

Forestry in the Solomon Islands



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Solomon Islands National Forest Resource Assessment Update 2006

- Funded by AusAid
- Prepared by consultant, URS
- Two phases: 2003, 2006
- 2003:
 - 645,000 m³/yr harvesting rate
 - Natural forest resource will run out 2015
 - Planted and regrowth forests won't make a significant contribution to woodflow until 2025



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- Latest report, 1 November 2006
- 1.2 million m³/yr harvesting rate
- 36 potential logging sites outside of licence areas
 - 10 more than 100 ha each
- Trend of applications for re-entry into old logging sites (too early)
- Conservative figures

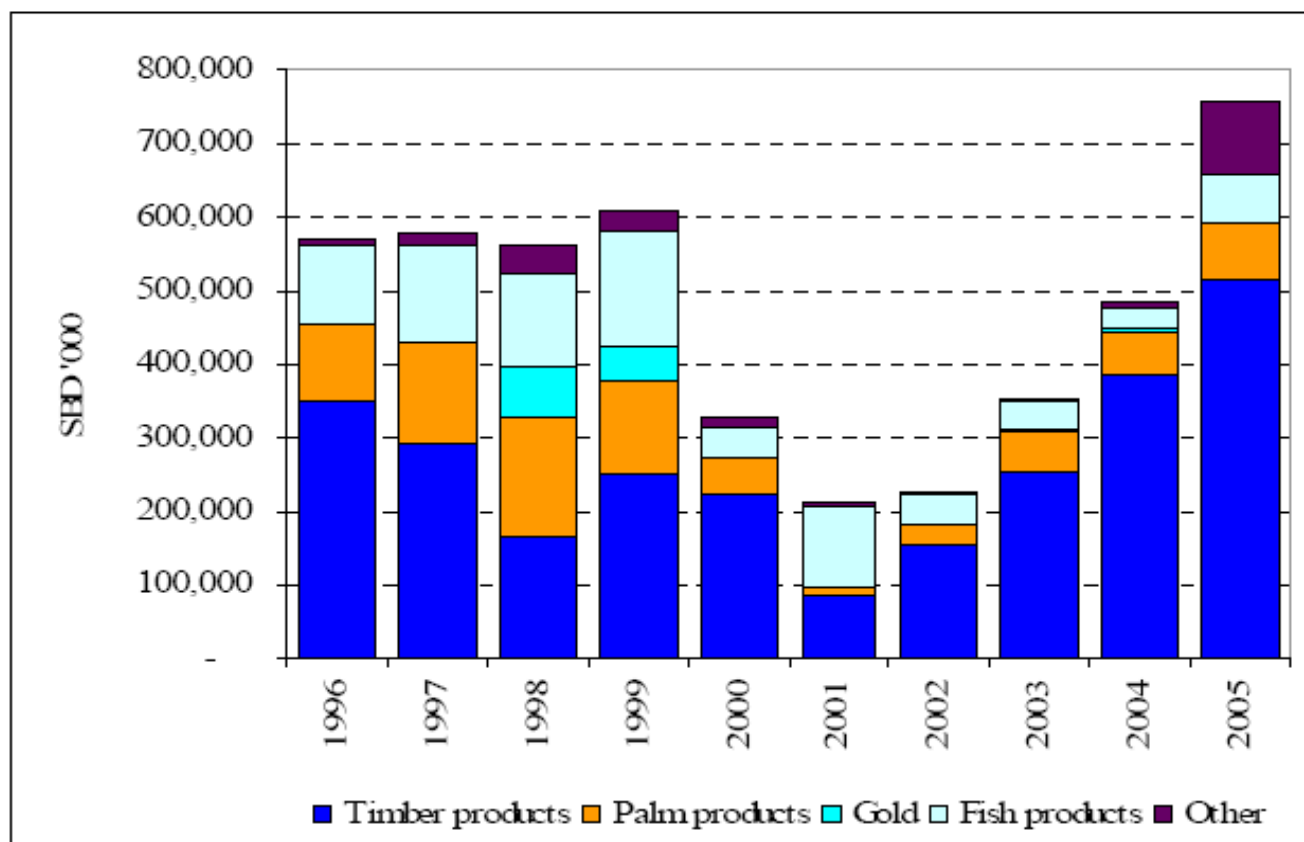


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- **Value of logging for economy**
- Round logs generate *60-70% total foreign export earnings*
- 1 in 6 people in 'formal employment' estimated to be in logging industry
- In 2005, value of timber exports over SBD\$500million

