

Strengthening Community Conservation Governance of Mount Tabuemasana

Social Assessment

25.04.2018

Project Title: Strengthening Community Conservation Governance of Mount Tabuemasana in Santo Mountain Chain, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu

Organisation: Live & Learn Vanuatu

Grant Number: 66422

Introduction:

This Project, Strengthening Community Conservation Governance of Mount Tabuemasana will conduct Project Activities largely in areas by Indigenous peoples in West Coast Santo, Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu. During the Free Prior Inform Consent Process the Land Owners identified the importance of consulting and collaborative decisions for the joint implementation of Project Activities with Indigenous tribes and neighboring communities. These includes chief and people of certain communities in West Coast Santo specified below, Sanma Provincial Council, Project Partners and the Community of Kerepua. This Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples is greatly facilitated by Ni-Vanuatu Community Conservation Professionals. The Project will not only avoid adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples and the environment but will also provide positive socio-economic benefits for Indigenous People. Project activities will also be conducted in a way that builds scientific and local knowledge among Indigenous Peoples and Protects and Conserves Traditional Knowledge and Practices.

Describe the Indigenous People affected:

Project activities will be conducted in the neighboring communities of MT Tabuemasana in Santo. Since Santo's custom play a large part in the lives of indigenous peoples, regardless of beliefs and traditions the chief system continues strongly in most areas. In Vanuatu there is a system in the hierarchy where the community chief and Land owners are consulted first before further work is done in the Land.

Kerepua Community which holds the Indigenous Clan of Mount Tabuemasana is a home to 170+ people, with its own governing system by which the Chief's Council overlook and manage the overall decision-making process in the community. The Chief must always Consult, get feedback from other governing body before proceeding any decisions. Many elderlies from this community have grown up with traditional lifestyles and many traditional values that enable them to manage their people and resources.

This proposed Tabuemasana Conservation Area is also boarded by boundaries of nearby villages with Indigenous People to be consulted on this Project. Included in the communities are Wusi (200+), Elia

(200+), Linduri (200+), Sauriki (200+), Windsau (200+) and Narata (200+). The importance of consulting with these communities will lower the risk of any future disputes or violating the rules of the Community Conservation Area.

The Five clan of Kerepua Community being the Family Maliu, Alrua, Supe, Luitan and Bune have seek to register Tabuemasana as a community Conservation Area. Their livelihood is dependent upon income by selling Sandalwood, copra, peanuts and citrus. Wild sandalwood, copra and peanuts were classified as the three main sources of income for this community. People often make gardens and hunting animals in the bush purposely for consumption and village caterings while the income they earn were assigned for schools fees and family welfare.

The Kerepua community consists of many different village organization such as chief's council, Church (Presbyterian Church), a primary school, PWMU (women's association) and the youths. Each village organization has a role to play towards achieving community development goals.

Assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People in the Project Area:

The Project Activities have been collaboratively discussed with the Indigenous Peoples of Kerepua to have positive socio-economic benefits on the ecosystem services provided by Tabuemasana if it will be registered as a Community Conservation Area in the EPC act.

The Project will help to increase the traditional knowledge of Flora and Fauna within the Tabuemasana Conservation Area by recruiting Porters to support in the work of Biodiversity Assessment Survey and will have interviews with elderlies to name the different plants and animals considered endemic within the area. This will also include documentation of the uses of these plants and animals along with a documentation of the management actions of endemic plants and animals identified within the proposed Tabuemasana Area. This activity will promote the preservation of cultural practices and knowledge from generations of the indigenous peoples in West Coast Santo and elsewhere in Vanuatu.

The Project will also help to increase alternative livelihood opportunities to offset the conservation efforts within Tabuemasana by collaborative planning between the Land Owners and the Tourism Department in Santo to develop a Tourism Product within the Conservation Area that will support the increase of Tourist to Kerepua and nearby communities. Thus, activity will promote the sustainability and management of the CCA and lowering the risks of disputes or conflicts.

In collaboration with the Kerepua Community and tribes of Tabuemasana a Management Plan will be developed with Penalties for any community member breaking the rules. It is possible that within the first few years people will be warned but the Chief and Rangers of Tabuemasana will continue to inform indigenous people of Kerepua and neighboring communities on the Tabuemasana CCA.

Describe the Free, Prior, Informed Consent of the Communities in the Design of the Project Activities

The Project team has consulted extensively with local community members to not only carry out free, prior and informed consent, but also to thoroughly involve local communities in the project planning process as well as project implementation. Community members have agreed to participate in strengthening community governance systems of Conserving Tabuemasana.

