

Annual Portfolio Overview

East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

July 2020 – June 2021

1. Introduction

The East Melanesian Islands comprise some 1,600 islands to the northeast and east of the island of New Guinea, encompassing a land area of nearly 100,000 square kilometers. Politically, the region includes Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and the island region of Papua New Guinea (PNG). This is one of the most geographically complex areas on Earth, with a diverse range of islands of varying age and development. Isolation and adaptive radiation have led to high levels of endemism. Because most of the islands have never been in land contact with New Guinea, their fauna and flora are a mix of recent long-distance immigrants and indigenous lineages derived from ancient Pacific-Gondwanaland species.

The high levels of endemism coupled with accelerating rates of habitat loss qualify the East Melanesian Islands as a biodiversity hotspot. Chief threats to biodiversity include widespread commercial logging and mining, expansion of subsistence and plantation agriculture, impacts of invasive species, human population increase, and impacts of climate change.

Natural habitats in the East Melanesian Islands include coral reefs, mangrove forests, freshwater swamp forests, lowland rainforests, seasonally dry forests, and grasslands and montane rainforests. In many places, natural habitats extend from mountain ridge to reef, although fragmented by agricultural conversion and logging in many places. These “ridge-to-reef” ecosystems are important for their resilience to climate change and because they deliver a range of ecosystem services to human communities.

As well as being exceedingly rich in biodiversity, the hotspot also holds exceptional cultural and linguistic diversity. Many languages in the region are spoken by only a few hundred people and are disappearing quickly, leading to erosion of traditional knowledge and practice. This is significant in a region where most land and resources are under customary ownership and local people are the true stewards of biodiversity.

In July 2013, CEPF launched an eight-year investment phase in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot, focusing on 20 priority sites and threats to 48 priority species spread across the three countries. The CEPF investment strategy supports biodiversity conservation in ways that deliver benefits to local communities while making a sustained contribution to the development of local, national and regional capacity for conservation. This document presents an overview of the status of the CEPF grants portfolio through June 2021.

2. Niche for CEPF Investment

2.1. Overview

The ecosystem profile for the hotspot was formally approved in October 2012 and the eight-year investment period began in July 2013 with the commencement of the regional implementation team (RIT) grant. The total spending authority for the hotspot is US\$9,000,000, and the original plan was to have obligated all funds and closed all grants by July 2021.

The ecosystem profile was prepared over 2011-2012 by the University of the South Pacific, the University of PNG and Conservation International. This team organized expert roundtables, held nine stakeholder consultation workshops and engaged more than 150 stakeholders from local communities, civil society organizations, and government and donor agencies. They identified 308 globally threatened species, 95 KBAs and four corridors. The stakeholders then prioritized these “conservation outcomes” to be addressed within the context of CEPF’s niche for investment in the hotspot, namely *to recognize local communities as the custodians of biodiversity, which, with an appropriate enabling environment and in partnership with civil society, can use traditional knowledge and western science to implement conservation actions that are locally relevant*. This is expressed via five strategic directions, each with funding allocations from the CEPF Donor Council, as shown below.

Table 1. Strategic Directions Initial Allocations

No.	Strategic Direction	Funding
1	Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts.	\$3,200,000
2	Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning.	\$1,000,000
3	Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps.	\$1,200,000
4	Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships.	\$2,100,000
5	Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team.	\$1,500,000
	Total	\$9,000,000

The eight-year timeframe for this region is a departure from the five-year investment period that is the norm for CEPF, reflecting the need for up-front investment in capacity building and partnerships with local communities and CSOs.

2.2. Portfolio Status

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) serves as the RIT based out of its Oceania regional office in Suva, Fiji. Originally, IUCN was engaged via two separate grants, one for administrative functions and one for programmatic functions, but these were merged into one agreement in June 2020. The RIT grant is, effectively, for the full amount of Strategic Direction 5 (US\$1,499,877) with no plans for any further obligation as of this time.

The Secretariat and RIT have released calls for letters of inquiry (LOI) to solicit applications for the other strategic directions. Table 2 summarizes the calls released to date.

Table 2. EMI Calls for Letters of Inquiry

No.	Release Date	Due Date	LOIs Received	
			Large	Small
1	19 August 2013	28 October 2013	40	25
2	1 July 2014	26 August 2014	31	21
3	1 July 2015	31 August 2015	31	31
4	24 August 2016	30 September 2016	24	13
5	18 October 2016	28 November 2016	14	8
6	8 September 2017	25 October 2017	11	33
7	30 August 2018	7 October 2018	15	18
8	11 February 2019	11 April 2019	3	8
9	15 October 2019	22 November 2019	8	10
10	4 December 2020	15 January 2021	5	NA
11	4 December 2020	15 January 2021	NA	5
Total			182	172
			354	

In addition to open calls for proposals, the RIT has awarded five small grants on a grant-by-invitation basis.

As shown below, to date, 58 of the 182 large grant LOIs moved forward to full proposal and award (30 percent) and 57 of the 172 small grant proposals moved forward to negotiation and award (33 percent); an overall “success” rate that reflects the quality of applications and the work-rate of the RIT to develop appropriate projects. Of note are the relatively few large grant proposals submitted overall, reflecting, perhaps, the limited applicant pool from the three hotspot countries or the difficulty of CEPF application requirements.

