

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	TCCDA
Project Title:	<i>Strengthening the governance and project management capacity of the Tawatana Community Conservation and Development Association for biodiversity conservation</i>
Date of Report:	30 April 2016
Report Author and Contact Information	Selwyn Aharo

CEPF Region: Solomon Islands

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

With the Investment Priority:
4.1 Strengthen the capacity of local and national civil society organizations in financial Management, project management and organizational governance.

Grant Amount: USD\$19,681.00

Project Dates: 01st January 2015 – March 2016

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

- AVI – Two Volunteers resided at Project site to assist in the Management of the Project and initial support for project implementation.
- SICCP – Provides ongoing mentoring and support. Assisted as well as to contribute in technical advice and resources and in linking TCCDA with other conservation partners in the Solomon Islands.
- Solomon islands Govrenment – Assist in Awareness programs as well as by donating conservation materials and Solar System for the TCCDA Office.
- IUCN – Assist with CEPF grant
- MRMAN – Facilitate Accommodation of the Look and Learn Trip to the Western Province
- IRA – TCCDA is now in Partnership with International Rangers Association (IRA)
- Remarkable NRM – An Australian Private Company whom help a lot in providing support, training, office equipment and Association Launch materials
- Live and Learn - provides ongoing local staff involvement and support through shared programs / resources

Conservation Impacts

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

The project is primarily for strengthening the Governance and Capacity building of the Conservation Association. The TCCDA currently has a management committee whom functions as the Administration, and a working committee whom functions as the Rangers or the work force. The project has undergone Capacity building such as:

- Project Management Training
- GPS training
- Mapping

- Computer Microsoft word, Powerpoint and excel Training
- Look and Learn trip to the Marovo Lagoon

The above training has now equipped the Management and Working Committee to work towards legally registering the Protected Area in East Makira. The TCCDA has been working on the 12 stages of achieving a protected area under the "Solomon Islands Protected Areas Act 2013" and is currently at stage 7. Hopefully we should achieve Protected Area Status by the end of 2016, which will help to achieve CEPFs objectives as outlined in the Ecosystem Profile.

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

The overall results of this project detailed in the approved proposal are achieved greater than planned. The governance and management of the Conservation Association for biodiversity Conservation is well organized and the Association is now ready to work in the field and with partners. We have formed more partnerships and have been able to access support from other places. The approved proposals and activities in this project are well achieved and successful and already have positive impacts in the community.

Hectares Protected:
Species Conserved:
Corridors Created:

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

Successes

- The project is a success because all activities in the approved project proposal are completed.
- The management committee is established which means all functions within the Association are created
- The Association successfully operated under its own Constitution
- The Association is well equipped and has built its own office and is established with office equipment and other materials
- Community become knowledgeable about sustainable development initiatives
- All Logging Companies surrounding the Conservation site are halted
- Former strong supporters of Logging have now seen that conservation is important. They have seen that our conservation is important and that people outside the Solomon Islands care about it as well. They can see that we do not have to log our forest to provide a future for our community so they are now supporters of Conservation.
- TCCDA is generally accepted by community as part of the community governance structure
- The Association become partners with National and International NGOs
- The provincial government has strongly supported our work

Challenges

- Land is customary owned by 6 tribes and consultation is very tough
- There is no budget for Conservation Awareness talks to surrounding communities
- Pressure of Logging Operation is still very strong and some Land owners and neighbours really oppose the idea of Conservation.
- The TCCDA has very little resources and will need to try and access further support so that they can continue to participate in national partnerships and meet costs to establish a protected area.
- The association currently has no staff; the committee members are only volunteers and can be a threat to the Associations solidarity.
- The Isolation of the Conservation site contributes to very poor communication between partners
- Balancing the needs and priorities for community Activities with the priorities of funded project activities is sometimes a challenge.
- We have a lack of scientific research in the Conservation area and this is needed to have the area formally established as a conservation area.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Positive Impacts

- Other communities nearby came in to seek advice as how to register their customary lands as Conservation Protected Area.

- TCCDA has a strong relationship with SICCP and other Conservation group in Solomon Islands
- Logging Operators are halted which indicates success in our work.
- We did not expect to get the level of partnerships and support that we have been able to achieve with the provincial and SI governments.

Negative Impacts

- Loggers in and around the community hated the Association and sometimes physically harass committee members and supporters.

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)

There are lessons learned in the design of the project such as formulation of Budget, working with foreign currency, preparing meetings and minutes, drafting a constitution, and also the Management committees' participation in the Project Management Training. Most importantly, the design of the project Plan slightly missed its timeline or timeframe due to poor consultation with the community regarding time allocation for activities. The project was planned along time in advance and as a result some project activities clashed with the same dates as community activities which cause delays to the project. Also deaths and traditional activities and the tropical weather pattern and variations of costs are unpredictable.

