

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP)

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Feasibility Study and Project Plan to Eradicate Rats from Ahnd Atoll, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Island Conservation (IC)

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** February 1, 2006 - June 30, 2006

**Date of Report (month/year):** August, 2006

## II. OPENING REMARKS

The Ahnd Atoll rat eradication feasibility assessment project fulfilled its goal of identifying the requisite ecological, sociopolitical, socioeconomic and logistical factors that will influence implementation of the actual eradication. Based on feasibility study findings, CSP and IC choose to preface the Ahnd Atoll eradication by conducting trial rat eradications on several small islands adjacent to Pohnpei. The trial eradication will:

- hone eradication methodologies for the Ahnd Atoll eradication
- build local confidence in and support for eradication projects
- provide a demonstration eradication to local and regional conservation organizations

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The initial objective of this project was to assess the feasibility of eradicating rats from Ahnd Atoll

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

While the primary objective of the project, to assess the feasibility of eradicating rats from Ahnd Atoll, did not change, information gained during the assessment led to the development of the following complementary objectives:

- Protect the biodiversity of Ahnd Atoll from damaging invasive mammals including rats and create opportunities to enhance local livelihoods by reducing the socio-economic impacts of rodents.
- Develop techniques for eradicating rats from the Ahnd Atoll that can be transferred to subsequent, regional invasive species eradication programs through the

implementation of a trial (demonstration) rat eradication on small islands adjacent to Pohnpei

- Build the capacity of conservation practitioners in the Pacific in invasive mammal eradication techniques
- Strengthen key regional networks such as PILN, MIC, and the Pacific Invasives Initiative, and
- Raise awareness among key government decision makers of past successes and high feasibility of invasive species eradication from islands to ease regulatory hurdles, and increase the likelihood of support for subsequent eradications.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

Throughout the feasibility assessment, CSP and IC gained the ecological, social, and logistical information necessary to advance the project to the next step – a trial eradication on small islands adjacent to Pohnpei that will serve as an eradication demonstration for regional conservation practitioners.

4. Did your team experience disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

We did not experience disappointment or failure during the feasibility assessment; to the contrary, the assessment strengthened local and regional interest in rat eradication projects.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Along with assessing the ecological parameters of the potential eradication site, those conducting a feasibility assessment should give special focus to socio-political and socio-economic factors that may augment or challenge an eradication project

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

- In May 2006, IC presented preliminary Ahnd Atoll rat eradication feasibility study findings to the Micronesia Invasive Species Group, a consortium of NGOs and government agencies focused on invasive species prevention and mitigation.
- In August 2006, CSP presented the Ahnd Atoll rat eradication feasibility study findings at the MIC conference in Saipan, CNMI.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

The Ahnd Atoll rat eradication feasibility study provided CSP and IC with ecological, sociopolitical, and socioeconomic information that will be used to develop and implement the trial eradication and eradication demonstration, and ultimately the Ahnd Atoll rat eradication.

#### IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

*Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.*

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Private Donations	A	\$11,745.25	Various sources

*\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

- In July 2006, CSP together with IC submitted a proposal to the Regional National Heritage Program of the Australian Government to support the trial eradications on several small islands adjacent to Pohnpei in Q1 2007.
- In September 2006, IC submitted a proposal to the David & Lucille Packard Foundation which in part will provide a small amount of funding for the next stage of the Anhd Atoll eradication.

#### V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please also complete the following:

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