



## EMI Small Grants – Final Project Completion and Impact Report

### ***Instructions to grantees:***

CEPF requires each grantee to report on your project results and impacts at the end of your grant.

To monitor CEPF's global indicators, CEPF will combine the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. These impacts will be reported on in CEPF's annual impact report and other communications materials.

Your Final Completion and Impact Report will be posted on the CEPF website.

**Please ensure that the information you provide relates to your entire project, from start date to end date.**

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	<i>Mai-Maasina Green Belt</i>
<b>Project Title:</b>	Towards a network of Protected Areas in Malaita: sharing lessons from KBAs in Western Province, Solomon Islands
<b>Grant Number:</b>	GA21/02
<b>Project Dates:</b>	1 June 2021 – 31 January 2022
<b>Date of Report:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022
<b>CEPF Hotspot:</b>	East Melanesian Islands
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	SD4
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	<b>USD19,670</b>

### **PART I: Overview**

#### **1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)**

**NRDF** – an essential stakeholder that, like Mai-Maasina Green Belt, serves as a conservation body for conservation areas in Western and Choiseul Provinces. Prior to the two-week long look and learn trip, NRDF organized logistics and accommodation for the team, as well as the program for the visit. NRDF also shared its success stories especially on carbon trading, strategic plans, and obstacles faced by local conservation groups in working toward a PA, and how its model may help MMGB's development as a supporting body to its members in Malaita Province.

**Choiseul PA committees (Sirebe and Siporae)** – These tribes have completed the PA process and MMGB and partners heard about the success stories, challenges, and strategic plans in place towards their development towards PA over the years. These were also documented by

Aelanlife. The communities provided accommodation and hospitality for the team during their visit assisted by NRDF.

**KIBCA** – MMGB learned a lot from this important stakeholder especially about the Kolombangara PA Development process. Success stories were shared and documented as well as the challenges they have encountered throughout the process. These stories will contribute a lot to PA development in Malaita.

**Gizo Women in Business** – GWIB's involvement was a great learning opportunity for which one Women's Savings club in Gizo shared their stories and livelihood model in honey farming established by GWIB and NRDF.

**MMGB members** – From the look and learn trip to Choiseul and Western province, each of the eight MMGB members (WAIHAU, AWCA, KIRA, BARU, RARIPAINA, POOTORI, ORA and TOOKINA) learned a lot and expected to share whatever information they have with regards to the PA process, and community models in conservation that can be replicated in their conservation association. It is anticipated that some or all of these groups will begin working towards Protected Area establishment. One of the requirements is to have a management plan in place. And these groups are beginning to draft management plans for their conservation areas in Malaita.

**AELANLIFE FILM**- Documented the whole Look and Learn Trip to Western and Choiseul Province. They captured stories shared by each conservation group visited, including their successes, challenges and activities being undertaken in the areas.

## **2. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project**

### **Summary Outcome of Look and Learn Trip to Western Province and Choiseul**

As a consequence of the look and learn trip, the team was able to learn from and form new contacts with various conservation groups and stakeholders operating in the Choiseul and Western Provinces.

We want MMGB to set a precedent for the communities we work in, and for the other thirty affiliated members, as well as any other interested organizations, in terms of changing people's minds about the importance of marine and terrestrial ecosystem conservation.

This look and learn trip fulfilled the goals of enabling MMGB and our partners to learn from the experiences in Western and Choiseul so that we can begin the process of moving towards protected area establishment in Malaita. The trip has given us all an invigorated and new sense of direction in terms of taking control of our natural wealth in the future.

**3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The Look and Learn trip will provide a greater understanding of the PA process and inter-provincial relationships established between communities	Members of the MMGB will be able to use the lessons learnt to inspire them to work towards PA, paving the way for other conservation groups in Malaita.
The trip will be documented in order to share these lessons with a larger audience and to raise future awareness and information.	Documenting conservation stories sends a message to the next generation about the importance of being good stewards of the environment, especially in the face of climate change, logging impacts and alternative approaches to livelihoods and sustainability.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
A look and learn trip will enable 12 members of the MMGB network to visit other provinces and protected areas and begin the process of PA designation in Malaita	The team is now beginning to comprehend the process of working toward PA, as well as the requirements and problems that will be encountered along the way. The newfound conservation relationships formed during the look and learn in Western and Choiseul Provinces will go a long way in terms of conservation for Malaita.
A reflection meeting/planning workshop to share lessons with MMGB members and draft management plans	This meeting was not possible due to the Honiara riots and the covid restrictions. It will be up to MMGB and partners to work with each other individually and perhaps look for future funds to come together in Malaita once domestic travel open up again.
The five conservation areas have drafted their management plans.	Preparation of management plans are an important step of the PA process. Though we and our partners did not directly instigate the drafting of plans, the MMGB team were able to answer questions and hold group and individual discussions on their planning process and content while undertaking the Look and Learn trip. Capacity building and information exchange are critical in helping each MMGB member achieve their goals and objectives and extend beyond their boundaries, paving the way for other Malaita conservation groups. Four members of MMGB have completed management plans (Wai Hau, Pootori, Raripaina and Kira) and one has submitted to the Ministry of Environment for review (Kira). This will motivate other members to follow suit in working towards Protected Areas.
Documentaries produced as a tool to share lessons not only of the trip but also of the PA process in the Solomon Islands context.	Stories from conservation groups in Western and Choiseul Province were shared and captured by Aelanlife in 2 videos. These have been shared on the MMGB facebook page and have been sent to CEPF/IUCN for wider sharing and dissemination.