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

The structure and governance of the Association has contributed to the timely implementation of the project activities. Some of the shortcoming experienced is the poor weather conditions, communication, Transportation and delay in funds being received. One important reason in the delay in the project implementation process was because this project was a new partnership for us and it took time for the parties involved to identify and understand the various roles. The partners included SICCP, AVI Environmental Mentor, CEPF, IUCN, Project Coordinator and our management committee, which sometimes made project management difficult. Due to Tawatana being isolated and having no phone or email network, ongoing communication with project partners made it difficult to organize some activities by the time planned.

Generally, the project implementation is a success. In order for the conservation community to successfully implement its plans, the activities and responsibilities planned must be shared among community members. To improve this for future project we must make sure that the full cost of community participation is budgeted for (including meals and accommodation) and that any activities such as the Western Province Look and Learn trip are planned well in advance and in consultation with the community.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

This project is the first project ever managed by the TCCDA and a lot has been learned, especially on how the community needs to adjust the community workplan to work with the approved project plans. Also the community has learned a lot from the project as it involves a lot of training such as project management training, Computer training, GPS Training and Look and learn trip. One important lesson TCCDA learned is the realization that we are part of the conservation community through SICCP. That the international community and the national government and provincial government have recognized the importance of conservation and the chances to secure funding to support our Environment and conservation work.

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.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
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Ministry of Conservation and Environment	B	SBD\$20,000	This was a 300Watts Solar power system for TCCDA Office. This donation was from the Solomon Islands Government because of TCCDA being a IUCN project recipient
Remarkable NRM	A and B	SBD \$ 80000	Remarkable NRM is a private Australian company that provided significant in-kind support through increased mentoring and project management for the delivery of this project
SICCP	A	SBD \$ 4000	SICCP contributed funds to assist the TCCDA meet the costs of the Western Province Look and learn visit.

***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.

The aim of the project as a whole was to strengthen the governance and capacity of the Management of TCCDA which means that all components of the project will be sustainable even when the project is finished. Governance and project management training has provided a sound foundation for future activities. Increased links and sustainability through network development has been achieved by accessing support provided by other Solomon Island conservation groups. Where possible, project activities included people from across the community so that as many people as possible were involved in training and capacity building. Additionally, the links made with other organisations and the Provincial and SI governments will assist the TCCDA to maintain the results of this project.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

As a result of the partnerships that have been formed through this project, members of the TCCDA were invited to participate in Ranger training. Members of the TCCDA undertook a 2-week intensive ranger's training being facilitated by Queensland University and the International Rangers Federation (IRF). Additionally, one of the members of the TCCDA was nominated as the SI Rangers association representative for Makira Ulawa province.

Another benefit not originally planned for in the project was that TCCDA volunteer rangers were trained in the use of a GPS and this has meant that we have been able to carry out GPS Mapping of the Conservation area. This is a very important step in our progress to have the conservation area formally recognized.

It was through this project that the provincial government has recognized the importance of the environment and conservation work and as a result, this is the first time Makira Provincial Government had included conservation in its government portfolio under the Ministry of Conservation, Culture and Tourism. Thus, TCCDA have the full support from the Provincial Government. Adding on to that, the current Minister of Finance (Makira Provincial Government) is the current secretary to the Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA) and myself as the Senior Investment Officer (Makira Provincial Government) will continue to work with

the government to uphold environmental laws and to prioritize and encourage sustainable developments such as eco-tourism instead of logging operations.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The implementation of required actions towards environmental and safeguard policies within this project is evident. Firstly, in instances where there was disagreement in the village or between villages regarding the role of the TCCDA and the need to conserve the forest area, these disagreements were managed through the council of chiefs and village committee.

Additionally, TCCDA has active ranger volunteers who patrolled the conservation boundary and the rivers and streams, to make sure other communities are respecting our conservation work. This involved discussion between the village chiefs to seek local resolution and maintain local custom. When this needed to be advanced the provincial executive has responded to our request on date 08/03/2016, to halt a logging company that landed in the neighboring community (Ubuna Village). The Provincial executive held talks with TCCDA rangers before going to our neighboring village and halted the operation because they had not conducted the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and were breaching the Solomon Islands Waters and Rivers Act and the Makira Province Business License Ordinance 2006.

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(1 Year 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.**

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from Dec 1, 2014 to Dec 30, 2015 (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	no			
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no			
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.	yes	6000 Ha		The Conservation area is protected by the community from harvesting Plants and animals or from any extraction of any natural resources. Here are list of customary lands covered in the Conservation area :-Matangana, Gaonaitaraimeru,Rororhu, Manaibwabwa,Auri, Matangana
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	Yes	3	3	Ubuna, Tawatana and Maranu'u

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

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Ubuna	X	X	X				X						X	X		X			X		
Tawatana	X	X	X				X						X	X		X			X	X	
Maranuu	X	X	X				X						X	X		X			X		
Total	3	3	3				3						3	3		3			3	1	

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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