

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Traditional landowner protection for endangered Ratak Imperial Pigeon ( <i>Ducula oceanica ratakensis</i> ) and overwintering Bristle-thighed Curlew ( <i>Numenius tahitiensis</i> ) in key atolls of the Marshall Islands
<b>Date of Report:</b>	May 28, 2010
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Kilom Ishiguro

**CEPF Region: Northern Pacific, Marshall Islands**

**Strategic Direction:**

**Grant Amount: US\$12,000**

**Project Dates:**

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):**

**Republic of China, Taiwan:** Provided seed for the papaya and the breadfruit.

**Bank of the Marshall Islands:** Provided funding for the banding of the coconut trees where the birds nest.

**National Telecommunication Authority:** Internet services in support of the Mule Project.

### Conservation Impacts

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

The project itself has contributed to help with the protection of biodiversity in the Marshall Islands. The project had opened opportunities for the local people to take the initiative community wide to take ownership over the last indigenous land bird in the whole of the Marshall Islands. It also reflects the CEPF ecosystem profile given the partnership amongst local community, traditional leaders, both national and local governments and also international organizations. Most importantly, the project has helped with the conservation efforts towards the protection of biodiversity and livelihoods of the people of the Marshall Islands as a whole.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.***

The overall goal of the project was to protect two bird species from declining of population due to loss of habitat food source and mostly over harvesting. The targeted birds are the endangered Ratak Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula oceanica ratakensis*) known locally as the (MULE) and overwintering Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*) in key atolls of the Marshall Islands. The Imperial Pigeon is believed to be the only land bird left in the Republic. However the curlew, one of the endangered birds under the ICUN list and Marshall Islands is one of their over-winter

sites in the Pacific. The project has open corridors to invest in the protection and other opportunities for these two bird species internationally and most importantly the locally.

The overall achievements of this project have secured protection sites for the Mule mainly on the capital city of Majuro for the past year, the MICS has undertaken numerous activities as required to carry out the protection of the endangered Ratak Pigeon (*Ducula, Oceanica Ratakensis*). This initiative would not have been possible without the assistance and support put forth by Embassy of the Republic of China, Taiwan and Taiwan Technical Mission in Laura. With these supports, MICS was able to accomplish the following tasks;

1. Inventory of number of birds
  - a. Initial count on February 2008 was at 16 birds
  - b. As of July 2009, the count is at 83 birds
2. Identify habitats (Majuro islets)
  - a. Kora
  - b. Anil
  - c. Didej
  - d. Denmeo
  - e. Enemanit
  - f. Bikirin
  - g. Bikajaj
  - h. Eneko
3. Papaya planting
  - a. 725 plants
4. Breadfruit planting
  - a. 400 plants
5. Coconut tree banding
  - a. 175 plants
6. Papaya fencing
  - a. All juvenile papaya plants are fenced off.

The purpose of planting papaya and seeded breadfruit plants is multi-tiered. First is to ensure that there is abundance food source for the bird as well as the human inhabitants of North Majuro. Second is to provide habitat which is the seeded breadfruit tree that has been ceased to be planted by local people in recent times due to dependency of easily access to imported food. Also, it has been observed that the *Mule* prefers to perch on papaya leaves and it spends great deal of time pecking on the shoot of the plant. In addition, coconut banding is done as a measure to eradicate the possibility of rats and other mammals from climbing onto trees and intruding into nests. And lastly, the fencing is critical to ensure that the juvenile papaya and breadfruit plants grow to replanting stage (2 to 3 ft. for papaya and 3 to 4 ft. for breadfruit).

*Mule Project (North Majuro) – August to December 2009*

MICS has continued to generously receive papaya and breadfruit seedlings from the ROC Technical Mission in Laura. Average number of papaya seedlings given each month is about a hundred (100) per month. This amounts to about four-hundred since August of last year (2009). This project will continue throughout next year.

The work for the Bristle-thighed Curlew had been carried out mainly in the outer atolls such as Mili, Maloelap and Likiep to identify the sites where birds reside and molt during their overwinter season. However, actual work has only been done on Mili Atoll. In August of 2009, MICS went to Mili to verify traditionally known molting islet (*Modi Namok*), literally translate; Molting in Namok. Although it was not winter, number of birds were observed on this islet as well as other locations on Mili.

Consequently, the project has contributed to the protection of biodiversity and food security in the Marshall Islands, not only for the birds but also to the reforestation efforts of declining number of papaya and breadfruit trees which are critical for both the Mule and inhabitants to benefit from.

