

Mid-term Assessment
CEPF's Investment in the East Melanesian Islands
Biodiversity Hotspot
July 2013 – December 2018

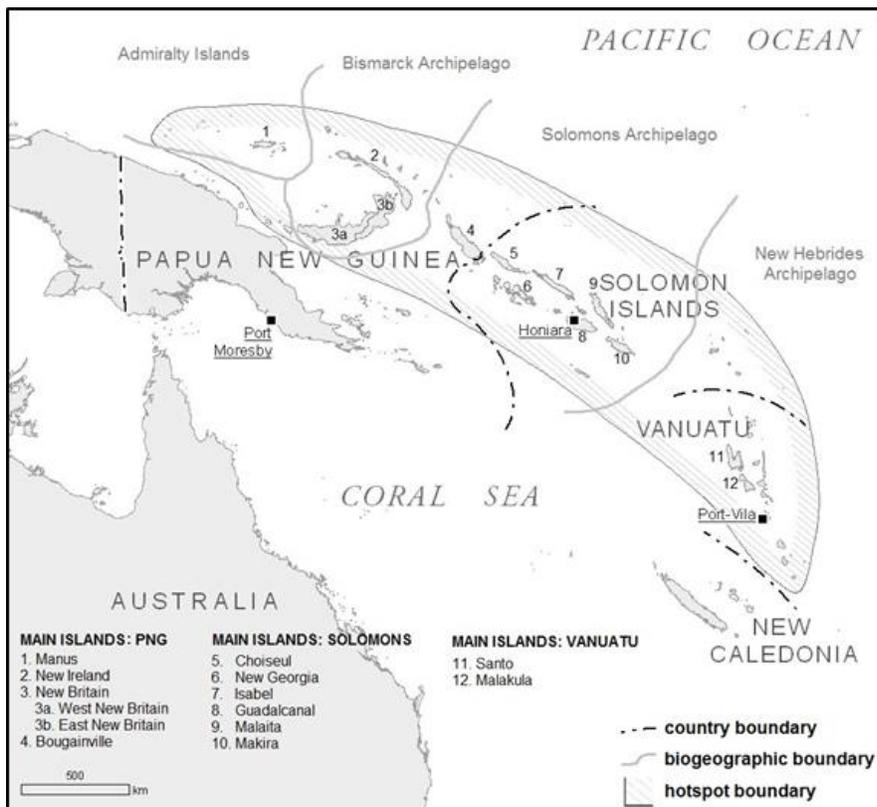


1. Introduction

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is designed to safeguard the world's biologically richest and most threatened regions known as biodiversity hotspots. It is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International (CI), the European Union (EU), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, and the World Bank.

The East Melanesian Islands (EMI) comprise some 1,600 islands to the northeast and east of the island of New Guinea, encompassing a land area of nearly 100,000 km². Politically, the region includes the islands region of Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (Figure 1). 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 very 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.

Figure 1. Location of the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot



Because of these high levels of endemism, coupled with accelerating rates of habitat loss, the East Melanesian Islands qualify 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 wide range of ecosystem services to human communities.

As well as being rich in biodiversity, the hotspot also holds exceptional cultural and linguistic diversity. Because many languages are spoken by only a few hundred people, they are disappearing quickly, leading to a rapid erosion of traditional knowledge and practice. This is highly 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 spread across the three countries, and addressing threats to 48 priority species. The CEPF investment strategy sets out to support biodiversity conservation in ways that deliver significant, meaningful benefits to local communities, while making a sustained contribution to the development of local, national and regional capacity for conservation.

This report aims to assess progress towards the goals set out in the ecosystem profile, evaluate gaps in the CEPF grant portfolio and set priorities for the remainder of the eight-year investment period. It draws on experiences, lessons learned, and project reports generated by civil society organizations implementing CEPF grants in East Melanesia. In addition, it incorporates the findings of the mid-term assessment workshop, which was held at the Solomon Islands National University in Honiara, Solomon Island from December 5 to 7, 2018. The workshop was attended by 56 representatives of CEPF grantees, local governments, and CEPF's donor partners. Participants came from six countries – including from the three EMI hotspot countries of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu – to share their experiences and lessons learned implementing their CEPF projects, to assess CEPF progress in achieving the conservation outcomes, and to identify and evaluate key gaps and opportunities for future investment.

2. CEPF's niche for investment

2.1 Overview

CEPF's investment in the East Melanesian Islands is informed by the ecosystem profile for the hotspot. The profile was prepared in 2011 and 2012 through an extensive process of consultation and desk study led by the University of the South Pacific in partnership with the University of PNG and Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program. Initial research and analysis at the regional level provided draft biodiversity and thematic priorities, which were subsequently reviewed by experts within the hotspot. The year-long consultation process involved an expert roundtable meeting and nine stakeholder consultation workshops, and engaged more than 150 stakeholders from local communities, civil society organizations, government institutions and donor agencies.

The ecosystem profile presents an overview of the East Melanesian Islands in terms of their biodiversity conservation importance, and socioeconomic, policy and civil society contexts. It defines a suite of measurable conservation outcomes, at species, site and corridor scales,

as the scientific basis for determining CEPF’s geographic and thematic niche for investment. The conservation outcomes for the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot are framed by a situational analysis, which includes an assessment of the predicted impacts of climate change in the region, as well as reviews of the policy, socio-economic and civil society contexts for biodiversity conservation. It also includes an assessment of patterns and trends in current conservation investment, which captures lessons learned from past investments in the hotspot, as well as an overview of threats and drivers of biodiversity loss.

The conservation outcomes and situational analysis provide the justification for a niche for CEPF grant making in the hotspot. The CEPF investment niche recognizes local communities and their organizations as the ultimate custodians of the biodiversity of the hotspot. It also recognizes the need for support from national and international NGOs, universities, and private companies, and within an enabling regulatory and institutional context established by national, provincial, and local government.

The complementary capacities of different sections of civil society are expected to be leveraged in support of local communities by catalyzing partnerships. Through these partnerships, communities and civil society organizations at different levels would jointly explore the conservation status of priority species and sites, develop a common understanding of their values and the threats facing them, drawing on traditional knowledge as well as western science, and develop and implement conservation actions that are led by and relevant to local communities. To respond to threats originating from outside of the community, such as commercial logging and plantations, civil society will be supported to integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning.

In line with this niche, the ecosystem profile sets out five strategic directions and 15 investment priorities for CEPF’s investment, which appear in Annex 1 and are highlighted below.

Table 1. CEPF Strategic Directions and Allocations for the EMI Hotspot, 2013 - 2021

Strategic Direction	Allocation
1. Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts	\$3.2 million
2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning	\$1.0 million
3. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps	\$1.2 million
4. Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships	\$2.1 million
5. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a Regional Implementation Team	\$1.5 million
Total	\$9.0 million

CEPF’s Donor Council approved the ecosystem profile in December 2012 and allocated \$9.0 million for its implementation. The Donor Council subsequently approved the appointment of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the hotspot. IUCN began work as the RIT in July 2013, thus beginning the CEPF investment phase.

2.2 Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

IUCN's Oceania Regional Office (ORO) serves as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot. The ORO is based in Suva, Fiji. To perform the RIT role, IUCN draws upon the organization's regional expertise and contacts, as well as its experience with grant making.

The work of the RIT is supported through three grants: (i) an administrative grant, focusing on the award and management of the small grant mechanism and coverage of administrative fees to manage the RIT; (ii) a programmatic grant, focusing on the provision of support through conservation capacity building and liaison with partners, donors, and civil society organization (CSO) networks in the hotspot; and (iii) a contractual vehicle for administering the EMI small grants mechanism. The current ceiling for the small grants mechanism is \$950,000, from which IUCN can issue grants of up to \$20,000 in value.

The Team Leader, Helen Pippard, based in Suva, Fiji, is an experienced conservation professional with expertise in species and site conservation in the EMI Hotspot. IUCN has engaged a National Country Coordinator (NCC) in each of the three countries. While the PNG and Vanuatu NCCs have been staffed by national conservation professionals, recruitment, and retention of the Solomon Islands NCC has been more challenging due to the scarcity of well qualified local staff. Table 2 presents the members of the EMI RIT in December 2018

Table 2. Members of EMI RIT, December 2018

Position	Name	Base of Operation
RIT Manager	Helen Pippard	Suva, Fiji
Project Assistant	Evia Tavanavanu	Suva, Fiji
Financial Officer	Anjani Gosai	Suva, Fiji
PNG Country Coordinator	Zola Sangga	Port Moresby, PNG
Solomon Islands Country Coordinator	In recruitment	Solomon Islands
Vanuatu Country Coordinator	Vatumaraga Molisa	Port Vila, Vanuatu

IUCN has established a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in each of the three countries to facilitate grant making in the hotspot. The TAG reviews those letters of inquiry (LOIs) deemed eligible by CEPF and the RIT, to produce a shortlist of projects that they recommend for approval. Final decisions on proposal approvals rests with the RIT for small grants, and with CEPF and the RIT jointly for large grants. In addition, the TAG provides strategic advice, on an as-needed basis, on specific questions that arise while managing the grants portfolio.

The TAGs comprise members representing a broad pool of technical experts and key individuals who can provide sound advice in areas that align with the strategic directions outlined in the ecosystem profile. For each of the countries in the hotspot, a representative is chosen from government, donors, CSO/NGOs and an academic institution, if possible. Several additional technical reviewers are also called upon from groups such as the IUCN expert commissions, regional agencies, and universities to provide advice on specific

proposals for which they have expertise, when applications are received from IUCN members or Conservation International that require external reviews to mitigate possible conflict of interest, and when proposals are budgeted over \$250,000 which required formal external reviews. For each proposal review cycle, the members providing the reviews may be slightly different, depending on their availability. However, there is always representation from the different sectors, in addition to reviews carried out by the RIT, CEPF and senior staff of IUCN ORO.

Table 3. Members of Technical Advisory Groups, December 2018

Name of expert	Representation	Position/expertise
Papua New Guinea		
Kay Kalim	Government	Director, Sustainable Environment Programs, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority-CEPA
Bernard Suruman	Government	Marine Division, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority-CEPA
Chalapan Kaluwin	Academia	University of PNG
Gae Gowae	Academia	University of PNG and former NCC
Job Opu	Academia	University of Natural Resources & Environment
Tamalis Akus	Donor	UNDP GEF SGP Focal Point
Ted Mamu	Donor	JICA representative
Barbara Masike	NGO/CSO	The Nature Conservancy
Solomon Islands		
Agnetha Vavekaramui	Government	Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation, MECDM
Josef Hurutarau	Government	Protected Areas Advisory Committee Coordinator/MECDM
Myknee Sirikolo	Government	Plant ecologist, National Herbarium
Patrick Pikacha	Academia	Lecturer and ecologist, University of Queensland
Kristina Fidali	CSO	Protected Area Advisor
Senoveva Mauli	CSO	PhD candidate and Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association (SIELA) board chair
David Boseto	CSO	Ecologist
Lysa Wini	CSO	Previous NCC
Josiah Maesua	Donor	UNDP GEF SGP Focal Point
Vanuatu		
Donna Kalfatak	Government	Director, Department of Environment and Conservation
Hannington Tate	Government	Director, Department of Forestry
Jayven Ham	Government	Senior Research Officer, Vanuatu Fisheries Department
Leisande Otto	Donor	Liaison Officer, World Bank
Chris Bartlett	Donor	GIZ
Leah Nimoho	Donor	UNDP GEF SGP Focal Point
Lai Sakita	CSO	Director, Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network (VEAN)
Additional/regional expertise		
Marika Tuiwawa	Academia	South Pacific Herbarium, USP
Nicholas Barnes	Private Sector	Lawyer, legal expert, Fiji
Suliana Siwatibau	Consultant	Gender, civil society

3. Implementing the Strategy

3.1 Collaboration with CEPF's donors and other funders

The CEPF Secretariat and IUCN have collaborated directly and indirectly with other donors and with host country government agencies in the EMI hotspot, as detailed below.

Host country governments. Each national country coordinator is housed within the respective environment departments of their country. In PNG, Zola Sangga is located in the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) in Port Moresby. In Vanuatu, Vatumaraga Molisa is located in the Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation (DEPC) in Port Vila. In the Solomon Islands, the NCC is housed in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) in Honiara.

Their co-location with national environmental agencies provides the NCCs with daily contact with staff working in these national agencies and allows for formal updates to senior management on a quarterly basis. This arrangement has facilitated strong coordination between CEPF, its grantees and national environmental ministries.

In addition, the NCCs have kept the GEF focal points abreast of developments within the CEPF portfolio to communicate how investments are well aligned with national government priorities. The NCCs also maintain regular contact with the GEF focal points in each country in relation to the GEF country allocations. The RIT and the GEF focal points discuss project ideas and areas for collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.

UNDP GEF Small Grants Program (SGP). The RIT has maintained strong working relationships with the SGP. SGP staff sit on their respective TAGs for proposal reviews. Communications with the SGP allow for the identification of opportunities for collaboration and the sharing of lessons learned and exchange of ideas amongst grantees we both may be funding. As a result, CEPF and the SGP have co-funded several projects in EMI, such as in the case of conservation efforts in Vanuatu to undertake baseline data collection and consultations to establish the Mt Tabuwamasana Community Conservation Area.

