CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	The Nature Conservancy
Project Title:	Building Conservation Capacity in Micronesia: Toward Sustainable Watershed Management in Key Terrestrial Biodiversity Sites
Date of Report:	02-15-13
Report Author and Contact Information	Umiich Sengebau fsengebau@tnc.org (680) 488 2017

CEPF Region: Polynesia-Micronesia

Strategic Direction: 2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas

Grant Amount $157070.00

Project Dates: July 1, 2010-Dec 31, 2012

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

Conservation Impacts

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

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Project Approach (500 words)

The CEPF grant funded full-time Watershed Coordinators in Palau. Kosrae and Pohnpei for two years. The TNC Micronesia Program Deputy Director of Conservation served as a mentor and technical advisor for the watershed coordinators. These local watershed coordinators implemented all upland forest watershed management activities and built strong working relationship of local conservation NGOs and government resources agencies in each island. As a mentor and technical advisor, TNC Micronesia Program Deputy Director explored interest and capacity in Chuuk (site of another CEPF priority area) and Yap. It is within this broad, proven terrestrial model that the TNC's Deputy Director of Conservation worked closely with local watershed coordinators to achieve greater coordination and collaboration among the various agencies/organizations and provided technical assistance to on-going forest/watershed projects implemented by the local partner agencies/organizations.

More specifically, in Palau, Belau Watershed Alliance increased its members to nine and established a Technical Committee made up of natural resources agencies in government and non-government organizations to advise the Alliance on watershed management issues. TNC along with technical partners also assisted the Alliance in conducting eight conservation action plans that led to development of eight management plans for critical watershed areas. All these sites except for one are currently receiving funding from Protected Areas Network Fund's Green Fee.

In Pohnpei, Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) through the efforts of the Watershed Coordinator helped strengthen the Watershed committee that included members from the local municipalities and resources agencies. This effort enabled the Watershed Technical Team to demarcate the boundary line of the Watershed Reserve which to date is still on-going. Efforts have been more focused in Nanpil Watershed in Nett Municipality because it is provide water to more than 50% percent of the population. CAP workshop was completed for the Nett Municpality including the critical Nanpil Watershed. This CAP led to the development of the draft management plan for the watershed. More recently, in January 2013, Nett District Administrator called a meeting that included CSP, Micronesia Conservation Trust, TNC and a member of the Pohnpei State Legislature to announce that he has formed a Water Fund committee. The committee is currently conducting community meetings about his plans to establish a water fund for Nett and have also set aside some funds to start a water fund trust fund. As part of its support to this effort, CSP will work with Nett gov't to organize a planning meeting to include government, community and private sector. The meeting will address issues such as permanent stream of funding for the Waterfund, activities that can be funded from the proceeds, establishment of a governing body, where the fund will be housed and managed and so forth. It is anticipated that in March, 2013, a hand over ceremony of Nett Municipality's initial contribution to its water fund trust fund will take place. The hand over will coincide with the reporting of a recent Payment For Ecosystem Services (PES) study conducted by CSP which focuses the Nett municipality. If successful, a water fund for Nett Municipal will be the first in Micronesia.

In Kosrae, KCSO through the efforts of the Watershed Coordinator helped coordinate the resources agencies to assist in the CAP and development of draft management plan for YELA conservation area. The watershed coordinator also worked with Olum Watershed landowners to establish this critical watershed as a protected area. As for the sustainable financing, TNC helped the YELA landowners secure conservation easement funding through the US Forest Service Forest Legacy program along with the matching fund from the Packard foundation. This is the first as far as the conservation easement program is concern for Micronesia.

Link to CEPF Investment Strategy

This project addressed CEPF Strategic Direction #2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 biodiversity areas.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

This proposed project will lead to strengthening the conservation status and management of critical upland forest (biodiversity terrestrial hotspots) thereby contributing to the goals Micronesia Challenge 2020. More specifically, the protection and effective management of the critical watersheds of Micronesia contribute to the goal of effectively conserving 20% of terrestrial resources.

Actual Progress Towards Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The project fulfilled this long-term objective. The conservation status and management of critical upland forest has been significantly advanced as a direct result of this project. In fact, this project has provided the critical foundation for the successful implementation of the Micronesia Challenge 20% effective conservation of terrestrial resources.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

By 2012, this project has significantly increased the capacity of local government and non-government agencies and empowered the communities in Micronesia to manage

and protect their critical upland forest areas through the sharing of improved watershed management activities and practices.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:
The project fulfilled the short term objective as well. In fact, the level of awareness of communities in Micronesia, including elected and traditional leaders, have significantly increased as a direct result of this project. Additionally, the conservation practitioners involved in the watershed management have also increased their technical capacities as a result of this project.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:
Palau (Babeldaob): 3,518 HA
Pohnpei (Nett Watershed): 200 HA
Kosrae (Olum Watershed & Yela) : 153 HA & 31.6 HA

Species Conserved:
Palau: Native flora and fauna: 830 vascular plants (includes 194 endemics); 130 species of fungi; 161 bird species (includes 51 residents with 12 endemics, and 5 endangered); 46 species of reptiles and amphibians (saltwater crocodile); 47 freshwater fish; 92 species of snails; and estimated 5000 species of insects.

