CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Auckland UniServices Ltd
Project Title:	Developing an effective resource/tool for the prioritization of management action against invasive alien species that threaten the biodiversity value of the 60 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) identified for site-level investment by the CEPF.
Date of Report:	19 April 2010
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CEPF Region: Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 1. Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas 1.3 Perform research, provide training in management techniques, and develop rapid response capacity against particularly serious invasive species

Grant Amount: US $15,227 (excluding any applicable taxes)

Project Dates: 8 months with an extension of 4 months [March 2009 to October 2009 extended to February 2010]

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

NA

Conservation Impacts

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

60 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) have been identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile, for site-level investment. These sites of high conservation value contain 67 globally threatened species identified for species-level investment, many of which are globally classified 'Critically Endangered (CR)' and 'Endangered (EN)' species.

Insular island ecosystems like those that lie in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot exhibit high levels of endemism and are especially vulnerable to impacts such as habitat destruction and the spread of invasive species. The CEPF ecosystem profile identifies the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species in KBA's, and strengthening the conservation status and management of these 60 KBA's as two of its three strategic directions. A lack of baseline biodiversity information and threat data is identified by the authors of the ecosystem profile as one of the constraints to 'mounting an effective response to environmental threats in most countries of the hotspot'.

Our project has undertaken to address this gap in invasive species threat data and biodiversity information at both site and species level. The Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) has developed a database of data and information related to island biodiversity, information on the threat of invasive species on these native biodiversity, management action implemented, ongoing

and planned and conservation outcomes gained as a result of this action. Whilst developing the database baseline information on native biodiversity and invasive species has been collated to form part of the database.

It is envisaged that this online searchable database would serve as a decision support tool for decision makers and practitioners involved in the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species in KBA's thus strengthening the conservation status and management of these 60 KBA's. The database will also raise awareness about the impacts of invasive species on native biodiversity and vulnerable ecosystems.

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

The expected output of this proposal was a resource/tool of priority key biodiversity areas, the endangered species on them and the impact of invasive species on these priority ecosystems and species. The focus was on the 65 priority species on 60 Key Biodiversity areas in the nine countries prioritized by the CEPF in the ecosystem profile and during the first call for funding.

The database outlined in our proposal was planned to be in Microsoft Excel format, but subsequent co-funding by the Pacific Small Environmental Grants (U.S.) to expand the number of countries and species covered in the database caused us to reconsider the format. A database titled 'Island Biodiversity- the threat of Invasive Species [IBIS] - Pacific Pilot' has been developed in Microsoft Access, simple queries can be run on the database to produce a country and species report. IBIS will be made available in CDROM format for review.

IBIS which will serve as the working version of the searchable online database will also be sent to key conservation practitioners and decision makers for comments and suggestion over the next 6 weeks. Revisions will be made to IBIS based on comments after review before the final version is posted online.

IBIS will be posted online on the ISSG website, thematic databases page as a searchable database with a comprehensive query system by the end of August 2010. This is being made possible by internal funding from the ISSG Regional Office for the Pacific.

The online database will feature information on 24 Pacific island countries/territories, 245 priority endangered species on 101 Key Biodiversity sites and other designated areas- that is the combined output from the CEPF funded and the Pacific Small Environmental Grants (U.S) co-funded proposals.

Data and information included in the database are as follows:

- Country information: description, information on environmental related agreements that the country has signed to; national legislation related to the environment.
- Inventory of designated areas in a country including Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs), Ramsar sites, World Heritage Areas etc.
- Inventory of endangered species present in the country/ designated area with detailed information on the species. The shortlist of species (priority species identified in the CEPF Ecosystem profiles have been highlighted. An invasive species threat summary, a management of invasive species action summary, a conservation outcome summary has been developed for each of these species. Lists of projects that have been implemented, are ongoing or are being planned have been included. Detailed case studies of each of these projects have been planned in the second phase of this project for which we are actively seeking funds.

- Inventory of invasive species in each country/designated area. In text links have been provided to the invasive species profile on the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) or the Pacific Ecosystems at Risk (PIER) where available.
- A reference list of all the sources used while developing the database will form part of every species profile.

