



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

February 2025

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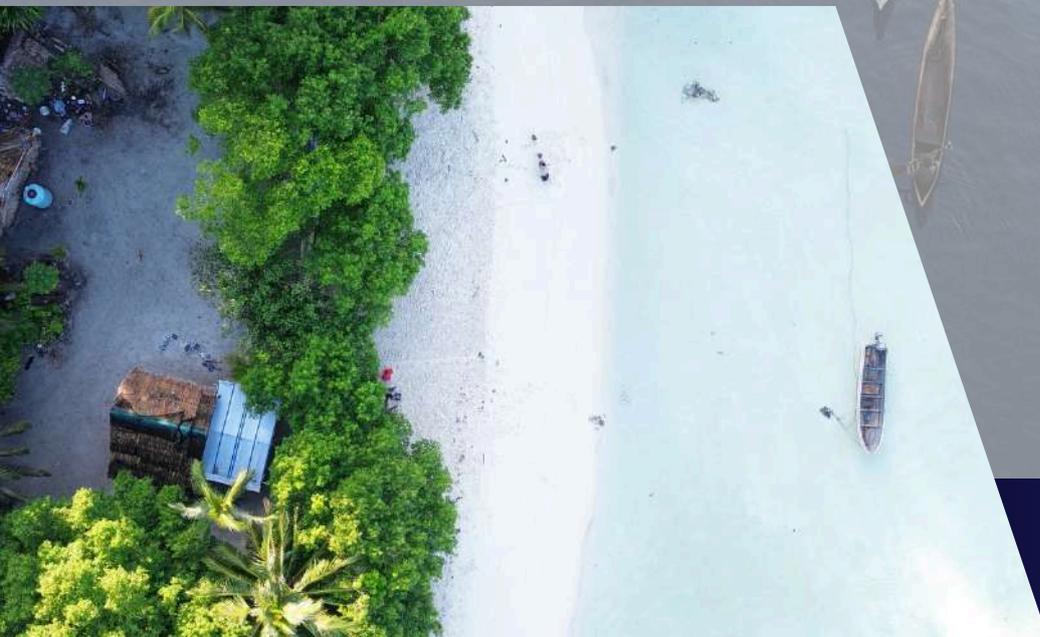
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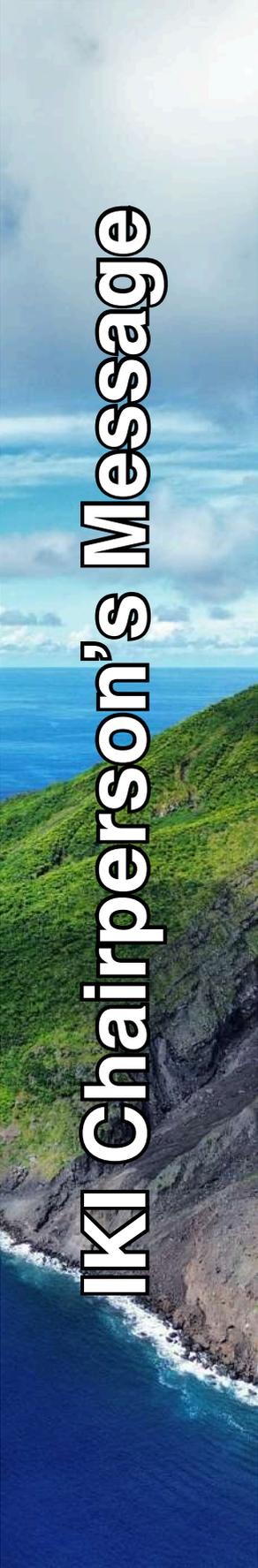
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# IKI Chairperson's Message

## IKI Chairperson's Message

Message from the Chair of the Islands Knowledge Institute (IKI)

As we reflect on the 2025 period, I am immensely proud of the profound impact IKI has achieved across the Solomon Islands. This period has been defined by strategic growth, deepened community partnerships, and significant milestones in Indigenous-led guardianship, education, and governance. We have witnessed the successful registration of community entities like the Northern Tolo Alliance Network (NTAN), the launch of the Centre for Island Futures (CIF) in partnership with SINU and the historic regional announcement of the Melanesia Ocean Reserve. Our work in territories such as Ferafolia, Komarindi, Savulei, Taumako, and Malaita has strengthened community resilience, protected vital ecosystems, and preserved cultural heritage. Despite challenges such as leadership transitions and logistical delays, the dedication of our team, partners, and communities has ensured continued progress. We are building a future where Indigenous knowledge systems guide sustainable development and self-determination. I extend my deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, and the communities who trust us to walk alongside them. Together, we are scaling the Sky Islands Vision rooted in place, powered by partnership, and guided by Indigenous wisdom.

