, October 202, *STDF/PG/:521 Project Evaluation Report*	**II-1.A, 11-1.C**
E26	*Biosecurity Act 2013* *(No. 3 Of 2013)*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 2013	**II-3, IV-1.A**
E27	*Biosecurity Regulations 2015*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 2015	**I-4, IV-1.B**
E28	*Diseases Of Animals Act*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 1917	**IV-1.A**

E29	*Animals (Control of Experiments) Act*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 1957	**II-13, IV-I.A**
E30	*Livestock Development Authority Act*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, Chapter 41, 1996 Edition	**11-6, IV-1.A,**
E31	*The Diseases Of Animals (Control Of The Movement Of Cattle) Rules*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, LN 92/1964	**II-12A, IV-1A, IV-IB**
E32	*The Pure Food Act*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, *1996* *(NO. 4 OF 1996)*	**II-7A-C, IV-1A**
E33	*The Honiara City Act, 1999*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 1999	**IV-1.A, IV-I.B**
E34	*Honiara City Council (Regulation of Business Licences) Bill, 2011*	Supplement to the Government Gazette, 18 January 2012	**IV-I.B**
E35	*Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 10/1998	**IV-1.A**
E36	*Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Annual Report 2010*	Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, 2010	**I - IV**
E37	*Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Corporate Plan 2011 - 2014*	Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, 2011	**I-8**
E38	*Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Review of Corporate Plan 2021 - 2024*	Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, 2021	**I-8**
E39	*Solomon Islands National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2015 - 2019*	Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, 2015	**I-8**
E40	*Solomon Islands Agriculture Sector Growth*	Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, 2021	**I-8**

	Strategy and Investment Plan 2021 – 2030		
E41	*Provincial Agriculture Extension and Training Malaita Province* *Annual Report – 2022*	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, *Provincial Agriculture Extension and Training Malaita Province, 2022*	**I-3, 1-6A, II-4.A, II-6**
E42	*Provisional Count 2019 National Population and Housing Census*	Census Office, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands 2020	**1-5**
E43	*Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS)* *Charter (Final Draft)*	SPC, 2004	**IV-3, IV-4**
E44	*Assessment of the Mekem Strong Solomon Islands Fisheries (MSSIF) programme 2010-2013*	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SAPERE Research Group, March 2014	**II-6**
E45	*Factsheet: Solomon Islands Seafood Export Industry*	PHAMA	**IV-3, IV-4**
E46	*SOLS12 (Stage 2): Development of Testing Capacity to Support Fish* *Exports in Solomon Islands*	42444251, Version 1.0, 1 May 2015 J:\ADE\42444251\5 Works\STA Reports Phase 2\Tech Report 67 SOLS12\TR 67 SOLS12 (Stage 2) Development of Testing Capacity to Support Fish Exports in Solomon Islands v1.0 (FINAL).doc	**II-1.A-C**
E47	*Solomon Islands Poverty Maps*	Solomon Islands National Statistics Office and World Bank (2017), Solomon Islands Poverty Maps Based on the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey:Technical Report.	**I-7**
E48	*Statement by Solomon Islands Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Honourable*	*United Nations Food Systems Summit, 23rd September 2021*	**1-4**

	Senley Levi Filualea		
E49	*Solomon Islands Trade Policy Framework 2015*	Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, 2015	**IV-2-5**
E50	*Trade Policy Review*	Secretariat WTO, 2016	**IV-2-5**
E51	*National Disaster Management Plan 2018*	National Disaster Council, February 2018	**I-9, II-5**
E52	*MAL: Poor husbandry practices behind death of 21 pigs at Aola*	*BSI Editor / Friday, 7 May 2021*	**II-6A**
E53	*Feeding village poultry in Solomon Islands*	IBN: 978 1 921615 07 8 ACIAR, July 2009	**II-6, II-11**
E54	*Solomon Islands Country Report*	*Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission, March 2018*	**II-7A, II-9**
E55	2021 Global Health Security Index scores for Solomon Islands	Global Health Security Index 2021	**II-7A, II-9**
E56	*Solomon Islands Smallholder Agriculture Study*	*ISBN 1 920861 68 8* *ISBN (series) 1 920861 46 7* *AusAID 2006*	**I-5, II-6**
E57	*Livestock disease surveillance and biosecurity priorities in the Pacific countries and territories*	Briodes Aurelei, 2016, PhD Thesis, James Cook University	**II-3, II-4A,**
E58	*Update from Pacific Sub-region*	12thGF-TADs RSC_Tokyo_20230207 *Ms Fesilia'iTulia Molimau–Iosefa* *Dr Sripad Mohana Sosale*	**II-5, IV-2**
E59	*Monthly Report 2022: November*	Agriculture Quarantine Service, BSI, November 2022	**II-3, IV-1.B**
E60	*Prohibition of imports (Animal and Animal Products) Order 2020*	Supplement to Solomon Islands Gazette , 22 April 2020	**II-3, IV-1.B**

