CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Conservation International - Pacific Islands Program
Project Title:	CEPF Regional Implementation Team in Polynesia-Micronesia
Date of Report:	June 30, 2013
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CEPF Region: Polynesia-Micronesia

Strategic Direction: 4

Grant Amount: $849,930

Project Dates: May 1, 2008-Apr 30, 2013

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

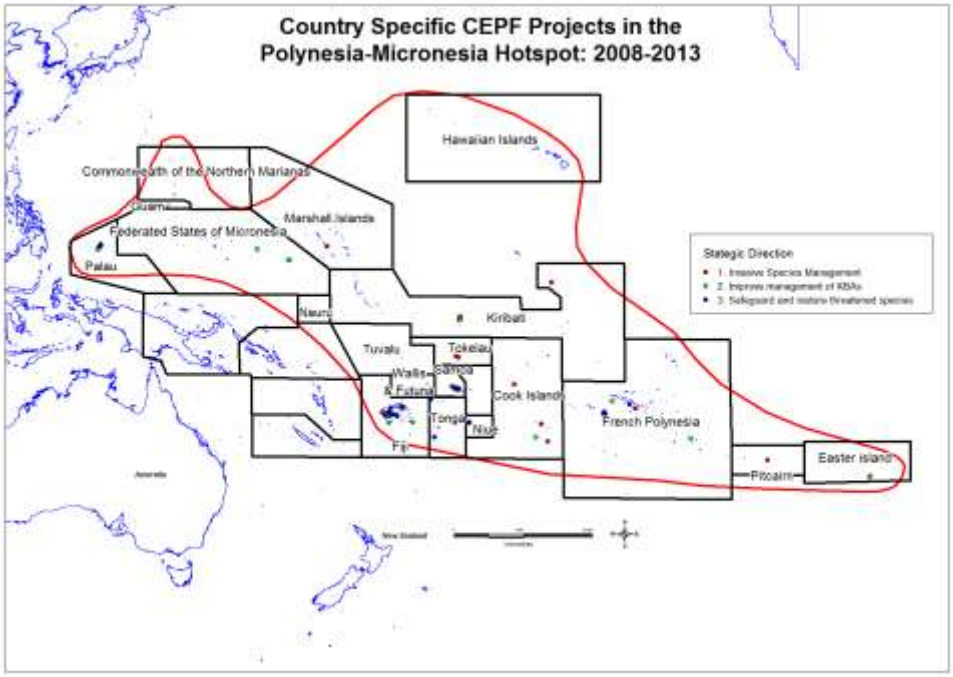
The implementing partners for the RIT in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot includes 46 Regional Organizations, National non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, international consultants and some community based organizations. In terms of facilitating the program and ensuring the funds are delivered according to the objectives approved in the RIT project proposal to CEPF, the following six main organizations assisted the RIT in executing this program through their role as members of the Technical Advisory Group, as well as CEPF Secretariat providing overall oversight and management of the large grant component of the project.

UNEP – The United Nations Environment Program Regional Focal Point Task Manager Dr. Greg Sherley was appointed as the Chair of the TAG and throughout the five year

investment UNEP's contribution to the implementation of this project has been exceptional. Dr. Sherley had always make himself available for the bi-annual TAG meetings and was also prompt in responding to any issues that required his professional expertise in the area of biodiversity conservation. Like all members of the TAG Dr. Sherley was heavily involved in the review of large grants letter of inquiry (LOIs) and small grants LOIs. He was also called upon for his views on large proposals when they are submitted to the CEPF and CI-RIT. Dr. Sherley has been a wonderful chair in leading the TAG group by providing a lot of substantive support to the technical aspects of the RIT voluntarily. His advice was always sought on issues with grantees and he had always provided sound solutions.

Other members of the TAG included the following organizations; SPREP - The Secretariat for the Regional Environment Program, Pacific Invasive Initiative, Birdlife International, University of the South Pacific, Micronesia Conservation Trust and the French Polynesia Environment Research Department.

Conservation Impacts



1. Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The CI/Pacific Regional Implementation Team were tasked to deliver on the four main outcomes of the CEPF Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot Ecosystem Profile. Outcome-4 targeted the effective coordination of the CEPF ecosystem profile to ensure that the overall objective of the CEPF Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot strategy is achieved by catalyzing action by civil society to counteract threats to biodiversity, especially from invasive species, in key biodiversity areas.

The Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot includes all the independent islands of Micronesia, tropical Polynesia and Fiji with four territories (3 French Territories and Tokelau under

New Zealand Administration). Despite its large marine coverage which is twice the size of the United States of America, this is one of the smallest hotspot in the world in terms of terrestrial land area covering 46,315km² and the main area of CEPF investment for terrestrial biodiversity conservation.

The five year investment which started in May 2008 and finished in April 2013, committed 6.15million in grant support to 92 projects covering 14 eligible Pacific Island Countries and Territories in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot. To date CEPF provided the much needed support to the Pacific Region for biodiversity conservation programmes (to sub-regions like Micronesia, Polynesia and Fiji) and specifically targeting civil society groups and NGOs compared to any other bilateral or multilateral donor that provides funding to this region for biodiversity conservation.