Sincerely,



Dr Edgar Pollard  
CEO  
Islands Knowledge Institute (IKI)





## About Islands Knowledge Institute

# Islands Knowledge Institute

Islands Knowledge Institute (IKI) was incorporated in 2008 under the Charitable Trusts Act. Islands Knowledge Institute was founded to build knowledge created by island peoples and within island spaces. Knowledge is social so we create Islands Knowledge by growing a community of islands knowledge thinkers, creators and workers. A central emphasis is building the capacity for knowledge creation set within islands ontologies. We are headquartered in Solomon Islands, but have an active presence in Hawaii, Vanuatu and Aotearoa/New Zealand. IKI aims to contribute to the advancement and well-being of the Solomon Islands by promoting education, leadership, and development across diverse sectors. A key focus is fostering a new generation of leaders who are capable of guiding their communities with integrity and vision. Additionally, the Institute is committed to encouraging the development of practical skills and industries that can drive economic growth and resilience. In pursuit of these objectives, the Institute actively collaborates with like-minded organizations and agencies to amplify its impact and align with shared goals.

## Vision

Our vision is to be a globally recognized center for Islands Knowledge, empowering island peoples to lead in the creation of knowledge that uplifts their communities, preserves their unique ways of life, and contributes to solving global challenges through island perspectives. We envision a future where the island Societies are resilient, innovative, and deeply rooted in their cultural values, shaping sustainable solutions for themselves and the world.

## Mission

To strengthen Indigenous governance, advance place-based stewardship, and foster education systems that honor and integrate Indigenous knowledge.

## Objectives

The objectives and goals of the institute shall include but are not limited to, the following;

- a. Instructing the public through the organizing of lectures, seminars, and research in whatever field is necessary and useful to the country,
- b. Fostering the development of a new generation of Solomon Islanders as good leaders of their societies,
- c. Encouraging skills and industry development.
- d. Supporting, liaising, and cooperating with like-minded organizations and agencies for the promotion and implementation of common objectives and goals.