CEPF global donors. The RIT and CEPF have maintained communications with local representatives of CEPF's global donors through various opportunities, including visits to donor offices during CEPF supervision missions. Local representatives are regularly invited to attend CEPF meetings and events. During the mid-term assessment, for example, CEPF was pleased to have a representative from the Government of Japan to open the workshop.

Major conservation organizations and donors. CEPF and the RIT maintain close collaboration with the leadership of several conservation groups active in the hotspot, several of which are CEPF grantees, including BirdLife International, WCS and WWF. In addition, the RIT maintains communications with USAID in PNG, which supports significant conservation projects in the country.

3.2 Portfolio Status

CEPF's grant making formally began in July 2013 with the signing of three grants between CEPF and IUCN ORO. The RIT mobilized its team, and three members attended a first training session with the CEPF Secretariat in Arlington, USA in September 2013.

3.2.1 Calls for Proposals

As of December 2018, CEPF has issued eight calls for proposals, which collectively have garnered 347 LOIs, as shown in Table 4.

The first call targeted the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, while formal endorsement of the ecosystem profile was being sought from the PNG GEF focal point. Once CEPF received the formal endorsement of the PNG GEF focal point, it issued the second call solely focused on that country. All subsequent calls were for all three countries, with the exception of calls in 2016, which were separated by countries to take into account findings and recommendations from grantee exchanges that were held in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in August 2016 and in PNG in October 2016.

In general, the first three calls focused upon gaining baseline information, developing management recommendations, and building local CSO capacity to facilitate CEPF grant making for later calls for LOIs. For calls six through eight, the CEPF Secretariat and RIT targeted specific geographic and thematic priorities as required to meet the conservation outcomes of the EMI results framework. Annex 1 presents the detailed EMI investment strategy, including investment priorities that correspond to the particular focus of calls for LOIs listed below.

Table 4. Calls for LOIs, 2013 to 2018

Call Number	Opening Date	Closing Date	Geographic Focus and Strategic Directions	Number of LOIs received	
				Large	Small
1	19 August 2013	14 October 2013	Solomon Islands, Vanuatu SD 1, SD 4	40	25
2	3 September 2013	28 October 2013	PNG SD 1, SD 4	20	12
3	1 July 2014	26 August 2014	Entire EMI Hotspot SD 1, SD 2, SD 3, SD 4	31	21
4	1 July 2015	31 August 2015	Entire EMI Hotspot SD 1, SD 2, SD 3, SD 4	31	31
5	24 August 2016	30 September 2016	Solomon Islands, Vanuatu SD 1, SD 2, SD 3, SD 4	24	13
6	18 October 2016	28 November 2016	PNG and multi-country SD 1, SD 2, SD 3, SD 4	14	8
7	8 September 2017	25 October 2017	Entire EMI Hotspot SD 1, SD 2, SD 3, SD 4	11	33
8	30 August 2018	7 October 2018	Entire EMI Hotspot SD 1, SD 2, SD 3, SD 4	15	18
Total = 347				186	161

3.2.2 Grants contracted

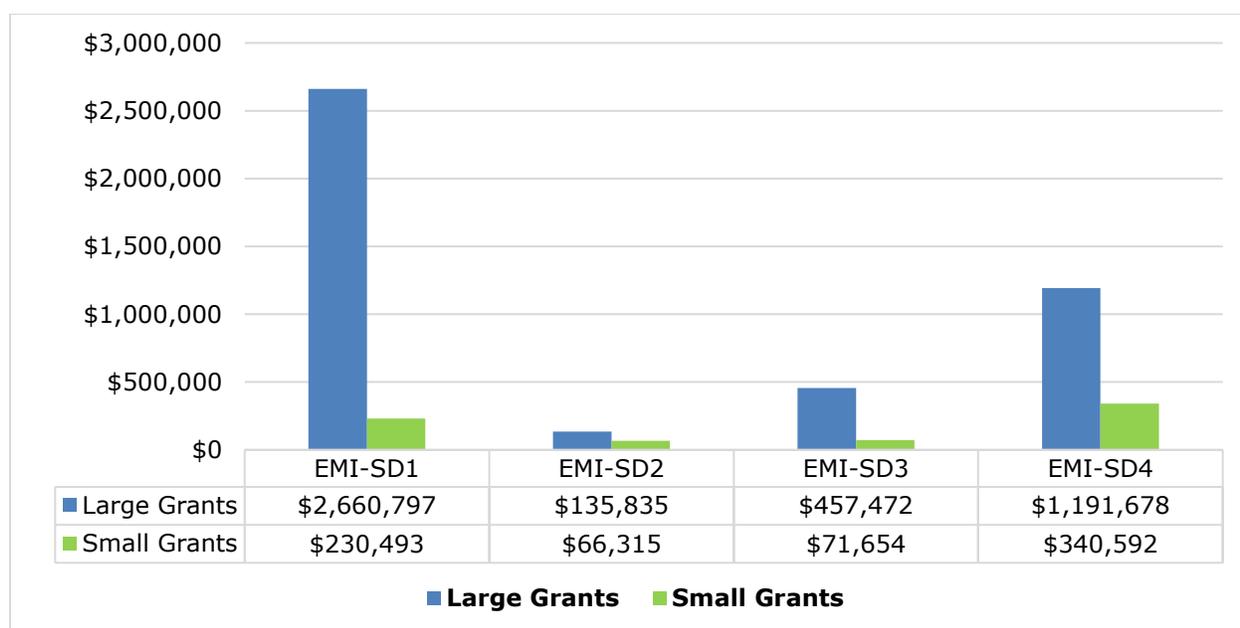
CEPF and IUCN have awarded 87 grants totaling \$6,654,837 since 2013, as presented in Table 5. Forty-four large grants, including grants to the RIT, were approved for \$5,945,783, and 43 small grants were approved \$709,054. Projects under Strategic Direction 1 to support site-based conservation in the priority Key Biodiversity Area (KBAs) received the largest share of obligations to date, followed by projects under Strategic Direction 4 for local civil society capacity building. As Figure 2 shows, the greatest share of large grants has been dedicated to Strategic Direction 1 for site-based conservation, while the greatest share of small grants has

been dedicated to Strategic Direction 4 for capacity building. Strategic Direction 2 for land-use planning and Strategic Direction 3 for species conservation have the least funding committed to date.

Table 5. Large and Small Grant Obligations by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Allocation (US\$)	Obligations (US\$)	Percent Contracted	Large Grants	Small Grants	Total Grants
1. Priority KBAs	3,200,000	2,819,290	90	23	14	37
2. Land-use planning	1,000,000	202,150	20	1	5	6
3. Species conservation	1,200,000	529,126	44	5	4	9
4. Capacity Building	2,100,000	1,532,270	73	13	20	33
5. RIT	1,500,000	1,500,000	100	2	0	2
Total	9,000,000	6,654,837	75	44	43	87

Figure 2. Large and Small Grant Commitment by Strategic Direction, December 2018



3.2.3 Grant allocations by country

Table 6 presents the distribution of small and large grant obligations by country. While CEPF and the RIT made a concerted effort to foster a balanced allocation of funding across the three countries, obligations have been largest in the Solomon Islands, with 40 grants totaling \$2,430,337, followed by 19 grants in Vanuatu totaling \$1,250,504, and then 22 grants in PNG totaling \$1,029,913. Also of note was that five projects totaling \$444,083 have had a regional focus benefitting several countries and supporting regional

collaboration. The greater emphasis on the Solomon Islands reflects the fact that it contains nine of the 20 priority KBAs eligible for site-based funding, while PNG hosts five priority KBAs and Vanuatu hosts six KBAs. In addition, CEPF’s observation is that CSOs working in the Solomon Islands have demonstrated greater capacity to submit promising proposals, which can be attributed in part to its longer history in implementing conservation projects.

Table 6. Small and Large Grant Obligations by Country, 2013-2018*

Country	Large Grants		Small Grants		Total Obligated	Percent of Total Obligated
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount		
PNG	6	\$820,568	15	209,345	1,029,913	20%
Solomon Islands	23	2,136,166	17	294,170	2,430,337	47%
Vanuatu	9	1,083,891	9	166,613	1,250,504	24%
Regional projects (excludes RIT)	4	405,158	2	38,925	444,083	9%
Total	44	4,445,783	43	709,054	5,154,837	100%

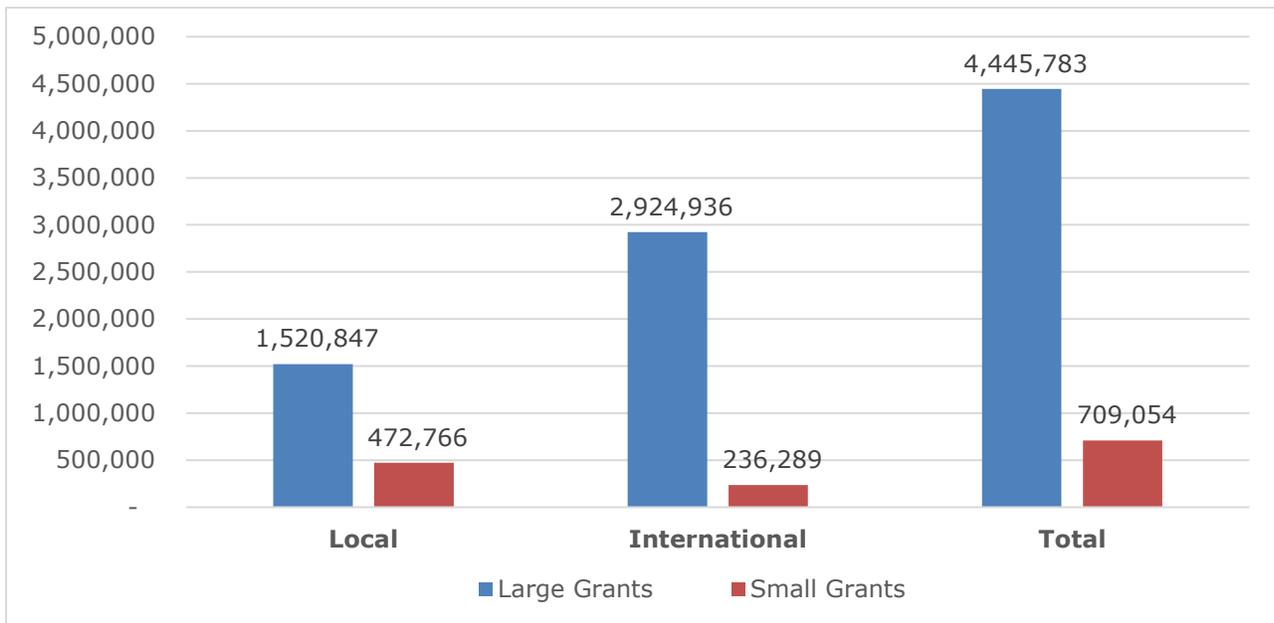
Note: * = Table excludes grants to the RIT

3.2.4 Grants and amounts to national vs international

A total of 54 organizations have accessed CEPF funding as of December 2018, of which 32 grantees (59 percent) are local organizations headquartered in the priority hotspot countries, and 22 grantees (41 percent) are international groups headquartered outside the priority hotspot countries, typically in Australia, Fiji and the US. Figure 3 shows that local groups have approved small and large grants valued at \$1,993,612, (39 percent of total commitments for implementation grants) while international organizations have approved large and small grants valued at \$3,161,224 (61 percent of total commitments for implementation grants).

The data show that local groups, which typically are younger and less experienced in accessing international funding in EMI, are accessing a greater share of small grants. The international groups, which typically have greater experience working with international donors and longstanding technical expertise in the hotspot, are accessing a greater amount of CEPF funding. This observation of capacity differences between local and international groups is well documented in the ecosystem profile. Fortunately, several local organizations gained sufficient capacity while implementing small grants to be able to access large grants in subsequent funding rounds, as explained below. CEPF aims to have more local organizations graduate from being small grantees to large grantees as the portfolio matures.

Figure 3. Grant Allocation by Grantee Type (\$millions)



3.2.5 Gap Analysis

Findings from the mid-term assessment reveal several trends in CEPF grant making:

- i. Grant making has favored grantees working in the Solomon Islands from the perspective of funding obligations. This finding is attributable to a larger number of organizations working in conservation in the Solomon Islands when CEPF started in the hotspot and to CEPF's investment strategy, which targets the largest number of KBAs for site-based funding. In recent years, CEPF and the RIT have been proactive in soliciting grant proposals for promising projects in both PNG and Vanuatu, and the expectation is that the distribution of funding across the three countries will become more balanced with the award of new grants.
- ii. Grant making across the four strategic directions has been uneven, favoring Strategic Direction 1 on site-based conservation and Strategic Direction 4 on capacity building. This finding reflects the fact that most grantees in EMI have historically worked on site-based conservation and can, therefore, present stronger applications to CEPF in this strategic direction. Under Strategic Direction 4, demand for capacity building support has been high, particularly from local grantees seeking to maintain and build their institutional capacity. Fewer grants have been funded under Strategic Direction 2 because fewer proposals have been submitted, reflecting a general lack of experience of conservation groups in working with private companies in the extractive industries and due to the highly political nature of working on land tenure in East Melanesia. Obligations under Strategic Direction 3 for species conservation are also slightly less than the strong strategic directions, reflecting the lack of general expertise and capacity to carry out this work in the EMI Hotspot. It should be noted that several major projects under Strategic Direction 1 contain activities and deliverables dedicated to species conservation.