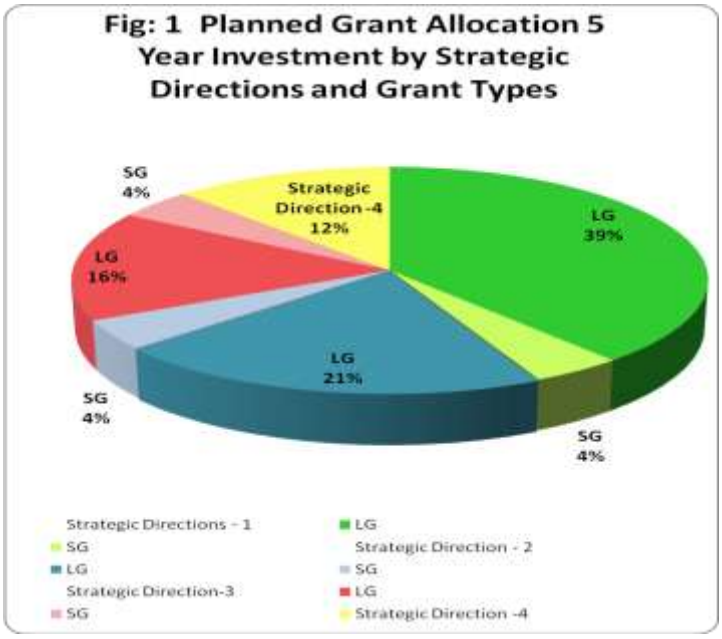
The CEPF portfolio implemented 37 projects worth 2.8million addressing Strategic Direction-1 which is the management, control and eradication of invasive species, and for Strategic Direction-2, 29-projects strengthened the protection of 25/60 priority Key Biodiversity Area with a total value of 1.8million. Lastly, Strategic Direction-3, targeted community awareness and participation in the implementation of recovery plans for threatened species, whereby 27 funded projects helped strengthened the recovery of some of the 67 priority species, as well as increase awareness program activities and effective conservation programs for species with an overall total value of 1.4million investment.

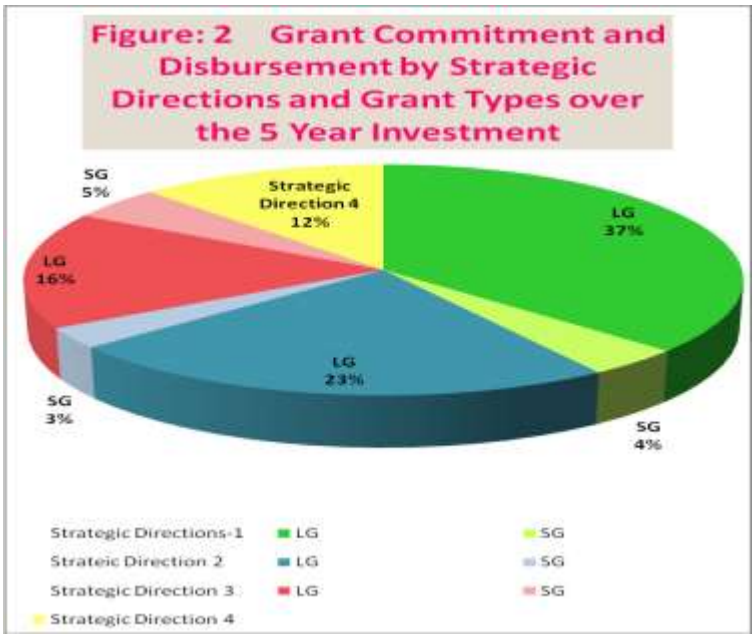
Therefore, this project has contributed to the overall management and implementation of CEPF projects in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot, which has resulted in the establishment or strengthening of protected areas and conservation sites in countries like Fiji, Palau, FSM, Cook Islands and Samoa to name a few, as well as successful replication of invasive species tools around the region to assist invasive species practitioners in their control and management programs of invasive species in their countries. This project has managed to support practical work on the ground for terrestrial biodiversity conservation which has declined in environmental donor funded programs in this region.

2. Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

The project targeted four main conservation outcomes and each contributed to the overall achievement of the main objective which is to catalyze action by civil society to counteract threats to biodiversity, especially from invasive species, in key biodiversity areas in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot.

The results/impact of this project is best illustrated by the investment of the program in each of the three main strategic directions for the Pacific Region as shown in Figure-1 and 2 below. Figure 1 show's how the 7million investment in the CEPF Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot was divided among the 3 strategic directions with the biggest investment going to invasive species (43%), next is the management and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (25%) and third strategic direction focused on species recovery and community awareness (20%).

