

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Nakau Programme Ltd
<b>Project Title:</b>	Supporting Innovative Financing for Biodiversity Conservation through Piloting Eco-Certification for Tourism in Vanuatu
<b>Grant Number:</b>	66426
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	East Melanesian Islands
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	1 Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$169,903.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	June 01, 2017 - August 31, 2019
<b>Date of Report:</b>	September 25, 2019

### Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

**The Nakau Programme - Project Management, development of Project Agreements, Government policy support, ecotourism scoping assessments (Nusumetu and Dolav)**

**Ecotourism Australia (subgrantee) - initial support for Government policy development until project amendment in December 2017. Work then focused on ecotour development in Mount Tabwemasana.**

**Live & Learn Vanuatu (subgrantee) - Field support to Ecotourism Australia and Nakau in all three project sites. Responsible for development of Dolav (Malaklolop) CCA.**

**Wrecks to Rainforest Tours - Santo-based inbound tour operator that books hiking tours up Mount Tabwemasana. Signatory of partnership agreement**

**Mount Tabwemasana Local Area Management Committee - Representatives of Kerepua community and landowners of Tabwemasana CCA. Signatories to partnership agreement for conservation**

**Nusumetu Protected Area Committee - Representatives of landowners for Nusumetu Area. Consulted on aspirations for tourism and conservation**

**Malaklolop Area Management Committee - Reps for Malaklolop CCA development and registration**

**Department of Tourism - Hosted meetings. provided advice to community partners on tour product development. engaged project in policy development**

Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation - Oversaw the registration of CCAs.  
Supported biodiversity surveys

## Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

### The project:

- established legal protection for the Malakolop Community Conservation Area (CCA)
- developed a tourism plan to encourage financing of conservation activities within the Malakolop CCA
- developed a tourism plan for Nusmuetu Protected Area
- supported the development of new proposals to support Nusumetu Protected Area
- provided direct financial support to the development of an improved ecotrekking tour of Mount Tabwemasana
- developed and oversaw the signing of a partnership agreement between the landowners of Mount Tabwemasana and an inbound tour booking agent to ensure that benefits of tours were equitably shared and some finances went from each tour booked, directly to conservation outcomes in the Tabwemasana CCA
- provided the pathway for the Government of Vanuatu to develop an Ecotourism Certification program

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. By 2020 Vanuatu's Tourism sector demonstrates regional leadership in the promotion of sustainable development through better environmental and social practices leading to the exploration of Eco Certification by other South Pacific countries.	The project has supported the Government of Vanuatu through workshops, direct policy development support and through the development of mechanisms to coordinate conservation actions in the country within the tourism sector. While Eco Certification is still a long term goal of Vanuatu, it is leading the region in the development of standards to move the sector towards sustainability. In November 2019, the Sustainable Destinations Conference will be held in Santo, showcasing tourism efforts towards sustainability in Vanuatu with international as well as regional attendees. The project has been key in supporting this national progress.
2. By 2020 communities in the KBAs of Gaua, Santo Mountain Chain and Green Hill are empowered to protect and manage significant biodiversity with ongoing financial support derived from the tourism sector.	Empowerment through management plans, tourism development plans and training have occurred for the sites within the project. Sustainable financing has been established for the Santo Mountain Chain community. Tourism-based financing is planned and being

	developed in Nusumetu in the next 12 months. Dolav community in Gaua have a plan for financing developed through the project and are seeking funding to develop their product further.
--	--

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
4. Opportunities for conservation of Green Hill KBA financed through the tourism sector identified, discussed with local stakeholders and funding of USD50,000 sought.	Opportunities for Nusumetu were developed through the project and led to coordination with a GEF 5 project being implemented by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. Funding through CEPF has been secured to support tourism-based product development starting later in 2019.
1. By May 2019 the Government of Vanuatu is supported, through training and supporting documentation, to develop a national sustainable tourism standard.	This impact was removed during the amendment in 2017
2. A Community Conservation Area of no less than 100 hectares is registered by Dolav community on Gaua by December 2018.	A Community Conservation Area of 98.5 hectares was registered by Dolav Community on 5 July 2019
3. By May 2019 at least one example of investment in community-based conservation by a tourism operator is piloted in the Santo Mountain Chain leading to an ongoing partnership.	This impact was removed during the amendment in 2017