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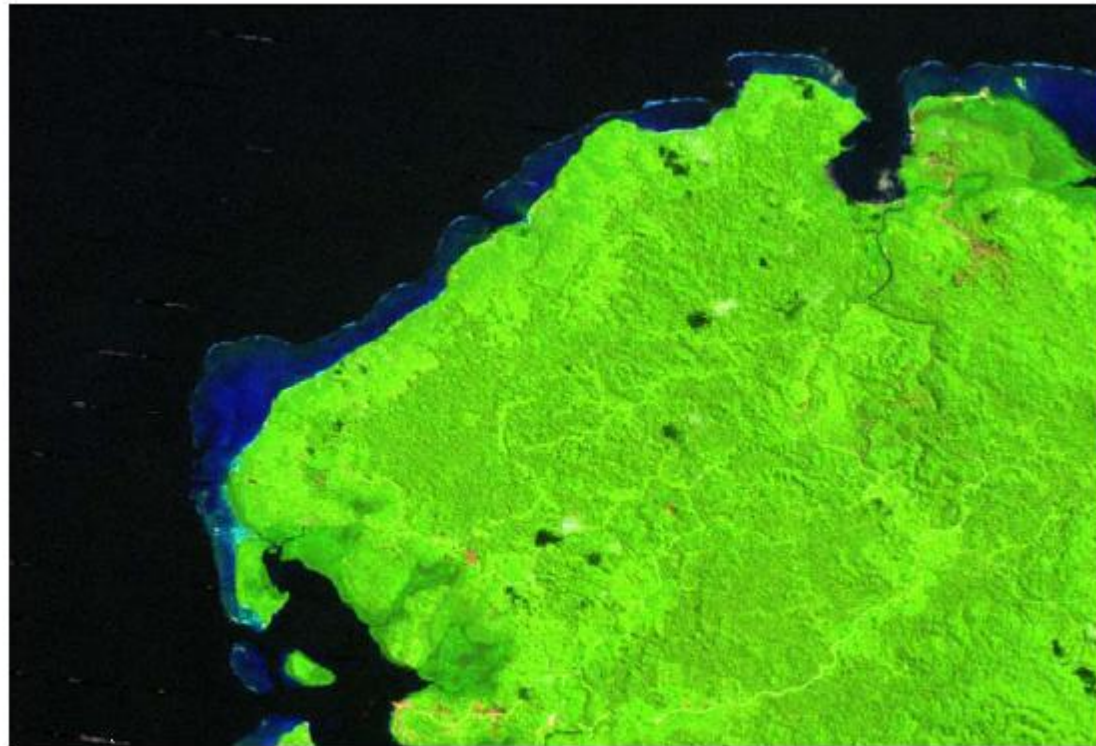
Figure 1-1: Value of Exports by Commodity, 1996-2005



Source: CBSI (2005)

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Forests in Choiseul



Landsat satellite image of northern Choiseul, showing roading networks associated with logging

