



CEPF Small Grants - Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name	<i>Ecological Solutions – Solomon Islands</i>
Project Title	<i>Convening of a Species Forum at the Solomon Islands National Symposium</i>
Grant Number	<i>GA17-06</i>
Date of Report	<i>30 July 2018</i>

CEPF Hotspot: East Melanesian Islands

Strategic Direction: 3

Grant Amount: \$19,778USD

Project Dates: September 2017-June 2018

PART I: Overview

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) – venue, and host of the Solomon Islands Species Forum.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) – Funded some of the participants who attended the inaugural National Resource Management Symposium

Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) – a leading national conservation organization with the largest network of protected area sites, and a Secretariat for conservation CBOs across the archipelago. SICCP assisted with logistics and with funding participants to the inaugural National Resource Management Symposium.

University of Queensland (UQ) – who has engaged in the Solomon Islands and regionally for more than 13 years, in that time producing technical, educational, and scientific material for both communities, and scientific communities. UQ presenters included Dr Diana Fisher, and graduates, Dr John Fasi and Edmond Bate'e.

World Fish Centre (WFC) – who are key partners in Community Based Resource Management

efforts in the country. Assisted with the logistics and running of the forum, and presented at forum.

International Union of Conservation for Nature Oceania (IUCN Oceania) – assisted with funding, planning, and facilitating the forum.

2. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

The species forum proceeded successfully. The Forum was held alongside the inaugural National Resource Management Symposium, in order to ensure maximum participation and interest due to participants attending both events. The following outcomes were achieved:

- Bringing together of conservation practitioners, scientists, universities, and local and international organizations to discuss the status of species in the Solomon archipelago, and the myriad of ways species are threatened due to human activities.
- Updates on the various species conservation related projects in the country. For example, OceansWatch in Temotu, Wai-Hau and The Kwainaa’isi Cultural Centre in Malaita, and other more scientific research collaborations such as species surveys – e.g. Freshwater Fish surveys - throughout the Solomon Islands.
- A presentation on seagrass and dugong studies through a collaborative research effort by the department of Environment and Conservation, World Fish and SICCP.
- A presentation on economic valuable of the marine species such as sea cucumber and tuna by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- Updates by Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology on associated regulations and by-laws related to species management and conservation.
- Publication of the Special Edition of Melanesian Geo, focusing on abstracts presented at the Species Forum
- Holding of a Species Photo Competition – Celebrating the Wildlife of Solomon Islands.
- Publication of a Natural History Calendar for 2018 including photo contest winners.
- Winners of the photo competition were announced at an evening function at the Species Forum, where organizations and individuals were recognized for their achievements in conservation over the last 20 years – “Conservation Heroes”.

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned impact (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each impact from your proposal

a. Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The information from this conference can be useful for evaluation of species population across the EMI.	Information from the conference and species forum was summarized in a ‘Proceedings of the 1st Solomon Islands resource management symposium: A decade of learning’ and ‘Melanesian Geo: Special Species Forum Issue’.
The information from the conference can also provide information for the	The collating of articles in ‘Melanesian Geo’ are general, however they highlight the high diversity of

Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020.	the archipelago. Extracts from the document may be useful for the framework of Protected Areas.
At the local scale the conference outcome will contribute directly to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	The collating of articles in 'Melanesian Geo' are general, however they highlight the high diversity of the archipelago. Extracts from the document may be useful for the NBSAP.
At the global scale the conference outcome will provide information toward Archi Biodiversity targets.	Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society and in order to reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. Information can be shared with government and practitioners in order to: -Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. -Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. -Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. Knowledge sharing and exchange was achieved during the species forum and through the MelGeo publication.

b. Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Raised awareness of species through media.	This was achieved through newspapers and organizations present at the forum.
Created partnerships with important organizations locally and internationally	This was achieved through discussions amongst participants, resulting in informal and formal arrangements.
Created output in terms of publications to be distributed in the country.	The Species Species Edition of Melanesian Geo was published and will be widely distributed online as well as the hard copies.

4. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impacts

- Communication. Communicating with the organizing committee, organizing meetings, formulating an agenda and disseminating the content to partners worked well.
- Collaborating with partners. Partners worked well together. However, ensuring that the information from the conference is disseminated to all partners and attendees is important and establishing a systematic circulation plan for information is necessary. This should include establishing compatible linkages with the Ministry of Environment

and Fisheries through a more formal and robust system whereby information is easily accessible and channeled to policy makers.

- Funding. Due to limited funds, not everyone working on species conservation could attend – while this is inevitable, in the future it would be good to have more funds to bring some local CBOs that are working on species conservation to attend the species forum.

5. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Overwhelming support and interest shown by participants.	The forum could have gone over two days to cater for more presentations, discussions and input into policy outcomes.
Reached more participants than expected.	It would have been good to have involved more students and new graduates.
Good engagement between all parties involved.	If the forum had been longer, and the number of participants greater, more people could have been engaged and learned from.
Recognition of species heroes. This should be a regular event.	It would be good to ensure that participants continue to engage with each other, especially with information, sharing expertise. Perhaps through the PIRT Species Group.

Products/Deliverables

6. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Solomon Island Natural History Calendar 2018. The production of the ESSI Natural History calendar was made possible from the species photos submitted from the species photo competition.

Melanesian Geo Special Species Forum Issue. The publication of this magazine has been out of print for a decade. This forum has reignited the magazine, and we are optimistic that it will become a regular periodical again, providing information to both local and international readers.

Lessons Learned

7. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

<i>Project Design Process</i>	<i>Project Implementation</i>	<i>Lessons learnt</i>
The need to have regular communication and input from stakeholders and partners.	Delegating responsibility of facilitating forum. Ensure that the forum lasts for at least 2 days in order to give more time for questions. It would have been good to have a panel and have questions directed at each expert.	Good to have the species forum as a regular event.
A technical team to ensure that the project and it's expected outcomes are applicable and have long term impacts through policy outcomes.	It would have been good to have a session on donors and next steps in terms of working through protected areas ideas – e.g. Learning from the lessons of Arnavons and Sibere community on Choiseul. In other words, looking not just at species work, but what information and data can be used for in terms of conservation action on the ground.	Would have been good to involve the higher echelon of government. The Permanent Secretaries and Government Ministers of Environment, Fisheries, Education and Tourism.

Sustainability / Replication

8. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The challenges are in keeping the connection with the species expertise and local community based organizations. The species expertise usually have a busy schedule, therefore, at times it is difficult to get hold of them. The local CBOs are remotely located in communities or villages where modern communication is inaccessible.

The Species Forum is a great idea that we must encourage to take place regularly, at least every two years, to bring together species expertise, community based organizations who are working on species conservation and government officials who are implementing species conservation and policy developers.

The greatest challenge with the information presented at such a forum is the political will from the national government to support scientific research and scientific fora that will contribute to the species conservation and development of relevant policies to protect the unique species of Solomon Islands.

The Species Forum was held to coincide with the inaugural National Symposium that brought together local practitioners from communities throughout the country, local and international scientists, research institutions, universities, local and international Environmental NGOs and local and national government officials. The funding for this meeting was made possible through the small grant of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

Safeguards

9. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, please summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.

n/a

Additional Funding

10. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

a. Total additional funding (US\$)

n/a

b. Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

n/a

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)

Additional Comments/Recommendations

11. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

- We definitely encourage CEPF to fund another species forum in 2019 or 2020.
- Would suggest having the species forum for at least two days. One for presentations and learning from different CBOs and the second day for species research planning or species conservation planning and policy directions. It might also be good to have more participants from the region, so that the Forum is not just focused on Solomon Islands species.
- CEPF to continue funding support for species researches on threatened species.

Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

CEPF requires that each grantee report on impacts at the end of the project. The purpose of this report is to collect data that will contribute to CEPF’s portfolio and global indicators. CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. CEPF’s aggregated results will be reported on in our annual report and other communications materials.

- This project engaged many community based organizations, local and international scientists, local and international non-government organization, tertiary educational institution, research institution and the provincial and national government leaders.
- The actual species forum day reached an attendance of almost four hundred participants from community based organizations, local and international scientists, local and international non-government organization, tertiary educational institution, research institutions and the provincial and national government leaders.
- The 2018 Solomon Islands Natural History Calendar will reach another two thousand people at home, schools and offices.
- The printed Melanesian Geo magazine will reach at least 1000 to 1500 people in hard copy, and many more through the e-copy.
- The meetings, presentations, discussions, photos and articles are all promoting species conservation in the Solomon Islands.

Ensure that the information provided relates to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

12. If CEPF assigned one or more Portfolio Indicators to your project during the full proposal preparation phase, please list these below and report on the project’s contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Narrative

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators (sections 16 to 23 below) that relate to your project.

13. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Please report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, as a result of CEPF investment. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled “protected areas” (section 17 below), and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the “protected areas” indicator.

