

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	James Cook University
<b>Project Title:</b>	Traditional knowledge, customary stewardship and strengthening practical approaches to conservation management projects in Kwaio, Solomon Islands
<b>Date of Report:</b>	August 2015
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	<p>Dr David MacLaren College of Medicine and Dentistry James Cook University Cairns, Qld, Australia david.maclaren@jcu.edu.au</p> <p>Chief Esau Kekeubata Kwainaa'isi Kwaio Cultural Centre East Kwaio Malaita Province Solomon Islands esaukekeubata@gmail.com</p>

"In the past there was lots of talk but not too much action. This project has action - with photos and filming and specimen collection. So people will be watching this and will want to come and join in with the action. This is a 'model project' in Kwaio that people will want to be a part of in the future. People can see the videos and who was involved and they will want to be involved too." Senior Kwaio community member

"This is what we wanted and it is what we asked for - so we are happy with what we have achieved. If we had not wanted this, then we would not have asked for it. This is why we want to continue." Chief Jackson Waneagea

**CEPF Region: East Melanesia, Solomon Islands**

**Strategic Direction:** 4. Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships.

**Grant Amount: USD 19,988**

**Project Dates: July 2014- June 2015**

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):**

**Solomon Islands:**

**Esau Kekeubata, John Laete'esafi and Jackson Waneagea** are the originators, leaders and key drivers behind this project. All three are traditional landowners and chiefs within the Kwaio community. All three have provided essential leadership for this project and have been at the forefront of the filming, photography, plant collection and knowledge documenting process. Kekeubata and Waneagea visited James Cook University (hosted by David MacLaren), the Australian Tropical Herbarium (hosted by Frank Zich) and University of Michigan (hosted by David Akin) throughout the project. All three men

remain committed to the ongoing leadership of conservation and traditional management of rainforest in their region through the Kwainaa'isi Kwaio Cultural Centre.

**Tommy Esau** is a young emerging Kwaio leader who worked closely with all project team members to implement the project. He conducted much of the filming, photography and plant collection with Chiefs and lead the writing of the medicinal plants booklet. He is the first person from his tribe to attain a university degree (Education/Human Geography) and has returned to his tribal land to be a part of this, and other community-level projects.

**James Asugeni and Humpress Harrington** are based at Atoifi Hospital and hosted the initial project workshop and supported project activities with logistical support and management advice.

#### **Australia:**

**Dr David MacLaren** is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Medicine and Dentistry at James Cook University, Adjunct Associate Professor at Pacific Adventist University in PNG and travelled to Solomon Islands four times in the project. David helped coordinate all activities throughout the project and facilitated linkages between different components of the project. David Hosted Kekeubata and Waneagea at JCU in Cairns.

**Professor Darren Crayn** is Director and **Mr Frank Zich** is Curator of the Australian Tropical Herbarium (ATH) in Cairns. ATH hosted Kekeubata and Waneagea and provided training in plant collection, preservation and identification. Frank travelled to Kwaio and provided practical training at the Kwainaa'isi Kwaio cultural Centre.

**Emeritus Professor Rick Speare, Dr Peter Massey** and **Dr Michelle Redman-MacLaren** are key members of the Atoifi Health Research Group and travelled regularly to Atoifi Hospital for research capacity strengthening workshops. While at Atoifi they provided training and support for the management and organizational governance of the project. They are providing ongoing support for written reports, including work on scientific manuscripts.

**Mr Ben Speare** is a professional photographer and filmmaker working with Tropical Health Solutions. Ben travelled to Kwaio and facilitated most of the 'learn-by-doing' training in plant photography and video production.

#### **USA:**

**Dr David Akin** is based at the University of Michigan and travelled to Kwaio to help establish the project and collect information about plants. David worked closely with Mr Tommy Esau via email and skype to translate Kwaio to English and write the medicinal plants booklet. David hosted Kekeubata and Waneagea at the University of Michigan.

### **Conservation Impacts**

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

This project has built capacity at a grass-roots level to directly engage in the management and organizational governance of conservation projects in the Malaita Highlands. This is important because it has strengthened local, national and international linkages to support conservation and provided a foundation on which to build for the future. The unique aspect of this project is that customary knowledge is prioritized through working with people who maintain traditional social, spiritual and cultural tradition. Traditional knowledge about medicinal plants and their importance in the environment has been documented and shared in a booklet and a set of DVDs. Linkages have been strengthened

with scientific and conservation organizations and capacity demonstrated to continue to implement conservation projects in the Malaita Highlands.