Table 3. Awarded (Active and Closed) Large and Small Grants by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Allocation	Large Grants		Small Grants		Total		Obligation to Allocation
		Count	Obligation	Count	Obligation	Ct.	Obligation	
1. KBAs	\$3,200,000	28	\$3,444,859	16	\$270,489	44	\$3,715,348	116%
2. Land use	\$1,000,000	4	\$433,937	7	\$106,185	11	\$540,122	54%
3. Species	\$1,200,000	7	\$644,585	5	\$91,644	12	\$736,229	61%
4. Capacity	\$2,100,000	17	\$1,733,055	29	\$515,125	46	\$2,248,180	107%
5. RIT	\$1,500,000	2	\$1,499,878	0	\$0	2	\$1,499,878	100%
Total	\$9,000,000	58	\$7,756,313	57	\$983,443	115	\$8,739,756	97%
Percentage (without RIT)		50%	86%	50%	14%			

Table 4. Awarded (Active and Closed) Large and Small Grants by Country

Country	Large Grants		Small Grants		Total	
	Count	Obligation	Count	Obligation	Count	Obligation
Papua New Guinea	11	\$1,533,569	17	\$270,489	28	\$1,804,058
Solomon Islands	25	\$2,254,523	26	\$106,185	51	\$2,360,708
Vanuatu	14	\$1,718,727	11	\$91,644	25	\$1,810,372
Multi-country	6	\$749,615	3	\$0	9	\$749,615
RIT	2	\$1,499,878	0	\$515,125	2	\$2,015,003
Total	58	\$7,756,313	57	\$983,443	115	\$8,739,756

Table 5. Pipeline Large and Small Grants by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Allocation	Large Grants		Small Grants		Total		Percent - Request: Allocation
		Count	Request	Count	Request	Count	Request	
1. KBAs	\$3,200,000	0	\$0	1	\$12,000	1	\$12,000	0.4%
2. Land use	\$1,000,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0%
3. Species	\$1,200,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0%
4. Capacity	\$2,100,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0%
Total	\$6,800,000	0	\$0	1	\$12,000	1	\$12,000	0.2%

Note the variances between the obligation for Strategic Direction 2 and the amount committed to date. This reflects the challenge of matching this topic—integrating biodiversity planning into land use and development planning—with the capacity and interests of the CEPF grantees in the region.

2.3. Coordinating CEPF Grant-Making

IUCN holds the US\$1,500,000 grant to serve as the RIT. In this role, IUCN is also responsible for managing the CEPF small grants mechanism in the hotspot. The current ceiling is US\$1,000,000, from which IUCN can issue grants of up to US\$20,000. The team is headquartered in IUCN’s Oceania office in Suva, Fiji. Although not in the hotspot, Fiji is a strategic location due to the concentration of international donor offices and regional initiatives and because of its direct air linkages to the three hotspot countries and other major cities bordering the Pacific.

IUCN is a multi-faceted organization with multiple work-streams in the region. This is of advantage to CEPF, as the RIT can ensure complementarity between CEPF grants and the work of IUCN’s biodiversity and protected areas management (BIOPAMA) and marine resources programs, among others. Further, IUCN has an institutional interest in maintaining a long-term presence in the region and supporting its civil society members. This facilitates a continuity of work beyond the period of CEPF investment. As shown below, while the team is based in Fiji, one staff member is based in the hotspot.

Table 6. RIT Staffing Structure as of June 2021

Position	Name	Location
Team Leader	Helen Pippard	Suva, Fiji
Finance Officer	Anjani Gosai	Suva, Fiji
Solomon Islands National Country Coordinator	Ravin Dhari	Honiara, Solomon Islands

In addition to those named above, IUCN allocates time of its administrative and contractual personnel to assist with award of small grants. IUCN also ensures coordination of its CEPF work across its other regional initiatives on marine conservation, protected areas and governance. The team relies, as well, on close advisors, such as Vatumaraga Molisa, the former Vanuatu National Country Coordinator, who is IUCN’s project liaison officer for Vanuatu

2.4. Performance Assessment

Performance per the ecosystem profile logical framework is tracked per Section 7 of this report. In the last 12 months, the primary focus has been to keep grants moving despite the global pandemic. The three countries in the hotspot, plus Fiji (the location of the RIT) and notably, Australia and the USA (the base of many experts who work in the region, and the source of many supplies), all experienced, variously, medical crises, international travel bans, and domestic quarantines. Spending, if not outright progress, slowed for many grants.

Nonetheless, the RIT and the overall portfolio are meeting the goals of CEPF across several dimensions. In terms of **engagement of civil society**, CEPF has made grants to 68 unique organizations, not counting the RIT. Of these, 41 recipients were local organizations, which received US\$3.1 million, or 43 percent of total resources and, further, at least 15 were community-based groups, demonstrating CEPF’s interest in building local capacity.

To date, CEPF has made grants to improve the population or habitat status of 33 of the 48 **priority species**, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Investments in Priority Species per the Ecosystem Profile

No.	Latin name	Common name	Grantee
Mammals			
1	<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Dugong	VESS, TDA
2	<i>Emballonura semicaudata</i>	Polynesian Sheath-tail Bat	
3	<i>Melomys matambuai</i>	Manus Melomys	U. Queensland
4	<i>Pteralopex anceps</i>	Bougainville Monkey-faced Bat	U. Queensland, BCI
5	<i>Pteralopex atrata</i>	Guadalcanal Monkey-faced Bat	U. Queensland
6	<i>Pteralopex flanneryi</i>	Greater Monkey-faced Bat	U. Queensland, BCI
7	<i>Pteralopex pulchra</i>	Montane Monkey-faced Bat	U. Queensland
8	<i>Pteralopex taki</i>	New Georgia Monkey-faced Bat	U. Queensland
9	<i>Pteropus anetianus</i>	Vanuatu Flying-fox	VESS
10	<i>Pteropus cognatus</i>	Makira Flying-fox	U. Queensland
11	<i>Pteropus fundatus</i>	Banks Flying-fox	VESS
12	<i>Pteropus nitendiensis</i>	Temotu Flying-fox	Oceanswatch, VESS
13	<i>Pteropus tuberculatus</i>	Vanikoro Flying-fox	Oceanswatch, VESS
14	<i>Solomys ponceleti</i>	Poncelet’s Giant Rat	Oceania Ecology Group

