

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Conservation International Foundation
Project Title:	Building Capacity for Management and Monitoring of Timor-Leste's Protected Areas
Grant Number:	66553
CEPF Region:	Wallacea
Strategic Direction:	2 Improve management of sites (KBAs) with and without official protection status
Grant Amount:	\$299,988.03
Project Dates:	June 01, 2017 - September 30, 2019
Date of Report:	December 01, 2019

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

List each partner and explain how they were involved with the project.

Full Description is attached as a file as data is too large for this section:

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)
General Directorate fo Forestry, Coffee, and Industrial Plants
National Directorate for Conservation and Protected Areas
Secretary of State for Environment (SEA)
National Directorate for Biodiversity
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
Department of Property and Lands
Conservation Flora and Fauna (KFF)
Community of Larisula
Community of Ualcala
Community of Illiomar I
Community of Illiomar II
Community of Trilolo
Community of Ailebere
Community of Caenliu
Municiple Government of Baucau
Municiple Goverment of Lautem
Natural History Museum of London (NHM)
Conservation Interntional Singapore
National University of Singapore (NUS)
National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL)

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

The most outstanding result of the project was the expansion of the Maurei Lake protected area (TLS007) from its original 600ha to the current 4, 677ha. It was clear from the initial survey of the Maurei Lake protected area conducted under the CEPF project, that the inclusion of the neighboring Alafalu primary forest would greatly enhance the original protected area and ensure a significant tract of remaining primary forest, as well as untouched coastline would be protected. This idea was proposed to the communities neighboring the protected area and all agreed to include the Alafalu forest. The communities also proposed to add in a marine section to the protected area, from the coastline out to the 500m mark, which would add an additional 674ha to the Maurei Lake protected area. Conservation International is arranging for marine and migratory species surveys to be carried out in the area to identify the conservation value of the marine sector. The Alafalu forest will be surveyed in 2020.

A second impact of the project was the increased awareness of the Maurei protected area, and the ability of communities to have a voice in the design of the management of the area. More than 120 community members engaged in awareness creating or informal training under the project.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Improve the long term management of globally important sites within the Timor-Wetar corridor	Undertaking a Rapid Assessment Program to assess the biodiversity and ecological value of My Legumau, and Maurei Lake protected areas in Timor-Leste, has been a first for the country. The data collected from these baseline surveys identified has been used to identify the Alafalu primary forest for inclusion in the Maurei Lake protected area increasing the original size from 600ha to 4,677. Capturing the primary forest and coastline in the Maurei Lake protected area secured a diversity of ecosystems under one protection and better enables the governing bodies to manage it. My Legumau protected area survey was able to identify a number of introduced species that will have a potential negative impact on the ecosystems, allowing the government bodies to create specific management plans to address the infestation. The survey also noted a section of primary forest sitting on the current proposed boundary of Mt Legumau. This newly identified area will undergo an additional survey under the GEF 6 ecosystem project with the view to assess its conservation value for inclusion in the Mt Legumau PA.
To conserve biodiversity values in 11,000 hectares within the Mount Legumau (TLS005), Irabere-Illiomar (TLS007), and Mount Fatumasin (TLS028) KBA's.	Through the investment and implementation of the project under CEPF, Timor-Leste was able to identify an additional 4,000ha of primary forest for protection. The Alafalu primary forest has been added to the Maurei Lake protected area resulting in an expansion of the original area by almost six times. This is a great outcome and success of the project, and for the communities living within and around the forest area, who depend on the ecosystem services the forest provides.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
At least 10 government staff across all sectors trained in conducting ecological assessments	Although the Timor-Leste government was in a state of flux for 21 out of 24 months of the project period, 25 government staff across three ministries received training under the CEPF

	<p>project. The structured training was in the form of both formal and informal instruction. The formal training was carried out by visiting scientists from the Natural History Museum of London, National University of Singapore Interns, Conservation Flora & Fauna members, and CI staff. The training components were related to the Ecological Survey Technique Modules developed under the project. The participants undertook practical field-based activities such as the biological survey work in the nominated protected areas, and theoretical activities delivered in staff offices. The formal training focused on small mammals, herps, vegetation and bird survey techniques, and specimen handling, as well as safe handling of chemicals. The informal training was delivered as practical support and mentoring accompanied by instruction on how to use a handheld GPS unit, how to transfer the data from the handheld unit to laptops for mapping purposes, basics of photographing specimens, and filling data forms, as well as improving their understanding of Zone categories and how to apply them to protected areas.</p>
<p>At least 20 communities members and local participants will have improved awareness and capacity in ecological processes and environmental management within 3</p>	<p>Each community engaged with the project was enthusiastic and excited to be contributing to the increased management of the protected areas. In total, more than 120 community members across eight communities participated in training and awareness events under the CEPF project. Participants were involved in a variety of activities developed under the project. These included participating in the field surveys, being able to work directly with scientists on specimen collection, handling and preservation, learning about the importance of conservation values and why zoning a protected area supports long-term protection, and participating directly in the identification of zones for Maurei Lake PA.</p>

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

The most outstanding success of the project was the expansion of the Maurei Lake protected area from its original 600ha to the current 4, 677ha. It was clear from the initial survey of the protected area under the CEPF project that the inclusion of the neighboring Alafalu primary forest would greatly enhance the original protected area and ensure a significant tract of remaining primary forest as well as untouched coastline, would be protected. This idea was proposed to the communities neighboring the protected area and all agreed to include the Alafalu forest. The communities also proposed to add in a marine protected area from the current coastline border of the PA, into sea up to the 500m mark which would add an additional 674ha to the Maurei Lake protected area. Conservation International is arranging for marine and migratory species surveys to be carried out in the area to identify the conservation value of the marine sector.

The project faced two significant challenges which caused the workplan to be changed on several occasions. These changes in the workplan had a flow on effect to the long-term impacts of the project as well as several deliverables. The first challenge was with Government engagement which was hampered through most of the project period due to constant instability and changes in government. During the first quarter of 2017, the Government of Timor-Leste announced the Presidential (20th March 2017) and Parliamentary (22nd July 2017) elections dates for the new 7th Government. All government offices are restricted in financial, field, and engagement activities up to 6 weeks prior to an election, and then up to when the new government is formally announced by the President. As both elections were being held within four months of each other, this caused

several delays with engaging the government staff on project activities. The 7th Government was not able to secure the support of the Parliament and in January 2018 the President dissolved the 7th Government and announced new elections dates (12th May 2018) This caused an extended period where the government was not able to plan or assign budgets for any expenditure, including field activities. All spending was reduced to month by month approval until the 8th government was sworn in on the 22nd June 2018. The new government's Program was approved by parliament late July 2018, and the national budget approved by parliament the end of October 2018. The budget was not forwarded to the President for review until December 2018, with his final approval coming in February 2019. This unprecedented situation left the country without a fully functioning government for almost 2 years, which translated into 21 out of the 24 months of the CEPF project.

The second challenge was the extraordinary number of months with rainfall from late 2017 through to late 2018. Timor-Leste only has two windows during a 12 month period where terrestrial surveys can be carried out safely 1. May/June; 2. September to November. The additional months of rain saw the RAP for Mt Fatumasin (TLS028) postponed into late 2019 which fell outside of the project timeframe, and therefore was not completed under the CEPF project. The RAP will now be completed under the GEF project. In part, the challenge with working in partnership with a non-functioning government also contributed to the delay in the survey. Had the government been in place on June 1st 2017 when the CEPF contract was signed, and initial survey of Mt Fatumasin could have been achieved prior to the inclement weather conditions kicking in.

CI requested a grant extension at no cost, and the project was extended up to 30th September 2019

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

An unexpected negative impact was for the project to only complete a survey for Mt Legumau (TLS005), and a partial survey of Maurei Lake PA, with no survey of Mt Fatumasin. This reduced the number of training events being held for the training component of the project. This led to an unexpected positive impact which was a partnership with Charles Darwin University Australia to carry out baseline biodiversity surveys in their project area for a community carbon project based on reforestation. This allowed the government trainees an opportunity to conduct a survey led by KFF and NUS interns on community lands.

Another unexpected negative impact was the lack of formal approval to engage a Communications Consultant in Year 1 of the project. The consultant was due to work with the Module Development consultant and the project team to produce project updates to be released through CI social media and local media channels. The delay in CEPF obtaining the approval meant that only one Communications consultancy was advertised and engaged throughout the project, instead of the two in the original project design.

