

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Solomon Islands National University Strengthening Research and Teaching Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in the Solomon Islands National University
Project Title:	National University
Grant Number:	66424
CEPF Region:	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction:	4 Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships
Grant Amount:	\$61,724.00
Project Dates:	August 01, 2017 - June 30, 2019
Date of Report:	October 28, 2019

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences - Solomon Islands National University being the recipient and beneficiary of this project. Academic staff in the School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences received the training from these workshops
Biological Sciences - University of Queensland: provided training and workshops.
Mid term review - hosted the review December 2018, which brought in grantees within the east melanesia region and cepf staff from Washington.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The project has achieved its overall goals. Although we have to cancel some aspects of the project, i.e., the Statistic section, overall, this project for most part has delivered more positive outcome towards the School. The result or impact of this project can be seen in the following;

- 1. Academic staff at the school, particularly in the Environment Dept. have undergone training and upskilling in the areas of biodiversity conservation.**
- 2. We have good resources and materials to be turned into booklets for teaching (for academic staff and students) in areas of biodiversity conservation**

- 3. Through workshops from this project, our staff are better prepared to develop the Bachelor of Environment and Conservation Programme**
- 4. This project produces materials we are using to develop our Bachelor of Environment and Conservation Programme**
- 5. The University as a whole (being a new University) has never in the past handle project money as this. This project has allowed us to re-organise our finance system to allow for better management and handling of project money.**
- 6. Our acceptance to host Mid-Term Review brought good experience to handle, organise large gathering of grantees, academics and CEPF people from Washington**
- 7. This project provided opportunity for the staff of Environment Dept. to apply for onf the small funding under GEF most recently to partner with local community conservation group.**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The School of Natural Resources and Applied Science (SNRAS) at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is a nationally recognized tertiary provider of biodiversity conservation courses, attracting undergraduate and postgraduate students, and is able to feed data for evidence-based conservation decision-making into relevant national policies and strategies.	Development of Bachelor of Environment and Conservation which is targeted to be offered in 2021, will attract undergraduate of students nationally and regionally. Postgraduate courses will come later. At these level, will be teaching high level biodiversity with field based evidence based data.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. The 30 staff at SNRAS have an increased capacity to fund, conduct and publish biodiversity and conservation research of benefit to the Solomon Islands, resulting in at least two peer-reviewed publications on biodiversity conservation topics accepted with at SNRAS address line by 2021.	Staff are involved in research work through application for internal grants (currently about 13 staff) have been awarded small grants to conduct various research from forestry to agriculture and biodiversity conservation. The Environment and Conservation Dept. has applied for small grant under GEF fund
2. Development of a Diploma in Environmental Studies that includes thorough coverage of the topics of biodiversity conservation in the Pacific, and systematics, biogeography and climate change, by 2019.	Resources sourced through workshops from this project have become resources currently used in the diploma programme. Resources also available to students
3. At least 15 lecturers and 5 tutors at SNRAS have each participated in one or more workshops as part of this project, and have subsequently applied project materials to SNRAS courses and / or research on biodiversity and conservation.	More than 25 lecturers and tutors have participated in all the workshops. About 13 staff are currently involved in research work with funding from the university
AMENDMENT OCTOBER 2018 The School of Natural Resources and Applied Science	Successful completion of a 3 days mid-term review in december 2018



(SNRAS) at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) successfully facilitates the Mid-term review of CEPF's investment in East Melanesia, bringing together grantees from the 3 focal countries of the hotspot in order to share lessons learned and strengthen networks and partnerships.	
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Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

On the long term, the project equipped our staff with knowledge and resources to deliver at the tertiary level. As a new University and with development of its courses at different programme level, there is a lot of psotive to take from this training. And as we work towards developing our Bachelor and later Postgraduate courses, the project as come at a better time.

On the short term -

- (a) a total of over 25 staff per training / workshop have increased their capacity to conduct and publish biodiversity and conservation topics of benefit to the Solomon Islands.**
- (b) we have better resources in the areas of biodiversity conservating that is supporting our current Diploma in Environment and Conservation**
- (c) we have commenced the development of our Bachelor in Environment and Conservation.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

For the University on the whole (Solomon Islands National University - being a new Universsity) their handling of the project money allowed the re-organisation of how grants for specific projects as this are managed. For example, when fund for this project initially came into the University account, it was held under one account which is also used for general running of the University. With this project, we argued that the University must have another account under project money. As a result, the University was able to set up a section of its own in our finance dept. to manage project money as this.