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

**The project encountered a major setback in the first six months of the project when the Government of Vanuatu decided they no longer wished to pursue ecocertification through Ecotourism Australia but sought to develop their own sustainable certification program. This change in Government priority meant existing plans for the project to support the Government had to change. The project was able to reallocate funding and resources to provide more direct support to operators in the Santo Mountain Chain. The project still ran two workshops for the Government of Vanuatu through the project which focused more directly on how tourism could invest in conservation in Vanuatu. The project was able to use examples of tourism operators taking initiatives in conservation including the communities and operators working as partners on the project. While the amendment to the project was an administrative challenge, it allowed the project to target changes at the local level more effectively. The altered role of the project from creating a national mechanism to promoting opportunities for more effective relationships between the tourism sector and communities undertaking conservation turned out to be a success for the project as it raised the profile of the work being done and led to the project team being given more opportunities to further sustainable tourism in Vanuatu. This amendment meant that the short term impact "A successful Ecotourism trial on Espiritu Santo and Efate engages at least 16 tourism operators in Vanuatu leading to the design and endorsement of a national program by May 2019" became impossible. The project still engaged more**



than 16 tourism operators through workshops however and through its workshops and engagement with the sector has still played a role in the project long term impact of supporting Vanuatu to "demonstrate regional leadership in the promotion of sustainable development through better environmental and social practices."

Ongoing financial support for the three target sites was a partial success. The Santo Mountain Chain has an ongoing mechanism now for financing. In the Gaua site, Dolav community, through a process of landuse planning decided to select an area for protection which falls just outside the priority KBA area. This has meant they have not secured further funding to develop tourism. Having said this, the tourism development plan has been shared with tourism operators and the area was featured in the national newspaper, the Daily Post. Opportunities to support the tourism product in Malaklolop are being sought by Live & Learn currently. Green Hill, or Nusumetu, has a new project starting to develop its tourism product. With the support of CEPF and GEF 5, Nusumetu looks like it is on track to achieve this impact and to secure its conservation status in 2020 as planned.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The relationship built between the Department of Tourism and the project team led to further contracts during the project which have had a positive impact for the development of sustainable tourism in Vanuatu. Nakau received a contract to develop a Code of Conduct for tourism operators working in areas of Ecological and Cultural Significance. This Code, while still in draft is intended to become mandatory for all tourism operators and assessed at the time of permit renewal (every 2 years). Nakau was able to incorporate requirements relating to interactions with priority species and behaviour within key biodiversity areas. Live & Learn Vanuatu also received a contract through this relationship with the Department of Tourism to develop a map of the Ecological and Culturally Significant Areas in Vanuatu. This map is currently in draft and incorporates Key Biodiversity Areas and Islands. While still in draft, both these contracts will have a positive impact on the behaviours of tourism operators in areas of interest to CEPF.

The project manager for the project was also asked to present at the Forest and Landscape Restoration Conference in Nadi in May 2019 where she was able to share the project activities looking at encouraging tourism-based financing for conservation. Government stakeholders from most Pacific island countries were present so this was a good opportunity to encourage stronger links between tourism and conservation in the region.

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
4	Pursue opportunities for an agreement between Santo-based Tourism Operators and a community undertaking conservation activities in the priority KBA, the Santo Mountain Chain	4.6	Agreement from Santo Mountain Chain community to undertake tourism-based conservation activity with a tourism operator by June 2018 with plan of action sent to CEPF for review (delivered by Live & Learn in conjunction with EA)	In September 2018 Kerepua community signed FPIC consent form to participate in the project. The agreement is attached to this report
1	Guidance provided to Government of Vanuatu on pathway forward for sustainable accreditation	1.1	By September 2017 produce a document detailing design of program including Vanuatu contextualized certification criteria (delivered by EA)	A program was developed and recommendations for locally-contextualised criteria was developed. Shortly after, the Government of Vanuatu decided to progress with a different route towards sustainable standards. Program uploaded to this report
1	Guidance provided to Government of Vanuatu on pathway forward for sustainable	1.2	By September 2017 Vanuatu-specific criteria for investment in conservation	Vanuatu-specific criteria were initially developed in the beginning the project. Criteria were reviewed again by Nakau to support Government in determining how they would like to develop their sustainability standards program. Recommendations uploaded to this report

