

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	University of Rochester
Project Title:	Establishing a Protected Area in East Makira Key Biodiversity Area to Conserve Biodiversity, the Solomon Islands
Grant Number:	CEPF-110485
Hotspot:	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction:	1 Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts
Grant Amount:	\$60,357.12
Project Dates:	March 01, 2020 - January 31, 2022
Date of Report:	February 28, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The project involved several partners in the Solomon Islands.

Yato Communities. The project was initiated by members of the Yato Communities of East Makira. During the duration of the award, Uy helped form a Management Committee that handled all activities to create and assemble the application materials to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for consideration of Protected Area status. In addition to the formation of the Management Committee, we assigned several stakeholders as Yato Rangers, who will help maintain the protected area. In 2019, 12 Yato Rangers were trained in the use of GPS for mapping. In 2022, five 5 Rangers were trained in biodiversity survey techniques by members of SICCP (see below)

Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP). Because of travel restrictions due to the pandemic, Uy was unable to lead a biodiversity survey of the Yato PA (YPA). SICCP led a diversity survey in January 2022, training several rangers in various field techniques.

John and Joyce Murray, Consultants. John and Joyce Murray, elders of a community in East Makira, have worked with Uy since 2005. During the pandemic when Uy was unable to travel to the Solomons, the Murrays were hired as consultants to run the project in his absence. The Murrays organized workshops to craft the Management Plan and Budget for the YPA, and facilitated meetings between the Yato Management Committee and officials from the Makira-Ulawa Provincial Government, staff of SICCP and CEPF, and members of the Ministry of Environment. The Murrays also helped disburse funds for allowances for the Yato Rangers.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By July 2021 (timing depends on government approval), the Nasuahu, Kereapena and Napuamarawa (NKN) protected area, which is within a high priority key biodiversity area (East Makira), will be registered as a protected area covering 18,500 hectares.	We have almost all of the necessary documents needed to apply for Protected Area Status with the Ministry of Environment (see attached checklist provided by the Ministry of Environment).
By July 2020, three separate communities will be engaged in conservation management by establishing a protected area in a CEPF Priority Site (East Makira).	We have almost all of the necessary documents needed to apply for Protected Area Status with the Ministry of Environment (see attached checklist provided by the Ministry of Environment)

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By Dec 2020, baseline data on the floral and faunal diversity will be collected and assessed within the proposed NKN PA across four different habitat types (primary and secondary rain forest, cloud forest, mangrove). Priority for conservation (e.g., sensitive species/habitats) will be assessed and documented, and integrated to inform the development of a management plan for conservation in East Makira, a Key Biodiversity Area.	Biodiversity survey documents attached.
By June 2020, ownership and tenure rights within customary lands within a CEPF priority site (East Makira) will be mapped (digital and physical map).	Digital maps have been created and an MOU signed by stakeholders and neighboring tribes (submitted with prior performance report).
By June 2020, eight stakeholders will be trained in quantitative field methodologies, including mapping and diversity survey approaches, plant and animal identification and ranger duties.	Five Yato Rangers and 7 of Uy's rangers were trained in biodiversity survey techniques by the SICCP team.
By December 2020, there is increased awareness about the merits of conserving diversity for over 200 stakeholders of the NKN communities involved in this project. Increased awareness will be quantified by administering the New Ecological Paradigm (NEP) survey to 100 stakeholders before and after our outreach program.	Because of travel restrictions imposed by the global pandemic, Uy and his team were unable to return to the Solomon Islands to run these activities.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There were no unexpected impacts of the project. The project was started by the community and continue to have strong support throughout.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

The overall goal of the project was to empower indigenous communities and help in establishing a protected area. To this end, we are nearly ready to submit the application for protected area status to the Ministry of Environment. The CEPF funded:

- 1) Outreach to consult with land-owners, insuring participation by stakeholders. We also trained stakeholders in mapping and survey techniques.
- 2) Activities to train stakeholders, including workshops to form a management committee and to write a management plan.
- 3) The creation of boundary maps for the proposed PA. The boundary map was approved and signed by local landowners and neighboring communities, including a signed MOU.
- 4) The writing of a management plan for maintaining the proposed PA. The management plan was reviewed by the Ministry of Environment, who also requested a one-page summary management plan (attached to this report).
- 5) Initial biodiversity surveys for the proposed PA (attached to this report).
- 6) Engagement of stakeholders with the Provincial Government, and Ministry of Environment.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2.0	Boundary and habitat mapping	2.1	A physical and digital map containing placement of key habitats, settlement and culturally relevant sites within the NKN PA by May 2020.	We were unable to complete this deliverable due to on-going travel restrictions to the Solomon Islands imposed by the global pandemic. We do, however, have the map indicating the boundaries of the proposed protected area.
3.0	Biodiversity Survey	3.1	Complete field data set for plant and animal species diversity surveys at 8 permanent study plots within the NKN PA by December 2020	We have a completed avian/bird diversity survey for the proposed protected area. We also have preliminary amphibian and plant diversity of the proposed protected area. Visits in the future will continue to monitor the diversity of YPA.
3.0	Biodiversity Survey	3.2	Establish permanent study plots of long-term surveys of diversity and habitat quality (across years) by December 2020. Due to delays with Uy's recent move and the need to change the local partner, we plan to start this survey in June 2020.	Initial bird surveys were conducted in 2016. Amphibian and plant surveys were conducted in January 2022. We will continue revisiting sites to monitor the diversity of the YPA.
3.0	Biodiversity Survey	3.3	A powerpoint presentation and document detailing the results of the diversity survey by Dec 2020.	We have the document detailing the final avian diversity survey completed. We have the document detailing the initial assessment of amphibian and plan diversity of the area completed. Documents are attached to this final report.
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.1	Draft of PA proposal by October 2020.	We have most of the documents necessary to apply for PA status. The Ministry of

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				Environment provided feedback on most of the documents. We will continue assembling the necessary documents needed for the application, with the plan of submitting the proposal to the Ministry of Environment by July 2022 (if travel to the Solomon Islands is allowed once more).
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.2	Posting of Public Notice regarding the PA proposal and community/landowners meeting discussion by Oct 2020	We had an initial meeting with the community and landowners in 2019. We had planned on additional meetings in 2020/2021; however, travel restrictions to the Solomon Islands prevents us from carrying out these activities.
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.3	Land owner consultation meeting and endorsement of PA proposal by Oct 2020	We had an initial meeting with the community and landowners in 2019. We had planned on additional meetings in 2020/2021; however, travel restrictions to the Solomon Islands prevents us from carrying out these activities. We plan to meet with the stakeholders in 2022, if travel restrictions to the region is lifted.
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.4	Letter indicating intent for the proposed PA will be written and sent to relevant Ministries and Provincial Government by Oct 2020	We have written these letters to the Ministry of Environment and the Provincial Government (see attached).
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.5	Consultation with four neighboring communities (Wanahata, Iaru, Notorara and Bagarei) and Ward 17 Council of Chiefs regarding	We have consulted with the neighboring communities, and they have approved the boundaries of the proposed PA. (see attachment). We are formalizing the agreement through a formal MOU.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			the boundary map and general support by Oct 2020	
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.6	Draft a management plan for the NKN PA by Oct 2020	We have written a Management Plan, and received feedback from the Ministry of Environment. Edits based on the feedback are waiting approval from the YPA Management Committee.
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.7	Declaration of the NKN PA by July 2021 (the timing will depend on approval by the SI government)	If travel to the Solomons resume by June 2022, we will finalize all the application materials and submit them to the Ministry of Environment by July 2022.
4.0	Declaration of protected area	4.5	Final impact monitoring report completed and submitted by Dec 2020	Submitted with this report.
5.0	CEPF financial and programmatic reports	5.1	University of Rochester submit annual project audit to CEPF by Dec 2020	CEPF decided that an external audit was no longer needed.
5.0	CEPF financial and programmatic reports	5.2	Evaluation of the gender tracking tool (GTT) applied for University of Rochester by Oct 2020	Submitted with this report.
5.0	CEPF financial and programmatic reports	5.3	Prepare, sign, implement and monitoring Professional Service agreements with SIELA and local counterparts in compliance with CEPF policies (July 2020). This deliverable will be updated once we secure a local counterpart .	Due to travel restrictions during the pandemic, we were unable to engage with SIELA. We did, however, form an official partnership with SICCP. Please see Service Agreement included with the the financial report.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
5.0	CEPF financial and programmatic reports	5.4	Safeguard policies for Indigenous Peoples and Involuntary resettlement implemented and monitored to ensure full compliance with CEPF policy throughout the project duration	Submitted with this report.
5.0	CEPF financial and programmatic reports	5.5	Final impact monitoring report completed and submitted by July 2020	Submitted with this report.
1.0	Develop and implement outreach tools to provide background in conservation to the NKN communities	1.1	Outreach program, which includes materials for outreach, to reach and inform over 200 NKN community members of the goals of the project by December 2020.	We were unable to complete this deliverable due to on-going travel restrictions to the Solomon Islands imposed by the global pandemic. The communities are in a remote region without cell phone or internet access. We have been unable to visit the field site since 2019.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