This project through the Mid-Term Review in December 2018 provided oppportunity for the University to place its mark or being highlighted. This was as we draw grantees and academics from around the east Melanesia and Australia, USA and Fiji. We take great prided in showing to the world that we are small but emerging university. We feel that many academics and researchers will find us through such gathering. This we owe to CEPF for the opportunity to host the Mid-Term Review

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Enable academic staff and tutors to increase the scope of biodiversity conservation topics covered in the new Diploma in Environmental Studies and the future Bachelor and postgraduate degree, and for research projects for grant funding proposals	1.1	By December 2017, the current state of knowledge and experience of SNRAS staff and tutors is assessed through a questionnaire and interview with interested participants.	This was completed in 2017 through short questionnaire
1	Enable academic staff and tutors to increase the scope of biodiversity conservation topics covered in the new Diploma in Environmental Studies and the future Bachelor and postgraduate degree, and for research projects for grant funding proposals	1.2	By the end of March 2018 key workshop materials are developed for the three topic areas, each in a separate workshop: 'Biodiversity conservation', 'Systematics, biogeography and climate change' & 'Running research projects in the Pacific',	Workshop materials available with us.
1	Enable academic staff and tutors	1.3	By December 2018,	Successful completion of this.

	to increase the scope of biodiversity conservation topics covered in the new Diploma in Environmental Studies and the future Bachelor and postgraduate degree, and for research projects for grant funding proposals		workshops on 'Biodiversity conservation', 'Systematics, biogeography and climate change' and 'Running research projects in the Pacific' have been completed, and a list of participants and slides from the workshops is available.	
1	Enable academic staff and tutors to increase the scope of biodiversity conservation topics covered in the new Diploma in Environmental Studies and the future Bachelor and postgraduate degree, and for research projects for grant funding proposals	1.4	By June 2019, 40 printed handbooks are provided to SNRAS for each of the three topic area workshops, summarising materials in each workshop and listing sources of further information and future updates (contacts and online links)	We are yet to print the booklets in these areas. Materials for these are at hand.
1	Enable academic staff and tutors to increase the scope of biodiversity conservation topics covered in	1.5	By June 2019 at least one proposal is prepared and submitted, aiming to fund a new	We have submitted a proposal of up to USD40,000.00 through GEF for community conservation work in rural solomon islands

	the new Diploma in Environmental Studies and the future Bachelor and postgraduate degree, and for research projects for grant funding proposals		conservation research project led by SNRAS staff worth at least \$20,000.	
2	SINU staff gain data analysis skills relevant to large datasets on Solomon Islands biodiversity topics for teaching and research	2.1	By December 2017, the current state of knowledge and experience of SNRAS staff and tutors is assessed through a questionnaire and interview with interested participants.	We have completed this in 2017
2	SINU staff gain data analysis skills relevant to large datasets on Solomon Islands biodiversity topics for teaching and research	2.2	By the end of April 2018, datasets for analysis are identified, assembled and formatted correctly, and questions are formulated.	We have not achieved this.
2	SINU staff gain data analysis skills relevant to large datasets on Solomon Islands biodiversity topics for teaching and research	2.3	By the end of April 2018, the current state of resources for data analysis at SINU and SNRAS is assessed-	This was not achieved. Training and workshop were cancelled due to time limitation. Resource personnels were also not available. Also funding for this was not released by CEPF.

			computers, software, access to documentation and advice	
2	SINU staff gain data analysis skills relevant to large datasets on Solomon Islands biodiversity topics for teaching and research	2.4	By the end of April 2018, free software is installed onto computers that can be used for teaching and research at SNRAS, for both staff and students (R and RStudio)	Funding was not available for this as CEPF did not release our last tranche.
2	SINU staff gain data analysis skills relevant to large datasets on Solomon Islands biodiversity topics for teaching and research	2.5	By November 2018, data analysis skills workshop is run at SNRAS, participants (up to 30 staff and 8 tutors, minimum 10 participants) have the results of their analyses, and they have interpreted answers to their research questions.	Did not achieve this.
3	Evaluate the success of biodiversity mainstreaming in the SNRAS curriculum	3.1	An anonymous questionnaire is available to staff, tutors and students to provide feedback about the	Completed November 2018