	accreditation		included in Eco Certification program design (delivered by Nakau)	
1	Guidance provided to Government of Vanuatu on pathway forward for sustainable accreditation	1.3	By February 2018 a list of at least 20 Tourism Operators who have registered their interest to participate in Eco certification trial is compiled (delivered by EA)	A list was developed by February 2018 and provided to the Government of Vanuatu. The list was provided to the Government but is commercial in confidence and not attached to this report.
2	Tourism Operators as eco champions receive support to be eco ready and to invest in conservation in the Santo Mountain Chain KBA (sub-grant to Ecotourism Australia)	2.1	Two tourism operators to act as eco champions identified through feasibility assessment and written agreement to participate in project by March 2018 (delivered by Nakau and EA)	A feasibility assessment occurred in early 2018 with written agreement by two operators to participate in the project by March 2018. The assessment report is attached to this report
2	Tourism Operators as eco champions receive support to be eco ready and to invest in conservation in the Santo	2.2	Final plan to link tourism operators to conservation outcomes in the Santo Mountain Chain created	A plan of action was developed and given to partners by June 2018. It is attached to this report

	Mountain Chain KBA (sub-grant to Ecotourism Australia)		by June 2018 (delivered by EA)	
2	Tourism Operators as eco champions receive support to be eco ready and to invest in conservation in the Santo Mountain Chain KBA (sub-grant to Ecotourism Australia)	2.3	Evidence through assessment forms, by March 2019, of two operators who have received one on one support through the program to increase ecotourism capacity (delivered by EA)	This deliverable was not achieved because Vanuatu decided to not go ahead with ecocertification, one operator stopped operating during the project, the remaining operator is a boring agent and therefore not eligible to be assessed under Ecotourism Australia's ecocertification program. Despite this, the workshops ran by the project enabled many tourism operators to become more familiar with eco standards for tourism and to go through specific criteria of relevance in Vanuatu.
3	Documentation required to register a Community Conservation Area (CCA) for Dolav Community in the priority KBA of Gaua, including a plan for financing conservation through tourism, submitted to Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	3.1	Agreement from Dolav community to register a Community Conservation Area by April 2018 (delivered by Live & Learn)	Dolav community agreed to register a CCA and participate in the project in 2017. FPIC consent is attached to this report
3	Documentation required to register a Community Conservation	3.2	Oversight of development of biodiversity survey and subsequent	Completed. Report attached.

	Area (CCA) for Dolav Community in the priority KBA of Gaua, including a plan for financing conservation through tourism, submitted to Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation		report undertaken by June 2018 (delivered by Live & Learn Vanuatu)	
3	Documentation required to register a Community Conservation Area (CCA) for Dolav Community in the priority KBA of Gaua, including a plan for financing conservation through tourism, submitted to Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	3.3	Oversight of development of map of Community Conservation Area and subsequent map undertaken by June 2018 (delivered by Live & Learn Vanuatu)	Completed. Map is incorporated into the Management Plan attached to this report
3	Documentation required to register a Community Conservation Area (CCA) for Dolav Community in the priority KBA of Gaua, including a plan for financing conservation	3.4	Land Management Plan (incorporating tourism finance plan) is signed by custom land owners by October 2018. (delivered by Live & Learn Vanuatu)	Completed. Evidenced by Management Plan for Malaklolop