Kwaio leaders of the project highlighted that there were no land disputes and they are very confident for the future because it is the landowners that are the leaders of this project and the project is taking place on their cultural land with their cultural knowledge. This is evident on the successful production of the booklet and videos.

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

#### **Outputs – Organisational Governance Workshops**

- Delivered workshops with attendance by community participants and key stakeholders.
- Project plan, mid-term review and completion report all completed and submitted.
- Local systems are in place for financial management and organizational governance to aid project delivery in the future.
- Key findings of the project including project management, organizational governance and financial management that fit with aspects of tradition and custom were presented in seminars and workshops at Atoifi, Honiara, Cairns (Australia) and Michigan (USA).

#### **Outputs – Action Learning Medicinal Plants and Bush Foods Project**

- Bilingual English to Kwaio booklet has been completed that identifies 15 plants and their beneficial (medicinal, nutritional, cultural) uses. The booklet includes photographs taken during the project and will be able to be used by health professionals and communities. This will facilitate better outcomes for health services and their patients both in Kwaio and across Malaita.
- An PDF version of the booklet is attached to this report and will be available on-line at <http://www.atoifiresearch.org.sb/resources>
- A set of 15 videos of medicinal and food plants has been produced with the local Kawio community and includes where they are traditionally found and their broader ecology. These videos will be widely circulated via the Kwaio Archive project. They are available on-line at:

- Alaga <https://youtu.be/P20r0uhEdWo>
- `Aganu [https://youtu.be/hqJ\\_4OHla-Y](https://youtu.be/hqJ_4OHla-Y)
- Tataula <https://youtu.be/tpj30J5yHZM>
- `Ori`ori <https://youtu.be/dM8j-8sCaa0>
- Muki <https://youtu.be/XH1sFw9NPjM>
- Falage <https://youtu.be/miJacT74c90>
- Falage Demonstration [https://youtu.be/bz8Xy\\_38pBk](https://youtu.be/bz8Xy_38pBk)
- Nate <https://youtu.be/1sZWTRSxY6Y>
- Mamakola <https://youtu.be/QTefBAUzKvs>
- Lalao <https://youtu.be/VLOpD9RveoY>
- Kito <https://youtu.be/6X0HzqsPnBc>
- Gou <https://youtu.be/h8pt1zigYis>
- Lau`ai <https://youtu.be/jwBcZ2pKuQA>
- Lalaga [https://youtu.be/vWR\\_y8nsBFw](https://youtu.be/vWR_y8nsBFw)
- Keme <https://youtu.be/lr-WInl9fbo>
- Gaulato <https://youtu.be/rfPI9M9tGls>
- `Ea <https://youtu.be/hTyFFjg8qTY>
- Dodogala <https://youtu.be/HEFkpS0fDSM>

- An electronic archive from the project will be housed in the Kwaio Archive and also at the National University of the Solomon Islands. This will be updated and managed locally.
- All linguistic and botanical information has been compiled and sent to David Akin and Esau Kekeubata to be included in the expanded *Kwaio Dictionary*.
- Key findings have been presented in seminars and workshops. These include lessons learned and ideas for the future at national (Atoifi Health Research Symposium at Atoifi Hospital/Pacific Adventist University; Solomon Islands Health Research Symposium at Solomon Islands

National University) and international (Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine at James Cook University and University of Michigan). These have allowed linkages with possible partners including with the Australian Museum and Smithsonian Museum (see below for details).

