

NUSATUVA ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NECDA)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Prepared by:

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For the:

Descendants of Rence Ita and Erick Koti and other Nusa Tuva people having traditional rights of ownership and usage of Nusa Tuva Terrestrial and Marine Resources.

Through:

WWF-SI Program

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ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

This report was completed as part of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) National Program in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), and CTI partners, seek to ensure marine and coastal resources are sustainably managed, to secure the long term improvement of the livelihoods of Solomon Islanders.

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A. NECDA NUSA TUVA MARINE MANAGEMENT SITES.

1. Background: The setting and site history.

Nusa Tuva is an island on the Coast of Kolombangara Island and is occupied by the descendants of Rence Ita and Erick Koti of Kolombangara, Leanabako tribe as principal owners and Allan Betokera and Patrick Sale who are also recognized as part of Nusa Tuva's beneficiaries.

Based on the court decision of Joseph Ita, the settlement of the island was made 23 years ago. Originally from Kuzi, Ita and Uze the two brothers settled on the island for the last 23 years without experiencing any disputes.

The work on the community started in 2004 with the assistance of WWF-SI to preserve its environment and the surrounding reefs. Before the Association was formed in 2009, the community on Nusa Tuva was known as "Nusa Tuva Community".

There is no management plan in place for Nusa Tuva Island since its operation began in 2004.

2. Description of Nusa Tuva Island.

Nusa Tuva means "sacred island". Nusa Tuva Island is more than 70 hectares and is consisted of 5 village settlements. They are:

1. Onma - SDA Community
2. Ilitona - SDA Community
3. Ulafu - SSEC Community
4. New Takwa Catholic Community
5. Rereana - SDA Community

The population is around 1,500 plus people. The island had been served with a proper water supply prior to the tsunami and the earthquake in 2007. The settlers on Nusa Tuva work as a group but all came under the authority of Rence Ita and Erick Koti.

Fishing is the main source of income. Some other source of getting cash income is gardening, contract with KFPL and markets. Acqua-culture activity is also becoming an important activity that brings in income for the family.

3. NECDA Nusa Tuva Marine Tenure System:

Nusa Tuva residents follow the Leanabako land and marine tenure system. However, the principal owners of the island were given the powers and rights in custom to use and settle on the island. The island not communally owned with the tribe as the base of ownership. However, the tenure is through matrilineal system which is widely the custom and the practices of Kolombangara Island.

4. Resource Use:

(a) Marine

The users of Nusa Tuva reefs enjoyed the benefits of harvesting bech-der-mer, mud crab, seashells, shell money, trochus, seaweed and fish of all kinds. However, there is a permanent no-use and a non-permanent use/seasonal

closure to the marine resource base to ensure the long term use of the marine resources.

(b) Land resource

The land resources includes mangrove fruits, tambu sites, coconut crab, mangrove shells, coconut, pandanus for basket and mat, war relics, kerosene wood for carving, hardwood for furnitures and trees for timber. Endemic birds to Kolombangara Island also nest on the island.

5. The main focus of NECDA Management Plan.

(a) Tengorara to Mihogany

This is a seasonal closure area of about 6 kilometre.

(b) Tarakasi to Bohiana

This is a permanent close area of 32 kilometre.

(c) Nusa Tuva mangrove site

The site is situated within the bay of Nusa Tuva island, consisting of 6 hectares of mangroves. Nusa Tuva has a reason to be special despite its size, it is the host of 13 species of mangrove types.

6. The purpose of NECDA Sites.

The purpose of the sites is for the following:

- (i) As a stocking ground for other sea resources;
- (ii) For the benefits of future generations;
- (iii) for tourism attractions and activities;
- (iv) for long-term supply of food security;
- (v) For educational purpose.

Apart from the above, the plan seeks to ensure the health and survival of other marine resources that exist in the vicinity of these three sites including those, which have a cultural, subsistence and economic importance to the surrounding stakeholders and communities.