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Component 1: Build capacity	1.2	1.2 Training module for the basics of specimen processing	The specimen processing module was developed at the same time as the biological modules, and suffered the same delays in the development and submission process. The module was submitted in September 2019 and CI is waiting on feedback.
1	Component 1: Build capacity	1.3	1.3 Training module for safe handling of chemicals	The safe handling of chemicals module was developed at the same time as the biological modules, and suffered the same delays in the development and submission process. The module was submitted in September 2019 and CI is waiting on feedback.
1	Component 1: Build capacity	1.4	1.4 Final Training report	Although the participants struggled under the shifting government and unsuitable environmental conditions, three practical training events were completed during the CEPF project, as well as the theoretical training delivered by CI and visiting experts from National History Museum. The Training Report was submitted during Q4 of Year 2. The trainees are waiting on the INDIMO certification process to be completed so that the final steps of training can be completed and the participants able to receive their Certificate I, II, or II levels.
2	Component 2: Biological & ecological surveys	2.2	2.2. Completed RAP for Mt Fatumasin	The RAP for Mt Fatumasin was planned to be conducted at the end of Year 1 to fit into usual time to conduct for terrestrial survey work in Timor-Leste. The second option is during the period of September to November. However due to the extraordinary number of rains months, and the 7th government not forming and and new elections being called in may 2018, the RAP was postponed. It was proposed to conducted the RAP in September 2018, but this was rejected by national and local governments as the new 8th government had not yet had a budget approved. After some negotiation in early 2019, it was proposed for the RAP to be conducted in September 2019, which fell outside of the project timeframe. It has been proposed that the biophysical and survey assessments be competed under the GEF 6 project CI is implementing
2	Component 2: Biological & ecological surveys	2.3	2.3. Completed RAP for My Legumau	Mt Legumau protected area RAP was completed in October 2018 and involved technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Directorate General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Crops,

				<p>and the Secretary of State of Environment, Directorate General of Environment; representatives from local NGO, Konservasaun Flora & Fauna (KFF); and community representatives from Sucos Uacala and Larisula. The Mt. Legumau protected area is located between intersection of Baguia (Municipality of Baucau), Luro and Ilomar (Municipality of Lautem) (Figure 1). There are three Sucos located within the protected area: Uacala, Larisula (Baguia) and Baricafa (Luro).</p> <p>The objective of the RAP was to evaluate the biodiversity within the protected area. This survey team identified a number of Least Concern reptile species, as well as Endangered bird species such as the Wetar Ground Dove. Several Endemic species were observed, as well as introduced species such as the Asian Common Toad.</p> <p>A second survey will be completed in 2020 under the GEF 6 project to build on the baseline data develop collected under CEPF, with a view to creating a Management Plan for the area.</p>
3	Component 3: Management plan for Mt Maurei protected area	3.2	3.2 Zoning plan completed (which includes zoning process followed and engagement with government and local communities)	<p>A Zone Plan has been scoped and created based on data collected through desk top study, the initial Maurei Lake PA survey, and discussions with the communities and government. This draft plan was based on the five zone categories being developed by the government and CI, following the descriptions used by IUCN for protected areas. That being Zone I is high conservation value and restricted access through to Zone V which is low conservation value and a multi-use zone. The Zone Plan is still in Draft form as the decision to expand the Maurei Lake PA to include an additional 4000ha of Alafalu forest, requires a survey of that area to be completed and the new data to be added into the Draft Zone Plan. Once the additional data has been added, the Zone Plan will be submitted to the communities, stakeholders, and government for verification, before a Final Plan is submitted to the Minister for approval. It is expected to be completed in 2020.</p>
3	Component 3: Management plan for Mt Maurei protected area	3.3	3.3 Spatial Plan completed, based on Zoning Plan outcomes.	<p>The decision to increase the size of Maurei Lake PA from 600 ha to 4,677ha in 2019 (Year 2) of the project, has stalled the finalization of the Spatial Plan, while the data sets for the new additional area of Alafalu forest are gathered. Using anecdotal information from communities and extrapolating from existing data sets, a Draft Spatial Plan has been created using High Conservation Value mapping methodology and the Drat Zone</p>

