

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

April 6th, 2019

CEPF Grant 109083

Edenhope Nature Preserve

***Registration of Three Community Conservation Areas within the Santo Mountain
Chain KBA of Vanuatu***

Tasmate, West Coast Santo, Vanuatu

1. **Grant Summary**
2. Edenhope Foundation
3. Registration of Three Community Conservation Areas within the Santo Mountain Chain KBA of Vanuatu
4. 109083
5. \$44,270
6. 7/1/2019 to 4/30/2021
7. Vanuatu
4/5/2019

A. **Project background**

The scope of this proposal is to establish a dedicated taskforce for CCA registration at 3 sites within the Santo Mountain Chain – Wunpuko, Nogugu/Peniel and Tasmate. Depending on what emerges as Management Priorities for these proposed protected areas, some prohibitions on activities such as hunting, fishing and logging may impact the traditional way of life in these communities.

For the duration of this project from 2019 to 2021, the a taskforce comprised of Edenhope and partnering organisations will assist these Conservation Committees located in these communities with mapping, biodiversity site assessment, identification of vulnerable/endemic species, and conservation management planning. The taskforce will also work with community leaders to create local awareness and obtain support letters for the proposed CCA sites on regional and provincial levels. On completion of the project, there will be 3 sites within the Santo Mountain Chain undergoing registration and pending approval by Vanuatu's Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation as Community Conservation Areas.

As part of the proposed Workshops, the taskforce will provide feedback and advice to other conservation committees working throughout the KBA, with the aim that 5 further Conservation Management Plans will be drafted and ready to commence the process of CCA registration following the completion of this project. By this time, the capacity of local peers within the Santo Sunset Environment Network will be sufficient as to enable communities to undergo the process of CCA registration with significantly less, if any, outside input from NGOs.

B. **Participatory implementation**

Participatory consultation will take place within the affected communities of Wunpuko, Nogugu, Peniel and Tasmate as part of the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent for this project. This will involve meetings with the relevant communities prior to the implementation of grant activities to explain the scope of conservation action within the intended sites and the proposed strategy for CCA registration.

Edenhope has received prior consent from community representatives to the pursue the registration of these sites as CCAs in the April 2018 Workshop held as part of our previous CEPF grant. However, we intend to travel in person to take part in a full community meeting to bring a more complete awareness to local peoples about the scope, aims, implementation strategy, goals and outcomes of introducing protected areas within the region, as well as some

of impacts of biodiversity conservation on a national and global level as well as potential benefits of increased management of natural resources.

We will pursue the intended aims and outcomes for this grant only with fully the informed agreement of affected communities to register sites for conservation on their customarily-owned lands. Chiefs and other representatives from the communities will also help to plan and make best use of the dedicated site visits proposed for this grant, ensuring that the 10-day visits of Edenhope and project partners to prepare CCA application materials is spent optimally in meeting the conservation goals of the community.

As these communities will be directly involved in creating the Conservation Management Plans for their protected areas, with the assistance of Edenhope and project partners, clearly agreed-upon guidelines for prohibitions and infractions to areas reserved for conservation will be aligned with prevailing customary standards for land management ('tabu areas' designated by tribal chiefs). These consultations will enshrine the best use of local resources and will only go ahead if agreed upon by all landowners in and surrounding the area intended for conservation.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

No affected persons are considered eligible for mitigation/compensation measures as no involuntary restrictions will be placed on activities which are not prescriptively determined by the Conservation Management Plan agreed upon by all community stakeholders.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

No affected persons are considered eligible for mitigation/compensation measures as no involuntary restrictions will be placed on activities which are outside the scope of the Conservation Management Plan. However, the Management Plan will detail explicitly the rules and regulations of the intended site for Conservation, and determine the penalties for any infractions of these agreed-upon rules within the existing framework of community governance.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

Full details of the grievance mechanism in place, and the contact details of the Regional Implementation Team, will be shared with Conservation Committee members of the affected communities at Wunpuko, Nogugu, Peniel and Tasmate. They will be the first contact point for any claimant wishing to make a grievance, and will direct them to co-ordinate their grievance to Edenhope either in person, by letter or via online messaging.

The main contact person at Edenhope responsible for dealing with grievances is Nicola Trethowan. Any claimant wishing to raise a grievance about the intended project will be asked to share their grievance with her, either verbally or in writing. Verbal grievances will be recorded and written down in Bislama, signed and dated by the claimant. The written record of a grievance will be scanned and sent to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director, accompanied by an English translation and the proposed response from Edenhope, within 15 days. If the response is not met with

satisfaction by the claimant, then Edenhope agrees to take up the matter further on their behalf by contacting the CEPF Executive Director via email.

In written communications that Edenhope distributes to local villages along the West Coast in regards to the project, full details will be provided as to how to contact CEPF and Edenhope with any grievances.

F. **Implementation Arrangements**

The proposed meetings for participatory consultation, described above, will take place *outside the scope of CEPF funding*. Edenhope will be undertaking a Scoping Mission to the affected communities as part of an approved project proposal for the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, which will take place prior to the implementation of CEPF activities (tentatively July 2019). Whilst visiting the communities of Wunpuko, Nogugu, Peniel, and Tasmate as part of this mission to bring awareness and undertake a Social Research project, Edenhope will assume responsibility for opening up a dedicated discussion on the intended conservation project through CEPF, as well as to explain the grievance mechanism (described above) and Social Safeguard monitoring/evaluation.