No.	Latin name	Common name	Grantee
15	<i>Solomys salebrosus</i>	Bougainville Giant Rat	Oceania Ecology Group
16	<i>Solomys sapientis</i>	Isabel Giant Rat	Oceania Ecology Group
17	<i>Tadarida bregullae</i>	Fijian Mastiff Bat	VESS
18	<i>Uromys imperator</i>	Emperor Rat	U. Queensland, Oceania Ecology
19	<i>Uromys porculus</i>	Guadalcanal Rat	U. Queensland, Oceania Ecology
20	<i>Uromys rex</i>	King Rat	U. Queensland, Oceania Ecology
Birds			
21	<i>Aplonis santovestris</i>	Santo Mountain Starling	LLV
22	<i>Charmosyna palmarum</i>	Palm Lorikeet	Oceanswatch
23	<i>Ducula bakeri</i>	Vanuatu Imperial Pigeon	LLV
24	<i>Erythrura regia</i>	Royal Parrotfinch	LLV
25	<i>Gallinula sanctaecrucis</i>	Santa Cruz Ground-dove	Oceanswatch
26	<i>Gallinula silvestris</i>	Makira Moorhen	SICCP, BirdLife
27	<i>Megapodius layardi</i>	Vanuatu Megapode	BirdLife, VEAN
28	<i>Nesofregatta fuliginosa</i>	Polynesian Storm-Petrel	
29	<i>Pseudobulweria becki</i>	Beck's Petrel	BirdLife
30	<i>Pterodroma brevipes</i>	Collared Petrel	VEAN
31	<i>Pterodroma cervicalis</i>	White-necked Petrel	
Reptiles			
32	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle	
33	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle	ACMCA, TDA
34	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Turtle	Wai Hau
35	<i>Emoia aneityumensis</i>	Anatom Skink	BirdLife
36	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Turtle	ACMCA
Amphibians			
37	<i>Litoria lutea</i>	Solomon Islands Treefrog	U. Queensland
38	<i>Palmatorappia solomonis</i>	Solomon Islands Palm Frog	
Plants			
39	<i>Agathis silbae</i>		
40	<i>Calophyllum waliense</i>		
41	<i>Carpoxylon macrospermum</i>	Carpoxylon Palm	
42	<i>Cyphosperma voutmelense</i>	Voutmélé Palm	
43	<i>Diospyros insularis</i>	New Guinea Ebony	
44	<i>Drymophloeus hentyi</i>		
45	<i>Helicia polyosmoides</i>		
46	<i>Intsia bijuga</i>	Moluccan Ironwood	
47	<i>Ptychosperma gracile</i>		
48	<i>Veitchia montgomeryana</i>		

Work has taken place in all of the 20 **priority KBAs** noted below. In addition to these, grantees have worked in 14 non-priority KBAs, which, while not prioritized in 2012, are, by definition, important for the conservation of biodiversity (i.e., North Efate, Tinakula, Ambrym, Mount Tukusmera, Vanua Lava, Torres Islands, Northwest Vella Lavella, Malaita Highlands, Are-are South Malaita, Northwest Isabel, Tetepare, Nakanai central Pomio, Buin and Rambutyo).

Table 8. Investments in Priority KBAs per the Ecosystem Profile

No.	KBA No.	KBA	Grantee
1	PNG2	Baining Mountains	Bishop Museum, CELCOR
2	PNG6	Cape Saint George	FORCERT, Birdlife
3	PNG7	Central Manus	WCS, MECCN, TARM
4	PNG16	Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi	U. Queensland, BCI, Rotokas
5	PNG21	Mussau	WCS
6	SLB4	East Makira	U. Queensland, SICCP
7	SLB5	East Rennell	LLV SI, BirdLife
8	SLB8	Gizo	WWF, Gizo Women in Business
9	SLB9	Guadalcanal Watersheds	U. Queensland, U. South Pacific
10	SLB10	Kolombangara Upland Forest	U. Queensland, WCS, KIBCA, WWF, Gizo Women in Business
11	SLB12	Marovo Kavachi	U. Queensland, SICCP
12	SLB15	Mount Maetambe - Kolombangara River	NRDF, ESSI
13	SLB18	Nendö	Oceanswatch, EDO
14	SLB35	Vanikoro	Oceanswatch, EDO
15	VUT3	Aneityum	BirdLife and partners
16	VUT6	Futuna	BirdLife and partners
17	VUT7	Gaua	EDA, LLV, Nakau
18	VUT8	Green Hill	LLV, NYBG, VELA
19	VUT19	Santo Mountain Chain	LLV, Edenhope, Canal Studio
20	VUT21	Tongoa-Laika	LLV, BirdLife, VEAN

The logical framework in Section 7 shows **progress toward goals** but, overall, the portfolio is well on its way toward reaching goals in terms of:

- Baseline site surveys: 14 achieved compared to a target of 10.
- Raising awareness at priority sites: 20 achieved compared to a target of 10.
- Reduction in threats at 10 sites so far, as compared to a target of 15.
- Promotion of conservation incentive mechanisms at six sites (target of five).
- Promotion of tenure rights in three sites so far (target of five).
- Six communities (target of 10) with improved legal training to mitigate impact of development projects.
- Three priority sites (target of five) mainstreaming biodiversity into policies and plans.
- Knowledge improved on six species (target of five).
- Seven civil society networks created (target of five).
- Twenty domestic CSOs with improved capacity (target of 20).
- Two local CSOs become national conservation leaders (target of six).
- Sixteen of 39 local CSO recipients of CEPF funds have shown improvement in their capacity, as measured by the Civil Society Tracking Tool.
- Thirteen local CSO recipients of CEPF funds have so far secured further funding for their work.

3. Portfolio Highlights by Strategic Direction

SD 1 –Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts.

Grantmaking within this strategic direction is meant to support field surveys, raise awareness among communities, support communities as they implement conservation

efforts, and promote incentive schemes such as tourism, payment for ecosystem services and conservation agreements.

A highlight from this strategic direction is the grant to Edenhope, which worked closely with the Santo Sunset Environment Network (SSEN) and local councils of chiefs in the northwest portion of Vanuatu's Espiritu Santo Island. Edenhope and SSEN helped 13 sites (communities) prepare for registration as Community Conservation Area, drafted conservation management plans for 11 of them, and strengthened the management of three existing sites.

