



Solomon Trader Oil Spill

Case Study 1: Solomon Trader Incident
19 October 2021

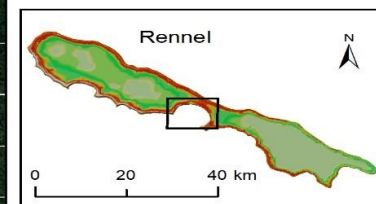
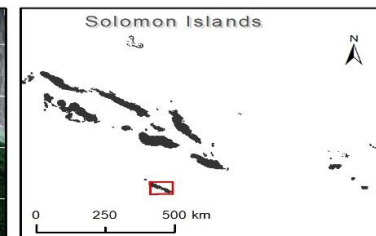
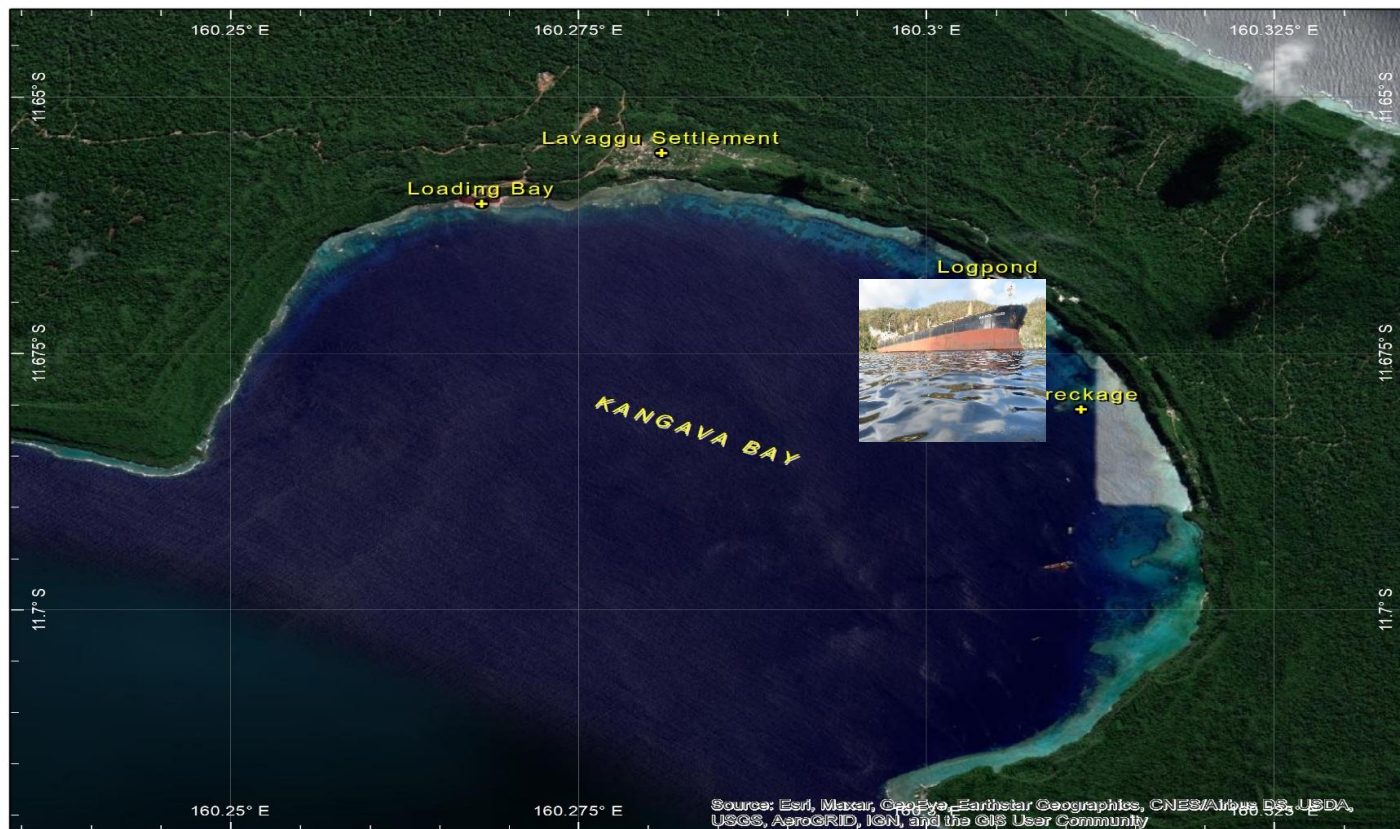
BACKGROUND