### **Outcomes**

- Traditional leaders and community people have learned and improved their skills in project management, governance and financial management. Local community-based organizations have been mentored in delivering the project. This training has been extremely useful to other, related community projects, such as the Kwaio archive project and linkages with international researchers such as Professor Tim Flannery.
- Communities are now able to record and communicate their traditional knowledge about medicinal and food plants in ways that enhance intergenerational dialogue and therefore keep alive knowledge about biodiversity and conservation. Having the set of 15 videos helps to connect urban and rural Kwaio communities.
- Traditional owners have a strengthened capacity in the use of effective conservation management concepts, by combining the best of both traditional and scientific approaches that work together in the Kwaio context. An example of this is the knowledge and use of the Falange tree for headlice control. The process of investigating this plant and the local use of it is enabling a scientific journal article to be written which included Kwaio and scientific explanations.
- By engaging in this project knowledge has been shared across the Kwaio language group through informal and formal training and networking, and the Kwaio Archive and *Kwaio Dictionary*. Much of this has been based at the Kwainaa'isi Kwaio Cultural Centre. This has strengthened capacity in conservation techniques.
- This project will contribute to better health outcomes by linking indigenous medicine to the source plant in the bilingual booklet and 15 videos. These can be used by health professionals and their patients.
- This project has the potential to directly inform government policy in this area by the provision of evidence about the traditional use of medicinal plants. Esau and Kekeubata have met with the Director of Conservation in the Ministry of Environment in April 2015.
- Traditional language and land management approaches have been recorded and will be made available through the Kwaio Archive.
- This project has raised awareness of species that could be at risk of becoming extinct. The Giant Malaitan Rat (Kwetee) is an example of this. Our group is now linking with internationally renowned scientist Professor Tim Flannery and colleagues at Smithsonian Institute to document the presence and habitat of this species that was thought to be extinct. As a result of this CEPF project a grant application has been submitted to Fondation Serge to document the presence of this rat in 2016. This application was successful and the project will start in April 2016.

**Hectares Protected:**

**Species Conserved:**

**Corridors Created:**

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

Short term:

- Community members learned a lot of knowledge from this project about the importance of particular plants
- Community members learned a lot of skills - photography; video; plant collection and preservation
- One chief said: 'Eye blo mi open' (my eyes have been opened) for the possibilities for the future. The links with outside people and landowners to work together and share skills and knowledge together
- Another chief said "This is what we wanted and it is what we asked for - so we are happy with what we have achieved. If we had not wanted this, then we would not have asked for it. This is why we want to continue."

- Another Chief talked through the following Metaphor: “This is just like a garden that you have just started - we need to plant some more things in it so we can harvest lots of good things in the future”

#### Challenges

- Unable to do video editing at Kwainaa'isi Cultural Centre (in the mountains) because there is only a small solar panel and battery.
- There are no printing facilities at Kwainaa'isi Cultural Centre
- Small solar panels unable to charge camera battery when there is 1 week of constant rain
- Unable to do video editing at Kwainaa'isi because of no inverter big enough to run computer. (This will soon be resolved with 3 x 1000 watt inverters to be installed at Kwainaa'isi in 2016)
- Main building for Kwainaa'isi Cultural Centre are not yet completed. Was sufficient for community meetings and training, but not for large amounts of 'office' type work on computers etc. Cultural Centre now progressing with windows and will be weather proof soon. The building is due to be complete in 2016.
- Communication in mountains - mobile phone communication is patchy. Skype OK (periodically) at Atoifi on the coast but not possible at Kwainaa'isi in the mountains.
- Working in 3 languages - Kwaio, Pijin, English – although all members of the team have experience in working in cross-cultural and cross-language situations.
- Project Report is written in English - and most Chiefs unable to write (but Tommy Esau acts as a translator/transcriber)
- Australian Visa application process is very slow - Waneagea and Tommy unable to travel to Australia in Oct 2015 as planned because of delay in Australian visas

#### Long Term:

- This is a long term dream to document cultural knowledge about the environment by Kwaio people. It was therefore a project that the whole community became involved in and are very proud of.
- Kwainaa'isi Cultural Centre and partners now have better capacity to deliver conservation projects over the medium to long term – this is evidenced by the successful grant with Professor Tim Flannery and his team.
- There is a lot of volunteer work needed to establish the Kwainaa'isi Cultural Centre - but this biodiversity is a good project to encourage community people as a 'focal point' and sense of satisfaction for the people to be involved. Also the assistance with equipment and funds for communication and to attend meetings and training was good for people living in remote villages. This has created a good foundation for the future.
- A senior Kwaio community member said: “In the past there was lots of talk but not too much action. This project has action - with photos and filming and specimen collection. So people will be watching this and will want to come and join in with the action. This is a 'model project' in Kwaio that people will want to be a part of in the future. People can see the videos and who was involved and they will want to be involved too.”

#### ***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

- A key lesson was not to pay individual community members with money to be involved with the project – but to ensure community payment through food and accommodation for anyone who wished to attend and contribute to the project. The project was a collective enterprise and so we needed to provide enough food for everyone during workshops at Kwainaa'isi
- Photography, filming and plant specimen collection done as part of 'learn-by-doing' approach. This allowed community members to be involved in both technical aspects of photography, filming and specimen collection.
- The Malaitan Giant Rat (Kwete) project that emerges out of this project and subsequent linkages with International experts from Australian National Museum and Smithsonian Institute.