***Please provide the following information where relevant:***

**Hectares Protected:**

**Ratak Imperial Pigeon:** Roughly 34 acres on Mili and 10 acres on Majuro

**Bristle Thighed Curlew:** About 1000 acres on Mili, Maloelap and Likiep

**Species Conserved:**

1. Ratak Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula oceanica ratakensis*) or Mule in the native language
2. Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*) or Kowak in the native language

***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

The main success of the project is actually the number of Mule been increased from 16 birds to over 80 birds on Majuro alone. The overall project will give the opportunity to replicate the Mule to be reintroduced to the other atolls which the Mule had known to have existed previously. Mili Atoll is the only other place that the Mule still exists. This was proven during the same trip that curlew survey was done (August 2009). More studies are need on Mili Atoll. However, the challenge we face is mainly traveling to Mili due to transportation difficulties. However, staff development in this area is critical at the moment.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

It has been observed that distribution and replanting of papaya and breadfruit tress has sparked interests among residents of project site (Northern Majuro)- they have taken up gardening. Most islets now have requested and received numbers of both plants. It is assumed that the recent influx of tourists (bird watchers from Asia) to two of the sites, due to healthy population of birds has motivated residents to plant their own gardens of the plan. It was also observed that these two sites mentioned are getting income from tourism- ecotourism- from these bird watchers.

## Lessons Learned

***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

Since this was pilot and most of the activities were executed through common sense and not expertise we encountered number of challenges, methods applied (for counting) was crude- deployed volunteers to different islets and have them call in on number of birds sighted at certain time is an example. Another was distributing plants during a dry spell- this took a toll on many of the seedlings that were sent out.

Although these are considered challenges, they've taught us to implement future projects with more consideration on weather patterns as well as other logistical aspects.

Regardless, it was capacity building by itself.

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

The project was designed to target the grassroots level to be able implemented and have empowerment to take the initiative to preserve and protected their native endangered species in each community and local government.

***Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

It would be the presumption that community involvement was critical for the success of the implementation of the project. Additionally, involvement of some of the local businesses and other institutions in this project is highlighted nationally and regionally.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

**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.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Bank of the Marshall Islands	Cash	<b>\$5,000</b>	Funded the banding and fencing of the nesting trees from rats and other potential predators
ROC Technical Mission	In-kind	725 papaya plants @ \$3.00/ plant= \$2175.00 + 400 breadfruit plants @ \$10.00/ plant= \$4,000.00= <b>\$6175.00</b>	Plants are primary food source for bird and inhabitants
Embassy Republic of China, Taiwan	Cash	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	For fuel for boat and truck to transport plants
National Telecommunication Authority	In-kind	<b>\$15,000.00/year)</b>	To support communication for project

**Sustainability/Replicability**

*Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.*

Majuro was our pilot site for studying the Mule's behavior, habitat and how fast they reproduce in numbers. As a result, the success of the pilot site can be easily replicated to meet the same result and also be sustained through the laws and regulation of each local government. Therefore the project has paved a path for future projects with to replicate and reintroduction of the Mule project to the other islands where Mules once existed.

*Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.*

## Safeguard Policy Assessment

*Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.*

**The project will fall under the each local government regulation and ordinance. It will be safeguarded under their jurisdiction and managed. However, the technical assistances will be provided by Marshall Islands Conservation Society. The project will fall under the draft local ordinance below:**

### ORDINANCE FOR ESTABLISHING MAJURO PROTECTED AREAS

Be it ordained by the Majuro Atoll Local Government that:

**Section 1 – Title** – An Ordinance for Establishing Denmeo Marine Reserve

**Section 2 – Declaration of Policy** – It is hereby declared as one of the policies of the Majuro Atoll Local Government (MALGOV) to develop, improve and increase the quality as well as the quantity of the marine and terrestrial resources in the coastal areas of Majuro.

**Section 3 – Area of Coverage** – The Marine Reserve is hereby established at Denmeo (need description and area)

**Section 4 – Definition of Terms**

**Marine Protected Area (MPA)** – The coastal water and terrestrial area of Denmeo, Majuro Atoll established in Section 3 above and covered by the regulations under this ordinance.

**Section 5 – MPA Management Council** – An MPA Management Council shall be created by MALGOV and the local landowners. This council shall be headed by the Mayor or his duly appointed representative. The membership or composition of the said council shall consist of [redacted] council members and [redacted] landowners.

**Section 6 – Functions and Duties of the MPA Management Council** – The functions and duties of the Council shall be to formulate rules and regulations or procedures that shall be:

1. Necessary for the conduct of their business as MPA Management Council (internal rules and procedures).
2. Necessary or relevant to the management of the MPA, any fishing areas.
3. To develop plans and strategies that shall be beneficial in the conservation and development of marine resources.
4. To conduct educational and informational workshops to the local residents for the effective implementation of this ordinance.