SD 2 – Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning.

Grantmaking within this strategic direction facilitates tenure mapping within customary lands, provides legal training and support for landowners affected by incompatible development projects, supports community enforcement of environmental regulations, and explores partnerships with private sectors promoting sustainable development.

A highlight from this strategic direction is the grant to the Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR) in Papua New Guinea. CELCOR is engaging with eight communities of subsistence farmers in the Pomio District (part of PNG's East New Britain Province) whose land is under threat from logging, mining, and the expansion of oil palm plantations. CELCOR is training community representatives in forest conservation measures and to better understand their legal rights, such that they are in a better position to engage with government and mining and logging companies.

SD 3 – Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps.

Grantmaking within this strategic direction supports species research and development and implementation of recovery plans. It also supports introduction of science-based harvest management of priority species that are important for local food security.

A highlight is the grant to the Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS) to conduct fieldwork on five islands to increase knowledge about three endemic threatened species of bats and to prepare species recovery plans. The work proceeds, albeit slowly due to COVID-19. One of the challenges the project faces is representative of the unanticipated effects of the pandemic. It is critical that team members are vaccinated against rabies and demonstrate adequate antibodies every two years. Airflight limitations between Australia and Vanuatu have created a shortage of rabies vaccine (coming from Australia to Vanuatu) and inability to send blood to laboratories for antibody testing (from Vanuatu to Australia).

SD 4 – Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships.

This strategic direction allows for grants that build the management and technical capacity of CSOs and their staff and grants that promote CSOs to become national and regional leaders.

Highlights from this area include the grants to the New Guinea Binatang Research Centre (BRC) in PNG and to Mai Maasina Green Belt in the Solomon Islands. BRC is training rangers and conservation professionals from priority sites in PNG in tropical ecology and conservation. Mai Maasina is strengthening itself as an organization through development of

a strategic plan and instituting financial and administrative procedures, while also strengthening the island's conservation sector and actors.

4. Collaboration with CEPF Donors, Other Donors and Local Government

The CEPF Secretariat and IUCN have collaborated directly and indirectly with donors and host country government agencies at multiple levels. IUCN maintains regular engagement with:

- The GEF Operational Focal Points in each of the three countries.
- Relevant national government agencies, particularly for protected areas, forestry and local governance.
- The local leadership of major conservation organizations, including Wildlife Conservation Society and BirdLife International.
- The local representation of donors and groups with capacity building goals similar to those of the RIT, such as the GEF Small Grants Programme.

5. Conclusion

CEPF's investment in this region will be closing in the coming year. Over the period of investment, via the achievements of the grantees, and through the work of the RIT and other partners, the majority of goals from the Ecosystem Profile will be achieved. The final program year will focus on:

- Targeted capacity building of local NGOs.
- Validation of results and/or impacts of grants.
- Promotion of KBAs on national policy agendas.

6. Summary Figures

Figure 1. Current Obligation by Strategic Direction

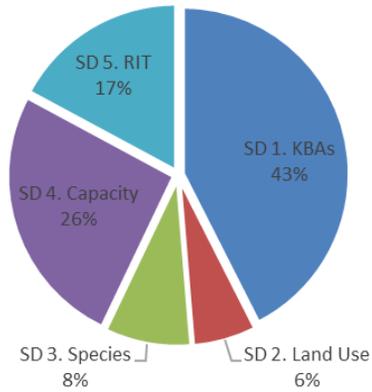


Figure 3. EMI Obligation Trend, September 2021

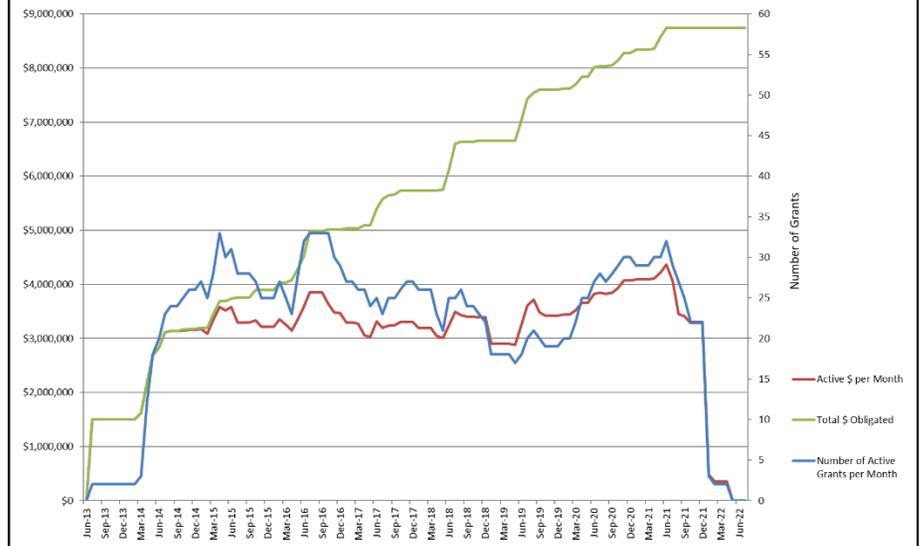
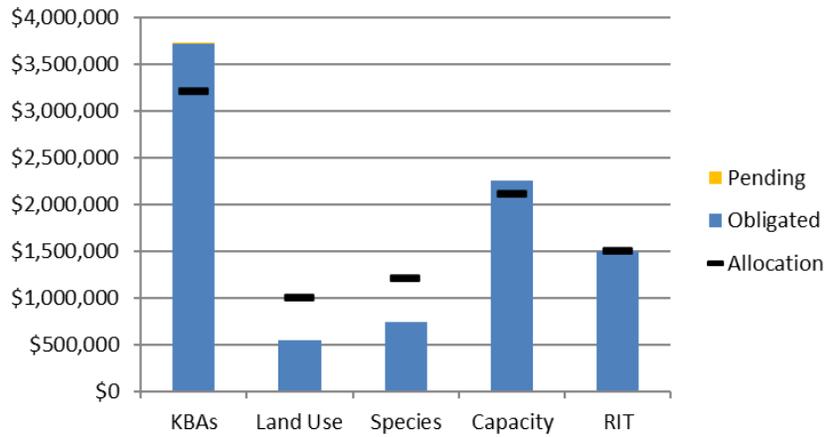


Figure 2. Portfolio Status by Strategic Direction



7. Update on Progress Toward Targets in the Portfolio Logical Framework

The logical framework below shows grants that should, in theory, lead to the achievement of the suggested indicators. We purposefully do not count results until individual grants are closed and all data is validated.

