



EMI Small Grants – Final Project Completion and Impact Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name	<i>Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF)</i>
Project Title	Training and Capacity building for Berekasi Landowners Association (BLA)
Grant Number	GA20/02
Date of Report	6/8/21

CEPF Hotspot: East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 4

Grant Amount: USD16,595

Project Dates: 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2021

PART I: Overview

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

The CEPF funding provided technical support to the Berekasi Landowners Association (BLA). One of the major activities was moving through the Protected Area process under the Solomon Islands Protected Area Act.

NRDF facilitated the program of BLA and provided human resources to assist the project coordinator, and train Rangers and members of the tribe on administrative and practical activities.

The BLA owned the program and allowed these activities to happen. They were and continue to be interested in being part and parcel of the program by participating in one way or another. They are willing to manage and conserve their resources for their future generation's benefit.

2. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

Outcome of the program.

The Proposed Protected Area actions and approvals have been completed. All requirements were carried out and the PA application was submitted to the Ministry of Environment. A Public notice triggered some objections from neighboring tribes and the BLA is now taking the needed steps to address and solve those issues so that the declaration of the PA can take place soon.

The conservation house maintenance was completed, and only minor things need to be installed for the toilet and shower facilities. At this stage rangers and researchers and visitors can stay in the compound and carry out necessary work and research in managing the conservation area.

Training has been facilitated. For example, a women’s saving club workshop was held, and training on GPS and mapping. Other activities were also successful like a land boundary survey of the whole Barekasi land, and zoning of the PA management zones that apply to the PA management plan.

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

List each long-term impact from your proposal

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
SHORT TERM IMPACTS (OUTCOMES)	
Two members of the Barekasi Tribe have been trained in basic Bookkeeping and are appointed to lead the financial management of the STA and further upcoming projects	Two ladies of the tribe joined a financial bookkeeping course in Honiara and are doing small bookkeeping work for the project. Soon they will be more involved in the financial management of the upcoming Nakau project activities.
At least 8 rangers (male and female) have been trained in GPS use and mapping	Two trainings were facilitated for 12 Rangers (6 of them formal rangers) in GPS use and mapping with Avenza tool application.
At least 8 rangers (male and female) know how to establish permanent forest sample plots and do a forest inventory	This training was deferred as it was too early to do inventories at this stage. Nakau/NRDF is still developing a proper inventory methodology using the outcomes from the Sirebe Verification Audit in Choiseul done in 2021.
At least 20 members of the Barekasi tribe (including project staff) are trained and familiar with the Money story tools on financial planning and reporting. Report of workshop submitted to IUCN	This workshop was deferred as it was too early to do this. Instead, NRDF trained members in financial bookkeeping and reporting using a simple bookkeeping system that was set-up in the project laptop funded by this project. This bookkeeping shall be used by all future Nakau projects coordinated by NRDF.
At least 20 tribal members are trained and informed on how to organize and facilitate and tourists and other visitors that come to Leona to do bush walks or do other sightseeing	This workshop was postponed due to Covid restrictions impacting tourism. Instead, funds for this training were re-allocated to finalize the ranger compound in the proposed Protected Area, which will contribute to eco-tourism activities in the near future.
The Barekasi Landowners Association has turned into a well-established local organization, capable to implement and	The project has contributed to increased capacity within the BLA. Members have received skills to implement projects linked to the Protected Area such as the Nakau

manage Conservation projects that are linked to economic development activities	PES project. During project awareness, sessions contributed to more knowledge on conservation and the Nakau programme.
The Barekasi Protected Area is managed by a well-trained and skilled group of Rangers, supporting income generating projects such as the Carbon project and Eco-tourism initiatives	The Barekasi Rangers are better skilled and trained to implement the PA Management plan (revised under this project). Those skills are essential for the implementation of a Carbon project which requires high skills in monitoring activities.
LONG TERM IMPACT	
The Barekasi Rainforest Conservation Area is legally protected and income from carbon credits and eco-tourism is received over the next 30 years. A clear economic development in the Barekasi community is noticed	Although the project has contributed in the steps towards this long-term impact, it will take more time for the Barekasi Tribe to see benefits from their conservation efforts. Although the declaration of their PA is close, it will at least take another 2 years to reach the point to sell PES credits. However, with the ranger house ready, visitors and researchers are now able to visit and stay in the area and bring in some income and create some employment opportunities for the community.