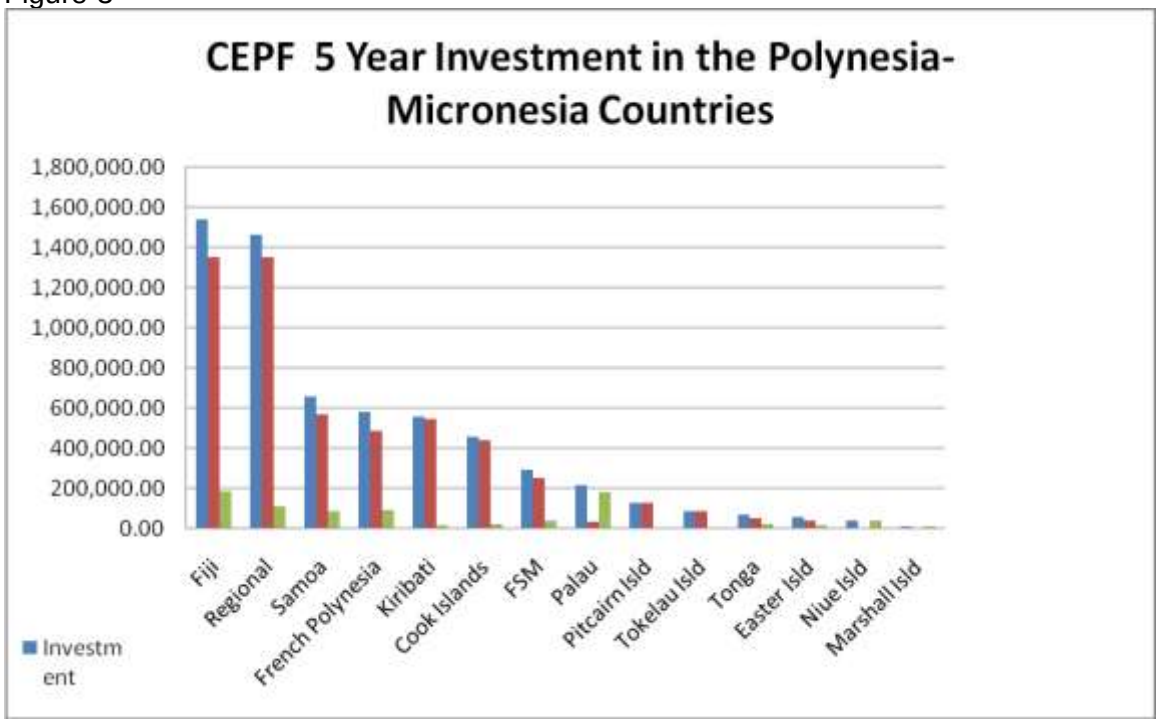




In Figure-2, it provides a summary of how the fund was utilized in terms of commitment and expenditure for each strategic direction over the past 5 years. What is important to note is that at least the grant commitment and disbursement for each strategic direction throughout the investment period is consistent with the original proposed allocation when the funds were approved.

The CEPF investment benefited more than 70% of the 14 eligible Pacific island countries and territories in terms of grants received for project implementation either through a country specific project or a regional project covering more than two countries as per Figure-3 below.

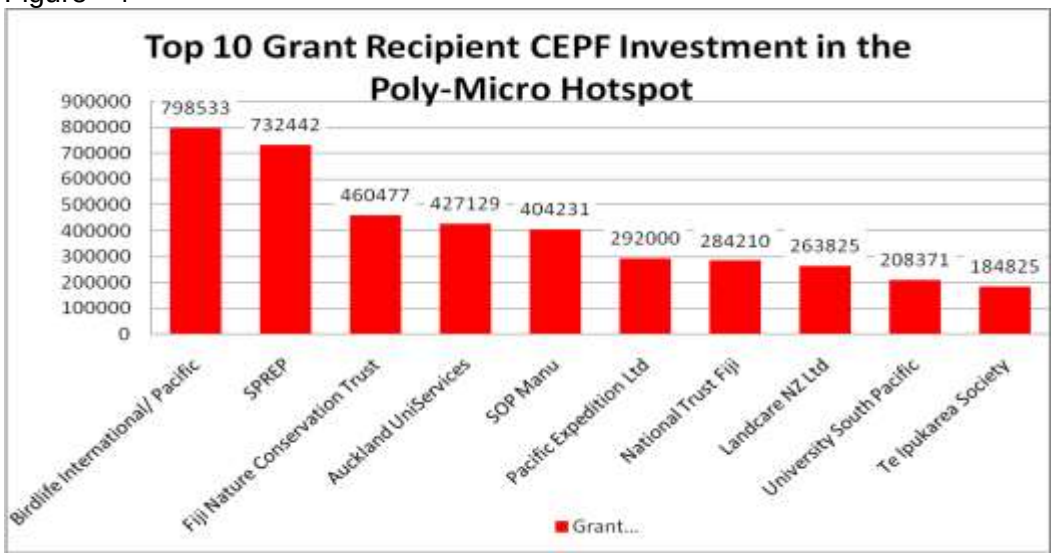
Figure-3



The CEPF investment had great impact on most of the countries shown in Figure-3 in terms of the projects funded by CEPF which contributed to many conservation work in most of these countries, such as the eradication of invasive species like rodents in Samoa (islands of Aleipata), Fiji, Palau, Kiribati and Pitcairn island, as well as the control and management for myna birds on Atiu island in Cook Islands which lead to a few remaining birds and the decision to completely eradicate all of them. According to the final report from Pacific Expedition (December, 2012) the CEPF grant enabled their team to conduct a follow-up site assessment to the eradication operation conducted in 2008 for rabbits and asian rats on Rawaki and McKean islands in the PIPA, this expedition had successfully declared that the two islands in PIPA were pest free. This is a success story for Kiribati because the results from the expedition supported by CEPF had enabled more support from the government of Kiribati through their GEF funding as well as support from other partners such as the Packard Foundation.