# Trustees



**Dr. Joseph Foukona**  
*Trustee*



**Dr Tammy Tabe**  
*Trustee*

# Board Members



**Dr. Morgan Wairiu**  
Chair of the Board



**Peter Lokay**  
Treasurer of the  
Board

## Meet Our Team



**John Maefasimaoma**  
*Program Manager*



**Dr. Edgar Pollard**  
*IKI CEO*



**Duddley Marau**  
*Finance Manager*



**Brian Mangi**  
*IT Lead*



**Jovi Totorea**  
*Media Lead*



**Hemah Aquillah**  
*Property &  
Logistic Lead*



**Alfstar Karibongi**  
*Accountant*



**Pana Paza**  
*Communication  
Officer*



**Anika Carter**  
*Membership  
Officer*



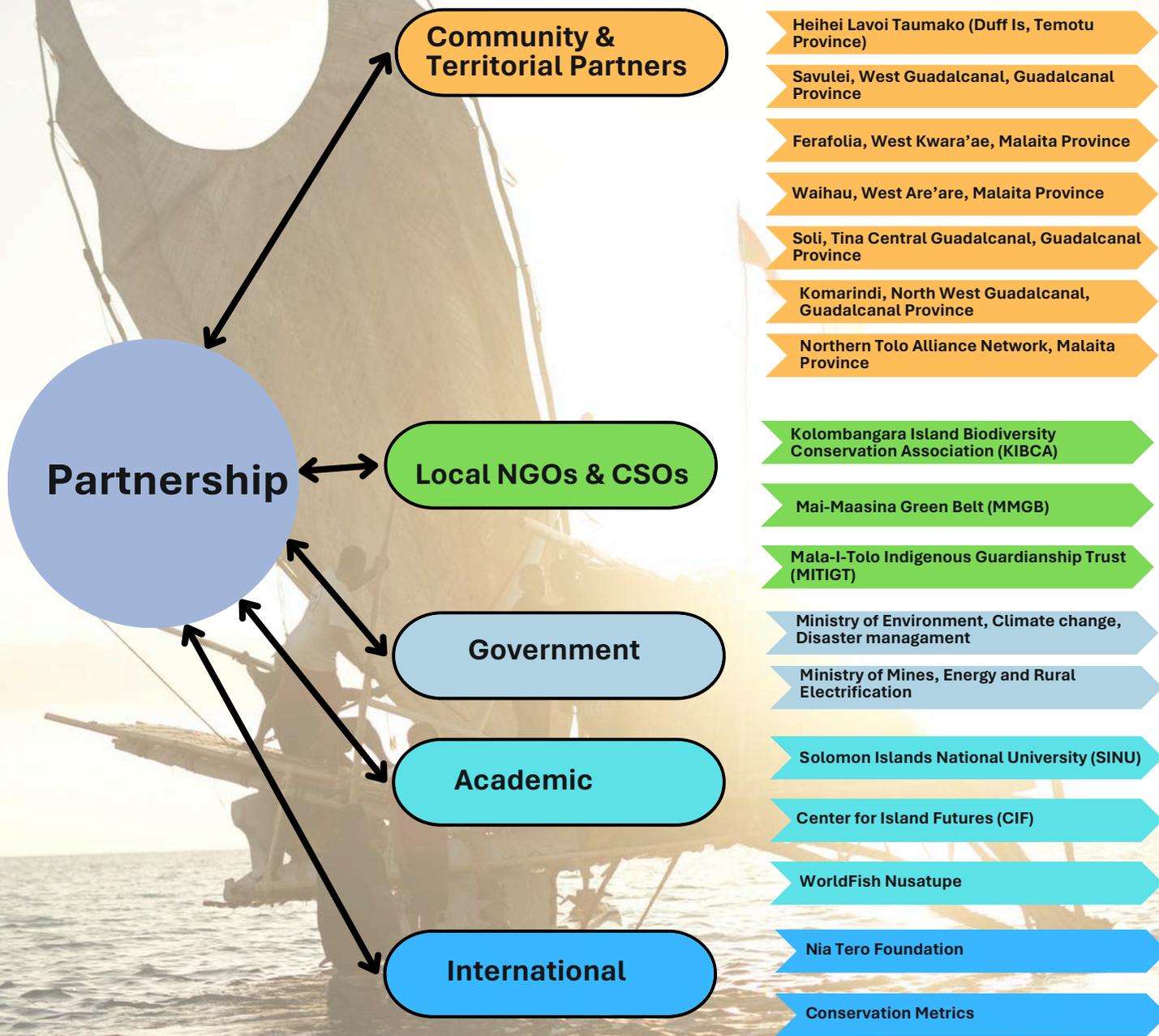
**Rose Gwali**  
*Maintenance  
Officer*



**Gumese Puisasa**  
*GIS Monitoring  
Officer*

# Partnership

IKI collaborates with a diverse network of partners across community, government, academic, and international sectors to deliver the Sky Islands Vision.



## Our Workstreams and its impacts

In 2025 IKI's work was implemented through five interconnected workstreams, each designed to advance Indigenous-led conservation, governance, education, and cultural vitality across the Solomon Islands. These workstreams—Strengthening Indigenous Institutions, Community-Led Territorial Management, Indigenous Education & Knowledge Systems, Policy & Constitutional Dialogue, and Cultural Revitalization & Storytelling—collectively represent a holistic approach to sustainable development grounded in local knowledge, community agency, and systemic change. Through strategic partnerships, flexible funding, and culturally responsive engagement, IKI and its network of Indigenous organizations have delivered tangible outcomes that strengthen sovereignty, protect ecosystems, and empower future generations. The following section details the activities, achievements, and impacts within each workstream, illustrating how place-based action and policy advocacy together advance the Sky Islands Vision.

### Strengthening Indigenous Institutions

IKI's model supported partner organizations, including MMGB, KIBCA, NTAN, and MiTIGT, by providing sub-grants, mentorship, and operational guidance to strengthen capacity and promote sustainable development. MMGB improved conservation practices and community engagement through renewable energy and digital mapping; KIBCA advanced field operations, ranger training, and protected area applications; NTAN formalized its governance and centralized climate resilience efforts; MiTIGT enhanced digital and cultural education across schools and communities. Collectively, these initiatives deepened trust, reinforced governance, and laid foundations for legal recognition, renewable energy, and better land management.