- 5 February 2019.
 - MV Solomon Trader ran aground on a coral reef in Kagava Bay, Rennell Island, Solomon Islands
- 15 February 2019
 - Heavy fuel oil observed leaking from the stern.
- Over 300 tonnes of heavy fuel oil onto the shallow fringing reef
- Salvage and removal of wreck necessary
- An intensive clean-up operation conducted from early March to 26 July 2019.

BACKGROUND

SOLOMON TRADER CASUALTY SITE MAP



Map Descriptions

This map shows the location of wreckage and oil spill within Kangava Bay in Rennell.

Legend

✚ Name of Locations



This map was prepared by
MECDM Geospatial on
April 29, 2021

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree



STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- INTERNATIONAL
 - KP&I (Insurer)
 - Resolve Salvage and Fire (Asia) Pte
 - ITOPF
 - London Offshore Consultants
 - UNOCHA/ UNEP
- NATIONAL
 - Solomon Islands Government
 - Renbel Provincial Government
 - Communities along Kangava bay
- REGIONAL
 - AMSA
 - MARITIME NZ
 - SPREP
 - The University Of Waikato
 - University Of Queensland



ACTIONS TAKEN

- NATPLAN was activated but not really implemented by the maritime administration
- Oil spill escalated to NDMO under the Ministry of Environment for response and recovery plan
- External assistance was requested from AMSA, Maritime NZ and SPREP
- SIG coordinated & requested ship owner/insurer immediate action:
 - salvage of the vessel
 - remove of the oil spilt
 - clean the environment



ACTIONS TAKEN

- Preliminary Environment Assessment
- Response
 - Salvage: 11th May 2019 vessel re-floated, 15th June 2019 vessel towed from Solomon Waters
 - Removal of Oil
 - Shoreline Clean-up
 - Offshore Clean-up
- Recovery
 - Environment Damage Assessment by SIG/UNEP/ITOPF/Insurer



CHALLENGES

- Quantity and nature of product created huge damages on a fragile environment
- Remoteness of the location, absence of telecommunication and difficulty to organize logistics was a huge coordination challenge for a SIDS
- Response teams were not sufficiently prepared and equipped to give best advice for decision-making
- Waste Management was very challenging due to no treatment facility and disposal in Honiara.



DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENT DAMAGE

- **27,367 square meters of shallow coral reef habitats** exposed to heavy fuel oil
- Other areas within the Kangava Bay also exposed to significant quantities of heavy fuel oil

Other impact not fully quantified

- Due to seafood harvest ban:
 - ✓ loss of income from marine resource sales
 - ✓ costs associated with replacement of seafood with alternate protein sources
- Human health impacts: exposition to volatile compounds through inhalation
- Possible impacts on marine ecology from oil on 5-78 m.

ECOSYSTEM LOSS VALUE (EDA Report)

- Assuming a **gradual linear recovery over 130 years**
 - *total ecosystem services lost up to*
USD 38M
- Best case scenario of an **active rehabilitation shortening recovery to 50 years:**
 - *Total ecosystem services lost up to*
USD 13M



TAGIO TUMAS

E contact@sima.gov.sb

P (677) 21 535

PO Box 1932, Honiara
Solomon Islands

www.sima.gov.sb