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**REASSERTING THE LOCAL IN THE GLOBAL**  
**LOCAL LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE**  
**PROPOSED EAST RENNELL WORLD HERITAGE SITE,**  
**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis assesses the relationships between the sustainable development approach to integrating environmental and developmental concerns, and that approach suggested by the concept of sustainable livelihoods. In the context of the East Rennell World Heritage Project in Solomon Islands, the nature of sustainable development as it is operationalised at the local level, and the reality of people's livelihoods within the boundaries of that project, are assessed to determine where sustainable development meets livelihoods to both support and enhance them, and the implications which a sustainable livelihoods approach has for sustainable development.

Over the last fifteen years the concept of sustainable development has been promoted at the global level as a means by which environmental integrity may be maintained, and at the same time allow for the continued development of human economic and social systems to improve the welfare of poor people. Arising out of the twin concerns that development was not meeting its primary goal of alleviating poverty, and at the same time was placing environmental systems in jeopardy, the concept of sustainable development is now a central theme within global development discourse.

Alternatively, the concept of sustainable livelihoods has been presented as a 'new analysis' of the reality of the lives of local people and the problems they encounter as they attempt to construct viable livelihoods for themselves, and represents an alternative strategy for integrating environmental and developmental concerns at the local level. The rationale for using such an approach to environment and development is that only by ensuring that all people have access to an adequate and secure livelihood will further goals of sustainability be able to be obtained.

This thesis presents the results of research undertaken in Solomon Islands over a three month period in 1995. The research is presented as two village case studies incorporating the results of Participatory Rural Appraisal surveys undertaken at Tevaitahe and Niupani villages in the proposed East Rennell World Heritage Site.

The general conclusion reached is that although sustainable development attempts to assist local people in conserving their resources and develop income generating business based on ecotourism, the nature of this sustainable development to a certain extent precludes the achievement of sustainable livelihoods. The suggestion is given, therefore, that the sustainable livelihoods infer an alternative approach to development.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organisation
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GNP	Gross National Product
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs [New Zealand]
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NZODA	New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance Programme
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
SICHE	Solomon Islands College of Higher Education
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SINURP Pati	Solomon Islands National Unity and Reconciliation
SOLFRIP	Solomon Islands Forest Resource Inventory Project
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SSEC	South Seas Evangelical Church
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VRMP	Village Resource Management Plan

WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WCS	World Conservation Strategy
WHAC	World Heritage Advisory Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund (World Wide Fund For Nature)