*IC Tok Stori with the Elders and leaders*

### Community Led Territorial Management



*Kira Protected Area Rangers*

IKI's place-based approach supported Indigenous governance in Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Temotu, enabling communities and youth to protect rainforests, preserve cultural sites, and unify tribal groups for conservation. Infrastructure projects such as water systems, a Kava Hub, homestays, and eco-tourism trails improved livelihoods, while solar boats enhanced transport and reduced emissions. Youth engagement in maintenance, patrols, documentation, and festival planning facilitated knowledge transfer and strengthened community ownership. Collectively, these efforts increased resource management, improved living conditions, and promoted environmentally sustainable development rooted in local culture.

## Indigenous Education & Knowledge Systems



*Launching of the Centre for Island Futures office at SINU*

IKI advanced decolonization in education by integrating Indigenous knowledge into curricula, enhancing digital access, and fostering community skills. Partnering with SINU and CIF, they developed a postgraduate diploma in Island Knowledge Futures. MiTIGT improved digital equity by providing Starlink internet and laptops to eight schools, supporting cultural preservation through traditional skills programs. Professional initiatives included ranger conservation training, land mapping integration, and media storytelling workshops. These combined efforts led to over 125 certified graduates, reliable internet across eight schools, and a new generation of Indigenous educators and leaders grounded in local identity.

## Policy & Constitutional Dialogue

IKI played a key role in connecting grassroots Indigenous voices with national and regional policymaking by facilitating multi-level dialogues and events. Highlights included the Indigenous Constitutionalism Convening in May 2025, which promoted governance rooted in Melanesian values, and support for the Melanesia Ocean Reserve initiative, establishing Solomon Islands as a leader in Indigenous-led marine conservation. Complementary efforts like the Elders Tok-Stori event preserved intergenerational political memory, enriching governance discussions. As a result, policy frameworks increasingly reflect Indigenous perspectives, empowering communities to engage confidently in constitutional and environmental governance across the Pacific.



*IKI & its partners for a group photo at Takataka Conservation (Nima Education site)*

## Cultural Revitalization and Storytelling



*Solomon Islands Music Artists with the locals for a video shoot of the IKI Anthem at Ferafolia Conservation*

IKI leveraged media, music, and digital technology to celebrate and revitalize Indigenous culture, documenting traditional practices like the Tepuke canoe voyage and Ontong Java craftsmanship, supporting language preservation through digital tools, and fostering creative collaboration among local and international artists. Through initiatives such as the Sky Aelan anthem, Ethno Solomon Islands workshop, and the inclusive Tea Room digital hubs, IKI empowered youth with digital skills and storytelling platforms, enhancing cultural pride, social cohesion, and civic engagement while elevating Indigenous voices in national and international forums.

## Success Stories and Key Achievements

### 1. Youth-Led Forest Protection in Komarindi: A Community Stand Against Logging

In the Komarindi Territory of West Guadalcanal, a critical rainforest catchment was under threat from an active logging license held by Komarindi Resource Limited. With IKI's support, the community mobilized to protect two key blocks Tavagalo and Tagaugau targeted for a future carbon trading program.

- Through sustained dialogue, landowners drafted a formal request to the Commissioner of Forests to remove the blocks from the logging license. While trustees deliberated, youth leader Mr. Junior Kere organized patrols to monitor boundaries and prevent encroachment.
- The Bahovu Group, a conservation-focused tribal network, established active monitoring, successfully ensuring zero logging activity between October 2024 and August 2025.
- This initiative showcases how community-led vigilance can enforce protection even before legal formalization, setting a precedent for Indigenous-led conservation in commercially licensed areas.



*Drone overview Komarindi conservation site*

### 2. Northern Tolo Alliance Network: From Vision to Legally Recognized Entity



*The North Tolo Alliance Network (NTAN) Consultation in Northern Malaita*

The North Tolo Alliance Network (NTAN) emerged from a series of community consultations beginning in October 2024, uniting 29 tribal groups across northern Malaita around a shared vision for conservation and cultural governance.

