

CEPF Final Project Completion Report – EMI Small Grants

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions below.

Background Information

Organization Legal Name	<i>Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporation</i>
Project Title	<i>Enhancing alternative livelihoods through bee-keeping on Kolombangara</i>
Date of Report	October 25, 2019
Report Author	Esther Tali Suti
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CEPF Region	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction	Strategic Direction 1. Investment Priority (1.4)
Grant Amount	USD 14030.85
Project Dates	1 st August 2018 to 30 th August 2019

1. Implementation Partners for this Project

(please list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)

Dughore Women Association which is the local womens group on Kolombangara island, and who partner with Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporated – members attended the bee keeping training

Gizo Women in Business Development incorporated have established a partnership with the Solomon Islands Small Business Enterprises Center (SISBEC) in implementing a bee keeping project on another island - Simbo - in the Western Province.

GWIDBI is also working alongside some Divisions of the Provincial Government such as Agriculture, Tourism and the Women Division. The Ministry of Agriculture is interested in developing the honey industry in the Solomon Islands.

Conservation Impacts

2. Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of CEPF's Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands. For example, you may refer to the Strategic Directions that your project has contributed to.

The communities we worked with are still active in their effort to conserve their natural forest. In spite of the logging activities in some neighboring areas, the determination to make the Customary land on Kolombangara island become a Protected area under the Protected Areas Act 2010 is still very strong in the minds of the women members of the project.

3. Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in your approved proposal.

The project established six (6) apiaries in its project sites. The project conducted 2 bee keepers training workshops and facilitated several on the spot field trainings for the bee keeping champions. A total of 88 participants attended the 2 bee keepers training workshops. Forty five (45) were females and forty three (43) were males. Amongst the 88 participants were 29 youths.

The organization was further strengthened in capacity building. The organization trained its financial officer in Mind your Own Business software.

4. Please describe any successes and/or challenges faced towards achieving the expected short-term and long-term impacts of the project work.

Successes:

The project successfully conducted the bee keeping training for bee keepers in the project sites. Out of the 88 participants that attended the trainings 30 were identified to be bee keeping champions in the six project sites. The bee keeping champions are women, youth and men who have demonstrated that they are confident and acquired the needed skills to look after the honey bee hives in the apiaries. They have shown commitment and eagerness to learn about bee keeping.

A bee keeping manual was developed and printed to be used by the bee keepers and other project sites in the future.

The project site community members were made aware through the trainings delivered that the forest and the sea is very important for survival. The ecosystems that exist and make up the forest and the sea are very fragile and thus need to be cared for.

The trainings and information sharing had been translated into a change of attitude towards how the members value their natural environment. Now they have planted new flowering plants as ornamentals, some are root crops and others are fruit trees. In the future they will provide food security for the families while at the same time it will provide nectar and pollen for the bees besides generally beautifying the villages and homes. Many of the project site community members had never been to such trainings or been made aware of the importance of their forest, thus the trainings were very relevant and significant for the people of Kolombangara island where logging is a threat.

Challenges:

The presence of Asian bees brings a threat to the Italian bee hives in the project sites. The Asian bee can travel for an average of 10 kilometers over a period of two weeks thus the threat is quite severe at present but we hope it will soon reduce to a manageable stage. The next step for us is to physically remove and destroy the invasive Asian bee species. We already started doing this at one of the project sites. Also we have introduced supplementary feeding at all the sites with cooked pumpkin, sugar and yeast. This recipe provides protein, energy and other needed nutrients for the Italian honey bee species. We have also responded to the threat by reducing the hive entrances (gates) so that the Italian honey bee guards can effectively

secure the gates from the intruding Asian honey bee species. Asian honey bee species normally come into the hives to rob the honey from the Italian honey bee species.

Logging activities around the project sites is also a threat to the overall areas proposed for conservation on Kolombangara island. Royalty payments to tribe members may create a wrong impression that logging brings a lot of money as compared to conservation activities.

The Association in its long term plans will continue to advocate for the conservation area on Kolombangara island. We need to demonstrate that our efforts to conserve the remaining natural rainforest on Kolombangara island is realistic. Our advocacy needs to show how our people's livelihoods depended on the intact natural forest. The communities need to understand the fragile ecosystems that occur on the island. And what we need to do in order to protect the different ecosystems that are present in the forest and marine areas as these two habitats are really connected.

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

The project helped the members to realize the importance of looking after their natural environment. The project site villages were made clean. The women, men and youth dug proper dumping holes to dispose plastics, tins and other non-biodegradable substances. Roads and footpaths in the villages were rearranged to create an orderly and good access for the public and villagers. There was an improvement on the mindset of the people on how they use the natural resources around them.

6. If you did not complete any project components or activities, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

We completed all the components of the project.

Products/Deliverables

7. Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

We produced a bee keeping training manual. An electronic copy had been submitted to IUCN office.

The project sites were provided with hive boxes, honey bee nuc boxes, and harvesting equipment such as two frame honey extracting machines. The apiaries were equipped with hive tools, safety clothing gear. The project sites were also provided with basic hand tools to enable them to fix and repair the hive boxes and frames, while at the same time make new boxes and frames as they have been taught during the honey bee training sessions.

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. **If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).**

8. Did your organization complete the **CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT)** at the beginning and end of your project? Yes
 (Please submit the final CSTT document to IUCN Oceania if you have not already done so).