	through tourism, submitted to Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation			
3	Documentation required to register a Community Conservation Area (CCA) for Dolav Community in the priority KBA of Gaua, including a plan for financing conservation through tourism, submitted to Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	3.5	Letters of approval are obtained from relevant stakeholders endorsing the Community Conservation Area by March 2019. (delivered by Live & Learn Vanuatu)	Completed. Evidenced by field report and registration
3	Documentation required to register a Community Conservation Area (CCA) for Dolav Community in the priority KBA of Gaua, including a plan for financing conservation through tourism, submitted to Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	3.6	Submission of documentation to Department of Protection and Conservation for registration of CCA by April 2019. (delivered by Live & Learn Vanuatu)	The Management Plan and supporting documents were provided to DEPC in June 2019 and the launch took place in July 2019. A media release for the event is attached to this report.
4	Pursue	4.1	Field Reports	All field reports are attached to this report and were

	opportunities for an agreement between Santo-based Tourism Operators and a community undertaking conservation activities in the priority KBA, the Santo Mountain Chain		describing all communication undertaken and decisions made during consultations by May 2019 (delivered by Ecotourism Australia and Live & Learn)	written and submitted to the PM on time
4	Pursue opportunities for an agreement between Santo-based Tourism Operators and a community undertaking conservation activities in the priority KBA, the Santo Mountain Chain	4.2	At least one tourism-based conservation activity established in the Santo Mountain Chain by May 2019 (delivered by EA)	A tourism based conservation activity was developed for a trek through Mount Tabwemasana CCA in the Santo Mountain Chain. Support was provided in construction, training and developing a partnership agreement with tour booking agent, Wrecks to Rainforest tours. The agreement ensures that some funds from each tour booking goes directly to support conservation activities in the CCA
4	Pursue opportunities for an agreement between Santo-based Tourism Operators and a community undertaking conservation activities in the priority KBA, the Santo Mountain Chain	4.3	Signed Agreement between Santo-based tourism operators and community in Santo Mountain Chain by May 2019 which details the specifics of the ongoing partnership (delivered by Nakau)	A agreement was signed between Wrecks to Rainforest and the Mount Tabwemasana Management Committee in June 2019. A media release from the event is available at <a href="http://dailypost.vu/news/agreement-signed-to-protect-mt-tabwemasana/article_7fd23b86-c29c-51a3-af91-336714176247.html">http://dailypost.vu/news/agreement-signed-to-protect-mt-tabwemasana/article_7fd23b86-c29c-51a3-af91-336714176247.html</a> and a copy of the partnership agreement in bislama and english is attached
4	Pursue opportunities for an agreement	4.5	N/A	

	between Santo-based Tourism Operators and a community undertaking conservation activities in the priority KBA, the Santo Mountain Chain			
4	Pursue opportunities for an agreement between Santo-based Tourism Operators and a community undertaking conservation activities in the priority KBA, the Santo Mountain Chain	4.5	N/A	
5	Scoping study developed to assess opportunities for Nusumetu Protected Area in Tanna to access income generated through the tourism sector (through eco-tourism, agritourism, PES etc.) to support conservation efforts in Nusumetu	5.1	Agreement from Nusumetu to undertake scoping study by December 2017 (delivered by Nakau)	In November 2017, Green Hill community provided their FPIC consent to participate in the project. It is attached to this report
5	Scoping study developed to assess opportunities for	5.2	Scoping Study report completed and disseminated	A scoping study occurred in April 2018 and a report was prepared and disseminated to stakeholders in July 2018 including GEF SGP administrator at UNDP Vanuatu and the GEF 5 Project Manager. A copy of the report is

	Nusumetu Protected Area in Tanna to access income generated through the tourism sector (through eco-tourism, agritourism, PES etc.) to support conservation efforts in Nusumetu		to the community and key stakeholders including Department of Tourism and potential donors by June 2018 (delivered by Nakau)	attached.
5	Scoping study developed to assess opportunities for Nusumetu Protected Area in Tanna to access income generated through the tourism sector (through eco-tourism, agritourism, PES etc.) to support conservation efforts in Nusumetu	5.3	N/A	
6	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies	6.1	Sub grants are signed by Ecotourism Australia and Live & Learn Vanuatu by July 2017 (delivered by Nakau)	Subgrants were signed and sent to CEPF for approval prior to the first tranche being released
6	CEPF project management	6.2	Safeguard Policies for	All Safeguards reports have been developed and submitted to CEPF