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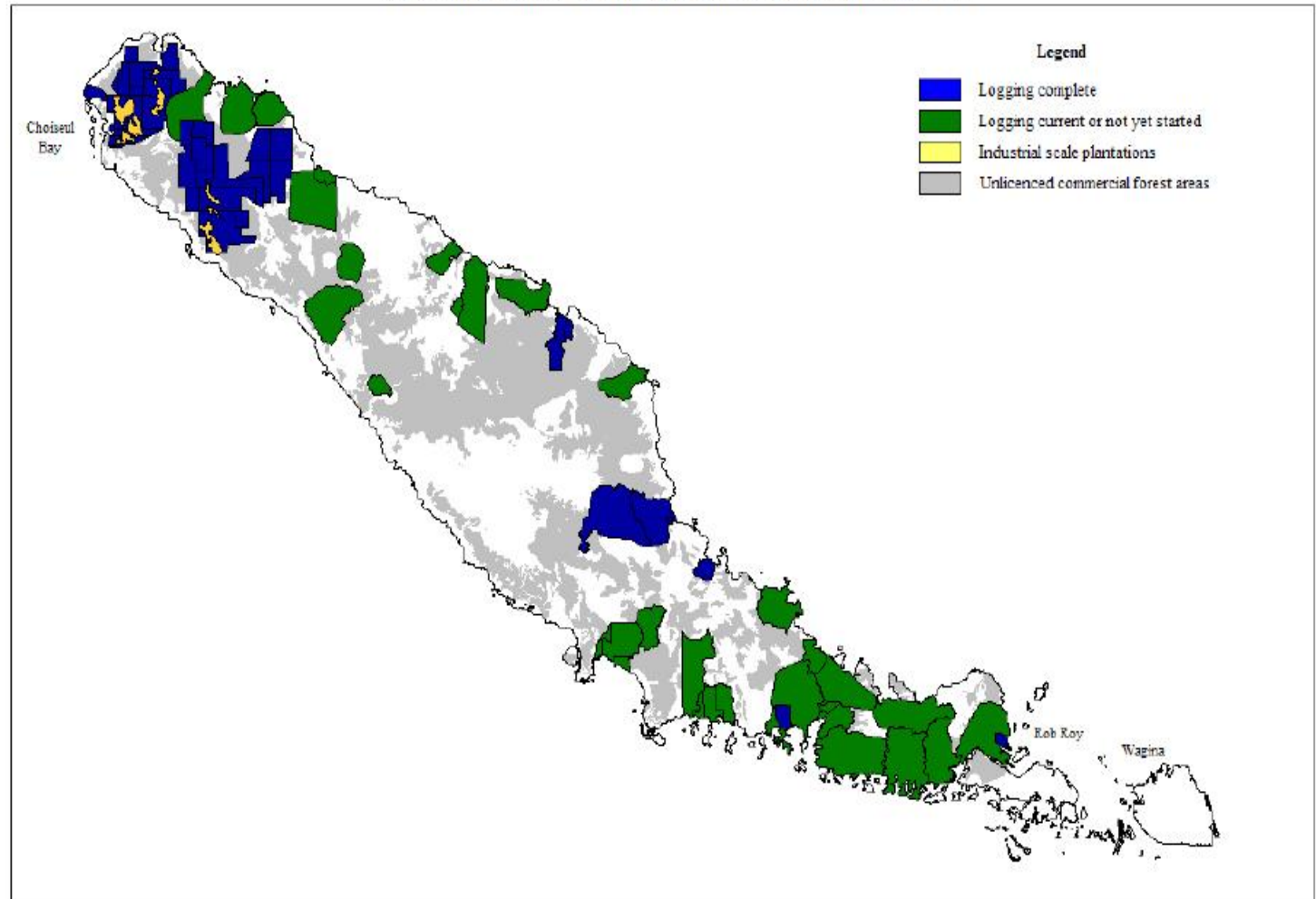
Table 3-1: Summary of current forest areas (ha)

Province	Non commercial forest and cleared land	Unlogged commercial natural forest	Conservation areas	Logged over commercial natural forest	Plantations	Total area
Guadalcanal	460,600	40,200	0	37,600	300	538,700
Western	359,500	49,500	0	120,700	21,800	551,500
Isabel	297,000	56,700	0	68,800	300	422,800
Malaita	373,200	28,900	0	18,600	1,300	422,000
Choiseul	228,300	82,900	0	18,600	400	330,200
Makira	295,400	17,400	0	9,000	100	321,900
Temotu	63,100	19,900	0	1,500	3,200	87,700
Rennell	41,900	24,000	0	0	0	65,900
Central	55,100	5,700	0	3,600	100	64,500
Total (ha)	2,174,000	325,200	0	278,400	27,600	2,805,200
Total (%)	<i>77%</i>	12%	0%	10%	1%	<i>100%</i>