Table 9. Logical Framework from Ecosystem Profile

Objective	Indicator	Result
Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities	20 key biodiversity areas covering 1,549,009 hectares have new or strengthened protection and management	103,811 hectares confirmed in 11 KBAs with work currently expected to take place in a total of 20 KBAs (Table 8)
	At least 100,000 hectares within production landscapes are managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use	446 hectares achieved (Massau) with 1,062 hectares expected in Marovo-Kavichi
	At least 5 local land-use or development plans influenced to accommodate biodiversity	2 plans have been influenced: Cape Saint George area - Kait community land-use plan Ghizo and Kolombangara - Western Province Development Strategy
	48 globally threatened species have improved conservation status and/or available information on status and distribution	33 species are the subject of ongoing and completed grants (Table 7)
	At least 10 partnerships and networks formed among civil society, government and communities to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile	7 networks have been formed <i>or strengthened</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becks Petrel Recovery Group • Network of Silent Achievers • Santo Sunset Environment Network • Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership • Vanua-tai Women's sub network • Western Province Network for Sustainable Environment; • Partnership agreement between Wrecks to Rainforest, Mt Tabwemasana Local Management Committee and Mai Maasina Green Belt
	At least 40 civil society organizations, including at least 30 domestic organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	25 unique international organizations and 41 unique local organizations have received 114 grants

Intermediate Outcome	Intermediate Indicators	Result
1. Local communities empowered to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under served by current conservation efforts	Baseline surveys completed for at least 10 priority sites	<p>14 priority sites have baseline surveys completed:</p> <p><u>PNG</u> Manus by WCS Mussau by WCS Baining Mountains by Bishop Museum Mt Balbi-Kunua Plains by BCI and UQ</p> <p><u>Solomon Islands</u> Mt Maetambe –Kolombangara River by ESSI and French Ichthyological Society (FIS) Guadalcanal by USP and FIS Kolombangara Upland Forest by FIS and UQ Marovo-Kavachi by UQ Nendö by Oceanswatch Vanikoro by Oceanswatch</p> <p><u>Vanuatu</u> Aneityum by FIS and New York Botanical Garden Gaua by FIS Green Hill by FIS and New York Botanical Garden Santo Mountain Chain by LLV</p> <p>In progress: East Makira, East Rennell, Aneityum, Futuna</p>
	Awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised among local communities within at least 10 priority sites	Awareness has been raised at all 20 sites (Table 8)
	Threat levels to at least 15 priority sites reduced through locally relevant conservation actions implemented by local communities	<p>While reduction of threats is still to be determined, at least 12 priority sites have been targeted: Manus, Mussau, Cape St. George, Mt. Balbi-Kunua, Kolombangara, Nendö, Vanikoro, Mt. Maetambe-Kolombangara River, Santo Mountain Chain, Gaua, Tongoa-Laika, Tanna</p> <p>Ongoing: Kolombaangara, East Makira</p>
	Conservation incentives (ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services, conservation agreements, etc.) demonstrated for at least 5 priority sites	Conservation incentives have been demonstrated for 6 priority sites: Gaua, Santo Mountain Chain, Green Hill, Tanna, Mt. Maetambe-Kolombangara River, Manus

Intermediate Outcome	Intermediate Indicators	Result
	At least 75 percent of local communities targeted by site-based projects show tangible wellbeing benefits	No measurement to date
2. Biodiversity conservation integrated into local land-use and development planning	Ownership and tenure rights within customary lands mapped for at least 5 priority sites	Ownership and tenure rights have been mapped for 3 priority sites: Cape St. George, Mount Maetambe to Kolobangara River, Mt. Balbi and Kunua Plains
	At least 200 landowners (10 communities) affected by incompatible development projects provided with legal training and support	6 communities have been provided with legal training and support: Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association, communities in Baining Mountains, Central Manus, Nendo, Vanikoro and Marovo
	At least 3 partnerships catalyzed between civil society organizations and natural resource companies to promote sustainable development through better environmental and social practices	No results to date
	Biodiversity and ecosystem service values of at least 5 priority sites integrated into local land-use and/or development plans and policies	Biodiversity and ecosystem service values of 3 priority sites have been integrated into: Cape Saint George area - Kait community land use plan Ghizo and Kolombangara - Western Province Development Strategy
3. Priority globally threatened species safeguarded by addressing major threats and information gaps	Knowledge of the status and distribution of at least 5 priority species improved through research	2 species (Beck's Petrel, Vanikoro Flying Fox) addressed 3 publications (SICCP, BirdLife, University of Queensland)
	Species recovery plans developed, implemented and monitored for at least 20 priority species	Species recovery plans developed for 6 priority species: Pteralopex taki, Pteralopex flanneryi, Pteralopex anceps, Pteralopex antrata, Pteralopex pulchra, Pteropus cognatus Work in progress for 9 further species, including Ngali nut trees, threatened flying foxes and leatherback turtles
	Science-based harvest management introduced for at least 3 priority species important to local food security	Science-based harvest management has been introduced for 1 priority species: <i>Megapodius layardi</i> (Vanuatu)

