

Social Assessment

25/05/2018

CEPF Grant 103964

Live and Learn Vanuatu

**Strengthening the Capacity of Vanuatu's Ranger Corp Network for Biodiversity
Management and Monitoring**

Grant Summary

1. Live and Learn Vanuatu
2. ***Strengthening the Capacity of Vanuatu's Ranger Corp Network for Biodiversity Management and Monitoring***
3. Grant number 103964
4. Grant amount (US dollars) US \$100,455.96
5. 1st June 2018 until 31st May 2019
6. Vanuatu
7. 25 May 2018

8. Indigenous People affected:

Components of this project will be implemented in five community sites, out of which three are located in Santo and one each in Gaua and Malekula respectively. Live and Learn Vanuatu (LLV) has had a long standing relationship with each of these communities through past and current project implementation. Brief summaries on these communities are provided below:

Santo

Santo is the largest island in Vanuatu with a total area of 3,955.5 km² is heavily forested with a total population of around 40,000. The main sites in Santo include the Tabuemasana (KBA VUT19), Vathe (KBA VUT25) and Loru (KBA VUT10) conservation areas. Custom plays a large part in their lives, regardless of their religion. The chiefly system continues to have strong influence in most areas with matrilineal systems dominating the Northern and Western parts of Santo while patrilineal system exists in the eastern parts of Santo.

Dolav

Dolav is the largest community of around 200 people on the isolated West Coast of the volcanic island of Gaua. The village is only accessible by boat but is well established with a matrilineal governing system. Gaua (VUT7) is a Key Biodiversity Area with the largest volcanic Lake Letas in the middle of the island.

Crab Bay

The local populations of Crab Bay (VUT14) and the neighboring area of Amal totaled around 1,500 in 2005, living in sixteen communities dispersed along the eastern coastline. These indigenous Melanesian communities speak the uripiv dialect and share traditional customary beliefs typical of the "small Nambas" people of central Malekula. Approximately eighty percent of the population is engaged in fishing and farming to feed their families and earn cash income. A high percentage of local people use the bay's marine resources to supplement their income and meet food security needs.

9. **Summary of the proposed project:** This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People. .

The project will develop a National Community Conservation Area Toolkit which will be implementing activities in areas with Indigenous Peoples of 5 CCA's. The implementation of this Project will consider a joint effort between this project, our stakeholders the communities of Kerepua, Big Bay, Khole, Crab Bay and Dolav in the implementation of this project.

Though the implementation of this Project Live and Learn Vanuatu team will conduct the following activities as of July 2018;

1. In July 2018, consult and inform Government and other partners about the Project and also sign partnership agreements with partners that will support the implementation of the Project. During this time Live and Learn Vanuatu will also sign partnerships with Birdlife International and Technical advisor for Ranger Training and Adaptation.
2. In September 2018, signed an MOU with the 5 CCA's through a process of free prior inform consent with the Land owners and community of Kerepua, Big Bay, Khole, Crab bay and Dolav Provincial Council about the process to pilot the proposed National Community Conservation Area Toolkit in their CCA's. During this time meeting will held with all this different audiences to seek their consent and support for this project.
3. In September 2018 conduct the field testing the toolkit within their CCAs. There will be a training for the Local Management Committee Members and Rangers to lead the management actions defined in the management action plan community members, men, women, youth, children will be informed about the species exist within this CCA area.
4. In April 2018, Rangers attend the Governance Workshop in Port Vila and agree to be part of the CCA Conservation Network which will be officially launched by the Director of Environment on May 2018.
5. In May 2018 the Director of the Department of Environment Unit will launch the NCCA and the National Ranger Network to support effective CCA's and to increase management efforts within the conservation areas

10. Potential impacts: This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

The community and land owners of this 5 CCA's depend on their forest for survival in terms food, building materials and traditional medicine. During the stages of this project data and information collected will be documented on reports. Currently we perceive that from the development of the National Community Conservation Area Toolkit sustainable management of the 5 CCA's will act as an ecological bank storing and increasing the number of resources protected through the implementation of the NCCA Toolkit. This Project aims to develop a National Community Conservation Area (NCCA) Toolkit officially endorsed by the Environment Department for use in the Vanuatu CCA's and other conservation initiatives.