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

Though it is not easy doing program activities with rural people, BLA managed to fit in time/days within their own program of community services and family affairs to facilitate activities. The implementation of the project and activities was slow at times, but all possible and relevant activities were accomplished in time. Some of the challenges faced:

- The PA submission received objections after the public notice. This has become standard across the Solomon Islands and was therefore not a surprise. It does mean that Barekasi needs to go through a process to settle the issues, which might take time.
- Mobilizing tribal people to work is sometimes difficult due to the many commitments to other work. However, turn out in meetings and workshops was very good.

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

Unexpected impacts were:

- Objections received after the PA public notice (negative)
- Covid restrictions influencing the training and workshop activities (negative)
- The willingness of the Ministry of Environment to help the Barekasi go through the process towards declaration (positive)

PART II: Project Components and Products/Deliverables

6. Components (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from your proposal

Describe the results for each deliverable:

Product/Deliverable

The following activity outputs were achieved

Financial and Administrative system in place and used by staff of the Barekasi Land Owners Association	During the start of the project a small office was established for the BLA and some office equipment was purchased. A laptop was used to set up an electronic cashbook system (Cashbook Complete) and the Coordinator was trained to do the financial administration for the CEPF project as well for some community activities. Two female BLA members were trained in simple bookkeeping and financial management.
An action plan and 2 year road map for the project, with clear roles and responsibilities, time lines and stakeholder involvement, produced after the inception workshop	It was decided that BLA would follow all the steps and actions mentioned in the PA toolkit and the Nakau Programme Methodology. Both documents were shared with the BLA and activities have been implemented following those documents.
1 GPS mapping training organized for tribal members and required maps are available	2 trainings were conducted during the project period and a total of 12 rangers were trained in GPS use and mapping. This resulted in a final boundary map of the tribal area and a final management zone map as part of the PA management Plan.
1 training on forest survey conducted and at least 15 Permanent Sample Plots (PSP's) have been established	This activity was skipped and will be done in a next stage, after the PA status has been achieved.
1 Business and benefit sharing planning workshop is held and tribal members have drafted a business and benefit sharing plan following the Nakau Programme methodology	This activity is planned in a further stage, after PA has been established. A forest inventory methodology is still being developed in other Nakau projects so it was decided to wait with this until methodology is in place.
1 Money story workshop has been held and members are able to use and apply the tools in financial planning and reporting when running their forest carbon project or any other related activity	Although the Nakau project business planning has been discussed during awareness session in the Leona Community an official workshop was not held.
1 refresher training to strengthen the Leona Women Saving club	Training was facilitated by NRDF staff member from Choiseul and the Leona saving club is up

	and running again. 20 women joined the refresh training.
1 Workshop held to train members in hospitality and tourism facilitation	Due to covid, this did not happen. Instead, funds were used to upgrade the conservation house facility so visitors can visit and stay in the conservation area. When the country is open again for tourists (Post-Covid) this accommodation will be promoted in Gizo. During that time some hospitality training is planned.
A well-defined tourism action/work plan is drafted for the BLA to implement	As above

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

N/A

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.

- The process towards a PA is complicated. Although the government passed and gazette the 2010 Act, the Ministry of Environment responsible does not actively implement the process with any interested landowners. It is up to the landowners to find help and assistance from donors and NGOs that can help to achieve the steps in the PA process.
- Although NRDF was the recipient of the CEPF funds they decided to leave BLA with most of the responsibilities to coordinate and implement the project. This was challenging but a good lesson and training for our people who are not used to do this. This project has strengthened BLA's position and skills in project management and gave more confidence that it can run a project itself or even ask direct funds from a donor.

Sustainability / Replication

9. 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.

It was clearly noticed that all the Barekasi tribal members have gained renewed interest to strengthen their conservation efforts to protect their forest. The pressure of cash needs led some of the leaders in the Tribe to consider fast cash income from destructive development such as logging. The prospects of creating an income from conservation and PES credits gave the tribe new hope that conservation will eventually bring the needed the development and safeguard the forest services for the people. Once the PA is established this unique area will be protected from logging and mining and will give much benefits for the people.

In the next following years, NRDF will stay on as the coordinator for the Barekasi project and will put all efforts to help BLA to develop a sustainable and well managed Nakau PES project.

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.

11. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, because of CEPF investment

a. Total additional funding (US\$)

None

b. 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:

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- 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)

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

For the one-year support, we appreciate the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and IUCN’s support for the BLA program to facilitate and implement their activities: the training of the women and Rangers, the maintenance of the conservation house and the progress in the proposed protected area process and submission to the Ministry of Environment. The capacity building support for BLA has strengthened the tribe to commence the way forward.

