CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	BirdLife International - Fiji
Project Title:	Biodiversity Rapid Assessment Project for the Islands of Futuna and Aneityum in Vanuatu
Grant Number:	CEPF-110288
Hotspot:	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction:	1 Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts
Grant Amount:	$137,868.72
Project Dates:	November 01, 2020 - April 30, 2022
Date of Report:	June 30, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

EDA (Kingsley Baereleo, Toara Andrew Morris, Fraser Alo, Enelyne Moli). Undertook preliminary discussions with communities on Aneityum, obtaining FPIC. Undertook surveys of Birds, Plants and Reptiles in each of the island groups. Prepared draft reports for each of their taxonomic groups.
EDA (Vatumara Molisa) taken on part time to coordinate the transfer of data, obtained from these and other BIORAP surveys, onto the KBA multi-sites forms to validate KBAs in Vanuatu. Chaired the Vanuatu KBA National Coordinating Group.
VESS (Martika Tahi) undertook some bat surveys on Aneityum. Transferred data on bats to KBA multi-site forms to help validate current KBAs and potentially identify new KBAs in Vanuatu. Secretaryof the Vanuatu KBA National Coordinating Group.
VESS (Christina Shaw) provided oversight on the VESS work and contributed to the KBA National Coordinating Group.
DEPC (Rolenas, Donna) provided support and staff for the Aneityum and Futuna surveys. contributed to the KBA National Coordinating Group.
Sue Maturin - worked with the report writers to improve the quality of the product and make them useful from a scientific perspective. Sues previous knowledge of many of the players, and her fluency in Bislama enabled her to extract information that was unavailable to me.
BirdLife (Mark O'Brien, Mavi Ramoica). MOB oversaw the project, providing technical advice and enthusiasm for the surveyors, and assessing the quality of the data reported by the surveyors. Is currently reviewing the KBA multi-site forms and considering how best to get them to a standard to propose them as legitimate KBAs under the post 2016 standard. MR provided regular 1:1 communication with VM on the technicalities of the KBA process.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By 2025, with the Carpoxylon Palm, and Emoia spp as flagship species, improved protection will be established for the terrestrial habitats used by these and other globally threatened species on the islands. Results will be fed back to the Vanuatu Government and will help to inform further protected area designation such as through the Community conservation legislation.	DEPC were closely involved in the survey, indeed some of the surveyors were DEPC staff, and so are aware of the importance of both island for Carpoxylon Palm and for the Emoia spp. There are a number of other important plant species on both islands - which has been highlighted by recent IUCN Red List updates. Both KBAs now have rather more trigger species than before.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By April 2021 communities on Futuna and Aneityum will have an improved understanding of the species of high conservation importance on their islands, and the threats facing these species. Community members from each of the islands demonstrate a 25% improvement in their understanding of the importance of protecting their forests and natural resources, based on a before-and-after workshop survey of 20 attendees per island.	Both communities were involved in surveys of birds, plants, reptiles and freshwater fish. Aneityum community also included a bat survey. We were unable to complete before and after assessments as access to the islands was banned due to Covid travel restrictions between Port Vila and TAFEA.
By December 2020 knowledge of the status and distribution of globally threatened and Restricted Range a) skinks, b) Bats, c) Birds will be improved and reported through a data-driven population estimate from each island.	Knowledge of skinks, birds, plants and freshwater species was improved by the surveys. Some bat data was collected for Aneityum, but not complete. Plans to return were blocked by Covid travel restrictions. Appropriate coarse population estimates (or distribution within island if appropriate) were provided for priority species.
By April 2021 revisions will have been made to the IUCN Red List status of Emoia aneityumensis (EN) and Emoia erronum (VU) – single-island skinks on Aneityum and Futuna respectively. This will include updated information on the status, population, distribution and threats to these species. An edited version of the current statement for each species will be edited and made available to the RIT.	E. aneityumensis data report was finalised in May 2022, while E. erronum on Futuna was reported to the IUCN Red List author in March 2022.
By April 2021 national NGOs in Vanuatu will be better equipped to perform terrestrial surveys of birds and reptiles – and will have further consolidated their expertise at surveying bats. This information will be used to modify the current text in the Rangers Manual for Vanuatu as appropriate (edited versions of the text will	Texts for a range of species and circumstances have been proposed for the Rangers Manual. However, this appears not to be an active process at the moment - other than in north Vanuatu where a community-focussed, non-scientific, bislama version is being trialled (by SSEN). This may be a more realistic approach.