We will consider a joint effort between this project, our stakeholders the communities of Kerepua, Big Bay, Khole, Crab Bay and Dolav in the implementation of this project. Our relationship with the communities is built since 2015 and we are proposing that to avoid adverse impacts we will maintain participation, involvement, communications, honesty, transparency with in all parties involved in this project. Communities will also involve in the decision making of the conservation actions.

Within this project hopefully we will create the support for sustainable management of resources that promotes conservation. Registration of this conservation area means an increase to the monitoring and management of the different taxonomic groups of birds, animal, mammals, reptiles and plants and especially birds such as the Santo Mountain starling, Santa Cruz Dove and Voutmele Palm and other valuable species identified in this CCA.

11. Participatory preparation: This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

Live & Learn Vanuatu has identified and working with Land owners, Rangers and Local Management Committees of the Tabuemasana, Vathe, Loru, Dolav and Crab bay Community Conservation Areas representing indigenous people of this proposed CCA community. For this proposal continuous activities were with this CCA's from 2015 to current when Live and Learn Vanuatu first piloted its conservation projects. Therefore during the implementation of this Project in September 2018 there will be free, prior and informed consultation meetings with chiefs, Land owners, Local Management Committees and Rangers the 5 CCA's

This Project will be implemented to support the role of Rangers and Local Management Committees to effectively manage and monitor the CCA's. Since this is a need for Vanuatu Rangers and LMC's the Project idea and proposal was shared with the Department of Environment to inform them about this Project.

However since this Project will be piloted in the indigenous peoples Land, a free, prior and inform, consent will take place in September 2018 to fully inform the chief and his tribe about the Project activities, the involvement of the different stakeholders and indigenous people who will support the piloting of the activities within the NCCA Toolkit. As an outcome a letter of agreement will be sought by the chairman of the Local Management Committee of each CCA.

12. Mitigation strategies: This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

Adverse impacts likely to occur should be minimal. This is because our project is 12 months and is mainly to strengthen current conservation management actions. Our training tools and activities used are tailored to suit ranger and local management committees therefore should not cause any issues. We will be training ranger but we will make sure the people chosen will be nominated by the community. Presentations and training materials will also be tailored to suit the community.

13. Monitoring and evaluation: This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

Live & Learn Vanuatu will ensure that monthly reports are completed along with Field reports prepared during field activities. Activities such as data collection on Biodiversity monitoring and assessments from the NCCA will need to also be presented to the community by presenting results during community meetings, workshops and community consultations.

14. Grievance mechanism: The grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

Since this project triggers the social safeguard, LLV will ensure to provide information about the project purpose, activities, timeline and key contacts (including for grievances) will be shared with communities in Khole, Big Bay, Kerepua, Carb Bay and Dolav and provincial government through project consultations led by Live and Learn Vanuatu. These will be done through face to face meetings and project reference documents will also be shared with government partners and conservation committees. LLV will be the initial recipient of grievances and we will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days.

However, if the claimant is not satisfied following the response, then we will provide them with the opportunity to submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is still not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.

At a minimum, this grievance mechanism will include the following elements:

- Email and telephone contact information for the Grantee organization, Live and Learn Vanuatu. Glarinda Andre, +678 27448, glarinda.andre@livelearn.org
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, Vatumaraga Molisa, vatumaraga.molisa@ext.iucn.org, Helen Pippard, +679 331 9084, helen.pippard@iucn.org
- Email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- Address and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office, ADB Liaison Office Level 5, Reserve Bank Building Rue Emile Mercet, PO Box 3221, Tel +678 25581.