Intermediate Outcome	Intermediate Indicators	Result
4. Local and national capacity to conserve biodiversity increased through civil society partnerships	At least 5 civil society networks enable collective responses to priority and emerging threats	7 networks have been formed <i>or strengthened</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becks Petrel Recovery Group • Network of Silent Achievers • Santo Sunset Environment Network • Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership • Vanua-tai Women's sub network • Western Province Network for Sustainable Environment • Partnership Agreement between Wrecks to Rainforest, Mt Tabwemasana Local Management Committee and Mai Maasina Green Belt
	At least 20 domestic civil society organizations demonstrate improvements in organizational capacity	20 local CSOs have shown improvement; 13 of these with greater than 10 percent increase in CSTT score
	At least two civil society organizations emerge as national conservation leaders in each hotspot country	2 civil society organizations have emerged as leaders: Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership, Vanuatu Environmental Science Society
	At least 30 conservationists demonstrate strengthened capacity in conservation management, science and leadership	15 conservationists have been trained in cost-benefit analysis for managing invasive species 15 conservationists have been trained to become "conservation champions" 20 conservationists have been trained on management of Giant Clams 30 conservationists have been trained to be protected area managers and rangers
5. A Regional Implementation Team provides strategic leadership and effectively coordinates CEPF investment in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot	At least 40 civil society organizations, including at least 30 domestic organizations actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	94 CSOs have been involved as grantee, sub-grantee, or major project partner; of these, 61 are local organizations. 41 local groups are direct recipients of small or large grants. 12 new organizations have been established.
	At least 80 percent of domestic civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions	20 local groups that have completed a baseline and final CSTT have shown improvement (final percent to be tabulated at conclusion of investment)
	At least 20 civil society organizations supported by CEPF secure follow-up funding from conservation trust funds and/or the GEF Small Grants Programme	13 organizations have secured follow-up funding to date (final number to be tabulated at conclusion of investment)
	At least 2 participatory assessments are undertaken and lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot are documented	1 participatory assessment has been undertaken: the mid-term review in December 2018

8. All Awarded Grants, by Start Date

Table 10. Awarded Grants by Country and Start Date

No.	CEPF ID	Organization	SD	Title	Obligated Amount	Start Date	End Date
RIT GRANTS							
1	63281	IUCN	4	RIT Programs	\$915,152	Jul-13	Jul-21
2	63828	IUCN	4	RIT Administration	\$584,726	Jul-13	Dec-19
REGIONAL AND MULTI-COUNTRY GRANTS							
3	64342	Auckland UniServices Ltd	1	Awareness on invasive and alien species	\$18,938	Apr-14	Sep-14
4	64259	BirdLife International	4	Regional capacity building	\$150,459	Apr-14	Sep-16
5	64245	French Ichthyological Society	1	Improving river management in the Solomons and Vanuatu	\$49,701	May-14	Oct-16
6	64252	Live & Learn Vanuatu	1	Empowering Local Communities for Conservation	\$99,718	May-14	Oct-15
7	64256	Environmental Defenders Office Limited	4	Regional legal capacity building	\$105,279	Jul-14	Dec-18
8	70017	Landcare Research New Zealand	4	Cost-benefit analysis for invasive species management	\$19,988	Jul-15	Jun-16
9	110249	Oceania Ecology Group	3	Giant Rats species champions on Bougainville, Guadalcanal and Vangunu	\$19,990	Sep-19	Mar-21
10	111677	BirdLife International	4	Furthering KBAs in EMI	\$214,156	May-21	Apr-22
11	111806	Tropical Biology Association	4	Sustaining CEPF's Investment in EMI	\$130,301	Jun-21	Jan-22
PAPUA NEW GUINEA							
12	65441	SEAWEB	1	Media Development and Communications Training	\$19,987	Apr-14	Apr-15
13	65106	Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund Ltd	4	Training for Pokili, Garu and Tavolo Wildlife Areas	\$15,426	Apr-14	Apr-15
14	64360	Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research	4	Institutional support	\$96,937	Apr-14	Oct-16
15	64357	Wildlife Conservation Society	1	Participatory Rural Appraisal and Rapid Biodiversity Assessments of Manus and Mussau Islands	\$170,130	May-14	Jun-15
16	63955	University of PNG	4	Conservation Management of Giant Clams	\$19,988	Aug-14	Jan-15
17	64338	Bat Conservation International	1	Bats of Bougainville: Completing FPIC	\$15,000	Oct-14	Sep-15
18	65395	Partners with Melanesians	1	Derimbat Community Restoration Project	\$8,000	Nov-14	Nov-16

No.	CEPF ID	Organization	SD	Title	Obligated Amount	Start Date	End Date
19	65380	Bishop Museum	1	Baining Mountains Biological Survey	\$19,976	Feb-16	Feb-17
20	65753	BirdLife International	3	Beck's Petrel colony assessment	\$113,720	Feb-16	Dec-17
21	73009	Kainake Project, The	4	Strengthening the Institutional Capacity	\$14,322	May-16	Mar-17
22	73006	Manus Environment Conservation Communities Network	4	Empowering MECCN to be a civil society leader	\$18,000	May-16	Aug-17
23	65979	Bat Conservation Int.	1	Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi management plans	\$83,097	Jul-16	Dec-18
24	75606	Tawi-Asi Resource Network	1	Empowering the People of Pobuma	\$5,182	Jul-16	Jun-16
25	65963	Wildlife Conservation Society	1	Saving Sea Turtles on Mussau Island	\$250,000	Jul-16	Dec-18
26	76628	Centre for Env. Law and Community Incorporated	2	Legal Training to Promote the Establishment of Protected Areas - Baining Mountains and Central Manus	\$12,406	Oct-16	Apr-17
27	76636	World Wide Fund for Nature	4	Grantee Exchange	\$17,987	Oct-16	Dec-16
28	104243	FORCERT	2	Sustainable Land Use for the Cape Saint George Area	\$17,077	Aug-17	Aug-18
29	109029	PNG Environmental Law Association	4	PELA capacity building	\$6,000	Nov-17	Nov-18
30	109403	Rotokas Ecotourism	2	Clanship and Resource Mapping Within Customary Lands of the Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi KBAs	\$7,931	Jun-18	May-19
31	66518	University of Queensland	1	Kunua and Mount Balbi KBA awareness and assessment	\$62,976	Jul-18	Dec-20
32	109784	University of Queensland	3	Threatened mammal conservation, Manus Island	\$20,000	Nov-18	Dec-20
33	109332	Wildlife Conservation Society	1	Central Manus community empowerment	\$247,462	Jun-19	May-21
34	109232	Treweek Environmental Consultants	3	Beck's Petrel Species Action Plan	\$87,000	Jun-19	Jul-21
35	109296	FORCERT	2	Community Conservation in Cape Saint George	\$103,135	Jul-19	Jun-21
36	110838	Papua New Guinea Forest Certification Incorporated	2	Promoting Sustainable Development and Responsible Production Across PNG's Natural Resource Sectors	\$19,870	Jun-20	May-21
37	110299	New Guinea Binatang Research Center	4	Capacity Building for Rangers and Conservationists	\$88,920	Jun-20	May-21
38	110837	NGO PROMotion Inc.	4	Bougainville CSO strengthening	\$19,961	Jun-20	May-21
39	109899	CELCOR	2	Baining Mountains and Nakanai Ranges CBNRM	\$86,485	Oct-20	Sep-21
SOLOMON ISLANDS							

