



GREEN-DS PILOT PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING

Report

Solomon Islands Maritime Authority
<https://sima.gov.sb>

Purpose & Objective

The Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) convened the GHG Reduction and Energy Efficiency for Domestic Shipping in Solomon Islands (Solomon GREEN-DS) Pilot Project ('the Project') Inception Meeting on 3 July 2026 at the Mandarin Restaurant, Honiara Hotel. The meeting brought together representatives from the Solomon Islands Maritime Transport Association (SIMTA), Solomon Islands Ports Authority (SIPA), Solomon Islands Women in Maritime Association (SIWIMA) and Solomon Islands Maritime College (SIMC) and ship owners and crew members of the Project pilot ships to formally launch the Solomon GREEN-DS Pilot Project and establish a shared understanding of its objectives, implementation, arrangements and expected outcomes.

The purpose of the inception meeting was to introduce the Project, provide stakeholders with an overview of the project work plan, and discuss opportunities for collaboration in advancing sustainable and low-emission domestic shipping. The meeting also provided a platform to discuss wider maritime challenges and identify opportunities for coordinated action towards a more efficient, resilient, and environmentally sustainable maritime sector.

Meeting Arrangements

Dates: 3 July 2026

Location: Mandarin Restaurant, Honiara Hotel, Honiara.

Opening

The meeting commenced with registration and networking, followed by official welcome remarks from Mr. Thierry Nervale, Director SIMA. In his opening address, he welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of the GREEN-DS Pilot Project as an opportunity for Solomon Islands to explore practical measures for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from domestic shipping while improving energy efficiency and strengthening the sustainability of maritime transport services. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of the project and achievement of its intended outcomes.

An opening prayer was delivered by SIMTA Executive Committee member, Ms. Caroline Laore.

Interactive Sessions

GREEN-DS Pilot Project Presentation

The first technical session introduced the project and was presented by Ms. Diana Vasula, Principal Officer, Strategic and Project Support. The presentation explained that the project is a priority pilot initiative under the Solomon Islands Plan for a Sustainable Maritime Future and represents a practical step towards implementing the national action plan for greener shipping and ports.

The presentation introduced the IMO-supported pilot project under Phase II of the Global Maritime Network (GMN) Programme and outlined its purpose, expected benefits, implementation arrangements, partner roles, stakeholder expectations, and anticipated outcomes. It also highlighted the roles of SIMA, SIPA, SIMTA, UNSW, and the participating pilot shipping companies in supporting implementation, including the development of technical specifications, procurement, technology

installation, training and capacity building, monitoring, reporting and verification, and knowledge sharing.

During the presentation, SIMA called on the three pilot shipping companies to support project implementation by ensuring the availability of the pilot vessels - MV Ocean Joy, MV Uta II, and MV Fair Lady - nominating focal points, facilitating the installation of fuel oil monitoring technology and AIS, providing voyage information, and implementing agreed operational measures during the later stages of the project timeline.

Participants were informed of the project's contribution to reducing GHG emissions from domestic shipping and supporting the Solomon Islands' broader sustainable maritime development ambitions.



Photo 1 – Stakeholders and project partners at the Solomon GREEN-DS Pilot Project Inception Meeting, convened by the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority on 3 July 2026

GREEN-DS Work Plan Presentation

The project workplan was delivered by SIMA Project team. The session provided an overview of the Project Work Plan, outlining key project activities, implementation timelines, stakeholder responsibilities, and expected deliverables. Participants discussed the importance of coordinated stakeholder engagement and the need to maintain momentum throughout project implementation to ensure successful achievement of planned outputs and outcomes.

After the two sessions, the following comments were made:

1. The Project should be at no cost to pilot ship operators except for in-kind contribution to make the ships available and engage the crews.
2. The ships were selected because of the regular service they deliver which facilitate the monitoring of reduced fuel oil consumption.
3. Despite the installation of fuel oil monitoring systems, detailed information will be required about cargo, passengers, speed and fuel oil consumption when not in operation to measure energy efficiency and advice on fuel oil consumption reduction.
4. The Project still presents some risks of not achieving reduction of fuel oil consumption or efficiency of technologies, but it is normal for innovative projects.
5. All ship operators recognised and commended the efforts of the three pilot shipping companies and their willingness to share lessons learned.

6. Confidentiality of data is paramount and will be guaranteed through data sharing agreements between SIMA and ship operators.
7. All ship operators can participate in sharing their fuel oil consumption data and cargo/passengers as technical advice will be provided by UNSW.



Photo 2 – Representatives of the three Pilot Ships: Frantji Shipping Ltd, Uta Shipping Ltd, and Fairwest Shipping Ltd with the SIMA Project team during the Solomon GREEN-DS Pilot Project Inception Meeting.

Greater Honiara and Inter-Island Maritime Decarbonization Proposal

This session focused on the *Greater Honiara and Inter-Island Maritime Decarbonization Proposal* presented by Ms. Vasula. The presentation outlined the concept proposal SIMA submitted to the IMO GreenVoyage2050 Accelerator, which aims to support the transition towards a low-carbon and energy-efficient maritime transport system in Solomon Islands. The proposal explores opportunities to reduce GHG emissions from domestic shipping and port operations by promoting cleaner technologies, improving operational efficiency, and strengthening integrated transport planning within Greater Honiara and for inter-island shipping services.