CEPF provided opportunity for civil society groups and NGO's in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot to access funds to enable more conservation work in the field and over 44 civil society groups in this region were recipients of CEPF grants. This rarely happens in the Pacific especially the opportunity for civil society to access funds above 20k USD for projects in terrestrial biodiversity. In Table-4 below, we ranked the top 10 recipients who had the most CEPF investment in terms of grants received for field project and Birdlife International ranked number-1, with grants almost reaching 800k USD. The success for Birdlife International (BL) in accessing CEPF grants is attributed to its partnership with small NGOs in some of the eligible countries, with their help in building the capacity of these NGO's they also had served as their middle person in providing technical support and as a filter to channel their funds whilst BL manages the project for them and are accountable in preparing reports to the RIT. A positive outcome of this approach is the case of Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) a local NGO in Cook Islands, who had good technical people but poor management structure in place. The grant to BL helped build TIS capacity and put in place proper management structure and procedures in terms of managing funds etc. This enabled TIS to prove itself by moving on to other bigger projects which they are now managing the first Marine Park for Cook Islands, as well as leading the invasive species work in remote islands of the Cooks such as in Swarrow.

Figure - 4



The other organizations that also received the most grants from CEPF are SPREP, Fiji Nature Conservation Trust, Auckland Uniservices, SOP Manu etc as listed in Figure-4. Although many organizations had benefit from CEPF, it had some limitations for other smaller groups such as community-based organizations etc in village communities because their level of capacity and management structure in place didn't meet CEPF's criteria. It is at this particular issue that needs to be addressed holistically by CEPF in looking at ways where the most vulnerable groups can be supported who are most active in managing their communities natural resource based. Most NGO's on our top-10 list are international NGOs with full capacity, with the exception of national NGOs such as TIS, SOP Manu, Fiji Nature Conservation Trust and National Trust of Fiji.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):
To successfully achieve strategic conservation outcomes as defined in the ecosystem profile or the revised investment strategy for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot, as a contribution to global biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in the region. A particular emphasis will be placed on achieving conservation outcomes that meet both terrestrial and marine conservation priorities.

3. Actual Progress Towards Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The project did achieve its strategic conservation outcomes as defined in the ecosystem profile mainly for the terrestrial conservation priorities and not marine because it was not factored into the investment strategy except for turtle species listed under reptiles as some of the key priority species for CEPF investment.

In the long-term, the CEPF investment covering the 14 countries and territories for Polynesia-Micronesia did extremely well in supporting regional projects which most have continued on even without CEPF support. At the regional level, CEPF has supported 18 regional projects which contributes to building civil society capacity and improve conservation efforts. Most of these regional projects benefited existing regional invasive species network alliances in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot, whilst some projects supported capacity building activities and programs to strengthen work in key biodiversity area in the region through management plans and publications of lessons learned, and other projects focused on awareness and building strong understanding on the status of endangered species and the need to do more work for their protection.

The Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP) and the Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN), were the two main invasive initiative in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot that was strengthened in terms of partnership alliance and network because of the 9 regional grants from CEPF that contributed to building regional capacity on invasive species management, in which the organizations that lead these two initiatives and its partners were the main implementing agencies at the regional level covering most of the eligible CEPF countries in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot. These projects included;

1. Accelerating Invasive Species Management in the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot, (Pacific Invasive Initiative);
2. Institutional capacity building for invasive bird control in the Pacific (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust)
3. Training course for invasive plant prioritization and management (Pacific Invasive Initiative)
4. Workshop to Develop a Biocontrol Strategy for the Pacific (Landcare Research Ltd)

5. Developing an effective resource/tool for their prioritization of management action against invasive alien species that threaten the biodiversity value of the 60 priority KBAs (IUCN-ISSG Auckland Uniservices)
6. Developing Long-Term Capacity for Invasive Species Management in the Polynesia-Micronesia (Pacific Invasive Initiative)
7. Towards establishing the economic value of invasive species impacts in the Pacific (Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd)
8. Pacific Learning Network: Expanding and Consolidating the Network to build capacity for invasive species management across the Pacific Islands (SPREP)
9. Managing invasive species at Key Biodiversity Areas in Palau and Fiji (Birdlife International)

Some of these regional projects supported in the field technical up-skilling of invasive species practitioners in a number of countries in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot, mainly in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, FSM, Palau, Tokelau and French Polynesia. Other projects focused on improving regional information network and database of invasive species in all of the CEPF eligible countries.

In addition, networks were formed among technical expertise for specific Red Listing exercise:

- Assessment of reptiles
- Assessment of selected freshwater taxa
- Assessment of partulidae land snail taxa

Networks were established in French Polynesia for the Sea Turtle Observatory a network of islands working on turtle conservation and monitoring. A regional framework (action plan) was completed to support all the marine turtle conservation and capacity building in turtle work and turtle group networking in the Pacific (currently managed by SPREP).

Alliance forged for the implementation of projects that protect watershed areas within KBA sites in Micronesia. A grant to TNC supported the recruitment of Watershed Coordinators for Palau, Pohnpei (FSM), Kosrae (FSM) and YELA (FSM). This project lead to the successful establishment of the Belau Watershed Alliance which produced 8 management plans for the protection of watershed areas in Palau (Babeldoab Island), on Pohnpei the Watershed Committee developed a Water-fund to support watershed management in the Pohnpei KBA site, and similarly Kosrae and YELA coordinators developed management plans for the protection of watershed areas within these two sites.

Lastly, long-term impacts for CEPF in the region are realized through strengthening regional networks and alliance which in turn contributes to global biodiversity benefits in terms of ongoing work to protect endangered species in the region such as updating the Red list by conducting technical assessment on taxa with limited information like the reptiles, freshwater and snails and eradication or controlled operations for invasive species.