Source: URS

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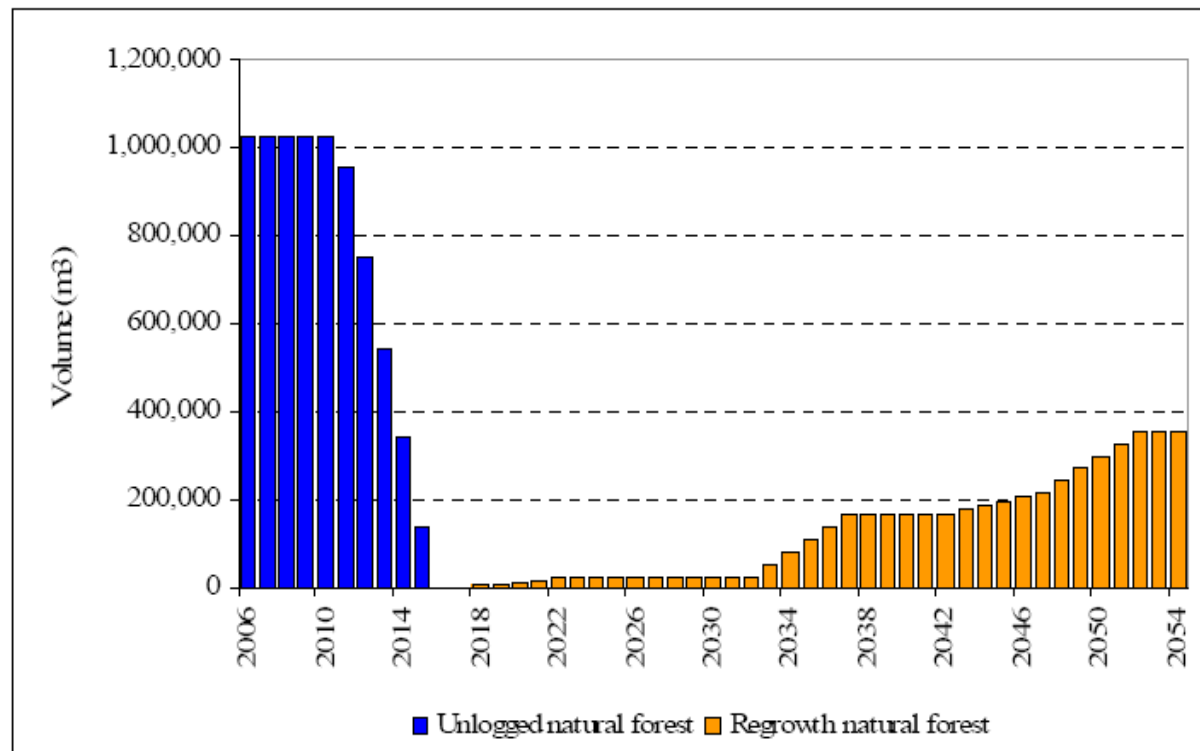
Choiseul Province - Logging Licence Summary (Dec 2005)



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How much natural forest is left?

Figure ES-2: Predicted natural forest woodflows 2006-2054

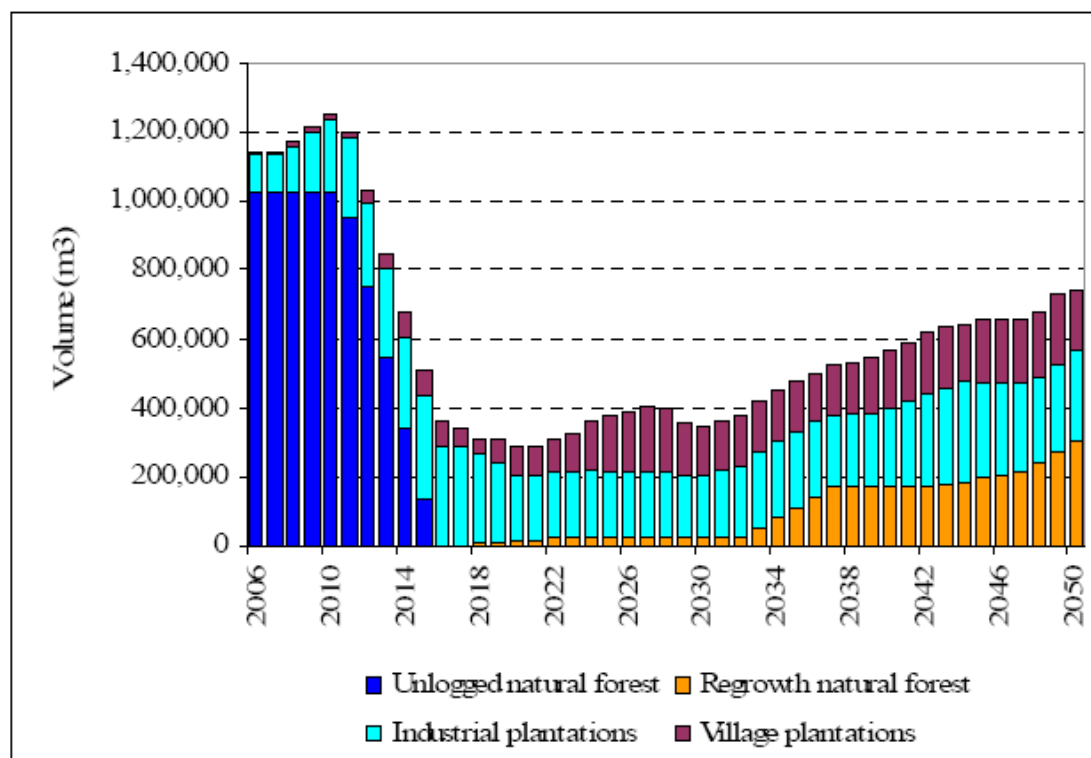


Source: URS

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Other potential sources of timber