Prior to implementation of Project Activities on the 1st of September 2018, Owners of Tabuemasana namely Chief Aram, Wilson Ulboe, Chief/Elder Ulboe and John Sel draw that draft sketch map of the

proposed conservation area of Mt. Tabuemasana which is about 1,879 meters high. A FPIC Letter was signed as an outcome of the meeting.

During the month of April 2018, the neighboring communities of Kerepua, Tabuemasana Council of Chiefs and Sanma Provincial Council were consulted about the propose Tabuemasana Community Conservation Area and complement their support with supporting letters for the Tabuemasana to be registered as a Community Conservation Area.

The process of receiving this Supporting Letters included the neighboring community consultations. A Live and Learn Team along with Chief Aram, Kalo and Sanma Provincial Council Environment officer went out to undertake this activity. Community Consultations were done with the Indigenous people of Kerepua and Elia on the 13th April 2018, with the indigenous people of Wusi on the 14th April 2018, Linduri and Sauriki on the 15th April 2018, Winsao on the 17th April 2018 and Narate on the 18th April 2018.

Outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

The Project has been designed to avoid the loss of both biodiversity and traditional practices based in the Tabuemasana Conservation Area. It will provide culturally appropriate benefits by providing the baseline of flora and fauna needed for management and sustainability. As agreed upon with the clan during the planning process, documentation of traditional Knowledge will not include Secret Knowledge held by families or clans but will focus on generalist traditional knowledge.

Measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits include;

- The Project will recruit indigenous Clan members as Porters to undertake specific roles in the biodiversity assessment. This will build scientific and local knowledge to preserve the cultural importance of fauna and flora identified as endemic to Tabuemasana.
- The Project will document baseline Technical Reports of Flora and Fauna in Tabuemasana to support the sustainable management of resources. Also, this Project will develop a booklet with a list of endemic flora and fauna within Tabuemasana to increase the knowledge of indigenous people.
- The Project will utilize its survey results to develop measures to improve management and sustainability of the Conservation Area. This Project will support the cultural and effective cultural measures to protect Tabuemasana. The Project will work closely with the indigenous people of Kerepua to create Management Plans that will be monitored through effective cultural methods.
- This Project will teach and train local communities on Project findings and recommendations to inform biodiversity Conversation, sustainable resource management and improve livelihood benefits in Kerepua Community and the neighboring communities of West Coast Santo.

Explain how these measures will be monitored:

Project activities and progresses will be monitored regularly during the implementation of activities. Monitoring will be conducted in collaboration with the chief and Rangers of Kerepua, Sanma Provincial Council, Department of Environment and non-government organizations working in West Coast Santo.

The Project Team will facilitate Community Meetings in which Indigenous Land owners will learn about the activities, findings, outcomes and impacts of the Project and will be able to voice their concerns and agree and provide recommendations. Live and Learn will always consult the Chief on any community recommendations for approval and opinions.

The Project will also meet with Government Partners frequently and collaborate effectively to decide on the progress and advice on the steps of the Project. The Government Partners include Department of Environment, Forestry and Sanma Provincial Council.

Finally, the Live and Learn Vanuatu Team will meet frequently to monitor the Project, review progress and determine next steps. Live and Learn Vanuatu will also collaborate with Eden Conservation Project to update the Sunset Network during its annual meeting in April 2018 to inform all Rangers of West Coast Santo about the Registration of Propose Tabuemasana Community Conservation Area.

Detail a Grievance Procedure

During the Free Prior Inform Concern meeting in September 2017, a complaints System has been developed and disseminated to indigenous people of Kerepua and inform at the time of the Workshop to use to inform the Chief of Kerepua, Deacon Balon Bune, Live and Learn and the Environment Department and also to CEPF and RIT.

We are advice to be able to express any concerns we have about the Project to Chief Aram or Deacon Balon Bune who are also living in Kerepua Community. Chief Aram can also be conducted on 5985785 and Deacon Balon Bune on 5755685.

If our Concern is not fully addressed it can be taken up to Jessie Kampai at the Live and Learn Office and can be conduct able on 27448 or jessie.kampai@livelearn.org or Glarinda Andre on phone number 27448 or glarinda.andre@livelearn.org. If the concern is not fully addressed by Live and Learn Vanuatu it can now be taken to Donna Kalfatak from Environment Department who is reachable on Phone number 25302 or email on dkmoli@gmail.com.

We will Share all grievances and a proposed response with Vatu Molisa from the Regional Implementation Team on mobile number 7778664 or email on vatumaraga.molisa@ext.iucn.org and the CEPF Grant Director on email mzador@cepf.net> within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is 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.