	Date	Composite Score
Baseline CSTT	3 rd August 2018	43/100
Final CSTT	25 th October 2019	56/100

9. Please list any **Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered species** conserved due to your project.

n/a

10. Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
11. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	n/a	<i>List the name of each protected area</i>
12. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	n/a	<i>List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)</i>
13. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)	n/a	<i>List the name of each key biodiversity area</i>

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

14. In relation to the questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (*Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.*)

n/a

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

15. Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

<i>Did your project provide training or education for . . .</i>	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
16. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions				
17. Adults for livelihoods or increased income	43	45	88	Bee keeping training and establishment of apiaries.
18. School-aged children				
19. Other				

20. Please list the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.

Community name	Population size	Surrounding district	Surrounding province	Country
Jack harbor	200	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Islands
Vovohe	40	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Islands
Vancouver	150	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Islands
Koghu Hovuru	60	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Islands
Hunda	160	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Islands
Pine	70	Kolombangara	Western	Solomon Islands

21. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Using the communities listed above, please complete the table below, inserting the name of the communities in the left column, and placing an X in all relevant boxes in the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit.

Community Name	Community Characteristics						Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit					
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty line	Other	Increased income due to:			
Jack Harbour	x	x	x					x	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices			
Vovohe	x	x	x					x	Ecotourism revenues			
Vancouver	x	x	x					x	Park management activities			
Koghu Hovuru	x	x	x					x	Payment for environmental services			
Hunda	x	x	x					x	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices			
Pine	x	x	x					x	More secure access to water resources			
								x	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.			
								x	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc.)			
								x	More secure sources of energy			
								x	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit			
								x	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management			
								x	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance			
								x	Other (please provide details below)			

If you marked “Other”, please provide details on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit

Lessons Learned

Please describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider any lessons that would inform future projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

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

The process involved Women and leaders in the community. Relevant expertise was present during the project design thus questions and doubts relating to the project implementation and benefits was deliberated on for clarity by the members. This was very helpful in the design process.

The women members and their leaders in the community were involved in the planning stage of the project. The idea was discussed during a meeting held for everyone and a bee keeping expert was also present during the meeting. The presence of the bee keeping expert was very helpful as he helped to clarify areas of concern and give detailed information needed by the members before making the decision to undertake the project.

23. Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

There were no major issues experienced during the project implementation. One improvement for future undertakings would be the inclusion of relevant Provincial Divisions in the project design and implementation. The relevant Divisions are; Agriculture Division, Environment Division and Women and youth Division. These Divisions will be vital in advancing the success of this particular project and especially in replicating it in other areas in the Province.

One concern now for the project is the invasion of the Asian honey bee which was introduced to the island by nearby Asian logging companies. The Asian honey bee competes with the Italian honey bee species for nectar and pollen. In the worst scenario, where the nectar flow stops, the Asian bees would go to the hives boxes of the Italian bee species and start robbing their reserved honey from the honey combs. If this cannot be effectively controlled by the guard bees the Italian honey bee will eventually weaken and die.

24. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

The diversity of members in the conservation community provides the strength and stability for the conservation effort and progress in the Western Province. They provide the mobility and access for the partners.

Sustainability/Replication

25. Please summarize the success or challenges in ensuring that the project will be sustained or replicated in the future.

The community members participated very well during the bee keeping trainings. There were 6 apiaries established including a bee keeping manual was printed to provide guide in managing the existing bee hives. There were equipment and tools procured for the project sites which will support and ensure the project is sustained. Along with the equipment and tools there was knowledge and practical experience imparted to the beekeepers at the project sites. The identification of the 30 bee keeping champions at the 6 project sites was the confirmation of how the project will be sustainable and the potential for the project to be replicated in other areas in the future.

The six project sites have the potential of producing 180 to 360 liters of honey per year. This amount of honey would translate into SBD\$36,000.00 to SBD\$72,000.00 per year. This will be the cash generated through the harvest of honey from the six apiaries in the project areas. This money will be used to expand the business activities the women group are doing while part of the money will be saved in the women saving club for future business undertaking of the women groups or for paying of school fees and other important family needs of the members as desired.

Honey products in the country is protected through the banning of importation of honey from other countries thus this had provided the opportunity for indigenous Solomon Islanders to maximize this potential for generating a vast income through the honey industry. The demand for honey is very high in Gizo, Noro, Munda and Honiara. There are not many farmers farming the Italian honey bee species on Kolombangara Island.

26. Please summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability of your project work.

The project triggered the cleaning of the villages in the project sites. This includes the planting of new ornamental plants and flowers for the beautification of the villages. The partnership further triggered the thinking to conserve some marine areas near the villages.

Safeguards

Please provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies for this project.

This may be attached in the form of an updated Social Safeguards document.

Updated social safeguards form sent to IUCN.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

27. Please use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

We will work on the effort to minimize the effect caused by Asian bees on the competition of resources in the project sites.

Honey products demand is very high in Solomon Islands at the moment. This is because the production is quite low due to the wide spread impact caused by the invasive Asian bee species on productive apiaries around the country including Western Province. This was true for all the islands that logging companies from Asia operated logging on.

The best we can do to control the wide spreading of this invasive species is to physically destroy the colonies. The Asian honey bee species tends to make their hives in cavities such as between walls in residential houses or abandoned homes. This species cannot be domesticated in the Solomon Islands due to its nomadic behavior and it produces less honey as compared to the Italian honey bee species.

Guadalcanal and Malaita had been infested by the Asian bee in the past but now their farmers are gradually getting over the effect. We hope to find a solution to fix the Asian honey bee impact we are currently facing and be able to produce more honey from the vast available nectar and pollen from the flowering plants on the island.

We will consult the relevant Provincial Divisions to seek opportunities for further collaboration so that future potentials for expanding the project can be negotiated.

Additional Funding

Please provide:

28. details of any additional funding that supported this project
29. details of any further funding secured for this project, your organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF's investment in this project

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)*

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 website, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below if different from what has already been provided:

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