Name of KBA	# of Hectares with strengthened management *	Is the KBA Not protected, Partially protected or Fully protected? Please select one: NP/PP/FP

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.*

14. Protected Areas

15a. Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of CEPF investment.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	# of Hectares	Year of legal declaration or expansion	Longitude**	Latitude**

** If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.*

*** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).*

15b. Protected area management

If you have been requested to submit a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), please follow the instructions below. If you have not been requested to submit a METT, please go directly to section 16.

Should you want to know more about the monitoring of protected area management effectiveness and the tracking tool, please click [here](#).

Download the METT template which can be found on [this page](#) and then work with the protected area authorities to fill it out. Please go to the Protected Planet website [here](#) and search for your protected area in their database to record its associated WDPA ID. Then please fill in the following table:

WDPA ID	PA Official Name	Date of METT*	METT Total Score

** Please indicate when the METT was filled by the authorities of the park or provide a best estimate if the exact date is unknown. And please only provide METTs less than 12 months old.*

Please do not forget to submit the completed METT together with this report.

15. Production landscape

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of CEPF investment. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs. Production landscapes may include KBAs, and therefore hectares counted under the indicator entitled “KBA Management” may also be counted here. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention

** If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.*

***Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.*

*** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

17. Beneficiaries

CEPF wants to record two types of benefits that are likely to be received by individuals: structured training and increased income. Please report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training (such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture) and/or increased income (such as from tourism, agriculture, medicinal plant harvest/production, fisheries, handicraft production) as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide results since the start of your project to project completion.

17a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

17b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

18. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of CEPF investment. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

18a. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)							Type of Benefit (mark with x)							# of Beneficiaries			
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting	# of women and girls benefiting

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

18b. Geolocation of each community

Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the community, to the extent possible, or upload a map or shape file. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

Name of Community	Latitude	Longitude
...		

19. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Please report on change in the number of legally binding laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of CEPF investment. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included. “Policies” that are adopted or pursued by a government, including a sector or faction of government, are eligible.

19a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)																
		Local	National	Regional/International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade		
...																					

19b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				
2				
3				

20. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate financial resources for the long-term (generally five or more years). Examples of sustainable financial mechanisms include conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

All CEPF grantees (or sub-grantees) with project activities that pertain to the creation and/or the implementation of a sustainable financing mechanism are requested to provide information on the mechanism and the funds it delivered to conservation projects during the project timeframe, unless another grantee involved with the same mechanism has already been or is expected to be tasked with this.

CEPF requires that all sustainable financing mechanism projects to provide the necessary information at their completion.

20a. Details about the mechanism

Fill in this table for as many mechanisms you worked on during your project implementation as needed.

NO.	Name of financing mechanism	Purpose of the mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1					
2					
3					

*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

**Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

***Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc..

20b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention*	\$ Amount disbursed to conservation projects**	Period under Review (MM/YYYY -MM/YYYY)***
1			
2			
3			

*List whether the CEPF grant has helped to create a new mechanism (Created a mechanism) or helped to support an existing mechanism (Supported an existing mechanism) or helped to create and then support a new mechanism (Created and supported a new mechanism).

**Please only indicate the USD amount disbursed to conservation projects during the period of implementation of your project and using, when needed, the exchange date on the day of your report.

***Please indicate the period of implementation of your project or the period considered for the amount you indicated.

Please do not forget to submit any relevant document which could provide justification for the amount you stated above.

21. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Please describe any biodiversity-friendly practices that companies have adopted as a result of CEPF investment. A company is defined as a legal entity made up of an association of people, be they natural, legal, or a mixture of both, for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses biodiversity sustainably. .

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

No.	Name of company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project
1		
2		
...		

22. Networks & Partnerships

Please report on any new networks or partnerships between civil society groups and across to other sectors that you have established or strengthened as a result of CEPF investment.

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a Memorandum of Understanding or other type of validation. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, a working group focusing on reptile conservation. Please do not use this tab to list the partners in your project, unless some or all of them are part of such a network / partnership described above.

Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

No.	Name of Network	Name of Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1						
2						
...						

23. Gender

If you have been requested to submit a Gender Tracking Tool (GTT), please follow the instructions provided in the Excel GTT template. If you have not been requested to submit a GTT, please go directly to Part V.

Should you want to know more about CEPF Gender Policy, please click [here](#).

Download the GTT template which can be found on [this page](#) and then work with your team to fill it out. Please do not forget to submit the completed GTT together with this report.

Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

16. Name: Dr. Patrick Pikacha

17. Organization: Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands

18. Mailing address: P.O.Box 180, Gizo, Western Province, Solomon Islands.

19. Telephone number: (+677) 60940

20. E-mail address: patrick.pikacha@gmail.com