



TETEPARE DESCENDANTS' ASSOCIATION

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CEPF Social Assessment

Sharing the Knowledge: Supporting the Tetepare Descendants' Association emergence as a Leader in Peer-to-peer Learning

1) Indigenous Peoples in the Project Area

Tetepare

At over 12,000 ha, the Tetepare priority region is the largest uninhabited and unlogged island in the tropical Pacific. Nearly two centuries after headhunting and a mysterious disease forced the people to leave the island, the descendants of Tetepare formed the Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA). TDA is stewarding forest and marine ecological monitoring programs, as well as providing livelihood development initiatives, and successful scholarship programs for its members, currently numbering over 3,000. Descendants of TDA are scattered across the Western Province, but many can be found on the island of Rendova, adjacent to Tetepare. The Touo people are the predominant descendants of Tetepare and can be found in villages such as Lokuru, Baniata, and Rano. Overall, there are 12 regions across the Western Province represented by an Executive Member within the TDA.

2) Potential Positive and Negative Impacts

Positive

One major benefit of our partnerships with community-based organizations is income generation through payment of core staff, rangers, monitors, guides, and landowners. Although villagers across our constituency live traditionally by subsistence farming, hunting, and using forest and marine resources, people need income typically for medical and school expenses, as well as manufactured materials such as clothes, fuel, soap, and batteries.

Another important benefit will be education, capacity building, and training. There is a very high participation rate in primary school in the Solomon Islands and so there is a demand for secondary schooling. We provide high school educational materials related to terrestrial biodiversity and conservation, and run a long-term scholarship program supporting up to 60 scholarships per year. Throughout this project, we will host capacity building workshops and training sessions to equip students, rangers, and monitors with techniques necessary for specific projects, but applicable to a range of other settings.

Negative

The main potential negative impact is the failure to meet expectations regarding livelihood opportunities and community benefits across our constituency. Unrealistic expectations could

result in disengagement with the project. Throughout the project period, TDA will focus on ensuring realistic expectations and avoiding misconceptions about the projects scope.

3. Community Consultation

TDA is a true community-driven organization; our activities focus on community consultations about land tenure, resource management capacity development, investment in improving local governance, and working to translate indigenous aspirations into conservation practice and development plans. All TDA activities are conducted through participatory planning and implementation processes driven by indigenous decision-making frameworks. TDA has over 10 years of experience in working together closely with indigenous leaders and communities in the region. Over that period, we have developed one a model for community-driven conservation in Melanesia and the world, as recognized by the UN Equator Prize in 2012.

4. Measures to Avoid Adverse Impacts and Provide Culturally Appropriate Benefits

The wish to conserve Tetepare Island from logging comes from community-driven decision-making processes by representative landowners and villages. Protected areas in the Solomon Islands are not imposed by government, but are driven by indigenous landowners. To mitigate possible adverse impacts of our planned activities we design our engagement through multi-representative partnerships that include landowning representatives, other local NGO partners, international NGOs, and local education institutions. In addition, all TDA personnel are Tetepare descendants and indigenous Solomon Islanders.

5. Monitoring

Social impact monitoring is built into the project design. The activities will involve designing a short survey to be conducted with a selection of community representatives chosen to adequately reflect community diversity. The questions will be based on the ‘most significant change methodology’ and address expected and unexpected positive and negative changes that have occurred in the community as a result of the project. Findings will be compiled into a brief report for reporting purposes and to allow the project design to be adapted if required.

6. Grievance Mechanism

Indigenous peoples and other local communities and stakeholders may raise a grievance about an issue relating to the project. During workshops and meetings, communities will be informed about this possibility and contact information will be provided for the TDA Business Manager and Operations Manager. TDA will respond to grievances in writing within 15 working days of receipt. Claims will be filed, included in project monitoring, and a copy of any grievance will be provided to the CEPF Secretariat.