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

The Look and Learn trip was a success, and the team returned home healthy and injury-free. Each participant returned with lessons gained, including success stories and challenges expressed by each of the conservation groups visited in the provinces of Western and Choiseul. The trip provided a chance for MMGB members to learn about the steps involved in declaring their conservation areas a Protected Area in order to participate in Carbon Trading in the future.

Aelanlife Film covered the trip effectively, producing two documentaries capturing the team's experience and the experiences provided by each conservation group visited in Western and Choiseul Provinces.

The main challenge now is getting members to share the lessons learned with their respective communities and also getting them to begin work on their management plan, especially those who haven't started working on their management plans yet.

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

No

**PART II: Project Products/Deliverables**

**6. List each product/deliverable as stated in your approved proposal and describe the results for each of them:**

#	Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
1	Look and Learn Trip to Western and Choiseul Province	Lessons were learned from other groups visited, especially the NRDF model of approach as an Umbrella organization for conservation groups in Western and Choiseul Province. Skills and information were shared about honey farming, the establishment of women's saving's clubs, plant nursery care, the PA process and ranger skills
2	Workshop	The workshop was canceled due to Covid-19 transmission in Honiara.
3	Video (document stories)	Two videos were compiled by Aelanlife for the Look and Learn trip and launched on Facebook.

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

The Team's Look an Learn trip to Western and Choiseul Province yielded many lessons. Interviews with various partners and local conservationists were also undertaken, and meetings and discussions with local conservation groups. Practical demonstrations of rangers' fundamental methods and tools, were captured on film by Aelanlife.

### PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

- 8. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.**

Through the project we were able to assign more responsibility to our Finance Officer who led logistics arrangements for the look and learn trip and managed funds. The coordinator was also able to delegate some of the reporting duties to the Finance Officer, which was helpful in terms of ensuring that the coordinator could carry out project implementation.

#### Sustainability / Replication

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

Throughout the look and learn trip, our friends and partners in the Western and Choiseul provinces also requested a trip to visit our sites and work on Malaita. This is planned for some time in the future as a sign of sustainability, replication and reciprocity.

#### Safeguards

- 10. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.**

#### Additional Funding

- 11. 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**
- a. Total additional funding (US\$)
  - b. Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source.

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount	Notes
Nia Tero	Grant	USD30,000	To cover salaries and support MMGB's work towards the PA process for members

#### Additional Comments/Recommendations

- 12. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.**

With regards to the Look and Learn trip to Western and Choiseul Province, the following are some comments and recommendations:

- ❖ It's important to keep lines of communication open, and no decisions should be made without consulting the team leader (TL).
- ❖ In isolated places where there is no network coverage, satellite phones must be offered as a way of communication. Some of the locations we visited had inadequate network and telecommunication coverage. A 6.6 magnitude earthquake shook the island of Vangunu during our time in Zaira. We were concerned that it would result in a tsunami, but due to a lack of telecommunication service, we were unable to obtain further information. This is something the Solomon Islands National Government should seriously think about. The Zaira settlement lies only a few kilometers from the Kavachi undersea volcano, making it particularly vulnerable to tsunamis. As a result, a disaster evacuation strategy and sufficient communication facilities are required for this region of the country.
- ❖ To account for unforeseen circumstances and costs, contingency and miscellaneous should be incorporated into the budget.
- ❖ For gender balance, more women should join the team. Only two women were among the 13 members of the team. Women must be encouraged to participate in similar look and learn trips in the future if appropriate to do so.
- ❖ Payments were also delayed due to bank transfer clearing delays. Therefore payments for future look and learn excursions must be transferred two weeks prior to the trip. Due to these challenges we have now established internet banking which is a faster process of doing banking.

**PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level**

**Contribution to Portfolio Indicators**

In order to measure the results of CEPF investment strategy at the hotspot level, CEPF uses a set of Portfolio Indicators which are presented in the Ecosystem Profile of each hotspot. If CEPF assigned one or more Portfolio Indicators to your project, please list these below and report on the project's contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description

**Contribution to Global Indicators**

**Please report on all Global Indicators (sections 16 to 23 below) that are relevant to your project.**

**13. Benefits to Individuals**

**13a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.**

Report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training due to your project, such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture, farming, biological surveys, or how to conduct a patrol.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *	Topic(s) of Training
-	-	-

*\*Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

### 13b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

Report on the number of men and women that had an increase in income or cash (monetary) benefits due to your project from activities such as tourism, handicraft production, increased farm output, increased fishery output, medicinal plant harvest, or payment for conducting patrols.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits
	20	Catering in villages during Look and Learn
4		Boat Transport for Look and Learn

*\*Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

### 14. Protected Areas

#### Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of your project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	Original # of Hectares**	# of Hectares Newly Protected	Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*\* If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.*

*\*\* Enter the original total size, excluding the results of your project. If the protected area was not existing before your project, then enter zero.*

*\*\*\* Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the*

Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your protected area, use googlemap, right click on the center of your protected area, and select “What’s here?”, and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.

**15.Key Biodiversity Area Management**

**Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management**

Please report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, as a result of CEPF investment. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled “protected areas”, and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the “protected areas” indicator.

Name of KBA	KBA code from Ecosystem Profile	# of Hectares Improved *
-	-	-

*\* Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.*

If you want to know more about the monitoring of protected area management effectiveness and the tracking tool, please click [here](#).

Download the METT template which can be found on [this page](#) and then work with the protected area authorities to fill it out. Please go to the Protected Planet website [here](#) and search for your protected area in their database to record its associated WDPA ID. Then please fill in the following table:

WDPA ID	PA Official Name	Date of METT*	METT Total Score

*\* Please indicate when the METT was filled by the authorities of the park or provide a best estimate if the exact date is unknown. And please only provide METTs less than 12 months old.*

Please do not forget to submit the completed METT together with this report.

## 16. Production landscapes

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of CEPF investment. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

### Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention
Are Are and Kwaio (Malaita) region in Malaita	4000	-9.19	161.16	Management plans in development

\* If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.

\*\*Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.

\*\*\* Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

## 17. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of CEPF investment. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)							Country of Community	Type of Benefit (mark with x)							# of Beneficiaries			
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*		Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting
WAIHAU	x	x	x											x	x			25	25
AHETAHA	x	x	x											x	x			25	25
KIRA	x	x	x											x	x			25	25
BARU	x	x	x											x	x			50	50
RARIPAINA	x	x	x											x	x			25	25
POOTORI	x	x	x											x	x			50	50
ORA	x	x	x											x	x			25	25
TOOKINA	x	x	x											x	x			50	50

\*If you marked “Other” to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

### 18. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Please report on change in the number of legally binding laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of CEPF investment. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included. “Policies” that are adopted or pursued by a government, including a sector or faction of government, are eligible.

#### 18a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)																
		Local	National	International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade	Other*	
1	-																				
2																					

\* If you selected “other”, please give a brief description of the main topics addressed by the policy, law or regulation.

#### 18b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				
2				

## 19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

### Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

Please list any companies that have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of your project. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

No.	Name of Company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project	Country(s) where the practice has been adopted by the company
1	-		

## 20. Networks & Partnerships

### Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

Report on any networks or partnerships between and among civil society groups and other sectors that you have created or strengthened as a result of your project. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, or a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

Do not list the partnerships you formed with others to implement this project, unless these partnerships will continue after your project ends.

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership?	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1	Partnership between Solomon Island CSOs: NRDF/Choiseul Nakau partners/KIBCA/Zaira and MMGB	2021	Yes	Solomon Islands	Set up to enable MMGB and communities in Western and Choiseul to learn and share experiences in Protected Area establishment

## 21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

List any functioning sustainable financing mechanisms created or supported by your project. Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation. To be included, a mechanism must be delivering funds for conservation.

### 21a. Details about the mechanism

Fill in this table for as many mechanisms you worked on during your project implementation as needed.

NO.	Name of financing mechanism	Purpose of the mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1	-				

\*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

\*\*Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

\*\*\*Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.

## 21b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Project intervention (mark with x)			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1				

## 22. Red List Species

If your project included direct conservation interventions that benefited globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU), as per the IUCN Red List, add the species below.

Examples of interventions include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, species habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or Extinct in the Wild)	Intervention	Population Trend at Site (increasing, decreasing, stable or unknown)
-	-	-	-	-	-

## Part V. 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.

Provide the contact details of your organization (organization name and generic email address) so that interested parties can request further information about your project.

**Organization Name:** Mai-Maasina Green Belt

**Generic email address:** [coordinator@mai-maasina.org](mailto:coordinator@mai-maasina.org)