## 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 projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.*

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

This was a project that originated from community leaders and was designed by community leaders. The project therefore was one that 'belonged' to the Kwaio community from the very start and was able to be supported by international partners with funding from CEPF. This meant that the project was always seen as responding to community desires and not responding to the desires of outsiders or outside agendas. Having resources in both Kwaio language and English was key to success – and having Tommy Esau work on the project was key. Tommy grew up in the mountains and so has a lot of traditional knowledge about community structures, community leadership and community knowledge. He is the first person from his tribe to complete a University Degree and so able to take the 'best of both worlds' into this project – that is – being able to translate, operate cameras and computers and write the booklet was essential to the success of the venture.

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

Having the ability to conduct the project in a very remote location in the mountains of Kwaio was key to success. Purchasing equipment that was portable and able to be charged using solar power was also central to success. Engaging international partners that were able to spend time in Kwaio and committed to the 'learn-by-doing' approach was key to successful project implementation. Also the ability to have key Kwaio leaders to travel to Australia (James Cook University and Australian Tropical Herbarium) and USA (University of Michigan) was paramount to the exchange of ideas and importance of traditional knowledge from Kwaio to an international audience.

The ability of Esau Kekeubata and Tommy Esau to meet with the international CEPF team when they visited Solomon Islands was a key to success of this project. Given this is the first project that CEPF has supported at Kwainaa`isi, it was important for Kwainaa`isi leaders to meet the CEPF team and come to appreciate their personal support and commitment to documenting traditional knowledge about plants and animals in Kwaio. On their return Kekeubata and Esau shared the successful meeting with CEPF leaders and urged the community to continue with the project with the knowledge that CEPF were fully in support of this project in such a remote location.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

***Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
FONDATION SEGRE	B	€155,592	To document the presence of the Malaitan Giant Rat in Kwaio
James Cook University	A	AUD 25,000	Salary MacLaren
Tropical Health	A	AUD 30,000	Salary Speare

Solutions			
Australian Tropical Herbarium	A	AUD 18,000	Salary Zich

***\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

### **Sustainability/Replicability**

***Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.***

Many of the challenges and successes have been described above. The Kwaio community want this project to continue and expand and so lessons from this initial 1 year project have directly informed a large grant application to CEPF to expand the project over another 2 years.

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

Through this project, many oral stories of sightings of the Malaitan Giant Rat were recorded. This then stimulated contact with international experts in the field and a successful grant application to document the presence and range of the Rat and formulate a conservation and management plan.

Linkages with the Media Unit of the Solomon Islands National University were also strengthened during a visit to the University campus and plans to collaborate across a number of projects in the future.

### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.***

This project is one that was conceived by the Indigenous Kwaio people who live in their customary lands in the central mountains of Malaita. Traditional Kwaio knowledge is at the centre of this project and Traditional Kwaio leaders have been at the centre of this project. International partners have always respected and been guided by Indigenous Kwaio leaders. There were no land disputes, conflicts or disharmony because of this project. The successful outputs of this project – an 18 page booklet in both Kwaio and English Language and 15 video clips about traditional use of medicinal plants demonstrate the deep and enduring relationships that underpin this project and respect that acts as a base for future projects.

## Performance Tracking Report Addendum

### CEPF Global Targets

### (Enter Grant Term)

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	No specific number of hectares – but chiefs and communities involved from across the East Kwaio mountains		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes			

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.**





## Additional Comments/Recommendations

The leaders of this project are very enthusiastic to continue and expand on this very successful project and have submitted a large grant application to CEPF to support this aim. Key to success for the next phase of the project will be to continue to partner with key local and international experts with whom we have established relationships and whom we can trust. Although publically available now, there is an 'Official Launch' of the the videos and book planned during the at the official opening of Kwainaa'isi Kwaio Cultural Centre in July 2016. CEPF will receive invitations to attend the official opening of the Kwaionaa'isi Kwaio Cultural Centre in July 2016 and launch the videos and book.

## 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.

### **Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Dr David MacLaren  
Organization name: James Cook University  
Mailing address: McGregor Rd, Smithfield, Qld, Australia  
Tel: +61 7 4232 1658  
Fax:  
E-mail: david.maclaren@jcu.edu.au

Name: Chief Esau Kekeubata  
Organization name: Kwainaa'isi Kwaio Cultural Centre  
Mailing address: C/- Atoifi Postal Agency, East Kwaio, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands  
Tel: +677 8616324  
Fax:  
E-mail: esaukekeubata@gmail.com