No.	CEPF ID	Organization	SD	Title	Obligated Amount	Start Date	End Date
40	64269	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP)	4	SICCP capacity building	\$122,920	Mar-14	Mar-17
41	64282	U. of the South Pacific	1	Guadalcanal Watersheds Assessment	\$149,184	Apr-14	Jun-16
42	65423	Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association	4	KIBCA capacity building	\$19,988	Apr-14	Apr-15
43	64258	Live & Learn Solomon Islands	4	East Rennell community capacity building	\$35,089	Apr-14	Mar-16
44	64261	Tetepare Descendants' Association	4	Supporting the TDA as a Leader in Peer-to-Peer Learning	\$44,978	Apr-14	Mar-16
45	64276	American Museum of Natural History	1	Conservation Strategy for the Uplands of Guadalcanal	\$77,000	May-14	Sep-15
46	64036	OceansWatch	1	Empowering the People of Temotu for conservation	\$66,245	May-14	Jan-15
47	64262	World Wide Fund for Nature	1	Western Province Ridge-to-Reef planning	\$42,653	May-14	Jun-15
48	64270	Ecological Solutions, Solomon Islands (ESSI)	1	Biodiversity Inventory of Mt. Maetambe-Kolombangara River Corridor	\$72,700	Jun-14	Jun-15
49	64281	University of Queensland	1	Status and Conservation of the Solomon Islands' Most Threatened Endemic Terrestrial Vertebrates	\$78,549	Jun-14	Feb-16
50	65403	James Cook University	4	Traditional Knowledge in Conservation Management Projects in Kwaio	\$19,985	Jul-14	Jun-15
51	65429	University of Michigan	1	Partulid Tree Snail	\$17,294	Jan-15	Dec-16
52	65755	ESSI	2	Mapping Customary Lands from Mount Maetambe to Kolombangara River	\$135,835	Mar-15	Mar-17
53	65740	University of Queensland	4	Field Training for Protected Area Managers and Rangers	\$98,698	Mar-15	Sep-16
54	65754	OceansWatch	1	Protecting Biodiversity in the Temotu Province	\$142,596	Apr-15	Jun-17
55	65756	SICCP	3	In Search of the Makira Moorhen	\$36,517	Apr-15	Mar-16
56	70024	University of Queensland	3	Status of the Lost Rats of Guadalcanal	\$18,272	Apr-15	Jun-16
57	70014	SICCP	4	Alleviating Pressures on Upland Kolombangara	\$19,488	Apr-15	Mar-16
58	70027	Tawatana Community Conservation Development Association	4	Strengthening the Tawatana Community Conservation and Development Association	\$19,669	Apr-15	Mar-16
59	65856	Solomon Islands Environmental Lawyers Association (SIELA)	4	SIELA capacity building	\$56,679	Jun-15	Dec-18
60	65819	U. of the South Pacific	4	Developing Conservation Champions	\$132,038	Oct-15	Jun-17

No.	CEPF ID	Organization	SD	Title	Obligated Amount	Start Date	End Date
61	72630	Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association	2	Training for Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association	\$19,913	Apr-16	Apr-17
62	65978	University of Queensland	1	Sustainable Management of Ngali Nut Trees and Threatened Flying Foxes	\$76,550	May-16	Jun-18
63	65968	International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management	4	Building Coalitions to Enhance Resource Management and Sustainable Development	\$121,157	Jun-16	May-18
64	74147	Kahua Association Trust Board Inc	4	Kahua Association for Biodiversity Conservation strengthening	\$18,061	Jun-16	Jun-17
65	74138	Solomon Islands Rangers Association	4	Launching SIRA to the Wider Solomon Islands	\$7,926	Jun-16	Jun-17
66	65964	World Wide Fund for Nature	1	Ghizo and Kolombangara ridge to reef	\$104,617	Jul-16	Mar-18
67	75603	Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation	3	Monitoring Leatherback Turtles in Are `are	\$15,419	Jul-16	Sep-17
68	77835	James Cook University	4	Building the capacity of Kwaio communities	\$19,910	Jan-17	Mar-18
69	78007	Natural Resources Development Foundation	1	PES at three sites in Choiseul	\$17,558	Apr-17	Apr-18
70	66424	Solomon Islands National University	4	SINU research and teaching capacity	\$34,522	Aug-17	Jun-19
71	104242	ESSI	4	Solomon Islands Species Forum	\$19,742	Sep-17	Mar-18
72	66419	ESSI	1	Mount Maetambe-Kolombangara River management	\$55,347	Oct-17	Sep-19
73	109110	BirdLife International	1	Removal of Threats on East Rennell	\$19,964	May-18	Apr-19
74	103961	University of Miami	1	Establishing a Protected Area in East Makira KBA	\$13,558	Jun-18	May-20
75	103948	Wildlife Conservation Society	1	Protecting the Upland Forests of Kolombangara	\$216,322	Jun-18	Dec-20
76	109402	OceansWatch	2	Raising Legal Awareness in Nendo, Solomon	\$8,988	Jun-18	Oct-18
77	103738	Natural Resources Development Foundation	1	PES in Mount Maetambe to Kolombangara River Corridor	\$147,481	Jul-18	Dec-20
78	109401	Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporation	1	Alternative Livelihoods in Kolombangara Island KBA	\$14,031	Aug-18	Aug-19
79	109400	Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation	3	Planning for leatherback turtles in Are `are, Malaita	\$19,973	Aug-18	Aug-19
80	110250	Mai Maasina Green Belt	4	Developing the Mai-Maasina Green Belt for Malaita	\$20,000	Sep-19	Sep-20