IBIS in the Access database version can produce Country/Species reports as a result of a query. Instructions have been provided to run simple queries.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Species in the 60 priority Key Biodiversity Areas have been covered
Species Conserved: Endangered species covered in IBIS include the 65 CEPF priority species
Corridors Created: NA

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

The challenges of the project in achieving its short-term objective were primarily related to sourcing unpublished information from conservation practitioners and organizations within the given time frame of the project and the peer review process. Our initial estimate of 8 months was inadequate. A four month extension was requested to overcome this challenge. Our evaluation at the end of this four month extension period is that there remains a significant amount of information that has been received that needs to be processed and included.

We have undertaken to implement a peer review of the summaries we have written and 8 species summaries are under review, they will be posted into IBIS once they are received.

The long term challenge is the issue of establishing and expanding sustainable networks with practitioners in the region and keeping the information exchange mechanism dynamic so the two way information flow remains engaged and active.

The success of the project can be attributed to the networks maintained by the ISSG and conservation practitioners who were eager to share their information, their successes and failures

The ISSG Regional Office for the Pacific has committed to managing and maintaining this database. Another challenge in the long term is to be able to source adequate funds to enhance the database by including more endangered species and keeping up the currency of the resource.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

An unexpected positive impact was the expansion of our networks to include and engage with a diverse group of conservation practitioners that work on the conservation of threatened species not essentially on the invasive species threat. This engagement is facilitating exchange and sharing of information.

No unexpected negative impacts have been experienced so far.

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.

Lessons learned during implementation of the project related to the need for better planning related to the cost and timing for the envisaged scope of the work.

The project gave us the opportunity to build capacity and knowledge on how to handle other thematic database creation projects.

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

Well thought of goal setting contributed to the success of the project. The simplicity of the database structure made the task of data entry and structuring easy.

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

The time allotted was inadequate for the goals and tasks we set ourselves; especially the aspect that related to sourcing information from practitioners across the regions. Therefore we had to seek an extension.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The important lesson we learned was that the invasive species issue is of a cross-sectored nature and it is important for our group to reach across sectors and engage with conservation practitioners who are working in other sectors in the biodiversity and bio-security field.

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
Pacific Small Environmental Grant (U.S)	Partner leveraging	$ 21,400	This co-funding enabled us to include an additional 15 countries and an additional 180 species to the database

***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 *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*

C *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

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

The development of the IBIS-Pacific Pilot demonstrated the potential of this database, in terms of the range of content and functionality, which could be offered to our Pacific and wider invasive species stakeholders. As a complementary database to the Global Invasive Species Database that the ISSG manages this information portal could be a significant platform for the exchange of best practice in the prevention, management and control of the spread of invasive species.

The challenge in achieving planned sustainability and replicability is threefold a) to present a user-friendly but efficient searchable database and b) the long-term challenge of enhancing the content on a regular basis and c) replicating the idea by including other islands groups and native biodiversity.

The ISSG Regional Office for the Pacific took a decision to invest funds in expertise (collaboration with the Department of Computer Science, University of Auckland) and take advantage of new technology to develop an efficient and functional online searchable database. This will enable us to include information on global islands, that can be viewed under different grouping, for example islands with sea-birds on it, World Heritage Sites, Key Biodiversity Areas, Endemic Bird Areas; islands based on sizes, on the type of invasive species present, on impact types etc.

The ISSG Regional Office for the Pacific has made the development and enhancement of IBIS the focus of its work over the next five years. We are actively seeking funds to expand and enhance the database. Three proposals have been submitted a) to include the Japanese Bonin-Ogaswara and islands of the South China Seas; b) include World Heritage Sites information; c) to include more Pacific endemic threatened species (to the CEPF).

The ISSG is also working during June and July to include a completed dataset of invasive species and threatened species on sub-Antarctic islands to IBIS.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

NA

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.

Project Results	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.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.				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?				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.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.				

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													
									Increased Income due to:													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	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
Total																						

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, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name:
Organization name:
Mailing address:
Tel:
Fax:
E-mail: