

CEPF Final Project Completion Report – EMI Small Grants

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions below.

Background Information

Organization Legal Name	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership
Project Title	Alleviating Pressures on Upland Kolombangara: Supporting Ridge to Reef Conservation
Date of Report	31 st July 2016
Report Author	Alec Hughes
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CEPF Region	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction	Strategic Direction 4. Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnership.
Grant Amount	19,500
Project Dates	1 st April 2015 – 30 th June 2016

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

Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA): This project worked with rangers from KIBCA to train and promote the importance of establishing locally managed areas (LMAs) on Kolombangara Island. The rangers were involved in facilitating meetings with communities on LMAs, providing training in resource survey methodologies of resource (indicators) to community rangers, participated in the delivery of awareness sessions and have been involved in data-entry.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): During the course of this project, WCS conducted detailed SCUBA assessments within the reef area where this project has been working with communities. KIBCA rangers played a liaison role between the survey team and local communities during this survey. The more technical nature of scuba-based surveys meant that KIBCA rangers were not qualified to partake. However, their presence as part of the team allowed them to see how the surveys were organized and implemented which helps with their capacity building. The data-set collected by WCS will complement the data that is being collected by community rangers along the intertidal and shallower zones of the reef area on Kolombangara. In addition, WCS engaged Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands (ESSI) to conduct an island-wide consultation process as part of plans to help KIBCA establish a National Forest Park. This process included visits to the communities (Vavanga, Ropa, Mumaeni) that this project has been working with and has helped re-emphasize the importance of a Ridge-to-Reef approach in the conservation and management of resources that was introduced by this project.

Conservation Impacts

2. Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of CEPF's Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands. For example, you may refer to the Strategic Directions that your project has contributed to.

By channeling our efforts through KIBCA, this project has raised the capacity of KIBCA staff to plan and implement a coastal marine monitoring program that complements their upland terrestrial program. Towards the end of the project, KIBCA staff (i.e. rangers) have taken lead roles in carrying resource surveys and awareness activities.

3. Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in your approved proposal.

Capacity Building

KIBCA rangers (x3) have received training in reef resource survey methodologies. A further 40 community members have also been taught how to conduct reef surveys. The training was delivered in the form of workshops and practical sessions. Further training was provided to KIBCA rangers in data-entry.

Resource Assessment

The communities of Ropa and Muamai north Kolombangara have generally shown more interest in managing their reef resource compared to Vavanga community. At Ropa two general reef survey data have been collected along with two cycles of trochus survey data. At both Vavanga and Mumaeni, only one cycle of reef survey has been conducted. Seagrass surveys have taken place at Ropa. Biannual monitoring plans are in place for Ropa and Vavanga. Both Ropa and Vavanga have ongoing weekly marine harvest data recording. All the data collected so far have been entered into Excel database by KIBCA rangers.

Awareness Raising

Community awareness sessions have been focused on general environmental and ecological topics with special attempts made to promote the ridge-to-reef connection. Except for Vavanga, the r2r discussion was new to the other two communities. All three communities have also been made aware of current National Regulations related to resource harvesting. These awareness sessions were also extended to the primary school students at Vavanga.

4. Please describe any successes and/or challenges faced towards achieving the expected short-term and long-term impacts of the project work.

Success

Following a 6-month closure, the Ropa community decided to open the reserve within their LMA for a day to allow for the harvesting of trochus and fish so that they could sell these at the nearby market and raise money to pay for tuition fees for two of their students who are currently studying at the Solomon Islands National University in Honiara. Despite being closed for only 6 months, individuals who participated in the harvesting witnessed increased densities of trochus and small reef fish. News of this story has spread to nearby communities and is generating interest in the use of LMAs for managing reef resources. The Mumaeni community who initially were not as proactive as Ropa have noticeably become more active

and interested since they saw the direct benefit Ropa had received from their LMA. We have had several requests to expand the work on north Kolombangara.

Challenges

Weather and the difficulty in communicating plans to communities (especially on north Kolombangara) were our biggest challenges. We have also struggled to get the same level of traction and progress in Vavanga as we have had in north Kolombangara. This is because Vavanga is a much bigger community and has conflicting interests over logging issues that has caused friction. The community is also much closer to the Provincial Capital of Gizo and is more “urbanized” than those Ropa or Mumaeni meaning that there appears to be less of an appreciation for conserving their resources than in more rural settings. That said, our awareness sessions have helped to raise their level of understanding on the need to implement management strategies to conserve their resources.