Another initiative is the sub-regional support for the Micronesia Watershed Alliance whereby, each country set-up their own national protected area network in order to improve conservation of watershed areas, a classic example is the Palau Protected Area Network for Watershed Alliance. According to the TNC Project Manager, “the conservation status and management of critical upland forest has been significantly

advanced as a direct result of this project. In fact, this project has provided the critical foundation for the successful implementation of the Micronesia Challenge 20% effective conservation of terrestrial resources". This shows positive reflection of the work on the ground contributing to meeting Micronesian countries commitment terrestrial commitment to the Micronesia Challenge.

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

The project purpose is to convert the plans and strategic directions in the investment strategy into cohesive portfolios of grants that exceed the sum of their parts, while ensuring effective coordination with the CEPF Secretariat on all aspects of project implementation.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

The CEPF investment in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot has a more feasible short term impact as indicated in the number of projects supported by each strategic directions' and results from the field. The short-term impacts are best explained as per Strategic Direction to present a clear and detail account of what had come out in the investment in each of the three main outcomes.

Strategic Direction-1: Invasive Species management, control and eradication.

Projects have been implemented under strategic direction-1 that addressed the threats from invasive species in the following priority KBA sites which reported the reduce number of invasive species and some sites have been declared pest free. Projects conducting controlled programs reduced the number of invasive species presence on islands included:

- Atiu Island (#1KBA) Cook Islands, massive decrease in the number of myna birds found on the island due to intense control program and has now lead to a focus on eradication of a few birds on the island;
- Takitumu Conservation Area (# 4KBA) Cook Islands, strong control bait program on the removal of rats and cats from the TCA has resulted in the increase number of Rarotonga flycatcher seen in the KBA site because of little pest disturbance;
- Gau Island (#60KBA) Fiji, on-going baiting program to protect burrowing nesting grounds for Fiji collard petrel and possibly Fiji petrel has resulted in the reduce number of rats, cats and wild boar found within the surrounding area of burrowing nesting on the island;
- Rimatara Island (#115 KBA) and Ua Huka (#119 KBA) French Polynesia, on-going control baiting program conducted by the Site Support Groups reduced the number of rodents sighted on the islands;
- Kosrae Upland Forest (#17 KAB) Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), weed control program continues to reduce the spread of invasive weeds going up to the watershed area;
- Pohnpei Central Forest (#36 KBA) FSM, intensive invasive weed control program has massively reduce the spread of invasive weed towards the Pohnpei Central Forest watershed area;

Islands declared pest free or no invasive species presence:

- Monuriki Island (#65 KBA) Fiji, island is goat free because the community relocated all their goats from the island in order for vegetation restoration so that the endangered crested iguana found on the island can successfully survive;

In addition, CEPF had supported invasive species management projects in additional sites including:

- Aleipata Islands restoration project (# 156 KBA), Samoa. Unfortunately, under the restoration of Aleipata Islands project, rats have been reported on the larger Nu'utele island. This may be a result of the debris washed on this island in the wake of the tsunami that struck Lalomanu village. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) continues to undertake monitoring of baiting stations and control of invasive species (rats) on this island. MNRE in partnership with SPREP has indicated their continued support to eradicate rats from the islands to make it pest free and use as a sanctuary for threatened bird species of Samoa;
- Henderson Island a World Heritage Site (#147 KBA) Pitcairn Islands, conducted an eradication operation in order to safeguard the Endemic Henderson Crake, however rats were later detected on the islands during a post monitoring. It is understood that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is taking the lead to implement a control program and further monitor the existence of invasive rodents;
- Phoenix Islands, a World Heritage Site (#133 KBA) Kiribati, the un-inhabited atolls of Rawaki and Mckean were declared in 2008 as pest free islands with no rabbits or rats and the population of seabird colonies found on the two islands increased tremendously;
- Tahanea Atoll (#123 KBA) French Polynesia, eradication of rats helped reduced the number of rodents drastically which enables to reintroduction of the Tuamotu Sandpiper native birds on the island;
- Kayangle Island in Palau, a rat and cat eradication was undertaken on this island which is not a KBA site but an Important Bird Area site for the Micronesia Megapode and similarly Ringgold Island and Vatuira Island in Fiji not a KBA site but an important IBA site had a rat eradication operation to safeguard endemic bird species;
- The invasive crab-eating macaques around Babeldoab Island (#132 KBA) and Koror State in Palau have been sterilized to prevent further population increase.
- Eradication operation currently undertaken on Suwarrow Island (# 3KBA), Cook Islands to remove rats in order to safeguard seabird colonies on the island.

Overall, the CEPF investment had supported most work on invasive species management, control and eradication in the Pacific Region especially Polynesia-Micronesia region which no other previous funding sources had done. The CEPF investment in invasive species program have now enabled most countries to justify further funding support to continued the seed work that was funded under CEPF, such as in the case of Kiribati for the Phoenix Island Protected Area, Palau Macaques, Fiji on the green iguana and Samoa for myna birds and rats removal from Aleipata island, as well as in French Polynesia.

Strategic Direction 2: Improved management and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas.