7. Status of NECDA Sites and the Participating Community Management Roles.

NECDA sites are within the customary land area owned by Leanabako tribe of Kolombangara land tenure system. However, it was customary allocated to Rence Ita and Erick Koti as principle owners working with other communities on the island of Nusa Tuva. The area from Bohu – Ropa is a registered alienated land

Participating communities on the island have membership on the NECDA which enable them to be involved in decision making and other resolutions affecting the issues of NECDA.

8. The Planning Process.

The work on Nusa Tuva was initially started by Erick Koti in 2002 but with a very limited resource available for development. Not until WWF in 2004 came in to assist in planning of activities and with the establishment of a steering committee to implement WWF initiated programs.

The committee included representatives of all communities on Nusa Tuva island. In 2009 the NECDA was formed and has been able to draw its constitution. There was no Management Plan been put in place for Nusa since it operated to offer conservation product. This Resource Management Plan is drawn through the assistance provided by the following Aid Donors USAID, SI Government, CTSP and the WorldFish Centre.

B. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT SITES:

The establishment of the management sites is to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) To work in partnership with other stakeholders – as an organized group in the issue of resource management;
- (b) To improve the capacity of resource management and develop appropriate livelihood options;
- (c) To review and evaluate the status resource base and the effectiveness of the management plan;
- (d) To involve the community in the planning process, establishment, management and monitoring process for the management sites;
- (e) To support land resource management for small economic activities;
- (f) To appropriate provide training and awareness to resource owners.

C. MANAGEMENT SITES OPERATION.

1. Administration.

On the endorsement of this management plan by the members of NECDA, it would be submitted to the Western Provincial Executive under section 24(4) of the Western Province Fisheries Ordinance 2011 for approval.

A proper structure on the line of responsibilities and activities will be drawn in accordance to the mode of practice of the community. Appropriate personals will be appointed to oversee the administration of NECDA sites so that it benefits the communities and not to restrict the communities over their own resources.

The term of reference for NECDA Management Committee is **Annexe 1** to this management plan.

2. Location and Description of NECDA Management Sites.

2.1: Location:

Nusa Tuva Island is located right in the heart of the Kolombangara Island southern coast, facing the double chain barrier reef of Kohinggo Islands. It is bordered between the mainland land Kolombangara and the long stretch of islands of Kohinggo.

Accessibility is not a problem but can cause a bit of confusion for a new traveler because of its location and proximity to other features on the southern coast of Kolombangara Island. From Ringi jetty it's about I kilometer distance and within the reach of a paddling canoe.

From Gizo Nusa Tupe airport, it's about 45 minutes ride by a 40 horse powered OBM.

2.2: Description:

Total MPA Area for Nusa Tuva Island is 38 ha which includes the area covering, a) Tengorara to Mihogany, b) Tarakasi to Bohiana and c) Nusatuva mangrove sites. The permanent closure area includes Taraksi to Bohiana and the Nusa Tuva mangroves which is 32 ha. Open/close MPA Area is from Tengorara to Mihogany point which is 6 ha.

See Map of the Nusa Tuva MPA sites on **Annex 3** to this Management Plan.

3. Management Rules for NECDA Management Sites.

i. Category 1: Specific Rules (*activities completely not permitted*).

- a. Baitfish fishing is not allowed within the NECDA sites and the Nusa Tuva sea boundary.
- b. Gillnet fishing is not allowed within the NECDA sites.
- c. Dynamite fishing within NECDA sites and also within the sea boundary of Nusa Tuva Island is strictly prohibited;
- d. Use of natural poison (derris spp) to stun fish is strictly forbidden within in the NECDA sites.
- e. No fishing of grouper during its spawning period.
- f. Government Fisheries Division control regulations and protected species under the Western Province Fisheries Ordinance, 2011 shall apply to all other marine resource species like trochus, giant clam shell, bech-de-mer, crayfish, turtles, blacklip and goldlip pearl shell, green snails, scuba and hookah gear and live corals.
- g. Mangroves within the NECDA Mangrove Management sites are not allowed for any commercial or domestic use.
- h. No non-biodegradable materials are to be disposed off in the sea.
- i. Dragging on the seabed is not permitted within the boundary of NECDA Management Sites.
- j. Live coral destruction is not permitted inside the NECDA management sites.
- k. Ships, boats and yachts are not allowed to dispose oil and other chemicals within Nusa Tuva management site.
- l. The collection of malaita shell money for commercial purpose is not permitted.
- m. Under size fish caught around the Bakiha reef is prohibited.
- n. Collecting and diving for seaweed is prohibited.