- **Structured Foundation:** An interim committee was formed in December 2024, followed by the drafting of a constitution and capacity-building workshops on protected area establishment and organizational governance.
- **Legal Milestone:** In July 2025, NTAN was officially registered under the Charitable Trusts Act, granting it legal personality and the ability to receive funding and form partnerships.
- **Community Ownership:** A two-day inception meeting in Sisifiu Village saw unanimous approval for a Network Coordination Centre, with land donated by local landowner Mr. Leonard. This centre will serve as the physical hub for climate resilience, youth development, and tribal conservation planning.

### 3. Ferafolia's Integrated Development: Water, Livelihoods & Leadership

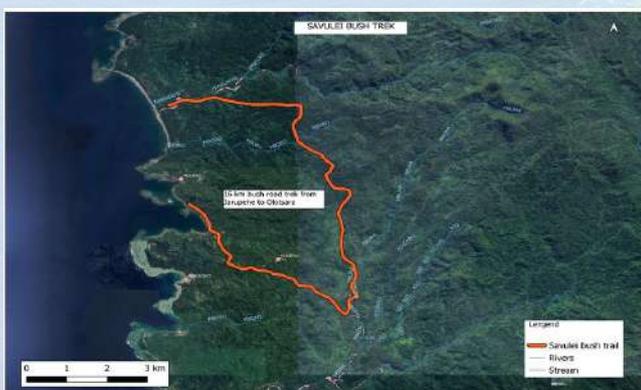
The Ferafolia Community Trust Board (FCTB) leveraged IKI sub-grant support to implement a holistic community development plan focused on water security, livelihood infrastructure, and women's leadership.

- The community constructed a dam and completed trenching for a pipeline network that will supply the main village, a new Kava Hub, office complex, and four homestay units.
- Despite heavy rains and logistical delays, the Kava Hub main structure is erected, office and storage buildings are underway, and homestay timber is prepared. The toilet block septic tank and slab are complete.
- The project was structured into nine work streams, with women like Francisca Maena leading the Landscaping & Beautification team, demonstrating strong local ownership and leadership development.



Ferafolia Kava Hub construction underway in Malaiata

### 4. Savulei's Eco-Tourism & Catchment Restoration Trail



Savulei Community Biking Trail in the West Guadalcanal

In West Guadalcanal, the Savulei Territory launched a dual-purpose initiative: a 16-km community biking trail to promote eco-tourism and a catchment restoration program to rehabilitate areas degraded by logging.

- Over 60 youth and volunteers participated in trail clearing and enrichment planting along the Jarupehe to Hoilava river route.
- Mountain bikes were procured for community use, and a charitable trust was established to manage the trail and future tourism activities.
- Forestry students integrated botanical surveys and nursery development into the trail project, linking recreation with reforestation and water quality improvement.

## 5. Taumako's Tepuke Canoe Voyage

IKI's media team documented the construction and maiden voyage of the Tepuke canoe a traditional Polynesian sailing vessel from Taumako Island to Honiara for the Pacific Islands Forum.

- Two media deployments captured canoe building, blessing ceremonies, and the historic sail, which included training for two local media officers.
- The canoe arrived safely in Honiara on September 6, 2025, alongside the Fijian canoe Uto Ni Yalo, symbolizing regional solidarity and Indigenous navigation revival.
- This work supports the broader Temotu Heritage Museum initiative, aiming to preserve and showcase the maritime heritage of Temotu Province.



*IKI media team documents the Tepuke building process & its sailing from Taumako to Honiara*

## 6. Centre for Island Futures: A New Academic Home for Indigenous Knowledge



*IC Masterclass students graduates at the SINU Center for Island Futures*

In partnership with the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), IKI established the Centre for Island Futures (CIF), a physical and intellectual hub for decolonizing education.

- The CIF office was officially opened at SINU's Kukum Campus in March 2025, fully furnished and equipped for research and teaching.
- Four Solomon Islander unit writers developed a complete Postgraduate Diploma in Island Knowledge Futures, featuring three modules per unit, lecture materials, assessments, and an ontological immersion learning component.
- A May 2025 masterclass on Indigenous Constitutionalism demonstrated how tok stori (oral dialogue) can be translated into academic pedagogy, bridging traditional and institutional knowledge transmission.

## 7. MITIGT's Digital Education & Cultural Preservation

The Mala-i-Tolo Indigenous Guardianship Trust (MITIGT) rolled out a dual-focused program enhancing digital access and cultural documentation across eight schools in Malaita.