E61	*Pure Food (Food Control) regulations*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 2010 *(NO. 154 OF 2010)*	
E62	*Environmental Health (Public Health Act) Regulations 2010*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, *1996* *(NO. 4 OF 1996)*	**I-4, II-7A**
E63	*Wildlife Protection and Management* *(Amendment) Act 2017*	Laws of Solomon Islands, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, 2017 *(NO. 5 OF 2017)*	
E64	*Illegally imported meat products intercepted and confiscated*	https://sbm.sb/biosecurity-officers-intercepted-and-confiscated-illegally-imported-meat-products	**IV-1.B**
E65	*Businesses comply settling biosecurity non-compliance fines*	https://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/News-Resources/businesses-comply-as-they-settle-biosecurity-non-compliance-fines;	**IV-1.B**
E66	*WTO Library of national action plans*	https://www.who.int/teams/surveillance-prevention-control-AMR/national-action-plan-monitoring-evaluation/library-of-national-action-plans	**IV-5**
E67	*Solomon Islands notification on agriculture agreement to WTO*	https://notifications.wto.org/en/status-by-member/solomon-islands	**IV-5**
E68	*WOAH's statement at the PWA during the PHOAFS Meeting*	WOAH's statement at the PWA during the PHOAFS Meeting 9th March 2023, Nadi Fiji	**III-3**
E69	*Referral Laboratories*	WHO website	**II-1**
E70	*EIF SI - ECAT Project provides assistance to calibration work at National Laboratory*	http://www.mfaet.gov.sb/media-center/press-releases/external-trade-news/405-eif-si-ecat-project-provides-assistance-to-calibration-work-at-national-laboratory.html	**II-1.C**
E71	*Mal Step Up Efforts Against African Swine Fever*	https://phamaplus.com.au/media/mal-steps-up-efforts-against-african-swine-fever/	**II-5**
E72	*Mass cattle vaccination in Malaita*	https://theislandsun.com.sb/mass-cattle-vaccination-in-malaita/	**II-6**

E73	*Codex Alimentarius, Solomon Islands*	https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/about-codex/members/detail/en/c/15619/	**II-10**
E74	*Report on national agricultural survey, 2017*	Solomon Islands National Statistical Office, November 2019	**II-4.A-B,II-5, II-12.A**
E75	*MAL LVSD Revised structure Draft*	MAL, LVSD 2023 (Draft)	

Appendix 7: Organisation of the WOAH PVS Evaluation of (country)

Assessors Team	
Team leader:	**Dr Victor Gongora**
Technical expert:	**Dr Sloboden Cokrevski**
Technical expert:	
Expert trainee:	
Expert trainee:	
Observer/Facilitator:	**Dr Elva Borja (WOAH)**
Observer/Facilitator:	
Information of the mission	
Contact point in the country:	**Ricky Wate**
Contact point in the country:	**Francis Tsatsia**
Contact point in the country:	**Dr Nigel Gillan**
Dates:	26 June 2023 – 4 July 2023
Language of report:	**English**
Language of the mission:	**English**
Subject of the evaluation	VS as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code ~~Inclusive~~ / Not Inclusive of aquatic animals Inclusive / ~~Not inclusive~~ of other institutions / ministries responsible for activities of VS
Analisis	
References and Guidelines:	○ Terrestrial Animal Health Code (especially Chapters 3.1. & 3.2.) ○ WOAH PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of VS → Human, physical and financial resources → Technical authority and capability → Interaction with stakeholders → Access to markets
Activities analysed:	**All activities related to animal and veterinary public health** ○ Field activities:

	▪ animal health (early detection, disease control, etc) ▪ quarantine (country borders) ▪ veterinary public health (food safety, veterinary drugs etc) ▪ others ○ Data and communication ○ Diagnostic laboratories ○ Research ○ Initial and continuous training ○ Organisation and finance
Procedure:	○ Consultation of data and documents ○ Comprehensive field trips ○ Interviews and meetings with VS staff and stakeholders ○ Analyse of practical processes