5. Were there any unexpected impacts of your project (positive or negative)?
The establishment of a LMA at Ropa and Mumaeni has brought to the light the issue of poaching by outside fishers. These fishers usually come by canoe at night and target sleeping turtles and bumphead parrotfish. Community members have requested that KIBCA help spread the news that LMAs now exist on north Kolombangara so that people can respect them.
6. If you did not complete any project components or activities, how did this affect the overall impact of the project? **NA**

Products/Deliverables

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

Coastal resource assessment field manual is being drafted. Included in this manual are the methodologies that were used as part of this project. A copy of the manual will be provided to CEPF and KIBCA when manual is complete.

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. **If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).**

8. Did your organization complete the **CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT)** at the beginning and end of your project? **0**
(Please submit the final CSTT document to IUCN Oceania if you have not already done so).

	Date	Composite Score
Baseline CSTT		
Final CSTT		

9. Please list any **Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered species** conserved due to your project.

- DUGONG *Dugong dugon*
- GREEN TURTLE *Chelonia mydas*
- HAWKSBILL TURTLE *Eretmochelys imbricata*
- BUMPHEAD PARROTFISH *Bolbometopon muricatum*
- MAORI WRASSE *Cheilinus undulatus*

These species were observed within the LMA at Ropa/Mumaeni

10. Hectares Under Improved Management.

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
11. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?		List the name of each protected area
12. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	30 hectares	Through this grant we were able to establish a LMA along the northern coastline of Kolombangara. Plans are in place to expand this to include another 5 hectares of adjacent reef area. There are also plans to establish a LMA at Vavanga, however, the area size is yet to be confirmed.
13. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)		List the name of each key biodiversity area

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

14. In relation to the questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? 0

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

15. Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

Did your project provide training or education for . . .	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
16. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions	3	2	5	Yes. At Ropa and Mumaeni we have established team leaders in charge of planning and collecting resource status information. These individuals have received training through the workshops and practical sessions that were delivered with KIBCA rangers.
17. Adults for livelihoods or increased income				
18. School-aged children	20	5	25	At Ropa and Mumaeni school-age children were always part of community awareness sessions. At Vavanga we also held an awareness session at the local primary school. We also organized a "REEF BLITZ" and took children out for a morning on the reef where they identified 37 different species with the help of an ID booklet.
19. Other				

20. Please list the name and approximate population size of any "community" that benefited from the project.

Community name	Population size	Surrounding district	Surrounding province	Country
Ropa	30	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Is
Muamaeni	30	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Is
Vavanga	350	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Is

If you marked “Other”, please provide details on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit

Lessons Learned

Please describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider any lessons that would inform future projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

22. Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

Better communication and planning between KIBCA and SICCP would have been helpful. It was sometimes difficult to involve KIBCA staff in activities because they were busy with other work-related activities. Despite attempts to share a work-plan the constantly changing nature of the timing of activities due to weather, community availability and partner activities made it difficult at times to stick to plans.

23. Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

Having a local partner like KIBCA helps to put into context project activities especially when dealing directly with communities. This project has strengthened the capacity of KIBCA rangers to manage a marine program that will complement their terrestrial program. Although currently small, there is potential for their marine program to expand if funding is available to allow for a network of LMAs to be established around the island.

24. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

It is important to choose project sites carefully. In the case of this project, efforts that were directed at Vavanga might have been better appreciated at other neighboring communities who don't have a complicated logging history. Furthermore, over the years, several NGOs have worked at Vavanga on different projects. This may have contributed to NGO fatigue at this project site.

Sustainability/Replication

25. Please summarize the success or challenges in ensuring that the project will be sustained or replicated in the future.

Although the past 15 months has seen progress with this project, Ropa and Mumaeni still need guidance and support for another 1-2 years to ensure that their LMAs are properly setup. SICCP (in partnership with KIBCA) plans to continue working with Ropa, Mumaeni and Vavanga to further strengthen their LMA plans.

26. Please summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability of your project work.

KIBCA is developing an eco-tourism proposal for Ropa and Muamani to help the communities with income generating options. It is hoped that an eco-tourism project will help to offset some costs associated with looking after the LMA and further highlight some benefits in having an LMA.

Safeguards

Please provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies for this project.
This may be attached in the form of an updated Social Safeguards document.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

27. Please use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

Additional Funding

Please provide:

28. details of any additional funding that supported this project

29. details of any further funding secured for this project, your organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF's investment in this project

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
AMNH	A	10,000	Staff Salary
WCS	A	3,000	Office rental (Munda)

* 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)*

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 website, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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