			success of the workshops and how they are applied to the curriculum (online / by email, with a hard copy alternative), by December 2018.	
3	Evaluate the success of biodiversity mainstreaming in the SNRAS curriculum	3.2	A report on the results of the feedback is provided to CEPF, by February 2019	Not sure if this was completed
3	Evaluate the success of biodiversity mainstreaming in the SNRAS curriculum	3.3	The current state of resources for data analysis at SINU and SNRAS is assessed- computers, software, access to documentation and advice	Not able to complete this, and software was not purchased
3	Evaluate the success of biodiversity mainstreaming in the SNRAS curriculum	3.4	Free software is installed at SNRAS for both staff and students (R and RStudio), by November 2017	Although this is a free software, we were not able to install this as we did not have have training on this software.
3	Evaluate the success of biodiversity mainstreaming in the SNRAS curriculum	3.5	Data analysis skills workshop is run at SNRAS, participants have the results of their analyses, and	Again, we did not did not do this

			they have interpreted answers to their research questions, by January 2018	
3	Evaluate the success of biodiversity mainstreaming in the SNRAS curriculum	3.6	Printed handbooks and data analysis instructions are provided to SNRAS, by January 2018	Still in process.
4	CEPF project management and monitoring	4.1	CEPF financial and programmatic reports submitted on time and accurately	We have tried to do this through out this project
4	CEPF project management and monitoring	4.2	Final impact monitoring report completed at project close.	Working on this
2	SINU staff gain data analysis skills relevant to large datasets on Solomon Islands biodiversity topics for teaching and research	2.6	Printed handbooks for the data analysis skills workshop, and data analysis instructions are provided to SNRAS, by November 2018	We will complete this later. Materials to be printed are with us.
4	CEPF project management and monitoring	4.3	Preparation and submission of baseline and final Gender Tracking tool	completed this
4	CEPF project management	4.4	Preparation and	Completed and submitted

	and monitoring		submission of baseline and final Civil Society Tracking tool (prepared by SNRAS)	
4	CEPF project management and monitoring	4.5	Preparation and submission of baseline and final Civil Society Tracking tool	Completed and submitted
4	CEPF project management and monitoring	4.6	Active monitoring of sub-grant to ensure compliance with CEPF policies	We believe we have complied with this
5	AMENDMENT OCTOBER 2018: Progress is captured, and networking and partnership-building is strengthened amongst grantees and other stakeholders in the hotspot through the hosting of CEPF's mid-term review for the East Melanesian Islands	5.1	AMENDMENT OCTOBER 2018: By December 2018, facilitate the organization and hosting of CEPF's mid-term review for the East Melanesian Islands, enabling approximately 70 grantee participants, to network, learn lessons and strengthen partnerships in EMI.	Successfully completed this
5	AMENDMENT	5.2	OCTOBER	Completed

	OCTOBER 2018: Progress is captured, and networking and partnership-building is strengthened amongst grantees and other stakeholders in the hotspot through the hosting of CEPF's mid-term review for the East Melanesian Islands		2018 AMENDMENT: By December 10th 2018, develop and implement a media outreach plan to disseminate information about CEPF's grantees and their achievements, before, during and following the exchange	
5	AMENDMENT OCTOBER 2018: Progress is captured, and networking and partnership-building is strengthened amongst grantees and other stakeholders in the hotspot through the hosting of CEPF's mid-term review for the East Melanesian Islands	5.3	OCTOBER 2018 AMENDMENT: By March 2019, proceedings of the mid-term review are finalized and published	This should have been done by Helen and Seno.

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

Nothing in particular

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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Being a first time recipient for this project, our involvement in this project provide us opportunity learn and build capacity in the areas of Environment Conservation. The following are few of what we feel may have contributed to us in a more positive way;

- 1. There is more improvement in our Finance System to handle project money**
- 2. There is greater understanding within University of how project money as such could build capacity within our university (Our University being New)**
- 3. Among staff, there is awareness of fundings which can be accessed through providing good proposal**
- 4. This project provided opportunity for many of our staff to secure funding internally (through University) for research**
- 5. We have resources and materials through workshops in this project which will supports us in the development of our Bachelor Programme**
- 6. Current resources through this project have immensely supported our teaching in our current certificate and diploma in Environment.**

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

We have submitted for a GEF funding in a tune of USD40,000.00 to provide support to community conservation groups in Solomon Islands. We are using many of what we learned in the project to support us in our new perposal. We think this will allow us to continue on the same areas in the project.

Also through funding from the Univeristy, many of our staff are involved in small research project.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

This project did not involve working with resources (land owners) thus, did not require safeguards

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Our acknowledgement and gratitude to CEPF for the funding. Although we have not fully utilised the who fund available to us, we have learned a lot. We hope lesson learned from this project will enable us to improve in the future.

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 CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$0.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of 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)*

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.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below



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