Impact Description	Impact Summary
be made available to the RIT). At least 4 niVanuatu (2+ female) NGO staff and at least 10 (3+ female) island-based community members will be trained in survey techniques for birds, bats, reptiles and invasive species.	
By April 2021 new information on globally threatened and/or restricted range reptiles, bats and birds on Aneityum and Futuna will be collected, archived online through public databases such as eBird, iNaturalist and GBIF and included in reports to national stakeholders. At least 100 point count species lists will be submitted to eBird for the 2 islands.	38 point counts on Futuna and 58 point counts on Aneityum were surveyed for birds. the point count data was supplemented by sound recordings taken at the same time to confirm calls and bird song. this data hasn't yet been captured on eBird. Some of the moer interesting bird records have been added to iNaturalist. A more complete archiving of the data will be undertaken just as soon as the observer and the project manager can get together to finalise the data.
By June 2021 the status of the priority species and principle threats to the KBAs on Futuna and Aneityum will be updated and incorporated into the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (edited versions of the current text will be made available to the RIT).	The TAFEA multi-sites form has been filled in for the two sites - and, once confirmed by the KBA Regional Focal Point will be forwarded to the WDKBA. It will be proposed that the Aneityum KBA will be expanded to cover all native forest on the island - rather than just the high altitude area. However, discussions with the community will need to happen before that is confirmed.
By July 2021 local NGOs EDA and VESS will be actively involved in conservation of high conservation species, including the Emoia spp, on Aneityum and Futuna. Ongoing collaboration between EDA, VESS and other stakeholders (including BirdLife) will be indicated through a) two joint fundraising applications submitted for follow-up activities and b) formal discussion of a partnership agreement between EDA and at least one local community on Aneityum and/or Futuna. This will increase the long-term sustainability of the project and improve its reach with local communities.	Lack of travel to the islands in the last few months due to Covid mean that this process has rather slowed. We are aware that government-funding might enable biondiversity work to continue on both islands. Community Conservation Areas is, clearly, a decision for the community to make - but will depend on the opportunities that become available should the CCA be proposed.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The fact that Covid restrictions meant that Vanuatu was closed to external visitors for the duration of the project was frustrating. While the development of local identification skills was encouraging - there still needs to be some work on developing local confidence. I remain convinced that the Citizen Science approach, through iNaturalist, can help to provide this. Currently, one person in Vanuatu has logged over 1000 observations on iNaturalist - and he is getting a lot of help and support from overseas on identification of butterflies, moths, dragonflies, birds, skinks and other taxa from a range of international experts.