				categories for Timor-Leste. The spatial plan and associated report were submitted in Q3 of Year 2 for the CEPF project. It is expected to finalize the Spatial Plan once the additional survey has been completed, and associated Zone Plan updated.
3	Component 3: Management plan for Mt Maurei protected area	3.4	3.4. Draft Management Plan completed in coordination with Management Planning Group, including the Spatial Plan and Zoning Plan	An initial meeting was held with the communities and stakeholders within and surrounding the expanded Maurei Lake PA area, to discuss the next steps of setting up the Management Planning Group and developing a management plan. However it was felt that due to the delays experienced from the government elections, rather than focus on the management plan establishing the boundary along the expanded boundary of Maurei Lake was more of a priority for the project and communities. The demarcation process began in July 2019 during the no cost extension period of the project, and by the end of September 2019, 167 of the 210 concrete demarcation posts had been made to government specifications, and installed along the new boundary. During 2020 the additional area of Alafalu forest will be surveyed and the Zone and Spatial Plans updated and verified. Once that process has been completed the process for creating the management plan will be re-initiated with communities ,stakeholders, and government.
3	Component 3: Management plan for Mt Maurei protected area	3.5	3.5 Formal receipt from Government of submission of Draft Management Plan to Minister for approval.	With the expansion of the Maurei Lake PA to more than six times its original size, a number of additional communities and stakeholders needed to be included in the the process for developing the management plan. As these communities had not been engaged previously, a community entry process was followed to introduce the project and its expected outputs and impacts. The engagement was carried out through most of Year 2 of the project once the decision to expand was made by government at the end of Year 1. In July 2019 during discussions with the communities and government, a unified decision was made to prioritize the completion of the demarcation for the new boundary of the PA, before the end of the CEPF project, rather than focus on the management plan. By the end of the project, all the communities within or next to the newly outline PA, had provided input into and approval for the new proposed boundary. The communities and government worked together to install 167 of the 210 demarcation posts by the end of September 2019. A report of the the process has been included with this submission. The extreme terrain and sometimes harsh conditions saw slower progress on

				installation, with the remaining posts to be installed in 2020.
4	Component 4: Adherence to CEPF Safeguards	4.1	4.1 Report on CEPF Process Framework (safeguard on involuntary resettlement)	<p>The Report on CEPF Process Framework for Involuntary Resettlement has been submitted with this report. No persons or communities were at risk of involuntary resettlement under this project. Under the Coral Triangle Support Program (CTSP) CI worked with government staff and communities to develop the first community based marine protected areas in Timor-Leste. From this experience, the Co-Management Model was created, and a set of guidelines developed and printed in 2013. The Co-Management Model has become the government and communities preferred model to be used when working with communities on their natural resource management.</p> <p>Through this project, CI followed the Co-Management Model when working with key stakeholders within and surrounding these PAs. The project was designed as a series of key survey trainings and on-the-ground activities to provide hands-on learning opportunities. The training and surveys engaged more than 20 national government staff from three Ministries, and over 100 local community members. The national government staff formed the core team of trainees and survey team, supported by the local communities, municipality staff, local ngo's and international partners.</p>
1	Component 1: Build capacity	1.1	1.1 Training modules for each of the ecological survey to be conducted (birds, herps, small mammals, vegetation, freshwater)	<p>A consultant to develop the training modules to the governments specifications was engaged in Year 1. The consultant and CI staff worked closely with INDIMO, the governments certification body for all training modules. The primary advice was for CI to become a Registered Training Organization (RTO) to design and deliver the modules. During the changes of government, the requirements for the modules also changed. At the beginning of Year 2 a formal meeting was held with INDIMO, CI's Country Director and the CEPF Project Manager to identify a clear path forward on the design and registration of the modules. As these were the first environment modules being proposed for national certification, there was no existing assessment panel in place, and approval from the Minister needed to be secured. Second to that, INDIMO changed the template for the module and certification process, which required an additional extension to the consultants contract to allow enough time to populate the new templates with the existing</p>