- Installed Starlink internet and distributed 29 laptops, enabling e-learning and Moodle platform training for teachers and students.
- Four Tolo program sites documented Indigenous knowledge in string weaving, traditional house building, Ontong Java skills, and Kwara'ae language each producing digital archives and video documentaries.
- 125 Form 4 students completed courses in IT, leadership, creative writing, and cultural studies, with school fee incentives provided to support completion.



*Nima Education students graduated at the Takataka Conservation site*

## 8. Melanesia Ocean Reserve: A Regional Commitment Announced at UNOC3

IKI, in partnership with MECDM, advanced the Melanesian Ocean Reserve (MOR) initiative from national policy to regional declaration.

- A Cabinet paper was approved in May 2025, and a tripartite MoU was signed between MECDM, MFMR, and Nia Tero to establish a funding mechanism.
- At the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France, the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands stood alongside leaders from Vanuatu, PNG, and New Caledonia to announce the collective intention to establish the Melanesia Ocean Reserve.
- A media team collected over 15,000 photos and 1,000 videos across five provinces, documenting community-ocean relationships and traditional knowledge to inform future governance.



*MOR delegates at the UN Ocean Conference in France*



*Media theme photo of the MOR photo collection*

## 9. Tea Room Initiative: Bridging the Digital Divide for Youth

The Tea Room project established physical digital hubs in Honiara to provide internet access, digital literacy training, and civic education for urban youth.

- Sites in Henderson and Mbokona are near completion, with equipment procured and internet installation pending.
- Evening classes in leadership, community development, and civic education were held at Henderson, engaging 22 youth and showing positive behavioral impacts.
- A dedicated website ([tearoomsolo.org](http://tearoomsolo.org)) hosts interviews, documentaries, and youth-generated content, amplifying local voices and initiatives.



*Youth come together for a Tok Stori at one of the Tea Room sites*

# Summary Financial Statement

## For year ended 31st December 2025

Revenue	2024	2025	2026 Budget
Grants/Contracts	\$8,313,105.6	\$13,676,330.65	\$13,019,600
Other Income	\$423,602.1	\$704,963.5	\$577,300
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$8,736,708</b>	<b>\$14,381,294</b>	<b>\$13,596,900</b>

Expenses	2024	2025	2026 Budget
Staff Cost & Benefits	\$1,017,244.67	\$1,624,338.52	\$2,601,800
Thirty Party/Consultancy Fees	\$2,365,005.99	\$1,808,508.34	\$2,048,600
Travel & Workshop/Meeting Costs	\$3,792,012.1	\$4,084,219.85	\$3,350,000
Sub Grants	\$734,719.59	\$3,736,523.67	\$3,511,500
Office/Operational Costs	\$820,355.88	\$1,656,995.07	\$1,415,600
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,729,338</b>	<b>\$12,910,585</b>	<b>\$12,927,500</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$7,369</b>	<b>\$1,470,709</b>	<b>\$669,400</b>

# Key Notes for Annual Report

## 1. Significant Revenue Growth:

IKI's revenue grew by more than 60% in 2025, largely due to increased grant funding, with Nia Tero Foundation noted as the main donor.

## 2. Significant Revenue Growth:

IKI has established a national coordinating body for the Sky Islands Vision across Solomon Islands and the region, leading to:

- Increased staffing and dedicated consultant teams.
- Growth in the number and scale of sub-grant agreements.
- Enhanced support for fellow CSO and NGO groups.

## 3. Strategic Investment in Capacity:

The rise in expenses reflects intentional investments in:

- Human resources and consultancy expertise.
- Expanded sub-granting to partners.
- Strengthened operational and governance systems.

## 4. Improved Financial Health:

IKI moved to a larger surplus in 2025, demonstrating improved financial sustainability despite scaled-up operations but also due to some activities were being delayed.

## 5. Future Preparedness:

IKI has progressed in developing governance and financial systems and policies to manage increased responsibilities and is positioning for further portfolio diversification and impact growth in the coming years.

## 2026 Budget Outlook:

1. The 2026 budget anticipates:
  - Slightly lower revenue (\$13.59M) compared to 2025 actuals.
  - Controlled expenditure growth, with a planned surplus.
  - Continued strategic allocation toward staff, sub-grants, and operational support.

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