Communities expressed interest in the surveys but expressed reservations about formal Community Conservation Plans. there needs to be considerable advocacy to work out how best to develop conservation areas within Vanuatu, or other Pacific Island countries.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:
The surveys confirmed the continued presence of a number of trigger species that have identified the sites as Key Biodiversity Areas. The surveys also located/confirmed the presence of other globally-threatened and restricted range species and proposed them as additional trigger species for the sites. Converting the survey data into what is required to confirm the range of trigger species has proved to be more challenging and still needs more work. But at least the raw data has been obtained and so this will be used to validate each of these KBAs.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Secure project endorsement from Stakeholders	1.1	Compilation of emails/letters of support from relevant authorities in Vanuatu by the end of August 2020. Coordinated by VESS.	Completed
1.0	Secure project endorsement from Stakeholders	1.2	Endorsement of project and development of complaints system through written letters from landowners and community leaders on whose land project activities will take place - by the end of September, 2020. Co-ordinated by EDA, with support from VESS.	Completed
4.0	Local and National engagement on conservation of KBAs on Aneityum and Futuna.	4.5	At least 4 niVanuatu researchers/surveyors (Kingston Baereleo, Martika Tahi, Emily Tasale and Toara Morris receive 1-1 training from experts on survey methods for all taxa, documented by a report about project participation (December 2020).	Martika Tahi received support through the PacBats group - and in particular from Ian Davidson-Watts. Toara Morris received support and advice from both Mark O'Brien and Dominik Malik, which has helped him to improve his survey techniques. Fraser Alo is an experienced botanist, now workingfor DEPC, who received training/support from both Mark O'Brien and Sue Maturin in preparing reports for the BIORAP. Emily Tasale and Rolenas Baereleo both received support from Sue Maturin in preparing BIORAP reports for their taxonomic groups.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
5.0	Development of wider interest and legacy for the project	5.1	Extend the projects reach to a broad international constituency through social and conventional media, verified through social media Likes and Retweets (June 2021). VESS to lead.	VESS overstretched and unable to put a significant amount of time into this. There was some considerable work undertaken on bat information, likely reported elsewhere. the lack of collaboration between VESS, EDA and DEPC didnt help on this front.
2.0	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring	2.1	Safeguard policies for indigenous peoples implemented, monitored and reported every six months to ensure full compliance (June 2021). Co-ordinated by EDA.	Completed.
2.0	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring	2.2	Capacity of BirdLife Pacific, EDA and VESS evaluated through the Gender Tracking Tool (July 2020). Co-ordinated by BirdLife.	Not completed due to country border closed for the duration of the project, due to Covid 19
2.0	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring	2.3	Submission of an article, with photographs, demonstrating project benefits to local communities and biodiversity (by April 2021). Co-ordinated by VESS.	Completed.
3.0	Progress implementation of the BIORAPS for Aneityum and Futuna.	3.1	A record of information on the numbers and distribution of the priority species within the KBA is made available, along with a measure of the	Reports for aneityum and Futuna prepped and made available to KBA NCG and to DEPC representatives. Results summarised onto KBA Multi-site forms for validation of sites.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			level of effort required to obtain this information (by December 2020). Coordinated by BirdLife	
3.0	Progress implementation of the BIORAPS for Aneityum and Futuna.	3.2	Threats to priority species within the KBA identified and recorded (by April 2021). Co-ordinated by BirdLife.	Completed as best as possible given that the Vanuatu borders were closed for the duration of this project.
3.0	Progress implementation of the BIORAPS for Aneityum and Futuna.	3.3	Information on numbers and threats of priority species recorded onto the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas and publications made available for Stakeholders (by April 2021). Co-ordinated by BirdLife.	Surveys completed October 2021 - with final reports drafted and available by June 2022.
4.0	Local and National engagement on conservation of KBAs on Aneityum and Futuna.	4.1	Local NGO (EDA) engaged in the Biorap (July 2020) with a signed MoU between EDA and BirdLife, and minutes from regular meetings made available. Co-ordinated by BirdLife.	MoU signed. Lack of face to face meetings, due to closure of national boundary, together with poor internet connection and uncertainty about who was employed and/or available for EDA throughout the contract, made this more challenging. We exchanged discussions about survey methods, timing, participants etc, etc.
4.0	Local and National engagement on conservation of KBAs on Aneityum and Futuna.	4.2	Local NGO VESS engaged in the Biorap (July 2020) with a signed MoU between VESS and BirdLife and minutes from regular meetings made available. Co-ordinated by BirdLife.	MoU signed. Lack of face to face meetings, due to Covid related closure of national boundary, combined with an excessive workload on the part of VESS meant that meetings were less frequent than anticipated, and revolved around opportunities for getting surveys undertaken, and information for the

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				KBA programme into the appropriate recording forms. Somewhat frustrating.
4.0	Local and National engagement on conservation of KBAs on Aneityum and Futuna.	4.3	Skink survey methodology, as developed by international Skink expert (July 2020) as guidance for VESS regarding survey methods.	Two overseas experts were contacted but, once the border remained closed, appeared reluctant to take part. We were unable to get guidance on this. However, we provided some considerable details based on the Zug photographic guide to Pacific reptiles and received photographic images that were good enough to confirm the presence of both island endemic skinks. We also, belatedly, got some response to the identification of other skink records, through iNaturalist, that confirmed the presence of a Vanuatu endemic on another KBA.
4.0	Local and National engagement on conservation of KBAs on Aneityum and Futuna.	4.4	70 community members (at least 25% women) from 7 target communities participate in community consultations about high conservation values on Futuna/Aneityum, documented by participant lists and photographs (September 2020 and April 2021). EDA and VESS.	Folk on Futuna not interested in developing a Community Conservation Area under the government scheme - see that as being a landgrab. Folk on Aneityum only offered the original KBA - we havent managed to get back to the island to discuss extending the KBA boundaries and what, if anything that means for them. The priority biodiversity on Aneityum occurs primarily outside the legacy KBA.
5.0	Development of wider interest and legacy for the project	5.2	Develop a structure for facilitated project management, ongoing proposal developments, media reporting, etc (by	Project management was more chaotic than this suggested. GANTT charts were developed but modified continuously in order to accommodate the wishes of the local communities. aneityum was surveyed early