From the 93 projects approved for the CEPF investment, 37 percent (11 out of 29) of projects contributed to the strengthening of existing protected areas and management through the development and implementation of management plans. There are some PAs that are locally managed whilst others have been legally declared as national reserves, conservation sites or protected areas. In the Pacific and from some grantee reports on the management of protected areas, it seems that community managed PA are more effective in some countries than state or provincial government PAs. These existing protected areas (PA) that have been strengthen during project implementation covers the:

- Takitumu Conservation Area – 155 ha (Cook Islands), community managed PA;
- Olum Watershed Area in Kosrae – 153 ha (FSM), state legally declared PA;
- Sovi Basin Conservation area – 16,300 ha (Fiji), legally declared conservation area under community management;
- Taveuni Forest Reserve – 11,160 ha, Ravilevu Nature Reserve – 4,018 ha and Bouma Natural Heritage Park – 1,417 (latter community-managed) are all strengthened under the Nature Fiji Conservation Trust project to established a Taveuni National Parks encompassing all these state reserves and community heritage park on Taveuni Island;
- Upland watershed areas Babeldoab – 3518ha (Palau) of PA strengthen through the TNC project supporting the Belau Watershed Allaiance;
- On Pohnpei the Nanpil Watershed PA – 200 ha (FSM) (Nett Municipality) part of the Pohnpei upland Watershed area had improved management through support from the Conservation Society of Pohnpei project to control spread of invasive weeds into watershed areas;
- The Makatea Island PA – 2,800 ha (French Polynesia) had improved management through the implementation of the action plan to protect two endemic species the ground-dove Polynesia and imperial Pigeon;
- Mesekelet Conservation Area – 203.16 ha (Babeldoab, Palau) the community manage CA strengthened its protection through the development and approval of its management plan funded by CEPF small grants to Palau Conservation Society, which received 28k from the Palau Protected Area Network (PAN) to start implementation of the management plan;
- The New England Aquarium received a grant from CEPF for the Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA) – 40,825,000 ha (include terrestrial and marine area) which contributed to strengthening the management of the PIPA by supporting the PIPA Trust, which was set-up for an endowment to support PIPA management and conservation contracts;
- The YELA Ka Forest – 35.2 ha (Kosrae, FSM) strengthened its management and protection through the grant given to improve management and status of the PA and resulted in legal recognition of the Yela conservation area through local ordinance and legislation;
- Natewa Tunuloa community declared protected area of 6,625 ha (Fiji), strengthened support and management through the establishment of Site Support Groups to manage the PA.

With the exception of PIPA (Kiribati), the five countries of the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Palau, French Polynesia) with existing protected areas being strengthened through CEPF grants to implement conservation actions on these sites, would collectively cover an area of about 46,584.36 ha. This truly reflects the size and areas that can be protected within small islands, which is nothing compared to large continental islands and countries that can have large protected areas probably more than the total collective hectares of terrestrial protected areas in this region. About 41 percent (25 out of 60) of priority KBA's with strengthened protection and management through various projects in each of the three strategic directions in the Polynesia-Micronesia Ecosystem Profile. These KBA sites strengthened and improved protection through the development of protected area or conservation area management plans, lead by communities themselves for some KBA sites such as the Natewa KBA, Takitumu Conservation Area KBA, Monuriki Island KBA and Yadua Taba KBA.

In addition better management of KBA sites were also attributed to projects implemented in these sites that eradicated and controlled invasive species such as on Atiu Island, Kosrae Upland Forest, Pohnpei Upland Forest, and Monuriki Island.

Establishing new protected areas or expanding existing PAs requires more time than the average timeframe for each CEPF project which is between 12 months to 3 years being the longest period for the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot. Hence, only two newly established protected areas were reported for this region, such as the:

- Maraeti'a Plateau in Tahiti, 2 hectares of land for restoration and protection of the native forest area French Polynesia;
- In Palau the project helped create the Kayangel Protected Areas Network. Sites 1-5 were designated under Palauan law on March 30th 2012 and were added to Site '6' which collectively created the PA network: 1. Ngkesol Marine Protected Area, Est. 2012* Size: 163km², IUCN Cat: IV-C, 2. Ngeriungs Bird Sanctuary, Est. 2012. Size: 0.34km², IUCN Cat: IV-C

In addition a number of projects implemented would have strong potential for establishment of future conservation area or protected areas in Samoa and Fiji. These sites had already completed rapid biological assessment survey to take stock of species diversity and uniqueness as well as identifying important ecological habitats. These projects include:

- Strengthening Conservation and Management Across the Mt. Navotuvotu and Mt. Kasi Forest Corridor, Fiji;
- Rapid biological assessment survey of Southern Lau, Fiji;
- A pilot study of the impacts of climate change on Fiji's cloud forest;
- Enhancing knowledge and understanding of the Biodiversity of Upland Central Savaii;
- The Taveuni National Park? Enhanced conservation for KBA, Fiji.

Funds had also been provided to the Line and Phoenix Islands Wildlife Conservation Unit to implement established conservation and management recommendations in a comprehensive and integrated approach to restore the ecology of the Northern Line Islands. However more support is needed for the Line and PIPA especially ensuring that there would be no recurrence of invasive species and that these islands are natural laboratory for understanding conservation management and climate change patterns, since most are uninhabited with no major human induced impacts. About 24 percent (6

out 25)of the priority KBA sites used the SP1 METT tools to demonstrate strengthened protection and management, as evidenced by increased SP1 METT scores over the course of the grants for Yela PA (Kosrae), Babeldoab Island (Palau), Olum Watershed (Kosrae FSM), Natewa (Fiji) and Nabukelevuu (Fiji).However only one PA Makatea Island (French Polynesia) didn't show much changes after the CEPF grant and this was because of the limited opportunities for funding support to implement projects in the outer islands of French Polynesia.