4. Performance of CEPF's Investment

4.1 Portfolio-level Performance

The 2013 ecosystem profile includes a logical framework that comprises one portfolio objective with six associated indicators and targets, plus five intermediate outcomes with 20 indicators and targets. The mid-term assessment recognizes that the portfolio is more than halfway through the eight-year implementation period. In that time, CEPF has awarded 85 grants, comprising 42 large grants and 43 small grants, and total commitments are \$6,654,837 of the \$9.0 million budget, equivalent to 74 percent. Progress toward achievement of the portfolio logframe and its associated targets is presented in Annex 2. This section reviews progress achieved towards these objectives and outcomes, using several quantitative and qualitative measures.

4.1.1 Efficiency of Operations

Since CEPF started grant making in EMI in September 2013, it has released eight calls for proposals, reviewed 347 LOIs, and awarded 85 grants. It has committed \$5,154,837 of the \$7,500,000 allocated for implementation grants (rather than for the RIT) to support strategic directions one through four. CEPF has found that the pool of applicants in the hotspot is limited. The pace of grant making remains in line with CEPF's eight-year implementation strategy and supports the decision to allocate eight years to carry out the investment strategy in the hotspot, unlike the five years typically allotted to other hotspots where CEPF works. The mid-term assessment affords the opportunity to determine what has worked well and where fine tuning and adjustment are worth further exploration, as discussed further in this report.

4.1.2 Engagement and Strengthening of Local Civil Society

The CEPF logframe targets the engagement of at least 40 CSOs, including at least 30 domestic organizations, as active participants in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile. Of the 54 organizations receiving grants from CEPF, 32 are local groups founded and based in the priority hotspot countries, which is equivalent to 59 percent of all grantees. Performance data show that 18 local groups have demonstrated improved organization capacity, which is slightly shy of the target of 20 local groups for the portfolio. In short, CEPF is on track to meet key targets for civil society engagement in conservation to strengthen local groups.

Most local organizations are first-time recipients of international grants or smaller groups that can use their association with CEPF and its donors as a springboard to a broader and more demanding pool of funders, where they exist. Both small and large grants have helped to build technical and organizational capacity and to cover core costs of local groups. Several grantees have reached a sufficient level of capacity to be able to access large grant funding from CEPF and other donors. Virtually all international organizations play highly strategic and technical roles that could not be fulfilled by local conservation CSOs due to capacity gaps. These international organizations have long-standing presence in the hotspot. Virtually all grants to international organizations contain significant components devoted to building capacity of local groups and communities, often through establishment of alliances with local associate organizations.

4.1.3 Site and Species Outcomes

The ecosystem profile logframe directs CEPF investment to fund grants that result in new or strengthened protection and management in 20 priority KBAs and that support improved conservation status and/or available information on status and distribution for 48 priority threatened species.

Table 7 shows that CEPF has invested in all 20 priority KBAs with important deliverables and results to show, including establishment of baseline data and management plans, and documentation of traditional knowledge, to direct local raising awareness and participatory management actions; KBA mapping; designation of new protected areas; and alternative livelihoods and food security activities to help local people meet their needs and offer alternatives to logging and mining. CEPF's investments to date have been foundational, allowing CEPF and other donors to direct funds toward scientifically based, bottom-up and strategically aligned management actions at serve both objectives of biodiversity conservation and improved human wellbeing.

Table 7. Investment in priority KBAs

Priority KBA	Grantee/Work
PNG	
Baining Mountains	Bishop Museum – baseline surveys
Cape Saint George	FORCERT – management planning
Central Manus	WCS – baseline surveys and management planning and implementation
Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi	Bat Conservation International – surveys and awareness raising University of Queensland – baseline surveys Rotokas – capacity building, ecotourism
Mussau	WCS – surveys, food security, awareness raising, species conservation
Solomon Islands	
East Makira	University of Miami – baseline surveys and establishment of new protection
East Rennell	Birdlife International – threats reduction from mining
Ghizo	WWF – ridge-to-reef planning
Guadalcanal Watersheds	University of the South Pacific – baseline surveys
Kolombangara Upland Forest	University of Queensland – baseline surveys WCS – new protection and management planning
Marovo Kavachi	University of Queensland - baseline surveys
Mount Maetambe - Kolombangara River	ESSI – baseline surveys, land mapping NRDF – incentives through carbon credits, establishment of new protected areas
Nendö	OceansWatch – awareness raising, livelihoods, threats mitigation from mining
Vanikoro	OceansWatch – awareness raising, livelihoods, threats mitigation from mining
Vanuatu	
Aneityum	New York Botanical Garden – baseline surveys, documentation of traditional knowledge
Futuna	VESS - awareness raising, baseline surveys
Gaua	Live and Learn – establishment of new protected area
Green Hill	Live and Learn, Nakau – tourism development New York Botanical Garden – surveys, documentation of traditional knowledge, disaster relief
Santo Mountain Chain	Live and Learn – baseline surveys, establishment of new protected area, ecotourism development Edenhope – community management, establishment of protected area

Tongoa-Laika	BirdLife International, Live and Learn, Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network (VEAN) - progress towards management of area
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Table 8 presents the 48 priority species targeted by the CEPF investment strategy, of which CEPF has funded conservation actions for 23 species. Grants funded early in the investment phase sought to gather baseline data. As the portfolio has evolved, funding has helped to prepare species recovery, management, and harvesting plans, with their implementation and recovery commencing.

Table 8. CEPF Investment in Priority Species

Priority Species	English Name	Grantee/Work
<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Dugong	VESS - Strengthening Monitoring and Community Management in Vanuatu, TDA - monitoring in Tetepare
<i>Emballonura semicaudata</i>	Polynesian Sheath-tail Bat	
<i>Melomys matambuai</i>	Manus Melomys	University of Queensland- data improvement and drafting of species recovery plan
<i>Pteralopex anceps</i>	Bougainville Monkey-faced Bat	BCI, UQ - data improvement, awareness
<i>Pteralopex atrata</i>	Guadalcanal Monkey-faced Bat	UQ - data improvement, recovery plans
<i>Pteralopex flanneryi</i>	Greater Monkey-faced Bat	BCI, UQ - data improvement, awareness
<i>Pteralopex pulchra</i>	Montane Monkey-faced Bat	UQ - data improvement, recovery plans
<i>Pteralopex taki</i>	New Georgia Monkey-faced Bat	UQ - data improvement, recovery plans
<i>Pteropus anetianus</i>	Vanuatu Flying-fox	VESS - data improvement
<i>Pteropus cognatus</i>	Makira Flying-fox	UQ - data improvement, recovery plans
<i>Pteropus fundatus</i>	Banks Flying-fox	VESS - data improvement
<i>Pteropus nitendiensis</i>	Temotu Flying-fox	VESS - data improvement
<i>Pteropus tuberculatus</i>	Vanikoro Flying-fox	VESS, OceansWatch - data improvement
<i>Solomys ponceleti</i>	Poncellet's Giant Rat	
<i>Solomys salebrosus</i>	Bougainville Giant Rat	
<i>Solomys sapientis</i>	Isabel Giant Rat	
<i>Tadarida bregullae</i>	Fijian Mastiff Bat	
<i>Uromys imperator</i>	Emperor Rat	UQ - data improvement
<i>Uromys porculus</i>	Guadalcanal Rat	UQ - data improvement
<i>Uromys rex</i>	King Rat	UQ - data improvement
<i>Aplonis santovestris</i>	Santo Mountain Starling	
<i>Charmosyna palmarum</i>	Palm Lorikeet	
<i>Ducula bakeri</i>	Vanuatu Imperial Pigeon	
<i>Erythrura regia</i>	Royal Parrotfinch	
<i>Gallinula sanctaecrucis</i>	Santa Cruz Ground-dove	OceansWatch - data improvement
<i>Gallinula silvestris</i>	Makira Moorhen	SICCP - data improvement
<i>Megapodius layardi</i>	Vanuatu Megapode	BirdLife International -data improvement and species recovery plans
<i>Nesofregatta fuliginosa</i>	Polynesian Storm-Petrel	
<i>Pseudobulweria becki</i>	Beck's Petrel	BirdLife International -data improvement
<i>Pterodroma brevipes</i>	Collared Petrel	

<i>Pterodroma cervicalis</i>	White-necked Petrel	
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle	
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle	ACMCA, TDA – monitoring WCS – surveys and threats mitigation
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Turtle	Wai Hau Conservation – data improvement and monitoring
<i>Emoia aneityumensis</i>	Anatom Skink	
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Turtle	ACMCA, TDA - monitoring
<i>Litoria lutea</i>	Solomon Islands Treefrog	UQ – data improvement
<i>Palmatorappia solomonis</i>	Solomon Islands Palm Frog	
<i>Agathis silbae</i>		
<i>Calophyllum waliense</i>		
<i>Carpoxyton macrospermum</i>		
<i>Cyphosperma voutmelense</i>	Voutmélé Palm	
<i>Diospyros insularis</i>	New Guinea Ebony	
<i>Drymophloeus hentyi</i>		
<i>Helicia polyosmoides</i>		
<i>Intsia bijuga</i>	Moluccan Ironwood	
<i>Ptychosperma gracile</i>		
<i>Veitchia montgomeryana</i>		

4.1.4 Overall Performance towards Meeting Portfolio Targets

Annex 2 summarizes the achievements of those grants which were closed by December 2018 toward meeting the targets of the logical framework of the ecosystem profile. Achievements of those grants still in implementation are not captured in the analysis.

The assessment finds that 25 of the 26 targets associated with the portfolio objective and four of the five intermediary outcomes are advancing satisfactorily. Targets associated with site and species conservation and with strengthening of local civil society are on-track, as detailed further in this report. The one target that is falling behind is associated with Intermediate Outcome 2 and relates to establishing partnerships between civil society organizations and natural resource companies to promote sustainable development through better environmental and social practices on integrating biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning. As explained further below, working with natural resources companies, particularly in the logging and mining sectors, is highly political and complex, and as such, few opportunities have emerged for CSOs to engage constructively with extractive companies.

4.2 Preliminary Impacts Summary

CEPF's investments are monitored through a series of global indicators that fall under four pillars: biodiversity conservation; civil society; human well-being; and enabling conditions. The following section highlights key achievements and impacts under these four pillars.

4.2.1 Biodiversity Conservation

CEPF investment in EMI is making significant contributions to improving site-based management and protection and species conservation. Gaps in achievement of targets are

due to several factors. In particular, several priority sites or locations where priority species occur are very remote parts of the hotspot’s archipelagic geography, making travel to these sites time consuming, logistically challenging, and expensive. As such, the conservation community has little experience working on some sites and species. In addition, CEPF has found that the presence of extractive industries in some sites has led to a politically charged environment, where conservationists have been jailed and threatened, and thereby limiting the ability of conservationists to work in these areas.

Table 9. Progress toward Biodiversity Targets for Site and Species Outcomes

Target	Progress
20 key biodiversity areas covering 1,549,009 hectares have new or strengthened protection and management.	6 KBAs totaling 131,442 under improved management and protection based on the following results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 117,180 hectares in Cape St George, Mount Maetambe-Kolobangara River, Gaua, Santo Mountain Chain, Tongoa-Laika have strengthened management. • 4 new protected areas totaling 14,262 hectares in 3 KBAs: Kait Community Conservation Area (CCA), Cape St George, PNG; Tabuwamasana CCA, Santo Mountain Chain, Vanuatu; Gaua - Custom Marine Tabu area in Lagona Bay, and Gaua Lake Letas Community Conservation Area, Gaua, Vanuatu.
48 globally threatened species have improved conservation status and/or available information on status and distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 species have received conservation attention with baseline surveys, action plan development and implementation. • Two bats have experienced improvements in their Red List assessment status: <i>Pteralopex taki</i> from EN to VU and <i>Pteropus cognatus</i> from EN to VU. • Culling of green turtles averted in Mussau due to local conservation actions.

4.2.2 Civil Society

The ecosystem profile documents a significant need to raise the capabilities of CSOs to carry out conservation work in the future. Strategic Direction 4 is dedicated to this objective. CEPF has supported 32 local groups as grantees, many with no previous experience carrying out an internationally funded conservation project. Performance data show that 18 local groups demonstrated improved organizational capacity in a variety of ways, including strengthened financial, administrative, and technical capacities and improvements to manage projects, fundraise, and work with government representatives and other stakeholders on conservation projects. In addition, CEPF grants have helped to establish and/or strengthen five conservation networks and partnerships, such as the Solomon Islands Rangers Association.

Consistent with CEPF global practice, all local CSOs must complete CEPF’s Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of their grants. Completed CSTTs help determine capacity building needs. All local grantees have submitted the baseline CSTTs, and when their grants end, CEPF will have sufficient data to assess its impacts on strengthening the organizational capacity of EMI CSOs.

4.2.3 Human Well-being

CEPF grantees are keenly aware of the importance of linking their conservation work with the livelihoods and food security needs of their partner communities. To date, CEPF has funded grantees working with more than 180 communities. Final reports document that 135 communities have improved access to clean water, 72 communities have improved food security, 107 communities have improved decision making and governance, and 30 communities have improved access to ecosystem services.

More than 2,300 people, one-third of whom are women, have derived benefits from participating in various training opportunities in such areas as field monitoring, ranger training, livelihoods opportunities in ecotourism and agriculture, resources management, financial and organizational record-keeping, community awareness and education, and legal awareness. At least 700 people have received cash benefits of some kind, such as by assisting researchers in conducting field work and helping to carry out project activities.