Figure 5-1: Potential woodflow from natural forests and plantations



Source: URS



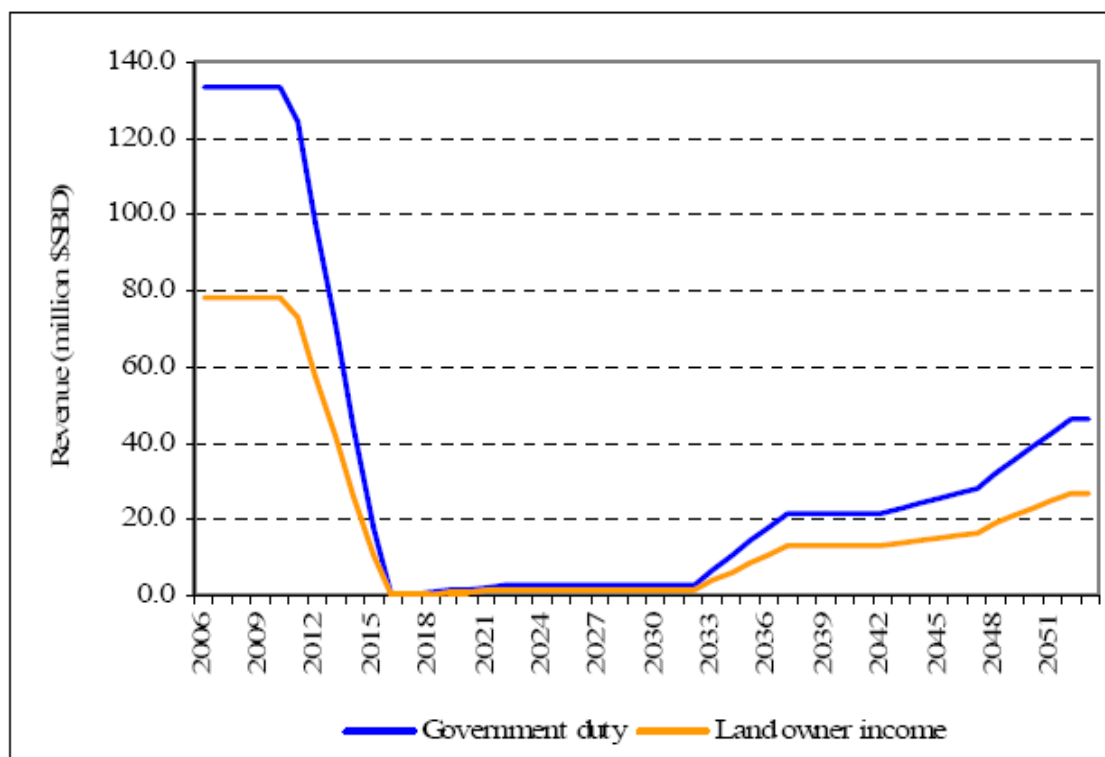
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- **Natural forests and the economy**
- As at 2005, Govt received average of about SBD\$130/m³ (between 25% and 60% depending on log value)
- Landowners received about SBD\$76/m³ (based on average 15% royalty)
- Total estimated national earnings, SBD\$133 million/yr before remissions
- Predicted to decline rapidly after 2010

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Natural forests and the economy

Figure 3-7: Estimated revenue from log exports from natural forests



Source: URS



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- **Some key points**
- To maintain current native forest resource, Govt must cap at:
 - 248,000 m³ / yr to 2050
 - 353,000 m³ / yr from 2050
- This means Govt must
 - Place moratorium on harvesting
 - Cancel licences where in breach
 - Legislate for reform

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- **Some key points**
- Logging industry is ‘sunset industry’ predicted to end in SI by 2015
- Plantations ‘sunrise industry’
- Strong case for conservation



Thank you