Participants were informed of how the GreenVoyage2050 Accelerator could assist Solomon Islands in moving from planning to implementation by conducting feasibility studies with the perspective of attracting technical assistance, investment, and partnerships to support innovative maritime decarbonisation initiatives. The presentation generated discussion on practical opportunities for greener maritime transport and highlighted the importance of collaboration among government agencies, industry stakeholders, development partners, and local communities in advancing a sustainable maritime future for Solomon Islands. It was emphasised that the submission to GreenVoyage2050 Accelerator is focusing on conducting feasibility studies and not engaging the sector now in unrealistic transformation that local ship operators cannot implement.

Discussion on Shipping Challenges

The meeting also included a dedicated discussion on broader shipping challenges, particularly the carriage of illicit substances and the provision of shipping services to outer islands. The facilitator noted the importance of these issues and invited Director SIMA to lead the discussion, encouraging active participation from the shipping companies and stakeholders present.

This final session considered operational challenges facing the maritime sector beyond the immediate scope of the GREEN-DS Pilot Project. Discussions focused on the carriage of illicit substances on vessels and the need to maintain regular, reliable, and sustainable shipping services to outer island communities. Stakeholders recognised that addressing illicit substances requires stronger awareness, closer coordination among Government agencies, SIMA, SIPA, ship operators, and industry stakeholders, as well as practical measures such as random inspections and improved reporting. Participants also reaffirmed the importance of domestic shipping in supporting connectivity, trade, and access to essential services for remote communities. The discussion emphasised the need for continued collaboration between Government, SIMA, and ship operators to improve service delivery, strengthen safety and security, and support a more resilient and sustainable maritime transport sector for Solomon Islands.

During the session, the following comments were made:

1. Service to outer islands:
 - a. Shipping service to outer islands is not attractive to ship operators because of the distance, the low number of passengers and/or cargo, compliance issue especially qualification and remuneration of master and engineer class 3, the segregation of passengers and dangerous goods in separate voyages, and the fact that often passengers refuse to pay for the service.
 - b. Despite above constraints, it was recognised the need for Government, SIMA and ship operators to cooperate and consider special circumstances:
 - i. alternatives to address compliance issues for master/engineer qualification and carriage of dangerous goods,
 - ii. regular and reliable service by ship operators from Honiara to provincial capital and from Honiara to outer islands or provincial capital to outer islands,
 - iii. government financial support to operational costs including timely payment of service, and
 - c. in the long term, the government should consider shipping hub system and infrastructure to facilitate the secured storage of goods in provincial capitals.
2. Carriage of illicit substances:
 - a. Experience shows that illicit substances are already being carried on board domestic ships.
 - b. Investigations should be systematic when such offences are committed.
 - c. The domestic terminal should play its role in filtering the passengers and cargo and facilitating random search of luggage and cargo.
 - d. Crews are also involved in carrying illicit substances and consuming illicit substances and alcohol on board.
 - e. Government, SIMA, SIPA and ship operators should collaborate to conduct an awareness campaign and facilitate random search of luggage and cargo.

Closing & Outcomes

The meeting concluded with a summary of discussions and closing remarks delivered by the Manager, Executive Office of SIMA, Ms. Nester Nalangu-Dara. Participants were acknowledged for their active engagement and contributions throughout the meeting. It was noted that the discussions and recommendations shared during the day would guide the next phase of the Project implementation and strengthen collaboration among project partners, implementers, shipping operators, and other relevant stakeholders.

The following key outcomes were agreed on during the meeting:

1. Reaffirmed commitments to supporting GREEN-DS Pilot Project implementation through active collaboration and participation in project activities.
2. Commended the three ship operators in championing the GREEN-DS pilot project and sharing lessons learned
3. Acknowledged the GREEN-DS pilot project work plan and timeline to ensure timely technology procurement & installation and data collection
4. Agreed to work collaboratively towards achieving the projects expected outcomes (fuel consumption monitoring and energy efficiency).
5. Acknowledged that data related to FO consumption and operation are confidential and will be subject to an agreement before SIMA and the pilot ship operators.
6. Noted the proposal submitted to IMO GreenVoyage2050 Accelerator to pursue low-emission maritime transport solutions for Greater Honiara and inter-island connectivity
7. Supported feasibility studies, technical assessments, and investment partnerships to advance the proposed maritime decarbonisation programme.
8. Recognised the issue of carriage of illicit substances and the need for government, SIMA, SIPA, ship operators and all relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and conduct random checks
9. Agreed for SIG, SIMA and ship operators to work together to provide reliable and sustainable shipping services to outer islands.

Annex – Workshop Agenda

Solomon GREEN-DS Pilot Project

Inception Meeting

Honiara Hotel, Mandarin Restaurant – 3 July 2026

9:00am – 1:00pm

Time	Agenda Item		Presenters
3 rd July 2026			
0830 - 0900	Arrival at Mandarin Restaurant and Registration		SIMA
Facilitator – Beima Taisia			
0900 - 0910	Welcome Remarks		Thierry Nervale Director SIMA
0910 - 0915	Opening Prayer		SIMTA rep
0915 - 1000	1	Solomon GREEN-DS Pilot Project Project presentation Questions/Answers	Diana Vasula Principal Officer, Strategic and Project Support
1000 - 1030	Group Photo & Morning Tea		
1030 - 1100	2	Solomon GREEN-DS Work Plan Work Plan presentation Questions/Answers	Diana Vasula Principal Officer, Strategic and Project Support
1100 - 1130	3	Greater Honiara and Inter-Island Maritime Decarbonisation Project Proposal Presentation Questions/Answers	Diana Vasula Principal Officer, Strategic and Project Support
1130 - 1215	Addressing other shipping challenges Carriage of illicit substance Service to outer islands		SIMA-SIMTA
1215 - 1230	Wrap up and Outcomes Closing Remarks		Nester Nalangu Manager, Executive Office
1230 - 1330	Lunch		
End of Meeting			



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