Strategic Direction 3: Improved community awareness and species recovery

From the 93 overall projects supported in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot, about 75 communities were part of the recipients of CEPF grants in the field and they have in some ways received reasonable socioeconomic benefits. About 44 percent (12 out of 27) of projects implemented in production landscapes such as the Recovery of two Samoa's most threatened bird species (ma'oma'o and tooth-bill pigeon) project whereby the project site for ma'oma'o behind the village of Magiagi plantation land, as well as the recovery of the crested iguana from Monuriki Island and Yadua Taba Island also important production landscape areas for eco-tourism visitors and lastly, the recovery plans for the tongan megapode, found on Niuafo'ou island.

Support to a learning exchange by representatives of community groups to experience the successful community turtle monitoring program by the Vanua-Tai Resource Monitors Network. This project allows the representatives from the two Fijian communities to learn from the Vanua-Tai's long experience in turtle monitoring.

From the 67 priority species for CEPF investment only 42 percent (28 out of 68 species) were supported through grants. IUCN Oceania and partners completed the biodiversity assessments targeting reptiles, freshwater fish and partulidae land snails.

Research had been completed on the status of endemic or native plants for Samoa, Niue, Tonga and Palau. Publications for the rare plants of Samoa, Niue and Tonga provide critical information on the management and protection of rare and endemic plants of the islands. Similarly, a comprehensive red list assessment of the endemic plant species of Palau had been completed raising community awareness about the islands rare and endemic plant species. Research have also been undertaken on the nesting sites of the little known Fiji petrel, the tooth billed pigeon, the ma'oma'o bird and the red throat lorikeet.

Projects had supported capacity building of local staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Samoa, as well as communities located on the sites identified for potential sightings of the endemic Samoan Swallowtail Butterfly as a model for valuing and conserving butterflies distinctive in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot. A grant to support the hosting of the first inaugural species forum to IUCN-Oceania helped bring together species practitioners and decision makers to share ideas and expertise on ways to improve the status of endangered species.

Work on assessing options for the long term survival of the remnant populations of Monarch bird species have been initiated in French Polynesia. Research into the life cycle of two of Fiji's rarest butterfly species *Papilio schmeltzii* and *Hypolimnas inopinata* have identified the latter been rediscovered in Navai, Ra Province where it has now

been sighted since 1905 and the host plant H.inopinata has been identified the shrub as the *Elatostema numerosum* completing our understanding of the life cycle.

Overall, CEPF investment in this region (Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot) has achieved a lot in terms of long-term impacts, most of the regional projects that were initiated through CEPF have continued on through other partners and government support. As well as, successful projects that showed positive outcomes within the short term period of between 12months to 3years.

5. Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 46,384,36 hectares of PA (collectively from the 5 countries with strengthened PA sites due to CEPF support to KBA sites).

Species Conserved: 22 CEPF priority species conserved from the 67 priority species listed in the Ecosystem Profile for Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot, as per Table-1 below.

Plants – 16 priority species	**Nil CEPF support**
Birds – 23 priority species	**11 specific projects (SD-3) and 11 indirect support through invasive spp. Projects and KBAs Projects**
Molluscs - 18 priority spp.	**1 project supported the protection partula rosea and two projects addressing invasive snails to improve status of endemic spp.**
Mammals: 5 priority spp.	**1 project supporting work on Chuuk flying fox**
Reptiles: 4 priority spp.	**3 projects Hawksbill & Green turtle and 1 project on crested iguana**
Amphibian: 1 priority spp.	**1 project on the Fijian ground frog**
Arthropods: no priority species identified **Freshwater fish no priority species identified** **Total: 67 priority species / 42 % covered under CEPF support.**	

Corridors Created: Nil

6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives. (Refer to section 3 and 4 which describe in detail the short-term and long-term impacts)

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There were some unexpected impacts both positive and negative that can be highlighted in this project. The positive impact of this project is the investment that CEPF had in this region for biodiversity terrestrial conservation went beyond supporting priority CEPF species and KBA sites as listed in the Ecosystem profile to also supporting new species and sites. For example, some projects supported grants that went into research work for the Fiji flying fox, Fiji land snails, the Fijian odonata and the Samoa swallowtail butterfly which weren't part of the 67 priority CEPF species for investment. What is important to note here is the information gathered from these species helped update their status on the IUCN Red list and triggered more work into understanding their ecology functions and habitats.

On the other hand there were a few unexpected negative impacts specifically to do with grantee eligibility and capacity. Whilst this could also be looked at as not being a negative impact but a gap that needs to be addressed further by CEPF in other new regions established. CEPF is an excellent investment for civil society and one of the few donors who actually provides support directly to civil society groups, NGOs and community based organizations. However not all of these organizations do have the luxury of accessing CEPF grants, although this criteria is met by all there are also some grantees who are disadvantage because they can't fulfill the financial requirements and reporting expected by CEPF. In this region there are a number of civil society groups with very limited capacity in terms of financial management but have strong technical know-how in the work they do in the field. The hardest part in securing projects for these type of groups is getting an established NGO with the technical capacity to partner up with the small community group or organization. In the end, most of these groups refrain from submitting proposals for the small grants because of the expectation from the donor and this gives more advantage to bigger established NGOs (international NGOs) and regional organizations to access CEPF grants and usually they get approval from the Technical Advisory Group based on their level of expertise and capacity.