BLA also wants to acknowledge the support and collaboration provided by the RIT staff in Solomons and Fiji – Ravin, Helen and Anjani. Thumbs up for all of you!!!

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

CEPF requires that each grantee reports on impacts at the end of the project. The purpose of this report is to collect data that will contribute to CEPF’s portfolio and global indicators. CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. CEPF’s aggregated results will be reported on in our annual report and other communications materials.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

13. If CEPF assigned one or more Portfolio Indicators to your project during the full proposal preparation phase, please list these below and report on the project’s contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Narrative

Contribution to Global Indicators

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

14. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas 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” (section 17 below), 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	# of Hectares with strengthened management *	Is the KBA Not protected, Partially protected or Fully protected? Please select one: NP/PP/FP

Vella Lavella	1207	Not protected. In process

* 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.

15. Protected Areas

15a. 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 CEPF investment.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	# of Hectares	Year of legal declaration or expansion	Longitude**	Latitude**
Barekasi Forest Area, Vella Lavella	Solomon Islands	1207	In process	E 156 35' 16 77"	S 7 41' 55 02"

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

** 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).

15b. Protected area management

If you have been requested to submit a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), please follow the instructions below. If you have not been requested to submit a METT, please go directly to section 16.

Should 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 landscape

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. Production landscapes may include KBAs, and therefore hectares counted under the indicator entitled “KBA Management” may also be counted here. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

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

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention

* 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. Beneficiaries

CEPF wants to record two types of benefits that are likely to be received by individuals: structured training and increased income. Please report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training (such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture) and/or increased income (such as from tourism, agriculture, medicinal plant harvest/production, fisheries, handicraft production) as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide results since the start of your project to project completion.

17a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *
12	20

*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.

17b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*

**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.*

18. 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.

18a. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)							Type of Benefit (mark with x)								# of Beneficiaries		
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	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 forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting	# of women and girls benefiting
Leona Community Vella Lavella Solomon Islands	x	x	x									x	x	x	x	x	280	320

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

20. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate financial resources for the long-term (generally five or more years). Examples of sustainable financial mechanisms include conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

All CEPF grantees (or sub-grantees) with project activities that pertain to the creation and/or the implementation of a sustainable financing mechanism are requested to provide information on the mechanism and the funds it delivered to conservation projects during the project timeframe, unless another grantee involved with the same mechanism has already been or is expected to be tasked with this.

CEPF requires that all sustainable financing mechanism projects to provide the necessary information at their completion.

20a. 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					
2					
3					

*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.

20b. Performance of the mechanism

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

NO.	Project intervention*	\$ Amount disbursed to conservation projects**	Period under Review (MM/YYYY -MM/YYYY)***
1			
2			
3			

*List whether the CEPF grant has helped to create a new mechanism (Created a mechanism) or helped to support an existing mechanism (Supported an existing mechanism) or helped to create and then support a new mechanism (Created and supported a new mechanism).

**Please only indicate the USD amount disbursed to conservation projects during the period of implementation of your project and using, when needed, the exchange rate on the day of your report.

***Please indicate the period of implementation of your project or the period considered for the amount you indicated.

Please do not forget to submit any relevant document which could provide justification for the amount you stated above.

21. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Please describe any biodiversity-friendly practices that companies have adopted as a result of CEPF investment. A company is defined as a legal entity made up of an association of people, be they natural, legal, or a mixture of both, for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise. 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 biodiversity sustainably.

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

No.	Name of company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project
1		
2		

22. Networks & Partnerships

Please report on any new networks or partnerships between civil society groups and across to other sectors that you have established or strengthened as a result of CEPF investment. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a Memorandum of Understanding or other type of validation. 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, a working group focusing on reptile conservation. Please do not use this tab to list the partners in your project, unless some or all of them are part of such a network /partnership described above.

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

No.	Name of Network	Name of Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1						
2						

23. Gender

If you have been requested to submit a Gender Tracking Tool (GTT), please follow the instructions provided in the Excel GTT template. If you have not been requested to submit a GTT, please go directly to Part V.

Should you want to know more about CEPF Gender Policy, please click [here](#).

Download the GTT template which can be found on [this page](#) and then work with your team to fill it out. Please do not forget to submit the completed GTT together with this report.

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, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your organization's full contact details below:

17. Organization name: Natural Resources Development Foundation

18. Mailing address: PO Box 158, Gizo, Solomon Islands

19. Telephone number: 60912

20. E-mail address: nrdf@solomon.com.sb