4.2.4 Enabling Conditions

Opportunities for robust CSO engagement in policy development have been more limited than in the other pillars particularly at the national level. However, one important advancement has been registered in Vanuatu with the assistance of a CEPF grantee, where the government outlawed the use of plastics, including plastic bags, straws, and polystyrene. Other efforts have focused on sub-national policy and plan development. For example, CEPF grantees worked with local governments and communities to develop three local land-use plans to guide decision making on local development options to ensure that it is compatible with traditional livelihoods and conservation.

4.3 Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

The investment strategy for the EMI Hotspot comprises 15 investment priorities grouped into five strategic directions, presented in Annex 1. Investment was distributed across the strategic directions in line with the funding allocation of \$9.0 million approved by the CEPF Donor Council. Several important advances have been achieved under these strategic directions.

Strategic Direction 1: Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority sites under served by current efforts

Strategic Direction 1 aims to improve protection and management of 20 priority KBAs. CEPF has funded grants for baseline surveys, awareness raising among community and government stakeholders of the importance of biodiversity and resource conservation, community-led conservation actions to facilitate better planning and management, and conservation incentive schemes. This strategic direction has experienced the highest demand and largest funding allocation within the investment portfolio, as shown in Figures 1a and 1b, with commitments totaling \$2,819,290, equivalent to 90 percent of the budget allocation. Thirty-five grants have been approved under this strategic direction, with 22 large grants awarded for \$2,660,797 and 13 small grants awarded for \$230,493.

Highlights

- Comprehensive surveys have been undertaken at 10 priority KBAs, with smaller or additional surveys taking place at eight sites. In total, CEPF has supported surveys at 18 of the 20 priority KBAs.

- A rapid biodiversity survey of Manus and Mussau Islands in PNG by WCS resulted in a comprehensive survey that filled major gaps in baseline knowledge of the island's biodiversity and at least 12 new species to sciences were discovered. The survey provided the foundation for follow up conservation grants by CEPF and other donors.
- As part of University of Queensland surveys in Western Province, Solomon Islands, a new species of giant rat (*Uromys vika*) was discovered.
- Awareness raising activities have occurred at all 20 priority KBAs, with 12 grants awarded specifically for this purpose.
- Six projects have focused on conservation actions, such as working with communities to establish protected areas and compiling information to produce management plans for newly designated conservation areas
- Conservation actions at three sites have led to new protection of 14,257 hectares:
 - The Kait Community in Cape St George has declared 885 hectares as protected at the community level, through a grant to FORCERT.
 - Lake Letas Community Conservation Area has been declared in Gaua, Vanuatu, covering an area of 8,523 hectares, through a grant to Eco-Lifelihood Development Association (EDA).
 - The Mt Tabuwamasana Community Conservation Area, covering an area of 4,849 hectares of the Santo Mountain Chain, has been legally gazetted through a grant to Live & Learn Vanuatu. This conservation area, which protects the country's highest peak and one of the highest mountains in the Pacific, was established based on CEPF-funded surveys and community management planning.
- Conservation incentives have been demonstrated in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, such as through a study on the feasibility of payment for ecosystem services (PES) in the tourism sector in Vanuatu and through the promotion of PES involving carbon credits for forest conservation in Choiseul in the Solomon Islands.

Strategic Direction 2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning

CEPF has approved six grants under this Strategic Direction 2, comprising one large grant valued at \$135,835 and 5 small grants totaling \$66,315. Due in part to the complex nature of this strategic direction and lack of relevant capacity, CEPF has awarded only 22 percent of the allocation for this strategic direction.

Strategic Direction 2 seeks to advance ownership and tenure rights in the 20 priority KBAs by working with communities to map boundaries where feasible and practical. The issue of land tenure is controversial throughout the hotspot, often because land boundaries are not legally defined and reaching agreement among customary landowners about where they should be is difficult. As such, CEPF has exercised caution when funding such activities. CEPF has funded community legal support and awareness building in areas affected by incompatible land use, particularly for logging and mining, as a means for local empowerment for action. Demand for such support has been relatively high, indicating significant interest and need for such awareness and knowledge building activities. This strategic direction also seeks to catalyze funding and attention between CSOs and extractive natural resource companies to improve environmental and social practices by promoting sustainable development and the importance of biodiversity. To date, CEPF has not received viable proposals under this investment priority.

Highlights

- Land tenure and boundary mapping has been carried out in two sites: Mt Maetambe-Kolombangara River on Choiseul and Cape St George on New Ireland. A third project, on Mt Balbi on Bougainville Island, is near completion.
- The mapping exercise has paved the way for the establishment of a carbon incentives scheme to pay local communities to maintain their forests in Choiseul communities. The carbon scheme is the first such financial incentive program in the Solomon Islands.
- Communities in four sites have received legal support to understand their rights and explore options to face mining and logging and other development projects.
 - *CELCOR* provided legal training to communities in Baining Mountains and Central Manus of PNG.
 - OceansWatch has raised legal awareness about bauxite mining on Nendö in the Solomon Islands.
 - The Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association was trained in the ratification of the Protected Areas Act of 2010.

Strategic Direction 3. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps

CEPF has awarded 10 projects under Strategic Direction 3 to improve knowledge and management of 48 IUCN Red Listed species. Commitments total \$529,126, which equals 47 percent of the allocated budget, split between six large grants totalling \$529,126 and four small grants totalling \$71,654.

For 42 species, activities involve the creation of species action and recovery plans and developing and implementing harvest management regimes for those species utilized for food. Grants have funded numerous baseline surveys and assessments to collect baseline data on threatened species. Funding has also been channeled to search for six species suspected of being possibly extinct. Grantees have devoted significant efforts to involve local communities in all species-level research and conservation action, which includes documenting traditional knowledge and cultivating pride in the hotspot's endemic species.

Challenges cited in implementing species-focused grants include the length of time required to prepare a species action or recovery plans and ensure community ownership of that plan. Furthermore, coordinating actions among multiple stakeholders, such as landowners, government, and others interested parties, can be complex in the hotspot. Juxtaposed with these challenges inherent in working on species conservation are the ever-present threats posed by logging and mining, which bring promises of quick cash to local communities.

Highlights

- CEPF has funded dedicated conservation action for 23 priority species.
- Bats have been a featured group in the portfolio, with at least 10 priority bat species having been surveyed and having draft recovery and management plans in place. Through the work of the University of Queensland, two bat species have seen a change in their Red List status: *Pteralopex taki* from EN to VU and *Pteropus cognatus*, EN to VU.
- Six projects aimed to find evidence of the six possibly extinct species. BirdLife International and local partners successfully located a population of Beck's petrel (*Pseudobulweria becki*) in New Ireland, PNG, and identified possible terrestrial habitat. While the status of three endemic rats on Guadalcanal remains unknown, the University of Queensland found strong evidence that at least one of the species, king rat (*Uromys rex*), is likely to exist.
- Communities on the island of Mussau in PNG stopped a planned cull of green turtles following work by WCS on environmental education and food security activities.

- Local communities have improved their management of leatherback turtles in Malaita, Solomon Islands.
- BirdLife has worked with local communities to understand the impact of harvesting practices on Vanuatu megapode (*Megapodius layardi*) populations. A resulting management plan aimed at promoting sustainable harvesting of its eggs has led to increased populations of the species.

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

With \$1,532,270 approved for 34 projects, equivalent to 78 percent of allocated funds, Strategic Direction 4 has dominated the portfolio to benefit local civil society groups. CEPF awarded \$1,191,678 to 13 large grants and the RIT awarded \$340,592 through 21 small grants. These grants have fulfilled multiple objectives, including strengthening the financial, administrative and governance capacity of local CSOs; establishing and strengthening networks and partnerships; and building the technical capacity of EMI conservation practitioners through training courses.

Highlights

- 15 local CSOs have received grants to improve their organizational capacity. For some of these groups, it is the first time they have received funding from an international donor.
- At least 30 local CSOs have been trained in the development of conservation projects and proposal writing.
- Local CSO VESS in Vanuatu was able to establish an office and build its administrative capacity through a small grant from CEPF. The strengthened capacity allowed VESS to go on to access several large grants from CEPF, the GEF and other donors, to become a leader in bat and dugong conservation.
- CEPF has financed several short courses for local practitioners to lead in the management, science, and leadership of conservation efforts. The University of South Pacific in Fiji hosted a technical course on community conservation, and the University of Queensland held a course for local rangers on survey and monitoring techniques in the Solomon Islands, which also resulted in a skills guide for rangers.

5. Priorities for CEPF Investments

5.1. Stakeholder Reflections on the CEPF Investments Priorities and Geographies

During the December 2018 mid-term workshop, 56 grantees and stakeholders from the EMI hotspot reflected on their accomplishments and lessons learned from implementing their grants. They identified opportunities and priorities on the horizon for conservation, as well as continuing constraints. The dialogue resulted in the following recommendations for priority actions by CEPF as it enters the last years of grant making in this phase of investment in EMI:

- Workshop participants reasserted the importance of CEPF focusing on four key themes and challenges: addressing formidable pressures from the logging and mining sectors in the Solomon Islands and PNG; supporting livelihood options for communities to reduce pressure on natural resources and biodiversity; supporting

ecological restoration for KBAs and island ecosystems; and promoting financial sustainability of conservation CSOs.

- Participants urged CEPF to focus on opportunities and challenges in the three EMI countries. They noted that the challenges of promoting biodiversity conservation in PNG and the Solomon Islands are particularly alarming, as both countries strongly pursue an economic growth paradigm based on unsustainable resource extraction that flouts basic social and environmental safeguards, even in some KBAs. Indeed, logging is an existential threat to the region's forests and species, with the Solomon Islands potentially being completely denuded of its forests in the next two to three decades if current deforestation rates continue unabated. Grantees urged CEPF to seeking opportunities to engage in these extractive industries. Vanuatu stands apart in EMI, as it seeks to promote development through a sustainable development trajectory that includes support for ecotourism and other green livelihood approaches, thus providing CEPF and grantees with important opportunities to introduce green economy initiatives. Workshop participants urged CEPF to continue to support ecotourism in Vanuatu and other countries.
- CEPF stakeholders shared their perspectives on the underlying causes of these funding differences. EMI's island geography means that some parts of the hotspot are extremely remote and require complex and expensive logistical arrangements that drive up project costs. These remote islands are less likely to have existing local CSOs working in conservation. Consequently, the more remote KBAs historically have not attracted much conservation attention and have few conservation champions, which has translated into CEPF not receiving proposals for these isolated sites. A similar phenomenon occurs for the priority species, with those species located in small remote islands being less advantaged than those species located in more accessible areas. From a thematic perspective, stakeholders also note that most conservation groups have deeper experience in site-based conservation, rather than in topics such as outreach to private companies working in logging and mining.
- Stakeholders affirmed the importance of CEPF continuing to invest in safeguarding threatened species and strengthening site-based conservation in the priority KBAs, as these actions are essential to achieve CEPF's long-term goals to conserve the hotspot's biodiversity and strengthen local civil society.
- A recurrent theme throughout the workshops was the continued importance of CEPF to build local civil society capacity from a technical and institutional standpoint. Stakeholders urged that CEPF's focus should evolve, from emphasizing the creation of new local CSOs to supporting the sustainability of those local CSOs, to support their growth beyond CEPF funding. The RIT and the small grant mechanism have important roles to play in helping national and local CSOs to strengthen the basic capacity for sustainability, particularly in financial and organizational strengthening and creating greater collaboration and sharing of knowledge across EMI grantees and stakeholders.
- Stakeholders urged that under Strategic Direction 2, greater attention be paid to supporting private sector in a more general sense, to encompass livelihood projects. This observation aligns well with CEPF's strong support of site-based conservation in the priority KBAs, as it would strengthen community benefits and reinforce results achieved from improved resource management and environmental awareness.

5.2. Opportunities and Priorities for CEPF Grant Making

In addition to the points noted above, stakeholders suggested CEPF devote attention to several priorities for the remainder of the current investment period:

(i) CEPF should continue to support strengthening of local civil society and the conservation community by fostering the sharing and documentation of lessons learned, strengthening linkages among organizations carrying out similar work, and promoting partnerships and networks between NGO partners, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. Specific recommendations span a variety of activities:

- Promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences within each country through grantee exchanges and training sessions, to include specific training on financial management.
- Establish a mentoring program and/or online platform to promote learning by smaller CSOs and achieve sustainability beyond CEPF's investment.
- Explore how best to document the lessons learned, collect materials for publication, and explore appropriate media for spreading knowledge on conservation in the hotspot.

(ii) From the time of the start of the investment phase in 2013, through to the mid-term assessment five and a half years later, the RIT has focused small grants on growing the capacity of local NGOs with grants capped at \$20,000. The small grants mechanism has given the RIT the ability to reach organizations that cannot access large grants from CEPF due to limited management and administrative systems and experience, as well as limited internet access common in the hotspot. The results show important achievements and strong demand from the small grants facility. Grantees recommend consideration to increase the cap on small grant awards, which would permit an expansion in the scope of work available to smaller organizations.

(iii) CEPF grants continue to provide vital funding for local groups seeking to strengthen their technical and institutional capacity for conservation and sustainable development. Ensuring strong project and financial management, systems, and reporting is a high priority for CEPF. Given that many local EMI grantees do not have significant experience working with international donors and that local CSOs generally lack staff well trained in financial operations, it is important for CEPF to build such local capacity through locally appropriate approaches. The RIT has a role to play to facilitate such approaches, through training, mentoring, and small grant funding, so that CEPF's aim of building local civil society capacity in conservation and project management can be achieved.