No.	CEPF ID	Organization	SD	Title	Obligated Amount	Start Date	End Date
81	110393	Baru Conservation Alliance	4	Strengthening the Baru Conservation Alliance	\$19,180	Jan-20	Mar-21
82	110666	Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporation	1	Processing of Fruits on Kolombangara Island and Beekeeping on Ghizo Island, Solomon Islands	\$19,000	Mar-20	Apr-21
83	110485	University of Rochester	1	Establishing a Protected Area in East Makira KBA	\$60,357	Mar-20	Dec-20
84	110665	Natural Resources Development Foundation	4	Training for Berekasi Tribal Association in Vella Lavella	\$17,695	Apr-20	Apr-21
85	110667	SIELA	4	Community Access to Environmental Legal Education	\$19,979	Apr-20	Mar-21
86	110839	SICCP	2	Ngali Nut Agroforestry in Marovo-Kavachi KBA	\$20,000	Jul-20	Jun-21
87	109311	SICCP	4	Institutional Strengthening of SICCP	\$58,000	Jan-21	Dec-21
88	112127	Solomon Islands Rangers Association	4	Protection KBAs	\$20,000	Apr-21	Dec-21
89	112325	Mai Maasina Green Belt	4	Network of Protected Areas in Malaita	\$18,325	Jun-21	Dec-21
90	112334	SICCP	1	Supporting the Zaira Resource Management Area	\$19,996	Jun-21	Dec-21
VANUATU							
91	64251	New York Botanical Garden	1	Floristic and Ethnobotanical Surveys in Tafea Province	\$156,849	Jul-14	Dec-16
92	65426	Canal Studio Association	1	Songs and Stories of Biodiversity	\$19,788	Oct-14	Oct-15
93	70020	Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS)	4	Dugong and Seagrass Educational Materials	\$19,976	Mar-15	Feb-16
94	72616	Live & Learn Vanuatu	1	Scoping potential for PES	\$15,903	Apr-16	Oct-16
95	72619	Association Economics for Coral Reef Ecosystems	4	Sustainability for the TasiVanua Protected Areas Network	\$19,366	Apr-16	Jul-17
96	73022	Eco-Lifelihood Development Associates	1	Community-based management Lake Letas, Gaua Island	\$19,950	May-16	May-17
97	65988	VESS	4	Building Capacity in Conservation Science and Environmental Education	\$93,225	May-16	Jun-18
98	65966	BirdLife International	3	Management Plan for Megapodes on Tongoa	\$78,750	Jun-16	Jun-18
99	77990	Edenhope Foundation	1	Strengthen Local Networks in the Santo Mountain Chain	\$18,973	Apr-17	Apr-18
100	78066	Island Reach Committee Inc.	4	Promoting a women's environmental network	\$19,849	Apr-17	Apr-18
101	66426	Nakau Programme Ltd	1	Eco-Certification for Tourism	\$169,903	Jun-17	Aug-19
102	66428	VESS	3	Conservation of Flying Foxes of Torba and Temotu	\$135,936	Jun-17	Dec-20
103	66422	Live & Learn Vanuatu	1	Community Conservation in Mt. Tabuwamasana	\$85,784	Jul-17	Jul-18
104	66418	VESS	3	Dugong Conservation policies	\$92,550	Jul-17	Dec-20

No.	CEPF ID	Organization	SD	Title	Obligated Amount	Start Date	End Date
105	104241	Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network	4	VEAN capacity building	\$18,321	Aug-17	Aug-18
106	109028	Vanuatu Environmental Law Association	4	VELA capacity building	\$16,811	Oct-17	Oct-18
107	103964	Live & Learn Vanuatu	4	Strengthening Vanuatu's Ranger Corp Network	\$99,697	Jun-18	Aug-19
108	104007	BirdLife International	1	Management Planning and Assessment for three KBAs	\$171,197	Jul-18	Dec-21
109	109183	Edenhope Foundation	1	Registration of Three Community Conservation Areas within the Santo Mountain Chain KBA	\$116,500	Jul-19	Jun-21
110	109324	Live & Learn Vanuatu	1	Promoting Ecotourism in the Santo Mountain Chain and Green Hill KBAs	\$171,874	Jul-19	Jun-21
111	109335	Vanuatu Environmental Law Association	2	Strengthening Environmental Legal Education and Capacity	\$108,482	Aug-19	Apr-21
112	110248	Eco-Lifelihood Development Associates	4	Eco-lifelihood Development Association strengthening	\$20,000	Sep-19	Dec-20
113	110283	VESS	3	Habitat conservation of Fiji Mastiff Bat and the Banks Flying Fox	\$100,112	Apr-20	Dec-21
114	111608	Van Vat Consultants	4	Capacity Building and Conservation Mainstreaming in Vanuatu	\$20,000	Sep-20	Jul-21
115	110288	BirdLife International	1	Biodiversity Rapid Assessment on Futuna and Aneityum	\$137,869	Nov-20	Apr-22
116	112527	Santo Sunset Environment Network	1	Protecting Indigenous Forests from Emerging Logging Threats in the Santo Mountains	\$12,000	Aug-21	Aug-21