ii. Category 2: General Rules (*activities permitted with certain restrictions*):

- a. All yachts must anchor to a mooring buoy and are not allowed to anchor in the Nusa Tuva reefs without the approval of NECDA-MC.
- b. All yachts entering the sea boundary of NECDA shall pay an entrance fee of SBD\$20.00 to NECDA MC.
- c. Line fishing and trawling is allowed 50 meters outside the sea coast of Nusa Tuva island.
- d. Fishing for small individual commercial purpose is permitted on areas not marked as a NECDA Marine Management Sites.
- e. Recreation, such as picnicking and camping is permitted provided the users abide by the rules established by NECDA Committee.
- f. Scuba diving around the Nusa Tuva marine management sites is permitted under the supervision of CCO's.
- j. Fishing in the management area is allowed but to be controlled by NECDA Management Committee.
- k. Coral trade is allowed in the area but to be controlled by NECDA Management Committee.
- l. Resources can be extracted within NECDA sites but to be controlled by the Management committee.

4. ACCESS TO THE NECDA MANAGEMENT SITES

All visitors to any of the NECDA management sites must notify the Community Conservation Officers (CCOs) after obtaining access permission from the Management Committee. On the NECDA sites, the appointed Community Conservation Officers would direct the visitors to the appropriate sites, after completing all personal formalities and other information.

Camp sites are available only on Tarakasi sand beach, as camping on other sites in the NECDA sites is not allowed.

5. STAFF.

Staff and Community Conservation Officers (CCOs) to work for the NECDA sites would be recruited locally within Nusa Tuva Community. One Community Conservation Officer chosen within the families is to look after the sites, and to be posted at appropriate sites at any one time.

6. STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.

Relevant and proper training program for facilitators, conservation officers and staff should be put in place. The staff to be decided by the community themselves. There is a need to train at least two local divers for conducting site surveys. There is also a need to train appointed officers the methods to enforce the management rules and bylaws.

Other trainings should also be made available on short term attachment to relevant institutions or making available an expert on site for a period of time giving on the job training to local counterparts.

NECDA to actively pursue training programs for Management site staff under its development programs. At least, one training opportunity should be offered for management skills and financial management skills in higher education institution each year.

Community Conservation Officers to be given training on negotiations and conflict resolution techniques for dealing with visitors and perpetrators with undesired activities to NECDA sites. Community awareness programs/activities and engagement should encourage community members to have a sense of ownership.

1. SITE MANAGEMENT.

(a) Garbage, Oil and Sewage Disposal

The NECDA sites should be kept free of garbage, oil and sewage disposal, waste, tins, plastics, bottles and other harmful materials to the marine resource base.

The appointed managers are to identify a properly dug pit to contain the rubbish. Since the islands of the barrier reef are low, a proper method of rubbish disposal should arrange. Other rubbish should be burnt. Community Conservation Officers should maintain a healthy environment to avoid insects and pests. A proper guideline should be drawn to direct disposal of rubbish. A proper toilet facility must be provided for the visitors. It is prohibited to use the beach as toilets.

(b) Control of coastal erosion.

There is to be no cutting of mangroves, coastal trees and beachside vegetation around NECDA Management sites. It encouraged to do replanting of beach vegetation and local trees such as *naginagi* (kerosene wood), on coast line.

(c) Tabu sites.

Tabu sites within the NECDA Nusa Tuva sites need to be identified by the community and its visit is to be facilitated only by NECDA Management Committee.

2. FINES AND PENALTIES

Breaking of any rules and regulations contained in this management plan will be subject to a fine of an amount decided on by the management committee in collaboration with the legal system. The CCOs are authorized to issue citations to anyone in violation of these management rules, in accordance with Western Province Fisheries ordinances 2011.

Copies of NECDA Management Plans and Rules, with its appropriate map will be displayed on the sites, at each village community notice board.

3. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

It is encouraged that a proper monitoring and research program should be established to improve our understanding of our flora and fauna, fish, corals water quality, sea grass and other marine resources. The research and monitoring program of the Management Area shall be done in collaboration with NECDA. Monitoring of marine invertebrates and other resources can be done at intervals with the appropriate technology to carry out technical data of the available resources.

However, subject to section 44 (1)- (4) of the Western Province Fisheries Ordinance 2011, researchers not associated with NECDA, WP, or MFEC are expected to obtain the permission of the management committee to conduct research in the management areas. The procedure of application and screening of research activities, and to obtain permission to conduct research, is as follows:

- (1) An application needs to be filed with the NECDA Marine Management Committee. This application should be on the official letterhead of the sponsoring organization,
- (2) Include the purpose of the proposed research, reasons why it is important, how it will benefit NECDA and the surrounding community, a work plan, and schedules of activities.
- (3) Upon its receipt, the application will be considered at the next meeting of the NECDA, and if approved must be submitted to the appropriate government and provincial authorities for their approval.
- (4) If the researcher wishes, he may call a special meeting of the committee to consider the application, but the expenses for such meeting will be paid for by the researcher.
- (5) Upon the approval by the management committee, all proper documentation and provincial and national permits must be sought and approved.

All reports, raw materials collected during the course of the research, which may result in any of the publications, should be made available to NECDA, with the original copyrights held by the Nusa Tuva people. Any traditional knowledge obtained by the researchers must be acknowledged and shall remain the property of Nusa Tuva people. All photographs taken within the boundaries of NECDA sites should be acknowledged and copies of all photographs should remain with Nusa Tuva people. Research done and results taken must comply to the principles of the 1992 UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the bio-prospecting rules of International Treaties by respecting the Nusa Tuva people's right to consent on the use of resources, its by-products and in benefits sharing. Any profit derived from the use of this knowledge must be returned to the Nusa Tuva communities.

Research in marine biology and traditional knowledge of Nusa Tuva marine resources should be documented.

4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

NECDA being the authority over the sites, and other communities as users of the surrounding reefs, will be included in the decision making process through the community representative on the NECDA.

There is to be a program on a regular consultative meetings, engagement and awareness organized by the NECDA with the help of appropriate partners will ensure the members of all communities concern are fully aware of their responsibility in the resource management of the NECDA sites.

Training package to be organized by NECDA through funds received from appropriate donors to broaden the understanding and to acquire appropriate resource management skills and techniques which could be used to help other resource owners.

5. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The NECDA Management Committee (NECDA-MC) will be responsible for outsiders and other organizations through a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Through co-operations with other interested organizations, it is expected that the interests, goals and aims of NECDA-MC be further realized. The Western Provincial Government, Environment Division will be informed of the program activities.

NECDA, is the local CBO for Nusa Tuva, and would play a major role in facilitating many of the activities. Exchange of information, training and participation in various programme activities should be the base of mutual relationship and understanding with other parties.

6. LONG TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY.

6.1 Conservation Plans and Business Plans

To ensure a long term sustainability of NECDA conservation program, two important strategic documents must be compiled and adhered to: 1) NECDA Conservation Plan and 2) NECDA Business (Development) Plan. These documents will be the blue-print for field, administration and financial undertakings of Nusa Tuva Environment Conservation and Development Association (NECDA). These working documents must have a fixed timeframe, either a 3-Year Planning Program or a 5-Year Planning Program. At the end of the allocated time frame, the documents are reviewed and designed for the next set of timeframe.

6.2 Capacity Building Programs

More targeted capacity building work for the NECDA to function independently is required. A good start will be a focus on developing capacities of a general manager and a team of community wardens who will be tasked with enforcing the management plan and with educating subsistence users within the NECDA about the sustainable management of marine resources. It is envisioned that these community wardens will report to the NECDA management committee and will be employed by the NECDA. Donor funding may be sought to pay these wages and to provide training, however the long term objective would be for the NECDA to finance the payment of staff through a levy on tourists, or

through a budget line from the WP government. Potential support for NECDA through an endowment should also be investigated.

Training programs must be developed for these community rangers, covering areas of community engagement, negotiation and conflict resolution as well as conservation management and resource monitoring programs.