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			August 2020) and implement (until June 2021).	by EDA - VESS spent only a small amount of time o nthe island due to other commitments. Futuna was delayed on multiple occasions due to Island ceremonies, the Prime Minister visiting, festivals, etc, etc, etc. The survey eventually went ahead, without VESS, in October 2021. VESS planned to complete the bat surveys on both islands at the same time that we planned to revisit and present the findings from the surveys, in March/April 2022. However, Covid issues meant that there was no travel into Vanuatu, or even between Port Vila and TAFEA province during that time. It was clear, throughout, that VESS were overstretched and unable to complete a number of the tasks, while EDA did not have the skills, or time, to complete work outside their allotted tasks in this project.
5.0	Development of wider interest and legacy for the project	5.3	Establish a long-term vision and roadmap for terrestrial biodiversity conservation in Futuna and Aneityum with the Emoia spp and Carpoxylum Palm as flagship species (June 2021). EDA to lead.	Both islands are listed as sites for further work under government funding (eg VCAP2). These funding proposals were delayed due to the covid outbreak. But BL and DEPC were, separately, liaising with the programme implementing teams. We await to see how successful that liaison has been.
6.0	Fundraising for the next steps for conservation management on Aneityum and Futuna.	6.1	Develop a fundraising and partnership strategy for project continuation (by April 2021) EDA lead	There are other funding opportunities, directed through DEPC, that may provide resources to undertake further work on both islands. However, there is some tension between communities and government - due

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				to stories about CCAs emanating from the Cultural Centre - which will need to be resolved. Its likely that an NGO/CSO will be best placed to act as an intermediary.
2.0	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring	2.4	Signed sub-grant agreement with EDA	Surveys of Aneityum and futuna undertaken, drafts of KBA validation completed.
2.0	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring	2.5	Final report from EDA	Reports produced, modified and completed.
2.0	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring	2.6	Signed sub-grant agreement with VESS	Survey of Aneityum partially completed, Futuna not visited. Draft report on the use of bat data to validate KBAs in TORBA, SANMA and TAFEA provinces undertaken.
2.0	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring	2.7	Final report from VESS	Much of the planned fieldwork not undertaken.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:
Survey methods, and how they might be adapted to take into consideration the fact that there were no taxonomy experts in the teams, have been prepared and have been downloaded in Other Information, as have draft reports for the Bioraps on the 2 islands.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1	Hectares in a key biodiversity area (KBA) with new or strengthened protection and management.			170	10.83km2 of Futuna (the whole island) and 159.2km2 of Aneityum (the whole island) as opposed to 38.69km2 (which is the area of the current KBA on Aneityum). The proposed

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					new KBA is likely to be less than the whole island - but the precise boundary has not yet been determined
1.1	Baseline surveys completed for at least 10 priority sites.			2	We have undertaken biodiversity surveys for 2 KBAs - Futuna and Aneityum in TAFEA province. Species information collected indicated that both KBAs are valid under the 2016 Standard and, indeed, that the number of trigger species is greater than previously considered.
1.2	Awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised among local communities within at least 10 priority sites.			2	All communities at both sites took part and/or provided support to the fieldworkers. All communities provided considerable information about biodiversity - including times of arrival of some unusual species (Osprey - 1st record and 1st breeding record for Vanuatu) arrived 3 years earlier after a cyclone, and is now known to breed on the island. A pair of Masked Lapwing arrived 18 months previously, one bird was killed by the locals, the other bird has taken up

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					residence with the local chickens!!!
3.1	Number of CEPF priority species with improved knowledge of their status and distribution.			55	23 bird species were recorded on Aneityum, 22 on Futuna. In addition to the Osprey and Lapwing, we recorded Palm Lorikeet for the first time since the Whitney South Seas Expedition on Futuna and also a 'marooned' Masked Booby. We located both island endemic Emoia skinks throughout the island, we located 18 separate Carpoxylon Palm plants on Futuna - where there were estimated as fewer than 50 plants, 3 new plants on Aneityum where we also mapped 3 Caryota ophiopellis and 104 Agathis macrophylla plants. We located 3 other globally threatened plants on aneityum and at least 17 other plant species endemic to vanuatu.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the 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 Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion

*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits

Benefits to Communities

View the **characteristics** column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the **benefits** column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	**Community Characteristics**							**Type of Benefit**								**Country**	**Number of Males Benefitting**	**Number of Females Benefitting**
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**a**	**b**	**c**	**d**	**e**	**f**	**g**	**h**	**i**			

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the **topics** column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	**Name of Law**	**Scope**	**Topics**														
			A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**N**	**O**	**P**

"Other" Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

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.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose

Sustainable Financing

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 services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?

Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Emoia	aneityumensis	Anatom Emo	EN	Species Monitoring. Species present throughout the island, but more common on the warm, northern slopes. Local community consider the species to be strongly associated with Tahitian Chestnut.	Unknown
Emoia	erronan	Common Emo Skink	VU	Species Monitoring. This species was found to be common throughout the island of Futuna (10.83km2). The species is also recorded from Aniwa (8km2) although there have been no recent surveys from this island, which isnt' considered to be a KBA - although would qualify given that 40% of this species range is on Aniwa c/w 60% on Futuna.	Unknown
Carpoxylon	macrospermum		CR	Species Monitoring. Recorded as present on both islands, with new locations c/w historical data. Considered to be no more than 50 plants on Futuna - where many plants are cultivated.	Decreasing
Agathis	macrophylla	Fijian Kauri Pine	EN	Species Monitoring. 104 plants mapped primarily on the southern slopes of Aneityum. Unclear whether these are all	Unknown

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
				wild, or cultivated. If the former, represents a significant proportion of the global distribution of the species.	
Palaquium	neoebudicum		VU	Species Monitoring. Found in vegetation transects at 3 of the 4 campsites on Aneityum.	Unknown
Aglaia	saltatorum		VU	Species Monitoring. Only recorded at Camp 2 on Aneityum.	Unknown
Charmosyna	palmarum	Palm Lorikeet	VU	Species Monitoring. recorded on Futuna for the first time since the Whitney South Seas expedition. 28 sightings across 38 point count stations. Clearly established on the island - and likely to be globally important population.	Increasing

LESSONS LEARNED

BIORAPS are designed to bring overseas species experts to little-known biodiversity hotspots, survey the sites and to provide expertise and techniques to locally-based staff and volunteers. Covid meant that this was not feasible as the Vanuatu border remained closed for the duration of the project.
The second option, which doesnt involve 'paruchuting in' experts is to provide the survey methods and techniques from outside, encourage the locally-based staff to put these into practice, and to provide support and help with identification of any species of importance. In my view this approach, combined with the citizen science available through iNaturalist and, to a lesser extent, eBird enables local staff to receive confirmation of species ID rapidly. For some reason, that I do not understand, the citizen science route was not pursued by any fieldworker (other than Toara Morris - who put some bird images from Futuna onto iNaturalist).
the third option, to send the report to species experts overseas for confirmation has worked for the bird survey data but not, to date, for the reptile data (so far as I know). These survey reports included photographic images of the species involved and, in the case of bird surveys, sound recordings at each of the point count stations to confirm species song identification.
The plant data was collected by a known local expert, and so the data can/should be trusted. However, potential taxonomic issues - differences between the taxonomy used on the IUCN Red List and taxonomies in Kew/GBIF/Vanuatu plant data may have caused some confusion. Having photographic records of the species of importance to confirm their presence would be a benefit. Specimens may have been collected and stored - but if so that infomration needs to be recorded in the report.

Analysis and interpretation are real challenges for local CSO/NGO staff. while there is a real preference for locally-owned data there is a real concern about its application. Ideally I would have been able to promote/force/challenge local folk to make those decisions based on the data that we collected. I tried via Zoom/meetings - but there needs to be much more interaction for it to be effective. Local representatives remain loathe to suggest that, for instance, Aneityum KBA boundary should be extended - even though most/all of the biodiversity on Aneityum (including the skink and the Carpoxylon Palm) was recorded outside the legacy KBA.

Local CSO/NGOs are, inevitably, very short-staffed, have considerable training needs and are unable to be as flexible as are required by the continual changing processes that local communities live by. So, many times that Futuna communities were able to welcome the surveyors - the surveyors were working elsewhere. In the end VESS never made it to Futuna. We need to work out how to build the capacity in country so that multiple surveys can be undertaken according to the whims of the community.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

We obtained BIORAPs for both Futuna and Aneityum using solely locally-based niVanuatu staff and community support. This combined the data collection process, the fieldwork required to complete that and the report writing skills needed to most effectively present the data. This last aspect is still in need of development. Many thanks to Sue Maturin for attempting to improve the quality of the final reports. Next steps are a series of BIORAPS, that the same group of surveyors will be undertaking on Malakula (3 sites) and Pentecost (1

site). All the surveys are on legacy KBAs. We anticipate that the teams will be able to transfer their knowledge to these sites - and so improve the quality of their final report. Other funding proposals include surveys to identify biodiversity hotspots in the country. We would hope that the current team are now sufficiently experienced to apply for these as they become available. There is still a need/desire to bring overseas surveyors into the team, in order to improve still further fieldwork skills - but that needs to be carefully done so that the overseas expert does not take over the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	
Breakdown of Additional Funding	

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

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