Pohnpei Nett Watershed

Scientific name	Pohnpei name	Habit-growth pattern	Status
Melcope ponapensis	Kahmet, pehpe	Shrub or tree	Endemic
Terminalia carolinensis	Kehma	Tree	Indigenous
Metroxylon amicarum	Oahs	Palm tree	Indigenous
Clinostigma ponapense	Kotop	Palm tree	Endemic
Calymomodon ponapensis	None	Herb	Endemic
Diplazium ponapense	Peipei eni	Herb	Endemic
Lepinia ponapensis	None	Tree	Endemic
Garcinia ponapensis	Kehnpwil	Tree	Endemic
Pohnpei Lorikeet	Serehd	Bird	Endemic
Kosrae Olum Watershed			
Scientific name	**Kosrae name**	**Life Form**	**Status**
Cyrtandra kusaimontana	None	Shrub	Endemic-Common
Medinilla diversifolia	None	Shrub	Endemic-Rare

Pandanus kusaicolus	'Mweng finol'	Tree	Endemic-Common
Phreatia kusaiensis	None	Orchid	Endemic-Rare
Polyscias subcapitata	None	Shrub	Endemic-Common
Terminalia carolinense	Ka	Tree	Endemic-Common
Ducula oceanica	Ule	Pigeon	Endangered-Rare
Zosterops cinereus	Tuhram	Bird	Endemic-Common
Pteropus mariannus ualnus	Fak	Mammal	Endangered-Common

Corridors Created:
None

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.
It was very clear the success of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact strategies included,
Success:

- **Strong traditional and elected leadership support for the project**
- **Active involvement of the local communities**
- **Support from government and non-government resources agencies and organizations such as technical resources and advice.**
- **Key respected individuals championing the project**
- **Local people (who speaks local language) who provided technical support for the project**

Challenges:

- **Mentor and technical advisor limited availability in providing support to Pohnpei and Kosrae.**
- **Limited data available watershed data and information.**
- **Marine issues still priority for many communities not watershed.**
- **Needed more time to fully implement the project.**

For the most part, we were able to overcome many of the challenges by accessing resources offered by other agencies and organization such as US Forest Service and RARE.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?
The project, in its effort, to seek sustainable financing to fund watershed work in Micronesia has really put the PES scheme at the forefront especially the "Waterfunds Model" from Latin America and leaders in Micronesia are getting excited about the idea and are proposing it as an ideal way to achieve financial sustainability.

Project Components

Project Components*: Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:
Increase involvement of local leadership and public awareness of watershed managment and water resources issues

Component 1 Actual at Completion:
Local leadership in Palau, Pohnpei and Kosrae are fully aware and are involved in watershed management for their islands.

Component 2 Planned: Integrate watershed management practices with planning activities and policies in each of the project sites

Component 2 Actual at Completion:
I say this component was achieved with mixed success. From conservation/protected area standpoint, I felt with did very well working with local/municipal communities. We did not do enough in regards to policies with physical developments and farming practices especially working with environmental agencies on regulations on best management practices.

Component 3 Planned: Develop sustainable financing plans and 10-step process for healthy watersheds for watershed partnerships

Component 3 Actual at Completion:
We exceeded expectations in regards to this project component. All three sites (Palau, Pohnpei, and Kosrae) have identified funding scheme to financially sustain watershed management work into the future.

Component 4 Planned: Implement water monitoring measures for the watershed partnerships linking with Micronesia Challenge effectiveness measures and prepare final report

Component 4Actual at Completion:
This is another mixed success. We were able to agree on the monitoring measures indicators and methods linked to the Micronesia Challenge; however, the implementation has been slow in all the sites.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?
All the project components were realized to certain extent. The minor components that were not realized did not negatively impact the overall project

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

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.

Here are some of the lessons learned from the project:
Relevant and sound science—Availability and effective communication of sound scientific information is essential.
Relevance to livelihood—Conservation targets must be linked to quality of life.
Leadership—Identification of an individual who can act as project champion is key.
Awareness of social, cultural and political context—Palau, much like other small cultures in a modernizing world, has complex, sometimes subtle but often intersecting social, cultural and political landscapes.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
Subcontracting the watershed coordinators under the professional service in each of the three jurisdictions. These committed individuals are the foot soldiers that made sure that the work on the ground was completed.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
Support from all levels of the government and especially from the communities.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

We need to empower the communities to take more responsibility and control of the management and wise-use of their resources. More and more, the local communities are heavily dependent of NGOs and government agencies in managing their natural resources.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

None

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
BirdLife			
Government of French Polynesia			
Pacific Invasive Initiative (PII)			
SOP Manu			

Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:

- ***A*** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded 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 project was able to achieve the planned sustainability because of the local communities' willingness to own the watershed management work. This ownership issue is critical for success of any conservation project. After all, the communities realized in the end that they are beneficiaries of the fruits of this project.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

None

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None

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: **Umiich Sengebau**
Organization name: **TNC Micronesia Program**
Mailing address: **PO Box 1738 Koror, Palau 96940**
Tel: **(680) 488 2017**
Fax: (**680) 488 4550**
E-mail: **fsengebau@tnc.org**

If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages

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.	yes	3902	3902	
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	153	153	
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.	yes	3902	3902	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	yes			

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
Nett			X									X		X							
Olum			X											X							
Babeldaob			X							X	X			X							
Total																					

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