6.3 Financing of the NECDA

There are several options for the financing of the NECDA. The members of the NECDA committee have already discussed the possibility of a levy on tourists and divers using the marine environment of the NECDA. One option that has already been discussed and seems to be one of the simplest and most straightforward systems would be for the dive operators to remit this to the NECDA on an honesty system. There are numerous options available and these required further discussions between WWF Solomon Islands, NECDA and the WP government. Options for long term financing via an international NGO should also be explored.

6.4 Review of the Management Plan

A reviewing process of this Management Plan will be done after every two (2) years. It is important that this plan has the degree of flexibility to be able to operate and change in the village context but is realistic, rigid enough to deliver on the management objectives.

Changes will be made, if necessary upon the majority vote of the Resource Management Committee of NECDA. Ongoing biological and socio-economic monitoring exercise shall also be used to determine the need for change in rules of this management plan.

7. APPROVAL AND ENDORSEMENT OF NECDA MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The NECDA Resource Management Plan (NECDA-RMP) document has been discussed, agreed and accepted by the members of the NECDA Resource Management Committee in its meeting on 20..... in Nusa Tuva Island Eco-lodge.

Thus, confirming our endorsement by our signatures:

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.....

.....
Secretary of NECDA-MC

ANNEX: 1

NECDA MANAGEMENT SITES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

NECDA MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY – NECDA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. (NECDA-MC)

(i) Role of NECDA Management Committee (NECDA-MC).

The basic responsibility of the NECDA-MC is to supervise the implementation of the management plans and management rules for the NECDA Management Sites.

The other functions of the NECDA-MC are:

- Powers to declare any marine sites within the customary areas of Nusa Tuva as management areas;
- Apply periodic restriction on the harvesting of sea resources as it sees fit for the benefit of the community and the resource base;
- Formulate, periodic review of bylaws and rules affecting the Management sites on short term and for a longer period of time if need be;
- Review the management plan and decide on any changes affecting management rules;
- Enforcement of management rules through appointed Community Conservation Officers;
- To screen and approve all external research applications to conduct research on NECDA sites;
- Periodic advise to Nusa Tuva Elders Committee on the NECDA-Management sites;
- Recommend training for NECDA-Management site staff and officers.
- Approve research applications.

(ii) NECDA-MC Membership

The NECDA-MC composed of 9 members according to population size of each village community. Gender balance shall be considered necessary. Any other members of NECDA in school or work can be called to attend meetings.

Apart from the above members, the appropriate Government Organization and NGO would be asked to have a member to sit in the committee.

There are other senior members of the NECDA who resided outside Nusa Tuva and Solomon Islands, who by virtue of their membership and status can be called to attend the meetings. They are eligible to cast vote.

(iii) NECDA-MC meetings

The NECDA-MC shall meet at least once a quarter or once in three months and shall be held in a place appointed. The NECDA Resource Management Office in Nusa Tuva Eco-lodge Island is to be the venue of all NECDA-MC meetings.

In consultation with the chairman, the Secretary shall call an extra ordinary meeting according to circumstances and should the need arise.

(iv) Term of Office

The term of office of each members of NECDA-MC shall be in accordance to the terms provided in the constitution of NECDA. Members who are not members of NECDA shall be 2 years.

(v) Decision making

Should the NECDA-MC cannot come to a consensus over a customary issue affecting any of the NECDA sites, the matter must be referred to the NECDA Executive for decision.

(vi) Resolving Disputes

It is the responsibility of the NECDA-MC to resolve any disputes arising from the administration and uses of the Management sites. Any dispute that is trivial in nature and of the ownership rights shall be referred to the principle owners.

(vii) Approval of Management Plan

The plan shall be presented to the NECDA-MC for comments and then on receiving their endorsement, be presented to the members of the community. On receiving the agreement of the community, it is submitted to the Nusa Tuva Elders Committee for endorsement.

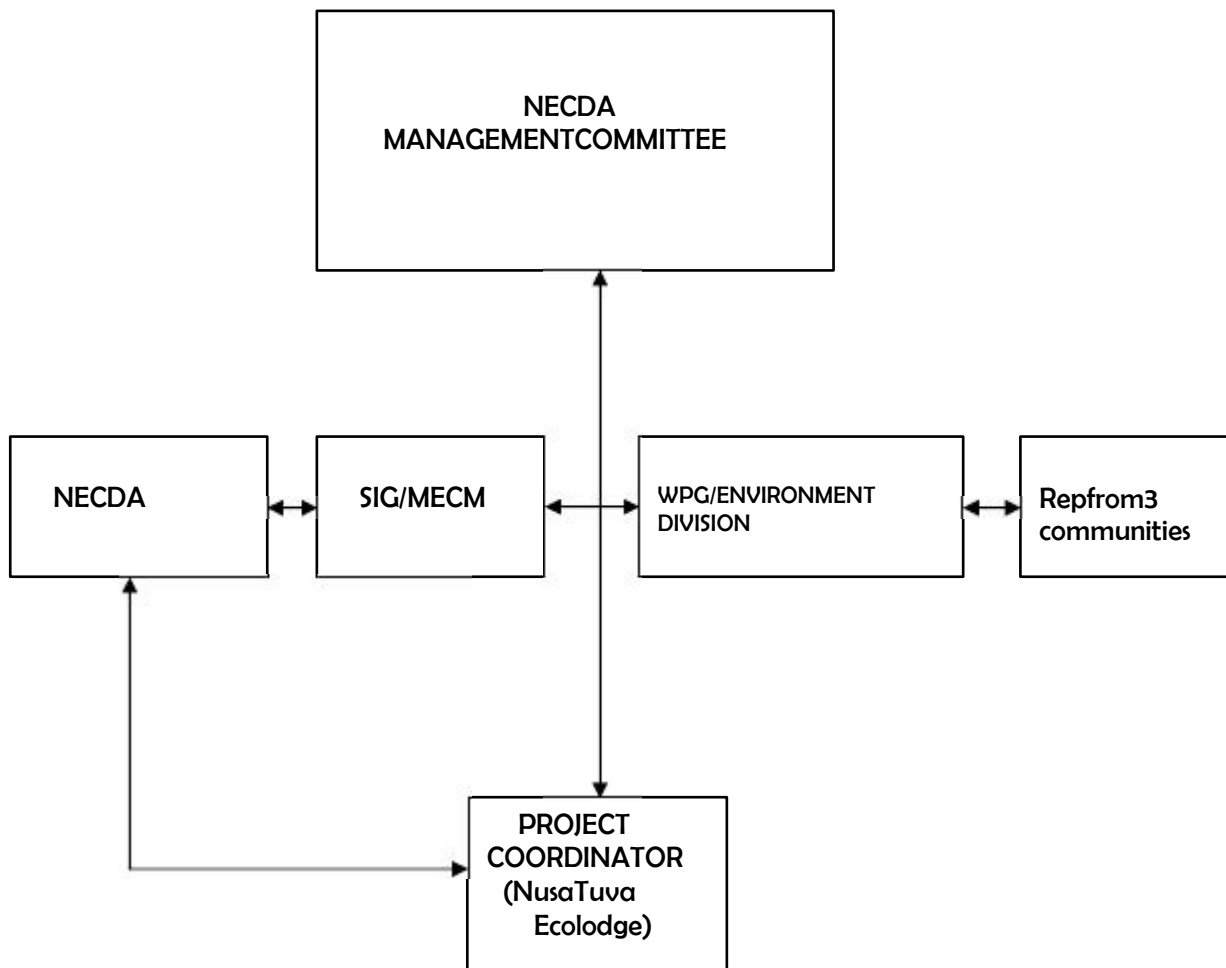
(viii) Payment of allowances/stipends

Appropriate sitting allowances per day would be paid to the members of the committee in any officially duly called meeting. For members residing outside Nusa Tuva travelling arrangement would be made for both ways or in the alternative members to pay their own fares and be refunded on production of properly authorized receipts.

Daily allowance would be paid to each member attending the meeting when funds are available.

ANNEXE 2:

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE OF NECDA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



ANNEXE 3:
Map of NECDA NUSATUVA MARINE PROTECTED AREA