(iv) In PNG, CEPF should strengthen its promotion of livelihood projects around the priority KBAs and in other parts of the hotspot where appropriate. For instance, higher capacity and need for conservation and for dealing with threats from mining and oil palm operations exist in west New Britain. Although this area does not contain CEPF priority KBAs, it lies within a conservation corridor and presents an opportunity to engage the private sector via mining and oil palm interests under Strategic Direction 2. In terms of strengthening local CSO capacity, opportunities exist to consolidate existing partnerships and linkages with organizations working on similar topics on the PNG mainland, for example in protected area establishment and management and in growing the rangers' network.

(v) In the Solomon Islands, CEPF should strengthen its focus on livelihood projects to respond to urgent threats from logging. Geographic priorities may include Marovo, East Rennell, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Makira, and Western Province. Community legal awareness remains a priority to support to facilitate the establishment of new protected areas in the priority KBAs. Re-investing in the rangers' network and establishing linkages across islands is also important.

(vi) In Vanuatu, CEPF support should continue to focus on the management and monitoring of new protected areas that have been established, especially in the Santo Mountain Chain. Nature and cultural tourism continue to be promising opportunities to support, while building on lessons from tourism projects in Santo and Gaua. Work on priority plants remains an important priority. However, engaging local experts in botanical conservation in Vanuatu has been challenging for CEPF because such expertise is held by government officials, and CEPF is not able to fund public agencies or their employees.

6. CONCLUSION

When CEPF started investing in the EMI Hotspot in 2013, it was well recognized that conservation capacity among local civil society was incipient, with most conservation actions led by international organizations. The hotspot lacked the foundational requirements for long-term conservation, such as baseline data on species and their habitats, awareness of the importance of conservation for sustainable development, the presence of protected areas that can serve as an anchor for conservation, and practical tools to incentivize communities to engage in conservation. Juxtaposed with this nascent capacity were threats posed by unsustainable logging and mining, presenting dire threats to the rich biological and cultural diversity of the hotspot.

The mid-term assessment finds that CEPF and IUCN have made notable and significant contributions to put in place a vibrant conservation sector with well-trained local conservationists and civil society groups. Twenty-five of the 26 targets set in the portfolio logical framework are advancing satisfactorily. CEPF is helping to empower local stakeholders so that they can work with governments, communities, and other stakeholders to lead efforts to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable development in their fragile island homes. The mid-term assessment finds that some grants that promote, for example, site-based conservation, are performing very well. Only one target in the logical framework, which calls for engagement with private companies working in the extractive industries, is falling behind expectations, due to the challenges of engaging in such a highly political realm. The overall findings are that the grants awarded by CEPF and IUCN are significant, performing well, urgently needed, and imperative, as resource extraction and climate change pose existential threats to this highly vulnerable hotspot.

The road ahead for the rest of the CEPF investment period will require consolidating the gains achieved to date, identifying and pursuing opportunities to sustain and grow the conservation actions already started, and continuing to build a resilient, well-coordinated and well-trained conservation practitioners and organizations. CEPF, the RIT and local partners and stakeholders are well positioned to continue on this important conservation journey.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. CEPF Investment Strategy for the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
1. Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts	1.1 Conduct baseline surveys of priority sites that build government-civil society partnerships and bridge political boundaries
	1.2 Raise awareness about the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers among local communities at priority sites
	1.3 Support local communities to design and implement locally relevant conservation actions that respond to major threats at priority sites
	1.4 Demonstrate conservation incentives (ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services, conservation agreements, etc.) at priority sites
2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning	2.1 Conduct participatory ownership and tenure mapping of resources within customary lands at priority sites
	2.2 Provide legal training and support for landowners affected by incompatible development projects to support community enforcement of environmental protection regulations
	2.3 Explore partnerships with private companies to promote sustainable development through better environmental and social practices in key natural resource sectors
3. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps	3.1 Conduct research on six globally threatened species for which there is a need for greatly improved information on their status and distribution
	3.2 Develop, implement and monitor species recovery plans for species most at risk, where their status and distribution are known
	3.3 Introduce science-based harvest management of priority species important to local food security
4. Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships	4.1 Strengthen the capacity of local and national civil society organizations in financial management, project management and organizational governance
	4.2 Provide core support for the development of civil society organizations into national and regional conservation leaders
	4.3 Strengthen civil society capacity in conservation management, science and leadership through short-term training courses at domestic academic institutions
5. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a Regional Implementation Team	5.1 Operationalize and coordinate CEPF's grant-making processes and procedures to ensure effective implementation of the investment strategy throughout the hotspot
	5.2 Build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and political boundaries towards achieving the shared conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile

Annex 2. Progress towards Targets in the EMI Logical Framework (2013 – 2018)

The logical framework below summarizes achievement of all CEPF grants that have been formally closed as of December 2018. Achievements of grants currently in implementation are not included in this annex.

Objective	Indicator and Target	Progress to date
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	6 KBAs totaling 131,442 under improved management and protection based on the following results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 117,180 hectares in Cape St George, Mount Maetambe-Kolombangara River, Gaua, Santo Mountain Chain, Tongoa-Laika have strengthened management • 4 new protected areas totaling 14,262 hectares in 3 new KBAs: Kait Community Conservation Area (CCA), Cape St George, PNG; Tabuwamasana CCA, Santo Mountain Chain, Vanuatu; Gaua - Custom Marine Tabu area in Lagona Bay, and Gaua Lake Letas Community Conservation Area, Gaua, Vanuatu
	At least 100,000 hectares within production landscapes are managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use.	Ongoing grants with impacts pursued in tourism development, carbon credits
	At least 5 local land-use or development plans influenced to accommodate biodiversity	3 land-use plans in Cape St George, Ghizo and Kolombangara help to influence development planning for conservation
	48 globally threatened species have improved conservation status and/or available information on status and distribution	23 species with improved conservation status and/or data on status and distribution These include 2 bats that have seen an improvement in their Red List assessment status: <i>Pteralopex taki</i> from EN to VU; and <i>Pteropus cognatus</i> , EN to VU
	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	5 grantee projects specifically creating new networks or partnerships
	At least 40 civil society organizations, including at least 30 domestic organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.	54 civil society groups actively engaged in implementing priorities in the ecosystem profile, of which 32 are domestic organizations.

Intermediate Outcome	Intermediate Indicators and Targets	Progress to date
<p>1. Local communities empowered to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under served by current conservation efforts.</p>	<p>Baseline surveys completed for at least 10 priority sites</p>	<p>13 KBAs have baseline surveys completed in Manus, Mussau, Baining Mountains, Mt Balbi-Kunua Plains, Mt Maetambe – Kolombangara River, Kolombangara, Marovo (Gatokae and Vanguna), Nendö, Vanikoro Aneityum, Gaua, Green Hill – Tanna, Santo Mountain Chain</p>
	<p>Awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised among local communities within at least 10 priority sites</p>	<p>8 KBAs with 20 communities with improved awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised in Manus, Mussau, Nendö, Marovo, Mt Maetambe-Kolombangara River, Green Hill –Tanna, Santo Mountain Chain, Gaua</p>
	<p>Threat levels to at least 15 priority sites reduced through locally relevant conservation actions implemented by local communities</p>	<p>Ongoing grants seek to reduce threats in 10 priority KBAs</p>
	<p>Conservation incentives (ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services, conservation agreements, etc.) demonstrated for at least 5 priority sites</p>	<p>3 conservation incentives schemes in implementation for communities in Gaua, Santo Mountain Chain, Mt Maetambe-Kolombangara River</p>
	<p>At least 75 percent of local communities targeted by site-based projects show tangible wellbeing benefits</p>	<p>Ongoing grants seek tangible benefits to communities through ecotourism benefits, improved land tenure, increased benefits, food security, disaster reduction.</p>
<p>2. Biodiversity conservation integrated into local land-use and development planning.</p>	<p>Ownership and tenure rights within customary lands mapped for at least 5 priority sites</p>	<p>3 priority sites have customary lands mapped: Cape St George; Mount Maetambe and Kolombangara River; and Mt Balbi and Kunua Plains</p>
	<p>At least 10 communities affected by incompatible development projects provided with legal training and support</p>	<p>Communities in 6 sites have participated in legal training, in the Arnavon Islands, Baining Mountains, Central Manus, Nendo, Vanikoro and Marovo</p>
	<p>At least 3 partnerships catalyzed between civil society organizations and natural resource companies to promote sustainable development through better environmental and social practices</p>	<p>No results achieved to date to establish partnerships with natural resources companies to promote sustainable development</p>
	<p>Biodiversity and ecosystem service values of at least 5 priority sites integrated into local land-use and/or development plans and policies</p>	<p>Biodiversity and ecosystem service values integrated into local land-use and/or development plans and policies at 3 priority sites: Cape Saint George; Ghizo; and Kolombangara</p>

Intermediate Outcome	Intermediate Indicators and Targets	Progress to date
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	Improved knowledge of status and distribution of 6 priority species
	Species recovery plans developed, implemented, and monitored for at least 20 priority species	6 species recovery plans have been developed and are starting implementation.
	Science-based harvest management introduced for at least 3 priority species important to local food security	Science-based harvest management plans have been introduced for 2 priority species: Vanuatu megapode and green turtle
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	6 civil society networks have been established and/or strengthened to enable collective responses to priority and emerging threats
	At least 20 domestic civil society organizations demonstrate improvements in organizational capacity	18 domestic civil society groups demonstrate improvements in their organizational capacity, comprising 4 in PNG, 10 in the Solomon Islands and 4 in Vanuatu
	At least two civil society organizations emerge as national conservation leaders in each hotspot country	2 local civil society groups (VESS and Live and Learn – Vanuatu) have emerged as national conservation leaders, and several more continue to advance toward leading national-level positions
	At least 30 conservationists demonstrate strengthened capacity in conservation management, science and leadership	5 projects support domestic training, increasing the capacity of more than 30 conservationists.
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	54 CSOs are actively involved in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile as a grantee, of which 32 are domestic organizations
	At least 80 percent of domestic civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions	56 percent (18 of 32 CSOs) have demonstrated measurable improvements to design and implement conservation actions
	At least 20 civil society organizations supported by CEPF secure follow-up funding from conservation trust funds and/or the GEF Small Grants Programme	10 CSOs supported by CEPF have secured follow-up funding from conservation trust funds and/or the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme
	At least 2 participatory assessments are undertaken, and lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot are documented	1 participatory mid-term assessment was held in December 2018

Annex 3. List of CEPF Grants (2013 – 2018)