There were three major products from work conducted under this award, which will be part of the application materials for seeking protected area status. First, we wrote a Management Plan that will provide guidance on how to maintain the proposed Yato Protected Area (YPA) [submitted with prior performance report]. We now include a one-page Management Plan summary requested by the Ministry of Environment [submitted with this report]. Second, we created maps to outline the boundaries of the YPA. The map was signed by land-owners and neighboring tribes [submitted with prior performance report]. Finally, we conducted biodiversity surveys of amphibians of the YPA [included in this report]. The surveys are preliminary and would need additional sampling in the following years.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1	Hectares in a key biodiversity area (KBA) with new or strengthened protection and management.			11,924	We partnered with three communities from East Makira to form the Yato Protected Area. The proposed YPA will protect nearly 12000 hectares of lowland rainforest and cloud forest.
1.1	Baseline surveys completed for at least 10 priority sites.			1	We have avian, amphibian and plant surveys of the proposed Yato Protected Area.
1.3	Threat levels to at least 15 priority sites reduced through locally relevant conservation actions implemented by local communities.			3	We partnered with three communities, Puamarawa, Kereapena and Nasuafu, to form the Yato Protected Area. The goal of the YPA is to reduce the threat of commercial logging and mining in these tribal lands.
1.5	Number of communities targeted by site-based projects that show tangible well-being benefits.			3	We partnered with three communities from East Makira to form the Yato Protected Area. Thus far we were able to award 71 scholarships to students from the three communities, providing their school fees for the 2021 school year. We have more funding to provide scholarships for 2022.
2.1	Number of CEPF priority sites where ownership and			3	We mapped the proposed Yato Protected Area, which

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	tenure rights within customary lands have been mapped				is owned by 3 communities from East Makira.
1.2	Awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised among local communities within at least 10 priority sites.			3	We partnered with three communities in East Makira, Puamarawa, Kereapena and Nasuafu (Yato Communities), to establish the Yato Protected Area. To this end, we ran workshops for the Yato Communities leaders (i.e., YPA management committee). We also conducted an outreach event where the members of the Yato Communities were able to discuss the project with us, as well as learn basic conservation programs.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
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Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
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Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
18	6	<p>Management: A management committee was formed to help govern the proposed PA. Committee members received conceptual training in conservation biology, as well as guidance in application materials for PA status and managing a conservation area.</p> <p>Ranger training: Rangers were trained in mapping (using GPS technology) and field techniques in conducting biodiversity surveys.</p>

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
40	31	Because of the promise to establish the YPA, we were able to raise cash funds to support the school fees for students from the Yato Communities (USD 14,000.00). Note that we are also in talks with Nakau to potentially establish a Carbon Trading partnership that

Number of Men - Cash Benefits	Number of Women - Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
		will provide more long-term (and larger sum) benefits to the communities.

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Yato Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solomon Islands	50	40

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, 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.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
Private donor	To provide scholarships for every student in the Yato Communities	2019	For the past two years, the Constable Foundation has provided funding for scholarships for every student in the Yato Communities. The donation every year has been ca. USD14,000.	United States	Created a mechanism	The funds provides tangible benefits to the Yato Communities, and incentives for continuing with the conservation program (i.e., establishment of the Yato Protected Area).

Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
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LESSONS LEARNED

The two biggest "lessons learned" from this experience are to better manage time and expectations. Although the two lessons are connected, each had their own challenges. With time, the timeframe of achieving results needed to be more flexible. Even without considering the considerable delays caused by the global pandemic, achieving the planned results and deliverables within the expected timeframe was difficult in a remote place like Makira. For instance, organizing meetings and activities with stakeholders required many months of planning that can be cancelled or moved due to weather or events within the communities (e.g., death in the village). The lesson learned here is the need to be flexible with the timeframe and plan for delays when establishing the timeframe for the project. Connected with issues of timing is the stakeholders' overall expectations. Managing community expectations was difficult, both in the timing of when the project would be accomplished and when benefits would be seen by community members. The lesson here is to more effectively manage expectations by being clear (and being repetitive!) of the realistic goals and benefits of the project. Also, perhaps having lower expectations in the beginning would be helpful to control group expectations.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Successes: Careful choice of a management committee that is gender balanced and the inclusion of younger stakeholders made for a more less complicated process of trying to declare a protected area. Creating realistic expectations on the scope of the project, and repeated conversations with the stakeholders resulted in continued engagement with the communities despite my inability to return to the Solomons since January 2020.

Challenges: Travel restrictions during the pandemic made progress difficult. This highlighted the need to have trusted counterparts that can run the project on my behalf during my absence. Communicating with stakeholders from very remote regions slowed the progress of the project, especially during the pandemic.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

A separate Safeguards document has been submitted.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$25,000.00
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Breakdown of Additional Funding	We have received annual contributions from the Constable Foundation to provide scholarships to every student in the Yato Communities.
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INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

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