Another negative impact of this project is the slow start in the beginning especially with the French Territories. I believe this was a misunderstanding, but it had some negative impact in terms of the misinformation that had already gone out such as the launch that the CI Executive Director and RIT Manager undertaken in Tahiti during the 16th Science Congress in 2009 promoting CEPF and the new investment which covered also the territories. However upon return to the office we received an email from the World Bank representative on the CEPF board that French Territories weren't eligible which took a long delay to sort things out and to approve the territories eligibility with a ceiling gap of 1million to cover both large and small grants. This had also reduced interest from most of the eligible NGOs and CBOs in the territories.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Establish the CEPF grant management entity in CI-PIP.
Component 1 Actual at Completion:
Completed in the early start of the CEPF grant management with the recruitment of the CEPF RIT Manager and Grant Coordinator under the supervision of the CI Terrestrial Director and the two staff were hired for the duration of the CEPF investment in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot for 4.5 years.

Component 2 Planned: Establish and implement a thorough and transparent review process for all letters of inquiry and full proposals.
Component 2 Actual at Completion:
A detail process was developed by the RIT Manager with assistance from the Terrestrial Director in planning and reviewing all LOIs received as well as full-proposals. This process was done in consultation with the CEPF Grant Director and Grant's Manager based in DC, as well as the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). This process was done thoroughly through a detail screening process in order for all ineligible LOIs to be

eliminated in the first screening and only those which meet the Ecosystem Profile criteria in terms of the strategic direction focus and support from CEPF were considered. Also a background check on grantees had to be undertaken by the Grants Coordinator to ensure that each grantee had a clean and solid record and technical capacity to undertaken a project.

Component 3 Planned: Contract and manage small grants and provide recommendations on large grants to the CEPF Secretariat.
Component 3 Actual at Completion:
Small grants contract signed with CEPF with a funding envelope of $824,955.00 USD, which almost 80% were committed and disbursed to projects ($774,512.00USD) and the CI Pacific RIT managed all 46 small grants projects approved. The RIT coordinates semi-annual meetings for the TAG based on each call for proposal to review large and small grants, individual review are conducted by each members of the TAG and the RIT CI Pacific Team also undertakes their review then all spreadsheets with reviews of LOIs for small grants and large grants are given to the RIT Manager to collate and prepare a master spreadsheet that the TAG and RIT can use for final review with a summary on comments based on feedback from members of the TAG and RIT and where they agree and disagree on LOIs. A two day meeting for the TAG compiles all final review and recommendations which goes to the CEPF Secretariat for their final endorsement before grantees are informed and grants committed.

Component 4 Planned: Monitor and evaluate CEPF investments at project and portfolio levels.
Component 4 Actual at Completion:
Project monitoring was done at both the project level and portfolio level with updated report submitted to the CEPF Secretariat Grant Director bi-annually.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?
No components were unrealized.

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

Tools or products produced from projects funded through CEPF such as the PII Invasive Species Toolkit had already been submitted by grantee's when they submit final reports to CEPF.

Lessons Learned

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

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

The CI-Pacific leading the development of the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot Ecosystem Profile/Strategy and also being the RIT had enabled a smooth operation and understanding of the whole project in detail. This aspect of success is attributed to the Terrestrial Director James Atherton who had been involved in the development of the Ecosystem Profile and later supervised the RIT Manager and Grants Coordinator made most of the work easier in terms of LOI reviews and process with the CEPF Secretariat. However there are times where communication breakdown between CEPF Secretariat and the RIT CI-Pacific are noticeable when some decision made by the RIT CI-Pacific and TAG is override by the CEPF Secretariat. Also at times the Terrestrial Director would query the Grant Director with regards to acknowledgement of the involvement of the RIT CI-Pacific in some decisions that are made or communications that goes out to grantees.

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

Project implementations were on time and no major hold-ups except for a few issues as mentioned above.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

There were 26 lessons learned documents produced from this project with the link below which are very relevant to community conservation programs.

http://www.conservation.org/publications/Pages/biodiversity_conservation_lessons_learned.aspx

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 the CEPF investment in this project.

Additional Funding

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
GEF	C	2 million	GEF PAS project invasive

			species which covers 5 Pacific Island countries but for Kiribati and Samoa, their GEF funds were used to continue projects supported by CEPF such as Aleipata Island Restoration (Samoa) and PIPA Island Restoration for Kiribati.
NZAID	C	500k	The Community Turtle project supported by CEPF enabled NZAID to continue funding to SPREP for the Regional Turtle Action Strategy and support turtle community network with other Pacific Islands countries.

Note these are only a few examples from two projects however almost 90% of CEPF supported project for the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot had received other sources of funding to continue their work after CEPF. The funding from CEPF was good seed or start-up funds to leverage support for the grantees in Micronesia, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Kiribati, French Polynesia and some in Fiji.

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- ***A*** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- ***B*** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- ***C*** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The 5 year CEPF investment didn't have enough time to develop any planned sustainability or replicability of project components, however grantees have been successful in finding sources to sustain their projects in the long term.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

All grantees were obliged to follow the safeguard policy although more stringent criteria were put forward because of the application of poison in the eradication of rodents or invasive species. This additional requirement for any invasive species project to complete a Pest Management Plan was difficult for some grantee because they felt they had the expertise and understood precautionary procedures to undertake. Anyhow, most grantees adopted the PMP and took their time to fill in the form and answered questions before their project was approved to proceed.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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.

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