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
American Museum of Natural History	Advancing a Conservation Strategy for the Uplands of Guadalcanal	Solomon Islands	Transform the customary landholder engagement process for the Tina River hydropower development project into a framework for protected area design for the Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal Watersheds Key Biodiversity Area, integrating results from parallel biodiversity surveys. Assess benefit-sharing opportunities for local communities using the conservation agreement feasibility assessment process, and strengthen customary landholder capacity to leverage the project for local community and biodiversity benefits.	5/1/2014	9/30/2015	77,000	EMI-SD1
Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association	Training for Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association to Ratify Protected Areas Act 2010 in the Arnavons	Solomon Islands	Develop a simplified version of the Protected Areas Act 2010 as a resource for legal training and support to communities in the Arnavon Islands for effective enforcement of environmental protection regulations. Lessons will be shared as tools for replication by other relevant community groups in the Solomon Islands.	4/1/2016	4/30/2017	19,913	EMI-SD2
Association Economics for Coral Reef Ecosystems - Bluefinance	Financial Sustainability for the TasiVanua Protected Areas Network	Vanuatu	Strengthen the financial and institutional structure of NETEN (a local network of community-based environment committees in Tasi Vanua) in North Efate, Vanuatu. Assist the registration of NETEN under the charitable trust act of Vanuatu and support the development of a business plan to explore long-term network partnerships to achieve sustainable financing.	4/1/2016	7/31/2017	19,366	EMI-SD4
Auckland UniServices Ltd.	Raising Awareness of Biodiversity Values and the Nature of Invasive Alien Species as a Threat to Priority Species in the East Melanesian Islands	Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Review and compile data and information on the impacts of invasive alien species on priority species and sites in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea; and collect narratives and links to management information including best practices and lessons learned. The resulting resource is expected to assist decision-makers and practitioners in setting priorities for managing invasive species in each of the three countries.	4/1/2014	9/30/2014	18,938	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Bat Conservation International	Bats of Bougainville: Completing the Free, Prior and Informed Consent Process Prior to Initiating a Bat Conservation and Development Program	Papua New Guinea	Lay the foundation for a long-term, locally driven and culturally sensitive effort of bat conservation by completing the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process with the indigenous landowners who control the roosting and habitat areas for the greater monkey-faced bat (<i>Pteralopex flanneryi</i>) and the Bougainville monkey-faced bat (<i>Pteralopex anceps</i>), two species threatened by bushmeat hunting and agricultural land conversion. Neither of these species has been recorded on Bougainville, an autonomous region in Papua New Guinea, since 1968, but hope remains that targeted survey efforts will discover extant colonies, roost sites and foraging areas.	10/1/2014	9/30/2015	15,000	EMI-SD1
Bat Conservation International	Establishing a Management Plan with the Rotokas People for the Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi Key Biodiversity Area, Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Support the Rotokas people of Bougainville Island to develop a management plan that identifies significant threats to biodiversity within Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi Key Biodiversity Area and formulates priority conservation actions for stakeholders to implement. Enhance the breadth and depth of the skills and capacity of the Rotokas people to effectively conserve the site and provide quality low-impact ecotourism.	7/1/2016	12/31/2018	83,097	EMI-SD1
BirdLife International	Beck's Petrel: Discovering Colonies as the Key to its Conservation	Papua New Guinea	Guide future conservation action for Beck's petrel (<i>Pseudobulwerie becki</i>) by addressing critical knowledge gaps. Identify concentrations of Beck's petrel in New Ireland, Papua New Guinea, on land and at sea, through local consultation and search efforts. Test capture techniques for Beck's petrel at sea that allow deployment of satellite tags. Narrow the search area for Beck's petrel breeding colonies through satellite tracking. Strengthen cooperation among stakeholders for continuing conservation efforts via a Beck's petrel task force.	2/1/2016	12/31/2017	113,720	EMI-SD3
BirdLife International	Exploring the Removal of Threats on East Rennell as a Local Response to a World Heritage Area in Danger	Solomon Islands	Determine the feasibility of managing (including eradicating) invasive alien rats on East Rennell in Solomon Islands, protecting sensitive species and habitats including the World Heritage Area (WHA). The project will establish a baseline among key biological indicators as a means of tracking the condition of the WHA. It will also, identify mechanisms for preventing future harmful invasive alien species introductions to East Rennell.	5/1/2018	4/30/2019	19,964	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
BirdLife International	Investing for the Environment: Building Civil Society Capacity to Drive Conservation Success in the East Melanesian Islands	Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Strengthen the capacity of Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network and Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership as national conservation champions, delivering effective conservation action through focused and targeted action plans. Develop and strengthen networks of local civil society organizations in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands that are well positioned to take conservation action for priority sites alongside the national champions.	4/1/2014	9/30/2016	150,459	EMI-SD4
BirdLife International	Management Planning and Assessment for Three Key Biodiversity Areas in Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Initiate and improve the conservation status of the KBAs of Ambrym, Mount Tukumera, and Tongoa — Laika in Vanuatu by supporting community-based conservation actions to safeguard the Collared Petrel and Vanuatu Megapode, while also promoting income generation and food security. The project calls for increasing community and local civil society capacity and awareness for conservation, preparation and implementation of sustainable harvesting plans, identification for ecotourism opportunities, and feasibility assessment of long-term site-based conservation measures.	7/1/2018	12/31/2021	171,197	EMI-SD1
BirdLife International	Preparing and Implementing a Management Plan for Megapodes on Tongoa, Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Assist the Kurumambe community at Tongoa/Laika Key Biodiversity Area with establishing a resource management system for sustainable wild harvest of Vanuatu megapode eggs that is based on traditional ecological knowledge and is informed by an improved understanding of the ecology and population dynamics of the species. Establish and empower a local civil society organization focused on delivering environmental benefits for the community.	6/1/2016	6/30/2018	78,750	EMI-SD3
Bishop Museum	Baining Mountains Biological Survey	Papua New Guinea	Improve knowledge of floral and faunal diversity in the Baining Mountains on the island of New Britain in Papua New Guinea through a biodiversity survey expedition. Results and findings will inform the development of an action plan for conservation of the threatened species found in this Key Biodiversity Area. Local experts will also be involved, and the knowledge and skills gained will help to strengthen their capacity.	2/1/2016	2/28/2017	19,976	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc.	Scoping Legal Training needs in Priority Sites to Promote the Establishment of Protected Areas - Baining Mountains and Central Manus	Papua New Guinea	Identify legal issues and conservation needs of communities within the Baining Mountain and Central Manus priority sites. Findings through community consultations will help shape future interventions through legal training to ensure that communities understand their rights within the national legal frameworks. The project will help communities in the priority sites establish protected areas and develop simplified guidelines for effective protected area management.	10/1/2016	4/30/2017	12,406	EMI-SD2
Eco-Lifelihood Development Association Inc	Community-based management of threats to wetland biodiversity at Lake Letas, Gaua Island, Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Develop a community-based management plan for Lake Letas on Gaua Island in Vanuatu through community consultations to identify and address threats to wetland biodiversity. Lake Letas is the largest freshwater lake in the Pacific Islands region outside of Papua New Guinea. Key outcomes from this project will help the Vanuatu government and its stakeholders formulate a proposed Ramsar-designation of Lake Letas. Collaborate with other CEPF grantees working in the area toward a concerted effort to address threats and conserve biodiversity.	5/1/2016	5/31/2017	19,950	EMI-SD1
Ecological Solutions, Solomon Islands	Strengthening Protection and Improving Food Security in the Mount Maetambe – Kolombangara River Key Biodiversity Area in the Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Complete land registration and support community capacity building to achieve legal protection of Mount Maetambe-Kolombangara River Key Biodiversity Area on Choiseul Island. Support the delineation of the new protected area, community-awareness building, the establishment and training of executive committee and protected areas staff, and the establishment of demonstration aquaculture-agriculture farming system to support alternative sources of food security and livelihoods.	10/1/2017	9/30/2019	55,347	EMI-SD1
Ecological Solutions, Solomon Islands	Baseline Biodiversity Inventory of Mt. Maetambe-Kolombangara River Corridor	Solomon Islands	Strengthen the customary rights of traditional landowners over Mount Maetambe-Kolombangara River Key Biodiversity Area on Choiseul Island, part of the nation of Solomon Islands, by undertaking a comprehensive biodiversity and socioeconomic survey, raising awareness of the beauty and uniqueness of the area's flora and fauna among local communities and the wider public, and promoting recognition of the site by the Solomon Islands government under the 2010 Protected Areas Act.	6/1/2014	6/30/2015	72,700	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Ecological Solutions, Solomon Islands	Mapping Customary Lands from Mount Maetambe to Kolobangara River	Solomon Islands	Establish a solid foundation for long-term, community-owned conservation initiatives for Mount Maetambe to Kolobangara River Key Biodiversity Area on the Solomon Islands' Choiseul Island by mapping customary ownership of land by local tribes, supporting customary land owners to develop a comprehensive land-use plan that enshrines the cultural and biological values of the area, and assisting customary landowners to form and register tribal associations responsible for natural resource governance.	3/1/2015	3/31/2017	135,835	EMI-SD2
Ecological Solutions, Solomon Islands	Convene the Solomon Islands Species Forum at the Solomon Islands National Symposium	Solomon Islands	Enable the convening of a species forum at the Solomon Islands National Symposium, including local and international scientists who have carried out species-specific conservation work in Solomon Islands, to share information and explore opportunities for future work. Participants will explore how concerted efforts can be taken by stakeholders to achieve conservation outcomes for biodiversity. The project will encourage the emergence of a new generation of local and international experts who, through this forum, can share information about opportunities through which future work can be supported.	9/1/2017	3/31/2018	19,742	EMI-SD4
Edenhope Foundation	Strengthen Local Conservation Networks to Respond to Threats within the Santo Mountain Chain.	Vanuatu	Encourage the emergence of local networks within the Santo Mountain Chain in Vanuatu's Santo province to address emerging conservation threats. This grant will convene and facilitate groups to realize current lessons and achievements to encourage conservation actions and best practices, implement national biodiversity and conservation policies and help formulate and deliver sustainable biodiversity management and conservation support to communities especially in West Coast Santo. New networks that emerge through this project will be empowered to share experiences with other networks and rally community-based action to address conservation threats.	4/1/2017	4/30/2018	18,973	EMI-SD1
Environmental Defenders Office Limited	Legal Capacity Building for Environmental Protection in the East Melanesian Islands	Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Support key civil society organizations working in the area of public interest environmental law in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to develop and implement effective financial management, project management and organizational governance systems, and thereby empower local communities to use legal tools to protect the environment.	7/1/2014	12/31/2018	105,279	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
FORCERT - Forests for Certain: Forests for Life!	Community Conservation through Sustainable Land Use for the Cape Saint George area, Papua New Guinea.	Papua New Guinea	Establish a basis for long-term, community-owned conservation by carrying out sustainable land use planning with three communities in Cape St. George. This process is envisaged to ensure that communities are aware of their rights in relation to land and natural resources, better understand how they can assist with effective enforcement of environmental protection regulations, understand changes happening in and around their community and its impacts on sustainable resource management, and empower communities to better manage their resources.	8/1/2017	8/31/2018	17,077	EMI-SD2
French Ichthyological Society	Filling Gaps and Improving Knowledge of Freshwater Fauna: A Way Forward for Improving Management of the Solomon and Vanuatu Islands' Rivers	Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Increase understanding and awareness of freshwater biodiversity in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands as a foundation for local conservation action by inventorying freshwater fishes and crustaceans at seven priority sites; placing the results in the public domain via technical reports, scientific papers and newspaper articles; strengthening capacity of local technical staff; and engaging communities in a respectful and traditional way.	5/1/2014	10/31/2016	49,701	EMI-SD1
Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporation	Enhancing alternative livelihoods through bee keeping in the Kolombangara Island priority KBA, Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Foster beekeeping as an alternative livelihood to destructive development activities such as logging and mining.	8/1/2018	8/30/2019	14,031	EMI-SD1
International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management	Building Coalitions in Solomon Islands to Enhance Resource Management and Sustainable Development	Solomon Islands	Build a coalition of diverse stakeholders—including civil society, research agencies, government agencies and private sector actors—to advance natural resource management, conservation and development objectives in the Solomon Islands' Western Province. Integrate conservation objectives for marine and terrestrial ecosystems into the provincial development strategy, develop mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the coalition, and share key lessons with stakeholders.	6/1/2016	5/31/2018	121,157	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the East Melanesia Islands-Administrative	Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for this region. Major functions include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing and replicating successful conservation activities; reviewing all grant applications; and awarding small grants.	7/1/2013	7/31/2021	584,726	EMI-SD5
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the East Melanesia Islands-Programmatic	Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for this region. Major functions include coordinating and communicating CEPF's investment in the region; assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing and replicating successful conservation activities; and building the capacity of civil society organizations.	7/1/2013	12/31/2021	915,152	EMI-SD5
Island Reach Committee Inc.	Promoting gender equity for conservation initiatives through catalyzing a women's environmental network across CEPF priority sites.	Vanuatu	Setup an umbrella network for women environmentalists and conservationists across priority sites in Vanuatu. This is a move to promote gender equity for conservation initiatives in a mainly male dominated field. Through this network, Island Reach and its partners hope to encourage more women to participate in activities that help to address environment issues and achieve conservation outcomes.	4/1/2017	4/30/2018	19,849	EMI-SD4
James Cook University	Building the capacity of Kwaio communities to strengthen Indigenous Knowledge and Conservation Management	Solomon Islands	Strengthen capacity for Kwaio leaders in villages surrounding the Kwainaa`isi Cultural Centre to deliver conservation and biodiversity projects that emphasize Kwaio traditional knowledge, customary stewardship and project and financial management skills developed through a previous small grant. The project encourages community members to expand on the number of plants whose medicinal and traditional uses are documented through video recordings to ensure that local knowledge is kept alive for current and future generations. A Kwaio community association will be setup and formalized to take on future work and engagement. This will place the Kwaio community at the forefront of conserving their natural resources.	1/1/2017	3/31/2018	19,910	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
James Cook University	Traditional Knowledge, Customary Stewardship and Strengthening Practical Approaches to Conservation Management Projects in Kwaio	Solomon Islands	Support the Kwaio people in the Solomon Islands through an action-based 'learn by doing' approach targeted at traditional leaders and community representatives to develop project and financial management and governance structures for a medicinal plant and bush foods project, ultimately preserving traditional ecological knowledge and strengthening conservation skills of the Kwaio.	7/1/2014	6/30/2015	19,985	EMI-SD4
Kahua Association Trust Board Inc	Strengthening the Governance and Capacity of Kahua Association for Biodiversity Conservation	Solomon Islands	Strengthen the capacity of Kahua Association in the areas of financial management, project management and organizational governance to ensure its emergence as a conservation leader in Makira-Ulawa province, Solomon Islands. Work in partnership with the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership to implement this project.	6/1/2016	6/30/2017	18,061	EMI-SD4
Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association	Building the Capacity of the Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association: Strengthening Landholder Capacity and Conservation	Solomon Islands	Build the Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association's (KIBCA) local leadership and financial capacity, improve communications and governance, and establish monitoring protocols to better steward the management and conservation of Kolombangara Island in the Solomon Islands. The KIBCA has partnered with specialists from the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) and the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), who will deliver training that will strengthen KIBCA's capacity to manage current conservation activities on Kolombangara.	4/1/2014	4/30/2015	19,988	EMI-SD4
Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd.	Training in Cost-Benefit Analysis for Managing Invasive Alien Species	Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Provide the fundamental skills necessary to undertake a cost-benefit analysis for managing invasive alien species in the East Melanesian Islands biodiversity hotspot. Conservation professionals within the hotspot will learn and practice the tools necessary during a three-day training course for successfully safeguarding priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps, and successfully integrating biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning.	7/1/2015	6/30/2016	19,988	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Live & Learn Solomon Islands	Strengthening Governance and Management Needs of Communities in East Rennell	Solomon Islands	Strengthen the capacity of two non-governmental organizations in the Solomon Islands, Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association and East Rennell Council of Chiefs, to conserve East Rennell Key Biodiversity Area. Ensure these groups have a clear mandate from community members and an enhanced profile and influence with national-level stakeholders. And assist in building community consensus around an application for protected area status for Lake Tegano World Heritage Site.	4/1/2014	3/31/2016	35,089	EMI-SD4
Live & Learn Vanuatu	Education for Action: Empowering Local Communities for Biodiversity Conservation at CEPF Priority Sites in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu	Solomon Islands; Vanuatu	Strengthen local stewardship of biodiversity at East Rennell, Gaua, Santo Mountain Chain and Tongoa-Laika key biodiversity areas by increasing local communities' consideration of biodiversity values in their decision-making about land use, livelihoods and future developments; motivating them to address conservation issues identified through the education program; and strengthening the capacity of local educators to implement conservation education by training trainers.	5/1/2014	10/31/2015	99,718	EMI-SD1
Live & Learn Vanuatu	Scoping the Potential for Payments for Ecosystem Services in Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Scope what opportunities exist to use Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) as a long-term financing instrument for biodiversity conservation in CEPF priority sites, namely Gaua and Loru in Vanuatu, and assess the feasibility of future PES projects, including potential PES buyers and suppliers from areas of high biodiversity value.	4/1/2016	10/31/2016	15,903	EMI-SD1
Live & Learn Vanuatu	Strengthening Community Conservation Governance of Mount Tabuwamasana in Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Create a community conservation area in Kerepua of Mount Tabuwamasana in the Santo Mountain Chain KBA. The grant will support a biodiversity assessment, develop a management and land-use plan, establish a management committee, build biodiversity awareness, identify livelihood projects based on conservation, and undertake fundraising for management plan implementation.	7/1/2017	7/31/2018	85,784	EMI-SD1
Live & Learn Vanuatu	Strengthening the Capacity of Vanuatu's Ranger Corp Network for Biodiversity Management and Monitoring	Vanuatu	Build the capacity of 10 community conservation rangers and 25 land management committee members in order to improve management of five community conservation areas (CCAs) in Vanuatu. The project will fund preparation and dissemination of Vanuatu's first national ranger toolkit, field training in the five CCAs, carrying out biodiversity surveys, a gender assessment, establishment of a national ranger network, and fundraising.	6/1/2018	8/31/2019	99,697	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund Ltd	Capacity Building Training for Pokili, Garu and Tavolo Wildlife Management Areas in West and East New Britain Provinces	Papua New Guinea	Build the capacity of resource owners for three wildlife management area committees within East and West New Britain, Papua New Guinea. Training on reporting and proposal writing and basic financial management will enable the committees not only to better implement conservation projects but also to secure funding for future projects through sources other than CEPF.	4/1/2014	4/30/2015	15,426	EMI-SD4
Manus Environment Conservation Communities Network Inc	Empowering MECCN to be a civil society leader on Manus Island, PNG	Papua New Guinea	Strengthen the capacity of Manus Environment Conservation Communities Network (MECCN) in project and financial management. Reorganize the governance structure through a strategic planning meeting to ensure that MECCN as a network becomes better placed and well equipped to support its members in achieving long-term biodiversity conservation objectives for Manus Island.	5/1/2016	8/31/2017	12,471	EMI-SD4
Nakau Programme Ltd	Supporting Innovative Financing for Biodiversity Conservation through Piloting Eco-Certification for Tourism in Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Pilot a sustainable financing scheme for conservation in Vanuatu by working with tour operators on an eco-certification scheme, which involves designing a national eco-certification program with the Department of Tourism. The program aims to create investment in conservation through PES in three key biodiversity areas. It also will create a community conservation area for the Dolav community of Gaua and support a scoping study in Green Hill KBA in Tanna to identify opportunities for conservation actions financed by tourism.	6/1/2017	8/31/2019	169,903	EMI-SD1
Natural Resources Development Foundation	Forest Conservation through Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in protected rainforest areas in the Mt Maetambe to Kolombangara River Corridor, Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Bring approximately 4,500 hectares of rainforest under formal protection in four tribal forests to prevent logging and mining and support sustainable development initiatives. This grant supports the establishment of a payment for ecosystem services scheme under the Nakau Programme and women's saving clubs. Specific deliverables include final land-use and boundary maps; forest monitoring plots; management, business, and benefit sharing plans; legal established of tribal associations and project management capacity building.	7/1/2018	12/31/2021	222,413	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Natural Resources Development Foundation	Forest Conservation Through Payment for Environmental Services (PES) on 3 sites in Choiseul, Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Support local communities at three sites on Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands, to design and implement conservation actions through payment for ecosystem services (PES) as a response to major threats brought on by mining and logging pressures. Communities will be involved in selling verified PES credits as an income source through the Nakau programme. This will help them to further conservation efforts on Choiseul. Whilst the PES is underway, NRDF will introduce alternative livelihood activities such as bee farming (honey) and FSC timber milling to keep communities engaged and encourage self-sufficiency.	4/1/2017	4/30/2018	17,558	EMI-SD1
OceansWatch	Protecting Areas of Significant Biodiversity in the Temotu Province	Solomon Islands	Strengthen the conservation of three tropical forest habitats in the Solomon Islands' Temotu Province and their populations of globally threatened birds and mammals by empowering local communities to conserve the biodiversity of their custodial lands, developing locally owned conservation management plans, increasing incomes and human well-being through sustainable livelihood activities and assisting communities to recover from the effects of Cyclone Pam.	4/1/2015	6/30/2017	142,596	EMI-SD1
OceansWatch	Empowering the People of Temotu to Protect Their Significant Biodiversity	Solomon Islands	Map ecosystems and inventory mammal and bird diversity at Vanikoro and Nendo key biodiversity areas in the Solomon Islands' Temotu Province. Raise awareness of conservation issues and create community conservation committees in three communities to sustainably manage marine and terrestrial resources. Establish a women's sustainable livelihoods cooperative to manage household economy in Vanikoro's Buma Village.	5/1/2014	1/31/2015	66,245	EMI-SD1
OceansWatch	Raising legal awareness in Nendo, Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	This project aims to provide communities with key legal information so that they know their rights with regards to mining that may take place on their land and what actions they may take to legally challenge or prevent such activities.	6/1/2018	10/31/2018	8,988	EMI-SD2
Papua New Guinea Environmental Law Association	Building PELA's Capacity to Empower PNG's Local Communities to protect biodiversity	Papua New Guinea	Build the capacity of the Papua New Guinea Environmental Law Association (PELA) in financial and project management, and strengthen its institutional structure to effectively empower local communities to protect biodiversity. Work through this grant will assist PELA to lay a foundation for future activities.	11/1/2017	11/30/2018	3,642	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research	Institutional Support for Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research for Effective Organizational Administration and Governance	Papua New Guinea	Build the administrative and financial management capacity of the Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research to build donor confidence, attract support from diverse funding sources, and build strong partnerships with relevant stakeholders. Enhance the institute's ability to produce well-trained conservation scientists, conduct research on issues affecting biodiversity loss, and make results available to local communities for wildlife management decisions.	4/1/2014	10/31/2016	96,937	EMI-SD4
Partners With Melanesians Inc.	Derimbat Community Restoration Project	Papua New Guinea	Strengthen the capacity of Derimbat Community Development Foundation Inc. (DCDF) in project management, operational management and proposal writing; and work with DCDF to create awareness of the value and importance of significant biodiversity currently under threat due to human activities in Papua New Guinea. Address these threats by coordinating consultative workshops with local communities, provincial, national and civil society stakeholders to develop conservation plans centered on sustainable livelihoods and sustainable resource management; and identify community champions to lead these conservation plans.	11/1/2014	11/30/2016	8,000	EMI-SD1
Regents of the University of Michigan	Partulid Tree Snails of the Solomon Islands: Endemic Species or Products of Prehistoric Exchange Networks.	Solomon Islands	Undertake baseline surveys of partulid tree snails to assess the diversity in 4 sites in Solomon Islands namely; East Rennell, East Makira, Nendo and Vanikoro. It is believed that Solomon Islands partulid populations are significantly declining over the past 50 years and a formally published corroborated taxonomy is a prerequisite to informed conservation planning. A primary goal of this to ensure that the regional partulid taxonomy is put on a sound footing for the first time by publishing a formal monographic revision which in turn can contribute to full IUCN Red List assessments of all validated taxa.	1/1/2015	12/31/2016	17,294	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Rotokas Ecotourism	Clanship and resource mapping within customary lands of the Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi KBA	Papua New Guinea	Carry out the formal mapping of important biodiversity habitat features and areas, and as allowed by the communities, Sacred Areas, Traditional Use Areas and clanship boundaries in the Rotokas, Keriaka, Torokina and Kunua areas. The final maps will be incorporated into the broader conservation plan that is in development and is projected to come from the combined work of the Rotokas Ecotourism and the University of Queensland teams. The maps will be provided to the community government and chiefs in the Rotokas, Keriaka, Torokina and Kunua areas.	6/1/2018	5/31/2019	7,931	EMI-SD2
SEAWEB	Empowering Local Communities for Natural Resource Management Through Media Development and Communications Training	Papua New Guinea	Work in Central Manus to empower local communities in natural resource management through media development and communications training.	4/1/2014	4/30/2015	19,987	EMI-SD1
Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership	In Search of the Makira Moorhen	Solomon Islands	Ensure the long-term survival of Critically Endangered Makira moorhen (<i>Uromys</i> species) in the Solomon Islands by locating an extant population, assessing threats and managing responses in ways that benefit the species, its habitat and the well-being of local people. Investigate the presence of bush rats and other species endemic to Makira Island, and assess the penetration of invasive species into the upper highlands. Develop strong relationships with civil society on Makira to ensure long-term commitments to conservation goals.	4/1/2015	3/31/2016	36,517	EMI-SD3