5. To perform such other acts that shall be necessary for the implementation of this ordinance provided that they shall be in accordance with existing governmental rules and regulations.

**Section 7 – Enforcement of the Provisions of this Ordinance** – Any person enforcing this ordinance, including the rules and regulations of the Management Council shall be duly deputized or authorized by the Majuro Mayor through an Executive Order. As such, he or she is hereby declared to act as an agent or person in authority while on duty, regardless of the nature of their employment. The Mayor may seek assistance or support from other national government authorities or NGOs that may be necessary in promoting and developing the MPA.

**Section 8 – Rules and Regulations** – Rules and regulations duly approved by the Management Council shall have the force and effect of the ordinance and shall be duly incorporated into the ordinance.

**Section 9 – Laws, Rules and Regulations from other Agencies** – Any laws, rules or regulations passed by the national government or national government agencies prohibiting or regulating the use of the coastal waters where the MPA is located is hereby adopted under this ordinance and shall be incorporated herein. Any violation under such laws, rules or regulations shall be penalized in accordance therewith.

**Section 10 – MPA Boundaries** – The boundaries of the MPA shall be established by placing proper identification or markers for the proper guidance of the public in accordance with generally accepted maritime standards.

**Section 11 – Prohibited Acts** – It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct the following acts in the MPA:

1. Fishing without proper authorization as defined in the ordinance
2. Mining of any kind, including but not limited to: sand, rocks, and coral.
3. Harvesting of any endangered wildlife both on land and sea. A complete list of species that cannot be harvested shall be determined by the Management Council and incorporated herein.
4. Collection or removal of any historical objects.
5. Commercial harvesting of any marine resources
6. Disposal into the MPA of any hazardous chemicals or material and other waste materials such as plastic and Styrofoam.
7. Destructive fishing methods including but not limited to:
  - a. Dynamite/explosives
  - b. Cyanide/chemicals
  - c. Gillnets or driftnets
  - d. Spear fishing using SCUBA gear
  - e. Breaking of coral to catch fish
8. Anchoring
9. Collecting, harvesting or fishing of any invertebrate species for commercial purposes.
10. Trespassing or activities on land without the authorization of the landowners.
11. Shooting or harvesting the Mule or other endangered species.
12. Littering or dumping any hazardous materials on land.
13. Cutting down of more than twenty percent (20%) of trees.
14. Destroying local medicine plants and trees except for medicinal use.
15. Removing any coastal plants or trees that help minimize coastal erosion.
16. Bringing anything that causes pollution or is a detriment to the resources or development of the resources in the MPA.
17. Other acts that shall be prohibited by the rules and regulations issued by the MPA Management Council.

**Section 12 – Fundraising** – The MPA Management Council may raise funds, receive donations, financial or material assistance from any person or organization, whether local or international, and/or other governmental agencies, national or local, relevant to the improvement and development of the MPA.

**Section 13 – Miscellaneous Provisions** – The Management Council may impose fees or charges in their regulation of the MPA.

**Section 14 – Penalties** – Whoever violates any of the provisions of this ordinance or whoever is found guilty by a competent court of any offense(s) in the preceding sections, shall be fined in an amount not less than [REDACTED] but not more than [REDACTED] and/or imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, at the discretion of the court, provided that if the area requires rehabilitation or restoration as determined by the court, the offender shall also be required to restore or compensate for the restoration of the damage: Provided further that the court shall have the power to order confiscation and forfeiture of the any fishing boat and other paraphernalia used in the offense and the cancellation of the offender's permit or license. If the offender is an association, corporation, partnership or a cooperative, the president or manager and the members that committed the offense shall be penalized. Provided, further, that the violator may be ordered to render community service relevant to the protection of the MPA. Provided, further, that the Management Council may impose administrative fines and penalties consistent with this ordinance. The administrative fines and penalties collected by the Management Council shall be for their account and may be disbursed by them in accordance with their duly approved rules and procedures.

**Section 15 – Separability** - If for any reason, any provision, section or part of the ordinance is declared not valid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect or impair the remaining provisions, sections or parts thereof which shall remain and continue to be in full force and effect.

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

<b>Project Results</b>	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	<b>MULE:</b> 34 acres on Mili and 10 acres on Majuro <b>Bristle Thighed Curlew:</b> About 1000 acres on Mili, Maloelap and Likiep		Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes			

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.**

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

**Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities**

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Majuro Atoll	X		X					X	X			X							X		
Mili Atoll	X		X					X	X			X							X		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>					<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>							<b>2</b>		

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

## **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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