				module information. The new templates were submitted to INDIMO in September 2019 for approval to progress to the assessment panel. CU is still waiting on INDIMO feedback.
2	Component 2: Biological & ecological surveys	2.1	2.1. Completed RAP for Mt Maurei	<p>The RAP for Maurei Lake PA (formerly known as My Maurei PA) was conducted during November 2017. This was the first training and survey in ecological assessment using the Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) in protected area. The protected area site is located within the Post Administrative of Ilomar, Lautem, on the southern side of Timor-Leste. The participants attending the training were staff from the Department of Biodiversity and Protected Area, Directorate General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Crops, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), and staff from Department of Recuperation of Biodiversity, Directorate General of Environment, Ministry of Housing, Development, and Environment (MHDE), as well as local community members. Trainers were from KFF a local ngo, Natural History Museum of London, and National University of Singapore.</p> <p>The objective was to complete an ecological assessment of the protected area, and train government staff and local communities on how to do basic ecological surveys. One result of this survey was the recognition that the neighboring Alafula primary forest needed to be included in the PA. A follow up mission to the area resulted in approval from communities to include Alafula, resulting in the Maurei PA increasing from 600ha to 4,677ha.</p>
3	Component 3: Management plan for Mt Maurei protected area	3.1	3.1. Report on the establishment of the Management planning group including that member data which will not cause conflict of interest (includes community reps, government, ngos, stakeholders	<p>The Management Planning Group must include members of communities within and surrounding the PA, as well as private sector, local stakeholders, local and national government, and partners as per the Decree Law for Protected Areas, as well as to achieve the Rights Based Approach implemented by CI ensuring success of long term conservation planning. In November 2017 a RAP was completed on the 600ha of Maurei Lake PA, with support from the communities of Caenlio and Bahatata, Natural History Museum of London, KFF, government, and CI. The survey team identified the need to include the Alafalu primary forest into the Maurei Lake area. The government approved the expansion, and the process of engaging and informing the additional communities and stakeholders within and surrounding the expanded area, began in Year 2 of the project. With delays caused during the election of the 7th and then 8th governments, field activity</p>

)	<p>progress was slow. An initial meeting was held with all the communities and stakeholders to discuss the next steps of setting up the Management Planning Group and developing a management plan. However it was felt that rather than focus on the management plan, establishing the boundary along the expanded boundary of Maurei Lake was more of a priority.</p>
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Describe and submit any tools, products or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Under the CEPF project Certificate Level I, II, III training modules were drafted for Ecological Survey Techniques for submission to the national government for accreditation. With the delays in securing a government, and then changes to the ministries once the 8th government was formed, the Ministry responsible for accreditation has yet to call a Panel to make an assessment of the training program. This activity will be followed up by the GEF project being implemented by CI in Timor-Leste, which is also submitting Land Degradation and Sustainable Forestry modules for accreditation. The modules were uploaded to CEPF with the June to September 2019 report.

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)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

The project was designed to support government staff in building their capacity to manage the protected area system. In hindsight, it would have been far wiser to build at least 50% of the project into building the capacity of university students or youth as the upcoming managers, which would have avoided the extensive delays experienced in the project due to no formal government being in place for almost 2 years.

CI Timor-Leste, using this lesson learned is working with two local universities to build hands on project work into the students curriculum to support the long term protection and management of the country's protected area system

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Summarize the successes 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.

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.

The Process Framework for Involuntary Resttlement has been attached as a file

ADDITONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The approvals process under the project caused a number of delays in implementation. The most extreme was the delay in engaging the communications consultant in Year 1, which prevented a second engagement in Year 2. From an implementors point of view, it would be ideal to have all the approvals in place at the time of contract signing. Online reporting is efficient, however there have been issues with word counts and the size of documents being uploaded. This has caused doubling handling of data and reprotnng information, menaing it takes up to one day to complete and submit the reports - espically where limited internet infrastructure is in place.

ADDITONAL FUNDING

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

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$127,955.00

Type of funding

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 - \$24,955 - Conservation International Singapore office

A - \$103,000 - GEF 6 project "*Securing the long-term conservation of Timor-Leste's biodiversity and ecosystem services through the establishment of a functioning National Protected Area Network and the improvement of natural resource management in priority catchment corridor*" (TLSNAP).

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 may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

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