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership	Alleviating Pressures on Upland Kolombangara	Solomon Islands	Ensure the long-term sustainability and conservation of Kolombangara's upland forest by developing conservation strategies that intends to sustain customary landholders' use of resources for subsistence from the ridge to the reef. This project will complement the work of the Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA) who's work focuses on terrestrial monitoring activities with significant linkage to the marine monitoring activities to be introduced through this project at the community level. Training will be provided to the rangers of KIBCA to be able to monitor marine, coastal, and terrestrial activities. A community-based monitoring program will be developed in partnership with KIBCA, SICCP and the communities.	4/1/2015	3/31/2016	19,488	EMI-SD4
Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership	Building the Capacity of the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership: Strengthening a Model Component of Community-Driven Conservation in the East Melanesian Islands	Solomon Islands	Support the emergence of the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership as a national conservation leader that gains recognition among national and regional policy-makers by developing improved administrative, financial and communications infrastructure; enhancing capacity to independently raise and manage funds and stewarding relationships with government and regional partners; and strengthening board capacity to govern and steer the strategic vision.	3/1/2014	3/31/2017	122,920	EMI-SD4
Solomon Islands Environmental Lawyers Association	Re-Launching Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association	Solomon Islands	Strengthen access to justice for customary landowners in the Solomon Islands by improving the capacity of professionals to provide services in the area of environmental law through training, information-sharing, advocacy and networking activities. Support the Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association to emerge as a leading national environmental professional network with robust internal governance systems and growing relationships with local communities.	6/1/2015	12/31/2018	56,679	EMI-SD4
Solomon Islands National University	Strengthening Research and Teaching Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in the Solomon Islands National University	Solomon Islands	Build capacity for conservation science and management at Solomon Islands National University through development and sponsorship of three, one-week training workshops. Outcomes include scientific articles, research, new curricula, workbooks, and proposals.	8/1/2017	6/30/2019	34,522	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Solomon Islands Rangers Association Trust Board Inc	Launching SIRA to the Wider Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Support the growth of the Solomon Islands Rangers Association, which promotes professionalism in protecting and managing the natural resources of local communities.	6/1/2016	6/30/2017	7,926	EMI-SD4
Tawatana Community Conservation Development Association	Strengthening the Governance and Project Management Capacity of the Tawatana Community Conservation and Development Association	Solomon Islands	Improve the capacity of Tawatana Community Conservation and Development Association (TCCDA) in the areas of project management and organizational governance through training in financial management and project governance, which will be open to all interested members of the community. Raise awareness of the negative impacts of unsustainable natural resource management and extraction. Provide opportunities for sharing lessons learned where members of other community-based conservation associations can present some of the lessons from their provinces.	4/1/2015	3/31/2016	19,669	EMI-SD4
Tawi-Asi Resource Network	Empowering the People of Pobuma to Design Conservation Actions on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Engage the Pobuma LLG communities of Timoenai, Tawi, Peli and Mbuke in Manus Province, Papua New Guinea. Conduct a series of consultations with stakeholders to design relevant actions to address conservation threats from a rubber estate development located uphill from these communities. Though nothing will stop this development from going ahead, this project will engage technical and legal experts, along with local level government and partners (including representatives from the rubber estate), to map out an action plan that minimizes the impacts on affected communities in Pobuma LLG.	7/1/2016	6/30/2016	5,132	EMI-SD1
Tetepare Descendants' Association	Sharing the Knowledge: Supporting the Tetepare Descendants' Association as a Leader in Peer-to-Peer Learning	Solomon Islands	Enhance the institutional capacity of Tetepare Descendants Association by strengthening local leadership, building financial capacity, and establishing reliable communications between its field station and head office. Develop Tetepare Island as a center of excellence for community-driven conservation and social development initiatives by providing formal training courses and exposure visits for other community-based organizations in the Solomon Islands.	4/1/2014	3/31/2016	44,978	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
The Canal Studio Association	Songs and Stories of Biodiversity	Vanuatu	Promote biodiversity through community awareness campaigns and workshops, and by carrying out baseline surveys on the globally threatened species that exist within the Santo community of Vanuatu. The work will culminate through culturally expressive art, song and dance at an annual festival known as the Lukaotem Gud Santo Festival (LGSF), the second largest music and cultural festival in Vanuatu, and a creative hub for cultural promotion and development. The project will engage a wide range of stakeholders including local communities, and local and provincial government departments.	10/1/2014	10/31/2015	19,788	EMI-SD1
The Kainake Project Inc.	Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of The Kainake Project	Papua New Guinea	Enhance institutional capacity by addressing gaps in governance structures and in the process clarify executive management roles and responsibilities in line with The Kainake Project's (TKP) vision and mission. Develop relevant policies and procedures in the areas of office, finance and project management. Raise awareness while seeking communities' consent on TKP's intent to conserve and better manage the unique biodiversity found in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.	5/1/2016	3/31/2017	14,322	EMI-SD4
The New York Botanical Garden	Plants and People: Baseline Floristic and Ethnobotanical Surveys in Tafea Province, Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Undertake baseline surveys of plant diversity in Vanuatu's Tafea Province, focusing on three priority sites: Aneityum, Futuna and Green Hill. Build local capacity for biodiversity, taxonomic, ethnobiological and ethnomedical research among key government, scientific, cultural and community-based institutions. Widely disseminate the results to inform environmental policy, natural resource management and health care in Tafea Province, Vanuatu and the Pacific.	7/1/2014	12/31/2016	156,849	EMI-SD1
The University of Queensland	Biodiversity Assessment and Awareness Building in the Kunua and Mt Balbi Key Biodiversity Area of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Conduct baseline biological surveys, environmental education and community consultations in the poorly studied Kunua and Mt Balbi Key Biodiversity Area with the aim of building local awareness of local biodiversity values and threats, strengthening management of the site, and establishment of a local conservation organization. Outreach materials include a video and formal reports, with consultation to include local and national government authorities.	7/1/2018	12/31/2021	106,684	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
The University of Queensland	Conservation of threatened and endemic terrestrial mammals of Manus Island, PNG	Papua New Guinea	Address threats to the priority endangered species <i>Melomys matambuai</i> on Manus Island, PNG, through community conservation and local student training. Data from surveys and community consultations will be used to develop a draft species recovery plan for the species.	11/1/2018	12/31/2021	20,000	EMI-SD3
The University of Queensland	Sustainable Management of Ngali Nut Trees and Threatened Flying Foxes in the Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Make information on the local and global cultural significance of threatened monkey-faced bat species available to customary landowners and government agencies to inform conservation of priority Key Biodiversity Areas in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea. Support customary landowners to establish regimes for the managed harvest of Makira flying fox (<i>Pteropus cognatus</i>) and ngali nuts consistent with the long-term persistence of these species.	5/1/2016	6/30/2018	76,550	EMI-SD1
The University of Queensland	Status and Conservation of the Solomon Islands' Most Threatened Endemic Terrestrial Vertebrates	Solomon Islands	Assess the distribution and conservation status of priority mammal and amphibian species at key biodiversity areas on Gatokae, Vangunu, Kolombangara, Makira and Ghizo islands. Formulate draft management plans to conserve confirmed populations and their habitats in collaboration with customary landowners. Prepare a textbook on terrestrial biodiversity of the Solomon Islands and its conservation, plus identification guides to mammals and amphibians.	6/1/2014	2/29/2016	78,549	EMI-SD1
The University of Queensland	The Emperor, the King and the Little Pig: Status of the Lost Rats of Guadalcanal	Solomon Islands	Undertake surveys for three rats (<i>Uromys</i> species) to determine if they still exist in the Solomon Islands. Carry out surveys in selected parts of Guadalcanal where logging and urbanization have impacted lowland forests. If the species are confirmed alive, knowing the location and habitat requirements will allow conservation measures to be devised and instigated.	4/1/2015	6/30/2016	18,272	EMI-SD3
The University of Queensland	Field Training for Solomon Islands' Protected Area Managers and Rangers	Solomon Islands	Strengthen the capacity of conservation area managers and rangers from seven CEPF priority sites in the Solomon Islands through a short training course in conservation management at Solomon Islands National University. Build the alumni into a network of conservation champions for priority sites. Develop standardized methods of biodiversity research and introduce at select CEPF priority sites.	3/1/2015	9/30/2016	98,698	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
The University of the South Pacific	Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of the Guadalcanal Watersheds	Solomon Islands	Improve knowledge of floral and faunal diversity in the Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal Watersheds Key Biodiversity Area through a multi-disciplinary scientific expedition. Use the results to inform conservation planning for the key biodiversity area, and develop an action strategy for conservation of the threatened species found there. Strengthen the capacity of local taxonomic expertise in the Solomon Islands and the Pacific Region in general.	4/1/2014	6/30/2016	149,184	EMI-SD1
University of Miami	Establishing a Protected Area in East Makira Key Biodiversity Area to Conserve Biodiversity, the Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Protect 18,500 hectares in East Makira through the establishment of the Nasuahu, Kereapena and Napuamarawa (NKN) protected area. This project supports significant community consultation and capacity building through four components: community outreach and program implementation; boundary and habitat mapping; biodiversity surveys; and declaration of the new protected area.	6/1/2018	5/31/2020	13,558	EMI-SD1
University of Papua New Guinea	Capacity Building and Training Course for Conservation Management of Giant Clams	Papua New Guinea	Sustain one of the main livelihood sources for the communities of Rambutso Island in Manus Province, Papua New Guinea, through capacity building and training workshops focused on the conservation management of giant clams (<i>Tridacna gigas</i>). Develop the outcomes of the training workshop into an appropriate marine conservation plan that will be integrated into existing resource management processes, promote the enforcement of decisions made, and encourage the sustainable use of giant clam resources and threatened endemic species occurring in the area.	8/1/2014	1/31/2015	19,988	EMI-SD4
University of the South Pacific	Developing Conservation Champions: Community-Based Conservation Management Course	Solomon Islands	Improve the capacity of conservation practitioners to work with local communities to design and implement effective conservation activities through a training course in the management of community-based conservation projects for the sustainable management of natural resources in the East Melanesian Islands.	10/1/2015	6/30/2017	132,038	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network	Enhance the Ability of VEAN to Deliver Effective Conservation Action through the development of a VEAN Strategic Plan.	Vanuatu	Strengthen the Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network's (VEAN) capacity in project management and institutional structure to effectively support its members and effectively deliver conservation action in Vanuatu. Work through this grant will enable VEAN to strengthen its partnership in Tanna.	8/1/2017	8/31/2018	15,998	EMI-SD4
Vanuatu Environmental Law Association Committee Inc.	Build the Capacity of VELA to promote the protection of Vanuatu's environment through Law	Vanuatu	Build the capacity of the Vanuatu Environmental Law Association in financial and project management and strengthen its institutional structure to effectively support the protection of natural resources through law. Work through this grant will enable VELA to lay an important foundation for future work.	10/1/2017	10/31/2018	16,811	EMI-SD4
Vanuatu Environmental Science Society	Conservation of the Endemic Flying Foxes of Torba and Temotu in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands	Vanuatu	Conduct fieldwork on five islands to increase knowledge about three endemic threatened species of bats and to consult with local communities in order to prepare species recovery plans. The project will then help to implement the recovery plans and conduct environmental education in the capital. The project also calls for training at least 10 Vanuatu scientists or students in biodiversity assessment.	6/1/2017	12/31/2021	135,936	EMI-SD3
Vanuatu Environmental Science Society	Strengthening Monitoring, Community Management, and Policies for Dugong Conservation in Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Support dugong and seagrass conservation in Vanuatu by monitoring four areas known for their high abundance of vital habitat and populations. The grant seeks to build community and civil society capacity for dugong and seagrass monitoring and integrating the findings from the monitoring effort into local conservation measures, and into national marine and protected areas planning and policy.	7/1/2017	12/31/2021	92,550	EMI-SD3
Vanuatu Environmental Science Society	Supporting the Vanuatu Environment Science Society in its first year of operation including a project to develop dugong and seagrass educational materials.	Vanuatu	Support the emergence of Vanuatu Environmental Science Society as a credible, accountable local civil society organisation, able to participate in rigorous scientific studies, engage ni-Vanuatu scientists in conservation activities, and inform environmental policy. Strengthen its capacity by establishing internal management systems. Establish a track record of competence by developing educational materials and tools for the conservation of seagrass and dugong.	3/1/2015	2/29/2016	19,976	EMI-SD4