	and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies		Indigenous Peoples and Involuntary Restrictions are effectively evaluated, implemented, and follow-up reports are prepared every six months to CEPF (delivered by Nakau)	
1	Guidance provided to Government of Vanuatu on pathway forward for sustainable accreditation	1.4	Delivery, by November 2018, two workshops for Government and industry stakeholders on developing a national sustainable accreditation program; one on Santo and one on Efate (delivered by EA)	Two workshops occurred, one in Santo and one in Port Vila in November 2018 which brought together industry and government stakeholders. Nakau led these workshops facilitating discussions on tourism investments in conservation and developed feedback from stakeholders on how they would like the sector to oversee/implement mechanisms for sustainability. A workshop report is attached to this report
6	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies	6.3	Complaints system developed, disseminated and monitored with beneficiaries and project partners (delivered by Nakau)	A complaints system was developed and disseminated to stakeholders through community consultations. The complaints process was developed during the project induction meeting in June 2017. A copy of the system is attached to this report.
6	CEPF project management and monitoring	6.4	CEPF financial and programmatic	Financial reporting advice from donor changed as different finance grants managers managed project. This led to changes in the way the project handled exchange

	for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies		reports submitted on time and accurately (delivered by Nakau)	rates. There were three exchange rates used in the project. This led to a delay in financial reporting for the last two quarters while clarification occurred. Otherwise all reports were submitted on time.
6	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies	6.5	Final Impact Monitoring report completed at project close (delivered by Nakau)	Project extended to August 2019 to accommodate registration of Malaklolop CCA in July 2019. All activities and expenditure finished by 31 July 2019. Final report written

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

**Not applicable**

## Lessons Learned

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

**Greater flexibility in the design of the project would have been of assistance relating to the support provided by the project to the Government of Vanuatu. The outcomes of the project were as good, if not better than originally planned but the deliverables and impacts were so specific that they became irrelevant and had to be changed.**



The costs of travel to the Santo Mountain Chain were not fully realised. While they were able to be covered due to amendments to the project, the project was unrealistic in what could be afforded in its original design.

Consistency of advice from finance grants management team on how to manage exchange rates from the beginning of the project would have saved many hours of additional administrative work for Nakau.

## **Sustainability / Replication**

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.

It is a challenge for the sustainability of the Malakolop CCA site is deemed outside the priority KBA, especially given the small size of the entire island of Gaua and the biodiversity found within that area. A challenge will now be to find further funding for this site to establish its tourism product. Mount Tabwemasana is in a strong position to maintain its leadership position in tourism-financed conservation and will receive ongoing support. Nusumetu, will receive further support as its scoping has just began.

The project approach of targeting the tourism sector for conservation has garnered interest from various groups, including through a Forest Landscape Restoration Conference run by FAO and the Korean Forest Service where Nakau presented the Tabwemasana case study to many Pacific island Government representatives. Further opportunities are likely to occur in supporting tourism engagement in conservation using this project as an example of early adopters.

## **Safeguards**

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

**Safeguards have been assessed through six monthly reports to CEPF**

## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

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

## Additional Funding

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

**Total additional funding (US\$)**

\$46,693.00

**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:*

- 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)*

**A) Project Cofinancing**

**\$23709 from GEF SGP administered through UNDP in Port Vila to cover costs of biodiversity survey and mapping for Dolav. Funds to Live & Learn Vanuatu**

**\$1591 from Australian Council for International Agricultural Research for cofinanced travel costs for Nakau.**

**B) Grantee and Project Leveraging**

**\$12800 was contracted to Nakau to provide further support to Vanuatu Government on sustainable tourism development as a result of engagement through CEPF project**

**\$8593 was contracted to Live & Learn Vanuatu by the Vanuatu Government to support sustainable tourism development as a result of engagement through CEPF 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 Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

**Anjali Nelson, The Nakau Programme, Level 4 247 - 251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VICTORIA, 3000, +61473927211, [anjali.nelson@nakau.org](mailto:anjali.nelson@nakau.org)**