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Vanuatu Environmental Science Society	Building Capacity in Conservation Science and Environmental Education in Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Build the institutional capacity and financial sustainability of one of Vanuatu's newest environmental civil society groups and launch an environmental awareness campaign to build public understanding of the importance of biodiversity and nature conservation for development. In addition, the project will fund a stakeholder exchange.	5/1/2016	6/30/2018	93,225	EMI-SD4
Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Registered Trust Board Inc.	Developing a Management and Recovery Plan for leatherback turtles in Are 'are, Malaita	Solomon Islands	Build on a previous grant by Wai Hau, which collected information on the leatherback turtle and carried out training and monitoring for rangers in Wai Hau. Data and experiences will now feed into and form the basis for a species management plan to be developed and put into use in Wai Hau and southern Malaita.	8/1/2018	8/30/2019	17,963	EMI-SD3
Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Registered Trust Board Inc.	Building Capacity in Monitoring and Management of the Leatherback Turtles in Are 'are	Solomon Islands	Safeguard Vulnerable leatherback turtles (Dermochelys coriacea) in West 'Are'are, Malaita province in the Solomon Islands by addressing threats and information gaps. A series of community consultations will be facilitated by technical experts to inform the development of a turtle monitoring and recovery plan. Nominated individuals or local rangers will be trained in enforcing and monitoring this community developed plan.	7/1/2016	9/30/2017	15,419	EMI-SD3
Wildlife Conservation Society	Saving Sea Turtles on Mussau Island of Papua New Guinea through Improved Marine and Terrestrial Food Security	Papua New Guinea	Promote sustainable management of natural resources on Mussau Island by improving the food security of local communities and reducing human-animal conflict arising from herbivory of edible seaweed by marine turtles. Support the development and registration of a community-based organization capable of independently applying for small grants and implementing practical projects that respond to local conservation and development priorities.	7/1/2016	12/31/2018	250,000	EMI-SD1
Wildlife Conservation Society	Participatory Rural Appraisal and Rapid Biodiversity Assessments of Manus and Mussau Islands	Papua New Guinea	Establish a foundation for long-term land-use planning and sustainable natural resource use in Papua New Guinea's Central Manus and Mussau Island key biodiversity areas by undertaking baseline biodiversity assessments, participatory rural appraisal and quantitative spatial mapping. Raise local communities' awareness about the degree of control they have over their environment, threats affecting their resources and the tools they have to ameliorate those threats.	5/1/2014	6/30/2015	170,130	EMI-SD1

Grantee Name	Project Title	Country	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount (USD)	Strategic Direction
Wildlife Conservation Society	Protecting the Upland Forests of Kolombangara in Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Bring at least 6,500 hectares of primary forest under customary tenure within the Kolombangara Upland Forest Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) under formal protection and provide long-term incentives for sustainable development. Specific components including building financial management capacity of local partner KIBCA; conduct consultations and technical and legal studies for formalizing KBA protection; management planning and local capacity development; gender analysis and strengthening; and ecotourism planning.	6/1/2018	12/31/2021	216,322	EMI-SD1
World Wide Fund for Nature, Solomon Islands	Adopting a Ridges to Reef Planning Framework on the islands of Ghizo and Kolombangara in the Solomon Islands (Phase 2)	Solomon Islands	Build on the results achieved in a previous CEPF grant by laying the foundation for Ridges to Reef conservation plans and implementation for the islands of Ghizo and Kolombangara. Outputs will include maps developed through participatory processes for natural resource management to assist the Western Province government and civil society groups in developing implementable conservation plans.	7/1/2016	3/31/2018	104,617	EMI-SD1
Worldwide Fund for Nature, Solomon Islands	Western Province Ridge-to-Reef: Integrated Planning for Natural Resources, Communities and Biodiversity	Solomon Islands	Develop an action plan and identify and generate the datasets required for a ridge-to-reef planning process for the Solomon Islands' Ghizo and Kolombangara islands, as a basis for balanced decision-making regarding the use of natural resources. Build support for the process among local communities and civil society groups. Strengthen capacity of Western Province government staff to undertake ridge-to-reef planning on other islands.	5/1/2014	6/30/2015	42,653	EMI-SD1
Worldwide Fund for Nature	Organization and Management of the Papua New Guinea Grantee Exchange	Papua New Guinea	Organize and manage logistics for the Papua New Guinea Grantee Exchange scheduled for October 2016. The exchange will bring together all grantees implementing projects in country to share highlights, challenges, experiences, lessons learned and assess gaps in the investment portfolio that need addressing. It will provide the platform for new partnerships to emerge and the opportunity to learn funds available through other donors. Outcomes of the exchange will determine the priority areas for PNG and regionally focused Call for Proposals.	10/1/2016	12/31/2016	17,987	EMI-SD4

Annex 4. Photos from the Mid-Term Assessment Workshop, December 2018, Solomon Islands National University, Solomon Islands.







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